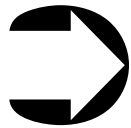


workforce resources



New businesses are likely to be receiving more resumes these days, with the unemployment

rates ranging from 5 percent to nearly 7 percent in Charlotte, Collier and Lee counties.

That's higher than past years, fueled by layoffs in industries such as construction, where the workforce is down by more than 20 percent, says Tammie Nemecek, president and CEO of the Economic Development Council of Collier County.

"But a 5 percent unemployment rate is still fairly low for an area," she says. "It's been a relief valve for a lot of businesses that were just struggling to find workers and feeling as though they didn't have a wide variety of choices."

Folks with managerial experience are in demand, and Dan Regelski, director of the Small Business Development Center at Florida Gulf Coast University, says more lawyers, certified public accountants, information technology specialists and marketing/advertising/public relations consultants have been moving to Southwest Florida.

His key to finding a quality hire: Create a distinct job description. "It's an animal that a lot of businesses don't want to tackle," Regelski says.

FINDING WORKERS

➤ Classified ads are still frequently used for some types of jobs, but many employers and job seekers are turning to online job sites and

professional organizations' Web postings. Here are three that Jim Wall of the Southwest Florida Workforce Development Board Inc. says are used frequently by local employers:

www.employflorida.com

www.southwestfloridahelpwanted.net

www.careerbuilder.com

Two newer outlets are www.workgiant.com

and www.quiethire.com

FINDING TRAINING

➤ Local, statewide and national resources are available for employees who need to sharpen their skills or to learn new ones.

Lee County School District's Business and Industry Services

Provides customized training for more than 1,000 employees annually in Lee County. Training takes place at the employer's job site, High Tech North or at another designated location.

2855 Colonial Blvd.
Fort Myers, FL 33966-1012
(239) 939-6320
<http://bis.leeschools.net>

Lee County High Tech Central

3800 Michigan Ave.
Fort Myers, FL 33916
(239) 334-4544
www.hightechcentral.org

Lee County High Tech North

360 Santa Barbara Blvd. N.
Cape Coral, FL 33993
(239) 574-4440
<http://nvt.leeschools.net>

Lorenzo Walker Institute of Technology

3702 Estey Ave.
Naples, FL 34104
(239) 377-0900
<http://lwit.edu>

Edison College Continuing Education

Offered in Fort Myers, Cape Coral, Naples and Punta Gorda.

(800) 749-2322
www.edison.edu/ce

Florida Gulf Coast University

Continuing education offered at Charlotte, Collier and Lee campuses.

(239) 590-1000
www.fgcu.edu/ced

Career and Service Centers of Southwest Florida

Centers operated by The Southwest Florida Workforce Development Board Inc. that offer individuals access to employment, education and training services from different programs and providers at locations in the region.

215 South Francisco St., Clewiston, FL 33440
(863) 983-6138
750 South Fifth St., Immokalee, FL 34142
(239) 658-3300
4150 Ford St. Extension, Fort Myers, FL 33916
(239) 931-8200
19500 Cochran Boulevard, Port Charlotte, FL 33948-2090
(941) 235-5900
215 Airport-Pulling Road N., Naples, FL 34104
(239) 436-4301
www.careerandservicecenter.org

CareerOneStop

A U.S. Department of Labor-sponsored Web site that offers career resources and workforce information.

(877) 348-0502
www.careeronestop.org

economic development organizations

STATEWIDE **Enterprise Florida**

A public-private partnership serving as Florida's primary organization devoted to statewide economic development.

800 N. Magnolia Ave., Suite 1100, Orlando, FL 32803
(407) 956-5600 phone, (407) 956-5599 fax
www.eflorida.com

Florida Economic Development Council Inc.

A statewide association that acts as a resource for economic development-related policy, education and networking. A membership-based, nonprofit corporation.

The Atrium Building, 325 John Knox Road, Suite 201, Tallahassee, FL 32303
P.O. Box 3186, Tallahassee, FL 32315-3186
(850) 201-3332 phone, (850) 201-3330 fax
www.fedc.net

REGIONAL **Independent Development Services Corp.**

A nonprofit organization certified by the U.S. Small Business Administration to provide assistance for the SBA 504 loan program and to promote other economic development financing arrangements.

(239) 652-5588 phone, (239) 652-9988 fax
13180 N. Cleveland Ave., Suite 232, North Fort Myers, FL 33903
President: Thomas Wallace
www.idscorp.org

Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council

The planning agency serving Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee and Sarasota counties. Directed by a council composed of local elected officials and gubernatorial appointees.

1926 Victoria Ave., Fort Myers, FL 33901
(239) 338-2550 phone, (239) 338-2560 fax
Executive director: Ken Heatherington
www.swfrpc.org

The Workforce Development Board of Southwest Florida

A partnership between business, labor, education, community and government services that oversees workforce development initiatives in Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee counties, and operates Career and Service Centers of Southwest Florida.

