



Economic Views

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

Regional Economic Strategy (CEDS) | Public Workshops

FORT MYERS, FL – (April 18, 2012) – The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC) will be holding a series of local workshops in April and May, to develop a 5 year Regional Economic Strategy for the Economic Development District covering Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee and Sarasota Counties. This 5 year strategy is also known as the CEDS Plan. This effort will build upon the results of the DEO forum.

This comprehensive public engagement process will kick-off the development of the Regional Economic Plan in each of the six counties. The goal is to position our region for positive change by identifying and developing consensus on the projects that need to be accomplished over the next 5 years in our region to build Prosperity, High Paying Jobs, Vibrant Communities and Global Competitiveness.

Workshop schedule is as follows:

- Wednesday, April 25 | **Charlotte County** 4 pm – 6 pm
- Thursday, April 26 | **Glades County** 2 pm – 4 pm
- Monday, April 30 | **Lee County** 3 pm – 5 pm or 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
- Tuesday, May 1 | **Sarasota County** 6 pm – 8 pm
- Thursday, May 3 | **Hendry County** 6 pm – 7:30 pm
- Friday, May 4 | **Seminole Tribe of Florida** 10 am – 12 pm
- Wednesday, May 9 | **Collier County** 5 pm – 6:30 pm
- Saturday, May 19 | **Regional Meeting** 10 am – 12 pm

To register for an event or for additional information, please visit www.swfrpc.org.

For questions, please contact Ms. Margaret Wuerstle at 239-338-2550 Ext. 222 or mwuerstle@swfrpc.org or Jennifer Pellechio at 338-2550 Ext. 218 or jpellechio@swfrpc.org.

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

April 19, 2012
 EARTH DAY PROGRAM
 Fort Myers (FGCU)
 Contact: (239) 745-3706

April 20-22, 2012
 SUNCOAST BOAT SHOW
 Sarasota
 Contact: (800) 940-7642 or (954) 764-7642

April 21, 2012
 BLACK GOLD JUBILEE
 Belle Glade
 Contact: (561) 996-2745

April 20, 2012
 MANGROVE GATHERING
 Cape Coral
 Contact: (239) 549-4606

April 20-29, 2012
 SAND BASH MASTER SAND SCULPTING EXHIBITION
 Fort Myers Beach
 Contact: Bonnie Roberts (239) 443.8810

April 21, 2012
 11TH ANNUAL EARTH DAY
 Estero
 Contact: Bobbie Lee at (239) 777-0186

April 21, 2012
 SPRING NATIVE PLANT SALE AT ROTARY PARK
 Cape Coral
 Contact: (239) 549-4606

April 26-29, 2012
 FORT MYERS BEACH FILM FESTIVAL
 Fort Myers Beach
 Contact: (239) 443-8810

April 27, 2012
 GUIDED KAYAK TOUR OF ECO
 Cape Coral
 Contact: (239) 549-4606

April 27, 2012
 AN EVENING UNDER THE SEA
 Cape Coral
 Contact: (239) 574-0806

May 2, 2012
 SUNSET CELEBRATION ON THE PIER
 Cape Coral
 Contact: (239) 574-0806

May 4, 2012
 GREATER NAPLES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNUAL
 GOLF TOURNAMENT 2012
 Naples
 Contact: www.napleschamber.org

May 4-5, 2012
 DING DARLING & DOC FORD'S TARPON INVITA-
 TIONAL
 Sanibel
 Contact: (239) 292-0566

May 5, 2012
 NATURE OF CAPE CORAL BUS TOUR
 Cape Coral
 Contact: (239) 549-4606

May 5, 2012
 BROWN SUGAR FESTIVAL
 Harlem
 Contact: (863) 677-5727

May 5, 2012
 FULL MOON PADDLE
 Cape Coral
 Contact: (239) 549-4606

May 11, 2012
 CBIA AND HILL, BARTH & KING SPRING GOLF
 TOURNAMENT AT VASARI
 Naples
 Contact: (239) 436-6100

May 13, 2012
 MOTHER'S DAY TRAIN
 Fort Myers
 Contact: (239) 275-8487

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AIRPORT ACTIVITY

Airport passenger activity for the Southwest Florida Region increased 2.6% in February 2012 from January 2012. Airport passengers visiting and leaving the region totaled 874,509 as compared to 852,606 in the previous month. All three airports reported an increase in passenger activity from the previous month.

