

Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council



Economic Views  
Happy Halloween

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

**Regional Broadband Planning | Recap and Updates**

FORT MYERS, FL – (October 19, 2012) – The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC) will be hosting the Regional Broadband Planning Meeting. The meeting aims to recap on the series of local workshops with the collaborative effort with Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC), and the Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC). The Florida Broadband Planning Project is a two-year project that will develop a structured, comprehensive process for a regional broadband plan, particularly for areas that have been traditionally underserved. The plan will develop and implement regional planning process, toolkits and training that can be integrated into the current work of the RPCs to assist regions to develop broadband plans. The project will inventory and document local broadband assets and broadband demand through an inclusive process that draws residents and institutional actors to develop a comprehensive regional plan.



Complete the Broadband Residential Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/residentialbroadband>  
 Complete the Broadband Business Survey: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SWF\\_BusinessBroadbandSurvey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SWF_BusinessBroadbandSurvey)

**Energy in Southwest Florida | Energy Resiliency Strategy**

FORT MYERS, FL – (November 2, 2012) – Join the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council for a workshop on Friday, November 2, 2012 from 10am to 2pm to discuss strategies appropriate to the region in the areas of: Power Alternatives and Resiliency, Motor Fuel Alternatives and Resiliency, Energy Conservation and Efficiency Investments. Having affordable and reliable energy is critical for Florida's economy. Regional councils in Florida, in association with the U.S. Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Energy and the Florida Office of Energy, are reviewing energy issues in each region and collecting recommendations for goals, strategies and measures to be assembled into a statewide energy resiliency strategy.

Registration is free and available at [www.swfrpc.org](http://www.swfrpc.org).  
 Contact Jennifer Pellechio [jpellechio@swfrpc.org](mailto:jpellechio@swfrpc.org) for more information.  
 Complete the Florida Energy Survey at <http://florida-energy.org/>



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**FESTIVALS & EVENTS**

September 24, 2011  
 NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY  
 J. N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge, Sanibel  
 Contact: 239-472-4135

September 28, 2012  
 Discovery Kayak Program  
 Lemon Bay Park, Englewood  
 Contact: 941-861-5000

September 29, 2012  
 National Estuaries Day  
 Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Naples  
 Contact: 239-417-6310

September 29, 2012  
 Sarasota County Sheriff's Dept. Animal Control Annual Adopt-a-thon!  
 Rothenbach Park, Sarasota  
 Contact: 941-861-9523

October 3, 2012  
 Sunset Celebration On The Pier  
 Cape Coral Yacht Club, Cape Coral  
 Contact : 239-574-0806

October 5, 2012  
 FORT MYERS ART WALK  
 Downtown Fort Myers  
 Contact: 239-332-0161



November 29, 2012  
 125th Anniversary Fundraiser: Lunch & dinner

November 15, 2012  
 DMA Gallery Walk and tree Lighting  
 Best Period/Holiday Dress contest  
 Lighted Bike Parade  
 Karen Freeman @ ACME Bike Shop;  
 ksfreeman50@yahoo.com  
 Thanksgiving Turkey pardoning

December 7, 2012  
 Traditional Family Friendly Tree Lighting / DB Sound & Stage 5:00-8:30 pm

December 8, 2012  
 Rocking Around the Christmas Tree - 3:00PM—9/10PM

October 5, 2012  
 6th Hungarian Festival  
 Sarasota County Fairgrounds, Sarasota  
 Contact: 941-320-8253

October 5-7, 2012  
 FORT MYERS BEACH PIRATE FEST  
 Fort Myers Beach  
 Contact: 727-322-5217

October 6, 2012  
 CAPE CORAL BIKE NIGHT  
 Cape Coral  
 Contact: 239-573-3123

October 7, 2012  
 Italian Festival - Alliance for the Arts  
 Fort Myers  
 Contact: 239-939-2787

October 13, 2012  
 10K race 4 F.I.S.H  
 Sanibel Community House, Sanibel  
 Contact: 239-472-4775

October 13, 2012  
 Peace Love and Paws Gala  
 Riverbend Motorcoach Resort, Punta Gorda  
 Contact: 863-675-0997

