



Southwest Florida Regional
Planning Council

Economic VIEWS

1926 Victoria Avenue, Fort Myers, Florida

VOLUME 29 NO.6

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AIRPORT ACTIVITY

Airport passenger activity for the Southwest Florida Region decreased 14.5% in April 2006 from March 2006. Airport passengers visiting and leaving the region totaled 1,015,370 as compared to 1,187,727 in the previous month. All three airports reported a decrease in passenger activity from the previous month.

In April 2006, total airport activity for the region increased 5.5% from the previous year. Naples airport reported a decrease in passenger activity from 2005.

AIRPORT PASSENGERS

AIRPORT		APR. 06	MAR. 06	% CHANGE	
				APR. 05	MAR. 06 / APR. 06
S.W. Fla. Int'l	ARRIVALS	392,440	497,696	373,825	-21.1%
	DEPARTURES	455,318	500,173	442,333	-9.0%
Sarasota/ Bradenton	ARRIVALS	75,045	92,023	64,093	-18.4%
	DEPARTURES	86,527	90,378	75,170	-4.3%
Naples	ARRIVALS	2,806	3,774	3,235	-25.6%
	DEPARTURES	3,234	3,683	3,651	-12.2%

AIRPORT TOTALS = ARRIVALS + DEPARTURES

	APR. 06	MAR. 06	APR. 05	%CHANGE	
				MAR. 06 / APR. 06	APR. 05 / APR. 06
S.W. Fla. Int'l	847,758	997,869	816,158	-15.0%	3.9%
Sarasota/Brad.	161,572	182,401	139,263	-11.4%	16.0%
Naples	6,040	7,457	6,886	-19.0%	-12.3%
REGION	1,015,370	1,187,727	962,307	-14.5%	5.5%

SOURCE: Local Airport Authorities.



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Economic VIEWS
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BUILDING PERMITS

Residential building activity is measured by the number of single-family and multi-family building permits issued during a given month. 2,315 residential permits were issued in Southwest Florida in April 2006. This is 650 less permits than were issued in April 2005. The number of *units* covered by these permits decreased by 440 from 3,772 in April 2005 to 3,332 in April 2006. Compared with the figures reported for March 2006, the number of units for April 2006 decreased by 1,495. From March 2006 to April 2006, permits issued decreased by 850.

The region reported a residential building valuation of \$692,317,454 in April 2006. This is an increase of 13.7% compared to the valuation of residential permits issued in April 2005, which totalled \$608,960,536.

