

# COMMUNICATION PACKAGE

## JANUARY 2015

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## MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT: December 2014

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### OUTREACH

- In conjunction with the South Florida Regional Planning Council, provided support to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity to help complete its application for a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Special Merit Grant that, if awarded, would provide a small amount of funding to the regional planning councils to increase community resiliency capacity at the local level through a variety of training tools.
- Participated by phone in a meeting with staff from the Florida Division of Emergency Management and each of the regional planning councils to resolve Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness contract reporting issues and worked with Division staff to address periphery concerns.
- Continued to coordinate with staff from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity on its application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the National Disaster Resiliency Competition.
- Joined VISIT FLORIDA's Partnership Program.

### RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING

- To enhance partnerships and strengthen the relationship between regional planning councils and their state and federal partners, participated in a meeting of the Sadowski Coalition and in Enterprise Florida's monthly teleconference for its economic development partners, which focused on preparing for the 2015 Legislative Session and included comments from Governor Scott pertaining to the state's economic status.
- Participated in the Florida Chamber Foundation's 2015 Future of Florida Forum Partners Meeting to begin planning for next year's Forum.
- Participated in a planning meeting for the Florida Civic Advance inaugural annual conference, which is an initiative of the Florida Consensus Center.
- Distributed funding announcements from the Kresgee and Robert Wood Johnson Foundations, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, National Endowment for the Arts, VISIT FLORIDA, and U.S. Department of Agriculture.

### LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

- Shared the FRCA Executive Directors Advisory Committee's position statement on Developments of Regional Impact and Sector Plan Programs with the Legislative Director for the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and asked that, should the Department run related legislation, it be considered for inclusion.
- Completed a final draft of FRCA's 2015 Legislative Agenda and Legislative Guiding Principles and Procedures for consideration and approval by the Policy Board at its January 9, 2015 meeting in Tallahassee.

Florida Regional Councils Association  
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs  
Monthly Activity Report  
December 2014

- Reviewed pertinent bills and issued the first bill tracking report of the 2015 Legislative Session.

#### **ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT**

- Welcomed Commissioner Frank Meeker, Flagler County (NEFRC), to the FRCA Policy Board and emailed him a new member orientation packet.
- Finalized a draft of what will be FRCA's first Strategic Operating Plan for consideration by the Policy Board at its January 9, 2015 meeting in Tallahassee.
- Participated in the December 2-3, 2014 FRCA meetings that took place at the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council.
- Finalized preparations for the series of FRCA events scheduled to take place January 8-9, 2015, including finalizing meeting logistics, securing speakers, developing agendas, and drafting four sets of meeting summaries.

# City of Fort Pierce

Florida



## Office of the Mayor and City Commission

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(772) 467-3025 • www.CityOfFortPierce.com

December 19, 2014

Open Letter to the Palm Beach County Commission:

On behalf of the City of Fort Pierce, I would like to invite you to visit the City of Fort Pierce. We are located north of you in St. Lucie County, the heart of the Treasure Coast. Like Palm Beach County, St. Lucie County lies along the beautiful Indian River Lagoon and the Atlantic Ocean. Unlike some of the counties to the south, our Lagoon is wide, our beaches are pristine and uncrowded, and our waters are very clear and clean.

Recently during your council discussions, a Commissioner said Fort Pierce had not changed in years. I want to assure you that Fort Pierce has certainly changed for the better. We have been aided in our improvements by the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC). Our changes include overall redevelopment and beautification of our historic Downtown, the Avenue D corridor and South Hutchinson Island. Our parks throughout the city have been enhanced and improved, including Moore's Creek Linear Park, Causeway Park, Jetty Park and Inlet Linear Park. Recently, the TCRPC has assisted the city in the clean-up and planned development of our old power plant site along Moore's Creek, near the Indian River Lagoon. We have restored the Sunrise Theatre, a 1,200 seat performing arts venue, and our City Marina is now protected by a unique waterfront protection system created with the assistance of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Army Corps of Engineers. We are replacing and adding docks that will restore and enhance the marina, which was badly damaged by the 2004 Frances and Jeanne Hurricanes.

