



**Southwest Florida Regional
Planning Council**

Economic VIEWS

4980 Bayline Drive, N. Fort Myers, Florida

VOLUME 24 NO.3

March 2001

AIRPORT ACTIVITY

Airport passenger activity for the Southwest Florida region increased 10.5% in January 2001 from December 2000. Airport passengers visiting and leaving the Region totaled 664,422 as compared to 601,292 in the previous month. S.W. Fla. had the largest increase in passenger activity from the previous month at 12.5%

Total airport activity for the region for January 2001 increased 9.8% from January 2000. S.W. Fla. Int'l reported an increase in passenger activity from the previous year.

AIRPORT PASSENGERS

AIRPORT		JAN. 01	DEC. 00	% CHANGE	
				DEC. 00 / JAN. 00	JAN. 00 / JAN. 01
S.W. Fla. Int'l	ARRIVALS	267,154	243,216	232,366	9.84%
	DEPARTURES	269,245	233,600	234,587	15.26%
Sarasota/ Bradenton	ARRIVALS	59,712	57,180	64,482	4.43%
	DEPARTURES	57,981	56,635	62,743	2.38%
Naples	ARRIVALS	5,188	5,515	5,535	-5.93%
	DEPARTURES	5,142	5,146	5,508	-0.08%

AIRPORT TOTALS = ARRIVALS + DEPARTURES

	JAN. 01	DEC. 00	JAN. 00	% CHANGE	
				DEC. 00 / JAN. 01	JAN. 00 / JAN. 01
S.W. Fla. Int'l	536,399	476,816	466,953	12.50%	14.87%
Sarasota/Brad.	117,693	113,815	127,225	3.41%	-7.49%
Naples	10,330	10,661	11,043	-3.10%	-6.46%
REGION	664,422	601,292	605,221	10.50%	9.78%

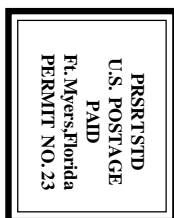
SOURCE: Local Airport Authorities.



Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council
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. 1158 residential permits were issued in Southwest Florida in January 2001. This is 140 more permits than were issued in January 2000. The number of *units* covered by these permits decreased by 11 from 1619 in January 2000, to 1608 in January 2001. Compared with the figures reported for December 2000, the number of units for January 2001 increased by 339. From December 2000 to January 2001, permits issued increased by 256.

The Region reported a residential building valuation of \$238,315,668 in January 2001. This is an increase compared to the valuation of residential permits issued in January 2000, which totalled \$189,910,158.

Please Note: Due to recent computer system conversions, some local governments have not been able to provide building permit data. Figures will reflect those omissions. See notes at the bottom of the chart below.

