

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...	8-9
Economic Indicators...	10-11



Economic Views Online www.swfipc.org/statistics.htm
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 REQUESTED**

**Southwest Florida Regional
 Planning Council**

Economic VIEWS

1926 Victoria Avenue, Fort Myers, Florida
 VOLUME 29 NO. 3 MARCH 2006

AIRPORT ACTIVITY

Airport passenger activity for the Southwest Florida Region increased 7.6% in January 2006 from December 2005. Airport passengers visiting and leaving the region totaled 852,492 as compared to 792,110 in the previous month. Naples had the largest increase in passenger activity from the previous month at 32.3%.

Total airport activity for the region for January 2006 increased 7.6% from January 2005. Naples airport reported a decrease in passenger activity from the previous year.

AIRPORT PASSENGERS					
<u>AIRPORT</u>		<u>JAN. 06</u>	<u>DEC. 05</u>	<u>% CHANGE</u>	
				<u>JAN. 05</u>	<u>DEC. 05 / JAN. 06</u>
S.W. Fla. Int'l	ARRIVALS	361,780	345,791	332,939	4.6%
	DEPARTURES	363,415	328,241	341,976	10.7%
Sarasota/ Bradenton	ARRIVALS	60,391	58,393	55,540	3.4%
	DEPARTURES	60,605	54,921	54,373	10.3%
Naples	ARRIVALS	3,214	2,524	3,882	27.3%
	DEPARTURES	3,087	2,240	3,691	37.8%

AIRPORT TOTALS = ARRIVALS + DEPARTURES					
		<u>JAN. 06</u>	<u>DEC. 05</u>	<u>%CHANGE</u>	
				<u>JAN. 05</u>	<u>DEC. 05 / JAN. 06</u>
S.W. Fla. Int'l		725,195	674,032	674,915	7.6%
Sarasota/Brad.		120,996	113,314	109,913	6.8%
Naples		6,301	4,764	7,573	-16.8%
REGION		852,492	792,110	792,401	7.6%

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. 3,016 residential permits were issued in Southwest Florida in January 2006. This is 519 more permits than were issued in January 2005. The number of *units* covered by these permits increased by 845 from 3,401 in January 2005 to 4,246 in January 2006. Compared with the figures reported for December 2005, the number of units for January 2006 increased by 375. From December 2005 to January 2006, permits issued increased by 536.

The region reported a residential building valuation of \$475,521,443 in January 2006. This is an decrease of 2.4% compared to the valuation of residential permits issued in January 2005, which totalled \$487,197,235.

