



Economic Views



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

Public Issues and Conflict Management

The Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (CHNEP) is pleased to host the two-day, instructor-led "Public Issues and Conflict Management" course. This course is designed to increase participants' ability to design, conduct and control public or targeted meetings. Participants will learn techniques to reduce conflict, enhance cooperation and achieve meeting objectives in a timely manner. They will also learn how to use and practice facilitation skills to enhance communication between diverse groups with multiple perspectives.

After completing this course, participants will be able to

- Design and conduct collaborative processes for reaching consensus on public issues.
- Understand how to deal effectively with the media in the public issues management process.

The CHNEP is hosting this training to help its partners in their efforts to protect the natural environment of Florida from Venice to Bonita Springs to Winter Haven and to fulfill the CHNEP management plan. This training is offered through the generosity of NOAA Coastal Services Center, who is teaching the course. The course will be offered during the week of Dec. 3, but dates and location have not yet been confirmed.

To reserve your seat, please complete the online registration form. There is a registration fee of \$40. Refreshments and lunches will be provided. If you wish to attend but are unable to pay the registration fee, please contact Maran Hilgendorf. The agenda, registration form and additional guidance are posted at www.CHNEP.org.



FESTIVALS & EVENTS



May 19, 2012
 Punta Gorda Hibiscus Festival
 Punta Gorda
 (941) 457-3659

May 19, 2012
 Dancing Through the Decades
 Ave Maria
 avemariadance@comcast.net

May 19, 2012
 Afternoon Bluegrass By The Sea
 St. James City
 (239) 282-1131

May 20, 2012
 Food Truck Rally
 Immokalee
 SGIMPCForms@stofgaming.com

May 20, 2012
 Taste of the Beach
 Fort Myers Beach, FL
 Contact: (239) 454-7500

May 26, 2012
 Venice Brew Bash
 Venice Beach
 info@venicebrewbash.com

May 28, 2012
 Memorial Day Ceremony
 Fishermen's Village, Punta Gorda
 Contact: (941) 575-9002

June 1, 2012
 26th Annual All Florida Grieved Exhibit
 Opening Reception
 Fort Myers
 (239) 939-2787

June 8, 2012
 Be the Dinosaur
 Downtown Fort Myers
 hfinnegan@cityftmyers.com

June 9, 2012
 National Marina Day
 Fishermen's Village, Punta Gorda
 Call (941) 575-3000

June 9, 2012
 Charlotte Harbor Nature Fest & Outdoor
 Recreation Expo
 Fishermen's Village, Punta Gorda
 www.chnep.org

June 9, 2012
 Afternoon Bluegrass By The Sea
 St. James City
 (239) 282-1131

June 16, 2012
 Lee County Nautical Flea Market and BarBQ
 Festival
 Cape Coral
 info@flnauticalfleamarket.com

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AIRPORT ACTIVITY

Airport passenger activity for the Southwest Florida Region increased 39.6% in March 2012 from February 2012. Airport passengers visiting and leaving the region totaled 1,221,237 as compared to 874,509 in the previous month. Charlotte County was the only airport to report a decrease in passenger activity from the previous month.

In March 2012, total airport activity for the region decreased 4.6% from the previous year. Sarasota/Bradenton airport was the only one to report an increase in passenger activity from the previous year.

AIRPORT PASSENGERS

AIRPORT		MAR. 12		FEB. 12		MAR. 11		% CHANGE	
								FEB. 12/ MAR. 12	MAR. 11/ MAR. 12
S.W. Fla. Int'l	ARRIVALS	515,613	401,019	536,839				33.9%	
	DEPARTURES	508,608	308,830	537,079				64.7%	
Sarasota/ Bradenton	ARRIVALS	85,605	64,938	80,566				31.8%	
	DEPARTURES	84,781	61,027	81,745				38.9%	
Charlotte County	ARRIVALS	13,474	18,611	22,087				-27.6%	
	DEPARTURES	13,156	20,084	22,362				-34.5%	
AIRPORT TOTALS = ARRIVALS + DEPARTURES									
		MAR. 12		FEB. 12		MAR. 11		% CHANGE	
								FEB. 12/ MAR. 12	MAR. 11/ MAR. 12
S.W. Fla. Int'l		1,024,221	709,849	1,073,918				44.3%	-4.6%
Sarasota/Brad.		170,386	125,965	162,311				35.3%	5.0%
Charlotte County		26,630	38,695	43,974				-31.2%	-39.4%
REGION		1,221,237	874,509	1,280,203				39.6%	-4.6%

SOURCE: Local Airport Authorities.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The regional unemployment rate for March 2012 was 8.7%, which was lower than the revised rate of 9.1% for February 2012. Hendry County at 10.8%, had the highest unemployment rate in the six-county region, with Charlotte County second at 9.0%. Collier County had the lowest unemployment rate at 7.8%. The March 2012 regional unemployment rate of 8.7% was slightly higher than the state at 8.6%. The regional unemployment rate decreased by 18.9% from March 2011 to March 2012, while the state rate decreased by 19.1% during the same time period.

