



[EMPLOYMENT] REPORT DECEMBER 2024

HOST AN INTERN FOR SUMMER 2025: YOUR BUSINESS TRAINS, CAREERSOURCE POLK PAYS!

CareerSource Polk Regional Overview

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

The unemployment rate in the CareerSource Polk region (Polk County) was 3.8% in December 2024. This rate was 0.1% point greater than the region's year ago rate of 3.7%. The region's December 2024 unemployment rate was 0.7% above the state rate of 3.1%. The labor force was 344,188, down 3,255 (-0.9%) over the year. There were 12,931 unemployed residents in the region.

CareerSource Polk Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)

Total Employment: 283,000, +3,400 jobs (+1.2%) past year.

The Government (+4.7%); Information (+4.3%); and Education and Health Services (+2.7%) industries grew faster in the metro area than statewide over the year.

The Lakeland-Winter Haven MSA had the fastest annual job growth rate compared to all the metro areas in the state in the Government (+4.7%) industry. It also had the third fastest annual job growth rate compared to all the metro areas in the state in the Information (+4.3%) industry.

- Industries Gaining Jobs:
 - Government (+1,400 jobs)
 - Education and Health Services (+1,100 jobs)
 - Mining, Logging, and Construction (+600 jobs)
 - Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+400 jobs)
 - Other Services (+200 jobs)
 - Information (+100 jobs)
- Industries with Job Losses:
 - Manufacturing (-200 jobs)
 - Financial Activities (-200 jobs)
- Unchanged in Jobs:
 - Leisure and Hospitality
 - Professional and Business Services industries

Incumbent Worker Training Grant

Focused on upskilling for Artificial Intelligence

This new pilot initiative offers funding to upskill employees in Florida businesses whose jobs are at risk from automation or AI, with a focus on mid- to late-career workers. CareerSource Polk reimburses up to 90% of training costs for small employers (<50 employees), 75% for medium-sized employers (51-100 employees), and 50% for larger employers (>100 employees).

Limited funding available Inquire quickly if interested!

Florida: 3.1%

Polk: 3.8%



Not Seasonally Adjusted

Unemployment Rates

(not seasonally adjusted)

	Dec 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2023
Polk County	3.8%	4.4%	3.7%
Florida	3.1%	3.6%	2.9%
United States	3.8%	4.0%	3.5%

Population

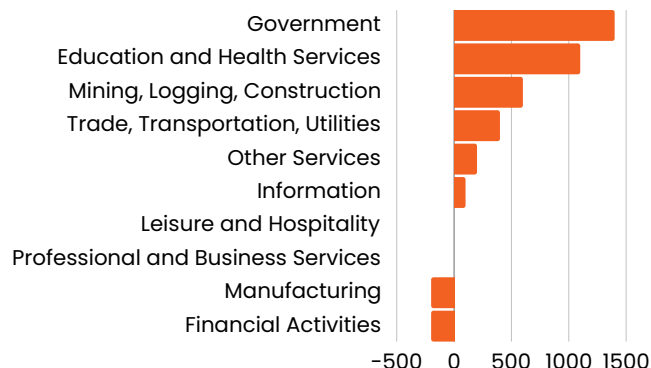
	2023	2022	Change (%)
Polk County	818,330	788,382	3.8%
Florida	22,610,726	22,245,521	1.6%

Average Annual Wage

	2023	2022	Change (%)
Polk County	\$53,336	\$51,557	3.5%
Florida	\$66,446	\$63,781	4.2%

Industries with Job Growth/Loss

Lakeland-Winter Haven MSA



Questions? Contact:

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