



## NEWS RELEASE



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### **OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES FOR SELECTED THERAPIST OCCUPATIONS IN FLORIDA'S METROPOLITAN AREAS – MAY 2011**

Among Florida's 20 metropolitan areas, 13 had wages significantly above the national average for occupational therapists, and 11 had significantly higher wages for physical therapists, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. In 17 areas, respiratory therapists earned significantly lower wages than the national average. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that Sebastian was the only metropolitan area in Florida where respiratory therapists had significantly higher wages when compared to the nation. Nationwide, the average (mean) annual wage for occupational therapists was \$74,970; for physical therapists, \$79,830; and for respiratory therapists, \$56,260. (See table A. For comprehensive definitions of metropolitan areas in Florida, please see Technical Note.)

**Table A. Average (mean) annual wages for selected therapist occupations in the United States and metropolitan areas in Florida, May 2011**

Area	Occupational Therapists	Physical Therapists	Respiratory Therapists
United States	\$74,970	\$79,830	\$56,260
Florida	79,650 *	82,050 *	51,930 *
Cape Coral-Fort Myers	85,620 *	81,510 *	--
Crestview-Fort Walton Beach-Destin	--	75,190 *	46,340 *
Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach	80,240 *	79,500	50,550 *
Gainesville	61,760 *	81,520 *	48,240 *
Jacksonville	82,060 *	97,310 *	51,100 *
Lakeland-Winter Haven	70,350 *	80,550 *	48,110 *
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach	76,470 *	79,850	53,910 *
Naples-Marco Island	83,230 *	88,730 *	54,290 *
North Port-Bradenton-Sarasota	69,320 *	73,960 *	53,750 *
Ocala	82,830 *	89,760 *	50,310 *
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford	78,440 *	80,610 *	53,000 *
Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville	72,460 *	82,510 *	54,390 *
Palm Coast	--	67,400 *	--
Panama City-Lynn Haven-Panama City Beach	72,110 *	78,040 *	46,540 *
Pensacola-Ferry Pass-Brent	78,360 *	78,620 *	47,810 *
Port St. Lucie	86,100 *	78,300 *	51,750 *
Punta Gorda	81,440 *	87,100 *	50,460 *
Sebastian-Vero Beach	81,180 *	84,660 *	58,020 *
Tallahassee	78,870 *	77,280 *	52,070 *
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater	88,570 *	80,640 *	49,410 *

\* The mean annual wage for this area is significantly different from the national average of all areas at the 90-percent confidence level.

--Estimate not released

Of the state's 20 metropolitan areas, Miami had the largest number of occupational therapists (1,680), physical therapists (3,480), and respiratory therapists (2,240). Miami accounted for 29 percent of Florida's employment in these three occupations followed by Tampa with 17 percent (4,390). Jacksonville (2,260) and Orlando (2,240) were the only other metropolitan areas where combined employment in the three selected occupations exceeded 2,000. (See table B.)

**Table B. Employment for selected therapist occupations in the United States and metropolitan areas in Florida, May 2011**

