

**Overview of Workforce Alliance Region
May 22, 2009**

- The unemployment rate in Palm Beach County was 9.7 percent in April 2009, up 4.6 percentage points from the April 2008 rate of 5.1 percent. Palm Beach County's unemployment rate was 0.4 percent higher than the state's unemployment rate of 9.3 percent. Out of a labor force of 624,400, there were 60,743 unemployed Palm Beach County residents.
- The current April unemployment rate is the highest recorded for the series since 1992 when it was 9.9 percent.
- In April 2009, nonagricultural employment in the West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division was 529,500, down -4.3 percent over the year. Statewide, employment declined by 379,500 jobs (-4.8 percent) over the same time period.
- West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division lost 23,700 nonagricultural jobs over the year. Job losses were primarily in construction (-6,600 jobs). Other industries losing jobs included: trade, transportation and utilities (-5,500 jobs); professional and business services (-5,100 jobs); leisure and hospitality (-3,800 jobs); financial activities (-1,600 jobs); manufacturing (-1,300 jobs); other services (-500 jobs); and information (-400 jobs). Education and health services (+900 jobs) and government (+200 jobs) gained jobs over the year.
- The job growth rate in government exceeded the job growth rate in the state for that industry.

Unemployment Rates (%) (not seasonally adjusted)	Apr-09	Mar-09	Apr-08
Workforce Alliance Region	9.7	10.0	5.1
Florida	9.3	9.6	4.9
United States	8.6	9.0	4.8

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (not seasonally adjusted)	West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division				Florida			
	Apr-09	Apr-08	change	percent change	Apr-09	Apr-08	change	percent change
Total Employment	529,500	553,200	-23,700	-4.3	7,496,400	7,875,900	-379,500	-4.8
Mining and Logging	NA	NA	NA	NA	6,200	6,400	-200	-3.1
Construction	30,200	36,800	-6,600	-17.9	425,300	526,900	-101,600	-19.3
Manufacturing	16,900	18,200	-1,300	-7.1	338,700	378,500	-39,800	-10.5
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	100,700	106,200	-5,500	-5.2	1,515,500	1,593,500	-78,000	-4.9
Wholesale Trade	23,400	23,700	-300	-1.3	339,800	349,400	-9,600	-2.7
Retail Trade	67,200	72,000	-4,800	-6.7	940,400	995,300	-54,900	-5.5
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	10,100	10,500	-400	-3.8	235,300	248,800	-13,500	-5.4
Information	10,400	10,800	-400	-3.7	148,100	157,800	-9,700	-6.1
Financial Activities	37,700	39,300	-1,600	-4.1	507,300	529,100	-21,800	-4.1
Professional and Business Services	87,700	92,800	-5,100	-5.5	1,084,300	1,166,200	-81,900	-7.0
Education and Health Services	80,500	79,600	900	1.1	1,062,000	1,045,900	16,100	1.5
Leisure and Hospitality	71,800	75,600	-3,800	-5.0	938,100	979,800	-41,700	-4.3
Other Services	25,200	25,700	-500	-1.9	330,400	345,300	-14,900	-4.3
Government	68,300	68,100	200	0.3	1,140,500	1,146,500	-6,000	-0.5

Population	2008	2007	change	percent change
Workforce Alliance Region	1,294,654	1,295,033	-379	0.0
Florida	18,807,219	18,680,367	126,852	0.7

Average Annual Wage	2007	2006	change	percent change
Workforce Alliance Region	\$43,796	\$41,967	\$1,829	4.4
Florida	\$39,776	\$38,497	\$1,279	3.3

Source: Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation, Labor Market Statistics Center