



# Economic Views

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## Energy in Southwest Florida | Energy Resiliency Strategy Workshop

FORT MYERS, FL (November 2, 2012)

### Project Scope and Purpose:

The Energy Resiliency workshop held in Southwest Florida on November 2nd 2012 was an incredible success. The objective of the workshop was to discuss alternative scenarios and develop strategies intended to diversify energy sources, reduce reliance on foreign imports, increase use of domestic energy sources, create jobs from domestic energy usage, and provide alternative, renewable, local energy sources.

The workshop was a collaborative effort of Southwest Florida and Central Florida Regional Planning Councils, and the Local Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA). The attendees of the workshop were identified as stakeholders and asked to present alternative solutions to energy problems and provide input for the development of implementation strategies. The energy experts in attendance spoke about their respective energy resiliency strategies as they related to the areas of power generation fuel alternatives and resiliency efforts, vehicle fuel alternatives, energy conservation and efficiency, and investments, financing and commercialization alternatives. The outcomes of the workshop will identify the most viable energy resiliency strategies, along with modeled scenarios, and will be put into a Statewide Plan as a finished product available in February 2012.

The workshop attendees were placed into four break-out groups and asked to provide 3-5 strategies for the following topics: Fuel Alternatives and Resiliency, Vehicle Fuel Alternatives, Energy Conservation and Efficiency, and Investments, Financing, and Commercialization. The identified strategies will be evaluated and put into the Statewide Energy Resiliency Plan.

A total of 45 attendees were present at the event. 25 persons of interest, 10 presenters, 9 staff members, and a representative from American Planning Association (APA). Eligible parties received APA credits for attending the event.

For more information: Jennifer Pellechio [jpellechio@swfrpc.org](mailto:jpellechio@swfrpc.org).

Complete the Florida Energy Survey at <http://florida-energy.org/>

## FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Happy  
Thanksgiving

Nov 17-18, 2012  
 BASS BUSTERS TEAM TOURNAMENT  
 Roland & Mary Ann Martin's Marina, Clewiston  
 Contact: Chris Fickey 941-232-9539

Nov 17-25, 2012  
 21ST ANNUAL BIG "O" HIKE  
 Clewiston  
 Contact: Paul Cummings, 561-963-9906

Nov 29, 2012  
 CITY OF PUNTA GORDA'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY  
 Punta Gorda  
 Contact: Rachel Keesling, 941-628-1141

Dec 1, 2012  
 ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING, MARCO ISLAND  
 Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve  
 Marco Island  
 Contact: 239-417-6310

Dec 8, 2012  
 ANNUAL MARCO ISLAND HOLIDAY BOAT PARADE  
 Marco Island  
 Contact: 239-417-6310

Dec 8, 2012  
 ROOKERY BAY ADVENTURE RACE  
 Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve  
 Naples  
 Contact: 239-293-6232

Dec 14, 2012  
 Movie in the Park  
 DR. SEUSS HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS  
 Veterans Community Park, Marco Island  
 Contact:

Dec 8, 2012  
 HOLIDAY BOAT PARADE  
 Fish Trap Bay Imperial River, Bonita Springs  
 Contact: 239-293-6232

Nov 30 - Dec 2 & 7-9  
 THE NUTCRACKER  
 Firehouse Community Theater, LaBelle FL  
 Contact: 863-675-3066

Dec 7, 2012  
 SANIBEL LUMINARY FESTIVAL  
 Sanibel  
 Contact:

Dec 8, 2012  
 ANNUAL MARCO ISLAND HOLIDAY BOAT PARADE  
 Snook Inn, Marco Island  
 Contact: 239-394-7549

Dec 1, 2012  
 32ND ANNUAL FARM TOUR  
 LaBelle  
 Contact: Debra Cabrera 863-674-4092  
 Dec 8, 2012  
 Marine Industries Christmas Boat Parade on Naples  
 Bay  
 Naples  
 Contact: Summer Hoglund 239-682-0900

