

Florida  
**Trend's**

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF  
**ENTERPRISE  
FLORIDA**

# Business FLORIDA

Your 2018 Opportunity Guide

# THE FUTURE IS HERE



## **Boundless Opportunity Awaits**

- Florida's Top Assets p.10
- Industry Excellence p.24
- Regional Round-Ups p.42
- Points of Contact p.91



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# 2018 FLORIDA OPPORTUNITY GUIDE

## An Official Welcome

- 6 Gov. Rick Scott and Florida's economic development leaders share how they are working to create the number one place for families and businesses to succeed.

## Florida's Top Assets

- 10 Boundless Possibility
- 12 Business Climate
- 14 Markets
- 16 Talent
- 18 Innovation
- 20 Global Access
- 22 Quality of Life



## Industry Excellence

- 24 Newsmakers in High-Impact Industry Sectors

## Regional Round-Ups

- 42 Dynamic Sites  
Florida Map and Regional Statistics
- 44 East Central Bushnell · Cocoa · Daytona Beach · Kissimmee  
Lake Mary · Melbourne · Orlando · Palm Bay · Titusville
- 54 North Central Alachua · Gainesville · Jasper · Lake City  
Ocala · Perry
- 60 Northwest Crestview · Fort Walton Beach · Gulf Breeze  
Panama City · Pensacola · Tallahassee
- 64 Tampa Bay Bradenton · Clearwater · Lakeland · North Port  
Sarasota · St. Petersburg · Tampa
- 71 Northeast Jacksonville · Orange Park · Palatka · Palm Coast  
Ponte Vedra · St. Augustine
- 75 Southeast Boca Raton · Fort Lauderdale · Hollywood · Jupiter  
Key West · Miami · Port St. Lucie · Stuart · Vero Beach · West Palm Beach
- 84 South Central Arcadia · LaBelle · Lake Placid · Moore Haven  
Okeechobee · Sebring · Wauchula
- 87 Southwest Cape Coral · Estero · Fort Myers · Naples · Punta Gorda

## Points of Contact

- 91 Business Leaders Largest Public and Private Companies
- 92 Assistance & Funding Business Incubators and Venture Capital Firms
- 95 Economic Development

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P O W E R I N G



# BUSINESS

SO, WHY ARE COMPANIES PICKING FLORIDA  
AHEAD OF OTHERS AS THEIR NEW HOME BASE?

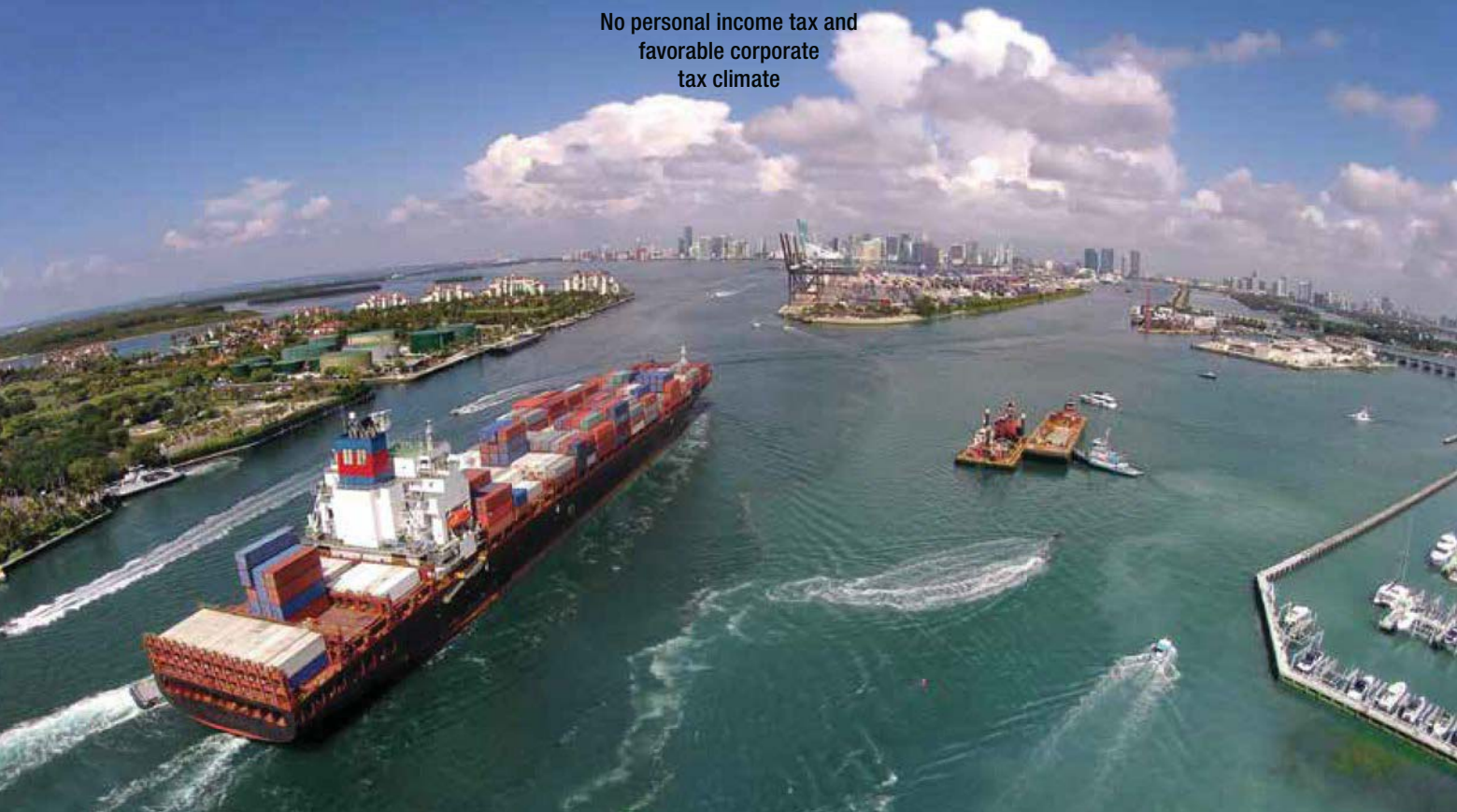
IT COULD BE

FPL's special incentive rates on reliable power  
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Consistent ranking near the top of all states in  
new business formation and small business survival

An extensive multi-modal transportation network  
that provides seamless access  
to global markets

No personal income tax and  
favorable corporate  
tax climate



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# BOUNDLESS FREEDOM

**MANY STATES STRUGGLE TO REDUCE THE BARRIERS TO DOING BUSINESS.  
WE JUST ELIMINATED THEM ALTOGETHER.**

Consistently ranked one of the best states for business, Florida is committed to keeping regulatory requirements and business taxes low. That, along with a strong economy and zero personal state income tax, makes it a great place to do business. We won't stand in the way of your success. We'll pave the way for it. **Discover what a future in Florida means for your business at [floridathefutureishere.com](http://floridathefutureishere.com) or call 877-YES-FLORIDA.**

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FLORIDA | THE FUTURE IS HERE.®



“We are fighting each day to make our state the number one place for families and businesses to succeed, and these investments will help to create opportunities across our state for generations to come.”



## We Are Fighting for Florida's Future

**Governor  
Rick Scott**

Chairman,  
Enterprise Florida



When I first ran for governor in 2010, I committed to fight every day to create more jobs in Florida. By cutting taxes and making strategic investments, Florida has had a lot of success. Since 2010, Florida businesses have created more than 1.4 million private sector jobs.

To continue this growth, I worked with the Legislature to establish the new \$85-million Florida Job Growth Grant Fund, which will promote public infrastructure and individual job training to help ensure more businesses choose to expand in Florida.

In Florida, we understand the role infrastructure plays in continuing our booming economy, growing population and record tourism. Since 2011, we've invested a record \$63 billion in infrastructure and helped grow investments in roads, bridges, airports and seaports by \$4 billion.

We are also continuing to help businesses grow and create opportunities for Florida's future generations by cutting taxes in every way possible. Since 2011, we have cut \$6.7 billion in taxes and now have the nation's second lowest tax burden.

To be first in the nation for jobs, Florida must have a diverse and educated workforce. That's why we are working to ensure every student can receive a great education by investing in K-12 education, colleges and universities. I'm proud to say that in this legislative session, we reached an all-time high in per-pupil funding.

We are fighting each day to make our state the number one place for families and businesses to succeed, and these investments will help to create opportunities across our state for generations to come.

**BIG IS INNOVATIVE.**  
**BIG IS EXCITING.**  
**BIG IS VAST.**  
**BIG IS MICROSCOPIC.**  
**BIG IS ACCESS.**  
**BIG IS EXCELLENCE**  
**BIG IS RIGHT NOW.**  
**BIG IS WHAT'S NEXT.**



**What is big?** The University of Central Florida is the biggest university in the state, and has one of the largest student populations in the nation. But being big goes beyond our size and statistics. It's in our classrooms and labs, from nanoscience to the performing arts. It's in our students and professors, who come from around the country and all over the world. And it's in our ambitions, our innovations and our imaginations. Learn more at [ucf.edu](http://ucf.edu).

# Florida Offers Boundless Business Potential

Since December 2010, Gov. Rick Scott, alongside state and community leaders, has worked tirelessly to make Florida a first-choice business destination. By increasing funding for education and workforce training, expanding the state's robust infrastructure and cutting taxes more than 50 times, they have pushed Florida up the ranks to become a premier global business location.

As a result, Florida businesses created more than 1.4 million new private sector jobs from December 2010 through July 2017, and the state's unemployment rate held at 4.1% in July, the lowest rate in a decade.

To further bolster the state's position as a job creation leader, the new Florida Job Growth Grant Fund was signed into law by Gov. Scott. The new fund provides \$85 million for public infrastructure improvements and workforce training to support job growth and diversity.

For businesses looking to locate or expand in our state, this means an even stronger workforce and more expansive infrastructure, one that already supports more than 100 million visitors annually.

When combined with Florida's unmatched quality of life, zero personal income tax, low business taxes and pro-business leadership at all levels, the new fund shows that the state is serious about high-wage, high-skill job creation.

We want to thank you for considering Florida for your next job creation project. The team at Enterprise Florida stands ready to assist you in finding the location and resources your business needs to be successful.



**Stan W.  
Connally Jr.**

Vice Chair  
Enterprise Florida;  
Chairman  
President and CEO  
Gulf Power

“The team at  
Enterprise  
Florida stands  
ready to assist  
you in finding  
the location  
and resources  
your business  
needs to be  
successful.”



In today's business world, you have to stay relevant. You also have to stay one step ahead. That requires you to continually evolve in a place that will evolve with you. In Florida, we offer boundless opportunities to grow, innovate, discover and explore. We also offer a top-ranked business climate, a highly skilled and diverse workforce and an expansive infrastructure that helps companies create and achieve their goals in a growth economy. **Enterprise Florida Inc.** exists to help businesses within a wide range of industries expand and locate to the state where we pave the way for your success. Discover what a future in Florida can do for you.

Contact us for confidential business location and expansion assistance:  
**1-877-YES-FLORIDA or [enterpriseflorida.com/contact](http://enterpriseflorida.com/contact).**

## Florida Department of Economic Opportunity

Florida's thriving economy is the nation's most impressive business success story. Our state's private sector job growth rate consistently bests that of our competitor states, and Florida's unemployment rate is at its lowest point in nearly a decade. In just six years, more than 1.4 million new jobs have been created across our communities, giving new opportunity to Florida's hardworking families.

With renewed commitment to economic growth by our state leaders and the launch of the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund, this year presents new opportunities to make strategic investments in our state's infrastructure and talent pipelines in order to secure a strong future for our state.

At the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, we invest in the prosperity of all Floridians and their communities. Our agency combines economic development initiatives, workforce support and training, and community development efforts to fuel job creation around the state. We are proud to work with leaders across our state to help support local businesses, engage talented job seekers and enhance our state's diverse communities, ensuring continued economic success for all of the families and businesses that call Florida home.

In collaboration with our partners, the **Department of Economic Opportunity's** mission is to assist the governor in advancing Florida's economy by championing the state's economic development vision and by administering state and federal programs and initiatives to help visitors, citizens, businesses and communities.



**Cissy Proctor**  
Executive Director

## CareerSource Florida

In today's competitive environment, a skilled, capable workforce gives your business a competitive edge. We are here to help. The CareerSource Florida network provides recruiting, hiring and training assistance to thousands of businesses like yours, whether you need one employee or 1,000.

We are helping to build tomorrow's talent pipeline through our national leadership in industry sector strategies. Together with business, education and economic development partners, we are using market intelligence to project occupational needs now and into the future and addressing those needs with demand-driven talent solutions. Through these partnerships, we are working to ensure today's training teaches tomorrow's skills.

The impact is significant. We provided assistance to more than 81,000 businesses of all sizes last year, and more than 369,000 Floridians assisted by the CareerSource Florida network were hired.

You want to win. We want to help. Let's work together to grow your business and make Florida the global leader for talent.



**Michelle Dennard**  
President and CEO

The mission of **CareerSource Florida** is to connect employers with qualified, skilled talent and Floridians with employment and career development opportunities to achieve economic prosperity. Learn more at [careersourceflorida.com](http://careersourceflorida.com).

### Florida's economic development partners

are allied and working toward the common goal of making your firm's transition to a permanent home in Florida as worry-free as possible. A call to any one of these partners sets the wheels in motion.



[enterpriseflorida.com](http://enterpriseflorida.com)  
(407) 956-5600



[floridajobs.org](http://floridajobs.org)  
(850) 245-7105



[careersourceflorida.com](http://careersourceflorida.com)  
(850) 692-6887



24-hour government access  
[MyFlorida.com](http://MyFlorida.com)  
(850) 488-1234



Advocating for knowledge-based economic development  
[floridaresearch.org](http://floridaresearch.org)  
(850) 425-5223



The authoritative site for Florida corporations  
[sunbiz.org](http://sunbiz.org)  
(850) 245-6000



The official source for Florida travel planning  
[visitflorida.com](http://visitflorida.com)  
(888) 735-2872

# BOUNDLESS POSSIBILITY

**Florida has long been a place where dreamers and doers could craft their future.** Some 450 years ago, when Florida was still mostly swampland, Spanish explorers recognized its possibility and built the first permanent European settlement here. The rocket scientists who followed in their wake centuries later would launch men to the moon and a rover to Mars from these shores.

Today, dozens of companies choose to stake their futures on Florida by relocating and expanding here each year. Why? Because few states can match Florida's unparalleled assets: the boundless freedom, markets, potential, opportunity, innovation and quality of life that are desired by all. The possibility of success draws new companies to Florida; the reality of attaining it keeps existing firms at home here for the long term.

Selecting the right site in which to launch or grow a business is never easy. But as you consider the pluses and minuses of possible locations, know that the companies now realizing success in the Sunshine State once wrestled with your same concerns. And while each may have settled here in a different region and for a different reason, they all found their future in Florida.

Read on to learn why five companies chose to break ground, expand and grow in the Sunshine State.

## FLORIDA ASSETS AT A GLANCE

- **Population**  
**20.6 million**  
3rd largest in the U.S.
- **Civilian Labor Force**  
**9.8 million**  
3rd largest in the U.S.
- **Gross Domestic Product**  
**\$926.9 billion**  
4th largest in the U.S.
- **Total Personal Income**  
**\$944.4 billion**  
4th highest in the U.S.
- **Per Capita Personal Income**  
**\$45,819**  
2nd highest in the Southeast

**BUSINESS CLIMATE** p.12

**INNOVATION** p.18

**MARKETS** p.14

**GLOBAL ACCESS** p.20

**TALENT** p.16

**QUALITY OF LIFE** p.21



# Let's Talk Business...

The Business Development Board of Palm Beach County offers more than just talk – we have an educated workforce, multilingual skilled labor, training programs, plentiful incentives, intelligent infrastructure, appealing corporate tax structures – and an unparalleled lifestyle.

310 Evernia Street  
West Palm Beach FL 33401  
**561.835.1008**  
[www.bdb.org/LetsTalkBusiness](http://www.bdb.org/LetsTalkBusiness)

Photo location: Downtown West Palm Beach, FL

We're ready to show you it is a pleasure to do business here. For a personalized, confidential look at our competitive assets, **call Kelly Smallridge, President, at 561.835.1008 or visit [www.bdb.org/letstalkbusiness](http://www.bdb.org/letstalkbusiness)**

*Because talking business is just the beginning...*



# BOUNDLESS BUSINESS CLIMATE

Consistently ranked one of the best states for business, Florida is committed to keeping regulatory requirements and business taxes low. That, along with a strong economy and zero personal income tax, makes this state a great place to do business.

- No. 1 Tax Climate in the Southeast;  
No. 4 Nationwide  
— *Tax Foundation*
- No. 2 Best State for Business  
— *Chief Executive magazine*
- Zero Personal Income Tax
- 4th Largest Financial Services Industry in the U.S.  
— *U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics*

## IN THE NEWS KPMG Breaks Ground on New Learning, Development and Innovation Center

ORLANDO – Professional services firm KPMG broke ground in May 2017 on a new Learning, Development and Innovation Center at Orlando's Lake Nona community. Slated for completion in late 2019, the 55-acre, \$430-million facility is expected to create 80 jobs in Orlando and another 250 statewide and bring thousands of KPMG employees to central Florida for training.

With offices throughout the U.S. and in more than 150 countries, KPMG provides innovative business solutions and audit, tax and advisory services to many of the world's most prestigious organizations.

"This campus is our firm's largest capital investment ever. More than that, it's an investment in our people. Today marks a major milestone toward creating a world-class environment that inspires our professionals to achieve their fullest potential and helps enable our firm to attract and retain the best talent. Nowhere else is that dual focus more evident than in our growing presence in Florida where Gov. Scott, state and local officials and the Lake Nona community have created a highly collaborative, forward-thinking environment." — Lynne Doughtie, Chairman and CEO, KPMG US



LYNNE  
DOUGHTIE

# 978 WAYS TO UNLEASH YOUR INNER ENTREPRENEUR



From start-ups to local pillars of business to relocating companies, see why businesses are thriving in Tampa Bay. Explore their stories first-hand and learn why everyone from bankers to bakers loves doing business in Tampa Bay — and you will, too.

