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# Historical profile for the economy and demographics of Hardee County, 1990-2000 : prepared by Center for Economic Development Research, College of Business Administration, University of South Florida

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# Historical Profile for the Economy and Demographics of Hardee County, 1990-2000

Prepared By  
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## *Preface*

**Hardee County** is located in south-central Florida within the region served by the Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC), a state-mandated planning organization. Besides **Hardee**, the CFRPC planning district is also comprised of DeSoto, Highlands, Polk, and Okeechobee counties. Cargill Crop Nutrition, Inc. commissioned this document to serve as a component of its campaign to better understand the economic and demographic structure of Hardee County and the south-central Florida region.

This report presents information and analysis from two recent studies performed by the Center for Economic Development Research, College of Business Administration, University of South Florida. *The Status of South Central Florida's Regional Economy: An Update*, dated May, 2001 and *South Central Florida's Regional Economy*, dated July, 2001 were used to compile this historical analysis. This study is the first in a series of economic development studies designed to increase our understanding of the economic impacts of the phosphate industry in Hardee County.

CEDR provides information and conducts research on issues related to economic growth and development in the Nation, in the state of Florida, and particularly in the central Florida region. The Center serves the faculty, staff, and students of the College of Business Administration, the University, and individuals and organizations in the University's service area. CEDR's activities are designed to further the objectives of the University and specifically the objectives of the College of Business Administration.

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## INTRODUCTION

The Center for Economic Development Research (CEDR), College of Business Administration (COBA), University of South Florida (USF), previously performed a comprehensive analysis of the regional economy of the five counties that comprise the area of responsibility of the Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC). The five counties are DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Okeechobee, and Polk. These counties are referred to in this report as the CF-counties. The comprehensive report is titled *The Status of South Central Florida's Regional Economy: An Update*, dated May 2001. A summary report titled *South Central Florida's Regional Economy*, dated July 2001 includes the main points from the comprehensive report as well as input from regional economic development officials.

During the last decade Florida's economy has been fuelled by population growth. From 1990 to 2000 the state's population grew by almost 23%, the state's labor force grew by slightly over 17%, and employment in Florida grew by almost 21%. However, Florida's rural counties did not always proportionately share in this growth. Population growth in the Central Florida (CF) region was only slightly below the statewide rate. However, the growth rate of the labor force lagged the state's rate in each CF-county. Similarly, employment growth in each CF-county was less than the statewide rate. The labor force and employment actually declined in **Hardee County** and in DeSoto County. In the comprehensive report we also compared the CF region with the neighboring metropolitan counties of Hillsborough and Orange. Again, the CF regional growth rates generally trailed those in metro areas.

This report, drawn from the previous comprehensive analysis of CF-counties, focuses on the demographics and economic profile of **Hardee County** from 1990 to 2000.

## POPULATION

Polk County's population is almost three times that of the combined populations of the CF region's remaining four counties. In 2000, 483,924 of the CF region's population of 668,347 persons lived in Polk County. By contrast, only 26,938 persons, or 4% of the CF region's population, lived in **Hardee County**. See Chart 1a.

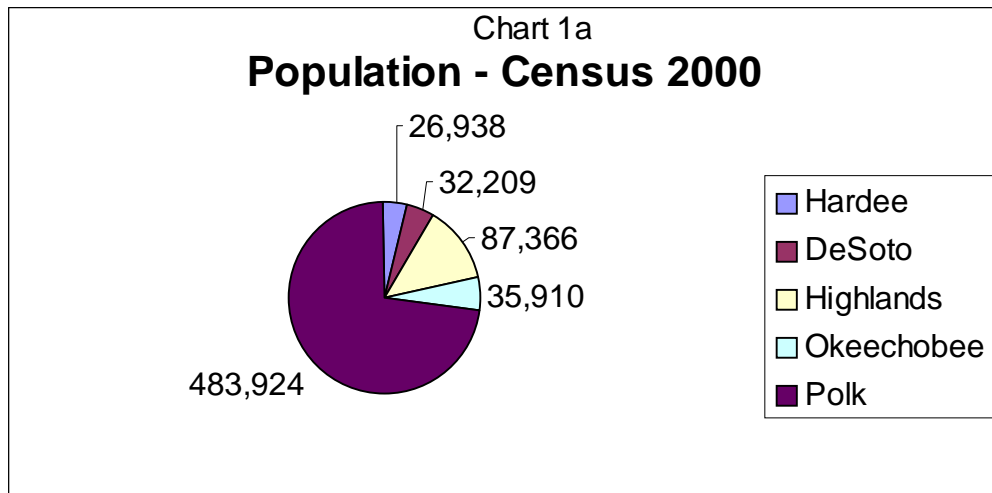


Table 1 reports population growth between 1990 and 2000. The CF region's population growth rate of 21.2% was only slightly under the statewide rate. **Hardee County** experienced the fastest population growth rate while Polk County's rate was the slowest.

Table 1  
Population Growth 1990 - 2000

Place	Population		% Change
	1990	2000	
<b>Hardee</b>	<b>19,542</b>	<b>26,938</b>	<b>37.8%</b>
DeSoto	23,938	32,209	34.6%
Highlands	68,957	87,366	26.7%
Okeechobee	29,756	35,910	20.7%
Polk	407,222	483,924	18.8%
CF region	551,405	668,347	21.2%
CF region less Polk	142,193	182,423	28.3%
Florida	13,018,365	15,982,378	22.8%
Orange	684,473	896,344	31.0%
Hillsborough	835,937	998,948	19.5%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