Dec 8, 2012  
 15TH WINTER WONDERLAND 2012  
 Clewiston  
 Contact: 863-599-8698

Dec 1 - 31  
 "FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS"  
 Fisherman's Village, Punta Gorda  
 Contact: 941-639-8721

Nov - Dec 13, 2012  
 "FLORIDA'S BEST" EXHIBITION  
 Englewood Art Center, Englewood  
 Contact: 941-474-5548

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## AIRPORT ACTIVITY

Airport passenger activity for the Southwest Florida Region decreased 16.7% in September 2012 from August 2012. Airport passengers visiting and leaving the region totaled 430,678 as compared to 517,012 in the previous month. All three airports reported a decrease in passenger activity from the previous month.

In September 2012, total airport activity for the region decreased 0.9% 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 September 2012 was 9.2%, which was lower than the revised rate of 9.5% for August 2012. Hendry County at 14.2%, had the highest unemployment rate in the six-county region, with Glades County second at 10.1%. Sarasota County had the lowest unemployment rate at 8.7%. The September 2012 regional unemployment rate of 9.2% was higher than the state at 8.6%. The regional unemployment rate decreased by 15.3% from September 2011 to September 2012, while the state rate decreased by 18.2% during the same time period.

### AIRPORT PASSENGERS

AIRPORT		AUG. 12		% CHANGE	
		SEP. 12	AUG. 12	SEP. 11	SEP. 12
S.W. Fla. Int'l	ARRIVALS	178,360	205,720	176,719	-14.1%
	DEPARTURES	176,280	215,491	175,162	-18.2%
Sarasota/Bradenton	ARRIVALS	32,907	40,600	36,923	-18.9%
	DEPARTURES	32,260	41,070	36,573	-21.5%
Punta Gorda	ARRIVALS	5,460	6,925	4,872	-21.2%
	DEPARTURES	5,411	7,206	4,537	-24.9%

AIRPORT TOTALS = ARRIVALS + DEPARTURES

	AUG. 12		SEP. 11/		
	SEP. 12	AUG. 12	SEP. 11	SEP. 12	SEP. 12
S.W. Fla. Int'l	354,640	421,211	351,881	-15.8%	0.8%
Sarasota/Brad.	65,167	81,670	73,496	-20.2%	-11.3%
Punta Gorda	10,871	14,131	9,409	-23.1%	15.5%
REGION	430,678	517,012	434,786	-16.7%	-0.9%

SOURCE: Local Airport Authorities.

### LABOR FORCE FIGURES

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE		EMPLOYMENT		UNEMPLOYMENT	
	SEPT. 12	AUG. 12	SEPT. 12	AUG. 12	SEPT. 12	AUG. 12
	(PRELIM)	(REVISED)	(PRELIM)	(REVISED)	(PRELIM)	(REVISED)
CHARLOTTE	69,511	69,092	63,226	62,666	6,285	6,426
COLLIER	148,835	147,450	135,061	133,168	13,774	14,282
GLADES	4,817	4,700	4,329	4,189	488	511
HENDRY	18,040	17,608	15,474	14,877	2,566	2,731
LEE	280,546	277,812	254,933	251,364	25,613	26,448
SARASOTA	162,258	160,460	148,149	146,208	14,109	14,252
REGION	684,007	677,122	621,172	612,472	62,835	64,650
STATE	9,382,000	9,314,000	8,575,000	8,477,000	807,000	837,000

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

COUNTY	% CHANGE*			
	SEPT. 12	AUG. 12	SEPT. 11	AUG.12/ SEPT. 11/
	(PRELIM)	(REVISED)	(REVISED)	SEPT. 12 SEPT.12
CHARLOTTE	9.0%	9.3%	11.2%	-2.2% -18.7%
COLLIER	9.3%	9.7%	11.4%	-3.6% -14.1%
GLADES	10.1%	10.9%	8.7%	-4.5% -7.8%
HENDRY	14.2%	15.5%	11.9%	-6.0% 82.6%
LEE	9.1%	9.5%	11.3%	-3.2% -17.3%
SARASOTA	8.7%	8.9%	11.0%	-1.0% -19.4%
REGION	9.2%	9.5%	11.2%	-2.8% -15.3%
STATE	8.6%	9.0%	10.6%	-3.6% -18.2%

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 September 2012 increased by 0.4% from August 2012. The CPI-U for September 2012 was 231.4, an increase of 2.0% from September 2011.

### CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

GROUP	% CHANGE				
	SEP. 12	AUG. 12	SEP. 11	AUG. 12/ SEP. 11	SEP. 12
ALL ITEMS	231.4	230.4	226.9	0.4%	2.0%
FOOD & BEVERAGES	234.2	234.0	230.4	0.1%	1.6%
HOUSING	223.9	223.7	220.5	0.1%	1.5%
APPAREL	128.6	123.6	125.3	4.1%	2.7%
TRANSPORTATION	221.7	219.1	215.2	1.2%	3.0%
MEDICAL CARE	418.0	417.1	401.6	0.2%	4.1%
RECREATION	115.0	114.9	113.4	0.0%	1.4%
EDUCATION/ COMMUN.	134.6	134.0	132.6	0.4%	1.5%
OTHER GOODS/SVCS	396.2	396.2	388.6	0.0%	2.0%

Purchasing power of the consumer dollar.

1982-1984= \$1.00 SEP 12= 0.432

1967= \$1.00 SEP 12= 0.144

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 September 2012, gross and taxable sales in the region totaled approximately \$3.3 million and \$1.7 million, respectively. This is a 4.3% increase in gross sales and a 7.1% increase in taxable sales from September 2011. Hendry County was the only one to report a decrease in gross sales and Glades County was the only one to report a decrease in taxable sales this month as compared to the previous year.

Gross sales in the region between September 2012 and August 2012 increased 0.3%. Taxable sales decreased 1.4% during the same period. By incorporating the change in the cost of living (1.99%) and the average annual population growth rate (2.3%) for the same time period, real gross sales increased 0.1% per capita. Real taxable sales increased 2.7%.

### SALES ACTIVITY

COUNTY	% CHANGE				
	SEP. 12 (PRELIM)	AUG. 12 (PRELIM)	SEP. 11 (PRELIM)	AUG. 12/ SEP. 12	SEP. 2011/ SEP. 2012
CHARLOTTE	263,204	262,957	245,170	0.1%	7.4%
COLLIER	745,948	757,791	709,301	-1.6%	5.2%
GLADES	5,869	6,055	5,689	-3.1%	3.2%
HENDRY	58,085	105,950	85,721	-45.2%	-32.2%
LEE	1,290,106	1,274,434	1,215,887	1.2%	6.1%
SARASOTA	900,918	848,285	866,444	6.2%	4.0%
REGION	3,264,130	3,255,472	3,128,212	0.3%	4.3%

COUNTY	% CHANGE				
	SEP. 12 (PRELIM)	AUG. 12 (PRELIM)	SEP. 11 (PRELIM)	AUG. 12/ SEP. 12	SEP. 2011/ SEP. 2012
CHARLOTTE	139,238	142,760	128,004	-2.5%	8.8%
COLLIER	387,918	407,594	372,302	-4.8%	4.2%
GLADES	1,963	2,015	2,199	-2.6%	-10.7%
HENDRY	20,770	20,051	18,273	3.6%	13.7%
LEE	717,906	730,256	673,078	-1.7%	6.7%
SARASOTA	448,126	437,122	407,966	2.5%	9.8%
REGION	1,715,921	1,739,798	1,601,822	-1.4%	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 September 2012, 337 residential permits were issued in Southwest Florida. This is 84 more permits than were issued in September 2011. The number of units covered by these permits decreased by 3 from 361 in September 2011 to 358 in September 2012. Compared with the figures reported for August 2012, the number of units for September 2012 decreased by 34. From August 2012 to September 2012, permits issued decreased by 1.

The region reported a residential building valuation of \$174,129,739, in September 2012. This is an decrease of 4.6% compared to the valuation of residential permits issued in September 2011, which totaled \$77,714,979.

