Highlands County

Florida's 36th most populous county

with 0.5% of Florida's population

Population

Census Population	Highlands County	Florida
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%
Age		
% Under 18 years of age	17.5%	19.5%
% Aged 65 and over	35.1%	21.2%
% Median age	54.7	43.0
Gender		
% Male	48.3%	48.6%
% Female	51.7%	51.4%
Race (alone) & Ethnicity		
% 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
2021 Estimate	102,065	21,898,945
% change 2020-2021	0.8%	1.7%
2022 Estimate	103,102	22,276,132
% change 2020-2022	1.8%	3.4%
2023 Estimate	104,385	22,634,867
% change 2020-2023	3.1%	5.1%
2024 Estimate	106,109	23,014,551
% change 2020-2024	4.8%	6.9%
2025 Estimate	107,976	23,379,261
% change 2020-2025	6.7%	8.5%
Based on 2025 Estimate		
2030	111,836	24,909,028
2035	114,782	26,074,611
2040	117,067	26,967,897
2045	118,871	27,664,885
2050	120,565	28,250,130

Population Characteristics

	County	Florida
(% of total persons aged 5 and over)		
Speak only English	78.8%	69.4%
Speak a language other than English	21.2%	30.6%
Speak English "very well"	13.1%	18.1%
Place of birth		
Foreign born	10.8%	21.9%
Veteran status		
Civilian population 18 and over	11.1%	7.4%

Migration

Residence 1 Year Ago Persons aged 1 and over	Highlands County	Florida
Same house	87.5%	86.3%
Different house in the U.S.	11.6%	12.6%
Same county in Florida	5.1%	6.6%
Different county in Florida	4.1%	3.1%
Different county in another state	2.5%	2.9%
Abroad	0.8%	1.1%

Real Gross Domestic Product

Real GDP (Thousands of Chained 2017 Dollars)	Highlands County	Florida
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	2,451,506	1,072,481,562
Percent of the State	0.2%	
2021 GDP	2,559,605	1,172,655,328
Percent of the State	0.2%	
2022 GDP	2,704,876	1,245,927,559
Percent of the State	0.2%	
2023 GDP	2,865,459	1,309,392,241
Percent of the State	0.2%	
2024 GDP	2,980,473	1,352,275,106
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

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

Building Permits

Units Permitted	Highlands County	Florida
2000	450	155,269
2010	154	38,679
2020	384	164,074
2021	644	213,494
2022	663	211,962
2023	712	193,788
2024	980	173,326
2025	768	178,297

Population Density

Persons per square mile	Highlands County	Florida
2000	85.0	296.4
2010	97.2	350.6
2020	99.5	401.4
2025	106.1	435.8

Households and Family Households

Households	Highlands County	Florida
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 (CQR).

Employment and Labor Force

Establishments 2024	Highlands County	Florida
All industries	2,672	881,780
Natural Resource & Mining	166	5,872
Construction	301	84,932
Manufacturing	76	26,842
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	531	151,230
Information	30	20,233
Financial Activities	235	95,614
Professional & Business Services	379	225,541
Education & Health Services	444	104,515
Leisure and Hospitality	221	68,016
Other Services	181	60,954
Government	56	5,886

Establishments % of All Industries	Highlands County	Florida
All industries	2,672	881,780
Natural Resource & Mining	6.2%	0.7%
Construction	11.3%	9.6%
Manufacturing	2.8%	3.0%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	19.9%	17.2%
Information	1.1%	2.3%
Financial Activities	8.8%	10.8%
Professional & Business Services	14.2%	25.6%
Education & Health Services	16.6%	11.9%
Leisure and Hospitality	8.3%	7.7%
Other Services	6.8%	6.9%
Government	2.1%	0.7%

Average Annual Employment % of All Industries, 2024	Highlands County	Florida
All industries	28,824	9,837,263
Natural Resource & Mining	5.3%	0.7%
Construction	6.4%	6.6%
Manufacturing	2.5%	4.3%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	19.5%	20.1%
Information	0.5%	1.6%
Financial Activities	3.2%	6.9%
Professional & Business Services	7.7%	16.5%
Education & Health Services	23.7%	15.5%
Leisure and Hospitality	13.1%	13.4%
Other Services	2.6%	3.0%
Government	15.3%	11.3%

