

**Overview of Workforce Alliance Region: Palm Beach County
November 20, 2009**

- The unemployment rate in Palm Beach County was 11.4 percent in October 2009, up 3.8 percentage points from the October 2008 rate of 7.6 percent. Palm Beach County's unemployment rate was 0.2 percent higher than the state's unemployment rate of 11.2 percent. Out of a labor force of 625,551, there were 71,555 unemployed Palm Beach County residents.
- In October 2009, nonagricultural employment in the West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division was 518,900, down 3.3 percent over the year. Statewide, employment declined by 4.4 percent over the same time period.
- West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division lost 17,800 nonagricultural jobs over the year. Job losses were primarily in construction (-6,500 jobs). Other industries losing jobs included: trade, transportation, and utilities (-5,400 jobs); leisure and hospitality (-4,500 jobs); manufacturing (-1,700 jobs); professional and business services (-1,200 jobs); financial activities (-1,100 jobs); and information (-200 jobs).
- Industries that gained jobs over the year were education and health services (+1,700 jobs); government (+800 jobs), and other services (+300 jobs).
- The job growth rate in education and health services (+2.1 percent); government (+1.2 percent); and other services (+1.2 percent) exceeded the job growth rate in the state for those industry sectors.

Unemployment Rates (%) (not seasonally adjusted)	Oct-09	Sep-09	Oct-08
Workforce Alliance Region (Palm Beach County)	11.4	11.7	7.6
Florida	11.2	11.3	7.1
United States	9.5	9.5	6.1

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (not seasonally adjusted)	West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division				Florida			
	Oct-09	Oct-08	change	percent change	Oct-09	Oct-08	change	percent change
Total Employment	518,900	536,700	-17,800	-3.3	7,342,000	7,680,300	-338,300	-4.4
Mining and Logging	NA	NA	NA	NA	6,000	6,300	-300	-4.8
Construction	27,700	34,200	-6,500	-19.0	416,300	490,200	-73,900	-15.1
Manufacturing	16,400	18,100	-1,700	-9.4	322,400	366,900	-44,500	-12.1
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	97,300	102,700	-5,400	-5.3	1,470,100	1,555,800	-85,700	-5.5
Wholesale Trade	22,200	22,900	-700	-3.1	330,800	345,600	-14,800	-4.3
Retail Trade	65,100	69,600	-4,500	-6.5	909,500	971,200	-61,700	-6.4
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	10,000	10,200	-200	-2.0	229,800	239,000	-9,200	-3.8
Information	10,400	10,600	-200	-1.9	144,700	151,400	-6,700	-4.4
Financial Activities	37,700	38,800	-1,100	-2.8	496,800	523,900	-27,100	-5.2
Professional and Business Services	89,000	90,200	-1,200	-1.3	1,053,300	1,128,000	-74,700	-6.6
Education and Health Services	82,800	81,100	1,700	2.1	1,069,900	1,058,200	11,700	1.1
Leisure and Hospitality	63,500	68,000	-4,500	-6.6	889,500	911,600	-22,100	-2.4
Other Services	25,100	24,800	300	1.2	332,300	336,800	-4,500	-1.3
Government	68,900	68,100	800	1.2	1,140,700	1,151,200	-10,500	-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	2008	2007	change	percent change
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