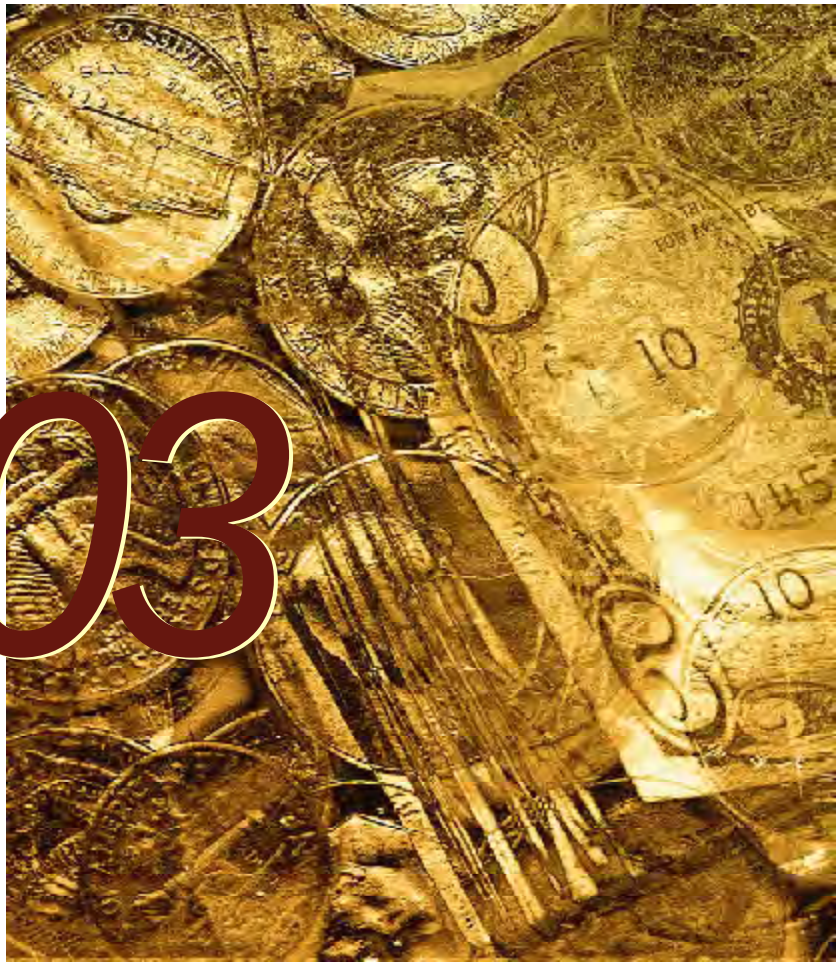
2003 Florida Price Level Index

2003



Background

The Florida Price Level Index (FPLI) was established by the Legislature as the basis for the District Cost Differential (DCD) in the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP). In this role, the FPLI is used to represent the costs of hiring equally qualified personnel across districts with differing labor market conditions. Other organizations and individuals have also used the FPLI to compare the overall price level across Florida's counties. Since 1995, and at the request of the Legislature, the Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR) at the University of Florida has performed an ongoing review of the methodology of the FPLI and has made appropriate recommendations to improve it. Since 2000, BEBR has also been responsible for calculating the FPLI, under the direction and supervision of the Florida Department of Education and the Florida Legislature.

Through 2002, the FPLI measured only the differences among counties in the cost of purchasing a specific market basket of goods and services at a particular point in time – that is the relative cost of obtaining a given level of pecuniary consumption. This is because, all else being equal, differences in the compensation required to attract personnel across counties would closely track differences in the pecuniary costs of consumption. In this role, use of the FPLI to index for costs from one Florida county to the next paralleled the use of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) by the Federal Government to index Social Security funds from one year to the next.

While it is reasonable to suppose that factors other than pecuniary costs that might significantly affect the compensation needed to maintain a given standard of living of an area are nearly the same from one year to the next at a given location, it is not as reasonable to suppose that such factors are constant from one location to another in a given year. Counties will generally differ in other ways that significantly impact the supply of and demand for workers. For example, the presence or absence of sandy beaches and other natural recreational opportunities, climate, the range of available cultural and recreational opportunities, and the mix of public services and taxes are all factors that affect the ability of employers – including school districts – to hire personnel that are not appropriately reflected in a price index for pecuniary consumption alone.

This year BEBR calculated a version of the FPLI that is more appropriate for direct adjustment for personnel cost differences across counties. This new version of the FPLI is called the Amenity Adjusted FPLI, or the FPLI_A. The version of the FPLI adjusting only for the costs of pecuniary consumption is called the Pecuniary Consumption FPLI, or FPLI_P. The two versions of the FPLI are intended

for different purposes. If one wants to know the relative cost of purchasing a given market basket of goods and services across the counties of Florida, including meeting the tax obligations associated with those purchases, the FPLI_P should be used. If one wants to know how much it will cost on average to hire equally qualified personnel across counties, the FPLI_A should be used. For example, suppose an accountant is considering relocating from Tampa to Pensacola in response to a job offer. If she were fully familiar with the amenities offered by both areas but wanted to compare the purchasing power of the salary she had been offered in Pensacola to her current salary in Tampa, she would want the FPLI_P. If, however, the managers of an accounting firm were considering relocating their operation to Pensacola from Tampa and wanted to know the average relative cost of hiring support personnel, they would want the FPLI_A.

Methodology in Brief

The FPLI_P is based on the cost of a given market basket of goods and services. The items in the market basket of goods are chosen to represent the expenditure categories used by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) to weight an item's relative importance in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The items selected are used by most households, widely available for purchase, and vary little in quality from county to county. To increase the accuracy of the index, items are more likely to be selected if their prices vary strongly from county to county, but that does not imply that such items are weighted more heavily.

