

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

- The unemployment rate in Palm Beach County was 7.3 percent in August 2008, up 2.4 percentage points from the August 2007 rate of 4.9 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 655,594, there were 47,891 unemployed Palm Beach County residents.
- The last time Palm Beach County's August unemployment rate was this high was in 1997 when it was 7.5 percent.
- In August 2008, nonagricultural employment in the West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division was 572,100, down 0.9 percent over the year. Statewide, employment declined by 98,700 jobs (-1.2 percent) over the same time period.
- Palm Beach County lost 5,200 nonagricultural jobs over the year. Job losses were primarily in construction (-4,200 jobs). Other industries losing jobs included: financial activities (-1,400 jobs); manufacturing (-1,100 jobs); trade, transportation, and utilities (-800 jobs); and leisure and hospitality (-100 jobs). Education and health services (+1,300 jobs); other services and government (+500 job each); and professional and business services (+100 jobs) gained jobs over the year.
- Other services (+2.1 percent) and professional and business services (+0.1 percent) were the only industries growing faster in Palm Beach County than in the state as a whole.

<b>Unemployment Rates (%) (not seasonally adjusted)</b>	<b>Aug-08</b>	<b>Jul-08</b>	<b>Aug-07</b>
Workforce Alliance Region	7.3	7.0	4.9
Florida	6.8	6.5	4.4

<b>Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (not seasonally adjusted)</b>	<b>West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division</b>				<b>Florida</b>			
	<b>Aug-08</b>	<b>Aug-07</b>	<b>change</b>	<b>percent change</b>	<b>Aug-08</b>	<b>Aug-07</b>	<b>change</b>	<b>percent change</b>
Total Employment	572,100	577,300	-5,200	-0.9	7,894,200	7,992,900	-98,700	-1.2
Natural Resources and Mining	NA	NA	NA	NA	6,400	6,500	-100	-1.5
Construction	39,500	43,700	-4,200	-9.6	512,500	591,000	-78,500	-13.3
Manufacturing	17,400	18,500	-1,100	-5.9	361,600	385,300	-23,700	-6.2
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	103,700	104,500	-800	-0.8	1,577,600	1,593,800	-16,200	-1.0
Wholesale Trade	22,800	22,600	200	0.9	357,800	355,200	2,600	0.7
Retail Trade	70,400	71,600	-1,200	-1.7	980,600	995,000	-14,400	-1.4
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	10,500	10,300	200	1.9	239,200	243,600	-4,400	-1.8
Information	11,100	11,100	0	0.0	155,700	161,600	-5,900	-3.7
Financial Activities	38,500	39,900	-1,400	-3.5	534,900	540,200	-5,300	-1.0
Professional and Business Services	122,100	122,000	100	0.1	1,286,800	1,319,100	-32,300	-2.4
Education and Health Services	79,200	77,900	1,300	1.7	1,041,000	1,004,000	37,000	3.7
Leisure and Hospitality	69,100	69,200	-100	-0.1	933,800	917,000	16,800	1.8
Other Services	24,700	24,200	500	2.1	341,800	342,200	-400	-0.1
Government	66,700	66,200	500	0.8	1,142,100	1,132,200	9,900	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	\$38,497	\$1,265	3.3

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

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