



# MEMORANDUM

AGENDA ITEM #IV.F

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DATE: NOVEMBER 13, 2023

TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: STAFF

SUBJECT: COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS) ANNUAL REPORT

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Since 1994 the SFRPC has served as the Economic Development District (EDD) for South Florida and as the Economic Development Administration's (EDA) regional point of contact. In this role, the SFRPC works closely with regional stakeholders and the EDA to identify, secure, and deploy funding and technical assistance programs in South Florida. As the EDD, the SFRPC is responsible for developing, maintaining, and updating South Florida's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) every five years working in partnership with the region's leaders and community stakeholders. As a strategy-driven plan for regional economic development, the CEDS provides an analysis of economic trends, opportunities, and challenges and then provides regional goals, strategies, and metrics to promote and support long-term economic prosperity for South Florida and its residents. On October 17, 2022, the SFRPC adopted the 2022-2027 CEDS for South Florida.

The CEDS Strategy Committee, chaired by Chair Geller, consists of the region's top public, private, and nonprofit CEOs representing educational institutions, economic development organizations, chambers of commerce, employers, transit agencies, workforce training, local governments, resilience officers, and senior level staff among others. This report reflects their agreement on regional goals and key strategies to leverage regional assets and opportunities, diminish barriers, and create a vibrant and competitive economic environment that is diversified and resilient. The CEDS serves as a guiding document for economic development activities that regional leaders have agreed are important to advance.

After EDA has approved the initial CEDS, EDA-funded planning grantees are required to submit an annual report. The annual report documents the progress achieved on economic development activities regardless of the source of funding, and reports on changing economic conditions. The annual report should be a short document and readily accessible to the public and decision-makers to use to keep track of the CEDS and its implementation.

## Recommendation

Adopt the CEDS Annual Report.





## **2023 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2022 – 2027 South Florida Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy**

The [South Florida Regional Planning Council](#) (SFRPC) is the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration’s designated [Economic Development District \(EDD\)](#) for South Florida. The Economic Development District service area comprises Monroe, Miami-Dade, and Broward counties where the Council helps lead a locally based, regionally driven economic development process. We work with local government, public, private, non-profit, and philanthropic partners to provide Information, technical assistance, and support and lead regional economic development efforts.

One of the functions of the Economic Development District is to prepare a five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), which sets forth goals and strategies that support the economic development of the South Florida region. Each year, the Council prepares an Annual Progress Report to identify the most important changes in the South Florida economy and to assess the region’s progress toward CEDS goals.

This 2023 CEDS Annual Progress Report is the first update since the adoption of the 2022-2027 CEDS and contains the following updates for the period October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023:

- Highlights of key changes to the regional economy, priorities, and adjustments of strategies of the CEDS
- Report on Economic Development Activities
- Evaluation of Progress on Action Plan and Goals
- Schedule of Next Year’s Goals

The CEDS Committee and SFRPC Board will review the report and consider approving the report, for transmittal to the Economic Development Administration. The approved report will be posted on the SFRPC website.

## Executive Summary

South Florida's economy continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and generate lower unemployment rates and higher job creation rates than the statewide and United States national averages. While these are indicators of success, there are many challenges ahead to achieve full economic recovery. Some of those challenges are structural and affect the entire United States; the aging of the labor force and a dropping U.S. birth rate help to drive greater dependence on immigration, automation, and imports, while supply chain problems continue to plague global shipping.

U.S. and statewide labor force participation—the share of the working years aged population (17 to 54 years) who can work (unemployed and employed)—dropped during the pandemic, and only exceeded 2019 levels in 2022. While labor force participation continues to grow, the number of job openings has grown faster. Consequently, the Florida labor market became tighter—with fewer unemployed jobseekers for job openings than the national average. This means that employers must offer higher wages and benefits to attract workers. Rising wages are another indicator of economic growth even as many employers have struggled to fill open positions and those wages have not kept pace with inflation.

South Florida's counties have not equally recovered. After a population boom in 2020, Monroe has lost population while Broward, Miami-Dade, and the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council's Palm Beach all regained some share of the population that left during the pandemic during 2021 and 2022. Even with current population estimates below 2020 Census counts, housing costs have grown and continue to push homeownership out of reach for many.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, transportation infrastructure investment has not also kept pace with the recovery. Travel delays in Miami grew by 59 percent over 2021, and the metropolitan area is ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in the world (and 4<sup>th</sup> in the United States) for driver delays in 2022, with 105 hours of delay per driver or costing about \$1,773 per driver.<sup>2</sup> Inequality continues to be a major problem throughout South Florida, as measured by the difference between annual mean and median household income.<sup>3</sup>

While Leisure and Hospitality and other sectors that were impacted most by the pandemic were the first to recover during 2021, South Florida's leading industry growth sectors (by percent growth) in 2022 were Information and Professional and Business Services. Retail, Leisure and Accommodation industries grew slowly, while Education and Health Services experienced less than one percent growth in the SFRPC Tri-County region, with Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council's Palm Beach pulling up the average for the Metropolitan Statistical Area, but still lagging most other industries.

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<sup>1</sup> REDFIN, [Housing Market: House Prices & Trends](#). Accessed Sept. 9, 2023. The Case-Shiller Home Price Index, a widely used price index for tracking housing costs indexed to January 2000, for Miami has increased by 65 percent since 2019. Source: S&P Dow Jones Indices, LLC, 2023.

<sup>2</sup> 2022 INRIX Traffic Scorecard Report. Kirkland, WA: INRIX North America. January 2023.

<sup>3</sup> [Florida County Map Shows Where The Income Gap Is Biggest \(forbes.com\)](#). January 1, 2023; Accessed October 3, 2023. Monroe was in second place in the state, Palm Beach of the Treasure Coast, was fourth place; Miami-Dade and Broward were eight and nine places, respectively.

All four counties gained jobs during 2021 and 2022 across most sectors, with Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach in the Treasure Coast, comprising the largest shares of employment gains in the major employment categories of Manufacturing, Education and Health Services, Retail, Information, Professional and Business Services, and Construction. Of all the metropolitan area counties, only Broward saw a small decline in the Information sector. In addition to South Florida's strengths in Tourism related industries, it is also important to note the presence of the National Defense industry, which directly or indirectly supports 130,000 jobs and generates \$12.3 billion in value to the regional economy; unlike Tourism related industries, the Defense industry is relatively involatile and provides a steady stream of business opportunities in the region.<sup>4</sup>

### **Highlights of Key Changes to The Regional Economy, Priorities, and Adjustments of Strategies to the CEDS**

The following figures and bullet-point explanations provide key highlights of updated data that SFRPC has researched, presented to regional stakeholders, and incorporated into the CEDS.

The South Florida region has recovered from most economic impacts of the pandemic, but not all sectors have recovered equally.

- Since peaking above 14% at the height of the pandemic, Florida's unemployment has dropped consistently and significantly into 2023. The South Florida Region saw small gains in unemployment in the beginning of 2023, but that growth has leveled off and is lower than the Florida and U.S. average.
- Significant increase in the Florida labor force participation rates since 2020, but rates still substantially lag pre-2020 rates. On the other hand, the South Florida Metropolitan Statistical Area (Miami-Dade-Ft. Lauderdale-West Palm Beach), has rebounded more than the rest of the state.
- The high cost of housing relative to wages and transportation delays are weighing South Florida's economy down, increasing costs to business owners and commuters.

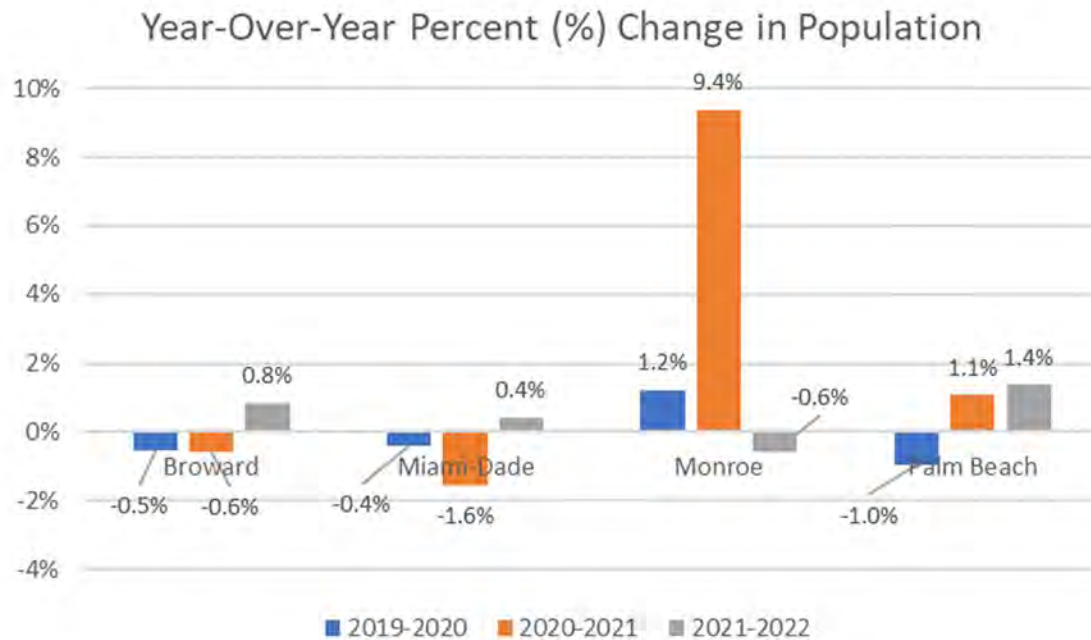
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<sup>4</sup> Source: [South Florida Defense Alliance](#), 2023.