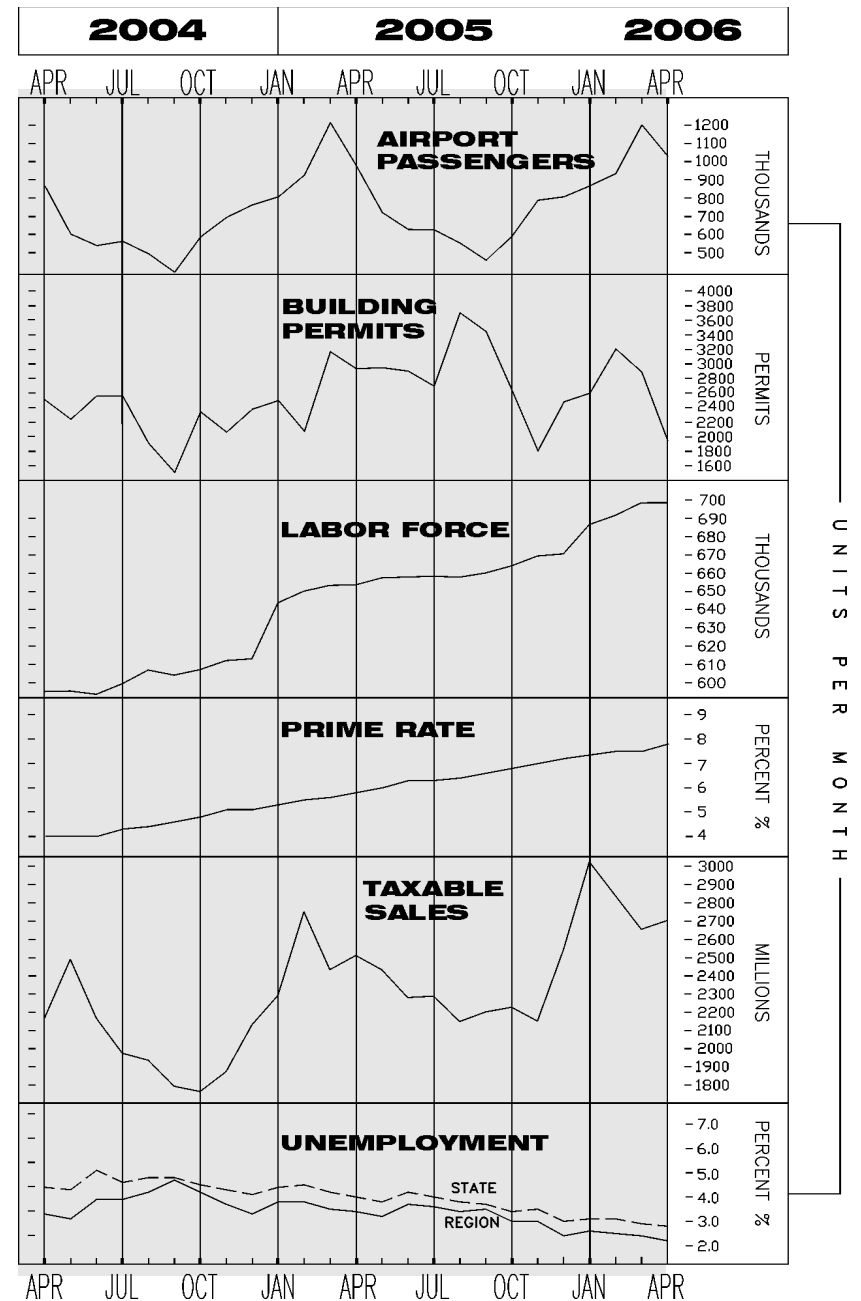
BUILDING PERMIT ACTIVITY

COUNTY	APRIL 2006			MARCH 2006			SINGLE FAMILY PERMITS	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	RESIDENTIAL UNITS	SINGLE FAMILY PERMITS	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	RESIDENTIAL UNITS	SINGLE FAMILY PERMITS	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	RESIDENTIAL UNITS
	SINGLE FAMILY PERMITS	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	RESIDENTIAL UNITS	SINGLE FAMILY PERMITS	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	RESIDENTIAL UNITS									
CHARLOTTE	291	32	373	\$109,068,386	378	18	129	\$104,731,008							
COLLIER	230	18	275	\$122,163,665	285	19	148	\$87,070,000							
GLADES	6	0	0	\$1,093,300	4	0	0	\$400,370							
HENDRY	33	0	0	\$3,146,241	43	0	0	\$4,415,699							
LEE	1,367	118	452	\$386,868,809	1,632	288	1,681	\$545,561,010							
SARASOTA	208	17	102	\$69,977,053	491	7	36	\$44,812,545							
REGION*	2,130	185	1,202	\$692,317,454	2,833	332	1,994	\$786,990,632							

COUNTY	APRIL 2005			UNIT CHANGE		%CHANGE		
	SINGLE FAMILY PERMITS	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	RESIDENTIAL UNITS	MAR 06 / APR 06	APR 06 / APR 05	MAR 06 / APR 06	APR 06 / APR 05	
CHARLOTTE	206	22	119	\$44,254,533	157	339	4.1%	146.5%
COLLIER	255	19	145	\$84,264,613	72	105	40.3%	45.0%
GLADES	5	0	0	\$517,405	2	1	173.1%	111.3%
HENDRY	50	0	0	\$5,140,200	-10	-17	-28.7%	-38.8%
LEE	1,531	281	860	\$372,852,974	-1,494	-572	-29.1%	3.8%
SARASOTA	577	19	24	\$101,930,811	-222	-296	56.2%	-31.3%
REGION*	2,624	341	1,148	\$608,960,536	-1,495	-440	-12.0%	13.7%

*Building Department figures: City of Fort Myers has a discrepancy with number of units from May until present, however all other data is valid.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS



SUMMARY ECONOMIC INDICATORS

INDICATORS	APRIL 2006 (PRELIM)	APRIL 2005 (REVISED)	% CHANGE
UNEMPLOYMENT			
State	2.8%	4.1%	-28.7%
Region	2.2%	3.4%	-30.6%
County			
Charlotte	2.7%	4.2%	-34.1%
Collier	2.0%	3.0%	-27.5%
Glades	3.3%	4.1%	-35.0%
Hendry	4.3%	6.0%	-34.3%
Lee	2.1%	3.2%	-31.3%
Sarasota	2.3%	3.5%	-28.5%
LABOR FORCE			
State	8,862,000	8,277,000	7.1%
Region	697,300	654,583	6.5%
EMPLOYED			
State	8,618,000	8,236,000	4.6%
Region	681,684	632,163	7.8%
UNEMPLOYED			
State	244,000	342,000	-28.7%
Region	15,616	22,420	-30.3%
AIRPORT PASSENGERS			
Region	1,015,370	962,307	5.5%
S. W. Int'l Airport	847,758	816,158	3.9%
Sarasota/Bradenton	161,572	139,263	16.0%
Naples	6,040	6,886	-12.3%
BUILDING PERMITS			
Regional	2,315	2,965	-21.9%
Single Family	2,130	2,624	-18.8%
Multi-Family	185	341	-45.7%
TOTAL VALUE			
Residential	\$692,317,454	\$608,960,536	13.7%
All Permit Activity	\$1,029,510,797	\$894,878,637	15.0%
REGIONAL SALES (\$000)**			
Taxable Sales	\$2,689,918	\$2,490,794	8.0%
Gross Sales	\$4,438,258	\$3,933,978	12.8%
<i>**Regional sales data not yet released, current data is March 2006 compared with March 2005 data.</i>			
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	201.5	194.6	3.5%
PRIME INTEREST RATE	7.8%	5.8%	33.6%

UNEMPLOYMENT

The regional unemployment rate for April 2006 was 2.2%, down from the March 2006 revised rate of 2.4%. Hendry County, at 4.3%, had the highest unemployment rate in the six-county region, with Glades County second at 3.3%. Collier County had the lowest unemployment rate at 2.0%.

The April 2006 regional unemployment rate of 2.2% was better than the state (2.8%) as a whole. The regional unemployment rate decreased by 30.6% from April 2005 to April 2006, while the state rate decreased by 28.7%.

LABORFORCE FIGURES

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE		EMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT	
	APR. 06 (PRELIM)	MAR. 06 (REVISED)	APR. 06 (PRELIM)	MAR. 06 (REVISED)	APR. 06 (PRELIM)	MAR. 06 (REVISED)
CHARLOTTE	63,862	64,089	62,142	62,302	1,720	1,787
COLLIER	151,384	151,022	148,339	147,691	3,045	3,331
GLADES	4,025	4,024	3,891	3,879	134	145
HENDRY	17,216	17,352	16,482	16,527	734	825
LEE	279,483	277,857	273,749	271,732	5,734	6,125
SARASOTA	181,330	182,918	177,081	178,727	4,249	4,191
REGION	697,300	697,262	681,684	680,858	15,616	16,404
STATE	8,862,000	8,837,000	8,618,000	8,578,000	244,000	258,000

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

COUNTY	% CHANGE				
	APR. 06 (PRELIM)	MAR. 06 (REVISED)	APR. 05 (REVISED)	MAR. 06/ APR. 06/	APR. 05/ APR. 06
CHARLOTTE	2.7%	2.8%	4.2%	-3.7%	-34.1%
COLLIER	2.0%	2.2%	3.0%	-8.6%	-27.5%
GLADES	3.3%	3.6%	4.1%	-7.6%	-35.0%
HENDRY	4.3%	4.8%	6.0%	-11.0%	-34.3%
LEE	2.1%	2.2%	3.2%	-6.4%	-31.3%
SARASOTA	2.3%	2.3%	3.5%	1.4%	-28.5%
REGION	2.2%	2.4%	3.4%	-4.8%	-30.6%
STATE	2.8%	2.9%	4.1%	-5.4%	-28.7%

NOTE: Sum of detail may not equal totals due to rounding.
SOURCE: Agency for Workforce Innovation.

