



Economic Overview

Columbia County, Florida



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Demographic Profile

The population in Columbia County, Florida was 70,898 per American Community Survey data for 2016-2020.

The region has a civilian labor force of 29,337 with a participation rate of 51.3%. Of individuals 25 to 64 in Columbia County, Florida, 14.8% have a bachelor's degree or higher which compares with 34.3% in the nation.

The median household income in Columbia County, Florida is \$44,818 and the median house value is \$128,800.

Summary ¹						
	Percent			Value		
	Columbia County, Florida	Florida	USA	Columbia County, Florida	Florida	USA
Demographics						
Population (ACS)	—	—	—	70,898	21,216,924	326,569,308
Male	51.7%	48.9%	49.2%	36,654	10,374,594	160,818,530
Female	48.3%	51.1%	50.8%	34,244	10,842,330	165,750,778
Median Age ²	—	—	—	40.6	42.2	38.2
Under 18 Years	21.6%	19.9%	22.4%	15,349	4,214,444	73,296,738
18 to 24 Years	9.1%	8.2%	9.3%	6,448	1,747,154	30,435,736
25 to 34 Years	12.2%	13.0%	13.9%	8,659	2,766,491	45,485,165
35 to 44 Years	12.2%	12.1%	12.7%	8,624	2,567,758	41,346,677
45 to 54 Years	12.2%	12.9%	12.7%	8,680	2,733,769	41,540,736
55 to 64 Years	13.8%	13.4%	12.9%	9,800	2,839,396	42,101,439
65 to 74 Years	11.0%	11.3%	9.4%	7,773	2,393,704	30,547,950
75 Years and Over	7.8%	9.2%	6.7%	5,565	1,954,208	21,814,867
Race: White	75.6%	71.6%	70.4%	53,581	15,199,588	229,960,813
Race: Black or African American	18.2%	15.9%	12.6%	12,935	3,381,061	41,227,384
Race: American Indian and Alaska Native	0.2%	0.3%	0.8%	147	55,655	2,688,614
Race: Asian	1.0%	2.8%	5.6%	682	590,668	18,421,637
Race: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%	15	13,339	611,404
Race: Some Other Race	1.2%	3.3%	5.1%	883	699,596	16,783,914
Race: Two or More Races	3.7%	6.0%	5.2%	2,655	1,277,017	16,875,542
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	6.4%	25.8%	18.2%	4,553	5,468,826	59,361,020
Population Growth						
Population (Pop Estimates) ⁴	—	—	—	72,654	21,733,312	329,484,123
Population Annual Average Growth ⁴	0.7%	1.4%	0.6%	510	288,717	2,015,698
People per Square Mile	—	—	—	89.9	400.5	92.9
Economic						
Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 16 years and over)	51.3%	58.8%	63.2%	29,337	10,240,825	164,759,496
Prime-Age Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 25-54)	73.2%	81.5%	82.4%	18,965	6,539,614	105,137,520
Armed Forces Labor Force	0.1%	0.4%	0.4%	48	67,243	1,143,342
Veterans, Age 18-64	7.7%	5.2%	4.5%	3,244	654,858	8,920,267
Veterans Labor Force Participation Rate and Size, Age 18-64	65.0%	74.6%	76.8%	2,109	488,322	6,853,673
Median Household Income ²	—	—	—	\$44,818	\$57,703	\$64,994
Per Capita Income	—	—	—	\$24,569	\$32,848	\$35,384
Mean Commute Time (minutes)	—	—	—	25.5	27.9	26.9
Commute via Public Transportation	0.0%	1.6%	4.6%	4	154,580	7,044,886
Educational Attainment, Age 25-64						
No High School Diploma	14.6%	10.5%	10.5%	5,235	1,146,217	17,929,220
High School Graduate	35.8%	27.5%	25.4%	12,820	2,996,225	43,289,555
Some College, No Degree	24.9%	19.8%	20.5%	8,917	2,162,810	34,959,338