Percent Change in Population

- Figure 1 depicts the year-over-year change between 2019-2020, 2020-2021, and 2021-2022.
- Between 2020-2021, Monroe County’s population jumped 9.4 percent, and then declined by 0.6 percent between 2021 and 2022.
- Broward and Miami-Dade County experienced slight decreases in population 2019-2021 and started to regain population 2021-2022.
- Palm Beach lost population in 2019-2020 and then regained population in subsequent years.
- After a surge of working age residents in 2019-2020, Monroe County saw out-migration in 2021-2022.

**Figure 1: Year-Over-Year Population Percent Change, 2019-2022**



American Community Survey, US Census Bureau, 2023

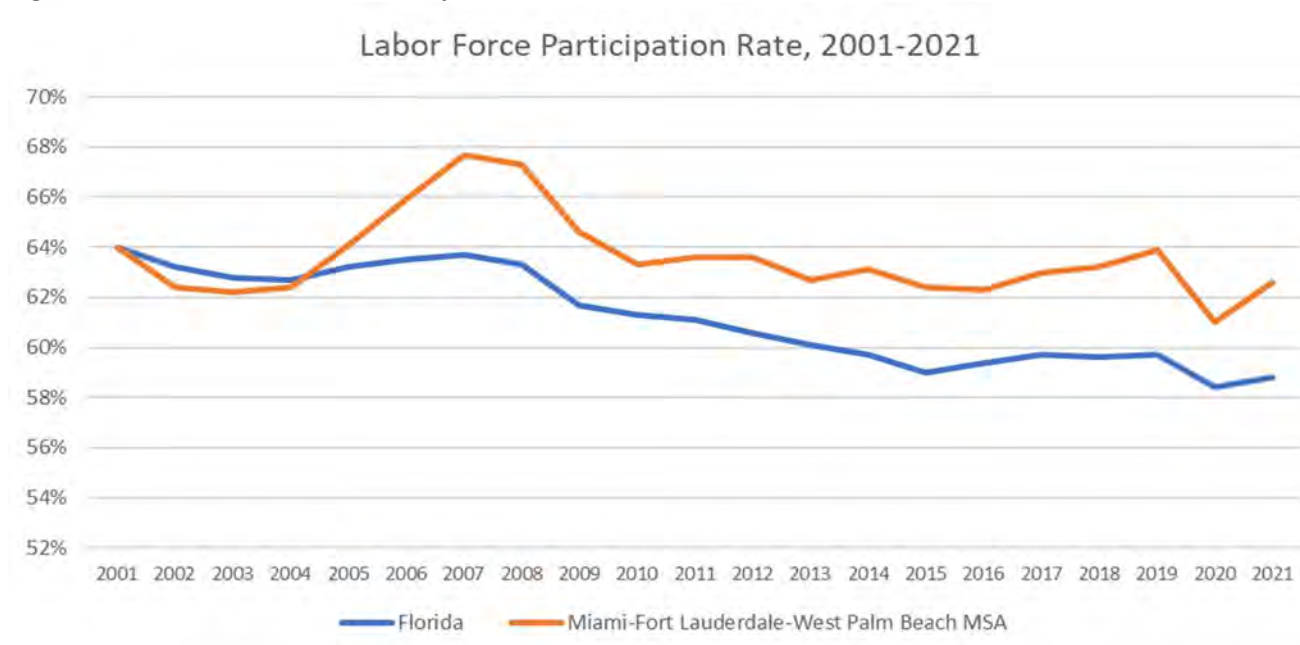
### Labor Force Changes

Unemployment is an important measure of economic change, however, there are other important demographic changes that put the recent gains in the job market in perspective such as the size and composition of the labor force; that portion of the working-age population that is working or seeking work. Since 2000, the US labor force participation rate has steadily dropped, with recessions in 2001, 2008-2010, and 2020 accelerating the drop-out rate, especially among seniors.<sup>5</sup>

### Labor Force Percent Change, 2001-2021

- Consistent with the U.S. pattern of falling labor participation during and after a recession, the MSA labor participation rates fell through the pandemic, as older workers retired early and many low-skilled jobs such as in Retail, Food, and accommodation were eliminated. Those workers either sought retraining, moved away, or adjusted to await a change in the economy.
- Both Miami-Dade and Broward counties have fewer working age people in their respective populations. Monroe and Palm Beach labor forces have grown over 2019.

**Figure 2: Annual Labor Force Participation Rate 2001-2021**



US Bureau of Labor Statistics, [Civilian labor force participation rate](#), REMI PI+ regional estimates. Accessed October 2, 2023

<sup>5</sup> US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

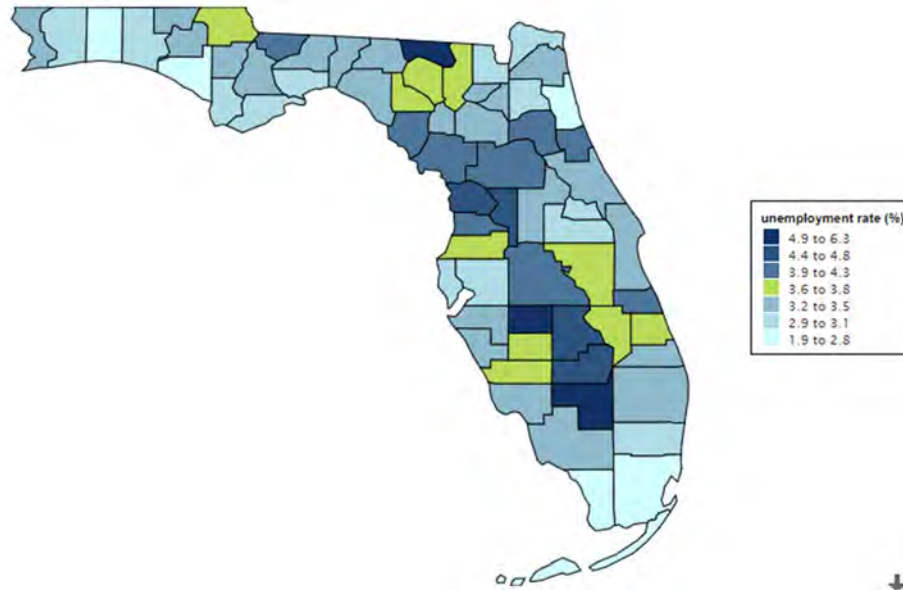
## Unemployment

Unemployment is a widely used metric for measuring economic trends. Figure 3 depicts the unemployment rate in the United States, Florida, and the South Florida Region (Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe) from 2022 to mid-2023.

### Unemployment Rates by County

- Coastal Florida counties have generally lower unemployment than interior counties and South Florida counties are among the lowest unemployed rates in the State with 3.1% in Broward, 1.9% in Miami-Dade, 2.0% in Monroe, 3.1% in Palm Beach County, while the statewide rate is 2.7 as August 2023.\*<sup>6</sup> For comparison purposes, Hillsborough County's unemployment rate is 3.1, Orange County's unemployment rate is 3.0, while Duval County and Pinellas County's unemployment rates are 3.4 percent and 3.0 percent, respectively.

