



Economic Overview

Gilchrist County, Florida



Career Source
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Demographic Profile

The population in Gilchrist County, Florida was 18,494 per American Community Survey data for 2019-2023.

The region has a civilian labor force of 7,750 with a participation rate of 51.2%. Of individuals 25 to 64 in Gilchrist County, Florida, 14.2% have a bachelor's degree or higher which compares with 36.5% in the nation.

The median household income in Gilchrist County, Florida is \$61,070 and the median house value is \$191,000.

Summary ¹						
	Percent			Value		
	Gilchrist County, Florida	Florida	USA	Gilchrist County, Florida	Florida	USA
Demographics						
Population (ACS)	—	—	—	18,494	21,928,881	332,387,540
Male	51.9%	49.1%	49.5%	9,599	10,773,620	164,545,087
Female	48.1%	50.9%	50.5%	8,895	11,155,261	167,842,453
Median Age ²	—	—	—	42.7	42.6	38.7
Under 18 Years	20.8%	19.6%	22.2%	3,851	4,305,366	73,645,238
18 to 24 Years	8.1%	8.1%	9.1%	1,497	1,773,216	30,307,641
25 to 34 Years	11.8%	12.7%	13.7%	2,176	2,779,896	45,497,632
35 to 44 Years	11.8%	12.5%	13.1%	2,185	2,738,113	43,492,887
45 to 54 Years	12.3%	12.4%	12.3%	2,266	2,725,323	40,847,713
55 to 64 Years	15.0%	13.6%	12.8%	2,782	2,976,234	42,626,382
65 to 74 Years	11.8%	11.7%	10.0%	2,175	2,566,979	33,293,127
75 Years and Over	8.4%	9.4%	6.8%	1,562	2,063,754	22,676,920
Race: White	89.1%	59.9%	63.4%	16,476	13,136,701	210,875,446
Race: Black or African American	3.2%	15.3%	12.4%	592	3,363,769	41,070,890
Race: American Indian and Alaska Native	0.4%	0.3%	0.9%	83	66,779	2,924,996
Race: Asian	0.2%	2.9%	5.8%	42	628,137	19,352,659
Race: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%	2	13,136	629,292
Race: Some Other Race	1.9%	5.6%	6.6%	359	1,222,567	21,940,536
Race: Two or More Races	5.1%	16.0%	10.7%	940	3,497,792	35,593,721
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	7.5%	26.7%	19.0%	1,378	5,865,737	63,131,589
Population Growth						
Population (Pop Estimates) ⁴	—	—	—	19,587	22,610,726	334,914,895
Population Annual Average Growth ⁴	1.4%	1.5%	0.6%	262	305,905	1,885,495
People per Square Mile ⁴	—	—	—	56.0	421.4	94.8
Economic						
Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 16 years and over)	51.2%	59.4%	63.3%	7,750	10,725,531	168,567,852
Prime-Age Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 25-54)	73.0%	82.5%	83.0%	4,840	6,757,770	107,055,165
Work from Home	3.9%	13.9%	13.5%	284	1,406,025	21,267,373
Armed Forces Labor Force	0.0%	0.4%	0.5%	0	78,025	1,287,774
Veterans, Age 18-64	6.6%	5.0%	4.2%	715	640,175	8,410,268
Veterans Labor Force Participation Rate and Size, Age 18-64	63.4%	74.4%	77.0%	453	475,998	6,478,181
Median Household Income ²	—	—	—	\$61,070	\$71,711	\$78,538
Per Capita Income	—	—	—	\$33,507	\$41,055	\$43,289
Mean Commute Time (minutes)	—	—	—	30.6	28.0	26.6
Commute via Public Transportation	0.3%	1.2%	3.5%	19	125,364	5,528,841
Educational Attainment, Age 25-64						
No High School Diploma	14.6%	9.7%	10.0%	1,377	1,087,436	17,176,172
High School Graduate	35.9%	26.7%	25.0%	3,377	2,994,428	43,057,491