Summary¹

	Percent			Value		
	Columbia County, Florida	Florida	USA	Columbia County, Florida	Florida	USA
Associate's Degree	9.8%	11.1%	9.3%	3,492	1,206,009	15,776,790
Bachelor's Degree	11.0%	20.4%	21.6%	3,926	2,228,827	36,888,244
Postgraduate Degree	3.8%	10.7%	12.7%	1,373	1,167,326	21,630,870
Housing						
Total Housing Units	—	—	—	29,155	9,562,324	138,432,751
Median House Value (of owner-occupied units) ²	—	—	—	\$128,800	\$232,000	\$229,800
Homeowner Vacancy	1.2%	2.1%	1.4%	222	112,114	1,129,755
Rental Vacancy	7.1%	8.2%	5.8%	541	242,453	2,704,553
Renter-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	27.4%	33.8%	35.6%	6,904	2,680,435	43,552,843
Occupied Housing Units with No Vehicle Available (% of Occupied Units)	4.5%	6.1%	8.5%	1,137	485,183	10,344,521
Social						
Poverty Level (of all people)	14.1%	13.3%	12.8%	9,299	2,772,939	40,910,326
Households Receiving Food Stamps/SNAP	18.3%	13.2%	11.4%	4,617	1,044,055	13,892,407
Enrolled in Grade 12 (% of total population)	1.5%	1.2%	1.3%	1,047	262,770	4,358,865
Disconnected Youth ³	12.9%	2.8%	2.5%	461	26,748	433,164
Children in Single Parent Families (% of all children)	42.1%	38.5%	34.0%	5,880	1,533,720	23,628,508
Uninsured	13.3%	12.7%	8.7%	8,770	2,646,931	28,058,903
With a Disability, Age 18-64	19.5%	10.1%	10.3%	7,380	1,252,765	20,231,217
With a Disability, Age 18-64, Labor Force Participation Rate and Size	39.2%	40.4%	43.2%	2,894	506,335	8,740,236
Foreign Born	3.6%	20.8%	13.5%	2,579	4,410,286	44,125,628
Speak English Less Than Very Well (population 5 yrs and over)	1.8%	11.8%	8.2%	1,211	2,370,626	25,312,024

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

1. American Community Survey 2016-2020, unless noted otherwise

2. Median values for certain aggregate regions (such as MSAs) may be estimated as the weighted averages of the median values from the composing counties.

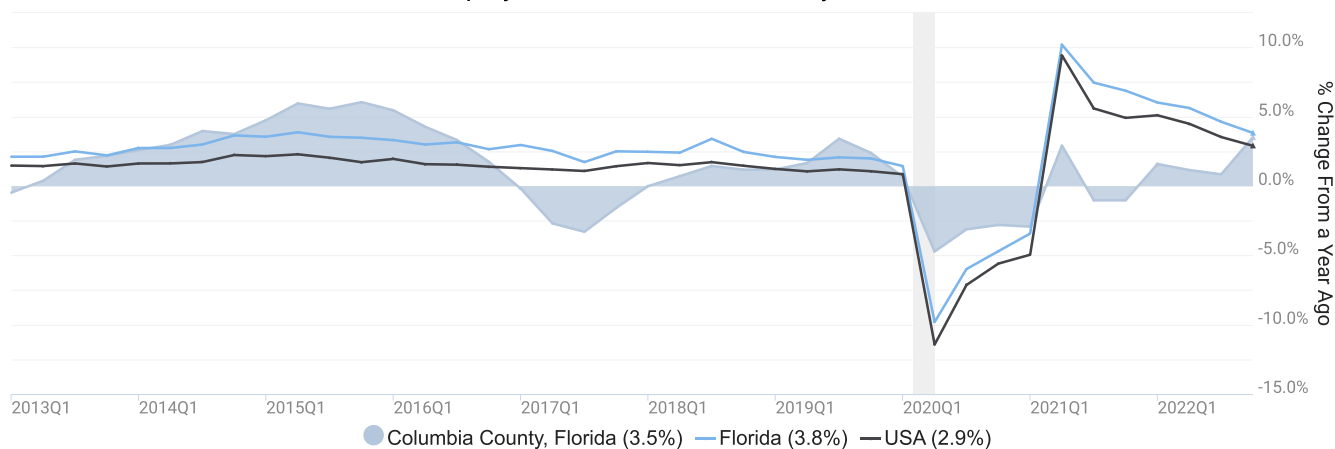
3. Disconnected Youth are 16-19 year olds who are (1) not in school, (2) not high school graduates, and (3) either unemployed or not in the labor force.

4. Census Population Estimate for 2020, annual average growth rate since 2010.

Employment Trends

As of 2022Q4, total employment for Columbia County, Florida was 26,538 (based on a four-quarter moving average). Over the year ending 2022Q4, employment increased 3.5% in the region.