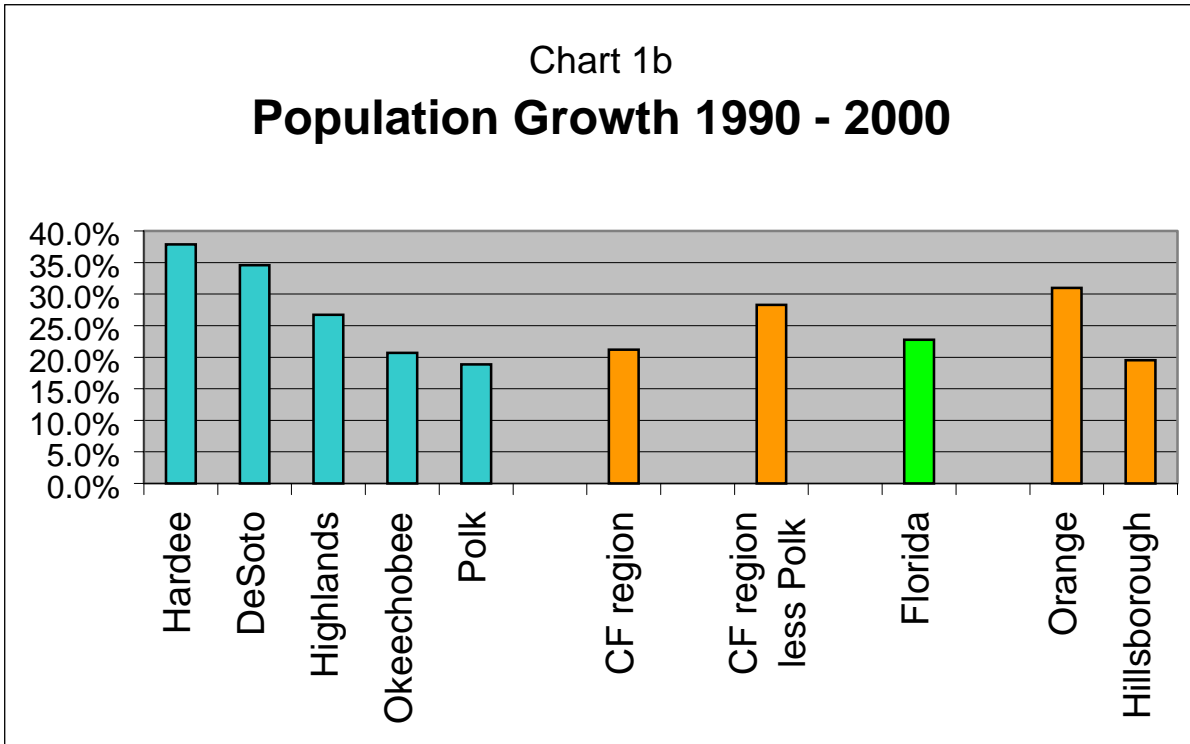


Chart 1b reports population growth rates. In this instance, however, the percentage figures for growth rates may be misleading. Combined population growth in **Hardee**, Highlands, DeSoto and Okeechobee during the decade was only 40,230 persons. Polk County's population, which grew from a larger base, increased by 76,702 persons over the same period. These data, at first glance, indicate that **Hardee County** is a rapidly growing area, having exceeded the population growth rates of many counties in Florida for the period. Table A1 indicates that the 7,396 person increase in **Hardee County** population between 1990 and 2000 ranks 45<sup>th</sup> among Florida's 67 counties in terms of the increase in number of residents. In 2000, despite the 13<sup>th</sup> highest growth rate in the state over the 10-year period, the population ranking in **Hardee County** was 49<sup>th</sup> among the 67 counties. The low population, compared to most of Florida, indicates that **Hardee County** is primarily rural in nature.



**Table A1**  
**Florida Population: 2000, Population Growth, Percent Change And Ranking of Florida Counties from 1 to 67**

	<b>Total Population Year 2000</b>	<b>County Rank</b>	<b>Population Change from Year 1990</b>	<b>County Rank</b>	<b>Percent Population Change</b>	<b>County Rank</b>
Florida	15,982,378		3,044,452		19.0%	
Alachua	217,955	20	36,359	23	16.7%	44
Baker	22,259	52	3,773	52	17.0%	43
Bay	148,217	25	21,223	34	14.3%	52
Bradford	26,088	50	3,573	53	13.7%	55
Brevard	476,230	9	77,252	11	16.2%	48
Broward	1,623,018	2	367,530	1	22.6%	28
Calhoun	13,017	62	2,006	62	15.4%	50
Charlotte	141,627	26	30,652	27	21.6%	30
Citrus	118,085	31	24,570	31	20.8%	31
Clay	140,814	27	34,828	25	24.7%	18
Collier	251,377	18	99,278	8	39.5%	4
Columbia	56,513	38	13,900	37	24.6%	19
DeSoto	32,209	48	8,344	43	25.9%	14
Dixie	13,827	58	3,242	54	23.4%	25
Duval	778,879	7	105,908	6	13.6%	56
Escambia	294,410	15	31,612	26	10.7%	63
Flagler	49,832	40	21,131	35	42.4%	2
Franklin	11,057	64	2,090	61	18.9%	39
Gadsden	45,087	42	3,982	51	8.8%	64
Gilchrist	14,437	57	4,770	49	33.0%	7
Glades	10,576	65	2,985	56	28.2%	11
Gulf	13,332	60	1,828	63	13.7%	54
Hamilton	13,327	61	2,397	58	18.0%	41
Hardee	26,938	49	7,439	45	27.6%	13
Hendry	36,210	44	10,437	40	28.8%	10
Hernando	130,802	28	29,687	28	22.7%	27
Highlands	87,366	34	18,934	36	21.7%	29
Hillsborough	998,948	4	164,894	5	16.5%	45
Holmes	18,564	56	2,786	57	15.0%	51
Indian River	112,947	33	22,739	32	20.1%	35
Jackson	46,755	41	5,380	47	11.5%	61
Jefferson	12,902	63	1,606	64	12.4%	57
Lafayette	7,022	66	1,444	67	20.6%	33
Lake	210,528	21	58,424	17	27.8%	12
Lee	440,888	11	105,775	7	24.0%	21
Leon	239,452	19	46,959	20	19.6%	37
Levy	34,450	47	8,527	42	24.8%	16
Liberty	7,021	67	1,452	66	20.7%	32
Madison	18,733	55	2,164	59	11.6%	60
Manatee	264,002	16	52,295	18	19.8%	36
Marion	258,916	17	64,083	15	24.8%	17
Martin	126,731	29	25,831	30	20.4%	34
Miami Dade	2,253,362	1	316,268	2	14.0%	53
Monroe	79,589	35	1,565	65	2.0%	67
Nassau	57,663	37	13,722	38	23.8%	22
Okaloosa	170,498	24	26,722	29	15.7%	49
Okeechobee	35,910	45	6,283	46	17.5%	42
Orange	896,344	6	218,853	4	24.4%	20
Osceola	172,493	23	64,765	14	37.5%	6
Palm Beach	1,131,184	3	267,666	3	23.7%	24
Pasco	344,765	13	63,634	16	18.5%	40
Pinellas	921,482	5	69,823	13	7.6%	66
Polk	483,924	8	78,542	9	16.2%	47
Putnam	70,423	36	5,353	48	7.6%	65
Saint Johns	123,135	30	36,135	24	29.3%	9
Saint Lucie	192,695	22	48,181	19	25.0%	15
Santa Rosa	117,743	32	77,667	10	66.0%	1
Sarasota	325,957	14	39,306	22	12.1%	58
Seminole	365,196	12	42,524	21	11.6%	59
Sumter	53,345	39	21,768	33	40.8%	3
Suwannee	34,844	46	8,064	44	23.1%	26
Taylor	19,256	54	2,145	60	11.1%	62
Union	13,442	59	3,190	55	23.7%	23
Volusia	443,343	10	72,631	12	16.4%	46
Wakulla	22,863	51	8,661	41	37.9%	5
Walton	40,601	43	12,841	39	31.6%	8
Washington	20,973	53	4,054	50	19.3%	38

