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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SOUTH FLORIDA'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DECLINES FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE MONTH TO 11.7

(MIAMI, March 24, 2011) — The South Florida region's unemployment rate for February 2011 decline to 11.7. This signifies that 1,330,996 are out of a labor force and there are 155,232 unemployed residents in the region.

The February 2011 unemployment rates were 11.8 percent in Miami-Dade County and 6.9 percent in Monroe County, the two counties that comprise the South Florida Workforce Region. The Miami-Dade and Monroe counties' unemployment rates are slightly lower than the month-ago rates of 12.0 and 7.6.

The reason being in February 2011, total nonagricultural employment in the Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall metro area was 988,500, an increase of 1.0 percent over the year, faring better than the statewide, employment, which increased 0.7 percent over the same time period.

The total nonagricultural employment increased by 9,400 jobs over the year in the metro areas and came in second in the state for gaining the most jobs. Trade, transportation and utilities +3,400 jobs gained the most jobs; followed by education and health services and leisure and hospitality both +3,100 jobs; government +1,000 jobs; other services +700 jobs; professional and business services +600 jobs; and financial activities +200 jobs.

"While we witness the unemployment rate decline for the second consecutive month, the strong evidence of recovery is the growing increase of available jobs in our region. South Florida Workforce remains committed to preparing the workforce for growing and emerging industries," said Rick Beasley, executive director for South Florida Workforce Investment Board.

Industries losing jobs over the year included mining, logging, and construction and manufacturing both - 1,100 jobs and information -500 jobs.

POWER SEEKER WORKSHOPS

SFWIB is collaborating with Monster Government Solutions, the parent company of Monster.com, a leading global online career and recruitment resource, to host ten free Power Seeker Workshops for job seekers in the Miami-Dade and Monroe counties. The workshops will cover the following topics: power resume writing, job hunting strategies, power interviewing, power networking and creating your digital footprint. Space is limited and registration is required to attend the Power Seeker Workshops. Participants can register on-line at no cost at www.southfloridaworkforce.com. Learn more about the Power Seeker Workshops by contacting South Florida Workforce at 305-594-7615.

For more information on the Miami-Dade and Monroe counties' unemployment outlook, please contact South Florida Workforce at 305-594-7615 or visit www.southfloridaworkforce.com.