

IN BRIEF

Sales, prices down for single-family homes in Marion County

The number of single-family homes sold in Marion County during February slipped more than 3 percent compared to the same month last year, according to a report from the Ocala/Marion County Association of Realtors. In February, Realtors sold 489 homes in Marion County, compared to 505 in February 2018. The average sales price fell by

more than 5 percent compared to last February. The average price for a single-family home came in at almost \$190,000, down from more than \$200,000 a year ago. The total value of the homes sold for the month was almost \$93 million, compared to more than \$101 million in 2018, a greater than 8 percent decrease.

More in Marion working, looking for work in Feb.

Marion County's

unemployment rate for February was 4.2 percent, down from 4.6 percent during the same time last year, according to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

The number of people working this February was 131,017, up from 128,882 working last February, according to the state report.

There also were more people looking for work, as the labor force increased to 136,767, compared to 135,108 a year ago, the

report states.

The Ocala Metropolitan Statistical Area, which is all of Marion County, posted 106,400 non-farm jobs, an increase of 2,300 jobs over the year, according to a breakdown by CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion.

The area's mining, logging and construction segment grew faster than the state, with 600 new jobs so far this year.

There also were gains in professional and business services jobs (500), manufacturing (400) and education and health services (400), according to CareerSource.

Statewide, February's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.5 percent, down from 3.9 percent a year ago.

Staff report

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