

**Overview of Workforce Alliance Region
December 19, 2008**

- The unemployment rate in Palm Beach County was 7.6 percent in November 2008, up 3.0 percentage points from the November 2007 rate of 4.6 percent. Palm Beach County's unemployment rate was 0.3 percentage point higher than the state rate of 7.3 percent. Out of a labor force of 648,552, there were 49,540 unemployed Palm Beach County residents.
- The last time Palm Beach County's November unemployment rate was this high was in 1994 when it was 8.2 percent.
- In November 2008, nonagricultural employment in the West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division was 572,600, down -2.3 percent over the year. Statewide, employment declined by 202,600 jobs (-2.5 percent) over the same time period.
- West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division lost 13,200 nonagricultural jobs over the year. Job losses were primarily in construction (-4,800 jobs). Other industries losing jobs included: trade, transportation, and utilities (-4,300 jobs); leisure and hospitality (-2,600 jobs); financial activities (-1,400 jobs); manufacturing (-1,200 jobs); professional and business services (-900 jobs); and information (-400 jobs). Education and health services (+1,800 jobs); other services (+400 jobs); and government (+200 jobs) gained jobs over the year.
- Other services (1.6 percent) outperformed the state in percent growth.

| Unemployment Rates (%) (not seasonally adjusted) | Nov-08 | Oct-08 | Nov-07 |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Workforce Alliance Region | 7.6 | 7.5 | 4.6 |
| Florida | 7.3 | 7.1 | 4.3 |

| Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (not seasonally adjusted) | West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division | | | | Florida | | | |
|---|---|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| | Nov-08 | Nov-07 | change | percent change | Nov-08 | Nov-07 | change | percent change |
| Total Employment | 572,600 | 585,800 | -13,200 | -2.3 | 7,871,800 | 8,074,400 | -202,600 | -2.5 |
| Natural Resources and Mining | NA | NA | NA | NA | 6,400 | 6,500 | -100 | -1.5 |
| Construction | 38,100 | 42,900 | -4,800 | -11.2 | 488,800 | 569,700 | -80,900 | -14.2 |
| Manufacturing | 17,400 | 18,600 | -1,200 | -6.5 | 357,900 | 380,900 | -23,000 | -6.0 |
| Trade, Transportation, and Utilities | 104,500 | 108,800 | -4,300 | -4.0 | 1,582,300 | 1,637,700 | -55,400 | -3.4 |
| Wholesale Trade | 22,900 | 23,100 | -200 | -0.9 | 358,700 | 358,300 | 400 | 0.1 |
| Retail Trade | 71,100 | 75,300 | -4,200 | -5.6 | 985,200 | 1,031,400 | -46,200 | -4.5 |
| Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities | 10,500 | 10,400 | 100 | 1.0 | 238,400 | 248,000 | -9,600 | -3.9 |
| Information | 10,800 | 11,200 | -400 | -3.6 | 153,100 | 161,200 | -8,100 | -5.0 |
| Financial Activities | 37,900 | 39,300 | -1,400 | -3.6 | 522,300 | 539,700 | -17,400 | -3.2 |
| Professional and Business Services | 120,800 | 121,700 | -900 | -0.7 | 1,273,500 | 1,333,400 | -59,900 | -4.5 |
| Education and Health Services | 79,800 | 78,000 | 1,800 | 2.3 | 1,063,100 | 1,022,800 | 40,300 | 3.9 |
| Leisure and Hospitality | 71,200 | 73,800 | -2,600 | -3.5 | 919,400 | 923,200 | -3,800 | -0.4 |
| Other Services | 25,100 | 24,700 | 400 | 1.6 | 343,200 | 343,100 | 100 | 0.0 |
| Government | 66,900 | 66,700 | 200 | 0.3 | 1,161,800 | 1,156,200 | 5,600 | 0.5 |

| Population | 2008 | 2007 | change | percent change |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Workforce Alliance Region | 1,294,654 | 1,295,033 | -379 | 0.0 |
| Florida | 18,807,219 | 18,680,367 | 126,852 | 0.7 |

| Average Annual Wage | 2007 | 2006 | change | percent change |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Workforce Alliance Region | \$43,796 | \$41,967 | \$1,829 | 4.4 |
| Florida | \$39,776 | \$38,497 | \$1,279 | 3.3 |

Note: All data are subject to revision. NA = Data not available.

Source: Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation, Labor Market Statistics Center