Summary¹

	Percent			Value		
	Gilchrist County, Florida	Florida	USA	Gilchrist County, Florida	Florida	USA
Some College, No Degree	25.0%	18.6%	19.3%	2,356	2,089,960	33,315,654
Associate's Degree	10.2%	11.0%	9.2%	960	1,228,555	15,894,085
Bachelor's Degree	8.1%	22.0%	22.8%	760	2,471,584	39,256,774
Postgraduate Degree	6.2%	12.0%	13.8%	579	1,347,603	23,764,438
Housing						
Total Housing Units	—	—	—	7,697	10,082,356	142,332,876
Median House Value (of owner-occupied units) ^{2,5}	—	—	—	\$191,000	\$325,000	\$303,400
Homeowner Vacancy	1.0%	1.5%	1.0%	57	89,064	850,724
Rental Vacancy	2.0%	7.6%	5.5%	23	231,428	2,605,688
Renter-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	16.3%	32.7%	35.0%	1,126	2,794,102	44,590,828
Owner-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	83.7%	67.3%	65.0%	5,787	5,756,809	82,892,037
Occupied Housing Units with No Vehicle Available (% of Occupied Units)	9.4%	5.9%	8.3%	648	504,857	10,602,826
Social						
Poverty Level (of all people)	11.2%	12.6%	12.4%	1,946	2,707,698	40,390,045
Households Receiving Food Stamps/SNAP	16.7%	12.6%	11.8%	1,155	1,078,978	15,004,950
Enrolled in Grade 12 (% of total population)	1.1%	1.2%	1.3%	198	257,645	4,405,676
Disconnected Youth ³	1.6%	2.5%	2.4%	12	25,308	420,352
Children in Single Parent Families (% of all children)	29.5%	38.0%	34.0%	1,003	1,546,515	23,701,745
Uninsured	15.1%	11.9%	8.6%	2,657	2,569,710	28,000,876
With a Disability, Age 18-64	14.9%	10.1%	10.7%	1,541	1,286,547	21,269,700
With a Disability, Age 18-64, Labor Force Participation Rate and Size	43.2%	44.8%	47.0%	665	576,771	10,001,264
Foreign Born	4.7%	21.4%	13.9%	878	4,694,419	46,108,901
Speak English Less Than Very Well (population 5 yrs and over)	2.3%	12.1%	8.4%	401	2,517,985	26,299,012

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

1. American Community Survey 2019-2023, unless noted otherwise

2. Median values for certain aggregate regions (such as MSAs) may be estimated as the weighted averages of the median values from the composing counties.

3. Disconnected Youth are 16-19 year olds who are (1) not in school, (2) not high school graduates, and (3) either unemployed or not in the labor force.

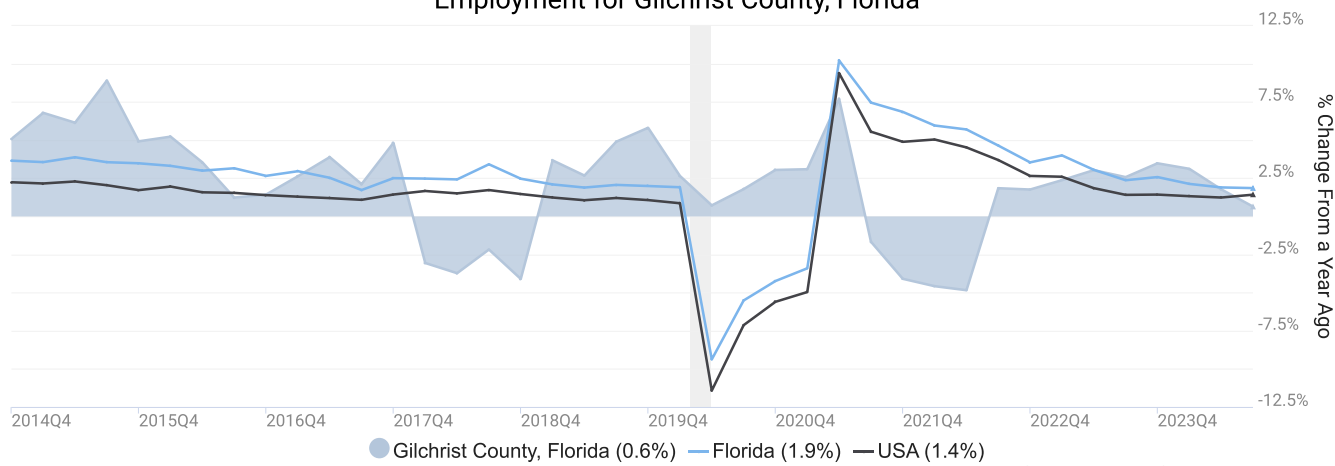
4. Census Population Estimate for 2023, annual average growth rate since 2013.

5. The Census's method for calculating median house values changed with the 2022 data set, so pre-2022 values are not directly comparable with later data.

Employment Trends

As of 2024Q3, total employment for Gilchrist County, Florida was 4,458 (based on a four-quarter moving average). Over the year ending 2024Q3, employment increased 0.6% in the region.