See why  
**[MakeltTampaBay.com](http://MakeltTampaBay.com)**



MAKE IT  
 **TAMPA BAY**  
TREASURE AWAITS

# BOUNDLESS MARKETS

Florida is very much a people place and that's good news for growing businesses. Each year in Florida, tourism numbers swell, the permanent population grows and the state's global reach extends ever further. And as these vital markets expand, so too do the opportunities for businesses in all industry sectors to succeed.

- 3rd Largest State  
Population 20.6 million  
– *U.S. Census*
- Nearly 113 Million Visitors Annually
- 18th Largest Economy in the World  
– *World Bank*
- 2nd Largest Exporter in the U.S.  
– *WISERTrade*

## IN THE NEWS

### GKN Aerospace Expands U.S. Operations to Florida

BAY COUNTY – U.K.-based aircraft manufacturer GKN Aerospace is set to expand its U.S. operations with the opening of an advanced manufacturing plant in Bay County, its first facility in Florida. Located at VentureCrossings near Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport in Panama City, the new facility represents a capital investment of more than \$50 million and is expected to create 170 jobs.

With more than 60 locations across three continents, GKN Aerospace is one of the world's largest suppliers to the international aviation industry.

"This investment emphasizes our commitment to manufacturing in North America, as this new world-class facility will create jobs and strengthen our competitive position in the U.S. aerospace market for the future. The excellent support we have received from Bay County EDA, Gov. Rick Scott's office, higher educational partners and the St. Joe Company made Florida an ideal location for GKN."  
— Mike Grunza, CEO,  
Aerostructures North America,  
GKN Aerospace



MIKE  
GRUNZA



# FLORIDA: WHERE YOUR *Success* ~~SHIP~~ COMES IN

In Florida, we've invested billions of dollars to increase efficiencies in our multi-modal freight delivery network of seaports, airports, highways and rail lines.

We can reliably handle diverse cargo shipments with less congestion and more connectivity to the Southeast and markets around the world, resulting in greater performance for your business.

***When you think business success, think Florida first.***



Port Canaveral | Port Everglades | Port of Fernandina | Port of Fort Pierce | JAXPORT  
Port of Key West | Port Manatee | PortMiami | Port of Palm Beach | Port Panama City  
Port of Pensacola | Port of Port St. Joe | Port St. Pete | Port Tampa Bay

502 East Jefferson Street | Tallahassee, Florida 32301 | [flaports.org](http://flaports.org)   

# BOUNDLESS TALENT

Florida's high concentration of exceptionally skilled life sciences, information technology and finance professionals is no accident. This state's colleges and universities are among the nation's top performers of R&D and commercialization of technologies. Companies relocating or expanding in Florida can rest assured that today's talent stands ready to help them succeed and tomorrow's is already getting prepared.

- 9.8 Million Workers
- 28,000+ STEM Graduates Enter the Workforce Annually
- 1.4 Million+ Private-Sector Jobs Created Since December 2010
- 3rd Largest Workforce among All States
- 12 Public Universities  
28 State Colleges  
9 Medical Schools  
Numerous Private Colleges

## IN THE NEWS

### ADP Taps into Florida's Skilled Workforce

ORLANDO – ADP, a global leader in the provision of cloud-based business outsourcing services, analytics and compliance expertise, will enjoy the advantages of Florida's ready workforce as it expands operations in Orlando. The new office opening will create 500 jobs within the next six months — up to a total of 1,600 jobs overall — and pump more than \$28 million into central Florida's economy.

By choosing to grow in Florida, ADP joins the more than 129,500 financial and professional services firms and their nearly 900,000 employees that currently prosper in the Sunshine State.

"Powerful technology combined with superior service is why ADP is a Human Capital leader. We are strategically placing jobs in the areas of client support and implementation and are happy to be doing this in the Orlando area." — Debbie Dyson, Corporate Vice President, Client Experience and Continuous Improvement



DEBBIE DYSON  
AND  
GOV. RICK SCOTT



*Dedicated Service.* Connected Vision.

Shareholders from L to R: George S. LeMieux, Fort Lauderdale, Simon Ferro, Miami, Kenneth B. Bell, Tallahassee, Simone Marsteller, Tallahassee, and Angel Cortiñas, Miami

At Gunster, our attorneys are not only dedicated to client service, but also to the communities we serve. Our team has an intimate knowledge of business, government, regulatory processes and the judiciary from years of public service. Among our attorneys are a former U.S. Senator and Florida Deputy Attorney General, a U.S. Ambassador, a Florida Supreme Court Justice, and two Florida District Court of Appeal Judges. Through their collective experience, our attorneys are well positioned to be strategic counselors, helping our clients navigate business challenges in today's regulatory climate. With 13 Florida offices, Gunster is statewide and state wise.



**GUNSTER**  
FLORIDA'S LAW FIRM FOR BUSINESS

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# BOUNDLESS INNOVATION

Widely known as the place where technology, creativity and exploration converge, Florida is the ideal location for companies with their eyes focused on the future. By fostering an environment that allows an ever-increasing number of life sciences, aerospace and information technology innovators to engage in the next generation of cutting-edge activities, this state continues to solidify its reputation as a birthplace for new ideas and revolutionary inventions.

- No. 1 in the Southeast for Tech Sector Employment; No. 4 Nationwide  
— *CompTIA*
- No. 3 State for High-Tech Establishments  
— *TechAmerica*
- No. 6 Best State for Starting a Business  
— *Forbes*

## IN THE NEWS

### Arthrex Finds Reasons and Room to Grow in Naples

NAPLES – Medical device manufacturer Arthrex continues to expand its operations in North Naples with the creation of 500 jobs and a capital investment of more than \$63 million. A Collier County fixture since 1991, Arthrex has grown to become a global leader in arthroscopic surgery, developing more than 9,500 innovative products and surgical procedures focusing on the advancement of minimally invasive orthopedics worldwide. In addition to providing jobs for 2,200 Floridians, Arthrex trains thousands of surgeons annually at its medical education facility in Naples and exports its products to more than 100 countries worldwide.

Arthrex has been named among *Fortune's* "Top 100 Best Companies to Work For" and No. 3 of "15 Best Workplaces in Manufacturing and Production" in the U.S.

"Arthrex is committed to investing in our community, and the best investment is growing our business right here in southwest Florida. This investment will help us expand our research, manufacturing, product development and medical education to help improve the lives of people in southwest Florida with our company and around the world with our products." — Reinhold Schmieding, President and Founder, Arthrex



REINHOLD  
SCHMIEDING

# why are so many **companies** locating in greater **fort lauderdale?**



 **zero** state income **tax**



**82°** average temperature

**35**   
colleges & universities

access to over  
**6 million** people  
and 90+ languages



**10 airports**  
3 major international  
7 private for executives and business travelers  
100 non-stop U.S. and international flights



**port everglades**  
#1 container port in Florida  
#1 seaport for exports in Florida

greater  
**fort lauderdale**  
**alliance** | broward county  
*Life. Less taxing.*  
**[gflalliance.org](http://gflalliance.org)**

# BOUNDLESS GLOBAL ACCESS

Transportation infrastructure plays a significant role in creating the necessary conditions for businesses to expand or relocate. With 14 deep water ports, 19 commercial airports, two spaceports and thousands of miles of interconnected highway and rail, Florida offers one of the world's most extensive multi-modal transportation systems.

- No. 2 Best State for Infrastructure
- 122,000+ Highway Miles
- 120+ Public-Use Airports

## **IN THE NEWS** Amazon Adds Second Fulfillment Center and 1,000 Jobs in Jacksonville

JACKSONVILLE – Six months after announcing plans to build its first fulfillment center in northeast Florida, Amazon has confirmed the addition of a second center in the region. The new 1-million-sq.-ft. facility will add 1,000 full-time jobs, bringing Amazon's employment footprint in Jacksonville to 2,500. Employees here will pick, pack and ship large items, such as household décor, sporting equipment and gardening tools.

During the past three years, Amazon has sited four fulfillment centers, two sortation centers and Prime Now hubs in Miami, Tampa and Orlando.

"We're excited to further expand our presence in the state with this new fulfillment center in Jacksonville. Florida has been an ideal location to help enable superfast shipping speeds to customers and a source of exceptional talent for Amazon. We're proud to be creating great jobs with benefits for Floridians."  
— Akash Chauhan, Vice President, North American Operations, Amazon



AKASH CHAUHAN  
AND  
GOV. RICK SCOTT

# Engage with Florida businesses with a **VISIT FLORIDA** Marketing Partnership

Learn more by contacting the Industry Relations Team at  
(877) 435-2872 or **Partner@VISITFLORIDA.org**.



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**VISITFLORIDA®**

# BOUNDLESS QUALITY OF LIFE

## History and Culture

- A thriving arts scene, including the eclectic galleries of Miami Beach, Sarasota, Naples and Key West, and renowned works by Salvador Dali in St. Petersburg, Louis Comfort Tiffany in Winter Park and acclaimed artists of the Americas at Pérez Art Museum Miami



- Home to America's oldest European settlement, St. Augustine, founded 55 years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock
- Culturally diverse: more than one in four residents speak a language other than English in their homes, with Spanish the most common
- Birthplace of America's space program, with exhibits and attractions at Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex tracing spaceflight's past, present and future

## Leisure

- Nearly 113 million visitors annually; 16 million for sports and recreation alone
- 1,197 miles of coastline, 663 miles of beaches, 7,700 lakes, 1,711 rivers and streams, 700 natural springs
- 174 state parks, trails and historic sites; three national parks, two national seashores and two national preserves
- 9 of the top 25 U.S. beaches on TripAdvisor's "2017 Travelers' Choice" list and the only U.S. state on TripAdvisor's top 25 world beaches list (Siesta Beach)



- 1,100+ golf courses
- No. 1 state for recreational vessel registration
- Florida Grapefruit League, with a 2017 average draw of 6,337 fans per game for a total of close to 1.6 million
- 10 pro sports franchises in baseball, basketball, football, hockey and soccer
- Headquarters for many sporting organizations and their world-class events, including NASCAR, the USTA, ATP and WTA tennis tours

## Education

- A postsecondary educational institution within 50 miles of every Florida resident
- 15 Florida high schools ranked among the nation's top 100 on *U.S. News & World Report's* "2017 Best High Schools" list
- 4 universities among the top 50 worldwide for number of U.S. utility patents awarded in 2016
- 28,000+ STEM graduates and 18,000 business degree majors annually



## Health Care

- Close to 300 medical and surgical hospitals, including Moffitt Cancer Center, a designated National Cancer Institute Comprehensive Cancer Center.
- At 52,000+, fourth among U.S. states for number of active physicians
- 8 Florida hospitals among the nation's top 50 in 13 medical specialties on *U.S. News & World Report's* list of "Best Hospitals, 2017-18"

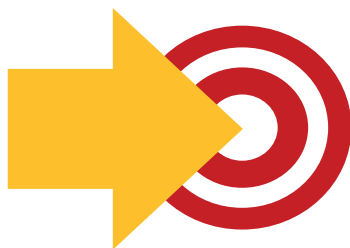
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don't always look like meetings.  
Must be the sunshine.**



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# BOUNDLESS SUCCESS



**In Florida, opportunities for success are truly limitless.** With a highly skilled and diverse workforce of nearly 10 million, an expansive and state-of-the-art infrastructure and unmatched global access, this state offers businesses across all industries the resources they need to prosper and grow. These advantages have helped Florida retain its position as the second best state for business, as determined by the votes of C-Suite leaders, in *Chief Executive* magazine's "2017 Best and Worst States for Business" for five consecutive years. Since December 2010, Florida businesses have created more than 1.4 million private-sector jobs.



**AVIATION & AEROSPACE**



**DEFENSE & HOMELAND SECURITY**



**CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**



**FINANCE & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**



**LIFE SCIENCES**



**MANUFACTURING**



**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**



**LOGISTICS & DISTRIBUTION**



**CLEAN TECHNOLOGY**

**For a snapshot of companies succeeding in Florida's target industries, read on.**



## AVIATION & AEROSPACE

- No. 1 state for aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) businesses
- 2nd in aviation and aerospace businesses
- 6th among U.S. states for aerospace manufacturing attractiveness
- 2 licensed U.S. spaceports
- 120+ public-use airports



### IN THE NEWS

#### GKN AEROSPACE

One of the world's largest suppliers to the international aviation industry, opening a manufacturing

plant and bringing 170 jobs to Bay County.

#### VT MOBILE AEROSPACE

**ENGINEERING** Building a 173,000-sq-ft. maintenance and engineering facility in Pensacola and creating 400 jobs.

#### KLX AEROSPACE SOLUTIONS

**GROUP** Expanding its global headquarters and distribution hub in Miami-Dade and Broward counties with 100+ jobs.

**AEROMOD INTERNATIONAL** After relocating its headquarters from Michigan to Melbourne and creating 150 jobs, expanding again to add another 100.



## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- 27,000 IT firms statewide
- 237,000+ IT professionals
- 3rd in the U.S. for high-tech employment growth
- 4th for high-tech employment in the U.S.

### IN THE NEWS

**GARTNER** Global IT firm expanding for the fourth time since 2012 in Lee County, creating 600 jobs and investing \$21+ million.

**IMEC** World-leading nanoelectronics research center opening imec Florida, in collaboration with BRIDG, the newly completed advanced manufacturing research facility in Osceola County.

**GRANITE TELECOMMUNICATIONS** Opening an office in Orlando and expanding operations in West Palm Beach, adding 100+ jobs.

**EMAINT ENTERPRISES** Global leader in computerized maintenance management software expanded in Lee County and added 150 jobs.



## FINANCE & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

- 3rd largest insurance industry in the U.S.
- 4th largest financial services industry in the U.S.
- 160+ private equity firms, \$33.98 billion in assets under management
- 140+ commercial banks with \$140 billion in assets
- 18 foreign bank headquarters



### IN THE NEWS

**KPMG** Building a 55-acre, \$400+ million Learning, Development and Innovation Facility in Orlando and creating 80 jobs.

**FAY SERVICING** Selected Tampa for its southeastern regional headquarters; 100 new jobs are anticipated.

**ADP** Locating new offices in Orange County, adding 1,600 jobs and investing \$28+ million.

**DEUTSCHE BANK** Continuing to expand at its Jacksonville campus with the addition of 350 jobs and \$10+ million over the next two years.



## DEFENSE & HOMELAND SECURITY

- 70,000+ active duty military personnel; 1.5+ million veterans
- 20 major military installations; 3 unified combatant commands: Southern, Central and Special Operations
- 2nd among U.S. states for space and defense systems manufacturing
- 5th among U.S. states for Department of Defense contract awards

### IN THE NEWS

**THALES** International aviation defense firm expanding in Melbourne and Orlando with a target of 500 new jobs by 2021.

**BAE SYSTEMS** Awarded a \$51.3-million contract for maintenance and modernization of the U.S. Navy's USS Roosevelt guided missile destroyer at its Jacksonville shipyard.

**EASTERN SHIPBUILDING** Awarded \$10.5 billion — the U.S. Coast Guard's largest-ever vessel procurement contract — to build 25 next-generation Offshore Patrol Cutters at its Panama City shipyards.

**LOCKHEED MARTIN** Adding 500 jobs at its Missiles and Fire Control plant in Orlando and 300 jobs in Brevard County to support testing/maintenance of Trident II Ballistic Missiles.



## LIFE SCIENCES

- 2nd largest medical device manufacturing industry in the U.S.
- 3rd largest pharmaceuticals manufacturing industry
- 295 biotech establishments
- 259 pharmaceutical establishments



### IN THE NEWS

**JELLYFISH HEALTH** Expanding its Panama City operations and creating 100 jobs.

**INTELLITECH** Biotech and pharmaceutical machinery manufacturer relocated its headquarters to Pinellas County.

**CTD HOLDINGS** Establishing its corporate headquarters in Jupiter with a \$2.75-million investment and the addition of 50+ jobs.

**MODERNIZING MEDICINE** Expanding operations in Palm Beach County, adding more than 800 jobs by 2022.

**ARTHREX** Continuing to expand in north Naples with the creation of 560 jobs and a capital investment of \$63+ million.



## LOGISTICS & DISTRIBUTION

- 1st for air cargo with Latin America and the Caribbean
- 2nd largest FTZ network in the U.S.
- 3rd largest cluster of logistics and distribution establishments in U.S.
- \$160 billion in goods flow through Florida ports annually



### IN THE NEWS

**AMAZON.COM** The e-commerce leader is opening fulfillment centers in Orlando, Jacksonville and Miami and creating more than 3,500 jobs.

**CHEWY.COM** The leading online retailer of pet food and products in the U.S. is creating 600 jobs at its new fulfillment center in Marion County.

**AUTOZONE** The leading distributor of automotive parts and products in the U.S. is building a distribution facility in Ocala with 240 new jobs.

**DB SCHENKER** Consolidating and relocating its Americas headquarters to Miami-Dade to better serve its Latin American markets; 75 new jobs are expected.



## CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

- Best business climate in the U.S. *(Business Facilities)*
- 2nd best state for business *(Chief Executive)*
- 2nd best infrastructure in the U.S. (U.S. Chamber Foundation)
- 16 Fortune 500 company headquarters



### IN THE NEWS

#### COSENTINO GROUP

Relocating its headquarters from Texas to Coral Gables and creating 85 jobs.

**NORTH AMERICAN ROOFING SERVICES** Relocating its corporate headquarters from North Carolina to Tampa, creating up to 180 jobs.

#### HOTWIRE COMMUNICATIONS

The leader in fiber optics telecommunications is relocating its headquarters from Pennsylvania to Fort Lauderdale, creating 375 jobs.

**THE COTT CORPORATION** One of the world's largest beverage distributors expanding its headquarters in Hillsborough County, adding 60 jobs.



## CLEAN TECHNOLOGY

- Top state for annual biomass production
- 1,350 miles of coastline suited for ocean energy R&D and deployment
- 11,000+ companies in clean tech industries

### IN THE NEWS

#### FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT

Building eight solar power plants with a combined capacity of nearly 600 megawatts — enough to power 120,000 homes with zero-emissions energy. Sites in Putnam, Alachua-Putnam, Indian River and DeSoto counties are slated for completion by January 2018; four additional facilities in Brevard, Indian River, Hendry and St. Lucie counties are expected to become operational by March 2018.

