



**Quality of Life Report**

**Tallahassee-Leon County, FL**

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# **ECONOMY**

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## **Tallahassee-Leon County Florida**



**ECONOMY**

**Indicator 1: Unemployment Rate**

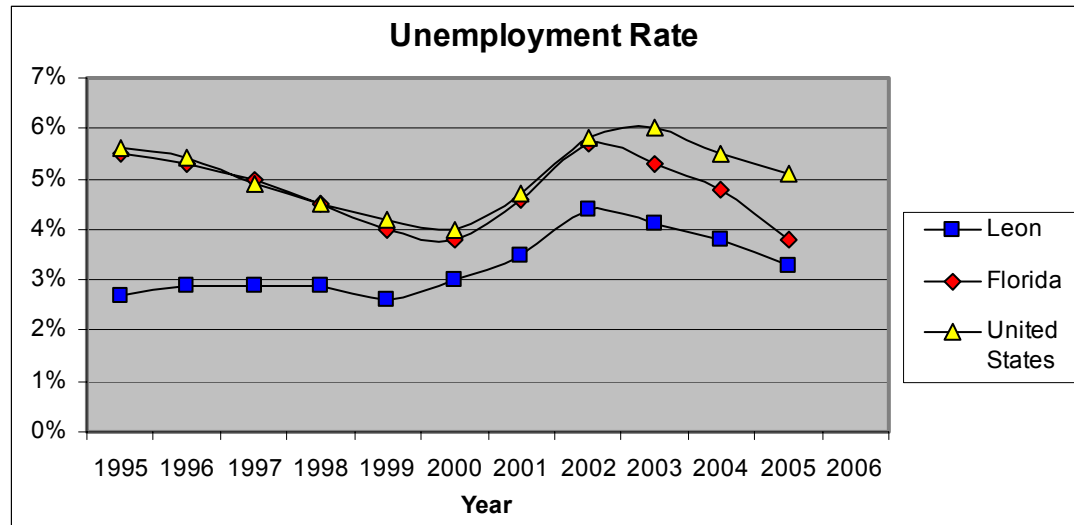
Updated  
03/25/06

**Indicator:**

Percentage of people age 16 and older who were seeking but unable to find work

**Analysis:**

Leon County's unemployment rate has remained consistently below the state's and the nation's. The unemployment rate has fallen in Leon County each of the past three years (2003-2005).



**Data source:**

Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation  
Labor Market Statistics

**Website:**

<http://www.labormarketinfo.com/index.htm>

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Leon County	2.9%	2.9%	2.6%	3.0%	3.5%	4.4%	4.1%	3.8%	3.3%
Florida	5.0%	4.5%	4.0%	3.8%	4.6%	5.7%	5.3%	4.8%	3.8%
United States	4.9%	4.5%	4.2%	4.0%	4.7%	5.8%	6.0%	5.5%	5.1%



**ECONOMY**

**Indicator 2: Average Annual Wage**

Updated  
11/04/06

**Indicator:**

*Average annual wage and salary per full- and part-time job.*

**Analysis:**

In current dollars, Leon County’s average wage during the period 1998 to 2005 was between \$943 and \$1,494 below the state average with the greatest gap in the most recent two years for which data is available (2004 and 2005). In constant (inflation-adjusted) dollars, the average wage in Leon County has grown 3.8% (0.5% per year average) over the time period compared with 6.5% (0.9% per year average) for the State.