Source: Prepared by the Center for Economic Development Research 02.02.02

## LABOR FORCE

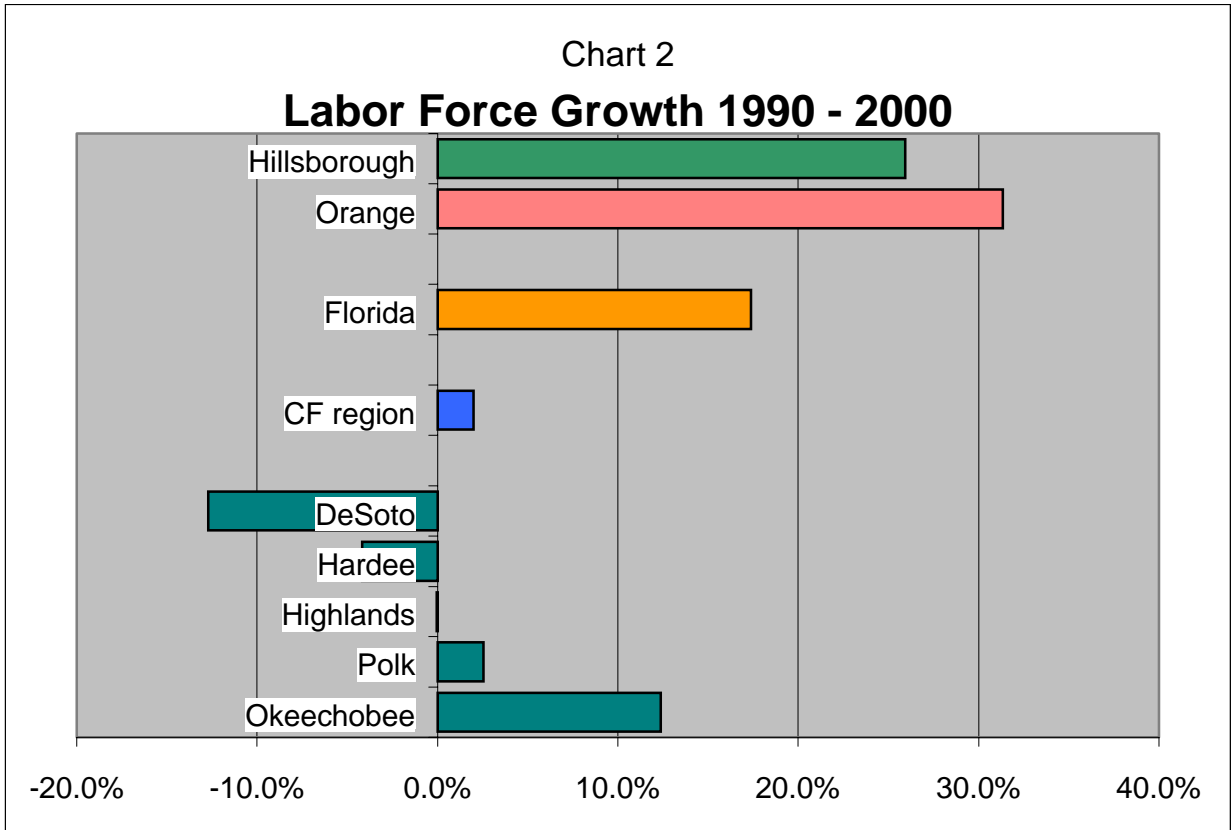
Table 2 and Chart 2 report labor force growth between 1990 and 2000. The labor force growth rates in the CF-counties lagged behind the statewide rate.

