

# DEEPER DIVE: SHARE OF COMMUTERS WITH 1+ HOUR COMMUTES

**Overview**

Commuters live in one location and work in another, and the duration of a commute is primarily affected by distance and road congestion. When jobs are located in greater proximity to where workers live, the distance and duration of commutes generally decreases. In Tampa Bay, the opposite trend is occurring. Jobs are growing in one set of counties, and housing units and the population of employed persons are growing in a separate set of counties.

**Regional Performance**

Hillsborough County and, to a lesser extent, Pinellas County, lead Tampa Bay in job growth, accounting for a combined 58.14 percent of regional job growth. However, the bordering counties – Manatee, Pasco, and Polk – all saw their labor force indicators (housing units and employed residents) grow much faster than jobs in their communities.



In addition to increased job availability, workers make other economic decisions associated with long commutes, committing time and financial resources (gas, vehicle maintenance, accelerated depreciation of vehicles) to travel to their job. The data suggests that the return for these investments is increased wages. In most counties, a significant wage premium exists for commuters with an hour commute or more. The exceptions to this phenomenon are Citrus and Polk counties, suggesting that the long commute decision may be driven more so by necessity versus job attractiveness.

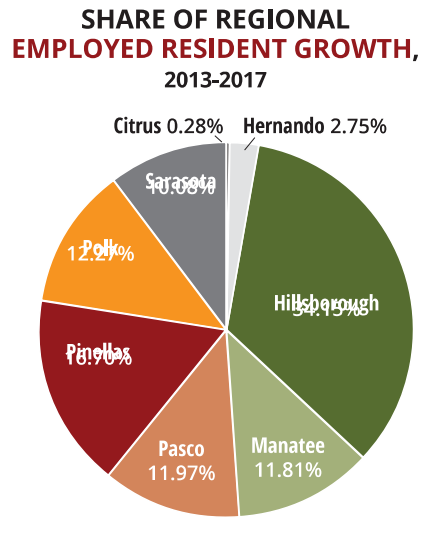
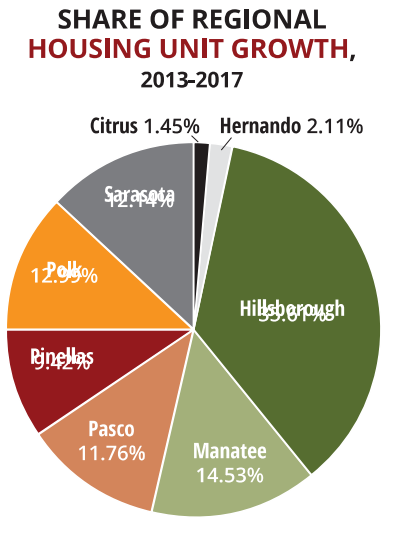
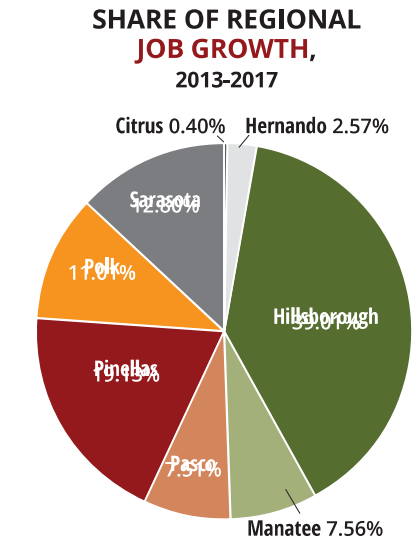
**COMMUTER WAGES**

	All	1+ Hour	1+ Hour Commute Wage Premium
Citrus	\$36,373	\$35,753	-1.7%
Hernando	\$37,851	\$46,828	23.7%
Hillsborough	\$45,838	\$50,786	10.8%
Manatee	\$37,859	\$43,779	15.6%
Pasco	\$42,478	\$47,810	12.6%
Pinellas	\$43,257	\$50,853	17.6%
Polk	\$36,178	\$36,456	0.8%
Sarasota	\$42,160	\$49,077	16.4%

**Key Takeaways**

- Patterns of job growth and indicators of labor force growth (housing units and employed residents) are geographically separated, indicating that longer, inter-county commutes will continue to increase.
- Commuters with hour-plus commutes generally enjoy a significant wage premium versus all commuters.

In most counties, a significant wage premium exists for commuters with an hour commute or more.



At a county level, the regional share of housing units and the population of working residents is growing faster in counties surrounding the areas in which the share of job growth is occurring. Should this trend continue, increasing numbers of workers living in Manatee, Pasco, and Polk Counties will commute to locations where jobs are growing.

**COMPARISON OF EMPLOYED RESIDENT GROWTH TO JOB GROWTH, REGIONAL SHARE 2013-2017**

	Employed Resident Growth	Job Growth	Ratio of Employed Resident Growth to Job Growth
Citrus	0.28%	0.40%	0.69 :1
Hernando	2.75%	2.57%	1.07 :1
Hillsborough	34.15%	39.01%	0.88 :1
Manatee	11.81%	7.56%	1.56 :1
Pasco	11.97%	7.51%	1.59 :1
Pinellas	16.70%	19.13%	0.87 :1
Polk	12.27%	11.01%	1.11 :1
Sarasota	10.08%	12.80%	0.79 :1
Tampa Bay	100.00%	100.00%	1.00 :1

**COMPARISON OF HOUSING UNIT GROWTH TO JOB GROWTH, REGIONAL SHARE 2013-2017**

	Housing Unit Growth	Job Growth	Ratio of Housing Unit Growth to Job Growth
Citrus	1.45%	0.40%	3.58 :1
Hernando	2.11%	2.57%	0.82 :1
Hillsborough	35.61%	39.01%	0.91 :1
Manatee	14.53%	7.56%	1.92 :1
Pasco	11.76%	7.51%	1.57 :1
Pinellas	9.42%	19.13%	0.49 :1
Polk	12.99%	11.01%	1.18 :1
Sarasota	12.14%	12.80%	0.95 :1
Tampa Bay	100.00%	100.00%	1.00 :1