

Questions and Answers
Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
Employment and Unemployment Data Release
December 2021
(Released January 21, 2022)

1. What are the current Florida labor statistics and what changes were there over the month and over the year?

Unemployment Rates

- Florida's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December 2021 was 4.4 percent. This represented 466,000 jobless out of a labor force of 10,660,000.
- Florida's December 2021 unemployment rate was down 0.1 percentage point from the November 2021 rate.
- Florida's unemployment rate was down 0.7 percentage point from the December 2020 rate of 5.1 percent.
- December 2021 marked the sixth successive month Florida labor force statistics surpassed the pre-pandemic levels in February 2020.
- Note that the number unemployed is not the same as the number of individuals receiving Reemployment Assistance (RA) benefits. The definition of unemployed is those that are without a job, but actively seeking work. A person seeking work is considered unemployed even if they never held a job before. Collecting RA is not a requirement for being counted as unemployed.

Job Counts

- Total nonagricultural employment in Florida was 8,971,300 in December 2021, an increase of 479,300 jobs over the year (+5.6 percent). This was the ninth consecutive month Florida experienced a positive over-the-year job growth.
- Total nonagricultural employment increased by 11,700 jobs (+0.1 percent) over the month. This is the sixteenth consecutive month of job gains.
- In December 2021, private sector employment was 7,869,900, an increase of 461,200 jobs over the year (+6.2 percent).
- Florida's private sector jobs increased by 11,900 jobs (+0.2 percent) over the month. This is the twentieth consecutive month of job gains.
- The December 2021 total nonagricultural and private sector employment have not reached the pre-pandemic levels in February 2020.

2. What industries in Florida experienced job growth over the year?

In Florida, all ten major industries experienced positive over-the-year job growth in December 2021.

- Leisure and hospitality gained 142,600 jobs (\$27,694 avg. annual wage)
 - Food services and drinking places (+98,800 jobs)
 - Accommodation (+30,600 jobs)
- Trade, transportation, and utilities gained 91,300 jobs (\$49,342 avg. annual wage)
 - Couriers and messengers (+14,300 jobs)
 - Food and beverage stores (+9,800 jobs)
 - Warehousing and storage (+7,300 jobs)
 - Support activities for transportation (7,100 jobs)
 - Health and personal care stores (+6,700 jobs)
- Professional and business services gained 73,800 jobs (\$68,218 avg. annual wage)
 - Employment services (+25,800 jobs)
 - Management and technical consulting services (+20,900 jobs)
 - Architectural, engineering, and related (+7,000 jobs)
- Education and health services gained 51,900 jobs (\$55,099 avg. annual wage)
 - Ambulatory health care services (+27,100 jobs)
 - Social assistance (+7,600 jobs)
 - Hospitals (+4,100 jobs)
- Other services gained 31,500 jobs (\$41,131 avg. annual wage)
 - Personal and laundry services (+14,500 jobs)
 - Repair and maintenance (+11,900 jobs)
- Financial activities gained 30,400 jobs (\$84,295 avg. annual wage)
 - Insurance carriers and related activities (+15,800 jobs)
 - Real estate (+14,500 jobs)
- Construction gained 20,400 jobs (\$55,840 avg. annual wage)
 - Construction of buildings (+10,600 jobs)
 - Heavy and civil engineering construction (+4,700 jobs)
- Total government gained 18,100 jobs (\$58,821 avg. annual wage)
 - Local government (+20,700 jobs)
 - Federal government (+2,600 jobs)
- Information gained 10,200 jobs (\$93,360 avg. annual wage)
 - Publishing industries, except internet (+1,400 jobs)
 - Data processing, hosting, and related services (+1,300 jobs)
- Manufacturing gained 9,000 jobs (\$66,738 avg. annual wage)
 - Fabricated metal product manufacturing (+1,500 jobs)
 - Miscellaneous durable goods manufacturing (+1,400 jobs)
 - Food manufacturing (+1,200 jobs)

3. How do Florida's labor statistics compare to the nation?

- Florida's December 2021 unemployment rate of 4.4 percent was 0.5 percentage point higher than the national rate of 3.9 percent.
- Florida's December 2021 private sector over-the-year rate of growth was 6.2 percent, which was 1.2 percentage points higher than the national job growth rate of 5.0 percent.