Table 2  
Labor Force Growth 1990 - 2000

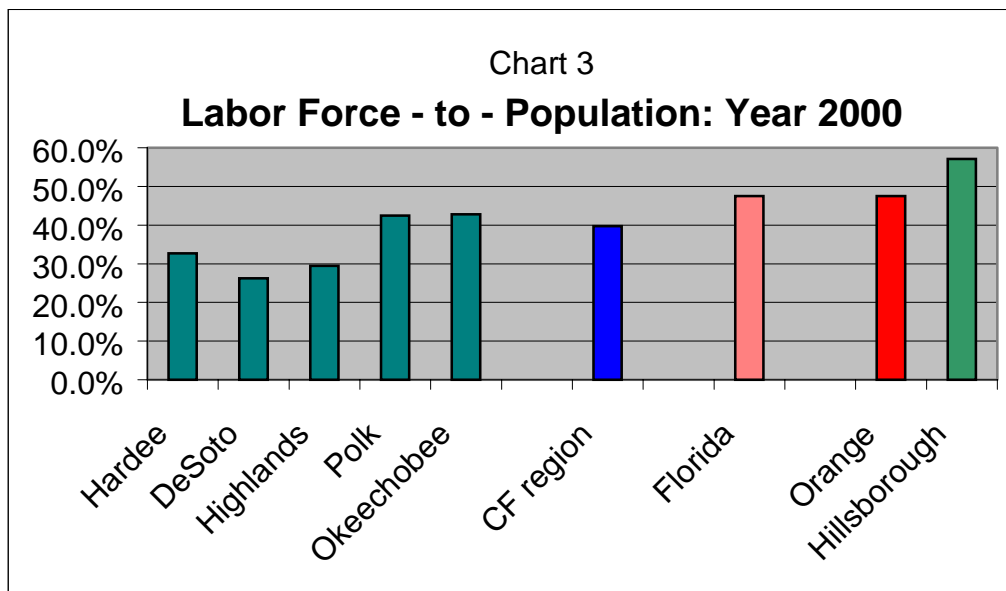
<u>Place</u>	<u>Labor Force</u>		
	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Okeechobee	13,659	15,350	12.4%
Polk	200,240	205,352	2.6%
Highlands	25,733	25,723	0.0%
<b>Hardee</b>	<b>9,185</b>	<b>8,800</b>	<b>-4.2%</b>
DeSoto	9,670	8,442	-12.7%
CF region	260,477	265,667	2.0%
Florida	6,468,000	7,593,000	17.4%
Orange	390,727	513,162	31.3%
Hillsborough	452,770	570,195	25.9%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Over the past decade the labor forces in DeSoto County and in **Hardee County** declined despite rising county populations. During the period, while population in **Hardee County** realized a net gain, fewer residents participated in the labor force. In Highlands County, labor force growth was essentially flat. Okeechobee County had the greatest labor force expansion among the CF-counties at 12.4%.



In 2000, the measure of the labor force as a percent of the population, i.e. labor force participation rate, was below the statewide rate for all CF-counties. See Chart 3.



Further, while Florida's labor force participation rate declined 2.2% between 1990 and 2000, the decline in the CF region was 7.5%. See Table 3. **Hardee County** suffered the largest decline, falling from 47.0% to 32.7%. The smallest decline was in Okeechobee County, where labor force participation dropped from 45.9% in 1990 to 42.7% in 2000.

Table 3  
Labor Force - to - Population Percentage

<u>Place</u>	<u>Percentage</u>		
	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>Change</u>
<b>Hardee</b>	<b>47.0%</b>	<b>32.7%</b>	<b>-14.3%</b>
DeSoto	40.4%	26.2%	-14.2%
Highlands	37.3%	29.4%	-7.9%
Polk	49.2%	42.4%	-6.7%
<u>Okeechobee</u>	<u>45.9%</u>	<u>42.7%</u>	<u>-3.2%</u>
CF region	47.2%	39.7%	-7.5%
Florida	49.7%	47.5%	-2.2%
Orange	57.1%	47.5%	-9.6%
Hillsborough	54.2%	57.1%	2.9%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

## EMPLOYMENT

The growth in the number of employed residents in the CF region between 1990 and 2000 was well below the statewide growth rate in employment. Table 4 reports the number of employed persons by the place of residence and the change in employment between 1990 and 2000.

Table 4  
Employment (Local Area Unemployment Survey)

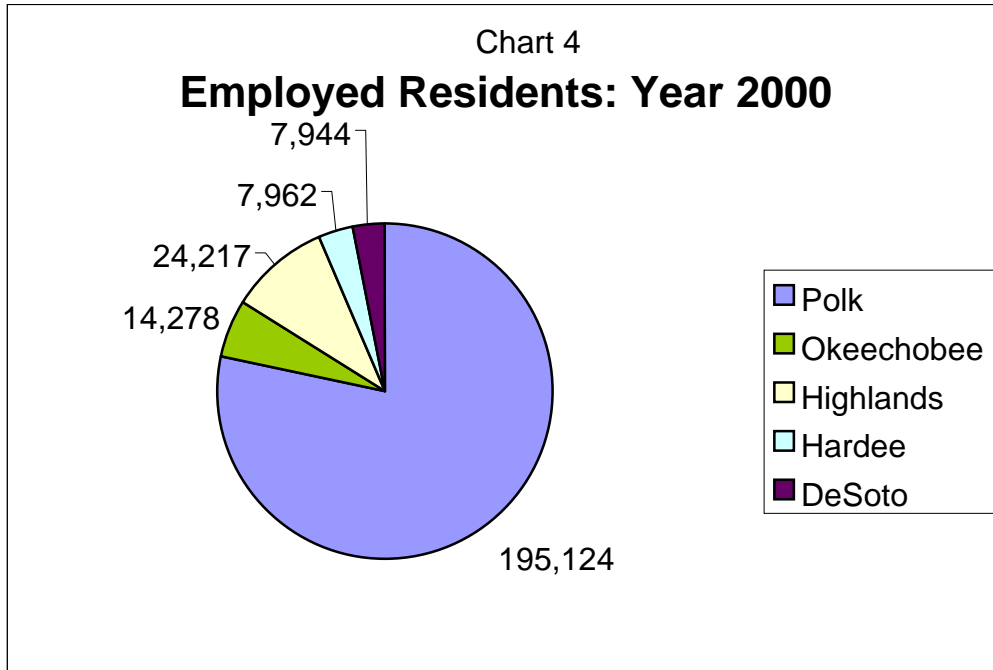
Place	Employed Residents			
	1990	2000	Change	% Change
Polk	180,475	195,124	14,649	8.1%
Okeechobee	12,554	14,278	1,724	13.7%
Highlands	23,487	24,217	730	3.1%
<b>Hardee</b>	<b>8,135</b>	<b>7,962</b>	<b>-173</b>	<b>-2.1%</b>
DeSoto	8,995	7,944	-1,051	-11.7%
CF region	235,636	251,525	15,889	6.7%
Florida	6,078,000	7,310,000	1,232,000	20.3%
Hillsborough	431,421	554,720	123,299	28.6%
Orange	369,708	499,770	130,062	35.2%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Employment in DeSoto County and in **Hardee County** actually declined from 1990 to 2000. Okeechobee County managed the biggest percentage gain, 13.7%, during the decade by placing an additional 1,700 residents in jobs.

