

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Tom Rooney (FL-16) today issued the following statement after Governor Rick Scott announced that Florida's unemployment rate dropped to 9.9 percent in December, and the state's economy added 5,100 new private sector jobs. Rooney noted that while Florida's unemployment rate dropped 2.1 percentage points in 2011, the national rate dipped by only 0.9.

"Florida was one of the country's top job-creating states last year because, under Governor Scott, we focused on creating an environment where the private sector can grow and add new jobs," Rooney said. "Florida is reducing the size of government, getting rid of costly regulations, and selling itself as a good place to do business – exactly what the federal government should be doing to help put Americans back to work."

"Our state still has a long way to go, especially since our small businesses and job-seekers continue to face an avalanche of new regulations, threats of tax hikes, and growing uncertainty from Washington. The federal government needs to help small businesses in Florida by tearing down these roadblocks and giving them the stable environment they need to grow and hire new workers, like [my jobs plan](#) would do. The President's [nonpartisan jobs council has endorsed this approach](#), but unfortunately, the President has shown [no signs that he's listening](#)."

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