



Florida unemployment rate lowest in a decade; St. Johns County's rate second-lowest in state

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As the state's unemployment rate dipped to its lowest level in a decade last month, St. Johns County remained one of the best counties for employment.

Information released Friday through the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) showed that Florida's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.1 percent in June, down 0.2 of a percentage point from May and down 0.8 of a percentage point from a year ago.

The June rate was Florida's lowest rate since June 2007 when it was 4 percent, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

There were 419,000 jobless Floridians out of a labor force of 10,138,000. The U.S. unemployment rate was 4.4 percent in June.

The number of jobs in Florida was 8,602,700 in June, up 238,600 jobs compared to a year ago. June was the 83rd consecutive month with positive over-the-year job growth, the DEO reported.

For St. Johns County, the unemployment rate in June ticked up 0.3 of percentage point from May to 3.3 percent. But that was the second-lowest rate in the state, trailing only Monroe County at 2.8 percent. Individual county rates are not seasonally adjusted.

The county's rate in June was down 0.6 of a percentage point from June 2016. In the last 12 months, the local labor force has increased by about 4,100 as jobs have increased by almost 4,700.

Hendry County had the highest unemployment rate (9.4 percent) in Florida in June, followed by Hardee County (6.7 percent) and Citrus County (6.0 percent).

The Jacksonville Metropolitan Statistical Area, which includes St. Johns County, had an unemployment rate of 4.2 percent in June, which was 0.8 of a percentage point lower than a year ago.

Among neighboring counties, Clay County had the lowest unemployment rate in June at 4 percent. Duval's rate was 4.5 percent. Putnam County had the state's seventh-highest rate at 5.7 percent, and Flagler County had a rate of 4.8 percent.