



Industry Spotlight

Total - All Industries

Polk County, Florida



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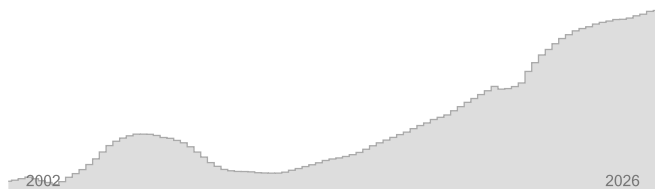
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Spotlight Summary

Total - All Industries

Polk County, Florida – 2026Q1

EMPLOYMENT



293,167

Regional employment / 167,093,015 in the nation

WAGES



\$56,030

Avg Wages per Worker / \$77,110 in the nation

2.7% ↑

Avg Ann % Change Last 10 Years / +1.0% in the U.S.



100.0%

% of Total Employment / 100.0% in the U.S.

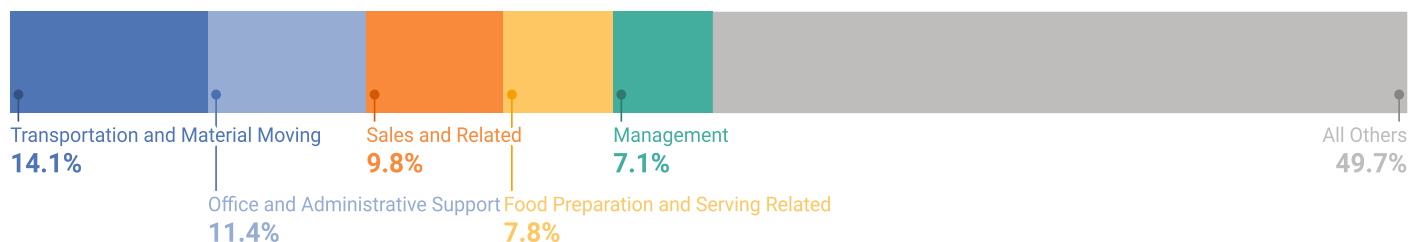


3.8% ↑

Avg Ann % Change Last 10 Years / +4.1% in the U.S.



