

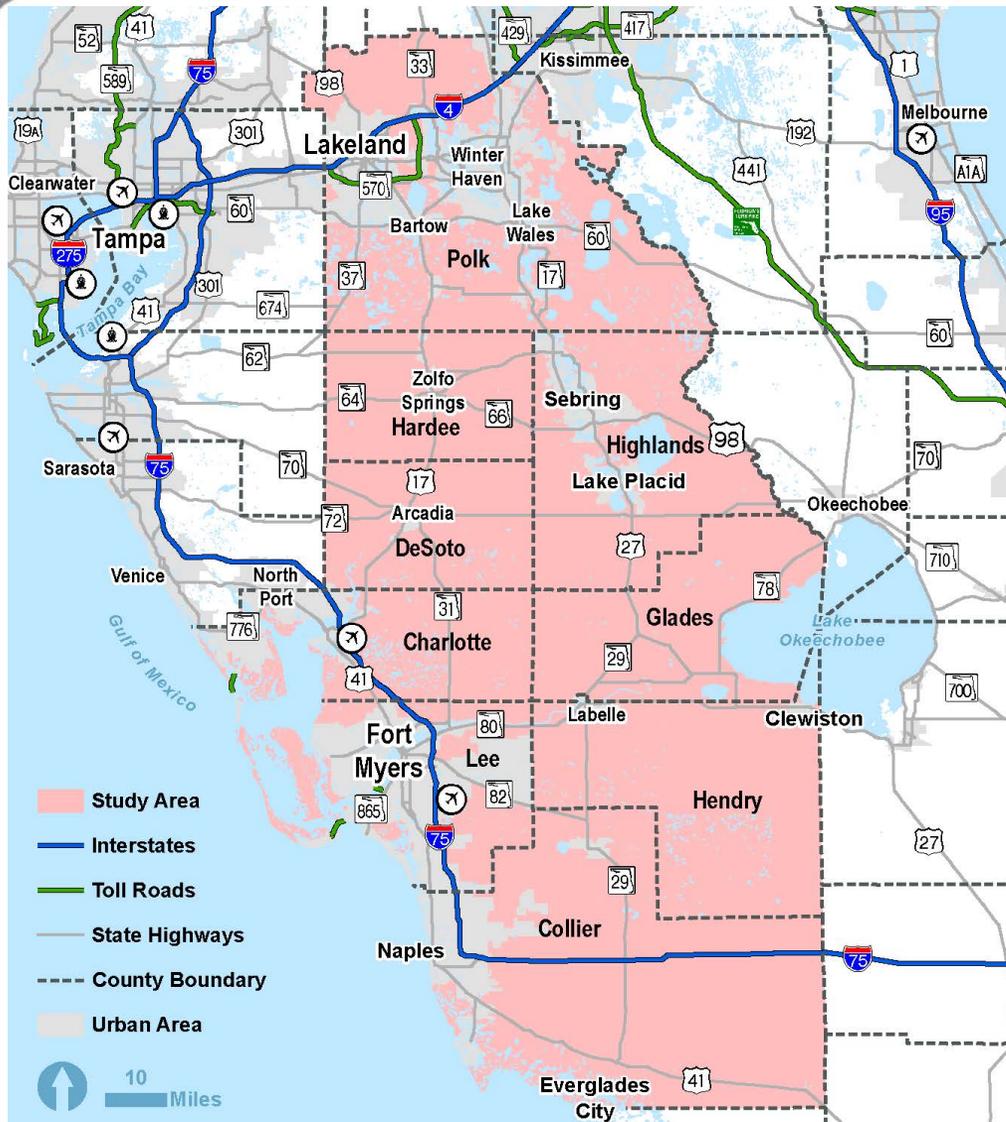


# Southwest-Central Florida Connector

## Study Area Considerations



August 27, 2019



9 Counties, 36 Cities and Towns

- **Counties:** Polk, Hardee, DeSoto, Highlands, Charlotte, Glades, Lee, Hendry, & Collier

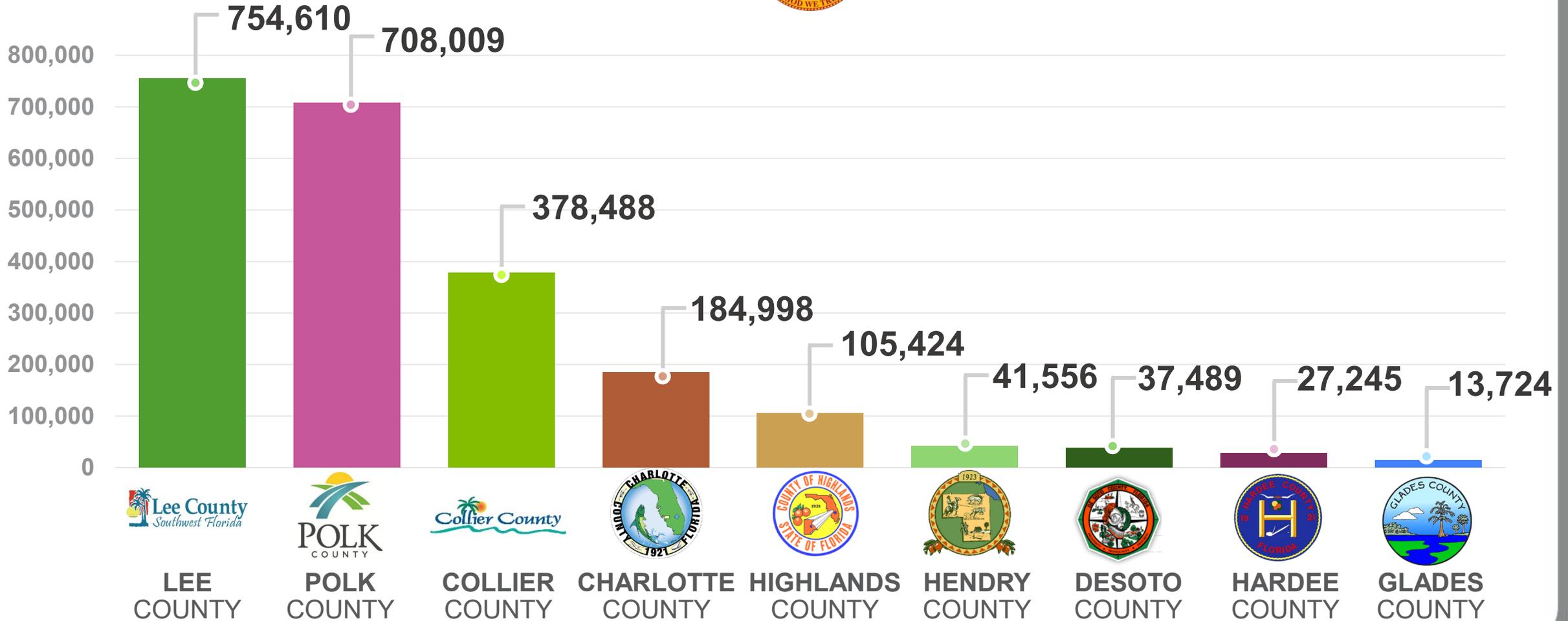
Land Area: 9,511 square miles

Inland area known as “The Florida Heartland”

