

**Overview of Workforce Alliance Region
August 21, 2009**

- The unemployment rate in Palm Beach County was 11.3 percent in July 2009, up 4.1 percentage points from the July 2008 rate of 7.2 percent. Palm Beach County's unemployment rate was 0.3 percent higher than the state's unemployment rate of 11.0 percent. Out of a labor force of 629,235, there were 71,192 unemployed Palm Beach County residents.
- The current unemployment rate is the highest recorded since August 1992 when it was 12.6 percent.
- In July 2009, nonagricultural employment in the West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division was 510,000, down 4.2 percent over the year. Statewide, employment declined by 5.1 percent over the same time period.
- West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division lost 22,100 nonagricultural jobs over the year. Job losses were primarily in trade, transportation, and utilities (-5,900 jobs). Other industries losing jobs included: construction (-5,800 jobs); professional and business services (-5,100 jobs); leisure and hospital (-4,100 jobs); manufacturing (-1,600 jobs); information (-500 jobs); and other services (-300 jobs).
- Industries that gained jobs over the year were education and health services (+800 jobs) and government (+600 jobs).
- The job growth rate in education and health services and government (both +1.0 percent) exceeded the job growth rate in the state for those industry sectors.

Unemployment Rates (%) (not seasonally adjusted)	Jul-09	Jun-09	Jul-08
Workforce Alliance Region	11.3	11.2	7.2
Florida	11.0	10.9	6.6
United States	9.7	9.7	6.0

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (not seasonally adjusted)	West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division				Florida			
	Jul-09	Jul-08	change	percent change	Jul-09	Jul-08	change	percent change
Total Employment	510,000	532,100	-22,100	-4.2	7,243,400	7,631,900	-388,500	-5.1
Mining and Logging	NA	NA	NA	NA	6,100	6,300	-200	-3.2
Construction	29,400	35,200	-5,800	-16.5	429,200	506,600	-77,400	-15.3
Manufacturing	16,300	17,900	-1,600	-8.9	328,500	370,800	-42,300	-11.4
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	98,100	104,000	-5,900	-5.7	1,474,100	1,572,200	-98,100	-6.2
Wholesale Trade	22,700	22,900	-200	-0.9	335,100	347,400	-12,300	-3.5
Retail Trade	65,500	70,800	-5,300	-7.5	911,700	980,600	-68,900	-7.0
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	9,900	10,300	-400	-3.9	227,300	244,200	-16,900	-6.9
Information	10,200	10,700	-500	-4.7	143,200	156,600	-13,400	-8.6
Financial Activities	38,200	38,400	-200	-0.5	502,500	525,800	-23,300	-4.4
Professional and Business Services	87,700	92,800	-5,100	-5.5	1,057,700	1,147,800	-90,100	-7.8
Education and Health Services	80,200	79,400	800	1.0	1,036,400	1,031,200	5,200	0.5
Leisure and Hospitality	64,100	68,200	-4,100	-6.0	902,500	933,300	-30,800	-3.3
Other Services	24,600	24,900	-300	-1.2	328,900	337,900	-9,000	-2.7
Government	61,100	60,500	600	1.0	1,034,300	1,043,400	-9,100	-0.9

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	2008p	2007	change	percent change
Workforce Alliance Region	\$44,488	\$43,796	\$692	1.6
Florida	\$40,569	\$39,776	\$793	2.0

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

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