

In this Issue:	
Airport Activity...	1
Building Permit Activity...	2
Unemployment Activity...	3
Sales Activity...	4
Consumer Price Index.....	5
The Year in Review...	6-7
Festivals and Events...	9-11
Economic Indicators...	12-13

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AIRPORT ACTIVITY

Airport passenger activity for the Southwest Florida Region increased 16.1% in January 2005 from December 2004. Airport passengers visiting and leaving the region totaled 792,401 as compared to 748,848 in the previous month. Naples airport had the largest increase in passenger activity from the previous month at 5.8%.

Total airport activity for the region for January 2005 increased 16.4% from January 2004. All three airports reported an increase in passenger activity from the previous year.

		AIRPORT PASSENGERS				
						% CHANGE
<u>AIRPORT</u>		<u>JAN. 05</u>	<u>DEC. 04</u>	<u>JAN. 04</u>	<u>JAN. 05</u>	DEC. 04 / JAN. 05
S.W. Fla. Int'l	ARRIVALS	332,939	331,795	297,364		0.3%
	DEPARTURES	341,976	311,646	293,969		9.7%
Sarasota/ Bradenton	ARRIVALS	55,540	50,326	45,909		10.4%
	DEPARTURES	54,373	48,637	44,255		11.8%
Naples	ARRIVALS	3,882	3,260	545		19.1%
	DEPARTURES	3,691	3,184	518		15.9%

		AIRPORT TOTALS = ARRIVALS + DEPARTURES			%CHANGE	
		<u>JAN. 05</u>	<u>DEC. 04</u>	<u>JAN. 04</u>	<u>DEC. 04 / JAN. 05</u>	<u>JAN. 04 / JAN. 05</u>
S.W. Fla. Int'l		674,915	643,441	591,333	4.9%	14.1%
Sarasota/Brad.		109,913	98,963	90,164	11.1%	21.9%
Naples		7,573	6,444	1,063	17.5%	612.4%
REGION		792,401	748,848	682,560	5.8%	16.1%

SOURCE: Local Airport Authorities.

BUILDING PERMITS

Residential building activity is measured by the number of single-family and multi-family building permits issued during a given month. 2,497 residential permits were issued in Southwest Florida in January 2005. This is 575 more permits than were issued in January 2004. The number of *units* covered by these permits increased by 744 from 2,657 in January 2004 to 3,401 in January 2005. Compared with the figures reported for December 2004, the number of units for January 2005 decreased by 124. From December 2004 to January 2005, permits issued increased by 118.

The region reported a residential building valuation of \$487,197,235 in January 2005. This is an decrease of 0.6% compared to the valuation of residential permits issued in January 2004, which totalled \$490,271,933.

