

Marion County's labor force grew by 938 to 140,004, the number of those with jobs rose by 1,878 to 135,112 and the number of unemployed fell by 940 to 4,892. Compared to September 2018, when the rate was 3.9 percent, the labor force has expanded by 3,605, there are 4,069 more employed and 464 fewer unemployed.

Nonfarm employment in September for the Ocala/Marion County metropolitan statistical area was 107,700, an increase of 3,200 jobs over the year for a job growth rate of 3.1 percent.

The Homosassa Springs MSA's nonfarm employment was 33,800, an increase of 300 new jobs over the year for a job growth rate of 0.9 percent.

The Ocala MSA had the third fastest annual job growth rate compared to all other metro areas in the state in manufacturing at 5.9 percent and education and health services at 5.8 percent.

Industries that grew faster in the Ocala metro than statewide over the year were mining, logging and construction, an increase of 500 jobs for a total of 8,400 jobs for (+6.3 percent); manufacturing, 500 new jobs for a total of 9,000 jobs; education and health services, adding 1,100 new jobs for a total of 20,000; leisure and hospitality, adding 600 jobs for a total of 13,100 (+4.8 percent); government, adding 200 jobs for a total of 15,200 (+1.3 percent); and trade, transportation and utilities, adding 300 for a total of 24,600 (+1.2 percent)

Professional and business services also gained over the year, adding 100 new jobs for a total of 9,900 (+1.0 percent).

Financial activities, with 3,900 jobs, and other services, with 2,900 jobs, were unchanged over the year. Information lost 100 jobs for a total of 700 jobs.

A review of employment data for September shows that unemployment rates fell over the month in all 67 counties. Compared to September 2018, rates dropped in 62 counties, increased in three counties, remained the same in two counties. The county with the highest unemployment rate in the state was Hendry County at 7.1 percent. Citrus County tied with Highlands County for the third highest rate; Marion County tied with Charlotte, Dixie and Polk counties with the 15th highest rate; and Levy County tied with Holmes, Pasco and Taylor counties with the 23rd highest rate.

Among the metro areas, the Homosassa Springs/Citrus County MSA tied with the Sebring MSA for the highest rate and the Ocala MSA joined Lakeland-Winterhaven, Port St. Lucie and Punta Gorda metros with the fifth highest rate.

The region's employment summary for October is scheduled to be released on Friday, Nov. 15.



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Manufacturing and logistics businesses gear up for Oct. 30 career fair

By Laura Byrnes, APR, CPRC
Communications Manager

CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion

Published Oct. 17, 2019 at 11:19 a.m.

OCALA – CareerSource Citrus Levy Marion is scheduled to hold a Manufacturing and Logistics Career Fair on Wednesday, Oct. 30.

The career fair is free to attend and takes place from 3:30-6 p.m. at the College of Central Florida Webber Center, 3001 SW College Road, in Ocala. It is held in partnership with the Mid-FL Regional Manufacturers Association (MRMA) and the Florida Advanced Technological Education Center (FLATE).

A Who's Who of some of the area's top manufacturing and logistics companies, all with immediate jobs to fill, plan to take part including American Panel Corporation; ANCORP; Chariot Eagle, Inc.; Chewy; Crevalle Boats; Custom Window Systems, Inc.; Fastenal; GML Industries, LLC; Lockheed Martin; Lugmo Corp.; Pro Poly of America; R+L Global Logistics; and Winco Mfg.

The career fair caps off National Manufacturing Month. In Florida, there are more than 18,000 companies and 800,000 individuals working in manufacturing and logistics.

Kathleen Betz, MRMA's executive director and a program manager for

CareerSource CLM, said that the Manufacturing and Logistics Career Fair “is ideal for those interested in a fast-paced career in industries with robust job growth and better than averages wages.”

According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages for Q1 2019, there are 366 manufacturing establishments in Citrus, Levy and Marion counties with 10,260 employees and an average weekly wage of \$809. The average weekly wage for all industries in the region is \$691.

Betz noted that in Marion County, where the majority of the region’s manufacturing jobs are located, there are 266 manufacturers and 8,931 workers earning an average weekly paycheck of \$887 compared to \$723 average for all industries. She added that the county’s over-the-year growth rate in manufacturing is 7.2 percent, compared to 3.4 percent for all manufacturing growth in the state.

Interested job candidates should create or update their profile by clicking [HERE](#). They are also encouraged to bring printed copies of their current résumé, dress professionally and be prepared for on-the-spot interviews with hiring managers.

For more information about the career fair, call 800-434-JOBS, ext. 1114. Fee-free job readiness, career fair preparation and other assistance are available at CareerSource CLM’s career centers.

Levy County Clerk improves customer service

By Deanna Dobbins, Levy County Chief Deputy Clerk

Published Oct. 16, 2019 at 4:29 p.m.

BRONSON – Levy County Clerk Danny Shipp has been working to improve customer service for his office.

On Oct. 1, the office hours were restored to 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Levy County and court holidays can be found on the website by clicking [HERE](#).

On Tuesday (Oct. 15), 2019 the Clerk’s Office improved its telephone service and upgraded to a phone system with Setel Southeastern Services Inc.

Now the Levy County Clerk’s Office is using a VoIP- Voice over IP, phone system through the Internet line.

What does voice over IP stand for?

VoIP basically means voice transmitted over a digital network. The Internet, however, isn’t strictly necessary for VoIP. Thus, voice over Internet protocol means that travels by way of the same protocols used on the Internet. VoIP is often referred to as IP telephony (IPT) because it uses Internet protocols to make possible enhanced voice communications.

Anyone who is calling the Levy County Clerk’s Office, if they are calling in the main number 352-486-5266 and they know their party’s extension, they can press 1 and then the 3-digit number. For example Clerk Shipp is extension 1222 and Chief Deputy Dobbins is 1255.

Callers always can choose from the options as to which department they want, and they will be connected by pushing the following numbers:

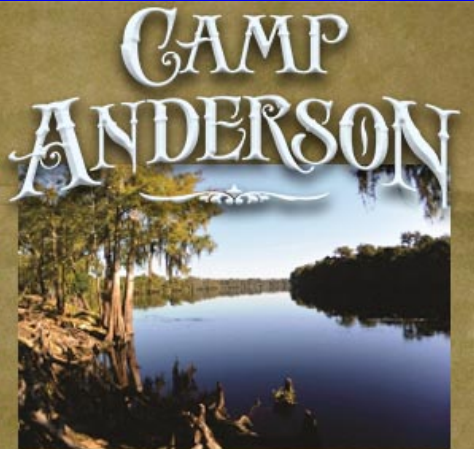
- 1 - Jury
- 2 - Traffic
- 3 - Civil, Probate, Child Support, Family Law
- 4 - Misdemeanor and Felony
- 5 - Recording
- 6 - Public Records
- 7 - Juvenile Department

These will ring directly into that department and a deputy clerk will be ready to assist the caller.

The Clerk’s future plans for improvement include a new Case Management System that will allow images on the web and payments for costs, fines, fees and pay traffic citations.



Levy County Clerk Shipp also will have a program -- Turbo Court -- for self-help forms and assistance with filing.

Plans also include software with TrieData and offer the ability to electronically certify Official Records and court records online.



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