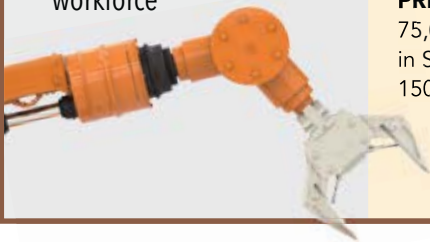
**GULF POWER** Teaming up with Coronal Energy to construct 1.5 million solar panels at military installations in Okaloosa, Escambia and Santa Rosa counties.

**DUKE ENERGY** Opened the Pery Solar Facility and the Suwannee Solar Facility in Florida's north central region as part of its long-range plan to install 500 megawatts of solar power throughout the state by 2024.



## MANUFACTURING

- 19,000 manufacturing companies
- 331,000 manufacturing industry employees
- 3rd best state for future job growth *(Forbes)*
- 3rd most diverse workforce



### IN THE NEWS

**LIGNOTECH** Building a \$135-million manufacturing facility in Fernandina Beach and creating 50 jobs.

**ATIO USA** Opening a \$26-million manufacturing facility in Hendry County and creating 39 jobs.

**KLS MARTIN GROUP** Global leader in surgical technology establishing its first U.S. manufacturing operations in Jacksonville; 25 new jobs expected.

**PRECAST SPECIALTIES** Building a 75,000+-sq.-ft. manufacturing facility in St. Lucie County, adding up to 150 jobs.

# FLORIDA: WHERE DREAMS OF A DEVELOPING SPACE

Space Florida continues its mission in making Florida the Place for Space — better positioning Florida as the global leader in enabling space commerce. It is the vision of Space Florida and the Cape Canaveral Spaceport to be our planet's gateway and multi-sector spaceport of the 21st Century.

## 2015

■ **Blue Origin** selects Florida to build launch, manufacturing and support facilities for its Orbital-Launch Vehicle program.



■ **Northrop Grumman**: The United States Air Force selects Northrop Grumman to build the nation's next long-range strike bomber. Northrop Grumman to expand at Orlando Melbourne International Airport.

■ **United Launch Alliance** successfully launches its Atlas V rocket, marking the 100th mission since the 2006 Boeing-Lockheed Martin joint venture with ULA.



■ **SpaceX** returns to flight with the launch of a Falcon 9 rocket from Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral Spaceport. In an historic first, the vehicle lands, marking the beginning of a new era in truly reusable vertical commercial orbital launch.



## 2016

■ **OneWeb Satellites**, a joint venture equally owned by OneWeb and Airbus Defence and Space, announces it will build a manufacturing facility at Cape Canaveral Spaceport.



■ **Blue Origin** breaks ground on its 750,000-sq.-ft. manufacturing facility in Exploration Park, which will produce its New Glenn rockets.



■ **Moon Express**: Space Florida continues work on infrastructure improvements to Launch Complex 17 and 18 to develop a Spacecraft Propulsion and Test Operations Facility for Moon Express.



## 2017

■ **FedEx** named by Space Florida as the preferred provider of logistics, transportation and cargo at the Shuttle Landing Facility. FedEx helped launch a relationship with Space Florida in May 2015 when a FedEx Express Boeing 757 was the first commercial aircraft to land on the Shuttle Landing Facility runway.



■ **OneWeb Satellites** breaks ground on its manufacturing facility to produce up to 15 satellites per week. OneWeb plans to launch the first batch of 10 satellites in 2018.

■ **The U.S. Air Force's X-37B, operated by Boeing**, lands at Space Florida's Shuttle Landing Facility returning from a mission that lasted more than 620 days.



■ **RUAG Space USA** opens its production facility in Titusville to create satellite components to support customer OneWeb Satellites.



■ **Orbital ATK** launches its Minotaur 4 rocket from Space Florida's Launch Complex 46, marking the first launch from the pad since 1999 and since the State of Florida began operating LC-46.



# ECONOMY WILL LAUNCH

SPACE FLORIDA



## TIMELINE OF FUTURE NOTEWORTHY LAUNCHES

2018

■ **Orion** Capsule Ascent Abort Mission

■ **SpaceX** Falcon Heavy rocket to launch from the Cape Canaveral Spaceport for a journey around the moon in 2018. ....>

■ **Boeing** Commercial Crew astronauts (and eventually, private citizens) to fly to space aboard Boeing's CST-100 Starliner capsule atop a ULA Atlas V rocket.



.....>



2019

■ **United Launch Alliance's** Vulcan



2020

■ **Blue Origin's** New Glenn .....>



## FUTURE OF LAUNCHES FROM THE CAPE CANAVERAL SPACEPORT

More launches are happening from Florida than ever before. And no fewer than three new commercial orbital launch systems are expected to begin operating from Cape Canaveral Spaceport over the next four years, with launches of medium and heavy-class vehicles becoming available at a frequency greater than once a week if markets demand. Adding in smaller lift systems of both horizontal and vertical modes of launch and return, commercial spaceflight activity will be occurring daily before 2025, with the Cape serving as the planet's busiest spaceport.

By 2025, there could be a four-fold or greater increase in operational capacity of Cape Canaveral Spaceport to launch cargo and humans into earth orbit and destinations beyond. That would represent more than 1,600 metric tons of material and human travelers departing for space here annually.

[WWW.SPACEFLORIDA.GOV](http://WWW.SPACEFLORIDA.GOV)

# RESEARCH FLORIDA

## CONTENTS

Finely Focused p.30  
A Neuroscience Pillar p.32  
Grant Magnet p.34  
Research Briefs p.35



# Finely

A Nobel Prize-winning German physicist brings his work — and the microscope he invented — to the Max Planck Florida Institute. It's the only such microscope in the U.S.

In 1873, German physicist and optical pioneer Ernst Abbe discovered the limits of "microscope resolution" — how precisely an optical instrument can focus light, and thus how small an item can be seen clearly. Abbe found that the laws of physics make it impossible to get resolution on objects smaller than half the wavelength of light — about 200 nanometers. That's a fifth of a thousandth of a millimeter, or about a hundredth the width of a human hair.

Abbe's discovery of the "diffraction barrier" was a breakthrough, but it was also bad news for researchers. For scientists, it was akin to learning that they'd be able to see details on the facade of a building without being able to observe how the people inside lived. Post-Abbe, researchers knew they'd be able to see larger parts of cells but never examine a cell in molecular detail.

That was the state of affairs until 2000, when another German physicist, Stefan Hell, proved he could do an end-around past the resolution barrier by using lasers and fluorescence. His microscope sees down to 20 nanometers, a tenfold step beyond the diffraction barrier.

For that solution, he and two other researchers — who came up separately with their own end-around — were awarded the Nobel Prize in chemistry in

# Focused

2014. "Due to their achievements, the optical microscope can now peer into the nanoworld," the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said in announcing the award. "Today, nanoscopy is used worldwide, and new knowledge of the greatest benefit to mankind is produced on a daily basis."

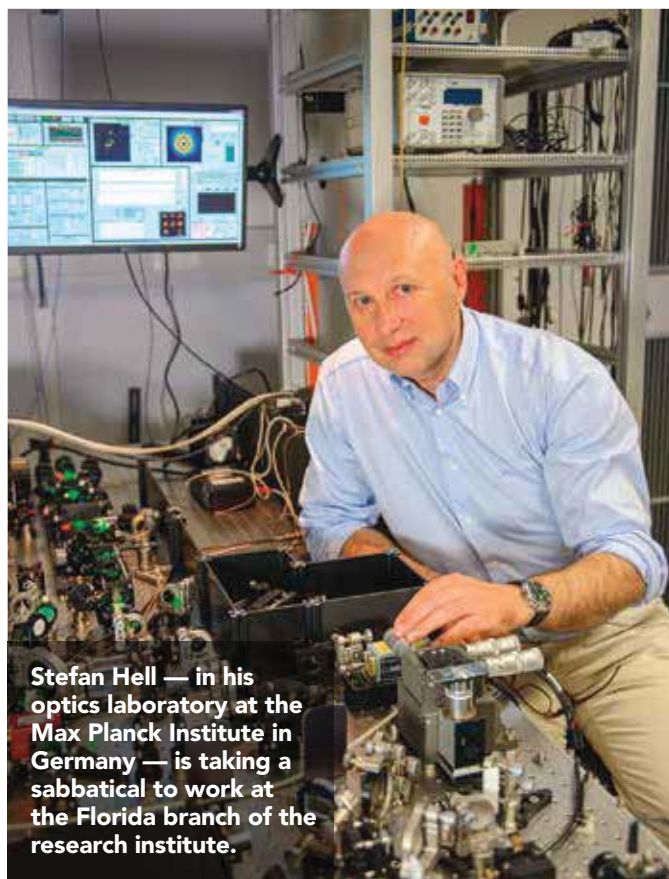
Perhaps some of that new knowledge will be discovered soon in Jupiter, Florida, home of the Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience. Hell, 54, arrives there in January for a sabbatical from his job at the Max Planck Institute in Germany. Birthed in 2009, Max Planck Florida is the first and only offshoot of the 83-institute Society outside Europe. It has become the U.S. base for Abberior Instruments America (a play on Abbe's name and "superior"), Hell's small firm that makes and sells his micro-

scopes to research universities and organizations.

Max Planck Florida purchased one earlier this year — an "unprecedented level of imaging," institute scientific director and CEO David Fitzpatrick says. And Abberior has based a second there so it can show scientists around the nation its potential. "It was a very easy choice to come here because there's been such a good reputation that has been built up here," Hell says.

## Increased stature

The arrival of Hell and his company highlights the role Max Planck Florida plays in global science and Florida. The Florida location was created with \$94 million in state dollars and another \$94 million in local support from Palm Beach County, the town of Jupiter and Boca Raton-based Florida Atlantic University. The



**Stefan Hell — in his optics laboratory at the Max Planck Institute in Germany — is taking a sabbatical to work at the Florida branch of the research institute.**

local support funded a custom 100,000-sq.-ft. facility on FAU's Jupiter campus.

The state recruited Max Planck near the end of Florida's incentive-laden campaign to build a life-science industry here, a binge that began in 2003 with the \$510 million that state and local governments put out to create Scripps Florida in Jupiter. That was followed by hundreds of millions more on other life-science ventures.

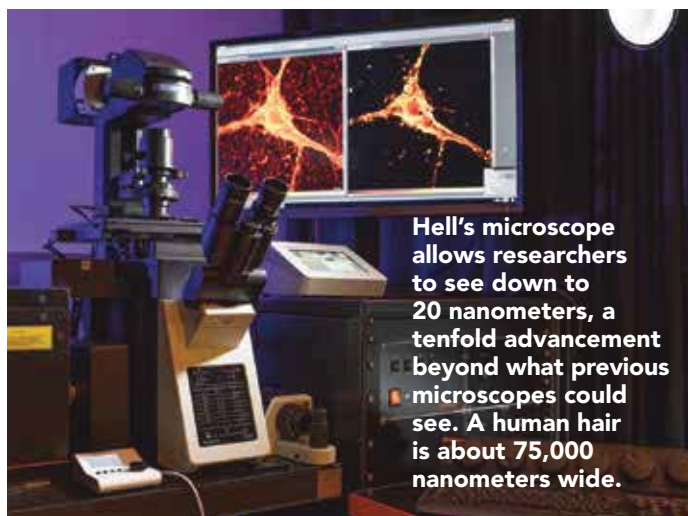
Max Planck Florida appears to be on firm financial ground. It's overseen by a powerhouse board of top executives from its German parent, high-profile local entrepreneurs and philanthropists George Elmore and Alex Dreyfoos, former FBI Director Louis J. Freeh and multimillionaires and former CEOs of GlaxoSmithKline, Pace Communications, General Dynamics and Wyeth. The non-profit Max Planck Florida managed a \$55,511 gain after expenses on \$25.4 million in revenue in 2015, according to its tax filing for that year.

Florida, however, expects more than mere survival from its life-science investment. And so far no spinoff companies — let alone firms employing large numbers — have come out of Max Planck Florida.

Fitzpatrick says that while spinoffs haven't materialized, the promised science has. Each Max Planck institute has its own specialty. In Jupiter, that specialty is using and developing new imaging technology to study the brain at its most foundational, trying to understand how it works in order to understand why it sometimes doesn't.

In the last two years, the top-flight scientists that Max Planck has recruited to Florida have had 40 research papers published, including 25 in prestigious publications such as *Nature*, *Science* and *Cell*.

"This is science of the highest quality," says Fitzpatrick, who arrived in 2011 from Duke University's med school, where he was the James B. Duke professor of neurobiology and director of the Duke Institute



**Hell's microscope allows researchers to see down to 20 nanometers, a tenfold advancement beyond what previous microscopes could see. A human hair is about 75,000 nanometers wide.**

for Brain Sciences. "I remember telling people 'just give us five years and you'll see what we will be able to produce.'" As an endorsement of its success, the parent society now provides financial support for the Florida institute.

In 2015, the institute's other scientific director, Ryohei Yasuda, won a five-year, \$4.8-million Pioneer award from the National Institutes of Health to fund research on the brain to gain insights into dementia, autism and other disorders. Only 13 Pioneer awards are given nationally to recognize groundbreaking approaches. (Next door at Scripps Florida, scientist Matthew Disney also won a Pioneer award in 2015.)

In his lab earlier this year, Yasuda demonstrated how he works, standing in a darkened room filled by a baby grand piano-sized array of lasers and devices aligned to let him observe how neurons' dendritic

spines function to exchange signals. "To look at a tiny thing, we need a big setup," he says.

Hell's Abberior microscope, conversely, is more compact — roughly the footprint of an upright piano. One system, says U.S. CEO Christian Wurm, can be transported in a suitcase. Abberior microscopes generally start at \$200,000. A piano-size version with additional features can cost up to \$1 million. That's expensive but "not outrageously more expensive" than existing tech, Hell says. He estimates there are 20,000 to 30,000 last-generation microscopes in use in U.S. university research and pharma companies, about 30% of the world market, that could

be retrofitted with Abberior's compact system.

Fitzpatrick says the presence of Abberior and the only such microscope in the nation enhances the reputation of the county and state for "best-in-class" research tools.

The Jupiter "neuroscience community" is coming together, Fitzpatrick observed. "FAU is a fantastic partner. The scientists at Scripps, we have a fantastic relationship. We all recognize our individual successes really build the whole entity."

FAU President John Kelly says FAU grad students working with Max Planck already have been credited as researchers in an article in *Nature*, "one

of those impossible scientific journals to get into." Fitzpatrick helped FAU in its recruitment of Vanderbilt University scientist Randy Blakely to head its brain institute. Fitzpatrick and Kelly traveled to Germany together last year for an FAU-Max Planck collaboration and to Tallahassee to promote the area's agenda. The institutions are sharing equipment and knowledge and, says Kelly, "our students get access to a Nobel Prize winner. Here, in Palm Beach. I love it."

Nobel laureate Hell hopes his sabbatical year in Jupiter allows him to improve microscope capabilities further. "There is still more to be done. This is a fantastic place to do that."

**Max Planck Florida occupies a 100,000-sq.-ft. building on the campus of FAU in Jupiter.**



## Florida Atlantic University: A Neuroscience Pillar

No Florida university has been as well sited to take advantage of the state's massive investment in out-of-state life science research organizations as Florida Atlantic University.

Branches of renowned researchers Scripps and Max Planck have their state-of-the-art buildings on FAU's Jupiter campus.

The two high-profile institutions came as FAU was developing and launching its own med school and raising its life sciences profile. But FAU looks to do more than ride the coattails of its internationally known campus-mates. FAU has made neuroscience one of the university's four research "pillars." (The others are healthy aging, environmental and ocean science, and sensing and smart systems.)

In 2016, FAU hired Vanderbilt University scientist Randy Blakely to head its newly formed FAU Brain Institute with offices on FAU's Boca and Jupiter campuses. The insti-

tute aims to understand how the brain works and how diseases such as autism, schizophrenia, depression and Alzheimer's come to be.

Blakely brought 12 faculty, post-docs and grad students with him from Vanderbilt, has brought in more since arriving and plans to hire still more. The institute also draws on existing FAU faculty from its four campuses — 52 faculty in all — and 17 affiliate faculty from Max Planck and Scripps.

The Legislature in its past two sessions gave FAU \$12 million to develop plans for a building for the Brain Institute. The university needs another \$20 million to erect it. Meanwhile, FAU this academic year launches a neuroscience graduate program that aims to have 50 grad students in five years able to pursue Ph.D. studies with FAU and Max Planck researchers. FAU and Scripps already offer a joint M.D./Ph.D. degree.

It helps FAU's direction that Scripps Florida is heavily invested in neuroscience and



**Scientist Randy Blakely heads FAU's Brain Institute.**

Max Planck Florida is devoted exclusively to it. They all share equipment and facilities. Like Max Planck and Scripps, FAU has put money into microscopes. One of FAU's first core facilities is cell imaging with \$1 million in high-end microscopes and a designation as the only Nikon Center of Excellence in the Southeast United States. Blakely nevertheless cheered the arrival of Max Planck's super-resolution microscope. "The kind of faculty I want to recruit will be the people that thrive in this environment," Blakely says.



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MOBILIZING  
**YOUR**  
WORLD™



# Grant Magnet



Ninety Florida institutions brought in more than \$715 million in medical, engineering and scientific research grant funding in 2016.

## The National Institutes of Health

**The National Institutes of Health**, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the largest biomedical research agency in the world. It funds a range of medical research at both public and private institutions.

- ▶ **61** Florida organizations received NIH grants in 2016.
- ▶ **\$531.7 million** — Total NIH funding in grants and contracts to Florida organizations in 2016
- ▶ **Impact:** NIH grants and contracts directly supported 12,147 jobs and \$1.7 billion in economic activity in Florida in 2016.

### Top NIH Grant Recipients in Florida (2016)

Organization, City	Grants	Amount (millions)
University of Florida, Gainesville	382	\$148.09
University of Miami School of Medicine, Miami	243	111.66
University of South Florida, Tampa	96	63.25
Scripps Florida, Jupiter	91	40.04
Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa	75	32.06
Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville	42	21.36
Florida International University, Miami	50	20.46
Florida State University, Tallahassee	56	18.63
Jacob Center for Health Research, Tampa	3	9.82
University of Miami, Coral Gables	20	7.75
University of Central Florida, Orlando	25	7.37
Mount Sinai Medical Center, Miami Beach	3	7.14
Florida A&M University, Tallahassee	7	5.94
Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton	16	4.93
Max Planck Florida, Jupiter	10	4.54
Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale	10	2.34
Torrey Pines Institute, Port St. Lucie	6	2.29
Nanotherapeutics Inc., Alachua	2	2.06

Source: National Institutes of Health

## The National Science Foundation

**The National Science Foundation** is an independent federal agency that supports fundamental research and education across all fields of science and engineering. Each year, NSF receives more than 48,000 competitive proposals and makes about 12,000 new funding awards.