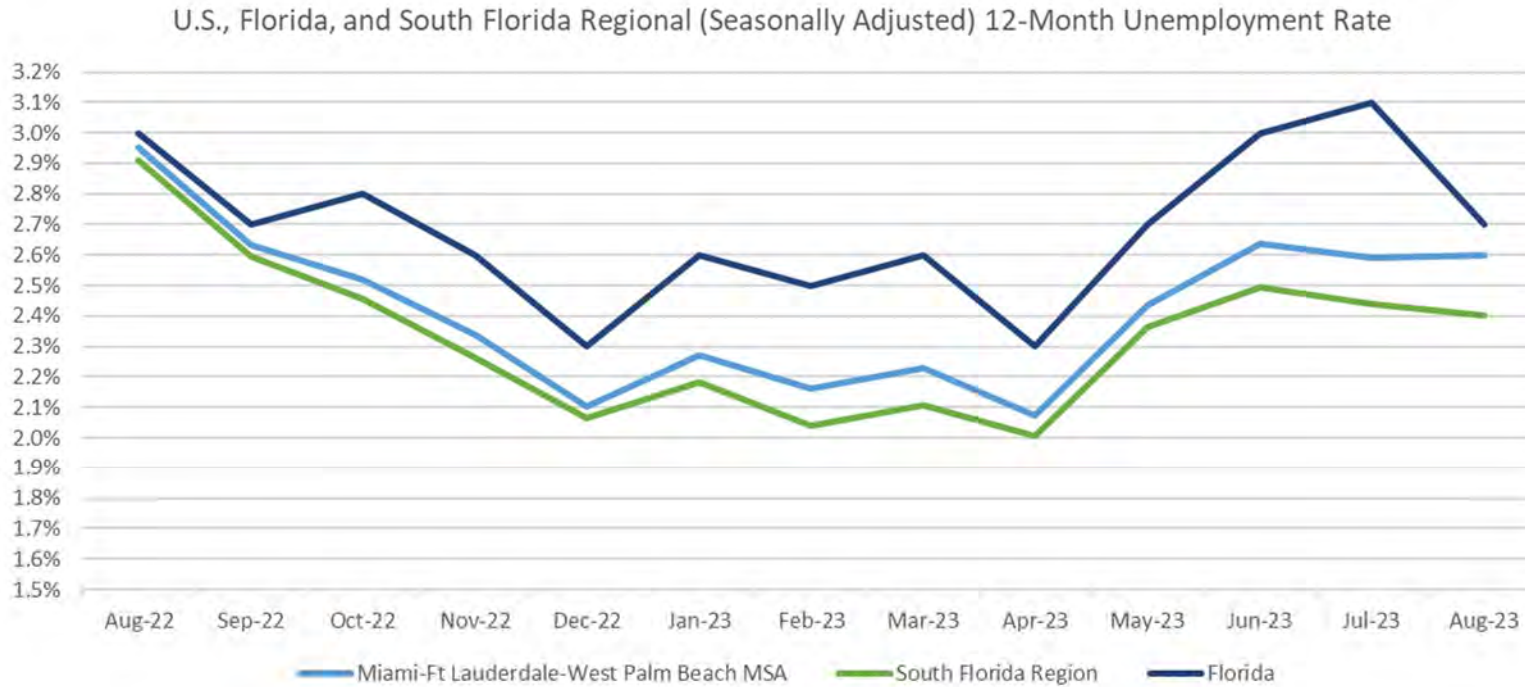
**Figure 3: Unemployment Rate by County, State of Florida, August 2023. (Not seasonally adjusted)**



Source: [Local Area Unemployment Statistics Map \(bls.gov\)](https://www.bls.gov). September 2023.

<sup>6</sup> Palm Beach County is not part of the South Florida Economic Development District service area. However, Palm Beach County is in the Miami-Ft. Lauderdale-West Palm Beach Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which is determined by social and economic factors, making the inclusion of economic trends in Palm Beach County important to the South Florida Region.

**Figure 4: U.S. and Florida Unemployment Rates**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, [data.bls.gov/timeseries](https://data.bls.gov/timeseries), and FloridaCommerce, Office of Economic & Demographic Research

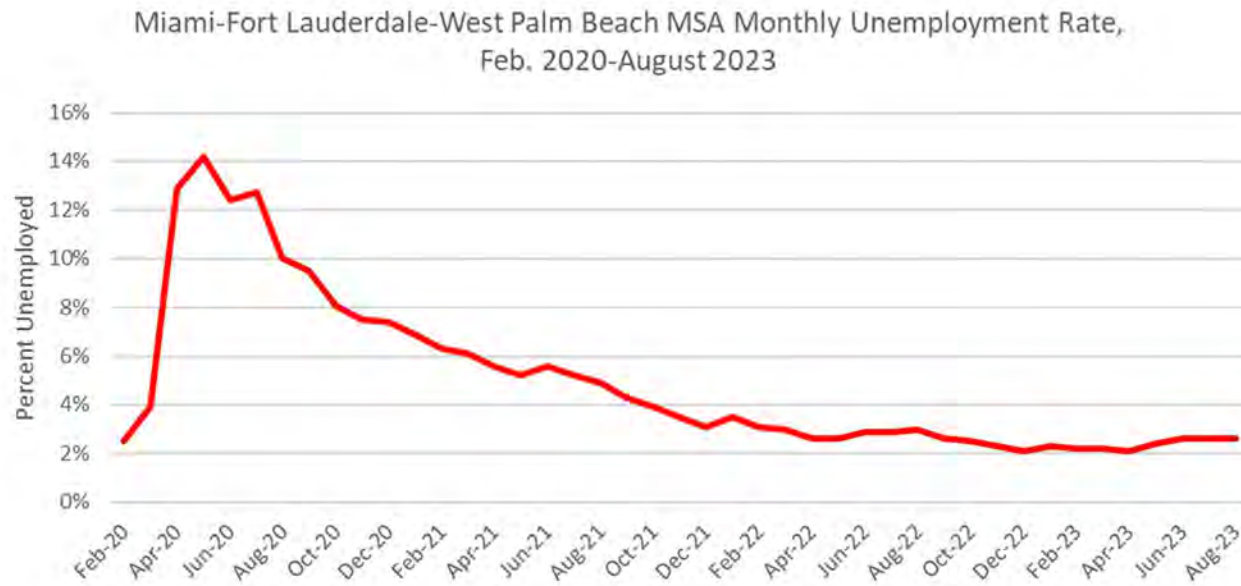
Unemployment in the South Florida Region has consistently fluctuated at lower rates than the Florida and the U.S. average, ending the update period on September 30, 2023, at a lower rate (2.5%) than in August 2022 (2.9%).

#### Unemployment Rate Percent Change from 2020

- Figure 5 compares the difference in monthly unemployment since January 2020 for the four county Miami-West Palm Beach Metropolitan Statistical Area (Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe, and Palm Beach counties).
- The MSA Monthly unemployment rate has returned to pre-pandemic levels.



**Figure 5: Unemployment Rate Percent Change from 2019 Baseline**



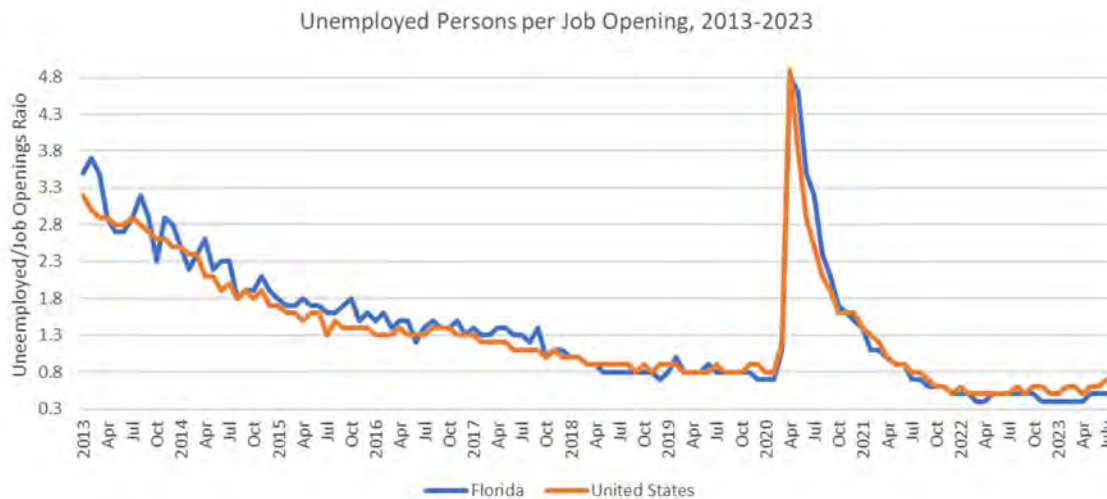
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Unemployment Rate in Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL (MSA), Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/MIAM112URN>, October 12, 2023.

### Job Openings per Unemployed Worker

Another measure of economic progress is the ratio of unemployed persons per job opening. A ratio higher than 1.0 indicates that there are more unemployed people per job, while a ratio less than 1.0 means that there are more jobs per unemployed person.

- After peaking in 2020, the ratio for the United States and Florida has fallen to below pre-pandemic levels.
- Over the past year, there were many job openings and many unemployed people not taking those jobs. This trend has continued over the past year, indicating that there is a tight labor market.
- Drivers of the tight labor market included a wave of retirements among older workers and skills gaps.

