



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Contact: Larry Krause  
407-531-1222 ext. 2082  
[LKrause@careersourcecf.com](mailto:LKrause@careersourcecf.com)

## **CENTRAL FLORIDA'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CONTINUES TO DROP...TO 4.4 PERCENT FOR DECEMBER 2015**

*Orlando, FL* – The unemployment rate in the CareerSource Central Florida region (Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, and Sumter counties) declined by 0.8 percentage point over the year to 4.4 percent in December 2015. The region's jobless rate was 0.3 percentage point lower than the state rate of 4.7 percent. Out of a labor force of 1,250,305, there were 54,760 unemployed residents in the region.

- The unemployment rates in the counties that comprise the CareerSource Central Florida region were: 4.1 percent in Seminole, 4.2 percent in Orange, 4.6 percent in Lake, 4.9 percent in Osceola, and 6.3 percent in Sumter.
- Nonagricultural employment in the Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford metro area (Lake, Orange, Osceola, and Seminole counties) was 1,183,300 in December 2015, an increase of 38,100 jobs (+3.3 percent) over the year. The metro area's over the year growth rate was 0.4 percentage point higher than the state growth rate of 2.9 percent.
- The Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford MSA gained the second-highest number of nonagricultural jobs in December 2015 among all metro areas in Florida compared to a year ago with 38,100 new jobs.
- In December 2015, the Orlando metro area led all metro areas in job gains over the year in leisure and hospitality (+12,600 jobs); trade, transportation, and utilities (+6,700 jobs); government (+2,600 jobs); and manufacturing (+1,000 jobs, tied with the Tampa metro area).
- The metro area's over-the-year growth rate in leisure and hospitality (+5.3 percent); trade, transportation, and utilities (+3.0 percent); financial activities (+2.9 percent); and government (+2.2 percent) were stronger than the statewide growth rates in these industries.
- Nine out of ten major industries gained jobs with leisure and hospitality (+12,600 jobs) gaining the most, followed by trade, transportation, and utilities (+6,700 jobs); professional and business services (+7,900 jobs); mining, logging, and construction and government (+2,600 jobs each); financial activities (+2,100 jobs); education and health services (+2,000 jobs); manufacturing (+1,000 jobs); and other services (+800 jobs).
- The only industry to lose jobs over the year was information (-200 jobs).
- Nonagricultural employment in The Villages metro area (Sumter County) was 26,700 in December 2015, up 500 jobs, or 1.9 percent since December 2014.

| <b>Unemployment Rates</b>        |               |               |               |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>(not seasonally adjusted)</b> | <b>Dec-15</b> | <b>Nov-15</b> | <b>Dec-14</b> |
| CareerSource Central Florida     | 4.4%          | 4.5%          | 5.2%          |
| Lake County                      | 4.6%          | 4.8%          | 5.5%          |
| Orange County                    | 4.2%          | 4.4%          | 5.0%          |
| Osceola County                   | 4.9%          | 5.1%          | 5.8%          |
| Seminole County                  | 4.1%          | 4.3%          | 4.9%          |
| Sumter County                    | 6.3%          | 6.4%          | 7.0%          |
| Florida                          | 4.7%          | 4.9%          | 5.4%          |
| United States                    | 4.8%          | 4.8%          | 5.4%          |

| <b>Nonagricultural Employment by Industry</b><br><b>(not seasonally adjusted)</b> | <b>Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford<br/>Metropolitan Statistical Area</b> |               |               |                           | <b>Florida</b> |               |               |                           |
|---|--|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|
|   | <b>Dec-15</b>  | <b>Dec-14</b> | <b>change</b> | <b>percent<br/>change</b> | <b>Dec-15</b>  | <b>Dec-14</b> | <b>change</b> | <b>percent<br/>change</b> |
| Total Employment  | 1,183,300  | 1,145,200     | 38,100        | 3.3                       | 8,284,600      | 8,049,400     | 235,200       | 2.9                       |
| Mining, Logging, and Construction   | 61,600   | 59,000        | 2,600         | 4.4                       | 447,200        | 418,900       | 28,300        | 6.8                       |
| Manufacturing   | 41,300   | 40,300        | 1,000         | 2.5                       | 342,000        | 332,800       | 9,200         | 2.8                       |
| Trade, Transportation, and Utilities  | 231,800  | 225,100       | 6,700         | 3.0                       | 1,738,400      | 1,697,500     | 40,900        | 2.4                       |
| Wholesale Trade   | 46,300   | 44,200        | 2,100         | 4.8                       | 344,100        | 335,200       | 8,900         | 2.7                       |
| Retail Trade  | 149,100  | 145,900       | 3,200         | 2.2                       | 1,116,100      | 1,094,100     | 22,000        | 2.0                       |
| Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities  | 36,400   | 35,000        | 1,400         | 4.0                       | 278,200        | 268,200       | 10,000        | 3.7                       |
| Information   | 24,400   | 24,600        | -200          | -0.8                      | 135,200        | 137,100       | -1,900        | -1.4                      |
| Financial Activities  | 74,700   | 72,600        | 2,100         | 2.9                       | 548,000        | 534,800       | 13,200        | 2.5                       |
| Professional and Business Services  | 195,500  | 187,600       | 7,900         | 4.2                       | 1,253,300      | 1,201,600     | 51,700        | 4.3                       |
| Education and Health Services   | 140,600  | 138,600       | 2,000         | 1.4                       | 1,236,100      | 1,191,100     | 45,000        | 3.8                       |
| Leisure and Hospitality   | 252,000  | 239,400       | 12,600        | 5.3                       | 1,150,900      | 1,107,200     | 43,700        | 3.9                       |
| Other Services  | 38,700   | 37,900        | 800           | 2.1                       | 343,200        | 332,100       | 11,100        | 3.3                       |
| Government  | 122,700  | 120,100       | 2,600         | 2.2                       | 1,090,300      | 1,096,300     | -6,000        | -0.5                      |

| <b>Population</b>            | <b>2015</b> | <b>2014</b> | <b>change</b> | <b>percent<br/>change</b> |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| CareerSource Central Florida | 2,435,852   | 2,381,495   | 54,357        | 2.3                       |
| Lake County                  | 316,569     | 309,736     | 6,833         | 2.2                       |
| Orange County                | 1,252,396   | 1,227,995   | 24,401        | 2.0                       |
| Osceola County               | 308,327     | 295,553     | 12,774        | 4.3                       |
| Seminole County              | 442,903     | 437,086     | 5,817         | 1.3                       |
| Sumter County                | 115,657     | 111,125     | 4,532         | 4.1                       |
| Florida                      | 19,815,183  | 19,507,369  | 307,814       | 1.6                       |

| <b>Average Annual Wage</b>   | <b>2014</b> | <b>2013</b> | <b>change</b> | <b>percent<br/>change</b> |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| CareerSource Central Florida | \$42,369    | \$41,260    | \$1,109       | 2.7                       |
| Lake County                  | \$34,207    | \$33,397    | \$810         | 2.4                       |
| Orange County                | \$44,429    | \$43,142    | \$1,287       | 3.0                       |
| Osceola County               | \$34,962    | \$34,151    | \$811         | 2.4                       |
| Seminole County              | \$41,921    | \$40,954    | \$967         | 2.4                       |
| Sumter County                | \$36,933    | \$37,575    | -\$642        | -1.7                      |
| Florida                      | \$44,810    | \$43,651    | \$1,159       | 2.7                       |

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