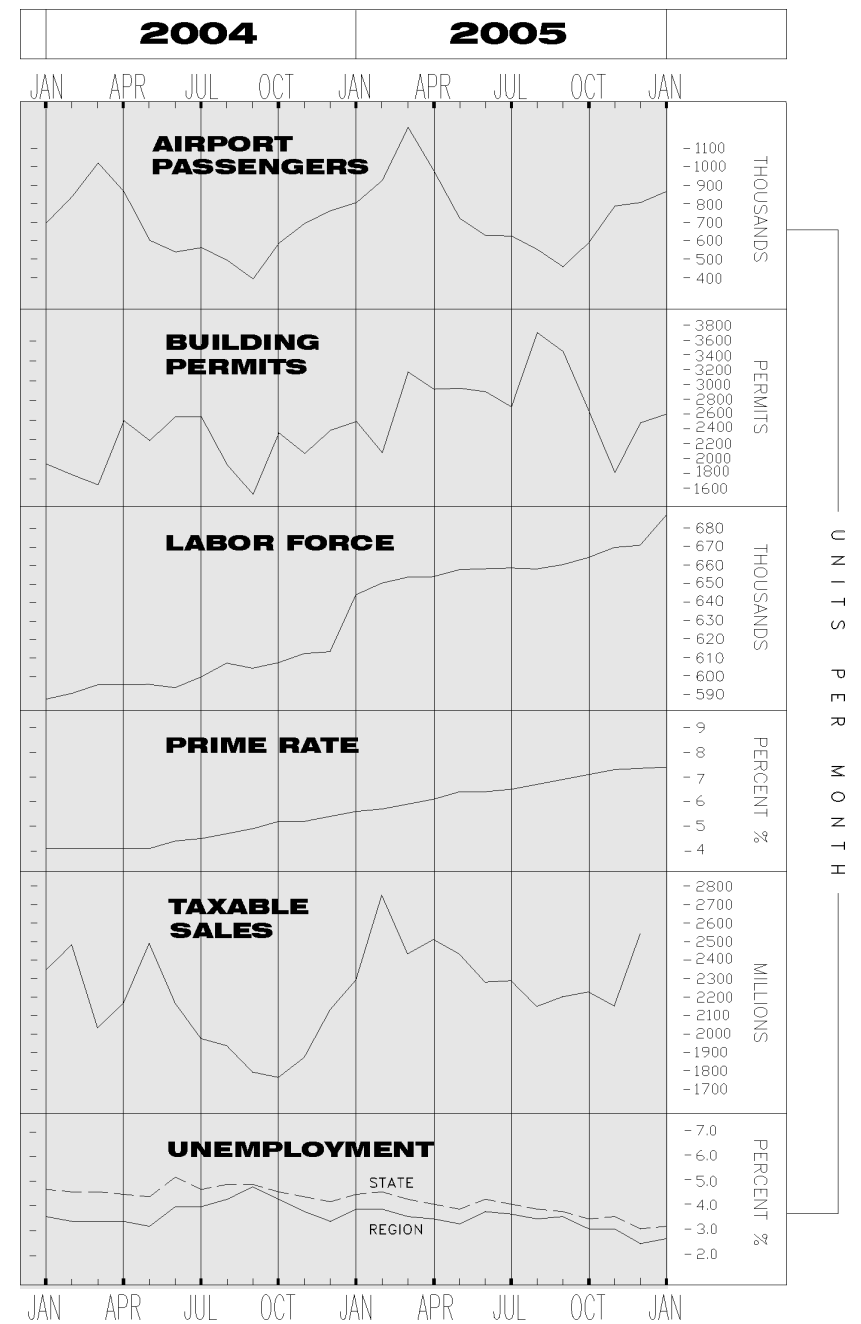
BUILDING PERMIT ACTIVITY

COUNTY	JANUARY 2006			DECEMBER 2005			VALUE
	SINGLE FAMILY	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	RESIDENTIAL UNITS	SINGLE FAMILY	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	RESIDENTIAL UNITS	
CHARLOTTE	15	2	33	235	26	200	\$81,015,899
COLLIER	205	21	184	256	22	84	\$82,814,395
GLADES	1	0	0	4	0	0	\$520,160
HENDRY	423	18	135	1	0	0	\$60,000
LEE	1	0	0	1,213	169	1,257	\$517,063,893
SARASOTA	2,097	233	1,152	496	58	125	\$98,316,454
REGION*	2,742	274	1,504	2,205	275	1,666	\$779,790,801

COUNTY	JANUARY 2005			UNIT CHANGE		%CHANGE	
	SINGLE FAMILY	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	RESIDENTIAL UNITS	DEC 05 / JAN 06	JAN 05 / JAN 06	DEC 05 / JAN 06	JAN 05 / JAN 06
CHARLOTTE	209	6	54	-387	-215	-92.2%	93.8%
COLLIER	276	32	158	49	-45	-24.1%	-36.6%
GLADES	6	0	0	-3	-5	-79.3%	-85.2%
HENDRY	21	0	0	557	537	95.0%	3150.2%
LEE	1,441	167	615	-2,469	-2,055	-99.8%	-99.7%
SARASOTA	330	9	291	2,628	2,628	383.7%	523.7%
REGION*	2,283	214	1,118	375	845	-22.8%	23.5%

*Building Department figures: Hendry County and the City of Everglades data is not included in December 2005 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	JANUARY 2006 (PRELIM)	JANUARY 2005 (REVISED)	% CHANGE
UNEMPLOYMENT			
State	3.1%	4.4%	-27.5%
Region	2.6%	3.9%	-29.1%
County			
Charlotte	3.1%	5.0%	-37.4%
Collier	2.4%	3.3%	-24.6%
Glades	4.0%	4.6%	-30.7%
Hendry	5.6%	6.3%	-17.9%
Lee	2.3%	3.6%	-30.5%
Sarasota	2.6%	4.0%	-28.5%
LABOR FORCE			
State	871,600	8,438,000	-89.7%
Region	685,267	642,650	6.6%
EMPLOYED			
State	8,444,000	8,064,000	4.7%
Region	667,701	617,875	8.1%
UNEMPLOYED			
State	271,000	374,000	-27.5%
Region	17,566	24,775	-29.1%
AIRPORT PASSENGERS			
Region	852,492	792,401	7.6%
S. W. Int'l Airport	725,195	674,915	7.4%
Sarasota/Bradenton	120,996	109,913	10.1%
Naples	6,301	7,573	-16.8%
BUILDING PERMITS			
Regional	3,016	2,497	20.8%
Single Family	2,742	2,283	20.1%
Multi-Family	274	214	28.0%
TOTAL VALUE			
Residential	\$475,521,443	\$487,197,235	-2.4%
All Permit Activity	\$616,897,552	\$929,473,914	-33.6%
REGIONAL SALES (\$000)*			
Taxable Sales	\$0	\$2,822,703	-100.0%
Gross Sales	\$0	\$4,681,568	-100.0%
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX			
	198.3	190.7	4.0%
PRIME INTEREST RATE			
	7.3%	5.3%	37.0%

