

# Highlands County

Florida's 36th most populous county  
with 0.5% of Florida's population



## Population

|   | Highlands County | Florida    |
|---|------------------|------------|
| <b>Census Population</b>                                  |                  |            |
| 1980 Census   | 47,526           | 9,746,961  |
| 1990 Census   | 68,432           | 12,938,071 |
| 2000 Census   | 87,366           | 15,982,824 |
| 2010 Census   | 98,786           | 18,801,332 |
| 2020 Census   | 101,235          | 21,538,187 |
| % change 2010-2020  | 2.5%             | 14.6%      |
| <b>Age</b>  |                  |            |
| % Under 18 years of age                                   | 17.5%            | 19.5%      |
| % Aged 65 and over  | 35.1%            | 21.2%      |
| % Median age  | 54.7             | 43.0       |
| <b>Gender</b>   |                  |            |
| % Male  | 48.3%            | 48.6%      |
| % Female  | 51.7%            | 51.4%      |
| <b>Race (alone) &amp; Ethnicity</b>                       |                  |            |
| % Not Hispanic-White                                      | 64.7%            | 51.5%      |
| % Not Hispanic-Black or African American                  | 9.4%             | 14.5%      |
| % Not Hispanic-American Indian and Alaska Native          | 0.3%             | 0.2%       |
| % Not Hispanic-Asian                                      | 1.6%             | 2.9%       |
| % Not Hispanic-Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander | 0.0%             | 0.1%       |
| % Not Hispanic-Some Other Race                            | 0.3%             | 0.6%       |
| % Not Hispanic-Two or More Races                          | 3.0%             | 3.7%       |
| % Hispanic or Latino (of any race)                        | 20.7%            | 26.5%      |

## Population Estimates

|                               | Highlands County | Florida    |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------|
| <b>2021 Estimate</b>          | 102,065          | 21,898,945 |
| % change 2020-2021            | 0.8%             | 1.7%       |
| <b>2022 Estimate</b>          | 103,102          | 22,276,132 |
| % change 2020-2022            | 1.8%             | 3.4%       |
| <b>2023 Estimate</b>          | 104,385          | 22,634,867 |
| % change 2020-2023            | 3.1%             | 5.1%       |
| <b>2024 Estimate</b>          | 106,109          | 23,014,551 |
| % change 2020-2024            | 4.8%             | 6.9%       |
| <b>Based on 2023 Estimate</b> |                  |            |
| 2025                          | 105,698          | 23,292,200 |
| 2030                          | 108,324          | 24,698,545 |
| 2035                          | 110,304          | 25,814,954 |
| 2040                          | 111,994          | 26,682,030 |
| 2045                          | 113,488          | 27,409,376 |
| 2050                          | 114,889          | 28,065,018 |

## Population Characteristics

|                                      | County | Florida |
|--------------------------------------|--------|---------|
| (% of total persons aged 5 and over) |        |         |
| Speak only English                   | 79.7%  | 69.9%   |
| Speak a language other than English  | 20.3%  | 30.1%   |
| Speak English "very well"            | 12.8%  | 18.0%   |
| <b>Place of birth</b>                |        |         |
| Foreign born                         | 10.8%  | 21.4%   |
| <b>Veteran status</b>                |        |         |
| Civilian population 18 and over      | 11.0%  | 7.7%    |

## Migration

|                                   | Highlands County | Florida |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|---------|
| <b>Residence 1 Year Ago</b>       |                  |         |
| <b>Persons aged 1 and over</b>    |                  |         |
| Same house                        | 88.1%            | 86.0%   |
| Different house in the U.S.       | 11.3%            | 13.0%   |
| Same county in Florida            | 5.3%             | 6.9%    |
| Different county in Florida       | 3.7%             | 3.1%    |
| Different county in another state | 2.4%             | 3.0%    |
| Abroad                            | 0.6%             | 1.0%    |

