



Southwest Florida Regional  
Planning Council

# Economic VIEWS

1926 Victoria Avenue, Fort Myers, Florida

VOLUME 29 NO.7

JULY 2006

## AIRPORT ACTIVITY

Airport passenger activity for the Southwest Florida Region decreased 32.3% in May 2006 from April 2006. Airport passengers visiting and leaving the region totaled 687,766 as compared to 1,015,370 in the previous month. All three airports reported a decrease in passenger activity from the previous month.

In May 2006, total airport activity for the region decreased 2.6% from the previous year. All three airports reported a decrease in passenger activity from the previous year.

### AIRPORT PASSENGERS

AIRPORT		MAY. 06	APR. 06	% CHANGE	
				MAY. 05	APR. 06 / MAY. 06
S.W. Fla. Int'l	ARRIVALS	268,513	392,440	275,860	-31.6%
	DEPARTURES	306,450	455,318	315,286	-32.7%
Sarasota/ Bradenton	ARRIVALS	51,757	75,045	51,553	-31.0%
	DEPARTURES	57,708	86,527	58,595	-33.3%
Naples	ARRIVALS	1,615	2,806	2,248	-42.4%
	DEPARTURES	1,723	3,234	2,264	-46.7%

### AIRPORT TOTALS = ARRIVALS + DEPARTURES

	MAY. 06	APR. 06	MAY. 05	% CHANGE	
				APR. 06 / MAY. 06	MAY. 05 / MAY. 06
S.W. Fla. Int'l	574,963	847,758	591,146	-32.2%	-2.7%
Sarasota/Brad.	109,465	161,572	110,148	-32.3%	-0.6%
Naples	3,338	6,040	4,512	-44.7%	-26.0%
REGION	687,766	1,015,370	705,806	-32.3%	-2.6%

SOURCE: Local Airport Authorities.



Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council

**Economic VIEWS**  
1926 Victoria Avenue, Fort Myers, Florida  
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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. 2,470 residential permits were issued in Southwest Florida in May 2006. This is 230 more permits than were issued in May 2005. The number of units covered by these permits decreased by 949 from 3,419 in May 2005 to 2,470 in May 2006. Compared with the figures reported for April 2006, the number of units for May 2006 decreased by 862. From April 2006 to May 2006, permits issued decreased by 155.

The region reported a residential building valuation of \$648,214,002 in May 2006. This is an increase of 16.1% compared to the valuation of residential permits issued in May 2005, which totalled \$772,921,385.

