

**Overview of Workforce Alliance Region  
March 6, 2009**

- The unemployment rate in Palm Beach County was 9.1 percent in January 2009, up 4.0 percentage points from the January 2008 rate of 5.1 percent. Palm Beach County's unemployment rate was 0.3 percent higher than the state's unemployment rate of 8.8 percent. Out of a labor force of 628,341, there were 56,985 unemployed Palm Beach County residents.
- In January 2009, nonagricultural employment in the West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division was 535,700, down -3.6 percent over the year. Statewide, employment declined by 341,700 jobs (-4.3 percent) over the same time period.
- West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division lost 19,800 nonagricultural jobs over the year. Job losses were primarily in construction (-6,400 jobs). Other industries losing jobs included: trade, transportation and utilities (-5,700 jobs); leisure and hospitality (-4,100 jobs); professional and business services (-3,600 jobs); financial activities (-1,500 jobs); manufacturing (-1,200 jobs); information (-400 jobs) and other services (-100 jobs). Education and health services (+2,900 jobs); and government (+200 jobs) gained jobs over the year.
- Education and health services (3.7 percent) outperformed the state in percent growth.

| <b>Unemployment Rates (%)</b><br><b>(not seasonally adjusted)</b> | <b>Jan-09</b> | <b>Dec-08</b> | <b>Jan-08</b> |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Workforce Alliance Region   | 9.1           | 8.0           | 5.1           |
| Florida   | 8.8           | 7.8           | 5.0           |

| <b>Nonagricultural Employment by Industry</b><br><b>(not seasonally adjusted)</b> | <b>West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach<br/>Metropolitan Division</b> |               |               |                           | <b>Florida</b> |               |               |                           |
|---|---|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|
|   | <b>Jan-09</b>   | <b>Jan-08</b> | <b>change</b> | <b>percent<br/>change</b> | <b>Jan-09</b>  | <b>Jan-08</b> | <b>change</b> | <b>percent<br/>change</b> |
| Total Employment  | 535,700   | 555,500       | -19,800       | -3.6                      | 7,530,100      | 7,871,800     | -341,700      | -4.3                      |
| Mining and Logging  | NA  | NA            | NA            | NA                        | 6,300          | 6,600         | -300          | -4.5                      |
| Construction  | 32,900  | 39,300        | -6,400        | -16.3                     | 459,300        | 550,100       | -90,800       | -16.5                     |
| Manufacturing   | 17,700  | 18,900        | -1,200        | -6.3                      | 354,100        | 384,200       | -30,100       | -7.8                      |
| Trade, Transportation, and Utilities  | 102,500   | 108,200       | -5,700        | -5.3                      | 1,527,200      | 1,615,900     | -88,700       | -5.5                      |
| Wholesale Trade   | 23,300  | 23,900        | -600          | -2.5                      | 340,500        | 351,900       | -11,400       | -3.2                      |
| Retail Trade  | 69,100  | 73,700        | -4,600        | -6.2                      | 953,500        | 1,013,900     | -60,400       | -6.0                      |
| Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities  | 10,100  | 10,600        | -500          | -4.7                      | 233,200        | 250,100       | -16,900       | -6.8                      |
| Information   | 10,500  | 10,900        | -400          | -3.7                      | 148,800        | 158,700       | -9,900        | -6.2                      |
| Financial Activities  | 38,500  | 40,000        | -1,500        | -3.8                      | 514,800        | 533,400       | -18,600       | -3.5                      |
| Professional and Business Services  | 87,900  | 91,500        | -3,600        | -3.9                      | 1,080,400      | 1,158,000     | -77,600       | -6.7                      |
| Education and Health Services   | 81,900  | 79,000        | 2,900         | 3.7                       | 1,058,500      | 1,034,300     | 24,200        | 2.3                       |
| Leisure and Hospitality   | 70,400  | 74,500        | -4,100        | -5.5                      | 905,700        | 946,800       | -41,100       | -4.3                      |
| Other Services  | 25,400  | 25,500        | -100          | -0.4                      | 329,700        | 343,500       | -13,800       | -4.0                      |
| Government  | 67,900  | 67,700        | 200           | 0.3                       | 1,145,300      | 1,140,300     | 5,000         | 0.4                       |

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

| <b>Average Annual Wage</b> | <b>2007</b> | <b>2006</b> | <b>change</b> | <b>percent<br/>change</b> |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| 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