

Demographics Analysis for Polk County

Published Annually by the Central Florida Development Council, October 2021

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Population

Polk County outpaced the state and nation in population growth between the 2010 Census and the 2020 Census, growing 20.4% as compared to 14.5% and 7.3% for the state and nation, respectively. Within the larger cities (populations greater than 5,000), growth is being led by Davenport, Haines City, Lake Alfred, and Winter Haven, with all between 30% growth or more over the ten-year period. The above average population growth in Polk County, particularly the Eastern part, should continue to provide a solid foundation for growth and development. The relatively large population growth of the county should continue to fuel demand for services and housing across the county.

Population Proportion by City

	2010	2019
Auburndale	2.24%	2.15%
Bartow	2.87%	2.66%
Davenport	0.48%	1.25%
Fort Meade	0.93%	0.70%
Haines City	3.41%	3.68%
Lake Alfred	0.83%	0.88%
Lakeland	16.18%	15.54%
Lake Wales	2.36%	2.26%
Winter Haven	5.63%	6.79%
Other	65.06%	64.09%

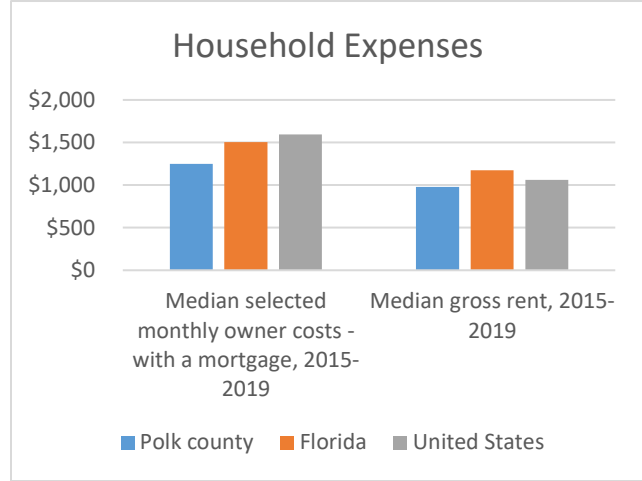
Age

The county's age distribution reflects a larger portion of younger people (22.0%, under 18) than the state (19.7%) and a larger population of older people (20.4%, 65 and over) than the nation (16.5%). Both Florida (20.9%) and the Polk County have older populations and they are getting older, with the portion of population 65 or older increasing from the 2010 census (18.0% and 17.3% for Polk County and Florida, respectively)¹. The larger portions of younger and older people negatively impact our economy as it results in a smaller population of working age people, as reflected in the smaller labor force population (55.1%, 58.5% and 63.0% for the county, state and nation based on 2015 – 2019 data, respectively), however this moved slightly up in all three geographies this year. The aging population is a noted national trend and will be partly responsible for the increasing strain on social security, other social services, and the medical system. Amongst the higher growth cities, there is a split in demographics, with Lakeland and Davenport having larger working-age populations and Lake Wales and Winter Haven having a larger older and younger populations.

¹ These data/tabulations are not yet available for the 2020 Census data, so these figures are based on the 2019 estimates.

Households

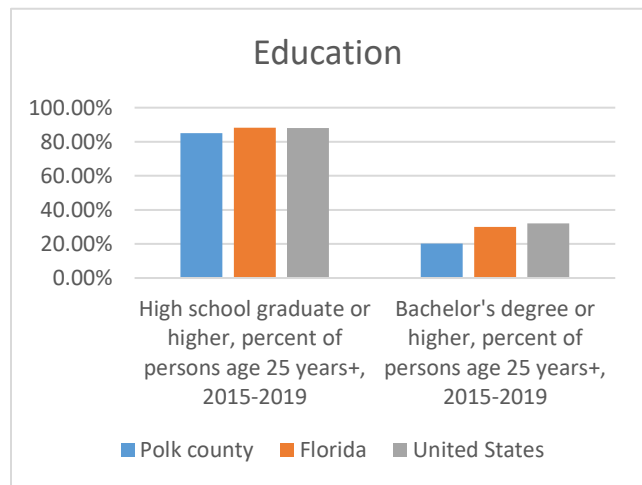
Polk County continues to have higher than average homeowner occupancy (68.9%, 65.4% and 64.0% for the county, state, and nation, respectively) and lower than average costs for both homeowners and renters. The lower property values during the survey years (2015 – 2019) continue to reflect the affordability of ownership in Polk County. There is a wide range in average home values across the county with a low of \$77,900 in Fort Meade to a high of \$180,800 in Auburndale, in comparison to median values for the county, state and county of \$150,800, \$215,300, and \$217,500, respectively.