TOP OCCUPATION GROUPS



TOP INDUSTRIES

Avg Ann % Change in Employment, Last 10 Years

3.1 % ↑



Health Care and Social Assistance

8.2 % ↑



Transportation and Warehousing

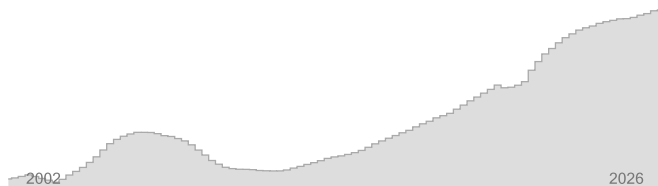
1.8 % ↑



Retail Trade

Industry Snapshot

EMPLOYMENT



WAGES

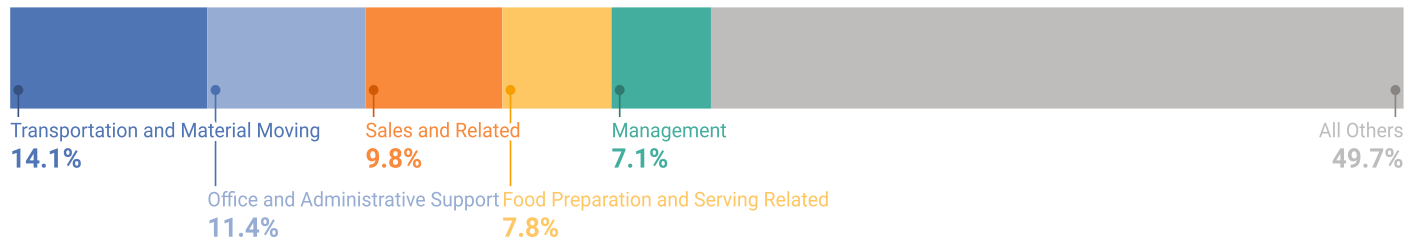


2-Digit Industry	Empl	Avg Ann Wages	LQ	5yr History	Annual Demand	Forecast Ann Growth
Health Care and Social Assistance	38,568	\$63,467	0.84		4,766	2.4%
Transportation and Warehousing	34,105	\$54,601	2.30		4,329	2.0%
Retail Trade	33,775	\$40,006	1.20		5,165	1.8%
Accommodation and Food Services	22,747	\$26,986	0.89		4,450	2.1%
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	22,115	\$41,999	1.26		2,905	1.9%
Educational Services	20,498	\$49,035	0.86		2,271	1.6%
Construction	20,298	\$62,297	1.15		2,140	2.2%
Manufacturing	20,157	\$75,039	0.89		2,378	1.9%
Public Administration	12,993	\$65,876	0.95		1,440	2.0%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	12,873	\$41,487	1.03		1,727	2.1%
Remaining Component Industries	55,040	\$75,031	0.75		6,309	2.0%
Total - All Industries	293,167	\$56,030	1.00		37,513	2.0%

💡 Employment is one of the broadest and most timely measures of a region's economy. Fluctuations in the number of jobs shed light on the health of an industry. A growing employment base creates more opportunities for regional residents and helps a region grow its population.

💡 Since wages and salaries generally compose the majority of a household's income, the annual average wages of a region affect its average household income, housing market, quality of life, and other socioeconomic indicators.

