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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

REGION ADDED JOBS, UNEMPLOYMENT RATE INCHES UP TO 9.6%

Thirty thousand residents placed in jobs since January

(MIAMI, June 15, 2012) — The South Florida's region saw nearly 5,000 jobs added in May, however, the unemployment rate increased slightly. With 22 months of consecutive job growth, the long-term economic trend in the region is demonstrating signs of recovery.

In Miami-Dade and Monroe counties, there were 129,812 unemployed residents in the region and 1,351,071 out of a labor force. The unemployment rate for Miami-Dade county was 9.8 percent and 2.5 percentage points lower than the year-ago rate of 12.3 percent. Monroe County was 4.9%, remains the lowest in the state is 1.3 percentage point lower than the year-ago rate of 6.2 percent.

"Despite the slight increase in the unemployment rate, we are still optimistic in the overall job growth as witnessed in our region. More people entered the labor force, which is an indication that some workers may be sensing an improving job market and resuming job searches. South Florida Workforce continues to focus on partnerships with specific employers and industry sectors to develop programs that reflect current and future skill needs," said Rick Beasley, executive director for South Florida Workforce Investment Board.

The total nonagricultural jobs in the metropolitan area were 1,020,300. Trade transportation and utilities gained the most jobs +10,300 and education and health services with +8,300 jobs. Other sectors showed improvement included leisure and hospitality with +2,900 jobs, and professional and business services with +2,700 jobs, followed by other services with +400 jobs.

On the other hand, the industries losing jobs over the year included mining, logging, and construction -3,400 followed by government -3,200; financial activities -1,400; manufacturing -800 and information -100.

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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