

Marlboro County still leads state in unemployment, data shows

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Marlboro County had a 1.3 percent increase in unemployment in June, but ranked first in the state in unemployment among South Carolina's 46 counties, according to data released Friday by the S.C. Employment Security Commission.

The unemployment report comes a day after a celebration in Marlboro County at which the S.C. Department of Transportation announced the most likely route that the proposed Interstate 73 will take through the county.

The interstate, if built, is expected to increase economic development opportunities for the residents of the Pee Dee counties — Marlboro, Dillon and Marion — it will traverse. Marlboro County also led the state in unemployment rate in May with a rate of 10.5 percent.

Florence County ranked 28th in unemployment and had the lowest unemployment rate of seven Pee Dee counties with an unemployment rate of 6.1. Florence County's May unemployment rate was 5.4 percent.

In June, Marion County ranked second in the state in unemployment, same as it did in May. Marion County's June rate was 11.4 percent, up 1.1 percent compared with May's rate.

The jobs numbers in the two counties resembled the unemployment trend for the Pee Dee, where five more counties also showed an increase in their unemployment rates. Statewide, the unemployment rate increased to 5.5 percent in June, up from 5.4 percent in May.