

**Overview of Workforce Alliance Region
June 19, 2009**

- The unemployment rate in Palm Beach County was 10.2 percent in May 2009, up 4.4 percentage points from the May 2008 rate of 5.8 percent. Palm Beach County's unemployment rate was 0.2 percent higher than the state's unemployment rate of 10.0 percent. Out of a labor force of 627,647, there were 64,135 unemployed Palm Beach County residents.
- The current unemployment rate is the highest recorded for May in the series since 1992 when it was 10.3 percent.
- In May 2009, nonagricultural employment in the West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division was 526,700, down -4.2 percent over the year. Statewide, employment declined by 427,900 jobs (-5.5 percent) over the same time period.
- West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division lost 23,000 nonagricultural jobs over the year. Job losses were primarily in construction (-6,300 jobs). Other industries losing jobs included: leisure and hospitality (-5,800 jobs); trade, transportation and utilities (-5,100 jobs); professional and business services (-4,500 jobs); manufacturing (-1,500 jobs); financial activities (-800 jobs); other services (-400 jobs); and information (-300 jobs). Education and health services (+1,200 jobs) and government (+500 jobs) gained jobs over the year.
- The job growth rate in education and health services (+1.5 percent) and government (+0.7 percent) exceeded the job growth rate in the state for that industry.

Unemployment Rates (%) (not seasonally adjusted)	May-09	Apr-09	May-08
Workforce Alliance Region	10.2	9.9	5.8
Florida	10.0	9.4	5.5
United States	9.1	8.6	5.2

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (not seasonally adjusted)	West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division				Florida			
	May-09	May-08	change	percent change	May-09	May-08	change	percent change
Total Employment	526,700	549,700	-23,000	-4.2	7,420,700	7,848,600	-427,900	-5.5
Mining and Logging	NA	NA	NA	NA	6,200	6,300	-100	-1.6
Construction	30,200	36,500	-6,300	-17.3	431,300	524,200	-92,900	-17.7
Manufacturing	16,800	18,300	-1,500	-8.2	335,500	377,200	-41,700	-11.1
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	100,500	105,600	-5,100	-4.8	1,505,400	1,590,800	-85,400	-5.4
Wholesale Trade	23,500	23,600	-100	-0.4	341,100	349,700	-8,600	-2.5
Retail Trade	67,100	71,500	-4,400	-6.2	935,300	992,700	-57,400	-5.8
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	9,900	10,500	-600	-5.7	229,000	248,400	-19,400	-7.8
Information	10,500	10,800	-300	-2.8	147,100	158,100	-11,000	-7.0
Financial Activities	38,400	39,200	-800	-2.0	505,300	528,700	-23,400	-4.4
Professional and Business Services	87,700	92,200	-4,500	-4.9	1,065,200	1,160,300	-95,100	-8.2
Education and Health Services	81,200	80,000	1,200	1.5	1,054,100	1,048,100	6,000	0.6
Leisure and Hospitality	67,900	73,700	-5,800	-7.9	911,900	967,700	-55,800	-5.8
Other Services	25,100	25,500	-400	-1.6	330,900	346,800	-15,900	-4.6
Government	68,300	67,800	500	0.7	1,127,800	1,140,400	-12,600	-1.1

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

Note: All data are subject to revision. NA = Data not available.

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