Polk County has also seen meaningful growth in taxable property values, with total value increasing from \$40.0B in 2020 to \$43.6B in 2021, with over \$1.6B of that attributable to new construction. While the largest dollar value growth comes from Lakeland, the largest percentage growth comes from Davenport (26.3%) and Haines City (18.0%). Davenport’s Taxable Value has more than doubled since 2018.

Education

Polk County continues to trail the state and nation in both high school and college degrees. The portion of the population with bachelor’s degrees or higher increased slightly (0.2%) to 20.2% while the state has 29.9% (up 0.7%) and the nation has 32.1% (up 0.6%). Part of this is driven by the larger portion of older population, but there remains a meaningful deficit with a gap that widened during the 2015 – 2019 period. There is variation across the cities, with several at or below 15% and Lakeland just under 26%. Continued efforts to address education will be critical for maintaining a productive workforce in an ever-dynamic economy, especially considering the ground we lost.



Medical

Both Polk County (17.1%) and the state (16.3%) trail the nation (10.2%) in the percentage of people without health insurance. The gap between the county, state and nation has worsened since 2020. While the nation has

more people without health insurance, they only added 0.7% while the county added 1.7%. The size of the gap is partly driven by state policy to not expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act as other states have and the state's lower income, however the higher rates of uninsured are likely impacted by the job losses associated with COVID and the prior Federal Administration's policy to remove the economic penalty for not being insured. The level of uninsured people in the county may drive up future medical costs and possible bad debts for local hospitals as many people cope with ongoing impacts of COVID-19 and other serious health conditions.

Business/Economy

As previously mentioned, Polk County lags the state and nation in labor force participation, partially due to a larger portion of older population, but partially due other factors, including education. Per capita retail expenditures are roughly proportional to per capita income, as compared to national averages, albeit with lower per capita income. Polk County also has higher than average poverty, with 14.0% (down 1.7%) of the population living in poverty, as compared to 12.7% (unchanged since 2020) and 11.4% (up 0.9%) in the state and nation, respectively. There is wide variation among the cities as well, with poverty reaching a high of 21.1% in Haines City and low of 10.7% in Davenport. This economic stimulus and enhanced unemployment benefits of the past 18 months have contributed to some of the changes in poverty levels, we will have to wait and see next year's numbers for a better understanding of the true poverty levels.

Summary

Overall, Polk County, like much of the nation, is still in a recovery mode from the impacts of COVID-19. While the state reopened and ended enhanced unemployment benefits earlier than other states, we have yet to see the true impact of those decisions and our recovery efforts. The impacts will continue to ripple for many months and perhaps years as the supply chain and select industries may be forever changed. Households should expect to see the impacts of higher than normal inflation, labor market pressures and changing industries on the cost and availability of goods and services for some time.

