



The South Florida Workforce offers equal opportunity programs. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

PRESS RELEASE

Despite Slowing Economy, Education and Health Services Continue to Show Signs of Growth

Miami-Florida - The unemployment rates in the two counties that comprise Workforce Region 23 were 6.1 percent in Miami-Dade County and 5.4 percent in Monroe County adding to signs of an impending recession that is prompting companies to slash production and cut workers. Data released today by the Agency for Workforce Innovation shows that the unemployment rate in Miami-Dade County was up 2.0 percentage points over the year and Monroe County was up 2.3 percentage points. The last time the October unemployment rate was this high in Miami-Dade County was in 2002 (6.4 percent). The October unemployment rate in Monroe County was a record high for that month.

The unemployment rate for the Region as a whole was 6.1 percent in October, up 2.0 percentage points from the year-ago rate but 0.9 percentage points lower than the state rate of 7.0 percent. Out of a labor force of 1,258,037, there were 76,675 unemployed residents. "As a result of the contraction in our economy, we have seen a fifty percent increase in the number of people who are visiting our centers seeking employment services, and a thirty to forty percent increase in the participation rate in several of our programs," said Rick Beasley, Executive Director of South Florida Workforce. "It shows how serious things are becoming," Mr. Beasley said.

Despite the bump in unemployment, The Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall metro division ranked second in the number of new jobs (+4,800 jobs) in the education and health services industry, behind only the Orlando-Kissimmee metro area (+5,200 jobs). Other than education and health services, there was positive growth in a number of sectors that included: government (+500 jobs); other services (+400 jobs); and leisure and hospitality (+200 jobs). Conversely, natural resources, mining, and construction lost the most jobs (-8,200), followed by professional and business services (-5,400 jobs); trade, transportation, and utilities (-4,500 jobs); financial activities (-2,300 jobs); manufacturing (-1,400 jobs); and information (-1000 jobs).

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