Employment for Gilchrist County, Florida

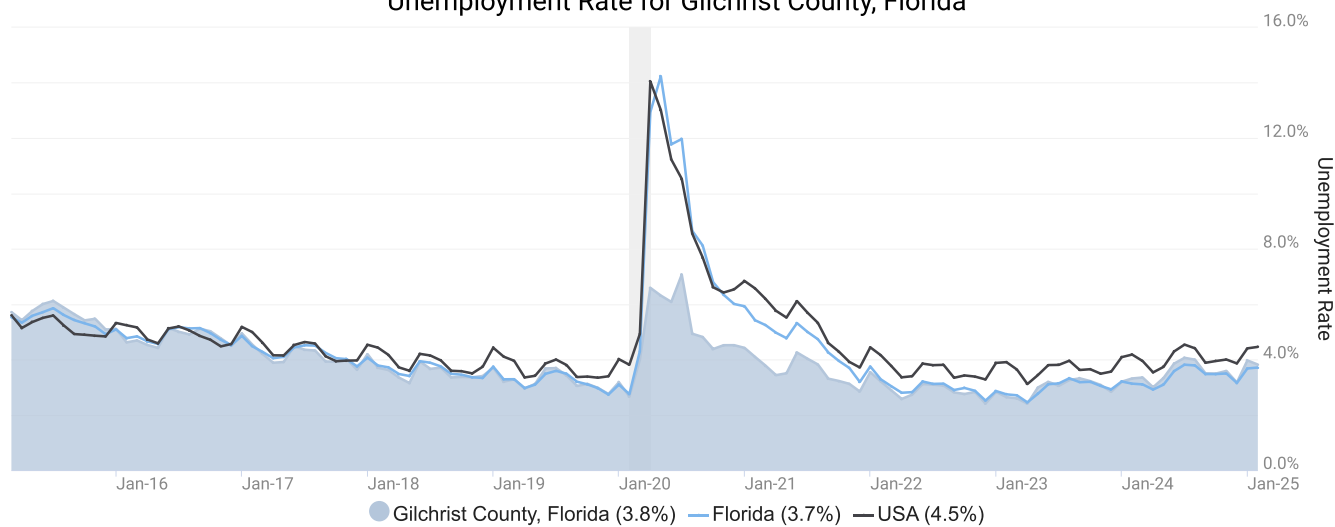


Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2024Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2024Q3.

Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate for Gilchrist County, Florida was 3.8% as of February 2025. The regional unemployment rate was lower than the national rate of 4.5%. One year earlier, in February 2024, the unemployment rate in Gilchrist County, Florida was 3.3%.

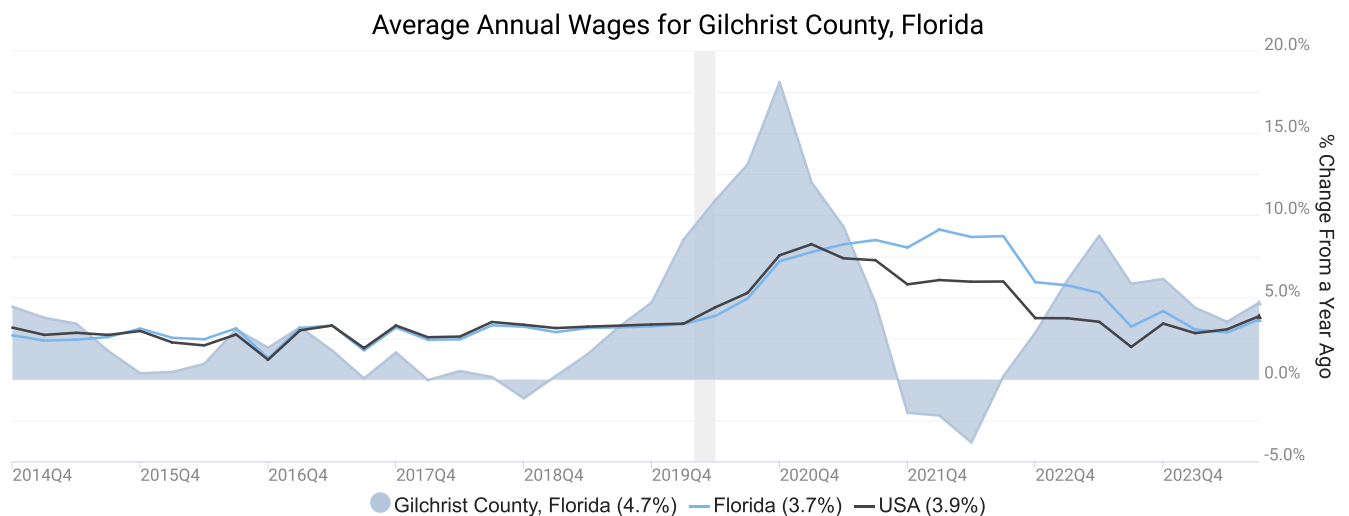
Unemployment Rate for Gilchrist County, Florida



Unemployment rate data are from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and updated through February 2025.

Wage Trends

The average worker in Gilchrist County, Florida earned annual wages of \$44,799 as of 2024Q3. Average annual wages per worker increased 4.7% in the region over the preceding four quarters. For comparison purposes, annual average wages were \$72,609 in the nation as of 2024Q3.



