

Lakeland

City, Polk County, Florida. LocalFlare, Data for Economic Development. Last updated 2026-10-04.

Population

Population
124,725 2025

Change since the prior year
+0.8% 2024 to 2025

Change since 2020
+10.7% 2020 to 2025

Census 2020
112,641 2020

Basis of the latest figure
estimate 2025

Population, April 1: 124,725



Source: University of Florida Bureau of Economic and Business Research, Florida Estimates of Population, retrieved 2026-10-01

Labor force

Labor force
53,498 Aug 2026

Employment
50,499 Aug 2026

Unemployed
2,999 Aug 2026

Unemployment rate
5.6% Aug 2026

Rate a year earlier
5.2% Aug 2025

Labor force, change on a year earlier
+0.8% Aug 2026

Latest month is preliminary
yes Aug 2026

Unemployment rate, not seasonally adjusted: 5.6%



Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, retrieved 2026-10-01

Sales and visitor spending

BusinessFlare® estimate, last 12 months
\$8,515.3M 12 months to 2026-03

Estimate runs to
Mar 2026 Mar 2026

Statewide median error, 2017 to 2022 back-test
15.7% 2017 to 2022

Wide error flag
yes Mar 2026

Retail trade (NAICS 44-45): Census sales 2017
\$3.22B 2017

Retail trade (NAICS 44-45): Census sales 2022
\$7.48B 2022

Retail trade (NAICS 44-45): 2022 landing error
35.2% 2022

Accommodation and food services (NAICS 72):
Census sales 2017
\$416M 2017

Accommodation and food services (NAICS 72):
Census sales 2022
\$561M 2022

Accommodation and food services (NAICS 72): 2022
landing error
16.9% 2022

Economic Census anchors and the back-test

Sector	Census sales 2017	Census sales 2022	2017 carried to 2022	Landing error
Retail trade (NAICS 44-45)	\$3.22B	\$7.48B	\$4.85B	35.2%
Accommodation and food services (NAICS 72)	\$416M	\$561M	\$656M	16.9%

BusinessFlare® estimate from public sources.

The estimate anchors on the sales the US Census Bureau published for this place in the 2017 and 2022 Economic Census, for retail trade and for accommodation and food services, and moves them month by month with the county's sales tax returns by kind of business (Florida Department of Revenue Form 10). After the 2022 anchor the place's share of the county moves with the growth of its commercial property on the Department's 2026 tax roll, as submitted by the county property appraiser, by use code: stores, shopping centers, supermarkets and auto dealers for retail; restaurants, bars and hotels for accommodation and food. The three spending groups follow the county's kind code mix within each sector. Every place with both anchors was carried from 2017 to 2022 the same way and the landing on the 2022 Census figure is the published error.

Flags: wide error: the 2017 carry-forward landed 35% from the 2022 Census figure for Retail trade (NAICS 44-45).

Monthly estimate, twelve month and annual views, the visitor, resident and big ticket groups, chart and workbook: Street Economics Pass data, served by the account service, never in this file.

Source: BusinessFlare® city-level sales and visitor spending estimate (method and error; the figures are Street Economics Pass data), retrieved 2026-10-04

Tourist tax: not shown. the county does not publish tourist tax collections by city

Business base

Licensed food service, lodging and alcohol businesses

1,095 Aug 2026

Food service licenses

509 Aug 2026

Lodging licenses

250 Aug 2026

Alcoholic beverage licenses

336 Aug 2026

New licenses, last 12 months

83 Aug 2026

New business filings, last 12 months (postal city)

4,908 Sep 2026

Change on the 12 months before

+3.3% Sep 2026

New filings, latest month

294 Sep 2026

Establishments (ZIP basis)

2,053 2023

Employees, mid March (ZIP basis)

53,623 2023

Annual payroll (ZIP basis)

\$2.9B 2023

New licenses by month: 12



Sep 2016

Aug 2026

Licenses are placed inside the city limits by their geocoded address.

Business formations are by postal city: Lakeland, which is not the city limits.

Establishments, employment and payroll are a ZIP code basis: ZIP codes 33803, 33811, 33815.

Source: Florida DBPR active licensure base files: public food service, public lodging and retail alcoholic beverage licenses, retrieved 2026-10-01

Source: Florida Division of Corporations (Sunbiz) bulk corporate data files, new entity filings by month, retrieved 2026-10-01

Source: County Business Patterns and ZIP Code Business Patterns, complete data files, retrieved 2026-10-01

Building permits

Housing units permitted, last 12 months

449 Aug 2026

Change on the 12 months before

-46.6% Aug 2026

Permit valuation, last 12 months

\$113M Aug 2026

Units, latest month

67 Aug 2026

Single family units, last 12 months

441 Aug 2026

Units in buildings of 5 or more, last 12 months

0 Aug 2026

Units, latest annual table

796 2025

Housing units permitted by month: 67



Sep 2016

Aug 2026

Source: US Census Bureau, Building Permits Survey, place and county residential permits, retrieved 2026-10-01

Property roll

Total just value

\$15.8B 2026 preliminary

Total taxable value (non school)

\$10B 2026 preliminary

Total taxable value (school)