In February 2012, total airport activity for the region decreased 7.5% 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		FEB. 12	JAN. 12	FEB. 11	% CHANGE	
					JAN. 12/ FEB. 12	FEB. 11/ FEB. 12
S.W. Fla. Int'l	ARRIVALS	401,019	344,801	410,322	19.0%	
	DEPARTURES	308,830	359,626	379,802	-14.1%	
Sarasota/ Bradenton	ARRIVALS	64,938	56,611	62,646	14.7%	
	DEPARTURES	61,027	57,580	58,624	6.0%	
Charlotte County	ARRIVALS	18,611	17,491	18,002	6.4%	
	DEPARTURES	20,084	16,497	16,070	21.7%	
AIRPORT TOTALS = ARRIVALS + DEPARTURES						
		FEB. 12	JAN. 12	FEB. 11	JAN. 12/ FEB. 12	FEB. 11/ FEB. 12
S.W. Fla. Int'l		709,849	704,427	790,124	0.8%	-10.2%
Sarasota/Brad.		125,965	114,191	121,270	10.3%	3.9%
Charlotte County		38,695	33,988	34,072	13.8%	13.6%
REGION		874,509	852,606	945,466	2.6%	-7.5%

SOURCE: Local Airport Authorities.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The regional unemployment rate for February 2012 was 9.1%, which was lower than the revised rate of 9.7% for January 2012. Hendry County at 11.7%, had the highest unemployment rate in the six-county region, with Lee County second at 9.4%. Collier County had the lowest unemployment rate at 8.3%. The February 2012 regional unemployment rate of 9.1% was equal to the state at 9.1%. The regional unemployment rate decreased by 18.2% from February 2011 to February 2012, while the state rate decreased by 16.7% during the same time period.

LABOR FORCE FIGURES

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE		EMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT	
	FEB. 12 (PRELIM)	JAN. 12 (REVISED)	FEB. 12 (PRELIM)	JAN. 12 (REVISED)	FEB. 12 (PRELIM)	JAN. 12 (REVISED)
CHARLOTTE	69,911	70,378	63,408	63,418	6,503	6,960
COLLIER	152,616	153,248	140,010	139,939	12,606	13,309
GLADES	5,150	5,213	4,691	4,733	459	480
HENDRY	18,282	18,662	16,151	16,467	2,131	2,195
LEE	281,356	281,507	254,892	253,704	26,464	27,803
SARASOTA	160,364	160,744	145,679	144,909	14,685	15,835
REGION	687,679	689,752	624,831	623,170	62,848	66,582
STATE	9,223,000	9,203,000	8,384,000	8,325,000	839,000	878,000

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

COUNTY	% CHANGE*				
	FEB. 12 (PRELIM)	JAN. 12 (REVISED)	FEB. 11 (REVISED)	JAN. 12/ FEB. 12	FEB. 11/ FEB. 12
CHARLOTTE	9.3%	9.9%	11.6%	-6.6%	-18.3%
COLLIER	8.3%	8.7%	10.7%	-5.3%	-18.5%
GLADES	8.9%	9.2%	8.5%	-4.4%	-6.7%
HENDRY	11.7%	11.8%	13.4%	-2.9%	-12.3%
LEE	9.4%	9.9%	11.7%	-4.8%	-18.0%
SARASOTA	9.2%	9.9%	11.4%	-7.3%	-19.3%
REGION	9.1%	9.7%	11.4%	-5.6%	-18.2%
STATE	9.1%	9.5%	11.0%	-4.4%	-16.7%

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 February 2012 increased 0.4% from January 2012. The CPI-U for February 2012 was 227.7, an increase of 2.9% from February 2011.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