- ▶ **29** Florida colleges and universities received NSF grants in 2016.
- ▶ **\$183.6 million** — NSF funding to Florida colleges and universities in 2016

### Top NSF Grants to Florida Colleges and Universities (2016)

Institution, City	Grants	Amount (millions)
Florida State University, Tallahassee	80	\$57.43
University of Florida, Gainesville	188	51.33
University of South Florida, Tampa	79	16.93
Florida International University, Miami	55	14.51
University of Central Florida, Orlando	50	13.09
University of Miami, Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, Miami	19	6.67
University of Miami, Coral Gables	18	4.58
Florida A&M University, Tallahassee	8	3.05
Indian River State College, Fort Pierce	1	3.00
Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton	14	2.67
Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne	14	2.17
Broward College, Fort Lauderdale	1	.94
University of West Florida, Pensacola	2	.94
Valencia Community College, Orlando	1	.90
Florida Keys Community College, Key West	1	.89

Source: National Science Foundation

# Research Briefs

MAYO & SANFORD BURNHAM

## Parkinson's Progress

Working with a grant from the Michael J. Fox Foundation, scientists from Mayo Clinic Jacksonville and Sanford Burnham Prebys in Orlando spent two years searching through 800,000 chemical compounds for substances that might stop or reverse the accumulation of proteins in the brain that causes Parkinson's. They found eight that were promising. Now, with further support from the foundation, Mayo's Pamela McLean



and Sanford Burnham's Layton Smith will work to understand how the molecules affect the protein buildup and how to improve them to safely combat the disease. Animal trials will follow the initial research.

**Mayo's Pamela McLean and Sanford Burnham's Layton Smith work to combat Parkinson's.**

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

## In the Red

The field of color psychology teaches that people associate red with danger. University of Miami finance professor Henrik Cronqvist and colleagues set out to study how color affects people's investing choices. The takeaway: Avoid red in your presentations — unless you're in China — if you want people to buy. If you want to scuttle an investment, present it in red.

Cronqvist found investors grew pessimistic when presented data in red. When shown a stock decline in red ink, investors predicted more declines and invested nearly 24% less in the stock. They were less likely to invest when potential losses were shown in red.

Cronqvist's conclusion: "It would be smart for IR (investor relations) professionals to steer clear of red in their next financial reports, for instance, and instead use only black for negative numbers. It is a small change that could make a big impact."



**Professor Henrik Cronqvist: Investors are turned off by red.**

PHOTO COURTESY STEVEN BURR WILLIAMS (LEFT); UM (RIGHT)

**BEST  
CHILDREN'S  
HOSPITALS**

**U.S. News** & WORLD REPORT

RANKED IN 3 SPECIALTIES  
2017-18

**JOHNS HOPKINS**  
MEDICINE

JOHNS HOPKINS  
ALL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

all we do. all for kids.™


HopkinsAllChildrens.org



**UF**

**UF Research** is ...  
Changing  
Florida and  
the world

*Engineering doctoral student Chris O'Bryan prepares to 3-D print a silicone structure in Associate Professor Thomas Angelini's lab.*



**R**esearch spending at the **University of Florida** reached a record \$791 million in 2016, placing UF among the nation's leading public research universities. From engineering to medicine and agriculture to education, UF researchers are addressing challenges to Florida, the nation and the world.

- ▶ Researchers in the Wertheim College of Engineering are 3-D printing stronger, less expensive and more comfortable silicone medical devices.
- ▶ College of Medicine researchers are prolonging the lives of adult and pediatric brain cancer patients by using vaccines to mobilize their own immune systems against tumors.
- ▶ Researchers in UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences are developing faster tests for the Zika virus and formulating new repellants and traps for its mosquito carriers.
- ▶ College of Education researchers are mining massive sets of testing data to personalize virtual instruction for future math students.

## UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

### Knowledge in the Ruins

University of Central Florida archaeologist Scott Branting's summer took him to central Turkey to research a short-lived Iron Age city that's the subject of the long-running UCF-based Kerkenes Project to uncover its secrets. The city lasted about 60 years until the mid-500s BC, when it was burned and abandoned during a war between the Persian and Lydian empires. The Kerkenes Project, under Branting's direction, brings together an international scientific team to excavate and use new technology to study the city. This year, the project won a National Science Foundation grant to study the city's social organization. The grant says the analysis could help modern cities plan better for change.



Archaeologist Scott Branting studies the short-lived city of Kerkenes in Turkey.

## FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

### Analysis Breakthrough

Here's the problem in chemical testing for medical labs, coroners and environmental scientists: Analyzing a substance — blood on a towel, for example — means separating it from the sample, and that takes time, solvents and expensive equipment. At Florida International University, Kenneth Furton, FIU's provost and an analytical chemist, and Abuzar Kabir, an analytical chemist and materials expert, found a way to simplify things. They found that by coating cotton muslin — an everyday textile — with a special polymer, it would soak up enough of a component from a sample in 15 minutes to allow a chemical analysis. More component means more conclusive results. FIU, which holds a patent on the method and process, is working on commercializing it. FIU

says researchers at 30 universities globally have invested time in validating different applications of the technology and have produced more than 25 peer-reviewed articles for publication.

**Abuzar Kabir, left, and Kenneth Furton found that cotton muslin, when coated with a special polymer, could better allow scientists and other experts to separate compounds in samples.**



## FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

### Autistic Students: Unlocking Potential

Every year, about 16,000 people diagnosed with autism head off to higher education. Roughly one in three pursue a degree in science, technology, engineering or math. Unfortunately, people on the autistic spectrum often don't do well in college or in employment. Florida State University College of Education associate professor Brad Cox last year received a \$300,000, three-year grant from the National Science Foundation to figure out the prevalence of autism-related characteristics among STEM students, see how it affects their performance in "gateway" STEM classes such as calculus and chemistry and investigate how formal disability accommodations play out. Cox's grant says "the very traits that can cause students with autism-related characteristics to struggle in college classrooms may also serve as a springboard from which this population can make distinctive contributions to STEM fields and workplaces." Cox founded the non-profit College Autism Network to facilitate the translation of research into real-world improvements for students.

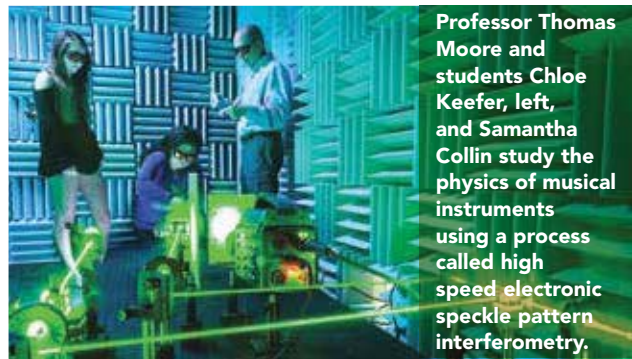


**Associate professor Brad Cox received \$300,000 to study how best to get students with autism to excel in STEM-related fields.**

## ROLLINS COLLEGE

### Tooting Their Own Horns

Thomas Moore, physics professor at Rollins College, received a \$371,645 National Science Foundation grant to involve undergrads in original scientific research to settle a topic debated in scientific literature for more than a century: Whether the vibrations of the metal of brass musical instruments affect the sound. Along with students, Moore and assistant professor Whitney Coyle also will study clarinet reeds to see whether it's possible to accurately model how they'll perform when played. The research should provide instrument makers with information on how to improve instruments and make it easier to synthesize the sound of woodwind instruments while contributing to the understanding of the physics of the instrument.



**Professor Thomas Moore and students Chloe Keefer, left, and Samantha Collin study the physics of musical instruments using a process called high speed electronic speckle pattern interferometry.**

PHOTO COURTESY ROLLINS COLLEGE (BOTTOM RIGHT); FIU (BOTTOM LEFT); UCF (TOP LEFT)

## FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

### Virtual Reality as Therapy?

Design Interactive, an Orlando augmented, virtual and mixed reality company, and Florida Institute of Technology received a \$148,924 early-concept National Science Foundation grant to see whether virtual reality- and game-based tech can improve the physical abilities of children with cerebral palsy. Design Interactive and FIT will work with Maitland-based tech company BlueOrb and the non-profit Conductive Education Center of Orlando.



## FLORIDA MUSEUM

### Fossil Find



**Road workers discovered a 5-million-year-old bone site in 2015 southwest of Gainesville.**

In early 2017, Florida Museum of Natural History paleontologists and community volunteers raced to empty a site southwest of Gainesville of fossil bones. The 5-million-year-old bone site was uncovered in 2015 on private property by workers digging up clay for roadwork. It proved quite a site, with complete skeletons in some cases. The landowner was willing to give paleontologists until spring 2017 to collect what they could before putting it into agricultural use. Bones from 55 different vertebrate species were found, including rodents and river-dwelling creatures like alligators, and turtles but also extinct rhinos, llamas, horses and an elephant-like creature called a gomphothere. "No other fossil site of this age in the southeastern United States produces such a rich abundance of freshwater vertebrates," said Florida Museum curator of vertebrate paleontology Jonathan Bloch.

It's  
**NEVER**  
been done before  
UNTIL NOW.

**Here's to those who finish the sentence.**

For 45 years, ADD+G has safeguarded our clients' innovative ideas and CAN DO accomplishments in intellectual property through the application of patents, trademarks, copyrights, licensing, trade secrets protection, and IP litigation.

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UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

## Danger, Danger, Danger

Good news for expecting parents everywhere on Zika. “Basically, the epidemic is over,” says Dr. J. Glenn Morris Jr., director of the University of Florida’s Emerging Pathogens Institute.

The virus, however, provides an example of what Morris sees as the problem with pathogen research. The public’s attention span — and government funding — is too short. What’s needed is a standing emergency fund to address novel outbreaks and also more continuing funding into known ones. He cites the unexplained mysteries of Zika, including why an obscure African monkey virus broke out with previously undocumented side



effects in Brazil in 2015. “There is a huge amount of science that still needs to be done on Zika,” Morris says.

The Legislature appropriated \$55 million in 2006 to create the Emerging Pathogens Institute to focus on human, animal and plant pathogens. Morris became its first director the following year. Its research is funded by grants, about half from the National Institutes of Health and the other half from a mix of federal departments and, for one Zika research project, the European Union.

Morris can reel off dangers from pathogens spread by bugs, people and food. Viruses evolve constantly, and modern travel allows them to spread fast. “You can have a problem in Korea or Afghanistan, and in 24 hours it’s a problem in Orlando,” Morris says. “If you ask me what my major worry was, it’s probably influenza. All it takes is a couple viruses getting together in a pig in Iowa, and we could lose millions of people.”

**The Emerging Pathogens Institute now has its own 88,000-sq.-ft. building with 200 affiliated faculty from 11 UF colleges.**



**“There is a huge amount of science that still needs to be done on Zika,” says J. Glenn Morris Jr., director of UF’s Emerging Pathogens Institute.**

PHOTO COURTESY UF

# AT&T



**Here and now.**

**Contact AT&T, lead sponsor of the Research Florida Initiative, and the other outstanding organizations whose messages appear in *Research Florida* to learn more about innovative research initiatives and opportunities in Florida.**





Sidra Ahmed  
FAU Graduate '08  
Sancilio & Company  
Employee

On the heels of its 20-year anniversary, Florida Atlantic University's Center for Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (CMBB) on its campus in Jupiter, FL continues to fulfill its mission to build a biotechnology hub in the region. The Center has established a partnership with Riviera Beach-based Sancilio & Company, Inc., a biotech company focused on the development of novel therapies for application in the emerging field of lipidomics, to train highly-skilled workers in biopharmaceuticals and drug development. "Drug Development and Regulation," a graduate level course taught by Sancilio & Company scientists, is designed to help meet their unique workforce needs by equipping students with industry knowledge, background on FDA regulations and hands-on laboratory experience with preparing and analyzing pharmaceutical solutions.

BE *bold.* ❤️

**LEARN MORE. CONTACT US.**

Florida Atlantic University, Center  
for Molecular Biology and Biotechnology  
5353 Parkside Dr., Jupiter, FL 33458  
561.799.8322 [www.science.fau.edu/cmbb/](http://www.science.fau.edu/cmbb/)

Business  
Development Board  
310 Evernia St., WPB, FL 33401  
561.835.1008 [www.BDB.org](http://www.BDB.org)

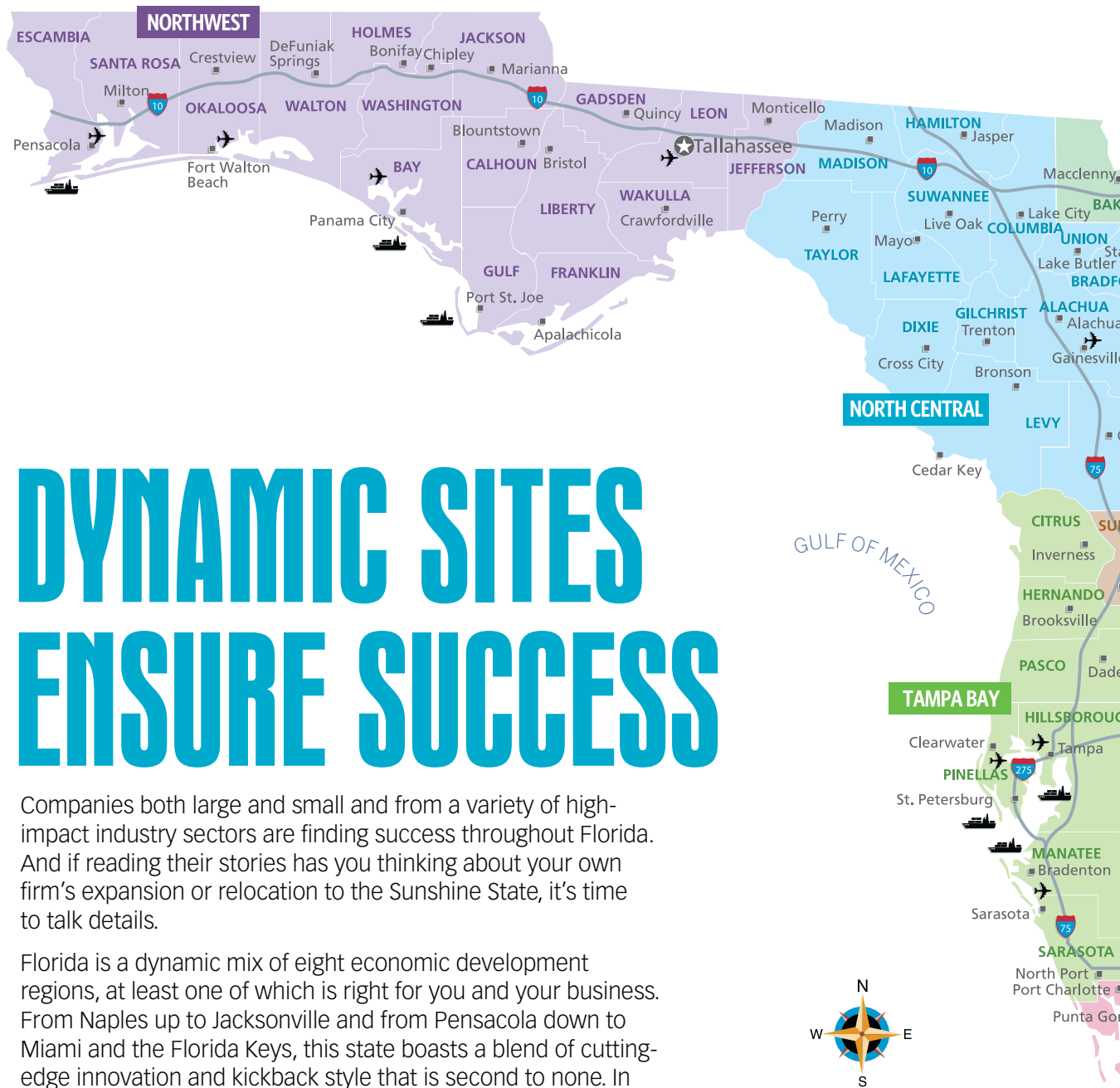
## PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL:

Where Education, Research, Care + Cure Intersect

- Over 100 medical device, pharmaceutical, therapeutic, biotechnology, and medical IT companies
- Florida Atlantic University
- Scripps Florida Research Institute
- Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience
- 14 nationally-ranked hospitals
- A community committed to the life science industry



The Business Development Board of Palm Beach County proudly partners with FAU to ensure the growth of the nation's newest hub for the life sciences



# DYNAMIC SITES ENSURE SUCCESS

Companies both large and small and from a variety of high-impact industry sectors are finding success throughout Florida. And if reading their stories has you thinking about your own firm's expansion or relocation to the Sunshine State, it's time to talk details.

Florida is a dynamic mix of eight economic development regions, at least one of which is right for you and your business. From Naples up to Jacksonville and from Pensacola down to Miami and the Florida Keys, this state boasts a blend of cutting-edge innovation and kickback style that is second to none. In any region of Florida, you are never more than 50 miles from a postsecondary educational institution or 90 miles from a deep water port. It's a good bet you'll find a golf course, theme park, shopping mall and/or sandy beach within close proximity too.

So are you ready to take a closer look at Florida? Turn the page to learn more about each region's economic advantages and everyday life. But be forewarned — selecting just one site for your company's future growth could well be your toughest challenge!



## FLORIDA BY THE NUMBERS

Population	20,612,439
Labor Force	9,838,942
Households	8,403,763
Total Earnings	\$511.2 bil.
Total Retail Sales	\$328.5 bil.

### NORTHWEST

p. 60

Population	1,459,145
Labor Force	666,854
Households	592,128
Total Earnings	\$33.56 bil.
Median Per Capita Income	\$33,971
Total Retail Sales	\$20.45 bil.

### NORTHEAST

p. 71

Population	1,658,799
Labor Force	806,615
Households	680,130
Total Earnings	\$44.03 bil.
Median Per Capita Income	\$39,855
Total Retail Sales	\$23.89 bil.

