



Economic Views

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SERVING CHARLOTTE, COLLIER, GLADES, HENDRY, LEE AND SARASOTA COUNTIES SINCE 1973

Lee, Charlotte counties to be represented at White House

Southwest Florida will be represented Tuesday at the White House, where two Lee County officials and two local men will share success stories in sustainability and connect with others from around the Gulf Coast.

Karen Hawes, Lee County manager, and Tessa LeSage, office of sustainability manager, will represent Lee in Washington D.C. at the Clean Economy Development Center's Gulf Coast Sustainable Economies Roundtable. The Clean Economy Development Center is a nonprofit that helps public officials and community leaders tackle clean energy projects and create jobs.

"Part of the meeting is aimed at looking at best practices, so hopefully we'll learn some of the things that other Gulf Coast communities are doing to create jobs and a clean economy in their areas," she said. Job creation is a goal, LeSage said, and the event could provide an opportunity to see what other communities are doing and meet with federal officials who could become potential partners.

Lee County officials have moved toward sustainability by cutting energy usage internally and looking at ways to save in all departments, LeSage said. They've also turned to the Complete Streets initiative, she said. It designs streets that are accessible and comfortable for all travelers - bicyclists, pedestrians and transit riders in addition to motorists - to promote more energy-efficient and diverse transportation methods.

Charlotte County hosted the Clean Economy Roadshow in October, which may be what turned the nonprofit's attention to Southwest Florida, LeSage said. "It's been a last-minute opportunity and we're honored to be included," she said.

Meanwhile, two local men will be honored as "Champions of Change" for their work in strengthening the economy and creating jobs. Dell Jones of Estero will be recognized for his work mass-distributing solar hot water services to utility companies, state facilities and areas throughout the Gulf region. Jason Stoltzfus, program liaison for Charlotte County, will be honored for bringing a solar hot-water service program and a 73-acre zero-energy senior living community to the area. Jones, 54, said he has received calls from around the world about his solar-powered service. "I think it shows that all of us are interested in finding innovative ways to achieve greater energy independence," he said. Dell hopes services such as his will spread nationwide to promote clean energy and create jobs. "It's innovation, it's something different," he said. "Just because you don't do it now doesn't mean it's a bad idea."

Source: <http://www.news-press.com/article/20110718/GREEN/107180325/Lee-Charlotte-counties-represented-White-House>

Volume 34 No. 7

July 2011

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

July 22, 2011
 ECO FRIENDLY GARDENING PROGRAM
 Rotary Park Environmental Center, Cape Coral
 Contact: (239) 549-4606

July 23, 2011
 23RD ANNUAL AQUATIC FESTIVAL
 Yacht Club Pool, Cape Coral
 Contact: (239) 573-3128

July 23, 2011
 BACKYARD FRUIT TREE MANAGEMENT
 WORKSHOP & TASTING
 IFAS Extension, Naples
 Contact: (239) 353-4244

July 23, 2011
 HARPOON HARRY'S FISHING TOURNAMENT
 SERIES
 Punta Gorda
 Contact: (941) 639-2222

July 23-24, 2011
 20th ANNUAL CFA CAT SHOW
 Araba Temple, Fort Myers
 Contact: (239) 772-5399

July 27, 2011
 ART WALK
 Marco Island
 Contact: (239) 642-0528

July 28, 2011
 PAMPERED PET PUPPY CRAWL
 Port Charlotte
 Contact: www.pamperedpethealthcenter.com

July 29, 2011
 FREE SHALLOW-WATER WADING ADVENTURE
 Punta Gorda
 Contact: (941) 575-5435

July 30-31, 2011
 THE BACK TO SCHOOL CARNIVAL
 Port Charlotte
 Contact: (941) 255-0808, Ext. 3113

July 30, 2011
 THE GREAT GARAGE SALE AT CHARLOTTE
 SPORTS PARK
 Punta Gorda
 Contact: (941) 235-5010

July 30-31, 2011
 15TH ANNUAL MANGO MANIA TROPICAL
 FRUIT FESTIVAL
 German American Social Club, Cape Coral
 Contact: (239) 283-0888
www.mangomaniafl.com

July 30, 2011
 NATIONAL PARKS & RECREATION MONTH ICE
 CREAM SOCIAL
 Sugden Regional Park, Naples
 Contact: (239) 252-4000