\$11.3B 2026 preliminary

Just value, change on the prior roll

+1.4% 2025 final roll to 2026 preliminary

Taxable value (non school), change on the prior roll

+5.4% 2025 final roll to 2026 preliminary

Total just value, prior roll

\$15.6B 2025 final roll

New construction value

\$158M 2026 preliminary

Parcels

41,097 2026 preliminary

Median single family just value

\$233K 2026 preliminary

Qualified sales, last 12 months

1,488 2025-06 to 2026-05

Median qualified sale price

\$280K 2025-06 to 2026-05

Just value, residential

\$9.45B 2026 preliminary

Just value, commercial

\$2.28B 2026 preliminary

Just value, industrial

\$1.83B 2026 preliminary

Just value, agricultural

\$83.3M 2026 preliminary

Just value, vacant

\$232M 2026 preliminary

Just value, institutional

\$945M 2026 preliminary

Just value, government

\$945M 2026 preliminary

Just value, other

\$16.7M 2026 preliminary

Just value by use group

Use group	Parcels	Just value	Taxable (non school)	New construction	Residential units	Just value change
Residential	32,828	\$9.45B	\$6B	\$68.3M	44,546	+1.0%
Commercial	1,828	\$2.28B	\$2.08B	\$12.1M	n/a	+1.9%
Industrial	386	\$1.83B	\$1.66B	\$64.2M	n/a	+3.8%
Agricultural	162	\$83.3M	\$26.5M	\$2.6M	n/a	-9.3%
Vacant	3,836	\$232M	\$182M	\$13.6K	n/a	+5.0%
Institutional	578	\$945M	\$58M	\$10.2M	n/a	+0.2%
Government	1,226	\$945M	\$2.64M	\$502K	n/a	+1.0%
Other	253	\$16.7M	\$15.3M	\$0	n/a	+7.9%

Department of Revenue land use codes grouped: residential 001 to 009, commercial 011 to 039, industrial 041 to 049, agricultural 050 to 069, vacant 000, 010, 040 and 070, institutional 071 to 079, government 080 to 089, other 090 to 099. Taxable is the non school taxable value. Just value change compares with the 2025 final roll, summed the same way.

Parcels are placed by Census block group through the Census Bureau's block assignment file; a parcel in a block group that straddles the limits is apportioned. Census 2020 block groups; 59% of the county's just value lies in a place. Medians are over the parcels whose block group lies mostly in the place. Qualified sales: the roll's own sale fields, qualification codes 01 and 02, improved, single parcel.

Source: Florida Department of Revenue, NAL tax roll, 2026 preliminary and final as posted, retrieved 2026-10-03

Housing

Housing units
54,975 2020 to 2024 ACS

Occupied units
48,654 2020 to 2024 ACS

Vacant units
6,321 2020 to 2024 ACS

Owner occupied households
27,943 2024 1-Year

Renter occupied households
20,711 2024 1-Year

Homeownership rate
57.4% 2020 to 2024 ACS

Cost burdened households, all tenures (over 30% of income)
30.3% 2025

Cost burdened renter households
45.2% 2025

Severely cost burdened renters (over 50%)
21.7% 2025

Assisted housing developments
29 Assisted Housing Inventory

Assisted units
2,739 Assisted Housing Inventory

Median gross rent
\$1.45K 2020 to 2024 ACS

Median single family sale price
\$315K 2024

Homeownership rate: 56.0%



1990

2024

Source: Shimberg Center for Housing Studies, Florida Housing Data Clearinghouse, retrieved 2026-10-01

Fiscal

Half-cent sales tax, latest month
\$730K Sep 2026

Half-cent sales tax, fiscal year to date
\$8.73M FY2026 to 2026-09

Half-cent sales tax, last 12 months
\$8.73M Sep 2026

Half-cent sales tax, change on the 12 months before
-6.2% Sep 2026

State revenue sharing, latest month
\$441K Sep 2026

State revenue sharing, fiscal year to date
\$5.39M FY2026 to 2026-09

State revenue sharing, last 12 months
\$5.39M Sep 2026

State revenue sharing, change on the 12 months before
+2.6% Sep 2026

Total revenues
\$1.19B FY2024

Revenues, change on the year before
+14.2% FY2024

Total expenditures
\$878M FY2024

Expenditures, change on the year before
+3.4% FY2024

Revenues per resident
\$9.62K FY2024

Long-term debt outstanding at year end
\$795M FY2025

Long-term debt, change on the year before
+3.3% FY2025

Half-cent sales tax distributions by month: \$730K



Oct 2016

Sep 2026

Source: Florida Department of Revenue, Revenue Confirmation Online, distributions to local governments, retrieved 2026-10-01

Source: Florida Office of Economic and Demographic Research, Expenditures and Revenues Reported by Florida's County and Municipal Governments, retrieved 2026-10-01

Bank deposits

Deposits (offices reporting this city)

\$4.9B June 30, 2026

Change on a year earlier

+2.7% June 30, 2026

Change, real

-0.4% June 30, 2026

Branches

31 June 30, 2026

Institutions

14 June 30, 2026

Branches opened since the survey a year earlier

0 June 30, 2026

Branches closed since the survey a year earlier

1 June 30, 2026

Deposits, June 30 each year: \$4.9B



Offices whose reported city is Lakeland.

Source: FDIC Summary of Deposits, Florida offices, every June 30 since 1994, retrieved 2026-10-01

Sources

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