9530 Marketplace Road, Suite 104, Fort Myers, FL 33912
(239) 225-2500 phone, (239) 225-2559 fax
Executive director: Joseph Paterno
www.careerandservicecenter.org

Career and Service Centers of Southwest Florida

215 South Francisco St., Clewiston, FL 33440
(863) 983-6138
750 South 5th St., Immokalee, FL 34142
(239) 658-3300
4150 Ford St. Extension, Fort Myers, FL 33916
(239) 931-8200
19500 Cochran Blvd., Port Charlotte, FL 33948-2090
(941) 235-5900
215 Airport-Pulling Road N., Naples, FL 34104
(239) 436-4301

LEE COUNTY **Lee County Economic Development Office**

A branch of Lee County government that works with public and private organizations to attract new companies to the area and help existing businesses grow.

12800 University Drive, Suite 300, Fort Myers, FL 33907
(239) 338-3161 phone, (239) 338-3227 fax
Executive director: Jim Moore (interim)
www.leecountybusiness.com

Cape Coral Economic Development Office

A branch of Cape Coral government that provides assistance and information regarding business expansion, relocation and startups in the city.

P.O. Box 150027, Cape Coral, FL 33915-0027
1015 Cultural Park Boulevard, Cape Coral, FL 33990
(239) 574-0444 phone, (239) 574-0452 fax

Economic development director:
Mike Jackson
www.bizcapecoral.com

City of Fort Myers Southwest Florida Enterprise Center

A business incubator that provides support, resources and services to entrepreneurs and developing companies.

3901 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33916
(239) 332-6701 phone
www.swflenterprisecenter.com

Fort Myers Redevelopment Agency

Oversees the revitalization of downtown Fort Myers.

1400 Jackson St., Suite 102, Fort Myers, FL 33901
(239) 332-6813 phone, (239) 332-6659 fax
Executive director: Don Paight
www.cityftmyers.com

COLLIER COUNTY **The Economic Development Council of Collier County**

A public/private partnership that promotes economic development initiatives to diversify the local economy, create high-wage, value-added jobs, increase the average local wage and facilitate capital formation.

3050 N. Horseshoe Drive, Suite 120, Naples, FL 34104
(239) 263-8989 phone, (239) 263-6021 fax
President and CEO: Tammie Nemecek
www.enaplesflorida.com

CHARLOTTE COUNTY **Charlotte County Economic Development Office**

Offers information and assistance to existing companies and to businesses wishing to move to Charlotte County.

18501 Murdock Circle, Suite 502, Port Charlotte, FL 33948
(941) 627-3023 phone, (941) 627-6314 fax
Economic development director: Don Root
www.pureeconomics.org

chambers of commerce

LEE COUNTY

Boca Grande Area Chamber of Commerce

Year Founded: 1991

Members: 255

Executive director: Craig Lutz
P.O. Box 704, Boca Grande, FL 33921
(941) 964-0568 phone, (941) 964-0620 fax
www.bocagrandechamber.com
info@bocagrandechamber.com

Bonita Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

Year founded: 1953

Members: 1,300

President: Nancy Keefer
25071 Chamber of Commerce Drive, Bonita Springs, FL 34135
(239) 992-2943 phone, (239) 992-5011 fax
www.bonitaspringschamber.com
info@bonitaspringschamber.com

Cape Coral Chamber of Commerce

Year founded: 1989

Members: 1,000

President: Mike Quaintance
2051 Cape Coral Parkway E., Cape Coral, FL 33904
(239) 549-6900 phone, (239) 549-9609 fax
www.capecoralchamber.com
info@capecoralchamber.com

The Chamber of Southwest Florida

Year founded: 1989

Members: 200

President: Steve Tirey
1520 Royal Palm Square Blvd., Suite 210,

Fort Myers, FL 33919
(239) 278-4001 phone, (239) 278-3319 fax
www.chamber-swflorida.com
chamberswf@sprintmail.com

Christian Chamber of Southwest Florida

Year founded: 1997

Members: 600

President & CEO: Jeanne M. Sweeney
8191 College Parkway, Suite 205, Fort Myers, FL 33919
(239) 481-1411 phone, (239) 415-2005 fax
www.hischamber.org
christianchamber@embarqmail.com

Estero Chamber of Commerce

Year founded: 1998

Members: 290

CEO: Meg Judge
P.O. Box 588, Estero, FL 33928
(239) 948-7990 phone, (239) 948-5072 fax
www.esterochamber.org
info@esterochamber.com

Greater Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce

Year founded: 1989

Members: 1,300

Executive director: Marietta Mudgett
2310 Edwards Drive, P.O. Box 9289,
Fort Myers, FL 33902
(239) 332-3624 phone, (239) 332-7276 fax
www.fortmyers.org
info@fortmyers.org

