

AT&T to slash 400-plus Florida jobs

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AT&T is laying off employees in its landline telephone operation as that part of its business shrinks.

A spreadsheet sent to The Miami Herald this week lists 1,060 jobs scheduled to be cut, from AT&T Southeast region. Of those, 461 are in Florida, including nearly 200 in Miami-Dade and Broward counties.

An AT&T spokesman confirmed that cuts are in the works but declined to talk about numbers. "We are working to match our workforce to our customer loads," said Marty Richter, a spokesman. "Some parts of our businesses are growing -- wireless broadband and video -- but some parts of the business are declining."

Under contract terms, some workers will be offered jobs in other parts of AT&T, while others will be offered severance pay, Richter said.

AT&T and the Communications Workers of America on Monday announced a tentative three-year contract for 30,000 Southeast region workers that includes a 9 percent pay raise over three years. The layoffs, Richter said, are unrelated to this week's contract announcement.

Under the new contract, pension benefits would increase. Richter declined to discuss changes to healthcare premiums. With this week's deal, AT&T says it has tentative or final agreements covering nearly 97 percent of the roughly 120,000 unionized landline employees.

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