Annual average wages per worker data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2024Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2024Q3.

Cost of Living Index

The Cost of Living Index estimates the relative price levels for consumer goods and services. When applied to wages and salaries, the result is a measure of relative purchasing power. The cost of living is 11.9% lower in Gilchrist County, Florida than the U.S. average.

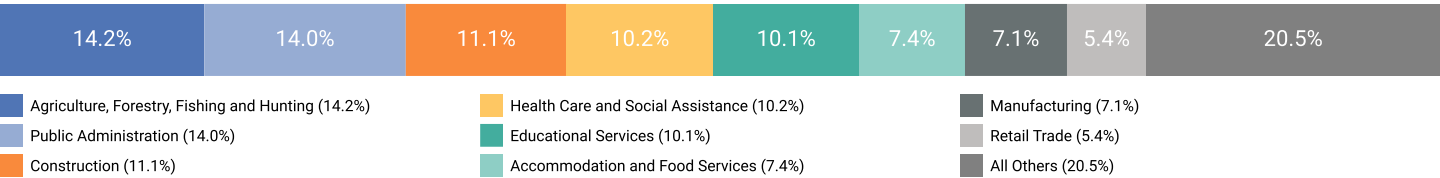
	Cost of Living Information		
	Annual Average Salary	Cost of Living Index (Base US)	US Purchasing Power
Gilchrist County, Florida	\$44,799	88.1	\$50,829
Florida	\$66,213	103.4	\$64,021
USA	\$72,609	100.0	\$72,609

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)
Data as of 2024Q3
Cost of Living per [COLI](#), data as of 2024Q4, imputed by Chmura where necessary.

Industry Snapshot

The largest sector in Gilchrist County, Florida is Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting, employing 632 workers. The next-largest sectors in the region are Public Administration (625 workers) and Construction (495). High location quotients (LQs) indicate sectors in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The sectors with the largest LQs in the region are Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting (LQ = 11.73), Public Administration (3.00), and Construction (1.86).

Total Workers for Gilchrist County, Florida by Industry



Source: JobsEQ®
Data as of 2024Q3
Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2024Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2024Q3.

Sectors in Gilchrist County, Florida with the highest average wages per worker are Management of Companies and Enterprises (\$114,252), Utilities (\$91,626), and Information (\$70,855). Regional sectors with the best job growth (or most moderate job losses) over the last 5 years are Construction (+165 jobs), Accommodation and Food Services (+120), and Other Services (except Public Administration) (+45).

Over the next 1 year, employment in Gilchrist County, Florida is projected to expand by 80 jobs. The fastest growing sector in the region is expected to be Information with a +2.8% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Public Administration (+11 jobs), Construction (+10), and Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting (+9).

Gilchrist County, Florida, 2024Q3¹

NAICS	Industry	Current			5-Year History		1-Year Forecast				
		Empl	Avg Ann Wages	LQ	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	632	\$44,833	11.73	-118	-3.4%	86	37	41	9	1.4%
92	Public Administration	625	\$51,088	3.00	5	0.1%	68	23	35	11	1.7%
23	Construction	495	\$52,120	1.86	165	8.5%	52	16	27	10	2.0%
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	456	\$42,639	0.68	-16	-0.7%	54	20	24	9	2.0%
61	Educational Services	450	\$43,703	1.25	22	1.0%	50	19	23	8	1.8%
72	Accommodation and Food Services	330	\$20,415	0.85	120	9.5%	65	25	34	6	1.9%
31	Manufacturing	316	\$58,233	0.90	23	1.6%	38	12	20	6	1.9%
44	Retail Trade	242	\$30,726	0.55	-56	-4.1%	36	14	19	3	1.2%
81	Other Services (except Public Administration)	204	\$37,308	1.08	45	5.0%	27	10	14	4	2.0%
56	Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	202	\$35,353	0.74	35	3.9%	27	9	14	4	1.9%
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	119	\$43,618	0.37	44	9.8%	12	4	6	3	2.2%
48	Transportation and Warehousing	88	\$48,314	0.40	35	10.7%	11	4	6	2	1.7%
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	81	\$23,474	0.88	4	1.1%	14	5	7	2	2.6%
52	Finance and Insurance	60	\$52,836	0.34	-1	-0.5%	6	2	3	1	1.6%
42	Wholesale Trade	50	\$43,869	0.30	-24	-7.6%	6	2	3	1	1.7%
22	Utilities	40	\$91,626	1.75	9	5.3%	4	1	2	1	2.1%
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	39	\$61,042	0.49	14	8.9%	4	2	2	1	1.7%
51	Information	15	\$70,855	0.18	1	1.7%	2	0	1	0	2.8%
99	Unclassified	9	\$27,103	1.15	5	22.8%	1	0	1	0	1.8%
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	5	\$114,252	0.08	-1	-2.9%	1	0	0	0	2.2%
Total - All Industries		4,458	\$44,799	1.00	312	1.5%	566	200	286	80	1.8%

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

Data as of 2024Q3

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

1. All data based upon a four-quarter moving average

Exits and transfers are approximate estimates based upon occupation separation rates.

Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2024Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2024Q3. Forecast employment growth uses national projections adapted for regional growth patterns.

Occupation Snapshot

The largest major occupation group in Gilchrist County, Florida is Management Occupations, employing 512 workers. The next-largest occupation groups in the region are Office and Administrative Support Occupations (405 workers) and Construction and Extraction Occupations (353). High location quotients (LQs) indicate occupation groups in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The major groups with the largest LQs in the region are Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations (LQ = 9.04), Protective Service Occupations (2.90), and Construction and Extraction Occupations (1.77).

Occupation groups in Gilchrist County, Florida with the highest average wages per worker are Management Occupations (\$102,500), Legal Occupations (\$90,700), and Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations (\$82,000). The unemployment rate in the region varied among the major groups from 1.4% among Management Occupations to 6.4% among Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations.

Over the next 1 year, the fastest growing occupation group in Gilchrist County, Florida is expected to be Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations with a +2.3% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Management Occupations (+9 jobs) and Construction and Extraction Occupations (+7). Over the same period, the highest separation demand (occupation demand due to retirements and workers moving from one occupation to another) is expected in Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (65 jobs) and Management Occupations (49).

Gilchrist County, Florida, 2024Q3¹

SOC	Occupation	Current						5-Year History		1-Year Forecast				
		Empl	Mean Ann Wages ²	LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads ³	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
11-0000	Management	512	\$102,500	1.49	8	1.4%	4	-3	-0.1%	58	25	24	9	1.8%
43-0000	Office and Administrative Support	405	\$43,500	0.78	28	3.1%	12	37	1.9%	51	21	26	5	1.2%
47-0000	Construction and Extraction	353	\$46,900	1.77	28	4.7%	2	107	7.4%	38	11	20	7	2.1%
25-0000	Educational Instruction and Library	336	\$51,000	1.40	10	2.7%	3	16	1.0%	37	14	17	6	1.9%
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related	324	\$32,300	0.89	44	5.5%	8	59	4.1%	71	28	37	6	1.8%
33-0000	Protective Service	279	\$50,500	2.90	7	2.2%	2	5	0.4%	31	10	16	4	1.5%
41-0000	Sales and Related	249	\$47,000	0.64	29	4.9%	17	-27	-2.0%	37	14	19	3	1.2%
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving	238	\$41,300	0.62	36	5.1%	10	11	1.0%	36	13	19	5	2.0%
45-0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	233	\$36,500	9.04	15	6.4%	4	-50	-3.8%	40	15	23	3	1.2%
37-0000	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	224	\$35,800	1.53	18	4.3%	3	25	2.4%	36	13	19	4	1.8%
51-0000	Production	200	\$42,600	0.83	17	4.2%	2	39	4.4%	27	8	15	3	1.7%
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	183	\$51,800	1.05	11	2.6%	11	22	2.7%	21	7	10	4	2.3%
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations	179	\$69,500	0.62	7	2.9%	3	33	4.1%	19	5	10	4	2.0%
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	179	\$82,000	0.67	6	1.6%	9	19	2.3%	15	6	6	4	2.2%
31-0000	Healthcare Support	158	\$36,300	0.76	13	3.4%	10	-11	-1.3%	27	10	14	3	2.1%
39-0000	Personal Care and Service	119	\$34,300	1.04	10	4.7%	3	8	1.5%	24	8	13	3	2.1%
21-0000	Community and Social Service	88	\$50,000	1.07	3	2.9%	11	8	1.9%	10	3	5	2	2.2%

Gilchrist County, Florida, 2024Q3¹

SOC	Occupation	Current				5-Year History				1-Year Forecast				
		Empl	Mean Ann Wages ²	LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads ³	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
27-0000	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	51	\$63,200	0.63	2	4.2%	2	-5	-1.8%	6	2	3	1	1.9%
15-0000	Computer and Mathematical	44	\$78,800	0.31	2	3.2%	0	6	2.9%	4	1	2	1	2.2%
17-0000	Architecture and Engineering	37	\$81,300	0.52	1	3.0%	0	6	3.8%	4	1	2	1	2.3%
23-0000	Legal	34	\$90,700	0.92	0	n/a	n/a	6	3.6%	3	1	1	1	1.9%
19-0000	Life, Physical, and Social Science	32	\$64,800	0.80	1	3.5%	1	0	-0.2%	4	1	3	1	2.2%
Total - All Occupations		4,458	\$54,000	1.00	297	3.8%	118	312	1.5%	599	218	301	80	1.8%