### BUILDING PERMIT ACTIVITY

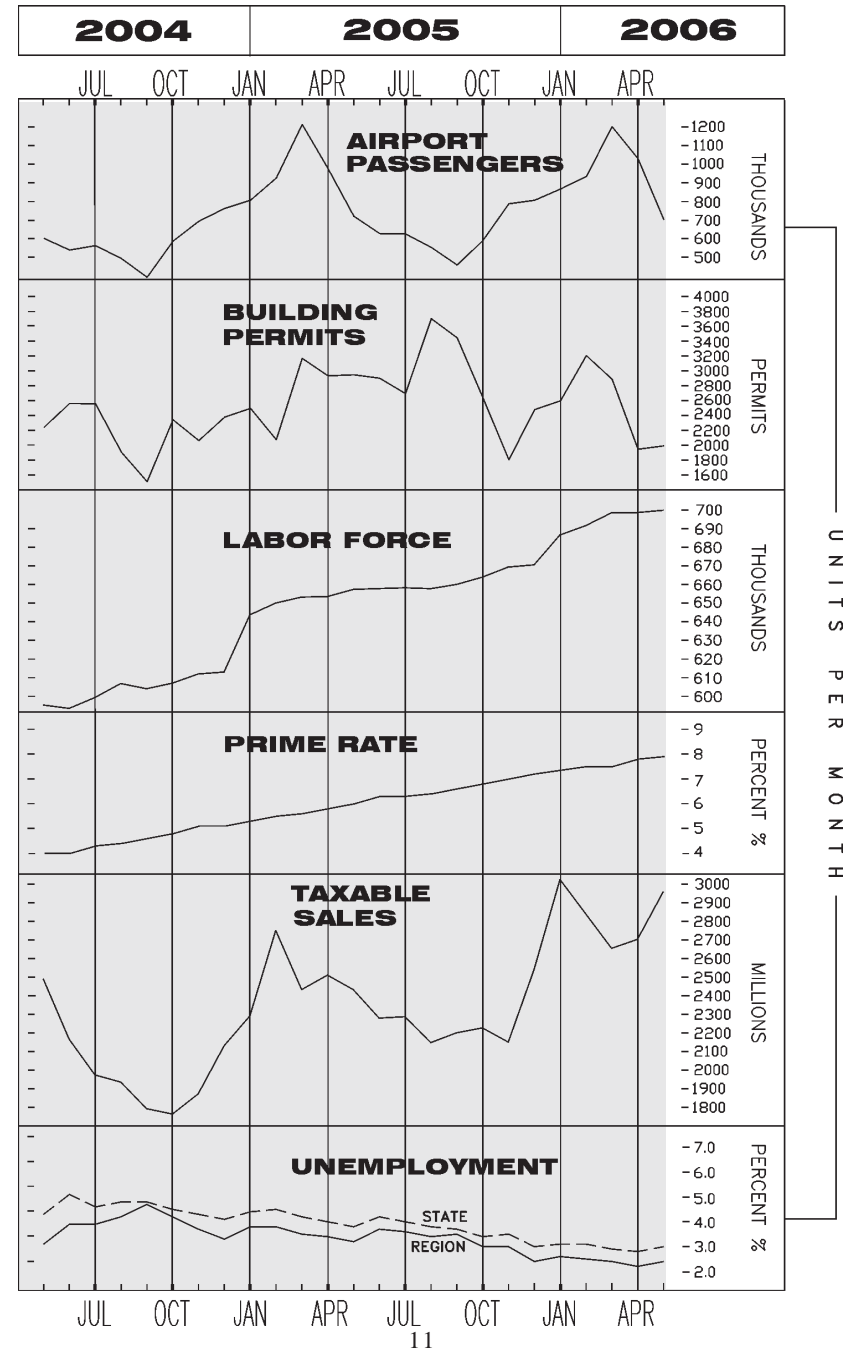
COUNTY	MAY 2006				APRIL 2006			
	SINGLE FAMILY PERMITS	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	RESIDENTIAL UNITS	RESIDENTIAL VALUE	SINGLE FAMILY PERMITS	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	RESIDENTIAL UNITS	RESIDENTIAL VALUE
CHARLOTTE	461	16	65	\$111,523,152	291	32	373	\$109,068,386
COLLIER	244	23	131	\$102,548,340	230	18	275	\$122,163,665
GLADES	5	0	0	\$762,155	6	0	0	\$1,093,300
HENDRY	49	4	24	\$6,034,235	33	0	0	\$3,146,241
LEE	1,303	124	450	\$363,106,649	1,367	118	452	\$386,868,809
SARASOTA	231	10	56	\$64,239,471	203	17	102	\$69,977,053
REGION*	2,293	177	726	\$648,214,002	2,130	185	1,202	\$692,317,454

COUNTY	MAY 2005				UNIT CHANGE		% CHANGE	
	SINGLE FAMILY PERMITS	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	RESIDENTIAL UNITS	RESIDENTIAL VALUE	APR 06 / MAY 06	MAY 06 / MAY 06	APR 06 / MAY 06	MAY 06 / MAY 06
CHARLOTTE	164	19	141	\$41,681,637	-138	221	2.3%	167.6%
COLLIER	276	46	494	\$134,656,000	-130	-395	-16.1%	-23.8%
GLADES	3	0	0	\$375,520	-1	2	-30.3%	103.0%
HENDRY	35	0	0	\$2,128,973	40	38	91.8%	183.4%
LEE	1,155	171	743	\$272,197,395	-66	-145	-6.1%	33.4%
SARASOTA	360	11	48	\$57,534,129	-18	-121	-8.2%	11.7%
REGION*	1,993	247	1,426	\$508,573,654	-313	-400	-6.4%	27.5%

\*Punta Gorda, Everglades City and Longboat Key are not included in May 2006 figures.

