



The South Florida Workforce offers equal opportunity programs. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

PRESS RELEASE

Jobless rate jumps to 6.0% in Region 23 as Education and Health Services Continue to Add Jobs

Miami-Florida. South Florida's latest unemployment data points to worsening unemployment as companies begin to impose job cuts as bottlenecks in the credit markets continue to restrict lending. Despite the up tick in unemployment however, the Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall metro division added the most jobs among the other Florida metro areas in the education and health services industry, adding 6,000 jobs over the year. The official statistics indicate that the unemployment rate in the South Florida Workforce Region (Miami-Dade and Monroe counties) was 6.0 percent in September 2008, up 2.0 percentage points from the year-ago rate, but 0.8 percentage points lower than the state rate of 6.8 percent.

Unemployment rates in September 2008 in the two counties that comprise the South Florida Workforce Region were 6.0 percent in Miami-Dade County and 5.2 percent in Monroe County. The unemployment rate in Miami-Dade County was up 1.9 percentage points over the year and Monroe County was up 2.1 percentage points. The last time the September unemployment rate was this high in Miami-Dade County was in 2003 (6.1 percent). The last time the September unemployment rate has been this high in Monroe County was in 1992 (6.8 percent).

Executive Director of South Florida Workforce, Rick Beasley called the latest figures "encouraging". Without question, business confidence has taken a battering in recent weeks due to the slowdown in the global economy and continued convulsions in the credit markets which will affect the employment rate in an important trade hub such as South Florida. "Businesses are going to be very careful about adding staff right now, but there is still some indication of moderate growth," he said.

Indeed, while the Agency for Workforce Innovation's figures revealed unemployment creeping up, their statistics also showed healthy growth in the education and health services industries. Education and health services gained the most jobs over the year in the Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall metro division (+6,000 jobs), followed by government (+1,700 jobs); leisure and hospitality (+900 jobs); and other services (+400 jobs).

Date: October 17, 2008

Contact: Richard Clarke, Public Information Officer

Phone: 305-594-7615 Extension 274