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

Data as of 2024Q3 unless noted otherwise

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

1. Data based on a four-quarter moving average unless noted otherwise.

2. Wage data represent the average for all Covered Employment

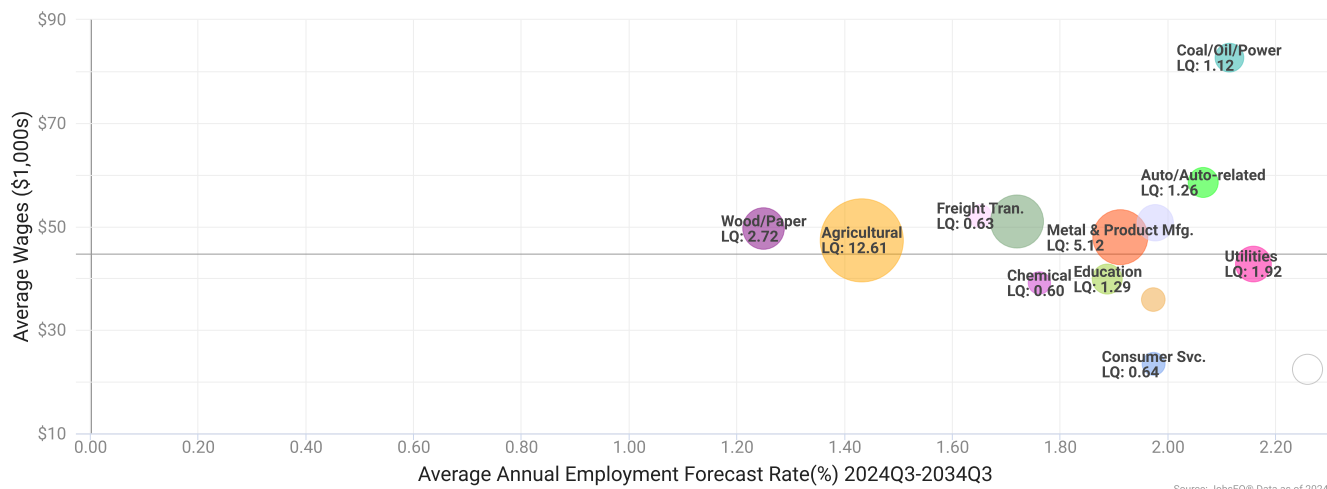
3. Data represent found online ads active within the last thirty days in the selected region. Due to alternative county-assignment algorithms, ad counts in this analytic may not match that shown in RTI (nor in the popup window ad list). Ad counts for ZCTA-based regions are estimates.

Occupation employment data are estimated via industry employment data and the estimated industry/occupation mix. Industry employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and currently updated through 2024Q2, imputed where necessary with preliminary estimates updated to 2024Q3. Wages by occupation are as of 2024 provided by the BLS and imputed where necessary. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

Industry Clusters

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. The industry cluster in Gilchrist County, Florida with the highest relative concentration is Agricultural with a location quotient of 12.61. This cluster employs 594 workers in the region with an average wage of \$47,355. Employment in the Agricultural cluster is projected to expand in the region about 1.4% per year over the next ten years.