Our cultural enhancements include the Zora Neale Hurston Trail commemorating the noted author and anthropologist who lived her last years in Fort Pierce, as well as the Highwaymen Trail celebrating 26 African American speed-painters of Florida landscapes who sold their art from their vehicles along the highways of South Florida. Our museums include the A.E. "Beanie" Backus museum, a famed Florida landscape artist, the St. Lucie Regional History Museum, the Smithsonian Marine Station, the Manatee Center and Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution. Our most popular tourist attraction is the National UDT Navy SEAL museum, which commemorates the birth of the Navy frogmen here in Fort Pierce and chronicles the evolution of this military unit to today's Navy SEALs.

We have an international airport and a sea port. We are proud to be the home of Indian River State College, renowned for its ability to provide a wide selection of high quality education at a reasonable cost. We are also home to Lawnwood Regional Medical Center and Heart Institute, a world-class Level II Trauma Center offering many unique services, especially in cardiac and pediatric services.

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TREASURE COAST  
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Palm Beach County Commission  
December 19, 2014  
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We have made great strides in improving our community in the last twenty years. We were assisted greatly by the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council. Check out our newly-launched website at [www.CityofFortPierce.com](http://www.CityofFortPierce.com) where you can view the beauty of Fort Pierce and the transparency of our city government. Please accept this open invitation to visit our beautiful city we call home; we are happy to arrange a special tour and answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Hudson".

Linda Hudson  
Mayor

cc: Fort Pierce City Commission  
Michael Busha, TCRPC  
Tod Mowery, St. Lucie County Commissioner

# All Aboard Florida gets federal OK for \$1.75 billion bond financing

BY: Arnie Rosenberg

POSTED: 3:44 PM, Dec 19, 2014

UPDATED: 5:16 PM, Dec 19, 2014

TAG: [shaping our future \(/topic/shaping+our+future\)](#) | [all aboard florida \(/topic/all+aboard+florida\)](#)

All Aboard Florida (<http://www.tcpalm.com/allaboardflorida>) has won federal approval to borrow \$1.75 billion, clearing a critical hurdle in its plan to build a high-speed passenger railroad linking Miami and Orlando.

The U.S. Department of Transportation on Thursday gave All Aboard Florida the OK to sell private-activity bonds to help finance its \$2.25 billion project. The Department of Transportation on Friday declined to confirm the action by its Credit Council, but members of Congress whose districts are along the rail corridor confirmed being notified of the approval.

Michael Reininger, All Aboard Florida president and chief development officer, called the federal approval “another step forward toward realization of the project.”

Federal approval was the first step in the funding process. All Aboard Florida now will continue working with the Florida Development Finance Corp., a state agency which will issue the bonds.

The state, however, will have no financial obligation to the project, and its credit would not be at risk if All Aboard Florida defaults on the bonds, state officials said.

Still on the table, however, is All Aboard Florida’s application for a \$1.6 billion loan from the Federal Railroad Administration.

All Aboard Florida officials have described the bond financing as an alternative to the loan. Selling bonds on the private financial market may replace the loan “in whole or in part,” Reininger said Friday, but a decision on how to proceed won’t be made until the bond process is completed through the Florida Finance Development Corp., he said.

Reininger would not predict when the bonds would be sold. Florida Development Finance Corp. officials could not be reached for comment.

Still, from the earliest days of All Aboard Florida opposition, that loan has been a focal point for critics. They claimed that a federal loan flew in the face of All Aboard Florida’s long-stated position — that it would be the country’s first privately built and operated railroad.

Opponents worried that taxpayers would be left with nothing but the collateral — All Aboard Florida’s right of way, its tracks and its train cars — if the company defaulted on the loan.

All Aboard Florida’s state application for issuance of the bonds raised questions when it specified the money would be spent in five of the eight counties along its 235-mile corridor, but not in Indian River, St. Lucie or Martin counties. Excluding the Treasure Coast — the epicenter of opposition — from any bond money spending allowed the railroad to tell the state agency that it had “clear and consistent support from each county in which proceeds from the proposed private-activity bond issuance will be invested.”

All Aboard Florida plans to spend more than \$387 million to upgrade its rail right of way through Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River counties, according to an economic impact study commissioned by the railroad. Reininger said work along the Treasure Coast would be financed with equity — money from All Aboard Florida parent company Florida East Coast Industries — instead of money from the bonds.

In addition to buying locomotives, train cars, maintenance equipment and equipment for its stations, All Aboard Florida plans to use part of the \$1.75 billion in bond proceeds to pay off \$405 million it borrowed through a bond offering in July, according to the state bond application. All that money remains in escrow, according to the application.