4. How have Florida's metro area economies performed since this time last year?

Florida Nonagricultural Employment by Area

	December 2021	December 2020	Level Change	Percent Change
United States	150,170,000	143,602,000	6,568,000	4.6
Florida	9,073,600	8,581,500	492,100	5.7
by Metropolitan Statistical Area and Metropolit..				
Cape Coral-Fort Myers MSA	284,800	271,200	13,600	5.0
Crestview-Fort Walton Beach-Destin MSA	119,700	117,300	2,400	2.0
Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach MSA	208,800	202,500	6,300	3.1
Gainesville MSA	148,600	144,000	4,600	3.2
Homosassa Springs MSA	33,600	32,600	1,000	3.1
Jacksonville MSA	752,500	723,300	29,200	4.0
Lakeland-Winter Haven MSA	254,400	245,600	8,800	3.6
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach MSA	2,703,300	2,570,900	132,400	5.1
Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield Beach ..	851,300	815,300	36,000	4.4
Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall MD	1,205,000	1,137,000	68,000	6.0
West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach MD	647,000	618,600	28,400	4.6
Naples-Immokalee-Marco Island MSA	160,900	153,600	7,300	4.8
North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA	323,700	306,500	17,200	5.6
Ocala MSA	111,800	108,800	3,000	2.8
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA	1,276,100	1,184,700	91,400	7.7
Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville MSA	239,600	227,600	12,000	5.3
Panama City MSA	82,200	78,500	3,700	4.7
Pensacola-Ferry Pass-Brent MSA	192,100	184,700	7,400	4.0
Port St. Lucie MSA	163,500	153,500	10,000	6.5
Punta Gorda MSA	52,100	49,600	2,500	5.0
Sebastian-Vero Beach MSA	55,800	52,900	2,900	5.5
Sebring MSA	26,200	25,400	800	3.1
Tallahassee MSA	184,000	178,500	5,500	3.1
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater MSA	1,441,200	1,367,100	74,100	5.4
The Villages MSA	32,300	32,100	200	0.6

Unemployment Rates (%)

(not seasonally adjusted)

by Metropolitan Statistical Area and Metropolit..

	December 2021	November 2021	December 2020
United States	3.7	3.9	6.5
Florida	3.2	3.6	4.2
Cape Coral-Fort Myers MSA	3.3	3.5	3.4
Crestview-Fort Walton Beach-Destin MSA	2.9	3.0	2.8
Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach MSA	3.8	3.9	3.7
Gainesville MSA	3.1	3.1	2.9
Homosassa Springs MSA	4.7	4.9	4.5
Jacksonville MSA	3.2	3.3	3.1
Lakeland-Winter Haven MSA	4.1	4.4	4.3
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach MSA	2.6	3.6	5.6
Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield Beach MD	3.6	3.8	4.2
Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall MD	1.4	3.5	7.9
West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach MD	3.3	3.5	3.5
Naples-Immokalee-Marco Island MSA	2.7	2.9	2.9
North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA	3.1	3.3	3.2
Ocala MSA	4.0	4.2	3.8
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA	3.8	4.0	4.5
Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville MSA	3.2	3.4	3.3
Panama City MSA	3.4	3.4	3.3
Pensacola-Ferry Pass-Brent MSA	3.4	3.5	3.3
Port St. Lucie MSA	3.5	3.7	3.5
Punta Gorda MSA	3.6	3.8	3.5
Sebastian-Vero Beach MSA	3.7	4.0	3.6
Sebring MSA	4.7	4.9	4.4
Tallahassee MSA	3.5	3.6	3.4
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater MSA	3.3	3.5	3.4
The Villages MSA	4.7	5.0	4.3

5. What are the categories of unemployed individuals?

“Job losers” are those on layoff or termination seeking work; “job leavers” are those that voluntarily leave a job and then seek work; “re-entrants” are those that left the labor force and have rejoined to seek work; and “new entrants” are those that enter the labor market for the first time seeking work. A decreasing percentage of job losers as compared to the other categories can be interpreted as a sign of an improving economy.