Industry Clusters for Gilchrist County, Florida as of 2024Q3

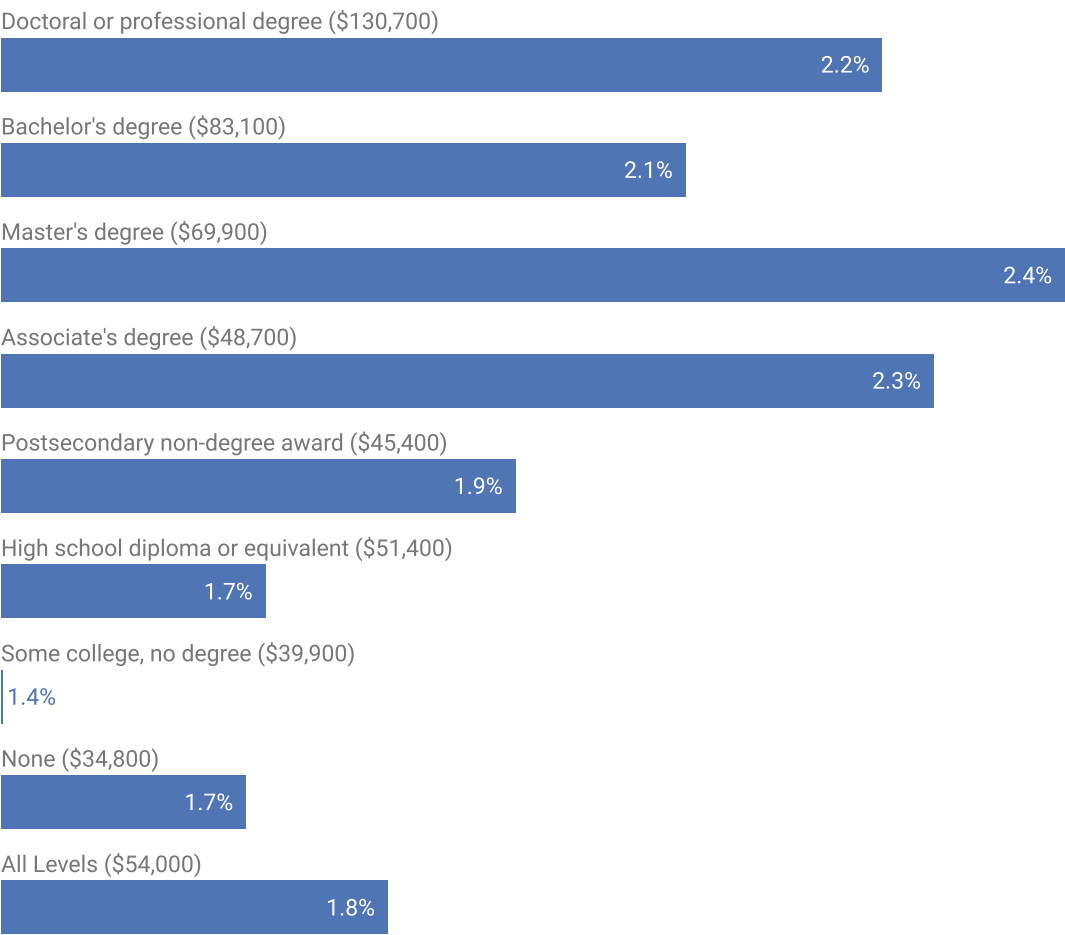


Location quotient and average wage data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, imputed where necessary, and updated through 2024Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2024Q3. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

Education Levels

Expected growth rates for occupations vary by the education and training required. While all employment in Gilchrist County, Florida is projected to grow 1.8% over the next ten years, occupations typically requiring a postgraduate degree are expected to grow 2.2% per year, those requiring a bachelor’s degree are forecast to grow 2.1% per year, and occupations typically needing a 2-year degree or certificate are expected to grow 2.3% per year.

Annual Average Projected Job Growth by Education Levels

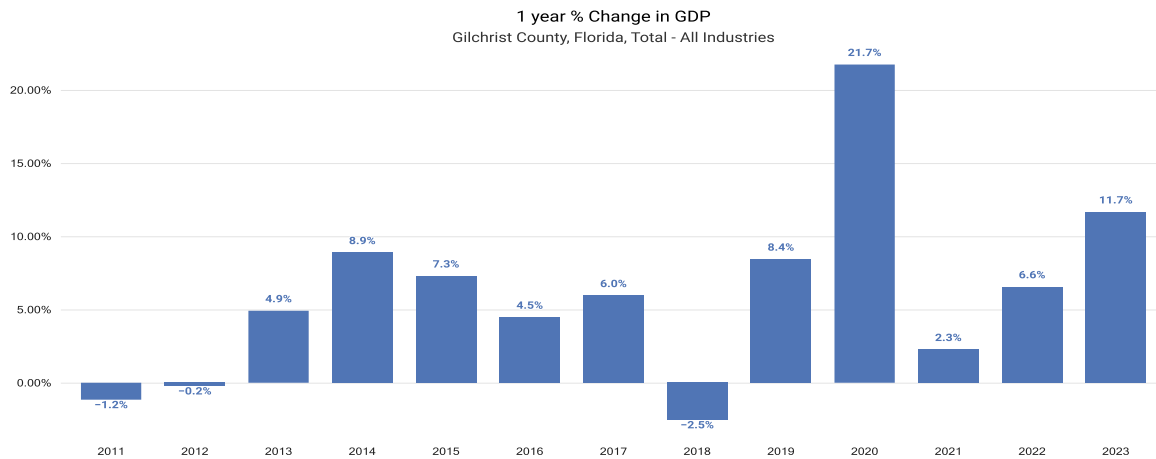


Source: JobsEQ®
Data as of 2024Q3

Employment by occupation data are estimates as of 2024Q3. Education levels of occupations are based on BLS assignments. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

Gross Domestic Product

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total value of goods and services produced by a region. In 2023, nominal GDP in Gilchrist County, Florida expanded 11.7%. This follows growth of 6.6% in 2022. As of 2023, total GDP in Gilchrist County, Florida was \$449,321,000.



Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2023.