October 19-21 and 26-28, 2012  
 Oktoberfest  
 German-American Club, Pine Island  
 Contact: 239-283-140

October 20 & 21, 2012  
 18th Annual Downtown Sarasota Art & Craft Festival  
 Main Street in Downtown, Sarasota  
[www.Artfestival.com](http://www.Artfestival.com)



## Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council



# Economic Views

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## AIRPORT ACTIVITY

Airport passenger activity for the Southwest Florida Region decreased 10.8% in August 2012 from July 2012. Airport passengers visiting and leaving the region totaled 517,012 as compared to 579,735 in the previous month. All three airports reported a decrease in passenger activity from the previous month.

In August 2012, total airport activity for the region decreased 0.1% from the previous year. Sarasota/Brad. was the only airport to report a decrease in passenger activity from the previous year.

## UNEMPLOYMENT

The regional unemployment rate for August 2012 was 9.5%, which was lower than the revised rate of 9.7% for July 2012. Hendry County at 15.3%, had the highest unemployment rate in the six-county region, with Glades County second at 10.2%. Sarasota County had the lowest unemployment rate at 8.9%. The August 2012 regional unemployment rate of 9.5% was higher than the state at 9.0%. The regional unemployment rate decreased by 15.5% from August 2011 to August 2012, while the state rate decreased by 17.7% during the same time period.

### AIRPORT PASSENGERS

AIRPORT					% CHANGE JUL.12/ AUG.12
		AUG. 12	JUL. 12	AUG. 11	
S.W. Fla. Int'l	ARRIVALS	205,720	229,647	205,345	-10.6%
	DEPARTURES	215,491	235,249	214,760	-8.4%
Sarasota/ Bradenton	ARRIVALS	40,600	47,377	41,742	-14.3%
	DEPARTURES	41,070	48,810	42,756	-15.9%
Charlotte County	ARRIVALS	6,925	9,287	6,441	-25.4%
	DEPARTURES	7,206	9,365	6,501	-23.1%
AIRPORT TOTALS = ARRIVALS + DEPARTURES					
		AUG.12/		JUL. 11/	
		AUG. 12	JUL. 12	AUG. 11	JUL. 12
S.W. Fla. Int'l		421,211	464,896	420,105	-9.4%
Sarasota/Brad.		81,670	96,187	84,498	-15.1%
Charlotte County		14,131	18,652	12,942	-24.2%
REGION		517,012	579,735	517,545	-10.8%

SOURCE: Local Airport Authorities.

### LABOR FORCE FIGURES

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE		EMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT	
	AUG. 12 (PRELIM)	JUL. 12 (REVISED)	AUG. 12 (PRELIM)	JUL. 12 (REVISED)	AUG. 12 (PRELIM)	JUL. 12 (REVISED)
CHARLOTTE	69,075	70,439	62,682	63,882	6,393	6,557
COLLIER	147,487	148,398	133,359	133,966	14,128	14,432
GLADES	5,047	4,727	4,534	4,206	513	521
HENDRY	17,749	17,329	15,036	14,518	2,713	2,811
LEE	277,472	280,899	251,163	253,424	26,309	27,475
SARASOTA	160,391	161,340	146,179	146,805	14,212	14,535
REGION	677,221	683,132	612,953	616,801	64,268	66,331
STATE	9,311,000	9,358,000	8,477,000	8,481,000	834,000	877,000

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

COUNTY	% CHANGE*				
	AUG. 12 (PRELIM)	JUL. 12 (REVISED)	AUG. 11 (REVISED)	JUL.12/AUG. 11/ AUG. 12	AUG. 12 AUG. 12
CHARLOTTE	9.3%	9.3%	11.3%	-2.5%	-17.5%
COLLIER	9.6%	9.7%	11.9%	-2.1%	-13.7%
GLADES	10.2%	11.0%	9.3%	-1.5%	-6.2%
HENDRY	15.3%	16.2%	18.2%	-3.5%	-7.9%
LEE	9.5%	9.8%	11.5%	-4.2%	-15.7%
SARASOTA	8.9%	9.0%	10.8%	-2.2%	-17.4%
REGION	9.5%	9.7%	11.5%	-3.1%	-15.5%
STATE	9.0%	9.4%	10.9%	-4.9%	-17.7%

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 August 2012 increased by 0.6% from July 2012. The CPI-U for August 2012 was 230.4, an increase of 1.7% from August 2011.

### CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

GROUP	AUG.		JUL. 12/		AUG. 11/	
	12	JUL. 12	AUG. 11	AUG. 12	AUG. 12	AUG. 12
ALL ITEMS	230.4	229.1	226.5	0.6%	1.7%	
FOOD & BEVERAGES	234.1	233.6	229.5	0.2%	2.0%	
HOUSING	223.7	223.3	220.5	0.2%	1.4%	
APPAREL	123.6	122.3	121.5	1.1%	1.7%	
TRANSPORTATION	219.1	214.3	216.1	2.2%	1.4%	
MEDICAL CARE	417.1	416.8	400.9	0.1%	4.0%	
RECREATION	111.3	114.9	113.6	-3.1%	-2.0%	
EDUCATION/ COMMUN.	127.3	133.5	132.0	-4.6%	-3.6%	
OTHER GOODS/SVCS	426.8	395.4	387.1	7.9%	10.3%	

Purchasing power of the consumer dollar.

1982-1984= \$1.00 AUG 12= 0.440

1967= \$1.00 AUG 12= 0.148

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
CEDS Working 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 August 2012, gross and taxable sales in the region totaled approximately \$3.3 million and \$2.0 million, respectively. This is a 4.7% increase in gross sales and a 4.4% increase in taxable sales from August 2011. Glades County was the only one to report a decrease in gross sales and all counties reported an increase in taxable sales this month as compared to the previous year.

Gross sales in the region between August 2012 and July 2012 decreased 11.5%. Taxable sales decreased 7.5% 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 0.9% per capita. Real taxable sales decreased 1.3%.

### SALES ACTIVITY

COUNTY	AUG. 12		JUL. 12		AUG. 11		JUL. 12/		AUG. 2011/	
	(PRELIM)	(PRELIM)	(PRELIM)	(PRELIM)	(PRELIM)	(PRELIM)	AUG. 12	AUG. 2012	AUG. 2012	AUG. 2012
CHARLOTTE	262,957	296,510	252,059	-11.3%	4.3%					
COLLIER	757,791	821,553	702,796	-7.8%	7.8%					
GLADES	6,055	8,072	6,101	-25.0%	-0.8%					
HENDRY	105,950	103,236	80,412	2.6%	31.8%					
LEE	1,274,434	1,481,395	1,233,423	-14.0%	3.3%					
SARASOTA	848,285	967,035	834,583	-12.3%	1.6%					
REGION	3,255,472	3,677,801	3,109,375	-11.5%	4.7%					

COUNTY	AUG. 12		JUL. 12		AUG. 11		JUN. 12/		AUG. 2011/	
	(PRELIM)	(PRELIM)	(PRELIM)	(PRELIM)	(PRELIM)	(PRELIM)	JUL. 12	AUG. 2012	AUG. 2012	AUG. 2012
CHARLOTTE	142,760	154,428	134,902	-7.6%	5.8%					
COLLIER	407,594	450,677	406,752	-9.6%	0.2%					
GLADES	2,015	1,972	1,859	2.2%	8.4%					
HENDRY	20,051	24,011	17,426	-16.5%	15.1%					
LEE	730,256	788,274	687,549	-7.4%	6.2%					
SARASOTA	437,122	461,113	418,624	-5.2%	4.4%					
REGION	1,739,798	1,880,475	1,667,112	-7.5%	4.4%					

SOURCE: Florida Department of Tax Research.

## Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council



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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 2012, 325 residential permits were issued in Southwest Florida. This is 95 more permits than were issued in August 2011. The number of units covered by these permits increased by 94 from 284 in August 2011 to 378 in August 2012. Compared with the figures reported for July 2012, the number of units for August 2012 decreased by 95. From July 2012 to August 2012, permits issued decreased by 70.

The region reported a residential building valuation of \$130,147,976, in August 2012. This is an increase of 71.0% compared to the valuation of residential permits issued in August 2011, which totaled \$76,114,215.

