

**Questions and Answers**  
**Florida Department of Economic Opportunity**  
**Employment and Unemployment Data Release**  
**April 2021**  
**(Released May 21, 2021)**

**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 April 2021 was 4.8 percent. This represented 487,000 jobless out of a labor force of 10,243,000.
- Florida's April 2021 unemployment rate was up 0.1 percentage point from the March 2021 rate.
- Florida's unemployment rate was down 9.2 percentage points from the April 2020 rate of 14.0 percent.
- The April 2021 labor force statistics has not reached 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 8,568,900 in April 2021, an increase of 766,000 jobs over the year (+9.8 percent).
- This was the first time Florida turned to a positive over-the-year job growth after twelve consecutive months negative over-the-year job growth during the pandemic, the highest rate of decline happened in April 2020 (-12.6 percent).
- Total nonagricultural employment increased by 16,900 jobs (+0.2 percent) over the month. This is the eighth consecutive month of job gains.
- In April 2021, private-sector employment was 7,491,300, an increase of 795,800 jobs over the year (+11.9 percent). April 2021 marked the first time Florida experienced a positive over the year growth in the private sector since last April's decline of 14.3 percent.
- Florida's private-sector jobs increased by 18,800 jobs over the month (+0.3 percent). This is the twelfth consecutive month of job gains.
- The April 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, nine of the ten major industries experienced positive over-the-year job growth in April 2021.

- Leisure and hospitality gained 302,000 jobs (\$26,675 avg. annual wage)
  - Food services and drinking places (+276,800 jobs)
  - Accommodation (+15,000 jobs)
- Trade, transportation, and utilities gained 150,200 jobs (\$46,231 avg. annual wage)
  - Clothing and accessory stores (+32,200 jobs)
  - General merchandise stores (+17,500 jobs)
  - Food and beverage stores (+10,600 jobs)
- Professional and business services gained 111,300 jobs (\$63,742 avg. annual wage)
  - Employment services (+33,400 jobs)
  - Management and technical consulting services (+21,700 jobs)
  - Services to buildings and dwellings (+10,700 jobs)
- Education and health services gained 99,500 jobs (\$52,048 avg. annual wage)
  - Ambulatory health care services (+73,400 jobs)
  - Social assistance (+18,700 jobs)
  - Elementary and secondary schools (+4,300 jobs)
- Other services gained 55,900 jobs (\$37,971 avg. annual wage)
  - Personal and laundry services (+34,700 jobs)
  - Repair and maintenance (+15,100 jobs)
- Construction gained 29,400 jobs (\$52,907 avg. annual wage)
  - Specialty trade contractors (+17,300 jobs)
  - Construction of buildings (+9,700 jobs)
- Financial activities gained 24,300 jobs (\$77,025 avg. annual wage)
  - Insurance carriers and related activities (+9,500 jobs)
  - Real estate (+9,400 jobs)
- Manufacturing gained 19,500 jobs (\$63,870 avg. annual wage)
  - Miscellaneous durable goods manufacturing (+3,700 jobs)
  - Transportation equipment manufacturing (+2,800 jobs)
  - Fabricated metal product manufacturing (+2,500 jobs)
- Information gained 3,100 jobs (\$86,151 avg. annual wage)
  - Data processing, hosting, and related services (+1,500 jobs)

### 3. What industries in Florida lost jobs over the year?

In Florida, one major industry experienced negative over-the-year job growth in April 2021.

- Total government lost 29,800 jobs (\$55,805 avg. annual wage)
  - Local government (-24,300 jobs)
  - State government (-7,000 jobs)

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

- Florida's April 2021 unemployment rate of 4.8 percent was 1.3 percentage points below the national rate of 6.1 percent.
- Florida's unemployment rate has been lower than the national rate for nine consecutive months.
- Florida's April 2021 private-sector over-the-year rate of growth was 11.9 percent, which was 1.4 percentage points below the national job growth rate of 13.3 percent.

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

#### Florida Nonagricultural Employment by Area

(not seasonally adjusted)

	April 2021	April 2020	Level Change	Percent Change
United States	144,398,000	130,251,000	14,147,000	10.9
Florida	8,609,500	7,854,000	755,500	9.6

#### by Metropolitan Statistical Area and Metropolitan Division

Cape Coral-Fort Myers MSA	273,400	242,200	31,200	12.9
Crestview-Fort Walton Beach-Destin MSA	118,500	103,400	15,100	14.6
Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach MSA	202,100	180,800	21,300	11.8
Gainesville MSA	146,800	133,000	13,800	10.4
Homosassa Springs MSA	33,100	29,300	3,800	13.0
Jacksonville MSA	720,300	649,300	71,000	10.9
Lakeland-Winter Haven MSA	245,700	224,300	21,400	9.5
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach MSA	2,572,200	2,316,400	255,800	11.0
Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield Beach MD	815,600	737,600	78,000	10.6
Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall MD	1,137,400	1,034,000	103,400	10.0
West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach MD	619,200	544,800	74,400	13.7
Naples-Immokalee-Marco Island MSA	156,000	131,800	24,200	18.4
North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA	309,500	269,700	39,800	14.8
Ocala MSA	108,400	98,200	10,200	10.4
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA	1,188,700	1,138,100	50,600	4.4
Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville MSA	230,400	207,700	22,700	10.9
Panama City MSA	81,000	70,700	10,300	14.6
Pensacola-Ferry Pass-Brent MSA	186,800	169,000	17,800	10.5
Port St. Lucie MSA	157,000	138,200	18,800	13.6
Punta Gorda MSA	49,300	43,500	5,800	13.3
Sebastian-Vero Beach MSA	53,100	48,000	5,100	10.6
Sebring MSA	25,400	23,300	2,100	9.0
Tallahassee MSA	181,000	169,600	11,400	6.7
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater MSA	1,379,300	1,240,200	139,100	11.2
The Villages MSA	31,400	29,500	1,900	6.4

