



Nov - Dec 2011

In This Issue

- Latest unemployment report reveals downward trend for Palm Beach County.....p 2
-  November events help businesses recruit veterans.....p 2
- Workforce Alliance hosts meeting to discuss Glades employment and economic issues.....p 3
- New program aims to help raise high school graduation rates..... p 4

Labor Economics and Development Report

Workforce Alliance's exclusive **Labor Economics and Development (LEAD) Report** expresses optimism for the County's economic outlook.

The highlights:

- With 10,000 jobs created since the recession low in November 2010, continued job growth is projected.
- The report forecasts an increase in non-farm jobs in the county of about 5,000 by March of 2012, close to 30 percent of the jobs lost during the recession and implying a return to pre-recession employment levels in 2014.
- Since January 2010, inflation-adjusted retail sales are up 10 percent, or an annual growth rate of 6.5 percent, a relatively rapid rate of recovery.

[Click here for the full report](#)

“Easy Job Order Access” – Makes it Easy When Businesses Seek Qualified Talent

- **Workforce Alliance has a new tool to help Palm Beach County businesses find qualified talent**

Our new service, called “**Easy Job Order Access**,” removes much of the hassle that has traditionally been associated with posting help-wanted ads on the Employ Florida Marketplace website.

“The main reason that employers use Employ Florida Marketplace is to find top candidates,” said **Gerry Genovese**, vice president of business services. “**Easy Job Order Access** helps companies fill open positions and is the most efficient and timely way of getting help-wanted ads online and in front of qualified candidates.

“Business owners, hiring managers, human resources professionals and anyone looking to hire can use **Easy Job Order Access**, a free service. All an employer needs to do is provide basic company information during a one-time registration on the website. The information is secure and confidential, and will be used only for future interactions with that employer,” he said.

The service is readily available on the [Workforce Alliance website](#) and after registration is completed, a Workforce Alliance business services representative will contact the employer to provide assistance in getting the most qualified candidates for the position. The services can include help with candidate screening, assessing and interviewing.

RFP Issued for Services to Increase Employment for Targeted Populations

Workforce Alliance is seeking proposals for services that will increase employment in one or more of the following targeted populations: veterans, disabled, ex-offenders, young adults aging out of foster care, long-term unemployed, seniors and the homeless.

In addition to its existing job placement programs, Workforce Alliance is seeking to widen its scope of effectiveness by leveraging strategic partnerships with local employers, associations or community groups with goals to help county residents become employed.

Proposals must be submitted by Dec. 12, 2011, and instructions for submissions are at the [Workforce Alliance website](#).

Palm Beach County Unemployment Declines

Employers Honor Veterans by Offering Job Opportunities



The unemployment rate in Palm Beach County in October 2011 was 10.3 percent, down 0.6 percentage points from the 10.9 percent rate of the previous month, and down 1.6 percentage points from 11.9 percent rate of October 2010.

“In addition to the third consecutive month of a decline in the county’s unemployment rate, it’s encouraging to note that the number of job openings has increased 13.5 percent in the county compared to this same time last year,” said **Steve Craig**, interim chief executive officer.

The latest report shows that Palm Beach County gained 6,500 jobs and experienced employment growth in six industry categories over the last 12 months: education and health services (+4,100 jobs), leisure and hospitality (+2,400 jobs), professional and business services (+2,400 jobs), financial activities (+400 jobs), manufacturing (+300 jobs), and other services (+200 jobs). Job losses over the same period were primarily in government (-1,600 jobs), trade/transportation/utilities (-1,200 jobs), information (-300 jobs) and construction (-200 jobs).

For a complete overview of the latest Palm Beach County employment data, [please click here](#).

During the days preceding **Veterans’ Day 2011**, Workforce Alliance hosted several Palm Beach County employers for the recruitment and interviewing of local military veterans for potential employment.

The companies that interviewed veterans during the week included **G4S, CSC (AUTEC), Walgreens, Home Depot, Cheney Brothers, Excelsior Security, Select Staffing and Manpower Staffing**. In addition, **KBR Construction** provided information to veterans on opportunities for training and employment on their project to build a new Solid Waste Authority facility in early 2012.

