

Questions and Answers
Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
Employment and Unemployment Data Release
August 2021
(Released September 17, 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 August 2021 was 5.0 percent. This represented 529,000 jobless out of a labor force of 10,543,000.
- Florida’s August 2021 unemployment rate was down 0.1 percentage point from the July 2021 rate.
- Florida’s unemployment rate was down 2.9 percentage points from the August 2020 rate of 7.9 percent.
- August 2021 marked the second 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 8,777,200 in August 2021, an increase of 377,700 jobs over the year (+4.5 percent).
- This was the fifth 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 15,500 jobs (+0.2 percent) over the month. This is the twelfth consecutive month of job gains.
- In August 2021, private sector employment was 7,685,900, an increase of 380,300 jobs over-the-year (+5.2 percent). August 2021 marked the fifth successive month Florida experienced a positive over the year growth 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 19,400 jobs over the month (+0.3 percent). This is the sixteenth consecutive month of job gains.
- The August 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 August 2021.

- Leisure and hospitality gained 137,700 jobs (\$27,702 avg. annual wage)
 - Food services and drinking places (+112,800 jobs)
 - Accommodation (+25,200 jobs)
- Professional and business services gained 58,300 jobs (\$68,201 avg. annual wage)
 - Management and technical consulting services (+19,700 jobs)
 - Computer systems design and related (+9,700 jobs)
 - Employment services (+7,200 jobs)
- Education and health services gained 46,500 jobs (\$55,093 avg. annual wage)
 - Ambulatory health care services (+26,100 jobs)
 - Social assistance (+11,900 jobs)
 - Elementary and secondary schools (+7,000 jobs)
- Trade, transportation, and utilities gained 44,300 jobs (\$49,378 avg. annual wage)
 - Couriers and messengers (+7,600 jobs)
 - Support activities for transportation (+7,500 jobs)
 - Warehousing and storage (+5,400 jobs)
 - Motor vehicle and parts dealers (+5,300 jobs)
 - Clothing and accessory stores (+3,600 jobs)
- Other services gained 32,900 jobs (\$41,146 avg. annual wage)
 - Personal and laundry services (+16,000 jobs)
 - Repair and maintenance (+11,000 jobs)
- Financial activities gained 30,700 jobs (\$84,238 avg. annual wage)
 - Real estate (+14,400 jobs)
 - Insurance carriers and related activities (+13,900 jobs)
- Construction gained 11,700 jobs (\$55,884 avg. annual wage)
 - Construction of buildings (+6,600 jobs)
 - Specialty trade contractors (+3,600 jobs)
- Information gained 10,200 jobs (\$93,327 avg. annual wage)
 - Publishing industries, except internet (+1,100 jobs)
 - Data processing, hosting, and related services (+1,000 jobs)
- Manufacturing gained 9,600 jobs (\$66,740 avg. annual wage)
 - Miscellaneous durable goods manufacturing (+1,600 jobs)
 - Transportation equipment manufacturing (+1,100 jobs)
 - Food manufacturing (+600 jobs)

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

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

- Total government lost 2,600 jobs (\$58,795 avg. annual wage)
 Federal government (-15,300 jobs)
 State government (-9,900 jobs)

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

- Florida's August 2021 unemployment rate of 5.0 percent was 0.2 percentage point below the national rate of 5.2 percent.
- Florida's unemployment rate has been lower than the national rate for thirteen consecutive months.
- Florida's August 2021 private sector over-the-year rate of growth was 5.2 percent, which was 0.1 percentage point up the national job growth rate of 5.1 percent.

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

Florida Nonagricultural Employment by Area

(not seasonally adjusted)

	August 2021	August 2020	Level Change	Percent Change
United States	146,856,000	140,728,000	6,128,000	4.4
Florida	8,753,200	8,347,500	405,700	4.9

by Metropolitan Statistical Area and Metropolitan Division

Cape Coral-Fort Myers MSA	270,900	260,800	10,100	3.9
Crestview-Fort Walton Beach-Destin MSA	118,500	117,500	1,000	0.9
Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach MSA	203,100	197,800	5,300	2.7
Gainesville MSA	142,500	138,400	4,100	3.0
Homosassa Springs MSA	32,700	31,900	800	2.5
Jacksonville MSA	729,200	699,900	29,300	4.2
Lakeland-Winter Haven MSA	244,500	237,100	7,400	3.1
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach MSA	2,605,700	2,471,800	133,900	5.4
Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield Beach MD	823,100	793,300	29,800	3.8
Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall MD	1,158,700	1,090,700	68,000	6.2
West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach MD	623,900	587,800	36,100	6.1
Naples-Immokalee-Marco Island MSA	151,900	143,700	8,200	5.7
North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA	309,200	294,200	15,000	5.1
Ocala MSA	108,300	104,300	4,000	3.8
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA	1,236,400	1,162,400	74,000	6.4
Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville MSA	233,300	224,500	8,800	3.9
Panama City MSA	82,200	78,800	3,400	4.3
Pensacola-Ferry Pass-Brent MSA	187,400	182,100	5,300	2.9
Port St. Lucie MSA	157,600	149,100	8,500	5.7
Punta Gorda MSA	49,100	47,700	1,400	2.9
Sebastian-Vero Beach MSA	53,200	50,800	2,400	4.7
Sebring MSA	25,500	24,400	1,100	4.5
Tallahassee MSA	177,300	176,100	1,200	0.7
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater MSA	1,397,800	1,330,200	67,600	5.1
The Villages MSA	31,500	31,100	400	1.3