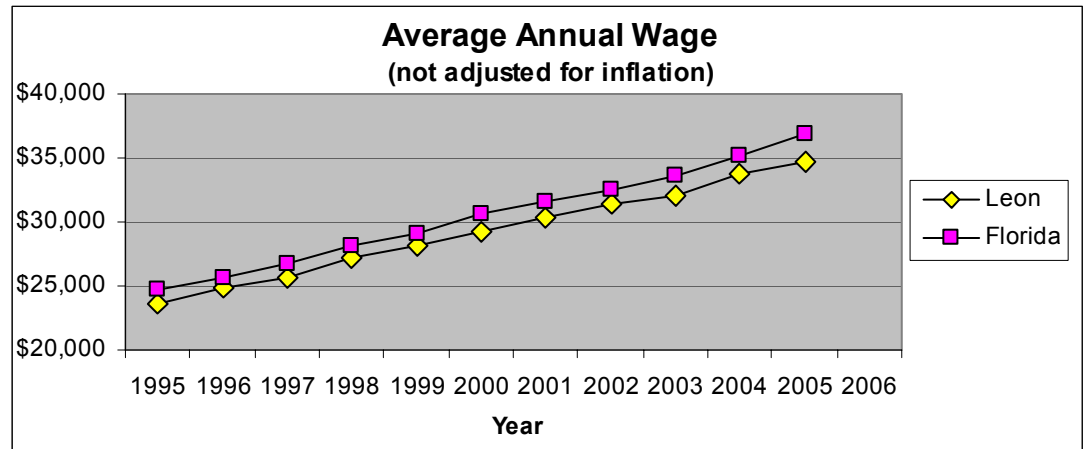
**Data sources:**

Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation, Labor Market Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages (ES-202)

U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index (CPI) Program

**Websites:**

- <http://www.labormarketinfo.com/library/qcew.htm>
- <http://www.bls.gov/cpi/home.htm>



	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Leon County	\$27,237	\$28,098	\$29,255	\$30,291	\$31,449	\$32,059	\$33,742	\$34,637
Florida	\$28,189	\$29,041	\$30,566	\$31,551	\$32,428	\$33,553	\$35,159	\$36,804
Leon County – inflation Adjusted*	\$33,379	\$33,530	\$33,549	\$33,657	\$34,333	\$34,142	\$34,930	\$34,637

\* Not shown on graph – adjusted in 2005 dollars.



ECONOMY

Indicator 3: Per Capita Income

Updated  
04/29/06

**Indicator:**

*Average personal income from wages, public pensions, social security, interest, public assistance, and other sources.*

**Analysis:**

In current dollars, per capita personal income in Leon County has remained slightly below state and national averages since 1996. In constant (inflation-adjusted) dollars, per capita personal income growth between 1997 and 2004 in Leon County was nearly identical to the State (10.2% in Leon County, 10.3% for the State of Florida).

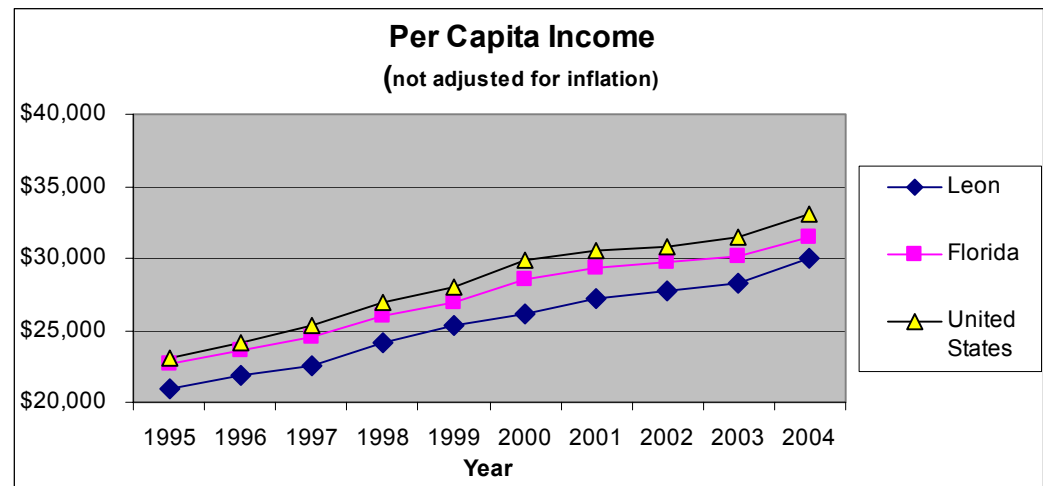
**Data sources:**

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts

U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index (CPI) Program

**Websites:**

<http://www.bea.gov/bea/regional/reis/>  
<http://www.bls.gov/cpi/home.htm>



	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Leon County	\$22,536	\$24,153	\$25,345	\$26,068	\$27,248	\$27,783	\$28,252	\$29,959
Florida	\$24,502	\$25,987	\$26,894	\$28,509	\$29,273	\$29,709	\$30,128	\$31,469
United States	\$25,334	\$26,883	\$27,939	\$29,845	\$30,574	\$30,810	\$31,484	\$33,050
Adjusted for inflation (in 2004 dollars)*								
Leon County*	\$27,022	\$28,415	\$29,065	\$28,773	\$29,173	\$29,245	\$29,036	\$29,959
Leon annual rate of change*	+0.0%	+5.2%	+2.3%	-1.0%	+1.4%	+0.2%	-0.7%	+3.2%
FL annual rate of change*	+0.7%	+4.1%	+0.9%	+2.0%	-0.4%	-0.2%	-1.0%	+1.6%

