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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE UP 10.1 PERCENT DESPITE JOB GAINS

Leads the state in 9,600 jobs in trade, transportation and utilities in over a year

(MIAMI, July 20, 2012) — The South Florida region's (non-seasonally adjusted) unemployment rate rose from 9.6 percent to 10.1 percent in June, even as job gains continue to increase.

In Miami-Dade and Monroe counties, there were 136,793 unemployed residents in the region and 1,352,320 out of a labor force. The unemployment rate for Miami-Dade county was 10.3 percent, which is 2.1 percentage points lower than the year-ago rate of 12.4 percent. Monroe County was 5.0%, remains the lowest in the state, and 1.5 percentage point lower than the year-ago rate of 6.5 percent.

"While there was a slight increase in the unemployment rate, it's still down substantially from a year ago rate, when it was 12.2 percent. As we continue to witness consecutive months of job gains in our region, South Florida Workforce continues to provide valuable employment services for job seekers and for businesses with retaining and creating more jobs," said Rick Beasley, executive director for South Florida Workforce Investment Board.

The total nonagricultural jobs in the metropolitan area were 1,001,800. Miami-Dade County was the second highest in gaining the more agricultural jobs over the year with 10,800 jobs gained. Trade transportation and utilities gained the most jobs +9,600 and education and health services with +7,000 jobs. Other sectors showed improvement included professional and business services with +1,400, other services with +300 jobs and followed by leisure and hospitality with +200 jobs.

As for industries losing jobs over the year included mining, logging, and construction -3,500 followed by government -2,800; manufacturing -1,100, financial activities, -200; -800 and information -100.

GRAND OPENING OF SOUTH MIAMI CAREER CENTER

Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez, South Florida Workforce Investment Board (SFWIB) in partnership with the City of South Miami Community Redevelopment Agency Board (SMCRA) will open a new Career Center to deliver employment and training services. The grand opening will take place on Friday, July 27, 2012, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at 5825 SW 68 Street Suite 3 South Miami, FL 33143.

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ABOUT SOUTH FLORIDA WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

South Florida Workforce is a public-private partnership that establishes state and federally funded workforce development and training policies for Miami-Dade and Monroe counties. Additionally, South Florida Workforce services and resources are available to everyone at no cost through a network of career centers located throughout the region.

For more information on the Miami-Dade and Monroe counties' unemployment outlook, please contact South Florida Workforce at 305-594-7615 or visit www.southfloridaworkforce.com.

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