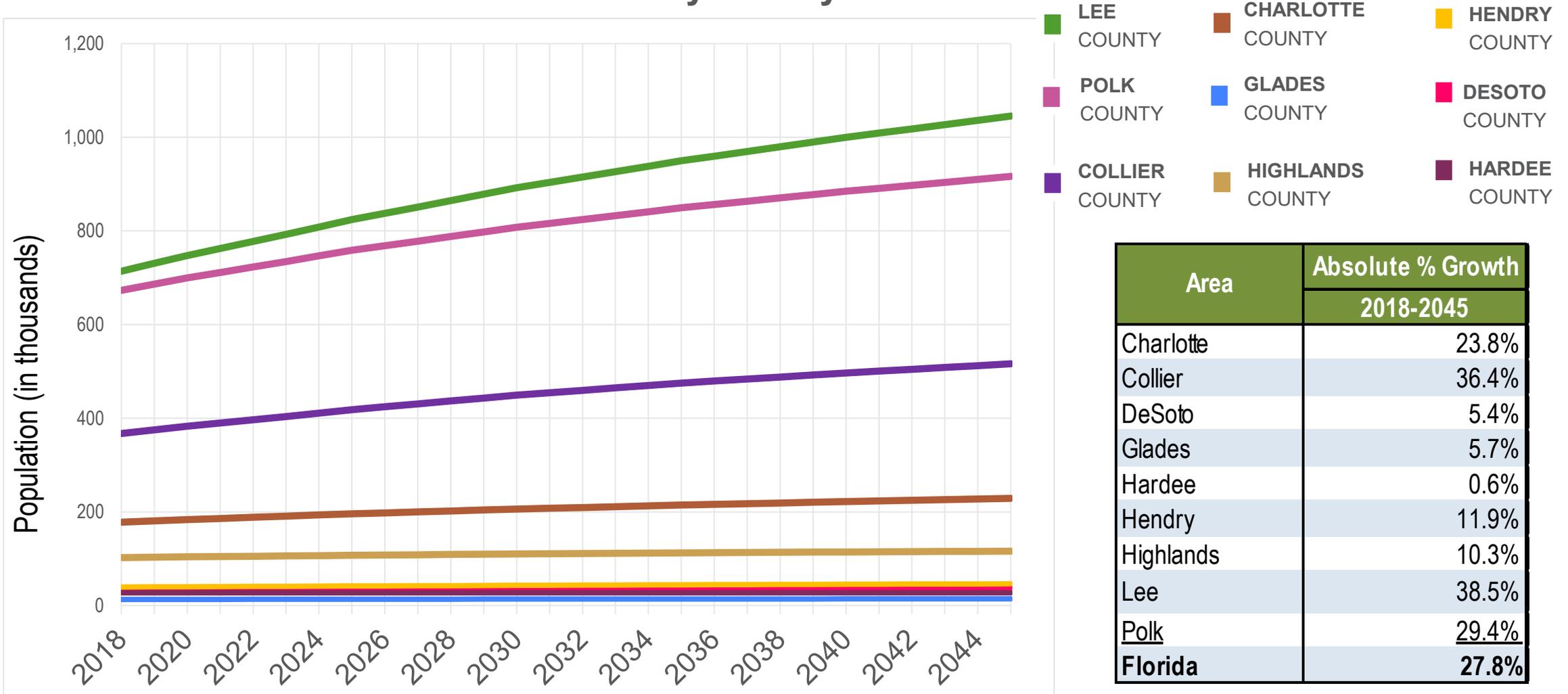
# Current Population by County



Statewide Total: **21,299,325**



## Future Growth by County



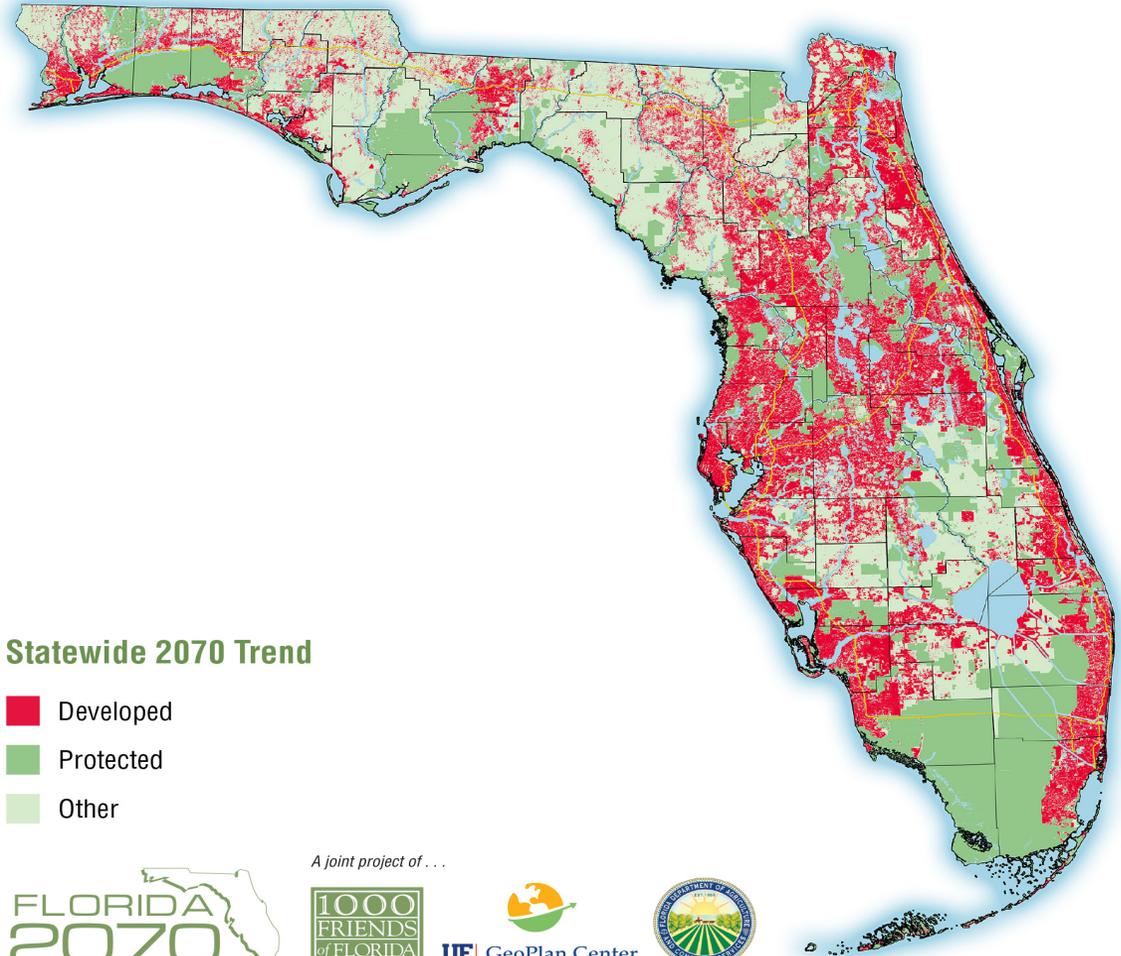
\*Bureau of Economic and Business Research Medium Projections Medium Projections Used

**Florida is 3rd largest State in the U.S. by population**

**Florida is 2nd fastest growing State in the U.S.**

## Population:

- 2018 Current – 21.3 million
- 2070 Future – 33.7 million

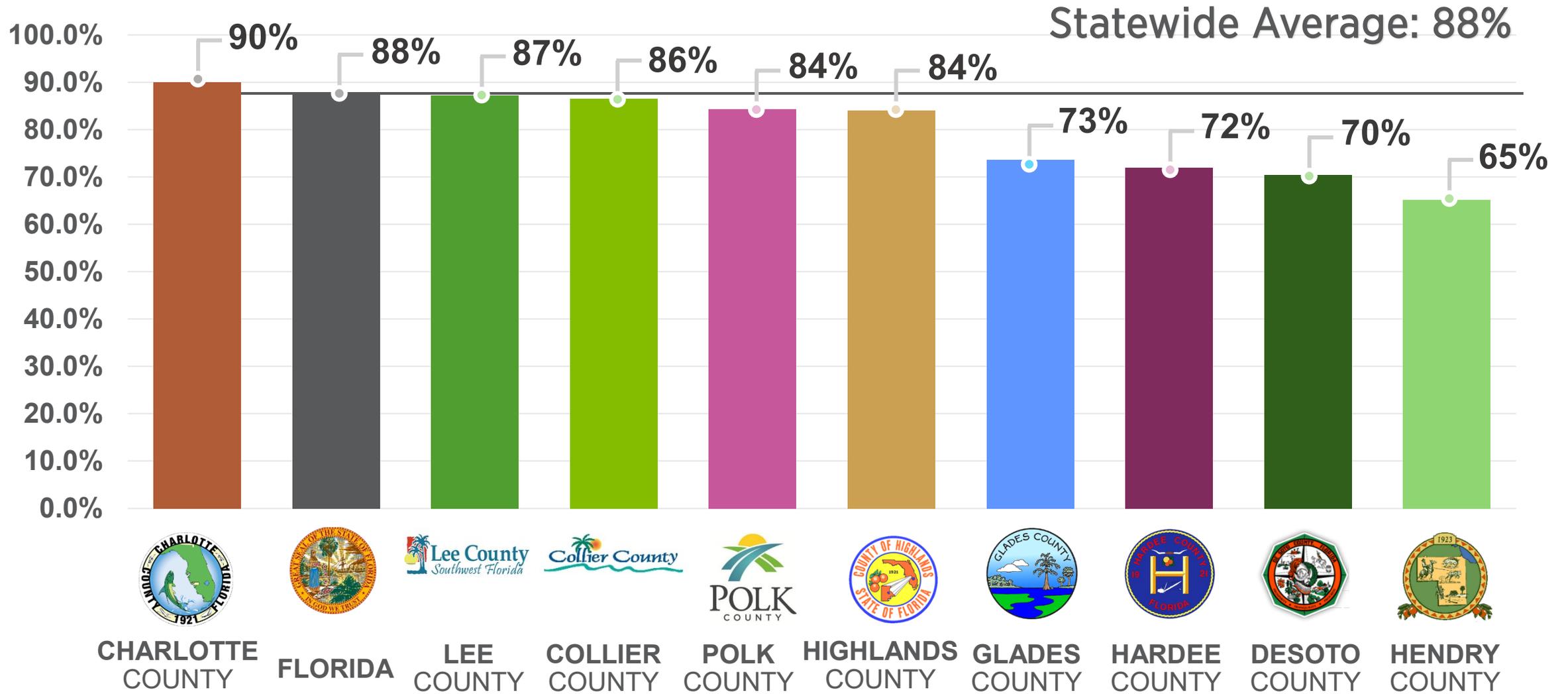


A joint project of . . .