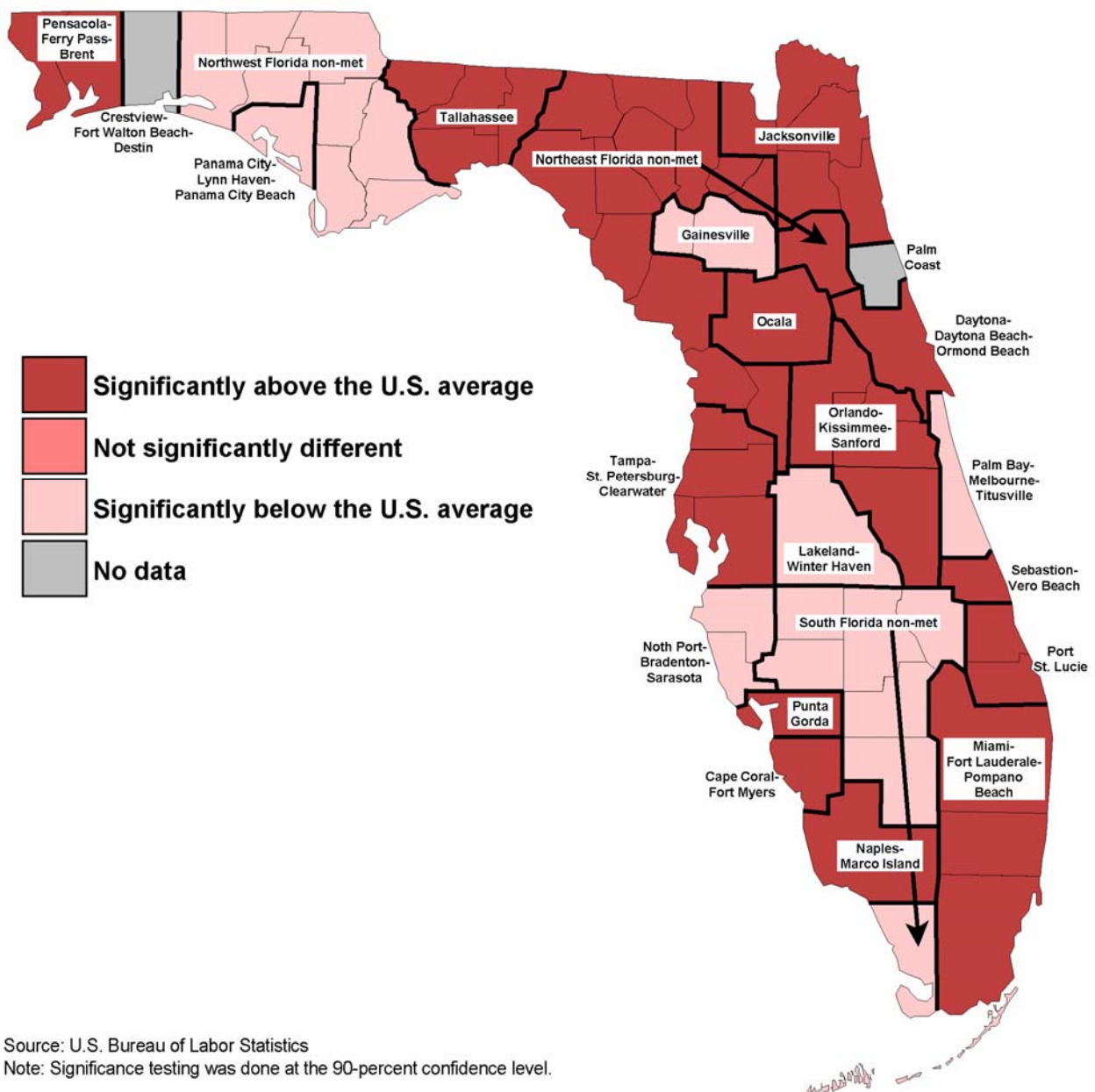
Area	Occupational Therapists	Physical Therapists	Respiratory Therapists
United States	103,570	185,440	113,980
Florida	6,540	12,020	7,060
Cape Coral-Fort Myers	150	450	--
Crestview-Fort Walton Beach-Destin	--	70	40
Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach	150	280	140
Gainesville	240	430	210
Jacksonville	630	1,060	570
Lakeland-Winter Haven	90	170	230
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach	1,680	3,480	2,240
Naples-Marco Island	100	230	100
North Port-Bradenton-Sarasota	300	340	270
Ocala	130	200	130
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford	440	1,070	730
Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville	230	410	190
Palm Coast	--	40	--
Panama City-Lynn Haven-Panama City Beach	30	60	110
Pensacola-Ferry Pass-Brent	130	180	220
Port St. Lucie	70	250	90
Punta Gorda	60	160	60
Sebastian-Vero Beach	80	110	40
Tallahassee	140	210	--
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater	1,300	2,020	1,070

--Estimate not released

## Wages for occupational therapists in metropolitan areas in Florida

Among the 13 areas where occupational therapists' wages were significantly above the national average, Tampa (\$88,570), Port St. Lucie (\$86,100), and Cape Coral (\$85,620) reported the highest wages. Gainesville (\$61,760) registered the lowest wage in this occupation, more than \$13,000 below the national average. Three of the four highest-paying metropolitan areas for occupational therapists were located on the southwest coast. (See chart 1. For the purpose of completeness, the chart also includes nonmetropolitan areas.)

