

Highlands County

Florida's 36th most populous county
with 0.5% of Florida's population



Population

Census Population	Highlands County	Florida
1980 Census	47,526	9,746,961
1990 Census	68,432	12,938,071
2000 Census	87,366	15,982,824
2010 Census	98,786	18,801,332
2020 Census	101,235	21,538,187
% change 2010-2020	2.5%	14.6%
Age		
% Under 18 years of age	17.5%	19.5%
% Aged 65 and over	35.1%	21.2%
% Median age	54.7	43.0
Gender		
% Male	48.3%	48.6%
% Female	51.7%	51.4%
Race (alone) & Ethnicity		
% Not Hispanic-White	64.7%	51.5%
% Not Hispanic-Black or African American	9.4%	14.5%
% Not Hispanic-American Indian and Alaska Native	0.3%	0.2%
% Not Hispanic-Asian	1.6%	2.9%
% Not Hispanic-Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.1%
% Not Hispanic-Some Other Race	0.3%	0.6%
% Not Hispanic-Two or More Races	3.0%	3.7%
% Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	20.7%	26.5%

Population Estimates

	Highlands County	Florida
2021 Estimate	102,065	21,898,945
% change 2020-2021	0.8%	1.7%
2022 Estimate	103,102	22,276,132
% change 2020-2022	1.8%	3.4%
2023 Estimate	104,385	22,634,867
% change 2020-2023	3.1%	5.1%
2024 Estimate	106,109	23,014,551
% change 2020-2024	4.8%	6.9%
Based on 2023 Estimate		
2025	105,698	23,292,200
2030	108,324	24,698,545
2035	110,304	25,814,954
2040	111,994	26,682,030
2045	113,488	27,409,376
2050	114,889	28,065,018

Population Characteristics

	County	Florida
(% of total persons aged 5 and over)		
Speak only English	79.7%	69.9%
Speak a language other than English	20.3%	30.1%
Speak English "very well"	12.8%	18.0%
Place of birth		
Foreign born	10.8%	21.4%
Veteran status		
Civilian population 18 and over	11.0%	7.7%

Migration

Residence 1 Year Ago	Highlands County	Florida
Persons aged 1 and over		
Same house	88.1%	86.0%
Different house in the U.S.	11.3%	13.0%
Same county in Florida	5.3%	6.9%
Different county in Florida	3.7%	3.1%
Different county in another state	2.4%	3.0%
Abroad	0.6%	1.0%

Real Gross Domestic Product

Real GDP (Thousands of Chained 2017 Dollars)	Highlands County	Florida
2017 GDP	2,482,118	1,014,866,863
Percent of the State	0.2%	
2018 GDP	2,420,183	1,050,433,812
Percent of the State	0.2%	
2019 GDP	2,594,451	1,084,913,903
Percent of the State	0.2%	
2020 GDP	2,444,048	1,069,758,799
Percent of the State	0.2%	
2021 GDP	2,556,355	1,170,526,307
Percent of the State	0.2%	
2022 GDP	2,689,968	1,239,883,625
Percent of the State	0.2%	
2023 GDP	2,851,212	1,292,787,615
Percent of the State	0.2%	

Population by Housing Type

	Highlands County	Florida
Household Population	99,826	21,073,604
Household Population per Occupied Housing Unit	2.25	2.47
Group Quarters Population	1,409	464,583

Housing

Housing Counts	Highlands County	Florida
Housing units, 2020 Census	57,486	9,865,350
Occupied	44,376	8,529,067
Vacant	13,110	1,336,283

Building Permits

Units Permitted	Highlands County	Florida
2000	450	155,269
2010	154	38,679
2020	384	164,074
2021	644	213,494
2022	663	211,962
2023	712	193,788
2024	980	173,326

Density

Persons per square mile	Highlands County	Florida
2000	85.0	296.4
2010	97.2	350.6
2020	99.5	401.4
2023	102.6	421.9
2024	104.3	429.0

Households and Family Households

Households	Highlands County	Florida
Total households, 2000 Census	37,471	6,338,075
Family households, 2000 Census	25,794	4,210,760
% with own children under 18	29.0%	42.3%
Total households, 2010 Census	42,604	7,420,802
Family households, 2010 Census	28,027	4,835,475
% with own children under 18	28.4%	40.0%
Average Household Size, 2010 Census	2.28	2.48
Average Family Size, 2010 Census	2.74	3.01
Total households, 2020 Census	44,376	8,529,067
Family households, 2020 Census	28,256	5,571,482
% with own children under 18	27.1%	36.0%

According to Census definitions, a household includes all of the people who occupy a housing unit. The occupants may be a single family, one person living alone, two or more families living together, or any other group of related or unrelated people who share living quarters. A family includes a householder and one or more other people living in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.
Census counts may be corrected for Census Count Question Resolution (CQR).