August 6, 2011
 MATLACHA PASS PADDLE
 Rotary Park, Cape Coral
 Contact: (239) 549-4606

August 6, 2010
 ARTS FOR ACT AUCTION
 Harborside Event Center, Fort Myers
 Contact: (239) 321-8110

August 10, 2011
 BIRD HOUSE WORKSHOP
 Rotary Park Environmental Center, Cape Coral
 Contact: (239) 549-4606

August 13, 2011
 ROTINO'S ROCK & ROLL PARTY
 Rotino Center, Cape Coral
 Contact: (239) 574-0807

August 13, 2011
 FAMILY FUN NIGHT AT SUN SPLASH
 Cape Coral
 Contact: (239) 574-0558

August 13, 2011
 GARDENING FOR BUTTERFLIES
 Rotary Park, Cape Coral
 Contact: (239) 549-4606

August 15, 2011
 FLORIDA REPTILES
 Rotary Park Environmental Center, Cape Coral
 Contact: (239) 549-4606

August 19-21, 2011
 GROUPER GRAB
 Cape Harbour, Cape Coral
 Contact: www.thegroupergrab.com

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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 decreased 35.1% in May 2011 from April 2011. Airport passengers visiting and leaving the region totaled 706,115 as compared to 1,087,497 in the previous month. All three airports reported a decrease in passenger activity from the previous month.

In May 2011, total airport activity for the region increased 5.7% from the previous year. Sarasota/Bradenton airport was the only one to report a decrease in passenger activity from the previous year.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The regional unemployment rate for May 2011 was 10.5%, which was equal to the revised rate of 10.5% for April 2011. Hendry County at 13.3%, had the highest unemployment rate in the six-county region, with Lee County second at 10.8%. Glades County had the lowest unemployment rate at 8.4%. The May 2011 regional unemployment rate of 10.5% was equal to the state at 10.5%. The regional unemployment rate decreased by 13.3% from May 2010 to May 2011, while the state rate decreased by 5.6% during the same time period.

AIRPORT PASSENGERS

AIRPORT		MAY. 11	APR. 11	MAY. 10	% CHANGE	
					APR. 11/ MAY. 11	MAY. 10/ MAY. 11
S.W. Fla. Int'l	ARRIVALS	271,422	422,865	254,969	-35.8%	
	DEPARTURES	316,211	484,821	297,136	-34.8%	
Sarasota/Bradenton	ARRIVALS	49,453	67,705	52,150	-27.0%	
	DEPARTURES	55,819	76,079	57,297	-26.6%	
Charlotte County	ARRIVALS	6,008	16,486	3,169	-63.6%	
	DEPARTURES	7,202	19,541	3,460	-63.1%	

AIRPORT TOTALS = ARRIVALS + DEPARTURES

	MAY. 11	APR. 11	MAY. 10	APR. 11/ MAY. 11	MAY. 10/ MAY. 11
S.W. Fla. Int'l	587,633	907,686	552,105	-35.3%	6.4%
Sarasota/Brad.	105,272	143,784	109,447	-26.8%	-3.8%
Charlotte County	13,210	36,027	6,629	-63.3%	99.3%
REGION	706,115	1,087,497	668,181	-35.1%	5.7%

SOURCE: Local Airport Authorities.

LABOR FORCE FIGURES

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE		EMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT	
	MAY. 11 (PRELIM)	APR. 11 (REVISED)	MAY. 11 (PRELIM)	APR. 11 (REVISED)	MAY. 11 (PRELIM)	APR. 11 (REVISED)
CHARLOTTE	69,693	68,842	62,441	61,475	7,252	7,367
COLLIER	142,527	143,517	128,411	129,572	14,116	13,945
GLADES	5,757	5,754	5,272	5,275	485	479
HENDRY	17,695	18,127	15,336	15,806	2,359	2,321
LEE	272,208	275,074	242,755	245,410	29,453	29,664
SARASOTA	160,407	159,725	143,740	142,715	16,667	17,010
REGION	668,287	671,039	597,955	600,253	70,332	70,786
STATE	9,260,000	9,200,000	8,290,000	8,241,000	971,000	959,000

