

Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council



# Economic Views

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

## U.S. Department of Commerce Invests to Help Grow Renewable Energy Jobs - Lee County Regional Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Funded Project

The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council's (SWFRPC) Economic Development District (EDD) is pleased to publicize that on July 2, 2012, the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) announced a \$551,000 grant to Lee County, Florida. This grant will support the preliminary design, modeling, and permitting of wastewater and infrastructure improvements to serve the region's Renewable Energy and Research Diamond. The project is expected to create 1,500 new jobs and attract more than \$10 million in private investment, according to grantee estimates.

"Investing in infrastructure that facilitates business growth and job creation is a top priority for the Obama administration," said Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development Matt Erskine through the statement. "This EDA grant will allow Fort Myers and Lee County to make the critical infrastructure improvements needed to attract new, diversified businesses interests in growing sectors like clean energy, biomedical technology, and advanced manufacturing."

The EDA grant funds the planning phase for a new wastewater treatment system that will replace existing septic tank systems. This will allow for expansion of the "Renewable Energy and Research Diamond," a designated high-tech industrial area targeted by Lee County for economic diversification and job creation. The Renewable Energy and Research Diamond is anchored by Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) and the Southwest Florida International Airport, and includes several private-sector industrial, commercial, and research-oriented facilities. FGCU has already committed to the construction of two research and business incubation facilities on the site.

### Economic Development District (EDD)

In 1992, the SWFRPC was designated an EDD by the Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce. The SWFRPC staffs the Southwest Florida Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee, which includes representatives from the region and was established to address the area's economic problems and challenges from a regional perspective. The EDD is comprised of the six counties that make up the SWFRPC (Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee and Sarasota, and all municipalities therein).

### Regional Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

The CEDS provides a mechanism for coordinating the efforts of economic development organizations, local governments, and private industries for the purpose of creating jobs, fostering a stable and diversified economy, and improving living conditions. Additionally, the CEDS identifies individual programs and projects that will further the economic development goals of the Southwest Florida Region. Programs and projects identified within the CEDS are eligible for financial assistance through the Economic Development Administration.

Sources: *Newspress.com, Eda.gov*

Volume 35 No. 7  
 July 2012

## FESTIVALS & EVENTS

<http://www.swflregionalvision.com/BB.html>

July 20 - 21, 2012  
**MANGOMANIA TROPICAL FRUIT FESTIVAL**  
 German American Social Club, Cape Coral  
 Contact: <http://www.floridascreativecoast.com/>

July 24, 2012  
**TARANTULAS AND THE TARANTULA NEBULA**  
 Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium, Fort Myers  
 Contact: <http://calusanature.org>

July 25, 2012  
**BUTTERFLY GARDENING BASICS**  
 Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium, Fort Myers  
 Contact: <http://calusanature.org>

July 25, 2012  
**LAST WEDNESDAY ART WALK**  
 Artist Colony At the Esplanade Shoppes, Marco Island  
 Contact: (239) 642-0528

July 28, 2012  
**NATIONAL DANCE DAY - 2012**  
 Ave Maria, Naples  
 Contact: [www.avemariadance.com/national-dance-day.html](http://www.avemariadance.com/national-dance-day.html)

July 27 - 29, 2012  
**2012 FISHERMEN'S VILLAGE PIRATE FEST**  
 Fishermen's Village, Punta Gorda  
 Contact: (941) 575-3067

July 30, 2012  
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY HENRY FORD**  
 Edison & Ford Winter Estates, Fort Myers  
 Contact: <http://www.edisonfordwinterestates.org/>

August 3, 2012  
**FORT MYERS ART WALK**  
 Downtown Fort Myers  
 Contact: (239) 332-0161

August 4, 2012  
**FUN DAY**  
 Civic Park, Clewiston  
 Contact: (863) 983-7979

## BROADBAND Charlotte · Collier · Lee PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

**LEE COUNTY**  
 Tuesday, August 21 | 10 am - 12 pm  
 Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council  
 1st Floor Conference Room  
 1926 Victoria Avenue  
 Fort Myers, FL 33901

