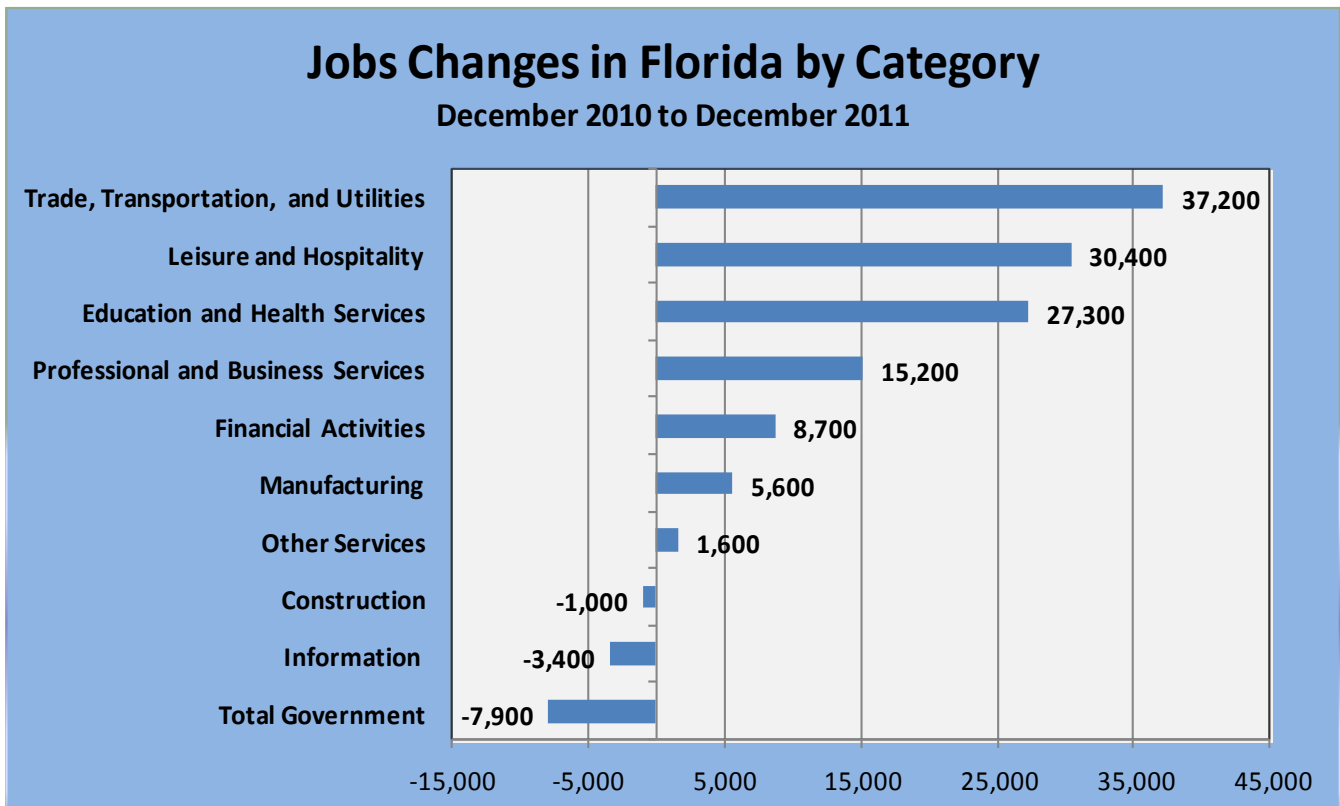


 The Florida TaxWatch Center for Competitive Florida ... Resolving issues vital to Florida's global economic competitiveness.

Florida's 2011 Job Growth

Over the last year, Florida has started recovering from the most recent recession and more jobs are being created. Our state created the 3rd-most jobs of any state, following only California and Texas in the number of jobs created. The question is, what type of jobs are being created in Florida? The state has invested a significant amount of resources to attract companies that will create high-paying jobs. Many of the incentives that the state offers to companies that are either relocating to Florida or expanding their current Florida operations are tied to jobs that pay higher-than-average wages. Also, Florida is highly dependent on a workforce with high disposable income, since more than 70 percent of the state's general revenue comes from consumption-based taxes.

The chart below shows the number of jobs created in the major categories of the economy in Florida. Tables in the following pages will break down the major categories that have created jobs to find out which part of these large categories have created the most jobs, and show which parts of the economy actually grew the fastest in percentage terms over the 2011 calendar year.



