



Economic Views

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Featured Article of the Month

LEE MPO LAUNCHES WEBSITE AND "BLOG" AND INVITES PUBLIC PARTICIPATION



The Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization (Lee MPO), located in Fort Myers, Florida,

has recently launched its own web-site and its own "Blog," as new ways to provide information and venues for public comment and involvement. The web-site is: <http://mpo-swfl.org> and the Blog is found at <http://mpo-swfl.blogspot.com>.

According to the Blog-site, which was launched at the end of July 2006, "this is a free exchange of information regarding traffic and transportation issues for Lee County, Florida and its surrounding areas."

The "Blog" and the web-site are among the many tools the Lee MPO is launching this year to ensure the public are involved in the planning of transportation facilities, and are based upon the "Public Involvement Plan," which was amended by the Lee MPO in May 2006. The Lee MPO's *Public Involvement Plan* identifies a proactive public involvement process for the development of the Long Range Transportation Plan and other planning activities for the Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization. This process provides for complete information; timely public notice; full access to key decisions; and early and continuing involvement of the public. Along with placing legal advertisements prior to its meetings, the MPO also utilizes press releases, and mails out postal cards announcing upcoming meetings to people who have signed up on the MPO's "Transportation Advisory Network," ("TAN") list.

The Lee MPO utilizes the web-site to announce upcoming meetings, provide copies of the agendas for the meetings, and provide copies of the individual agenda items for the meetings. Each of these documents is posted on the MPO's web-site at <http://www.mpo-swfl.org/agendas>.

The Lee MPO is exploring additional ways to reach people who may be impacted by the Long Range Transportation Plan or its amendments, or who would like to become more involved in their community. To become involved, people can:

- Volunteer for appointment to the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) or Local Coordinating Board (LCB).
- Ask to be put on the Transportation Advisory Network (TAN) mailing list.
- Attend public hearings, workshops and forums.
- Comment in writing or in person.
- Attend meetings of the advisory committees and the MPO.
- Review draft plans and other documents and comment in writing or in person.

For more ways to get involved, or to sign up, visit the Lee MPO web-site at <http://mpo-swfl.org> and click on "Get Involved."

Feasitivals & Events

August 17th - September 21st

August 16, 2006

FLATSMASTERS REDSNOOK CHALLENGE

Fisherman's Village, Punta Gorda
Contact: (941) 637-5953

August 18, 2006

FRIDAYFEST

Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall,
Sarasota
Contact: (941) 953-3368

September 1-2, 2006

DOWNTOWN SIDEWALK SALE

Downtown, Venice
Contact: (941) 484-6722

September 1, 2006

MIRACLE FAN APPRECIATION FIREWORKS GAME

Hammond Stadium
Contact: (239) 768-4210

September 2-4, 2006

ANNUAL LABOR DAY SWAMP WALKS

Big Cypress Gallery, Naples
Contact: (888) 999-9113

September 6, 2006

BASICALLY BLUEGRASS

Lee Civic Center, N. Fort Myers
Contact: (239) 543-8368

September 11-13, 2006

BUCKLER'S CRAFT SHOW

Lee Civic Center, N. Fort Myers
Contact: (239) 543-8368



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Airport Activity

Airport passenger activity for the Southwest Florida Region decreased 11.8% in June 2006 from May 2006. Airport passengers visiting and leaving the region totaled 606,557 as compared to 687,766 in the previous month. All three airports reported a decrease in passenger activity from the previous month.

In June 2006, total airport activity for the region decreased 1.1% from the previous year. All three airports reported a decrease in passenger activity from the previous year.