GROUP	% CHANGE				
	FEB. 12	JAN. 12	JAN. 11	FEB. 12 / JAN. 12	FEB. 12 / FEB. 11
ALL ITEMS	227.7	226.7	221.3	0.4%	2.9%
FOOD & BEVERAGES	232.5	232.6	224.0	-0.0%	3.8%
HOUSING	254.9	220.8	217.3	15.5%	17.3%
APPAREL	123.3	122.1	118.4	1.0%	4.1%
TRANSPORTATION	269.5	210.8	203.0	27.9%	32.8%
MEDICAL CARE	434.8	408.1	397.1	6.6%	9.5%
RECREATION	NA	114.2	113.2	-100.0%	-100.0%
EDUCATION/COMMUN.	NA	133.1	130.7	-100.0%	-100.0%
OTHER GOODS/SVCS	NA	391.4	385.4	-100.0%	-100.0%

Purchasing power of the consumer dollar.

1982-1984= \$1.00 FEB 12= NA

1967= \$1.00 FEB 12= NA

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor

LEPC INFORMATION

For information on upcoming LEPC Courses and Training, please contact John Gibbons at jgibbons@swfrpc.org.

SWFRPC MEETING SCHEDULE

Regional Planning Council	Third Thursday of each month
CEDS Committee	Quarterly
LEPC	Quarterly
Disaster Preparedness	Thursday after LEPC meeting
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 February 2012, gross and taxable sales in the region totaled approximately \$4.0 million and \$2.2 million, respectively. This is a 8.3% increase in gross sales and a 7.7% increase in taxable sales from February 2011. Glades County reported a decrease in gross and taxable sales this month as compared to the previous year.

Gross sales in the region between February 2012 and January 2012 decreased 18.0%. Taxable sales decreased 9.7% during the same period. By incorporating the change in the cost of living (2.88%) and the average annual population growth rate (2.3%) for the same time period, real gross sales increased 2.9% per capita. Real taxable sales increased 2.3%.

SALES ACTIVITY

GROSS SALES (\$000)

COUNTY	% CHANGE				
	FEB. 12 (PRELIM)	JAN. 12 (PRELIM)	FEB. 11 (REVISED)	JAN. 12 / FEB. 2011 / FEB. 12	FEB. 2012
CHARLOTTE	319,472	377,161	289,356	-15.3%	10.4%
COLLIER	983,176	1,205,970	932,860	-18.5%	5.4%
GLADES	6,060	7,563	7,013	-19.9%	-13.6%
HENDRY	126,020	142,681	121,717	-11.7%	3.5%
LEE	1,561,001	1,817,967	1,391,041	-14.1%	12.2%
SARASOTA	946,132	1,258,168	897,531	-24.8%	5.4%
REGION	3,941,861	4,809,510	3,639,518	-18.0%	8.3%

TAXABLE SALES (\$000)

COUNTY	% CHANGE				
	FEB. 12 (PRELIM)	JAN. 12 (PRELIM)	FEB. 11 (REVISED)	JAN. 12 / FEB. 2011 / FEB. 12	FEB. 2012
CHARLOTTE	173,396	197,245	163,697	-12.1%	5.9%
COLLIER	572,548	624,697	539,897	-8.3%	6.0%
GLADES	2,379	2,086	2,527	14.0%	-5.9%
HENDRY	24,604	25,801	22,416	-4.6%	9.8%
LEE	894,144	982,584	817,165	-9.0%	9.4%
SARASOTA	493,076	560,368	460,436	-12.0%	7.1%
REGION	2,160,146	2,392,781	2,006,138	-9.7%	7.7%

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 February 2012, 285 residential permits were issued in Southwest Florida. This is 65 more permits than were issued in February 2011. The number of units covered by these permits increased by 129 from 244 in February 2011 to 373 in February 2012. Compared with the figures reported for January 2012, the number of units for February 2012 increased by 97. From January 2012 to February 2012, permits issued increased by 47.

The region reported a residential building valuation of \$99,712,924, in February 2012. This is a increase of 57.9% compared to the valuation of residential permits issued in February 2011, which totaled \$63,148,623.