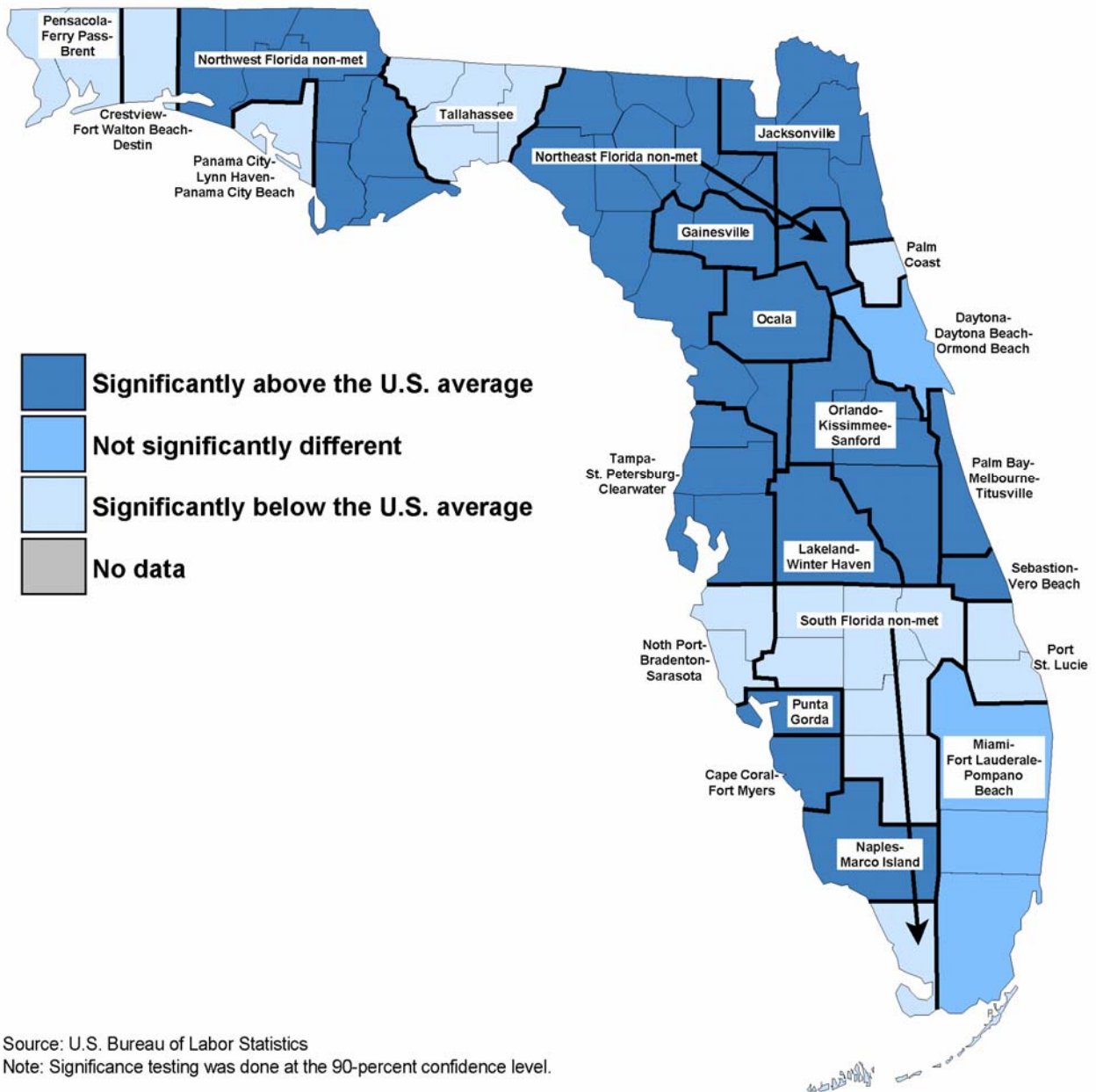
**Chart 1. Mean annual wages for occupational therapists, by area, Florida, May 2011**



## Wages for physical therapists in metropolitan areas in Florida

The Jacksonville metropolitan area paid the highest annual wage (\$97,310) for physical therapists, more than \$17,000 higher than the national average. Three other areas—Ocala, Naples, and Punta Gorda—had wages above \$85,000. Wages in all four areas were significantly above the national average. At the other end of the wage spectrum, physical therapists in Palm Coast earned \$67,400 annually, more than \$12,000 below the national average. (See chart 2.)

