

# Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council



# Economic Views

Happy Halloween

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

## U.S. EDA Announces Registry to Connect Industry Clusters Across the Country

*New tool by Harvard Business School will chart economic regions, facilitate collaboration, help create jobs and encourage business expansion*

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Commerce Department's Economic Development Administration (EDA), along with the Institute for Strategy and Competitiveness at Harvard Business School, today announced the launch of the beta version of the U.S. Cluster Mapping Web site, a new tool that can assist innovators and small business in creating jobs and spurring regional economic growth.

The site, accessible at [www.clustermapping.us](http://www.clustermapping.us), provides cluster initiatives and other economic development organizations an opportunity to register in a national database. The registry allows initiatives to showcase their activities and events to a wider public, search for appropriate partners across the nation, and learn from best practice examples of their peers. The site also provides free access to a rich database on the profile and performance of clusters and regional economies.

"The registry is just the first phase of this groundbreaking project to produce an interactive and dynamic geographic map that captures regional clusters and cluster-based initiatives across the nation," said U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development John Fernandez. "Once it is complete, this tool will

identify and connect the clusters that are driving 21st century job growth and enhance the capacity of policymakers, practitioners and industry leaders to promote economic growth."

Over time, the site will add a range of further functionalities, including geographic maps of cluster initiatives, data on regional business environments, and tools and case studies on the use of cluster data and concepts in economic development practice. It will provide users with multiple opportunities to upload their own data and conduct analysis based on their particular needs. The cluster registry will evolve towards a tiered-structure, with specific criteria on data availability, underlying cluster strength, and other performance indicators differentiating between the tiers. This will provide effective information for firms and cluster organizations looking for qualified partners and help federal, state, and local government agencies in their work to support cluster organizations.

Prof. Michael E. Porter, the Bishop William Lawrence University Professor at Harvard University and Director of the Institute for Strategy and Competitiveness, commented, "The U.S. cluster mapping site aims to strengthen U.S. competitiveness by informing regional leaders

and stimulating innovation. It will help clusters and regions to understand their economic composition, benchmark their performance, improve institutions, and find appropriate partners across the country. My colleagues and I are looking forward to working with economic development practitioners over the coming months and years in making this site the best possible tool in this endeavor."

About the U.S. Economic Development Administration ([www.eda.gov](http://www.eda.gov)):

The mission of the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) is to lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting competitiveness and preparing the nation's regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy. An agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce, EDA makes investments in economically distressed communities in order to create jobs for U.S. workers, promote American innovation and accelerate long-term sustainable economic growth.

Source: [http://www.eda.gov/NewsEvents/PressReleases/20111006\\_Cluster\\_Mapping.xml](http://www.eda.gov/NewsEvents/PressReleases/20111006_Cluster_Mapping.xml)

## FESTIVALS & EVENTS

October 21-22 & 28-31, 2011  
 20TH ANNUAL HAUNTED HIKE  
 Cape Coral  
 Contact: (239) 574-4386

October 21-22, 2011  
 HAUNTED WALK AT ECO PRESERVE  
 Cape Coral  
 Contact: (239) 549-4606

October 21-23, 2011  
 OKTOBERFEST 2011  
 Cape Coral  
 Contact: (239) 283-1400

October 21-23, 2011  
 HILLBILLY MANOR HAUNTED TRAIL  
 King Richard's Fun Park, Naples  
 Contact: (239) 598-2042

October 22, 2011  
 RIVERFEST & FISHFRY 2011  
 Bonita Springs  
 Contact: (239) 949-6262

October 22, 2011  
 NAPLES MUSEUM OF ART "FREE FAMILY DAY"  
 Naples  
 Contact: (239) 597-1900

October 23, 2011  
 PINE ISLAND ELEMENTARY FISHING TOURNAMENT & DERBY  
 Matlacha  
 Contact: [www.matlachahookers.org](http://www.matlachahookers.org)

October 23, 2011  
 NAPLES CONCERT BAND AT CAMBIER PARK  
 Naples  
 Contact: (239) 213-1000

October 28-29, 2011  
 HAUNTED WALK AT ECO PRESERVE  
 Cape Coral  
 Contact: (239) 549-4606

October 28-30, 2011  
 OKTOBERFEST 2011  
 Cape Coral  
 Contact: (239) 283-1400

October 28-30, 2011  
 HILLBILLY MANOR HAUNTED TRAIL  
 King Richard's Fun Park  
 Naples  
 Contact: (239) 598-2042

October 29, 2011  
 FLORIDA PANTHER FESTIVAL  
 Naples  
 Contact: (239) 353-8442

October 29, 2011  
 2ND ANNUAL MARCO ISLAND BEACH MUSIC FESTIVAL  
 Marco Island  
 Contact: (239) 394-2511

