

## 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, 2000, the county has seen an 8.6% increase in population, to the July 1, 2007 estimate of 275,534.

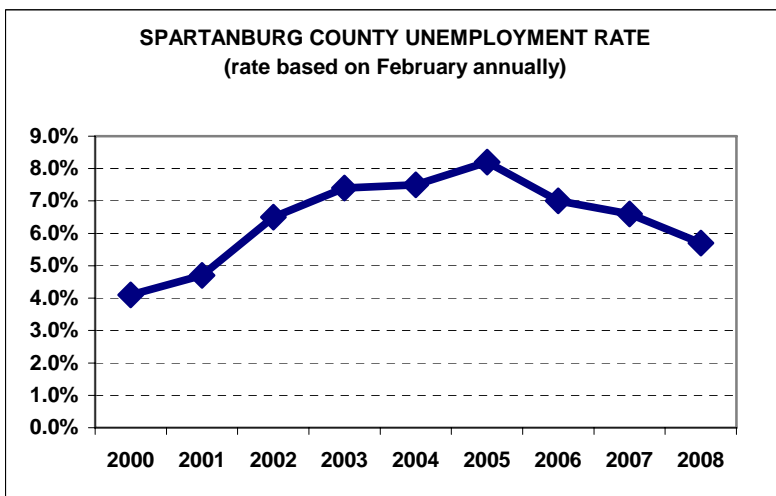
The Spartanburg County Economic Development Corporation (SCEDC) continues to drive international business movement in Spartanburg County. With over eighty (80) international firms representing eighteen (18) countries, including BMW, Milliken, Michelin, Cryovac, Kohler and Invista to name a few, it is 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 2007 DATA		
Company Name	Employees	% of Workforce
Spartanburg County Schools	5,535	3.1%
Spartanburg Regional Medical Center	4,607	2.3%
BMW Manufacturing Corporation	4,415	1.3%
State of South Carolina	2,354	N/A
Milliken and Company	N/A	1.0%
Spartanburg County	1,379	1.0%
Cryovac	1,152	0.7%
Mary Black Memorial Hospital	1,006	0.8%
Michelin Tire Company	952	1.0%
Kohler Company	909	0.6%

*Source: 2007 Spartanburg County Comprehensive Annual Financial Report*

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.

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 over the past thirty years diversified its economy to add such clusters as automotive and automotive related industry, food processing, packaging, metalworking, stamping, and a wide array of other industrial segments. Clearly, business flourishes in this area as a result of the I-85 corridor, pro-business climate, cultural amenities and unparalleled quality of life—all located in the foothills of the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains (<http://www.spartanburgscedc.com>.)



Spartanburg County has a work force readily available to businesses looking to locate or expand in the area. Based on information from the South Carolina Employment Security Commission, the available labor force is approximately 132,000, and in February 2008 the unemployment rate stood at 5.7%. This is in line with the State of South Carolina unemployment rate, which stood at a rate of 5.5 % in February, 2008.