\*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	MAY 2006 (PRELIM)	MAY 2005 (REVISED)	% CHANGE
<b>UNEMPLOYMENT</b>			
State	3.0%	3.8%	-20.1%
Region	2.4%	3.2%	-19.7%
County			
Charlotte	2.9%	3.8%	-22.8%
Collier	2.3%	2.9%	-17.4%
Glades	4.1%	4.2%	-22.7%
Hendry	5.0%	6.3%	-24.5%
Lee	2.3%	3.1%	-19.6%
Sarasota	2.3%	3.1%	-19.1%
<b>LABOR FORCE</b>			
State	8,931,000	8,654,000	3.2%
Region	698,551	655,513	6.6%
<b>EMPLOYED</b>			
State	8,669,000	8,326,000	4.1%
Region	681,623	634,432	7.4%
<b>UNEMPLOYED</b>			
State	262,000	328,000	-20.1%
Region	16,928	21,081	-19.7%
<b>AIRPORT PASSENGERS</b>			
Region	687,766	705,806	-2.6%
S. W. Int'l Airport	574,963	591,146	-2.7%
Sarasota/Bradenton	109,465	110,148	-0.6%
Naples	3,338	4,512	-26.0%
<b>BUILDING PERMITS</b>			
Regional	2,470	2,240	10.3%
Single Family	2,293	1,993	15.1%
Multi-Family	177	247	-28.3%
<b>TOTAL VALUE</b>			
Residential	\$648,214,002	\$772,921,385	-16.1%
All Permit Activity	\$1,112,371,938	\$1,621,608,907	-31.4%
<b>REGIONAL SALES (\$000)**</b>			
Taxable Sales	\$2,945,779	\$2,990,882	-1.5%
Gross Sales	\$4,858,860	\$4,707,109	3.2%
<b>CONSUMER PRICE INDEX</b>			
	202.5	194.4	4.2%
<b>PRIME INTEREST RATE</b>			
	7.9%	6.0%	32.2%

\*Punta Gorda, Everglades City and Longboat Key are not included in May 2006 figures.

# UNEMPLOYMENT

The regional unemployment rate for May 2006 was 2.4%, up from the April 2006 revised rate of 2.2%. Hendry County, at 5.0%, had the highest unemployment rate in the six-county region, with Glades County second at 4.1%. Collier, Lee & Sarasota County had the lowest unemployment rate at 2.3%.

The May 2006 regional unemployment rate of 2.4% was better than the state (3.0%) as a whole. The regional unemployment rate decreased by 19.7% from May 2005 to May 2006, while the state rate decreased by 20.1%.

## LABORFORCE FIGURES

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE		EMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT	
	MAY. 06 (PRELIM)	APR. 06 (REVISED)	MAY. 06 (PRELIM)	APR. 06 (REVISED)	MAY. 06 (PRELIM)	APR. 06 (REVISED)
CHARLOTTE	64,056	63,862	62,210	62,142	1,846	1,720
COLLIER	150,369	151,384	146,952	148,339	3,417	3,045
GLADES	4,020	4,025	3,857	3,891	163	134
HENDRY	17,273	17,216	16,406	16,482	867	734
LEE	281,197	279,483	274,804	273,749	6,393	5,734
SARASOTA	181,636	181,330	177,394	177,081	4,242	4,249
REGION	698,551	697,300	681,623	681,684	16,928	15,616
STATE	8,931,000	8,862,000	8,669,000	8,618,000	262,000	244,000

## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

COUNTY	% CHANGE				
	MAY. 06 (PRELIM)	APR. 06 (REVISED)	MAY. 05 (REVISED)	APR. 06/ MAY. 06/	MAY. 05/ MAY. 06
CHARLOTTE	2.9%	2.7%	3.8%	7.3%	-22.8%
COLLIER	2.3%	2.0%	2.9%	12.2%	-17.4%
GLADES	4.1%	3.3%	4.2%	21.6%	-22.7%
HENDRY	5.0%	4.3%	6.3%	18.1%	-24.5%
LEE	2.3%	2.1%	3.1%	11.5%	-19.6%
SARASOTA	2.3%	2.3%	3.1%	-0.2%	-19.1%
REGION	2.4%	2.2%	3.2%	8.4%	-19.7%
STATE	3.0%	2.8%	3.8%	7.4%	-20.1%

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 May 2006, gross and taxable sales in the region totaled approximately \$4.9 billion and \$2.9 billion, respectively. This is a 9.5% increase in gross sales and a 9.5% increase in taxable sales from March 2006. All counties except for Glades reported an increase in taxable and gross sales this month as compared to March 2006.

