

3.4 Florida Price Level Index

The Florida Price Level Index is a cross-sectional measure that compares the cost of living or relative wage levels among Florida's 67 counties and is not designed to measure inflation from one year to the next. The FPLI is used as a cost of living index to measure the relative costs of maintaining a given standard of living across Florida's counties. Thus, the relative costs of goods and services in the Tallahassee area have been below the State of Florida average in each of the past three years and have decreased in terms of relative costs in comparison with other Florida counties since 2003.

Figure 3-6
Florida Price Level Index (2003-2006)

County	2003	2004	2005	2006
Leon	103.22	99.46	97.58	94.40
Gadsden	99.42	96.84	95.01	91.91
Jefferson	99.15	96.57	94.75	91.66
Wakulla	99.48	96.90	95.07	91.97

Note: The Florida Price Level Index (FPLI) was established by the Florida Legislature as the basis for the District Cost Differential (DCD) in the Florida Education Finance Program. In this role, the FPLI is used to represent the costs of hiring equally qualified personnel across school districts. Referred to as the FPLI_SP, this index is more appropriate for comparing the costs of hiring equally qualified personnel to do identical jobs across locations at a given point in time. The FPLI_SP is constructed so that the population-weighted average is 100. In 2006, counties with index values above 100 contain 61.8% of the state's population.

Source: University of Florida, Bureau of Economic and Business Research