

Polk County Economy at a Glance

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The unemployment rate in Polk County has reached the upper limit of the normal range at 5.0%, slightly above the rate of 4.7% from July 2024. The labor market has settled a bit with employment levels remaining mostly unchanged first part of the year and unemployment rising slightly. In comparison with where we stood at this point in 2019 (pre-pandemic), our Labor Force grew by 19.4%, Employment grew by 18.3%, while Unemployment is up by 45.6%. Over the past 12 months, we saw job expansion in most industries, with the largest growth coming from Education and Health Services (+5.1%). While we did not see contraction in any industries, we did see zero growth in Information, and Financial Activities.

Polk County Employment (Employment in Thousands, Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	July 2025	June 2025	May 2025	April 2025	March 2025
Labor Force Data					
Civilian Labor Force	362.1	359.3	359	359.5	359
Employment	343.9	341.6	343.5	344.4	343.8
Unemployment	18.2	17.8	15.5	15.1	15.3
Unemployment Rate	5.0	4.9	4.3	4.2	4.3
Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment					
Total Nonfarm	275.5	275.4	279.5	279	278.4
12-month % change	1.9	1.3	1.5	1	0.8
Mining, Logging, and Construction	16.8	16.7	16.9	16.6	16.7
12-month % change	1.8	1.2	2.4	1.2	0
Manufacturing	20.1	20.1	20.3	19.9	20
12-month % change	1.5	1.5	2.5	0.5	0.5
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	76.5	76.3	76.1	76.2	76.2
12-month % change	2.3	1.9	2	1.7	1.9
Information	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.5
12-month % change	0.0	0	4.3	4.3	4.2
Financial Activities	15.8	15.7	15.7	15.7	15.7
12-month % change	0.0	0	-0.6	-1.3	-1.9
Professional and Business Services	39.0	38.9	39	39.2	38.7
12-month % change	0.5	-2.3	-2.5	-2.5	-1.5
Education and Health Services	43.1	42.9	43.4	43.1	42.8
12-month % change	5.1	5.4	5.3	4.6	4.1
Leisure and Hospitality	26.4	26.7	27	27	26.8
12-month % change	1.5	0.4	1.1	-0.7	-2.9
Other Services	8.0	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1
12-month % change	0.0	0	0	0	0
Government	27.4	27.6	30.6	30.8	30.9
12-month % change	0.7	1.1	0.7	2	2.3
Footnotes					
(p) Preliminary					

10 Year Employment Trends, by Industry



