The Household Survival Budget reflects the minimum cost to live and work in the modern economy and includes housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, a smartphone plan, and taxes. It does not include savings for emergencies or asset accumulation.

The Cost of Basics Outpaces Wages
Households below the ALICE Threshold — ALICE households plus those in poverty — can’t afford the essentials. Wages fail to keep pace with the rising cost of household essentials (housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, and a basic smartphone plan). Households below the ALICE Threshold are more likely to have fluctuations in income and less likely to receive benefits.

As circumstances change, households may find themselves below or above the ALICE Threshold at different times. While the COVID-19 pandemic brought employment shifts, health struggles, and school/business closures in 2021, it also spurred unprecedented public assistance through pandemic relief measures. In 2019, the ALICE Threshold in Jackson County was $43,416 (state average: $63,062) but by 2021 that number had changed to $56,724. ALICE households in Jackson County, Florida, 2021, was 3,866,606. However, a significant portion of both full and part-time workers are paid by the hour; these workers are more likely to be ALICE than others.

The Labor Landscape is Challenging for ALICE Workers
Adults (16 years and older) in Jackson County, Florida, 2021, to have fluctuations in income and less likely to receive benefits. To have a job and be paid by the hour, it’s a big adjustment. To then pay rent, buy groceries, and pay other necessary expenses is challenging. In Jackson County, 56% of workers have a single source of income. In 2019, working adults (16 years and older) in Jackson County were unemployed and a large number were working in poverty. The Labor Force Participation Rate: 34% (state average 33%), the Median Household Income: $43,416 (state average: $63,062) and the Population: 16,859 (-2% change from 2019). The ALICE Households: 3,086,516 (60% of all households) ALICE in Jackson County is reported regularly and reliably. Counties are the core geography for ALICE data: They reveal variations often masked by statewide averages, and the data is reported regularly and reliably.

Jackson County Reports 2021
In 2019, the number of households below the ALICE Threshold was 1,090, which was equal to the number of households in poverty in the county. However, when looking at the proportion of each group that is below the ALICE Threshold, it is clear that some groups are more likely to be ALICE than others.

By total number, groups with the largest population of households below the ALICE Threshold tend to also be in the largest demographic groups. However, when looking at the proportion of each group that is below the ALICE Threshold, it is clear that some groups are more likely to be ALICE than others.

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