**Figure 6: Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS): Unemployed persons per job opening ratio.**



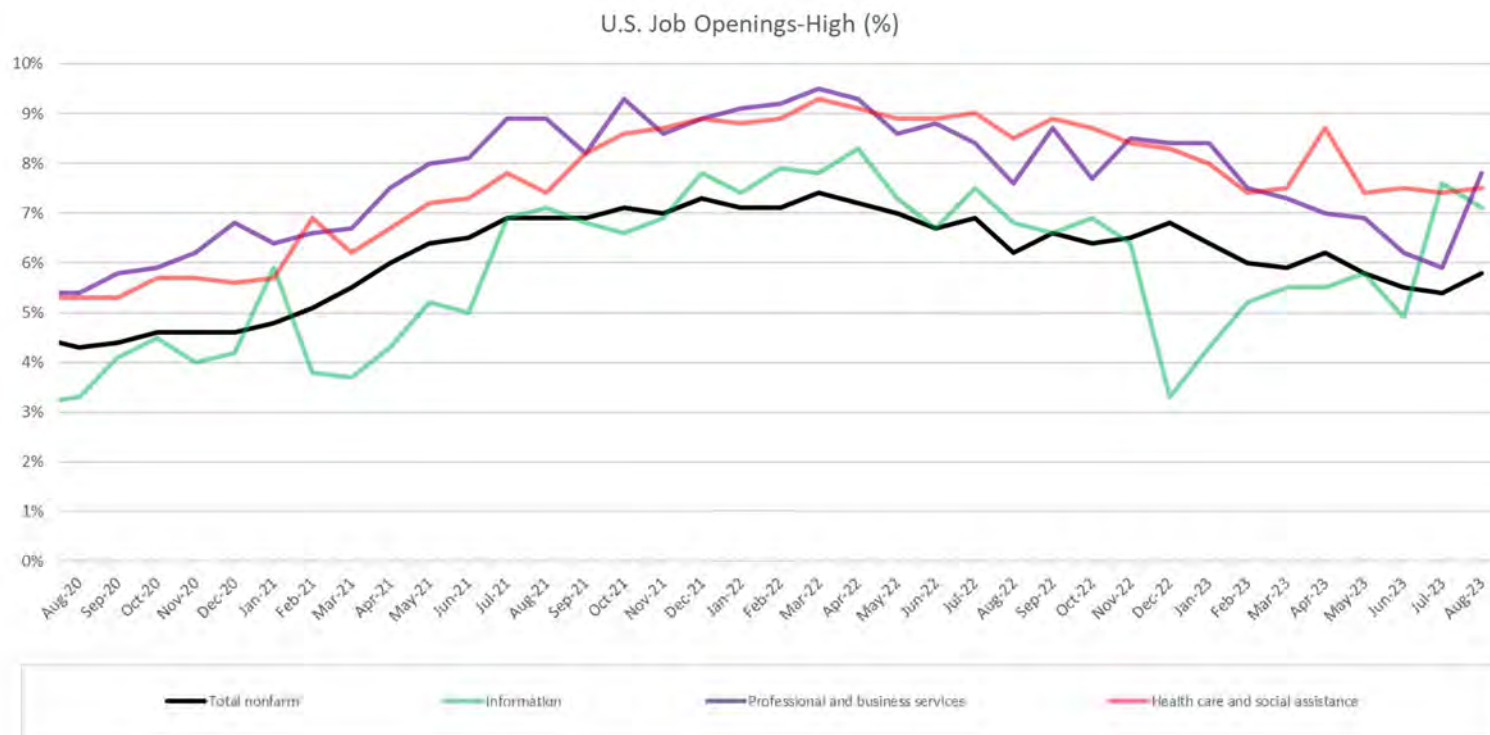
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, [Job Openings Labor Turnover Survey](#), 2023.

### U.S Job Openings (%)

Job Openings are a key statistic for understanding which industry sectors are changing the most. As base employment numbers vary by industry, a percentage (%) change graph is useful in understanding the relative change in the mix of industry employment. In the following three graphs (Figures 7-9), job openings by industry sector are divided into three groups; a high job openings group, identifying industries that outperformed total job openings across all sectors; a medium job opening group, in which industries about average for all job openings; and a low job opening group, in which the industries which underperform job opening averages are identified.

- High Job openings are those jobs that have outperformed total job nonfarm job openings since February 2021.
- Job Openings in the Information, Professional and Business Services, and Health and Social Assistance sectors are leading sectors.

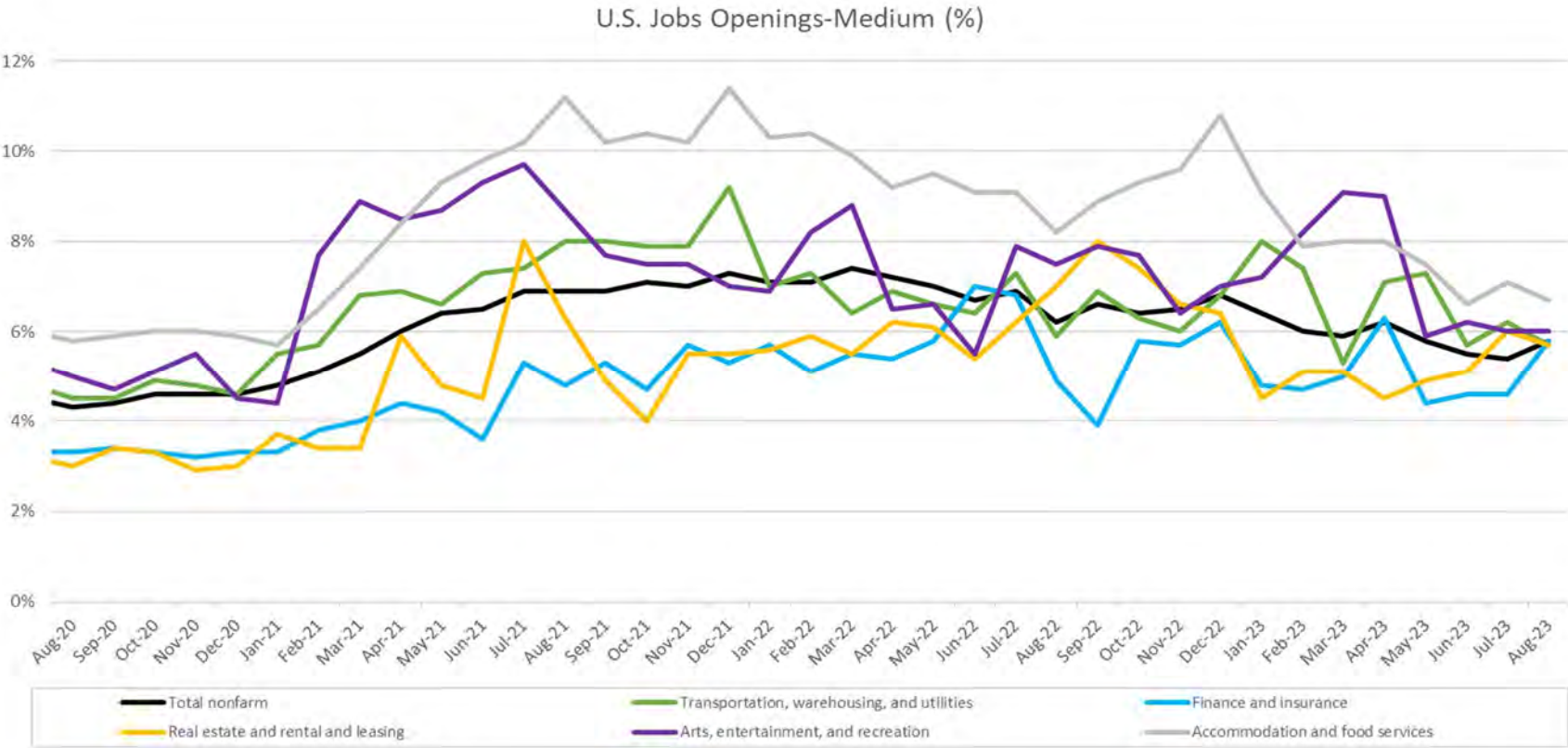
**Figure 7: 2020-2023 U.S. Job Openings (High- Information, Professional Business Services, and Education and Health Services)**



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, [Job Openings Labor Turnover Survey](#), 2023.

- As the economy recovered from the Pandemic, job openings in Financial Services, Real Estate, Transportation, Arts and Entertainment, and Accommodation and Food Services grew at a moderate pace, but all three sectors have slowed job openings to pre-pandemic levels, in line with 10-year averages for total job openings.
- Gains in some sub-sectors, however, have been slower, such as in Financial Services, while jobs in Accommodation and Food Services have grown slightly faster than average.

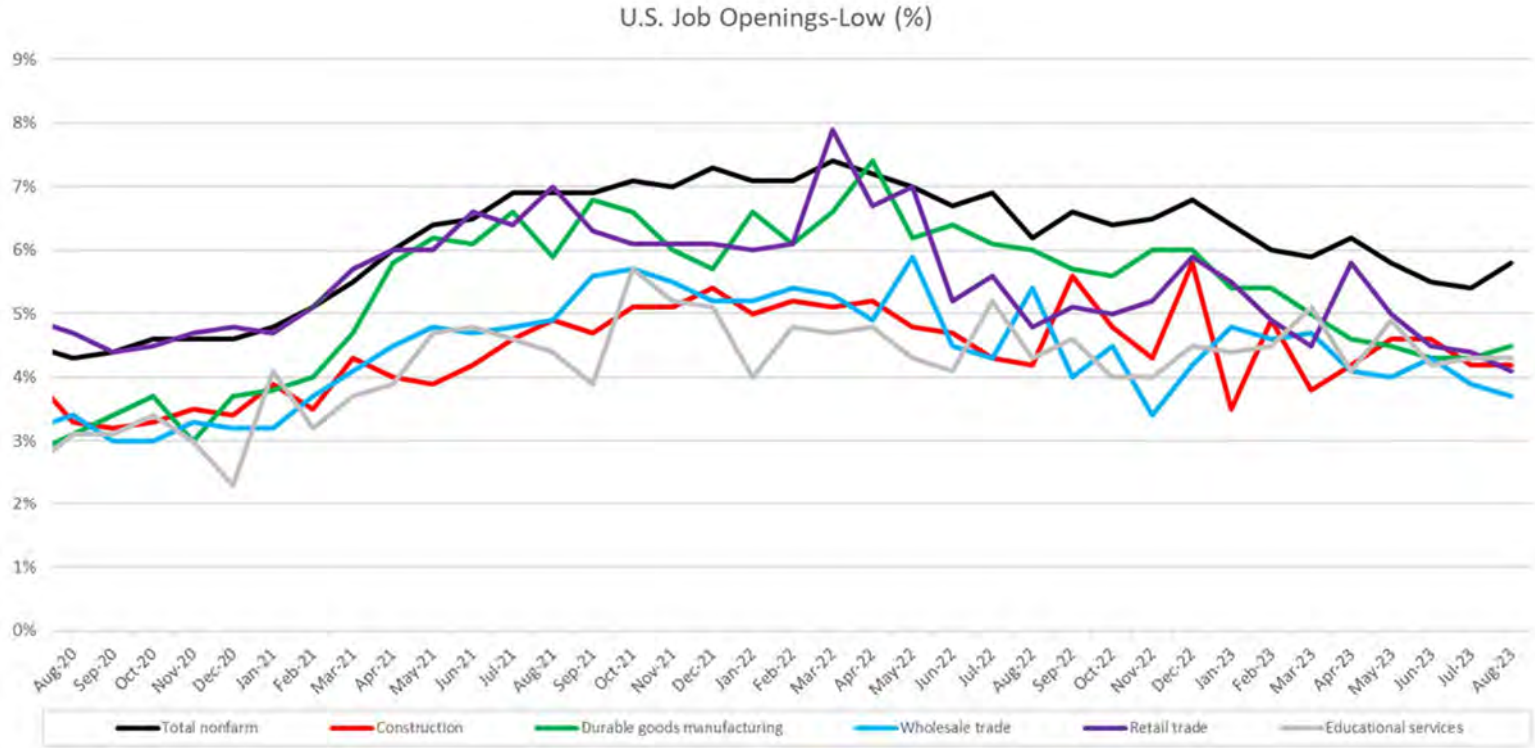
**Figure 8: 2020-2023 U.S Job Openings (Moderate – Financial Services, Real Estate, Transportation, Arts and Entertainment, Accommodation and Food Services)**