## Real Gross Domestic Product

|   | Highlands County | Florida       |
|---|------------------|---------------|
| <b>Real GDP (Thousands of Chained 2017 Dollars)</b> |                  |               |
| 2017 GDP  | 2,482,118        | 1,014,866,863 |
| Percent of the State                                | 0.2%             |               |
| 2018 GDP  | 2,420,183        | 1,050,433,812 |
| Percent of the State                                | 0.2%             |               |
| 2019 GDP  | 2,594,451        | 1,084,913,903 |
| Percent of the State                                | 0.2%             |               |
| 2020 GDP  | 2,444,048        | 1,069,758,799 |
| Percent of the State                                | 0.2%             |               |
| 2021 GDP  | 2,556,355        | 1,170,526,307 |
| Percent of the State                                | 0.2%             |               |
| 2022 GDP  | 2,689,968        | 1,239,883,625 |
| Percent of the State                                | 0.2%             |               |
| 2023 GDP  | 2,851,212        | 1,292,787,615 |
| Percent of the State                                | 0.2%             |               |

## Population by Housing Type

|  | Highlands County | Florida    |
|--|------------------|------------|
| Household Population                           | 99,826           | 21,073,604 |
| Household Population per Occupied Housing Unit | 2.25             | 2.47       |
| Group Quarters Population                      | 1,409            | 464,583    |

## Housing

|                            | Highlands County | Florida   |
|----------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| <b>Housing Counts</b>      |                  |           |
| Housing units, 2020 Census | 57,486           | 9,865,350 |
| Occupied                   | 44,376           | 8,529,067 |
| Vacant                     | 13,110           | 1,336,283 |

## Building Permits

|                        | Highlands County | Florida |
|------------------------|------------------|---------|
| <b>Units Permitted</b> |                  |         |
| 2000                   | 450              | 155,269 |
| 2010                   | 154              | 38,679  |
| 2020                   | 384              | 164,074 |
| 2021                   | 644              | 213,494 |
| 2022                   | 663              | 211,962 |
| 2023                   | 712              | 193,788 |

## Density

|                                | Highlands County | Florida |
|--------------------------------|------------------|---------|
| <b>Persons per square mile</b> |                  |         |
| 2000                           | 85.0             | 296.4   |
| 2010                           | 97.2             | 350.6   |
| 2020                           | 99.5             | 401.4   |
| 2023                           | 102.6            | 421.9   |
| 2024                           | 104.3            | 429.0   |

## Households and Family Households

|                                     | Highlands County | Florida   |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| <b>Households</b>                   |                  |           |
| Total households, 2000 Census       | 37,471           | 6,338,075 |
| Family households, 2000 Census      | 25,794           | 4,210,760 |
| % with own children under 18        | 29.0%            | 42.3%     |
| Total households, 2010 Census       | 42,604           | 7,420,802 |
| Family households, 2010 Census      | 28,027           | 4,835,475 |
| % with own children under 18        | 28.4%            | 40.0%     |
| Average Household Size, 2010 Census | 2.28             | 2.48      |
| Average Family Size, 2010 Census    | 2.74             | 3.01      |
| Total households, 2020 Census       | 44,376           | 8,529,067 |
| Family households, 2020 Census      | 28,256           | 5,571,482 |
| % with own children under 18        | 27.1%            | 36.0%     |

According to Census definitions, a household includes all of the people who occupy a housing unit. The occupants may be a single family, one person living alone, two or more families living together, or any other group of related or unrelated people who share living quarters. A family includes a householder and one or more other people living in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.  
Census counts may be corrected for Census Count Question Resolution (CCR).

Employment and Labor Force

| Establishments<br>2023              | Highlands<br>County | Florida | Establishments<br>% of All Industries | Highlands County | Florida |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------|---------------------------------------|------------------|---------|
| All industries                      | 2,590               | 878,947 | All industries                        | 2,590            | 878,947 |
| Natural Resource & Mining           | 171                 | 5,771   | Natural Resource & Mining             | 6.6%             | 0.7%    |
| Construction                        | 305                 | 82,738  | Construction                          | 11.8%            | 9.4%    |
| Manufacturing                       | 69                  | 25,599  | Manufacturing                         | 2.7%             | 2.9%    |
| Trade, Transportation and Utilities | 509                 | 151,500 | Trade, Transportation and Utilities   | 19.7%            | 17.2%   |
| Information                         | 31                  | 19,752  | Information                           | 1.2%             | 2.2%    |
| Financial Activities                | 233                 | 95,132  | Financial Activities                  | 9.0%             | 10.8%   |
| Professional & Business Services    | 389                 | 226,936 | Professional & Business Services      | 15.0%            | 25.8%   |
| Education & Health Services         | 367                 | 100,498 | Education & Health Services           | 14.2%            | 11.4%   |
| Leisure and Hospitality             | 218                 | 66,309  | Leisure and Hospitality               | 8.4%             | 7.5%    |
| Other Services                      | 178                 | 59,548  | Other Services                        | 6.9%             | 6.8%    |
| Government                          | 57                  | 5,830   | Government                            | 2.2%             | 0.7%    |