LABOR FORCE FIGURES

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE		EMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT	
	MAR. 12 (PRELIM)	FEB. 12 (REVISED)	MAR. 12 (PRELIM)	FEB. 12 (REVISED)	MAR. 12 (PRELIM)	FEB. 12 (REVISED)
CHARLOTTE	69,277	69,996	63,056	63,439	6,221	6,557
COLLIER	152,565	152,806	140,650	140,265	11,915	12,541
GLADES	5,143	5,145	4,701	4,690	442	455
HENDRY	18,434	18,255	16,434	16,147	2,000	2,108
LEE	281,419	281,597	256,284	255,127	25,135	26,470
SARASOTA	161,259	160,421	147,215	145,676	14,044	14,745
REGION	688,097	688,220	628,340	625,344	59,757	62,876
STATE	9,234,000	9,229,000	8,441,000	8,387,000	793,000	842,000

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

COUNTY	% CHANGE*				
	MAR. 12 (PRELIM)	FEB. 12 (REVISED)	MAR. 11 (REVISED)	FEB. 12/ MAR. 11	MAR. 12 MAR. 11
CHARLOTTE	9.0%	9.4%	11.0%	-5.1%	-18.5%
COLLIER	7.8%	8.2%	10.2%	-5.0%	-19.7%
GLADES	8.6%	8.8%	8.0%	-2.9%	-4.9%
HENDRY	10.8%	11.5%	13.1%	-5.1%	-16.9%
LEE	8.9%	9.4%	11.2%	-5.0%	-19.0%
SARASOTA	8.7%	9.2%	10.8%	-4.8%	-18.8%
REGION	8.7%	9.1%	10.9%	-5.0%	-18.9%
STATE	8.6%	9.1%	10.6%	-5.8%	-19.1%

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 March 2012 increased 0.3% from February 2012. The CPI-U for March 2012 was 229.1, an increase of 2.5% from March 2011.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

GROUP	% CHANGE				
	MAR. 12	FEB. 12	MAR. 11	FEB. 12/ MAR. 12	MAR. 11/ MAR. 12
ALL ITEMS	229.1	228.4	223.5	0.3%	2.5%
FOOD & BEVERAGES	232.5	232.2	225.5	0.1%	3.1%
HOUSING	221.5	221.3	217.7	0.1%	1.7%
APPAREL	125.2	124.5	121.3	0.6%	3.2%
TRANSPORTATION	219.8	217.8	211.0	0.9%	4.2%
MEDICAL CARE	410.2	408.9	397.7	0.3%	3.1%
RECREATION	114.6	114.4	113.3	0.2%	1.1%
EDUCATION/ COMMUN.	133.4	133.2	130.7	0.2%	2.1%
OTHER GOODS/SVCS	392.0	391.2	385.6	0.2%	1.7%

Purchasing power of the consumer dollar.

1982-1984= \$1.00 MAR 12= 0.436

1967= \$1.00 MAR 12= 0.146

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 March 2012, gross and taxable sales in the region totaled approximately \$4.0 million and \$2.3 million, respectively. This is a 6.5% increase in gross sales and a 7.1% increase in taxable sales from March 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 March 2012 and February 2012 increased 3.6%. Taxable sales increased 7.6% during the same period. By incorporating the change in the cost of living (2.51%) and the average annual population growth rate (2.3%) for the same time period, real gross sales increased 1.6% per capita. Real taxable sales increased 2.2%.

SALES ACTIVITY

GROSS SALES (\$000)

COUNTY	% CHANGE				
	MAR. 12 (PRELIM)	FEB. 12 (PRELIM)	MAR. 11 (REVISED)	FEB. 12/ MAR. 12	MAR. 2011/ MAR. 2012
CHARLOTTE	321,937	319,472	315,344	0.8%	2.1%
COLLIER	1,062,247	983,176	1,001,313	8.0%	6.1%
GLADES	5,569	6,060	6,685	-8.1%	-16.7%
HENDRY	135,065	126,020	114,205	7.2%	18.3%
LEE	1,593,700	1,561,001	1,466,199	2.1%	8.7%
SARASOTA	965,233	946,132	931,274	2.0%	3.6%
REGION	4,083,751	3,941,861	3,835,020	3.6%	6.5%

TAXABLE SALES (\$000)