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, [Job Openings Labor Turnover Survey](#), 2023.

- The industries with the lowest percentage of job openings are Construction, Wholesale, Retail, Educational Services, and Manufacturing (Figure 9).
- Notably, Manufacturing job openings trebled between February 2020 and March 2022, and while growth has cooled, job openings have continued at about 4% to 5% since the beginning of 2023.

**Figure 9: 2020-2023 U.S. Job Openings (Low – Construction, Trade, Educational Services, and Durable Goods Manufacturing)**

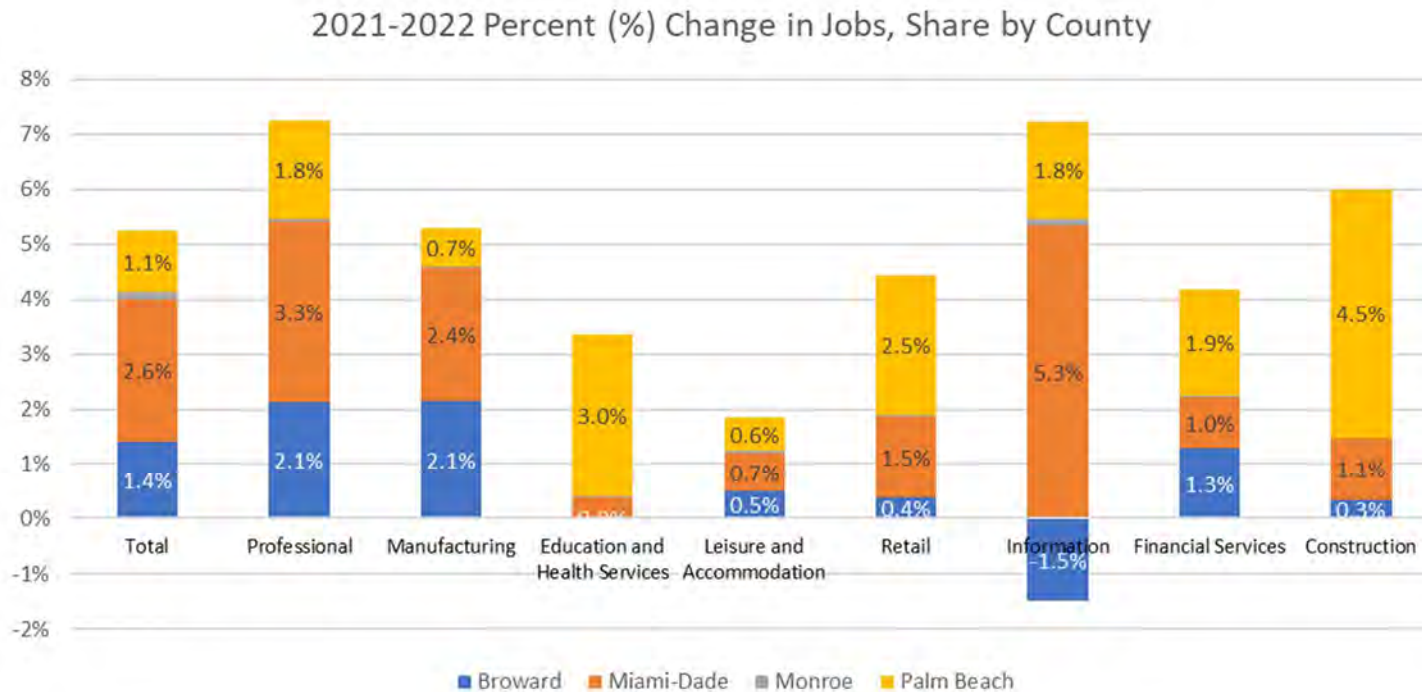


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, [Job Openings Labor Turnover Survey](#), 2023.

South Florida MSA Employment Gains by Industry – 2021-2022

- With just over 5 percent gain in jobs (Total column in Figure 10), South Florida’s employment profile is experiencing an uneven recovery from the pandemic. Consistent with national trends, Information is a leading growth sector as well as the very broad super-sector of Professional and Business Services.
- Across most sectors, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach saw the greatest gains in job-growth, while Broward notably lost jobs (-1.5%) in the Information sector compared to 2021.
- Leisure and Accommodation related industries (Food, Accommodation, and Leisure Services) saw slower than average growth in this period, as did Education and Health Services, and Financial Services.

**Figure 10: Miami-Dade-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach MSA Percent Change in Jobs, by County, 2021-2022**

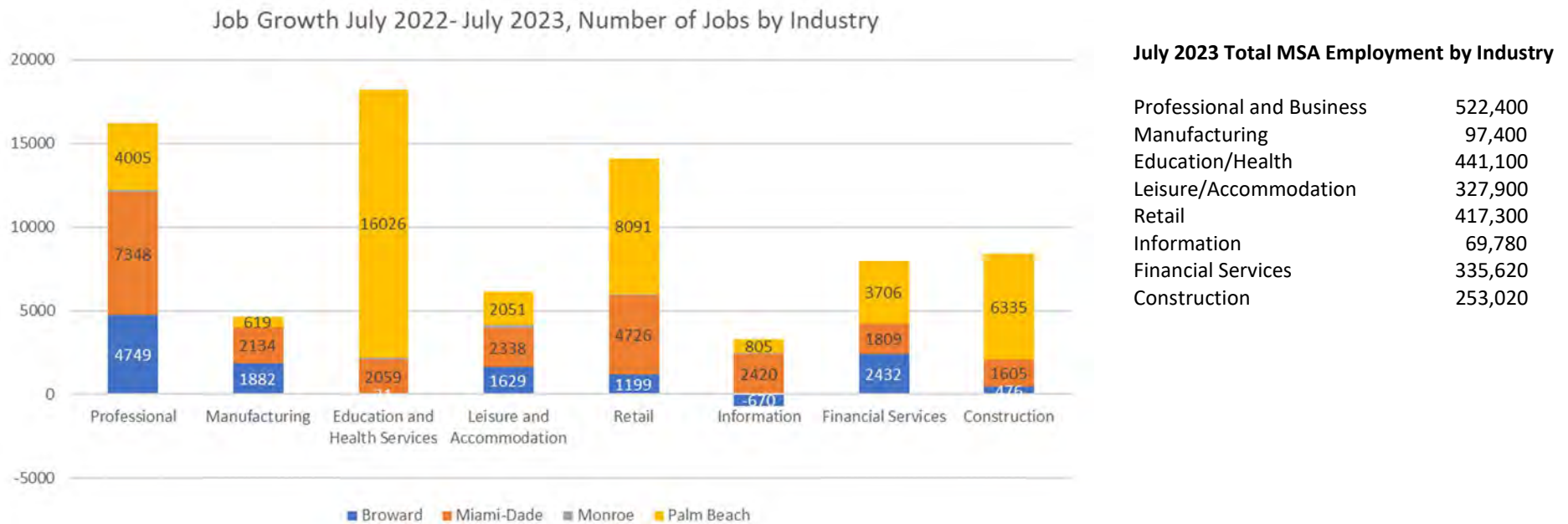


Source: [Miami, FL, Area Economic Summary \(bls.gov\)](https://www.bls.gov/miami-fl-area-economic-summary)

Change in MSA Employment July 2022 to July 2023

- Employment growth in absolute numbers has grown the most in Retail across all four counties in the MSA.
- While the fastest growing sector in absolute terms was Education and Health Services, Palm Beach County in the Treasure Coast region accounted for most jobs (16,026) created in that sector.
- Both Financial Services and Construction gained jobs, with most construction jobs occurring in Palm Beach.