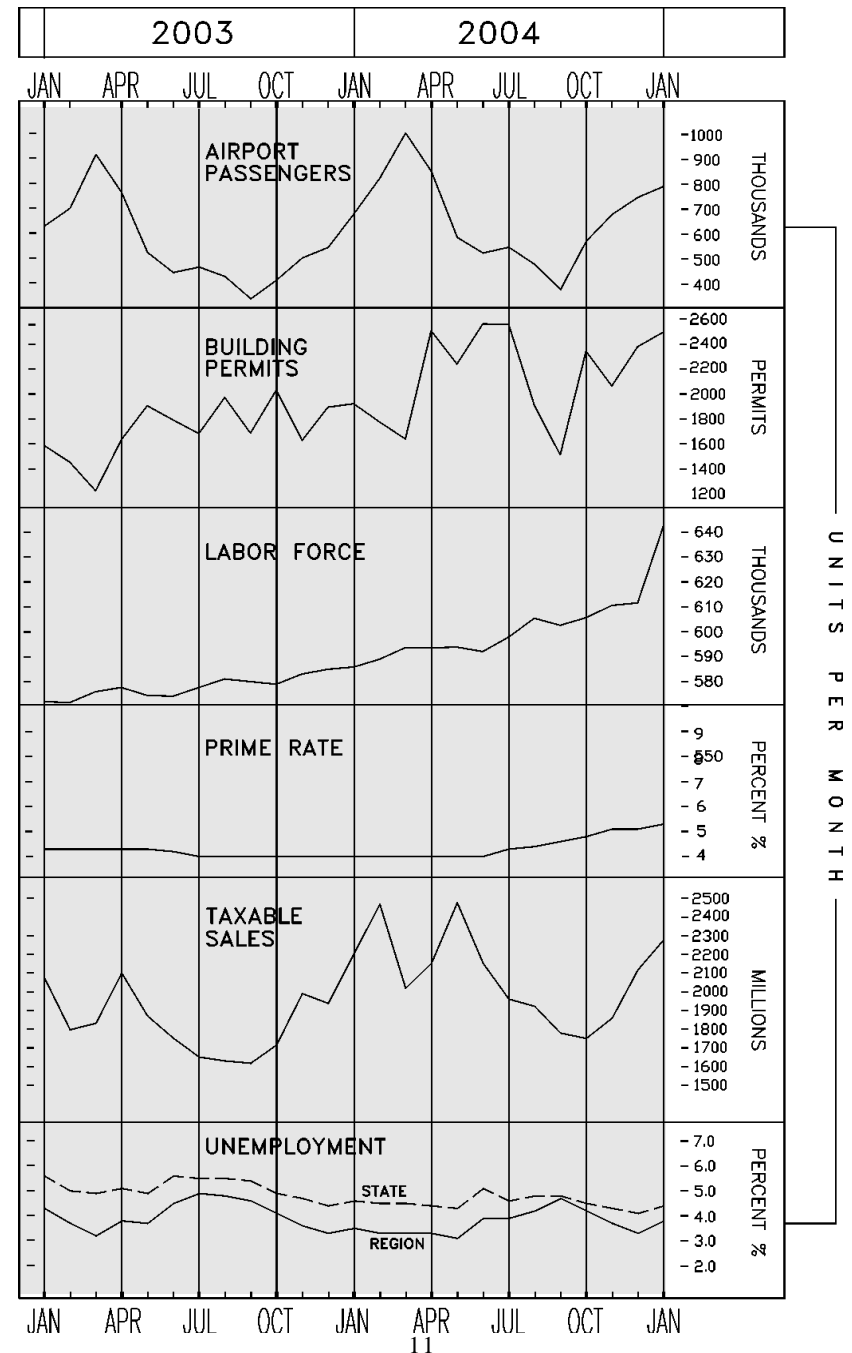
BUILDING PERMIT ACTIVITY

COUNTY	JANUARY 2005			RESIDENTIAL VALUE	DECEMBER 2004			RESIDENTIAL VALUE
	SINGLE FAMILY PERMITS	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	RESIDENTIAL UNITS		SINGLE FAMILY PERMITS	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	RESIDENTIAL UNITS	
CHARLOTTE	209	6	54	\$3,249,000	279	11	77	\$62,290,048
COLLIER	276	32	158	\$99,086,681	199	17	143	\$81,236,908
GLADES	6	0	0	\$729,235	7	0	0	\$739,828
HENDRY	21	0	0	\$1,728,060	30	0	0	\$3,449,180
LEE	1,441	167	615	\$306,158,948	1,373	189	914	\$342,640,121
SARASOTA	330	9	291	\$76,245,311	266	8	237	\$92,535,747
REGION*	2,283	214	1,118	\$487,197,235	2,154	225	1,371	\$582,891,832

COUNTY	JANUARY 2004			UNIT CHANGE		%CHANGE		
	SINGLE FAMILY PERMITS	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	RESIDENTIAL UNITS	DEC 04/ JAN 05	JAN 04/ JAN 05	DEC 04/ JAN 05	JAN 04/ JAN 05	
CHARLOTTE	151	5	17	\$69,932,186	-93	95	-94.8%	-95.4%
COLLIER	200	31	263	\$191,761,366	92	-29	22.0%	-48.3%
GLADES	1	0	0	\$525,809	-1	5	-1.4%	38.7%
HENDRY	10	0	0	\$1,078,414	-9	11	-49.9%	60.2%
LEE	1051	117	449	\$275,961,892	-231	556	-10.6%	10.9%
SARASOTA	323	33	192	\$166,055,561	118	106	-17.6%	-54.1%
REGION*	1,736	186	921	\$705,315,228	-124	744	-16.4%	-30.9%