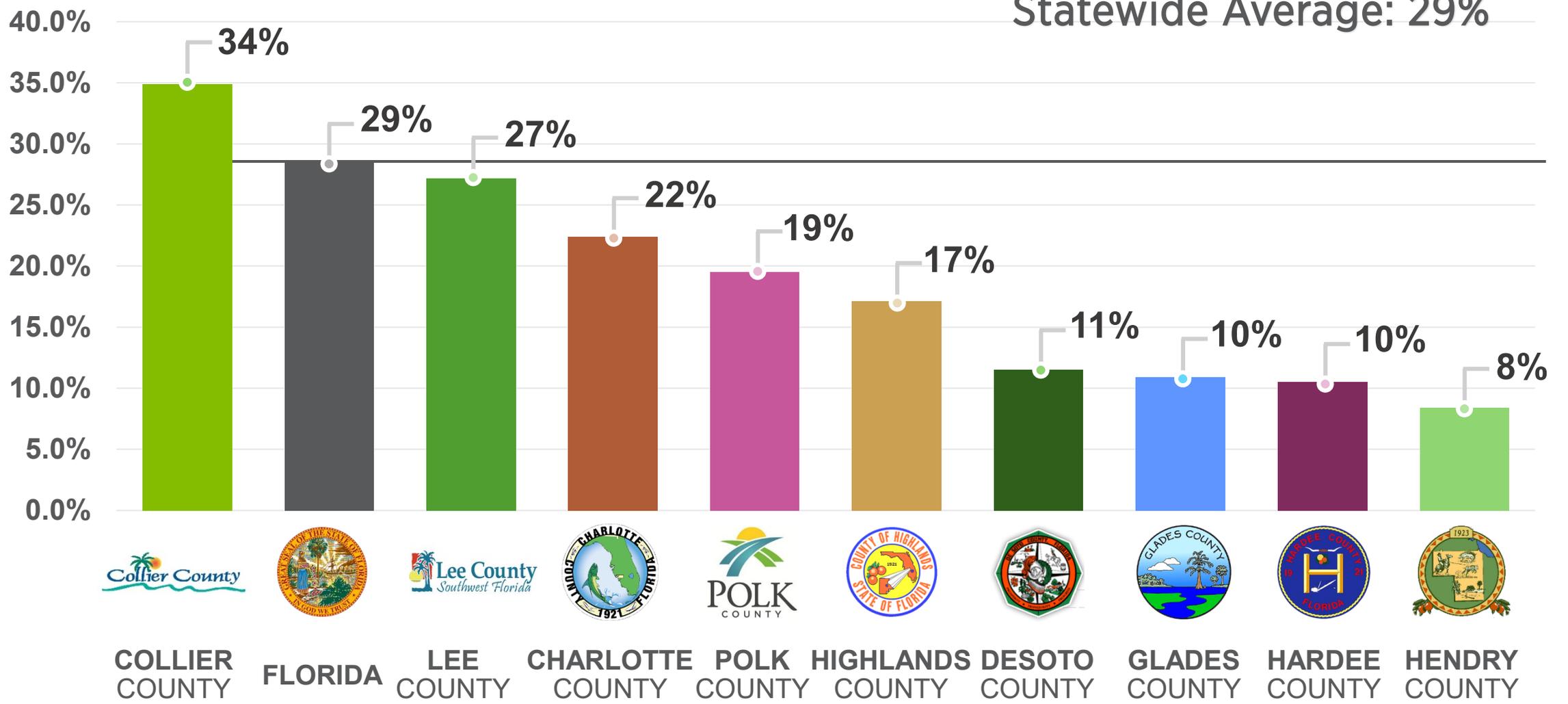
November 2016

# High School Graduation Rate



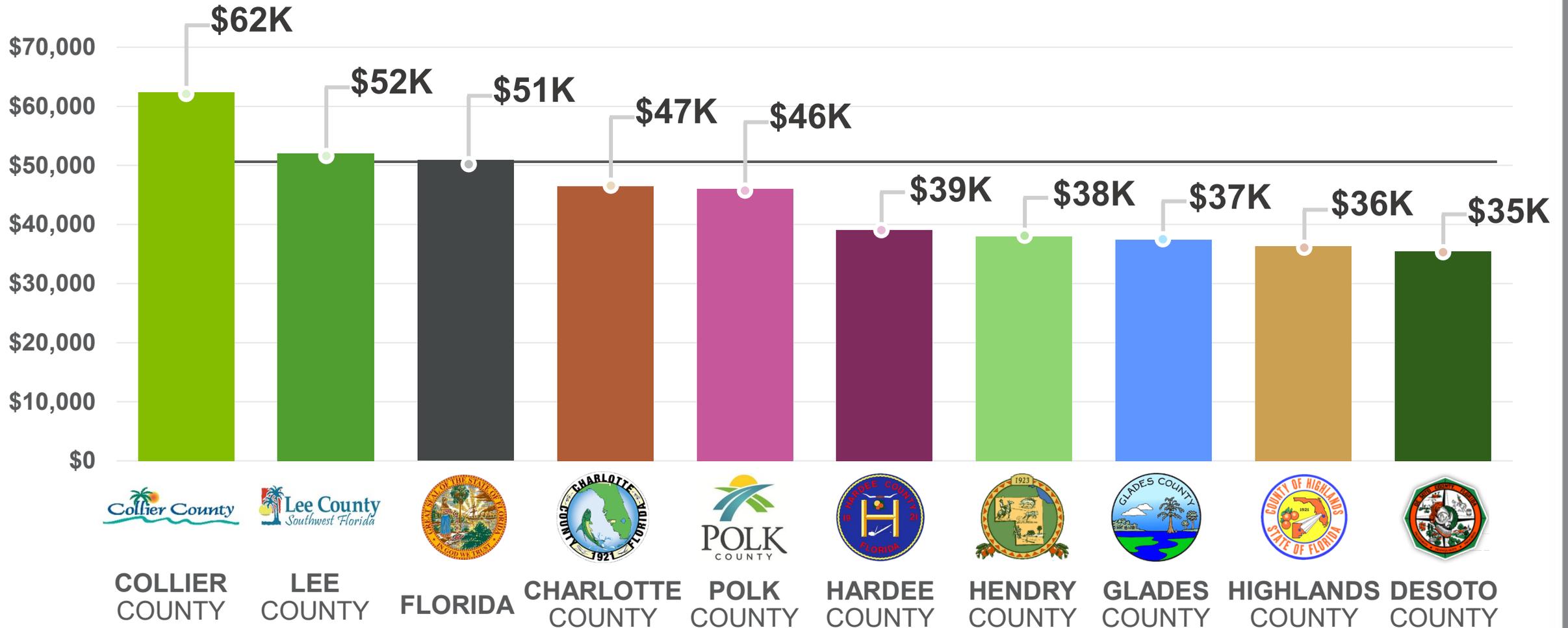
# Bachelor's Degree Attainment Rate

Statewide Average: 29%

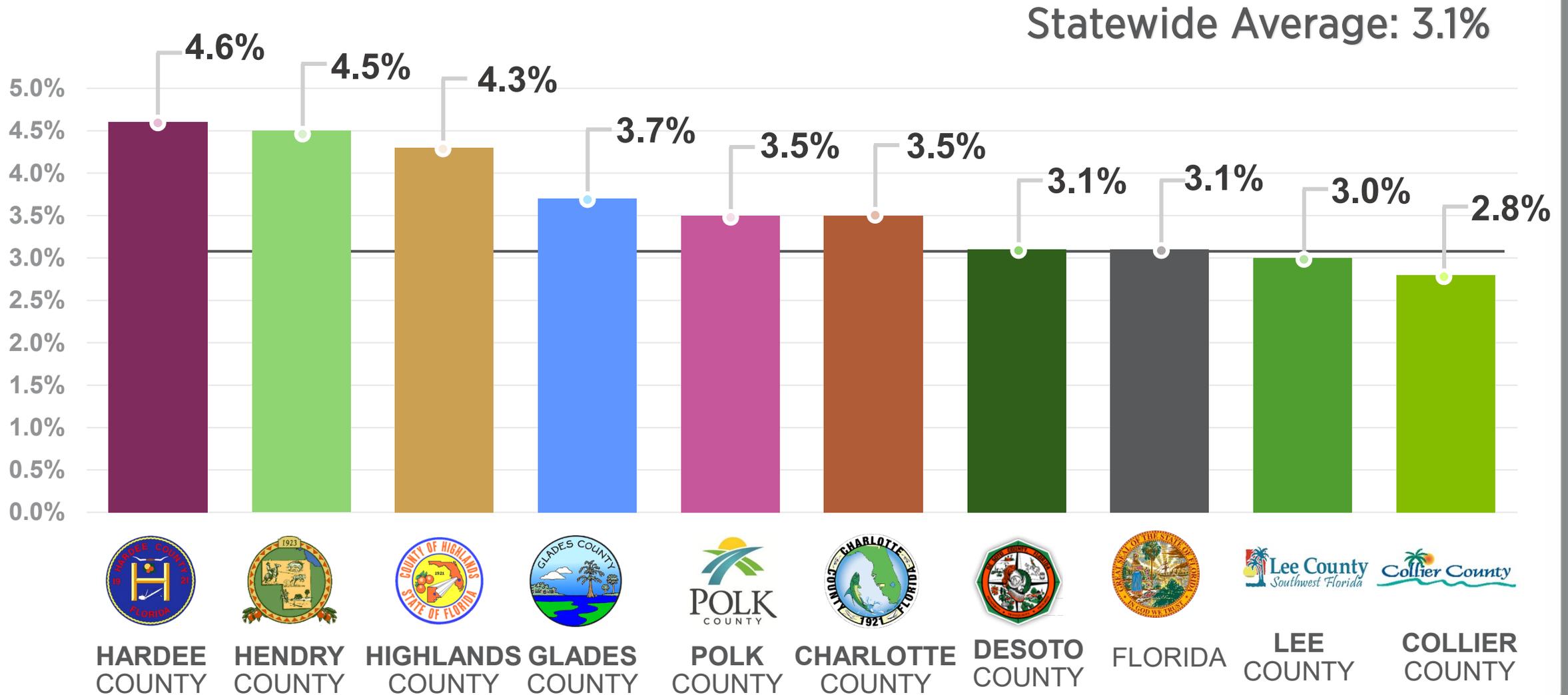


