



St. Johns County's Unemployment Rate Remained Second-Lowest in State in December

By THE RECORD
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The unemployment rate for St. Johns County was 3.5 percent in December, it was reported Friday, the same rate as in November.

And again, that rate was the second-lowest in the state, trailing only Monroe County at 3.2 percent.

Hendry County had the state's highest unemployment rate at 7.3 percent in December, followed by Citrus County (6.6 percent) and Putnam County (6.4 percent).

A release from Gov. Rick Scott's office said the Jacksonville area, which includes St. Johns County, gained 16,600 new private sector jobs over the year in December. The Jacksonville area's unemployment rate declined by 0.8 of a percentage point over the year to 4.5 percent in December.

The industries with the largest job gains over the year in the Jacksonville area were leisure and hospitality with 5,500 new jobs; education and health services with 4,800 new jobs; and trade, transportation, and utilities with 3,800 new jobs.

Florida's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5 percent in December, down from the revised November rate of 5.1 percent. There were 487,000 jobless Floridians out of a labor force of 9,667,000.

The U.S. unemployment rate also was 5 percent in December.

The employment information was released by the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Individual county unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted.