

**Overview of the CareerSource Heartland Region
Not Seasonally Adjusted
September 16, 2022**

- The unemployment rate in the CareerSource Heartland region (DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, and Okeechobee counties) was 3.7 percent in August 2022. This rate was 1.6 percentage points lower than the region's year ago rate of 5.3 percent. The region's August 2022 unemployment rate was 0.9 percentage point above the state rate of 2.8 percent. The labor force was 76,345, up 747 (+1.0 percent) over the year. There were 2,814 unemployed residents in the region.
- DeSoto County had the lowest unemployment rate (2.8 percent) in the CareerSource Heartland region followed by Okeechobee County (3.0 percent), Hardee County (3.8 percent), and Highlands County (4.4 percent).
- Employment by industry in the CareerSource Heartland region totaled 56,282 jobs in March 2022 (the latest available data). CareerSource Heartland region's employment increased by 1,063 jobs (+1.9 percent) over the year.
- The Professional and Business Services (+18.0 percent) and Education and Health Services (+3.3 percent) industries grew faster in the region than statewide over the year.
- The industries gaining jobs over the year were Professional and Business Services (+744 jobs); Leisure and Hospitality (+402 jobs); Education and Health Services (+310 jobs); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+304 jobs); and Other Services (+28 jobs).
- The industries losing jobs over the year were Natural Resources and Mining (-455 jobs); Government (-216 jobs); Manufacturing (-35 jobs); Construction (-21 jobs); Information (-11 jobs); and Financial Activities (-8 jobs).

Sebring Metro Area

- In August 2022, nonagricultural employment in the Sebring MSA was 24,900, a decrease of 200 jobs (-0.8 percent) over the year.
- The Government (-100 jobs) industry lost jobs over the year.

Note: All data are subject to revision.

Source: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Workforce Statistics and Economic Research.

Unemployment Rates (not seasonally adjusted)	Aug-22	Jul-22	Aug-21
CareerSource Heartland	3.7%	3.8%	5.3%
DeSoto County	2.8%	2.8%	3.9%
Hardee County	3.8%	4.2%	5.4%
Highlands County	4.4%	4.4%	6.3%
Okeechobee County	3.0%	3.2%	4.4%
Florida	2.8%	2.8%	4.6%
United States	3.8%	3.8%	5.3%

Employment by Industry Covered by Unemployment Compensation (not seasonally adjusted)	CareerSource Heartland Region				Florida			
	Mar-22	Mar-21	change	percent change	Mar-22	Mar-21	change	percent change
Total Employment	56,282	55,219	1,063	1.9	9,259,750	8,720,589	539,161	6.2
Natural Resources and Mining	5,188	5,643	-455	-8.1	76,686	77,298	-612	-0.8
Construction	3,660	3,681	-21	-0.6	589,460	573,107	16,353	2.9
Manufacturing	1,635	1,670	-35	-2.1	402,559	383,867	18,692	4.9
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	11,818	11,514	304	2.6	1,896,006	1,797,839	98,167	5.5
Wholesale Trade	1,133	1,097	36	3.3	370,772	349,535	21,237	6.1
Retail Trade	8,472	8,278	194	2.3	1,115,949	1,079,374	36,575	3.4
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	2,213	2,139	74	3.5	409,285	368,930	40,355	10.9
Information	315	326	-11	-3.4	151,335	133,691	17,644	13.2
Financial Activities	1,645	1,653	-8	-0.5	641,521	602,243	39,278	6.5
Professional and Business Services	4,877	4,133	744	18.0	1,549,218	1,416,330	132,888	9.4
Education and Health Services	9,699	9,389	310	3.3	1,358,214	1,319,530	38,684	2.9
Leisure and Hospitality	6,323	5,921	402	6.8	1,230,783	1,072,307	158,476	14.8
Other Services	1,188	1,160	28	2.4	272,296	261,889	10,407	4.0
Government	9,894	10,110	-216	-2.1	1,070,263	1,076,472	-6,209	-0.6

Population	2021	2020	change	percent change
CareerSource Heartland	203,395	200,256	3,139	1.6
DeSoto County	34,408	34,080	328	1.0
Hardee County	25,425	25,313	112	0.4
Highlands County	103,296	101,222	2,074	2.0
Okeechobee County	40,266	39,641	625	1.6
Florida	21,781,128	21,569,932	211,196	1.0

Average Annual Wage	2021	2020	change	percent change
CareerSource Heartland	\$41,239	\$38,942	\$2,297	5.9
DeSoto County	\$43,090	\$40,689	\$2,401	5.9
Hardee County	\$39,744	\$37,724	\$2,021	5.4
Highlands County	\$40,528	\$37,924	\$2,604	6.9
Okeechobee County	\$42,341	\$40,610	\$1,732	4.3
Florida	\$60,299	\$55,840	\$4,459	8.0

Note: All data are subject to revision.

Source: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Workforce Statistics and Economic Research.