# Current Median Household Income

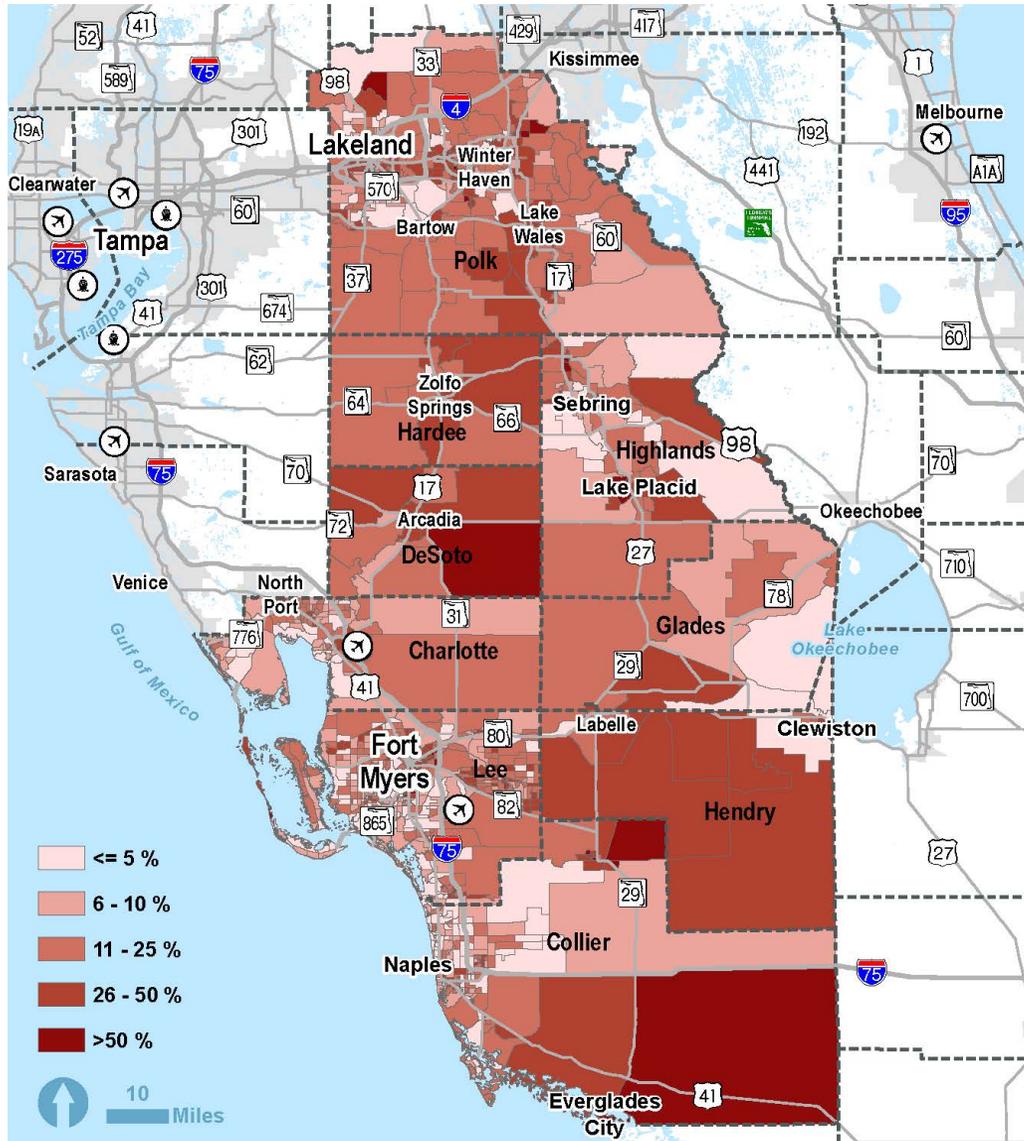
Statewide Average: \$50,883



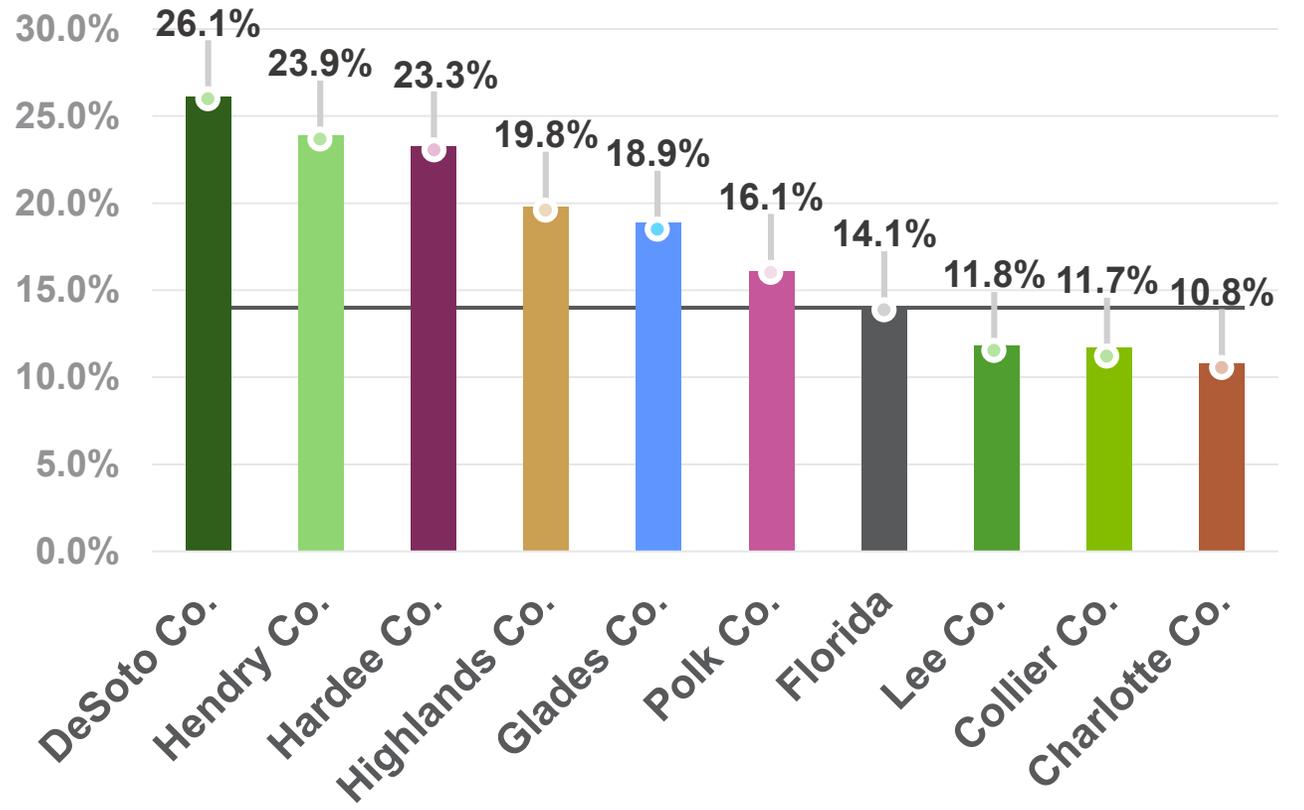
# Current Unemployment Rates



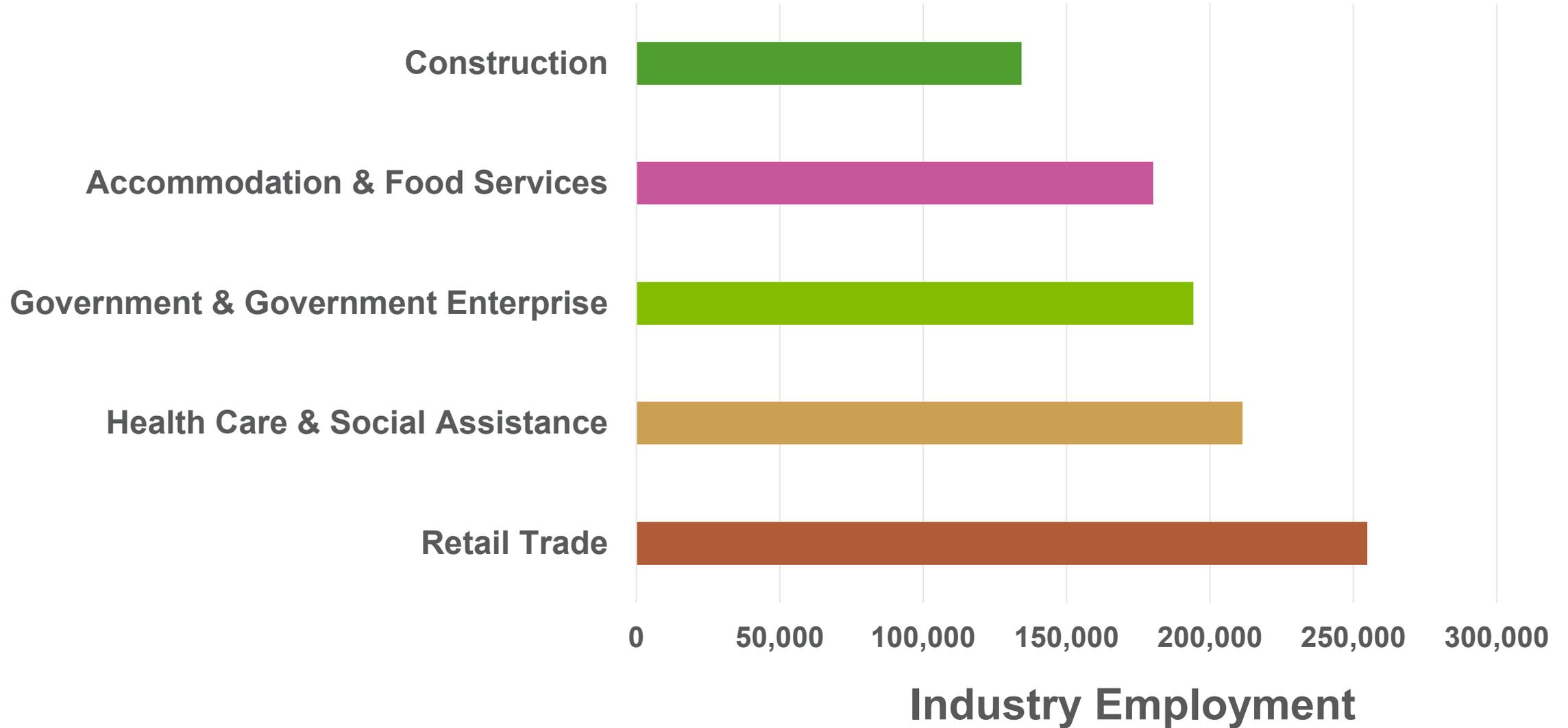
# Percent of Population Below Poverty Line