Employment for Columbia County, Florida

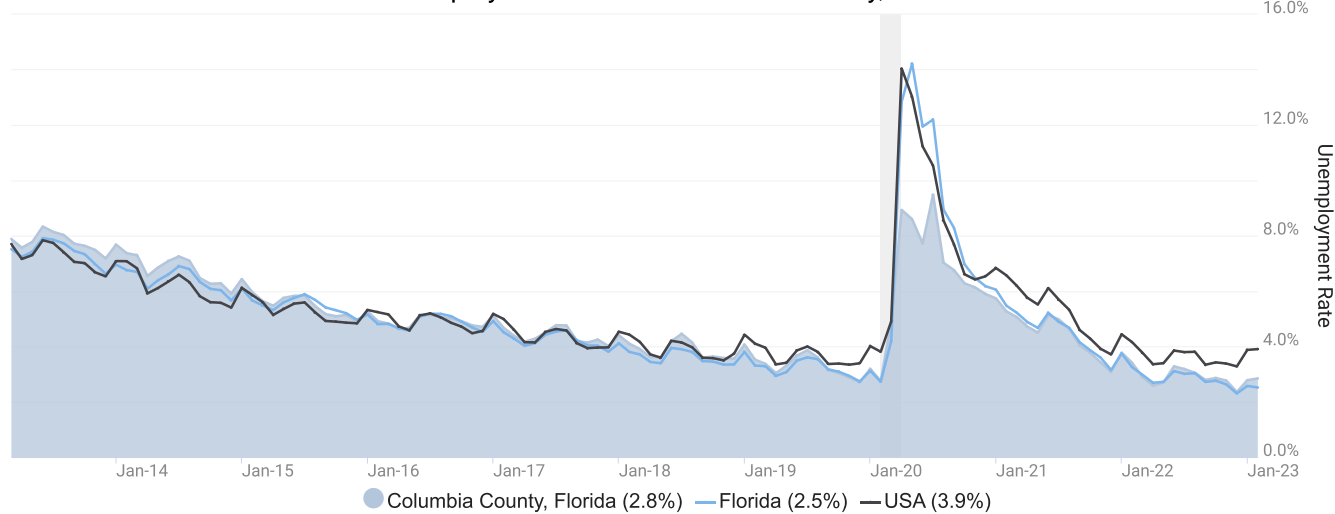


Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2022Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2022Q4.

Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate for Columbia County, Florida was 2.8% as of February 2023. The regional unemployment rate was lower than the national rate of 3.9%. One year earlier, in February 2022, the unemployment rate in Columbia County, Florida was 3.4%.

Unemployment Rate for Columbia County, Florida

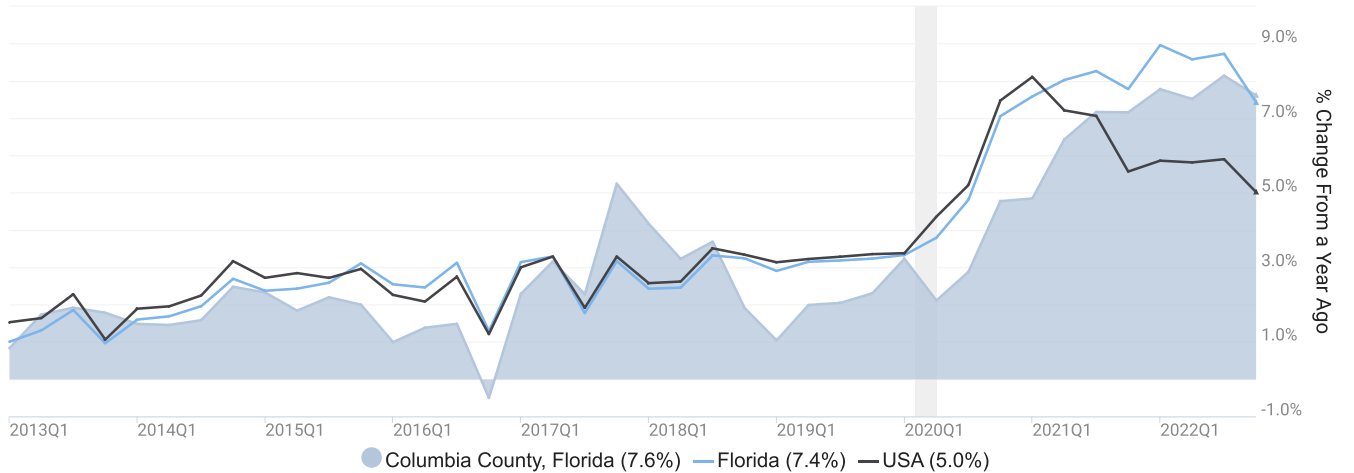


Unemployment rate data are from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and updated through February 2023.

Wage Trends

The average worker in Columbia County, Florida earned annual wages of \$46,521 as of 2022Q4. Average annual wages per worker increased 7.6% in the region over the preceding four quarters. For comparison purposes, annual average wages were \$68,838 in the nation as of 2022Q4.

Average Annual Wages for Columbia County, Florida



Annual average wages per worker data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2022Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2022Q4.

Cost of Living Index

The Cost of Living Index estimates the relative price levels for consumer goods and services. When applied to wages and salaries, the result is a measure of relative purchasing power. The cost of living is 3.6% lower in Columbia County, Florida than the U.S. average.