*Building Department figures: City of Fort Myers has a discrepancy with number of units from May until present, however all other data is valid. City of Punta Gorda not included in January 2005 figures.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS



SUMMARY ECONOMIC INDICATORS

INDICATORS	JANUARY 2005 (PRELIM)	JANUARY 2004 (REVISED)	% CHANGE
UNEMPLOYMENT			
State	4.4%	4.6%	-2.1%
Region	3.8%	3.6%	16.7%
County			
Charlotte	4.9%	4.2%	35.1%
Collier	3.3%	3.3%	15.9%
Glades	4.5%	8.5%	-35.9%
Hendry	6.4%	6.9%	9.3%
Lee	3.6%	3.4%	18.7%
Sarasota	3.9%	3.4%	11.9%
LABOR FORCE			
State	8,435,000	8,164,000	3.3%
Region	642,371	587,567	9.3%
EMPLOYED			
State	8,063,000	7,785,000	3.6%
Region	617,799	566,508	9.1%
UNEMPLOYED			
State	371,000	379,000	-2.1%
Region	24,572	20,159	21.9%
AIRPORT PASSENGERS			
Region	792,401	682,560	16.1%
S. W. Int'l Airport	674,915	591,333	14.1%
Sarasota/Bradenton	109,913	90,164	21.9%
Naples	7,573	1,063	612.4%
BUILDING PERMITS			
Regional	2,497	1,922	29.9%
Single Family	2,283	1,736	31.5%
Multi-Family	214	186	15.1%
TOTAL VALUE			
Residential	\$487,197,235	\$490,271,933	-0.6%
All Permit Activity	\$929,473,914	\$705,315,228	31.8%
REGIONAL SALES (\$000)*			
Taxable Sales	\$2,278,253	\$1,937,467	17.6%
Gross Sales	\$3,691,346	\$3,159,437	16.8%
*Regional sales data not yet released, current data is December 2004 compared with December 2003 data.			
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	190.7	185.2	3.0%
PRIME INTEREST RATE	5.3%	4.0%	31.3%

*Building Department figures: City of Fort Myers has a discrepancy with number of units from May until present, however all other data is valid. City of Punta Gorda not included in January 2005 figures.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The regional unemployment rate for January 2005 was 3.8%, a 0.0 decrease from the December 2004 revised rate of 3.8%. Hendry County, at 6.4%, had the highest unemployment rate in the six-county region, with Glades County second at 4.5%. Collier County had the lowest unemployment rate at 3.3%.

The January 2005 regional unemployment rate of 3.8% was better than the state (4.4%) as a whole. The regional unemployment rate increased by 16.7% from January 2004 to January 2005, while the state rate decreased by 2.1%.

LABORFORCE FIGURES

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE		EMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT	
	JAN. 05 (PRELIM)	DEC. 04 (REVISED)	JAN. 05 (PRELIM)	DEC. 04 (REVISED)	JAN. 05 (PRELIM)	DEC. 04 (REVISED)
CHARLOTTE	61,829	61,957	58,782	58,869	3,047	3,088
COLLIER	142,159	141,860	137,424	136,975	4,735	4,885
GLADES	4,958	4,770	4,737	4,554	221	216
HENDRY	18,375	18,836	17,198	17,600	1,177	1,236
LEE	251,437	252,553	242,462	243,365	8,975	9,188
SARASOTA	163,613	163,651	157,196	157,828	6,417	5,823
REGION	642,371	643,627	617,799	619,191	24,572	24,436
STATE	8,435,000	8,488,000	8,063,000	8,109,000	371,000	379,000

