

**Overview of Workforce Alliance Region  
January 23, 2009**

- The unemployment rate in Palm Beach County was 7.8 percent in December 2008, up 3.2 percentage points from the December 2007 rate of 4.6 percent. Palm Beach County's unemployment rate was equal to the state's unemployment rate. Out of a labor force of 650,424, there were 50,796 unemployed Palm Beach County residents.
- The last time Palm Beach County's December unemployment rate was this high was in 1993 when it was 7.9 percent.
- In December 2008, nonagricultural employment in the West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division was 576,300, down -2.5 percent over the year. Statewide, employment declined by 250,700 jobs (-3.1 percent) over the same time period.
- West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division lost 14,700 nonagricultural jobs over the year. Job losses were primarily in construction (-5,100 jobs). Other industries losing jobs included: leisure and hospitality (-2,400 jobs); financial activities (-1,700 jobs); manufacturing (-1,400 jobs); professional and business services (-1,000 jobs); and information (-500 jobs). Education and health services (+2,100 jobs); government (+400 jobs); and other services (+300 jobs) gained jobs over the year.
- Other services (1.2 percent) and government (0.6 percent) outperformed the state in percent growth.

<b>Unemployment Rates (%) (not seasonally adjusted)</b>	<b>Dec-08</b>	<b>Nov-08</b>	<b>Dec-07</b>
Workforce Alliance Region	7.8	7.7	4.6
Florida	7.8	7.4	4.5

<b>Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (not seasonally adjusted)</b>	<b>West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division</b>				<b>Florida</b>			
	<b>Dec-08</b>	<b>Dec-07</b>	<b>change</b>	<b>percent change</b>	<b>Dec-08</b>	<b>Dec-07</b>	<b>change</b>	<b>percent change</b>
Total Employment	576,300	591,000	-14,700	-2.5	7,873,700	8,124,400	-250,700	-3.1
Natural Resources and Mining	NA	NA	NA	NA	6,400	6,400	0	0.0
Construction	37,800	42,900	-5,100	-11.9	477,900	566,200	-88,300	-15.6
Manufacturing	17,200	18,600	-1,400	-7.5	353,800	381,900	-28,100	-7.4
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	105,300	110,700	-5,400	-4.9	1,585,100	1,666,700	-81,600	-4.9
Wholesale Trade	23,100	23,400	-300	-1.3	355,200	361,300	-6,100	-1.7
Retail Trade	72,000	76,500	-4,500	-5.9	995,100	1,049,900	-54,800	-5.2
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	10,200	10,800	-600	-5.6	234,800	255,500	-20,700	-8.1
Information	10,900	11,400	-500	-4.4	152,600	160,700	-8,100	-5.0
Financial Activities	37,900	39,600	-1,700	-4.3	522,900	541,200	-18,300	-3.4
Professional and Business Services	121,400	122,400	-1,000	-0.8	1,288,000	1,341,300	-53,300	-4.0
Education and Health Services	80,200	78,100	2,100	2.7	1,068,700	1,026,000	42,700	4.2
Leisure and Hospitality	72,900	75,300	-2,400	-3.2	918,500	932,100	-13,600	-1.5
Other Services	25,300	25,000	300	1.2	343,600	345,900	-2,300	-0.7
Government	67,300	66,900	400	0.6	1,156,200	1,156,000	200	0.0

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

<b>Average Annual Wage</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>change</b>	<b>percent change</b>
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