### NORTH CENTRAL

p. 54

Population	904,527
Labor Force	381,703
Households	384,975
Total Earnings	\$16.82 bil.
Median Per Capita Income	\$30,336
Total Retail Sales	\$11.46 bil.

### EAST CENTRAL

p. 44

Population	3,673,747
Labor Force	1,791,717
Households	1,454,169
Total Earnings	\$88.74 bil.
Median Per Capita Income	\$40,480
Total Retail Sales	\$61.9 bil.

### TAMPA BAY

p. 64

Population	4,630,398
Labor Force	2,159,464
Households	1,973,782
Total Earnings	\$109.93 bil.
Median Per Capita Income	\$40,639
Total Retail Sales	\$68.34 bil.

### SOUTH CENTRAL

p. 84

Population	257,651
Labor Force	96,860
Households	104,061
Total Earnings	\$3.71 bil.
Median Per Capita Income	\$28,306
Total Retail Sales	\$2.62 bil.

### SOUTHWEST

p. 87

Population	1,265,937
Labor Force	565,401
Households	540,711
Total Earnings	\$26.1 bil.
Median Per Capita Income	\$45,821
Total Retail Sales	\$20.75 bil.

### SOUTHEAST

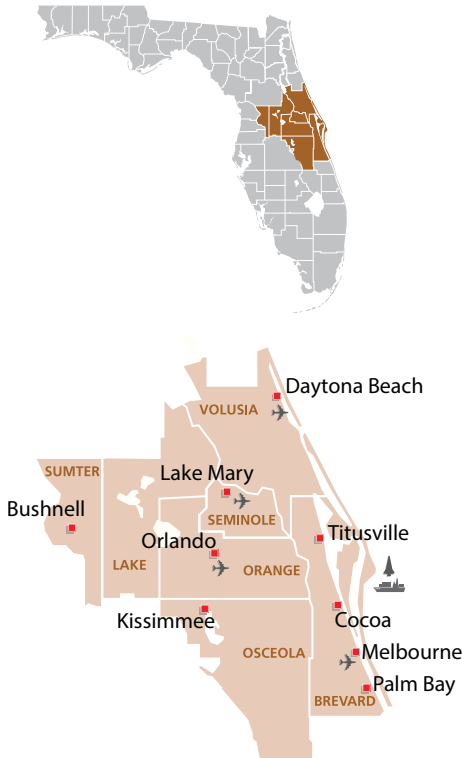
p. 75

Population	6,762,235
Labor Force	3,370,328
Households	2,673,807
Total Earnings	\$188.3 bil.
Median Per Capita Income	\$67,096
Total Retail Sales	\$119.05 bil.

Sources: US Census Bureau, 2016; Labor Market Statistics Center, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, 2016; State Profile: Florida, Woods & Poole Economics, 2017 projections

# EAST CENTRAL

COUNTIES BREVARD • LAKE • ORANGE  
OSCEOLA • SEMINOLE • SUMTER • VOLUSIA



## KEY DEMOGRAPHICS

Population / **3,673,747**  
 Labor Force / **1,791,717**  
 Households / **1,454,169**  
 Total Earnings / **\$88.74 bil.**  
 Median Per Capita Income / **\$40,480**  
 Total Retail Sales / **\$61.9 bil.**

## KEY ASSETS

Universities/Colleges / **18**  
 Commercial Airports / **4**  
 Seaport / **1**  
 Spaceport / **1**



## Breaking New Ground

Long anchored by NASA and the Kennedy Space Center, Florida's Space Coast is today attracting private commercial firms in all aerospace sectors, from launches and manufacturing to research, facilities maintenance and servicing.

**Two of the top 5 fastest growing cities** in America are located in central Florida: No. 2, Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford, and No. 4, Deltona-Daytona Beach-Ormond Beach.  
*Forbes*

**The Villages, a master-planned community** encompassing portions of three counties northwest of Orlando, was fastest growing of all 381 MSAs in the U.S. in 2106 for the third consecutive year.  
 U.S. Census Bureau

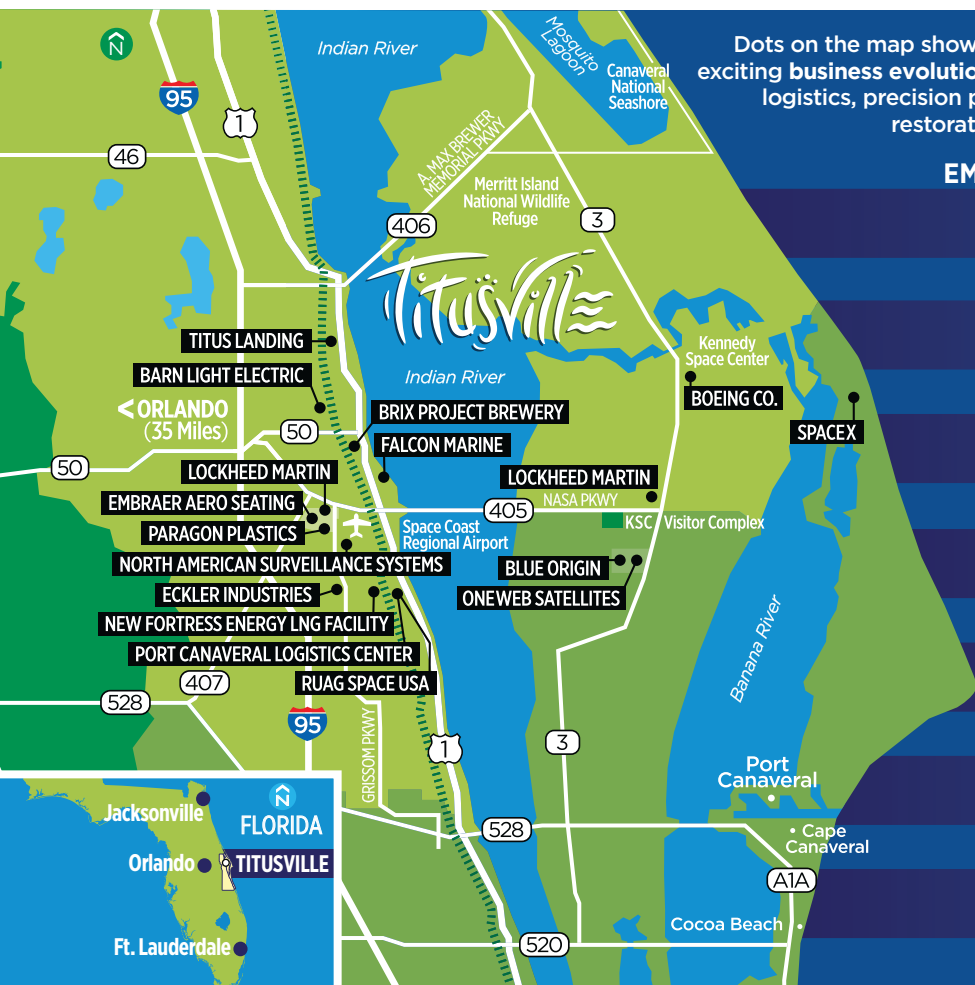
**Orlando ranks No. 1** for job growth — 4.57% — across the nation's 100 largest metro areas.  
*Forbes*

PHOTO COURTESY TONY GRAY / NASA

IN NORTH  
BREVARD

# new GROWTH

## ECONOMIC CULTIVATION PAYS OFF



Dots on the map show significant concentrated new growth and an exciting business evolution in space and aerospace, transportation and logistics, precision plastics, satellite communications, automotive restoration parts, marine design and retail expansion.

### EMBRAER AERO SEATING TECHNOLOGIES

**\$8M** | **150** | **2016**  
CAPITAL INVESTMENT | NEW JOBS | COMPLETION DATE

### BLUE ORIGIN

**\$205M** | **330** | **2016**  
CAPITAL INVESTMENT | NEW JOBS | START DATE

### ONEWEB SATELLITES

**\$85M** | **250** | **2017**  
CAPITAL INVESTMENT | NEW JOBS | START DATE

### LOCKHEED MARTIN CORPORATION

**\$80M** | **300** | **2016**  
CAPITAL INVESTMENT | NEW JOBS | START DATE

### TITUS LANDING RETAIL MALL

**\$60M** | **800** | **2016**  
CAPITAL INVESTMENT | NEW JOBS | START DATE

### PORT LOGISTICS CENTER & LNG PLANT

**\$260M** | **255** | **2016**  
CAPITAL INVESTMENT | NEW JOBS | COMPLETION DATE

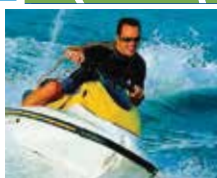
### RUAG SPACE USA

**\$2.6M** | **20** | **2017**  
CAPITAL INVESTMENT | NEW JOBS | COMPLETION DATE

All numbers and dates are approximate



Joe Zack (CC BY 2.0)



### North Brevard on Florida's Space Coast is turning green.

New shovels in the ground. Earth turning over. Structures going up. This is the place that launches new technologies and explores space with innovation, dedication and talent.

It's a rapidly evolving economy being cultivated through emerging opportunities and available support. New sprouts. New directions. Growth worthy of note.

**Time to take a closer look at North Brevard.**



LAUNCH FROM HERE is a community-forward initiative to help tell the story of Titusville and provide a vital and united way to bring greater attention to its unique accomplishments, places, people and opportunities.



**Edyie McCall**  
City of Titusville  
321.567.3774  
Edyie.McCall@Titusville.com



**Troy Post, CECD, CBE**  
North Brevard Economic Development Zone  
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Troy.Post@BrevardFL.gov



**Gregory J. Weiner, CECD**  
EDC of Florida's Space Coast  
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**Marcia Gaedcke**  
Titusville Area Chamber of Commerce  
321.267.3036  
Gaedcke@Titusville.org



**Cathy Musselman**  
Greater Titusville Renaissance, Inc.  
321.607.6512  
Cathy@GreaterTitusville.com



LAUNCH FROM HERE is a joint endeavor of Titusville Area Chamber of Commerce and Space Coast Office of Tourism.

## AEROSPACE / DEFENSE

### MELBOURNE/ORLANDO

Aviation-defense firm Thales is expanding with a target of 500 net new jobs by 2021. Headquartered in France, Thales is a global leader in the aerospace, transport, defense and security markets.

### TITUSVILLE/ORLANDO

A significant presence in East Central Florida for 60+ years, Lockheed Martin is once again expanding here, creating up to 800 jobs at its Astrotech Space Operations site in Titusville and Missiles and Fire Control plant in south Orlando. And coming soon: about 300 Lockheed jobs from California to support testing and maintenance work for the U.S. Navy's Trident II D5 Fleet Ballistic Missile.

#### KEY PLAYERS

**The Boeing Company** *Orlando, Titusville*

**Harris Corp.** *Melbourne*

**Lockheed Martin** *Orlando, Cape Canaveral*

**Northrop Grumman** *Orlando, Melbourne*

**BREVARD COUNTY** Three private aerospace companies are on track to deliver on projects announced in 2015-16:



- Elon Musk's SpaceX plans to build a hangar south of its Cape Canaveral launch sites,

where recovered rocket boosters will be prepped for reuse.

- OneWeb Satellites broke ground in March 2017 on its estimated \$85-million facility at Exploration Park near Kennedy Space Center; satellite production and

testing are slated to begin by the end of 2017.



- Blue Origin, the rocket company created by Amazon founder Jeff

Bezos, began site preparation in February 2017 for an orbital launch complex and rocket engine test stand at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station; a manufacturing and assembly plant for the rockets that are expected to fly by 2020 is under construction at Exploration Park.

### MELBOURNE

AeroMod International, the leader in aircraft maintenance, modification and repair services, relocated its headquarters from Detroit to Orlando Melbourne International Airport and created 150 jobs; another 100 jobs are expected in 2017.

### MELBOURNE

Harris Corporation has opened a new Global Innovation Center at its Melbourne campus to showcase technologies the Florida-based firm has developed for the military, first responders and commercial airlines.

### TITUSVILLE

Brazilian aircraft manufacturer Embraer opened its \$3.5-million Aero Seating Technologies manufacturing facility in September 2017.

## LIFE SCIENCES / HEALTH CARE

### ORLANDO

*U.S. News & World Report* ranked Orlando Health's Arnold Palmer Medical Center among the nation's top 50 "Best Children's Hospitals 2017-18" in diabetes and endocrinology, cardiology and heart surgery, orthopedics, pulmonology and urology.

### LONGWOOD

Medical IT services provider CompuTech City broke ground in March 2017 on a 10,000-sq.-ft. headquarters in Seminole County. The firm, which provides network security, billing, cloud-hosting, HIPAA compliance, project management and other IT solutions for more than 600 medical industry clients, will add 35 jobs.

### ORANGE CITY

Florida Hospital Fish Memorial will grow its footprint here by more than 180,000 square feet with the addition of ER beds and a new four-story patient tower for enhanced cardiac, intensive care and surgical services. Construction is scheduled to begin in early 2018.

#### KEY PLAYERS

**Adventist Health System / Florida Hospital** *Orlando*

**Orlando Health** *Orlando*

**Osceola Regional Medical Center** *Kissimmee*

**CAPE CANAVERAL** Comprehensive Health Services Inc. will move into a 63,000-sq.-ft. facility by the end of 2017 as it shifts operations from Virginia to its Brevard County headquarters and creates 150 jobs. The medical management services provider established its first Florida office in 1999.

**MELBOURNE** Eastern Florida State College has opened a Health Sciences Institute, offering programs leading to degrees and/or certificates in nursing, surgical technology, radiography, dental hygiene, medical coding, phlebotomy and more.

**TAVARES** An expansion now underway at Florida Hospital Waterman in Lake County will more than double the



↑ Florida Hospital's Nicholson Center in Celebration attracts more than 50,000 health care professionals from the U.S. and abroad each year for medical meetings, conferences and hands-on training. In addition to a 500-seat auditorium with a customizable video wall, Nicholson offers training in 50 surgical skills stations and two operating rooms that closely emulate real-world experiences.

size of the facility's emergency department and add a four-story patient tower to accommodate a women's and children's unit, plus two floors set aside for future growth. Scheduled completion: July 2019.

**LAKE MARY** Orlando Health will begin construction in late 2017 on a free-standing emergency department and medical pavilion in Seminole County. Anticipated opening: fall 2018.

## ENERGY

### BREVARD COUNTY

Florida Power & Light (FPL) expects to begin generating 74.5 megawatts of electricity — enough to power 15,000 homes — from its new Barefoot Bay Solar Energy Center in March 2018. One of eight solar plants FPL is scheduled to open across Florida by spring 2018, Barefoot Bay will require neither water nor staff to operate. FPL's first solar facility in Brevard County — the Space Coast Next Generation Solar Energy Center at Kennedy Space Center — has been operational since 2010.

**ORLANDO** The Orlando Utilities Commission will add a second solar farm at its Stanton Energy Center in East Orlando before the end of 2017, providing enough solar output to power 2,000+ homes.

### KEY PLAYERS

**Florida Power & Light**  
*Juno Beach*

**Orlando Utilities Commission** *Orlando*

## LOGISTICS / TRANSPORTATION

**ORANGE COUNTY** Amazon will open an 850,000-sq.-ft. fulfillment center near Orlando International Airport in 2018 and expects to create 1,500 full-time jobs.

**ORLANDO** ABC Supply Company has purchased warehouse space in three Orlando buildings from which it will distribute roofing and other building materials.

**GROVELAND** Samsung relocated its appliance division's southeast distribution headquarters to a 700,000-sq.-ft. warehouse in Lake

County to take advantage of the mid-state location and proximity to Florida's Turnpike.

**PORT CANAVERAL** In 2016, Canaveral Port Authority completed \$137 million in projects, including renovations to increase passenger capacity at three cruise terminals. The port invested \$44 million to widen and deepen the harbor and \$15.2 million on improvements to cargo terminals. With 4.2 million passengers in 2016, Port Canaveral is the second-busiest cruise port in the world.

### KEY PLAYERS

**American Automobile Association**  
*Heathrow*

**JetBlue Support Center** *Orlando*

**Total Quality Logistics** *Daytona Beach*

**SANFORD** Orlando Sanford International Airport will add its first hotel on property in 2018 — a Hampton Inn by Hilton. In 2016, the airport handled more than 2.5 million passengers, an 11% increase over 2015.



← Orlando International Airport continues work on a parking garage, remote check-in facilities and a station to eventually accommodate SunRail commuter trains and Brightline, the fast passenger train under development between Orlando and Miami. A \$1.8-billion terminal will add at least 16 gates by 2020. Orlando International handled a record 41.5 million passengers in 2015, 10% more than the previous year.

## BUSINESS SHINES BRIGHTER HERE VOLUSIA COUNTY AND THE GREATER DAYTONA REGION

**#3 BEST PERFORMING COMMUNITY**

U.S. News & World Report

**TOP 25 FASTEST GROWING COMMUNITY**

U.S. Census Bureau

**TOP 3 HOTTEST REAL ESTATE MARKETS**

Coastal Living

**#1 MOST IMPROVED MSA IN THE USA IN 2016**

Milken Institute



**TEAMVOLUSIA**  
GREATER DAYTONA REGION  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

TeamVolusiaEDC.com

386.265.6332

## BUSINESS SERVICES

**LAKE MARY** The Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) is adding 30 jobs to its staff of 200+ as it consolidates operations under one roof in Lake Mary. IIA is the internal audit profession's most widely recognized advocate/educator, serving more than 185,000 members worldwide.

**MAITLAND** ADP, a global provider of cloud-based business outsourcing services, analytics and compliance expertise, expects to create 500 jobs within six months of opening offices in Orange County and a total of 1,600 positions in all.

### KEY PLAYERS

**ADP** *Maitland*  
**Convergys** *Lake Mary*  
**Deloitte Consulting** *Lake Mary*  
**Verizon** *Lake Mary*

**LAKE MARY** CardWorks Servicing, a provider of operational support and portfolio management to credit card issuers and installment lenders, will open its third U.S. operational center in Seminole County, creating approximately 240 jobs over two years. CardWorks is headquartered in Woodbury, N.Y., and has 1,200 employees nationwide.

**ORLANDO** Asurion, a Nashville-based insurer of mobile devices, opened a call center here in fall 2016 with 350 new employees and plans to hire another 200 in 2017.

