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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPS TO 9.3% THE LOWEST IN 12 MONTHS

Over 5,800 people placed in jobs in November

(MIAMI, December 15, 2011) — The unemployment rate (non-seasonally adjusted rate) for South Florida Workforce region dropped to 9.3 percent, down 3.2 percentage points below the year-ago rate of 12.5.

In Miami-Dade and Monroe counties, the out of a labor force of 1,361,759, there were 126,002 residents unemployed. The November 2011 unemployment rates were 9.4 percent in Miami-Dade County and 6.4% for Monroe County. Miami-Dade County's unemployment rate was 3.2 percentage points lower than the year-ago rate of 12.6 percent. Monroe County's unemployment rate was 1.7 percentage point lower than the year-ago rate of 8.1 percent.

"In the month of November, South Florida Workforce placed 5,827 people in jobs. The region has experienced continuous job growth and consecutive months of declines in the unemployment rate, which indicates that the South Florida economy is rebounding. South Florida Workforce will continue to assist employers with incentives to help defray the cost of training and ensure job seekers have the skills needed to secure employment," said Rick Beasley, executive director of South Florida Workforce Investment Board.

The Miami-Dade metro area had 17 consecutive months of over the year job growth. The total non-agricultural employment in the metropolitan areas was 1,010,900, with an increase of 18,700 jobs added from year-ago. Trade transportation and utilities (+7,500) gained the most jobs; followed by education and health services (+7,200); professional and business services (+4,300); leisure and hospitality (+2,600); government (+700); and other services (+500).

The industries losing jobs over the year included financial activities (-2,100); followed by manufacturing (-900); information (-700) and mining, logging and construction (-400) jobs.

EMPLOYED WORKER TRAINING (EWT)

Employed Worker Training (EWT) is a federally funded grant available to assist businesses interested in upgrading the skills of their existing workforce. Interested businesses who want to improve employee retention, occupational skill attainment and productivity are encouraged to participate in this incentive. Businesses may be reimbursed up to 50% of their training expenses incurred during the specified training period (e.g., instructor salaries/tuition, books, materials/supplies). Learn more about EWT, by visiting www.southfloridaworkforce.com or contact Business Services at 305-594-7615 Ext. 407.

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ON-THE-JOB-TRAINING (OJT)

On-The-Job-Training (OJT) provides an incentive for businesses to help defray the cost of training eligible prospective new full-time hires. The OJT is designed to provide resources for occupational training and development for the prospective new hires in the company's work environment. Businesses may recoup up to 90%, and in some instances 100%, of wages paid to each new employee during the training period. Learn more about OJT, by visiting www.southfloridaworkforce.com or contact Business Services at 305-594-7615 Ext. 407.

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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