

**Questions and Answers**  
**Florida Department of Economic Opportunity**  
**Employment and Unemployment Data Release**  
**March 2022**  
**(Released April 15, 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 March 2022 was 3.2 percent. This represented 339,000 jobless out of a labor force of 10,513,000.
- Florida's March 2022 unemployment rate was down 0.1 percentage point from the February 2022 rate.
- Florida's unemployment rate was down 2.2 percentage points from the March 2021 rate of 5.4 percent.
- March 2022 marked the tenth successive month Florida's labor force surpassed the pre-pandemic levels.
- 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 9,231,500 in March 2022, an increase of 497,800 jobs over the year (+5.7 percent). This was the twelfth consecutive month Florida experienced a positive over-the-year job growth.
- Total nonagricultural employment increased by 10,200 jobs (+0.1 percent) over the month. This is the 23rd consecutive month of job gains.
- In March 2022, private sector employment was 8,139,700, an increase of 496,600 jobs over the year (+6.5 percent).
- Florida's private sector jobs increased by 13,200 jobs (+0.2 percent) over the month. This is the 23rd consecutive month of job gains.
- March 2022 marked the sixth successive month Florida's total nonagricultural and private sector employment both surpassed 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 March 2022.

- Leisure and hospitality gained 157,900 jobs (\$27,694 avg. annual wage)
  - Food services and drinking places (+76,300 jobs)
  - Accommodation (+39,000 jobs)
- Trade, transportation, and utilities gained 109,500 jobs (\$49,342 avg. annual wage)
  - General merchandise stores (+16,700 jobs)
  - Warehousing and storage (+11,400 jobs)
  - Health and personal care stores (+8,900 jobs)
  - Miscellaneous store retailers (+7,000 jobs)
  - Motor vehicle and parts dealers (+6,500 jobs)
- Professional and business services gained 99,700 jobs (\$68,218 avg. annual wage)
  - Employment services (+32,200 jobs)
  - Management and technical consulting services (+18,700 jobs)
  - Computer systems design and related (+12,200 jobs)
- Financial activities gained 36,400 jobs (\$84,295 avg. annual wage)
  - Insurance carriers and related activities (+10,600 jobs)
  - Real estate (+6,500 jobs)
- Education and health services gained 26,100 jobs (\$55,099 avg. annual wage)
  - Ambulatory health care services (+9,000 jobs)
  - Social assistance (+5,800 jobs)
  - Hospitals (+4,600 jobs)
- Manufacturing gained 21,000 jobs (\$66,738 avg. annual wage)
  - Fabricated metal product manufacturing (+2,800 jobs)
  - Transportation equipment manufacturing (+2,600 jobs)
  - Miscellaneous durable goods manufacturing (+2,500 jobs)
- Other services gained 17,600 jobs (\$41,131 avg. annual wage)
  - Repair and maintenance (+7,000 jobs)
  - Membership associations and organizations (+6,100 jobs)
- Construction gained 14,900 jobs (\$55,840 avg. annual wage)
  - Construction of buildings (+7,700 jobs)
  - Specialty trade contractors (+4,400 jobs)
- Information gained 11,900 jobs (\$93,360 avg. annual wage)
  - Data processing, hosting, and related services (+2,000 jobs)
  - Publishing industries, except internet (+1,500 jobs)
- Total government gained 1,200 jobs (\$58,821 avg. annual wage)
  - Local government (+5,700 jobs)
  - Federal government (+1,700 jobs)

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

- Florida's March 2022 unemployment rate of 3.2 percent was 0.4 percentage point lower than the national rate of 3.6 percent.
- Florida's March 2022 private sector over-the-year rate of growth was 6.5 percent, which was 1.5 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

(not seasonally adjusted)

	March 2022	March 2021	Level Change	Percent Change
United States	149,938,000	143,308,000	6,630,000	4.6
Florida	9,281,500	8,780,100	501,400	5.7

#### by Metropolitan Statistical Area and Metropolitan Division

Cape Coral-Fort Myers MSA	295,800	281,900	13,900	4.9
Crestview-Fort Walton Beach-Destin MSA	124,700	121,500	3,200	2.6
Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach MSA	213,200	206,400	6,800	3.3
Gainesville MSA	151,300	147,100	4,200	2.9
Homosassa Springs MSA	33,900	33,300	600	1.8
Jacksonville MSA	761,600	721,600	40,000	5.5
Lakeland-Winter Haven MSA	264,800	253,000	11,800	4.7
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach MSA	2,758,800	2,611,700	147,100	5.6
Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield Beach ..	864,000	830,100	33,900	4.1
Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall MD	1,235,100	1,154,600	80,500	7.0
West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach MD	659,700	627,000	32,700	5.2
Naples-Immokalee-Marco Island MSA	162,700	156,000	6,700	4.3
North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA	334,500	313,100	21,400	6.8
Ocala MSA	112,100	109,700	2,400	2.2
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA	1,341,000	1,234,700	106,300	8.6
Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville MSA	241,200	233,500	7,700	3.3
Panama City MSA	84,500	82,100	2,400	2.9
Pensacola-Ferry Pass-Brent MSA	192,400	184,600	7,800	4.2
Port St. Lucie MSA	163,500	158,500	5,000	3.2
Punta Gorda MSA	52,900	50,900	2,000	3.9
Sebastian-Vero Beach MSA	55,600	53,500	2,100	3.9
Sebring MSA	25,300	25,500	-200	-0.8
Tallahassee MSA	189,900	183,200	6,700	3.7
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater MSA	1,446,900	1,377,500	69,400	5.0
The Villages MSA	36,200	34,800	1,400	4.0