Staffing Pattern

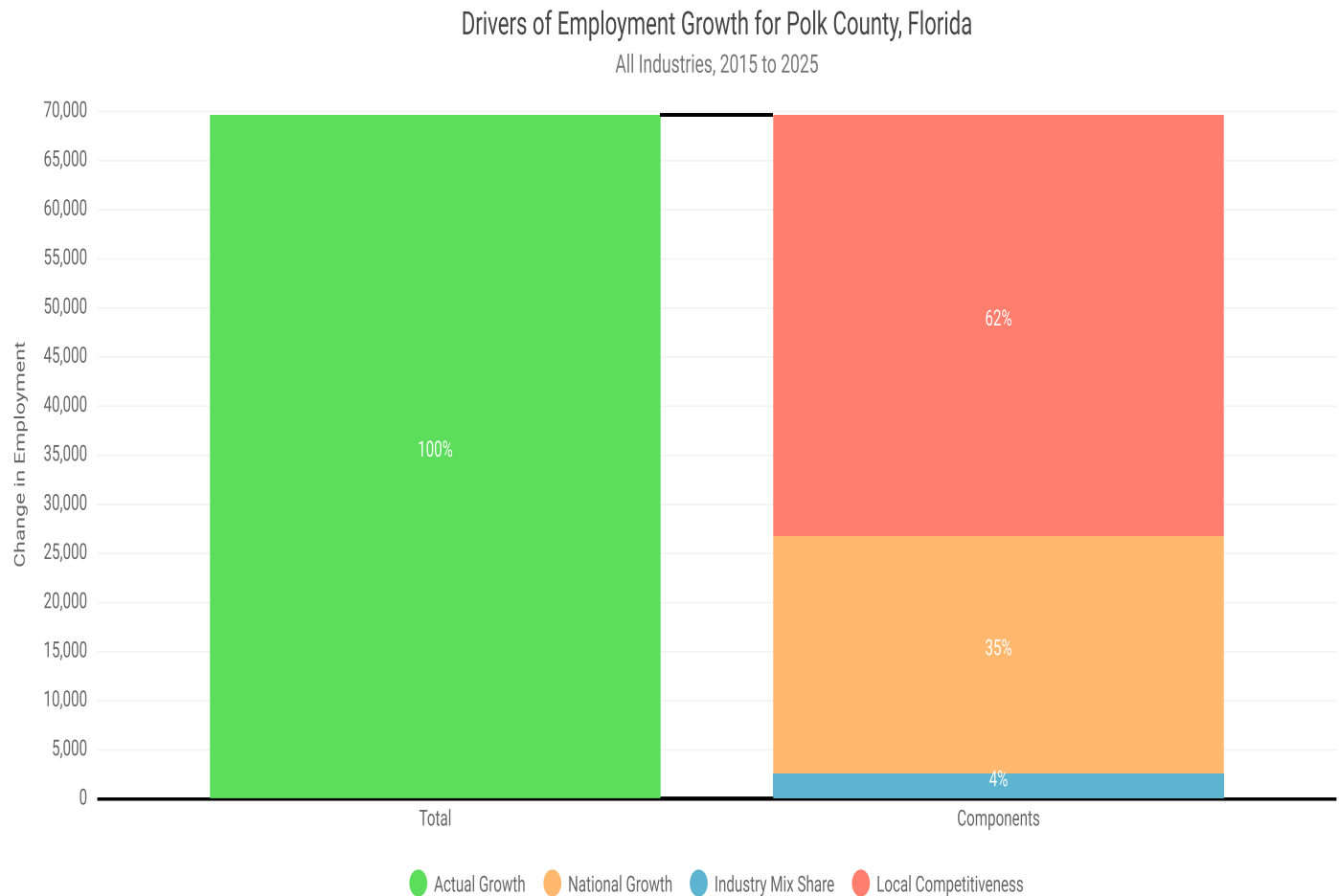


6-digit Occupation	Empl	Avg Ann Wages	Annual Demand
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	9,316	\$41,900	1,432
Stockers and Order Fillers	8,788	\$43,100	1,698
Retail Salespersons	8,598	\$35,000	1,465
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	8,051	\$59,400	1,053
Fast Food and Counter Workers	7,166	\$30,400	1,917
Cashiers	5,916	\$31,000	1,231
General and Operations Managers	5,824	\$118,700	614
Registered Nurses	5,753	\$86,300	429
Customer Service Representatives	5,449	\$43,800	808
Office Clerks, General	4,707	\$46,400	631
Remaining Component Occupations	223,599	\$72,000	28,844
Total	293,167		

 The mix of occupations points to the ability of a region to support an industry and its flexibility to adapt to future demand. Industry wages are a component of the cost of labor for regional employers.

Drivers of Employment Growth

Over the ten years ending 2025, employment in Total - All Industries for Polk County, Florida added 69,579 jobs. After adjusting for national growth during this period and industry mix share, the part of this employment change due to local competitiveness was a gain of 42,889 jobs—meaning this industry was more competitive than its national counterpart during this period.



Source: JobsEQ®
Data as of 2025Q4

- Shift-share analysis sheds light on the factors that drive regional employment growth in an industry. A positive change in local competitiveness indicates advantages that may be due to factors such as superior technology, management, and labor pool, etc.
- National growth is due to the overall growth or contraction in the national economy. Industry mix share is the growth attributable to the specific industries examined (based on national industry growth patterns and the industry mix of the region).

Employment Distribution by Type

The table below shows the employment mix by ownership type for Total - All Industries for Polk County, Florida. Four of these ownership types — federal, state, and local government and the private sector — together constitute “Covered Employment” (employment covered by the Unemployment Insurance programs of the United States and reported via the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages).

“Self-Employment” refers to unincorporated self-employment and represents workers whose primary job is self-employment (that is, these data do not include workers whose primary job is a wage-and-salary position that is supplemented with self-employment).



