

**Questions and Answers**  
**Florida Department of Economic Opportunity**  
**Employment and Unemployment Data Release**  
**May 2021**  
**(Released June 18, 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 May 2021 was 4.9 percent. This represented 503,000 jobless out of a labor force of 10,314,000.
- Florida's May 2021 unemployment rate was up 0.1 percentage point from the April 2021 rate.
- Florida's unemployment rate was down 9.3 percentage points from the May 2020 rate of 14.2 percent.
- The May 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 8,617,700 in May 2021, an increase of 566,800 jobs over the year (+7.0 percent).
- This was the second consecutive month Florida turned a positive over-the-year job growth since twelve months of negative over-the-year growth started with April 2020's decline of 12.6 percent.
- Total nonagricultural employment increased by 39,900 jobs (+0.5 percent) over the month. This is the ninth consecutive month of job gains.
- In May 2021, private-sector employment was 7,535,300, an increase of 595,000 jobs over-the-year (+8.6 percent). May 2021 marked the second successive month Florida experienced a positive over the year growth in the private sector after twelve straight months of over-the-year declines starting with April 2020's 14.3 percent decline.
- Florida's private-sector jobs increased by 35,800 jobs over the month (+0.5 percent). This is the thirteenth consecutive month of job gains.
- The May 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 May 2021.

- Leisure and hospitality gained 234,800 jobs (\$27,702 avg. annual wage)
  - Food services and drinking places (+151,500 jobs)
  - Accommodation (+41,000 jobs)
- Trade, transportation, and utilities gained 114,600 jobs (\$49,378 avg. annual wage)
  - Clothing and accessory stores (+27,900 jobs)
  - Motor vehicle and parts dealers (+9,700 jobs)
  - Health and personal care stores (+7,600 jobs)
  - General merchandise stores (+7,400 jobs)
- Professional and business services gained 94,600 jobs (\$68,201 avg. annual wage)
  - Employment services (+27,300 jobs)
  - Management and technical consulting services (+20,000 jobs)
  - Computer systems design and related (+8,600 jobs)
- Education and health services gained 58,400 jobs (\$55,093 avg. annual wage)
  - Ambulatory health care services (+45,500 jobs)
  - Social assistance (+13,200 jobs)
  - Elementary and secondary schools (+3,600 jobs)
- Other services gained 36,600 jobs (\$41,146 avg. annual wage)
  - Personal and laundry services (+19,900 jobs)
  - Repair and maintenance (+9,500 jobs)
- Financial activities gained 23,700 jobs (\$84,238 avg. annual wage)
  - Real estate (+11,400 jobs)
  - Insurance carriers and related activities (+10,500 jobs)
- Construction gained 16,500 jobs (\$55,884 avg. annual wage)
  - Specialty trade contractors (+9,600 jobs)
  - Construction of buildings (+6,600 jobs)
- Manufacturing gained 11,100 jobs (\$66,740 avg. annual wage)
  - Miscellaneous durable goods manufacturing (+2,800 jobs)
  - Transportation equipment manufacturing (+1,700 jobs)
  - Food manufacturing (+1,000 jobs)
- Information gained 5,200 jobs (\$93,327 avg. annual wage)
  - Data processing, hosting, and related services (+1,200 jobs)

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

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

- Total government lost 28,200 jobs (\$58,795 avg. annual wage)
  - Local government (-24,000 jobs)
  - State government (-5,400 jobs)

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

- Florida's May 2021 unemployment rate of 4.9 percent was 0.9 percentage point below the national rate of 5.8 percent.
- Florida's unemployment rate has been lower than the national rate for ten consecutive months.
- Florida's May 2021 private-sector over-the-year rate of growth was 8.6 percent, which was 1.7 percentage points below the national job growth rate of 10.3 percent.

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

#### Florida Nonagricultural Employment by Area

(not seasonally adjusted)

	May 2021	May 2020	Level Change	Percent Change
United States	145,385,000	133,419,000	11,966,000	9.0
Florida	8,649,100	8,064,100	585,000	7.3
<b>by Metropolitan Statistical Area and Metropolitan Division</b>				
Cape Coral-Fort Myers MSA	269,600	254,500	15,100	5.9
Crestview-Fort Walton Beach-Destin MSA	119,000	111,100	7,900	7.1
Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach MSA	202,900	189,700	13,200	7.0
Gainesville MSA	144,500	136,200	8,300	6.1
Homosassa Springs MSA	33,000	31,000	2,000	6.5
Jacksonville MSA	724,400	674,500	49,900	7.4
Lakeland-Winter Haven MSA	245,300	229,300	16,000	7.0
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach MSA	2,583,300	2,389,900	193,400	8.1
Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield Beach MD	820,100	758,000	62,100	8.2
Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall MD	1,143,500	1,061,400	82,100	7.7
West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach MD	619,700	570,500	49,200	8.6
Naples-Immokalee-Marco Island MSA	155,500	140,900	14,600	10.4
North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA	308,400	284,600	23,800	8.4
Ocala MSA	108,000	102,400	5,600	5.5
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA	1,200,900	1,091,200	109,700	10.1
Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville MSA	231,200	216,800	14,400	6.6
Panama City MSA	81,400	76,000	5,400	7.1
Pensacola-Ferry Pass-Brent MSA	185,900	176,300	9,600	5.4
Port St. Lucie MSA	157,100	146,000	11,100	7.6
Punta Gorda MSA	49,000	46,400	2,600	5.6
Sebastian-Vero Beach MSA	53,400	50,200	3,200	6.4
Sebring MSA	25,300	24,000	1,300	5.4
Tallahassee MSA	179,200	171,900	7,300	4.2
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater MSA	1,379,900	1,282,300	97,600	7.6
The Villages MSA	31,400	30,500	900	3.0