Some of the prices in the five major FPLI categories are obtained through data available from state agencies. Other prices are gathered from a telephone survey of retail outlets and service providers covering all 67 counties. The survey requires the cooperation of the merchants, who are told the purpose of the call. Each year a very high proportion of the sampled merchants are gracious enough to participate. The information collected is held in strict confidence.

For most items priced in retail outlets, prices are obtained at a minimum of three outlets per county. For many items accounting for a certain percentage of consumer spending according to the BLS, no prices are gathered. Some of these (postage, for example) do not vary from county to county. For others, prices may actually vary slightly from county to county, but statistical analysis has determined the variation that we would measure if a price were available for every transaction at every outlet over the course of a year is substantially less than the measured variation found by sampling. For such items, survey sampling does more to introduce measurement noise across counties than to reveal genuine differences in the overall price level. Such items are treated as constants throughout the state, which at once reduces the cost of calculating the index and improves its accuracy.

To produce each county's index, the county average prices are divided by the state average prices to produce relative prices. Each relative price is then weighted by the appropriate item weight. The weighted relative prices are added together for each county and the resulting totals are then multiplied by 100, producing an index value for each county such that the population-weighted statewide average of the county indexes is 100.00. The weights represent the fraction of the "typical" consumer's budget spent on the item. The weights are created by beginning with the CPI weights for Tampa, provided by the BLS and then modifying them to be more appropriate for a spatial cost of living index.

The calculation of the FPLI_A is based on both labor market data and the results of the FPLI_P. The labor market data consist of average wages for over 700 occupations across Florida's 67 counties. While data for each occupation are not available for all 67 counties, many observations are available in even the smallest counties. The smallest county level sample consited of 111 observations in Glades County

The Labor Market Information division of Florida's Agency for Workforce Innovation collects the data as part of the BLS Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey.

In calculating the FPLI_A, BEBR first uses statistical techniques to estimate a raw index of wages for comparable labor across counties directly from the wage data. Second, since the quality of the data may vary with the size of the labor market in a county, the raw index is statistically and geographically smoothed. To carry out the statistical smoothing, BEBR constructs a model relating the raw index to the FPLI_P and other county level data. This model is used to generate a "predicted" value for the raw index. A weighted average of the raw and predicted values is then calculated, where the weights in each county are chosen to maximize the accuracy of the index, given the reliability of each county's raw and predicted indexes. The second type of smoothing is geographic in nature. Workers who live in sub-urban or rural counties surrounding larger urban counties will commute to the larger county for work if wages in the larger area more than compensate for any extra commute time. Further, given the design of the OES survey, we expect the index to be most accurate in metropolitan counties (counties with cities that lend their names to one of Florida's metropolitan statistical areas). Therefore, we constrain the index in non-metropolitan counties to be no less than the commute-time-adjusted wage index of nearby metropolitan counties.

Some types of jobs are highly centralized within urban areas, some are very decentralized, and some fall in between. Since land costs, and thus housing costs, are higher in more central locations, workers in occupations that are concentrated in central locations

