

**Overview of Palm Beach County
December 18, 2009**

- The unemployment rate in Palm Beach County was 11.7 percent in November 2009, up 3.9 percentage points from the November 2008 rate of 7.8 percent. Palm Beach County's unemployment rate was 0.2 percent higher than the state's unemployment rate of 11.5 percent. Out of a labor force of 628,917, there were 73,319 unemployed Palm Beach County residents.
- In November 2009, nonagricultural employment in the West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division was 523,700, down 2.9 percent over the year. Statewide employment declined by 3.7 percent over the same time period.
- The current unemployment rate is the highest recorded in the series since September 1992 when it was 12.5 percent.
- West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division lost 15,900 nonagricultural jobs over the year. Job losses were primarily in construction (-6,900 jobs). Other industries losing jobs included: trade, transportation, and utilities (-4,300 jobs); leisure and hospitality (-3,600 jobs); manufacturing (-1,700 jobs); professional and business services (-1,000 jobs); financial activities (-500 jobs); and information (-200 jobs).
- Industries that gained jobs over the year were government (+1,100 jobs); education and health services (+1,000 jobs); and other services (+200 jobs).
- The job growth rate in government (+1.6 percent); education and health services (+1.2 percent); and other services (+0.8 percent) exceeded the job growth rate in the state for those industry sectors.

Unemployment Rates (%) (not seasonally adjusted)	Nov-09	Oct-09	Nov-08
Workforce Alliance Region (Palm Beach County)	11.7	11.5	7.8
Florida	11.5	11.3	7.4
United States	9.4	9.5	6.5

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (not seasonally adjusted)	West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division				Florida			
	Nov-09	Nov-08	change	percent change	Nov-09	Nov-08	change	percent change
Total Employment	523,700	539,600	-15,900	-2.9	7,364,200	7,650,700	-286,500	-3.7
Mining and Logging	NA	NA	NA	NA	6,100	6,300	-200	-3.2
Construction	26,800	33,700	-6,900	-20.5	403,300	476,500	-73,200	-15.4
Manufacturing	16,400	18,100	-1,700	-9.4	320,500	361,600	-41,100	-11.4
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	99,600	103,900	-4,300	-4.1	1,494,900	1,565,500	-70,600	-4.5
Wholesale Trade	22,500	23,200	-700	-3.0	334,100	345,400	-11,300	-3.3
Retail Trade	67,100	70,500	-3,400	-4.8	930,800	981,300	-50,500	-5.1
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	10,000	10,200	-200	-2.0	230,000	238,800	-8,800	-3.7
Information	10,400	10,600	-200	-1.9	143,600	150,000	-6,400	-4.3
Financial Activities	37,700	38,200	-500	-1.3	493,300	518,500	-25,200	-4.9
Professional and Business Services	89,300	90,300	-1,000	-1.1	1,063,000	1,121,800	-58,800	-5.2
Education and Health Services	82,600	81,600	1,000	1.2	1,070,100	1,061,800	8,300	0.8
Leisure and Hospitality	66,200	69,800	-3,600	-5.2	894,000	904,300	-10,300	-1.1
Other Services	25,300	25,100	200	0.8	332,900	334,300	-1,400	-0.4
Government	69,300	68,200	1,100	1.6	1,142,500	1,150,100	-7,600	-0.7

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	2008	2007	change	percent change
Workforce Alliance Region	\$44,510	\$43,796	\$714	1.6
Florida	\$40,579	\$39,776	\$803	2.0

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

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