# Florida: An Economic Overview

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# **Coronavirus Impact on Florida GDP...**



For the 2018 calendar year, Florida had 3.8 percent growth in Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP). For 2019, Florida's growth slowed from the prior year, but remained above the national average (2.8 percent in Florida versus 2.2 percent in the US). Translating the data into the state's fiscal year, Florida grew 3.3 percent in Fiscal Year 2018-19 and was expected to grow 2.5 percent in Fiscal Year 2019-20 at the Conference held immediately before the pandemic. Through the first half of the 2019-20 fiscal year, the data showed that the state was on track to match that Conference projection.

According to the latest date, after falling -1.7 percent in the first quarter of 2020 and -31.1 percent in the second quarter, Florida's real GDP rebounded by 32.6 percent in the third quarter and finished the calendar year with 3.4 percent growth in the fourth quarter. The entire 2020 year ended with a loss of -2.8 percent over the prior year. Florida came in at 7.5 percent for the first quarter of 2021 and at 6.7 percent for the second quarter, equaling the rate for the US as a whole and ranking 14<sup>th</sup> in the country. The latest Estimating Conference projections show an increase of 4.5 percent for Fiscal Year 2021-22. For the 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 fiscal years, annual growth will average a more characteristic 2.5 percent.

#### State's GDP by County during 1<sup>st</sup> COVID Year...



Pre-pandemic, South Florida represented one-third of the State's GDP with Miami-Dade having the highest share at 15.31%. In the 2020 calendar year, nine counties declined in their shares of the State's GDP (see map) and another 33 counties lost GDP relative to 2019 (for a total of 42). Of the 25 counties that gained in GDP, most were small, more rural counties.

# **Coronavirus Impact on FL Personal Income...**



For the 2018 calendar year, Florida had 6.5 percent growth in personal income and 5.1 percent growth in per capita personal income. For 2019, Florida's personal income growth slowed slightly from the prior year, but remained above the national average (4.0 percent growth in Florida versus 3.9 percent in the US), while per capita personal income growth fell below the national growth rate (2.9 percent in Florida versus 3.5 percent in the US). Translating the data into the state's fiscal year, Florida grew 5.3 percent in personal income during Fiscal Year 2018-19 and was expected to grow 5.1 percent in Fiscal Year 2019-20 at the Conference held immediately before the pandemic. Through the first half of the 2019-20 fiscal *vear. the data showed that the state was* on track to match that Conference projection.

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Normally, personal income growth is another important gauge of the state's economic health; however, its changes have been in stark contrast to GDP as federal dollars have flooded into many Florida households. For example, in the first quarter of 2021, Florida's personal income growth shot up 65.6 percent, largely due to the two most recent federal stimulus and relief programs converging in the quarter. As the federal support measures began to expire, the state's personal income receded at an annualized 22.1 percent in the second quarter of the 2021 calendar year to produce a projected growth rate for the 2020-21 fiscal year of around 8.5 percent. The Economic Estimating Conference expects personal income to increase by 1.5 percent in the current year based on the hope that, as furloughed and laid off workers return to their jobs or find new opportunities, wage growth will offset much of the loss of the massive government relief measures. Thereafter, the annual growth rates are expected to remain solidly above 4.0 percent.

#### Atypical Wage Gap Stubbornly Persisted in 2020...



Florida's average annual wage has typically been below the US average. The most recent data for the 2020 calendar year showed that Florida's average wage, relative to the US average, continued to fall from 2016 when it was 87.7% to 87.2% in 2020. Matching the ratio in 2014, this was Florida's lowest percentage since 2001 when it was 87.1%.

In part, the lower than average wage gains has to do with the mix of jobs that have been growing the fastest in Florida and their average wages. For example, the Accommodation & Food Services employment sector is large, has the lowest average annual wage, and had—until the pandemic—been growing faster than overall employment in the state. This sector is closely related to the health of Florida's tourism industry which has been bearing the brunt of the Covid-related economic impacts. With its massive disruption in the fourth quarter of the state's fiscal year, FY 2019-20 saw a decline of 19.1% over the peak of 129+ million visitors in FY 2018-19. Visitors in FY 2020-21 had a further decline of 10.6% from the already suppressed level for the prior year.

