COMMUNICATION PACKAGE
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MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT: March 2015

OUTREACH

- Began developing the Spring 2015 electronic newsletter, which will be issued in early April.
- Worked with staff from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Office of Energy, on a U.S. Department of Energy grant application to develop an Energy Efficiency Financing Guide for Florida Local Governments.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING

- To enhance partnerships and strengthen the relationship between regional planning councils and their state and federal partners, participated in or attending the following: a meeting of the Florida Transportation Commission and Enterprise Florida, Inc.'s monthly teleconference. FRCA was also represented at meetings of the Rural Economic Development Initiative and Florida Defense Support Task Force.
- Distributed funding announcements from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Commerce, and U.S. Department of Environmental Protection.

LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

- Provided support to FRCA's Executive Director, Ron Book, and Brian Teeple, Chief Executive Officer of the Northeast Florida Regional Council and Chair of the FRCA Executive Directors Advisory Committee, to address request for information pertaining to Senate Bill 484 and House Bill 933, pertaining to regional planning councils.
- At the request of the South Florida Regional Planning Council, developed talking points for Senate Bill 484.
- Completed House Budget Issue forms for regional planning council funding.
- Developed a list of U.S. Economic Development Administration projects that were funded due to direct involvement of a regional planning council to support those talking points.
- Attended the Small County Coalition's annual legislative luncheon.
- Attended/monitored numerous committee meetings in the Florida Senate and Florida House of Representatives and reviewed and summarized relevant pieces of legislation as needed.
- Created and distributed two Legislative Highlights reports covering the first four weeks of the Legislative Session and issued weekly versions of FRCA's bill tracking report.

Florida Regional Councils Association
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
Monthly Activity Report
March 2015

ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT

- Sent FRCA new membership orientation packets to Commissioner Tod Mowery, Indian River County (TCRPC), Mr. Michael Davis, Gubernatorial Appointee (TCRPC), Mr. Toby Overdorf (TCRPC), and Ms. Lisa Miller, Gubernatorial Appointee (ARPC).
- Began developing a FRCA Operations and Procedures Manual.
- Updated the FRCA Website to address regular maintenance issues and post meeting agendas and summaries.
- Prepared for and participated in the March 12-13 FRCA meetings.
- Finalized the logistics, secured speakers, developed agendas, and drafted meeting summaries for the April 9-10, 2015 FRCA meetings.
- Secured exhibit hall space and speakers for the June 19, 2015 FRCA meeting, which will be held in conjunction with the Florida Association of Counties Annual Conference in Ponte Vedra Beach.
- Secured a hotel room block and meeting location for the July 10, 2015 FRCA Policy Board meeting, which will be held in Altamonte Springs.

Unemployment Summary - Treasure Coast Region
March 27, 2015

Highlights

- **Unemployment falls to 5.3 in February, down from 6.7 in previous year.**
- **27,200 new nonagricultural jobs year over year from February 2014 to February 2015**
- **Job gains primarily in education and health services; professional and business services; leisure and hospitality; construction; and trade, transportation and utilities.**

- This unemployment summary is derived from statistical reports - *Overview of the CareerSource Research Coast Region* (Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, and St. Lucie counties) and *Overview of CareerSource Palm Beach County Region* (Palm Beach County) prepared by the two workforce development boards in the Treasure Coast Region. Their respective reports follow this regional summary.

- The unemployment rate for the Treasure Coast Region was 5.3 percent in February 2015, down 1.4 percentage points from the February 2014 rate of 6.7 percent. The Region's unemployment rate was 0.2 percent lower than the state's unemployment rate of 5.5 percent and 0.5 percentage points lower than the national unemployment rate of 5.8 percent. Out of a labor force of 945,966, there were 50,562 unemployed residents in the Treasure Coast Region.

- The Treasure Coast Region contains three metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), the Port St. Lucie MSA (Martin and St. Lucie counties), the Sebastian-Vero Beach MSA (Indian River County), and the West Palm Beach – Boca Raton-Boynton Beach MSA (Palm Beach County). In February 2015, nonagricultural employment in the combined metropolitan areas of the Region was 763,100, an increase of 27,200 jobs over the previous year.

Unemployment Rates*			
Geographic Area	**February 2015**	**January 2015**	**February 2014**
Indian River	6.4	6.7	8.1
Martin	5.5	5.7	6.4
Palm Beach	5.0	5.3	6.3
St. Lucie	6.4	6.8	8.7
Treasure Coast Region	5.3	5.6	6.7
Florida	5.5	5.8	6.6
United States	5.8	6.1	7.0

Source: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Local Area Unemployment Statistics.
* Not seasonally adjusted.