COUNTY	% CHANGE				
	MAR. 12 (PRELIM)	FEB. 12 (PRELIM)	MAR. 11 (REVISED)	FEB. 12/ MAR. 12	MAR. 2011/ MAR. 2012
CHARLOTTE	189,419	173,396	174,889	9.2%	8.3%
COLLIER	626,480	572,548	586,467	9.4%	6.8%
GLADES	2,390	2,379	2,602	0.5%	-8.2%
HENDRY	27,012	24,604	24,250	9.8%	11.4%
LEE	950,608	894,144	890,722	6.3%	6.7%
SARASOTA	528,545	493,076	491,244	7.2%	7.6%
REGION	2,324,454	2,160,146	2,170,174	7.6%	7.1%

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 March 2012, 396 residential permits were issued in Southwest Florida. This is 91 more permits than were issued in March 2011. The number of units covered by these permits increased by 68 from 337 in March 2011 to 405 in March 2012. Compared with the figures reported for February 2012, the number of units for March 2012 increased by 19. From February 2012 to March 2012, permits issued increased by 98.

The region reported a residential building valuation of \$115,932,761, in March 2012. This is an increase of 34.2% compared to the valuation of residential permits issued in March 2011, which totaled \$86,398,781.

BUILDING PERMIT ACTIVITY

COUNTY	MARCH 2012*			FEBRUARY 2012**				
	SINGLE FAMILY PERMITS	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	RESIDENTIAL UNITS	RESIDENTIAL VALUE	SINGLE FAMILY PERMITS	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	RESIDENTIAL UNITS	RESIDENTIAL VALUE
CHARLOTTE	30	0	0	\$5,445,757	18	1	2	\$5,005,022
COLLIER	97	0	0	\$50,619,215	65	4	17	\$33,037,437
GLADES	0	0	0	\$0	0	0	0	\$0
HENDRY	0	0	0	\$0	0	0	0	\$0
LEE	178	0	0	\$36,940,871	123	4	45	\$33,080,871
SARASOTA	90	1	10	\$22,926,918	79	4	37	\$32,712,222
REGION*	395	1	10	\$115,932,761	285	13	101	\$103,835,552

COUNTY	MARCH 2011***			UNIT CHANGE		% CHANGE OF VALUE		
	SINGLE FAMILY PERMITS	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	RESIDENTIAL UNITS	RESIDENTIAL VALUE	MAR. 12/ FEB. 12	MAR. 11/ MAR. 12	FEB. 12/ MAR. 12	MAR. 11/ MAR. 12
CHARLOTTE	40	0	0	\$7,993,992	10	-10	8.8%	-31.9%
COLLIER	58	6	27	\$29,347,536	15	12	53.2%	72.5%
GLADES	1	0	0	\$69,900	0	-1	n/a	n/a
HENDRY	3	0	0	\$626,300	0	-3	n/a	n/a
LEE	131	5	14	\$30,292,983	10	33	11.7%	21.9%
SARASOTA	59	2	4	\$18,068,070	-16	37	-29.9%	26.9%
REGION*	292	13	45	\$86,398,781	19	68	11.7%	34.2%

*Data does not include Everglades City, Hendry County and Fort Myers Beach for March 2012.

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

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

***All data is reported for March 2011

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SUMMARY ECONOMIC INDICATORS

INDICATORS	MARCH 2012	MARCH 2011	% CHANGE
	(PRELIM)	(REVISED)	
UNEMPLOYMENT			
State	8.6%	10.6%	-19.1%
Region	8.7%	10.9%	-18.9%
County			
Charlotte	9.0%	11.0%	-18.5%
Collier	7.8%	10.2%	-19.7%
Glades	8.6%	8.0%	-4.9%
Hendry	10.8%	13.1%	-16.9%
Lee	8.9%	11.2%	-19.0%
Sarasota	8.7%	10.8%	-18.8%
LABOR FORCE			
State	9,234,000	9,209,000	0.3%
Region	688,097	676,396	1.7%
EMPLOYED			
State	8,441,000	8,228,000	2.6%
Region	628,340	602,726	4.2%
UNEMPLOYED			
State	793,000	980,000	-19.1%
Region	59,757	73,670	-18.9%
AIRPORT PASSENGERS			
Region	1,221,237	1,280,203	-4.6%
S. W. Int'l Airport	1,024,221	1,073,918	-4.6%
Sarasota/Bradenton	170,386	162,311	5.0%
Charlotte County	26,630	43,974	-39.4%
BUILDING PERMITS			
Regional	396	305	29.8%
Single Family	395	292	35.3%
Multi-Family	1	13	-92.3%
TOTAL VALUE			
Residential	\$115,932,761	\$86,398,781	34.2%
All Permit Activity	\$209,818,248	\$272,150,193	-22.9%
REGIONAL SALES (\$000)			
Taxable Sales	\$2,324,454	\$2,170,174	7.1%
Gross Sales	\$4,083,751	\$3,835,020	6.5%
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX			
	229.1	223.5	2.5%
PRIME INTEREST RATE			
	3.25%	3.25%	0.0%

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