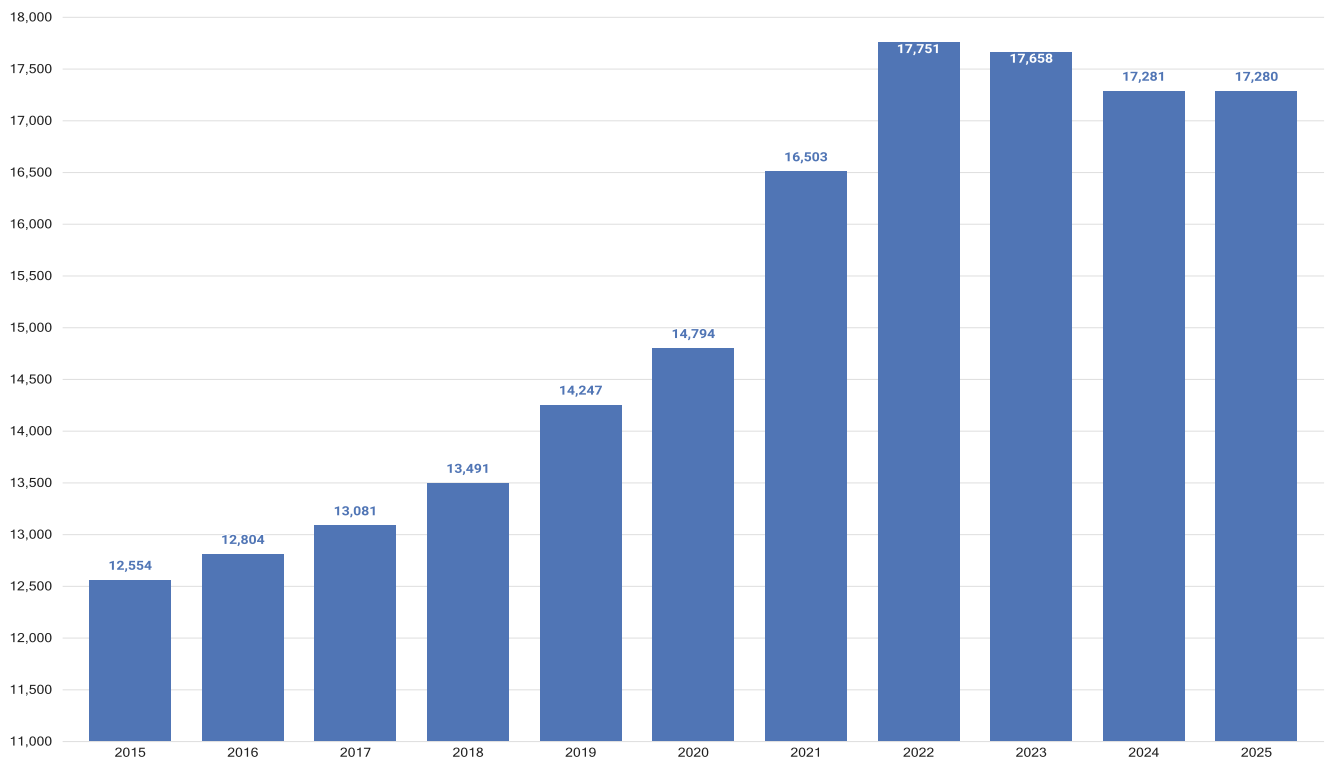
	Empl	%
Private	235,824	80.4%
Self-Employment	24,061	8.2%
Local Government	23,216	7.9%
State Government	4,939	1.7%
Federal Government	1,467	0.5%
Other Non-Covered	3,660	1.2%

Source: JobsEQ®

💡 Strong entrepreneurial activity is indicative of growing industries. Using self-employment as a proxy for entrepreneurs, a higher share of self-employed individuals within a regional industry points to future growth.

Establishments

In 2025, there were 17,280 Total - All Industries establishments in Polk County, Florida (per covered employment establishment counts), an increase from 12,554 establishments ten years earlier in 2015.