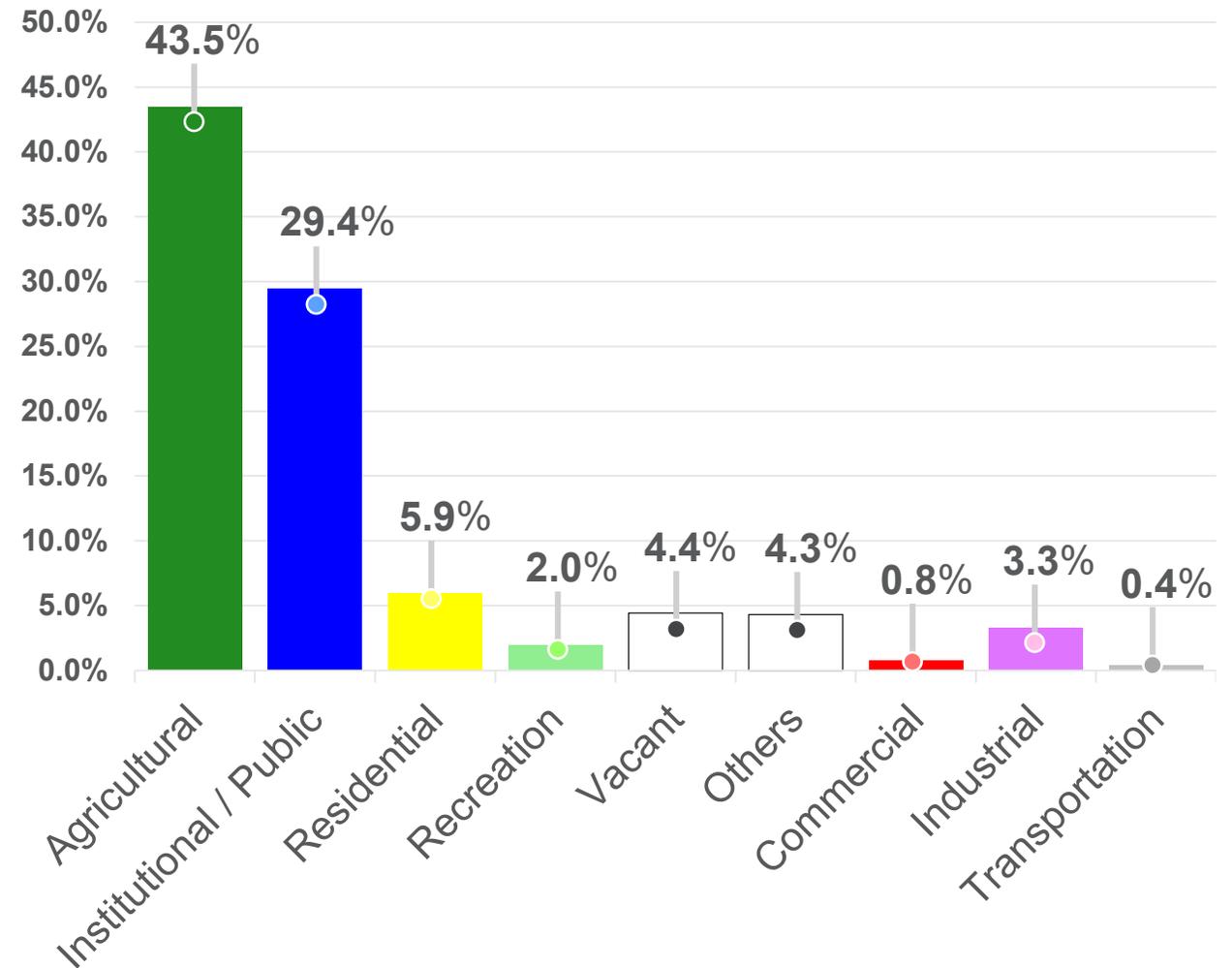
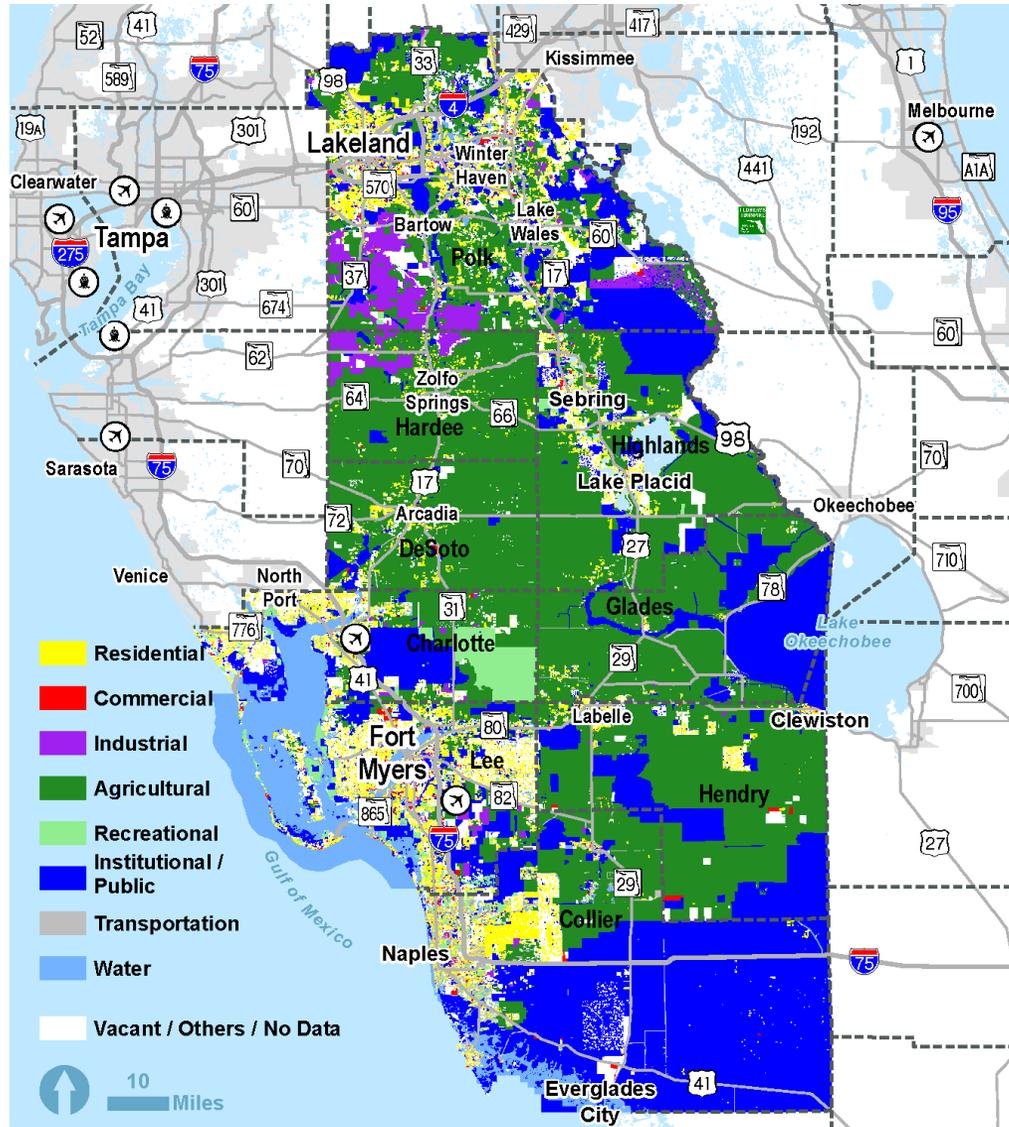


Statewide Average: 14.1%



# Employment by Industry





## National Register of Historic Places/Historic Sites:

- Clewiston Inn
- Seaboard Coast Line Railroad Depot
- Sanibel Lighthouse and Keeper's Quarters
- Arcadia Historic District

## Archeological Sites:

- Hinson Mounds
- Pine Level Archeological District
- Pineland Archeological District
- Galt Island Archeological District
- Big Mound Key – Boggess Ridge Archaeological District