#### **Current Employment Conditions...**

#### October 2021 Nonfarm Jobs (YOY)

US: 4.1% FL: 5.1% Employment dropped by over 1.2 million jobs from February 2020 to April 2020, a decline of 14.0 percent. As of October, Florida has regained 1,099,500 jobs out of the 1,269,200 million lost, or about 87%.

#### October 2021 Unemployment Rate

US: 4.6%

FL: 4.6% (490,700 jobless persons) The Revenue Estimating Conference assumes the "full employment" unemployment rate is about 4 percent.

Florida's unemployment rate had been hovering around 3.3 percent from April 2019 through February 2020. With the onset of the pandemic, the unemployment rate spiked to 14.2 percent in May 2020, handily surpassing the prior peak rate of 10.9 percent experienced in the first four months of 2010 during the Great Recession. Given the short period over which the change from ultra low to ultra high occurred, it was stunning.



**United States and Florida Unemployment Rates** 



Source: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Workforce Statistics and Economic Research, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, November 19, 2021.

#### Florida's Participation Rate Subpar...



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Civilian Noninstitutional Population and Associated Rate and Ratio Measures for Model-Based Areas, released November 19, 2021.

Florida's labor force participation rate most recently peaked during the Housing Boom at 63.7% from February 2007 to March 2007. Pre-pandemic, Florida's participation rate had been fluctuating around 59.5%; however, once the pandemic took hold, Florida's participation rate fell to 55.5% in April 2020. Since then, Florida's participation rate has rebounded, posting 59.1% in October 2021.

Florida's participation rate is still lower than the US even though the US participation rate also fell substantially in April 2020 to 60.2%. The US participation rate has also risen since that time, posting 61.6% in October 2021.

Prior to the pandemic's impact on the labor force, Florida was still experiencing a significant percentage of long-term unemployed (24.7%). The relative share of this group fell during the early months of the pandemic when the ranks of the newly unemployed swelled, but now is up to 40.5%, as people laid off during the pandemic continue to be unemployed.

### **Employment Below Pre-Pandemic Peak...**



were fewer than 50 jobs shy of reaching their prior year's level.

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# **Population Growth to Slow...**

- Population growth is typically the state's primary engine of economic growth, fueling both employment and income growth.
- Florida's population exhibited strong growth in recent years. Between April 1, 2018 and 2019, population grew by 368,021 residents (1.77%), while between April 1, 2019 and 2020, the state added 387,479 residents (1.83%). As a result of the pandemic, population growth is expected to slow to 329,717 new residents (1.53%) in 2021, reflecting negative natural increase (more deaths than births). Between 2021 and 2025, growth is forecast to average 1.36%.
- All of Florida's population growth through 2030 will be from net migration.
- Nationally, average annual growth was forecast to be about 0.66% between 2020 and 2030. This number has not been updated since the release of the new Census numbers.
- The future will be different than the past; Florida's long-term growth rate between 1970 and 1995 was over 3%.
- Florida is currently the third most populous state, behind California and Texas.

# Florida's Population Growth...

Florida's population growth has mostly been from net migration. The pandemic's cumulative effect is expected to be a slowing in net migration as well as a shift in net natural increase to negative numbers sooner than originally expected.





Florida's population growth of 387,479 between April 1, 2019 and April 1, 2020 was the strongest annual increase since 2005, immediately prior to the collapse of the housing market and the beginning of the Great Recession.

# **Baby Boomers in Context...**

The first cohort of Baby Boomers became eligible for retirement (turned age 65) in 2011. Eleven cohorts have now entered the retirement phase: 2011 through 2021. This represents over half of all Baby Boomers.

Population aged 65 and over is forecast to represent 24.4% of the total population in 2030, compared with 20.5% in 2020 and 17.3% in 2010.



- In 2000, Florida's prime working age population (ages 25-54) represented 41.5% of the total population. With the aging Baby Boom generation, this population now represents 36.9% of Florida's total population and is expected to represent only 35.9% by 2030.
- The youngest population, 0-17, represented 22.8% of the total population in 2000. In 2020, only 20.2% of the total population was in this age group, and this share is projected to continue declining to 19.9% by 2030.

