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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SOUTH FLORIDA'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DECLINES TO 12.3

(MIAMI, August 19, 2011) — The July 2011 non-seasonally adjusted rate for the South Florida Region shifted slightly downward to 12.3. There was an increase of 15,900 jobs from a year ago, making it the highest of all the metro areas in Florida.

There were 1,352,847 out of labor force and 166,589 unemployed residents in the region. The July 2011 unemployment rates were 12.5 percent in Miami-Dade County. This was 1.4 percentage points lower than the June's rate. The Monroe County rate remains steady at 6.6 percent.

The total non-agricultural employment in the metropolitan areas was 978,000 in July. Trade, transportation and utilities gained the most jobs with (+6,000); followed by education and health services (+5,100); professional and business services (+5,000); leisure and hospitality (+3,500) and government (+700).

"We continue to see an increase in the number of jobs being created in the region. However, there is still work ahead of us. The South Florida Workforce will be launching a "Campaign of Opportunity" that will assist businesses in creating new jobs and help job seekers get back to work," said Rick Beasley, executive director of South Florida Workforce Investment Board.

The industries losing jobs over the year included other services (-300); followed by mining, logging and construction (-800); information (-900 jobs); financial activities (-1,100) and manufacturing (-1,300).

FOR THE PEOPLE JOB FAIR

The South Florida Workforce Investment Board has joined forces with Congresswoman Frederica S. Wilson and delegates of the Congressional Black Caucus in sponsoring "For the People" Job Fair on Tuesday, August 23, 2011, at the James L. Knight Center, 400 SE 2 Avenue, Miami from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. About 129 companies are expected to participate in the job fair including Carnival Cruise Lines, Coca-Cola, Lowe's, Macy's and more. For more information, contact 305-594-7615.

FOR THE PEOPLE JOB INITIATIVE TOWN HALL MEETING

A town hall meeting will take place on Monday, August 22, 2011, at Mt. Hermon AME Church, 17800 NW 25 Avenue, Miami Gardens, Florida from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. The town Hall meeting will discuss the Congressional Black Caucus "For the People Jobs Initiative – House Resolution 348, which encourages the House of Representatives to immediately consider and pass critical jobs legislation to address the growing jobs crisis throughout America.

ABOUT SOUTH FLORIDA WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

South Florida Workforce is a public-private partnership that establishes state and federally funded workforce development and training policies for Miami-Dade and Monroe counties. Additionally, South Florida Workforce services and resources are available to everyone at no cost through a network of career centers located throughout the region.

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.

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