## Cultural Locations/ Cemeteries:

- Paynes Creek Massacre/ Fort Chokonikla Site
- Oak Hill Cemetery
- Red Barn

*Sanibel Island Lighthouse & Keeper's Quarters*

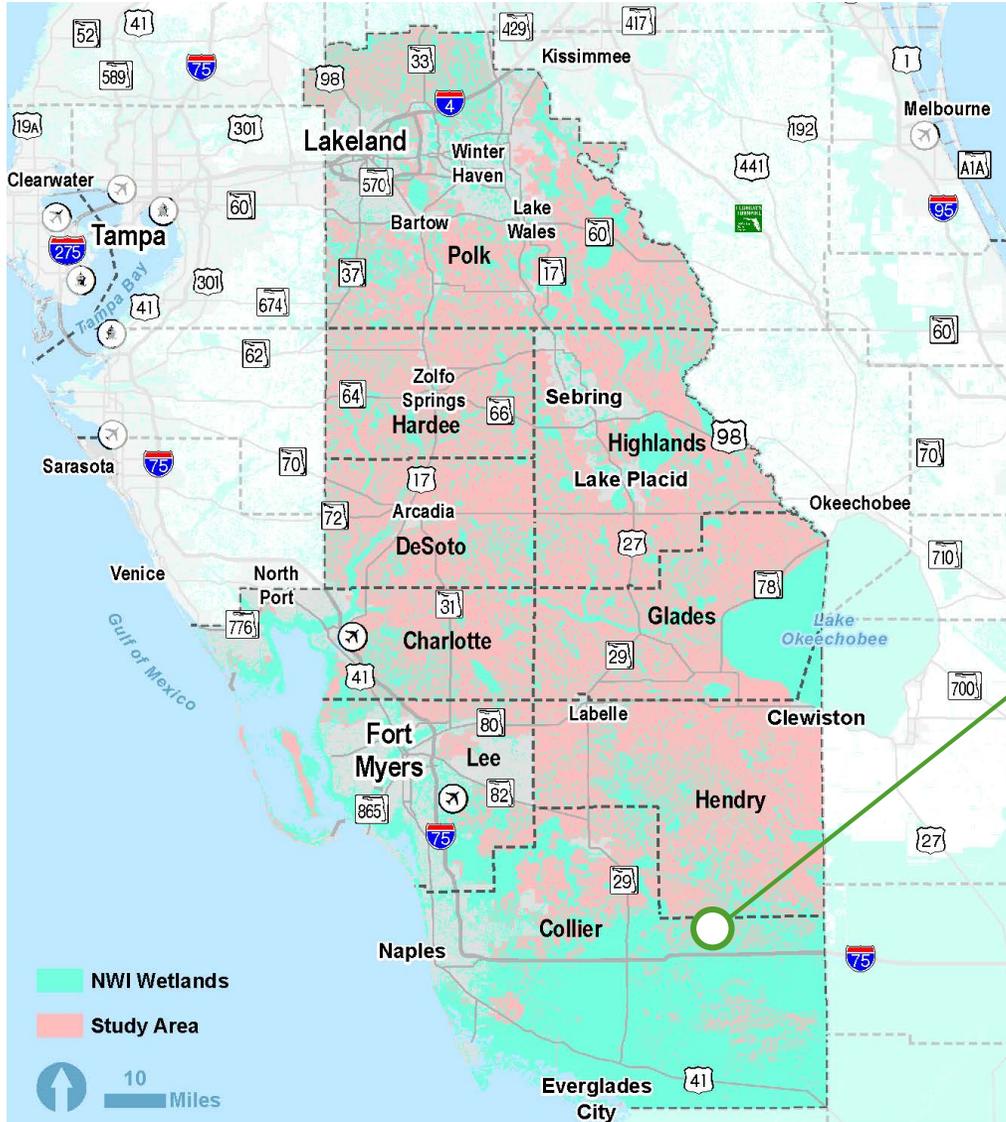


*Arcadia Historic District*



*Payne's Creek Massacre / Fort Chokonikla*



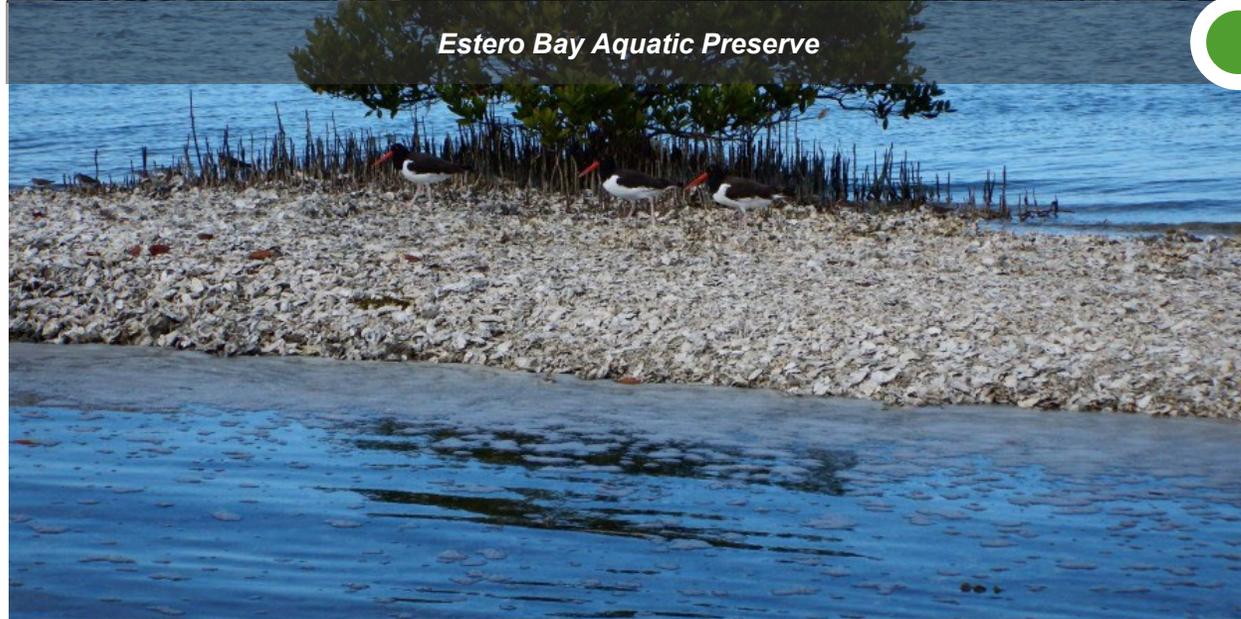


## Wetland Types

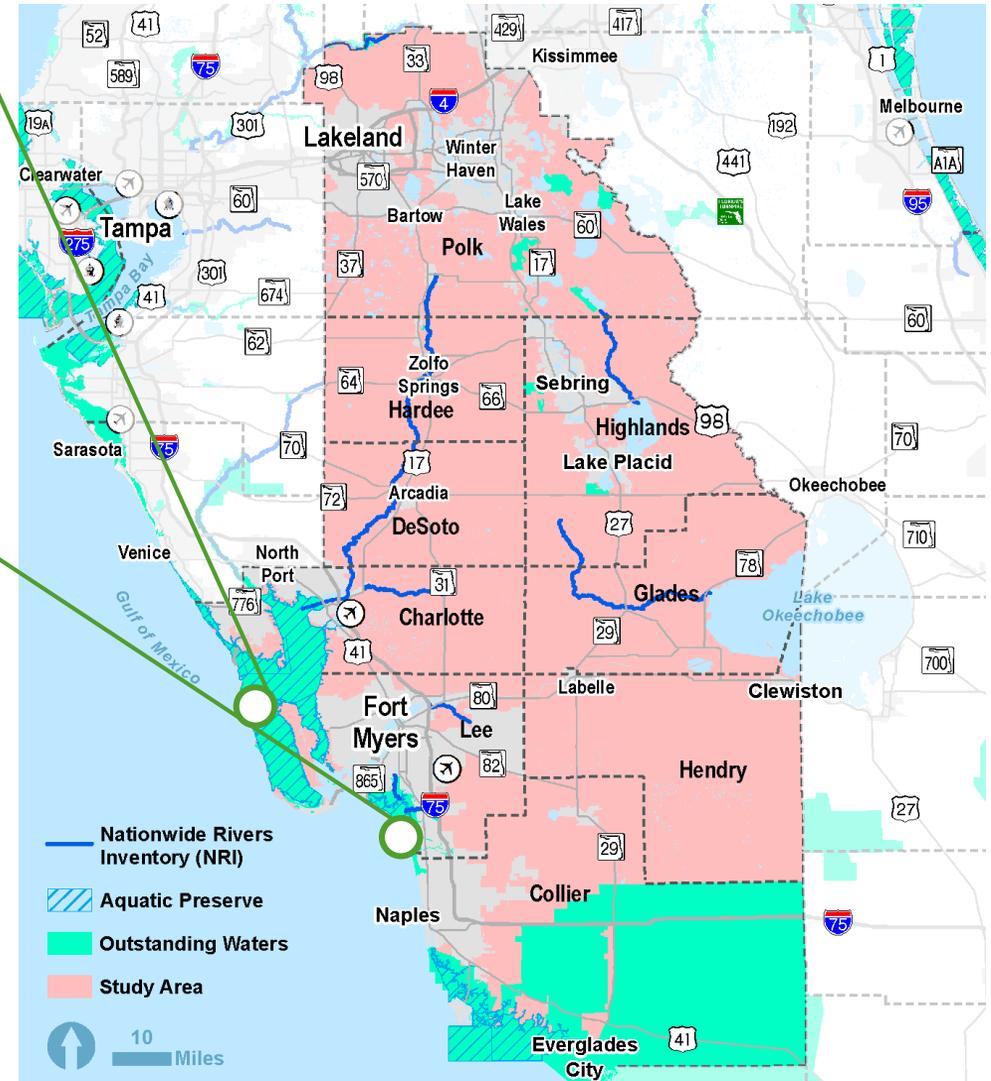
- Lakes
- Freshwater
- Marine & Coastal
- Uplands
- Subtropical