In May 2017, professional services firm KPMG broke ground in Lake Nona on its Learning, Development and Innovation Center that is expected to create 80 jobs. Target completion date: late 2019. ↓



## TOURISM

### KEY PLAYERS

**Darden Restaurants** *Orlando*  
**Rosen Hotels & Resorts** *Orlando*  
**Wyndham Vacation Ownership** *Orlando*

**ORANGE COUNTY** Orlando hosts five of the world's top 10 theme parks; in 2017, the world's largest theme park association will make its home here too. The International Association of Amusement Parks & Attractions is relocating from Virginia, bringing 40 jobs and a commitment to hold its global conference and trade show at the Orange County Convention Center through 2030. The week-long convention draws more than 28,000 attendees.



**ORANGE COUNTY** Disney's Magic Kingdom remains the most visited theme park in America with just under 20.4 million visitors in 2016. At Universal Studios Orlando, attendance was up 4.3% to just under 10 million; its sister park, Islands of Adventure, registered 9.4 million visitors in 2016 for a gain of 6.5% over 2015. Recent developments:

- Universal's Volcano Bay water park and a ride based on NBCUniversal's "Tonight Show" opened in spring 2017. Coming in 2018: the long-awaited "Fast and Furious" ride and the 600-room Aventura Hotel.
- At SeaWorld Orlando, the shark-themed "Mako" roller coaster helped push attendance over 4.4 million. Planned for 2018: a tropical rainforest-themed section with a river rapids ride featuring a 40-foot drop.

← "Pandora: The World of Avatar" opened at Disney's Animal Kingdom and the new "Frozen Ever After" ride drew long lines at Epcot. Plans call for a gondola system connecting Disney's theme parks and on-site hotels.

## TECHNOLOGY / R&D

### KEY PLAYERS

**EA Tiberon** *Orlando*  
**Veritas Technologies** *Lake Mary*

**KISSIMMEE** Belgium-based nanoelectronics research center imec has opened imec Florida in collaboration with BRIDG, an Osceola County-based advanced manufacturing facility, to provide photonics and high-speed electronics integrated circuit design solutions for companies seeking to develop/manufacture innovative products for the health care, aerospace, security and transportation industries.

**ORLANDO** Granite Communications has opened an office in Orlando and is expanding operations in West Palm Beach; 100 new jobs are anticipated. Granite provides communications products/service in the U.S. and Canada.

**ORLANDO** Digital technology firm Arrow Sky Media is relocating its international headquarters from Nashville to Orlando's Creative Village, a 68-acre mixed-use destination where high-tech companies are beginning to cluster. The world-class animated entertainment creator plans 114 jobs.

**ORLANDO** Orlando's reputation as an emerging growth city for startups and innovative technologies has led financial tech startup Finexio to relocate its headquarters from Silicon Valley. Finexio's smart B2B network helps corporations eliminate and convert paper checks to electronic formats.

“We are thrilled to have OUC as the Official Sustainability & Utility Sponsor of the USTA National Campus. Their involvement at the USTA National Campus from day one was pivotal in developing a new Home of American Tennis that utilized technology and sustainability to enhance the Campus' eco-friendly footprint.”

– Virgil Christian (left), USTA and Daniel Malasky, USTA

**OUC**   
The Reliable One®

**USTA**   
**NATIONAL**  
— CAMPUS —



## OUC & USTA: Game On!

As a strategic business partner, OUC provides the United States Tennis Association (USTA) with sustainable, energy-efficient solutions.

A powerful driver of economic development, OUC was part of the team to bring the \$60 million, 63-acre USTA center to Orlando. With 100 tennis courts and dozens of programs for players of all ages and abilities – from the junior circuit to the pros – the USTA center is the largest of its kind in the U.S.

OUC is the Official Sustainability & Utility Sponsor and brings an array of sustainable, technologically advanced solutions to USTA. From electric-vehicle charging stations ... to solar-powered mobile-device charging stations ... to hydration stations featuring safe, great-tasting H<sub>2</sub>OUC, we are helping customers like USTA gain the advantage.

To learn more about how OUC is enhancing economic development with sustainability, visit [www.oucpowersgrowth.com](http://www.oucpowersgrowth.com)



# Our home is more than our castle.

Welcome to the other Orlando. A place where the quantity and diversity of commercial and industrial properties are major attractions. From ultra-modern high-rises to undeveloped acreage and everything in between, our inventory includes over 150 million sq. ft. of industrial space and 85 million sq. ft. of office space. No wonder businesses quickly grow to love it here.

[Orlando.org](http://Orlando.org)

**ORLANDO**  
YOU DON'T KNOW  
THE HALF OF IT.®

# If you think you know all there is to know about Orlando, you're in for a big surprise.

With more than 68 million annual visitors, Orlando is globally recognized and revered for its tourism and leisure industry. Lesser known is the strength of the region's business assets – including high quality infrastructure and a robust talent pipeline – attracting business giants like Amazon, KPMG, ADP, Deloitte Consulting, Verizon Communications, JetBlue, the United States Tennis Association and many more to Orlando.

With a regional workforce exceeding 1.3 million people and more than 500,000 higher education students within a 100-mile radius, Orlando can offer companies a plentiful talent supply now and well into the future. The region's 35 post-secondary institutions, colleges and universities partner with local businesses and customize curricula to meet specific corporate needs. This collaboration ensures that homegrown talent thrives and remains in the region.

When it comes to infrastructure, Orlando is second to none. The region boasts non-stop connections to more than 175 destinations worldwide, providing unparalleled access for passengers, goods and services.

- Orlando International Airport – undergoing a \$3.5 billion expansion with a new intermodal facility designed to connect with future rail stops.
- A highway network crossroads in the heart of Florida – Interstate 4 and Florida's Turnpike meet here, creating an easy connection to both Interstate 75 and Interstate 95.
- SunRail – a commuter rail system linking Volusia County to downtown Orlando, with expanding into Osceola County by 2018.
- Brightline – upcoming passenger rail linking Orlando and Miami in 2020.

Obviously, Orlando residents are treated to an exceptionally high quality of life, but the sheer variety of amenities may surprise you. Here, you can enjoy a multitude of indoor and outdoor sports, recreation, arts and dining options, all set against the sparkling backdrop of nightly fireworks. From the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts to the Orlando City Soccer (MLS) Stadium, from 100 top-rated golf courses to the United States Tennis Association's "new home of American tennis" – it's no wonder that so many people who come to play here come to stay here.

To learn more, visit [orlando.org](http://orlando.org)

TOP 10 "AMERICAN CITY OF THE FUTURE" 4 YEARS IN A ROW

*Foreign Direct Investment (fDi) Magazine*

2<sup>ND</sup> MOST COMPETITIVE LOCATION IN THE U.S.

KPMG

NO. 1 IN JOB GROWTH IN THE U.S.

U.S. Department of Labor  
(Top 30 MSAs)



“Orlando is as multicultural as the millions who visit us every year, and the reason why so many decide to stay.”

– Carlos Carbonell  
CEO, Echo Interaction Group  
President, Orlando Tech Association

## Beyond the bright lights

This region's theme parks are the best to be sure, but with 72 miles of Atlantic coastline, including the Canaveral National Seashore, and the 1,000 or so inland bodies of water that give Lake County its name, East Central Florida has plenty of natural beauty to enjoy. Check out rare albino alligators at Wild Florida in Kenansville. Take a drive on the sands of Daytona Beach. And say hello to the real Atlantis at Kennedy Space Center and to her neighbors, the bald eagles at Merritt Island National Seashore.

## Tech savvy

Brevard County, birthplace of America's aerospace industry, attracts 11 patents for every 10,000 workers, according to the Brookings Institution. And with 56 U.S. utility patents granted in 2016, University of Central Florida placed 20th among U.S. public universities and 41st worldwide. Elsewhere in the region: Four East Central high schools earned gold medals in *U.S. News & World Report's* "2017 Best High Schools" ranking — two were among the nation's top 50; Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University ranked No. 1 in the nation on *U.S. News & World Report's* 2017 list of "Best Online Bachelor's Degrees" and, at No. 32 on the U.S. University Employability Survey 2016, Florida Institute of Technology tied with Cornell and Carnegie Mellon among best universities in the U.S. for producing graduates employers want to hire.

Sunset  
over Lake  
Minneola in  
Clermont



USTA  
National  
Campus  
rendering



## Tennis, anyone?

The United States Tennis Association (USTA) opened its \$100-million, 60-acre national training center in Orlando's Lake Nona community in January 2017. It includes 100 courts — 32 that use the same hardcourt as the Australian Open, eight that use an identical surface to the U.S. Open and six that feature the same red clay as the French Open — and eight courts designed for kids. Although created primarily to serve as headquarters for the USTA's Player Development and Community Division, the facility is open to the public with court rental starting at \$12 an hour. Within a few weeks of opening, more than 100 events had been booked through the end of the year.

# NEOCITY

ideate > create > innovate without limits > [neocityfl.com](http://neocityfl.com)

**500** acre master-planned technology district with ample land for companies relocating or expanding to Florida



Strategically positioned for university + industry collaboration



Connected to world-class institutions, amenities + infrastructure



**100,000** square feet of Class A office space

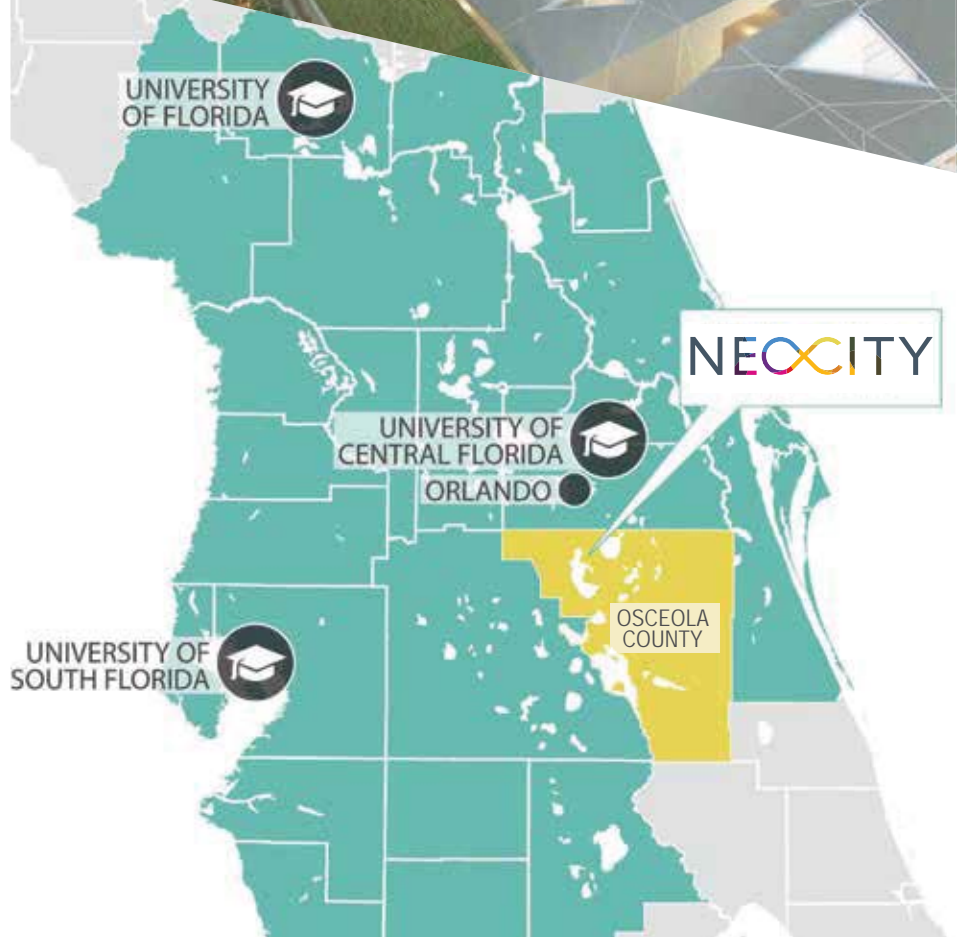


**179** undeveloped plots of land



Home to BRIDG, one of the world's most advanced sensor development and research labs

With support from Osceola County, the University of Central Florida and the Florida High Tech Corridor Council among others, BRIDG provides state-of-the-art manufacturing research and development capabilities and infrastructure for semiconductor manufacturing processes geared toward enhancing smart sensor technology innovation connected by the Internet of Things. Learn more at [GoBRIDG.com](http://GoBRIDG.com).



UNIVERSITY OF  
CENTRAL FLORIDA

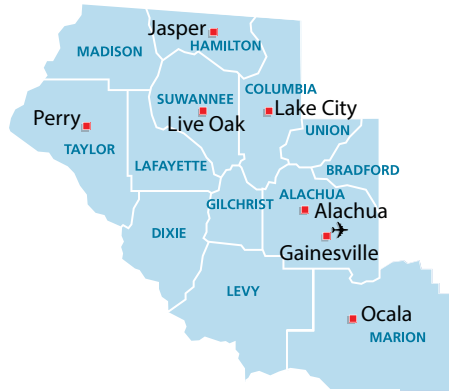
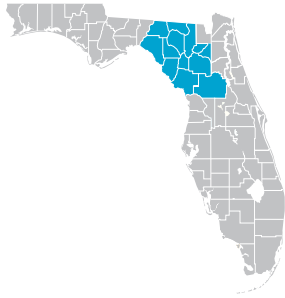


Bridging the Innovation Development Gap

[GoBRIDG.com](http://GoBRIDG.com)

# NORTH CENTRAL

COUNTIES ALACHUA • BRADFORD • COLUMBIA  
DIXIE • GILCHRIST • HAMILTON • LAFAYETTE  
LEVY • MADISON • MARION • SUWANNEE  
TAYLOR • UNION



## KEY DEMOGRAPHICS

Population / **904,527**  
Labor Force / **381,703**  
Households / **384,975**  
Total Earnings / **\$16.82 bil.**  
Median Per Capita Income / **\$30,336**  
Total Retail Sales / **\$11.46 bil.**

## KEY ASSETS

Universities/Colleges / **5**  
Commercial Airport / **1**



## Town Meets Gown

The University of Florida's long-term master plan goes beyond campus boundaries to address community concerns, preserve neighborhoods and encourage grads to remain in Gainesville.

**Gainesville snagged the highest** ranking in Florida, No. 15 on Livability.com's 2017 list of "Top 50 Best Cities for Entrepreneurs." Reasons cited: available talent, affordable housing and overall quality of life.

**University of Florida is ranked 8th** among public U.S. universities and 18th worldwide for U.S. utility patents granted in 2016; 91 in all.  
National Academy of Inventors, Intellectual Property Owners Association

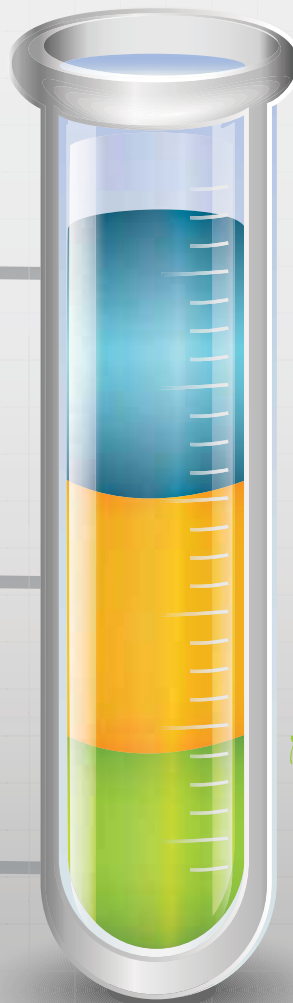
**Ocala is among 10 U.S. metro areas** expected to add the most jobs through 2018. Anticipated annual rate of growth: 3% compared to the national average of 1.4%.  
Moody Analytics

# GREATER GAINESVILLE HAS OPPORTUNITY DOWN TO A SCIENCE

TALENT

INNOVATION

PEOPLE



Nation's No. 1 Community College



Florida's Preeminent University



Highly Skilled Workforce



Leader in Technology Licensing



Garners 30% of all FL Research Funding



World's #1 Biotech Incubator (2013 & 2017)



Highly Educated Talent Pool



Access to Over One Million Workers



Florida's Youngest Population

Our intellectual capital is your company's untapped potential. Discover innovation's new address at

[www.greatergainesvilleregion.com](http://www.greatergainesvilleregion.com)



## LOGISTICS / TRANSPORTATION

**SUWANNEE COUNTY** Officials are petitioning Amtrak and the Southern Rail Commission to make Live Oak a stop if/when passenger rail service is restored between New Orleans and Jacksonville. A stop at Live Oak, near the junction of I-75 and I-10, could generate more than \$12 million annually for Amtrak.

**OCALA** A \$50-million AutoZone distribution center is scheduled to open in 2018 and create 240 jobs. It will be the retailer's 10th such facility nationwide and will supply the more than 290 AutoZone stores in Florida and Puerto Rico.

**OCALA** Online pet food/products retailer Chewy.com announced plans in early 2017 to create 600 jobs at an e-commerce fulfillment

### KEY PLAYERS

**Cheney Brothers Ocala**

**FedEx Ground Ocala**

**R+L Global Logistics Ocala**

center in Marion County. Anticipated opening: February 2018.

**JASPER** Atlanta-based Swift Straw, a distributor of pine straw, mulch and other ground cover products for landscaping purposes, has opened its first Florida location in Hamilton County. Founded in 2011, Swift Straw chose Jasper for its proximity to I-75 and I-10. The firm has hired 26 workers and plans to hire additional staff as its operations get fully underway.



↑ Since its 2016 expansion at Lake City Gateway Airport in Columbia County, HAECO Airframe Services has filled close to 350 jobs. The aircraft maintenance firm has a workforce of 930 and hopes to add another 170 soon.

## HEALTH CARE

### KEY PLAYERS

**Munroe Regional Medical Center Ocala**

**Ocala Health System Ocala**

**UF Health Gainesville**

**GAINESVILLE** U.S. News & World Report's "Best Children's Hospitals 2017-18" ranks UF Health Shands Children's Hospital in the top 35 in cardiology and heart surgery; diabetes and endocrinology; and pulmonology. Its adult counterpart — UF Health Shands Hospital — was named among "Best Hospitals 2017-18" in nephrology (No. 25), diabetes and endocrinology (No. 31), pulmonology (No. 34) and gynecology (No. 35).