National – Monthly

- Unemployed persons by reason for unemployment (as a percent of total unemployed), December 2021 for the United States (seasonally adjusted):
 - Job losers 48.6% (down from 67.7% a year ago)
 - Job leavers 11.4% (up from 7.0% a year ago)
 - Reentrants 32.0% (up from 20.7% a year ago)
 - New entrants 8.1% (up from 4.7% a year ago)

Florida – 12-Month Moving Average

- Unemployed persons by reason for unemployment (as a percent of total unemployed), 12-month average ending December 2021 for Florida (not seasonally adjusted):
 - Job losers 61.5% (down from 77.6% a year ago)
 - Job leavers 11.5% (up from 4.9% a year ago)
 - Reentrants 18.7% (up from 13.2% a year ago)
 - New entrants 8.3% (up from 4.3% a year ago)

6. What are the unemployment rates based on education levels?

- Unemployment rates by educational attainment, December 2021 for the United States (seasonally adjusted, labor force members aged 25 and older):
 - Less than a high school diploma 5.2%
 - High school graduates, no college 4.6%
 - Some college or associate degree 3.6%
 - Bachelor’s degree and higher 2.1%
- Unemployment rates by educational attainment, 12-month average ending December 2021 for Florida (not seasonally adjusted, labor force members aged 25 and older):
 - Less than a high school diploma 6.4%
 - High school graduates, no college 5.3%
 - Some college or associate degree 4.4%
 - Bachelor’s degree and higher 2.8%

7. What was the duration of unemployment in Florida?

Note: This includes all the unemployed/job seekers, not just the number of people receiving Reemployment Assistance benefits.

Duration of unemployment for Florida (12-month average ending December 2021):

Duration	Unemployed	
	Percent of Total	
Total:	100	
Less than 5 weeks	22.7	(down from 28.5 a year ago)
5 to 14 weeks	22.0	(down from 36.6 a year ago)
15 to 26 weeks	14.1	(down from 19.2 a year ago)
27 to 51 weeks	17.5	(up from 9.4 a year ago)
52 weeks (1 year) and over	23.7	(up from 6.2 a year ago)
Average weeks of unemployment:	29.9	(up from 16.7 a year ago)

(Long-term unemployed (27 weeks and over) is the sum of 17.5 and 23.7, which is 41.2 percent, up 25.6 percentage points from a year ago.)

8. What was the full-time and part-time status of the employed?

National-Monthly

- Full-time and part-time status of the employed (as a percent of total employed), December 2021 for the United States (seasonally adjusted):
 - Full-time 83.5% (up from 83.3% a year ago)
 - Voluntary part-time 13.0% (up from 12.2% a year ago)
 - Part-time for economic reasons 2.5% (down from 4.1% a year ago)

Florida – 12-month Moving Average

- Full-time and part-time status for the employed (as a percent of total employed), 12-month average ending December 2021 for Florida (not seasonally adjusted):
 - Full-time 86.5% (up from 85.8% a year ago)
 - Voluntary part-time 10.4% (unchanged from a year ago)
 - Part-time for economic reasons 2.4% (down from 2.8% a year ago)

9. What was the latest Florida Consumer Sentiment Index?

- The Florida Consumer Sentiment Index level was 72.2 in December 2021, down 10.0 points from December 2020 (up 2.6 points over the month). Perceptions of personal finances now compared to a year ago decreased 3.5 points from 68.3 to 64.8 (down 0.2 point over the month), while expectations of personal finances a year from now decreased 7.9 points over the year to 87.3 (up 3.4 points over the month). Expectations of U.S. economic conditions over the next year decreased 8.5 points over the year (up 5.1 points over the month) to 73.2, while expectations of U.S. economic conditions over the next five years decreased 12.7 points over the year (up 2.2 points over the month) to 74.7. Perceptions as to whether it is a good time to buy big ticket consumer items decreased 17.3 points over the year (up 2.9 points over the month) to 61.2.