**Figure 11: Change in Employment by Industry July 2022-2023 - Miami-Dade-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach MSA**

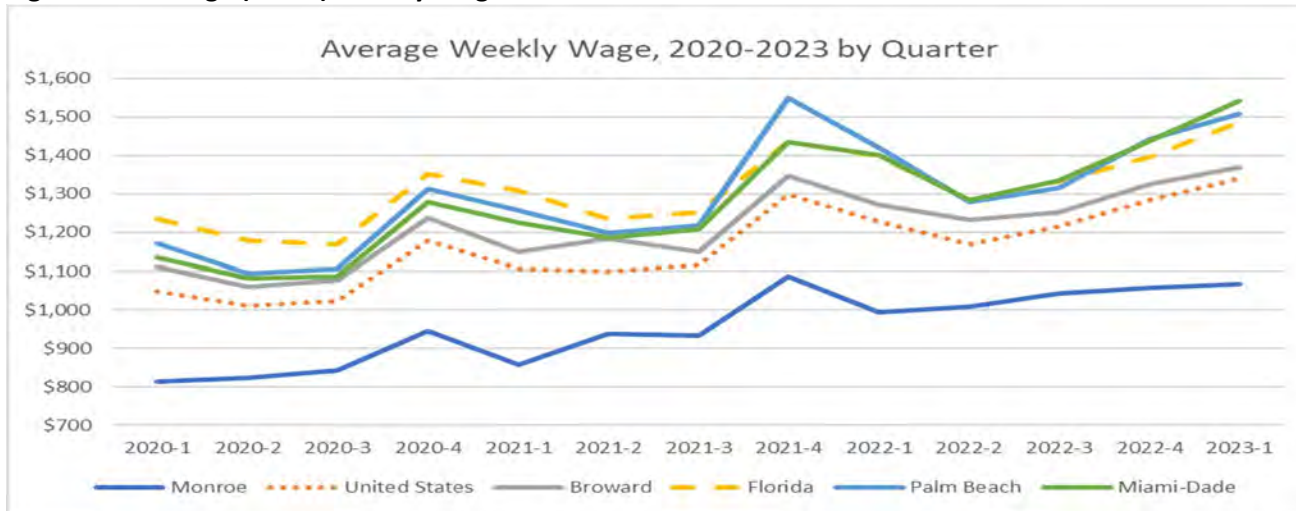


Source: [Miami, FL, Area Economic Summary \(bls.gov\)](https://www.bls.gov/miami-fl-area-economic-summary)

### Average Weekly Wages

- Monroe County, the County most dependent on Tourism related industries, has the lowest average wages. During the pandemic-related business shutdowns, particularly Q2 and Q4 2020, average wages in Monroe County increased because low wage jobs were eliminated, leaving higher wage jobs intact.
- Average wages in the other three counties are similar to the rest of Florida and the United States and track with variations in weekly trends.

**Figure 12: Average (Mean) Weekly Wages**



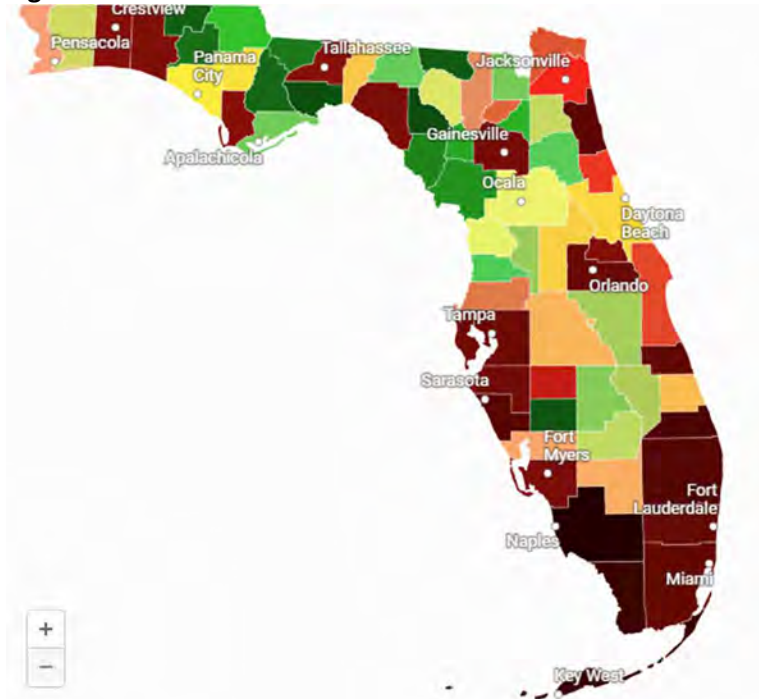
Source: [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics- State and County Wages, Employment, Hours, and Earnings - National](https://www.bls.gov/news.release/statesecwage.htm)



## Income Inequality

However, while mean wages have climbed in recent years, income inequality continues to plague South Florida. Figure 13 depicts the spread between the mean household income and the median (middle) household income level. The difference between the two is a broad measure of how extremely high wages distort the wages usually earned by the majority of households.

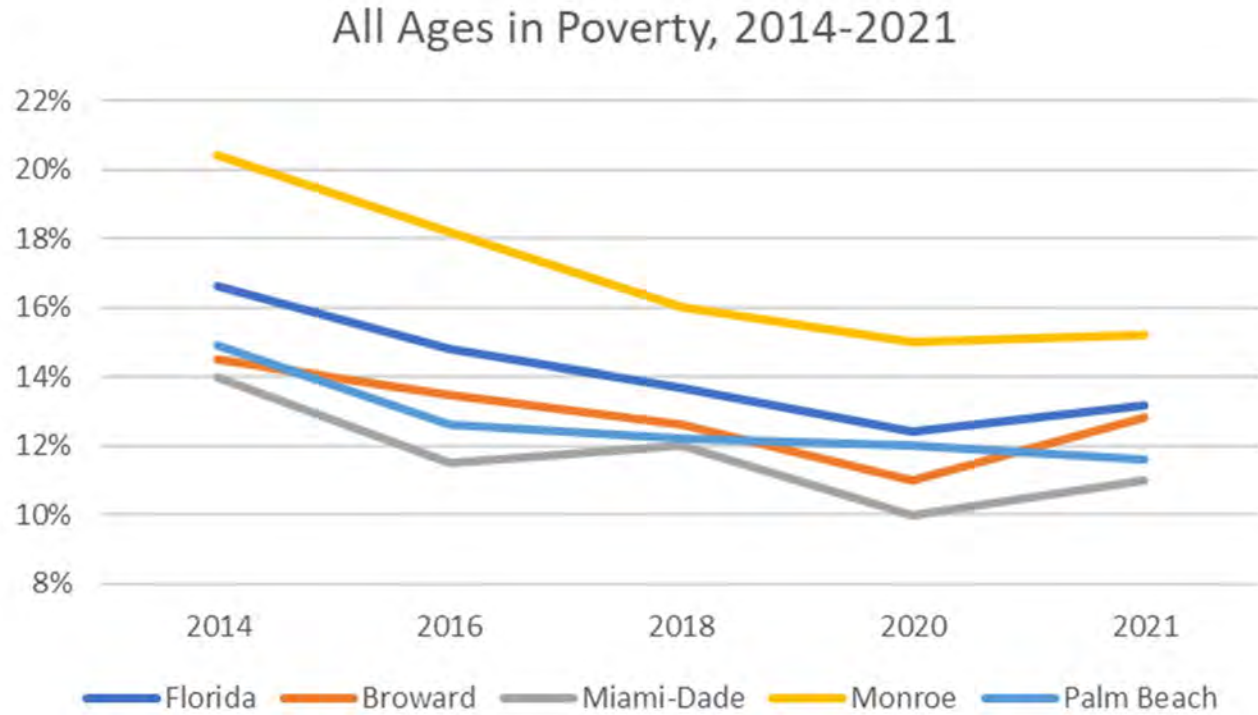
**Figure 13: 2021 Income Differential between Median and Mean Household Income (Darker shading is greater inequality)**



Monroe was in second place in the state (\$41,375 gap), Palm Beach, of the Treasure Coast, was fourth place (\$38,421); Miami-Dade and Broward were eighth (\$28,1829) and ninth places (\$28,051), respectively, in 2021.

Source: [Florida County Map Shows Where The Income Gap Is Biggest \(forbes.com\)](https://www.forbes.com), American Community Survey Table S1901 (Income in the Past 12 Months) and Table S1701 (Poverty Status in the Past 12 months)

Figure 14: All Ages in Poverty, 2014-2021 by Percentage (%)



Source: US Census Bureau, [Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates](#), 2023.

## **Evaluation of Progress on Action Plan and Goals – October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023**

South Florida’s economy and its many economic development stakeholders made progress in meeting the Goals of the South Florida CEDS. Progress toward the region’s economic goals is summarized below.