In 2000, there were more than 3.5 times the number of employed residents living in Polk County than the number of employed residents in the four remaining CF-counties combined.

Chart 4 depicts the relative size of the number of employed residents in 2000 in the CF-counties.



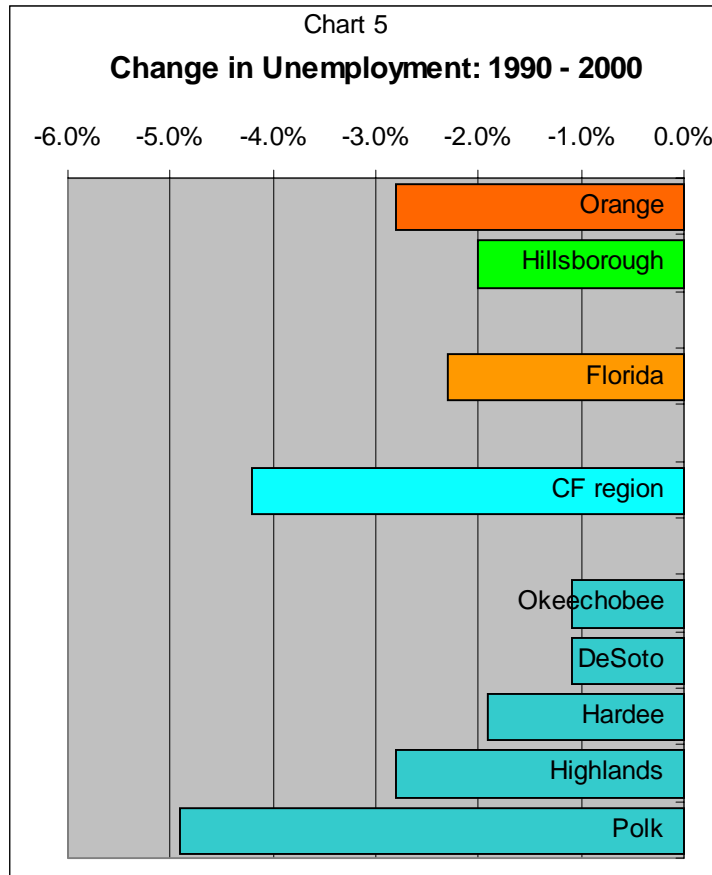
From 1990 to 2000, all CF-counties enjoyed a falling unemployment rate. In 2000 **Hardee County** had the highest unemployment rate, 9.5%, in the CF region. Table 5 compares unemployment rates in 1990 with the rates in 2000.

Table 5  
Unemployment Rate

<u>Place</u>	<u>Percent of Labor Force Unemployed</u>		
	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>Change</u>
Polk	9.9%	5.0%	-4.9%
Highlands	8.7%	5.9%	-2.8%
<b>Hardee</b>	<b>11.4%</b>	<b>9.5%</b>	<b>-1.9%</b>
DeSoto	7.0%	5.9%	-1.1%
Okeechobee	8.1%	7.0%	-1.1%
CF region	9.5%	5.3%	-4.2%
Florida	6.0%	3.7%	-2.3%
Hillsborough	4.7%	2.7%	-2.0%
Orange	5.4%	2.6%	-2.8%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Polk County had the largest decline in the unemployment rate as it fell from 9.9% in 1990 to 5.0% in 2000. See Chart 5 for the changes in unemployment between 1990 and 2000.



While Table 4 reports the number of employed persons by place of residence, Table 6 shows employment by place of work. Table 6 also shows the percent change in employment from 1990 to 1995 and from 1995 to 2000.

The decrease in **Hardee County's** unemployment rate, in conjunction with the relative stability in employment, confirms the reduction in labor force noted above. Apparently, a portion of the reduction in labor force may be due to labor force participants moving out of the county.

Table 6  
Employment Growth: 1990 - 1995 and 1995 – 2000

Employees by Place of Work					
Place	1990	1995	% Change	2000	% Change
DeSoto	7,994	8,878	11.1%	8,576	-3.4%
<b>Hardee</b>	<b>6,821</b>	<b>7,689</b>	<b>12.7%</b>	<b>6,895</b>	<b>-10.3%</b>
Highlands	20,479	22,460	9.7%	22,900	2.0%
Okeechobee	7,762	8,815	13.6%	9,705	10.1%
Polk	157,062	165,255	5.2%	181,900	10.1%
<hr/>					
CF region	202,108	215,092	6.4%	231,976	7.8%
Florida	13,018,000	14,505,000	11.4%	15,982,000	10.2%
Hillsborough	440,584	492,841	11.9%	591,832	20.1%
Orange	429,105	489,690	14.1%	612,941	25.2%

Source: FL Department of Labor ES-202

From 1990 to 1995, there was an increase of 12,984 persons working in the CF region. This increase represents a 6.4% growth rate in employment over the period. During the 1990 to 1995 period all CF-counties enjoyed increases in the number of people employed. Except for Polk County, which had a relatively low 5.2% increase in employment, the rate of growth in the other CF-counties was on a par with the statewide rate and employment growth in the comparison counties of Hillsborough and Orange. In the second half of the decade, 1995 to 2000, there was an additional increase of 16,884 persons working in the CF region, yielding a 7.8% growth rate for the five-year period. However, the employment growth rates in the counties were somewhat divergent. DeSoto County and **Hardee County** had declines in numbers of employees of 3.4% and 10.3%, respectively. Okeechobee County and Polk County each added about 10% to their employee totals. The increases in employment in the CF region were far below the over 20% increases experienced by the comparison, mid-Florida counties of Hillsborough and Orange.

As noted above, percentage numbers do not reveal the absolute changes. In absolute numbers, employment increases in the rural CF-counties over the decade were small.

