

Questions and Answers
Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
Employment and Unemployment Data Release
March 2021
(Released April 16, 2021)

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

Unemployment Rates

1. Florida's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March 2021 was 4.7 percent. This represented 475,000 jobless out of a labor force of 10,170,000.
2. Florida's March 2021 unemployment rate was unchanged over the month.
3. Florida's unemployment rate was down 0.2 percentage point from the March 2020 rate of 4.9 percent. This is the first time since February 2020 that the rate has declined over the year.
4. 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

5. Total nonagricultural employment in Florida was 8,553,600 in March 2021, a loss of 445,800 jobs over the year (-5.0 percent). This rate of decline is down from the over-the-year rate of decline of 12.6 percent in April 2020, the highest rate during the pandemic.
6. For the 12th consecutive month, Florida experienced a negative over-the-year job growth.
7. Total nonagricultural employment increased by 32,200 jobs (+0.4 percent) over the month. This is the seventh consecutive month of job gains.
8. In March 2021, private-sector employment was 7,473,100, a loss of 395,700 jobs over the year (-5.0 percent). This rate of decline is down from the over-the-year rate of decline of 14.3 percent in April 2020, the highest rate during the pandemic.
9. Florida's private-sector jobs increased by 32,900 jobs over the month (+0.4 percent). This is the eleventh consecutive month of job gains.

2. What industries in Florida lost jobs over the year?

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

- Leisure and hospitality lost 236,000 jobs (\$26,675 avg. annual wage)
 - Food services and drinking places (-85,500 jobs)
 - Accommodation (-80,200 jobs)
- Total government lost 50,100 jobs (\$55,805 avg. annual wage)
 - Local government (-36,500 jobs)
 - State government (-14,800 jobs)
- Trade, transportation, and utilities lost 49,100 jobs (\$46,231 avg. annual wage)
 - Clothing and accessory stores (-19,600 jobs)
 - General merchandise stores (-9,300 jobs)
 - Motor vehicle and parts dealers (-5,500 jobs)
- Education and health services lost 45,100 jobs (\$52,048 avg. annual wage)
 - Nursing and residential care facilities (-19,800 jobs)
 - Hospitals (-15,000 jobs)
 - Social assistance (-8,400 jobs)
- Other services lost 25,200 jobs (\$37,971 avg. annual wage)
 - Membership associations and organizations (-13,700 jobs)
 - Personal and laundry services (-11,300 jobs)
- Professional and business services lost 18,000 jobs (\$63,742 avg. annual wage)
 - Travel arrangement and reservation services (-13,100 jobs)
 - Employment services (-9,200 jobs)
- Information lost 8,000 jobs (\$86,151 avg. annual wage)
 - Broadcasting, except Internet (-1,400 jobs)
 - Publishing industries, except internet (-1,200 jobs)
- Manufacturing lost 7,200 jobs (\$63,870 avg. annual wage)
 - Printing and related support activities (-2,700 jobs)
 - Food manufacturing (-1,400 jobs)
 - Beverage and tobacco product manufacturing (-900 jobs)
 - Miscellaneous durable goods manufacturing (-700 jobs)
- Construction lost 6,900 jobs (\$52,907 avg. annual wage)
 - Specialty trade contractors (-5,800 jobs)
 - Construction of buildings (-2,000 jobs)
- Financial activities lost 2,300 jobs (\$77,025 avg. annual wage)
 - Real estate (-3,700 jobs)

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

- Florida's March 2021 unemployment rate of 4.7 percent was 1.3 percentage points below the national rate of 6.0 percent.
- Florida's unemployment rate has been lower than the national rate for eight consecutive months.
- Florida's March 2021 private-sector over-the-year rate of decline of 5.0 percent was more than the national over-the-year decline of 4.3 percent.

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

Florida Nonagricultural Employment by Area

(not seasonally adjusted)

	March 2021	March 2020	Level Change	Percent Change
United States	143,400,000	149,952,000	-6,552,000	-4.4
Florida	8,599,500	9,047,400	-447,900	-5.0

by Metropolitan Statistical Area and Metropolitan Division

Cape Coral-Fort Myers MSA	275,200	285,000	-9,800	-3.4
Crestview-Fort Walton Beach-Destin MSA	118,400	119,000	-600	-0.5
Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach MSA	203,700	208,600	-4,900	-2.3
Gainesville MSA	146,800	150,000	-3,200	-2.1
Homosassa Springs MSA	33,300	33,300	0	0.0
Jacksonville MSA	717,900	727,300	-9,400	-1.3
Lakeland-Winter Haven MSA	247,100	242,800	4,300	1.8
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach MSA	2,571,300	2,731,400	-160,100	-5.9
Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield Beach MD	815,700	862,500	-46,800	-5.4
Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall MD	1,137,900	1,220,400	-82,500	-6.8
West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach MD	617,700	648,500	-30,800	-4.7
Naples-Immokalee-Marco Island MSA	156,400	160,300	-3,900	-2.4
North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA	309,600	317,200	-7,600	-2.4
Ocala MSA	107,500	109,000	-1,500	-1.4
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA	1,180,800	1,335,600	-154,800	-11.6
Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville MSA	230,000	233,100	-3,100	-1.3
Panama City MSA	80,900	81,500	-600	-0.7
Pensacola-Ferry Pass-Brent MSA	185,600	188,200	-2,600	-1.4
Port St. Lucie MSA	155,600	158,700	-3,100	-2.0
Punta Gorda MSA	49,400	51,100	-1,700	-3.3
Sebastian-Vero Beach MSA	53,400	55,200	-1,800	-3.3
Sebring MSA	25,600	26,100	-500	-1.9
Tallahassee MSA	181,400	187,200	-5,800	-3.1
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater MSA	1,372,400	1,401,700	-29,300	-2.1
The Villages MSA	31,700	33,300	-1,600	-4.8