BUILDING PERMIT ACTIVITY

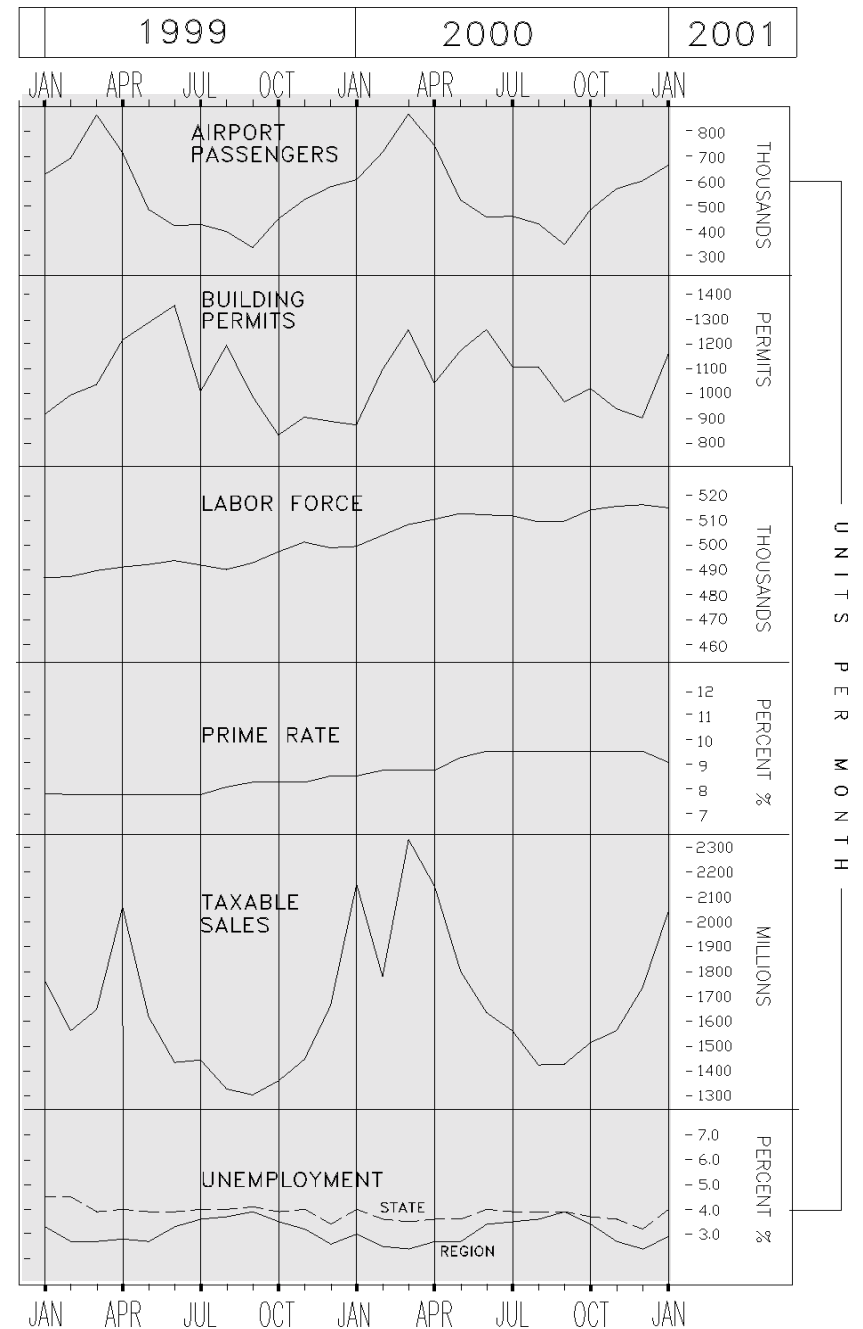
COUNTY	JAN. 2001			DEC. 2000		
	SINGLE FAMILY	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	FAMILY UNITS	SINGLE FAMILY	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	FAMILY UNITS
CHARLOTTE	114	5	38	90	0	0
COLLIER	202	32	289	226	25	158
GLADES	4	0	0	3	0	0
HENDRY	15	0	0	29	0	0
LEE	480	39	150	293	38	259
SARASOTA	259	8	57	192	6	19
REGION	1,074	84	534	833	69	436

COUNTY	JAN. 2000			UNIT CHANGE	
	SINGLE FAMILY	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	FAMILY UNITS	DEC. 00/ JAN. 01	JAN. 00/ JAN. 01
CHARLOTTE	74	2	12	62	66
COLLIER	238	44	554	107	-301
GLADES	1	0	0	1	3
HENDRY	20	0	0	-14	-5
LEE	349	25	101	78	180
SARASOTA	229	36	41	105	46
REGION	911	107	708	339	-11

SOURCE: Local Building and Zoning Departments.

