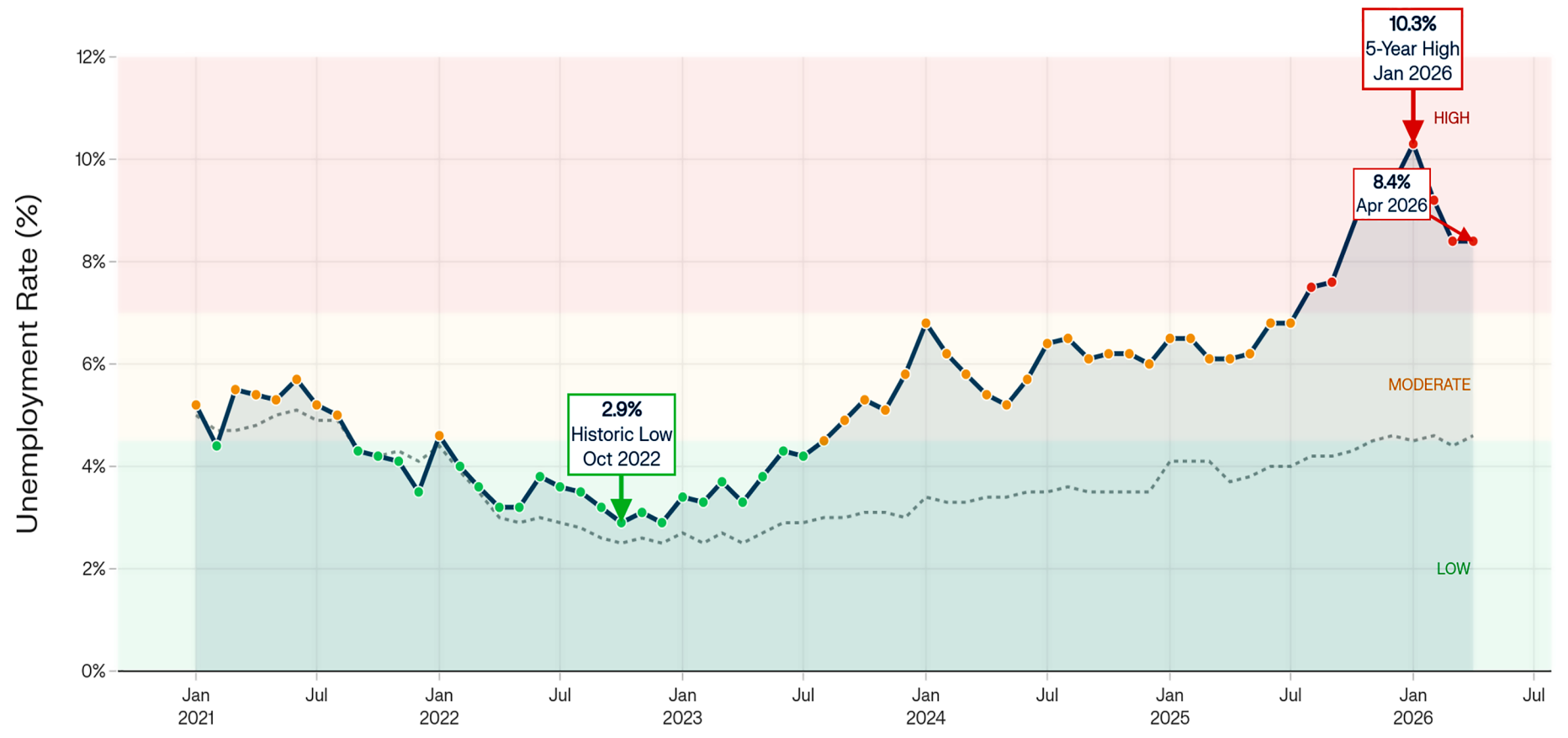


Taylor County, FL — Unemployment Rate (2021–2026)



County's unemployment rate hit 10.3% in January

UNEMPLOYMENT

Continued from page 1

the state's lowest unemployment rate at 2.9%. That's followed by Monroe at 3.1%. Pinellas, Seminole and Wakulla counties were tied for third in the state at 4.1%.

climbed sharply over the past two years, starting at 3.8% in December 2024, rising throughout 2025 and peaking at a five-year high of 10.3% in January 2026, before easing slightly over the past three months.

February 2026, but still well above the state's 4.6% (not-seasonally-adjusted) rate and the national rate of 4.0%.

county data show Taylor County had 458 unemployed residents out of a labor force of 5,471 in April, compared with 338 unemployed out of 5,570 one year earlier in April 2025.

while the seasonally adjusted rate was 4.8%. The U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.3%.

seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 8.4% in April 2026, matching March's rate and down from 9.3% in February, the Florida Department of Commerce reported.

Taylor County's unemployment has

The rate was down from the 9.3% unemployment rate Taylor County had in

Taylor County's jobless rate was as low 3.8% in December 2024 and 6.1% in April 2025 – approximately 38% lower than it is now, one year later.

Across the state of Florida, the not-seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 4.6% in April,

The county's not-

increase.