Steve Craig, interim chief executive officer, said, “We are proud to hold this series of events that not only recognize the veterans for their service to our country, but also highlight their unique skills and qualifications for local employers.”

Workforce Alliance provides employment information and services for veterans, to include counseling, assessments, workshops, training opportunities and job placements.



DID YOU KNOW? Our staff informs and advises employers of the advantages of hiring veterans and can explain tax incentives and grant opportunities that are available when hiring veterans.



Unemployment Summary - October 2011 (not seasonally adjusted)

	Unemployed	Rate
Palm Beach County	63,964	10.3 %
State of Florida	931,000	10.1 %
United States	13,102,000	8.5 %

Source: FL Dept. of Economic Opportunity, Labor Market Statistics Center

NOTICE **MINIMUM WAGE IN FLORIDA**

The minimum wage in Florida will be \$7.67 per hour effective January 1, 2012, with a minimum wage of at least \$4.65 per hour for tipped employees, in addition to tips.



Select Staffing Co. visits Career Center to recruit veterans
From left: Workforce Alliance Veterans Representative Phillip Bulone, Select Staffing Company Branch Manager Vivian Gutierrez and veterans: Kimberly Johnson, Coreletter Price and Cassandra Georges.

Glades Partners Discuss Employment and Economic Issues

Workforce Alliance hosted a meeting of local and state officials and business leaders from the cities of **South Bay, Belle Glade** and **Pahokee** to discuss how to increase employment and economic opportunity in the Glades.

Steve Craig, interim chief executive officer of Workforce Alliance, hosted the meeting and stressed its importance. "The Glades region has an unemployment rate that more than doubles the rate for the remainder of the county," he said. "I appreciate the attendance of the key leaders of the Glades communities because we are anxious to work with you to develop strategies to bring more employment and economic opportunities to the area."

In addition to the business leaders, government agencies and representatives from the Glades area, the Business Development Board of Palm Beach County, Palm Beach County Office of Economic Development, Palm Beach State College, the Lake Okeechobee Regional Economic Alliance (LORE), and Workforce Alliance staff members also participated in the half-day meeting.

Denny Abbott, Workforce Alliance representative for the Belle Glade office, assisted Steve in leading the discussion that brought out many ideas from those in attendance.

Shirley Walker-Turner, mayor of South Bay, told the attendees, "We must zero in on training our citizens so they are ready for the jobs that provide livable wages."



Mayor J.P. Sasser addresses the meeting.

J.P. Sasser, mayor of Pahokee, concurred and added, "Most of our people are former farm workers and are unskilled for the jobs of today. We need a program of training in basic computer skills and other skills that are needed for the jobs that will be coming available." He said that Pahokee is remodeling a recreation center to add an adult education area, and wants to find an organization that will donate computers so adults can learn how to search for jobs on the internet.

Gary Hines, senior vice president, Business Development Board of Palm Beach County, suggested that Workforce Alliance representatives and training providers of the county visit the Walgreens Distribution Center and Sysco to learn more about the skills needed to operate a distribution center. He said it is very likely that distribution centers similar to them may locate in the 850-acre inland port after it is in operation.

Sherry Howard, director of the Palm Beach County Office of Economic Development, provided an update on the funds and grants that are offered to businesses as well as community challenge grants. She said her office "has a strong partnership with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and has been able to obtain incentives to assist the redevelopment of the downtown areas in the Glades." She added that they are working on an enhanced website, "PBC Interactive" to provide real time information to assist businesses and developers with site selection for relocations or expansions.

Other topics covered included the need to have companies certified for government-related contracts, developing a plan to assist the people expected to be laid off when the Glades Correctional Institute closes in December, broadband internet service for the communities, developing facilities and programs for training, using federal bonding for new hires with criminal records, and reversing the decline in boat traffic in Lake Okeechobee.