## How do private-activity bonds work?

All Aboard Florida has received federal approval, called an “allocation,” to sell \$1.75 billion of tax-exempt public-activity bonds to help finance its \$2.25 billion project. How will that work?

Now that the U.S. Department of Transportation has approved the allocation, All Aboard Florida turns to the Florida Development Finance Corp., paying the state agency an issuance fee as the “conduit issuer.”

Florida Development Finance Corp.’s name is on the bonds, but Florida is not financially at risk if All Aboard Florida defaults. The state does not pledge its credit, any cash or anything else, and acts only as a financing conduit, not a lender.

Bond interest rate is set by a third-party underwriter, based in part on market conditions, before the sale.

With a bond sale this large, buyers typically would be institutional investors.

All Aboard Florida would repay investors their principal plus interest. Term of the bonds has not been determined, but state law sets a maximum of 30 years.

Investors would be exempt from paying federal income tax on the interest earned.

Proceeds from the bonds would be used by All Aboard Florida for construction and equipment in Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Brevard and Orange counties, but not in Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River counties.

*Source: Florida Development Finance Corp.*

#### **More coverage**

For more All Aboard Florida coverage, go to [TCPalm.com/allaboardflorida](http://www.tcpalm.com/allaboardflorida) (<http://www.tcpalm.com/allaboardflorida>).

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## Unemployment Summary - Treasure Coast Region December 19, 2014

### Highlights

- **Unemployment falls to 5.6 in November, down from 6.9 in previous year**
- **14,900 new nonagricultural jobs year over year from November 2013 to November 2014**
- **Job gains primarily in education and health services; professional and business services; trade, transportation and utilities; and construction.**

- 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 5.6 percent in November 2014, down 1.3 percentage points from the November 2013 rate of 6.9 percent. The Region's unemployment rate was equal to the state's unemployment rate of 5.6 percent and 0.1 percentage points higher than the national unemployment rate of 5.5 percent. Out of a labor force of 922,101, there were 51,382 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 November 2014, nonagricultural employment in the combined metropolitan areas of the Region was 743,400, an increase of 14,900 jobs over the previous year.

| Unemployment Rates*   |               |              |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Geographic Area       | November 2014 | October 2014 | November 2013 |
| Indian River          | 6.5           | 6.9          | 8.1           |
| Martin                | 5.7           | 6.0          | 7.0           |
| Palm Beach            | 5.2           | 5.6          | 6.5           |
| St. Lucie             | 6.7           | 7.1          | 8.5           |
| Treasure Coast Region | 5.6           | 5.9          | 6.9           |
| Florida               | 5.6           | 5.8          | 6.4           |
| United States         | 5.5           | 5.5          | 6.6           |

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 (+4,900) industry, professional and business services (+3,000), trade, transportation and utilities (+2,900) and construction (+2,000).
- The industry that lost jobs over the year was manufacturing (-200 jobs).
- **Port St. Lucie Metro Area:** Annual employment growth in education and health services (+4.0 percent); professional and business services (+3.9 percent); and government (+2.5 percent) was faster in the metro area than statewide. The Port St. Lucie metro area had the third highest annual job growth rates in education and health services and government of all metro areas in Florida in November 2014.
- **Sebastian-Vero Beach Metro Area:** Employment in other services (+7.7 percent) and leisure and hospitality (+4.3 percent) grew faster in the metro area than in the state. The growth rate in other services employment was the second highest of all metro areas in Florida.
- **West Palm Beach-Boca Raton –Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division:** Employment growth in the West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division was strongest in the construction industry, which increased 7.3 percent over the year.

