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South Florida's Unemployment Rate Climbs

(MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FL) – The May 2010 unemployment rate (not-seasonally adjusted) for the South Florida Workforce region (Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties) was 12.1 percent. The percentage points increase 1.6 percentage from the year-ago rate of 10.5 percent and 0.9 percentage points higher than the state rate of 11.2. For May 2010, there were 160,831 unemployed residents in the region out of a labor force of 1,324,590.

In the two counties comprising the South Florida Workforce region, the May 2010 unemployment rates were 12.3 percent in Miami-Dade County and 7.1 percent in Monroe County. Miami-Dade County's May 2010 unemployment rate was 12.3 percent, a 1.6 percentage point increase from the May 2009 rate of 10.7. Monroe's unemployment rate was the second lowest statewide and decreased by 0.2 percentage point from its 7.3 percent April 2010 rate. Monroe's May rate was 0.5 percentage point higher than the year-ago rate of 6.6 percent.

"The South Florida Workforce Investment Board (SFWIB) remains committed to delivering first-rate employment and training services to the region's citizens, aiming to foster economic prosperity," said South Florida Workforce Investment Board Executive Director Rick Beasley. "We will remain focused on providing resources to South Florida's families and supporting employers as our economic climate improves."

In partnership with Monster.com, SFWIB is hosting Power Seeker Workshops for job seekers. The Workshops are designed to equip jobseekers with innovative tools to stand out in today's tough job market. Additionally, SFWIB is recruiting qualified jobseekers for the Florida Back to Work Program, an initiative designed to bolster businesses and create jobs.

Government (+5,500 jobs) and education and health services (+3,500 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.

In the Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall metropolitan division, total nonagricultural employment declined by 9,900 jobs over the year. Financial activities (-4,400 jobs) lost the most jobs, followed by mining, logging, and construction (-3,800 jobs); manufacturing (-2,600 jobs); trade, transportation, and utilities (-2,500 jobs); information (-1,900 jobs); other services (-1,600 jobs); professional and business services (-1,400 jobs); and leisure and hospitality (-700 jobs).

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