

# Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council



## Economic Views

In This Issue:  
 Festivals & Events...1  
 Airport Activity...2  
 Unemployment Activity...2  
 Consumer Price Index...3  
 Sales Activity...3  
 Building Permit Activity...4  
 Economic Indicators...5

*Serving Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee and Sarasota Counties Since 1973*

### Featured Article of the Month

#### The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Document Available For 30 Day Public Comment

FORT MYERS, FL – (August 30, 2007) – Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council announced today that the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) draft document is now available for a 30 day public comment period. This document will be available via the web at [www.swfrpc.org](http://www.swfrpc.org) for 30 days, from August 30th, 2007 thru September 30th, 2007.

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) document was developed to identify regional projects and goals over a 5 year period, as well as job creation and diversification of the local economy. Within that period, the Economic Development Administration (EDA) will grant funding based on approved projects listed in the document.

#### About the Committee

In 1992, the Council was designated an Economic Development District (EDD) by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce. The Council staffs the Southwest Florida Regional Economic Development Strategy Committee, which includes representatives from the Region and was established to address the area's economic problems and challenges from a regional perspective. The Economic Development Strategy Committee has been the key to defining projects and determining strategic factors throughout the document.

All changes should be submitted to Jennifer Pellechio via email at [jpellechio@swfrpc.org](mailto:jpellechio@swfrpc.org) or Rebekah Harp via email at [rharp@swfrpc.org](mailto:rharp@swfrpc.org) no later than September 30, 2007. For further information, please contact Jennifer Pellechio at 338-2550 Ext 218.

#### Southwest Florida Economic Development Luncheon Forum

Thursday, October 18, 2007 at 11:00 am to 2:30 pm. Located at Harborside Event Center located at 1375 Monroe Street, Fort Myers, FL 33901.

For more information and registration please visit our website at [www.swfrpc.org](http://www.swfrpc.org)

### Festivals & Events

September 22-23, 2007

#### BIG BOYS TECH & TOYS

Lee County Civic Center, N. Fort Myers

Contact: (239) 543-8368

October 5-7, 2007

#### COUNTRY FOLK ART & CRAFT SHOW

Lee County Civic Center, N. Fort Myers

Contact: (239) 543-8368

October 8-14, 2007

#### "DING" DARLING DAYS

J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge

Contact: (239) 472-1100

October 13, 2007

#### CAPE BIKE NIGHT

47th Terrace between Coronado & Vincennes,  
Cape Coral

Contact: (239) 573-3125

October 13, 2007

#### CRUISE-IN & BLOCK PARTY

Downtown Fort Myers

Contact: (239) 229-8526

October 13-14, 2007

#### 19TH ANNUAL ST. ARMANDS ART FESTIVAL

St. Armand Circle, Sarasota

Contact: (941) 388-1554

# Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council



## Economic Views

Serving Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee and Sarasota Counties Since 1973

### Airport Activity

Airport passenger activity for the Southwest Florida Region increased 1.1% in July 2007 from June 2007. Airport passengers visiting and leaving the region totaled 649,065 as compared to 642,208 in the previous month. Southwest Florida Airport was the only airport to report an increase in passenger activity from the previous month.

In July 2007, total airport activity for the region increased 8.5% from the previous year. SW Fla airport was the only one to report an increase in passenger activity from the previous year.

#### Airport Passengers

AIRPORT		JUL. 07	JUN. 07	JUL. 06	% CHANGE	
					JUN. 07/ JUL. 07	JUL. 06/ JUL. 07
S.W. Fla. Int'l	ARRIVALS	265,409	261,732	250,011		1.4%
	DEPARTURES	269,855	263,526	252,587		2.4%
Sarasota/ Bradenton	ARRIVALS	54,624	56,629	45,736		-3.5%
	DEPARTURES	56,208	57,299	46,810		-1.9%
Naples	ARRIVALS	1,600	1,643	1,408		-2.6%
	DEPARTURES	1,369	1,379	1,401		-0.7%
AIRPORT TOTALS = ARRIVALS + DEPARTURES					%CHANGE	
		JUL. 07	JUN. 07	JUL. 06	JUN. 07/ JUL. 07	JUL. 06/ JUL. 07
S.W. Fla. Int'l		535,264	525,258	502,598	1.9%	6.5%
Sarasota/ Brad.		110,832	113,928	92,546	-2.7%	19.8%
Naples		2,969	3,022	2,809	-1.8%	5.7%
REGION		649,065	642,208	597,953	1.1%	8.5%

SOURCE: Local Airport Authorities.

### Unemployment

The regional unemployment rate for July 2007 was 4.9%, which was higher than the revised rate of 4.2% for June 2007. Hendry County, at 9.9%, had the highest unemployment rate in the six-county region, with Glades County second at 6.2%. Sarasota County had the lowest unemployment rate at 4.4%.

The July 2007 regional unemployment rate of 4.9% was slightly higher than the state at 4.3%. The regional unemployment rate increased by 63.2% from July 2006 to July 2007, while the state rate increased by 23.6%.