October 29, 2011  
 14TH ANNUAL FALL KIDS' FESTIVAL  
 Cape Coral  
 Contact: (239) 549-4606

October 29, 2011  
 MARCO ISLAND BEACH MUSIC FESTIVAL  
 Marco Island  
 Contact: (239) 394-2511

October 29-30, 2011  
 SWAMP BUGGY RACES FALL CLASSIC  
 Naples  
 Contact: 239-774-2701

October 29-30, 2011  
 THE DOWNTOWN BRADENTON CRAFT FESTIVAL  
 Sarasota  
 Contact: (561) 746-6615

November 3-6, 2011  
 THE CALUSA BLUEWAY PADDLING FESTIVAL  
 Cape Coral  
 Contact: [tking@capecoral.net](mailto:tking@capecoral.net)

November 5-6, 2011  
 24TH ANNUAL DOWNTOWN VENICE ART FESTIVAL  
 Venice  
 Contact: (561) 746-6615

November 11-13, 2011  
 CAPE CORAL COCONUT FESTIVAL  
 Cape Coral  
 Contact: [tking@capecoral.net](mailto:tking@capecoral.net)

November 12-13, 2011  
 23RD ANNUAL ST. ARMANDS ART FESTIVAL  
 Sarasota  
 Contact: (561) 746-6615

## Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council



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## AIRPORT ACTIVITY

Airport passenger activity for the Southwest Florida Region decreased 5.3% in August 2011 from July 2011. Airport passengers visiting and leaving the region totaled 531,327 as compared to 561,171 in the previous month. All three airports reported a decrease in passenger activity from the previous month.

In August 2011, total airport activity for the region decreased 0.9% from the previous year. S.W. Fla. Int'l airport was the only one to report a decrease in passenger activity from the previous year.

### AIRPORT PASSENGERS

AIRPORT		AUG. 11		JUL. 11		AUG. 10		% CHANGE	
								JUL. 11/ AUG. 11	AUG. 10/ AUG. 11
S.W. Fla. Int'l	ARRIVALS	205,345	214,283	219,127				2.3%	
	DEPARTURES	214,760	242,911	225,587				-11.6%	
Sarasota/ Bradenton	ARRIVALS	41,742	43,069	40,651				-3.1%	
	DEPARTURES	42,756	44,616	42,452				-4.2%	
Charlotte County	ARRIVALS	6,441	7,905	4,282				-18.5%	
	DEPARTURES	6,501	8,387	4,044				-22.5%	
AIRPORT TOTALS = ARRIVALS + DEPARTURES									
		AUG. 11		JUL. 11		AUG. 10		% CHANGE	
								JUL. 11/ AUG. 11	AUG. 10/ AUG. 11
S.W. Fla. Int'l		433,887	457,194	444,714				-5.1%	-2.4%
Sarasota/Brad.		84,498	87,685	83,103				-3.6%	1.7%
Charlotte County		12,942	16,292	8,326				-20.6%	55.4%
REGION		531,327	561,171	536,143				-5.3%	-0.9%

SOURCE: Local Airport Authorities.

## UNEMPLOYMENT

The regional unemployment rate for August 2011 was 11.5%, which was lower than the revised rate of 11.6% for July 2011. Hendry County at 17.9%, had the highest unemployment rate in the six-county region, with Collier County second at 11.9%. Glades County had the lowest unemployment rate at 9.2%. The August 2011 regional unemployment rate of 11.5% was higher than the state at 10.9%. The regional unemployment rate decreased by 16.7% from August 2010 to August 2011, while the state rate decreased by 13.0% during the same time period.

### LABOR FORCE FIGURES

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE		EMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT	
	AUG. 11	JUL. 11	AUG. 11	JUL. 11	AUG. 11	JUL. 11
	(PRELIM)	(REVISED)	(PRELIM)	(REVISED)	(PRELIM)	(REVISED)
CHARLOTTE	68,554	68,501	60,838	60,902	7,716	7,599
COLLIER	136,809	137,842	120,591	121,386	16,218	16,456
GLADES	5,850	5,761	5,310	5,204	540	557
HENDRY	16,288	16,420	13,379	13,306	2,909	3,114
LEE	271,329	271,844	240,218	240,255	31,111	31,589
SARASOTA	159,110	159,662	141,919	142,632	17,191	17,030
REGION	657,940	660,030	582,255	583,685	75,685	76,345
STATE	9,253,000	9,292,000	8,243,000	8,270,000	1,010,000	1,022,000