Gross sales in the region between April 2005 and April 2006 increased 1.6%. Taxable sales decreased 1.5% during the same period. By incorporating the change in the cost of living (4.2%) and the average annual population growth rate (3.7%) for the same time period, real gross sales decreased 4.5% per capita. Real taxable sales decreased 9.5%.

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## SALESACTIVITY

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

### GROSS SALES (\$000)

COUNTY	% CHANGE				
	APR. 06 (PRELIM)	MAR. 06 (PRELIM)	APR. 05 (REVISED)	MAR. 06/ APR. 06	APR. 2005/ APR. 2006
CHARLOTTE	392,062	366,710	371,557	6.9%	5.5%
COLLIER	1,211,153	1,064,619	1,202,612	13.8%	0.7%
GLADES	9,038	10,560	9,104	-14.4%	-0.7%
HENDRY	129,165	116,025	123,742	11.3%	4.4%
LEE	1,892,509	1,780,523	1,852,078	6.3%	2.2%
SARASOTA	1,224,933	1,099,821	1,221,875	11.4%	0.3%
REGION	4,858,860	4,438,258	4,780,968	9.5%	1.6%

### TAXABLE SALES (\$000)

COUNTY	% CHANGE				
	APR. 06 (PRELIM)	MAR. 06 (PRELIM)	APR. 05 (REVISED)	MAR. 06/ APR. 06	APR. 2005/ APR. 2006
CHARLOTTE	254,341	218,842	249,206	16.2%	2.1%
COLLIER	755,032	676,977	765,316	11.5%	-1.3%
GLADES	3,642	3,287	4,073	10.8%	-10.6%
HENDRY	35,385	34,943	33,801	1.3%	4.7%
LEE	1,198,000	1,122,053	1,217,242	6.8%	-1.6%
SARASOTA	699,379	633,816	721,244	10.3%	-3.0%
REGION	2,945,779	2,689,918	2,990,882	9.5%	-1.5%

SOURCE: Florida Department of Tax Research.

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## PUBLIC AVAILABILITY NOTICE OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INFORMATION

The Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act of 1986, also known as Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) requires emergency planning and emergency notification of accidental releases.

The public has access to a variety of chemical specific data and information of facilities reporting under the provisions of the Act. Citizens and businesses seeking information on any of the noted provisions should contact the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council in writing at the address below.

- \* Section 302: Extremely Hazardous Facility Chemical Notification
- \* Section 311: Materials Safety Data Sheets
- \* Section 312: Hazardous Material Chemical Inventory (Tier two) Form

Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council  
 LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE  
 1926 Victoria Avenue, FORT MYERS, FL 33901  
 (239) 338-2550, FAX (239) 338-2560  
 jgibbons@swfrpc.org




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## SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM INITIATIVE

The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council will join other Regional Planning Councils of the state in coordinating Cultural Awareness & Terrorism Investigation Workshops for FDLE and other law enforcement officials of Florida. The three day (3) workshops are intended to assist law enforcement officials in identifying cultural concerns and issues significant in curtailing potential terrorist activities across the state. Moreover, the workshops are free and offered under domestic security program funding. Depending on the level of participation from law enforcement officials of Southwest Florida, additional funding and workshops may become available to further train personnel of the region. However, at present, a total of twelve (12) workshops are slated for delivery across the state, one of which will be conducted in Fort Myers



July 22, 2006

**MIRACLE BASEBALL LEGENDS OF ROCK & ROLL**

Fort Myers

Contact: (239) 768-4210

July 29, 2006

**BIG SUMMER NATIVE PLANT SALE**

Rotary Park Environmental Center, Cape Coral

Contact: (239) 549-4606

August 4-5, 2006

**CAPE INSHORE REDFISH CHALLENGE**

Yacht Club Community Park, Cape Coral

Contact: (239) 337-4662

August 12-13, 2006

**BUCKLER CRAFT FAIR**

Lee Civic Center, N. Fort Myers

Contact: (239) 543-8368

August 15, 2006

**FORT MYERS BEACH OFFSHORE FISHING RODEO**

Salty Sam's Marina, Fort Myers Beach

Contact: (239) 877-1233

**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 May 2006 increased 0.5% from April 2006. The CPI-U for May 2006 was 202.5 an increase of 4.2% from May 2005.