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

COUNTY	% CHANGE				
	JAN. 05 (PRELIM)	DEC. 04 (REVISED)	JAN. 04 (REVISED)	DEC. 04/ JAN. 05/	JAN. 04/ JAN. 05
CHARLOTTE	4.9%	5.0%	4.2%	-1.3%	35.1%
COLLIER	3.3%	3.4%	3.3%	-3.1%	15.9%
GLADES	4.5%	4.5%	8.5%	2.3%	-35.9%
HENDRY	6.4%	6.6%	6.9%	-4.8%	9.3%
LEE	3.6%	3.6%	3.4%	-2.3%	18.7%
SARASOTA	3.9%	3.6%	3.4%	10.2%	11.9%
REGION	3.8%	3.8%	3.6%	0.6%	16.7%
STATE	4.4%	4.5%	4.6%	-2.1%	-2.1%

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 December 2004, gross and taxable sales in the region totaled approximately \$3.7 billion and \$2.3 billion, respectively. This is a 6.1% increase in gross sales and a 7.6% increase in taxable sales from November 2004. All counties reported an increase in taxable and gross sales this month as compared to November 2004, except Hendry for taxable.

Gross sales in the region between December 2003 and December 2004 increased 16.8%. Taxable sales increased 17.6% during the same period. By incorporating the change in the cost of living (3.0%) and the average annual population growth rate (3.7%) for the same time period, real gross sales increased 8.7% on a per capita basis. Real taxable sales increased 9.3%.

SALES ACTIVITY

GROSS SALES (\$000)

COUNTY	DEC. 04		NOV. 04		DEC. 03		% CHANGE	
	(PRELIM)	(PRELIM)	(REVISED)	(REVISED)	NOV. 04/ DEC. 04	DEC. 2003/ DEC. 2004		
CHARLOTTE	297,797	295,197	253,097	253,097	0.9%	17.7%		
COLLIER	904,915	803,126	771,032	771,032	12.7%	17.4%		
GLADES	7,437	6,942	6,125	6,125	7.1%	21.4%		
HENDRY	107,050	95,046	91,849	91,849	12.6%	16.5%		
LEE	1,415,060	1,370,938	1,218,440	1,218,440	3.2%	16.1%		
SARASOTA	959,087	907,824	818,894	818,894	5.6%	17.1%		
REGION	3,691,346	3,479,073	3,159,437	3,159,437	6.1%	16.8%		

TAXABLE SALES (\$000)

COUNTY	DEC. 04		NOV. 04		DEC. 03		% CHANGE	
	(PRELIM)	(PRELIM)	(REVISED)	(REVISED)	NOV. 04/ DEC. 04	DEC. 2003/ DEC. 2004		
CHARLOTTE	195,297	194,744	159,982	159,982	0.3%	22.1%		
COLLIER	563,501	499,528	494,800	494,800	12.8%	13.9%		
GLADES	2,473	1,987	1,797	1,797	24.5%	37.6%		
HENDRY	28,513	30,662	25,598	25,598	-7.0%	11.4%		
LEE	923,404	863,105	763,136	763,136	7.0%	21.0%		
SARASOTA	565,065	526,785	492,154	492,154	7.3%	14.8%		
REGION	2,278,253	2,116,811	1,937,467	1,937,467	7.6%	17.6%		

SOURCE: Florida Department of Tax Research.