Unemployment Rates (%)

(not seasonally adjusted)

March
2021

February
2021

March
2020

by Metropolitan Statistical Area and Metropolitan Division

United States	6.2	6.6	4.5
Florida	5.3	5.1	5.0
Cape Coral-Fort Myers MSA	4.6	4.3	5.2
Crestview-Fort Walton Beach-Destin MSA	4.0	3.9	4.4
Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach MSA	5.1	4.8	5.9
Gainesville MSA	4.0	4.0	4.6
Homosassa Springs MSA	6.4	6.1	7.8
Jacksonville MSA	4.4	4.2	5.2
Lakeland-Winter Haven MSA	5.6	5.4	5.9
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach MSA	6.4	6.1	4.2
Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield Beach MD	5.3	5.1	5.9
Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall MD	8.2	7.9	2.2
West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach MD	4.7	4.4	5.4
Naples-Immokalee-Marco Island MSA	4.0	3.6	4.9
North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA	4.4	4.1	5.1
Ocala MSA	5.5	5.2	6.2
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA	5.4	5.2	5.1
Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville MSA	4.5	4.5	5.2
Panama City MSA	4.5	4.5	5.0
Pensacola-Ferry Pass-Brent MSA	4.5	4.4	5.1
Port St. Lucie MSA	4.9	4.6	6.0
Punta Gorda MSA	5.0	4.5	5.8
Sebastian-Vero Beach MSA	5.2	4.8	6.0
Sebring MSA	6.2	5.9	7.5
Tallahassee MSA	4.6	4.6	5.1
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater MSA	4.7	4.4	5.5
The Villages MSA	6.6	5.8	7.5

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), March 2021 for the United States (seasonally adjusted):
 - Job losers 63.8% (up from 58.2% a year ago)
 - Job leavers 8.0% (down from 9.9% a year ago)
 - Reentrants 23.1% (down from 24.6% a year ago)
 - New entrants 5.1% (down from 7.3% a year ago)

Florida – 12-Month Moving Average

- Unemployed persons by reason for unemployment (as a percent of total unemployed), 12-month average ending March 2021 for Florida (not seasonally adjusted):
 - Job losers 78.4% (up from 44.4% a year ago)
 - Job leavers 4.1% (down from 16.8% a year ago)
 - Reentrants 13.1% (down from 27.2% a year ago)
 - New entrants 4.4% (down from 11.6% a year ago)

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

- Unemployment rates by educational attainment, March 2021 for the United States (seasonally adjusted, labor force members aged 25 and older):
 - Less than a high school diploma 8.2%
 - High school graduates, no college 6.7%
 - Some college or associate degree 5.9%
 - Bachelor’s degree and higher 3.7%
- Unemployment rates by educational attainment, 12-month average ending March 2021 for Florida (not seasonally adjusted, labor force members aged 25 and older):
 - Less than a high school diploma 13.7%
 - High school graduates, no college 8.3%
 - Some college or associate degree 8.1%
 - Bachelor’s degree and higher 6.5%

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 March 2021):

Duration	Unemployed	
	Percent of Total	
Total:	100	
Less than 5 weeks	26.3	(down from 34.4 a year ago)
5 to 14 weeks	34.5	(up from 27.1 a year ago)
15 to 26 weeks	19.4	(up from 14.6 a year ago)
27 to 51 weeks	13.2	(up from 8.2 a year ago)
52 weeks (1 year) and over	6.6	(down from 15.7 a year ago)
Average weeks of unemployment:	18.3	(down from 24.3 a year ago)

(Long-term unemployed (27 weeks and over) is the sum of 13.2 and 6.6, which is 19.8 percent, down 4.1 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), March 2021 for the United States (seasonally adjusted):
 - Full-time 83.4% (up from 83.0% a year ago)
 - Voluntary part-time 12.7% (down from 13.2% a year ago)
 - Part-time for economic reasons 3.9% (up from 3.7% 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 March 2021 for Florida (not seasonally adjusted):
 - Full-time 86.2% (up from 85.1% a year ago)
 - Voluntary part-time 9.8% (down from 11.9% a year ago)
 - Part-time for economic reasons 3.0% (up from 2.4% a year ago)

9. What was the latest Florida Consumer Sentiment Index?

- The Florida Consumer Sentiment Index level was 80.9 in March 2021, down 6.2 points from March 2020 (up 3.7 points over the month). Perceptions of personal finances now compared to a year ago decreased 16.8 points from 84.5 to 67.7 (up 1.3 points over the month), while expectations of personal finances a year from now decreased 8.2 points over the year to 91.2 (up 3.6 points over the month). Expectations of U.S. economic conditions over the next year increased 5.8 points over the year (up 6.8 points over the month) to 85.8, while expectations of U.S. economic conditions over the next five years decreased 12.7 points over the year (up 1.4 points over the month) to 82.8. Perceptions as to whether it is a good time to buy big ticket consumer items increased 1.1 points over the year (up 5.4 points over the month) to 77.1.

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/>