SALES ACTIVITY

Sales activity in Southwest Florida is measured by gross and taxable sales for each county. For March 2006, gross and taxable sales in the region totaled approximately \$4.4 billion and \$2.7 billion, respectively. This is a 2.0% decrease in gross sales and a 1.9% increase in taxable sales from February 2006. All counties except for Collier and Glades reported an increase in taxable and gross sales this month as compared to February 2006.

Gross sales in the region between March 2005 and March 2006 increased 12.8%. Taxable sales increased 8.0% during the same period. By incorporating the change in the cost of living (3.6%) and the average annual population growth rate (3.7%) for the same time period, real gross sales increased 4.9% per capita. Real taxable sales increased 0.7%.

SALESACTIVITY

***Regional sales data is not yet released, current data is March 2006 compared with March 2005 data*

GROSS SALES (\$000)

COUNTY	% CHANGE				
	MAR. 06 (PRELIM)	FEB. 06 (PRELIM)	MAR. 05 (REVISED)	FEB. 06/ MAR. 06	MAR. 2005/ MAR. 2006
CHARLOTTE	366,710	343,989	320,269	6.6%	14.5%
COLLIER	1,064,619	1,192,864	932,499	-10.8%	14.2%
GLADES	10,560	11,068	8,606	-4.6%	22.7%
HENDRY	116,025	113,137	90,874	2.6%	27.7%
LEE	1,780,523	1,771,022	1,590,167	0.5%	12.0%
SARASOTA	1,099,821	1,096,040	991,563	0.3%	10.9%
REGION	4,438,258	4,528,120	3,933,978	-2.0%	12.8%

TAXABLE SALES (\$000)

COUNTY	% CHANGE				
	MAR. 06 (PRELIM)	FEB. 06 (PRELIM)	MAR. 05 (REVISED)	FEB. 06/ MAR. 06	MAR. 2005/ MAR. 2006
CHARLOTTE	218,842	215,151	219,570	1.7%	-0.3%
COLLIER	676,977	658,807	604,333	2.8%	12.0%
GLADES	3,287	3,040	2,763	8.1%	19.0%
HENDRY	34,943	34,923	32,527	0.1%	7.4%
LEE	1,122,053	1,099,566	1,022,983	2.0%	9.7%
SARASOTA	633,816	629,069	608,618	0.8%	4.1%
REGION	2,689,918	2,640,556	2,490,794	1.9%	8.0%

SOURCE: Florida Department of Tax Research.