| Average Annual Employment<br>% of All Industries, 2023 | Highlands<br>County | Florida   | Average Annual Wage<br>2023         | Highlands County | Florida   |
|--|---------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| All industries   | 28,796              | 9,678,557 | All industries                      | \$46,240         | \$66,446  |
| Natural Resource & Mining                              | 6.0%                | 0.7%      | Natural Resource & Mining           | \$33,924         | \$46,398  |
| Construction   | 6.5%                | 6.5%      | Construction                        | \$50,581         | \$66,902  |
| Manufacturing  | 2.3%                | 4.4%      | Manufacturing                       | \$50,666         | \$78,331  |
| Trade, Transportation and Utilities                    | 19.8%               | 20.2%     | Trade, Transportation and Utilities | \$42,214         | \$59,161  |
| Information  | 0.6%                | 1.6%      | Information                         | \$95,194         | \$112,704 |
| Financial Activities                                   | 3.2%                | 6.9%      | Financial Activities                | \$53,249         | \$101,130 |
| Professional & Business Services                       | 8.4%                | 16.7%     | Professional & Business Services    | \$47,507         | \$83,076  |
| Education & Health Services                            | 23.0%               | 15.1%     | Education & Health Services         | \$59,228         | \$63,868  |
| Leisure and Hospitality                                | 12.7%               | 13.4%     | Leisure and Hospitality             | \$23,812         | \$35,528  |
| Other Services   | 2.4%                | 3.0%      | Other Services                      | \$33,838         | \$49,293  |
| Government   | 14.9%               | 11.2%     | Government                          | \$50,865         | \$67,715  |

Industries may not add to the total due to confidentiality and unclassified.

| Labor Force as Percent of Population<br>Aged 18 and Older | Highlands<br>County | Florida | Unemployment Rate | Highlands County | Florida |
|---|---------------------|---------|-------------------|------------------|---------|
| 2000  | 47.0%               | 63.7%   | 2000              | 4.8%             | 3.7%    |
| 2010  | 45.7%               | 61.8%   | 2010              | 12.1%            | 10.8%   |
| 2020  | 41.3%               | 58.1%   | 2020              | 8.2%             | 8.1%    |
| 2021  | 41.6%               | 59.1%   | 2021              | 6.0%             | 4.7%    |
| 2022  | 42.3%               | 59.8%   | 2022              | 4.3%             | 3.0%    |
| 2023  | 43.1%               | 60.4%   | 2023              | 4.3%             | 2.9%    |

Income and Financial Health

| Personal Income (\$000s) | Highlands   | Florida         | Per Capita Personal Income | Highlands County | Florida  |
|--------------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------------|------------------|----------|
| 2000                     | \$1,791,095 | \$471,588,082   | 2000                       | \$20,489         | \$29,387 |
| 2010                     | \$2,864,231 | \$730,690,145   | 2010                       | \$29,075         | \$38,778 |
| % change 2000-2010       | 59.9%       | 54.9%           | % change 2000-2010         | 41.9%            | 32.0%    |
| 2020                     | \$3,914,564 | \$1,220,782,745 | 2020                       | \$38,625         | \$56,540 |
| % change 2010-2020       | 36.7%       | 67.1%           | % change 2010-2020         | 32.8%            | 45.8%    |
| 2021                     | \$4,285,757 | \$1,358,786,260 | 2021                       | \$41,497         | \$62,242 |
| % change 2020-2021       | 9.5%        | 11.3%           | % change 2020-2021         | 7.4%             | 10.1%    |
| 2022                     | \$4,381,923 | \$1,436,107,237 | 2022                       | \$41,476         | \$64,557 |
| % change 2021-2022       | 2.2%        | 5.7%            | % change 2021-2022         | -0.1%            | 3.7%     |
| 2023                     | \$4,754,078 | \$1,553,426,399 | 2023                       | \$44,177         | \$68,703 |
| % change 2022-2023       | 8.5%        | 8.2%            | % change 2022-2023         | 6.5%             | 6.4%     |