Of the sectors in Gilchrist County, Florida, Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting contributed the largest portion of GDP in 2023, \$60,390,000 The next-largest contributions came from Public Administration (\$56,188,000); Utilities (\$54,308,000); and Construction (\$45,817,000).

GDP (in \$ millions)

Gilchrist County, Florida, 2023

Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting (11)



Public Administration (92)



Utilities (22)



Construction (23)



Manufacturing (31)



Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (53)



Educational Services (61)



Health Care and Social Assistance (62)



Retail Trade (44)

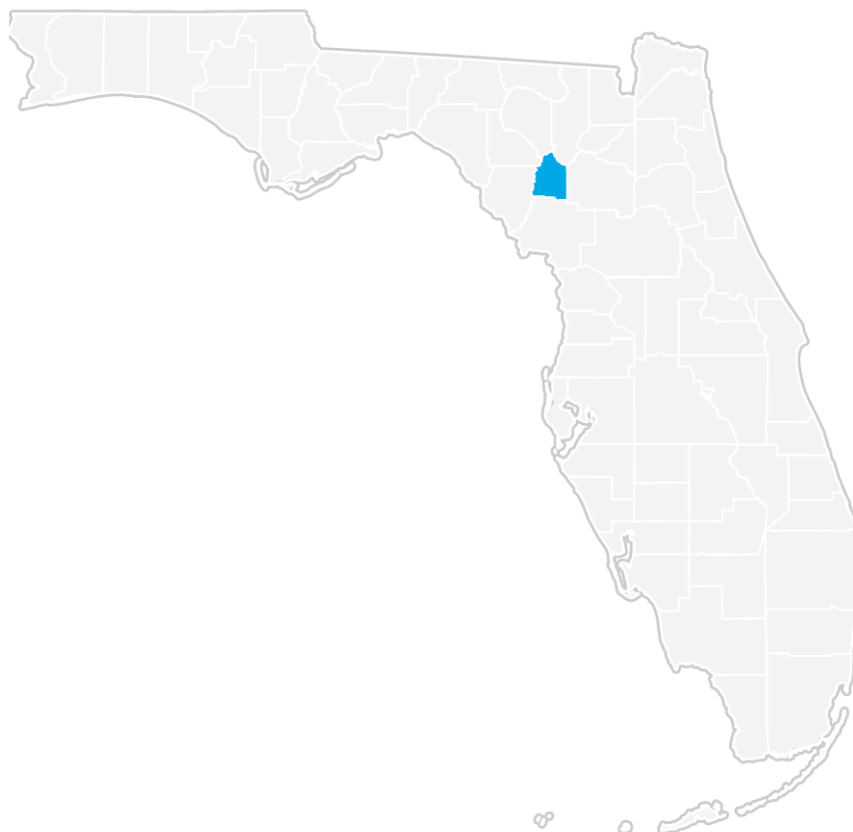


Other Services (except Public Administration) (81)



Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2023.

Gilchrist County, Florida Regional Map



FAQ

What is a location quotient?

A location quotient (LQ) is a measurement of concentration in comparison to the nation. An LQ of 1.00 indicates a region has the same concentration of an industry (or occupation) as the nation. An LQ of 2.00 would mean the region has twice the expected employment compared to the nation and an LQ of 0.50 would mean the region has half the expected employment in comparison to the nation.

What is separation demand?

Separation demand is the number of jobs required due to separations—labor force exits (including retirements) and turnover resulting from workers moving from one occupation into another. Note that separation demand does not include all turnover—it does not include when workers stay in the same occupation but switch employers. The total projected demand for an occupation is the sum of the separation demand and the growth demand (which is the increase or decrease of jobs in an occupation expected due to expansion or contraction of the overall number of jobs in that occupation).

What is a cluster?

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. If a regional cluster has a location quotient of 1.25 or greater, the region is considered to possess a competitive advantage in that cluster.

What is the difference between industry wages and occupation wages?

Industry wages and occupation wages are estimated via separate data sets, often the time periods being reported do not align, and wages are defined slightly differently in the two systems (for example, certain bonuses are included in the industry wages but not the occupation wages). It is therefore common that estimates of the average industry wages and average occupation wages in a region do not match exactly.

What is NAICS?

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is used to classify business establishments according to the type of economic activity. The NAICS Code comprises six levels, from the “all industry” level to the 6-digit level. The first two digits define the top level category, known as the “sector,” which is the level examined in this report.

What is SOC?

The Standard Occupational Classification system (SOC) is used to classify workers into occupational categories. All workers are classified into one of over 804 occupations according to their occupational definition. To facilitate classification, occupations are combined to form 22 major groups, 95 minor groups, and 452 occupation groups. Each occupation group includes detailed occupations requiring similar job duties, skills, education, or experience.

About This Report

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