- In the combined metropolitan areas, job gains were primarily in the education and health services (+4,200); professional and business services (+9,100); leisure and hospitality (+2,000); construction (+2,100); and trade, transportation and utilities (+4,600).

- The industry that lost jobs over the year was information (-300 jobs).

- **Port St. Lucie Metro Area:**

  Annual employment growth in professional and business services (+10.1 percent); other services (+8.6 percent);education and health services (+6.2 percent); trade, transportation, and utilities (+4.2 percent); financial activities (+3.9 percent); and manufacturing (+1.7 percent) were faster in the metro area than statewide. The Port St. Lucie metro area had the highest annual growth rate in other services employment (+8.6 percent) out of all metro areas in Florida.

- **Sebastian-Vero Beach Metro Area:**

  Employment in professional and business services (+6.3 percent); manufacturing (+4.8 percent); financial activities (+4.4 percent); and trade, transportation, and utilities (+4.1 percent) grew faster in the metro area than in the state.

- **West Palm Beach-Boca Raton – Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division:**

  Employment growth in the West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach Metropolitan Division was strongest in the construction industry, which increased 7.8 percent over the year.

Overview of the CareerSource Research Coast Region
Not Seasonally Adjusted
March 27, 2015

- The unemployment rate in the CareerSource Research Coast region (Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, and St. Lucie counties) was 6.2 percent in February 2015. The February 2015 rate was 1.7 percentage points below the region's year ago rate of 7.9 percent, but 0.7 percentage point above the February 2015 state rate of 5.5 percent. Out of a labor force of 277,921, there were 17,169 unemployed residents in the region.
- Unemployment rates in the counties that make up the CareerSource Research Coast region were: 6.4 percent in St. Lucie and Indian River counties; 6.3 percent in Okeechobee County; and 5.5 percent in Martin County.
- The CareerSource Research Coast region contains two metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs); the Port St. Lucie MSA (Martin and St. Lucie counties) and the Sebastian-Vero Beach MSA (Indian River County). Okeechobee County is not included in an MSA. In February 2015, nonagricultural employment in the combined CareerSource Research Coast metro areas was 183,800, an increase of 6,800 jobs over the previous year.
- In the combined CareerSource Research Coast metro areas, eight of ten industries gained jobs over the year. Professional and business services (+1,800 jobs) gained the most jobs, followed by trade, transportation, and utilities (+1,600 jobs); education and health services (+1,500 jobs); other services (+700 jobs); mining, logging, and construction (+400 jobs); financial activities and leisure and hospitality (+300 jobs each); and manufacturing (+200 jobs). Government and information were unchanged over the year.

Port St. Lucie metro area

- The majority of the nonagricultural employment in the CareerSource Research Coast region was in the Port St. Lucie metro area. This metro area accounted for 135,400 jobs in February 2015, an increase of 5,700 jobs from February 2014 (+4.4 percent). Statewide employment increased by 3.6 percent over the year.
- Eight industries gained jobs in the Port St. Lucie metro area over the year. Professional and business services (+1,500 jobs) gained the most jobs, followed by education and health services (+1,400 jobs); trade, transportation, and utilities (+1,200 jobs); other services (+600 jobs); mining, logging, and construction (+400 jobs); leisure and hospitality (+300 jobs); financial activities (+200 jobs); and manufacturing (+100 jobs). Government and information were unchanged over the year.
- Annual employment growth in professional and business services (+10.1 percent); other services (+8.6 percent); education and health services (+6.2 percent); trade, transportation, and utilities (+4.2 percent); financial activities (+3.9 percent); and manufacturing (+1.7 percent) were faster in the metro area than statewide. The Port St. Lucie metro area had the highest annual growth rate in other services employment (+8.6 percent) out of all metro areas in Florida.

Sebastian-Vero Beach metro area

- Nonagricultural employment was 48,400 in the Sebastian-Vero Beach metro area in February 2015, an increase of 1,100 jobs (+2.3 percent) from the previous year. The state had a 3.6 percent increase in the number of jobs over the same period.
- Six industries gained jobs over the year including trade, transportation, and utilities (+400 jobs); professional and business services (+300 jobs); and education and health services; other services; financial activities; and manufacturing (+100 jobs each). Leisure and hospitality; mining, logging, and construction; government; and information were unchanged over the year.
- Employment in professional and business services (+6.3 percent); manufacturing (+4.8 percent); financial activities (+4.4 percent); and trade, transportation, and utilities (+4.1 percent) grew faster in the metro area than in the state.