Census QuickFacts 2021

	Polk county	Florida	United States	Auburdale	Bartow	Davenport	Fort Meade	Haines City	Lake Alfred	Lakeland	Lake Wales	Winter Haven
Population												
Population estimates, July 1, 2019, (V2019)	724,777	21,477,737	328,239,523	16,650	20,147	6,005	6,257	26,009	6,257	112,136	16,759	44,955
Population estimates base, April 1, 2010, (V2019)	602,073	18,804,564	308,758,105	13,455	17,172	2,913	5,627	20,404	4,917	97,270	14,154	34,624
Population, percent change - April 1, 2010 (estimates base) to July 1, 2019, (V2019)	20.40%	14.20%	6.30%	23.70%	17.30%	106.10%	11.20%	27.50%	27.30%	15.30%	16.40%	29.80%
Population, Census, April 1, 2020	725,046	21,538,187	331,449,281	15,616	19,309	9,043	5,100	26,669	6,374	112,641	16,361	49,219
Age												
Persons under 5 years, percent	5.70%	5.30%	6.00%	6.40%	6.80%	7.20%	7.50%	7.10%	6.00%	4.90%	6.20%	6.80%
Persons under 18 years, percent	22.00%	19.70%	22.30%	25.10%	26.20%	27.10%	23.00%	28.50%	19.30%	23.60%	21.40%	21.40%
Persons 65 years and over, percent	20.40%	20.90%	16.50%	17.00%	16.00%	13.00%	20.80%	13.80%	18.80%	22.20%	22.90%	25.30%
Gender, Race, Military and Foreign Born												
Female persons, percent												
White alone, percent	51.00%	51.10%	50.80%	52.20%	51.30%	51.50%	50.70%	51.90%	52.70%	52.60%	54.90%	53.90%
Black or African American alone, percent	78.80%	77.30%	76.30%	83.90%	83.90%	68.50%	77.10%	74.40%	62.30%	67.30%	68.70%	67.80%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent	16.20%	16.30%	13.40%	13.50%	21.90%	21.90%	16.80%	20.50%	22.70%	20.50%	16.00%	25.60%
Asian alone, percent	0.70%	0.50%	1.30%	0.20%	0.20%	0.00%	0.40%	0.30%	0.40%	0.40%	0.10%	0.40%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent	1.90%	3.00%	5.90%	0.70%	2.60%	0.90%	0.10%	0.60%	7.40%	2.20%	0.30%	1.90%
Two or More Races, percent	2.30%	2.20%	2.80%	1.00%	4.40%	2.90%	1.20%	3.90%	1.80%	2.90%	3.40%	2.70%
Hispanic or Latino, percent	24.60%	26.40%	18.50%	15.90%	18.40%	44.30%	27.30%	43.80%	9.40%	16.40%	18.80%	16.30%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent	56.90%	53.20%	60.10%	68.90%	54.70%	37.80%	51.20%	26.90%	57.20%	59.70%	53.30%	54.60%
Veterans, 2015-2019	48,684	1,440,338	18,230,322	991	1,299	117	443	841	656	7,834	1,591	3,866
Foreign born persons, percent, 2015-2019	10.00%	20.70%	13.60%	6.90%	7.10%	13.30%	10.30%	18.00%	13.40%	10.90%	8.10%	6.80%
Households												
Housing units, July 1, 2019, (V2019)	304,429	9,673,682	139,684,244	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Owner-occupied housing unit rate, 2015-2019	68.90%	65.40%	68.00%	66.50%	58.90%	90.20%	77.30%	56.10%	71.50%	55.60%	53.80%	59.40%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2015-2019	\$150,800	\$215,300	\$217,500	\$180,800	\$137,100	\$175,000	\$77,900	\$141,400	\$142,700	\$149,500	\$167,400	\$154,100
Median selected monthly owner costs -with a mortgage, 2015-2019	\$1,251	\$1,503	\$1,595	\$1,310	\$1,272	\$1,092	\$384	\$1,235	\$1,334	\$1,239	\$1,304	\$1,294
Median selected monthly owner costs -without a mortgage, 2015-2019	\$423	\$505	\$500	\$399	\$388	\$351	\$394	\$481	\$422	\$422	\$502	\$436
Median gross rent, 2015-2019	\$978	\$1,175	\$1,062	\$888	\$841	\$1,451	\$771	\$1,024	\$884	\$999	\$821	\$961
Building permits, 2020	9,492	164,074	1,471,141	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Households, 2015-2019	235,283	7,736,311	120,756,048	5,267	6,633	1,394	2,046	7,064	2,087	41,276	5,917	15,520
Persons per household, 2015-2019	2.86	2.65	2.62	2.97	2.84	3.31	2.97	3.39	2.77	2.5	2.64	2.62
Living in same house 1 year ago, percent of persons age 1 year+, 2015-2019	85.30%	84.50%	85.80%	86.50%	86.40%	93.60%	87.70%	88.90%	86.40%	78.90%	82.00%	83.00%
Language other than English spoken at home, percent of persons age 5 years+, 2015-2019	22.30%	29.40%	21.60%	15.00%	15.60%	46.90%	24.30%	48.30%	18.10%	16.70%	17.80%	17.10%
Education												
High school graduate or higher, percent of persons age 25 years+, 2015-2019	85.00%	88.20%	88.00%	84.40%	87.30%	83.00%	81.50%	81.00%	81.60%	88.00%	81.50%	87.20%
Bachelor's degree or higher, percent of persons age 25 years+, 2015-2019	20.20%	29.90%	32.10%	21.40%	19.90%	23.10%	12.00%	15.00%	19.80%	25.90%	21.40%	19.70%
Medical												
With a disability, under age 65 years, percent, 2015-2019	10.50%	8.60%	8.60%	10.00%	11.20%	15.20%	14.90%	6.90%	11.30%	9.90%	10.60%	11.50%
Persons without health insurance, under age 65 years, percent	17.10%	16.30%	10.20%	14.60%	11.50%	10.80%	18.10%	20.00%	9.30%	12.50%	14.90%	17.70%
Business/Economy												
In civilian labor force, total, percent of population age 16 years+, 2015-2019	55.10%	58.50%	63.00%	58.80%	58.70%	62.40%	50.50%	58.40%	60.80%	55.00%	55.60%	49.50%
In civilian labor force, female, percent of population age 16 years+, 2015-2019	50.20%	54.30%	58.30%	53.00%	53.00%	51.80%	45.40%	53.00%	58.10%	49.80%	55.40%	45.20%
Total accommodation and food services sales, 2012 (\$1,000)	797,909	49,817,925	708,138,598	28,100	44,289	45,164	3,311	30,971	2,551	294,224	38,539	90,692
Total health care and social assistance receipts/revenue, 2012 (\$1,000)	3,015,202	124,061,425	2,040,441,203	35,440	203,167	171,765	D	55,980	D	1,584,912	144,859	666,038
Total manufacturers shipments, 2012 (\$1,000)	9,822,165	96,924,106	5,696,729,632	D	1,457,324	D	X	196,122	D	1,614,707	D	293,409
Total retail sales, 2012 (\$1,000)	6,495,278	273,867,145	4,119,821,871	267,364	469,543	248,042	58455	304,884	63203	2,282,015	448,996	801,826
Total retail sales per capita, 2012	10,542	14,177	13,443	19,210	26,580	83,364	10,177	14,513	12,344	22,820	30,544	22,926
Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16 years+, 2015-2019	528	528	527	532	521	535	524	531	528	522	525	527
Median household income (in 2019 dollars), 2015-2019	50584	55660	62843	54066	47779	48182	44325	44279	51563	47511	44186	46669
Per capita income in past 12 months (in 2019 dollars), 2015-2019	\$24,864	\$31,619	\$34,103	\$24,464	\$22,524	\$23,848	\$22,566	\$18,455	\$25,499	\$28,042	\$21,850	\$25,753
Persons in poverty, percent	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Total employer establishments, 2019	1216100.00%	57451200.00%	795910300.00%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Total employment, 2019	195,939	8,860,042	132,989,428	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Total annual payroll, 2019 (\$1,000)	8,216,819	426,908,310	7,428,553,593	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Total employment, percent change, 2018-2019	0	0	0	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Total nonemployer establishments, 2018	4961900.00%	238805000.00%	2648553200.00%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
All firms, 2012	44,644	2,100,187	27,626,360	1280	1123	1168	210	1973	551	9037	1413	3727
Men-owned firms, 2012	22,629	1,084,885	14,844,597	635	539	666	70	824	310	4,309	673	1,985
Women-owned firms, 2012	16,894	807,817	9,878,397	426	375	400	92	911	154	3,531	507	1,316
Minority-owned firms, 2012	15,294	926,112	7,952,386	326	399	406	66	1305	130	2,692	494	1,528
Nonminority-owned firms, 2012	27,856	1,121,749	18,987,918	853	600	711	130	613	365	5,785	823	1,974
Veteran-owned firms, 2012	4,415	185,756	2,521,682	54	67	110	53	147	F	878	104	391
Nonveteran-owned firms, 2012	38,188	1,846,686	24,070,685	1125	892	983	138	1743	456	7614	1145	3084
Population per square mile, 2010												
Land area in square miles, 2010	1797.84	53624.76	3531905.43	13.49	45.87	3.22	5.04	18.39	9.28	65.27	18.69	31.30
FIPS Code	"12105"	"12"	"1"	"1202550"	"1203675"	"1216450"	"1224100"	"1238400"	"1237525"	"1238250"	"1238950"	"1278275"
FIPS Code	"12105"	"12"	"1"	"1202550"	"1203675"	"1216450"	"1224100"	"1238400"	"1237525"	"1238250"	"1238950"	"1278275"

