

**Overview of Workforce Alliance Region
September 18, 2009**

- The unemployment rate in Palm Beach County was 11.3 percent in August 2009, up 3.7 percentage points from the August 2008 rate of 7.6 percent. Palm Beach County's unemployment rate was 0.4 percent higher than the state's unemployment rate of 10.9 percent. Out of a labor force of 631,782, there were 71,208 unemployed Palm Beach County residents.
- The current unemployment rate is the highest recorded since August 1992 when it was 12.6 percent.
- In August 2009, nonagricultural employment in the West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division was 518,400, down 3.6 percent over the year. Statewide, employment declined by 4.8 percent over the same time period.
- West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division lost 19,500 nonagricultural jobs over the year. Job losses were primarily in trade, transportation, and utilities (-6,100 jobs). Other industries losing jobs included: construction (-5,800 jobs); leisure and hospitality (-3,700 jobs); professional and business services (-2,000 jobs); manufacturing (-1,800 jobs); financial activities (-1,000 jobs); and information (-500 jobs).
- Industries that gained jobs over the year were government (+800 jobs); education and health services (+500 jobs) and other services (+100 jobs).
- The job growth rate in government (+1.2 percent); education and health services (+0.6 percent); and other services (+0.4 percent) exceeded the job growth rate in the state for those industry sectors.

Unemployment Rates (%) (not seasonally adjusted)	Aug-09	Jul-09	Aug-08
Workforce Alliance Region (Palm Beach County)	11.3	11.4	7.6
Florida	10.9	11.1	7.0
United States	9.6	9.7	6.1

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (not seasonally adjusted)	West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division				Florida			
	Aug-09	Aug-08	change	percent change	Aug-09	Aug-08	change	percent change
Total Employment	518,400	537,900	-19,500	-3.6	7,320,700	7,691,000	-370,300	-4.8
Mining and Logging	NA	NA	NA	NA	6,000	6,300	-300	-4.8
Construction	29,200	35,000	-5,800	-16.6	434,900	500,900	-66,000	-13.2
Manufacturing	16,300	18,100	-1,800	-9.9	324,100	369,100	-45,000	-12.2
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	97,800	103,900	-6,100	-5.9	1,477,300	1,561,600	-84,300	-5.4
Wholesale Trade	22,700	22,900	-200	-0.9	335,600	347,000	-11,400	-3.3
Retail Trade	65,200	70,700	-5,500	-7.8	915,000	974,700	-59,700	-6.1
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	9,900	10,300	-400	-3.9	226,700	239,900	-13,200	-5.5
Information	10,200	10,700	-500	-4.7	142,400	155,400	-13,000	-8.4
Financial Activities	37,700	38,700	-1,000	-2.6	497,700	526,500	-28,800	-5.5
Professional and Business Services	89,300	91,300	-2,000	-2.2	1,039,100	1,132,100	-93,000	-8.2
Education and Health Services	81,000	80,500	500	0.6	1,048,000	1,043,100	4,900	0.5
Leisure and Hospitality	64,100	67,800	-3,700	-5.5	896,700	927,000	-30,300	-3.3
Other Services	24,900	24,800	100	0.4	331,300	336,900	-5,600	-1.7
Government	67,800	67,000	800	1.2	1,123,200	1,132,100	-8,900	-0.8

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