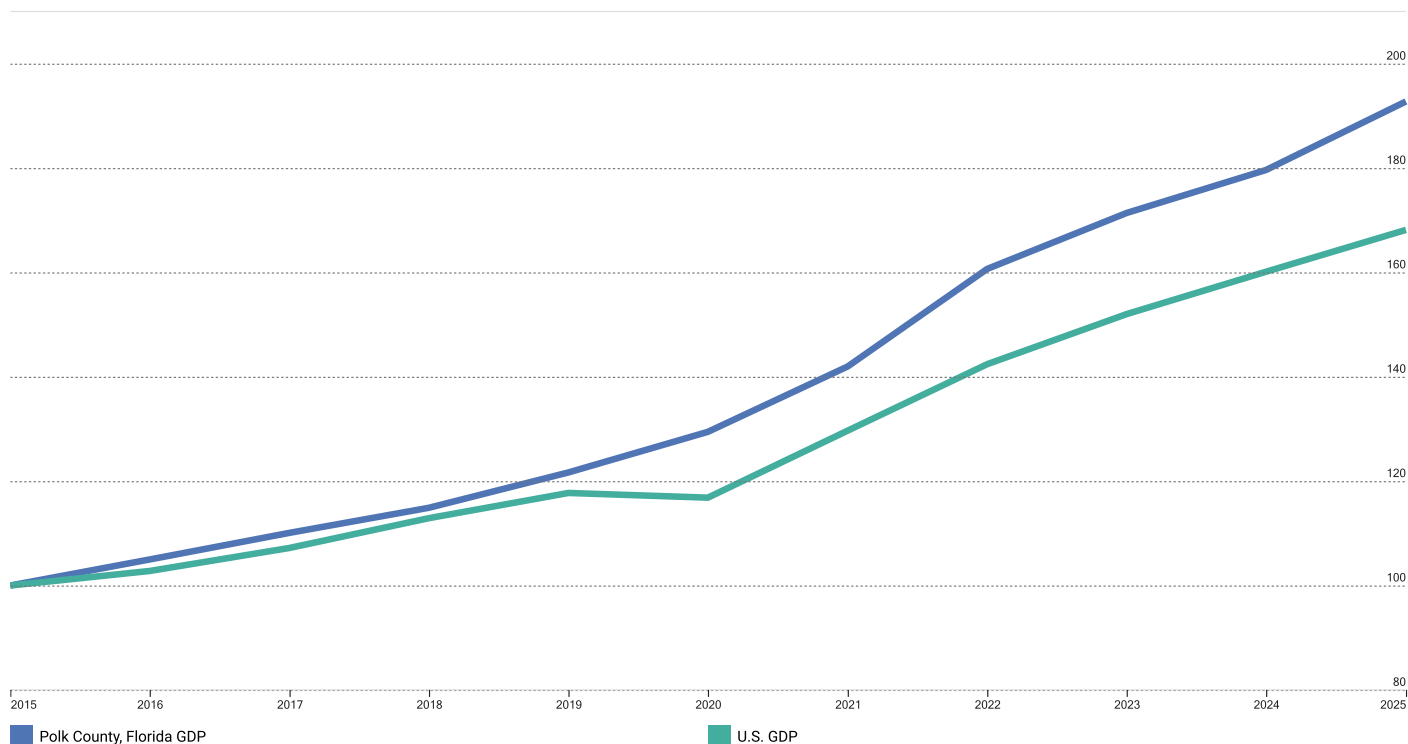
Source: JobsEQ®

💡 New business formations are an important source of job creation in a regional economy, spurring innovation and competition, and driving productivity growth. Establishment data can provide an indicator of growth in businesses by counting each single location (such as a factory or a store) where business activity takes place, and with at least one employee.

GDP & Productivity

In 2025, Total - All Industries produced \$37 billion in GDP for Polk County, Florida.