March 18-27, 2005

SARASOTA COUNTY FAIR

Fairgrounds, Sarasota

Contact: (941)365-0818



March 26, 2005

EASTER EGG HUNT

Mike Greenwell's, Cape Coral

Contact: (239) 574-4386

March 19, 2005

16TH ANNUAL SOUNDS OF JAZZ

Jaycee Park, Cape Coral

Contact: (239) 573-3121

March 26, 2005

EASTER EGG HUNT

Centennial Park, Venice

Contact: (941) 484-6722

March 19, 2005

ART HOUSE

Edison & Ford Winter Estates, Fort Myers

Contact: (239) 461-2686

March 27, 2005

DUNBAR EASTER PARADE

& A TASTE OF DUNBAR

Clemente Park, Fort Myers

Contact: (239) 878-0089

March 19, 2005

FAMILY FUNDAY

Calusa Nature Center, Fort Myers

Contact: (239) 275-3435

April 10, 2005

RIVER & BLUES FESTIVAL

Centennial Park, Fort Myers

Contact: (239) 338-3500

March 19, 2005

LEE COUNTY READING FESTIVAL

Centennial Park, Fort Myers

Contact: (239) 479-4636

April 16, 2005

CLEWISTON SUGAR

FESTIVAL

Clewiston

Contact: (863) 946-0300

March 19, 2005

CHILDREN'S SPRING FESTIVAL

Periwinkle Place Shopping Center, Sanibel

Contact: (239) 472-4538

April 16, 2005

EARTH DAY

Sanibel Island

Contact: (239) 472-2329

March 20-26, 2005

25TH ANNUAL SARASOTA JAZZ FESTIVAL

Sarasota

Contact: (941) 316-9207

Happy Easter

March 27, 2004

2004: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Southwest Florida's economy experienced strong growth in 2004. As in 2003, the region showed continued increases in the areas of building permits, sales, and employment

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT The labor force in Southwest Florida increased by more than 31,615 persons or 5.51% in 2004. Unemployment continued to decline in three counties while Lee and Sarasota stayed the same. As in 2003, 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 2004, Southwest Florida International Airport experienced a 14.7% increase while Sarasota/Bradenton Airport and Naples reported a increase of 7.1% and 18.0%. As in the past years, passenger traffic peaked in the month of March, with more than 1,006,098 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 31.5% increase in the number of single family permits issued and a 26.7% increase in the number of multi-family permits issued in 2004. The number of multi-family units increased 36.4% from 2003 to 2004. Overall, total permits reported (single family plus multi-family permits) for the region increased by 31.0%. Please note in supporting tables the communities with incomplete information.

The value of all reported residential permits increased 41.0% from \$4.1 billion in 2003 to \$5.8 billion in 2004. The total value of all reported permit activity increased 37.8% from \$6.3 billion in 2003 to \$8.7 billion in 2004.

SALES ACTIVITY Regional gross and taxable sales increased in 2004. Gross sales increased 11.6%, from \$37.4 million in 2003 to \$41.8 million in 2004. Only one of the six counties experienced a decrease in gross sales at 14.0%. Taxable sales totaled \$21.9 billion in 2003, an increase of 13.5% over 2004 taxable sales of \$24.8 million. 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 taxable sales of \$2.5 billion and January was the peak month, with gross sales of \$4.5 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 2003 to 2004, the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, of the CPI-U, rose from 184.0 to 188.9.

Note: Building Department Data submitted on behalf of the City of Fort Myers from May 2004 to present. Discrepancy with number of units, all other data is valid.

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 January 2005 increased 0.2 from December 2004. The CPI-U for January 2005 was 190.7, an increase of 3.0 from January 2004.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

GROUP	JAN. 05	DEC. 04	JAN. 04	% CHANGE	
				DEC. 04/ JAN. 05	JAN. 2004/ JAN. 2005
ALL ITEMS	190.7	190.3	185.2	0.2%	3.0%
FOOD & BEVERAGES	189.5	188.9	184.3	0.3%	2.8%
HOUSING	191.8	190.7	186.3	0.6%	3.0%
APPAREL	116.1	118.8	115.8	-2.3%	0.3%
TRANSPORTATION	164.0	164.8	157.0	-0.5%	4.5%
MEDICAL CARE	316.8	314.9	303.6	0.6%	4.3%
RECREATION	108.9	108.5	107.9	0.4%	0.9%
EDUCATION/COMMUN.	112.7	112.6	111.1	0.1%	1.4%
OTHER GOODS/SVCS	309.3	307.8	301.4	0.5%	2.6%

Purchasing power of the consumer dollar.

