

# COVID-19 and Unemployment in Florida: October Update

The number of unemployed workers in Florida rose from 310,000 in January 2020 to 1,304,000 in May, then fell to 653,000 in October. In all, between January and October, the state added 343,000 unemployed workers.

The change was greatest in Miami-Dade County, where the number of unemployed workers rose from 21,501 in January to 118,718 in October. Other counties with large increases included Broward (42,904 worker increase) and Orange (40,966 worker increase).

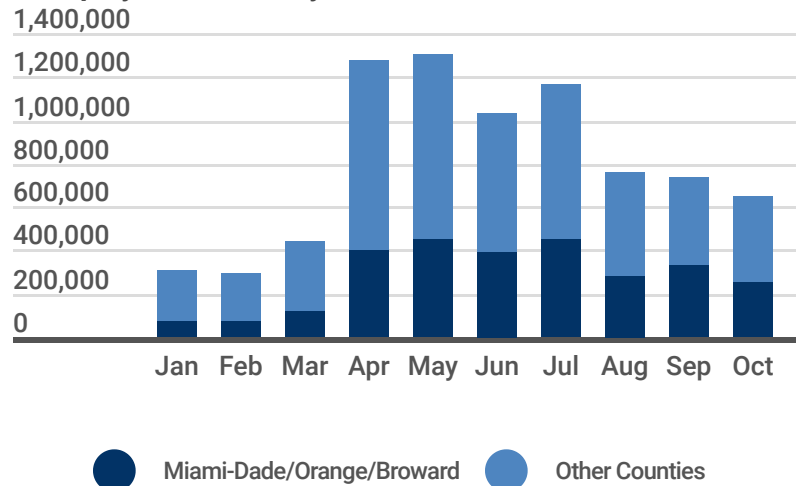
The state unemployment rate rose from 3% in January to 14% in April and May, before falling to 6% in October. The highest rates in October were in Osceola County (10%) and Miami-Dade and Orange Counties (9%). Osceola and Orange County October rates were considerably lower than their May peaks of 29% and 22%, respectively.

Smaller counties including Wakulla, Lafayette, DeSoto, and Glades have had consistently lower unemployment rates than the state average, with rates near 4% in October.

## +343,000

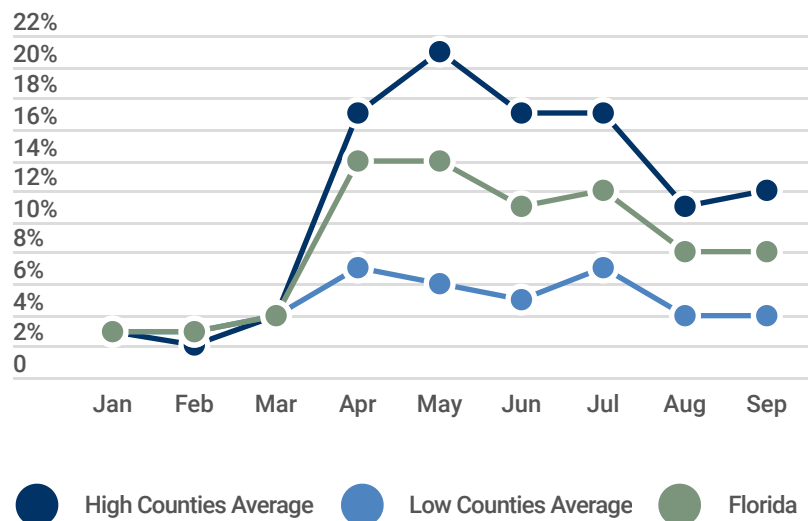
### Change in unemployed workers in FL, Jan-Oct 2020

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

Leisure and hospitality employment took the biggest hit, falling 17% statewide. In the Orlando metropolitan area, employment in these industries fell by 30%.

### Leisure & Hospitality Employment, Florida Metropolitan Statistical Areas, January & October 2020

Metropolitan Statistical Area	Jan Employment	Oct Employment	% change
Cape Coral-Fort Myers MSA	45,700	35,100	-23.2%
Crestview-Fort Walton Beach-Destin MSA	20,300	18,600	-8.4%
Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach MSA	32,800	30,300	-7.6%
Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield Beach MD	96,000	71,700	-25.3%
Gainesville MSA	16,400	13,300	-18.9%
Jacksonville MSA	86,400	75,600	-12.5%
Lakeland-Winter Haven MSA	24,700	20,700	-16.2%
Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall MD	147,100	118,500	-19.4%
Naples-Immokalee-Marco Island MSA	31,400	26,700	-15.0%
North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton MSA	45,500	37,900	-16.7%
Ocala MSA	13,500	13,000	-3.7%
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA	275,700	191,800	-30.4%
Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville MSA	9,100	8,800	-3.3%
Panama City MSA	11,500	10,300	-10.4%
Pensacola-Ferry Pass-Brent MSA	25,700	21,500	-16.3%
Port St. Lucie MSA	20,900	18,900	-9.6%
Punta Gorda MSA	8,100	6,900	-14.8%
Sebastian-Vero Beach MSA	8,900	8,400	-5.6%
Tallahassee MSA	21,000	15,700	-25.2%
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater MSA	160,700	133,500	-16.9%
West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach MD	94,300	70,300	-25.5%
Florida	1,259,900	1,042,700	-17.2%

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](#).