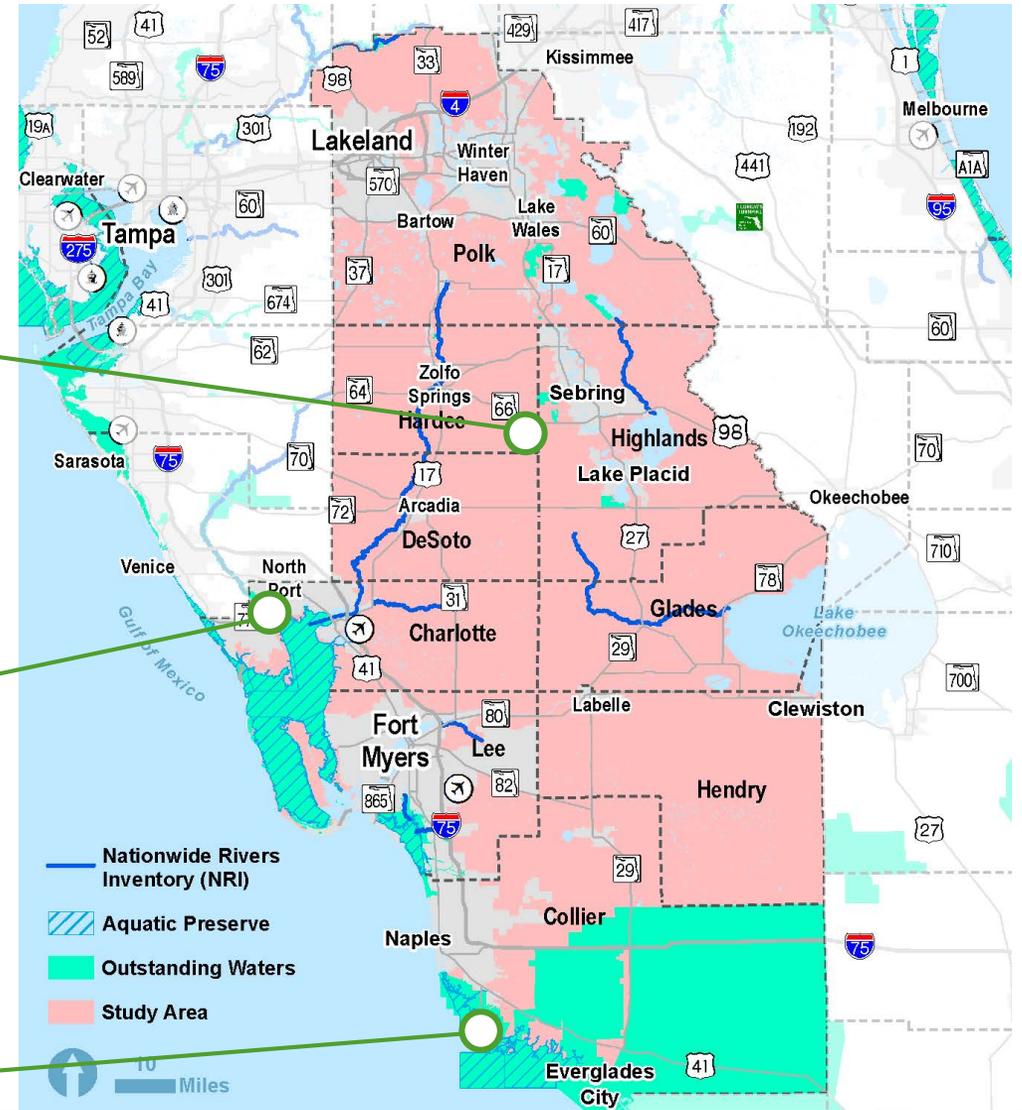
*Pine Island Sound Aquatic Preserve*

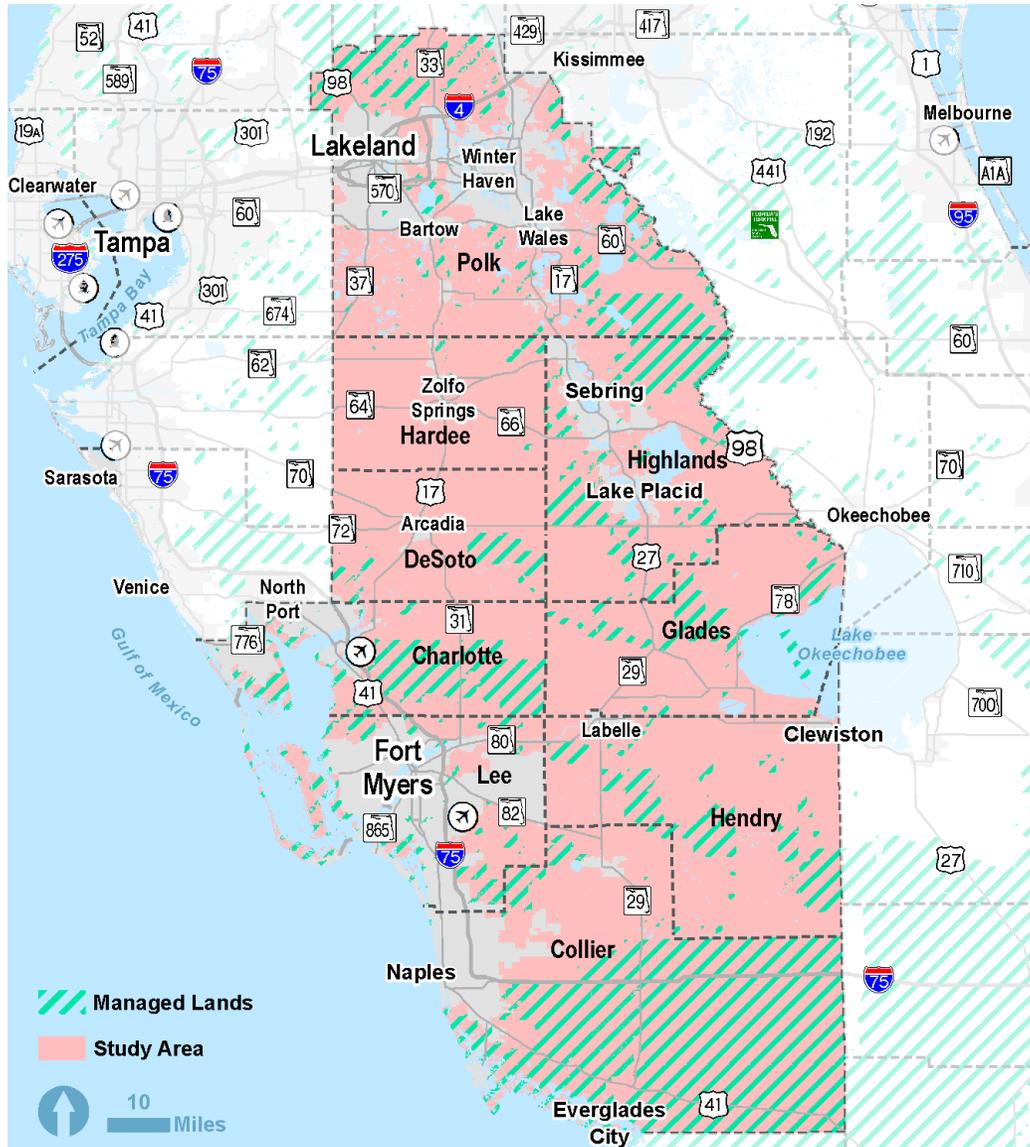


*Estero Bay Aquatic Preserve*



# Outstanding Florida Waters





## Study Area Highlights

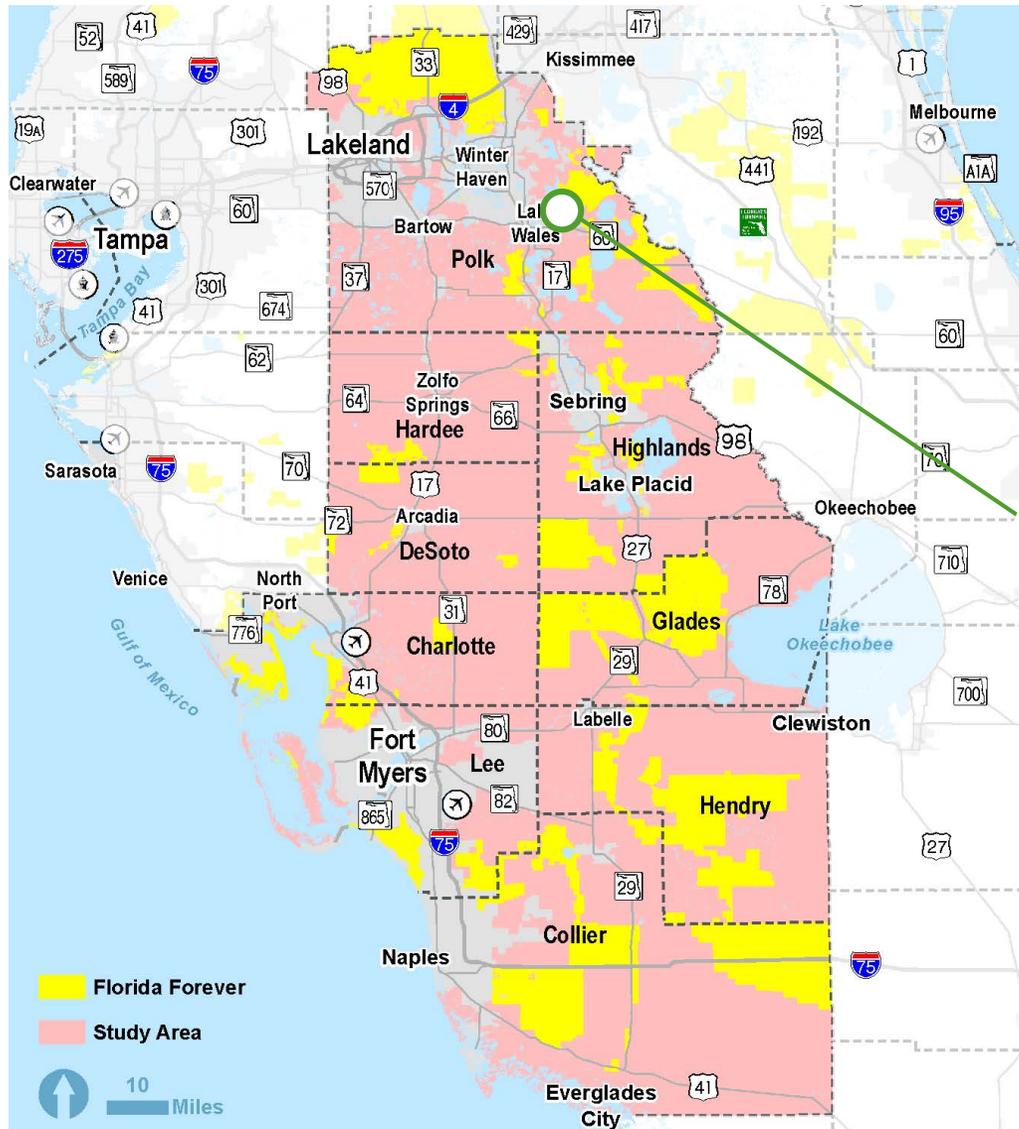
### Wildlife Corridors

- Big Cypress – Caloosahatchee
- Caloosahatchee - Kissimmee

### Conservation Lands

- Everglades National Park
- Babcock Ranch Preserve
- Charlotte Harbor Estuary

### Aquifer Recharge Areas



## Florida Forever Lands

- Lake Wales Ridge Ecosystem
- Bombing Range Ridge
- Panther Glades
- Blue Head Ranch
- Half Circle L Ranch
- Belle Meade
- Devil's Garden



West Indian Manatee



Florida Panther



Florida Scrub Jay



Crested Caracara



Wood Stork



American Crocodile

## Other Study Area Federal & State Listed Species

### Mammals

- Florida Bonneted Bat
- Puma

### Birds

- Red Knot
- Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow
- Everglade Snail Kite
- Florida Grasshopper Sparrow
- Ivory-billed Woodpecker
- Kirtland's Warbler
- Piping Plover
- Red-cockaded Woodpecker
- Whooping Crane

### Reptiles

- American Alligator
- Bluetail Mole Skink
- Eastern Indigo Snake
- Sand Skink
- Gopher Tortoise

