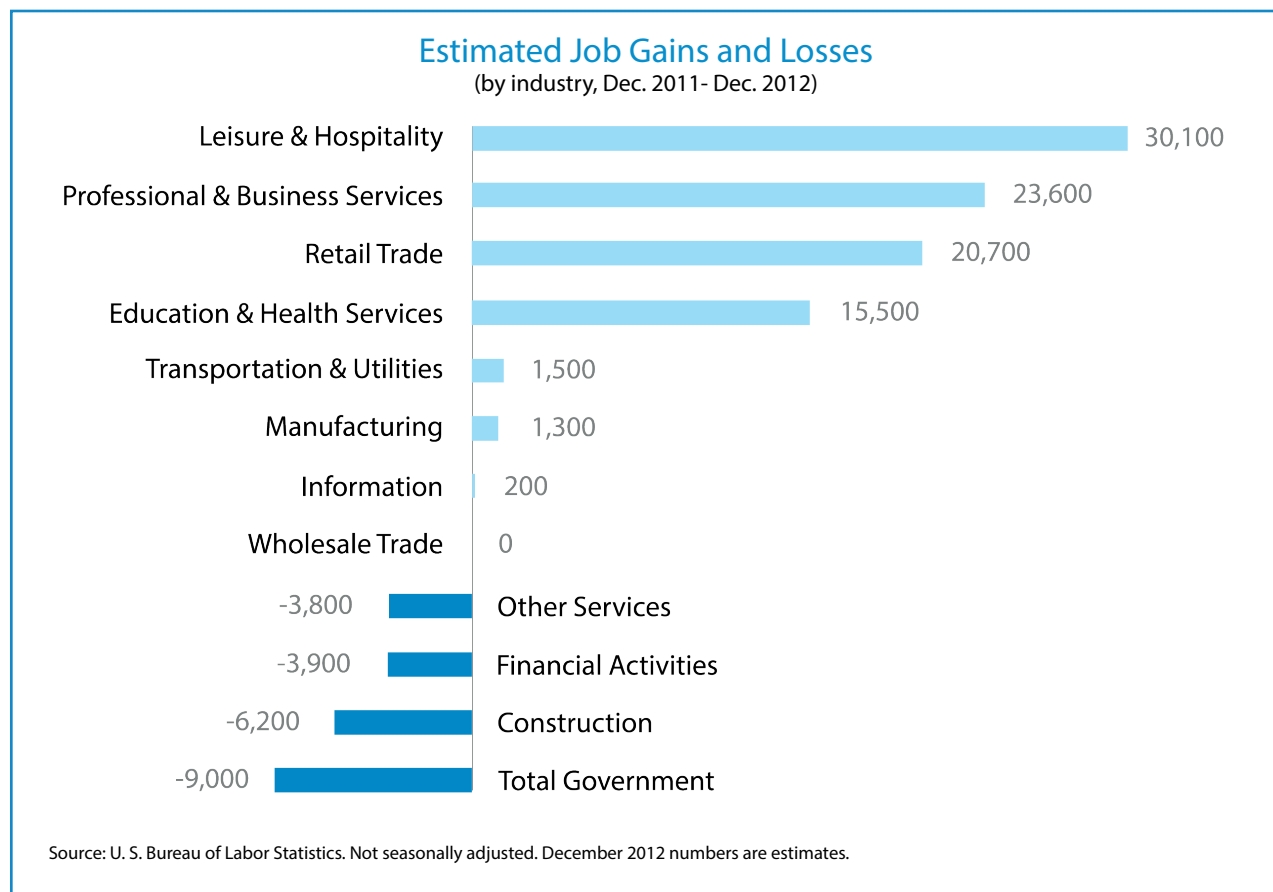


## Florida's 2012 Job Growth

The January 2012 *Economic Commentary*, "Florida's 2011 Job Growth," showed that Florida created more jobs in the prior year than all but two states, trailing only California and Texas. We revisit the analysis again (for December 2011- December 2012) to begin 2013, and discover that recently released estimates from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics show that Florida employment increased by 65,400<sup>1</sup> jobs during the past 12 months. In addition, a January 18 press release from that group reported that Florida experienced a 1.9 percentage point decrease in unemployment rates from December 2011 to December 2012, which is the second-largest drop in state unemployment rates in the U.S.<sup>2</sup>

The chart below shows the estimated number of jobs gained and lost in the major non-farm categories in Florida. These are calculated by subtracting the December 2011 job numbers from the December 2012 estimates.