GDP: Indexed 2015 = 100



100.0 %

Industry Share of Total GDP /
100.0 % in the nation



6.8 % ↑

Avg Ann % Change Last 10 Yrs /
5.3 % in the nation



\$229k

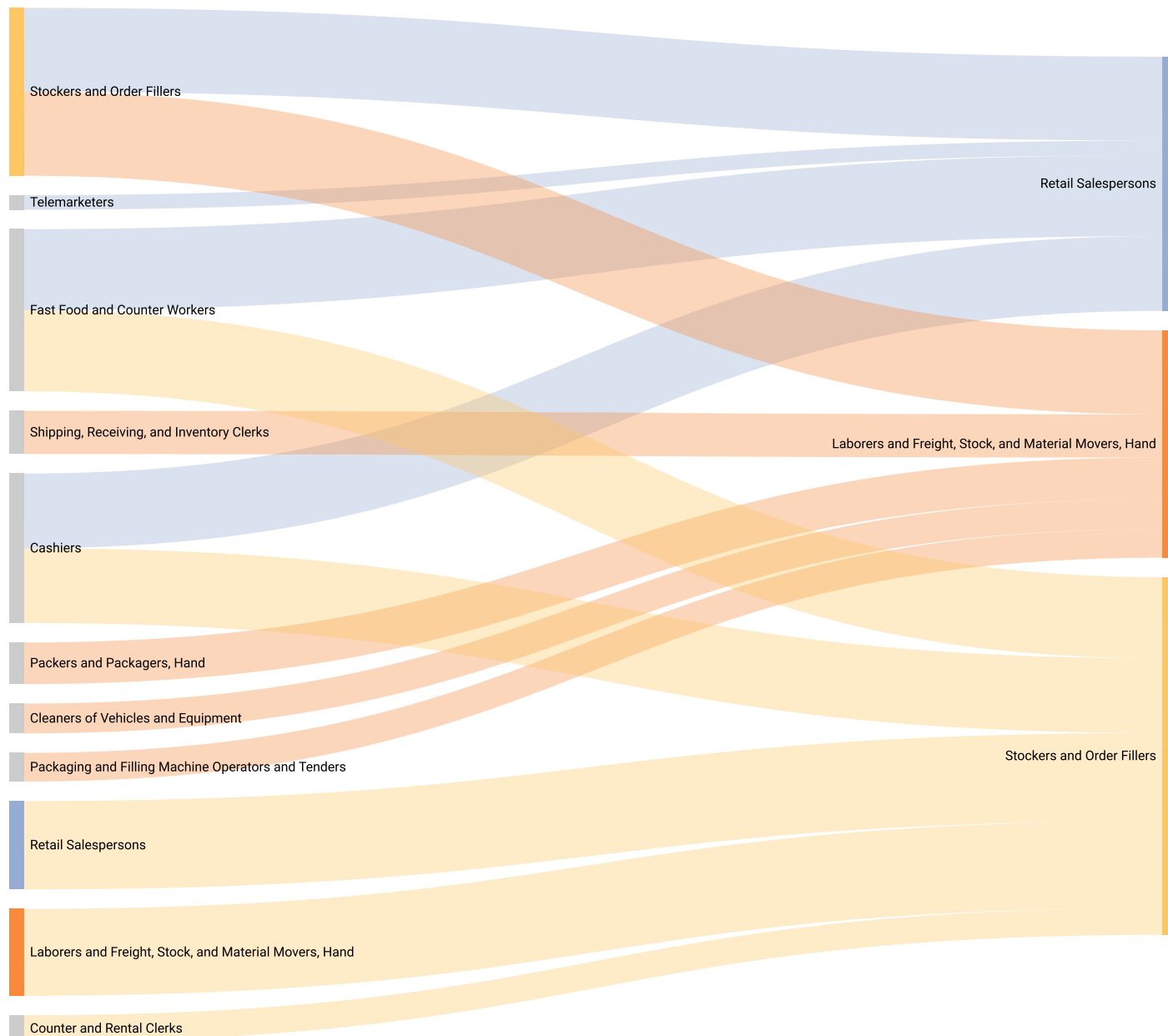
Output per Worker /
\$313k in the nation



💡 Gross domestic product (GDP) is the most comprehensive measure of regional economic activity, and an industry's contribution to GDP is an important indicator of regional industry strength. It is a measure of total value-added to a regional economy in the form of labor income, proprietor's income, and business profits, among others. GDP values shown on this page are nominal GDP data.

💡 Growth in productivity (output per worker) leads to increases in wealth and higher average standards of living in a region.

Sector Strategy Pathways



 The graphics on this page illustrate relationships and potential movement (from left to right) between occupations that share similar skill sets. Developing career pathways as a strategy promotes industry employment growth and workforce engagement.