### Fish

- Gulf Sturgeon



**Shared-Use Trails**

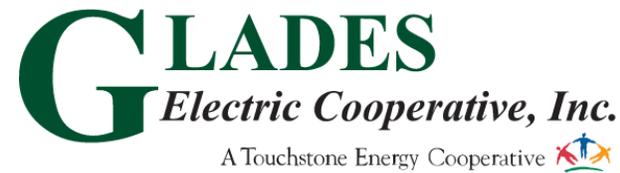


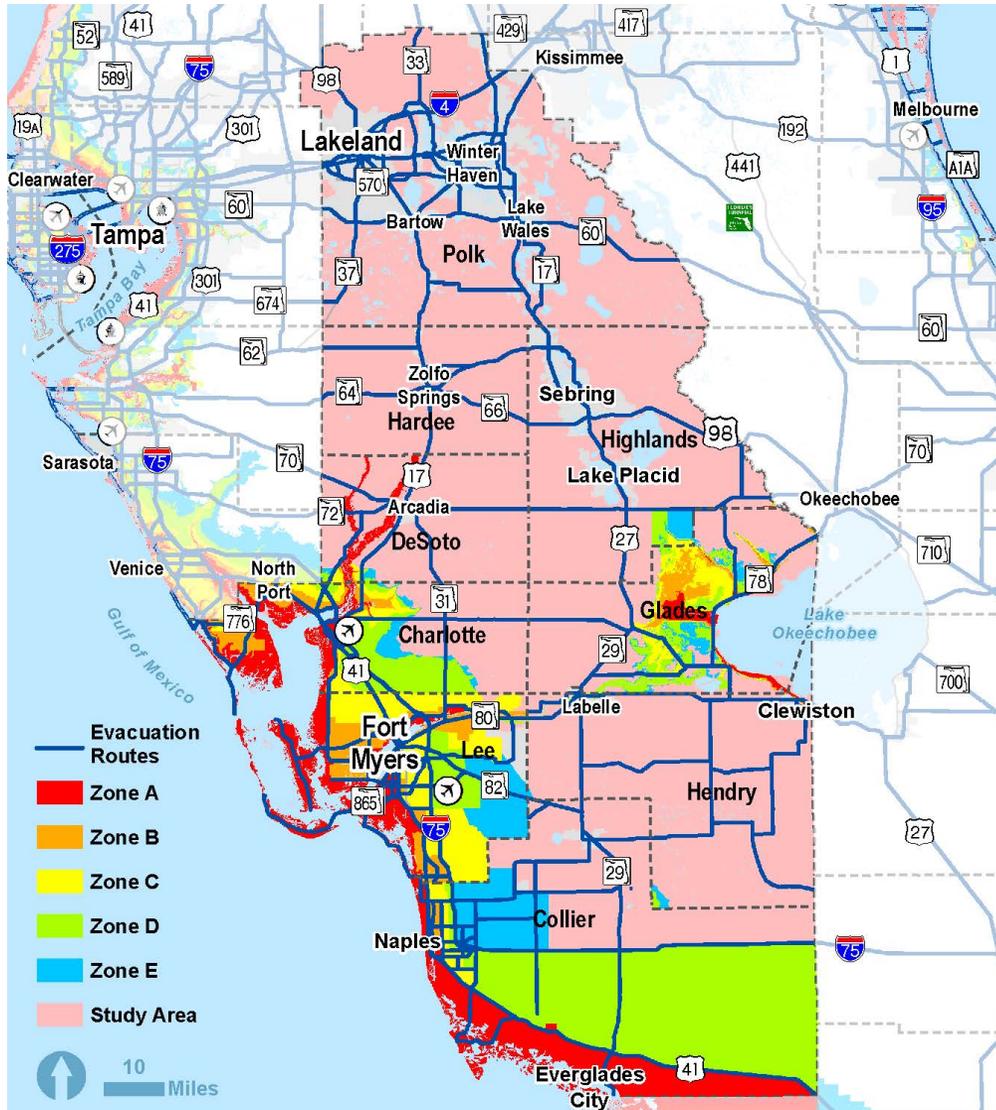
**Public Transit**



**Freight and Passenger Rail**









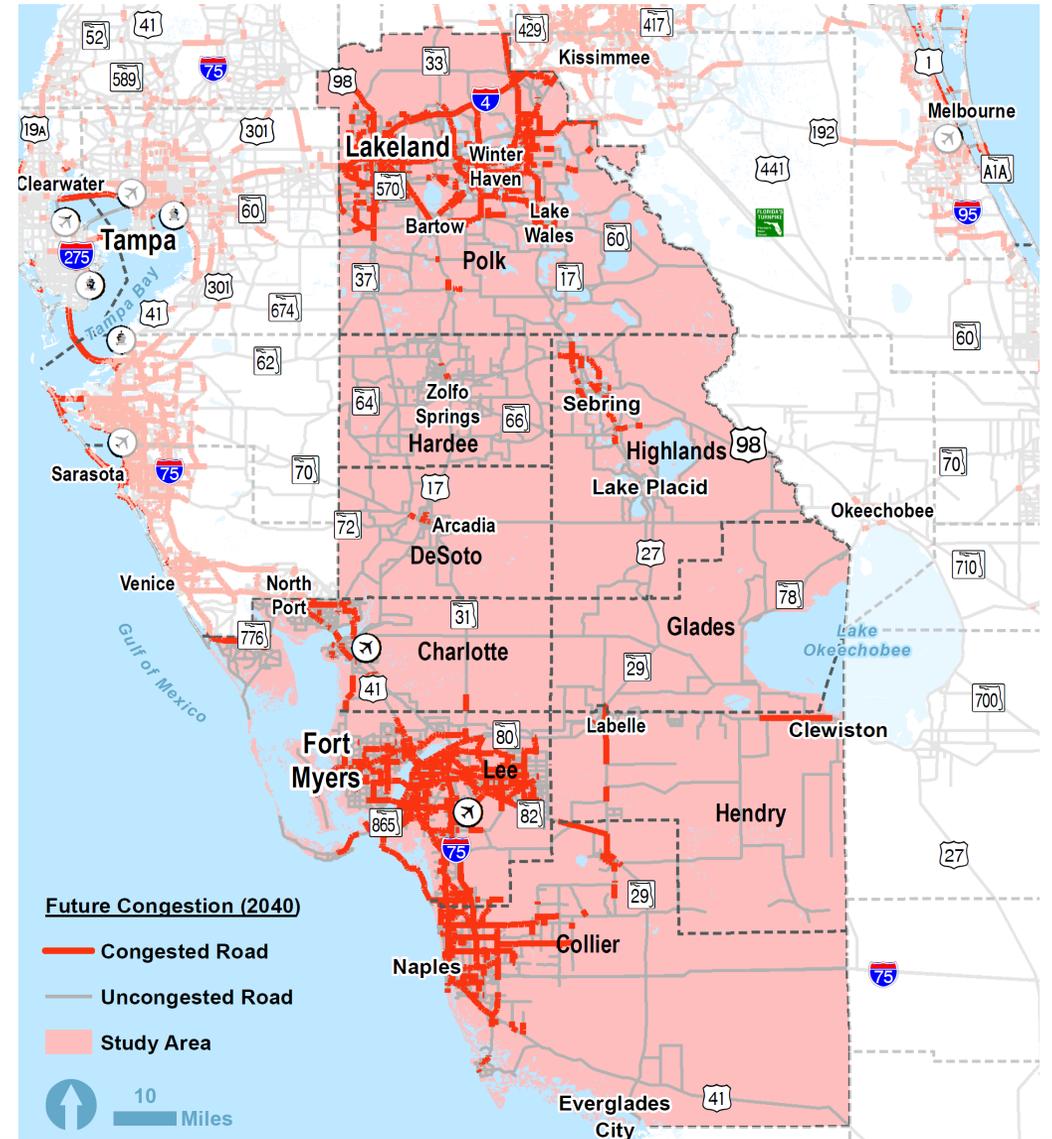
Transportation Reliability



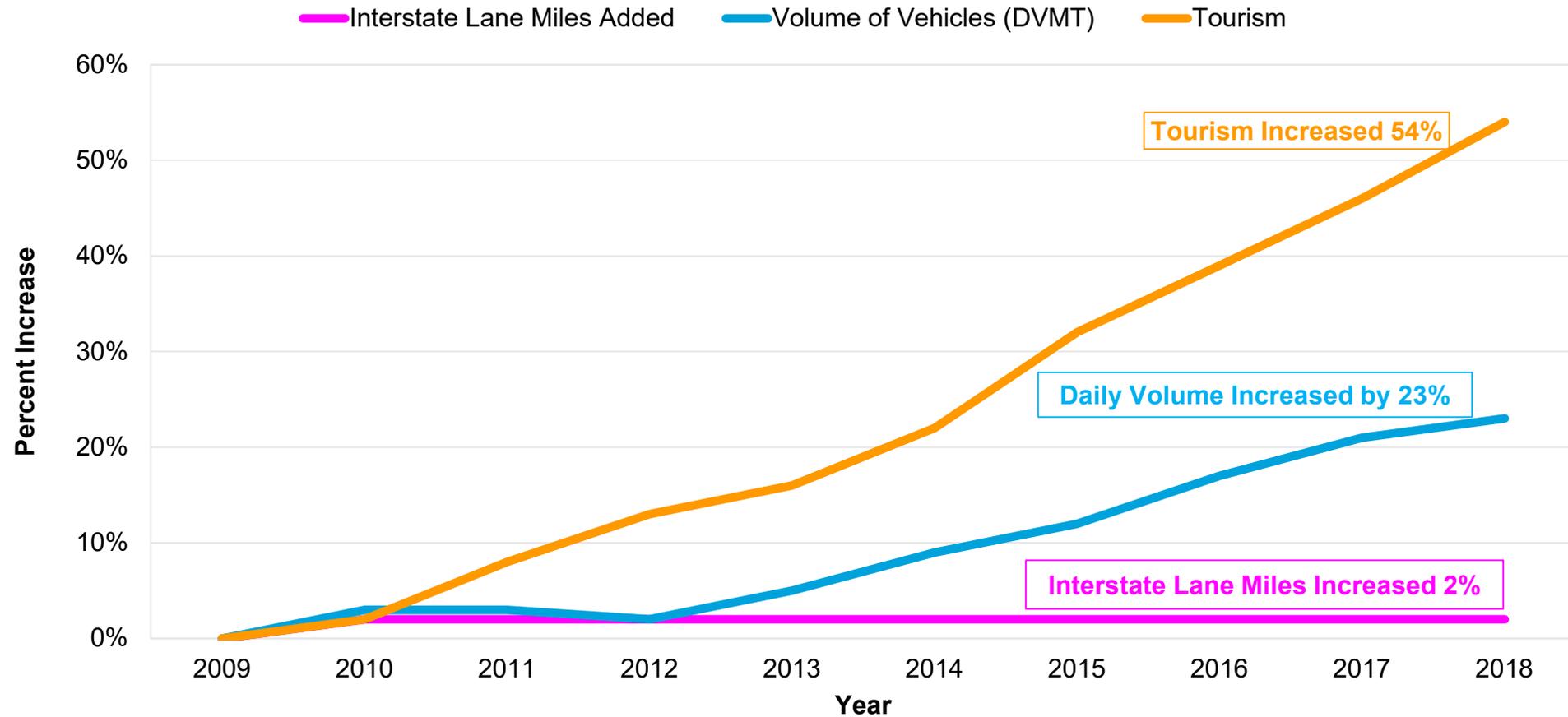
Commuter Time



Quality of Life



## Florida Highway Statistics 2009 - 2018





**Air Freight**



**Rail Freight**



**Port Freight**



**Truck Freight**

## Task Force Engagement

- Task Force Meetings
- Community Open Houses
- Community Workshops
- Briefings
- Website

## Project Development Engagement

- Public Information Meetings
- Public Workshops
- Press Releases
- Public Hearings
- Website



Photos: HDR



Public Engagement, Engagement, Engagement...