**Overview of the CareerSource Research Coast Region  
Not Seasonally Adjusted  
December 19, 2014**

- The unemployment rate in the CareerSource Research Coast region (Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, and St. Lucie counties) was 6.4 percent in November 2014. The November 2014 rate was 1.6 percentage points below the region's year ago rate of 8.0 percent, but 0.8 percentage point above the November 2014 state rate of 5.6 percent. Out of a labor force of 276,086, there were 17,758 unemployed residents in the region.
- Unemployment rates in the counties that make up the CareerSource Research Coast region were: 6.8 percent in Okeechobee County, 6.7 percent in St. Lucie County, 6.5 percent in Indian River County, and 5.7 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 November 2014, nonagricultural employment in the combined CareerSource Research Coast metro areas was 178,400, an increase of 2,000 jobs over the previous year.
- In the combined CareerSource Research Coast metro areas, six of ten industries gained jobs over the year. Education and health services (+1,000 jobs) gained the most jobs, followed by trade, transportation, and utilities and government (+400 jobs each); professional and business services and other services (+200 jobs each); and mining, logging, and construction (+100 jobs). Leisure and hospitality (-200 jobs) and manufacturing (-100 jobs) lost jobs over the year. Information and financial activities 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 131,700 jobs in November 2014, an increase of 1,900 jobs from November 2013 (+1.5 percent). Statewide employment increased by 2.9 percent over the same period.
- Six industries gained jobs in the Port St. Lucie metro area over the year. Education and health services (+900 jobs) gained the most jobs, followed by professional and business services (+600 jobs); government (+500 jobs); trade, transportation, and utilities (+200 jobs); and mining, logging, and construction and financial activities; (+100 jobs each). The only industry losing jobs was leisure and hospitality (-500 jobs). Manufacturing, information, and other services were unchanged over the year.
- Annual employment growth in education and health services (+4.0 percent); professional and business services (+3.9 percent); and government (+2.5 percent) was faster in the metro area than statewide. The port St. Lucie metro area had the third highest annual job growth rates in education and health services and government of all metro areas in Florida in November 2014.

**Sebastian-Vero Beach metro area**

- Nonagricultural employment was 46,700 in the Sebastian-Vero Beach metro area in November 2014, an increase of 100 jobs (+0.2 percent) from the previous year. The state had a 2.9 percent increase in the number of jobs over the same period.
- Four industries gained jobs over the year including leisure and hospitality (+300 jobs); trade, transportation, and utilities and other services (+200 jobs each); and education and health services (+100 jobs). Professional and business services lost the most jobs (-400 jobs), followed by manufacturing, financial activities, and government (-100 jobs each). Mining, logging, and construction and information were unchanged over the year.
- Employment in other services (+7.7 percent) and leisure and hospitality (+4.3 percent) grew faster in the metro area than in the state. The growth rate in other services employment was the second highest of all metro areas in Florida.

Note: All data are subject to revision.

Source: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Labor Market Statistics.

| <b>Unemployment Rates (%)</b>    |               |               |               |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>(not seasonally adjusted)</b> | <b>Nov-14</b> | <b>Oct-14</b> | <b>Nov-13</b> |
| CareerSource Research Coast      | 6.4           | 6.8           | 8.0           |
| Indian River County              | 6.5           | 6.9           | 8.1           |
| Martin County                    | 5.7           | 6.0           | 7.0           |
| Okeechobee County                | 6.8           | 7.3           | 8.0           |
| St. Lucie County                 | 6.7           | 7.1           | 8.5           |
| Florida                          | 5.6           | 5.8           | 6.4           |
| United States                    | 5.5           | 5.5           | 6.6           |

| <b>Nonagricultural Employment by Industry</b><br><b>(not seasonally adjusted)</b> | <b>Port St. Lucie<br/>Metropolitan Statistical Area</b> |               |               |                           | <b>Sebastian-Vero Beach<br/>Metropolitan Statistical Area</b> |               |               |                           |
|---|---|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|---|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|
|   | <b>Nov-14</b>   | <b>Nov-13</b> | <b>change</b> | <b>percent<br/>change</b> | <b>Nov-14</b>   | <b>Nov-13</b> | <b>change</b> | <b>percent<br/>change</b> |
| Total Employment  | 131,700   | 129,800       | 1,900         | 1.5                       | 46,700  | 46,600        | 100           | 0.2                       |
| Mining, Logging, and Construction   | 7,700   | 7,600         | 100           | 1.3                       | 3,100   | 3,100         | 0             | 0.0                       |
| Manufacturing   | 5,400   | 5,400         | 0             | 0.0                       | 1,700   | 1,800         | -100          | -5.6                      |
| Trade, Transportation, and Utilities  | 29,000  | 28,800        | 200           | 0.7                       | 10,000  | 9,800         | 200           | 2.0                       |
| Wholesale Trade   | 4,700   | 4,800         | -100          | -2.1                      | 800   | 800           | 0             | 0.0                       |
| Retail Trade  | 20,100  | 19,900        | 200           | 1.0                       | 8,400   | 8,300         | 100           | 1.2                       |
| Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities  | 4,200   | 4,100         | 100           | 2.4                       | 800   | 700           | 100           | 14.3                      |
| Information   | 1,400   | 1,400         | 0             | 0.0                       | 700   | 700           | 0             | 0.0                       |
| Financial Activities  | 5,500   | 5,400         | 100           | 1.9                       | 2,200   | 2,300         | -100          | -4.4                      |
| Professional and Business Services  | 16,000  | 15,400        | 600           | 3.9                       | 4,500   | 4,900         | -400          | -8.2                      |
| Education and Health Services   | 23,400  | 22,500        | 900           | 4.0                       | 9,300   | 9,200         | 100           | 1.1                       |
| Leisure and Hospitality   | 16,300  | 16,800        | -500          | -3.0                      | 7,300   | 7,000         | 300           | 4.3                       |
| Other Services  | 6,800   | 6,800         | 0             | 0.0                       | 2,800   | 2,600         | 200           | 7.7                       |
| Government  | 20,200  | 19,700        | 500           | 2.5                       | 5,100   | 5,200         | -100          | -1.9                      |