Pemberton: 'There seemed to be a great deal of interest in our reserves and what the plans were for our reserves'

ENGLISH

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step outside and call down there to the appropriations office to see if they would fund it? Did that committee make any effort with the legislature in budgets to see if, out of a \$112 billion budget, there was a little bit that could help the sheriff here in Taylor County? Did that request get made?"

had not been addressed by the county," Tompkins said. "There were a whole lot of requests following three hurricanes," Curtis said. "Yeah, there was a whole lot of requests," English said. "We were given \$900,000 that we may not get again to use as operational costs."

sitting there debating a \$112 billion budget right down the hall, and we're talking about half a million, I just had to ask the question, 'Did anybody walk down the hall and ask appropriations?' But apparently not.

Curtis said. "Then I read in the paper less than a month ago that we are the fastest-shrinking county in the whole United States."

typically fund recurring expenditures with non-recurring revenue. But, it seemed to fall on deaf ears."

After Curtis left the podium, English stated that Newman's motion to offer \$700,000 to the TCSO was still on the floor. The motion was approved 4-1, with Feagle voting against.

'Dogs will end regular season with rematch against Chiefland Indians

SCHEDULE

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host the Joshua Christian Academy Eagles out of Jacksonville, who went 4-5 last season, including wins over McLaughlin (14-8), Father Lopez (14-9), Faith Christian (40-0) and Trinity Christian Academy (55-0), as well as losses to Hamilton (22-0), FAMU (20-6).

(60-0), Oak Hall (46-18) and Young Kids in Motion (52-6).

Week #10 (Oct. 23) will likely decide the District 3-1A championship, as Madison County comes to Perry for a district game.

The Cowboys finished 2025 with a 6-6 mark after a last-second 33-32 loss to Blountstown in the second round of the playoffs and a brutal schedule that featured Deland (21-20 loss), Lincoln (23-12 loss), Suwannee (49-14 win), Columbia County (9-0 loss), Bay (41-35 win), Pace (20-18 loss), Jacksonville-Raines (27-14 loss), Florida High (41-21 win), Apopka (43-6 win), Lecanto (43-7 win) and Chipley (43-8 win).

Week #11: Taylor County will end the regular season

with a big rematch against Chiefland -- the only team to hand them a loss in the regular season last year.

The Indians went 11-2 in 2025, rolling to the state Class 1R (Rural) semifinals before falling to eventual state champions Hawthorne, 36-6.

Hawthorne defeated Blountstown 24-8 to win the Class 1R-Rural state championship.

Chiefland lost only once in the regular season (14-0 to Baker County), reeling off wins over Williston (36-35), Belleview (21-14), Lafayette (41-14), Trinity Catholic (42-14), Trenton (41-0), Dixie County (63-8), Taylor County (30-15), Keystone Heights (42-7), Union County (42-0), Sneads (44-6) and Baker (49-19).



Taylor County Extension Office officials encourage those planning to harvest scallops this season to use "scallop sorters" to ensure smaller scallops are returned to the Gulf and given a chance to grow and maintain a health resource for future seasons. Free sorters will be given out at a Scallop Seminar planned for Friday, June 12, at the Steinhatchee Community Center.

'A great opportunity to get acquainted'

SCALLOP MIXER

Continued from page 3

business members, enjoy light snacks provided by the American Legion and

purchase beverages. This is a great opportunity to get acquainted with the community and prepare for the scallop season," Chamber officials

added. The American Legion Post 291, located at 220 11th Street SE, will provide a welcoming atmosphere for all attendees.

LEGALS

(Continued from page 9)

following address: RFQ WW62032 and DW62031 Taylor Coastal Water and Sewer District 18820 Beach Road Perry, Florida 32348

2) Teramore Development, LLC. on behalf of Dollar General has filed a Development Application for a new store on Golf Course Road. Section 27, Township 04, Range 07 Parcel No. 05540-000 & 05539-000.

because he placed four 16' columns in the rear setback without a permit. One column is slightly over the property line. These columns are for an elevated deck, and he is sorry for the mistake. Section 11, Township 05, Range 04, Parcel No. 01161-000.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Taylor County Planning Board will hold a public meeting June 11, 2026, at 5:00 pm, or soon after as possible, at the Taylor County Administrative Complex located at 201 East Green Street, Perry, Florida 32347 to consider petitions for variance petition and land development.

4) A variance petition V09-2026 by owner Ronald Harvey is seeking a 4' variance on the North side setback to allow him to place his pole barn on the property. Section 22, Township 07, Range 07, Parcel 06842-000.

Copies of associated documents are available for public inspection at the Planning Administration Complex, located at 201 East Green Street, Perry, Florida 32347.

DUE DATES

Continued from page 3

any unpaid balance. The penalty becomes effective immediately after the bill is considered delinquent.

property, who is considered the owner's agent for notification purposes. The notice must include the total amount owed, including penalties, and inform the recipient of the city's intent to terminate utility service and place a lien on the property if payment is not made.

period, customers have the right to request a hearing with the city's finance director. City officials said the updates are intended to promote fairness, ensure timely payments and provide adequate notice before enforcement actions are taken.

Council approved due date change at May 12 meeting

The ordinance also clarifies the city's process for notifying customers of potential service termination or lien action. If a bill remains unpaid after the due date, the city will issue written notice to the occupant of the

termination or lien action cannot occur until at least five business days after the notice is sent. During that

effect immediately upon adoption, which came by a 4-0 vote at the city's May 12 meeting.