\* Not shown on graph



**ECONOMY**  
**Indicator 4: Children in Poverty**

Updated  
 04/29/06

**Indicator:**

*Percent of children, ages 0-17, living in families below the federal poverty level (e.g., in 2003, \$14,824 for a one-parent family with two children; \$18,660 for a two-parent family with two children).*

**Analysis:**

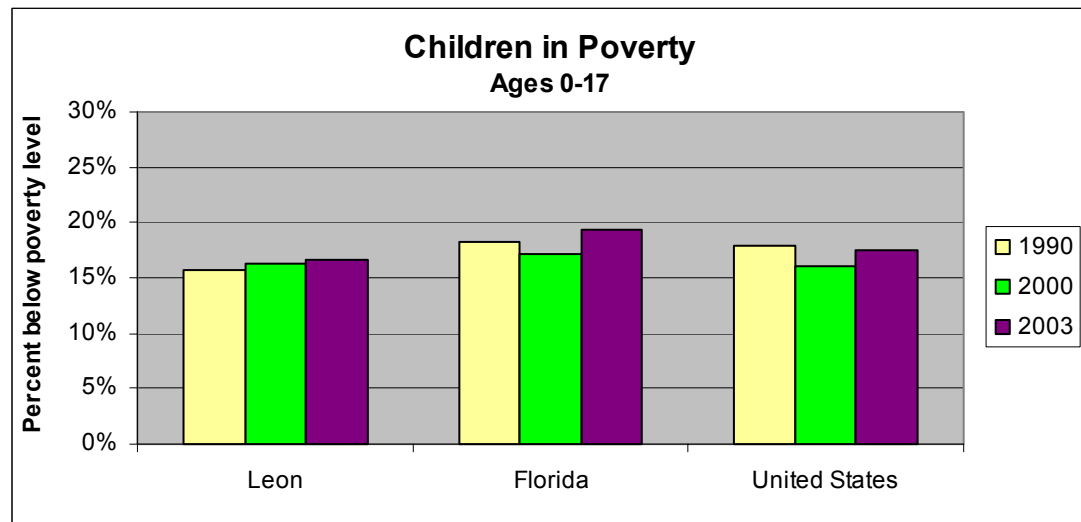
According to Census Bureau’s Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates, in 2003 the percent of children ages 0-17 living in poverty increased in Leon County, the State of Florida and the U.S. since the 2000 Census. The rate of increase in Leon County was less than that of the State or the nation.

**Data source:**

U.S. Census Bureau; 2000 Census, Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates, 2003

**Websites:**

<http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet>  
<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/saipe/>



	1990	2000	2003
Leon County	15.7%	16.2%	16.6%
Florida	18.3%	17.2%	19.3%
United States	17.9%	16.1%	17.6%



**ECONOMY**

**Indicator 5: Child Poverty by Family Type and Age**

Updated  
08/29/06

**Indicator:**

*Percent of children living below the federal poverty level, by age group (under age 5 vs. under age 18) and family type (female-headed family, no husband present vs. married couple family), as of 2005.*

