



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

PRESS RELEASE

Unemployment Edges Up to 6.9 Percent as the Region's Economy Sheds 27,600 Jobs

(Miami-Florida) In December of 2008, the unemployment rates in the two counties that comprise the South Florida Workforce Region were 7.0 percent in Miami-Dade County and 5.8 percent in Monroe County according to seasonally adjusted figures released by the Agency for Workforce Innovation. The unemployment rate in Miami-Dade County was up 3.1 percentage points over the year and Monroe County was up 2.8 percentage points. The last time the December unemployment rate was this high in Miami-Dade County was in 2001 (7.6 percent). The December unemployment rate in Monroe County was a record high for that month.

"What these figures are telling us is that South Florida's economy is not immune from the global financial crisis," Rick Beasley, Executive Director of the South Florida Workforce Investment Board is quoted as saying. "There's no doubt that employers at the moment are certainly not hiring any new staff and whatever staff they currently have on board they are moving to a much more flexible work force."

In December 2008, nonagricultural employment in the Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall metro division was 1,050,200. Total nonagricultural employment declined 2.6 percent or (27,600 jobs) over the year. Statewide, employment declined 3.1 percent over the same time period.

But it was not all bad though. Education and health services gained the most jobs over the year in the Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall metro division (+6,000 jobs), followed by other services (+600 jobs) and government (+300 jobs). The Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall metro division ranked second in the number of new jobs (+6,000 jobs) in the education and health services industry, behind only the Orlando-Kissimmee metro area (+6,900 jobs). It must be noted however, that the growth in the education and health services sector is largely reflected in the health services industry rather than in educational services which continues to be impacted by budget cuts and staff reductions.