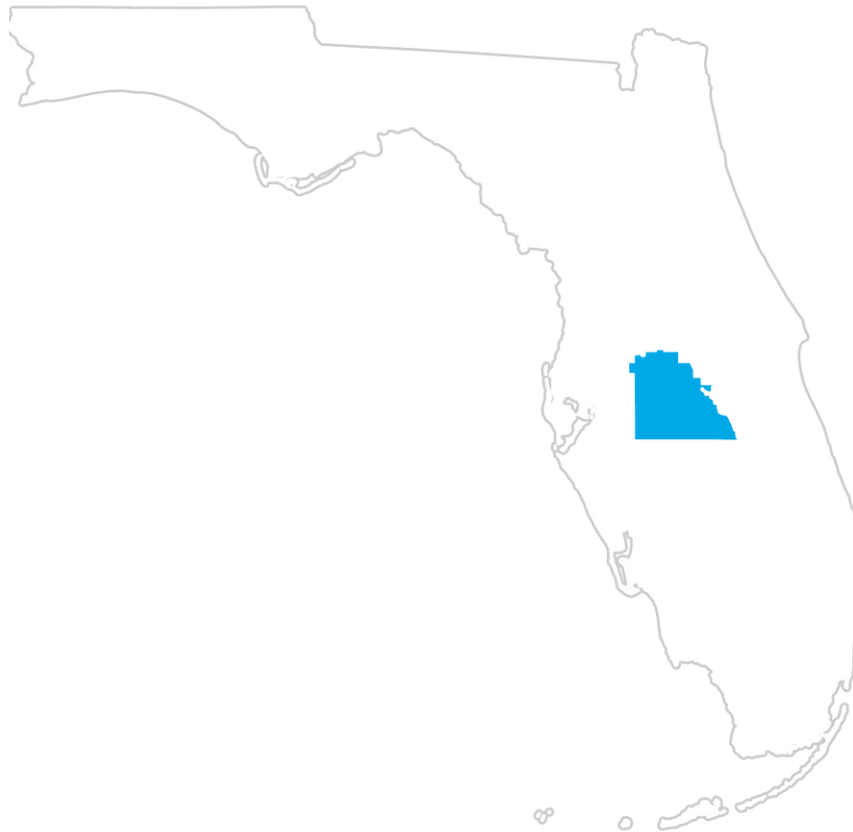
Postsecondary Programs Linked to Total - All Industries

Program	Awards
Artistic Nails and Beauty Academy-Lakeland	
Cosmetology and Related Personal Grooming Arts, Other	47
Empire Beauty School-Lakeland	
Cosmetology/Cosmetologist, General	69
Polk State College	
Business Administration, Management and Operations, Other	192
Liberal Arts and Sciences/Liberal Studies	794
Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse	202
Ridge Technical College	
Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurse Training	40
Ruben's Five Star Academy	
Barbering/Barber	23
Southeastern University	
Divinity/Ministry	432
Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse	45
Traviss Technical College	
Phlebotomy Technician/Phlebotomist	103

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

-  The number of graduates from postsecondary programs in the region identifies the pipeline of future workers as well as the training capacity to support industry demand.
-  Among postsecondary programs at schools located in Polk County, Florida, the sampling above identifies those most linked to occupations relevant to Total - All Industries. For a complete list see JobsEQ®, <http://www.chmuraecon.com/jobseq>

Polk County, Florida Regional Map



Data Notes

- Industry employment and wages (including total regional employment and wages) are as of 2026Q1 and are based upon BLS QCEW data, imputed by Chmura where necessary, and supplemented by additional sources including Census ZBP data. Employment forecasts are modeled by Chmura and are consistent with BLS national-level 10-year forecasts.
- Occupation employment is as of 2026Q1 and is based on industry employment and local staffing patterns calculated by Chmura and utilizing BLS OEWS data. Wages by occupation are as of 2026, utilizing BLS OEWS data and imputed by Chmura.
- GDP is derived from BEA data and imputations by Chmura. Productivity (output per worker) is calculated by Chmura using industry employment and wages as well as GDP and BLS output data. Supply chain modeling including purchases by industry are developed by Chmura.
- Postsecondary awards are per the NCES and are for the 2023-2024 academic year.
- Establishment counts are per the BLS QCEW data.
- Figures may not sum due to rounding.

FAQ

What is (LQ) location quotient?

Location quotient 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 annual demand?

Annual demand is a of the sum of the annual projected growth demand and 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. Growth demand is the increase or decrease of jobs expected due to expansion or contraction of the overall number of jobs.

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.