Daniel Liftman of **U.S. Rep. Alcee Hastings'** office said the congressman is in contact with the office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to address problems with Lake Okeechobee that have been hindering boating, fishing and commercial development. The congressman and Democratic Whip **Steny Hoyer** toured the Workforce Alliance Career Center in Belle Glade on Sept. 29, 2011, and discussed local and national job creation efforts.



Gary Hines provides input from the BDB.

This was the second in a series of "Glades Partners" meetings hosted by Workforce Alliance. The next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 11, 2012.

Workforce Alliance Supports Palm Beach County School District in New Initiative to Raise Graduation Rates

Workforce Alliance is partnering with the **Palm Beach County School District** to help carry out a comprehensive, federally-funded program to raise graduation rates in four high schools.

Workforce Alliance is providing four “**Career Navigators**” to work closely with groups of students who are considered at risk of dropping out of school for various reasons. They provide individual mentoring and guidance toward post-secondary educational and training opportunities to motivate each student to earn a high school diploma in order to qualify for the opportunities.

Steve Craig, Workforce Alliance’s interim chief executive officer, said, “We are extremely interested in the success of this program because it has the potential to not only bring about a considerable increase in the graduation rates at the four high schools, but also to give a much-needed boost to the economy of Palm Beach County and contribute to a better and more productive workforce for the future.”

The program began at the start of the present academic year, and includes a work readiness process that links the students’ courses in high school to skills, training and real-world experiences that focus on the needs of Palm Beach County employers.

It is a year-round program that employs a “work readiness” curriculum based on the one being used by Workforce Alliance in the young adult programs currently being conducted at its three career centers. The program’s follow-up includes a post-graduation connection to the full range of training and employment services available at the career centers.

The Career Navigators were specially selected based on their own educational achievements and experience in working with youth. They include: **Kathleen Alexis** at Boynton Beach High School; **Zaida Guzman** at Forest Hill High School; **Eugene Spann** at John I. Leonard High School; and **Tijan Redmon** at Palm Beach Lakes High School.

The five-year program is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education with the objective of increasing the graduation rates at high schools having drop-out rates that exceed the state average.



Ibis Country Club hosted a career exploration visit by students from Forest Hill High School and John I. Leonard High School. They were accompanied by Career Navigators **Zaida Guzman** (far left), **Eugene Spann** (2nd from right) and Youth Outreach Career Consultant **Nikole Rozon** (far right). Ibis Country Club General Manager **Steve LoGiudice** addressed the group, presenting insight to the varied careers available in the hospitality industry based largely on his own broad range of experience in various hospitality environments.

**EMPLOYERS:
Workforce Alliance Can
Help
You Find Qualified
Employees**

**Use our
EASY JOB ORDER ACCESS**

*For more information, or to start
now with free registration,
[click here.](#)*

**LINKS TO PALM BEACH COUNTY
LABOR MARKET INFORMATION**

Palm Beach County's:

- [Fastest growing occupations](#)
- [Occupations with the most openings](#)
- [Top occupations by education level](#)

**LINKS TO OUR EMPLOYER
SERVICES**

- [Training Grants / Incentives](#)
- [Post open positions](#)
- [Services to businesses](#)
- [Hiring incentives & tax credits](#)
- [Executive Transition Unit](#)
- [Recruitment services](#)
- [Hiring veterans](#)
- [Incentives for hiring employees with disabilities](#)

In addition, a variety of services are provided to assist organizations that are anticipating or going through layoffs. For complete details, contact a Workforce Alliance Business Services Account Manager at **1-800-556-JOBS (5627)**.

**CAREER CENTER
LOCATIONS**

**Central Career Center
& Executive Transition Unit**
1951 North Military Trail, Ste. D
West Palm Beach, FL 33409
Telephone (561) 340-1060



[Click here](#)

**South Career Center
& Executive Transition Unit**
951 Yamato Road, Suite 175
Boca Raton, FL 33487
Phone: (561) 853-0181 ext. 2017
Fax: (561) 981-6799



[Click here](#)

West Career Center
1085 South Main Street
Belle Glade, FL 33430
Telephone (561) 829-2040



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