



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

April 18, 2014

Dear Fellow Floridians:

This week we were excited to learn that Florida businesses created **more than 20,000 jobs** during the month of March, bringing more good news for Florida families.

For the eighth consecutive month, Florida's unemployment rate remains well below the national average of 6.7 percent. In total, Florida's economy has added more than 563,000 private sector jobs in just over three years, giving more Floridians the opportunity to succeed.

Once again, Florida's labor force grew in March. That means more people without a job are actively seeking one. Specifically, 41,000 more people gained a job in March, and 59,000 entered the labor force.

Our businesses are continuing to grow and create jobs, and Floridians are continuing to find more opportunities to get back to work and provide for their families. Here are some points you can share with your friends and family:

More Floridians Getting Back to Work

- Florida's private sector job growth month-to-month has been positive for 33 consecutive months.
- Florida has created 563,900 new private sector jobs since December 2010.
- Florida job postings compiled by the Help Wanted OnLine data series from The Conference Board showed 260,000 openings in March 2014.
- Florida's unemployment rate has remained below the national unemployment rate for eight consecutive months.

Home Sales Robust

- Home sales remain robust as the backlog of existing homes on the market is down by 31.3 percent from December 2011 (Florida Realtors).
- Florida median home prices were up 10.0 percent over the year in February 2014.

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Page Two

Economic Growth Trends Up Across State

- A recent U.S. Census Survey reported that Florida experienced an influx of people moving into the state. Florida also led the nation in migrations from Puerto Rico.
- Florida is running a trade surplus of over \$18 billion - with \$90.4 billion in exports and \$71.8 billion in imports in 2012, up from \$86.8 billion in exports in 2011 and \$62.4 billion in imports in 2011.

Let's keep working until everyone who wants a job can get one.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rick Scott", with a large, sweeping flourish at the beginning.

Rick Scott
Governor