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SOUTH FLORIDA'S ECONOMY IS STABILIZING

(MIAMI, April 15, 2011) — The South Florida region's unemployment rate for March 2011 at 12.1. This signifies that 1,323,871 are out of a labor force and there are 160,104 unemployed residents in the region.

The March 2011 unemployment rates were 12.3 percent in Miami-Dade County and 6.6 percent in Monroe County, the two counties that comprise the South Florida Workforce region. Monroe County was 6.6 percent, which was slightly lower than a month-ago rate of 6.9.

From November of 2010 until March 2011, the region's total nonagricultural employment increased from 4,900 jobs to 11,900 jobs in the metro area. In fact, the total nonagricultural employment in the Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall metro area was 994,300, which came in second in the state for gaining the most jobs.

The Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall metro area gained more jobs over the year in education and health services and government than any other metro area in Florida. Education and health services (+4,100) gained the most jobs; followed by leisure and hospitality (+3,800 jobs); followed by trade transportation and utilities (+3,200 jobs); followed by government (+1,400 jobs); financial activities (+1000 jobs); professional and business services (+600 jobs) and other services (+600 jobs).

"We continue to bear witness to the increase of available jobs in our region, which is an indication that our local economy is rebounding. South Florida Workforce continues to expand its employment services 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."

Industries losing jobs over the year included mining, logging and construction (-1,200); manufacturing (-800 jobs) and information (-800 jobs).

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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.

NEW ACCESS POINT OPENING IN LIBERTY CITY

New Access Point opening at the Church of the Open Door in Liberty City to assist area residents with finding employment. A grand opening will take place on Wednesday, April 27, 2011, from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. at 6001 N.W. 8 Avenue Miami, Florida 33127.

BUSINESS INCENTIVES ROUNDTABLES

Through a collaborative effort, South Florida Workforce Investment Board (SFWIB), the Beacon Council and Urban Strategies Inc., are hosting a Business Incentives Roundtable for businesses in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties. The Roundtable will take place on Thursday, April 28, 2011, from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Merlin Mathews Community Center, 5200 NW 22 Avenue, Miami, FL 33142. For more information, contact Business Services Division at 305.594-7615 ext. 407.

SFWIB KICKS OFF 2011 YOUNG ADULT SUMMER EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

The SFWIB is pleased to announce the launch of its 2011 Young Adult Summer Employment Program. The Young Adult Summer Employment Program is an excellent opportunity to provide young people between the ages of 18 to 24 with the opportunity to gain work experience with local employers and to earn extra money. Participation and registration information is now available on-line www.southfloridaworkforce.com

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.

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Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.