# Population Growth by Age Group...



- As a result of both net migration and natural increase, Florida is forecast to grow by 5.6 million persons between 2010 and 2030.
- Growth by age group depends upon this overall growth and the aging of resident population, resulting in 53.7 percent of those gains in the older population (age 60 and older).
- Florida's younger population (age 0-17) will account for 15.4 percent of the gains, while the younger working age group (25-39) will account for 18.4 percent of the growth.

#### Florida Housing Market Soared During Pandemic...



Documentary Stamp Tax collections in FY 2020-21 topped the FY 2005-06 peak reached at the height of Florida's housing boom. This milestone was particularly remarkable considering the prior year (FY 2019-20) registered only 70.8 percent of that level after steadily increasing for ten years from a low of 26.6 percent. The market environment supporting this result primarily resulted from the record low interest rates resulting from the Federal Reserve's actions to stem the severity of the pandemic's economic disruption in the second quarter of 2020.

### Homeownership Rate Is High...



From 2013 to 2019, Florida was below its long-run average homeownership rate, although the 2019 calendar year very nearly matched it at 66.0 percent. During the 2020 calendar year, the state finally moved above the long-run average, posting 68.7 percent for the year. So far in 2021, the state has fallen below last year's level: Q1—68.1 percent; Q2—67.0 percent; and Q3—67.1 percent.

#### Permits Are Still Well Below Historic Norms...



Single-Family building permit activity, an indicator of new construction, remains in positive territory, beginning with strong back-to-back growth in both the 2012 and 2013 calendar years (over 30% in each year). The final data for the 2014 calendar year revealed significant slowing—posting only 1.6% growth over the prior year. Nevertheless, annual activity for the four subsequent calendar years again ran well above their individual periods a year prior, posting double-digit growth in each year: 20.3% in 2015, 11.1% in 2016, 13.5% in 2017, and 13.8% in 2018. In 2019, activity temporarily slowed again; this time to 2.9%—but spurred in part by record low interest rates, single-family building permit activity in 2020 was 15.4% higher than the 2019 level.

Even with the strong percentage growth rates seen in seven of the last nine calendar years, the level is still lower than historic standards would suggest. However, with the robust growth seen in 2020, the state has moved to 72.4% of that level.

#### **Existing Home Market**

All metrics point to an existing home market that has moved beyond fully recovered to overheated. Existing home sales volume in each of the calendar years from 2014 to 2020 exceeded the 2005 peak year. The story is similar for sales price. Florida's existing home price gains roughly tracked national gains over the past six years, including the mid-year acceleration in single family home prices that began during calendar year 2020.

With only one exception, national median price increases have outpaced Florida; however, the state's median price in October 2021 was 99.5 percent of the national median price after passing it briefly in February 2018. Florida's median price first surpassed its own prior peak (\$256,200 in June 2006) in June 2018—and at \$358,950 in October 2021, set a new record high.





Data through October 2021

#### Florida and U.S. Median Gross Rent (in Current Dollars)

Year	Me	Median Gross Rent			Average Gross Rent		
	United States	Florida	Florida relative to United States	United States	Florida	Florida relative to United States	
2005	728	809	111%	803	863	107%	
2006	763	872	114%	844	932	110%	
2007	789	925	117%	878	991	113%	
2008	824	947	115%	919	1,015	110%	
2009	842	952	113%	938	1,024	109%	
2010	855	947	111%	954	1,017	107%	
2011	871	949	109%	973	1,027	106%	
2012	884	954	108%	990	1,037	105%	
2013	905	972	107%	1,016	1,050	103%	
2014	934	1,003	107%	1,047	1,087	104%	
2015	959	1,046	109%	1,077	1,129	105%	
2016	981	1,086	111%	1,105	1,161	105%	
2017	1,012	1,128	111%	1,138	1,203	106%	
2018	1,058	1,182	112%	1,182	1,251	106%	
2019	1,097	1,238	113%	1,223	1,301	106%	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year, 2005-2019.