**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX**

GROUP	MAY. 06	APR. 06	MAY. 05	% CHANGE	
				APR. 06/ MAY. 2006	MAY. 2005/ MAY. 2006
ALL ITEMS	202.5	201.5	194.4	0.5%	4.2%
FOOD & BEVERAGES	194.7	194.2	191.1	0.3%	1.9%
HOUSING	202.2	201.7	194.5	0.2%	4.0%
APPAREL	122.4	123.4	122.4	-0.8%	0.0%
TRANSPORTATION	187.6	184.1	172.1	1.9%	9.0%
MEDICAL CARE	335.6	334.7	322.2	0.3%	4.2%
RECREATION	111.2	111.1	109.5	0.1%	1.6%
EDUCATION/COMMUN.	115.7	115.8	112.7	-0.1%	2.7%
OTHER GOODS/SVCS	320.2	320.0	312.5	0.1%	2.5%

Purchasing power of the consumer dollar.

1982-1984 = \$1.00    MAY. 06 = 0.494

1967 = \$1.00    MAY. 06 = 0.165

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor

**SWFRPC Meeting Schedule**

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

## THE 2ND EDITION BIG WATER HERITAGE TRAIL PROJECT

The Big Water Heritage Trail (a scenic auto tour route/trail) provides opportunities to discover and explore the natural, cultural, historical, educational and recreational features of the Lake Okeechobee Region and connects to the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail. The Trail encompasses five counties surrounding Lake Okeechobee in Florida. The trail's name, the Big Water Heritage Trail, stems from the Seminole word for Okeechobee, which means "Big Water".



The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC) was awarded two grants to fund the reprint of the 2nd Edition Big Water Heritage Trail brochure. Visit Florida awarded \$5,000 for the revised design and layout of the user map. The Florida Humanities Council also awarded \$25,800 which was used to print 100,000 copies of the updated brochure.

This largely successful project (originally implemented in 2003) just recently received a big boost. The 2nd Edition Big Water Heritage Trail brochure has just been updated with new points of interest and narrative text along with new photos on the original brochure. There is a total of eighty sites that have been included as part of the Big Water Heritage Trail system with 100,000 map brochures produced for distribution. Thirteen sites along the heritage trail also now have kiosks and the 2nd Edition Big Water Heritage Trail Brochures will soon be prominently displayed in the area kiosks.

This project conveys the Lake communities' common path in terms of historic and cultural resources which shaped their development. Those resources, reflected in each county's points of interest, range from Indian Mounds and prehistoric settlers to diverse ethnic, Seminole War period military battles, exemplary historic architectural styles (e.g. Mission style), and historic structures associated with waterway and rail transportation (such as navigational locks and railroad depots).

This brochure which describes an array of environmental features and historical gems throughout the region and educates visitors about the area's history and arts by directing them to the cultural and historical points of interest on the base map.



A special thanks to the following Project Partners:  
(Technical and Financial Assistance for the Trail)

Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council

National Park Service:

Rivers and Trails Program

Florida Humanities Council

Visit Florida

Florida Department of Transportation

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Office of Greenways & Trails

Additional partners include: the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Seminole Indian Tribe, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, Central Florida Regional Planning Council, the counties of Glades, Hendry, Martin, Okeechobee, and Palm Beach and the cities located around the lake. A special thank you also to the Big Water Heritage Trail Advisory Committee for their unwavering commitment, dedication and support to preserving and promoting Lake Okeechobee's area wide natural, cultural, recreational and historical resources.

To receive a copy of the Big Water Heritage Trail brochure, please contact Jennifer Pellechio at the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council by calling (239) 338-2550, ext. 218 or emailing [jpellechio@swfrpc.org](mailto:jpellechio@swfrpc.org).