**COLLIER COUNTY**  
 Wednesday, August 22 | 9 am - 11 am  
 Collier County Growth Management Division  
 Meeting Room 609/610  
 2800 North Horseshoe Drive  
 Naples, FL 34104

**CHARLOTTE COUNTY**  
 Thursday, August 23 | 4 pm - 6 pm  
 Charlotte County Administration Building  
 18500 Murdock Circle, Room 106B  
 Port Charlotte, FL 33948

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## AIRPORT ACTIVITY

Airport passenger activity for the Southwest Florida Region decreased 30.4% in May 2012 from April 2012. Airport passengers visiting and leaving the region totaled 650,287 as compared to 934,940 in the previous month. All three airports reported a decrease in passenger activity from the previous month.

In May 2012, total airport activity for the region decreased 7.9% from the previous year. Sarasota/Bradenton Airport was the only airport to report an increase in passenger activity from the previous year.

## UNEMPLOYMENT

The regional unemployment rate for May 2012 was 8.5%, which was higher than the revised rate of 8.4% for April 2012. Hendry County at 11.7%, had the highest unemployment rate in the six-county region, with Glades County second at 9.0%. Collier County had the lowest unemployment rate at 7.8%. The May 2012 regional unemployment rate of 8.5% was exactly the same as the state at 8.5%. The regional unemployment rate decreased by 16.8% from May 2011 to May 2012, while the state rate decreased by 18.8% during the same time period.

### AIRPORT PASSENGERS

AIRPORT		MAY. 12		APR. 12		MAY. 11		% CHANGE APR. 12/ MAY. 12
		MAY. 12	APR. 12	MAY. 11	MAY. 12	MAY. 11	MAY. 12	
S.W. Fla. Int'l	ARRIVALS	249,823	361,403	271,422				-24.9%
	DEPARTURES	282,123	428,919	316,211				-34.2%
Sarasota/Bradenton	ARRIVALS	52,991	62,306	49,453				-15.0%
	DEPARTURES	57,864	72,969	55,819				-20.7%
Charlotte County	ARRIVALS	3,848	4,478	6,008				-14.1%
	DEPARTURES	3,638	4,865	7,202				-25.2%
AIRPORT TOTALS = ARRIVALS + DEPARTURES								
		APR. 12/		MAY. 11/				
		MAY. 12	APR. 12	MAY. 11	MAY. 12	MAY. 11	MAY. 12	
S.W. Fla. Int'l		531,946	790,322	587,633				-32.7%
Sarasota/Brad.		110,855	135,275	105,272				-18.1%
Charlotte County		7,486	9,343	13,210				-19.9%
REGION		650,287	934,940	706,115				-30.4%

SOURCE: Local Airport Authorities.

### LABOR FORCE FIGURES

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE		EMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT	
	MAY. 12 (PRELIM)	APR. 12 (REVISED)	MAY. 12 (PRELIM)	APR. 12 (REVISED)	MAY. 12 (PRELIM)	APR. 12 (REVISED)
CHARLOTTE	69,504	68,576	63,474	62,630	6,030	5,946
COLLIER	151,447	150,965	139,683	139,716	11,764	11,249
GLADES	5,065	5,009	4,607	4,591	458	418
HENDRY	17,793	18,133	15,703	16,204	2,090	1,929
LEE	281,212	278,374	256,665	254,458	24,547	23,916
SARASOTA	162,282	160,102	148,538	146,351	13,744	13,751
REGION	687,303	681,159	628,670	623,950	58,633	57,209
STATE	9,295,000	9,174,000	8,506,000	8,414,000	790,000	760,000

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

COUNTY	% CHANGE*			
	MAY. 12 (PRELIM)	APR. 12 (REVISED)	MAY. 11 (REVISED)	APR. 12/MAY. 11/ MAY. 12 MAY. 12
CHARLOTTE	8.7%	8.7%	10.4%	1.4%
COLLIER	7.8%	7.5%	9.9%	4.6%
GLADES	9.0%	8.3%	8.4%	9.6%
HENDRY	11.7%	10.6%	13.4%	8.3%
LEE	8.7%	8.6%	10.9%	2.6%
SARASOTA	8.5%	8.6%	10.4%	-0.1%
REGION	8.5%	8.4%	10.5%	2.5%
STATE	8.5%	8.3%	10.5%	3.9%

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 2012 decreased by 0.1% from April 2012. The CPI-U for May 2012 was 229.8, an increase of 1.7% from May 2011.

### CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

GROUP	% CHANGE				
	MAY. 12	APR. 12	MAY. 11	APR. 12/ MAY. 12	MAY. 11/ MAY. 12
ALL ITEMS	229.8	230.1	226.0	-0.1%	1.7%
FOOD & BEVERAGES	233.3	233.1	227.1	0.1%	2.7%
HOUSING	222.0	222.0	218.5	0.0%	1.6%
APPAREL	127.7	128.4	122.3	-0.5%	4.4%
TRANSPORTATION	220.8	223.1	220.3	-1.0%	0.2%
MEDICAL CARE	413.7	412.5	399.4	0.3%	3.6%
RECREATION	114.7	114.7	113.7	0.0%	0.9%
EDUCATION/ COMMUN.	133.5	133.3	130.6	0.2%	2.2%
OTHER GOODS/SVCS	392.9	393.3	385.5	-0.1%	1.9%

Purchasing power of the consumer dollar.

1982-1984= \$1.00    MAY 12= 0.435  
1967= \$1.00    MAY 12= 0.145

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 2012, gross and taxable sales in the region totaled approximately \$4.0 million and \$2.1 million, respectively. This is a 1.6% increase in gross sales and a 1.0% increase in taxable sales from May 2011. Charlotte County reported a decrease in gross and Glades County reported a decrease in taxable sales this month as compared to the previous year.

Gross sales in the region between May 2012 and April 2012 decreased 20.0%. Taxable sales decreased 18.7% during the same period. By incorporating the change in the cost of living (1.68%) and the average annual population growth rate (2.3%) for the same time period, real gross sales decreased 2.4% per capita. Real taxable sales decreased 3.0%.

### SALES ACTIVITY

COUNTY	% CHANGE				
	MAY. 12 (PRELIM)	APR. 12 (PRELIM)	MAY. 11 (REVISED)	APR. 12/ MAY. 12	MAY. 2011/ MAY. 2012
CHARLOTTE	299,684	374,101	300,837	-19.9%	-0.4%
COLLIER	955,815	1,201,277	948,478	-20.4%	0.8%
GLADES	5,376	7,862	5,239	-31.6%	2.6%
HENDRY	122,836	166,725	101,691	-26.3%	20.8%
LEE	1,494,169	1,858,296	1,477,052	-19.6%	1.2%
SARASOTA	964,065	1,196,240	949,748	-19.4%	1.5%
REGION	3,841,945	4,804,501	3,783,046	-20.0%	1.6%

  

COUNTY	% CHANGE				
	MAY. 12 (PRELIM)	APR. 12 (PRELIM)	MAY. 11 (REVISED)	APR. 12/ MAY. 12	MAY. 2011/ MAY. 2012
CHARLOTTE	169,446	208,851	168,848	-18.9%	0.4%
COLLIER	551,971	686,068	546,535	-19.5%	1.0%
GLADES	1,889	2,308	1,957	-18.2%	-3.5%
HENDRY	25,239	28,530	21,764	-11.5%	16.0%
LEE	879,319	1,095,145	873,841	-19.7%	0.6%
SARASOTA	513,264	613,319	507,927	-16.3%	1.1%
REGION	2,141,128	2,634,222	2,120,871	-18.7%	1.0%

SOURCE: Florida Department of Tax Research.

## 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
CEDS Committee	Quarterly
LEPC	Quarterly
Disaster Preparedness	Thursday after LEPC meeting
Glades/Hendry Trans. Disadvantaged	Quarterly
Brownfields Committee	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 2012, 423 residential permits were issued in Southwest Florida. This is 63 more permits than were issued in May 2011. The number of units covered by these permits increased by 43 from 417 in May 2011 to 461 in May 2012. Compared with the figures reported for April 2012, the number of units for May 2012 increased by 87. From April 2012 to May 2012, permits issued increased by 84.

