

Questions and Answers
Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
Employment and Unemployment Data Release
December 2020
(Released January 22, 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 December 2020 was 6.1 percent. This represented 614,000 jobless out of a labor force of 10,143,000.
- Florida's unemployment rate was up 3.2 percentage points from the December 2019 rate of 2.9 percent.
- Florida's December 2020 unemployment rate was down 0.2 percentage point from the revised November 2020 rate.
- 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 8,612,200 in December 2020, a loss of 419,200 jobs over the year (-4.6 percent). In December 2020, private-sector employment was 7,533,400, a loss of 371,300 jobs over the year (-4.7 percent).
- For the 9th consecutive month and 10th time since July 2010, Florida experienced a negative over-the-year job growth.
- Total nonagricultural employment increased by 16,800 jobs (+0.2 percent) over the month. Florida's private-sector jobs increased by 21,100 jobs over the month (+0.3 percent).
- Florida lost 1,178,100 jobs from February to April 2020 and has since gained back over half of the jobs lost (+718,700 jobs).

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

In Florida, all ten major industries experienced negative over-the-year job growth in December 2020.

- Leisure and hospitality lost 197,000 jobs (\$26,681 avg. annual wage)
 - Food services and drinking places (-84,900 jobs)
 - Accommodation (-72,200 jobs)
- Professional and business services lost 52,000 jobs (\$63,747 avg. annual wage)
 - Employment services (-29,800 jobs)
 - Investigation and Security services (-8,200 jobs)
- Total government lost 47,900 jobs (\$55,897 avg. annual wage)
 - Local government (-36,100 jobs)
 - State government (-15,000 jobs)
- Trade, transportation, and utilities lost 43,300 jobs (\$46,237 avg. annual wage)
 - Motor vehicle and parts dealers (-10,700 jobs)
 - Clothing and accessory stores (-6,300 jobs)
 - General merchandise stores (-5,300 jobs)
- Education and health services lost 29,100 jobs (\$52,050 avg. annual wage)
 - Nursing and residential care facilities (-18,100 jobs)
 - Social assistance (-6,500 jobs)
 - Hospitals (-6,200 jobs)
- Other services lost 23,400 jobs (\$37,972 avg. annual wage)
 - Personal and laundry services (-20,600 jobs)
 - Membership associations and organizations (-5,700 jobs)
- Information lost 12,100 jobs (\$86,109 avg. annual wage)
 - Publishing industries, except internet (-2,300 jobs)
 - Telecommunications (-900 jobs)
- Construction lost 9,900 jobs (\$52,926 avg. annual wage)
 - Specialty trade contractors (-6,200 jobs)
 - Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction (-4,000 jobs)
- Manufacturing lost 4,400 jobs (\$63,883 avg. annual wage)
 - Chemical manufacturing (-1,000 jobs)
 - Beverage and tobacco product manufacturing (-600 jobs)
 - Paper manufacturing (-300 jobs)
- Financial activities lost 100 jobs (\$77,030 avg. annual wage)
 - Real estate (-2,100 jobs)

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

- Florida's December 2020 unemployment rate of 6.1 percent was 0.6 percentage point below the national rate of 6.7 percent.
- Florida's December 2020 private-sector over-the-year rate of decline of 4.7 percent was less than the national over-the-year decline of 6.3 percent.

4. How has Florida's economy performed since the last peak of Florida's economic activity?

- The state's unemployment rate was 6.1 percent in December 2020, representing over a 5-point difference from the previous Recession's high in January 2010 of 11.3 percent. The December rate is over a 7-point drop from previous highs in April and May 2020.
- Florida's private-sector over-the-year job growth rate peaked in September 2005 at +5.7 percent, declined to -8.0 percent in March and April 2009, and is at -4.7 percent in December 2020.
- Total nonagricultural employment in Florida reached a previous peak employment level of 8,055,600 jobs in March 2007. In January 2010, Florida reached a low point, down 925,300 jobs (-11.5 percent) from the peak. As of December 2020, Florida employment was 8,612,200 jobs, 556,600 jobs (+6.9 percent) above the previous peak.
- Florida's consumer sentiment index peaked in August 2000 with an index value of 111, declined to 59 in June 2008, and is at 82.2 in December 2020. Index values greater than 100 mean more optimism than in the base year (1966).

