

## Commerce and Labor

Located in northwestern South Carolina, the county is part of the growing corridor along Interstate-85 (I-85) between Charlotte, North Carolina and Atlanta, Georgia. The county's population grew nearly twelve percent (12%) in the 1980's and twelve percent (12%) in the 1990's. Since July 1, 2001, the county has seen an eight and a half percent (8.5%) increase in population, to the July 1, 2008 estimate of 280,738.

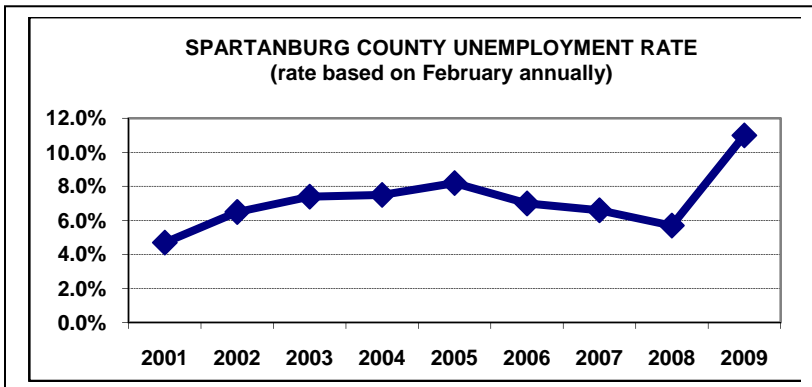
The Spartanburg County Economic Development Corporation (SCEDC) continues to drive international business movement in Spartanburg County. With over eighty (80) international firms representing eighteen (18) countries, including BMW, Milliken, Michelin, Cryovac, Kohler and Invista to name a few, it is only fitting that the *New York Times* reports Spartanburg County as having the highest per capita international investment in the nation. Spartanburg County has also attracted nationally recognized headquarters of companies such as Extended Stay America, Advance America, and Denny's.

SPARTANBURG COUNTY MAJOR EMPLOYERS 2008 DATA		
Company Name	Employees	% of Workforce
Spartanburg County Schools	5,185	3.9%
Spartanburg Regional Medical Center	4,607	3.4%
BMW Manufacturing Corporation	5,400	4.0%
State of South Carolina	2,387	1.8%
Milliken and Company	N/A	1.0%
Spartanburg County	1,379	1.0%
Cryovac	1,152	0.9%
Mary Black Memorial Hospital	1,006	0.8%
Michelin Tire Company	952	0.7%
Kohler Company	909	0.7%

Source: 2008 Spartanburg County Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

Spartanburg County has a work force readily available to businesses looking to locate or expand in the area. In March 2008, BMW Manufacturing Co. announced that it will hire five-hundred (500) new workers by 2012 as part of an expansion plan to boost production capacity at the Spartanburg County plant. Spartanburg County has also added Echostar Communications Corporation and expanded operations at Adidas. In addition, Walmart, this year, will relocate its return center operation to Spartanburg County and this will bring to the County approximately five-hundred (500) new jobs.

More than five-hundred (500) manufacturing firms call Spartanburg County home. While the textile industry is still a major component in the industrial community, Spartanburg County has diversified its manufacturing industries over the past thirty years. Such industries include automotive, food processing, packaging, metalworking, and stamping. Clearly, business flourishes in this area as a result of the I-85 corridor, the pro-business climate, the cultural amenities, and the unparalleled quality of life; all located in the foothills of the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains. (<http://www.spartanburgscedc.com>.)



Based on information from the South Carolina Employment Commission, the available labor force is approximately 140,000. In February 2009, the unemployment rate was at 11.5%. This is in line with the State of South Carolina unemployment rate, which was 11.0% in February 2009.