| Earnings by Place of Work (\$000s) | Highlands<br>County | Florida       | Median Income           | Highlands County | Florida  |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|-------------------------|------------------|----------|
| 2000                               | \$806,265           | \$308,751,767 | Median Household Income | \$55,581         | \$71,711 |
| 2010                               | \$1,271,610         | \$439,036,383 | Median Family Income    | \$65,774         | \$86,127 |
| % change 2000-2010                 | 57.7%               | 42.2%         |                         |                  |          |
| 2020                               | \$1,592,569         | \$684,270,758 |                         |                  |          |
| % change 2010-2020                 | 25.2%               | 55.9%         |                         |                  |          |
| 2021                               | \$1,718,236         | \$771,654,020 |                         |                  |          |
| % change 2020-2021                 | 7.9%                | 12.8%         |                         |                  |          |
| 2022                               | \$1,847,471         | \$841,921,275 |                         |                  |          |
| % change 2021-2022                 | 7.5%                | 9.1%          |                         |                  |          |
| 2023                               | \$2,022,520         | \$908,440,362 |                         |                  |          |
| % change 2022-2023                 | 9.5%                | 7.9%          |                         |                  |          |

| Workers Aged 16 and Over<br>Place of Work in Florida | Highlands<br>County | Florida | Personal Bankruptcy Filing Rate<br>(per 1,000 population) | Highlands County | Florida |
|--|---------------------|---------|---|------------------|---------|
| Worked outside county of residence                   | 11.5%               | 17.2%   | 12-Month Period Ending September 30, 2022                 | 0.84             | 1.14    |
| Travel Time to Work                                  |                     |         | 12-Month Period Ending September 30, 2023                 | 0.98             | 1.16    |
| Mean travel time to work (minutes)                   | 23.1                | 28.0    | State Rank  | 26               | NA      |

NonBusiness Chapter 7 & Chapter 13

Reported County Government Revenues and Expenditures

| Revenue 2021-22                                | Highlands County | Florida*        | Expenditures 2021-22                           | Highlands County | Florida*        |
|--|------------------|-----------------|--|------------------|-----------------|
| Total - All Revenue Account Codes (\$000s)     | \$205,101.0      | \$100,987,094.3 | Total - All Expenditure Account Codes (\$000s) | \$169,251.62     | \$87,375,419.16 |
| Per Capita \$                                  | \$1,989.30       | \$4,753.99      | Per Capita \$                                  | \$1,641.59       | \$4,113.22      |
| % of Total                                     | 100.0%           | 100.0%          | % of Total                                     | 100.0%           | 100.0%          |
| General Government Taxes (\$000s)              | \$67,928.8       | \$38,773,224.6  | General Government Services** (\$000s)         | \$39,245.48      | \$36,715,485.34 |
| Per Capita \$                                  | \$658.85         | \$1,825.26      | Per Capita \$                                  | \$380.65         | \$1,728.39      |
| % of Total                                     | 33.1%            | 38.4%           | % of Total                                     | 23.2%            | 42.0%           |
| Permits, Fee, and Special Assessments (\$000s) | \$17,114.8       | \$4,209,936.0   | Public Safety (\$000s)                         | \$70,900.08      | \$13,363,472.90 |
| Per Capita \$                                  | \$166.00         | \$198.18        | Per Capita \$                                  | \$687.67         | \$629.09        |
| % of Total                                     | 8.3%             | 4.2%            | % of Total                                     | 41.9%            | 15.3%           |
| Intergovernmental Revenues (\$000s)            | \$39,187.5       | \$8,275,034.7   | Physical Environment (\$000s)                  | \$13,611.39      | \$5,823,076.34  |
| Per Capita \$                                  | \$380.08         | \$389.55        | Per Capita \$                                  | \$132.02         | \$274.12        |
| % of Total                                     | 19.1%            | 8.2%            | % of Total                                     | 8.0%             | 6.7%            |
| Charges for Services (\$000s)                  | \$21,165.0       | \$25,774,652.2  | Transportation (\$000s)                        | \$25,471.08      | \$6,146,973.86  |
| Per Capita \$                                  | \$205.28         | \$1,213.35      | Per Capita \$                                  | \$247.05         | \$289.37        |
| % of Total                                     | 10.3%            | 25.5%           | % of Total                                     | 15.0%            | 7.0%            |
| Judgments, Fines, and Forfeits (\$000s)        | \$704.0          | \$2,289,306.5   | Economic Environment (\$000s)                  | \$3,113.65       | \$2,095,127.71  |
| Per Capita \$                                  | \$6.83           | \$107.77        | Per Capita \$                                  | \$30.20          | \$98.63         |
| % of Total                                     | 0.3%             | 2.3%            | % of Total                                     | 1.8%             | 2.4%            |
| Miscellaneous Revenues (\$000s)                | \$33,352.5       | \$8,397,909.0   | Human Services (\$000s)                        | \$4,886.16       | \$4,845,695.64  |
| Per Capita \$                                  | \$323.49         | \$395.33        | Per Capita \$                                  | \$47.39          | \$228.11        |
| % of Total                                     | 16.3%            | 8.3%            | % of Total                                     | 2.9%             | 5.5%            |
| Other Sources (\$000s)                         | \$25,648.5       | \$13,267,031.3  | Culture / Recreation (\$000s)                  | \$2,890.76       | \$2,101,309.57  |
| Per Capita \$                                  | \$248.77         | \$624.55        | Per Capita \$                                  | \$28.04          | \$98.92         |
| % of Total                                     | 12.5%            | 13.1%           | % of Total                                     | 1.7%             | 2.4%            |
|  |                  |                 | Other Uses and Non-Operating (\$000s)          | \$3,827.80       | \$12,196,205.02 |
|  |                  |                 | Per Capita \$                                  | \$37.13          | \$574.14        |
|  |                  |                 | % of Total                                     | 2.3%             | 14.0%           |
|  |                  |                 | Court-Related Expenditures (\$000s)            | \$5,305.22       | \$4,088,072.79  |
|  |                  |                 | Per Capita \$                                  | \$51.46          | \$192.45        |
|  |                  |                 | % of Total                                     | 3.1%             | 4.7%            |