*Building Department figures: Hendry County and the City of Everglades data is not included in December 2005 figures.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The regional unemployment rate for January 2006 was 2.6%, a 0.3 increase from the January 2006 revised rate of 2.3%. Hendry County, at 5.6%, had the highest unemployment rate in the six-county region, with Glades County second at 4.0%. Lee County had the lowest unemployment rate at 2.3%.

The January 2006 regional unemployment rate of 2.6% was better than the state (3.1%) as a whole. The regional unemployment rate decreased by 29.1% from January 2005 to January 2006, while the state rate decreased by 27.5%.

LABORFORCE FIGURES

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE		EMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT	
	JAN. 06	DEC. 05	JAN. 06	DEC. 05	JAN. 06	DEC. 05
	(PRELIM)	(REVISED)	(PRELIM)	(REVISED)	(PRELIM)	(REVISED)
CHARLOTTE	63,079	62,664	61,153	60,970	1,926	1,694
COLLIER	149,095	148,337	145,516	144,902	3,579	3,435
GLADES	3,965	4,011	3,807	3,855	158	156
HENDRY	17,194	17,091	16,237	16,119	957	972
LEE	274,376	273,770	268,061	267,806	6,315	5,964
SARASOTA	177,558	177,883	172,927	174,066	4,631	3,817
REGION	685,267	683,756	667,701	667,718	17,566	16,038
STATE	871,600	8,730,000	8,444,000	8,473,000	271,000	257,000

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

COUNTY	% CHANGE				
	JAN. 06	DEC. 05	JAN. 05	DEC. 05/	JAN. 05/
	(PRELIM)	(REVISED)	(REVISED)	JAN. 06/	JAN. 06
CHARLOTTE	3.1%	2.7%	5.0%	13.7%	-37.4%
COLLIER	2.4%	2.3%	3.3%	4.2%	-24.6%
GLADES	4.0%	3.9%	4.6%	1.3%	-30.7%
HENDRY	5.6%	5.7%	6.3%	-1.5%	-17.9%
LEE	2.3%	2.2%	3.6%	5.9%	-30.5%
SARASOTA	2.6%	2.1%	4.0%	21.3%	-28.5%
REGION	2.6%	2.3%	3.9%	9.5%	-29.1%
STATE	3.1%	2.9%	4.4%	5.4%	-27.5%

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 November 2005, gross and taxable sales in the region totaled approximately \$3.6 billion and \$2.1 billion, respectively. This is a 9.4% decrease in gross sales and a 3.5% decrease in taxable sales from October 2005. All counties reported a decrease in taxable and gross sales this month as compared to October 2005, except Hendry for taxable and Charlotte for both taxable and gross sales.

Gross sales in the region between November 2004 and November 2005 increased 3.6%. Taxable sales decreased 2.9% during the same period. By incorporating the change in the cost of living (3.5%) and the average annual population growth rate (3.7%) for the same time period, real gross sales decreased 3.5% on a per capita basis. Real taxable sales decreased 10.3%.

SALESACTIVITY

The data for January 2006 is not yet released and the release date has not been determined. The data below will be updated as current data is released.