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Job Losses

The chart on the previous page clearly shows that the largest loss in jobs for any category was for government jobs. A surprising statistic is that more than 15 percent of all Floridians employed in non-farm jobs work for a government entity. Almost 69 percent of those government employees work for local governments. The table below shows the breakdown of government employees in December 2010 and December 2011, as well as the loss of employees for each category during 2011.

Government Sector	December 2010	December 2011	12 Month Change	Percent
Federal Government	132,100	130,900	-1,200	-0.9
State Government	217,000	212,600	-4,400	-2.0
Local Government	756,100	753,800	-2,300	-0.3

The above table shows that the largest percentage loss of government employees during 2011 was state employees, with a 2 percent drop in employee numbers during the past year.

Job Gains

The 37,200 gain in jobs from the Trade, Transportation, and Utilities category was the largest of any of the categories of the Florida economy. The table shows that most jobs created in this category were retail jobs. This represents a 3.1 percent increase in retail jobs during 2011.

Trade, Transport, Utilities	December 2010	December 2011	12 Month Change	Percent
Wholesale Trade	307,000	306,200	-800	-0.3
Retail Trade	921,400	950,100	28,700	3.1
Transport & Utilities	225,600	234,900	9,300	4.1

The category that produced the second-most increase in Florida jobs during 2011 is the Leisure and Hospitality category. Florida received an estimated 84 million visitors in 2011, and that has helped with job creation. The increase in Accommodation and Food Services represents a 3.5 percent increase in jobs in that sector during 2011.

Leisure and Hospitality	December 2010	December 2011	12 Month Change	Percent
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	188,600	192,700	4,100	2.2
Accommodation and Food Services	742,900	769,200	26,300	3.5

Another category showing significant numbers of jobs is Education and Health Services. The percentage increase for the Health Care and Social Assistance sector is 2.6 percent for the year.

Education and Health Services	December 2010	December 2011	12 Month Change	Percent
Educational Services	154,500	157,500	3,000	1.9
Health Care and Social Assistance	935,500	959,800	24,300	2.6

Although the numbers in the following categories don't show increases as large as some of the other categories, both areas include the highest percentage increases of any category, showing that these categories are growing faster than the others, and at a greater percentage than the Florida economy overall.

One of the most important ways to tell if Florida is growing the desired type of jobs is whether the high-wage jobs are increasing by larger percentages than the Florida economy as a whole. Fortunately, the following category includes some of the highest paying jobs in the Florida economy. Although there were job losses in the largest part of the sector, the largest percentage increase of any sector was in Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services. This sector showed an increase of 4.7 percent. The second-highest percentage increase in job creation during the last 12 months is in the sector of Management of Companies and Enterprises; the 3,400 jobs created represent a 4.4 percent increase in this area. This growth is significant, in that some of these jobs are very highly-paid positions.

Professional and Business Services	December 2010	December 2011	12 Month Change	Percent
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	432,600	453,000	20,400	4.7
Management of Companies and Enterprises	77,500	80,900	3,400	4.4
Administrative and Support	532,200	523,600	-8,600	-1.6

In the Financial Activities category, there was only a small increase (0.8 percent) in the Finance and Insurance sector; however, there was an increase of more than 4 percent in Real Estate Rental and Leasing. This sector appears to be growing significantly, likely because some who have lost homes to foreclosure, as well as those who are unable or unwilling to purchase homes in this down market have turned to rentals.

Financial Activities	December 2010	December 2011	12 Month Change	Percent
Finance and Insurance	317,200	319,600	2,400	0.8
Real Estate Rental and Leasing	151,900	158,200	6,300	4.1

One category that is especially important to diversifying Florida's economy is Manufacturing. This category provides many benefits to the state's economy, including high wages and significant investment in research and development. The increase of 5,600 manufacturing jobs is a welcome sign that Florida is diversifying and capital investment is expanding in the state.

Manufacturing	December 2010	December 2011	12 Month Change	Percent
Manufacturing	303,500	309,100	5,600	1.8

Overall, non-farm jobs increased by 121,600 jobs in Florida during 2011. This represents a 2 percent increase in private non-farm payrolls. Significantly, at the same time, government employment dropped by 2 percent, led by a loss of 4,400 state government jobs. Florida must continue to invest in businesses already in Florida, as well as attract businesses relocating from other states. The statistics from 2011 show that although there is still much to do, some positive trends are forming that will help increase employment for Floridians.

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