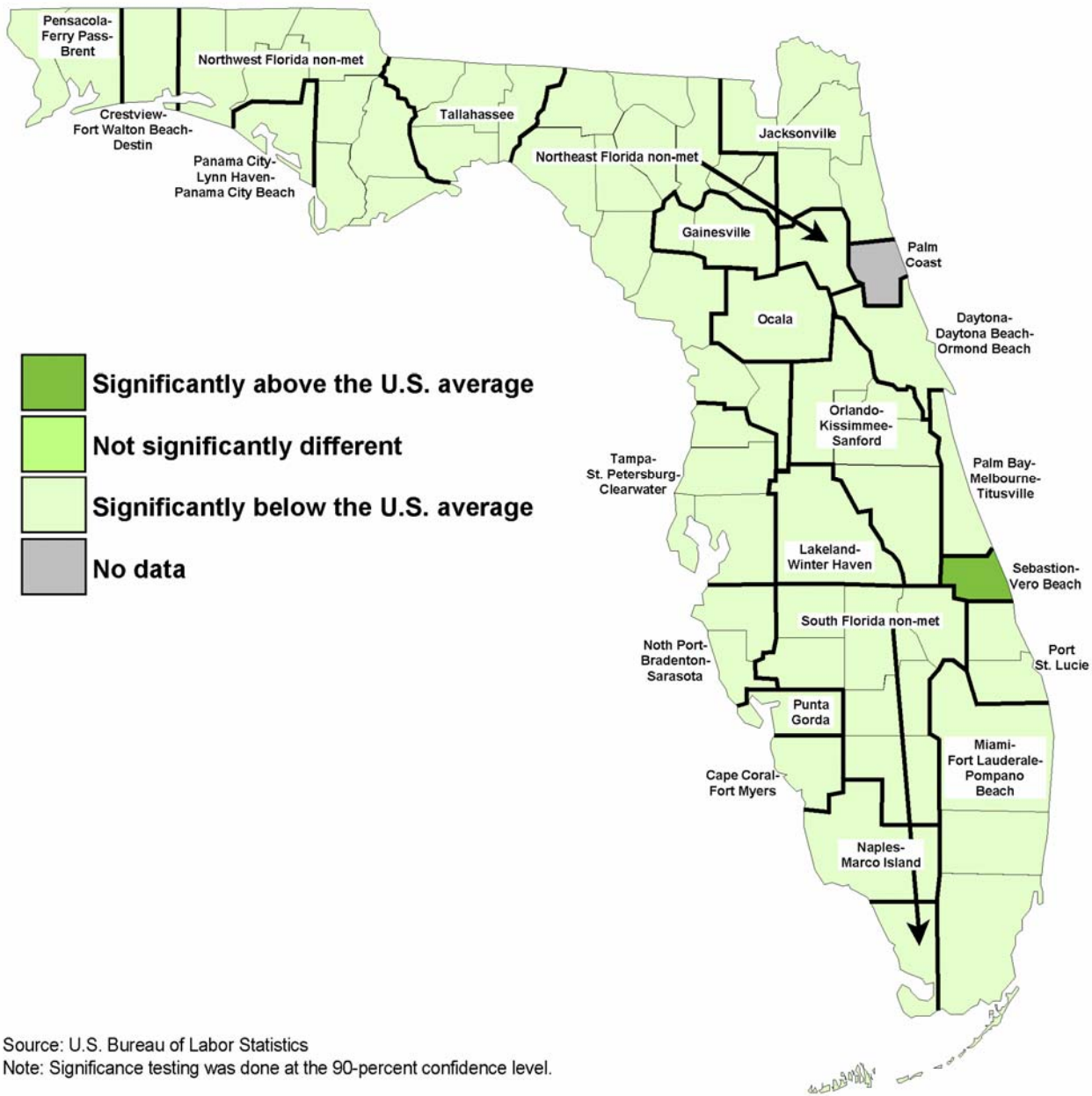
**Chart 2. Mean annual wages for physical therapists, by area, Florida, May 2011**



### Wages for respiratory therapists in metropolitan areas in Florida

At \$58,020, Sebastian was the highest-paying metropolitan area in Florida for respiratory therapists and the only area in the state where wages were significantly higher than the national average. Crestview (\$46,340) and Panama City (\$46,540) were the lowest-paying areas for respiratory therapists. (See chart 3.)