Note: All data are subject to revision.
Source: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Labor Market Statistics.

Unemployment Rates (%) (not seasonally adjusted)	Feb-15	Jan-15	Feb-14
CareerSource Research Coast	6.2	6.5	7.9
Indian River County	6.4	6.7	8.1
Martin County	5.5	5.7	6.4
Okeechobee County	6.3	6.7	7.3
St. Lucie County	6.4	6.8	8.7
Florida	5.5	5.8	6.6
United States	5.8	6.1	7.0

	Port St. Lucie Metropolitan Statistical Area				Sebastian-Vero Beach Metropolitan Statistical Area			
Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (not seasonally adjusted)	Feb-15	Feb-14	change	percent change	Feb-15	Feb-14	change	percent change
Total Employment	135,400	129,700	5,700	4.4	48,400	47,300	1,100	2.3
Mining, Logging, and Construction	8,300	7,900	400	5.1	3,000	3,000	0	0.0
Manufacturing	6,000	5,900	100	1.7	2,200	2,100	100	4.8
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	29,800	28,600	1,200	4.2	10,200	9,800	400	4.1
Wholesale Trade	4,900	5,000	-100	-2.0	800	800	0	0.0
Retail Trade	20,700	19,600	1,100	5.6	8,600	8,300	300	3.6
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	4,200	4,000	200	5.0	800	700	100	14.3
Information	1,400	1,400	0	0.0	600	600	0	0.0
Financial Activities	5,400	5,200	200	3.9	2,400	2,300	100	4.4
Professional and Business Services	16,400	14,900	1,500	10.1	5,100	4,800	300	6.3
Education and Health Services	23,900	22,500	1,400	6.2	9,500	9,400	100	1.1
Leisure and Hospitality	17,600	17,300	300	1.7	7,300	7,300	0	0.0
Other Services	7,600	7,000	600	8.6	2,800	2,700	100	3.7
Government	19,000	19,000	0	0.0	5,300	5,300	0	0.0

	CareerSource Research Coast Combined Metropolitan Statistical Areas				Florida			
Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (not seasonally adjusted)	Feb-15	Feb-14	change	percent change	Feb-15	Feb-14	change	percent change
Total Employment	183,800	177,000	6,800	3.8	8,015,000	7,735,100	279,900	3.6
Mining, Logging, and Construction	11,300	10,900	400	3.7	414,700	385,100	29,600	7.7
Manufacturing	8,200	8,000	200	2.5	331,400	328,200	3,200	1.0
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	40,000	38,400	1,600	4.2	1,655,500	1,600,000	55,500	3.5
Wholesale Trade	5,700	5,800	-100	-1.7	334,800	324,600	10,200	3.1
Retail Trade	29,300	27,900	1,400	5.0	1,062,800	1,024,500	38,300	3.7
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	5,000	4,700	300	6.4	257,900	250,900	7,000	2.8
Information	2,000	2,000	0	0.0	135,000	136,100	-1,100	-0.8
Financial Activities	7,800	7,500	300	4.0	530,600	514,400	16,200	3.2
Professional and Business Services	21,500	19,700	1,800	9.1	1,190,300	1,140,400	49,900	4.4
Education and Health Services	33,400	31,900	1,500	4.7	1,196,200	1,145,300	50,900	4.4
Leisure and Hospitality	24,900	24,600	300	1.2	1,120,700	1,070,900	49,800	4.7
Other Services	10,400	9,700	700	7.2	334,900	320,500	14,400	4.5
Government	24,300	24,300	0	0.0	1,105,700	1,094,200	11,500	1.1

Population	2014	2013	change	percent change
CareerSource Research Coast	611,649	608,576	3,073	0.5
Indian River County	140,955	139,586	1,369	1.0
Martin County	148,585	148,077	508	0.3
Okeechobee County	39,828	39,762	66	0.2
St. Lucie County	282,281	281,151	1,130	0.4
Florida	19,507,369	19,259,543	247,826	1.3

Average Annual Wage	2013	2012	change	percent change
CareerSource Research Coast	$36,858	$36,764	$94	0.3
Indian River County	$37,075	$37,174	-$99	-0.3
Martin County	$38,149	$39,434	-$1,285	-3.3
Okeechobee County	$33,332	$32,167	$1,165	3.6
St. Lucie County	$36,173	$34,908	$1,265	3.6
Florida	$43,651	$43,210	$441	1.0

Note: All data are subject to revision.
Source: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Labor Market Statistics.