TABLE I
2003 FLORIDA PRICE LEVEL INDEX

COUNTY	FPLI_P		FPLI_A AVERAGE CENTRALITY		FPLI_A LOW CENTRALITY		FPLI_A HIGH CENTRALITY	
Alachua	96.69	(25)	98.27	(19)	99.46	(15)	97.30	(26)
Baker	94.56	(51)	96.78	(32)	97.58	(29)	96.63	(29)
Bay	95.25	(43)	93.44	(57)	95.03	(51)	92.17	(60)
Bradford	95.56	(35)	96.21	(33)	97.01	(31)	96.06	(33)
Brevard	97.59	(14)	98.13	(21)	99.02	(21)	97.38	(24)
Broward	105.41	(3)	104.59	(3)	102.96	(4)	105.79	(3)
Calhoun	92.81	(67)	94.65	(44)	95.55	(47)	94.51	(43)
Charlotte	97.28	(18)	94.71	(43)	95.66	(46)	93.91	(50)
Citrus	94.43	(54)	92.93	(59)	94.03	(57)	92.79	(57)
Clay	96.01	(30)	98.82	(15)	99.63	(13)	98.67	(14)
Collier	103.07	(5)	105.36	(1)	104.47	(1)	105.98	(2)
Columbia	94.49	(53)	93.20	(58)	93.97	(58)	93.06	(53)
Miami-Dade	106.59	(2)	102.30	(5)	100.34	(9)	103.76	(5)
De Soto	96.69	(25)	96.80	(31)	96.19	(38)	96.65	(28)
Dixie	95.84	(31)	92.10	(62)	92.98	(62)	91.96	(62)
Duval	97.20	(20)	101.89	(7)	102.95	(5)	101.01	(6)
Escambia	95.42	(38)	94.15	(50)	95.69	(45)	92.91	(55)
Flagler	96.54	(29)	93.76	(55)	94.54	(55)	93.62	(51)
Franklin	95.49	(36)	94.12	(52)	95.02	(52)	93.98	(48)
Gadsden	95.03	(46)	98.48	(17)	99.42	(16)	98.33	(17)
Gilchrist	94.86	(47)	94.23	(49)	95.13	(50)	94.08	(47)
Glades	96.97	(21)	97.99	(22)	97.37	(30)	97.84	(20)
Gulf	95.43	(37)	92.36	(60)	93.24	(60)	92.22	(59)
Hamilton	94.22	(57)	91.31	(63)	92.28	(63)	91.17	(63)
Hardee	94.36	(55)	94.59	(45)	94.90	(54)	94.45	(44)
Hendry	97.30	(17)	99.71	(11)	99.08	(20)	99.55	(11)
Hernando	95.39	(40)	95.97	(35)	96.28	(36)	95.82	(34)
Highlands	94.54	(52)	94.30	(48)	93.71	(59)	94.16	(46)
Hillsborough	99.17	(8)	100.79	(8)	101.18	(8)	100.42	(8)
Holmes	93.16	(66)	89.45	(67)	90.30	(67)	89.31	(67)
Indian River	96.68	(27)	95.75	(38)	96.91	(32)	94.80	(41)
Jackson	93.71	(62)	93.57	(56)	94.46	(56)	93.42	(52)
Jefferson	94.66	(50)	98.21	(20)	99.15	(18)	98.06	(19)
Lafayette	93.22	(65)	92.26	(61)	93.13	(61)	92.11	(61)
Lake	95.78	(32)	97.31	(28)	98.79	(23)	96.42	(31)
Lee	97.99	(12)	99.47	(12)	100.24	(10)	98.81	(12)
Leon	96.71	(24)	101.99	(6)	103.22	(3)	100.99	(7)
Levy	94.15	(58)	94.08	(53)	94.98	(53)	93.93	(49)
Liberty	93.90	(61)	95.86	(36)	96.77	(34)	95.71	(35)
Madison	94.01	(59)	94.87	(42)	95.78	(44)	94.73	(42)
Manatee	97.88	(13)	96.09	(34)	96.87	(33)	95.43	(36)
Marion	95.13	(44)	94.35	(47)	95.99	(40)	93.04	(54)
Martin	99.66	(7)	98.92	(14)	99.15	(18)	98.68	(13)
Monroe	109.63	(1)	104.58	(4)	101.66	(6)	106.82	(1)
Nassau	95.35	(41)	98.42	(18)	99.23	(17)	98.26	(18)
Okaloosa	95.35	(41)	93.95	(54)	95.51	(48)	92.70	(58)
Okeechobee	96.76	(22)	97.25	(30)	96.50	(35)	97.10	(27)
Orange	97.45	(15)	100.67	(9)	101.63	(7)	99.87	(10)
Osceola	96.75	(23)	97.71	(26)	98.45	(25)	97.56	(23)
Palm Beach	103.68	(4)	104.70	(2)	103.61	(2)	105.47	(4)
Pasco	96.57	(28)	97.88	(23)	98.20	(28)	97.73	(21)
Pinellas	100.49	(6)	100.28	(10)	100.24	(10)	100.24	(9)
Polk	95.74	(33)	97.36	(27)	98.85	(22)	96.17	(32)
Putnam	94.27	(56)	95.05	(40)	96.24	(37)	94.91	(39)
Saint Johns	98.23	(11)	97.77	(25)	98.57	(24)	97.62	(22)
Saint Lucie	97.27	(19)	97.30	(29)	98.28	(27)	96.48	(30)
Santa Rosa	95.11	(45)	94.14	(51)	95.79	(43)	92.83	(56)
Sarasota	98.47	(10)	97.85	(24)	98.45	(25)	97.33	(25)
Seminole	97.39	(16)	99.04	(13)	100.01	(12)	98.45	(15)
Sumter	95.41	(39)	94.42	(46)	95.14	(49)	94.27	(45)
Suwannee	93.46	(64)	91.23	(64)	92.10	(64)	91.09	(64)
Taylor	95.62	(34)	94.97	(41)	95.87	(42)	94.82	(40)
Union	93.93	(60)	95.14	(39)	95.92	(41)	94.99	(38)
Volusia	99.13	(9)	95.77	(37)	96.16	(39)	95.42	(37)
Wakulla	94.81	(48)	98.54	(16)	99.48	(14)	98.39	(16)
Walton	94.79	(49)	90.17	(66)	91.84	(65)	89.82	(66)
Washington	93.67	(63)	90.81	(65)	91.68	(66)	90.67	(65)