Challenging housing costs and shifting preferences among Millennials caused residential rental vacancies to tighten strongly over the five-year period running from 2015 through 2019, with price pressure building over the same period. However, the overall share of Florida's population living in rentals is beginning to drop as homeownership rises.



Florida Renter Fraction					
US	Florida				
35.89%	33.75%				
36.05%	34.08%				
36.13%	34.85%				
36.88%	35.87%				
36.97%	36.22%				
36.90%	35.95%				
36.50%	35.21%				
36.09%	34.36%				
35.42%	33.28%				
34.65%	31.85%				
34.13%	31.52%				
	US 35.89% 36.05% 36.13% 36.88% 36.97% 36.90% 36.50% 36.09% 35.42% 34.65%				

### **Consumer Perceptions Reach a Low**



Nationally, the sentiment reading for November 2021 (67.4) is well below the index average since inception (86.0), but markedly above the Great Recession depths. Even so, this is the lowest reading since the pandemic began; the range from low to high across all of the pandemic-affected months is 67.4 (November 2021) to 88.3 (April 2021). April 2021 was also the only month to move above the index average during the pandemic.

# **Florida-Based Downside Risk**

While all Florida industries were impacted by the pandemic-induced economic contraction, Florida's leisure and hospitality industry bore the brunt of the longer-term consequences. Previous economic studies of disease outbreaks have shown that it can take as long as 12 to 15 months after the outbreak ends for tourism to return to pre-disease levels. The magnitude of this event is greater, and the timing is less clear due to the surging Delta variant of COVID-19. The total number of tourists declined 69 percent from the prior year in the second quarter of 2020. After that dramatic drop, tourism managed to recover to 68 percent of the last full pre-COVID quarter by the first quarter of 2021, buttressed by the increased number of domestic visitors travelling to Florida by car. Several industry groups have already predicted that it will take at least two years to reach full recovery from this pandemic. Current expectations are that leisure driving vacations will recover first, and then—in order—business travel, domestic air travel, and international travel. The timing will be influenced by the actual course of the disease over the next few months, as well as the widespread distribution of vaccines globally. Even so, the Conference expects robust growth during Fiscal Year 2021-22, with a projected overall increase of 38.4 percent from the extremely suppressed level in Fiscal Year 2020-21. The growth rate moderates thereafter. While the new forecast levels never exceed the pre-pandemic forecast levels, they come close in the latter part of the 10-year forecast horizon

The Legislative Office of Economic and Demographic Research has updated and refined an empirical analysis of the various sources of the state's sales tax collections. In FY 2017-18, sales tax collections provided over \$24.1 billion dollars or 76.4% of Florida's total General Revenue collections. Of this amount, an estimated 13.4% (over \$3.2 billion) was directly attributable to purchases made by tourists. Preliminary data for FY 2018-19 indicates that the visitor share rose to 14.5% for nearly \$3.7 billion dollars.



Contributions to General Revenue from Sales Tax (with CST)

### **General Revenue Forecast Comparison...**

	Post Session	August 2021		Incremental	
Fiscal Year	Forecast	Forecast	Difference	Growth	Growth
2005-06	27074.8				8.4%
2006-07	26404.1				-2.5%
2007-08	24112.1				-8.7%
2008-09	21025.6				-12.8%
2009-10	21523.1				2.4%
2010-11	22551.6				4.8%
2011-12	23618.8				4.7%
2012-13	25314.6				7.2%
2013-14	26198.0				3.5%
2014-15	27681.1				5.7%
2015-16	28325.4				2.3%
2016-17	29594.5				4.5%
2017-18	31218.2				5.5%
2018-19	33413.8				7.0%
2019-20	31366.2				-6.1%
2020-21	36280.9				15.7%
2021-22	35,491.6	36,901.0	1,409.4	620.1	1.7%
2022-23	37,136.4	38,336.8	1,200.4	1,435.8	3.9%
2023-24	38,634.8	39,889.5	1,254.7	1,552.7	4.1%
2024-25	40,382.1	41,471.8	1,089.7	1,582.3	4.0%
2025-26	41,518.1	42,504.2	986.1	1,032.4	2.5%
2026-27	-	44,091.2	-	1,587.0	3.7%

