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Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties' Unemployment Rate Dips Modestly to 12.9

(MIAMI, October 22, 2010) — The unemployment rate in the South Florida Workforce region (not seasonally adjusted) was 12.9 percent in September 2010.

The Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall metro division gained more jobs in education and health services (+4,600 jobs); trade, transportation and utilities (+4,000 jobs); and professional and business services (3,700 jobs) than any other metro area in Florida from September 2009 to September 2010.

In September 2010, total nonagricultural employment in the Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall metropolitan division was 977,400, an increase of 0.2 percent over the year and increased by 2,100 jobs. Education and health services (+4,600 jobs) gained the most jobs; followed by trade, transportation and utilities (+4,000 jobs); professional and business services (+3,700 jobs); and leisure and hospitality (+900 jobs). Statewide, employment increased 0.3 percent over the same time period.

“While our economic recovery slowly gains momentum, South Florida Workforce remains focused on developing key strategies to effectively respond to an evolving workforce,” Rick Beasley, executive director for South Florida Workforce Investment Board.

The unemployment rates were 13.1 percent in Miami-Dade County and 8.7 percent in Monroe County in the two counties that comprise the South Florida Workforce Region during September 2010. Monroe County's unemployment rate was 1.2 percentage points higher than the year ago rate of 7.5 percent. Miami-Dade County's unemployment rate is 1.7 percentage points higher than the year ago rate of 11.4 percent. Out of a labor force of 1,327,344, there were 171,552 unemployed residents in the region.

The metro division's over-the-year growth rates in professional and business services (+2.9 percent); trade, transportation and utilities (+1.6 percent); and leisure and hospitality (+0.9 percent) were better than the statewide growth rates in these industries.

Industries losing jobs over the year included financial activities (-2,300 jobs); mining, logging and construction (-2,200 jobs); manufacturing and government (both -2,100 jobs); and information and other services (both -1,200 jobs).

For more information on the Miami-Dade and Monroe counties' unemployment outlook, please contact South Florida Workforce at 305-594-7615 ext. 274 or visit www.southfloridaworkforce.com.

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