Employment and Labor Force

Establishments	Highlands County	Florida	Establishments	Highlands County	Florida
2023			% of All Industries		
All industries	2,590	878,947	All industries	2,590	878,947
Natural Resource & Mining	171	5,771	Natural Resource & Mining	6.6%	0.7%
Construction	305	82,738	Construction	11.8%	9.4%
Manufacturing	69	25,599	Manufacturing	2.7%	2.9%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	509	151,500	Trade, Transportation and Utilities	19.7%	17.2%
Information	31	19,752	Information	1.2%	2.2%
Financial Activities	233	95,132	Financial Activities	9.0%	10.8%
Professional & Business Services	389	226,936	Professional & Business Services	15.0%	25.8%
Education & Health Services	367	100,498	Education & Health Services	14.2%	11.4%
Leisure and Hospitality	218	66,309	Leisure and Hospitality	8.4%	7.5%
Other Services	178	59,548	Other Services	6.9%	6.8%
Government	57	5,830	Government	2.2%	0.7%

Average Annual Employment	Highlands County	Florida	Average Annual Wage	Highlands County	Florida
% of All Industries, 2023			2023		
All industries	28,796	9,678,557	All industries	\$46,240	\$66,446
Natural Resource & Mining	6.0%	0.7%	Natural Resource & Mining	\$33,924	\$46,398
Construction	6.5%	6.5%	Construction	\$50,581	\$66,902
Manufacturing	2.3%	4.4%	Manufacturing	\$50,666	\$78,331
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	19.8%	20.2%	Trade, Transportation and Utilities	\$42,214	\$59,161
Information	0.6%	1.6%	Information	\$95,194	\$112,704
Financial Activities	3.2%	6.9%	Financial Activities	\$53,249	\$101,130
Professional & Business Services	8.4%	16.7%	Professional & Business Services	\$47,507	\$83,076
Education & Health Services	23.0%	15.1%	Education & Health Services	\$59,228	\$63,868
Leisure and Hospitality	12.7%	13.4%	Leisure and Hospitality	\$23,812	\$35,528
Other Services	2.4%	3.0%	Other Services	\$33,838	\$49,293
Government	14.9%	11.2%	Government	\$50,865	\$67,715

Industries may not add to the total due to confidentiality and unclassified.

Labor Force as Percent of Population	Highlands County	Florida	Unemployment Rate	Highlands County	Florida
Aged 18 and Older					
2000	47.0%	63.7%	2000	4.8%	3.7%
2010	45.7%	61.8%	2010	12.1%	10.8%
2020	40.3%	58.0%	2020	8.1%	8.0%
2021	40.6%	58.9%	2021	6.0%	4.7%
2022	41.5%	59.8%	2022	4.3%	3.0%
2023	43.1%	60.4%	2023	4.3%	2.9%
2024	41.8%	60.3%	2024	4.9%	3.4%

Income and Financial Health

Personal Income (\$000s)	Highlands County	Florida	Per Capita Personal Income	Highlands County	Florida
2000	\$1,791,095	\$471,588,082	2000	\$20,489	\$29,387
2010	\$2,864,231	\$730,690,145	2010	\$29,075	\$38,778
% change 2000-2010	59.9%	54.9%	% change 2000-2010	41.9%	32.0%
2020	\$3,914,564	\$1,220,782,745	2020	\$38,625	\$56,540
% change 2010-2020	36.7%	67.1%	% change 2010-2020	32.8%	45.8%
2021	\$4,285,757	\$1,358,786,260	2021	\$41,497	\$62,242
% change 2020-2021	9.5%	11.3%	% change 2020-2021	7.4%	10.1%
2022	\$4,381,923	\$1,436,107,237	2022	\$41,476	\$64,557
% change 2021-2022	2.2%	5.7%	% change 2021-2022	-0.1%	3.7%
2023	\$4,754,078	\$1,553,426,399	2023	\$44,177	\$68,703
% change 2022-2023	8.5%	8.2%	% change 2022-2023	6.5%	6.4%

Earnings by Place of Work (\$000s)	Highlands County	Florida	Median Income	Highlands County	Florida
2000	\$806,265	\$308,751,767	Median Household Income	\$55,581	\$71,711
2010	\$1,271,610	\$439,036,383	Median Family Income	\$65,774	\$86,127
% change 2000-2010	57.7%	42.2%			
2020	\$1,592,569	\$684,270,758			
% change 2010-2020	25.2%	55.9%			
2021	\$1,718,236	\$771,654,020			
% change 2020-2021	7.9%	12.8%			
2022	\$1,847,471	\$841,921,275			
% change 2021-2022	7.5%	9.1%			
2023	\$2,022,520	\$908,440,362			
% change 2022-2023	9.5%	7.9%			

Workers Aged 16 and Over	Highlands County	Florida	Personal Bankruptcy Filing Rate	Highlands County	Florida
Place of Work in Florida			(per 1,000 population)		
Worked outside county of residence	11.5%	17.2%	12-Month Period Ending December 31, 2023	1.02	1.20
Travel Time to Work			12-Month Period Ending December 31, 2024	1.70	1.53
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	23.1	28.0	State Rank	12	NA