<sup>1</sup> This paper uses non-seasonally adjusted data in every calculation

<sup>2</sup> The largest drop in unemployment rates was Nevada's, with a 2.8 percentage point drop.

The top sector in terms of estimated job gains for Florida over the past 12 months was Leisure and Hospitality. Professional and Business Services was the second-largest producer of new jobs for Florida last year, followed by Retail Trade, and Education and Health Services. In the other direction, the Total Government sector led the state in job loss, followed by the Construction industry.

## 2012 Job Gains

While a significant number of Florida's industries experienced positive job growth, the Leisure and Hospitality industry in particular experienced a substantial increase in job numbers – with Arts, Entertainment and Recreation showing a 3.4 percent, and Accommodation and Food Services posting a 3.1 percent increase respectively. The tourism sector is currently the largest employer of Floridians of any of the private, non-farm industries, as shown in the recently-published Florida TaxWatch study *Investing in Tourism*.<sup>3</sup>

The second-highest increase in Florida jobs during this period comes from the Professional and Business services sector, as all three sectors in this industry experienced growth. The Professional, Scientific and Technical Services sector within this category includes STEM, technical consulting, architecture, and legal jobs.

Manufacturing jobs also increased over 2012, good news for an industry key to Florida's competitiveness, as it provides higher than average wages and significant investment in research and development, as shown in a 2011 Florida TaxWatch *Research Report*.<sup>4</sup>

In the Education and Health Services industry, the Educational Services and Health Care and Social Assistance sectors have grown 0.69 percent and 1.49 percent respectively in the past year.

Both of these sectors are important to Florida's economy, as together they provide about 15 percent of all non-farm jobs in the state. Health Care and Social Assistance jobs showed the third-largest gains of the individual sectors over the past year.

Leisure and Hospitality	Dec. 2011	Dec. 2012	Change
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	187,500	193,800	6,300
Accommodation and Food Services	768,100	791,900	23,800

Professional and Business Services	Dec. 2011	Dec. 2012	Change
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	458,500	464,800	6,300
Management of Companies and Enterprises	82,800	85,400	2,600
Administrative and Support, Waste Management, Remediation	531,100	545,800	14,700

Manufacturing	Dec. 2011	Dec. 2012	Change
Manufacturing	314,000	315,300	1,300

Education and Health Services	Dec. 2011	Dec. 2012	Change
Educational Services	160,500	161,600	1,100
Health Care and Social Assistance	968,300	982,700	14,400

<sup>3</sup> Investing in Tourism: Analyzing the Economic Impact of Expanding Florida Tourism. Florida TaxWatch, January 2013.

<sup>4</sup> Manufacturing: An Economic Driver for Job's and Florida's Future. Florida TaxWatch, August 2011.

## 2012 Job Losses

The industry with the most job losses in 2012 was Total Government, where the largest number of jobs lost was in state government. State government also had the highest drop by percent (-2.16 percent) between the three classifications.

Still reeling from the Great Recession, Construction continues to be the most affected of the private sector industries, with a job loss of 6,200 jobs, approximately a 1.9 percent decrease.

## Conclusion

Fortunately for the state's economy, this year's analysis shows similar findings as the January 2011 *Economic Commentary*:<sup>5</sup> Florida has continued its recovery from its most recent recession, creating jobs in most of its private, non-farm sectors.

Increased jobs in these industries: Leisure and Hospitality; Professional Business Services; Retail Trade; and Education and Health Services dominate the other industries, accounting for an estimated 89,900 jobs created in 2012.

While there have been losses in some of the private sectors, such as Construction, Financial Activities, and Other Services, a large percentage of the job losses in Florida have come from the Total Government category, led by decreases in the State Government sector.

Overall, Florida had a good job creation record in 2012. The creation of 89,900 private, non-farm jobs in the sectors discussed above and the nearly 2 percentage point decline in unemployment starts the Sunshine State on the right path for another successful year in 2013.

Total Government	Dec. 2011	Dec. 2012	Change
Federal	133,900	132,300	-1,600
State	212,500	207,900	-4,600
Local	761,200	758,400	-2,800

<sup>5</sup> Florida's 2011 Job Growth. Economic Commentary, The Center for Competitive Florida, January 2012

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