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

Average Annual Wage 2024	Highlands County	Florida
All industries	$47,936	$69,492
Natural Resource & Mining	$39,008	$49,698
Construction	$51,795	$70,271
Manufacturing	$54,345	$81,956
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	$41,492	$61,291
Information	$79,445	$121,266
Financial Activities	$55,830	$108,740
Professional & Business Services	$52,669	$87,036
Education & Health Services	$60,931	$66,009
Leisure and Hospitality	$24,698	$37,261
Other Services	$37,192	$51,306
Government	$52,997	$71,045

Labor Force as Percent of Population Aged 18 and Older	Highlands County	Florida
2000	47.4%	64.1%
2010	46.2%	62.5%
2020	40.3%	58.0%
2021	40.6%	59.0%
2022	41.5%	59.8%
2023	42.0%	60.6%
2024	41.8%	60.1%
2025	41.6%	59.2%

(2025 is based on 11 months -- no data for October 2025)

Unemployment Rate	Highlands County	Florida
2000	4.8%	3.7%
2010	12.5%	11.3%
2020	8.1%	8.0%
2021	6.0%	4.7%
2022	4.3%	3.0%
2023	4.3%	2.9%
2024	4.9%	3.4%
2025	5.6%	3.9%

Income and Financial Health

Personal Income ($000s)	Highlands	Florida
2000	$1,791,095	$471,588,082
2010	$2,864,231	$730,690,145
% change 2000-2010	59.9%	54.9%
2020	$3,925,211	$1,222,053,372
% change 2010-2020	37.0%	67.2%
2021	$4,301,124	$1,367,061,863
% change 2020-2021	9.6%	11.9%
2022	$4,416,320	$1,464,251,012
% change 2021-2022	2.7%	7.1%
2023	$4,833,620	$1,604,650,325
% change 2022-2023	9.4%	9.6%
2024	$5,104,616	$1,706,305,733
% change 2023-2024	5.6%	6.3%

Per Capita Personal Income	Highlands County	Florida
2000	$20,489	$29,387
2010	$29,077	$38,779
% change 2000-2010	41.9%	32.0%
2020	$38,733	$56,597
% change 2010-2020	33.2%	45.9%
2021	$41,643	$62,617
% change 2020-2021	7.5%	10.6%
2022	$41,681	$65,429
% change 2021-2022	0.1%	4.5%
2023	$44,693	$70,057
% change 2022-2023	7.2%	7.1%
2024	$46,499	$73,006
% change 2023-2024	4.0%	4.2%

Earnings by Place of Work ($000s)		
2000	$806,265	$308,751,767
2010	$1,271,610	$439,036,383
% change 2000-2010	57.7%	42.2%
2020	$1,598,572	$684,772,318
% change 2010-2020	25.7%	56.0%
2021	$1,718,116	$771,994,702
% change 2020-2021	7.5%	12.7%
2022	$1,847,910	$845,179,676
% change 2021-2022	7.6%	9.5%
2023	$2,033,271	$915,351,168
% change 2022-2023	10.0%	8.3%
2024	$2,118,263	$972,525,321
% change 2023-2024	4.2%	6.2%

Median Income		
Median Household Income	$54,897	$74,568
Median Family Income	$67,993	$89,891

Workers Aged 16 and Over	Highlands County	Florida
Place of Work in Florida		
Worked outside county of residence	11.6%	17.0%
Travel Time to Work		
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	23.8	28.0

Percent in Poverty, 2024	
All ages in poverty	15.5%
Under age 18 in poverty	21.9%
Related children age 5-17 in families in poverty	20.9%

Personal Bankruptcy Filing Rate (per 1,000 population)	Highlands County	Florida
12-Month Period Ending September 30, 2024	1.44	1.46
12-Month Period Ending September 30, 2025	2.08	1.71
State Rank	6	NA

NonBusiness Chapter 7 & Chapter 13

Reported County Government Revenues and Expenditures (Includes all Custodial Fund reporting)