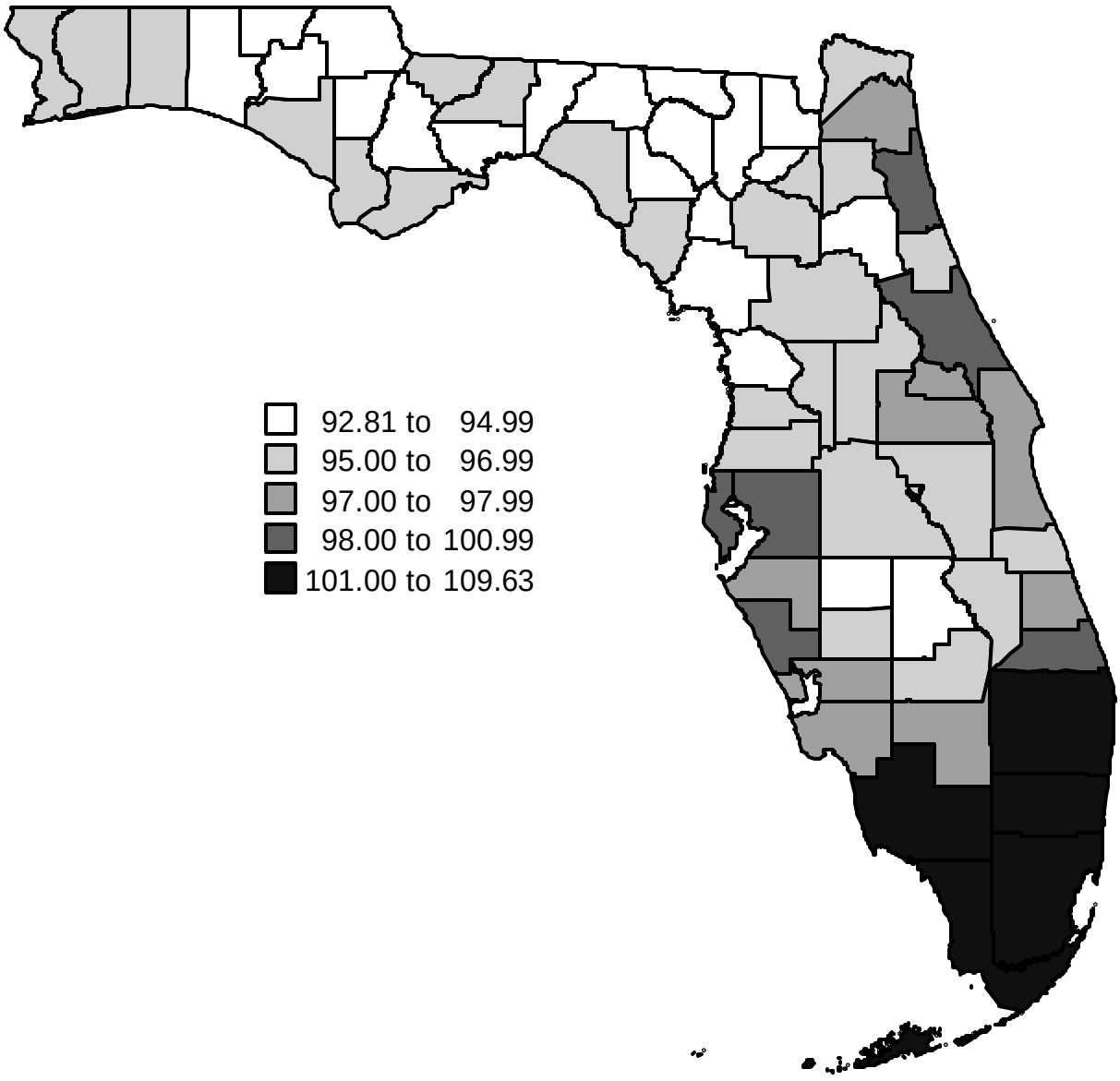
must either pay a high price for housing or endure a long commute. Workers in occupations that are less concentrated in central areas have the option of living where housing is cheaper without having a long commute. Therefore, variation in the pecuniary price level is likely to have larger effects on the wages of workers in high centrality occupations (more concentrated in central locations), but smaller effects on the wages of workers in low centrality occupations (less concentrated in central locations). Accordingly, in addition to the average FPLI_A, two additional versions, one more representative of the wages of more centralized workers, such as lawyers and database administrators, and one more representative of the wages of less centralized workers, such as teachers, are calculated.

The 2003 Results

Table I presents the indexes for 2003. Each index is constructed so that the population-weighted average is 100. Hillsborough, which closely matches the state average in most demographic characteristics, is right at the state average for both the FPLI_P (99.15) and the FPLI_A as well (100.79 for the occupations of average centrality). Map I shows that the highest values of the FPLI_P are in the southern, more populous part of the state. This is to be expected, since land within easy reach of employment and shopping centers becomes very scarce, and thus very expensive, when population pressures reach such high levels. While the long housing market boom has put upward pressure on housing prices throughout the state, undeveloped accessible land provides relief from this pressure in most counties. Areas where this relief valve is blocked, by high population or more direct restrictions on the uses of otherwise developable land, have experienced faster increases in the cost of living than the rest of the state.

This may be seen in the four counties having an FPLI_P above 103.00.

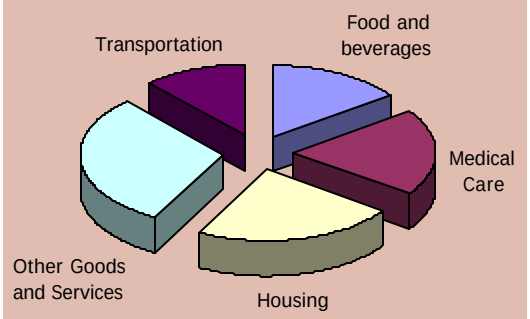
MAP I
FLORIDA PRICE LEVEL INDEX
PECUNIARY CONSUMPTION



They are Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe, and Palm Beach. These four counties represent 31.3 per - cent of the state's population but only 11.4 percent of its total land mass. Furthermore, over 2.4 mil - lion acres of the land in these counties are national park land, and therefore not available for development. Compare this to the northern portion of the state, which had the lowest index val- ues. All 25 counties with index values below 92.00 are north of Tampa. Together they comprise only 7 percent of the state's popu - lation, but account for 30 percent of its landmass. This trend has caused the distribution of the index to become slightly asymmetric. While the "aver - age" Floridian experiences a pecuniary cost of living of 100, the pecuniary cost of living experienced by the "median" Floridian is 98.46. Taylor is the me - dian county, having an index of 96.62 and ranked 34. The median Floridian, however, resides in Sarasota, which has an index of 98.46 and is ranked 10. That is to say that about half of all Florid - ians live in counties costlier than Sarasota, and about half in less expen - sive counties.

Map II shows that the highest val - ues of the FPLI_A also tend to occur in the southern portion of the state, although the pattern is much less pro - nounced. Again, it is to be expected that the southern part of the state would have relatively high values of FPLI_A, since workers must be com - pensated for the much higher costs of housing and other goods and services in that portion of the state. It is also to be expected that this pattern would be less pronounced, since factors other than the costs of housing and other goods and services affect the FPLI_A. The distribution of the FPLI_A is much more symmetric. For occupa - tions of average centrality, twelve counties containing 57.1 percent of the state's population have an FPLI_A above 100, and the median Floridian lives in Orange, at 100.67.

