

Questions and Answers
Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
Employment and Unemployment Data Release
September 2021
(Released October 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 September 2021 was 4.9 percent. This represented 517,000 jobless out of a labor force of 10,593,000.
- Florida's September 2021 unemployment rate was down 0.1 percentage point from the August 2021 rate.
- Florida's unemployment rate was down 2.3 percentage points from the September 2020 rate of 7.2 percent.
- September 2021 marked the third successive month Florida labor force statistics surpassed 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 8,866,700 in September 2021, an increase of 405,900 jobs over the year (+4.8 percent). This was the sixth consecutive month Florida experienced a positive over-the-year job growth.
- Total nonagricultural employment increased by 84,500 jobs (+1.0 percent) over the month. This is the thirteenth consecutive month of job gains.
- In September 2021, private sector employment was 7,763,800, an increase of 411,400 jobs over-the-year (+5.6 percent). September 2021 marked the sixth successive month Florida experienced a positive over-the-year job growth.
- Florida's private sector jobs increased by 72,700 jobs over the month (+0.9 percent). This is the seventeenth consecutive month of job gains.
- The September 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 September 2021.

- Leisure and hospitality gained 143,400 jobs (\$27,702 avg. annual wage)
 - Food services and drinking places (+108,900 jobs)
 - Accommodation (+26,900 jobs)
- Professional and business services gained 73,600 jobs (\$68,201 avg. annual wage)
 - Employment services (+21,100 jobs)
 - Management and technical consulting services (+19,500 jobs)
 - Computer systems design and related (+10,500 jobs)
- Trade, transportation, and utilities gained 53,300 jobs (\$49,378 avg. annual wage)
 - Couriers and messengers (+8,400 jobs)
 - Support activities for transportation (+6,600 jobs)
 - Warehousing and storage (+5,600 jobs)
 - Clothing and accessory stores (+5,000 jobs)
 - Food and beverage stores (4,000 jobs)
- Education and health services gained 46,400 jobs (\$55,093 avg. annual wage)
 - Ambulatory health care services (+28,700 jobs)
 - Social assistance (+9,500 jobs)
 - Hospitals (+4,800 jobs)
- Financial activities gained 29,100 jobs (\$84,238 avg. annual wage)
 - Insurance carriers and related activities (+13,900 jobs)
 - Real estate (+13,000 jobs)
- Other services gained 27,200 jobs (\$41,146 avg. annual wage)
 - Personal and laundry services (+15,400 jobs)
 - Repair and maintenance (+10,500 jobs)
- Construction gained 19,500 jobs (\$55,884 avg. annual wage)
 - Construction of buildings (+10,100 jobs)
 - Specialty trade contractors (+6,800 jobs)
- Manufacturing gained 12,500 jobs (\$66,740 avg. annual wage)
 - Miscellaneous durable goods manufacturing (+1,800 jobs)
 - Transportation equipment manufacturing (+1,100 jobs)
 - Food manufacturing (+600 jobs)
- Information gained 6,800 jobs (\$93,327 avg. annual wage)
 - Data processing, hosting, and related services (+1,100 jobs)
 - Publishing industries, except internet (+1,000 jobs)

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

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

- Total government lost 5,500 jobs (\$58,795 avg. annual wage)
 - Federal government (-14,900 jobs)
 - State government (-8,300 jobs)

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

- Florida’s September 2021 unemployment rate of 4.9 percent was 0.1 percentage point up the national rate of 4.8 percent.
- Florida’s September 2021 private sector over-the-year rate of growth was 5.6 percent, which was 1.0 percentage point higher than the national job growth rate of 4.6 percent.

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

Florida Nonagricultural Employment by Area

(not seasonally adjusted)

	September 2021	September 2020	Level Change	Percent Change
United States	147,682,000	141,946,000	5,736,000	4.0
Florida	8,836,200	8,399,700	436,500	5.2

by Metropolitan Statistical Area and Metropolitan Division

Cape Coral-Fort Myers MSA	274,400	262,300	12,100	4.6
Crestview-Fort Walton Beach-Destin MSA	118,000	116,200	1,800	1.5
Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach MSA	203,200	197,700	5,500	2.8
Gainesville MSA	146,800	142,500	4,300	3.0
Homosassa Springs MSA	32,800	32,000	800	2.5
Jacksonville MSA	736,100	705,800	30,300	4.3
Lakeland-Winter Haven MSA	247,000	239,100	7,900	3.3
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach MSA	2,613,400	2,494,200	119,200	4.8
Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield Beach MD	827,800	796,500	31,300	3.9
Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall MD	1,163,600	1,102,200	61,400	5.6
West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach MD	622,000	595,500	26,500	4.5
Naples-Immokalee-Marco Island MSA	152,800	143,900	8,900	6.2
North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA	312,000	294,600	17,400	5.9
Ocala MSA	108,300	105,800	2,500	2.4
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA	1,249,500	1,167,900	81,600	7.0
Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville MSA	234,600	224,500	10,100	4.5
Panama City MSA	81,500	79,300	2,200	2.8
Pensacola-Ferry Pass-Brent MSA	187,700	181,600	6,100	3.4
Port St. Lucie MSA	158,200	150,700	7,500	5.0
Punta Gorda MSA	48,800	48,200	600	1.2
Sebastian-Vero Beach MSA	53,600	51,000	2,600	5.1
Sebring MSA	25,600	24,500	1,100	4.5
Tallahassee MSA	181,600	179,400	2,200	1.2
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater MSA	1,412,400	1,332,500	79,900	6.0
The Villages MSA	31,100	31,200	-100	-0.3