GROSS SALES (\$000)

COUNTY	JAN. 06 (PRELIM)	DEC. 05 (PRELIM)	JAN. 05 (REVISED)	% CHANGE	
				DEC. 05/ JAN. 06	JAN. 2005/ JAN. 2006
CHARLOTTE	n/a	315,732	391,121	-100.0%	-100.0%
COLLIER	n/a	1,002,405	1,059,207	-100.0%	-100.0%
GLADES	n/a	7,527	8,334	-100.0%	-100.0%
HENDRY	n/a	95,107	103,431	-100.0%	-100.0%
LEE	n/a	1,664,202	1,799,417	-100.0%	-100.0%
SARASOTA	n/a	985,033	1,320,058	-100.0%	-100.0%
REGION	0	4,070,006	4,681,568	-100.0%	-100.0%

TAXABLE SALES (\$000)

COUNTY	JAN. 06 (PRELIM)	DEC. 05 (PRELIM)	JAN. 05 (REVISED)	% CHANGE	
				DEC. 05/ JAN. 06	JAN. 2005/ JAN. 2006
CHARLOTTE	n/a	209,226	264,303	-100.0%	-100.0%
COLLIER	n/a	623,444	675,516	-100.0%	-100.0%
GLADES	n/a	2,195	3,223	-100.0%	-100.0%
HENDRY	n/a	33,934	34,478	-100.0%	-100.0%
LEE	n/a	1,072,813	1,145,066	-100.0%	-100.0%
SARASOTA	n/a	585,405	700,117	-100.0%	-100.0%
REGION	0	2,527,017	2,822,703	-100.0%	-100.0%

SOURCE: Florida Department of Tax Research.



March 17-19, 2006

IRISH FESTIVAL

Cultural Park, Cape Coral

Contact: (239) 540-2161

April 15, 2006

EASTER EGG HUNT

Downtown, Venice

Contact: (941) 484-6722

March 18, 2006

16TH ANNUAL SOUNDS OF JAZZ

Jaycee Park, Cape Coral

Contact: (239) 573-3121

March 18, 2006

LEE COUNTY READING FESTIVAL

Centennial Park, Fort Myers

Contact: (239) 479-4636



**HAPPY EASTER
APRIL 16, 2006**

March 25-26, 2006

4TH ANNUAL CRAFT FESTIVAL

Downtown, Sarasota

Contact: (954) 472-3755

April 2-9, 2006

25TH ANNUAL SARASOTA JAZZ FESTIVAL

Sarasota

Contact: (941) 366-1552

April 7-9, 2006

14TH ANNUAL SHARKS TOOTH FESTIVAL

Venice

Contact: (941) 412-0402

April 15, 2006

EASTER EGG HUNT

Mike Greenwell's, Cape Coral

Contact: (239) 574-4386

2005: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Southwest Florida’s economy experienced strong growth in 2005. As in 2004, 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 55,804 persons or 9.5% in 2005. Unemployment continued to decline in three counties while Lee and Sarasota stayed the same. As in 2004, 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 2005, Southwest Florida International Airport experienced a 11.6% increase while Sarasota/Bradenton Airport and Naples reported a increase of 18.1% and 275.8%. As in the past years, passenger traffic peaked in the month of March, with more than 1,199,012 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 29.8% increase in the number of single family permits issued and a 25.6% increase in the number of multi-family permits issued in 2005. The number of multi-family units increased 8.0% from 2004 to 2005. Overall, total permits reported (single family plus multi-family permits) for the region increased by 29.5%. Please note in supporting tables the communities with incomplete information.

The value of all reported residential permits increased 45.8% from \$5.8 billion in 2004 to \$8.5 billion in 2005. The total value of all reported permit activity increased 46.1% from \$8.7 billion in 2004 to \$12.7 billion in 2005.

SALES ACTIVITY Regional gross and taxable sales increased in 2005. Gross sales increased 15.8%, from \$41.8 billion in 2004 to \$48.4 billion in 2005. Taxable sales totaled \$28.7 billion in 2005, an increase of 15.1% over 2004 taxable sales of \$24.9 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 taxable sales of \$2.9 billion and April was the peak month, with gross sales of \$4.8 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 2004 to 2005, the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, of the CPI-U, rose from 188.9 to 195.3.

Note: Building Department Data submitted on behalf of the City of Fort Myers from May 2004 to present has a 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 2006 increased 0.8% from December 2005. The CPI-U for January 2006 was 198.3 an increase of 4.0% from January 2005.