Value Notes

⚠ This geographic level of poverty and health estimates is not comparable to other geographic levels of these estimates

Some estimates presented here come from sample data, and thus have sampling errors that may render some apparent differences between geographies statistically indistinguishable. Click the Quick Info icon to the left of each row in TABLE view to learn about sampling error.

The vintage year (e.g., V2015) refers to the final year of the series (2010 thru 2016). Different vintage years of estimates are not comparable.

Fact Notes

- (a) Includes persons reporting only one race
- (b) Hispanics may be of any race, so also are included in applicable race categories
- (c) Economic Census - Puerto Rico data are not comparable to U.S. Economic Census data

Value Flags

- Either no or too few sample observations were available to compute an estimate, or a ratio of medians cannot be calculated because one or both of the median estimates falls in the lowest or upper interval of an open ended distribution.

D Suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information

F Fewer than 25 firms

FN Footnote on this item in place of data

NA Not available

S Suppressed; does not meet publication standards

X Not applicable

Z Value greater than zero but less than half unit of measure shown

QuickFacts data are derived from: Population Estimates, American Community Survey, Census of Population and Housing, Current Population Survey, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, State and County Housing Unit Estimates, County Business Patterns, Nonemployer Statistics, Economic Census, Survey of Business Owners, Building Permits.