*City of Clewiston not included in January 2001 figures. *City of Sarasota figures not included for any month/year.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS



SUMMARY ECONOMIC INDICATORS



INDICATORS	JANUARY 2001 (PRELIM)	JANUARY 2000 (REVISED)	% CHANGE
UNEMPLOYMENT			
State	4.0%	4.0%	1.3%
Region	2.9%	3.1%	-2.4%
County			
Charlotte	3.2%	3.6%	-5.5%
Collier	2.8%	3.0%	0.6%
Glades	6.7%	5.8%	16.3%
Hendry	7.7%	8.2%	-7.9%
Lee	2.7%	2.8%	-0.9%
Sarasota	2.5%	2.6%	-4.4%
LABOR FORCE			
State	7,563,000	7,426,000	1.8%
Region	515,803	502,047	2.7%
EMPLOYED			
State	7,261,000	7,130,000	1.8%
Region	500,777	486,986	2.8%
UNEMPLOYED			
State	302,000	296,000	2.0%
Region	15,026	15,061	-0.2%
AIRPORT PASSENGERS			
Region	664,422	605,221	9.8%
S. W. Int'l Airport	536,399	466,953	14.9%
Sarasota/Bradenton	117,693	127,225	-7.5%
Naples	10,330	11,043	-6.5%
BUILDING PERMITS			
Regional	1,158	1,018	13.8%
Single Family	1,074	911	17.9%
Multi-Family	84	107	-21.5%
TOTAL VALUE			
Residential	\$238,315,668	\$189,910,158	25.5%
All Permit Activity	\$344,471,472	\$318,258,207	8.2%
REGIONAL SALES (\$000)			
Taxable Sales	\$2,042,213	\$2,151,630	-5.1%
Gross Sales	\$3,820,516	\$3,500,469	9.1%
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX			
	175.1	168.7	3.8%
PRIME INTEREST RATE			
	9.05%	8.5%	6.5%

Building Permit figures:

*City of Sarasota figures not included for any month/year.

*City of Clewiston data not included in January 2001.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The regional unemployment rate for January 2001 was 2.9%, a 0.5 point increase from the December 2000 revised rate of 2.4%. Hendry County, at 7.7%, had the highest unemployment rate in the six-county region, with Glades second at 6.7%. Sarasota County had the lowest unemployment rate at 2.5%.

The January 2001 regional unemployment rate of 2.9% was better than the state (4.0%) as a whole. The regional unemployment rate decreased by 2.4% from January 2000 to January 2001, while the state rate increased by 1.3%.

LABOR FORCE FIGURES

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE		EMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT	
	JAN. 01 (PRELIM)	DEC. 00 (REVISED)	JAN. 01 (PRELIM)	DEC. 00 (REVISED)	JAN. 01 (PRELIM)	DEC. 00 (REVISED)
CHARLOTTE	51,919	51,792	50,279	50,652	1,640	1,140
COLLIER	103,861	104,564	100,932	101,899	2,929	2,665
GLADES	4,061	3,989	3,790	3,769	271	220
HENDRY	15,939	15,798	14,704	14,623	1,235	1,175
LEE	183,849	185,880	178,843	181,591	5,006	4,289
SARASOTA	156,174	156,649	152,229	153,911	3,945	2,738
REGION	515,803	518,672	500,777	506,445	15,026	12,227
STATE	7,563,000	7,627,000	7,261,000	7,380,000	302,000	247,000

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

COUNTY	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		% CHANGE	
	JAN. 01 (PRELIM)	DEC. 00 (REVISED)	JAN. 00 (REVISED)	DEC. 00/ JAN. 01/ JAN. 01
CHARLOTTE	3.2%	2.2%	3.6%	43.9% -5.5%
COLLIER	2.8%	2.5%	3.0%	9.9% 0.6%
GLADES	6.7%	5.5%	5.8%	23.2% 16.3%
HENDRY	7.7%	7.4%	8.2%	5.1% -7.9%
LEE	2.7%	2.3%	2.8%	16.7% -0.9%
SARASOTA	2.5%	1.7%	2.6%	44.1% -4.4%
REGION	2.9%	2.4%	3.1%	22.9% -2.4%
STATE	4.0%	3.2%	4.0%	22.3% 1.3%

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

SOURCE: Florida Department of Labor and Employment Security.

