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SOUTH FLORIDA UNEMPLOYMENT PEAKS AT A MARGINAL INCLINE

(MIAMI, July 16, 2010) — The unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) was 12.6 percent in the South Florida Workforce region in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties in June 2010. This was up 1.0 percentage point from the year-ago rate of 11.6 percent and 1.0 percentage point higher than the state unemployment rate of 11.6. Out of a labor force of 1,322,955, there were 166,854 unemployed residents in the region.

The unemployment rates in the two counties that comprise the South Florida Workforce Region were 12.8 percent in Miami-Dade and 7.4 percent in Monroe during June 2010. Monroe County's unemployment rate was 0.3 percentage point higher than the year-ago rate of 7.1 percent. Miami-Dade County's unemployment rate was 1.1 percentage points higher than the year-ago rate of 11.7 percent.

"While as a nation, we are slowly recovering economically, South Florida Workforce continues to work closely with both the local and federal government to ensure that sustainable employment and training opportunities are available to the unemployed in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties," said Rick Beasley, Executive Director of South Florida Workforce Investment Board.

In the metro division, Leisure and hospitality was up over the year, but lost jobs statewide. The Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall metro division gained more jobs in education and health services than any other metro area in the Florida from June 2009 to June 2010.

In June 2010, total nonagricultural employment in the Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall metropolitan division was 963,400, a decline of 1.1 percent over the year. Statewide, employment decreased 0.4 percent over the same time period.

Total nonagricultural employment declined by 11,200 jobs over the year in the Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall metropolitan division. Financial activities (-4,400 jobs) lost the most jobs, followed by mining, logging, and construction (-2,800 jobs); manufacturing (-2,600 jobs); trade, transportation, and utilities (-2,200 jobs); information (-1,800 jobs); other services (-1,400 jobs); and professional and business services (-1,000 jobs).

Education and health services (+3,100 jobs); government (+1,600 jobs); and leisure and hospitality (+300 jobs) were the only major industries to gain jobs over the year. The increase in government was mainly due to federal government hiring to conduct the decennial Census.

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Free Technology classes

SFWIB encourages jobseekers to expand their digital literacy through Microsoft® Elevate America. Microsoft Corporation and South Florida Workforce Investment Board is offering free vouchers for online computer training through a program called Microsoft® Elevate America to Miami-Dade and Monroe counties' residents to expand access to basic technology literacy and skills training. Elevate America's Florida vouchers will be available through August 21, 2010, or while supplies last. The vouchers and certification exam vouchers must be activated and used by this date. There are no income requirements to participate in the Elevate America. For more information, visit www.southfloridaworkforce.com.

Job Creation Opportunities

The "Florida Back to Work" initiative is established to create more jobs and assist public and private employers with reducing the costs of hiring additional employees. If eligible, SFWIB will grant up to 95% of salary costs for new employees on a limited time basis.

For more information on the Miami-Dade and Monroe counties labor statistics, Microsoft® Elevate America and "Florida Back to Work," please contact South Florida Workforce at 305-594-7615 or visit www.southfloridaworkforce.com.

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