FIGURE I: COMPOSITION OF CONSUMER EXPENDITURES



Pecuniary Consumption FPLI: History and Detail

Table II lists the FPLI_P for each county by year from 1998 to the cur - rent 2003 value. Relative rankings are given in parentheses next to the index number for each year. The rankings can be somewhat misleading, at least for the counties grouped near the middle or lower range. There, mod - est changes in the index value from year to year can produce large changes in a county's relative ranking. The index value for any one county can vary from year to year for several rea - sons. Changes in prices in that county are one reason. Of equal or more im - portance are changes in prices through - out the state, against which that county is compared. Most prices in a county may increase from one year to the next, but if on average such increases are less than statewide price increases, the county's relative index will fall from the previous year. Changes in a county's index can also occur due to minor statistical fluctuations in sampled prices over time. Though methodological improvements have been made to reduce such fluctuations, a small amount of purely statistical variation is unavoidable.

Each item priced for the FPLI is placed in one of five major categories: food, health care, housing, other goods and services, and transportation. Fig - ure 1 shows that approximately 15 cents of the typical consumer dollar was spent on food, 23 cents on housing and related items, 12 cents on transporta - tion, 19 cents on health care, and 31 cents on other goods and ser - vices. The category indices for the five-item groupings pre- sented in Table III are relative to a population-weighted state average of 100.00, and illustrate which categories of prices in a county are above or below the state average. For example, the cost of food in Alachua County is estimated to be 2.09 percent higher than the statewide average, but housing is estimated to cost 9.70 per - cent less. Comparisons across coun - ties are also possible within each cat - egory. For example, Alachua's health care index is 87.77, while Broward's is 109.76, which means that items in the health care category tend to be more expensive in Broward County than in Alachua County.

Summary

The results of the 2003 Florida Price Level Index Study have been presented, along with an explanation of the methodology used to compute the Pecuniary Consumption Florida Price Level Index and the Amenity Adjusted Florida Price Level Index. Note that this is a cross-sectional study that compares the price levels among Florida's 67 counties. It is not designed to measure price inflation from one year to the next.

This report can be found on the Internet at: http://www.firn.edu/doe/fefp.

MAP II
FLORIDA PRICE LEVEL INDEX
AMENITY ADJUSTED

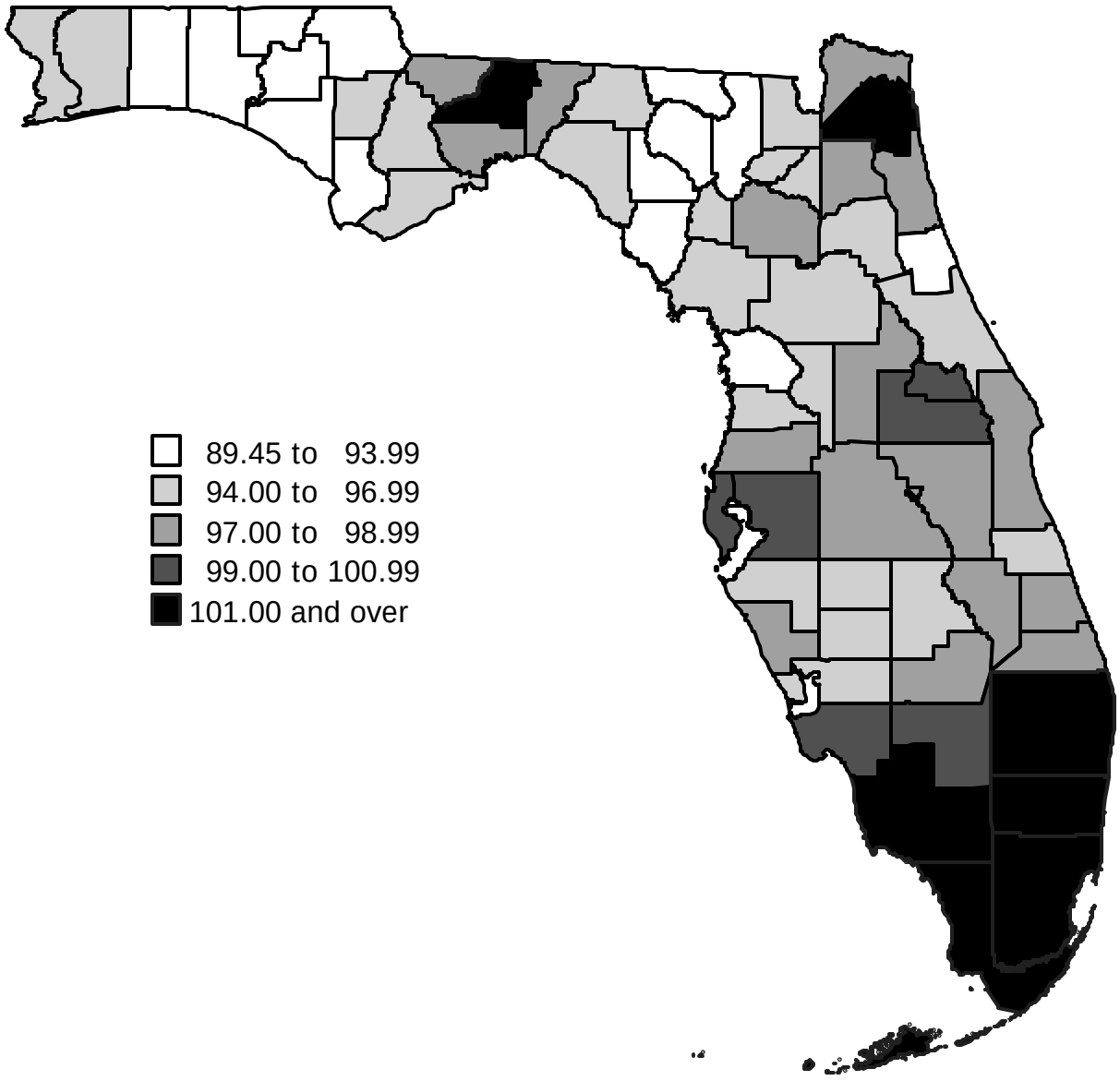


TABLE II
PECUNIARY CONSUMPTION FLORIDA PRICE LEVEL INDEX: 1998 TO 2003
(POPULATION WEIGHTED STATE AVERAGE = 100.00)