**Analysis:**

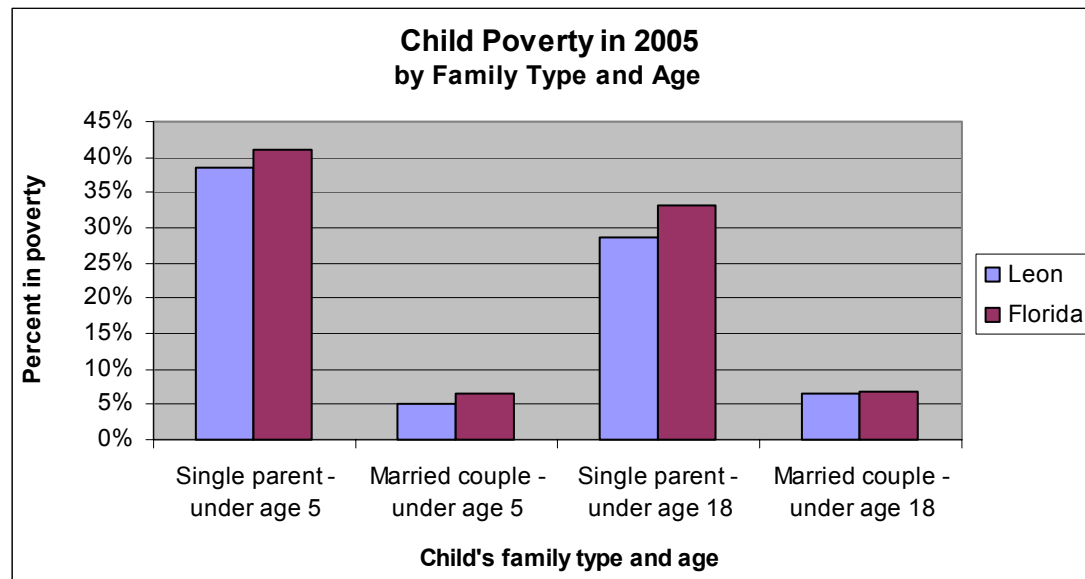
Children in single, female-headed families are much more likely to be in poverty than children in married couple families. This is particularly true for very young children under age 5. Leon County has a slightly lower percentage in comparison with Florida in this measure for all age groupings and family types indicated.

**Data source:**

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

**Website:**

<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>



Child Poverty in 2005	Leon	Florida
Single parent - under age 18	28.6%	33.1%
Married couple - under age 18	6.6%	6.7%
Single parent - under age 5	38.6%	41.1%
Married couple - under age 5	5.2%	6.4%

Note: The American Community Survey is limited to household population and excludes the population living in institutions, college dormitories and other group quarters



**ECONOMY**

**Indicator 6: Home Ownership**

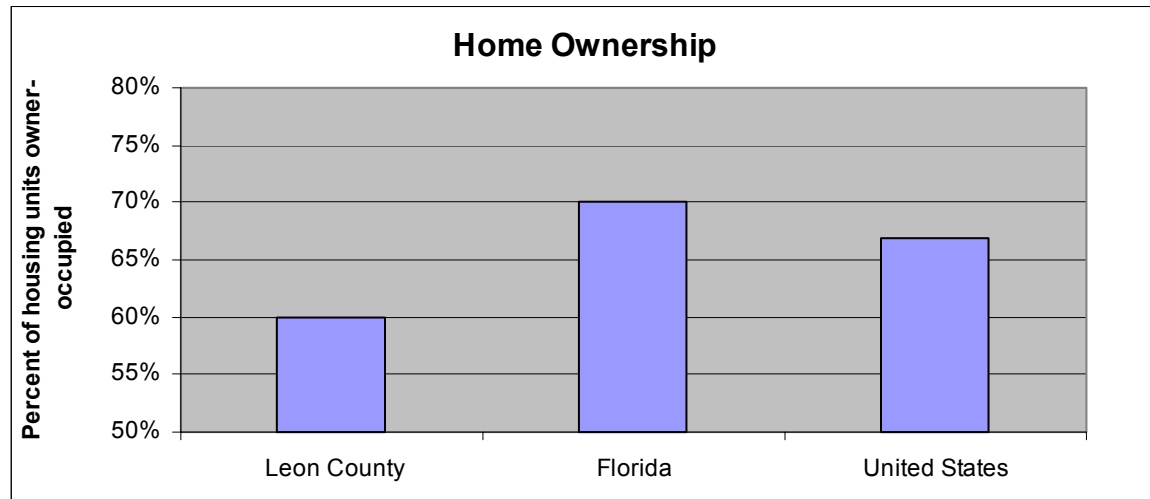
Updated  
10/03/06

**Indicator:**

*Percent of housing units that were owner-occupied.*

**Analysis:**

Leon County lags the state and the nation for homeownership rates. The relatively low level of home ownership in the area reflects the large number of college students.