SALES ACTIVITY

Sales activity in Southwest Florida is measured by gross and taxable sales for each county. For January 2001, gross and taxable sales in the Region totaled approximately \$3.8 billion and \$2.0 billion, respectively. This is a 28.9% increase in gross sales and a 17.7% increase in taxable sales from December 2000. All counties reported an increase in gross sales this month as compared to January 2000.

Gross sales in the Region between January 2000 and January 2001 increased 9.1%. Taxable sales decreased 5.1% during the same period. By incorporating the change in the cost of living (3.2%) and the average annual population growth rate (4.2%) for the same time period, real gross sales increased 1.1% on a per capita basis. Real taxable sales decreased 13.8%.

SALES ACTIVITY

GROSS SALES (\$000)

COUNTY	JAN. 01	DEC. 00	JAN. 00	% CHANGE	
				DEC. 00 / JAN. 01	JAN. 2000 / JAN. 2001
CHARLOTTE	300,858	228,618	282,396	31.60%	6.54%
COLLIER	971,183	689,829	828,672	40.79%	17.20%
GLADES	8,448	7,197	7,642	17.38%	10.55%
HENDRY	101,189	79,463	94,352	27.34%	7.25%
LEE	1,350,708	1,199,995	1,298,316	12.56%	4.04%
SARASOTA	1,088,130	759,432	989,091	43.28%	10.01%
REGION	3,820,516	2,964,534	3,500,469	28.87%	9.14%

TAXABLE SALES (\$000)

COUNTY	JAN. 01	DEC. 00	JAN. 00	% CHANGE	
				DEC. 2000 / JAN. 2001	JAN. 2000 / JAN. 2001
CHARLOTTE	174,618	145,653	169,370	19.89%	3.10%
COLLIER	517,817	450,927	538,834	14.83%	-3.90%
GLADES	2,184	1,988	2,061	9.86%	5.97%
HENDRY	25,494	24,751	27,216	3.00%	-6.33%
LEE	796,170	688,743	779,133	15.60%	2.19%
SARASOTA	525,930	422,701	635,016	24.42%	-17.18%
REGION	2,042,213	1,734,763	2,151,630	17.72%	-5.09%

SOURCE: Florida Department of Tax Research.



March 17, 2001

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE AND BLOCK PARTY

Downtown Fort Myers

Contact: (941) 332-2332

March 17, 2001

BIG ST. PATRICK'S DAY LITTLE PARADE

Laishley Park, Punta Gorda

Contact: (941) 639-3720

March 17, 2001

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Fort Myers Beach

Contact: (941) 765-0202

March 17-23, 2001

27th ANNUAL LEHIGH SPRING FESTIVAL

Veterans Park, Lehigh Acres

Contact: (941) 369-3322

March 23-24, 2001

ANNUAL BONITA TOMATO-SEAFOOD FESTIVAL

Terry Park, Fort Myers

Contact: (941) 334-7007

March 31, 2001

ASTRONOMY NIGHTS

Calusa Nature Center's Planetarium, Fort Myers

Contact: (941) 997-0012

April 1, 2001

RIVER AND BLUES FESTIVAL

Centennial Park, Fort Myers

Contact: (941) 334-7007

April 7, 2001

CHILI IN THE SWAMP FESTIVAL

Florida Sports Park, Naples

Contact: (941) 353-2462

2000: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Southwest Florida's economy experienced strong growth in 2000. As in 1999, the region showed continued increases in the areas of airport passengers, building permits, sales, and employment

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT The labor force in Southwest Florida increased by more than 13,186 persons or 2.7% in 2000. Unemployment continued to decline in four counties while Lee and Sarasota stayed the same. As in 1999, the coastal counties again had low unemployment rates, while the rural counties of Glades and Hendry had high rates of unemployment that exceeded the state level. As a whole, however, the regional unemployment rate was below the state figure for the year.