COUNTY	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
Alachua	96.69 (25)	93.61 (33)	95.29 (32)	94.04 (36)	94.24 (30)	95.19 (27)
Baker	94.56 (51)	91.79 (45)	93.05 (52)	92.54 (55)	90.78 (55)	92.17 (51)
Bay	95.25 (43)	91.83 (44)	93.85 (40)	93.52 (41)	95.03 (23)	94.29 (37)
Bradford	95.56 (35)	91.63 (49)	93.54 (49)	93.70 (39)	90.45 (58)	91.80 (57)
Brevard	97.59 (14)	95.39 (24)	96.41 (19)	96.92 (17)	97.60 (13)	97.92 (14)
Broward	105.41 (3)	107.96 (3)	105.75 (4)	106.45 (3)	106.91 (2)	105.80 (3)
Calhoun	92.81 (67)	88.34 (66)	92.24 (60)	91.52 (60)	87.81 (66)	89.90 (65)
Charlotte	97.28 (18)	93.50 (34)	95.37 (30)	95.94 (24)	94.31 (29)	96.52 (20)
Citrus	94.43 (54)	90.90 (56)	92.15 (61)	92.75 (52)	90.59 (57)	92.19 (49)
Clay	96.01 (30)	92.86 (37)	95.26 (33)	94.61 (30)	95.01 (24)	96.01 (22)
Collier	103.07 (5)	103.10 (5)	101.43 (6)	101.77 (5)	100.09 (8)	100.99 (7)
Columbia	94.49 (53)	89.38 (62)	92.29 (59)	91.58 (59)	91.21 (51)	91.63 (59)
Miami-Dade	106.59 (2)	109.24 (2)	107.10 (2)	106.42 (4)	106.84 (3)	106.28 (2)
De Soto	96.69 (25)	96.03 (16)	94.84 (36)	94.04 (36)	91.53 (49)	93.16 (41)
Dixie	95.84 (31)	91.44 (53)	92.68 (54)	92.71 (53)	91.26 (50)	92.18 (50)
Duval	97.20 (20)	95.29 (25)	96.88 (16)	97.04 (15)	97.01 (14)	97.28 (18)
Escambia	95.42 (38)	92.24 (42)	93.57 (48)	93.22 (45)	93.84 (36)	93.16 (41)
Flagler	96.54 (29)	94.50 (30)	96.65 (18)	96.38 (20)	94.17 (32)	94.85 (31)
Franklin	95.49 (36)	95.01 (27)	96.10 (21)	95.02 (29)	95.57 (21)	94.31 (36)
Gadsden	95.03 (46)	91.97 (43)	94.40 (38)	93.54 (40)	91.73 (46)	93.07 (44)
Gilchrist	94.86 (47)	90.26 (61)	92.48 (56)	91.22 (63)	90.88 (54)	92.02 (52)
Glades	96.97 (21)	95.83 (17)	96.73 (17)	96.03 (23)	94.11 (33)	95.66 (23)
Gulf	95.43 (37)	91.61 (50)	93.73 (43)	92.15 (57)	91.70 (48)	91.98 (55)
Hamilton	94.22 (57)	88.32 (67)	90.83 (66)	91.50 (61)	89.59 (62)	91.96 (56)
Hardee	94.36 (55)	92.41 (41)	93.83 (41)	93.78 (38)	90.62 (56)	92.01 (53)
Hendry	97.30 (17)	97.16 (12)	97.44 (12)	96.79 (18)	94.22 (31)	94.46 (35)
Hernando	95.39 (40)	91.74 (46)	92.53 (55)	92.93 (49)	91.71 (47)	93.26 (40)
Highlands	94.54 (52)	92.84 (38)	93.69 (45)	94.08 (35)	93.22 (38)	94.51 (33)
Hillsborough	99.17 (8)	99.53 (8)	99.86 (8)	100.32 (7)	100.48 (7)	100.86 (8)
Holmes	93.16 (66)	89.10 (65)	92.36 (58)	93.23 (44)	90.17 (60)	92.72 (45)
Indian River	96.68 (27)	95.61 (20)	96.09 (22)	97.18 (13)	96.64 (15)	97.64 (16)
Jackson	93.71 (62)	89.30 (63)	90.23 (67)	90.95 (65)	87.80 (67)	90.55 (63)
Jefferson	94.66 (50)	93.71 (32)	95.30 (31)	95.19 (27)	93.85 (35)	94.26 (38)
Lafayette	93.22 (65)	90.53 (59)	91.15 (65)	91.22 (63)	90.99 (53)	93.12 (43)

NOTE: NUMBER IN PARENTHESES IS RANK FOR THE APPROPRIATE YEAR.