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

COUNTY	AUG. 11		JUL. 11		AUG. 10		% CHANGE*	
	(PRELIM)	(REVISED)	(REVISED)	AUG. 11	AUG. 11	AUG. 10	AUG. 11	
CHARLOTTE	11.3%	11.1%	13.1%	1.5%	-14.2%			
COLLIER	11.9%	11.9%	13.6%	-1.4%	-16.4%			
GLADES	9.2%	9.7%	14.1%	-3.1%	-11.8%			
HENDRY	17.9%	19.0%	20.6%	-6.6%	-11.5%			
LEE	11.5%	11.6%	13.7%	-1.5%	-17.7%			
SARASOTA	10.8%	10.7%	12.4%	0.9%	-17.2%			
REGION	11.5%	11.6%	13.5%	-0.9%	-16.7%			
STATE	10.9%	11.0%	12.4%	-1.2%	-13.0%			

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 August 2011 increased 0.3% from July 2011. The CPI-U for August 2011 was 226.5, an increase of 3.8% from August 2010.

### CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

GROUP	% CHANGE				
	AUG. 11	JUL. 11	AUG. 10	JUL. 11/ AUG. 10/	AUG. 11
ALL ITEMS	226.5	225.9	218.3	0.3%	3.8%
FOOD & BEVERAGES	229.5	228.3	219.9	0.5%	4.4%
HOUSING	220.5	220.2	217.0	0.1%	1.6%
APPAREL	121.5	118.8	116.7	2.3%	4.2%
TRANSPORTATION	216.1	216.2	193.5	-0.0%	11.7%
MEDICAL CARE	400.9	400.3	388.5	0.1%	3.2%
RECREATION	113.6	113.5	113.5	0.1%	0.1%
EDUCATION/ COMMUN.	132.0	130.9	130.6	0.9%	1.1%
OTHER GOODS/SVCS	387.1	386.5	383.7	0.1%	0.9%

Purchasing power of the consumer dollar.

1982-1984= \$1.00 AUG 11= 0.441

1967= \$1.00 AUG 11= 0.147

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor

## LEPC INFORMATION

For information on upcoming LEPC Courses and Training, please contact John Gibbons at [jgibbons@swfrpc.org](mailto:jgibbons@swfrpc.org).

## SWFRPC MEETING SCHEDULE

Regional Planning Council	Third Thursday of each month
Lee County MPO	Monthly
Technical Advisory Committee	Monthly
Citizen Advisory Committee	Monthly
CEDS Committee	Quarterly
LEPC	Quarterly
Disaster Preparedness	Thursday after LEPC meeting
Lee Trans. Disadvantaged	Quarterly
Glades/Hendry Trans. Disadvantaged	Quarterly
Brownfields Committee	Quarterly

## SALES ACTIVITY

Sales activity in Southwest Florida is measured by gross and taxable sales for each county. For August 2011, gross and taxable sales in the region totaled approximately \$3.1 million and \$1.7 million, respectively. This is a 5.1% increase in gross sales and a 4.7% increase in taxable sales from August 2010. Glades and Hendry reported a decrease in gross sales and Charlotte, Glades and Hendry reported a decrease in taxable sales this month as compared to the previous year.

Gross sales in the region between August 2011 and July 2011 decreased 11.9%. Taxable sales decreased 4.2% during the same period. By incorporating the change in the cost of living (3.78%) and the average annual population growth rate (2.3%) for the same time period, real gross sales decreased .09% per capita. Real taxable sales decreased 1.3%.

### SALES ACTIVITY

#### GROSS SALES (\$000)

COUNTY	% CHANGE				
	AUG. 11	JUL. 11	AUG. 10	JUL. 11/ AUG. 2010/	AUG. 2011
CHARLOTTE	251,529	279,946	246,717	-10.2%	2.0%
COLLIER	701,619	835,922	673,977	-16.1%	4.1%
GLADES	5,589	8,293	7,123	-32.6%	-21.5%
HENDRY	80,727	72,591	95,317	11.2%	-15.3%
LEE	1,228,174	1,380,265	1,140,569	-11.0%	7.7%
SARASOTA	835,106	945,805	788,879	-11.7%	5.9%
REGION	3,102,744	3,522,822	2,952,581	-11.9%	5.1%

#### TAXABLE SALES (\$000)

COUNTY	% CHANGE				
	AUG. 11	JUL. 11	AUG. 10	JUL. 11/ AUG. 2010/	AUG. 2011
CHARLOTTE	134,540	142,679	135,366	-5.7%	-0.6%
COLLIER	405,615	406,961	364,666	-0.3%	11.2%
GLADES	1,741	2,461	1,849	-29.3%	-5.8%
HENDRY	17,457	20,993	18,285	-16.8%	-4.5%
LEE	684,449	726,969	664,869	-5.8%	2.9%
SARASOTA	417,929	434,384	402,503	-3.8%	3.8%
REGION	1,661,731	1,734,447	1,587,538	-4.2%	4.7%

SOURCE: Florida Department of Tax Research.

