

COVID-19 and Unemployment in Florida: September Update

The number of unemployed workers in Florida rose from 310,000 in January 2020 to 1,304,000 in May, then fell to 778,000 in September. In all, between January and September, the state added 468,000 unemployed workers.

The change was greatest in Miami-Dade County, where the number of unemployed workers rose from 21,501 in January to 183,595 in September. Other counties with large increases included Orange (55,611 worker increase) and Broward (51,921 worker increase).

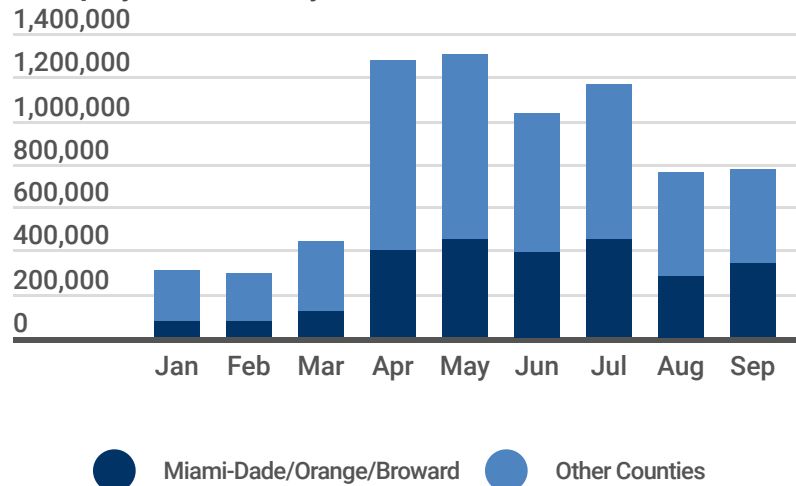
The state unemployment rate rose from 3% in January to 14% in April and May, before falling to 8% in September. The highest rates in September were in Osceola and Miami-Dade Counties (13%) and Orange County (10%). Osceola and Orange County September rates were considerably lower than their May peaks of 29% and 22%, respectively.

Smaller North Florida counties including Lafayette, Wakulla, Union, and Gilchrist have had consistently lower unemployment rates than the state average, with rates below 4% in September.

+468,000

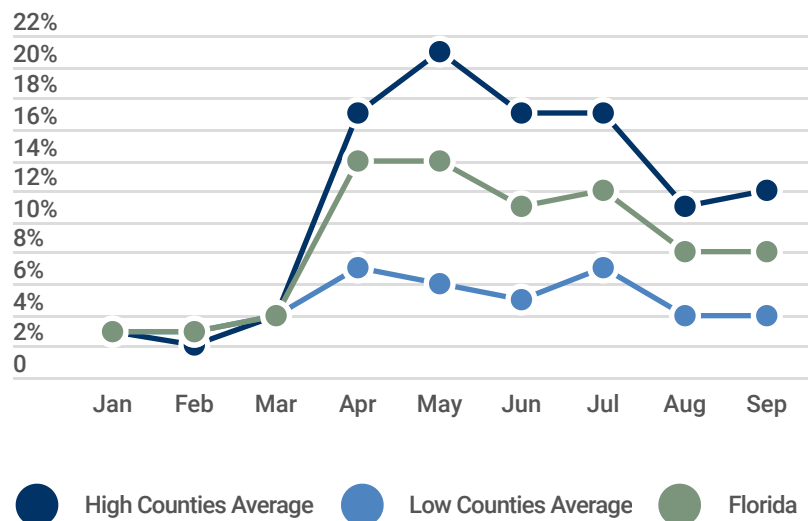
Change in unemployed workers in FL, Jan-Sept 2020

Unemployed Workers by Month, Florida, 2020



Source: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Local Area Unemployment Statistics. [View county data.](#)

Unemployment Rate by Month, Florida, 2020



High counties average made up of Osceola, Miami-Dade, and Orange County rates; Low Counties average made up of Lafayette, Wakulla, Union, and Gilchrist. Source: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Local Area Unemployment Statistics. [View county data.](#)

Leisure and hospitality employment took the biggest hit, falling 21% statewide. In the Orlando, West Palm Beach, and Cape Coral metropolitan areas, employment in these industries fell by more than 30%.

Leisure & Hospitality Employment, Florida Metropolitan Statistical Areas, January & September 2020

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Jan Employment	Sep Employment	% change
Cape Coral-Fort Myers MSA	45,700	31,600	-30.9%
Crestview-Fort Walton Beach-Destin MSA	20,300	19,200	-5.4%
Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach MSA	32,800	29,300	-10.7%
Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield Beach MD	96,000	67,500	-29.7%
Gainesville MSA	16,400	12,900	-21.3%
Jacksonville MSA	86,400	72,800	-15.7%
Lakeland-Winter Haven MSA	24,700	20,100	-18.6%
Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall MD	147,100	113,600	-22.8%
Naples-Immokalee-Marco Island MSA	31,400	24,500	-22.0%
North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA	45,500	36,100	-20.7%
Ocala MSA	13,500	13,700	1.5%
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA	275,700	186,300	-32.4%
Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville MSA	9,100	8,700	-4.4%
Panama City MSA	11,500	10,700	-7.0%
Pensacola-Ferry Pass-Brent MSA	25,700	22,500	-12.5%
Port St. Lucie MSA	20,900	18,200	-12.9%
Punta Gorda MSA	8,100	7,000	-13.6%
Sebastian-Vero Beach MSA	8,900	7,900	-11.2%
Tallahassee MSA	21,000	15,400	-26.7%
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater MSA	160,700	128,500	-20.0%
West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach MD	94,300	64,800	-31.3%
Florida	1,259,900	1,001,100	-20.5%

Source: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Current Employment Statistics. [View data for all industries.](#)

For unemployment counts and jobs by industry for all counties, visit the [COVID-19 application](#) in the [Florida Housing Data Clearinghouse](#).

