



# PRESS RELEASE

DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES THAT WORK

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## **Inconsequential Increase to South Florida's Unemployment Rate**

**(MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FL)** – The Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation February 2010 labor market statistics for South Florida Workforce Region 23 (Miami-Dade and Monroe counties) show a not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 11.1 percent, a 0.2 percentage point increase from the January 2010 rate of 10.9 percent. Such a small over-the-month increase is statistically insignificant and common to an economic recession. Region 23's February 11.1 percent unemployment rate is 1.1 percentage points lower than the state rate of 12.2 percent and up 2.0 percentage points from the year-ago rate of 9.1 percent. Out of a labor force of 1,306,609, there were 144,820 unemployed residents in the region in February 2010.

In the two counties that comprise the South Florida Workforce Region, the February 2010 unemployment rates were 11.2 percent in Miami-Dade County and 8.0 percent in Monroe County. Monroe's rate is the second lowest statewide. Miami-Dade County's unemployment rate of 11.2 percent is 2.0 percentage points higher than the year-ago rate of 9.2 percent. And Monroe County's unemployment rate of 8.0 percent is 1.6 percentage points higher than the year-ago rate of 6.4 percent.

Just like Miami-Dade County, the February 2010 unemployment rate for the metropolitan statistical area of Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall is 11.2 percent. Total nonagricultural employment in that statistical area was 977,700, a decline of 2.6 percent over the year. Statewide, employment decreased 2.8 percent over the same time period. Of Region 23's major industries, education and health services (+3,800 jobs) were the only major industry sectors to gain jobs over the year.

In the Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall metropolitan area, trade, transportation, and utilities (-6,600 jobs) lost the most jobs, followed by mining, logging, and construction (-6,300 jobs); manufacturing (-4,100 jobs); financial activities (-3,700 jobs); government (-2,900 jobs); information (-2,000 jobs); professional and business services (-1,700 jobs); leisure and hospitality (-1,400 jobs); and other services (-1,300 jobs).

In an effort to improve the local economy, South Florida Workforce Investment Board (SFWIB), the regional workforce board for Miami-Dade and Monroe counties, delivers a myriad of business and jobseeker services to the region. Most recently, SFWIB hosted a regional Employability Fair in partnership with U.S. Senator for Florida George LeMieux. A little under 2,000 jobseekers participated in the Fair, receiving heightened career services from SFWIB staff and SFWIB's workforce affiliates. Moreover, on March 25, 2010, SFWIB issued a Request for Proposal for a 2010 Summer Youth Employment Program, hoping to award American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to local organizations capable of delivering workforce services to low-income youth. The Employability Fair and the Summer Youth Employment Program RFP represent two distinct SFWIB strategies for boosting the region's economy.

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