Cost of Living Information

	Annual Average Salary	Cost of Living Index (Base US)	US Purchasing Power
Columbia County, Florida	\$46,521	96.4	\$48,258
Florida	\$62,489	105.8	\$59,073
USA	\$68,838	100.0	\$68,838

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

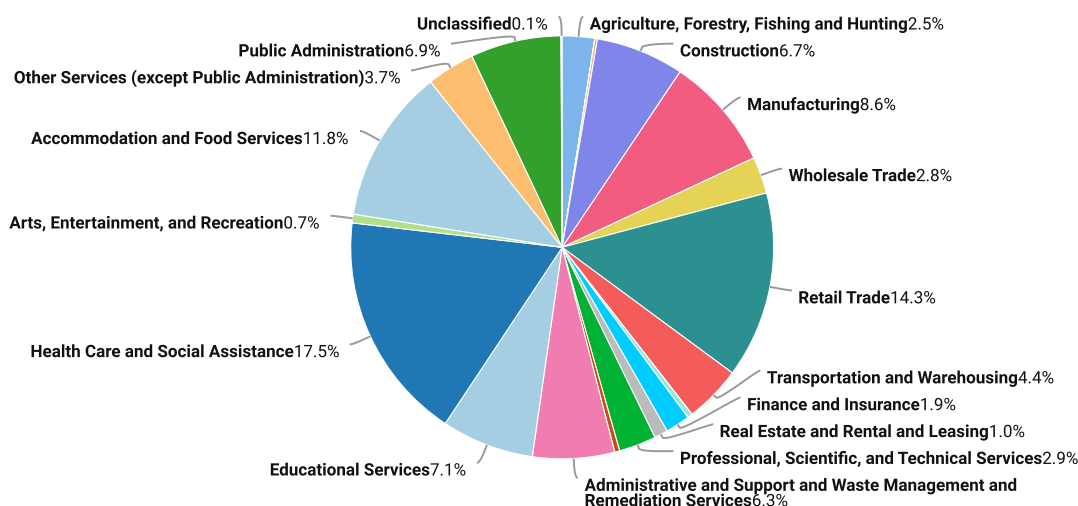
Data as of 2022Q4

Cost of Living per [COLI](#), data as of 2022Q4, imputed by Chmura where necessary.

Industry Snapshot

The largest sector in Columbia County, Florida is Health Care and Social Assistance, employing 4,651 workers. The next-largest sectors in the region are Retail Trade (3,786 workers) and Accommodation and Food Services (3,130). High location quotients (LQs) indicate sectors in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The sectors with the largest LQs in the region are Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting (LQ = 1.89), Public Administration (1.51), and Retail Trade (1.42).

Total Workers for Columbia County, Florida by Industry



Source: JobsEQ®, Data as of 2022Q4

Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2022Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2022Q4.

Sectors in Columbia County, Florida with the highest average wages per worker are Utilities (\$110,889), Finance and Insurance (\$83,756), and Management of Companies and Enterprises (\$81,173). Regional sectors with the best job growth (or most moderate job losses) over the last 5 years are Transportation and Warehousing (+343 jobs), Retail Trade (+313), and Construction (+189).

Over the next 5 years, employment in Columbia County, Florida is projected to expand by 1,194 jobs. The fastest growing sector in the region is expected to be Accommodation and Food Services with a +1.9% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Accommodation and Food Services (+306 jobs), Health Care and Social Assistance (+290), and Educational Services (+90).

Columbia County, Florida, 2022Q4¹

NAICS	Industry	Empl	Current	5-Year History			5-Year Forecast				
			Avg Ann Wages	LQ	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	4,651	\$56,427	1.22	-86	-0.4%	2,749	1,132	1,327	290	1.2%
44	Retail Trade	3,786	\$38,255	1.42	313	1.7%	2,754	1,161	1,535	58	0.3%
72	Accommodation and Food Services	3,130	\$21,515	1.38	177	1.2%	3,158	1,290	1,562	306	1.9%
31	Manufacturing	2,293	\$62,726	1.07	123	1.1%	1,304	466	792	46	0.4%
61	Educational Services	1,873	\$43,043	0.89	-74	-0.8%	1,033	448	495	90	0.9%
92	Public Administration	1,835	\$49,629	1.51	-40	-0.4%	934	378	538	18	0.2%
23	Construction	1,790	\$50,381	1.14	189	2.3%	960	319	571	69	0.8%
56	Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	1,663	\$40,856	0.97	-559	-5.6%	1,083	416	608	60	0.7%
48	Transportation and Warehousing	1,156	\$53,514	0.88	343	7.3%	763	288	421	55	0.9%
81	Other Services (except Public Administration)	976	\$28,296	0.86	117	2.6%	658	254	350	53	1.1%
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	758	\$70,367	0.39	11	0.3%	387	128	220	39	1.0%
42	Wholesale Trade	743	\$65,041	0.74	-123	-3.0%	444	155	264	25	0.7%
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	660	\$25,073	1.89	18	0.6%	449	188	239	23	0.7%
52	Finance and Insurance	499	\$83,756	0.47	16	0.7%	256	90	148	18	0.7%
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	273	\$47,364	0.58	38	3.0%	149	64	79	7	0.5%
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	180	\$31,264	0.35	29	3.6%	153	58	81	15	1.6%
51	Information	102	\$44,677	0.19	-26	-4.4%	61	18	33	9	1.8%
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	99	\$81,173	0.24	29	7.2%	51	18	30	4	0.7%
22	Utilities	49	\$110,889	0.37	-64	-15.2%	23	9	15	-1	-0.4%
99	Unclassified	24	\$26,725	0.44	21	51.1%	15	6	8	1	0.9%
21	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	0	n/a	0.00	-15	n/a	0	0	0	0	0.3%
Total - All Industries		26,538	\$46,521	1.00	439	0.3%	16,802	6,521	9,087	1,194	0.9%

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

Data as of 2022Q4

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

1. All data based upon a four-quarter moving average

Exits and transfers are approximate estimates based upon occupation separation rates.

Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2022Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2022Q4. Forecast employment growth uses national projections adapted for regional growth patterns.

Occupation Snapshot

The largest major occupation group in Columbia County, Florida is Office and Administrative Support Occupations, employing 3,213 workers. The next-largest occupation groups in the region are Sales and Related Occupations (2,858 workers) and Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (2,774). High location quotients (LQs) indicate occupation groups in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The major groups with the largest LQs in the region are Protective Service Occupations (LQ = 1.40), Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations (1.33), and Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (1.32).

Occupation groups in Columbia County, Florida with the highest average wages per worker are Management Occupations (\$96,300), Computer and Mathematical Occupations (\$85,900), and Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations (\$85,300). The unemployment rate in the region varied among the major groups from 0.9% among Legal Occupations to 4.5% among Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations.

Over the next 5 years, the fastest growing occupation group in Columbia County, Florida is expected to be Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations with a +1.7% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (+242 jobs) and Transportation and Material Moving Occupations (+129). Over the same period, the highest separation demand (occupation demand due to retirements and workers moving from one occupation to another) is expected in Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (2,773 jobs) and Sales and Related Occupations (2,061).

Columbia County, Florida, 2022Q4¹

SOC	Occupation	Empl	Mean Ann Wages ²	Current			5-Year History			5-Year Forecast				
				LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads ³	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
43-0000	Office and Administrative Support	3,213	\$41,000	0.98	95	2.5%	92	-260	-1.5%	2,012	887	1,108	17	0.1%
41-0000	Sales and Related	2,858	\$41,000	1.15	114	3.7%	198	41	0.3%	2,100	918	1,143	39	0.3%
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related	2,774	\$31,300	1.32	144	4.5%	235	35	0.3%	3,015	1,276	1,497	242	1.7%
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving	2,399	\$39,200	1.03	121	4.1%	133	316	2.9%	1,868	657	1,082	129	1.1%
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	2,037	\$85,300	1.33	24	1.3%	309	1	0.0%	747	325	306	117	1.1%
11-0000	Management	1,639	\$96,300	0.90	18	1.2%	101	72	0.9%	842	297	454	91	1.1%
25-0000	Educational Instruction and Library	1,348	\$51,300	0.95	23	2.0%	28	-46	-0.7%	712	309	323	79	1.1%
47-0000	Construction and Extraction	1,345	\$48,200	1.12	64	3.9%	59	84	1.3%	736	240	438	58	0.8%
51-0000	Production	1,309	\$42,700	0.87	49	3.3%	33	22	0.3%	767	281	475	10	0.2%
31-0000	Healthcare Support	1,168	\$34,500	1.00	36	2.6%	53	50	0.9%	982	385	502	94	1.6%
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations	1,151	\$69,400	0.67	16	1.6%	34	147	2.8%	588	181	350	56	1.0%
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	1,070	\$49,900	1.04	22	1.7%	101	52	1.0%	587	204	334	49	0.9%
37-0000	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	983	\$33,500	1.12	49	4.0%	23	-26	-0.5%	739	312	376	51	1.0%
33-0000	Protective Service	795	\$44,600	1.40	21	2.5%	43	-79	-1.9%	425	183	233	10	0.2%
39-0000	Personal Care and Service	522	\$35,300	0.81	21	3.2%	18	16	0.6%	523	196	281	46	1.7%
21-0000	Community and Social Service	429	\$49,200	0.92	5	1.7%	65	-22	-1.0%	244	89	130	25	1.1%
15-0000	Computer and Mathematical	389	\$85,900	0.42	5	1.5%	9	58	3.3%	163	45	98	20	1.0%

Columbia County, Florida, 2022Q4¹

SOC	Occupation	Empl	Mean Ann Wages ²	Current			5-Year History			5-Year Forecast				
				LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads ³	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
17- 0000	Architecture and Engineering	342	\$83,100	0.79	3	1.2%	16	-43	-2.3%	144	50	82	13	0.7%
27- 0000	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	244	\$53,900	0.52	5	3.3%	10	-10	-0.8%	150	56	79	15	1.2%
45- 0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	210	\$37,000	1.24	10	4.2%	6	32	3.4%	182	55	118	9	0.8%
23- 0000	Legal	167	\$83,600	0.74	1	0.9%	9	2	0.2%	66	26	30	10	1.2%
19- 0000	Life, Physical, and Social Science	145	\$68,900	0.62	1	1.5%	9	-3	-0.4%	76	17	53	6	0.9%
Total - All Occupations		26,538	\$50,500	1.00	845	3.0%	1,586	439	0.3%	17,675	6,990	9,491	1,194	0.9%

