



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 8, 2012

CONTACT: Alyssa Brown, Workforce Florida Inc., (850) 414-8301
James Miller, Department of Economic Opportunity, (850) 617-5600

Latest Job Placement Report Shows More Floridians Getting Back to Work

In January 2012, regional workforce boards assist nearly 33,000 people who found jobs, up from 25,000 in December 2011

TALLAHASSEE – As evidence of their continued focus on helping unemployed Floridians get to work, the state’s 24 regional workforce boards reported nearly 33,000 job placements for the month of January 2012 – an increase of more than 30 percent from the previous month, when more than 25,000 people who received assistance found jobs.

“This is encouraging news for job seekers and their families, and a clear indication that Florida is headed in the right direction,” said Governor Rick Scott. “One of my top priorities during the 2012 legislative session is to transform Florida’s unemployment system into one that is focused on re-employment. I am confident that working with the Legislature we are going to get this accomplished and get even more Floridians back to work.”

The results from the Monthly Job Placement Report for January show consistent progress, with 32,965 individuals placed in jobs including 6,536 people who were receiving unemployment compensation. The new Monthly Job Placement Report was developed at the Governor’s direction by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and Workforce Florida Inc.

“Florida’s nationally recognized workforce system is diligently working to connect job seekers and employers, as demonstrated by the efforts of every regional workforce board and the one-stop career centers they direct,” said Chris Hart IV, President/CEO of Workforce Florida, the state’s chief workforce policy organization. “As Governor Scott continues to emphasize, the collective work of our workforce and business partners is essential to our state’s economic recovery. I applaud January’s top-ranked regional workforce boards for excelling at linking Floridians with employment opportunities.”

The top 10 ranked regional workforce boards for reported job placements in January 2012 are:

1. South Florida Workforce – Miami-Dade and Monroe counties – Board Chair Alvin West and Executive Director Rick Beasley
2. Pasco Hernando Workforce Board – Pasco and Hernando counties – Board Chair Lex Smith and President/CEO Jerome Salatino

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3. Chipola Regional Workforce Development Board – Calhoun, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty and Washington counties – Board Chair Darrin Wall and Executive Director Richard Williams
4. WORKFORCE *plus* – Gadsden, Leon and Wakulla counties – Board Chair Barb Edwards and CEO Kimberly Moore
5. WorkNet Pinellas – Board Chair Dr. Tony Leisner and President/CEO Ed Peachey
6. Workforce One – Broward County – Board Chair Gary Arenson and President/CEO Mason Jackson
7. FloridaWorks – Alachua and Bradford counties – Board Chair Dr. Maggie Labarta and Executive Director Angela Pate
8. Gulf Coast Workforce Development Board – Bay, Franklin and Gulf counties – Board Chair Gary Ross and Executive Director Kimberly Bodine
9. Workforce Solutions – Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee and St. Lucie counties – Board Chair Soma Gail Melnick and President/CEO Richard Stetson
10. Florida Crown Workforce Board – Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist and Union counties – Board Chair Jennie Reed and Executive Director John Chastain

The Monthly Job Placement Report was developed in response to Governor Scott’s call for enhanced measurement of performance outcomes in workforce development that bolster the state’s economic recovery and growth.

The goal of the report is to highlight and share job-placement achievement so that regional workforce boards and other workforce system partners can identify and replicate best practices and strategies that connect job seekers with employment. The data provides further confirmation that the state’s economy is heading in the right direction, and reinforces the positive job growth shown in December when Florida added 7,300 jobs over the month and unemployment declined to 9.9 percent — the lowest rate since 2009.

South Florida Workforce is ranked No. 1 for the first time since the inception of the 3-month-old Monthly Job Placement Report, up from its No. 2 ranking in December 2011.

Executive Director Rick Beasley says the board’s job-placement performance has been enhanced by improving the efficiency and effectiveness of its work through new, customized performance-based management tools. For example, by evaluating how timely workforce professionals, who staff the one-stop career centers, match qualified job candidates with businesses seeking to hire, management can quickly identify areas for improvement. Workforce professionals also are measured on engaging in consistent direct outreach to ensure job seekers are taking full advantage of the workforce services available to assist them, often at no charge.

“We have instituted a number of management tools and process improvements that allow us to raise the quality of our customer service and increase opportunities to help employers find the job candidate with the skills and experience they are looking for in a successful hire,” said Beasley. “I also cannot say enough about the strong collaboration that exists among our board and partners throughout the region, which helps to drive our innovative efforts and positive outcomes.”

Florida’s workforce system is made up of Workforce Florida, the statewide workforce investment board; the Department of Economic Opportunity, responsible for policy implementation, administrative and fiscal management; and the 24 regional workforce boards and nearly 100 one-stop career centers, charged with the design and delivery of local workforce services.

To view the monthly report and a list of Frequently Asked Questions, go to www.floridajobs.org/workforce-board-resources/program-monitoring-and-reports/monthly-regional-workforce-board-job-placement-reports.

For more information on Workforce Florida or its state and local workforce partners, go to WorkforceFlorida.com. Please visit EmployFlorida.com to list a job opening or search for jobs and access a wide array of workforce resources.

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About Workforce Florida

Workforce Florida Inc. is the statewide workforce investment board of business and government leaders charged with overseeing Florida's workforce system, which includes the Department of Economic Opportunity, 24 Regional Workforce Boards and nearly 100 One-Stop Career Centers. Workforce Florida’s mission is to develop strategies that help Floridians enter, remain and advance in the workforce to support economic development and strengthen the state's business climate. Learn more about Florida's workforce resources and solutions at www.EmployFlorida.com.

Workforce Florida is an equal opportunity employer. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. The voice telephone numbers in this document may be reached by persons using TTY/TDD equipment via the Florida Relay Service at 711.