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## **Improvement to South Florida's Unemployment Rate**

**(MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FL)** – The unemployment rate in the South Florida Workforce region (Miami-Dade and Monroe counties) was 10.4 percent in November 2009, a noteworthy improvement from the October 2009, rate of 11.7 percent. The region's unemployment rate is 1.1 percentage points lower than the State's 11.5 percent rate. Out of a labor force of 1,274,769 the November rate represents 131,982 unemployed residents in the region.

By county, the Miami-Dade County November 2009, unemployment rate is 10.5 percent, 1.3 percentage points lower than the October rate of 11.8. And the November rate in Monroe County is 7.3 percent, a slight increase from the October 2009, rate of 7.1 percent. For economists, that increase indicates stabilization of Monroe's economy not regression.

In its efforts to reduce unemployment rates, South Florida Workforce Investment Board (SFWIB), the agency responsible for delivering workforce services to the region's businesses and jobseekers, has partnered with the office of Governor Charlie Crist, the Agency for Workforce Innovation, the Department of Children and Families and Workforce Florida Inc. to administer the Florida Back to Work Program. The Program, which is funded with Temporary Assistance to Needy Families dollars, is designed to help pay for jobs for low-income families. Between now and September 30, 2010, public and private employers can enter into contracts with SFWIB to cover nearly all of the salary costs for employees.

For SFWIB Executive Director Rick Beasley, "the Back to Work Program is a welcome addition to SFWIB's many other critical workforce development services and reflects the Agency's unyielding commitment to placing jobseekers into meaningful employment and assisting South Florida's business community."

From November 2008, to November 2009, education and health services were the only industry sectors steadily gaining jobs. In November 2009, total nonagricultural employment in the Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall metropolitan division was 1,018,700 a decline of 2.3 percent over the year. Mining, logging, and construction (-6,800 jobs) lost the most jobs, followed by trade, transportation, and utilities (-6,500 jobs), government (-3,200 jobs), manufacturing (-3,100 jobs), financial activities (-2,300 jobs), information (-1,000 jobs), and professional and business services (-800 jobs).