

**Overview of Workforce Alliance Region  
October 17, 2008**

- The unemployment rate in Palm Beach County was 7.3 percent in September 2008, up 2.3 percentage points from the September 2007 rate of 5.0 percent. Palm Beach County's unemployment rate was 0.5 percentage point higher than the state rate of 6.8 percent. Out of a labor force of 655,669, there were 48,012 unemployed Palm Beach County residents.
- The last time Palm Beach County's September unemployment rate was this high was in 1997 when it was 7.5 percent.
- In September 2008, nonagricultural employment in the West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division was 570,400, down 1.0 percent over the year. Statewide, employment declined by 119,700 jobs (-1.5 percent) over the same time period.
- Palm Beach County lost 5,800 nonagricultural jobs over the year. Job losses were primarily in construction (-4,000 jobs). Other industries losing jobs included: manufacturing (-1,100 jobs); financial activities (-900 jobs); professional and business services (-600 jobs); leisure and hospitality (-500 jobs); and trade, transportation, and utilities (-300 jobs). Education and health services (+1,100 jobs); other services and government (+300 job each) gained jobs over the year.
- Other services (+1.2 percent) was the only industry growing faster in Palm Beach County than in the state as a whole.

<b>Unemployment Rates (%)</b>			
<b>(not seasonally adjusted)</b>	<b>Sep-08</b>	<b>Aug-08</b>	<b>Sep-07</b>
Workforce Alliance Region	7.3	7.4	5.0
Florida	6.8	6.9	4.4

<b>Nonagricultural Employment by Industry</b> <b>(not seasonally adjusted)</b>	<b>West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division</b>				<b>Florida</b>			
	<b>Sep-08</b>	<b>Sep-07</b>	<b>change</b>	<b>percent change</b>	<b>Sep-08</b>	<b>Sep-07</b>	<b>change</b>	<b>percent change</b>
Total Employment	570,400	576,200	-5,800	-1.0	7,865,000	7,984,700	-119,700	-1.5
Natural Resources and Mining	NA	NA	NA	NA	6,400	6,400	0	0.0
Construction	39,400	43,400	-4,000	-9.2	508,900	584,100	-75,200	-12.9
Manufacturing	17,400	18,500	-1,100	-5.9	361,700	383,700	-22,000	-5.7
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	103,500	103,800	-300	-0.3	1,564,200	1,593,100	-28,900	-1.8
Wholesale Trade	22,900	22,600	300	1.3	357,700	355,100	2,600	0.7
Retail Trade	70,200	71,000	-800	-1.1	970,300	994,300	-24,000	-2.4
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	10,400	10,200	200	2.0	236,200	243,700	-7,500	-3.1
Information	10,900	11,000	-100	-0.9	157,000	160,300	-3,300	-2.1
Financial Activities	38,700	39,600	-900	-2.3	528,400	537,400	-9,000	-1.7
Professional and Business Services	121,000	121,600	-600	-0.5	1,275,200	1,314,500	-39,300	-3.0
Education and Health Services	79,200	78,100	1,100	1.4	1,047,900	1,012,900	35,000	3.5
Leisure and Hospitality	68,600	69,100	-500	-0.7	922,900	908,700	14,200	1.6
Other Services	24,700	24,400	300	1.2	342,000	343,000	-1,000	-0.3
Government	66,900	66,600	300	0.5	1,150,400	1,140,600	9,800	0.9

<b>Population</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>change</b>	<b>percent change</b>
Workforce Alliance Region	1,295,033	1,287,987	7,046	0.5
Florida	18,680,367	18,349,132	331,235	1.8

<b>Average Annual Wage</b>	<b>2007p</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>change</b>	<b>percent change</b>
Workforce Alliance Region	\$43,803	\$41,967	\$1,836	4.4
Florida	\$39,762	\$38,495	\$1,267	3.3

Notes: All data are subject to revision. NA = Not available. P = Preliminary.