### BUILDING PERMIT ACTIVITY

COUNTY	AUGUST 2012*			RESIDENTIAL VALUE	JULY 2012**			RESIDENTIAL VALUE
	SINGLE FAMILY PERMITS	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	UNITS		SINGLE FAMILY PERMITS	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	UNITS	
CHARLOTTE	7	0	0	\$2,331,457	8	0	0	\$2,510,137
COLLIER	116	4	18	\$85,824,056	125	6	78	\$45,146,220
GLADES	0	0	0	\$0	0	0	0	\$0
HENDRY	0	0	0	\$0	2	0	0	\$130,000
LEE	116	10	50	\$39,211,603	167	4	10	\$37,818,657
SARASOTA	71	1	0	\$2,780,860	83	0	0	\$32,291,711
REGION*	310	15	68	\$130,147,976	385	10	88	\$117,896,725

  

COUNTY	AUGUST 2011***			RESIDENTIAL VALUE	UNIT CHANGE		% CHANGE OF VALUE	
	SINGLE FAMILY PERMITS	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	UNITS		AUG. 12/ JUL. 12	AUG. 11/ JUL. 12	JUL. 12/ AUG. 12	AUG. 11/ AUG. 12
CHARLOTTE	7	0	0	\$5,093,588	-1	0	-7.1%	-54.2%
COLLIER	64	6	36	\$25,410,397	-69	34	90.1%	237.8%
GLADES	0	0	0	\$0	0	0	n/a	n/a
HENDRY	2	0	0	\$342,244	-2	-2	n/a	n/a
LEE	90	4	12	\$25,669,912	-11	64	3.7%	52.8%
SARASOTA	55	2	18	\$19,598,074	-12	-2	-91.4%	-85.8%
REGION*	218	12	66	\$76,114,215	-95	94	10.4%	71.0%

\*Data does not include Charlotte County, Everglades City, Labelle, Hendry County, Bonita Springs, Venice and Fort Myers Beach for August 2012.

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

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

\*\*\*Data does not include Everglades City for August 2011.

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## SUMMARY ECONOMIC INDICATORS

INDICATORS	AUGUST 2012	AUGUST 2011	% CHANGE
	(PRELIM)	(REVISED)	
<b>UNEMPLOYMENT</b>			
State	9.0%	10.9%	-17.7%
Region	9.5%	11.5%	-15.5%
County			
Charlotte	9.3%	11.3%	-17.5%
Collier	9.6%	11.9%	-13.7%
Glades	10.2%	9.3%	-6.2%
Hendry	15.3%	18.2%	-7.9%
Lee	9.5%	11.5%	-15.7%
Sarasota	8.9%	10.8%	-17.4%
<b>LABOR FORCE</b>			
State	9,311,000	9,255,000	0.6%
Region	677,221	658,869	2.8%
<b>EMPLOYED</b>			
State	8,477,000	8,242,000	2.9%
Region	612,953	582,856	5.2%
<b>UNEMPLOYED</b>			
State	834,000	1,013,000	-17.7%
Region	64,268	76,013	-15.5%
<b>AIRPORT PASSENGERS</b>			
Region	517,012	517,545	-0.1%
S. W. Int'l Airport	421,211	420,105	0.3%
Sarasota/Bradenton	81,670	84,498	-3.3%
Charlotte County	14,131	12,942	9.2%
<b>BUILDING PERMITS</b>			
Regional	325	230	41.3%
Single Family	310	218	42.2%
Multi-Family	15	12	25.0%
<b>TOTAL VALUE</b>			
Residential	\$130,147,976	\$76,114,215	71.0%
All Permit Activity	\$220,369,667	\$201,990,944	9.1%
<b>REGIONAL SALES (\$000)</b>			
Taxable Sales	\$1,739,798	\$1,667,112	4.4%
Gross Sales	\$3,255,472	\$3,109,375	4.7%
<b>CONSUMER PRICE INDEX</b>			
	230.4	226.5	1.7%
<b>PRIME INTEREST RATE</b>			
	3.25%	3.25%	0.0%

## ECONOMIC INDICATORS