| <b>Nonagricultural Employment by Industry</b><br><b>(not seasonally adjusted)</b> | <b>CareerSource Research Coast<br/>Combined Metropolitan Statistical Areas</b> |               |               |                           | <b>Florida</b> |               |               |                           |
|---|--|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|
|   | <b>Nov-14</b>  | <b>Nov-13</b> | <b>change</b> | <b>percent<br/>change</b> | <b>Nov-14</b>  | <b>Nov-13</b> | <b>change</b> | <b>percent<br/>change</b> |
| Total Employment  | 178,400  | 176,400       | 2,000         | 1.1                       | 7,959,700      | 7,736,900     | 222,800       | 2.9                       |
| Mining, Logging, and Construction   | 10,800   | 10,700        | 100           | 0.9                       | 429,400        | 396,400       | 33,000        | 8.3                       |
| Manufacturing   | 7,100  | 7,200         | -100          | -1.4                      | 332,400        | 326,000       | 6,400         | 2.0                       |
| Trade, Transportation, and Utilities  | 39,000   | 38,600        | 400           | 1.0                       | 1,675,100      | 1,616,300     | 58,800        | 3.6                       |
| Wholesale Trade   | 5,500  | 5,600         | -100          | -1.8                      | 332,000        | 322,000       | 10,000        | 3.1                       |
| Retail Trade  | 28,500   | 28,200        | 300           | 1.1                       | 1,080,700      | 1,041,600     | 39,100        | 3.8                       |
| Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities  | 5,000  | 4,800         | 200           | 4.2                       | 262,400        | 252,700       | 9,700         | 3.8                       |
| Information   | 2,100  | 2,100         | 0             | 0.0                       | 136,100        | 133,800       | 2,300         | 1.7                       |
| Financial Activities  | 7,700  | 7,700         | 0             | 0.0                       | 530,300        | 517,000       | 13,300        | 2.6                       |
| Professional and Business Services  | 20,500   | 20,300        | 200           | 1.0                       | 1,184,400      | 1,145,600     | 38,800        | 3.4                       |
| Education and Health Services   | 32,700   | 31,700        | 1,000         | 3.2                       | 1,168,900      | 1,145,900     | 23,000        | 2.0                       |
| Leisure and Hospitality   | 23,600   | 23,800        | -200          | -0.8                      | 1,082,700      | 1,047,500     | 35,200        | 3.4                       |
| Other Services  | 9,600  | 9,400         | 200           | 2.1                       | 318,500        | 308,500       | 10,000        | 3.2                       |
| Government  | 25,300   | 24,900        | 400           | 1.6                       | 1,101,900      | 1,099,900     | 2,000         | 0.2                       |

| <b>Population</b>           | <b>2014</b> | <b>2013</b> | <b>change</b> | <b>percent<br/>change</b> |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| 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                       |

| <b>Average Annual Wage</b>  | <b>2013</b> | <b>2012</b> | <b>change</b> | <b>percent<br/>change</b> |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| 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  
December 19, 2014**