Greater Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce

Year founded: 1940

Members: 600

President: John Albion
17200 San Carlos Blvd., Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931
(239) 454-7500 phone, (239) 454-7910 fax
www.fmbchamber.com
info@fmbchamber.com

Greater Pine Island Chamber of Commerce

Year founded: early 1950s

Members: 260

President: Bernard Johnson
3640 N.W. Pine Island Road, P.O. Box 525, Matlacha, FL 33993
(239) 283-0888 phone, (239) 283-0336 fax
www.pineislandchamber.org
info@pineislandchamber.org

Lehigh Acres Chamber of Commerce

Year founded: 1960

Members: 400

Executive director: Oliver B. Conover
4109 Lee Blvd., P.O. Box 757, Lehigh Acres, FL 33971
(239) 369-3322 phone, (239) 368-0500 fax
www.lehighacreschamber.org
ollie.lehighchamber@comcast.net

Lee County Chamber of Commerce

Year founded: 2000

Members: 810

President: Armando Nargi
13611 McGregor Blvd., Suite 8, Fort Myers, FL 33919
(239) 931-0931 phone, (239) 931-0917 fax
www.iloveleecounty.com
yes@iloveleecounty.com

North Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce

Year founded: 1982

Members: 300

President: Morgan Halle

3323 N. Key Drive, Suite D1, North Fort Myers, FL 33903

(239) 997-9111 phone, (239) 997-4026 fax

<http://nfmchamber.org>

nfmchamber@yahoo.com

San Carlos Park Chamber of Commerce

Year founded: 2008

Members: 80

President: Deanna Casalino

7328 Sanibel Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL 33967

(239) 362-2074 phone, (239) 362-2076 fax

www.sancarlosparkchamber.com

chamberevents@comcast.net

Sanibel & Captiva Islands Chamber of Commerce

Year founded: 1954

Members: 600

Executive director: Ric Base

1159 Causeway Road, Sanibel, FL 33957

(239) 472-1080 phone, (239) 472-1070 fax

www.sanibel-captiva.org

island@sanibel-captiva.org

Southwest Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Year founded: 1989

Members: 600

Executive director: Leonardo Garcia

10051 McGregor Blvd., Suite 204, Fort Myers, FL 33919

(239) 418-1441 phone, (239) 418-1475 fax

www.swfhcc.com

hispanicchamber.lg@earthlink.net

COLLIER COUNTY

Everglades Area Chamber of Commerce

Year founded: 1953

Members: 100

Executive director: Winifred Thomas

P.O. Box 130, Everglades City, FL 34139

(239) 695-3172 phone, (239) 695-3171 fax

www.evergladeschamber.com

info@evergladeschamber.com

German American Business Chamber of Florida, Southwest Chapter

Founded: 1992

Members: 110

Executive director: Liz Pfunder

3838 Tamiami Trail N., Suite 416, Naples, FL 34103

(239) 643-3273 phone, (239) 643-9916 fax

www.gabc.us

naples@gabc.us

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1250 North Tamiami Trail, #101
Naples, Florida 34102
(239) 261-1111
www.cresfla.com

Immokalee Chamber of Commerce

Year founded: 1963

Members: 235

Executive director: Dick Rice

310 Alachua, P.O. Box 5278, Immokalee, FL 34142

(239) 657-3237 phone, (239) 657-5450 fax

www.immokaleechamber.com

icoc@embarqmail.com

Marco Island Area Chamber of Commerce

Year founded: 1977

Members: 745

Executive director: Sandi Riedemann

1102 N. Collier Blvd., Marco Island, FL 34145

(239) 394-7549 phone, (239) 394-3061 fax

www.marcoislandchamber.org

info@marcoislandchamber.org

Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce

Year founded: 1946

Members: 2,169

President: Michael Reagen

2390 Tamiami Trail N., Suite 210, Naples, FL 34103

(239) 262-6376 phone, (239) 262-8374 fax

www.napleschamber.org

info@napleschamber.org

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce

Year founded: 1925

Members: 1,400

Executive director: Julie Mathis

2702 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte, Florida 33952

(941) 627-2222 phone, (941) 627-9730 fax

311 W. Retta Esplanade, Punta Gorda, FL 33950

(941) 639-2222 phone, (941) 639-6330 fax

www.charlottecountychamber.org

askus@charlottecountychamber.org

Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce

Year founded: 2005 (from Punta Gorda Business Alliance, 1990)

Members: 815

President: John R. Wright

252 W. Marion Ave., Suite 121, Punta Gorda, FL, 33950

(941) 639-3720 phone, (941) 639-7498 fax

www.puntagorda-chamber.com

chamber@puntagorda-chamber.com

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