AIRPORT PASSENGERS The number of airline passengers using the Region's airports increased this past year. During 2000, Southwest Florida International Airport experienced a 5.9% increase while Sarasota/Bradenton Airport and Naples reported a decrease of 1.4% and 1.1%. As in the past years, passenger traffic peaked in the month of March, with more than 870,292 people traveling through Southwest Florida's airports.

BUILDING PERMITS The construction industry, a major sector of the Southwest Florida economy, recorded another annual increase in the number of building permits issued last year. Based on reports received, the region as a whole experienced a 0.8% increase in the number of single family permits issued and a 0.5% increase in the number of multifamily permits issued in 2000. The number of multifamily units decreased 7.7% from 1999 to 2000. Overall, total permits reported (single family plus multi-family permits) for the region increased by 0.7%. Please note in supporting tables the communities with incomplete information.

The value of all reported residential permits increased 18.1% from \$2.5 billion in 1999 to \$3.0 billion in 2000. The total value of all reported permit activity increased 7.3% from \$4.7 billion in 1999 to \$5.1 billion in 2000.

SALES ACTIVITY Regional gross and taxable sales increased in 2000. Gross sales rose 12.7%, from \$30.5 billion in 1999 to \$34.3 billion in 2000. All six counties experienced an increase in gross sales ranging from 8.5% to 16.8%. Taxable sales totaled \$21.1 billion in 2000, an increase of 13.2% over 1999 taxable sales of \$18.6 billion. Typically, the winter and spring month of December through May register the highest gross taxable sales. As in past years, April was the peak month, with gross sales of \$3.3 billion and taxable sales of \$2.1 billion.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX The Consumer Price Index measures the cost of items in several specific categories and is used as an indicator of the general rate of inflation through time. From 1999 to 2000, the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, or the CPI-U, rose from 166.6 to 172.1.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) 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 during January 2001 increased 0.6% from December 2000. The CPI for January 2001 was 175.1, an increase of 3.8% from January 2000.

NOTE: In January 1998, the old "Entertainment" category was replaced by two new categories --- "Recreation" and "Education & Communications." Both are indexed to a December weight of 100.0. The old "Apparel & Upkeep" category is now called "Apparel." The renamed category is completely comparable with its predecessor.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

GROUP	% CHANGE				
	JAN. 01	DEC. 00	JAN. 00	DEC. 2000/ JAN. 2001	JAN. 2000/ JAN. 2001
ALL ITEMS	175.1	174.0	168.7	0.6%	3.8%
FOOD & BEVERAGES	171.4	170.5	166.6	0.5%	2.9%
HOUSING	174.1	171.9	165.8	1.3%	5.0%
APPAREL	125.4	127.8	126.8	-1.9%	-1.1%
TRANSPORTATION	154.4	154.4	148.3	0.0%	4.1%
MEDICAL CARE	267.1	264.8	255.5	0.9%	4.5%
RECREATION	104.1	103.7	102.3	0.4%	1.8%
EDUCATION/COMMUN.	103.9	103.6	102.7	0.3%	1.2%
OTHER GOODS/SVCS	275.9	274.0	264.7	0.7%	4.2%

Purchasing power of the consumer dollar.

1982-1984 = \$1.00 JAN. 01 = 0.571

1967 = \$1.00 JAN. 01 = 0.191

SWFRPC Meeting Schedule

Regional Planning Council	Third Thursday of each month
Lee County MPO	Third Friday of each month
MPO Citizen Advisory Committee	First Thursday of each month
LEPC	Quarterly
Disaster Preparedness Group	Thursday after LEPC meeting
Collier Transportation Disadvantaged	Quarterly
Lee Transportation Disadvantaged	Quarterly
Economic Development Coalition	Quarterly