NonBusiness Chapter 7 & Chapter 13

Reported County Government Revenues and Expenditures

Revenue 2021-22	Highlands County	Florida*	Expenditures 2021-22	Highlands County	Florida*
Total - All Revenue Account Codes (\$000s)	\$205,101.0	\$100,987,094.3	Total - All Expenditure Account Codes (\$000s)	\$169,251.62	\$87,375,419.16
Per Capita \$	\$1,989.30	\$4,753.99	Per Capita \$	\$1,641.59	\$4,113.22
% of Total	100.0%	100.0%	% of Total	100.0%	100.0%
General Government Taxes (\$000s)	\$67,928.8	\$38,773,224.6	General Government Services** (\$000s)	\$39,245.48	\$36,715,485.34
Per Capita \$	\$658.85	\$1,825.26	Per Capita \$	\$380.65	\$1,728.39
% of Total	33.1%	38.4%	% of Total	23.2%	42.0%
Permits, Fee, and Special Assessments (\$000s)	\$17,114.8	\$4,209,936.0	Public Safety (\$000s)	\$70,900.08	\$13,363,472.90
Per Capita \$	\$166.00	\$198.18	Per Capita \$	\$687.67	\$629.09
% of Total	8.3%	4.2%	% of Total	41.9%	15.3%
Intergovernmental Revenues (\$000s)	\$39,187.5	\$8,275,034.7	Physical Environment (\$000s)	\$13,611.39	\$5,823,076.34
Per Capita \$	\$380.08	\$389.55	Per Capita \$	\$132.02	\$274.12
% of Total	19.1%	8.2%	% of Total	8.0%	6.7%
Charges for Services (\$000s)	\$21,165.0	\$25,774,852.2	Transportation (\$000s)	\$25,471.08	\$6,146,973.86
Per Capita \$	\$205.28	\$1,213.35	Per Capita \$	\$247.05	\$289.37
% of Total	10.3%	25.5%	% of Total	15.0%	7.0%
Judgments, Fines, and Forfeits (\$000s)	\$704.0	\$2,289,306.5	Economic Environment (\$000s)	\$3,113.65	\$2,095,127.71
Per Capita \$	\$6.83	\$107.77	Per Capita \$	\$30.20	\$98.63
% of Total	0.3%	2.3%	% of Total	1.8%	2.4%
Miscellaneous Revenues (\$000s)	\$33,352.5	\$8,397,909.0	Human Services (\$000s)	\$4,886.16	\$4,845,695.64
Per Capita \$	\$323.49	\$395.33	Per Capita \$	\$47.39	\$228.11
% of Total	16.3%	8.3%	% of Total	2.9%	5.5%
Other Sources (\$000s)	\$25,648.5	\$13,267,031.3	Culture / Recreation (\$000s)	\$2,890.76	\$2,101,309.57
Per Capita \$	\$248.77	\$624.55	Per Capita \$	\$28.04	\$98.92
% of Total	12.5%	13.1%	% of Total	1.7%	2.4%
			Other Uses and Non-Operating (\$000s)	\$3,827.80	\$12,196,205.02
			Per Capita \$	\$37.13	\$574.14
			% of Total	2.3%	14.0%
			Court-Related Expenditures (\$000s)	\$5,305.22	\$4,088,072.79
			Per Capita \$	\$51.46	\$192.45
			% of Total	3.1%	4.7%

* All County Governments Except Duval - The consolidated City of Jacksonville / Duval County figures are included in municipal totals rather than county government totals.

** (Not Court-Related)

Quality of Life

Crime	Highlands County	Florida
Crime rate, 2020 (index crimes per 100,000 population)	2,084.2	2,158.0
Admissions to prison FY 2023-24	219	27,227
Admissions to prison per 100,000 population FY 2023-24	206.4	118.3

Health Insurance Status

Percent Insured by Age Group	Highlands County	Florida
Under 65 years	80.9%	86.1%
Under 19 years	90.6%	92.7%
18 to 64 years	77.6%	83.8%

Education

Public Education Schools	Highlands County School	Florida
Traditional Setting (2024-25)		
Total (state total includes special districts)	19	3,791
Elementary	11	1,868
Middle	4	562
Senior High	4	728
Combination	0	633
Educational attainment	Highlands County	Florida
Persons aged 25 and older		
% HS graduate or higher	86.4%	89.6%
% bachelor's degree or higher	19.7%	33.2%

State and Local Taxation

2024	Highlands County	Not County-Wide*
County	7.6000	
School	5.3440	
Municipal		1.2594
Special Districts		0.1966

*MSTU included in Not County-Wide "County" category

State Infrastructure

Transportation	Highlands County	Florida
State Highway		
Centerline Miles	132.5	12,189.9
Lane Miles	397.9	45,742.2
Conservation Land (land acres only)		
State-Owned (includes partially-owned)	62,164	5,689,323
% of Total Conservation Land (CL)	35.5%	54.9%
% of Total Area Land	9.6%	16.6%
% of Florida State-Owned CL	1.1%	

Other County Profiles

Criminal Justice County Profiles
School District Profiles

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