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Career site ranks Palm Coast among top places in nation to make a hire

By [Aaron London](#)
aaron.london@news-jrn.com

Published: Tuesday, November 25, 2014 at 12:38 p.m.

PALM COAST — While Flagler County has struggled with high unemployment in the wake of the Great Recession, there is a silver lining to the area's jobless numbers.

In a recent report by career development website Beyond.com, Palm Coast was ranked No. 8 nationally on the list of "The 50 Best Places to Make a Hire" for the third quarter.

That ranking is two steps down from where the area was for the second quarter, according to the Beyond.com report.



Helga Van Eckert

"The rankings of these top metros is determined by comparing the number of job postings on Beyond.com for each region to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' civilian labor force numbers during Q3 2014," Joe Weinlick, vice president of marketing for Beyond, wrote in an email. "In Q2 2014, Palm Coast ranked as the sixth-highest place to find job candidates."

Weinlick said the lower third-quarter ranking is a reflection of overall improvements in the economy.

Flagler County had the second-highest unemployment rate in the state with 8.2 percent in October, down from 8.4 in September and 9.6 percent in October 2013. Hendry County had the highest unemployment rate in Florida, with 10.5 percent.

"One thing is certain: Palm Coast will continue to be a top place for employers to find quality talent," Weinlick said.

The Beyond.com report listed customer service jobs, clerical and administrative positions and merchandising, retail and purchasing positions as the easiest industries to hire for. In addition, registered nurses and customer service representatives were listed as top job titles employers were looking to hire in the area, according to the report.

For Helga van Eckert, executive director of the Flagler County Department of Economic Opportunity, the report is good news for the county's economic development efforts.

"As far as economic development goes, an available workforce is key to any company relocating or expanding," she said. "They need to be sure then can find employees that are qualified."

Van Eckert said the inclusion of jobs in the computer consulting and accounts payable fields also bodes well for the county's workforce development efforts.

"That shows we are growing with technical capability in the area and that's good news," she said.

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