TABLE II (Continued)
PECUNIARY CONSUMPTION FLORIDA PRICE LEVEL INDEX: 1998 TO 2003
(POPULATION WEIGHTED STATE AVERAGE = 100.00)

COUNTY	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
Lake	95.78 (32)	94.64 (29)	95.57 (27)	95.13 (28)	94.48 (28)	96.14 (21)
Lee	97.99 (12)	97.38 (10)	97.97 (10)	98.34 (10)	96.59 (16)	97.80 (15)
Leon	96.71 (24)	95.56 (21)	97.00 (15)	96.49 (19)	95.74 (20)	97.50 (17)
Levy	94.15 (58)	91.69 (48)	92.77 (53)	92.03 (58)	91.93 (44)	90.83 (62)
Liberty	93.90 (61)	91.60 (51)	93.45 (50)	93.20 (46)	89.65 (61)	90.35 (64)
Madison	94.01 (59)	91.51 (52)	94.50 (37)	92.25 (56)	91.15 (52)	92.63 (46)
Manatee	97.88 (13)	97.31 (11)	98.49 (9)	96.93 (16)	99.27 (10)	99.22 (10)
Marion	95.13 (44)	93.14 (36)	93.75 (42)	93.25 (43)	93.30 (37)	94.16 (39)
Martin	99.66 (7)	98.60 (9)	97.06 (14)	98.02 (11)	98.39 (12)	97.96 (13)
Monroe	109.63 (1)	113.56 (1)	110.51 (1)	107.60 (2)	107.78 (1)	112.43 (1)
Nassau	95.35 (41)	93.30 (35)	93.66 (47)	92.97 (48)	92.71 (39)	94.78 (32)
Okaloosa	95.35 (41)	92.64 (40)	93.73 (43)	94.21 (34)	94.49 (27)	95.14 (28)
Okeechobee	96.76 (22)	95.53 (22)	95.66 (25)	94.33 (33)	93.94 (34)	95.48 (25)
Orange	97.45 (15)	96.71 (13)	97.67 (11)	98.69 (9)	99.21 (11)	99.04 (12)
Osceola	96.75 (23)	96.09 (15)	96.36 (20)	95.81 (25)	95.52 (22)	96.56 (19)
Palm Beach	103.68 (4)	106.95 (4)	106.99 (3)	108.53 (1)	105.62 (4)	102.69 (6)
Pasco	96.57 (28)	95.51 (23)	95.06 (35)	96.38 (20)	96.36 (17)	95.44 (26)
Pinellas	100.49 (6)	101.95 (6)	101.94 (5)	101.41 (6)	103.34 (5)	103.74 (4)
Polk	95.74 (33)	94.85 (28)	95.44 (29)	95.24 (26)	95.93 (19)	94.98 (30)
Putnam	94.27 (56)	90.67 (57)	93.92 (39)	93.05 (47)	91.88 (45)	92.28 (48)
Saint Johns	98.23 (11)	95.76 (18)	97.21 (13)	97.11 (14)	96.10 (18)	99.18 (11)
Saint Lucie	97.27 (19)	95.72 (19)	96.06 (23)	96.30 (22)	94.58 (26)	94.47 (34)
Santa Rosa	95.11 (45)	91.21 (55)	93.08 (51)	92.79 (51)	91.99 (43)	91.55 (60)
Sarasota	98.47 (10)	99.60 (7)	100.10 (7)	100.20 (8)	100.57 (6)	102.90 (5)
Seminole	97.39 (16)	96.52 (14)	95.87 (24)	97.39 (12)	100.00 (9)	99.48 (9)
Sumter	95.41 (39)	91.72 (47)	92.42 (57)	92.58 (54)	88.57 (64)	89.66 (66)
Suwannee	93.46 (64)	91.23 (54)	91.74 (63)	90.68 (67)	89.10 (63)	91.76 (58)
Taylor	95.62 (34)	92.75 (39)	95.21 (34)	93.52 (41)	92.52 (41)	95.14 (28)
Union	93.93 (60)	90.55 (58)	91.36 (64)	90.78 (66)	90.24 (59)	91.30 (61)
Volusia	99.13 (9)	95.06 (26)	95.62 (26)	94.50 (32)	94.75 (25)	95.64 (24)
Wakulla	94.81 (48)	93.85 (31)	95.47 (28)	94.53 (31)	92.59 (40)	92.53 (47)
Walton	94.79 (49)	90.49 (60)	93.68 (46)	92.82 (50)	92.05 (42)	92.00 (54)
Washington	93.67 (63)	89.19 (64)	92.13 (62)	91.44 (62)	88.15 (65)	89.64 (67)

NOTE: NUMBER IN PARENTHESES IS RANK FOR THE APPROPRIATE YEAR.

TABLE III
POPULATION WEIGHTED CATEGORY INDEXES

	TOTAL	FOOD	HEALTH CARE	HOUSING	PERSONAL GOODS & SERVICES	TRANS-PORTA-TION
Alachua	96.69	102.09	87.77	90.30	98.78	96.82
Baker	94.56	101.34	86.33	85.22	92.96	96.40
Bay	95.25	102.44	85.97	85.62	94.85	98.08
Bradford	95.56	104.49	88.45	83.66	98.21	98.06
Brevard	97.59	101.48	94.67	93.12	97.90	97.09
Broward	105.41	100.24	109.76	117.02	103.54	102.70
Calhoun	92.81	93.94	84.40	79.83	95.46	98.02
Charlotte	97.28	100.03	94.28	92.08	97.87	98.08
Citrus	94.43	102.96	87.58	83.91	92.63	96.10
Clay	96.01	102.34	92.55	85.58	99.67	97.22
Collier	103.07	102.07	94.50	109.96	106.79	99.51
Columbia	94.49	100.89	87.20	84.20	94.92	96.05
Miami-Dade	106.59	97.60	123.71	119.28	100.35	106.85
De Soto	96.69	100.49	93.60	89.01	99.21	97.83
Dixie	95.84	98.94	91.48	89.51	92.77	98.45
Duval	97.20	101.31	95.42	90.49	98.02	98.46
Escambia	95.42	97.27	93.91	87.10	97.48	96.21
Flagler	96.54	102.28	97.68	89.40	95.69	96.05
Franklin	95.49	97.67	100.93	86.37	92.31	99.16
Gadsden	95.03	101.04	94.01	83.12	95.33	98.57
Gilchrist	94.86	93.17	84.96	83.30	107.26	97.30
Glades	96.97	103.00	93.09	89.32	97.37	98.80
Gulf	95.43	100.55	90.12	87.84	91.06	98.87
Hamilton	94.22	101.26	83.62	84.85	92.19	96.34
Hardee	94.36	98.39	86.60	85.35	93.92	96.41
Hendry	97.30	99.81	91.89	93.44	96.55	98.09
Hernando	95.39	100.33	92.89	86.65	94.30	97.14
Highlands	94.54	100.20	86.78	82.67	97.06	97.87
Hillsborough	99.17	99.90	94.44	97.08	100.39	100.82
Holmes	93.16	98.11	84.71	81.77	90.01	98.09
Indian River	96.68	101.47	90.65	90.09	98.90	96.45
Jackson	93.71	101.88	88.08	80.15	93.93	96.96
Jefferson	94.66	100.65	86.01	83.10	95.64	99.04
Lafayette	93.22	98.02	81.54	81.85	92.11	97.90

