

POLK COUNTY'S EDUCATION AND HEALTH SERVICES SECTOR CONTINUES TO GROW



HIGHLIGHTS

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
(POLK COUNTY)**
5.8%

JOB GROWTH
An increase of
5,000 jobs

of UNEMPLOYED
21,125

**TOP TWO INDUSTRIES
WITH LARGEST GAIN**
Education and Health
Services +1,900 jobs

Trade, Transportation,
and Utilities +1,600
jobs

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

The unemployment rate in the CareerSource Polk region was 5.8% in July 2026. This rate was 0.7% point greater than the region's year ago rate of 5.1%.



The region's July 2026 unemployment rate was 1.2% points above the state rate of 4.6%. The labor force was 362,511, up 2,494 (+0.7%) over the year. There were 21,125 unemployed residents in the Polk County region.

In July 2026, nonagricultural employment in the Lakeland-Winter Haven MSA was 280,600, an increase of 5,000 jobs (+1.8 %) over the year.

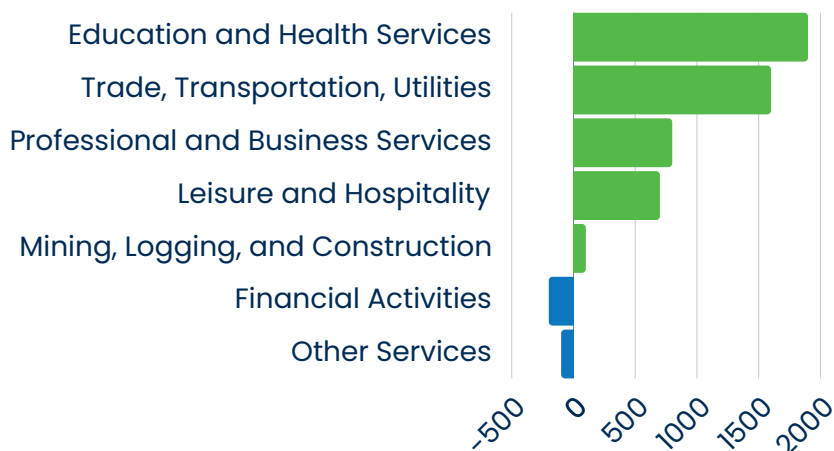
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LABOR MARKET ANALYSIS

In July 2026, nonagricultural employment in the Lakeland-Winter Haven MSA was 280,600, an increase of 5,000 jobs (+1.8 percent) over the year.

The Education and Health Services industry led job growth in the region, adding 1,900 jobs over the year. With a 4.5% 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:

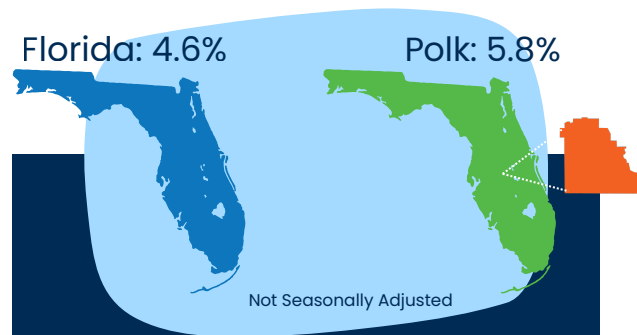
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For program funding details, please visit cspolk.info/funding.

Florida: 4.6%

Polk: 5.8%



UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (not seasonally adjusted)

	Jul 2026	Jun 2026	Jul 2025
Polk County	5.8%	5.7%	5.1%
Florida	4.6%	4.6%	4.1%
United States	4.4%	4.4%	4.6%

AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE

	2025	2024	Change (%)
Polk County	\$57,782	\$55,697	+3.7%
Florida	\$72,732	\$69,505	+4.6%

POPULATION

	2025	2024	Change (%)
Polk County	874,790	852,878	+2.6%
Florida	23,462,518	23,372,215	+0.4%

