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Date: 5/17/2013 9:54:30 AM
Subject: Associated Press: SC unemployment falls to lowest rate in 5 years

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http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=Bv5gc8CF
MEG KINNARD

South Carolina's unemployment has dropped to its lowest rate in five years.

The Department of Employment and Workforce said Friday that the state's jobless rate fell to 8 percent in April.

That's the lowest that unemployment in South Carolina has been since October 2008. The workforce agency says the drop from 8.4 percent in March represents the state's largest month-to-month decrease since May 1987.

Jobs in the leisure and hospitality sector grew by 8,700 as the state continued to prepare for its busy summer tourist season. The state agency said most of those new hires were in accommodation and food services.

Professional and business services and construction jobs went up by 4,000. Trade, transportation and utilities jobs grew by 2,300.

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