**Chart 3. Mean annual wages for respiratory therapists, by area, Florida, May 2011**



These statistics are from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey, a federal-state cooperative program between the BLS and State Workforce Agencies, in this case, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity in Florida. The OES survey provides estimates of employment and hourly and annual wages for wage and salary workers in 22 major occupational groups and about 800 detailed occupations for the nation, states, metropolitan statistical areas, metropolitan divisions, and nonmetropolitan areas.

OES wage and employment data for selected therapists occupations in the state and metropolitan areas were compared to their respective national averages based on statistical significance testing. Only those occupations with wages or employment shares above or below the national wage or share after testing for significance at the 90-percent confidence level meet the criteria.

NOTE: A value that is statistically different from another does not necessarily mean that the difference has economic or practical significance. Statistical significance is concerned with the ability to make confident statements about a universe based on a sample. It is entirely possible that a large difference between values is not significantly different statistically, while a small difference is, since both the size and heterogeneity of the sample affect the relative error of the data being tested.

### **Technical note**

The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey is a semiannual mail survey measuring occupational employment and wage rates for wage and salary workers in nonfarm establishments in the United States. Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands also are surveyed, but their data are not included in the national estimates. OES estimates are constructed from a sample of about 1.2 million establishments. Forms are mailed to approximately 200,000 establishments in May and November of each year for a 3-year period. The nationwide response rate for the May 2011 survey was 77.3 percent based on establishments and 73.3 percent based on employment. May 2011 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected over a 3-year period: May 2011, November 2010, May 2010, November 2009, May 2009, and November 2008. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to [www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.tn.htm](http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.tn.htm).

Nearly all the occupations in this release are 2010 SOC occupations; however, some are not. The May 2012 OES data will reflect the full set of detailed occupations in the 2010 SOC. For a list of all occupations, including 2010 SOC occupations, and how data collected on two structures were combined, see the OES Frequently Asked Questions online at [www.bls.gov/oes/oes\\_ques.htm#Ques41](http://www.bls.gov/oes/oes_ques.htm#Ques41).

OES data by state and metropolitan/nonmetropolitan area are available from [www.bls.gov/oes/current/oesrcst.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oesrcst.htm) and [www.bls.gov/oes/current/oesrcma.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oesrcma.htm), respectively.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone number: 1-800-877-8339.

### **Metropolitan area definitions**

The substate area data published in this release reflect the standards and definitions established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.



**Cape Coral-Fort Myers, Fla. MSA** includes Lee County in Florida.

**Crestview-Fort Walton Beach-Destin, Fla. MSA** includes Okaloosa County in Florida.

**Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach, Fla. MSA** includes Volusia County in Florida.

**Gainesville, Fla. MSA** includes Alachua and Gilchrist Counties in Florida.

**Jacksonville, Fla. MSA** includes Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, and St. Johns Counties in Florida.

**Lakeland-Winter Haven, Fla. MSA** includes Polk County in Florida.

**Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, Fla.** includes Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach Counties in Florida.

**Naples-Marco Island, Fla. MSA** includes Collier County in Florida.

**North Port-Bradenton-Sarasota, Fla. MSA** includes Manatee and Sarasota Counties in Florida.

**Ocala, Fla. MSA** includes Marion County in Florida.

**Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, Fla. MSA** includes Lake, Orange, Osceola, and Seminole Counties in Florida.

**Palm Bay-Melbourne-Titusville, Fla. MSA** includes Brevard County in Florida.

**Palm Coast, Fla. MSA** includes Flagler County in Florida.

**Panama City-Lynn Haven-Panama City Beach, Fla. MSA** includes Bay County in Florida.

**Pensacola-Ferry Pass-Brent, Fla. MSA** includes Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties in Florida.

**Port St. Lucie, Fla. MSA** includes Martin and St. Lucie Counties in Florida.

**Punta Gorda, Fla. MSA** includes Charlotte County in Florida.

**Sebastian-Vero Beach, Fla. MSA** includes Indian River County in Florida.

**Tallahassee, Fla. MSA** includes Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, and Wakulla Counties in Florida.

**Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, Fla. MSA** includes Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco, and Pinellas Counties in Florida.