#### Labor Force Figures

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE		EMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT	
	JUL. 07 (PRELIM)	JUN. 07 (REVISED)	JUL. 07 (PRELIM)	JUN. 07 (REVISED)	JUL. 07 (PRELIM)	JUN. 07 (REVISED)
CHARLOTTE	70,928	70,685	67,018	67,346	3,910	3,339
COLLIER	157,726	156,855	150,042	150,618	7,684	6,237
GLADES	4,512	4,599	4,231	4,353	281	246
HENDRY	17,745	17,994	15,990	16,584	1,755	1,410
LEE	294,710	294,219	280,850	281,969	13,860	12,250
SARASOTA	187,137	186,018	178,852	178,893	8,285	7,125
REGION	732,758	730,370	696,983	699,763	35,775	30,607
STATE	9,316,000	9,241,000	8,924,000	8,892,000	393,000	349,000

#### Unemployment Rate

COUNTY	% CHANGE				
	JUL. 07 (PRELIM)	JUN. 07 (REVISED)	JUL. 06 (REVISED)	JUL. 07 JUL. 07	JUL. 06/ JUL. 07
CHARLOTTE	5.5%	4.7%	3.4%	17.1%	76.8%
COLLIER	4.9%	4.0%	3.3%	23.2%	56.0%
GLADES	6.2%	5.3%	6.0%	14.2%	25.4%
HENDRY	9.9%	7.8%	8.9%	24.5%	20.9%
LEE	4.7%	4.2%	2.8%	13.1%	75.4%
SARASOTA	4.4%	3.8%	2.8%	16.3%	59.0%
REGION	4.9%	4.2%	3.1%	16.9%	63.2%
STATE	4.3%	3.8%	3.5%	12.6%	23.6%

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

Source: Agency for Workforce Innovation.

# Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council



## Economic Views

Serving Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee and Sarasota Counties Since 1973

### 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 July 2007 stayed the same from June 2006. The CPI-U for July 2007 was 208.3, an increase of 2.4% from July 2006.

#### Consumer Price Index

GROUP	% CHANGE				
	JUN. 07	JUN. 07	JUN. 06	JUL. 07	JUL. 06/
ALL ITEMS	208.3	208.4	203.5	-0.0%	2.4%
FOOD & BEVERAGES	203.5	202.9	195.6	0.3%	4.0%
HOUSING	211.3	210.6	204.7	0.3%	3.2%
APPAREL	113.5	117.2	113.8	-3.2%	-0.3%
TRANSPORTATION	187.7	189.0	189.0	-0.7%	-0.7%
MEDICAL CARE	351.6	349.5	337.0	0.6%	4.3%
RECREATION	111.3	111.6	111.3	-0.3%	0.0%
EDUCATION/ COMMUN.	119.0	118.7	116.3	0.3%	2.3%
OTHER GOODS/SVCS	333.4	333.4	321.2	0.0%	3.8%

Purchasing power of the consumer dollar.

1982-  
1984= \$1.00 JUL. 07 = 0.480

1967= \$1.00 JUL. 07 = 0.160

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 2007, gross and taxable sales in the region totaled approximately \$3.9 million and \$2.2 million, respectively. This is a 6.2% decrease in gross sales and a 9.8% decrease in taxable sales from May 2007. The counties were split reporting an increase and decrease in gross sales and taxable sales this month as compared to May 2007.

Gross sales in the region between June 2006 and June 2007 decreased 6.9%. Taxable sales decreased 12.7% during the same period. By incorporating the change in the cost of living (2.4%) and the average annual population growth rate (4.3%) for the same time period, real gross sales decreased 14.5% per capita. Real taxable sales decreased 22.2%.

#### Sales Activity

\*\*Regional sales data is not yet released, current data is June 2007 compared with June 2006 data.

##### GROSS SALES (\$000)

COUNTY	% CHANGE				
	JUN. 07	MAY. 07	JUN. 06	MAY. 07/	JUN. 2006/
	(PRELIM)	(PRELIM)	(REVISED)	JUN. 07	JUN. 2007
CHARLOTTE	315,296	310,488	323,256	1.5%	-2.5%
COLLIER	862,595	1,004,189	963,375	-14.1%	-10.5%
GLADES	9,333	8,901	10,433	4.9%	-10.5%
HENDRY	130,914	118,146	111,190	10.8%	17.7%
LEE	1,559,282	1,662,524	1,727,895	-6.2%	-9.8%
SARASOTA	1,015,788	1,048,496	1,043,672	-3.1%	-2.7%
REGION	3,893,208	4,152,744	4,179,821	-6.2%	-6.9%

##### TAXABLE SALES (\$000)

COUNTY	% CHANGE				
	JUN. 07	MAY. 07	JUN. 06	MAY. 07/	JUN. 2006/
	(PRELIM)	(PRELIM)	(REVISED)	JUN. 07	JUN. 2007
CHARLOTTE	200,639	190,128	206,811	5.5%	-3.0%
COLLIER	491,281	596,844	568,708	-17.7%	-13.6%
GLADES	2,469	2,535	2,990	-2.6%	-17.4%
HENDRY	30,723	29,685	34,576	3.5%	-11.1%
LEE	926,362	1,029,072	1,087,591	-10.0%	-14.8%
SARASOTA	546,679	589,022	617,374	-7.2%	-11.5%
REGION	2,198,153	2,437,286	2,518,050	-9.8%	-12.7%

