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## **Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties' Unemployment Rates Slightly Rose**

**(MIAMI, August 20, 2010)** — The unemployment rate was 13.0 percent (seasonally adjusted) in the South Florida Workforce region in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties. This was up 1.8 percentage points from the year-ago rate of 11.2 percent and 1.0 percentage point higher than the state unemployment rate of 12.0 percent. Out of a labor force of 1,336,465, there were 174,355 unemployed residents in the region.

The unemployment rates in the two counties that comprise the South Florida Workforce Region were 13.2 percent in Miami-Dade and 7.9 percent in Monroe during July 2010. Monroe County's unemployment rate was 0.7 percentage point higher than the year-ago rate of 7.2 percent. Miami-Dade County's unemployment rate was 1.8 percentage points higher than the year-ago rate of 11.4 percent.

"As our economy slowly gains momentum, we are encouraged by the increase of employment opportunities in our regions. South Florida Workforce will continue to expand our training programs and equip our region's citizens with the skills necessary to enhance their position in this competitive market," said Rick Beasley, executive director for South Florida Workforce Investment Board.

Education and health services (+4,300 jobs); professional and business services (+2,600 jobs); leisure and hospitality (+1,600 jobs); trade, transportation, and utilities (+700 jobs); and government (+200 jobs) were the major industries that gained jobs over the year.

The area's over-the-year growth rate in leisure and hospitality (+1.6 percent) was better than the statewide growth rate in this industry (+0.9 percent). The Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall metro division gained more jobs in education and health services than any other metro area in Florida from July 2009 to July 2010.

In July 2010, total nonagricultural employment in the Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall metropolitan division was 959,200, nearly unchanged over the year. Statewide, employment increased 0.2 percent over the same time period.

Total nonagricultural employment declined by 300 jobs over the year in the Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall metropolitan division. Financial activities (-3,400 jobs) lost the most jobs, followed by mining, logging, and construction (-2,500 jobs); information (-1,500 jobs); manufacturing (-1,400 jobs); and other services (-900 jobs).

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](http://www.southfloridaworkforce.com).

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