Unemployment Rates (%)

(not seasonally adjusted)

**September
2021****August
2021****September
2020****by Metropolitan Statistical Area and Metropolitan Division**

United States	4.6	5.3	7.7
Florida	4.3	4.9	7.3
Cape Coral-Fort Myers MSA	4.0	4.6	6.1
Crestview-Fort Walton Beach-Destin MSA	3.3	3.8	4.2
Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach MSA	4.3	4.9	6.3
Gainesville MSA	3.5	4.2	4.5
Homosassa Springs MSA	5.3	6.3	6.9
Jacksonville MSA	3.7	4.3	5.2
Lakeland-Winter Haven MSA	5.0	5.6	7.8
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach MSA	4.9	5.6	9.6
Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield Beach MD	4.4	4.9	7.7
Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall MD	5.6	6.7	12.6
West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach MD	4.1	4.7	6.6
Naples-Immokalee-Marco Island MSA	3.6	4.2	5.9
North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA	3.7	4.3	5.5
Ocala MSA	4.7	5.4	6.1
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA	4.5	5.0	8.7
Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville MSA	3.8	4.3	5.5
Panama City MSA	3.6	4.1	4.7
Pensacola-Ferry Pass-Brent MSA	3.9	4.5	5.1
Port St. Lucie MSA	4.2	4.8	6.0
Punta Gorda MSA	4.3	5.0	6.0
Sebastian-Vero Beach MSA	4.6	5.3	6.3
Sebring MSA	5.7	6.5	7.1
Tallahassee MSA	4.1	4.7	5.2
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater MSA	3.9	4.5	6.0
The Villages MSA	5.6	6.4	6.7

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), September 2021 for the United States (seasonally adjusted):
 - Job losers 53.3% (down from 72.3% a year ago)
 - Job leavers 10.3% (up from 6.5% a year ago)
 - Reentrants 30.0% (up from 17.0% a year ago)
 - New entrants 6.4% (up from 4.3% a year ago)

Florida – 12-Month Moving Average

- Unemployed persons by reason for unemployment (as a percent of total unemployed), 12-month average ending September 2021 for Florida (not seasonally adjusted):
 - Job losers 65.6% (down from 75.7% a year ago)
 - Job leavers 9.1% (up from 5.6% a year ago)
 - Reentrants 17.8% (up from 13.9% a year ago)
 - New entrants 7.6% (up from 4.7% a year ago)

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

- Unemployment rates by educational attainment, September 2021 for the United States (seasonally adjusted, labor force members aged 25 and older):
 - Less than a high school diploma 7.9%
 - High school graduates, no college 5.8%
 - Some college or associate degree 4.5%
 - Bachelor’s degree and higher 2.5%
- Unemployment rates by educational attainment, 12-month average ending September 2021 for Florida (not seasonally adjusted, labor force members aged 25 and older):
 - Less than a high school diploma 7.8%
 - High school graduates, no college 6.0%
 - Some college or associate degree 5.2%
 - Bachelor’s degree and higher 3.2%

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 September 2021):

Duration	Unemployed	
	Percent of Total	
Total:	100	
Less than 5 weeks	21.4	(down from 30.6 a year ago)
5 to 14 weeks	22.6	(down from 38.8 a year ago)
15 to 26 weeks	15.2	(down from 18.9 a year ago)
27 to 51 weeks	22.0	(up from 5.2 a year ago)
52 weeks (1 year) and over	18.8	(up from 6.4 a year ago)
Average weeks of unemployment:	28.0	(up from 15.6 a year ago)

(Long-term unemployed (27 weeks and over) is the sum of 22.0 and 18.8, which is 40.8 percent, up 29.2 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), September 2021 for the United States (seasonally adjusted):
 - Full-time 83.3% (up from 83.0% a year ago)
 - Voluntary part-time 13.3% (up from 12.8% a year ago)
 - Part-time for economic reasons 2.9% (down from 4.3% 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 September 2021 for Florida (not seasonally adjusted):
 - Full-time 86.1% (unchanged from a year ago)
 - Voluntary part-time 10.3% (down from 10.6% 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 76.1 in September 2021, down 10.3 points from September 2020 (down 2.4 points over the month). Perceptions of personal finances now compared to a year ago increased 1.6 points from 71.1 to 72.7 (up 1.1 points over the month), while expectations of personal finances a year from now decreased 6.0 points over the year to 91.1 (up 0.3 point over the month). Expectations of U.S. economic conditions over the next year decreased 17.1 points over the year (down 5.0 points over the month) to 73.6, while expectations of U.S. economic conditions over the next five years decreased 20.5 points over the year (down 5.7 points over the month) to 72.8. Perceptions as to whether it is a good time to buy big ticket consumer items decreased 9.4 points over the year (down 2.3 points over the month) to 70.6.

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 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.

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/>