

Data Flash

PLANNING RESEARCH,
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING

ADDRESSING THE INFORMATIONAL NEEDS OF THE MIAMI-DADE COMMUNITY

Unemployment Rises in Miami-Dade County

On September 3rd, 2010, the Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation released its monthly labor market statistics for the month of August. The statistics include not seasonally adjusted unemployment data as part of the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) Program. Under that program the Agency provides information on the number of unemployed persons for all counties including Miami-Dade County.

In August, the number of unemployed persons (188,889) and the unemployment rate (14.4 percent) for Miami-Dade County soared to all-time high levels. From July through August, the number of workers out of work increased by almost 17,000 and the jobless rate jumped by more than one percent.

A possible explanation for the upward trend in unemployment rates could be the increase in the labor force as previously “discouraged workers” are reentering the labor market. For the twelve months ending in August 2010, the unemployment rate averaged 12.0 percent, an increase of 2.9 percentage points from the same period a year earlier.

Miami-Dade’s unemployment rate in August was the highest on record posting a rate well above the corresponding rates in Broward County (10.7 percent),

Monroe County (8.5 percent), and Palm Beach County (12.5 percent).

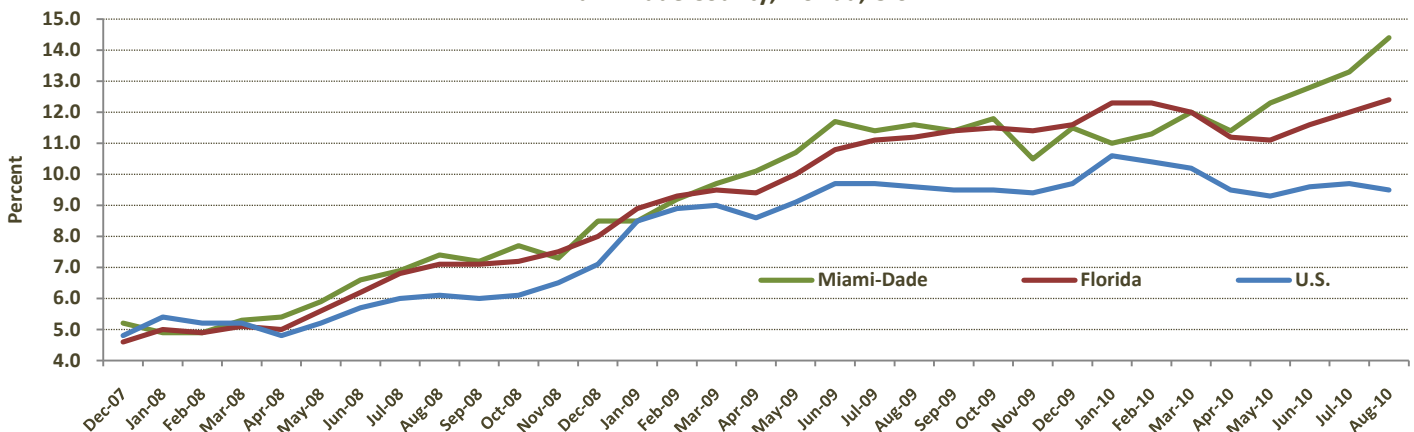
However, when compared to Florida counties with the highest unemployment rates Miami-Dade fared better as it ranked eighth. The county that experienced the highest unemployment rate was Hendry County (20.6 percent). The lowest unemployment rate was recorded in Liberty County (7.5 percent).

Over the month, the state of Florida unemployment rate was 12.4 percent, up 0.4 percentage points from a month earlier. In a downward trend, the U.S. unemployment rate was 9.5 percent in August edging down 0.2 percentage points from the previous month.

For the twelve months ending in August 2010, the state’s unemployment rate averaged 11.7 percent, an increase of 2.5 percentage points from the same period a year ago. In the U.S. the corresponding average was 13.0 percent, up 4.8 percentage points from the previous period.

While the U.S. economy continues its slow path to recovery from the recession that started in December 2007, there are no signs that there will be a significant decrease in the unemployment rate in the near future.

Unemployment Rate (Not Seasonally Adjusted)
Miami-Dade County, Florida, U.S.



Source: Labor Market Statistics, LAUS Program.