**Data source:**

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

**Website:**

<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

	2005	
	Owner-occupied	Renter-Occupied
Leon County	60%	40%
Florida	70%	30%
United States	67%	33%

Note: The American Community Survey is limited to household population and excludes the population living in institutions, college dormitories and other group quarters



ECONOMY

Indicator 7: Affordability of Rental Housing

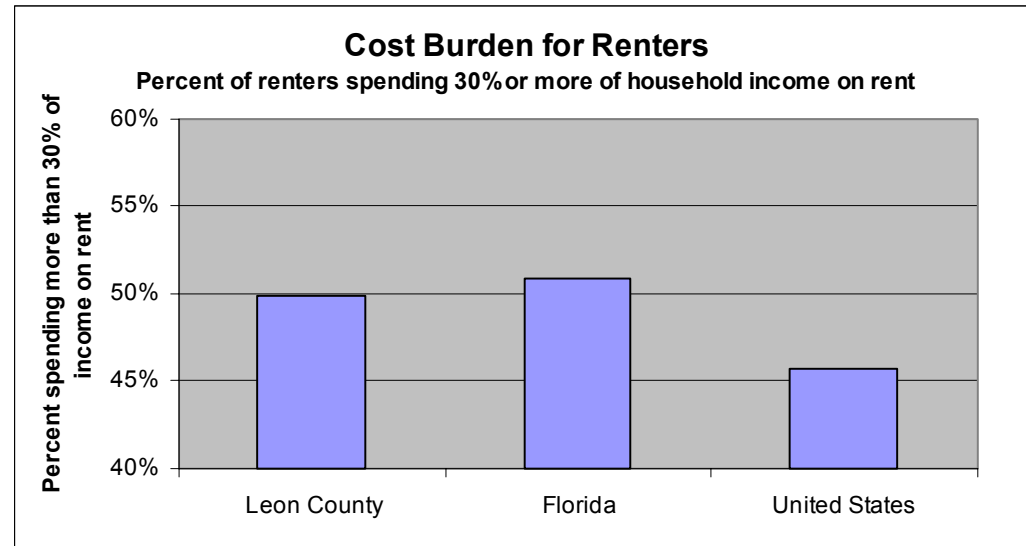
Updated 10/03/06

Indicator:

Percent of rental units for which occupants spent 30% or more of household income on rent.

Analysis:

In Leon County, almost exactly one-half of renters bear a heavy cost burden for housing relative to income. The percentage of renters paying 30% or more of household income on rent is slightly lower than in Florida but higher than the nation. The data for Leon County reflects the large number of college students in Leon County's rental market.



Data source:

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

Website:

<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

2005	
Leon County	49.9%
Florida	50.9%
United States	45.7%

Note: The American Community Survey is limited to household population and excludes the population living in institutions, college dormitories and other group quarters



**ECONOMY**  
**Indicator 8: Tourism**

Updated  
04/29/06

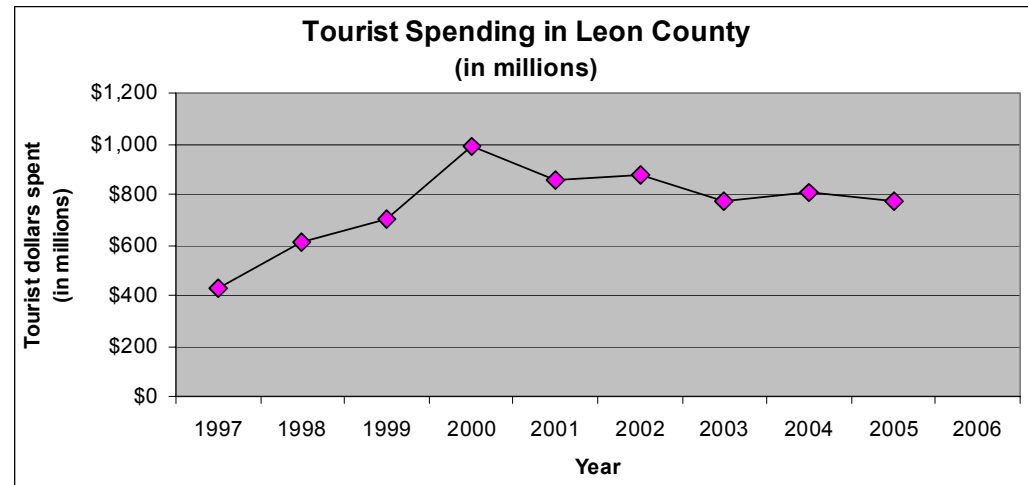
**Indicator:**

*Millions of dollars spent by visitors to Leon County.*

**Analysis:**

The number of visitors and their total spending in Leon County rose dramatically between 1997 and 2000.