TABLE III (Continued)
POPULATION WEIGHTED CATEGORY INDEXES

	TOTAL	FOOD	HEALTH CARE	HOUSING	PERSONAL GOODS & SERVICES	TRANS-PORTA-TION
Lake	95.78	100.85	92.70	86.82	94.46	98.99
Lee	97.99	99.11	96.80	95.54	99.02	96.24
Leon	96.71	102.90	93.81	87.57	97.82	99.28
Levy	94.15	102.57	85.59	83.24	92.91	96.11
Liberty	93.90	102.03	86.66	82.32	91.21	97.26
Madison	94.01	97.83	82.71	83.45	94.02	98.84
Manatee	97.88	100.87	94.64	93.63	101.67	95.78
Marion	95.13	99.76	92.42	85.34	97.34	95.66
Martin	99.66	99.80	96.77	100.38	100.44	98.07
Monroe	109.63	103.27	103.92	136.83	101.04	100.94
Nassau	95.35	101.41	92.15	85.65	96.94	95.71
Okaloosa	95.35	98.46	86.23	86.79	97.95	97.60
Okeechobee	96.76	103.13	104.17	88.65	94.74	96.48
Orange	97.45	101.31	94.17	91.36	100.56	97.19
Osceola	96.75	98.30	95.10	90.73	98.54	97.28
Palm Beach	103.68	98.75	103.93	109.46	105.09	105.22
Pasco	96.57	100.43	94.00	90.36	96.97	96.49
Pinellas	100.49	99.79	94.19	102.98	103.54	97.92
Polk	95.74	101.18	92.25	85.55	98.39	97.53
Putnam	94.27	104.80	84.91	82.02	94.20	96.24
Saint Johns	98.23	100.46	94.07	95.42	98.88	98.03
Saint Lucie	97.27	99.75	98.99	91.59	99.07	96.41
Santa Rosa	95.11	99.27	92.59	83.65	98.68	97.53
Sarasota	98.47	103.00	97.23	93.16	101.48	98.00
Seminole	97.39	98.08	93.21	95.00	97.66	96.27
Sumter	95.41	102.16	85.51	86.99	94.34	97.76
Suwannee	93.46	97.60	82.21	82.69	91.47	98.76
Taylor	95.62	101.98	84.47	86.62	94.35	100.28
Union	93.93	102.02	88.29	82.26	91.62	96.70
Volusia	99.13	100.16	93.19	100.48	97.56	97.58
Wakulla	94.81	102.58	92.54	84.37	93.82	95.55
Walton	94.79	100.85	84.61	84.78	95.19	97.86
Washington	93.67	94.80	85.16	84.81	92.80	96.98

TABLE IV: ITEM WEIGHTS FOR THE 2003 FLORIDA PRICE LEVEL INDEX

Category	Number of Items Priced	Weight of Items Priced	Weight of Items Not Priced	Total Weight
Food and beverages	4	4.884	7.382	12.265
Medical Care	5	4.907	0.341	5.248
Housing	6	18.963	4.825	23.789
Other Goods and Services	8	4.582	39.299	43.881
Transportation	3	6.292	8.525	14.817
Total	26	39.627	60.373	100.000

Transportation

Item	Weight
Auto Insurance	2.662
Lube-Oil-Filter	1.028
Gasoline, unleaded, self	2.602

Total Category Weight 14.817

Food and Beverages

Item	Weight
Hamburger	1.963
French Fries	1.051
Served Coffee	0.817
Served Soft Drink	1.053

Total Category Weight 12.265

Medical Care

Item	Weight
Health Insurance	0.277
Healthcare Cost Index	3.787
Eye Examination	0.227
Extraction	0.308
Filling	0.308

Total Category Weight 5.248

Other Goods and Services

Item	Weight
Safety Deposit Box Fee	0.167
Mans Haircut	0.361
Womans Haircut	0.361
Dry Cleaning (Womans Dress)	0.192
Dry Cleaning (Mans Suit)	0.192
Day Care Service	1.680
Movie Rental	0.814
Bowling	0.814

Total Category Weight 43.881

Housing

Item	Weight
Homeowner Cost Index	8.579
Apartment Rent Index	5.124
Electricity, 1000 KWH	2.862
Residential Telephone Service	1.046
Residential Water Service	0.860
Air Cond. Seasonal Inspection	0.492

Total Category Weight 23.789

The 2003 Florida Price Level Index was prepared by the Bureau of Economic and Business Research at the University of Florida and the staff of the Florida Department of Education, Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Chief Operating and Education Financial Officer

The Cost-of-Living survey has received great cooperation from businesses, agencies, and professional organizations throughout the state. The State of Florida is indeed indebted to everyone whose cooperation made this study possible.

Jim Horne, Commissioner
Florida Department of Education