

**Overview of Workforce Alliance Region
November 21, 2008**

- The unemployment rate in Palm Beach County was 7.4 percent in October 2008, up 2.7 percentage points from the October 2007 rate of 4.7 percent. Palm Beach County's unemployment rate was 0.4 percentage point higher than the state rate of 7.0 percent. Out of a labor force of 657,079, there were 48,540 unemployed Palm Beach County residents.
- The last time Palm Beach County's October unemployment rate was this high was in 1995 when it was 7.5 percent.
- In October 2008, nonagricultural employment in the West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division was 573,400, down 1.2 percent over the year. Statewide, employment declined by 152,100 jobs (-1.9 percent) over the same time period.
- Palm Beach County lost 6,800 nonagricultural jobs over the year. Job losses were primarily in construction (-4,700 jobs). Other industries losing jobs included: trade, transportation, and utilities (-1,600 jobs); manufacturing (-1,000 jobs); financial activities (-900 jobs); leisure and hospitality (-500 jobs); and information (-300 jobs). Education and health services (+1,200 jobs); government (+700 jobs); other services (+200 jobs); and professional and business services (+100) gained jobs over the year.
- Three of the area's industry sectors outperformed the state in percent growth: government (+1.1 percent); other services (+0.8 percent); and professional and business services (+0.1 percent).

Unemployment Rates (%) (not seasonally adjusted)	Oct-08	Sep-08	Oct-07
Workforce Alliance Region	7.4	7.4	4.7
Florida	7.0	6.9	4.4

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (not seasonally adjusted)	West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division				Florida			
	Oct-08	Oct-07	change	percent change	Oct-08	Oct-07	change	percent change
Total Employment	573,400	580,200	-6,800	-1.2	7,870,300	8,022,400	-152,100	-1.9
Natural Resources and Mining	NA	NA	NA	NA	6,400	6,500	-100	-1.5
Construction	38,700	43,400	-4,700	-10.8	502,900	583,000	-80,100	-13.7
Manufacturing	17,400	18,400	-1,000	-5.4	360,200	380,200	-20,000	-5.3
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	103,700	105,300	-1,600	-1.5	1,566,700	1,605,100	-38,400	-2.4
Wholesale Trade	22,800	22,800	0	0.0	357,200	357,200	0	0.0
Retail Trade	70,600	72,200	-1,600	-2.2	972,900	1,002,300	-29,400	-2.9
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	10,300	10,300	0	0.0	236,600	245,600	-9,000	-3.7
Information	10,800	11,100	-300	-2.7	152,400	160,400	-8,000	-5.0
Financial Activities	38,600	39,500	-900	-2.3	527,700	539,500	-11,800	-2.2
Professional and Business Services	122,800	122,700	100	0.1	1,277,100	1,324,100	-47,000	-3.5
Education and Health Services	79,500	78,300	1,200	1.5	1,055,400	1,020,300	35,100	3.4
Leisure and Hospitality	69,700	70,200	-500	-0.7	919,000	909,900	9,100	1.0
Other Services	24,800	24,600	200	0.8	342,100	342,600	-500	-0.1
Government	67,300	66,600	700	1.1	1,160,400	1,150,800	9,600	0.8

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