### BUILDING PERMIT ACTIVITY

COUNTY	SEPTEMBER 2012*				AUGUST 2012**			
	SINGLE FAMILY PERMITS	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	RESIDENTIAL UNITS	RESIDENTIAL VALUE	SINGLE FAMILY PERMITS	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	RESIDENTIAL UNITS	RESIDENTIAL VALUE
CHARLOTTE	5	0	0	\$1,661,464	7	0	0	\$2,331,457
COLLIER	85	2	7	\$27,232,377	116	4	18	\$85,824,056
GLADES	2	0	0	\$221,000	0	0	0	\$0
HENDRY	0	0	0	\$0	1	10	0	\$233,130
LEE	134	7	22	\$42,234,038	129	0	50	\$43,062,622
SARASOTA	101	1	2	\$2,780,860	71		0	\$2,780,860
REGION*	327	10	31	\$74,129,739	324	14	68	\$134,232,125
COUNTY	SEPTEMBER 2011***				UNIT CHANGE		% CHANGE OF VALUE	
	SINGLE FAMILY PERMITS	MULTI-FAMILY PERMITS	RESIDENTIAL UNITS	RESIDENTIAL VALUE	SEPT. 12/ AUG. 12	SEPT. 11/ AUG. 12/ SEPT. 12	SEPT. 11/ SEPT. 12	SEPT. 11/ SEPT. 12
CHARLOTTE	25	0	0	\$6,229,875	-2	-20	-28.7%	-73.3%
COLLIER	65	4	32	\$25,362,081	-42	-5	-68.3%	7.4%
GLADES	0	0	0	\$0	2	2	n/a	n/a
HENDRY	2	4	0	\$356,185	-1	-2	n/a	n/a
LEE	95	0	84	\$27,851,192	-23	-23	-1.9%	51.6%
SARASOTA	58		0	\$17,915,646	32	45	0.0%	-84.5%
REGION*	245	8	116	\$77,714,979	-34	-3	-44.8%	-4.6%

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

\*\*\*Data does not include Everglades City and Labelle for September 2011.

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## SUMMARY ECONOMIC INDICATORS

## ECONOMIC INDICATORS

INDICATORS	SEPTEMBER 2012	SEPTEMBER 2011	% CHANGE
	(PRELIM)	(REVISED)	
<b>UNEMPLOYMENT</b>			
State	8.6%	10.6%	-18.2%
Region	9.2%	11.2%	-15.3%
County			
Charlotte	9.0%	11.2%	-18.7%
Collier	9.3%	11.4%	-14.1%
Glades	10.1%	8.7%	-7.8%
Hendry	14.2%	11.9%	82.6%
Lee	9.1%	11.3%	-17.3%
Sarasota	8.7%	11.0%	-19.4%
<b>LABOR FORCE</b>			
State	9,382,000	9,288,000	1.0%
Region	684,007	661,160	3.5%
<b>EMPLOYED</b>			
State	8,575,000	8,301,000	3.3%
Region	621,172	586,986	5.8%
<b>UNEMPLOYED</b>			
State	807,000	987,000	-18.2%
Region	62,835	74,174	-15.3%
<b>AIRPORT PASSENGERS</b>			
Region	430,678	434,786	-0.9%
S. W. Int'l Airport	354,640	351,881	0.8%
Sarasota/Bradenton	65,167	73,496	-11.3%
Charlotte County	10,871	9,409	15.5%
<b>BUILDING PERMITS</b>			
Regional	337	253	33.2%
Single Family	327	245	33.5%
Multi-Family	10	8	25.0%
<b>TOTAL VALUE</b>			
Residential	\$74,129,739	\$77,714,979	-4.6%
All Permit Activity	\$166,178,198	\$160,094,173	3.8%
<b>REGIONAL SALES (\$000)</b>			
Taxable Sales	\$1,715,921	\$1,601,822	7.1%
Gross Sales	\$3,264,130	\$3,128,212	4.3%
<b>CONSUMER PRICE INDEX</b>			
	231.4	226.9	2.0%
<b>PRIME INTEREST RATE</b>			
	3.25%	3.25%	0.0%

