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July 2009 Unemployment Rate was the Highest Recorded in the Region

(MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, Fla.) – New data showed the jobless rate in the South Florida Workforce Region rose to its highest recorded level in July 2009. The unemployment rate for the Region rose to an unprecedented 11.4 percent during July 2009, nearly double the year-ago rate of 5.9 percent. The Region's unemployment rate was also 0.4 percentage points higher than the state's unemployment rate of 11.0 percent during July 2009.

In overall numbers, the July 2009 unemployment rates for the two counties that comprise the South Florida Workforce Region were 11.6 percent in Miami-Dade County and 6.6 percent in Monroe County. The unemployment rate in Miami-Dade County increased 5.7 percentage points over the year while the unemployment rate in Monroe County increased 2.4 percentage points. Out of a total labor force of 1,299,110, there were 148,295 unemployed residents within the region.

The data also showed that during the same period, total nonagricultural employment in the Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall metropolitan division declined by 33,100 jobs over the year in the Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall metropolitan division. Trade, transportation, and utilities (-8,000 jobs) lost the most jobs, followed by mining, logging, and construction (-7,400 jobs); professional and business services (-6,400 jobs); manufacturing (-3,000 jobs); government (-2,400 jobs); financial activities (-1,700 jobs); information (-1,400 jobs); other services (-1,300 jobs); leisure and hospitality (-1,100); and education and health services (-400 jobs).

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