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

Data as of 2022Q4 unless noted otherwise

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

1. Data based on a four-quarter moving average unless noted otherwise.

2. Wage data represent the average for all Covered Employment

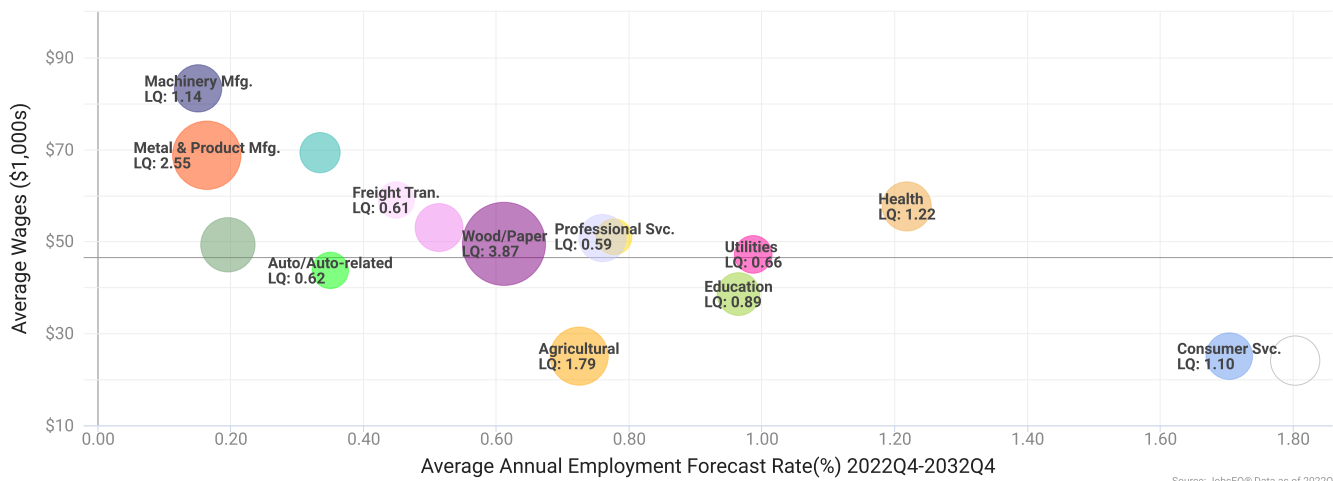
3. Data represent found online ads active within the last thirty days in the selected region. Due to alternative county-assignment algorithms, ad counts in this analytic may not match that shown in RTI (nor in the popup window ad list). Ad counts for ZCTA-based regions are estimates.

Occupation employment data are estimated via industry employment data and the estimated industry/occupation mix. Industry employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and currently updated through 2022Q3, imputed where necessary with preliminary estimates updated to 2022Q4. Wages by occupation are as of 2022 provided by the BLS and imputed where necessary. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

Industry Clusters

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. The industry cluster in Columbia County, Florida with the highest relative concentration is Wood/Paper with a location quotient of 3.87. This cluster employs 813 workers in the region with an average wage of \$49,567. Employment in the Wood/Paper cluster is projected to expand in the region about 0.6% per year over the next ten years.

Industry Clusters for Columbia County, Florida as of 2022Q4

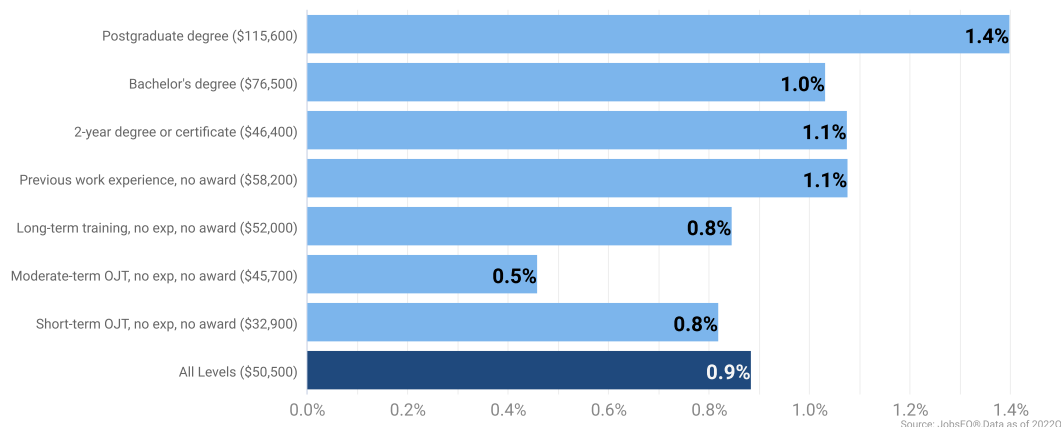


Location quotient and average wage data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, imputed where necessary, and updated through 2022Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2022Q4. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

Education Levels

Expected growth rates for occupations vary by the education and training required. While all employment in Columbia County, Florida is projected to grow 0.9% over the next ten years, occupations typically requiring a postgraduate degree are expected to grow 1.4% per year, those requiring a bachelor's degree are forecast to grow 1.0% per year, and occupations typically needing a 2-year degree or certificate are expected to grow 1.1% per year.

