

**Overview of Workforce Alliance Region  
April 17, 2009**

- The unemployment rate in Palm Beach County was 9.9 percent in March 2009, up 4.7 percentage points from the March 2008 rate of 5.2 percent. Palm Beach County's unemployment rate was 0.4 percent higher than the state's unemployment rate of 9.5 percent. Out of a labor force of 628,775, there were 62,445 unemployed Palm Beach County residents.
- The current March unemployment rate is the highest recorded for the series (which goes back to 1990) during that month.
- In March 2009, nonagricultural employment in the West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division was 534,400, down -4.7 percent over the year. Statewide, employment declined by 450,300 jobs (-5.7 percent) over the same time period.
- West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division lost 26,500 nonagricultural jobs over the year. Job losses were primarily in construction (-7,600 jobs). Other industries losing jobs included: trade, transportation and utilities (-6,100 jobs); professional and business services (-5,900 jobs); leisure and hospitality (-3,600 jobs); financial activities (-2,000 jobs); manufacturing (-1,200 jobs); other services (-700 jobs); information and government (both -400 jobs). Education and health services (+1,400 jobs) gained jobs over the year.
- The job growth rate in education and health services exceeded the job growth rate in the state for that industry.

| <b>Unemployment Rates (%)<br/>(not seasonally adjusted)</b> | <b>Mar-09</b> | <b>Feb-09</b> | <b>Mar-08</b> |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Workforce Alliance Region                                   | 9.9           | 9.8           | 5.2           |
| Florida   | 9.5           | 9.5           | 5.0           |

| <b>Nonagricultural Employment by Industry<br/>(not seasonally adjusted)</b> | <b>West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach<br/>Metropolitan Division</b> |               |               |                           | <b>Florida</b> |               |               |                           |
|---|---|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|
|   | <b>Mar-09</b>   | <b>Mar-08</b> | <b>change</b> | <b>percent<br/>change</b> | <b>Mar-09</b>  | <b>Mar-08</b> | <b>change</b> | <b>percent<br/>change</b> |
| Total Employment  | 534,400   | 560,900       | -26,500       | -4.7                      | 7,499,100      | 7,949,400     | -450,300      | -5.7                      |
| Mining and Logging  | NA  | NA            | NA            | NA                        | 6,200          | 6,500         | -300          | -4.6                      |
| Construction  | 30,900  | 38,500        | -7,600        | -19.7                     | 429,500        | 546,300       | -116,800      | -21.4                     |
| Manufacturing   | 17,100  | 18,300        | -1,200        | -6.6                      | 342,700        | 381,700       | -39,000       | -10.2                     |
| Trade, Transportation, and Utilities  | 101,800   | 107,900       | -6,100        | -5.7                      | 1,522,000      | 1,612,100     | -90,100       | -5.6                      |
| Wholesale Trade   | 23,500  | 23,900        | -400          | -1.7                      | 339,700        | 353,000       | -13,300       | -3.8                      |
| Retail Trade  | 68,200  | 73,100        | -4,900        | -6.7                      | 946,900        | 1,008,000     | -61,100       | -6.1                      |
| Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities                                  | 10,100  | 10,900        | -800          | -7.3                      | 235,400        | 251,100       | -15,700       | -6.3                      |
| Information   | 10,500  | 10,900        | -400          | -3.7                      | 147,200        | 159,000       | -11,800       | -7.4                      |
| Financial Activities  | 37,900  | 39,900        | -2,000        | -5.0                      | 511,200        | 534,200       | -23,000       | -4.3                      |
| Professional and Business Services  | 87,600  | 93,500        | -5,900        | -6.3                      | 1,054,500      | 1,177,200     | -122,700      | -10.4                     |
| Education and Health Services   | 81,600  | 80,200        | 1,400         | 1.7                       | 1,065,600      | 1,048,400     | 17,200        | 1.6                       |
| Leisure and Hospitality   | 73,500  | 77,100        | -3,600        | -4.7                      | 947,900        | 986,600       | -38,700       | -3.9                      |
| Other Services  | 25,400  | 26,100        | -700          | -2.7                      | 330,700        | 348,200       | -17,500       | -5.0                      |
| Government  | 68,000  | 68,400        | -400          | -0.6                      | 1,141,600      | 1,149,200     | -7,600        | -0.7                      |

| <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.