The region reported a residential building valuation of \$116,523,692, in May 2012. This is an increase of 8.2% compared to the valuation of residential permits issued in May 2011, which totaled \$107,660,862.

### BUILDING PERMIT ACTIVITY

COUNTY	MAY 2012*				APRIL 2012**			
	SINGLE FAMILY	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	RESIDENTIAL UNITS	RESIDENTIAL VALUE	SINGLE FAMILY	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	RESIDENTIAL UNITS	RESIDENTIAL VALUE
CHARLOTTE	29	0	0	\$5,692,223	37	0	0	\$7,401,087
COLLIER	135	1	10	\$41,806,196	100	6	40	\$30,619,385
GLADES	0	0	0	\$0	0	0	0	\$0
HENDRY	0	0	0	\$0	2	0	0	\$130,000
LEE	160	10	38	\$44,164,423	124	1	2	\$28,905,633
SARASOTA	87	1	2	\$24,860,850	69	0	0	\$21,173,829
REGION*	411	12	50	\$116,523,692	332	7	42	\$88,229,934

  

COUNTY	MAY 2011***				UNIT CHANGE		% CHANGE OF VALUE	
	SINGLE FAMILY	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	RESIDENTIAL UNITS	RESIDENTIAL VALUE	MAY. 12/ APR. 12	MAY. 11/ MAY. 12	APR. 12/ MAY. 12	MAY. 11/ MAY. 12
CHARLOTTE	37	0	0	\$4,951,930	-8	-8	-23.1%	14.9%
COLLIER	115	3	30	\$47,300,559	5	0	36.5%	-11.6%
GLADES	0	0	0	\$0	0	0	n/a	n/a
HENDRY	3	1	4	\$533,150	-2	-7	n/a	n/a
LEE	123	3	18	\$28,779,228	72	57	52.8%	53.5%
SARASOTA	67	8	20	\$26,095,995	20	2	17.4%	-4.7%
REGION*	345	15	72	\$107,660,862	87	44	32.1%	8.2%

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

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

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

\*\*\*All data is reported for May 2011.

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## SUMMARY ECONOMIC INDICATORS

INDICATORS	MAY 2012 (PRELIM)	MAY 2011 (REVISED)	% CHANGE
<b>UNEMPLOYMENT</b>			
State	8.5%	10.5%	-18.8%
Region	8.5%	10.5%	-16.8%
County			
Charlotte	8.7%	10.4%	-17.0%
Collier	7.8%	9.9%	-16.7%
Glades	9.0%	8.4%	-5.2%
Hendry	11.7%	13.4%	-11.6%
Lee	8.7%	10.9%	-16.9%
Sarasota	8.5%	10.4%	-17.6%
<b>LABOR FORCE</b>			
State	9,295,000	9,263,000	0.3%
Region	687,303	668,471	2.8%
<b>EMPLOYED</b>			
State	8,506,000	8,290,000	2.6%
Region	628,670	598,026	5.1%
<b>UNEMPLOYED</b>			
State	790,000	973,000	-18.8%
Region	58,633	70,445	-16.8%
<b>AIRPORT PASSENGERS</b>			
Region	650,287	706,115	-7.9%
S. W. Int'l Airport	531,946	587,633	-9.5%
Sarasota/Bradenton	110,855	105,272	5.3%
Charlotte County	7,486	13,210	-43.3%
<b>BUILDING PERMITS</b>			
Regional	297	360	-17.5%
Single Family	286	345	-17.1%
Multi-Family	11	15	-26.7%
<b>TOTAL VALUE</b>			
Residential	\$116,523,692	\$107,660,862	8.2%
All Permit Activity	\$453,043,635	\$230,640,846	96.4%
<b>REGIONAL SALES (\$000)</b>			
Taxable Sales	\$2,141,128	\$2,120,871	1.0%
Gross Sales	\$3,841,945	\$3,783,046	1.6%
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	229.8	226.0	1.7%
PRIME INTEREST RATE	3.25%	3.25%	0.0%

## ECONOMIC INDICATORS