Revenue 2022-23	Highlands County	Florida*
Total - All Revenue Account Codes ($000s)	$276,356.2	$117,776,640.6
Per Capita $	$2,647.47	$5,456.77
% of Total	100.0%	100.0%
General Government Taxes ($000s)	$72,946.3	$48,947,738.5
Per Capita $	$698.82	$2,267.82
% of Total	26.4%	41.6%
Permits, Fee, and Special Assessments ($000s)	$18,136.6	$5,231,689.8
Per Capita $	$173.75	$242.39
% of Total	6.6%	4.4%
Intergovernmental Revenues ($000s)	$42,894.0	$8,250,822.1
Per Capita $	$410.92	$382.27
% of Total	15.5%	7.0%
Charges for Services ($000s)	$21,753.7	$28,150,407.9
Per Capita $	$208.40	$1,304.25
% of Total	7.9%	23.9%
Judgments, Fines, and Forfeits ($000s)	$737.6	$1,880,041.8
Per Capita $	$7.07	$87.11
% of Total	0.3%	1.6%
Miscellaneous Revenues ($000s)	$115,118.7	$12,799,887.1
Per Capita $	$1,102.83	$593.04
% of Total	41.7%	10.9%
Other Sources ($000s)	$4,769.3	$12,516,053.5
Per Capita $	$45.69	$579.89
% of Total	1.7%	10.6%

Expenditures 2022-23	Highlands County	Florida*
Total - All Expenditure Account Codes ($000s)	$258,417.10	$110,894,156.90
Per Capita $	$2,475.62	$5,137.89
% of Total	100.0%	100.0%
General Government Services** ($000s)	$123,776.22	$56,597,761.19
Per Capita $	$1,185.77	$2,622.26
% of Total	47.9%	51.0%
Public Safety ($000s)	$68,274.70	$14,143,806.21
Per Capita $	$654.07	$655.30
% of Total	26.4%	12.8%
Physical Environment ($000s)	$15,168.75	$6,602,230.32
Per Capita $	$145.32	$305.89
% of Total	5.9%	6.0%
Transportation ($000s)	$21,724.23	$6,383,904.27
Per Capita $	$208.12	$295.78
% of Total	8.4%	5.8%
Economic Environment ($000s)	$4,076.76	$2,413,716.53
Per Capita $	$39.06	$111.83
% of Total	1.6%	2.2%
Human Services ($000s)	$14,052.88	$5,303,244.59
Per Capita $	$134.63	$245.71
% of Total	5.4%	4.8%
Culture / Recreation ($000s)	$3,483.70	$2,195,932.65
Per Capita $	$33.37	$101.74
% of Total	1.3%	2.0%
Other Uses and Non-Operating ($000s)	$2,294.26	$13,256,605.85
Per Capita $	$21.98	$614.20
% of Total	0.9%	12.0%
Court-Related Expenditures ($000s)	$5,565.60	$3,996,955.30
Per Capita $	$53.32	$185.18
% of Total	2.2%	3.6%

* 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

Crime	Highlands County	Florida
Crime rate, 2020 (index crimes per 100,000 population)	2,084.2	2,158.0
Admissions to prison FY 2024-25	222	27,171
Admissions to prison per 100,000 population FY 2024-25	205.6	116.2

Health Insurance Status

Percent Insured by Age Group	Highlands County	Florida
Under 65 years	83.3%	86.6%
Under 19 years	92.0%	92.7%
18 to 64 years	80.3%	84.5%

Education

Public Education Schools Traditional Setting (2025-26)	Highlands County School	Florida
Total (state total includes special districts)	18	3,796
Elementary	10	1,847
Middle	4	561
Senior High	3	736
Combination	1	652

Educational attainment Persons aged 25 and older	Highlands County	Florida
% HS graduate or higher	86.6%	89.9%
% bachelor's degree or higher	20.5%	34.1%

State and Local Taxation

2025	Highlands County	
	County-Wide	Not County-Wide*
County	7.6000	
School	5.3520	
Municipal		1.3800
Special Districts		0.1896

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

State Infrastructure

Transportation	Highlands County	Florida
State Highway		
Centerline Miles	132.5	12,265.7
Lane Miles	398.1	46,013.4
Conservation Land (CL land acres only)		
State or Regionally Owned (includes partially-owned)	71,666	5,863,289
% of Total Conservation Land (including private)	34.5%	53.6%
% of Total Area Land	11.0%	17.1%
% of Florida State or Regionally Owned CL	1.2%	

Other County Profiles

Criminal Justice County Profiles

School District Profiles

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