ANNUAL SUMMARY of Economic Indicators

INDICATORS	2000	1999	% CHANGE
UNEMPLOYMENT*			
Charlotte	2.7%	3.2%	-9.5%
Collier	3.5%	3.8%	-0.8%
Glades	6.6%	7.4%	-10.5%
Hendry	11.1%	12.2%	-11.6%
Lee	2.6%	2.6%	1.8%
Sarasota	2.1%	2.1%	-1.7%
Region	2.9%	3.1%	-2.6%
State	3.6%	3.9%	-5.3%
LABOR FORCE			
Region	505,509	492,323	2.7%
State	7,490,000	7,366,000	1.7%
EMPLOYED			
Region	490,874	477,269	2.9%
State	7,221,000	7,082,000	2.0%
UNEMPLOYED			
Region	14,662	15,054	-2.6%
State	269,000	284,000	-5.3%
AIRPORT PASSENGERS			
S.W. Int'l Airport	5,187,662	4,897,253	5.9%
Sarasota/Bradenton	1,474,068	1,495,467	-1.4%
Naples	116,424	117,717	-1.1%
Region	6,778,154	6,510,437	4.1%
BUILDING PERMITS**			
Single Family Permits			
Charlotte	1,070	1,018	5.1%
Collier	3,073	3,315	-7.3%
Glades	24	29	-17.2%
Hendry	233	151	54.3%
Lee	5,165	4,792	7.8%
Sarasota	2,628	2,721	-3.4%
Region	12,117	12,026	0.8%
Multi-Family Permits			
Charlotte	34	34	0.0%
Collier	414	462	-10.4%
Glades	0	0	0.0%
Hendry	0	0	0.0%
Lee	569	534	6.6%
Sarasota	118	99	19.2%
Region	1,135	1,129	0.5%

INDICATORS	2000	1999	% CHANGE
BUILDING PERMITS CONT. **			
Multi-Family Units			
Charlotte	364	152	139.5%
Collier	3,163	3,520	-10.1%
Glades	0	0	0.0%
Hendry	0	0	0.0%
Lee	3,770	3,888	-3.0%
Sarasota	505	892	-43.4%
Region	7,802	8,452	-7.7%
Total Permits			
Charlotte	1,104	1,052	4.9%
Collier	3,487	3,777	-7.7%
Glades	24	29	-17.2%
Hendry	233	151	54.3%
Lee	5,734	5,326	7.7%
Sarasota	2,746	2,820	-2.6%
Region	13,252	13,155	0.7%
TOTAL VALUE**			
Residential	\$2,982,520,329	\$2,525,991,384	18.1%
All Permit Activity	\$5,058,971,234	\$4,714,070,753	7.3%
REGIONAL SALES (\$000)			
Taxable Sales			
Charlotte	\$1,753,313	\$1,530,528	14.6%
Collier	\$5,297,505	\$4,743,164	11.7%
Glades	\$24,090	\$18,921	27.3%
Hendry	\$305,024	\$270,956	12.6%
Lee	\$7,846,967	\$7,119,958	10.2%
Sarasota	\$5,834,136	\$4,920,610	18.6%
Region	\$21,061,035	\$18,604,137	13.2%
Gross Sales			
Charlotte	\$2,753,385	\$2,482,280	10.9%
Collier	\$8,293,210	\$7,361,494	12.7%
Glades	\$83,877	\$74,798	12.1%
Hendry	\$1,124,001	\$1,023,847	9.8%
Lee	\$12,591,803	\$10,779,945	16.8%
Sarasota	\$9,474,949	\$8,728,918	8.5%
Region	\$34,321,225	\$30,451,282	12.7%
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX			
	172.1	166.6	3.3%

*Unemployment percent change calculated by actual number of people.

**Revisions to 1999 figures reflect 1999 data.

City of Sarasota data not included for any month or category in 2000.

City of North Port data for Apr., May and Sept. 2000 not included.

City of Naples data for Oct. 2000 not included.

Charlotte County Unincorporated data for Apr. and Aug. 2000 not included.