

**Overview of Workforce Alliance Region  
October 16, 2009**

- The unemployment rate in Palm Beach County was 11.7 percent in September 2009, up 4.1 percentage points from the September 2008 rate of 7.6 percent. Palm Beach County's unemployment rate was 0.5 percent higher than the state's unemployment rate of 11.2 percent. Out of a labor force of 626,400, there were 73,415 unemployed Palm Beach County residents.
- The current unemployment rate is the highest recorded since September 1992 when it was 12.5 percent.
- In September 2009, nonagricultural employment in the West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division was 515,500, down 3.7 percent over the year. Statewide, employment declined by 4.7 percent over the same time period.
- West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division lost 19,700 nonagricultural jobs over the year. Job losses were primarily in construction (-6,300 jobs). Other industries losing jobs included: trade, transportation, and utilities (-5,700 jobs); leisure and hospitality (-4,600 jobs); professional and business services (-2,000 jobs); manufacturing (-1,700 jobs); financial activities (-900 jobs); and information (-300 jobs).
- Industries that gained jobs over the year were education and health services (+1,100 jobs); government (+600 jobs) and other services (+100 jobs).
- The job growth rate in education and health services (+1.4 percent); government (+0.9 percent); and other services (+0.4 percent) exceeded the job growth rate in the state for those industry sectors.

<b>Unemployment Rates (%)</b> <b>(not seasonally adjusted)</b>	<b>Sep-09</b>	<b>Aug-09</b>	<b>Sep-08</b>
Workforce Alliance Region (Palm Beach County)	11.7	11.4	7.6
Florida	11.2	11.0	6.9
United States	9.5	9.6	6.0

<b>Nonagricultural Employment by Industry</b> <b>(not seasonally adjusted)</b>	<b>West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division</b>				<b>Florida</b>			
	<b>Sep-09</b>	<b>Sep-08</b>	<b>change</b>	<b>percent change</b>	<b>Sep-09</b>	<b>Sep-08</b>	<b>change</b>	<b>percent change</b>
Total Employment	515,500	535,200	-19,700	-3.7	7,306,500	7,670,100	-363,600	-4.7
Mining and Logging	NA	NA	NA	NA	6,100	6,200	-100	-1.6
Construction	28,300	34,600	-6,300	-18.2	419,600	494,800	-75,200	-15.2
Manufacturing	16,400	18,100	-1,700	-9.4	325,200	367,300	-42,100	-11.5
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	96,500	102,200	-5,700	-5.6	1,468,000	1,553,000	-85,000	-5.5
Wholesale Trade	22,200	22,900	-700	-3.1	331,300	347,100	-15,800	-4.6
Retail Trade	64,400	69,000	-4,600	-6.7	908,200	966,600	-58,400	-6.0
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	9,900	10,300	-400	-3.9	228,500	239,300	-10,800	-4.5
Information	10,400	10,700	-300	-2.8	143,300	153,200	-9,900	-6.5
Financial Activities	37,400	38,300	-900	-2.3	494,400	523,100	-28,700	-5.5
Professional and Business Services	88,700	90,700	-2,000	-2.2	1,049,200	1,130,400	-81,200	-7.2
Education and Health Services	81,200	80,100	1,100	1.4	1,056,800	1,050,200	6,600	0.6
Leisure and Hospitality	62,900	67,500	-4,600	-6.8	882,900	912,700	-29,800	-3.3
Other Services	24,900	24,800	100	0.4	329,400	338,100	-8,700	-2.6
Government	68,700	68,100	600	0.9	1,131,600	1,141,100	-9,500	-0.8

<b>Population</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>change</b>	<b>percent 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>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>change</b>	<b>percent change</b>
Workforce Alliance Region	\$44,510	\$43,796	\$714	1.6
Florida	\$40,579	\$39,776	\$803	2.0

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

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