### **Priority Goal 1: Cultivate a competitive economy and foster economic mobility.**

- Objective 1.1. Maintain a Competitive Edge.
- Objective 1.2. Boost Entrepreneurial Development
- Objective 1.3. Invest in Workforce Development

### **Priority Goal 2: Create vibrant and connected places to increase the overall quality of life.**

- Objective 2.1. Promote transit planning, implementation, and utilization to move people throughout the region; 2.2. Mobility and Access

### **Priority Goal 3: Design, Construct, and Maintain resilient infrastructure to support sustainable business and population growth.**

- Objective 3.1. Water/Wastewater/ Stormwater/Solid Waste.
- Objective 3.2. Housing.
- Objective 3.3. Sustainable Land Development Patterns.
- Objective 3.4 Proactively Plan for Natural Disasters / Economic Shocks

### **Priority Goal 4: Promote Regional Collaboration of Intergovernmental, Public-Private, Interagency, And Non-Profits to Address South Florida’s Economic Challenges**

- Objective 4.1. Strengthen partnerships with existing regional organizations and explore opportunities for joint projects.



## Progress Report

### **Priority Goal 1: Cultivate a competitive economy and foster economic mobility.**

1.1. Maintain a Competitive Edge; 1.2. Boost Entrepreneurial Development; 1.3. Invest in Workforce Development

### **Progress Evaluation Activities**

#### The Nova Southeastern University (NSU) and NSU Levan Center Programs:

- Founder's Journey programs created 131 jobs, fundraised \$3,950,580, generated \$2,727,700 in revenues for 89 founders and 77 startups.
- The NSU Levan Center Country Desk, integral to the global affairs initiative, has partnered with innovative nations like the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Dominican Republic, and Cayman Islands, attracting international entrepreneurs and innovation ecosystems to South Florida through the Levan Center of Innovation to stimulate business growth, requiring more funding for model development.
- NSU Levan Center's LEVEL5: SPACE DOCK ideated 5 founders, 5 startups; incubated 5 founders, 5 startups and accelerated 2 founders, 2 startups.
- The NSU Levan Center in collaboration with Dell Technologies launched the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Digital Cities Lab, a first of its kind in the Southeast region in applying AI and data driven tech to urban planning, development, and management of smart cities.
- NSU Truist Cybersecurity Training Programs are underway for their threats within & NIST, 1 cohort of 15 participants, and the Cloud Technology Internship of 1 cohort of 14 participants.
- NSU Levan Center submitted a grant application for their Emerging Tech Talent Training (ET3) program which will provide training within the three areas of cybersecurity, AI/machine learning, and spatial computing.
- NSU Marilyn Segal Early Childhood Studies Center, a PK-12 school part of NSU, runs programs to educate 18 month-4-year-olds and their families. Children are prepared for matriculation to kindergarten programs and parents are educated on best practices in raising children, and nutrition, occupational therapy, psychological support are also supplied through NSU and other sources.
- Graduates of the NSU Huizenga Business Innovation Academy were provided \$20,000 of business start-up funding. 17 businesses were funded and are operating.
- NSU Business Fellowship program provides high school students the opportunity to work with NSU undergraduate students, graduate students, and professors in each of the majors within the College of Business to experience all aspects of business including management, marketing, finance, accounting, real estate, sports management, and entrepreneurship.

- Students at the Junior Achievement Fellows at NSU University School gain real-world business experience by working in groups of 20-25, conceptualizing, capitalizing, and managing their own small businesses. The program concludes with companies competing in the Spark Tank Finale. They then have a chance to be invited to the National Student Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C. each June.
- NSU University School Lower School 4th Grade students research the history of an existing company and work in small groups to problem-solve and come up with an original idea related to product development gaining an understanding of the role of the economy in society and much more.
- NSU has established relationships with local industries to identify their specific workforce needs and tailor offerings to align with the skills and education needed for high-demand jobs in South Florida. These partnerships have led to 75% of the May 2022 undergraduate students, who secured employment, deciding to do so in South Florida.
- Nationwide, NSU ranks 1st in first-professional/doctoral degrees awarded to all minority students and to Hispanic students, and 5th in graduate degrees awarded to Black/African American students. NSU is also ranked 9th for the largest number of master's and doctoral degrees to minority students.

#### CareerSource Broward

- The CareerSource Broward (CSBD) Occupational Skills Training – WIOA (Adults and Dislocated Workers) Program has provided nearly 2,500 services to nearly 700 customers. They provided nearly \$3.5 million to 456 of the participants to attend their career training programs, out of which 413 earned a credential. This led to 216 participants getting employed at an average hourly wage of \$25.26, while pathing the way for the others toward successful careers.
- The CSBD Youth Programs – In-School and Out-of-School – provided 352 in-school and out-of-school youth with 2,124 services, of which 180 went into job training, while approximately 240 had a measurable skills gain. This led to 126 of the youth to unsubsidized employment, earning an average hourly wage of \$13.19.
- The CSBD Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) placed over 1,000 youth into paid work experience at over 100 worksites in Broward County at a wage of \$14 per hour.
- The CSBD On-the-Job Training (OJT) provided 25 individuals with an OJT with 10 local employers.
- The Broward County Film Commission issued permits with over \$100 million in local economic impact, creating over 10,000 jobs for cast and crew members.
- The CSBD Paid Internship Program provided 14 individuals with a paid internship with 12 local employers.
- CSBD's Incumbent Work Training (IWT) Program funded \$78,406 in IWT for three local employers involving 102 of their workers.
- CSBD assisted with the development of one new apprenticeship program in the healthcare industry for Broward County and funded the wages for the work-based component for 17 apprentices in the construction and trade industries in the amount of \$253,915.

- CSBD Received Florida Commerce funding for the disaster flooding that occurred in April 2023 and contacted 31 city managers and nearly 25 local non-profits, along with Broward County government, to assess their emergency needs. Currently CSBD is placing unemployed individuals in 15 positions at two non-profit organizations to assist with disaster recovery.

#### OIC South Florida

- The OIC South Florida Training & Education Division continues to deliver multiple opportunities and methods of career technical training with a participation retention rate of 86% and job placement at 76%.
- Banyan - Treatment, Recovery, and Workforce Support Project had an enrollment of 63 participants where 29 earned an industry recognized credential and 13 were hired.
- The Workforce Development and Vocational Training Project trained three cohorts of 28 students out of which 24 earned an industry-recognized credential and 10 were placed in jobs.
- U.S. Department of Labor Pathway Home (LEAP – Linking to Employment Activities Pre-Release) Project enrolled 63 participants out of which 45 earned an industry-recognized credential and 20 were placed in jobs.
- U.S. EDA Good Jobs Challenge (Miami Tech Works) Project enrollment began in September of 2023 with 12 participants enrolled in the program.
- The Pathways Out of Poverty Project enrolled 249 participants out of which 146 earned an industry-recognized credential and 136 were placed in jobs.
- The Women’s Workforce Development Project (WWEP) enrolled 59 participants out of which 20 earned an industry-recognized credential and 15 were placed in jobs.
- U.S. Department of Labor Workforce Pathways for Youth (STEM Linx) Project: 160 youth were served in STEM Explore, STEM Ready, STEM Works, and STEM Connects activities.
- Youth Internship Program: 53 low-income youth attended the 2-week Leadership Academy and the 6-week paid Summer Internship Program, earning approximately \$90,000.

#### Other

- The Clean Cities Coalition together with West Virginia University and Sheridan Technical School was awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to establish a workforce development program for electric vehicle technicians scheduled to start January of 2024.
- Launched in 2018, Broward UP (Unlimited Potential) service model of free educational opportunities had 90 participants enrolled out of which 56 earned an industry recognized credential and 5 were placed in jobs.

- Prosperity Broward, an initiative of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance Foundation, is fostering collaboration among various stakeholders to leverage the county's thriving economy for the benefit of individuals in six high-unemployment zip codes, with their initial pilot program in Lauderdale Lakes aiming to implement policy changes and recommendations for economic mobility.
- The Keys Connect Workforce program of the College of the Florida Keys is underway into forming partnerships to connect the Keys businesses to much needed workforce from the South Florida mainland.

**Priority Goal 2: Create vibrant and connected places to increase the overall quality of life.**

2.1. Promote transit planning, implementation, and utilization to move people throughout the region; 2.2. Mobility and Access

**Progress Evaluation Activities**

- The SFRPC and the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) partnered to study the nexus between affordable housing and transit hubs. The study will provide several benefits, including a more comprehensive approach to planning for transportation and affordable housing and improved coordination between transportation and affordable housing agencies.
- Staff has created, and is continually updating, a database of resilience efforts internally within FDOT D6 and externally, with other districts, central office, local governments, state and federal agencies, and community partners.
- To date there have been 319 completed surtaxed funded projects through the Mobility Advancement Program of Broward.  
<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/20fc2618ab2a41e5b40fa8f2d15f3bbc>
- The Brightline train service between Miami, Fort Lauderdale, and West Palm Beach has now expanded to Orlando. To date the train service has had a \$6.4 Billion direct economic impact to Florida's economy, committed to creating and sustaining over 2,000 jobs in South Florida, and every day 72K Metric Tons of CO2 emissions are removed from the communities they serve.  
<https://www.gobrightline.com/social-impact>
- Smart Cities Artificial Intelligence (AI) Labs – Levan Center NSU see output under goal 1 progress report.
- Miami-Dade TPO Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit (SMART) Program: 37 SMART demonstration projects awarded; 25% increase in on-demand services including shuttles and 75% increase in fixed route services; 6.25 million total ridership since program inception in 2028.
- Miami-Dade TPO launched the SMART Street Transportation Enhancements Program (STEP) to facilitate interagency coordination, innovation, and accelerated implementation of pedestrian and bicycle improvement projects that increase connectivity and enhance safety. Six projects have been completed to date with more ongoing ones in the pipeline.
- The Miami-Dade TPO Governing Board adopted Resolution #24-2022 authorizing the assessment of Urban Air Mobility (UAM) technology and policy framework requirements for the eventual integration of UAM into the County's transportation network.
- The Underline phase 1 construction is completed with Phase 2, a 2.14-mile segment currently under construction from Coral.
- Way (SW 13th Street) to SW 19th Avenue that will provide direct connections to the Vizcaya Metrorail Station, as well as three amenity areas. Phase 3 is anticipated to be completed in 2026.



