

POLK COUNTY'S EDUCATION AND HEALTH SERVICES SECTOR GREW FASTER IN THE METRO AREA THAN STATEWIDE OVER THE YEAR



DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (POLK COUNTY)
5.5%

JOB GROWTH
An increase of 2,300 jobs

of UNEMPLOYED
19,946

TOP TWO INDUSTRIES WITH LARGEST GAIN
Education and Health Services +2,500 jobs

Manufacturing +400 jobs



According to the Florida Department of Commerce, Bureau of Labor Market Statistics:

The unemployment rate in the CareerSource Polk region was 5.5% in December 2025. This rate was 1.6% point greater than the region's year ago rate of 3.9%.



The region's December 2025 unemployment rate was 1.1% points above the state rate of 4.4%. The labor force was 361,713, up 3,320 (+0.9%) over the year. There were 19,946 unemployed residents in the Polk County region.

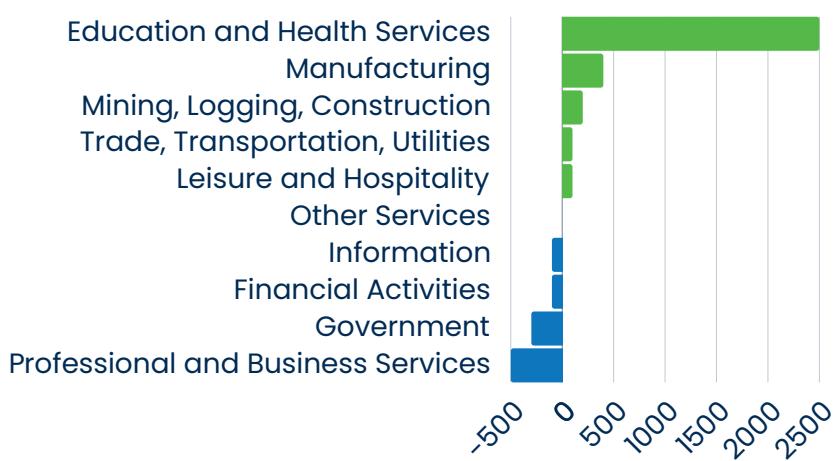
LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS

In December 2025, nonagricultural employment in the Lakeland-Winter Haven MSA was 283,500, an increase of 2,300 jobs (+0.8%) over the year.

The Education and Health Services industry led job growth in the region, adding 2,500 jobs over the year. With a 5.9% increase, outpacing statewide growth, this sector continues to be a key economic driver, reflecting the area's expanding healthcare facilities and ongoing demand for educational services.

INDUSTRIES WITH JOB GROWTH/LOSS

Lakeland-Winter Haven MSA



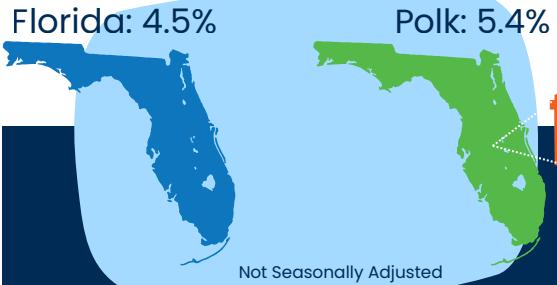
Check back each month for the latest labor market updates and industry highlights for Polk County.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

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For program funding details, please visit cspolk.info/funding.



UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (not seasonally adjusted)

	Dec 2025	Nov 2025	Dec 2024
Polk County	5.5%	6.0%	3.9%
Florida	4.4%	4.9%	3.2%
United States	4.1%	4.3%	3.8%

AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE

	2024	2023	Change (%)
Polk County	\$55,695	\$53,342	+4.4%
Florida	\$69,492	\$66,447	+4.6%

POPULATION

	2024	2023	Change (%)
Polk County	852,878	824,172	+3.5%
Florida	23,372,215	22,904,868	+2.0%