**Unemployment Rates (%)**

(not seasonally adjusted)

**March  
2022****February  
2022****March  
2021****by Metropolitan Statistical Area and Metropolitan Division**

United States	3.8	4.1	6.2
Florida	2.7	3.1	5.3
Cape Coral-Fort Myers MSA	2.5	2.9	4.7
Crestview-Fort Walton Beach-Destin MSA	2.1	2.5	3.9
Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach MSA	2.9	3.4	5.2
Gainesville MSA	2.4	2.7	4.0
Homosassa Springs MSA	3.7	4.3	6.4
Jacksonville MSA	2.5	2.9	4.5
Lakeland-Winter Haven MSA	3.1	3.7	5.9
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach MSA	2.8	3.0	5.9
Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield Beach MD	2.8	3.2	5.6
Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall MD	3.0	2.8	6.8
West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach MD	2.6	3.0	4.9
Naples-Immokalee-Marco Island MSA	2.2	2.6	4.1
North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA	2.4	2.8	4.5
Ocala MSA	3.1	3.6	5.5
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA	2.9	3.4	5.8
Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville MSA	2.5	2.9	4.5
Panama City MSA	2.4	2.9	4.4
Pensacola-Ferry Pass-Brent MSA	2.6	3.0	4.6
Port St. Lucie MSA	2.8	3.2	5.0
Punta Gorda MSA	2.8	3.3	4.9
Sebastian-Vero Beach MSA	3.0	3.4	5.2
Sebring MSA	3.9	4.4	6.3
Tallahassee MSA	2.6	3.1	4.6
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater MSA	2.5	2.9	4.8
The Villages MSA	3.6	4.2	6.2

## 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 2022 for the United States (seasonally adjusted):
  - Job losers 46.7% (down from 64.0% a year ago)
  - Job leavers 13.0% (up from 7.9% a year ago)
  - Reentrants 32.7% (up from 23.0% a year ago)
  - New entrants 7.6% (up from 5.1% 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 2022 for Florida (not seasonally adjusted):
  - Job losers 58.0% (down from 78.4% a year ago)
  - Job leavers 13.8% (up from 4.1% a year ago)
  - Reentrants 20.5% (up from 13.1% a year ago)
  - New entrants 7.7% (up from 4.4% a year ago)

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

- Unemployment rates by educational attainment, March 2022 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 4.0%
  - Some college or associate degree 3.0%
  - Bachelor’s degree and higher 2.0%
- Unemployment rates by educational attainment, 12-month average ending March 2022 for Florida (not seasonally adjusted, labor force members aged 25 and older):
  - Less than a high school diploma 7.2%
  - High school graduates, no college 4.5%
  - Some college or associate degree 3.7%
  - Bachelor’s degree and higher 2.2%

## 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 2022):

Duration	Unemployed	
	Percent of Total	
Total:	100	
Less than 5 weeks	25.6	(down from 26.3 a year ago)
5 to 14 weeks	23.4	(down from 34.5 a year ago)
15 to 26 weeks	13.1	(down from 19.4 a year ago)
27 to 51 weeks	11.5	(down from 13.2 a year ago)
52 weeks (1 year) and over	26.5	(up from 6.6 a year ago)
Average weeks of unemployment:	29.7	(up from 18.3 a year ago)

(Long-term unemployed (27 weeks and over) is the sum of 11.5 and 26.5, which is 38.0 percent, up 18.2 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 2022 for the United States (seasonally adjusted):
  - Full-time 83.8% (up from 83.4% a year ago)
  - Voluntary part-time 13.2% (up from 12.7% a year ago)
  - Part-time for economic reasons 2.6% (down from 3.9% 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 2022 for Florida (not seasonally adjusted):
  - Full-time 86.7% (up from 86.2% a year ago)
  - Voluntary part-time 10.5% (up from 9.8% a year ago)
  - Part-time for economic reasons 2.1% (down from 3.0% a year ago)

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

- The Florida Consumer Sentiment Index level was 69.7 in March 2022, down 11.6 points from March 2021 (up 1.7 points over the month).
- Perceptions of personal finances now compared to a year ago decreased 5.6 points from 68.4 to 62.8 (down 0.7 point over the month).
- Expectations of personal finances a year from now decreased 7.0 points over the year to 83.6 (up 2.6 points over the month).
- Expectations of U.S. economic conditions over the next year decreased 15.3 points over the year (up 2.1 points over the month) to 70.4.
- Expectations of U.S. economic conditions over the next five years decreased 9.1 points over the year (up 1.0 point over the month) to 74.6.
- Perceptions as to whether it is a good time to buy big ticket consumer items decreased 20.4 points over the year (up 3.8 points over the month) to 57.4.

## 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](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 2021 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 11.6 percent
    - 20 to 24 years 6.9 percent
    - 25 to 34 years 4.8 percent
    - 35 to 44 years 4.3 percent
    - 45 to 54 years 3.9 percent
    - 55 to 64 years 3.7 percent
    - 65 years and over 3.1 percent
  - Unemployment rates by gender:
    - Male 4.4 percent
    - Female 4.6 percent
  - Unemployment rates by race and ethnicity:
    - White 4.1 percent
    - Black 6.3 percent
    - Hispanic 5.4 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.



## 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/>