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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SOUTH FLORIDA'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE SHIFTS TO 13.4

(MIAMI, June 17, 2011) — The South Florida's region's unemployment rate for May 2011 (non-seasonally adjusted) was 13.4 percent. While there has been a slight increase in the unemployment rate from a month ago, due to continued weakness in construction, Miami-Dade County added jobs.

There were 1,368,968 out of labor force and 183,906 unemployed residents in the region. The May 2011 unemployment rates were 13.7 percent in Miami-Dade County and 6.3 percent in Monroe County, the two counties that comprise the South Florida Workforce Region. Monroe County's unemployment rate continues to drop and slightly lower than the month-ago rate of 6.4 percent. The unemployment rate in Monroe is the lowest in the state.

The total non-agricultural employment in the metropolitan areas was 991,100 in May. Leisure and hospitality gained the most jobs with over 4,700 jobs; followed by professional and business services (+3,900 jobs); followed by education and health services (+1,700); followed by trade transportation and utilities (+1,600 jobs); followed by other services (+300).

"While we witness a slight increase in the unemployment rate from a month ago, we remain optimistic by continued positive job growth in the region," said, Rick Beasley, executive director of the South Florida Workforce Investment Board.

The industries losing jobs over the year included government (-4,900); mining, logging and construction (-1,900); manufacturing (-700) information (-600 jobs); and financial activities (-400).

ABOUT SOUTH FLORIDA WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

South Florida Workforce is a public-private partnership that establishes state and federally funded workforce development and training policies for Miami-Dade and Monroe counties. Additionally, South Florida Workforce services and resources are available to everyone at no cost through a network of career centers located throughout the region.

For more information on the Miami-Dade and Monroe counties' unemployment outlook, please contact South Florida Workforce at 305-594-7615 or visit www.southfloridaworkforce.com.

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