**OCALA** Ocala Health plans to grow its Ocala Regional Medical Center by 34 inpatient beds, 12 emergency room beds and two large operating rooms. The \$56-million project will add 35,000 square feet and renovate 50,000 square feet of existing space. In December 2016, Ocala Health broke ground on an expansion at its West Marion Community Hospital to add 36 medical/surgical and eight ICU patient beds, nine emergency exam rooms and two operating rooms.

**OCALA** In June 2017, Munroe Regional Medical Center opened its 12-bed Level II Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, the first such facility in Marion County. The medical center delivers around 2,500 babies each year.

Opening in December 2017, UF Health's new Heart & Vascular Hospital will feature eight operating rooms, three of which will be hybrid ORs offering flexible diagnostic and surgical set-ups to address the most complex cardiac and vascular conditions. →



## BIOTECHNOLOGY

### KEY PLAYERS

**AGTC Alachua**

**Nanotherapeutics Alachua**

**ALACHUA** Nanotherapeutics has received a 10-year \$159-million contract from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease to develop and evaluate biopharmaceutical products for the diagnosis and treatment of infectious disease.

**GAINESVILLE** Mérieux NutriSciences has relocated its food testing facility closer to the University of Florida campus where it will continue to provide food safety and quality research services for foodservice manufacturers, providers and restaurant chains throughout the Southeast. Thirty jobs will be added over the next two years.

**GAINESVILLE** The University of Florida received a record \$724 million in research grants in FY2015-16, a 24% increase since 2005-06. More than half of this year's funding came from federal agencies, led by the National Institutes of Health at \$179 million.

**ALACHUA** University of Florida's Sid Martin Biotechnology Institute has been singled out from among 7,500 institutions as 2017 "Biotech Incubator of the Year" by the International Business Innovation Association. Since 1990, SMBI has supported more than 100 startups in biotechnology, biomedicine and bioagriculture and has helped create more than 2,200 jobs.

## ENERGY

### ALACHUA COUNTY

Construction is under way at Florida Power & Light's Horizon Solar Energy Center on 1,315 acres straddling Alachua and Putnam counties. Completion: January 1, 2018.

#### KEY PLAYERS

**Duke Energy Florida**  
*St. Petersburg*

**Florida Power & Light**  
*Juno Beach*

After opening its Perry Solar Facility in Taylor County in 2016, Duke Energy Florida began constructing another solar power plant on 70 acres in Suwannee County near Live Oak. The 8.8-megawatt Suwannee Solar Facility, scheduled for completion by 2018, is the third in Duke's long-range plan to install 500 megawatts of solar power in Florida by 2024. ↓



## BUSINESS / FINANCIAL SERVICES

**OCALA** Sarasota-based Progressive Employer Management Company (Pemco) has opened an office here to provide payroll, human resources and employee benefits services. Founded in 1999, Pemco services the professional, medical, hospitality, industrial and nonprofit sectors, among others. The Ocala office is the firm's ninth location; a tenth is set to open in Miami in late 2017.

#### KEY PLAYERS

**Nationwide Insurance**  
*Gainesville*

**Sitel** *Lake City*

**GAINESVILLE** One of the nation's largest insurance and financial services companies, Nationwide will add 360 employees over three years and invest \$7.4 million in construction and renovations at its Gainesville campus.

## NORTH CENTRAL LIFE & LEISURE



**Whitewater rafting at Big Shoals State Park in White Springs**

### Fun for all

Spanning 13 counties, North Central offers activities for every age and interest. Fish the scenic Withlacoochee and Suwannee rivers or snorkel for scallops along the Gulf of Mexico shore. Hike Ocala National Forest, browse Cedar Key's quaint shops or see Florida wildlife aboard a glass bottom boat at Ocala's iconic Silver Springs. In Gainesville, browse the Florida Museum of Natural History and the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art (general admission is free); visit the Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo, the only zookeeper training facility with its own accredited zoo; or join the crowds at "Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park" in Live Oak for camping, recreational activities and outdoor music festivals — 600,000 visit this venue annually.



### Downtown remake

The 1902 Blanche Hotel in downtown Lake City is undergoing a facelift. The \$14-million project aims to convert the building that once welcomed the likes of Al Capone and Johnny Cash into housing units, retail space and a 38,000-sq.-ft. city hall.

**Blanche Hotel renovation rendering**

### Meet a REAL superpower

The University of Florida is home to HiPerGator 2.0, the second most powerful public university supercomputer in the U.S. Although capable of holding 21 million times more data than the computer program on Apollo 11 that put a man on the moon, 2.0's real value isn't the power of its memory, but what researchers can do with that power — tackle climate change, eradicate poverty or deal with other global issues in ways that were once unimaginable.



## > HAMILTON COUNTY

# Your Next Business Address on Florida's Front Porch

*From storefront start-ups and retail chains, to manufacturers and industrial relocations, Hamilton County has the buildings, shovel-ready land, infrastructure, workforce and Southern hospitality to be your partner in growth.*

**"Our mission is to help businesses looking for the ideal location, a trained and ready labor pool, ample property and a partner with the right incentives."**

Susan Ramsey, Executive Director,  
Hamilton County Development Authority



## > Infrastructure = Opportunity

Hamilton County is building today to become tomorrow's destination for business. County, local municipalities and the state of Florida are revising zoning and laying the infrastructure needed to serve the region's growing base. Along with new water and sewer lines along S.R. 6, new projects include:

- **Logistics Park on S.R. 6.** The 58-acre parcel fronting Interstate 75 is under zoning review with plans for a prime partner. Another park — 45 acres just minutes from the interstate — also is shovel-ready. The HCDA will assist businesses through the relocation process.

- **Beautification Grant Program.** The HCDA is providing \$1,000 in matching money to property owners who invest in landscaping, lighting, signage or paint to beautify their building's exterior.

**I**n Hamilton County, we greet growing businesses with serious Southern hospitality.

"Our mission is to help businesses looking for the ideal location, a trained and ready labor pool, ample property and a partner with the right incentives," says Susan Ramsey, executive director of the Hamilton County Development Authority (HCDA), an independent special district for county-wide economic development. "Combine our business infrastructure with an unmatched natural environment, and it's no surprise companies are calling Hamilton County their home."

Hamilton County lives at the crossroads of commerce, logistics and lifestyle. We're Florida's first county along Interstate 75. Interstate 10 nearby leads to two airports and runs from the deep water port of Jacksonville straight to the Pacific. Norfolk Southern Railways is our connection to the east.

Employers looking for a skilled, millennial workforce will find applicants or training partners at North Florida Community College, River Oak Technical College, the University of Florida and Florida State University.

Centrally located and business friendly, we're Hamilton County — Florida's Front Porch.

## > New Businesses Call Hamilton County Home

A host of businesses have launched, relocated or expanded in Hamilton County over the past several years. The HCDA assisted in the opening of Love's Travel Stop and Pilot Travel Center, two large, national travel centers, each with \$8 million investments and more than 75 full-time jobs. Black Bay Fresh Florida Seafood opened in White Springs.

Among Hamilton County Development Authority's other successes:

● **Preferred Rentals.** The heavy and agricultural equipment rental company expanded from Valdosta, Ga., to a new location on State Road 6 at Interstate 75 in Jasper. HCDA assisted in identifying a vacant building and provided incentives,

which allowed Preferred to renovate and transform the property to provide above-average

wage jobs for 25 new employees and a host of indirect jobs countywide.

● **Swift Straw.** The Atlanta-based pine straw and mulch distributor sought to spread into North Florida. The HCDA helped negotiate and incentivize the purchase and renovation of a vacant 75,000-square-foot window factory on 20 acres. With the building brought to code and the latest technology, trailers leave the plant with product for property owners, hotels, schools and parks, and even retailers Walmart and Lowe's.



● **Cheek & Scott Drugs.** In the age of national drug store chains, this locally owned pharmacy was recruited to bring its home-town feel to Jasper. The community-focused retailer brought with it jobs and opportunity in exchange for incentives and infrastructure improvements. Consumers can receive travel immunizations, free blood

pressure cuffs and diabetes testing, and even check the status of their prescriptions on a smartphone app.

"Each example reveals how the HCDA can work with organizations and deliver added value and incentives including but beyond financial perks," Ramsey says. "Whether it's finances, property or a building to call their new home, every relationship is uniquely tailored to the needs of the project."



Cheek & Scott owner Jeff Scott (middle) with his pharmacy staff in their new Hamilton County location.



## A Fun-Loving Retreat

As Florida's original tourist destination, Hamilton County is an outdoorsman's dream. We have parks, biking and hiking trails, lakes and three rivers — the Suwannee, the Withlacoochee and the Alapaha — perfect for RVing, hunting, fishing or just exploring. We even have Florida's only whitewater rapids.



This year saw guests gather for the inaugural Party in The Pines at the acclaimed Bienville Plantation and for the nation's oldest state-sponsored folk festival at the Stephen Foster State Park.

## > A Makeover for the 21st Century

The Hamilton County Development Authority was created by the Florida Legislature in 1960. But its brand is fresh for 2017.

The Authority's new logo reflects all the county has to offer. A leaf of green and blue represents water and agriculture, the county's lifeblood. A vein dividing the leaf depicts the interstates and logistics connecting Hamilton County to the world.

The new slogan — "Florida's Front Porch" — speaks to the county's role as a visitor's first glimpse of Florida as they drive south on I-75.

A planned website will showcase the HCDA, its partner businesses and the county's inventory of available buildings and land. A planned smartphone app will highlight business and recreational allure, and maps will encourage visitors to exit the highway and "take the scenic route" through Hamilton County.



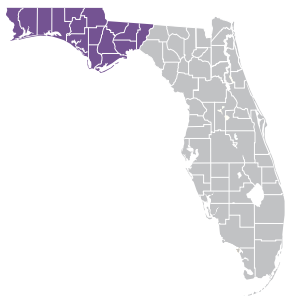
**Hamilton County**  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

## Discover Florida's Front Porch for Business

Hamilton County greets 21st century business with Southern hospitality. Contact Executive Director Susan Ramsey today at (386) 792-6828 or [sramsey@hamiltoncda.org](mailto:sramsey@hamiltoncda.org), or follow us on Twitter @HCD AFL.

# NORTHWEST

COUNTIES BAY • CALHOUN • ESCAMBIA • FRANKLIN  
GADSDEN • GULF • HOLMES • JACKSON • JEFFERSON  
LEON • LIBERTY • OKALOOSA • SANTA ROSA  
WAKULLA • WALTON • WASHINGTON



## KEY DEMOGRAPHICS

Population / **1,459,145**

Labor Force / **666,854**

Households / **592,128**

Total Earnings / **\$33.56 bil.**

Median Per Capita Income / **\$33,971**

Total Retail Sales / **\$20.45 bil.**

## KEY ASSETS

Universities/Colleges / **9**

Commercial Airports / **4**

Seaports / **3**

**Fort Walton Beach** was named among USAA's top 10 best places in the U.S. for veterans to become entrepreneurs; 6,000 personnel retire from military service region-wide each year.

**48% of residents over age 25** in Florida's capital city Tallahassee have a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to the U.S. average of 30%.

## Bounding Forward

Renowned for its clear blue water and white sandy shores, Florida's northwest region abounds with opportunity in all industry sectors and the skilled workforce needed to meet their demands.

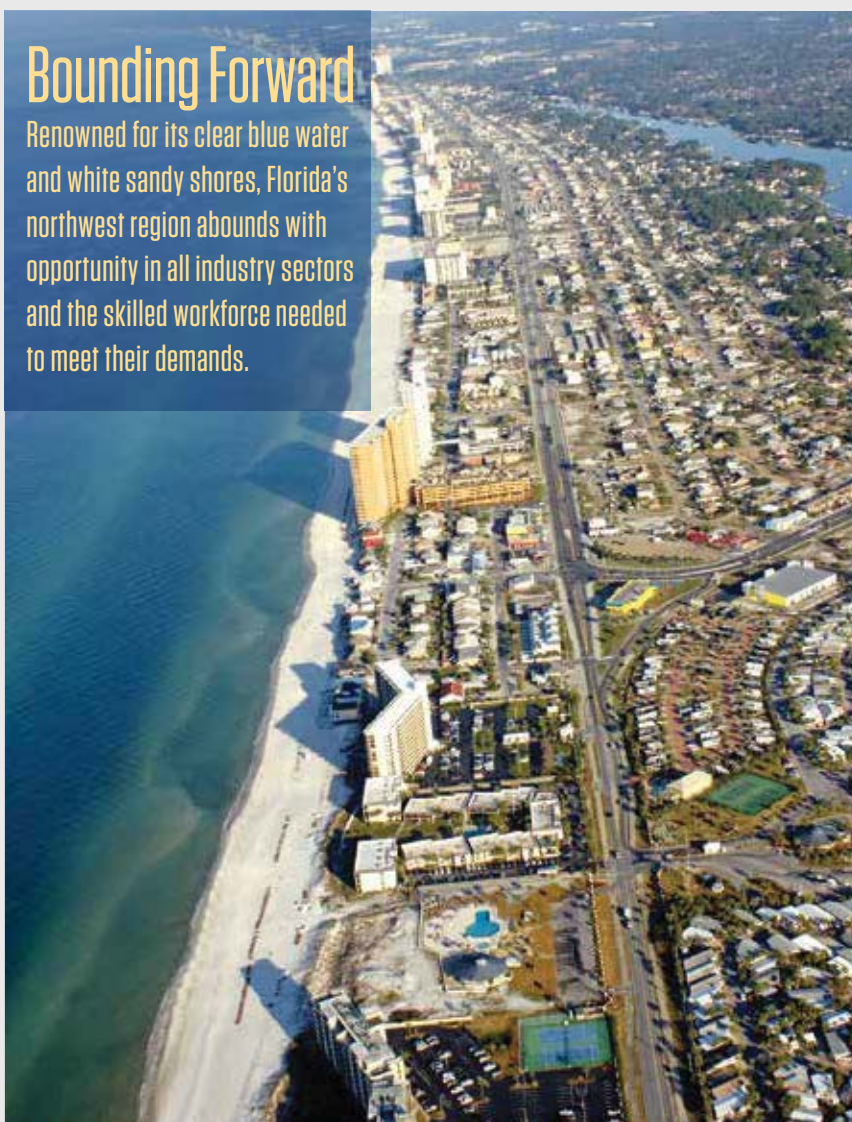


PHOTO COURTESY BILL STRENGTH / VISIT FLORIDA

## AEROSPACE / DEFENSE

### KEY PLAYERS

**The Boeing Company** *Fort Walton Beach*

**InDyne** *Fort Walton Beach*

**Lockheed Martin** *Fort Walton Beach*

**On-Point Defense Technologies** *Fort Walton Beach*

**BAY COUNTY** GKN Aerospace will create 170 jobs with the opening of its first manufacturing facility in Florida at Venture-Crossings near Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport. The U.K.-based firm with more than 60 locations and 17,000 employees worldwide is a leading builder/supplier of the advanced aerospace systems, components and technologies used in helicopters, compact business jets and the largest passenger planes.

**PENSACOLA** VT Mobile Aerospace Engineering broke ground in fall 2016 for a hangar at Pensacola International Airport. The maintenance and engineering facility — large enough to accommodate two Boeing 777s or four 757s or six Airbus A-320-sized aircraft — is expected to open in early 2018 and create 400 jobs.

**PANAMA CITY** In fall 2016, Eastern Shipbuilding was awarded the U.S. Coast Guard's largest-ever vessel procurement contract — a \$10.5-billion deal — to build 25 next-generation Offshore Patrol Cutters. Construction is expected to begin in 2018. Eastern currently provides jobs for more than 1,500 workers, but expects to hire additional craftsmen, engineers and administrative staff at full ramp-up of the contract.

**MARIANNA** To accommodate growth in sales of its kit helicopter products, Safari Helicopter has moved into a larger building at Marianna Municipal Airport and expects to grow its workforce from nine to 20.

**TALLAHASSEE** Faculty and students at Florida A&M University (FAMU) are assisting Lockheed Martin with NASA's Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle Program and other projects. Over the next five years, Lockheed Martin will provide up to \$5 million in funding to FAMU by commissioning work related to space exploration. Lockheed Martin is the prime contractor building the Orion crew vehicle, NASA's first spacecraft designed for long-duration, deep space human exploration. FAMU is the first historically black college or university to participate in these efforts.



← Defense activities account for one-third of northwest Florida's economy and nearly 182,000 combined military and civilian jobs. Located in this region are: Eglin Air Force Base, the USAF's largest by area and, alone, home to 38,000 personnel; Tyndall Air Force Base; Hurlburt Field; Whiting Field; and Naval Air Station Pensacola, where the legendary Blue Angels train and the National Museum of Naval Aviation attracts 1 million visitors annually.

## LIFE SCIENCES / HEALTH CARE

**PANAMA CITY** Medical technology firm Jellyfish Health is expanding operations and creating 100 jobs. The new positions will focus on the development of mobile technologies that reduce wait times for patients and allow health care facilities to position staff and other resources for maximum efficiency and a more positive patient experience.

**MARIANNA** Jackson Hospital doubled its pre-operative reception and post-operative recovery capacities with the opening of a 9,500-sq.-ft. operating suite in spring 2017. Also up and running, two off-site Jackson Hospital centers: Chipola Quick Care and Chipola Wound Healing & Hyperbaric Medicine, adding more than 8,000 square feet and 16 jobs in Washington County.

### KEY PLAYERS

**Baptist Health** *Pensacola*

**Sacred Heart Health Systems** *Pensacola*

**Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare** *Tallahassee*

**West Florida Healthcare** *Pensacola*

**TALLAHASSEE** Construction continues at Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare's \$250-million M.T. Mustian Center. The five-story addition featuring 28 operating suites and 72 adult medical/surgical intensive care beds, is expected to open in early 2019.

**SANTA ROSA COUNTY** Sacred Heart Health System has opened two new facilities in Gulf Breeze: The Gulf Breeze Pediatric Care Center offers

outpatient pediatric rehabilitation and an autism outreach center; the Tiger Point Medical Park provides a full spectrum of outpatient care for adults.

**PACE** Baptist Health Care opened its fourth area-wide medical park in May 2017 — the 23,000-sq.-ft. Baptist Medical Park-Pace, including family medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, rehabilitation, imaging and laboratory services.