- The Central West Basin Linear Park in Miami, a formerly underused area, was revitalized as a safe and beautiful linear park with a shared use path, where residents can enjoy walking, running, or cycling. The park was developed by Miami-Dade County in collaboration with FPL and Miami-Dade Expressway Authority (MDX).<sup>7</sup> (For further information, see:
- Broward MPO safety project completed the 2016 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant; an investment of over \$20 million in safety, mobility, and connectivity improvements in five Broward cities.
- The Broward MPO, in partnership with Broward County, was awarded a \$5 million Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Discretionary Cycle 1 Grant for a Safety Action Plan in 2022. This award was made possible by leveraging a local match of \$1.25 million from Broward County and the grant will identify low-cost, high-impact projects that move the needle toward Vision Zero.
- NSU currently has two dozen EV charging stations on campus as part of their support of infrastructure to accelerate electric, connected, and autonomous vehicles adoption.

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<sup>7</sup> Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization. <https://www.miamidadetpo.org/library/reports/2022-annual-report.pdf>

**Priority Goal 3: Design, Construct, and Maintain resilient infrastructure to support sustainable business and population growth.**

3.1. Water/Wastewater/ Stormwater/Solid Waste; 3.2. Housing; 3.3. Sustainable Land Development Patterns; 3.4. Proactively Plan for Natural Disasters / Economic Shocks

**Progress Evaluation Activities**

- Council staff provided a workplan to complete a vulnerability assessment and to provide peril of flood policy recommendations for the City of Dania Beach, which received funding from the Resilient Florida Grant Program of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.
- Council staff continues to review and assess various public marina and coastline resilience projects throughout Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe counties. The SFRPC along with the TCRPC and Miami Waterkeepers previously developed goals and objectives for the Coalition to support local municipalities and their resilience issues.
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded the South Florida Regional Planning Council a \$500,000 EPA Community-Wide Assessment grant to assist the City of Homestead CRA to assess three priority sites encompassing 10+ acres located within a Florida Designated Brownfield area.
- The Council completed planning updates for the Region 10 Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan.
- The Council completed a 160-hour Hazmat Tech Course & Exercise in Broward.
- In coordination with the Southeast Florida Clean Cities Coalition, the Council hosted an electric and propane school bus first responder training at the City of Hollywood Fire Rescue Training Facility where 60 attendees participated.
- The SFRPC Military Installation Resilience Review (MIRR) is identifying the risks, hazards, and vulnerabilities of concern that are related to an installation’s ability to carry out its missions and that could be mitigated through solutions in the community. The final report was delivered in September 2023.
- Worked with County and local level professional staff and elected officials to facilitate policy development in support of regional transit and clean energy initiatives.
- Initiated coordination with the Region 10’s tri-county Emergency Management directors to update the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Plan.
- To date, the SFRPC, through its Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) program has provided financing to construct 23 single-family homes at market-favorable price points: 18 in Broward, 4 in Miami-Dade and, reaching into Treasure Coast, 1 in Palm Beach County.
- CARES ACT RLF has provided financial and technical support on a cumulative basis to 34 impacted essential businesses with related loans totaling \$7,170,000.
- Council staff continues to promote the financing program to likely applicants or organizations that may connect enterprises to the SFRPC RLF.

- The College of the Florida Keys has received approval from the State of Florida for the construction of their residential complex that will include 240 student beds and 25 units of employee housing. The College is currently working to secure funding for the project.
- The Broward County Human Services Department distributed more than \$53 million to approximately 5,000 Broward households on the brink of eviction, keeping families off the streets.
- The Broward County Commission budgeted and awarded almost \$60 million to the affordable housing trust fund to spearhead new efforts for new affordable housing units.
- NSU's Facilities Management department completed the transfer of cooling tower water conversion from potable to reclaimed water in the main chiller plant which saved 29 million gallons of potable water that is lost annually to evaporation or discharge.
- NSU worked with the Town of Davie to expand and modernize the water service lines along University Drive. The project reduced potable water loss and enhanced service quality to the adjacent neighborhood.
- NSU developed a policy for recycling and donation of used furniture and established a re-upholstery program to refresh outdated furniture in good structural condition to avoid sending it to the landfill.

#### South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD)

- Funded Priority Water Control Structure S-29 Coastal Structure and C-9 Basin Resiliency ongoing project.
- Initiated construction hardening of S-2, S-3, S-4, S-7, S-8 Engine Control Panels.
- Continue working on Phase I of the C&SF self-preservation mode project fully funded by FDEP Resilient Florida + Match for \$6.3M.
- Continue to ensure significant infrastructure investments for Everglades Restoration Projects, as restoring natural systems increase the resilience and protection of both built and natural environments.
- Launched the [South Florida Resiliency Coordination Forum](#) to promote collaboration between the South Florida Water Management District, local, state, federal and tribal partners on water management initiatives related to resiliency; and engage partners on assessing the impacts of changing climate conditions and water management implications.
- Securing around \$170M in State and Federal funding recommendation for 5+ large C&SF water management infrastructure projects with the goal of reducing the risks of flooding, sea level rise, and other climate impacts on water resources and increasing community and ecosystem resiliency in South Florida.

**Priority Goal 4: Promote Regional Collaboration of Intergovernmental, Public-Private, Interagency, And Non-Profits to Address South Florida’s Economic Challenges**

4.1. Strengthen partnerships with existing regional organizations and explore opportunities for joint projects.

**Progress Evaluation Activities**

- EDD staff supported an EDA grant application from the City of Opa-Locka and prepared an economic impact analysis for a regional private sector partner. The primary South Florida EDD CEDS-related economic development activity was preparing for and initiating the CEDS update and outreach strategic plan development. Staff evaluated the goals of the CEDS and aligned the objectives with strategies to improve the region’s economic resilience and ability to respond to future pandemic-related economic shocks. These strategies will be reviewed by the CEDS Committee, and projects to implement the strategies will be identified by the CEDS Committee in the next year.
- Convened approximately one hundred stakeholders representing the region's Economic Development Organizations, municipalities, universities, and business leaders to develop an economic development proposal focused on the EDA Tech Hubs program. The submitted applications for climate tech and medical tech highlighted the region's assets and resources, including its strong research and development community, its diverse workforce, and its strategic location.
- The Council, in partnership with the Treasure Coast RPC, is collaborating with elected officials and professionals from Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties to address vital Southeast Florida affordable housing issues. This ongoing conversation aims to facilitate community stakeholders in discussing current and future affordable housing initiatives, sharing successful strategies, addressing challenges, and proposing improvements. On September 29, 2023, the SFRPC hosted the four county mayors in a regional housing conversation.
- The NSU Levan Center inaugural South Florida Innovation Day in 2022 in collaboration with eMerge Americas drew more than 800 attendees from academia, industry, government, entrepreneurs, and professional networks, focusing on entrepreneurship, cybersecurity, digital cities, including a pitch competition.
- The Council is working with the Miami-Dade County Local Technology Planning Team (LTPT) to reengage in broadband and start building momentum again for a strong round of grant applications.
- The Council continues to participate in planning meetings to work on regional initiatives with the Miami-Dade TPO, Broward MPO, and the Regional Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (RTTAC) which advises the South Florida Transportation Advisory Council (SFTAC).
- The SFRPC and TCRPC hosted a 7-County Conference on Solid Waste Management Challenges and Opportunities in Southeast Florida. County professionals and other subject matter experts discussed the current state and challenges of solid waste management practice in Southeast Florida.

- SFRPC hosted the “Striding Forward: First & Last Mile Innovation in the Region” event where more than 100 participants attended to learn about the economic and community benefits of improved first and last mile connectivity.
- Clean Cities Coalition staff consistently collaborates with County and local level professional staff and elected officials to facilitate policy development in support of regional alternative fuel transportation initiatives and participates in multiple speaking engagements.
- The NSU Levan Center, in partnership with NASA, Space Foundation, and Space Florida held two inaugural events to raise awareness on the opportunities that exist within the space economy. More than 400 attendees participated in each event.
- NSU held the Summit for not-for-profit entities focusing on best-in-practice approaches to strategic planning and philanthropy, creation of networks, grant writing to seek grants from foundations, and the impact of artificial intelligence on the future of philanthropy.
- OIC Middle Class Summit, a 2-Day Convening of nationally renowned leaders, improved connections among national, state, and local partners similarly focused on upward mobility and strengthening the middle class. More than 400 attendees participated in each day and 192 organizations were represented from across Florida and the United States.