Note that **Hardee County's** employment increased during the first half of the decade but subsequently declined in the second half.



## INCOME

Per capita personal income in the CF-counties lags behind Florida's per capita personal income as well as the incomes in the comparison counties of Hillsborough and Orange. Table 7 and Chart 7 report per capita personal income for 2000. **Hardee County** experienced the lowest per capita personal income among the CF-counties.

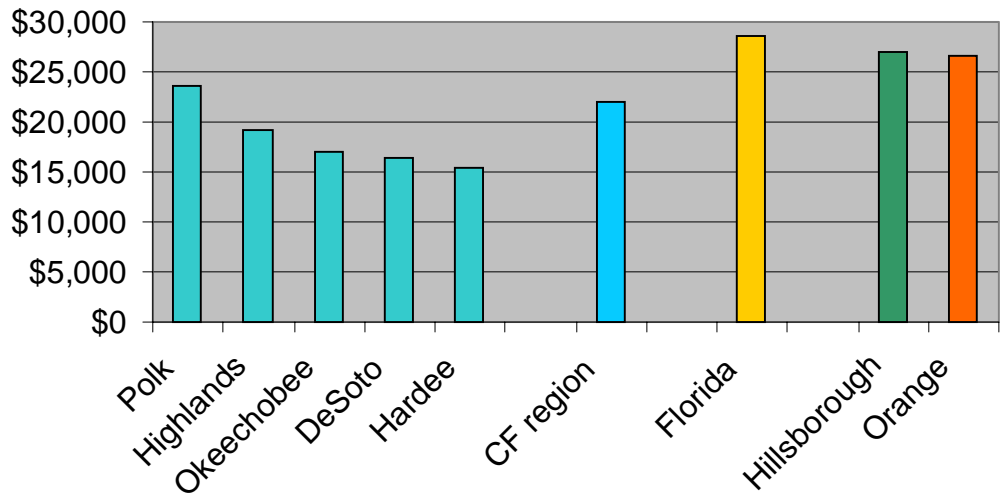
Table 7  
Per Capita Personal Income: Year 2000

<u>Place</u>	<u>Personal Income (est.)</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Per Capita</u>
Polk	\$11,426,263,000	483,924	\$23,612
Highlands	\$1,675,228,000	87,366	\$19,175
Okeechobee	\$609,662,000	35,910	\$16,977
DeSoto	\$526,661,000	32,209	\$16,351
<b>Hardee</b>	<b>\$412,376,000</b>	<b>26,938</b>	<b>\$15,308</b>
CF region	\$14,650,190,000	666,347	\$21,986
Florida	\$456,095,000,000	15,982,378	\$28,537
Hillsborough	\$27,026,000,000	998,948	\$27,054
Orange	\$23,761,000,000	896,344	\$26,509

Source: US Bureau of Economic Analysis and US Bureau of Labor Statistics

Chart 7

**Per Capita Personal Income: Year 2000**



## POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Table 8 describes the population according to ethnicity (white and Hispanic) and age. The percentages of Hispanics residing in three CF- counties, **Hardee (35.7%)**, DeSoto (24.9%), and Okeechobee (18.6%), exceed the statewide percentage of 16.8%. However, overall the CF-region has a lower percentage of Hispanics than statewide.

Table 8  
Population Characteristics - Census 2000

Place	Population	Ethnicity		Age		
		White	Hispanic	0-24	25-64	65+
DeSoto	32,209	73.3%	24.9%	33.8%	46.0%	20.2%
<b>Hardee</b>	<b>26,938</b>	<b>70.7%</b>	<b>35.7%</b>	<b>40.2%</b>	<b>44.4%</b>	<b>15.3%</b>
Highlands	87,366	83.5%	12.1%	24.1%	39.8%	36.1%
Okeechobee	35,910	79.3%	18.6%	38.7%	45.0%	16.3%
Polk	483,924	79.6%	9.5%	33.4%	47.6%	19.0%
CF region	666,347	79.4%	12.1%	32.8%	46.2%	21.0%
Florida	15,982,378	78.0%	16.8%	31.8%	50.2%	18.0%
Hillsborough	998,948	75.2%	18.0%	35.2%	52.3%	12.6%
Orange	896,344	68.6%	18.8%	37.0%	52.4%	10.6%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

The CF region's percentage of senior citizens, age 65 or over, exceeds the state of Florida by three percentage points. The CF region's largest concentration of senior citizens is in Highlands County, where more than one out of three residents are age 65 or over. The lowest concentration of senior citizens in the CF region is in **Hardee County**.

## PERSONAL INCOME SOURCES

An examination of personal income sources reveals a smaller percentage of income from earnings and a larger percentage of income from transfer payments for the CF-counties as compared to Florida and the comparison counties of Hillsborough and Orange.

Table 9, Panel A, presents the percentage of total income derived from earnings, from dividends and/or interest, or from transfer payments in the CF-counties and comparison locations in 2000. Highlands County received a high share of income generated by dividends and interest. The high percentage of dividend and interest income in Highlands County and the high transfer payment percentage in the county are consistent with its relatively older and retired population. **Hardee County** had the highest percentage, 64%, of income from earnings among the CF-counties. And, except for Polk County, **Hardee County's** percentage of income from transfer payments was lowest in the CF-region.

Table 9  
Sources of Personal Income in 2000  
Panel A

Place	Source		
	Earnings	Dividends / Interest	Transfer Payments
Highlands	38%	32%	29%
Okeechobee	56%	18%	26%
DeSoto	57%	20%	24%
<b>Hardee</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>21%</b>
Polk	61%	21%	19%
CF region	59%	21%	20%
Florida	58%	26%	16%
Hillsborough	67%	19%	14%
Orange	71%	16%	12%

Table 9, Panel B, shows the percentages of earnings that were obtained through employee wages or by proprietors' income in the CF-counties and comparative locations in 2000. With relatively fewer large-company employers in the CF-counties, the percentage of proprietors' income was greater in the region's counties than statewide or in the comparison counties. **Hardee County** had the highest percent of proprietors' income among the CF-counties.