Airport Passengers

REGIONAL AIRPORT ACTIVITY

AIRPORT		JUN. 06	MAY. 06	JUN. 05	% CHANGE MAY. 06 / JUN. 06
S.W. Fla. Int'l	ARRIVALS	248,809	268,513	250,597	-7.3%
	DEPARTURES	256,443	306,450	258,834	-16.3%
Sarasota/ Bradenton	ARRIVALS	47,751	51,757	49,222	-7.7%
	DEPARTURES	50,564	57,708	50,276	-12.4%
Naples	ARRIVALS	1,484	1,615	2,014	-8.1%
	DEPARTURES	1,506	1,723	2,081	-12.6%
AIRPORT TOTALS = ARRIVALS + DEPARTURES					%CHANGE
		JUN. 06	MAY. 06	JUN. 05	MAY. 06 / JUN. 06
S.W. Fla. Int'l		505,252	574,963	509,431	-12.1%
Sarasota/ Brad.		98,315	109,465	99,498	-10.2%
Naples		2,990	3,338	4,095	-10.4%
REGION		606,557	687,766	613,024	-11.8%

SOURCE: Local Airport Authorities.

Unemployment

The regional unemployment rate for June 2006 was 2.9%, down from the May 2006 revised rate of 2.2%. Hendry County, at 7.5%, had the highest unemployment rate in the six-county region, with Glades County second at 5.2%. Sarasota County had the lowest unemployment rate at 2.7%.

The June 2006 regional unemployment rate of 2.9% was better than the state (3.3%) as a whole. The regional unemployment rate decreased by 18.0% from June 2005 to June 2006, while the state rate decreased by 19.8%.

Labor Force Figures

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE		EMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT	
	JUN. 06 (PRELIM)	MAY. 06 (REVISED)	JUN. 06 (PRELIM)	MAY. 06 (REVISED)	JUN. 06 (PRELIM)	MAY. 06 (REVISED)
CHARLOTTE	64,066	64,056	61,969	62,210	2,097	1,846
COLLIER	150,153	150,369	145,838	146,952	4,315	3,417
GLADES	3,955	4,020	3,750	3,857	205	163
HENDRY	16,839	17,273	15,578	16,406	1,261	867
LEE	281,430	281,197	274,127	274,804	7,303	6,393
SARASOTA	183,616	181,636	178,695	177,394	4,921	4,242
REGION	700,059	698,551	679,957	681,623	20,102	16,928
STATE	8,977,000	8,931,000	8,682,000	8,669,000	296,000	262,000

Unemployment Rate

COUNTY	% CHANGE				
	JUN. 06 (PRELIM)	MAY. 06 (REVISED)	JUN. 05 (REVISED)	MAY. 06/ JUN. 06/	JUN. 05/ JUN. 06
CHARLOTTE	3.3%	2.9%	4.2%	13.6%	-19.6%
COLLIER	2.9%	2.3%	3.7%	26.3%	-17.0%
GLADES	5.2%	4.1%	5.3%	25.8%	-20.2%
HENDRY	7.5%	5.0%	9.0%	45.4%	-19.2%
LEE	2.6%	2.3%	3.5%	14.2%	-18.5%
SARASOTA	2.7%	2.3%	3.5%	16.0%	-17.2%
REGION	2.9%	2.4%	3.7%	18.8%	-18.0%
STATE	3.3%	2.9%	4.2%	13.0%	-19.8%

Note: Sum of detail may not equal totals due to rounding.

Source: Agency for Workforce Innovation.



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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 June 2006 increased 0.2% from May 2006. The CPI-U for June 2006 was 202.9 an increase of 4.3% from June 2005.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

GROUP	% CHANGE				
	JUN. 06	MAY. 06	JUN. 05	JUN. 06	JUN. 2006
ALL ITEMS	202.9	202.5	194.5	0.2%	4.3%
FOOD & BEVERAGES	195.1	194.7	190.9	0.2%	2.2%
HOUSING	203.7	202.2	195.5	0.7%	4.2%
APPAREL	118.9	122.4	118.3	-2.9%	0.5%
TRANSPORTATION	187.3	187.6	171.8	-0.2%	9.0%
MEDICAL CARE	336.0	335.6	322.9	0.1%	4.1%
RECREATION	111.2	111.2	109.1	0.0%	1.9%
EDUCATION/ COMMUN.	115.9	115.7	112.8	0.2%	2.7%
OTHER GOODS/SVCS	321.5	320.2	312.5	0.4%	2.9%

Purchasing power of the consumer dollar.

