

County's unemployment rate continues to improve

By Fred Hiers
Staff writer

Marion County's unemployment rate fell to 4.9 percent in August, down from 5.5 percent the same month a year ago, Florida's Department of Economic Opportunity reported on Friday. It also fell compared to July of this year.

Florida's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for August was 4.0 percent, down from August 2016 when it was 4.9 percent and down 0.1 percentage points from July 2017.

There were 408,000 jobless Floridians out of a labor force of 10.1 million, according to the state report. The U.S. unemployment rate

was 4.4 percent in August.

Meanwhile, Marion County's labor pool continued to grow in August, compared to August 2016, increasing to 135,917 people.

Of those, 129,229 were employed. In August 2016, there were 125,550 people working out of a labor pool of 133,694 people. In July 2017, the labor pool was 136,225 people. More than 129,300 were working

Unemployment in Marion County reached a high of 14.5 percent in August 2010 during the Great Recession.

Unemployment in neighboring counties reflected similar trends when compared to a year ago. Alachua County in August 2017 saw unemployment dip to 3.7 percent, down from August

2016's rate of 4.5 percent. Alachua County's labor force also grew in August by about 4,000 people compared with August 2016.

Citrus County's August 2017 unemployment rate was 5.9 percent compared with 7.1 percent in August 2016. The labor pool shrank by about 500 people during the period.

The same was true for Sumter County, which saw its August 2017 unemployment rate fall to 6.0 percent, 1.1 percentage points below that of August 2016's rate. That county's labor pool grew by about 900 people to 30,246.

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Football fans coming to town for Saturday's game may see a few changes, as well as some minor disruption as Gainesville resumes normalcy after Hurricane Irma blew through. [SUN FILE PHOTO]

A campus guide for UF visitors

By Deborah Strange
Staff writer

GAINESVILLE — Welcome back, Gator fans. Saturday is the University of Florida's first home football game of the season after last week's game against Northern Colorado was postponed. (Thanks, Hurricane Irma.)

The Gators will play the Ten-

one-gallon clear, resealable plastic storage bags; small clutch bags no larger than 4.5 inches-by-6.5 inches; and medically necessary items (after proper inspection).

GRU traffic disruptions

Work by Gainesville Regional Utilities on equipment damaged by Hurricane Irma could impact