10. What is Florida's current level of initial claims for Reemployment Assistance (RA)?

- For the most up to date Reemployment Assistance statistics please see the Department's Reemployment Assistance Claims Dashboard:

http://lmsresources.labormarketinfo.com/covid19/initial_claims.html

11. What are the annual Florida unemployment rates by age, gender, and race; and Veterans unemployment rates?

Latest Unemployment Rates by Age, Gender, and Race

- Florida 2020 annual average unemployment rates from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey:
 - Unemployment rates by age:

▪ 16 to 19 years	20.4 percent
▪ 20 to 24 years	12.8 percent
▪ 25 to 34 years	8.3 percent
▪ 35 to 44 years	6.7 percent
▪ 45 to 54 years	7.2 percent
▪ 55 to 64 years	6.2 percent
▪ 65 years and over	7.7 percent
 - Unemployment rates by gender:

▪ Male	7.6 percent
▪ Female	8.4 percent
 - Unemployment rates by race and ethnicity:

▪ White	7.3 percent
▪ Black	11.2 percent
▪ Hispanic	9.5 percent

Latest Florida and U.S. Veterans Unemployment Rates, 2020 – Current Population Survey (CPS)

- Florida’s unemployment rate for Veterans (5.0 percent) was lower than the national rate (6.5 percent), and lower than the rate for nonveterans (8.0 percent).

Florida and the United States		
Employment Status by Veteran Status		
Universe: Civilian non-institutional population 18 years and over		
2020 CPS Annual Averages, Not seasonal Adjusted		
	Veterans	Nonveterans
FLORIDA		
Total Population, 18 years and over	1,361,000	15,800,000
In labor force	585,000	9,408,000
Employed	555,000	8,657,000
Unemployed	29,000	750,000
Unemployment Rate	5.0%	8.0%
U.S.		
Total Population, 18 years and over	18,466,000	233,099,000
In labor force	8,918,000	149,742,000
Employed	8,338,000	137,739,000
Unemployed	581,000	12,003,000
Unemployment Rate	6.5%	8.0%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, 2020.

12. What services does the workforce system provide to job seekers and employers?

For Florida’s job seekers, programs and services offered include:

- **Career Centers** – Florida’s nearly 90 Career Centers, locally operated by Local Workforce Development Boards, provide local access to job placement services, local workforce information, and job training opportunities. Follow this link for a map of Florida Career Centers: <http://www.floridajobs.org/onestop/onestopdir/>
- **Employ Florida Marketplace** - The Employ Florida Marketplace Online Job Bank provides 24/7 access to a wide variety of local, state, and national job openings: <http://www.employflorida.com/>
- **Mobile Career Centers** – Florida’s Mobile Career Centers allow citizens in rural areas, at job fairs, and during emergency situations to access critical workforce information and services: <http://www.floridajobs.org/workforce-board-resources/programs-and-resources/mobile-career-center>

For Florida's businesses, programs and services offered include:

- **Employ Florida Marketplace** - The Employ Florida Marketplace Online Job Bank provides businesses with exposure to thousands of potential employees with a vast array of skills, talents, and experience: <http://www.employflorida.com/>
- **Labor Market Information** – The Department of Economic Opportunity's Bureau of Workforce Statistics and Economic Research produces data, such as employment, unemployment, and wage information that assist workforce/economic development, education, employers, and job seekers. These statistics assist with economic analysis, business recruitment, career counseling, and other critical business decision-making: <http://www.floridajobs.org/labor-market-information>
- **Incumbent and Employed Worker Training** - Incumbent and Employed Worker Training programs increase opportunities for workers who acquire new skills by reimbursing Florida's businesses for a portion of the cost of training their employees:
<http://careersourceflorida.com/employer-training-grants/incumbent-worker-training-grants/incumbent-worker-training-grant-faq/>
- **Work Opportunity Tax Credit** - The Work Opportunity Tax Credit program offers a financial incentive to private, for-profit employers to hire individuals from certain targeted groups, who experience high rates of unemployment due to a variety of employment barriers:
<http://www.floridajobs.org/business-growth-and-partnerships/for-employers/find-tax-credit-and-incentive-programs/work-opportunity-tax-credit-program>

For more information on these and other Department of Economic Opportunity programs, go to: <http://www.floridajobs.org/>