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Slight Increase to South Florida's Unemployment Rate

(MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FL) – The seasonally unadjusted unemployment rate for the South Florida Workforce region (Miami-Dade and Monroe counties) was 11.1 percent in December 2009, a 0.7 increase from the November 2009 rate. This increase is not statistically significant. The region's December rate is .5 percentage points lower than the State's rate of 11.6. Out of a labor force of 1,278,305, there were 142,460 unemployed residents in the region.

In the two counties that comprise the South Florida Workforce Region, the December 2009 unemployment rates were 11.3 percent in Miami-Dade County and 7.2 percent in Monroe County. The unemployment rate in Miami-Dade County increased 4.3 percentage points over the year while the unemployment rate in Monroe County increased 2.0 percentage points.

Education and health services (+1700 jobs) and professional and business services (+1300 jobs) were the only major industries that gained jobs over the year. The region's over-the-year job growth rate in education and health services (+1.1 percent) was slightly stronger than the state average (+.09 percent). Moreover, professional and business services were up over the year in the area but lost jobs statewide.

Total nonagricultural employment declined by 2.0 percent over the year. Mining, logging, and construction (-6,200 jobs) lost the most jobs, followed by trade, transportation, and utilities (-5,800 jobs); government (-3,500 jobs); manufacturing (-3,100 jobs); financial activities (-2,100 jobs); leisure and hospitality (-1,200 jobs); information (-1,000 jobs); and other services (-700 jobs).

South Florida Workforce Investment Board (SFWIB), the regional workforce board for Miami-Dade and Monroe counties, delivers workforce services to businesses and jobseekers in an effort to reduce the unemployment rate and improve the local economy. A recent addition to SFWIB's wide array of employment programs and initiatives is the Florida Back to Work Program, a partnership with the Governor's office, the Agency for Workforce Innovation and Workforce Florida, Inc. The Back to Work Program which has already received a large response from local businesses is designed to help pay for jobs for low-income families, essentially covering up to 95% of an employee's salary cost until September 30, 2010.

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