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## Miami-Dade unemployment rate climbs to 12.7 percent

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JOE RAEDLE / AFP-GETTY IMAGES

Miami-Dade's unemployment rate for August was the highest since the national recession began in 2007.

Unemployment continues to creep toward 13 percent in Miami-Dade, according to new federal figures showing August added roughly 4,000 people to the county's jobless ranks.

Miami-Dade's unemployment level climbed from 12.4 percent in July to 12.7 percent in August, according to the report from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics. That marks a grim new high-water mark: the highest unemployment rate since the national recession began in 2007.

Of the 1.2 million people in Miami-Dade either employed or looking for work, 162,400 didn't have a job in August, the report said.

The federal snapshot of South Florida's largest labor market is a follow-up to Friday's report from Florida's labor agency, which put Miami-Dade's unemployment rate at 14.4 percent. Economists generally view the federal number as the better gauge, since it's "seasonally adjusted."

Unlike the recent state report on county labor markets, the federal report calculates for normal fluctuations in employment -- such as teachers going back to work in August and theme-park operators cutting back for fall. The federal labor bureau does not offer a seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for Broward or Monroe (where unemployment stands at 10.7 percent and 8.5 percent, respectively, according to Florida).

Tuesday's release shows just how ugly it has gotten to be unemployed in Miami-Dade. This time last year, Miami-Dade unemployment rate stood at 10.9 percent. In August 2007, as the national recession loomed, it was at 4.1 percent.

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