The decrease in total spending since 2000 reflects the recession and “9/11.” Tourism began to rebound from these events in 2002, but between 2003 and 2004, total spending has been relatively unvarying despite an overall rise in the average annual number of visitors.



**Data source:**

Leon County Tourist Development Council  
Visitor Profile Survey conducted by Dr. Mark Bonn, FSU College of Business, for the Tallahassee Area Convention and Visitors Bureau.

**Website:**

<http://www.co.leon.fl.us/>

LEON COUNTY	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total tourist spending (in millions)	\$429	\$613	\$701	\$988	\$853	\$874	\$774	\$805	\$772
Number of tourist visits (in millions)	1.850	1.940	2.133	2.433	2.203	2.352	2.571	2.784	2.751



**ECONOMY**

**Indicator 9: Employment by Industry**

Updated  
03/25/06

**Indicator:**

Number of people employed in the Tallahassee Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) in higher versus lower wage non-agricultural industries. The Tallahassee MSA includes Leon, Gadsden, Wakulla and Jefferson Counties

**Analysis:**

Total employment grew in the Tallahassee MSA in the late 1990s, declined slightly in 2001 and 2002, but has risen steadily between 2003 and 2005 (fueled primarily by gains in the lower and middle wage category).

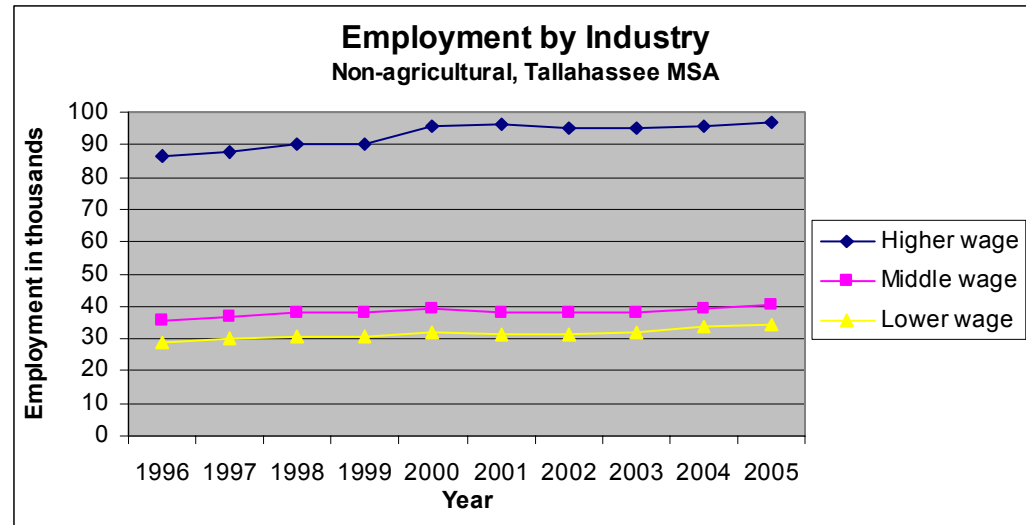
Higher wage jobs account for a relatively high proportion of employment in the Tallahassee area because of the inclusion of federal, state and local government in this category.

**Data source:**

Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation  
Labor Market Statistics

**Website:**

<http://www.labormarketinfo.com/library/ces.htm>



	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Higher wage	87.9	90.1	90.1	95.4	96.1	94.9	95.3	95.5	96.8
Middle wage	36.6	37.8	32.7	39.5	38.2	38.1	38.3	39.1	40.7
Lower wage	29.8	30.9	30.9	31.6	31.4	31.5	32.1	33.5	34.6

Higher wage industries (average annual wage above \$38,500 in 2004) include: Professional and Business Services, Financial Activities, Information, Wholesale Trade, and Government (federal, state, local). Middle wage industries (average annual wage ranging from \$32,000 to \$38,500 in 2004) include Education and Health, Natural Resources/mining/construction, Transportation/Warehousing/Utilities, and other services. Lower wage industries (average annual wage below \$20,000 in 2004) include: Retail and Leisure and Hospitality. Both full- and part-time employment is included.