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

COUNTY	% CHANGE*				
	MAY. 11 (PRELIM)	APR. 11 (REVISED)	MAY. 10 (REVISED)	APR. 11/MAY. 10/	MAY. 11 MAY. 11
CHARLOTTE	10.4%	10.7%	12.0%	-1.6%	-13.1%
COLLIER	9.9%	9.7%	11.3%	1.2%	-11.8%
GLADES	8.4%	8.3%	11.2%	1.3%	-3.8%
HENDRY	13.3%	12.8%	13.6%	1.6%	-2.4%
LEE	10.8%	10.8%	12.5%	-0.7%	-15.3%
SARASOTA	10.4%	10.6%	11.4%	-2.0%	-12.7%
REGION	10.5%	10.5%	11.9%	-0.6%	-13.3%
STATE	10.5%	10.4%	11.1%	1.3%	-5.6%

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

* Calculation of percent change is by actual revised numbers.

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 May 2011 increased 0.5% from April 2011. The CPI-U for May 2011 was 226.0, an increase of 3.6% from May 2010.

GROUP	% CHANGE				
	MAY. 11	APR. 11	MAY. 10	APR. 11/ MAY. 10/	MAY. 11
ALL ITEMS	226.0	224.9	218.2	0.5%	3.6%
FOOD & BEVERAGES	227.1	226.2	219.7	0.4%	3.4%
HOUSING	218.5	217.9	216.0	0.3%	1.2%
APPAREL	122.3	122.2	121.0	0.1%	1.1%
TRANSPORTATION	220.3	216.9	194.8	1.6%	13.1%
MEDICAL CARE	399.4	398.8	387.8	0.1%	3.0%
RECREATION	113.7	113.4	113.7	0.2%	-0.0%
EDUCATION/ COMMUN.	130.6	130.6	129.3	0.0%	1.0%
OTHER GOODS/SVCS	385.5	386.2	379.7	-0.2%	1.5%

Purchasing power of the consumer dollar.
 1982-1984= \$1.00 MAY 11= 0.445
 1967= \$1.00 MAY 11= 0.148

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor

SALES ACTIVITY

Sales activity in Southwest Florida is measured by gross and taxable sales for each county. For May 2011, gross and taxable sales in the region totaled approximately \$3.8 million and \$2.1 million, respectively. This is a 28.2% increase in gross sales and a 6.3% increase in taxable sales from May 2010. Glades County was the only one to report a decrease in gross sales and Hendry County was the only one to report a decrease in taxable sales this month as compared to the previous year.

Gross sales in the region between May 2011 and April 2011 decreased 15.1%. Taxable sales decreased 14.7% during the same period. By incorporating the change in the cost of living (3.56%) and the average annual population growth rate (2.3%) for the same time period, real gross sales increased 17.4% per capita. Real taxable sales increased 0.4%.

COUNTY	% CHANGE				
	MAY. 11 (PRELIM)	APR. 11 (PRELIM)	MAY. 10 (REVISED)	APR. 11/ MAY. 2010/	MAY. 2011
CHARLOTTE	300,816	352,686	280,624	-14.7%	7.2%
COLLIER	948,646	1,125,569	874,432	-15.7%	8.5%
GLADES	5,239	9,133	7,108	-42.6%	-26.3%
HENDRY	101,642	117,354	100,028	-13.4%	1.6%
LEE	1,477,724	1,742,788	1,313,602	-15.2%	12.5%
SARASOTA	950,280	1,111,401	890,719	-14.5%	6.7%
REGION	3,784,347	4,458,931	2,952,581	-15.1%	28.2%

COUNTY	% CHANGE				
	MAY. 11 (PRELIM)	APR. 11 (PRELIM)	MAY. 10 (REVISED)	APR. 11/ MAY. 2010/	MAY. 2011
CHARLOTTE	168,510	200,521	165,003	-16.0%	2.1%
COLLIER	546,281	645,521	514,482	-15.4%	6.2%
GLADES	1,957	2,366	1,825	-17.3%	7.2%
HENDRY	21,721	25,749	22,454	-15.6%	-3.3%
LEE	873,178	1,041,417	808,799	-16.2%	8.0%
SARASOTA	508,324	570,337	482,660	-10.9%	5.3%
REGION	2,119,971	2,485,911	1,995,224	-14.7%	6.3%

SOURCE: Florida Department of Tax Research.

LEPC INFORMATION

None at this time.