- The unemployment rate in Palm Beach County was 5.2 percent in November 2014, down 1.3 percentage points from the November 2013 rate of 6.5 percent. In November 2014, Palm Beach County's unemployment rate was 0.4 percentage point lower than the Florida statewide unemployment rate of 5.6 percent and 0.3 percentage point lower than the national unemployment rate of 5.5 percent. Out of a labor force of 663,920, there were 34,846 unemployed residents in the county.
- In November 2014, nonagricultural employment in the West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division was 565,000, up 2.3 percent over the year. Florida statewide employment increased 2.9 percent over the same time period.
- The West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division gained 12,900 nonagricultural jobs over the year. Job gains were primarily in education and health services (+3,900 jobs); professional and business services (+2,800 jobs); and trade, transportation, and utilities (+2,500 jobs). Other industries gaining jobs were construction (+2,000 jobs); leisure and hospitality (+2,000 jobs); and financial activities (+300 jobs).
- Industries that lost jobs over the year were government (-400 jobs); manufacturing (-100 jobs); and other services (-100 jobs). Employment in information was unchanged.
- Employment growth in the West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach Metropolitan Division was strongest in the construction industry, which increased 7.3 percent over the year.
- In November 2014, the West Palm Beach metro area was the top metro area in Florida for gains over the year education and health services (+3,900 jobs).

| Unemployment Rates (%)<br>(not seasonally adjusted) | Nov-14 | Oct-14 | Nov-13 |
|---|--------|--------|--------|
| CareerSource Palm Beach County                      | 5.2    | 5.6    | 6.5    |
| Florida   | 5.6    | 5.8    | 6.4    |
| United States                                       | 5.5    | 5.5    | 6.6    |

| Nonagricultural Employment by Industry<br>(not seasonally adjusted) | West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Boynton Beach<br>Metropolitan Division |         |        |                   | Florida   |           |         |                   |
|---|---|---------|--------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|---------|-------------------|
|   | Nov-14  | Nov-13  | change | percent<br>change | Nov-14    | Nov-13    | change  | percent<br>change |
| Total Employment  | 565,000   | 552,100 | 12,900 | 2.3               | 7,959,700 | 7,736,900 | 222,800 | 2.9               |
| Mining and Logging  | NA  | NA      | NA     | NA                | 5,900     | 5,600     | 300     | 5.4               |
| Construction  | 29,600  | 27,600  | 2,000  | 7.3               | 423,500   | 390,800   | 32,700  | 8.4               |
| Manufacturing   | 15,700  | 15,800  | -100   | -0.6              | 332,400   | 326,000   | 6,400   | 2.0               |
| Trade, Transportation, and Utilities                                | 108,000   | 105,500 | 2,500  | 2.4               | 1,675,100 | 1,616,300 | 58,800  | 3.6               |
| Wholesale Trade   | 22,700  | 22,000  | 700    | 3.2               | 332,000   | 322,000   | 10,000  | 3.1               |
| Retail Trade  | 75,200  | 73,900  | 1,300  | 1.8               | 1,080,700 | 1,041,600 | 39,100  | 3.8               |
| Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities                          | 10,100  | 9,600   | 500    | 5.2               | 262,400   | 252,700   | 9,700   | 3.8               |
| Information   | 9,600   | 9,600   | 0      | 0.0               | 136,100   | 133,800   | 2,300   | 1.7               |
| Financial Activities  | 38,500  | 38,200  | 300    | 0.8               | 530,300   | 517,000   | 13,300  | 2.6               |
| Professional and Business Services                                  | 102,100   | 99,300  | 2,800  | 2.8               | 1,184,400 | 1,145,600 | 38,800  | 3.4               |
| Education and Health Services                                       | 90,300  | 86,400  | 3,900  | 4.5               | 1,168,900 | 1,145,900 | 23,000  | 2.0               |
| Leisure and Hospitality   | 78,400  | 76,400  | 2,000  | 2.6               | 1,082,700 | 1,047,500 | 35,200  | 3.4               |
| Other Services  | 29,600  | 29,700  | -100   | -0.3              | 318,500   | 308,500   | 10,000  | 3.2               |
| Government  | 63,100  | 63,500  | -400   | -0.6              | 1,101,900 | 1,099,900 | 2,000   | 0.2               |

| Population                     | 2014       | 2013       | change  | percent<br>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<br>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.