



Grateful this Thanksgiving... Let Us Count the Ways

SUBMITTED BY COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER LAURA BYRNES, APR, CPRC

This month we gather together with grateful hearts to celebrate Thanksgiving, something for which we are not alone. Depending on your source, it appears that Thanksgiving, or a similarly named holiday, is celebrated in at least 10 other countries, of which at least four go full-on turkey.

Happily, we at CareerSource CLM can claim several reasons to be thankful that no one else can. This month I'll mention three.

Economic Progress

According to the most recent employment numbers available as of deadline, the jobless rate for Citrus County is 5.3 percent, down from 5.9 percent a year ago and down 0.3 percentage point over the month.

In August, Citrus County's labor force actually grew by 375 to 48,065, the number of employed rose by 493 to 45,457, while the number of unemployed fell by 118 to 2,608. That's an increase of 158 with jobs and a decrease of 238 unemployed.

If that seems less than jaw-dropping, consider that just five years ago, the unemployment rate was 8.5 percent and the number of our friends, neighbors and family members out of work was 4,782. That's a drop of nearly 50 percent.

Baby steps? Perhaps. But at a time we traditionally might experience a seasonal spike in unemployment, Citrus County was the only county in our region to hit the employment trifecta: expansion of labor force fueled by an increase in jobs accompanied by a drop in unemployment.

Nonfarm payroll employment in the Homosassa Springs metropolitan statistical area was 33,500, an incredible increase of 1,100 jobs over the month (+3.1 percent). Over the year, the Homosassa Springs MSA posted the fastest job growth rate compared to all other Florida metros in government at 4.7 percent.

Believe me, that's not just us; it is every business and every education, economic development, public and community partner rowing hard in the same direction.

CONNECTING BUSINESSES & PROFESSIONALS

Thanksgiving comes just once a year, but wouldn't you like to be thankful year round? No matter the season, we can help you hire the right candidates with the right skills at the right time – all at no charge. Solutions that work for you thanks to CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion and our affiliate Talent Center.

TALENT CENTER

CareerSource
CITRUS | LEVY | MARION

talentcenter.org 352.840.5762 careersourceclm.com 800.746.9950

CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion and the Talent Center, its affiliate in partnership with the College of Central Florida, are equal opportunity employers/programs. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to persons with disabilities and in Spanish. Phone numbers may be reached using TTY/TDD equipment via Florida Relay at 711. For accommodations, please call 800-434-5627, ext. 7878 or 844-364-9859, ext. 7879. Proud partners of the American Job Center network and members of CareerSource Florida.



Fee-Free Services

On any given day, there are more than 500 unduplicated jobs in Citrus County posted with us through Employ Florida. CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion offers free services to businesses and candidates.

Our public-private partnership is dedicated to meeting the workforce development and training needs in our community, ensuring businesses receive real-time viable solutions that meet their specific needs. That includes financial incentives, paid training options such as On-the-Job Training, Paid Work Experience, Adult Internships and Employed Worker Training. Additionally, we can provide specialized recruitment, Labor Market Information, customized hiring events and more.

Candidates can take advantage of our staff-assisted services (including assessment and services matching, career counseling, job search assistance and referral, resume assistance, interview practice sessions), and/or DIY options and our resource room, attend employability workshops, sign up for hot job alerts, take part in exclusive hiring events and career fairs.

We also have support services referrals, specialty programs such as Tobacco Cessation, and specialized services for youth, those with barriers to employment and veterans.

Workforce Development Professionals

Ask any member of our staff what gets them up every day and chances are you'll hear "because I can make a difference" or "because I can help change lives" or a variation of the same. Through professional experience and training, our team has the ability, passion and commitment to help businesses recruit, hire, train and retain talent and connect candidates with meaningful employment and career development opportunities.

You may not have a personal need for our services, but I'll bet someone at your Thanksgiving table may, or knows someone who does. Please let them know we can help. And for that, we are truly thankful.

Laura Byrnes, APR, CPRC, communications manager at CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion, is Accredited in Public Relations, a Certified Public Relations Counselor and a Florida Certified Workforce Professional.

She would love to hear from you and learn what kind of information you'd like to see each month.

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