Through June 2021, revenue collections had gained \$2.3 billion to the Conference expectations in April, with July 2021 expected to add to the overage. Because the economy is largely returning to normal, the Revenue Estimating Conference has gained confidence in adding to the prior forecast for FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23, even though some areas will be backing down from heightened activity levels associated with the federal response to the pandemic. As a result, the Conference made sizeable adjustments to the forecast adopted in April. Anticipated revenues were revised upward by \$1.4 billion in FY 2021-22 and by \$1.2 billion in FY 2022-23, for a twoyear combined increase of \$2.6 billion. These changes reflect increases over the previous estimates of 4.0 percent in FY 2021-22 and 3.2 percent in FY 2022-23.

Coincidentally, the state's overall General Revenue collections also move notably above the pre-pandemic forecasted levels for FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23 by approximately \$1.2 billion each year; however, about one-half of the annual difference is attributable to the addition of Indian Gaming Revenues and retained online sales tax dollars which were previously not included.

Putting It
<b>Together for</b>
the Upcoming
<b>Budget Year</b>
(FY 2022-23)

OUTLOOK PROJECTION – FISCAL YEAR 2022-23 (in millions)				
		NON		
	RECURRING	RECURRING	TOTAL	
AVAILABLE GENERAL REVENUE	\$38,926.3	\$6,873.5	\$45,799.8	
Recurring Base Budget	\$34,960.5	\$0.0	\$34,960.5	
Transfer to Budget Stabilization Fund	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	
Critical Needs	\$1,496.1	(\$256.7)	\$1,239.4	
Other High Priority Needs	\$385.0	\$791.5	\$1,176.5	
Reserve	\$0.0	\$1,500.6	\$1,500.6	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$36,841.6	\$2,035.4	\$38,877.0	
ENDING BALANCE AFTER EXPENDITURES	\$2,084.7	\$4,838.1	\$6,922.8	
Revenue Adjustments	(\$45.7)	\$113.2	\$67.5	
PROJECTED ENDING BALANCE	\$2,039.0	\$4,951.3	\$6,990.3	

Combined, the costs of recurring and nonrecurring General Revenue Critical Needs—plus a minimum reserve of \$1.5 billion—are significantly less than the available General Revenue dollars, leaving a substantial surplus. When Other High Priority Needs and Revenue Adjustments are factored in, the General Revenue projected surplus is almost \$7 billion, but 70.8 percent of this is nonrecurring dollars.

# **Update on Revenue Collections...**

- Since the last Revenue Estimating Conference for General Revenue in August, collections have run \$1.22 billion over estimate through October. Nearly two-thirds of the increase has come from Sales Taxes.
- While the collection impact from the Wayfair-related changes in CS/CS/SB 50 is slightly stronger than expected, the overage is more related to the benefit from:
  - 1. The most recent round of stimulus checks to households. All else being equal, this boost should begin to wane within the next few months. However, some of this negative impact will be ameliorated by the Advance Child Tax Credit payments which began monthly installments in July 2021, but continue through December 2021.
  - 2. Redirected spending from the hard-hit service sector. Relative to "normal" times, the mix is still heavily tilted toward goods and away from services.
  - 3. Some consumers' ability to draw down atypically large savings that built up during the pandemic. After increasing to a historic peak rate of 33.7 percent in April 2020 from the 7.9 percent for the entire 2018-19 fiscal year, just released personal income data indicated that the personal savings rate was below normal at 7.3 percent for October 2021.
- Inflation is an oddity. The immediate response is an increase in sales tax collections that reflects the higher prices, but—to the extent that consumers expect the higher prices to persist—they will adjust their purchasing patterns to incorporate cheaper products and/or reductions in purchases. Over several months, collections would end up back at the level they started from, but with a slightly different mix. If inflation noticeably worsens (relative to what it is now), it would become a drag on sales tax collections as people have to spend more money on non-taxable necessities like food and healthcare.