\* All County Governments Except Duval - The consolidated City of Jacksonville / Duval County figures are included in municipal totals rather than county government totals.

\*\* (Not Court-Related)

Quality of Life

|  | Highlands County | Florida |
|--|------------------|---------|
| <b>Crime</b>   |                  |         |
| Crime rate, 2020 (index crimes per 100,000 population) | 2,084.2          | 2,158.0 |
| Admissions to prison FY 2023-24                        | 219              | 27,227  |
| Admissions to prison per 100,000 population FY 2023-24 | 206.4            | 118.3   |

Health Insurance Status

|                                     | Highlands County | Florida |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|---------|
| <b>Percent Insured by Age Group</b> |                  |         |
| Under 65 years                      | 80.9%            | 86.1%   |
| Under 19 years                      | 90.6%            | 92.7%   |
| 18 to 64 years                      | 77.6%            | 83.8%   |

Education

|   | Highlands County School | Florida |
|---|-------------------------|---------|
| <b>Public Education Schools Traditional Setting (2023-24)</b> |                         |         |
| Total (state total includes special districts)                | 19                      | 3,787   |
| Elementary  | 11                      | 1,877   |
| Middle  | 4                       | 565     |
| Senior High   | 4                       | 729     |
| Combination   | 0                       | 616     |

|   | Highlands County | Florida |
|---|------------------|---------|
| <b>Educational attainment Persons aged 25 and older</b> |                  |         |
| % HS graduate or higher                                 | 86.4%            | 89.6%   |
| % bachelor's degree or higher                           | 19.7%            | 33.2%   |

Other County Profiles  
Criminal Justice County Profiles  
School District Profiles

State and Local Taxation

| 2024              | Highlands County | Not County-Wide* |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| County-Wide       | 7,6000           |                  |
| County            | 5,3440           |                  |
| School            |                  |                  |
| Municipal         |                  | 1,2594           |
| Special Districts |                  | 0,1966           |

\* MSTU included in Not County-Wide "County" category

State Infrastructure

|  | Highlands County | Florida   |
|--|------------------|-----------|
| <b>Transportation</b>                      |                  |           |
| State Highway                              |                  |           |
| Centerline Miles                           | 132.5            | 12,189.9  |
| Lane Miles                                 | 397.9            | 45,742.2  |
| <b>Conservation Land (land acres only)</b> |                  |           |
| State-Owned (includes partially-owned)     | 62,164           | 5,689,323 |
| % of Total Conservation Land (CL)          | 35.5%            | 54.9%     |
| % of Total Area Land                       | 9.6%             | 16.6%     |
| % of Florida State-Owned CL                | 1.1%             |           |

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