Table 9  
Sources of Personal Income in 2000  
Panel B

<u>Place</u>	<u>Source</u>	
	<u>Wages &amp; Benefits</u>	<u>Proprietors' Income</u>
Highlands	82%	18%
Okeechobee	80%	20%
DeSoto	77%	23%
<b>Hardee</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>24%</b>
Polk	87%	13%
CF region	86%	14%
Florida	90%	10%
Hillsborough	93%	7%
Orange	92%	8%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

## **PAYROLL EARNINGS**

In 2000, average private-sector wages in the CF-counties lagged the state average of \$28,849. Although the CF region's industry structure explains some of this shortfall, pay in most industry divisions for the region also falls below the state average for those divisions. Average wages in Polk County were higher than in the other CF-counties and closer to the state average for each industry division.

## INDUSTRY STRUCTURE

The industry structure of the CF region reflects its rural nature. Agriculture and agricultural service industries are prominent. In 2000, about 30% of the employment in DeSoto County and in **Hardee County** was in agriculture. In Highlands County and in Okeechobee County agriculture encompassed about 15% of all jobs. In Polk County, agriculture made up only 4.5% of total employment, but that was still more than double that of Florida and the comparison counties (Florida 2.1%, Hillsborough 2.0%, Orange 1.4%).

DeSoto County and **Hardee County** have distinctive industry structures. At 3% or less of total employment, manufacturing jobs in these counties were less than one-half of the state's proportion of manufacturing jobs. Employment in the wholesale and retail trades was also well below the statewide percentage – 16.8% versus 25.2% around the state. Similarly, employment in service industries, which was 11.5% in DeSoto County and 17.5% in **Hardee County**, ranked behind a statewide percentage of 35.2%. On the other hand, government jobs at 31.8% of total employment in DeSoto County and at 24.6% in **Hardee County** were above Florida's 13.8% of total employment in the public sector.

On average, the industry structures of Highlands County and of Okeechobee County more closely resemble the state of Florida. A notable exception to this observation is, however, that Okeechobee County had the smallest percentage of manufacturing jobs in the CF region. Only 1.7% of employment in Okeechobee County was in manufacturing compared to 6.9% statewide.

Highlands County counted 5.3% of jobs in manufacturing. Wholesale and retail trade jobs at about 25% of total employment closely mirrored the state. Employment in service industries – 28.9% in Highlands and 23.3% in Okeechobee – compared favorably with Florida's overall proportion of 35.2%. These percentages reflect increased demand for services by residential populations who tend to be older and include more retirees. The proportion of government workers in Highlands County and Okeechobee County only slightly exceeds the state's proportion.

The proportionality of Polk County's industry structure largely resembles that of its more populated neighboring counties, Hillsborough and Orange.

Agriculture, mining and construction, manufacturing, and utilities traditionally are considered export-base industries. We call these industries "goods-producers." Goods-producing businesses often offer high paying jobs with good benefits. Many high-tech manufacturing firms offer good jobs that are typical of the goods-producers. However, goods-producing industries are generally cyclical resulting in layoffs during periods of economic slowdown. Furthermore, goods-producing employment has been steadily declining in the U.S., making it more difficult for economic development officials to attract goods-producers to their local area.

In 2000, good-producers employed nearly 40% of workers in DeSoto County and in **Hardee**

**County.** Goods-producers employed almost 30% of workers in Highland County, in Polk County, and in Okeechobee County. For comparison, goods-producers employed less than 20% of workers in Hillsborough County and in Orange County. Agriculture provided the most jobs in **Hardee County** in the year 2000. This fact emphasizes the rural nature of the county. Employment in **Hardee County** government services ranked second-highest in number of jobs, with a significantly higher percentage of total employment than more populous areas of the state.

There is much discussion of the emergence of a “new economy” in the U.S. based upon telecommunications, information technology and research-based product innovation. In Florida these manifestations appear in the growing business services industries that are locating in the state’s major metropolitan areas. Technology intensive business services are related to finance and insurance, telecommunications, and information-based business support. Administrative support employment is also growing rapidly. But much administrative support employment is less technology-oriented and reflects employment outsourcing of a broad spectrum of other industries. Business services employment requires a large employment base. Limited employee bases in the CF-counties has prevented them from sharing in the growing business services employment.

Table 10 outlines the industry structures of the CF-counties.

Table 10  
Industry Structure - Year 2000

Industry Divisions	Place: DeSoto		Hardee		Highlands		Okeechobee		Polk	
	Jobs	%	Jobs	%	Jobs	%	Jobs	%	Jobs	%
<b>GOODS-PRODUCING</b>										
Agriculture	2,616	30.5%	<b>2,064</b>	<b>29.9%</b>	3,396	14.8%	1,698	17.5%	8,211	4.5%
Construction & Mining	320	3.7%	<b>180</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	952	4.2%	510	5.3%	12,339	6.8%
Manufacturing	225	2.6%	<b>209</b>	<b>3.0%</b>	1,218	5.3%	166	1.7%	19,737	10.9%
Utilities	89	1.0%	<b>128</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	659	2.9%	473	4.9%	8,922	4.9%
Total goods-producing	3,250	37.9%	<b>2,581</b>	<b>37.4%</b>	6,225	27.2%	2,847	29.3%	49,209	27.1%
<b>SERVICE-PRODUCING</b>										
Trade	1,440	16.8%	<b>1,159</b>	<b>16.8%</b>	5,415	23.6%	2,553	26.3%	50,946	28.0%
Finance	177	2.1%	<b>252</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	665	2.9%	238	2.5%	8,565	4.7%
Services	982	11.5%	<b>1,204</b>	<b>17.5%</b>	6,628	28.9%	2,257	23.3%	45,940	25.3%
Government	2,727	31.8%	<b>1,699</b>	<b>24.6%</b>	3,967	17.3%	1,810	18.7%	27,240	15.0%
Total service-producing	5,326	62.1%	<b>4,314</b>	<b>62.6%</b>	16,675	72.8%	6,858	70.7%	132,691	72.9%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,576</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>6,895</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>22,900</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>9,705</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>181,900</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Industry Divisions	Place: CF region		Florida		Hillsborough		Orange	
	Jobs	%	Jobs (000)	%	Jobs	%	Jobs	%
<b>GOODS-PRODUCING</b>								
Agriculture	17,985	7.8%	150	2.1%	11,946	2.0%	8,729	1.4%
Construction & Mining	14,301	6.2%	396	5.6%	28,602	4.8%	28,673	4.7%
Manufacturing	21,555	9.4%	485	6.9%	37,892	6.4%	37,342	6.1%
Utilities	10,271	4.5%	350	5.0%	32,807	5.5%	34,196	5.6%
Total goods-producing	64,112	27.9%	1,381	19.5%	111,247	18.8%	108,940	17.8%
<b>SERVICE-PRODUCING</b>								
Trade	61,513	26.7%	1,784	25.2%	129,860	21.9%	138,397	22.6%
Finance	9,897	4.3%	437	6.2%	47,266	8.0%	33,645	5.5%
Services	57,011	24.8%	2,491	35.2%	233,581	39.5%	272,987	44.5%
Government	37,443	16.3%	977	13.8%	69,878	11.8%	58,972	9.6%
Total service-producing	165,864	72.1%	5,689	80.5%	480,585	81.2%	504,001	82.2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>229,976</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>7,070</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>591,832</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>612,941</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: FL Department of Labor ES-202