GROUP	JAN. 06	DEC. 05	JAN. 05	% CHANGE	
				DEC. 05/ JAN. 06	JAN. 2005/ JAN. 2006
ALL ITEMS	198.3	196.8	190.7	0.8%	4.0%
FOOD & BEVERAGES	194.5	193.2	189.5	0.7%	2.6%
HOUSING	200.0	198.3	191.8	0.9%	4.3%
APPAREL	114.9	117.5	116.1	-2.2%	-1.0%
TRANSPORTATION	175.9	172.7	164.0	1.9%	7.3%
MEDICAL CARE	329.5	328.4	316.8	0.3%	4.0%
RECREATION	109.9	109.7	108.9	0.2%	0.9%
EDUCATION/COMMUN.	115.7	115.3	112.7	0.3%	2.7%
OTHER GOODS/SVCS	318.2	317.3	309.3	0.3%	2.9%

Purchasing power of the consumer dollar.

1982-1984 = \$1.00	JAN. 06 = 0.504
1967 = \$1.00	JAN. 06 = 0.168

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
Technical Advisory Committee	First Thursday of each month
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	2005	2004	% CHANGE
UNEMPLOYMENT*			
Charlotte	3.9%	4.9%	-8.6%
Collier	3.3%	3.8%	-3.0%
Glades	4.6%	8.5%	-32.9%
Hendry	7.6%	11.7%	-27.4%
Lee	3.1%	3.6%	-2.3%
Sarasota	3.2%	3.1%	2.3%
Region	3.4%	3.9%	-4.5%
State	3.6%	4.6%	-19.6%
LABOR FORCE			
Region	657,739	601,935	9.3%
State	8,640,167	8,383,000	3.1%
EMPLOYED			
Region	635,529	578,672	9.8%
State	8,327,583	7,994,000	4.2%
UNEMPLOYED			
Region	22,209	23,263	-4.5%
State	312,583	389,000	-19.6%
AIRPORT PASSENGERS			
S.W. Int'l Airport	7,518,169	6,736,630	11.6%
Sarasota/Bradenton	1,337,571	1,132,133	18.1%
Naples	63,114	16,795	275.8%
Region	8,918,854	7,885,558	13.1%
BUILDING PERMITS**			
Single Family Permits			
Charlotte	2,684	2,327	15.3%
Collier	2,987	3,332	-10.4%
Glades	69	37	86.5%
Hendry	583	247	136.0%
Lee	19,095	13,927	37.1%
Sarasota	6,434	4,663	38.0%
Region	31,852	24,533	29.8%
Multi-Family Permits			
Charlotte	242	138	75.4%
Collier	248	350	-29.1%
Glades	0	0	0.0%
Hendry	1	0	0.0%
Lee	2,166	1,624	33.4%
Sarasota	256	207	23.7%
Region	2,913	2,319	25.6%

INDICATORS	2005	2004	% CHANGE
BUILDING PERMITS CONT. **			
Multi-Family Units			
Charlotte	1,763	1,106	59.4%
Collier	1,420	2,620	-45.8%
Glades	0	0	0.0%
Hendry	1	0	0.0%
Lee	10,601	9,016	17.6%
Sarasota	1,584	1,484	6.7%
Region	15,369	14,226	8.0%
Total Permits			
Charlotte	2,926	2,465	18.7%
Collier	3,235	3,682	-12.1%
Glades	69	37	86.5%
Hendry	584	247	136.4%
Lee	21,261	15,551	36.7%
Sarasota	6,690	4,870	37.4%
Region	34,765	26,852	29.5%
TOTAL VALUE**			
Residential	\$8,498,190,223	\$5,828,703,192	45.8%
All Permit Activity	\$12,742,050,113	\$8,722,441,014	46.1%
REGIONAL SALES (\$000)			
Taxable Sales			
Charlotte	\$2,528,378	\$2,109,511	19.9%
Collier	\$6,868,649	\$6,148,270	11.7%
Glades	\$30,588	\$25,858	18.3%
Hendry	\$380,383	\$308,317	23.4%
Lee	\$11,869,270	\$10,017,838	18.5%
Sarasota	\$7,030,088	\$6,326,083	11.1%
Region	\$28,707,356	\$24,935,877	15.1%
Gross Sales			
Charlotte	\$3,930,088	\$3,384,262	16.1%
Collier	\$11,354,875	\$9,982,961	13.7%
Glades	\$110,079	\$84,952	29.6%
Hendry	\$1,233,946	\$1,019,799	21.0%
Lee	\$19,262,698	\$16,095,890	19.7%
Sarasota	\$12,525,183	\$11,260,465	11.2%
Region	\$48,416,869	\$41,828,329	15.8%
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX			
	195.3	188.9	3.4%

*Unemployment percent change calculated by actual number of people.

**City of Punta Gorda data not included for January & September 2005.

Charlotte County data not included for November 2005.