Overview of CareerSource Palm Beach County Region
Not Seasonally Adjusted
March 27, 2015

- The unemployment rate in Palm Beach County was 5.0 percent in February 2015, down 1.3 percentage points from the February 2014 rate of 6.3 percent. In February 2015, Palm Beach County's unemployment rate was 0.5 percentage point lower than the Florida statewide unemployment rate of 5.5 percent and 0.8 percentage point lower than the national unemployment rate of 5.8 percent. Out of a labor force of 685,827, there were 34,509 unemployed residents in the county.

- In February 2015, nonagricultural employment in the West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach Metropolitan Division was 579,300, up 3.7 percent over the year. Florida statewide employment increased 3.6 percent over the same time period.

- The West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach Metropolitan Division gained 20,400 nonagricultural jobs over the year. Job gains were primarily in professional and business services (+7,300 jobs); trade, transportation, and utilities (+3,000 jobs); and education and health services (+2,700 jobs). Other industries gaining jobs were construction (+2,100 jobs); leisure and hospitality (+1,700 jobs); other services (+1,500 jobs); financial activities (+1,200 jobs); government (+900 jobs); and manufacturing (+300 jobs).

- The only industry that lost jobs over the year was information (-300 jobs). All of the other major industry sectors gained jobs over the year.

- Employment growth in the West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach Metropolitan Division was strongest in the construction industry, which increased 7.8 percent over the year.

- In February 2015, the West Palm Beach metro area was one of the top five metro areas in Florida for total nonagricultural job growth over the year (+20,400 jobs) and one of the top two metro areas in Florida for gains over the year in professional and business services (+7,300 jobs) and in other services (+1,500 jobs).

Unemployment Rates (%) (not seasonally adjusted)	Feb-15	Jan-15	Feb-14
CareerSource Palm Beach County	5.0	5.3	6.3
Florida	5.5	5.8	6.6
United States	5.8	6.1	7.0

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (not seasonally adjusted)	West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach Metropolitan Division				Florida			
	Feb-15	Feb-14	change	percent change	Feb-15	Feb-14	change	percent change
Total Employment	579,300	558,900	20,400	3.7	8,015,000	7,735,100	279,900	3.6
Mining and Logging	NA	NA	NA	NA	5,700	5,700	0	0.0
Construction	29,000	26,900	2,100	7.8	409,000	379,400	29,600	7.8
Manufacturing	16,600	16,300	300	1.8	331,400	328,200	3,200	1.0
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	109,800	106,800	3,000	2.8	1,655,500	1,600,000	55,500	3.5
Wholesale Trade	23,200	22,700	500	2.2	334,800	324,600	10,200	3.1
Retail Trade	75,900	74,000	1,900	2.6	1,062,800	1,024,500	38,300	3.7
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	10,700	10,100	600	5.9	257,900	250,900	7,000	2.8
Information	10,200	10,500	-300	-2.9	135,000	136,100	-1,100	-0.8
Financial Activities	39,300	38,100	1,200	3.2	530,600	514,400	16,200	3.2
Professional and Business Services	105,200	97,900	7,300	7.5	1,190,300	1,140,400	49,900	4.4
Education and Health Services	91,000	88,300	2,700	3.1	1,196,200	1,145,300	50,900	4.4
Leisure and Hospitality	82,700	81,000	1,700	2.1	1,120,700	1,070,900	49,800	4.7
Other Services	31,900	30,400	1,500	4.9	334,900	320,500	14,400	4.5
Government	63,500	62,600	900	1.4	1,105,700	1,094,200	11,500	1.1

Population	2014	2013	change	percent change
CareerSource Palm Beach County	1,360,238	1,345,652	14,586	1.1
Florida	19,507,369	19,259,543	247,826	1.3

Average Annual Wage	2013	2012	change	percent change
CareerSource Palm Beach County	$48,218	$47,771	$447	0.9
Florida	$43,651	$43,210	$441	1.0

Note: All data are subject to revision.
Source: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Labor Market Statistics.