



## St. Johns County adds more than 2,000 jobs in 12 months

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St. Johns County has continued to add jobs and maintain one of the state's lowest unemployment rates, according to data released Friday.

The July report from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity showed that St. Johns County had an unemployment rate of 2.9% in July, which was the same rate as last month and the same as July 2018.

But over the last 12 months, the county has seen its labor force and number of people employed grow by about 2,000. In July, the county had 127,551 employed workers out of a labor force of 131,310. That's up from 125,234 employed and a 129,033 labor force in July 2018.

Monroe County had the state's lowest unemployment rate (2.3%) in July, followed by Okaloosa County (2.8%), and Walton and St. Johns counties (2.9% each).

Hendry County had the highest unemployment rate (8.2%) in Florida in July, followed by Hardee County (6.7%), Citrus and Highlands counties (5.2% each), and Glades County (4.9%). Individual county rates are not seasonally adjusted.

For the surrounding area, Clay County had the lowest rate at 3.3%. That was followed by Duval (3.7%), Flagler (4%) and Putnam (4.6%) counties.

Florida's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.3 percent in July 2019, down 0.1 of a percentage point from the June rate, and down 0.2 of a percentage point from a year ago. There were 344,000 jobless Floridians out of a labor force of 10,354,000. The U.S. unemployment rate was 3.7 percent in July.

The number of jobs in Florida was 9.012 million in July 2019, up 227,200 jobs compared to a year ago. The industry gaining the most jobs was education and health services (65,900 jobs, 5.1%).

Other industries gaining jobs over the year included: professional and business services (41,900 jobs, 3.1%); leisure and hospitality (25,900 jobs, 2.1%); trade, transportation, and utilities (23,000 jobs, 1.3%) and construction (21,300 jobs, 3.9%).