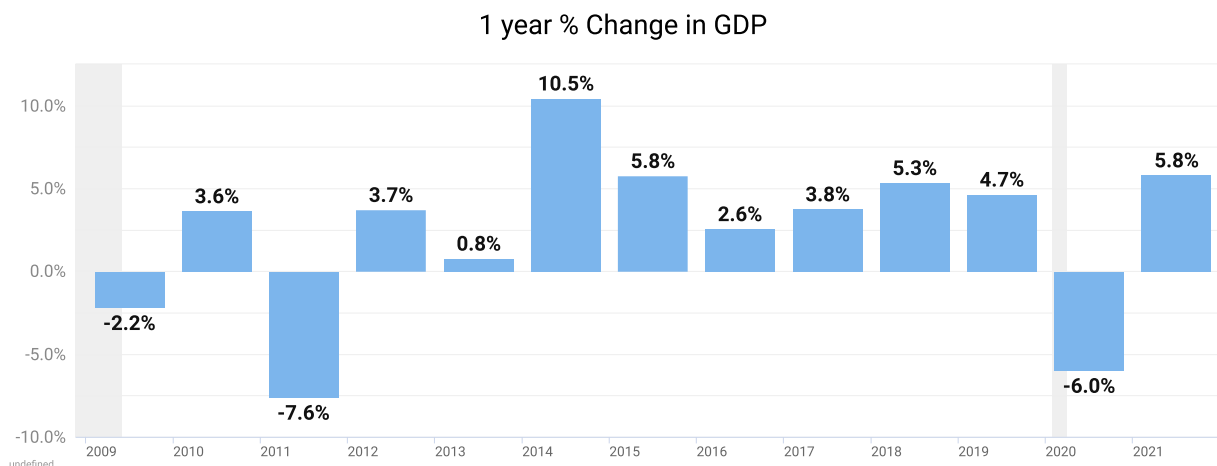
Annual Average Projected Job Growth by Training Required



Employment by occupation data are estimates as of 2022Q4. Education levels of occupations are based on BLS assignments. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

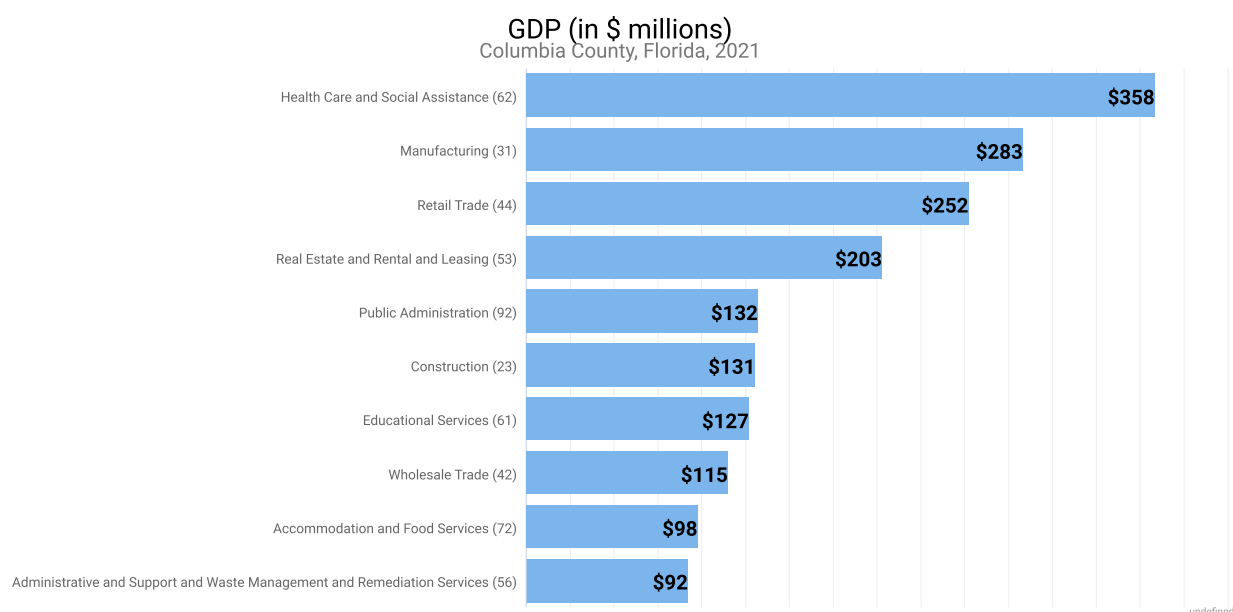
Gross Domestic Product

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total value of goods and services produced by a region. In 2021, nominal GDP in Columbia County, Florida expanded 5.8%. This follows a contraction of 6.0% in 2020. As of 2021, total GDP in Columbia County, Florida was \$2,167,184,000.