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

Florida Nonagricultural Employment by Area

(not seasonally adjusted)

	December 2020	December 2019	Level Change	Percent Change
United States	143,777,000	152,929,000	-9,152,000	-6.0
Florida	8,710,100	9,128,300	-418,200	-4.6

by Metropolitan Statistical Area and Metropolitan Division

Cape Coral-Fort Myers MSA	273,300	285,800	-12,500	-4.4
Crestview-Fort Walton Beach-Destin MSA	113,400	116,600	-3,200	-2.7
Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach MSA	203,000	207,700	-4,700	-2.3
Gainesville MSA	144,500	151,300	-6,800	-4.5
Homosassa Springs MSA	32,100	33,500	-1,400	-4.2
Jacksonville MSA	716,900	742,600	-25,700	-3.5
Lakeland-Winter Haven MSA	235,200	240,100	-4,900	-2.0
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach MSA	2,589,400	2,760,700	-171,300	-6.2
Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield Beach MD	812,800	876,000	-63,200	-7.2
Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall MD	1,166,500	1,235,700	-69,200	-5.6
West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach MD	610,100	649,000	-38,900	-6.0
Naples-Immokalee-Marco Island MSA	157,200	160,800	-3,600	-2.2
North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA	307,600	319,000	-11,400	-3.6
Ocala MSA	110,200	108,300	1,900	1.8
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA	1,223,300	1,353,300	-130,000	-9.6
Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville MSA	232,000	235,600	-3,600	-1.5
Panama City MSA	77,400	79,000	-1,600	-2.0
Pensacola-Ferry Pass-Brent MSA	182,400	188,100	-5,700	-3.0
Port St. Lucie MSA	156,200	157,900	-1,700	-1.1
Punta Gorda MSA	51,100	51,400	-300	-0.6
Sebastian-Vero Beach MSA	54,400	55,400	-1,000	-1.8
Sebring MSA	27,300	27,000	300	1.1
Tallahassee MSA	175,400	189,700	-14,300	-7.5
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater MSA	1,361,700	1,412,400	-50,700	-3.6
The Villages MSA	32,900	32,600	300	0.9

Unemployment Rates (%)

(not seasonally adjusted)

December 2020 November 2020 December 2019

by Metropolitan Statistical Area and Metropolitan Division

United States	6.5	6.4	3.4
Florida	5.8	6.2	2.5
Cape Coral-Fort Myers MSA	5.1	5.4	2.6
Crestview-Fort Walton Beach-Destin MSA	4.2	4.1	2.4
Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach MSA	5.6	5.8	3.0
Gainesville MSA	4.4	4.5	2.5
Homosassa Springs MSA	6.6	6.6	4.1
Jacksonville MSA	4.8	5.0	2.6
Lakeland-Winter Haven MSA	6.7	7.0	3.1
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach MSA	6.7	7.1	2.2
Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield Beach MD	6.6	7.0	2.6
Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall MD	7.3	7.9	1.6
West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach MD	5.5	5.9	2.7
Naples-Immokalee-Marco Island MSA	4.3	4.7	2.5
North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA	4.7	4.9	2.6
Ocala MSA	5.6	5.7	3.2
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA	6.9	7.4	2.5
Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville MSA	4.8	5.0	2.7
Panama City MSA	5.0	4.9	3.0
Pensacola-Ferry Pass-Brent MSA	4.9	5.0	2.7
Port St. Lucie MSA	5.2	5.5	3.1
Punta Gorda MSA	5.0	5.1	3.0
Sebastian-Vero Beach MSA	5.2	5.5	3.2
Sebring MSA	6.3	6.3	3.9
Tallahassee MSA	5.3	5.4	2.6
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater MSA	5.2	5.5	2.7
The Villages MSA	5.9	6.0	3.9

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), December 2020 for the United States (seasonally adjusted):
 - Job losers 67.3% (up from 46.4% a year ago)
 - Job leavers 6.9% (down from 14.0% a year ago)
 - Reentrants 21.0% (down from 29.8% a year ago)
 - New entrants 4.7% (down from 9.9% 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 2020 for Florida (not seasonally adjusted):
 - Job losers 77.6% (up from 41.9% a year ago)
 - Job leavers 4.9% (down from 17.4% a year ago)
 - Reentrants 13.2% (down from 28.9% a year ago)
 - New entrants 4.3% (down from 11.7% a year ago)