**Unemployment Rates (%)**

(not seasonally adjusted)

**April  
2021****March  
2021****April  
2020****by Metropolitan Statistical Area and Metropolitan Division**

United States	5.7	6.2	14.4
Florida	5.1	5.3	13.9
Cape Coral-Fort Myers MSA	4.6	4.6	15.0
Crestview-Fort Walton Beach-Destin MSA	3.8	4.0	14.0
Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach MSA	5.2	5.1	15.2
Gainesville MSA	4.0	4.0	9.2
Homosassa Springs MSA	6.2	6.4	15.5
Jacksonville MSA	4.4	4.4	11.5
Lakeland-Winter Haven MSA	5.8	5.6	14.2
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach MSA	5.9	6.4	13.4
Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield Beach MD	5.3	5.3	16.4
Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall MD	6.9	8.2	10.3
West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach MD	4.7	4.7	14.7
Naples-Immokalee-Marco Island MSA	3.8	4.0	14.3
North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA	4.3	4.4	14.5
Ocala MSA	5.4	5.4	12.6
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA	5.6	5.4	17.7
Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville MSA	4.5	4.5	13.2
Panama City MSA	4.4	4.5	13.4
Pensacola-Ferry Pass-Brent MSA	4.5	4.5	11.9
Port St. Lucie MSA	4.9	4.9	13.9
Punta Gorda MSA	4.8	5.0	15.2
Sebastian-Vero Beach MSA	5.3	5.2	14.3
Sebring MSA	6.3	6.2	11.4
Tallahassee MSA	4.6	4.6	8.8
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater MSA	4.7	4.6	13.9
The Villages MSA	6.2	6.6	12.8

## 6. 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), April 2021 for the United States (seasonally adjusted):
  - Job losers 64.5% (down from 89.2% a year ago)
  - Job leavers 8.3% (up from 2.5% a year ago)
  - Reentrants 20.9% (up from 6.5% a year ago)
  - New entrants 6.3% (up from 1.8% a year ago)

### Florida – 12-Month Moving Average

- Unemployed persons by reason for unemployment (as a percent of total unemployed), 12-month average ending April 2021 for Florida (not seasonally adjusted):
  - Job losers 76.0% (up from 58.1% a year ago)
  - Job leavers 4.5% (down from 12.2% a year ago)
  - Reentrants 14.2% (down from 20.8% a year ago)
  - New entrants 5.3% (down from 8.8% a year ago)

## 7. What are the unemployment rates based on education levels?

- Unemployment rates by educational attainment, April 2021 for the United States (seasonally adjusted, labor force members aged 25 and older):
  - Less than a high school diploma 9.3%
  - High school graduates, no college 6.9%
  - Some college or associate degree 5.8%
  - Bachelor’s degree and higher 3.5%
- Unemployment rates by educational attainment, 12-month average ending April 2021 for Florida (not seasonally adjusted, labor force members aged 25 and older):
  - Less than a high school diploma 12.6%
  - High school graduates, no college 7.7%
  - Some college or associate degree 7.4%
  - Bachelor’s degree and higher 5.8%

## 8. 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 April 2021):

Duration	Unemployed	
	Percent of Total	
Total:	100	
Less than 5 weeks	20.1	(down from 44.2 a year ago)
5 to 14 weeks	34.8	(up from 26.6 a year ago)
15 to 26 weeks	21.7	(up from 10.7 a year ago)
27 to 51 weeks	15.1	(up from 6.8 a year ago)
52 weeks (1 year) and over	8.3	(down from 11.7 a year ago)
Average weeks of unemployment:	20.4	(up from 19.2 a year ago)

(Long-term unemployed (27 weeks and over) is the sum of 15.1 and 8.3, which is 23.4 percent, up 4.9 percentage points from a year ago.)

## 9. 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), April 2021 for the United States (seasonally adjusted):
  - Full-time 83.5% (down from 85.7% a year ago)
  - Voluntary part-time 12.6% (up from 9.3% a year ago)
  - Part-time for economic reasons 3.5% (down from 8.2% 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 April 2021 for Florida (not seasonally adjusted):
  - Full-time 86.2% (up from 85.2% a year ago)
  - Voluntary part-time 9.9% (down from 11.6% a year ago)
  - Part-time for economic reasons 3.1% (up from 2.3% a year ago)

## 10. What was the latest Florida Consumer Sentiment Index?

- The Florida Consumer Sentiment Index level was 83.0 in April 2021, up 6.7 points from April 2020 (up 1.7 points over the month). Perceptions of personal finances now compared to a year ago increased 0.2 point from 72.4 to 72.6 (up 4.2 points over the month), while expectations of personal finances a year from now decreased 6.7 points over the year to 92.3 (up 1.7 points over the month). Expectations of U.S. economic conditions over the next year increased 13.0 points over the year (unchanged over the month) to 85.7, while expectations of U.S. economic conditions over the next five years decreased 1.8 points over the year (up 3.8 points over the month) to 87.5. Perceptions as to whether it is a good time to buy big ticket consumer items increased 28.6 points over the year (down 1.1 points over the month) to 76.7.

## 11. 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](http://lmsresources.labormarketinfo.com/covid19/initial_claims.html)

## 12. 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
<b>FLORIDA</b>		
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%
<b>U.S.</b>		
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.

**13. 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/>