## PROJECTED COUNTY-LEVEL EMPLOYMENT GROWTH

The individual county projected growth rates for all jobs and for just private sector jobs are shown in Table 11.

Table 11  
Projected County-level Employment Growth, 2000 to 2005

<u>Place</u>	<u>Growth in Jobs</u>	
	<u>All Jobs</u>	<u>Private Sector Jobs</u>
Okeechobee	9.1%	8.9%
Polk	9.0%	8.9%
Highlands	7.1%	6.8%
<b>Hardee</b>	<b>4.8%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>
DeSoto	4.7%	3.3%
Florida	11.5%	11.9%
Hillsborough	12.7%	13.2%
Orange	14.9%	15.3%

Source: Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation

## COMMUTING TO WORK

The CF region's workers look outside their counties of residence for a place to work. Table 12 compares place-of-residence estimates of the workforce with place-of-work estimates. The data imply that, except for DeSoto County, residents of a particular county are working on a net basis in another county.

Table 12  
Commuting to Work

Place	Employed Persons in 2000		<u>Implied Net Commuting</u>	
	<u>by Place-of-Residence</u>	<u>by Place-of-Work</u>		
Polk	195,124	181,900	13,224	out
Okeechobee	14,278	9,705	4,573	out
Highlands	24,217	22,900	1,317	out
<b>Hardee</b>	<b>7,962</b>	<b>6,895</b>	<b>1,067</b>	<b>out</b>
DeSoto	7,944	8,576	-632	in
Hillsborough	554,720	591,832	-37,112	in
Orange	499,770	612,941	-113,171	in

Note: Besides place-of-residence versus place-of-work, another distinction between the two data sets is that LAUS includes self-employed persons while ES 202 does not.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Survey (LAUS), for place-of-residence data and Florida Department of Labor, Covered Employment (ES 202), for place-of-work data.

## K THROUGH 12 EDUCATION

Measures of education inputs, cost per regular pupil and the number of pupils in a language class, are in line with the statewide averages and the comparison counties. See Table 13. **Hardee County** spends more per pupil than other CF-counties, the comparison counties, and statewide average.

Table 13  
K through 12 Education Inputs, Academic Year 1999-2000

<u>Place</u>	<u>Cost per Regular Pupil</u>	<u>Avg. Language Class Size (pupils)</u>
<b>Hardee</b>	<b>\$4,437</b>	<b>23.5</b>
Polk	\$4,287	21.9
Okeechobee	\$4,211	20.5
DeSoto	\$4,187	23.0
Highlands	\$4,132	28.0
Average	\$4,251	23.4
Florida	\$4,247	25.3
Hillsborough	\$4,052	22.7
Orange	\$3,934	25.4

Source: Florida Department of Education

Measures of education performance also compare favorably with statewide averages. Graduation rates are above the statewide rate in all CF-counties except Polk County. The **Hardee County** public high school graduation rate for academic year 1999-2000 was 65.5%. Also notable, the FCAT (reading) score in Okeechobee County is significantly lower than the scores of other locations. See Table 14.

Table 14  
K through 12 Education Performance  
Academic Year 1999-2000

<u>Place</u>	<u>Graduation Rate</u>	<u>FCAT (reading) Score</u>
DeSoto	67.5%	33%
<b>Hardee</b>	<b>65.5%</b>	<b>29%</b>
Highlands	64.7%	36%
Okeechobee	64.3%	23%
Polk	55.3%	30%
Average	63.5%	30%
Florida	62.3%	33%
Hillsborough	71.4%	38%
Orange	49.5%	36%

Source: Florida Department of Education

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

During the past decade, 1990-2000, Florida's population increased by about 24%, its labor force increased by about 16%, and employment was up by about 19%. However, the state's rural counties, such as **Hardee County**, did not proportionately share in the growing economy as indicated by the statewide increases in population, labor force, and jobs. While the CF-counties added 21.2% to the population base, labor force in the counties grew by only 2.0%. Small labor force growth limited employment gains in the CF-counties to 6.7%. The good news, reflecting a strong economy, is that employment outgrew labor force, bringing down the region's unemployment rate. When compared with its metropolitan neighboring counties of Hillsborough and Orange, the CF region trailed in measures of economic expansion during the past decade. Per capita personal income as well as payroll earnings in the CF region were below state averages.

The industry structure of the CF region reflects its rural nature. Agriculture and agricultural service industries are prominent. In addition, the CF region's workers often look outside their counties for a place to work.

In the CF region, education inputs and performance are on a par with Florida averages. However, there is room for improvement. For example, the graduation rate in academic year 1999-2000 was 63.5% in the CF region and 62.3% Florida-wide.