

**Targeted Employment Areas as Defined by the EB-5 Investor Visa Program
(Updated March 2011)**

The lists below identify areas in the State of Florida that currently qualify as Targeted Employment Areas (TEAs) as defined by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' (USCIS) EB-5 Investor Visa Program. The definition of a TEA is: **1.** A rural area or **2.** An non-rural area that has experienced high unemployment (150.0 percent of the national average unemployment rate during a comparable 12-month period).

Rural areas are defined as those areas not located within a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) or within a city or town with a population of 20,000 or more. Areas in Florida that qualify as rural areas under this provision include:

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| Bradford County | Jackson County |
| Calhoun County | Lafayette County |
| Citrus County | Levy County |
| Columbia County | Liberty County |
| DeSoto County | Madison County |
| Dixie County | Monroe County (excluding Key West City) |
| Franklin County | Okeechobee County |
| Glades County | Putnam County |
| Gulf County | Sumter County |
| Hamilton County | Suwannee County |
| Hardee County | Taylor County |
| Hendry County | Union County |
| Highlands County | Walton County |
| Holmes County | Washington County |

High unemployment areas are defined as non-rural areas (either entire MSAs; component counties of multicounty MSAs; or cities with populations of 20,000 or more) with unemployment rates at least 150.0 percent higher than the national average for the most recent calendar year available. For calendar year 2010, the national unemployment rate averaged 9.6 percent. Therefore, a non-rural area qualifies as a high unemployment area if its 2010 annual average rate was at least 14.4 percent. Areas in Florida that qualify as high unemployment areas under this provision include:

Palm Coast MSA (Flagler County)—15.5 percent

Hernando County—14.5 percent

Hialeah City (in Miami-Dade County)—15.9 percent

Miami Gardens City (in Miami-Dade County)—15.7 percent

Fort Pierce City (in St. Lucie County)—15.8 percent

The Labor Market Statistics Center can calculate unemployment estimates for smaller geographies such as cities or Census tracts to determine if they qualify as TEAs by request. If you have questions or require additional information about the TEA status of an area, please contact Susanna Patterson (susanna.patterson@flaawi.com) at (850) 245-7268.

More information about the EB-5 Investor Visa Program can be found on the USCIS website (www.uscis.gov).