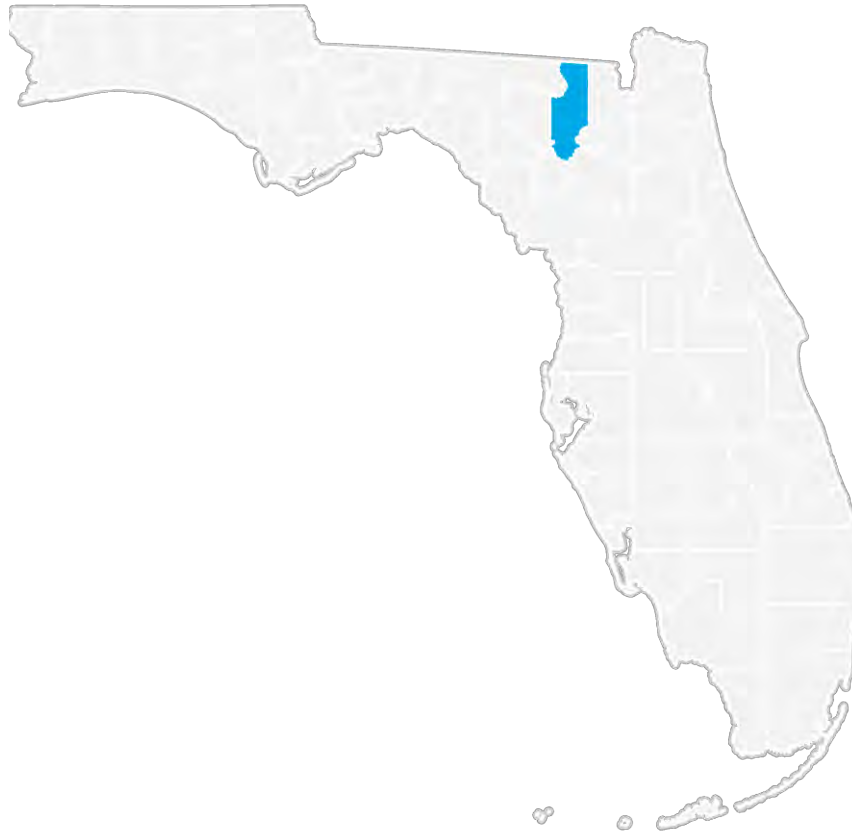
Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2021.

Of the sectors in Columbia County, Florida, Health Care and Social Assistance contributed the largest portion of GDP in 2021, \$358,498,000. The next-largest contributions came from Manufacturing (\$283,113,000); Retail Trade (\$252,234,000); and Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (\$203,091,000).



Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2021.

Columbia County, Florida Regional Map



FAQ

What is a location quotient?

A location quotient (LQ) is a measurement of concentration in comparison to the nation. An LQ of 1.00 indicates a region has the same concentration of an industry (or occupation) as the nation. An LQ of 2.00 would mean the region has twice the expected employment compared to the nation and an LQ of 0.50 would mean the region has half the expected employment in comparison to the nation.

What is separation demand?

Separation demand is the number of jobs required due to separations—labor force exits (including retirements) and turnover resulting from workers moving from one occupation into another. Note that separation demand does not include all turnover—it does not include when workers stay in the same occupation but switch employers. The total projected demand for an occupation is the sum of the separation demand and the growth demand (which is the increase or decrease of jobs in an occupation expected due to expansion or contraction of the overall number of jobs in that occupation).

What is a cluster?

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. If a regional cluster has a location quotient of 1.25 or greater, the region is considered to possess a competitive advantage in that cluster.

What is the difference between industry wages and occupation wages?

Industry wages and occupation wages are estimated via separate data sets, often the time periods being reported do not align, and wages are defined slightly differently in the two systems (for example, certain bonuses are included in the industry wages but not the occupation wages). It is therefore common that estimates of the average industry wages and average occupation wages in a region do not match exactly.

What is NAICS?

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is used to classify business establishments according to the type of economic activity. The NAICS Code comprises six levels, from the “all industry” level to the 6-digit level. The first two digits define the top level category, known as the “sector,” which is the level examined in this report.

What is SOC?

The Standard Occupational Classification system (SOC) is used to classify workers into occupational categories. All workers are classified into one of over 804 occupations according to their occupational definition. To facilitate classification, occupations are combined to form 22 major groups, 95 minor groups, and 452 occupation groups. Each occupation group includes detailed occupations requiring similar job duties, skills, education, or experience.

About This Report

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