1982-1984= \$1.00 JUN. 06 = 0.493

1967= \$1.00 JUN. 06 = 0.165

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor

Sales Activity

Sales activity in Southwest Florida is measured by gross and taxable sales for each county. For June 2006, gross and taxable sales in the region totaled approximately \$4.4 billion and \$2.7 billion, respectively. This is a 8.5% decrease in gross sales and a 9.7% decrease in taxable sales from April 2006. All counties except for Glades reported a decrease in taxable and gross sales this month as compared to April 2006 except Glades for gross.

Gross sales in the region between May 2005 and May 2006 increased 13.0%. Taxable sales increased 6.8% during the same period. By incorporating the change in the cost of living (4.3%) and the average annual population growth rate (3.7%) for the same time period, real gross sales increased 4.4% per capita. Real taxable sales decreased 1.2%.

Sales Activity

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

COUNTY	% CHANGE				
	MAY. 06 (PRELIM)	APR. 06 (PRELIM)	MAY. 05 (REVISED)	APR. 06/ MAY. 06	MAY. 2005/ MAY. 2006
CHARLOTTE	339,434	392,062	320,267	-13.4%	6.0%
COLLIER	1,059,924	1,211,153	932,499	-12.5%	13.7%
GLADES	10,367	9,038	8,606	14.7%	20.5%
HENDRY	112,497	129,165	90,874	-12.9%	23.8%
LEE	1,780,599	1,892,509	1,590,167	-5.9%	12.0%
SARASOTA	1,142,032	1,224,933	991,563	-6.8%	15.2%
REGION	4,444,853	4,858,860	3,933,976	-8.5%	13.0%

TAXABLE SALES (\$000)

COUNTY	% CHANGE				
	MAY. 06 (PRELIM)	APR. 06 (PRELIM)	MAY. 05 (REVISED)	APR. 06/ MAY. 06	MAY. 2005/ MAY. 2006
CHARLOTTE	212,935	254,341	219,570	-16.3%	-3.0%
COLLIER	637,609	755,032	604,333	-15.6%	5.5%
GLADES	2,587	3,642	2,763	-29.0%	-6.4%
HENDRY	34,953	35,385	32,527	-1.2%	7.5%
LEE	1,126,361	1,198,000	1,022,983	-6.0%	10.1%
SARASOTA	645,002	699,379	608,618	-7.8%	6.0%
REGION	2,659,447	2,945,779	2,490,794	-9.7%	6.8%

SOURCE: Florida Department of Tax Research.

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	Thursday after LEPC meeting
Lee Trans. Disadvantaged	Quarterly
Glades/Hendry Trans. Disadvantaged	Quarterly



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Building Permits

Residential building activity is measured by the number of single-family and multifamily building permits issued during a given month. 2,173 residential permits were issued in Southwest Florida in June 2006. This is 1016 less permits than were issued in June 2005. The number of units covered by these permits decreased by 1,453 from 4,167 in June 2005 to 2,714 in June 2006. Compared with the figures reported for May 2006, the number of units for June 2006 decreased by 351. From May 2006 to June 2006, permits issued decreased by 313.

The region reported a residential building valuation of \$1,167,284,658 in June 2006. This is a increase of 71.6% compared to the valuation of residential permits issued in June 2005, which totalled \$680,346,266.