Unemployment Rates (%)

(not seasonally adjusted)

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

United States	5.3	5.7	8.5
Florida	5.0	5.1	8.0
Cape Coral-Fort Myers MSA	4.6	4.8	7.4
Crestview-Fort Walton Beach-Destin MSA	3.8	4.0	4.8
Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach MSA	4.9	5.2	7.4
Gainesville MSA	4.2	4.5	5.4
Homosassa Springs MSA	6.3	6.5	8.0
Jacksonville MSA	4.3	4.5	6.3
Lakeland-Winter Haven MSA	5.6	6.0	9.3
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach MSA	5.6	5.7	9.0
Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield Beach MD	4.9	5.1	9.5
Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall MD	6.7	6.5	9.1
West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach MD	4.7	4.8	8.1
Naples-Immokalee-Marco Island MSA	4.2	4.4	7.2
North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA	4.4	4.5	6.5
Ocala MSA	5.4	5.5	7.1
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA	5.0	5.3	10.7
Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville MSA	4.3	4.4	6.4
Panama City MSA	4.1	4.3	5.6
Pensacola-Ferry Pass-Brent MSA	4.5	4.8	6.1
Port St. Lucie MSA	4.9	5.0	7.2
Punta Gorda MSA	5.0	5.1	7.1
Sebastian-Vero Beach MSA	5.3	5.4	7.4
Sebring MSA	6.5	6.8	8.0
Tallahassee MSA	4.7	5.0	6.3
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater MSA	4.5	4.7	7.2
The Villages MSA	6.4	6.5	7.5

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), August 2021 for the United States (seasonally adjusted):
 - Job losers 53.9% (down from 75.9% a year ago)
 - Job leavers 9.9% (up from 4.4% a year ago)
 - Reentrants 30.0% (up from 15.6% a year ago)
 - New entrants 6.2% (up from 4.1% a year ago)

Florida – 12-Month Moving Average

- Unemployed persons by reason for unemployment (as a percent of total unemployed), 12-month average ending August 2021 for Florida (not seasonally adjusted):
 - Job losers 67.1% (down from 74.9% a year ago)
 - Job leavers 8.2% (up from 6.0% a year ago)
 - Reentrants 17.5% (up from 14.0% a year ago)
 - New entrants 7.1% (up from 5.0% a year ago)

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

- Unemployment rates by educational attainment, August 2021 for the United States (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 5.1%
 - Bachelor’s degree and higher 2.8%
- Unemployment rates by educational attainment, 12-month average ending August 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 6.2%
 - Some college or associate degree 5.5%
 - Bachelor’s degree and higher 3.5%

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 August 2021):

Duration	Unemployed	
	Percent of Total	
Total:	100	
Less than 5 weeks	20.6	(down from 32.1 a year ago)
5 to 14 weeks	21.8	(down from 40.3 a year ago)
15 to 26 weeks	19.1	(up from 16.1 a year ago)
27 to 51 weeks	21.2	(up from 4.9 a year ago)
52 weeks (1 year) and over	17.3	(up from 6.5 a year ago)
Average weeks of unemployment:	27.3	(up from 15.3 a year ago)

(Long-term unemployed (27 weeks and over) is the sum of 21.2 and 17.3, which is 38.5 percent, up 27.1 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), August 2021 for the United States (seasonally adjusted):
 - Full-time 83.2% (up from 83.1% a year ago)
 - Voluntary part-time 13.3% (up from 12.6% a year ago)
 - Part-time for economic reasons 2.9% (down from 5.1% 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 August 2021 for Florida (not seasonally adjusted):
 - Full-time 86.0% (unchanged from a year ago)
 - Voluntary part-time 10.4% (down from 10.7% a year ago)
 - Part-time for economic reasons 2.9% (up from 2.4% a year ago)

10. What was the latest Florida Consumer Sentiment Index?

- The Florida Consumer Sentiment Index level was 78.7 in August 2021, down 0.1 point from August 2020 (down 4.7 points over the month). Perceptions of personal finances now compared to a year ago increased 3.6 points from 68.3 to 71.9 (down 3.9 points over the month), while expectations of personal finances a year from now increased 1.3 points over the year to 91.8 (down 2.0 points over the month). Expectations of U.S. economic conditions over the next year increased 0.6 point over the year (down 7.1 points over the month) to 78.1, while expectations of U.S. economic conditions over the next five years decreased 7.8 points over the year (down 9.3 points over the month) to 78.1. Perceptions as to whether it is a good time to buy big ticket consumer items increased 2.0 points over the year (down 1.0 point over the month) to 73.8.

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/>