BUILDING PERMIT ACTIVITY

COUNTY	FEBRUARY 2012*				JANUARY 2012**			
	SINGLE FAMILY	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	RESIDENTIAL UNITS	RESIDENTIAL VALUE	SINGLE FAMILY	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	RESIDENTIAL UNITS	RESIDENTIAL VALUE
CHARLOTTE	18	1	2	\$5,005,022	29	0	0	\$3,907,124
COLLIER	65	4	17	\$33,037,437	56	6	37	\$144,846,299
GLADES	0	0	0	\$0	0	0	0	\$0
HENDRY	0	0	0	\$0	0	0	0	\$0
LEE	110	4	45	\$28,958,243	92	0	0	\$19,747,420
SARASOTA	79	4	37	\$32,712,222	54	1	8	\$19,095,885
REGION*	272	13	101	\$99,712,924	231	7	45	\$187,596,728

COUNTY	FEBRUARY 2011***				UNIT CHANGE		% CHANGE OF VALUE	
	SINGLE FAMILY	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	RESIDENTIAL UNITS	RESIDENTIAL VALUE	FEB. 12/ JAN. 12	FEB. 11/ FEB. 12/	JAN. 12/ FEB. 12	FEB. 11/ FEB. 12
CHARLOTTE	20	0	0	\$2,481,501	-9	0	28.1%	101.7%
COLLIER	79	3	20	\$28,190,421	-11	-17	-77.2%	17.2%
GLADES	0	0	0	\$0	0	0	n/a	n/a
HENDRY	3	0	0	\$517,697	0	-3	n/a	n/a
LEE	64	2	4	\$16,315,532	63	87	46.6%	77.5%
SARASOTA	48	1	6	\$15,643,472	54	62	71.3%	109.1%
REGION*	214	6	30	\$63,148,623	97	129	-46.8%	57.9%

*Data does not include Everglades City, Hendry County, Bonita Springs, Fort Myers Beach and Longboat Key for February 2012.

Data does not include the total valuation figure for Collier County, not available due to system upgrade.

**Data does not include Hendry County for January 2012.

***All data is reported for February 2011

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SUMMARY ECONOMIC INDICATORS

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

INDICATORS	FEBRUARY 2012	FEBRUARY 2011	% CHANGE
	(PRELIM)	(REVISED)	
UNEMPLOYMENT			
State	9.1%	11.0%	-16.7%
Region	9.1%	11.4%	-18.2%
County			
Charlotte	9.3%	11.6%	-18.3%
Collier	8.3%	10.7%	-18.5%
Glades	8.9%	8.5%	-6.7%
Hendry	11.7%	13.4%	-12.3%
Lee	9.4%	11.7%	-18.0%
Sarasota	9.2%	11.4%	-19.3%
LABOR FORCE			
State	9,223,000	9,177,000	0.5%
Region	687,679	672,076	2.3%
EMPLOYED			
State	8,384,000	8,169,000	2.6%
Region	624,831	595,240	5.0%
UNEMPLOYED			
State	839,000	1,007,000	-16.7%
Region	62,848	76,836	-18.2%
AIRPORT PASSENGERS			
Region	874,509	945,466	-7.5%
S. W. Int'l Airport	709,849	790,124	-10.2%
Sarasota/Bradenton	125,965	121,270	3.9%
Charlotte County	38,695	34,072	13.6%
BUILDING PERMITS			
Regional	285	220	29.5%
Single Family	272	214	27.1%
Multi-Family	13	6	116.7%
TOTAL VALUE			
Residential	\$99,712,924	\$63,148,623	57.9%
All Permit Activity	\$159,998,499	\$192,536,817	-16.9%
REGIONAL SALES (\$000)			
Taxable Sales	\$2,160,146	\$2,006,138	7.7%
Gross Sales	\$3,941,861	\$3,639,518	8.3%
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX			
	0.0	221.3	-100.0%
PRIME INTEREST RATE			
	3.25%	3.25%	0.0%