SWFRPC MEETING SCHEDULE

Regional Planning Council	Third Thursday of each month
Lee County MPO	Monthly
Technical Advisory Committee	Monthly
Citizen Advisory Committee	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 multi-family building permits issued during a given month. In May 2011, 357 residential permits were issued in Southwest Florida. This is 80 more permits than were issued in May 2010. The number of units covered by these permits increased by 30 from 384 in May 2010 to 414 in May 2011. Compared with the figures reported for April 2011, the number of units for May 2011 increased by 85. From April 2011 to May 2011, permits issued increased by 56.

The region reported a residential building valuation of \$107,277,712, in May 2011. This is an increase of 53.5% compared to the valuation of residential permits issued in May 2010, which totaled \$69,868,884.

BUILDING PERMIT ACTIVITY

COUNTY	MAY 2011*				APRIL 2011**			
	SINGLE FAMILY	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	RESIDENTIAL UNITS	RESIDENTIAL VALUE	SINGLE FAMILY	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	RESIDENTIAL UNITS	RESIDENTIAL VALUE
CHARLOTTE	37	0	0	\$4,951,930	22	0	0	\$3,438,138
COLLIER	115	3	30	\$47,300,559	88	4	14	\$37,475,300
GLADES	0	0	0	\$0	0	0	0	\$0
HENDRY	0	1	4	\$150,000	0	2	0	\$0
LEE	123	3	18	\$28,779,228	98	4	6	\$20,681,196
SARASOTA	67	8	20	\$26,095,995	83		18	\$38,270,304
REGION*	342	15	72	\$107,277,712	291	10	38	\$99,864,938

COUNTY	MAY 2010				UNIT CHANGE		% CHANGE OF VALUE	
	SINGLE FAMILY	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	RESIDENTIAL UNITS	RESIDENTIAL VALUE	APR. 11/ MAY. 11	MAY. 10/ MAY. 11	APR. 11/ MAY. 11	MAY. 10/ MAY. 11
CHARLOTTE	24	0	0	\$5,741,020	15	13	44.0%	-13.7%
COLLIER	86	8	21	\$17,347,000	43	38	26.2%	172.7%
GLADES	2	0	0	\$195,000	0	-2	n/a	n/a
HENDRY	2	0	0	\$286,270	4	2	n/a	n/a
LEE	89	19	104	\$30,271,951	37	-52	39.2%	-4.9%
SARASOTA	45	2	11	\$16,027,643	-14	31	-31.8%	62.8%
REGION*	248	29	136	\$69,868,884	85	30	7.4%	53.5%

* Data does not include Hendry County for May 2011
 **Data does not include Everglades City and Hendry County for April 2011
 ***All data is reported for May 2010.

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SUMMARY ECONOMIC INDICATORS

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

INDICATORS	MAY 2011 (PRELIM)	MAY 2010 % CHANGE (REVISED)	
UNEMPLOYMENT			
State	10.5%	11.1%	-5.6%
Region	10.5%	11.9%	-13.3%
County			
Charlotte	10.4%	12.0%	-13.1%
Collier	9.9%	11.3%	-11.8%
Glades	8.4%	11.2%	-3.8%
Hendry	13.3%	13.6%	-2.4%
Lee	10.8%	12.5%	-15.3%
Sarasota	10.4%	11.4%	-12.7%
LABOR FORCE			
State	9,260,000	9,234,000	0.3%
Region	668,287	679,715	-1.7%
EMPLOYED			
State	8,290,000	8,205,000	1.0%
Region	597,955	598,594	-0.1%
UNEMPLOYED			
State	971,000	1,029,000	-5.6%
Region	70,332	81,121	-13.3%
AIRPORT PASSENGERS			
Region	706,115	668,181	5.7%
S. W. Int'l Airport	587,633	552,105	6.4%
Sarasota/Bradenton	105,272	109,447	-3.8%
Naples	13,210	6,629	99.3%
BUILDING PERMITS			
Regional	357	277	28.9%
Single Family	342	248	37.9%
Multi-Family	15	29	-48.3%
TOTAL VALUE			
Residential	\$107,277,712	\$69,868,884	53.5%
All Permit Activity	\$229,702,571	\$203,296,931	13.0%
REGIONAL SALES (\$000)			
Taxable Sales	\$2,119,971	\$1,995,224	6.3%
Gross Sales	\$3,784,347	\$2,952,581	28.2%
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX			
	226.0	218.2	3.6%
PRIME INTEREST RATE			
	3.25%	3.25%	0.0%