**Unemployment Rates (%)**

(not seasonally adjusted)

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

United States	5.5	5.7	13.0
Florida	5.0	5.2	14.3
Cape Coral-Fort Myers MSA	4.6	4.6	13.9
Crestview-Fort Walton Beach-Destin MSA	3.6	3.8	10.4
Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach MSA	5.0	5.2	14.3
Gainesville MSA	4.0	4.0	8.8
Homosassa Springs MSA	6.1	6.2	14.2
Jacksonville MSA	4.2	4.4	11.0
Lakeland-Winter Haven MSA	5.8	5.8	18.4
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach MSA	5.7	5.9	13.7
Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield Beach MD	5.2	5.4	17.4
Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall MD	6.7	6.9	10.3
West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach MD	4.6	4.7	14.3
Naples-Immokalee-Marco Island MSA	3.7	3.8	13.1
North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA	4.2	4.3	12.9
Ocala MSA	5.3	5.4	11.7
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA	5.4	5.6	22.6
Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville MSA	4.3	4.5	12.3
Panama City MSA	4.2	4.4	10.8
Pensacola-Ferry Pass-Brent MSA	4.3	4.5	10.4
Port St. Lucie MSA	4.8	4.9	12.9
Punta Gorda MSA	4.7	4.8	13.3
Sebastian-Vero Beach MSA	5.1	5.3	13.2
Sebring MSA	6.2	6.3	11.7
Tallahassee MSA	4.5	4.7	8.9
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater MSA	4.6	4.7	13.4
The Villages MSA	5.8	6.1	13.1

## 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), May 2021 for the United States (seasonally adjusted):
  - Job losers 62.9% (down from 87.1% a year ago)
  - Job leavers 8.4% (up from 2.7% a year ago)
  - Reentrants 23.1% (up from 7.7% a year ago)
  - New entrants 5.7% (up from 2.6% a year ago)

### Florida – 12-Month Moving Average

- Unemployed persons by reason for unemployment (as a percent of total unemployed), 12-month average ending May 2021 for Florida (not seasonally adjusted):
  - Job losers 73.2% (up from 66.7% a year ago)
  - Job leavers 5.2% (down from 9.1% a year ago)
  - Reentrants 15.5% (down from 16.9% a year ago)
  - New entrants 6.0% (down from 7.3% a year ago)

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

- Unemployment rates by educational attainment, May 2021 for the United States (seasonally adjusted, labor force members aged 25 and older):
  - Less than a high school diploma 9.1%
  - High school graduates, no college 6.8%
  - Some college or associate degree 5.9%
  - Bachelor’s degree and higher 3.2%
- Unemployment rates by educational attainment, 12-month average ending May 2021 for Florida (not seasonally adjusted, labor force members aged 25 and older):
  - Less than a high school diploma 10.8%
  - High school graduates, no college 7.3%
  - Some college or associate degree 6.9%
  - Bachelor’s degree and higher 4.9%

## 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 May 2021):

Duration	Unemployed	
	Percent of Total	
Total:	100	
Less than 5 weeks	19.4	(down from 40.0 a year ago)
5 to 14 weeks	29.3	(down from 35.9 a year ago)
15 to 26 weeks	23.7	(up from 9.4 a year ago)
27 to 51 weeks	16.6	(up from 5.9 a year ago)
52 weeks (1 year) and over	10.9	(up from 8.8 a year ago)
Average weeks of unemployment:	22.8	(up from 16.2 a year ago)

(Long-term unemployed (27 weeks and over) is the sum of 16.6 and 10.9, which is 27.5 percent, up 12.8 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), May 2021 for the United States (seasonally adjusted):
  - Full-time 83.4% (down from 84.9% a year ago)
  - Voluntary part-time 12.6% (up from 10.5% a year ago)
  - Part-time for economic reasons 3.5% (down from 7.7% 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 May 2021 for Florida (not seasonally adjusted):
  - Full-time 86.0% (up from 85.5% a year ago)
  - Voluntary part-time 10.1% (down from 11.4% 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 81.6 in May 2021, up 5.0 points from May 2020 (down 1.4 points over the month). Perceptions of personal finances now compared to a year ago increased 3.6 points from 69.3 to 72.9 (up 0.3 point over the month), while expectations of personal finances a year from now decreased 8.5 points over the year to 90.8 (down 1.5 points over the month). Expectations of U.S. economic conditions over the next year increased 11.6 points over the year (down 2.1 points over the month) to 83.6, while expectations of U.S. economic conditions over the next five years decreased 0.8 point over the year (down 4.3 points over the month) to 83.2. Perceptions as to whether it is a good time to buy big ticket consumer items increased 19.2 points over the year (up 0.7 point over the month) to 77.4.

## 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/>