Building Permit Activity

COUNTY	JUNE 2006				MAY 2006			
	SINGLE FAMILY PERMITS	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	RESIDENTIAL UNITS	RESIDENTIAL VALUE	SINGLE FAMILY PERMITS	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	RESIDENTIAL UNITS	RESIDENTIAL VALUE
CHARLOTTE	372	24	91	\$104,496,745	467	26	105	\$118,201,951
COLLIER	226	19	152	\$83,610,000	244	23	131	\$102,548,340
GLADES	15	0	0	\$1,979,078	5	0	0	\$762,155
HENDRY	24	0	0	\$4,356,726	49	4	24	\$6,034,235
LEE	1,195	100	412	\$919,131,937	1,303	124	450	\$363,106,649
SARASOTA	192	6	35	\$53,710,173	231	10	56	\$64,239,471
REGION*	2,024	149	690	\$1,167,284,658	2,299	187	766	\$654,892,801

COUNTY	JUNE 2005				UNIT CHANGE		% CHANGE	
	SINGLE FAMILY PERMITS	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	RESIDENTIAL UNITS	RESIDENTIAL VALUE	MAY. 06/ JUN. 06	JUN. 05/ JUN. 06	MAY. 06/ JUN. 06	JUN. 05/ JUN. 06
CHARLOTTE	270	24	224	\$72,408,632	-109	-31	-11.6%	44.3%
COLLIER	211	17	166	\$68,524,701	3	1	-18.5%	22.0%
GLADES	5	0	0	\$489,020	10	10	159.7%	304.7%
HENDRY	46	0	0	\$4,457,712	-49	-22	-27.8%	-2.3%
LEE	1857	163	649	\$407,687,421	-146	-899	153.1%	125.5%
SARASOTA	570	26	169	\$126,778,780	-60	-512	-16.4%	-57.6%
REGION*	2,959	230	1,208	\$680,346,266	-351	-1,453	78.2%	71.6%

*Naples is not included in June 2006 figures.



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Summary Economic Indicators				Economic Indicators											
INDICATORS	JUNE 2006	JUNE 2005	% CHANGE	2004		2005		2006							
	(PRELIM)	(REVISED)		JUL	OCT	JAN	APR	JUL	OCT	JAN	APR	JUN			
UNEMPLOYMENT				AIRPORT PASSENGERS											
State	3.3%	4.2%	-19.8%	THOUSANDS											
Region	2.9%	3.7%	-18.0%												
County															
Charlotte	3.3%	4.2%	-19.6%												
Collier	2.9%	3.7%	-17.0%	BUILDING PERMITS											
Glades	5.2%	5.3%	-20.2%	PERMITS											
Hendry	7.5%	9.0%	-19.2%												
Lee	2.6%	3.5%	-18.5%												
Sarasota	2.7%	3.5%	-17.2%												
LABOR FORCE				LABOR FORCE											
State	8,977,000	8,698,000	3.2%	THOUSANDS											
Region	700,059	656,405	6.7%												
EMPLOYED				PRIME RATE											
State	8,682,000	8,329,000	4.2%	PERCENT %											
Region	679,957	631,880	7.6%												
UNEMPLOYED				TAXABLE SALES											
State	296,000	369,000	-19.8%	MILLIONS											
Region	20,102	24,525	-18.0%												
AIRPORT PASSENGERS				UNEMPLOYMENT											
Region	606,557	613,024	-1.1%	PERCENT %											
S. W. Int'l Airport	505,252	509,431	-0.8%												
Sarasota/Bradenton	98,315	99,498	-1.2%												
Naples	2,990	4,095	-27.0%												
BUILDING PERMITS															
Regional	2,173	3,189	-31.9%												
Single Family	2,024	2,959	-31.6%												
Multi-Family	149	230	-35.2%												
TOTAL VALUE															
Residential	\$1,167,284,658	\$680,346,266	71.6%												
All Permit Activity	\$2,950,137,748	\$986,236,175	199.1%												
REGIONAL SALES (\$000)**															
Taxable Sales	\$2,659,447	\$2,490,794	6.8%												
Gross Sales	\$4,444,853	\$3,933,976	13.0%												
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX															
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	202.9	194.5	4.3%												
PRIME INTEREST RATE															
PRIME INTEREST RATE	8.0%	6.3%	27.3%												

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