RED, WHITE & BOOM CELEBRATION

Cape Coral Parkway, Cape Coral
Contact: (239) 549-6900

RIVERFEST

Centennial Park, Fort Myers
Contact: (239) 332-3624

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION ON SANIBEL

Periwinkle Way and Sanibel Causeway, Sanibel Island
Contact: (239) 472-1080

FORT MYERS BEACH FIREWORKS

Fishing Pier & Times Square, Fort Myers Beach
Contact: (239) 454-7500

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

Fishermen's Village, Punta Gorda
Contact: (239) 575-3007

CITY OF CLEWISTON ANNUAL FIREWORKS

Sugarland Park, Clewiston
Contact: (863) 983-7979

SIESTA KEY CHAMBER 4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS

Siesta Beach, Sarasota
Contact: (941) 349-3800

4TH OF JULY FESTIVAL

Bayfront Park, Sarasota
Contact: (941) 957-1877

INDEPENDENC DAY FIREWORKS SHOW

Alvin Ward Boat Ramp, Moore Haven
Contact: (863) 946-0300



June 14-16, 2006

DOWNTOWN BOAT SHOW

Centennial Park, Venice
 Contact: (941) 484-6722

June 9-17, 2006

JUNETEENTH WEEKEND CELEBRATION

Sarasota
 Contact: (941) 355-1535

June 20, 2006

LADIES DAY TARPON TOURNAMENT

Boca Grande Pass
 Contact: (941) 255-1581

June 25-July 3, 2005

21ST ANNUAL SUNCOAST OFFSHORE GRAND PRIX BOAT RACE

Sarasota
 Contact: (941) 371-2827

July 1-3, 2006

INDEPENDENCE WEEKEND FIREWORKS GAME

Hammond Stadium, Fort Myers
 Contact: (239) 768-4210

July 13, 2006

BIG SPLASH DAY

Hammond Stadium, Fort Myers
 Contact: (239) 768-4210

July 15-16, 2006

MANGOMANIA TROPICAL FRUIT FAIR

German-American Social Club, Cape Coral
 Contact: (239) 283-4842

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) for all urban consumers measures the cost of items in several specific categories and is used as an indicator of the general rate of inflation through time. The CPI-U during April 2006 increased 0.9% from March 2006. The CPI-U for April 2006 was 201.5 an increase of 3.5% from April 2005.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

GROUP	APR. 06	MAR. 06	APR. 05	% CHANGE	
				MAR. 06/ APR. 06	APR. 2005/ APR. 2006
ALL ITEMS	201.5	199.8	194.6	0.9%	3.5%
FOOD & BEVERAGES	194.2	194.5	190.7	-0.2%	1.8%
HOUSING	201.7	201.3	194.4	0.2%	3.8%
APPAREL	123.4	122.0	123.7	1.1%	-0.2%
TRANSPORTATION	184.1	177.4	173.2	3.8%	6.3%
MEDICAL CARE	334.7	333.8	321.5	0.3%	4.1%
RECREATION	111.1	110.6	109.2	0.5%	1.7%
EDUCATION/COMMUN.	115.8	115.6	112.9	0.2%	2.6%
OTHER GOODS/SVCS	320.0	320.0	311.6	0.0%	2.7%

Purchasing power of the consumer dollar.

1982-1984 = \$1.00 APR. 06 = 0.496
 1967 = \$1.00 APR. 06 = 0.166

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor

SWFRPC Meeting Schedule

Regional Planning Council	Third Thursday of each month
Lee County MPO	Third Friday of each month
Technical Advisory Committee	First Thursday of each month
Citizen Advisory Committee	First Thursday of each month
LEPC	Quarterly
Disaster Preparedness Group	Thursday after LEPC meeting
Lee Transportation Disadvantaged	Quarterly
Glades & Hendry Transportation Disadvantaged	Quarterly

TEN SOUTHWEST FLORIDA BUSINESSES RANK AMONG THE TOP 200 PRIVATE COMPANIES

Florida Trend Magazine recently published its Top 200 Private Companies List for 2006. Ten of the 200 listed are located within the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council's service area. For a company to be considered for inclusion they must be privately held with headquarters in the State of Florida. Subsidiaries, divisions and other holdings of out-of-state companies were not considered.

Although about half of the companies listed in the table below dropped in rank from the previous year, the reduced ranking is not an indication of falling revenues. All the companies in the region, with the exception of Dooley & Mach Construction Inc, reported increased revenue. But because 28 new companies were added to the 2006 list, the standard for inclusion was heightened. Last year, the company in the 200th spot made \$44.1 million. This year the 200th company reported revenue of 78.8 million.

As the table indicates, the top company in the region is the business of floor covering franchisor. Five of the ten listed are in the construction or real estate business. Also note, that eight out of the ten are located in Sarasota County and Naples, one out of the ten is located in Bonita Springs, and one is located in Fort Myers. This is an evident reflection of the tremendous growth occurring within the coastal counties and the Southwest Florida Region as a whole.

2006*	2005*	Company Name	Location	Type of Business
9	9	Abbey Carpet Co. Inc.	Bonita Springs	Floor covering franchisor
35	41	FCCI Insurance	Sarasota	Commercial property & casualty insurance
50	50	Kraft Construction Company, Inc.	Naples	General Contractor
68	82	Boran Craig Barber Engel Construction Co. Inc.	Naples	General Contractor
75	70	PGT Industries Inc.	Nokomis	Windows & door manufacturer
76	69	Robb & Stucky Ltd.	Fort Myers	Retail furniture and home décor
126	NR	W.G. Mills	Sarasota	General Contractor
139	90	Dooley & Mach Construction Inc.	Sarasota	General Contractor
173	151	Orion Bancorp, Inc.	Naples	Banking
183	170	Michael Saunders & Co.	Sarasota	Real estate brokerage

*Ranked by 2005 revenue. NR = Not Ranked.