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

- Unemployment rates by educational attainment, December 2020 for the United States (seasonally adjusted, labor force members aged 25 and older):
 - Less than a high school diploma 9.8%
 - High school graduates, no college 7.8%
 - Some college or associate degree 6.3%
 - Bachelor’s degree and higher 3.8%
- Unemployment rates by educational attainment, 12-month average ending December 2020 for Florida (not seasonally adjusted, labor force members aged 25 and older):
 - Less than a high school diploma 13.3%
 - High school graduates, no college 7.5%
 - Some college or associate degree 7.5%
 - Bachelor’s degree and higher 6.1%

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 December 2020):

Duration	Unemployed	
	Percent of Total	
Total:	100	
Less than 5 weeks	28.5	(down from 31.8 a year ago)
5 to 14 weeks	36.6	(up from 27.5 a year ago)
15 to 26 weeks	19.2	(up from 15.2 a year ago)
27 to 51 weeks	9.4	(up from 9.0 a year ago)
52 weeks (1 year) and over	6.2	(down from 16.6 a year ago)
Average weeks of unemployment:	13.1	(down from 26.1 a year ago)

(Long-term unemployed (27 weeks and over) is the sum of 9.4 and 6.2, which is 15.6 percent, down 10.0 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), December 2020 for the United States (seasonally adjusted):
 - Full-time 83.2% (up from 83.0% a year ago)
 - Voluntary part-time 12.2% (down from 13.6% a year ago)
 - Part-time for economic reasons 4.1% (up from 2.6% 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 2020 for Florida (not seasonally adjusted):
 - Full-time 85.8% (up from 85.1% a year ago)
 - Voluntary part-time 10.4% (down from 11.8% a year ago)
 - Part-time for economic reasons 2.8% (up from 2.4% a year ago)

10. What was the latest Florida Consumer Sentiment Index?

- The Florida Consumer Sentiment Index level was 82.2 in December 2020, down 17.2 points from December 2019 (up 1.1 points over the month). Perceptions of personal finances now compared to a year ago decreased 22.9 points from 91.2 to 68.3 (down 0.9 point over the month), while expectations of personal finances a year from now decreased 6.9 points over the year to 95.2 (up 3.6 points over the month). Expectations of U.S. economic conditions over the next year decreased 19.3 points over the year (down 1.6 points over the month) to 81.7, while expectations of U.S. economic conditions over the next five years decreased 9.0 points over the year (up 2.7 points over the month) to 87.4. Perceptions as to whether it is a good time to buy big ticket consumer items decreased 28.0 points over the year (up 1.9 points over the month) to 78.5.

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

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 2019 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	12.7 percent
▪ 20 to 24 years	6.8 percent
▪ 25 to 34 years	3.2 percent
▪ 35 to 44 years	2.1 percent
▪ 45 to 54 years	2.4 percent
▪ 55 to 64 years	2.0 percent
▪ 65 years and over	3.0 percent
 - Unemployment rates by gender:

▪ Male	3.0 percent
▪ Female	3.3 percent
 - Unemployment rates by race and ethnicity:

▪ White	2.7 percent
▪ Black	5.8 percent
▪ Hispanic	3.1 percent

Latest Florida and U.S. Veterans Unemployment Rates, 2019 – Current Population Survey (CPS)

- Florida’s unemployment rate for Veterans (2.8 percent) was lower than the national rate (3.1 percent), and lower than the rate for nonveterans (3.1 percent).

Florida and the United States		
Employment Status by Veteran Status		
Universe: Civilian non-institutionalized population 18 years and over		
2019 CPS Annual Averages, Not Seasonally Adjusted		
	Veterans	Nonveterans
FLORIDA		
Total population, 18 years and over	1,367,000	15,625,000
In labor force	616,000	9,652,000
Employed	598,000	9,357,000
Unemployed	17,000	295,000
Unemployment Rate	2.8%	3.1%
U.S.		
Total population, 18 years and over	18,822,000	231,555,000
In labor force	9,270,000	152,188,000
Employed	8,986,000	146,763,000
Unemployed	284,000	5,425,000
Unemployment Rate	3.1%	3.6%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, 2019.

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/>