1982-1984 = \$1.00	JAN. 05 = 0.524
1967 = \$1.00	JAN. 05 = 0.175

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
MPO 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

ANNUAL SUMMARY of Economic Indicators

INDICATORS	2004	2003	% CHANGE
UNEMPLOYMENT*			
Charlotte	4.9%	4.0%	15.4%
Collier	3.8%	4.3%	-2.0%
Glades	85.0%	7.9%	-2.0%
Hendry	11.7%	10.8%	-0.9%
Lee	3.6%	4.2%	-6.3%
Sarasota	3.1%	3.4%	-3.3%
Region	3.9%	4.2%	-2.1%
State	4.6%	5.2%	-8.2%
LABOR FORCE			
Region	601,935	570,320	5.5%
State	8,383,000	8,098,583	3.5%
EMPLOYED			
Region	578,672	546,557	5.9%
State	7,994,000	7,674,914	4.2%
UNEMPLOYED			
Region	23,263	23,763	-2.1%
State	389,000	423,667	-8.2%
AIRPORT PASSENGERS			
S.W. Int'l Airport	6,736,630	5,891,668	14.3%
Sarasota/Bradenton	1,137,133	1,062,242	7.1%
Naples	16,795	14,238	18.0%
Region	7,890,558	6,968,148	13.2%
BUILDING PERMITS**			
Single Family Permits			
Charlotte	2,327	1,953	19.2%
Collier	3,332	2,638	26.3%
Glades	37	33	12.1%
Hendry	247	294	-16.0%
Lee	13,927	9,367	48.7%
Sarasota	4,663	4,376	6.6%
Region	24,533	18,661	31.5%
Multi-Family Permits			
Charlotte	138	124	11.3%
Collier	350	338	3.6%
Glades	0	0	0.0%
Hendry	0	1	0.0%
Lee	1,624	1,026	58.3%
Sarasota	207	341	-39.3%
Region	2,319	1,830	26.7%

INDICATORS	2004	2003	% CHANGE
BUILDING PERMITS CONT. **			
Multi-Family Units			
Charlotte	1,106	745	48.5%
Collier	2,620	2,542	3.1%
Glades	0	0	0.0%
Hendry	0	1	0.0%
Lee	9,016	6,146	46.7%
Sarasota	1,484	996	49.0%
Region	14,226	10,430	36.4%
Total Permits			
Charlotte	2,465	2,077	18.7%
Collier	3,682	2,976	23.7%
Glades	37	33	12.1%
Hendry	247	295	-16.3%
Lee	15,551	10,393	49.6%
Sarasota	4,870	4,717	3.2%
Region	26,852	20,491	31.0%
TOTAL VALUE**			
Residential	\$5,828,703,192	\$4,133,757,496	41.0%
All Permit Activity	\$8,722,441,014	\$6,327,767,596	37.8%
REGIONAL SALES (\$000)			
Taxable Sales			
Charlotte	\$2,109,511	\$1,837,067	14.8%
Collier	\$6,148,270	\$5,416,206	13.5%
Glades	\$25,858	\$25,087	3.1%
Hendry	\$308,317	\$318,481	-3.2%
Lee	\$10,017,838	\$8,676,787	15.5%
Sarasota	\$6,326,083	\$5,695,711	11.1%
Region	\$24,935,877	\$21,969,339	13.5%
Gross Sales			
Charlotte	\$3,384,262	\$3,024,098	11.9%
Collier	\$9,982,961	\$8,817,884	13.2%
Glades	\$84,952	\$78,051	8.8%
Hendry	\$1,019,799	\$1,185,576	-14.0%
Lee	\$16,095,890	\$14,302,539	12.5%
Sarasota	\$11,260,465	\$10,067,163	11.9%
Region	\$41,828,329	\$37,475,311	11.6%
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX			
	188.9	184.0	2.7%

*Unemployment percent change calculated by actual number of people.

**City of Punta Gorda data for Sept. 2004 not included.

City of Clewiston data not included for Sept., Oct., and Nov. not included.