



# PRESS RELEASE

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## South Florida's Unemployment Rate Climbs to 7.7% as Economy Weakens

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, Fla.)** – South Florida's unemployment rate jumped to 7.7 percent during March 2009, an increase of 2.8 percentage points from a year ago (4.9 percent) and the biggest monthly rise in 13 years. During March 2009, the unemployment rates of the two counties that comprise the South Florida Workforce Region were 7.8 percent in Miami-Dade County and 6.1 percent in Monroe County.

More specifically, the unemployment rate in Miami-Dade County was up 2.8 percentage points over the year while Monroe County was up 3.0 percentage points. The unemployment rate during March 2009 was 1.8 percentage points lower than the state unemployment rate of 9.5 percent. Out of a labor force of 1,234,059, there were 95,162 unemployed residents within the region.

Slower job growth in the region has been partially offset by education and health services which was the only industry that gained jobs over the year (+1,800 jobs). The Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall metropolitan division saw overall employment decline by 50,000 jobs over the year. Professional and business services lost the most jobs (-12,800 jobs), followed by mining, logging, and construction (-12,200 jobs); trade, transportation, and utilities (-10,300 jobs); government (-4,500 jobs); manufacturing (-3,600 jobs); leisure and hospitality (-3,100 jobs); financial activities (-2,300 jobs); and information and other services (both -1,500 jobs).

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