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

# Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council



## Economic Views

Serving Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee and Sarasota Counties Since 1973

### Building Permits

Residential building activity is measured by the number of single-family and multifamily building permits issued during a given month. In July 2007, 569 residential permits were issued in Southwest Florida. This is 991 less permits than were issued in July 2006. The number of units covered by these permits decreased by 1,289 from 1,922 in July 2006 to 633 in July 2007. Compared with the figures reported for June 2007, the number of units for July 2007 decreased by 866. From June 2007 to July 2007, permits issued decreased by 422.

The region reported a residential building valuation of \$163,305,624 in July 2007. This is a decrease of 60.0% compared to the valuation of residential permits issued in July 2006, which totaled \$408,453,370.

### Building Permit Activity

COUNTY	JULY 2007			JUNE 2007			RESIDENTIAL VALUE	RESIDENTIAL VALUE
	SINGLE FAMILY PERMITS	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	RESIDENTIAL UNITS	SINGLE FAMILY PERMITS	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	RESIDENTIAL UNITS		
CHARLOTTE	72	9	24	\$16,735,256	81	2	10	\$19,290,612
COLLIER	89	8	40	\$52,401,490	121	12	81	\$52,467,610
GLADES	1	0	0	\$196,814	4	0	0	\$575,490
HENDRY	11	1	5	\$1,680,958	16	1	9	\$2,372,248
LEE	191	9	24	\$56,582,939	548	112	535	\$251,834,104
SARASOTA	176	2	0	\$35,708,167	90	4	4	\$23,490,607
REGION*	540	29	93	\$163,305,624	860	131	639	\$350,030,671

COUNTY	JULY 2006			RESIDENTIAL VALUE	UNIT CHANGE		% CHANGE	
	SINGLE FAMILY PERMITS	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	RESIDENTIAL UNITS		JUL. 07/ JUN. 07	JUL. 06/ JUL. 07	JUL. 07/ JUN. 07	JUL. 06/ JUL. 07
CHARLOTTE	231	14	78	\$66,603,785	5	-213	-13.2%	-74.9%
COLLIER	163	17	98	\$53,981,000	-73	-132	-0.1%	-2.9%
GLADES	10	0	0	\$1,303,205	-3	-9	-65.8%	-84.9%
HENDRY	40	1	12	\$5,247,522	-9	-36	-29.1%	-68.0%
LEE	835	84	290	\$247,605,302	-868	-910	-77.5%	-77.1%
SARASOTA	160	5	5	\$33,712,556	82	11	52.0%	5.9%
REGION*	1,439	121	483	\$408,453,370	-866	-1,289	-53.3%	-60.0%

# Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council



# Economic Views

Serving Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee and Sarasota Counties Since 1973

## Summary Economic Indicators

## Economic Indicators

INDICATORS	JULY 2007 (PRELIM)	JULY 2006 (REVISED)	% CHANGE
<b>UNEMPLOYMENT</b>			
State	4.3%	3.5%	23.6%
Region	4.9%	3.1%	63.2%
County			
Charlotte	5.5%	3.4%	76.8%
Collier	4.9%	3.3%	56.0%
Glades	4.9%	6.0%	25.4%
Hendry	9.9%	8.9%	20.9%
Lee	4.7%	2.8%	75.4%
Sarasota	4.4%	2.8%	59.0%
<b>LABOR FORCE</b>			
State	9,316,000	9,034,000	3.1%
Region	732,758	701,923	4.4%
<b>EMPLOYED</b>			
State	8,924,000	8,717,000	2.4%
Region	696,983	679,997	2.5%
<b>UNEMPLOYED</b>			
State	393,000	318,000	23.6%
Region	35,775	21,926	63.2%
<b>AIRPORT PASSENGERS</b>			
Region	649,065	597,953	8.5%
S. W. Int'l Airport	535,264	502,598	6.5%
Sarasota/Bradenton	110,832	92,546	19.8%
Naples	2,969	2,809	5.7%
<b>BUILDING PERMITS</b>			
Regional	569	1,560	-63.5%
Single Family	540	1,439	-62.5%
Multi-Family	29	121	-76.0%
<b>TOTAL VALUE</b>			
Residential	\$163,305,624	\$408,453,370	-60.0%
All Permit Activity	\$374,160,505	\$842,132,585	-55.6%
<b>REGIONAL SALES (\$000)**</b>			
Taxable Sales	\$2,198,153	\$2,518,050	-12.7%
Gross Sales	\$3,893,208	\$4,179,821	-6.9%
**Regional sales data not yet released, current data is January 2007 compared with January 2006 data.			
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	208.3	203.5	2.4%
PRIME INTEREST RATE	8.3%	8.3%	-0.6%