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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 August 2011, 228 residential permits were issued in Southwest Florida. This is 26 more permits than were issued in August 2010. The number of units covered by these permits increased by 52 from 230 in August 2010 to 282 in August 2011. Compared with the figures reported for July 2011, the number of units for August 2011 decreased by 41. From July 2011 to August 2011, permits issued decreased by 72.

The region reported a residential building valuation of \$75,771,971, in August 2011. This is an increase of 8.5% compared to the valuation of residential permits issued in August 2010, which totaled \$69,818,825.

### BUILDING PERMIT ACTIVITY

COUNTY	AUGUST 2011*				JULY 2011**			
	SINGLE FAMILY	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	RESIDENTIAL UNITS	RESIDENTIAL VALUE	SINGLE FAMILY	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	RESIDENTIAL UNITS	RESIDENTIAL VALUE
CHARLOTTE	7	0	0	\$5,093,588	24	0	0	\$4,802,430
COLLIER	64	6	36	\$25,410,397	78	3	16	\$34,228,621
GLADES	0	0	0	\$0	1	0	0	\$129,000
HENDRY	0	0	0	\$0	0	0	0	\$0
LEE	90	4	12	\$25,669,912	126	6	16	\$32,792,471
SARASOTA	55	2	18	\$19,598,074	60	2	2	\$17,799,976
REGION*	216	12	66	\$75,771,971	289	11	34	\$89,752,498

COUNTY	AUGUST 2010***				UNIT CHANGE		% CHANGE OF VALUE	
	SINGLE FAMILY	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	RESIDENTIAL UNITS	RESIDENTIAL VALUE	JUL. 11/ AUG. 11	JUL. 11/ AUG. 11	AUG. 10/ AUG. 11	AUG. 10/ AUG. 11
CHARLOTTE	24	4	8	\$3,237,531	-17	-25	6.1%	57.3%
COLLIER	70	4	16	\$37,441,929	6	14	-25.8%	-32.1%
GLADES	0	0	0	\$0	-1	0	-100.0%	n/a
HENDRY	0	0	0	\$0	0	0	n/a	n/a
LEE	55	1	6	\$13,142,735	-40	41	-21.7%	95.3%
SARASOTA	41	3	10	\$15,996,630	11	22	10.1%	22.5%
REGION*	190	12	40	\$69,818,825	-41	52	-15.6%	8.5%

\* Data does not include Everglades City & Hendry County for August 2011

\*\*All data is reported for August 2011

\*\*\*All data is reported for August 2010.

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## SUMMARY ECONOMIC INDICATORS

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INDICATORS	AUGUST 2011 (PRELIM)	AUGUST 2010 (REVISED)	% CHANGE
<b>UNEMPLOYMENT</b>			
State	10.9%	12.4%	-13.0%
Region	11.5%	13.5%	-16.7%
County			
Charlotte	11.3%	13.1%	-14.2%
Collier	11.9%	13.6%	-16.4%
Glades	9.2%	14.1%	-11.8%
Hendry	17.9%	20.6%	-11.5%
Lee	11.5%	13.7%	-17.7%
Sarasota	10.8%	12.4%	-17.2%
<b>LABOR FORCE</b>			
State	9,253,000	9,336,000	-0.9%
Region	657,940	674,809	-2.5%
<b>EMPLOYED</b>			
State	8,243,000	8,175,000	0.8%
Region	582,255	583,935	-0.3%
<b>UNEMPLOYED</b>			
State	1,010,000	1,161,000	-13.0%
Region	75,685	90,874	-16.7%
<b>AIRPORT PASSENGERS</b>			
Region	531,327	536,143	-0.9%
S. W. Int'l Airport	433,887	444,714	-2.4%
Sarasota/Bradenton	84,498	83,103	1.7%
Naples	12,942	8,326	55.4%
<b>BUILDING PERMITS</b>			
Regional	228	202	12.9%
Single Family	216	190	13.7%
Multi-Family	12	12	0.0%
<b>TOTAL VALUE</b>			
Residential	\$75,771,971	\$58,890,439	28.7%
All Permit Activity	\$201,042,934	\$159,559,967	26.0%
<b>REGIONAL SALES (\$'000)</b>			
Taxable Sales	\$1,661,731	\$1,587,538	4.7%
Gross Sales	\$3,102,744	\$2,952,581	5.1%
<b>CONSUMER PRICE INDEX</b>			
	226.5	218.0	3.9%
<b>PRIME INTEREST RATE</b>			
	3.25%	3.25%	0.0%