**PENSACOLA** West Florida Healthcare's \$10-million freestanding Perdido Bay Emergency Room has opened on the west side of Escambia County, offering 11 private patient beds, a laboratory and diagnostic imaging services.

Continuing to take shape on the campus of Sacred Heart Hospital Pensacola is the \$57-million Studer Family Children's Hospital. When completed in 2019, the four-story structure will include a pediatric emergency department, neonatal and pediatric intensive care units and a pediatric oncology unit as well as a pharmacy and pediatric inpatient rehabilitation gym. ↓



## MANUFACTURING

### KEY PLAYERS

**Armstrong World Industries**  
*Pensacola*

**Danfoss Turbocor**  
*Tallahassee*

**Hitachi Cable America**  
**Florida plant** *Pensacola*

**Jupiter Composites** *Pensacola*

**TALLAHASSEE** Danfoss Turbocor has opened its Application Development Center, a state-of-the-art lab for testing residential and commercial air-conditioning compressors and heat pumps.

**GULF BREEZE** Thanks to a \$50,000 award from Innovation Coast, a startup manufacturer of eating utensils and

bowls for infants and toddlers is expanding its headquarters. Num Num founders Jessica and Doug Gonterman are moving operations out of their home to downtown Pensacola. Launched in 2013, the firm's clients include Nordstrom and Buy Buy Baby. Innovation Coast is a Pensacola-based nonprofit entity that promotes and supports entrepreneurship.

**MARIANNA** Catalyst Fabric Solutions, a manufacturer of bed furnishings, towels, decorative pillows and other home décor items, has begun production in a 270,000-sq.-ft. building in Marianna Industrial Park and is creating 100-150 jobs.



↑ Fabbro Marine Group, maker of Cape Horn offshore boats, has expanded its 78,000-sq.-ft. manufacturing facility at Santa Rosa Industrial Park East in Milton. Fabbro is the first company to build on one of Gulf Power's Florida First Sites. Florida First Sites are certified, project-ready industrial sites for which due diligence has been completed to minimize risk and accelerate speed to market.

## TOURISM

### KEY PLAYERS

**Edgewater Beach & Golf Resort**  
*Panama City Beach*

**Innisfree Hotels** *Gulf Breeze*

**PANAMA CITY BEACH** Two new hotels have opened along the beach and within walking distance of the Pier Park shopping/entertainment complex — a 157-room Holiday Inn Express and a 182-room Hampton Inn & Suites.

Coming soon: the 260-room SpringHill Suites by Marriott.

**DEFUNIAK SPRINGS** The historic downtown Hotel DeFuniak is getting a well-deserved makeover. Plans call for the 100-year-old property to be returned to its original grandeur as a "New York-style, high-end vintage boutique hotel." No opening date has been set, but 20 new jobs are anticipated.



↑ The lure of year-round sunshine and lazy afternoons spent at sidewalk cafes continues to make tourism big business in five northwest coastal counties. Bed taxes collected in Bay, Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa and Walton topped \$74 million in 2016, a 6% increase over 2015.

## BUSINESS / FINANCIAL SERVICES

### KEY PLAYERS

**CHCS Services** *Pensacola*

**Navy Federal Credit Union**  
*Pensacola*

**West Corporation** *Pensacola*

**TALLAHASSEE** The Thom- asville, Ga.-based Senior Life Insurance Company has selected Tallahassee-Leon County as the location for its first expansion into Florida; 30 full-time jobs are expected.

**TALLAHASSEE** The 200 employees of a Tallahassee-based insurance group consisting of Southern Fidelity & Causality, Capitol Preferred Insurance Company and Southern Fidelity Insurance Company have moved to a three-story, 55,000-sq.-ft. building in order to make room for a new title insurance company.



↑ Navy Federal Credit Union continues work on an expansion that will add 1.1 million square feet and another 5,000 employees at its Pensacola campus by 2019. The Virginia-based credit union — largest in the world and consistently named among the nation's best companies to work for by *Forbes* — expects to have a \$1-billion investment in Pensacola, a \$425-million payroll and 10,000 employees locally by 2026.

## LOGISTICS / TRANSPORTATION

### KEY PLAYERS

**Eastern Shipbuilding**  
Panama City

**Gold Ring Distributing**  
Milton and Panama City

**Linea Peninsular**  
Panama City

**PANAMA CITY** Panama City Port Authority and WestRock, a corrugated packaging company, have combined forces to double the port's cargo capacity with the addition of 41 acres and a second terminal. At its intermodal distribution center, the port has added 100,000 square feet to its existing 150,000-sq.-ft distribution warehouse.

**WALTON COUNTY** A FedEx Ground distribution center opened in September 2016 in Mossy Head Industrial Park. The new facility, just off Interstate 10, is about four times the size of the facility it replaces. Current employment is nearing 300.

**MIDWAY** Four Star Freightliner has opened a dealership in Gadsden County with proximity to Interstate 10. In addition to creating 10 jobs, the firm will partner with the Gadsden Technical Institute on a diesel technician training program.

**OKALOOSA COUNTY** Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport logged the highest passenger count in its 60-year history in 2016, an 18% increase over 2015. With the recent addition of Allegiant service to 11 destinations, officials expect next year to break the 1 million mark.

**PENSACOLA** Improvements at the Port of Pensacola's Warehouse 9 include a "high hat" bay with 30-foot+ hook height to support overhead bridge cranes with 30-ton capacities, and installation of three 120-amp, 440-volt electrical outlets to provide incoming vessels with more energy efficient power sources while in port.

## TECHNOLOGY

Using a Mina v2 exoskeleton developed by the Pensacola-based Florida Institute for Human & Machine Cognition, Mark Daniel, who is paralyzed from the waist down due to a spinal cord injury, performed everyday tasks – like walking up/down stairs and sitting down/standing up from a sofa – well enough to earn IHMC a second-place medal in the "powered exoskeleton" division of an international competition for disabled athletes and their wearable robotics. ↓



PHOTO COURTESY ALESSANDRO DELLA BELLA / ETH ZÜRICH (BOTTOM LEFT)

## NORTHWEST LIFE & LEISURE



**Florida House of Representatives, opening session in 2017**

### Capital matters

Florida's Legislature, consisting of the 120-member House of Representatives and 40-member Senate, convenes in regular session for 60 consecutive days each spring at the State Capitol in Tallahassee; starting dates may vary and sessions are open to the public.

### Down home appeal

With natural springs and abundant pine forests, Florida's northwest is a natural draw for tourists seeking a respite from mega-theme parks and city bustle. Unique sights here include the old and new state capitols in Tallahassee; the underwater Panhandle Shipwreck Trail; Florida's highest natural point, Britton Hill (345 feet tall!); alleged site of the real Garden of Eden in Liberty County; and practice runs by the Blue Angels precision flying team over Pensacola Beach.

### Legendary beaches

Northwest Florida beaches never fail to delight. Stephen Leatherman (aka Dr. Beach) ranked Walton County's Grayton State Park Beach No. 4 on his 2017 list of America's best beaches, and on TripAdvisor's "2017 Top 25 Beaches, U.S.," the Beach at Panama City and Pensacola Beach were No. 5 and No. 7. What makes them special? Sugar white sand made from quartz crystals bleached and polished over centuries of washing down from the Appalachians to the sea.

### Live and learn

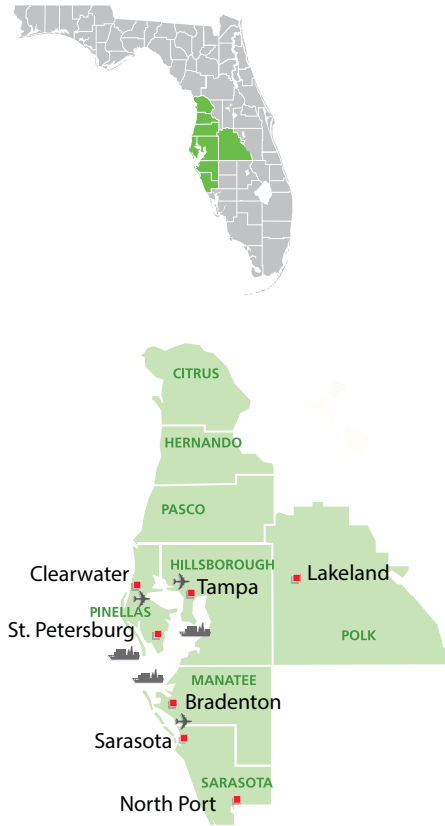
Higher education venues in Northwest Florida include: Florida State University, No. 49 among universities worldwide for patents granted in 2016 (48 in all); Florida A&M University, ranked 7th among historically black colleges/universities by *U.S. News & World Report* in 2016; and University of West Florida, recently named the National Center of Academic Excellence Cybersecurity Regional Resource Center for the Southeast region by the National Security Agency. Also of note: two Tallahassee high schools that earned gold medals in *U.S. News & World Report's* "2017 Best High Schools" rankings.

**FAMU students in front of historical marker**



# TAMPA BAY

COUNTIES CITRUS • HERNANDO  
HILLSBOROUGH • MANATEE • PASCO  
PINELLAS • POLK • SARASOTA



## KEY DEMOGRAPHICS

Population / **4,630,398**

Labor Force / **2,159,464**

Households / **1,973,782**

Total Earnings / **\$109.93 bil.**

Median Per Capita Income / **\$40,639**

Total Retail Sales / **\$68.34 bil.**

## KEY ASSETS

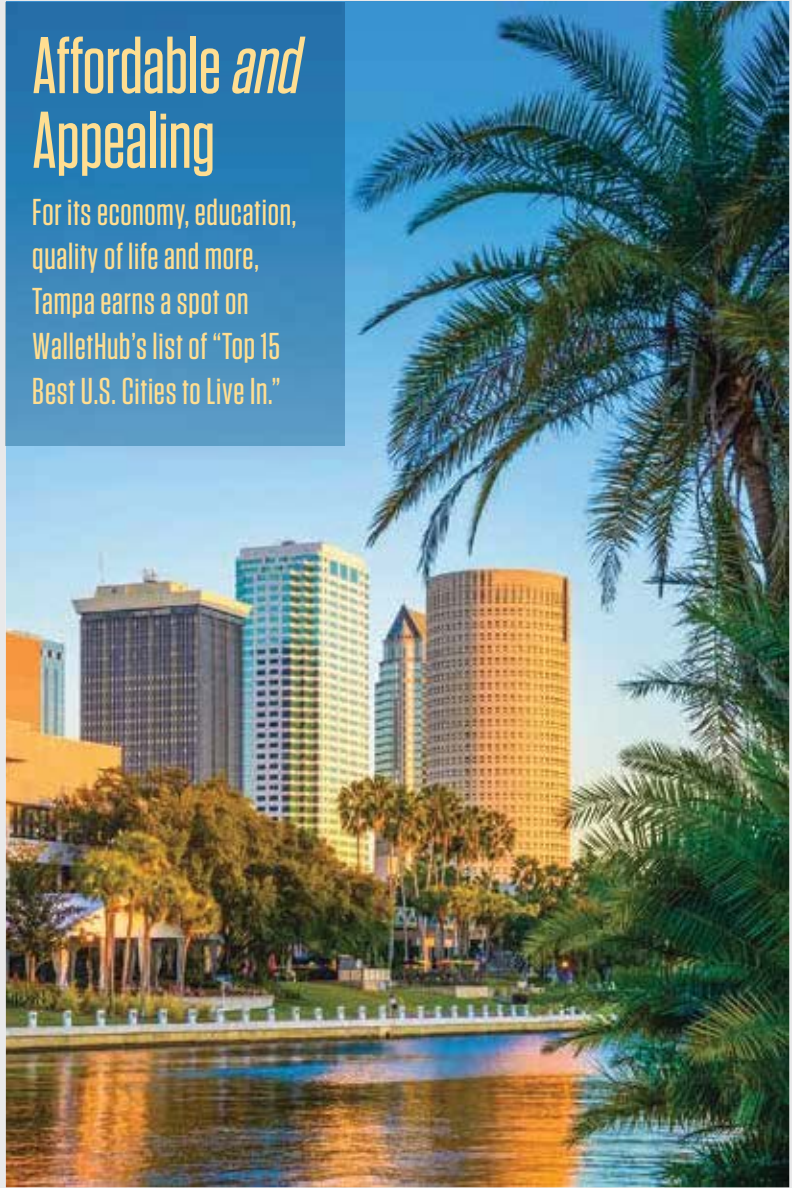
Universities/Colleges / **20**

Commercial Airports / **3**

Seaports / **3**

## Affordable *and* Appealing

For its economy, education, quality of life and more, Tampa earns a spot on WalletHub's list of "Top 15 Best U.S. Cities to Live In."



**Tampa Bay's cost of living** in 2016 was the lowest among major metro areas in Florida for the 3rd consecutive year and more than 8% below the national average.

**With 114 U.S. utility patents in 2016,** University of South Florida ranks 1st among Florida's public universities and 11th worldwide.

# BRING YOUR PERISHABLES TO PORT TAMPA BAY AND YOU'LL GET

# ONE CHILLY RECEPTION

OPENING SEPTEMBER 2017



- 135,000 sqft cold storage facility
- State-of-the-art on-site dedicated fumigation services & 96 reefer plugs
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Port Logistics Refrigerated Services

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PORT TAMPA BAY

## LIFE SCIENCES / HEALTH CARE

**TAMPA** In September 2016, Moffitt Cancer Center received the National Cancer Institute's Comprehensive Cancer Center designation. One of only 48 such institutions in the U.S. and the only facility in Florida to be so designated, Moffitt has launched an \$800-million, 10-year expansion program. Construction of a clinical support building is underway with completion slated for mid-2018. Also planned: a new hospital wing, two research buildings and additional outpatient facilities.

**TAMPA** Global biotechnology company Amgen has opened a 136,000-sq.-ft. "capability center" near Tampa International Airport; 450 employees are anticipated by 2019. Amgen develops medicines at facilities in 100 countries to address health conditions for which treatment options are limited.

Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg earned three top rankings on *U.S. News & World Report's* "Best Children's Hospitals 2017-18" list: cardiology and heart surgery (No. 30); orthopedics (No. 40); and neurology and neurosurgery (No. 43). →

### KEY PLAYERS

BayCare Health System *Clearwater*  
Bristol-Myers Squibb *Tampa*  
Johnson & Johnson *Tampa*  
Moffitt Cancer Center *Tampa*  
Wellcare Health Plans *Tampa*

**TAMPA** Medical tech firm CareSync brought 150 jobs to its new 51,000-sq.-ft. headquarters, opened in December 2016; 350 more jobs are expected by the end of 2017.

**ST. PETERSBURG** Intellitech relocated its headquarters from Maryland in September 2016. The manufacturer of machinery used in the biotech and pharmaceutical industries expects to create 15 jobs.

**TAMPA** Orthopedic device manufacturer Corin Group will expand its U.S. headquarters in Tampa with 100 administrative jobs and a capital investment of \$500,000 by 2022.



↑ With an eye toward moving its medical school from north Tampa to a new building downtown, University of South Florida's Center for Advanced Medical Learning and Simulation is shifting focus to better accommodate students and provide more opportunities for hands-on experience using patient simulators and high-tech medical devices.

**TAMPA** For the ninth consecutive year, *U.S. News & World Report's* "Best Hospitals 2017-18" has ranked Tampa General Hospital among the nation's top 50 for cardiology and heart surgery. Five other TGH specialties cited include diabetes and endocrinology, nephrology and pulmonology.

**CLEARWATER** Aimmune Therapeutics, a biopharmaceutical firm focused on treatments for life-threatening food allergies, moved into its newly completed manufacturing facility in June

2017. Aimmune produces an investigational biologic oral immunotherapy for desensitization of patients with peanut allergy, which is currently in phase 3 clinical trials.

**TAMPA** DAS Health will add up to 30 positions in 2018 at its Tampa headquarters. The health IT and management firm, serving more than 1,500 clinicians and 5,000 users, doubled its size in 2016 with the acquisition of ConXit Technology Group and three other companies.



## MANUFACTURING

### KEY PLAYERS

Jabil *St. Petersburg*  
PGT Industries *Venice*  
Sun Hydraulics *Sarasota*  
Tropicana Products *Bradenton*

**RIVERVIEW** Metrohm USA, a subsidiary of a Swiss precision instruments manufacturer, broke ground in early 2017 on a 90,000-sq.-ft. North American headquarters in south Hillsborough County. Anticipated completion: early 2018.

**LUTZ** Mettler Toledo, an international supplier of precision scales and instruments for laboratory, food retailing and other industrial uses, has relocated its Safeline product inspection division and 320 employees to a new \$30-million, 250,000-sq.-ft. manufacturing plant in Pasco County; 185 additional jobs are anticipated.

**TAMPA** Aero Simulation, a manufacturer of flight simulators for military and commercial aircraft, has relocated within Hillsborough County to a 60,000-sq.-ft. facility north of the Florida State Fairgrounds; 40 jobs are expected.

**TAMPA** Locally based NewSouth Window Solutions broke ground in April 2017 on a 234,500-sq.-ft. structure to accommodate its corporate offices, three manufacturing facilities and a retail factory showroom. Anticipated opening date: January 2018.

**PASCO COUNTY** Superior Precast, a manufacturer of precast concrete products for road construction and a supplier to the Florida Department of Transportation, is opening a manufacturing facility in 62,777 square feet of industrial space at the Dade City Business Center; 100 administrative and manufacturing jobs are expected.

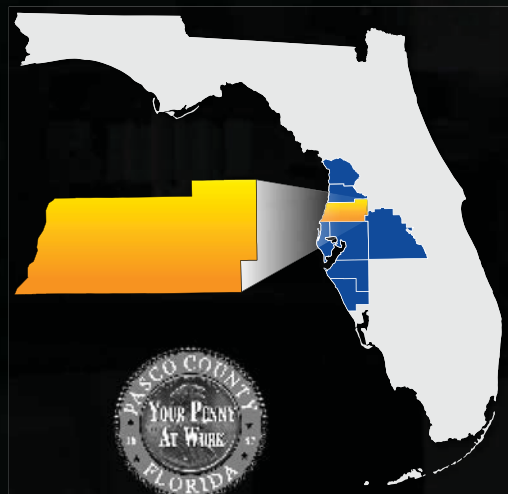
# DISCOVER YOUR PLACE TO GROW PASCO COUNTY | FLORIDA

Located at the apex of the greater Tampa Bay region, Pasco County, Florida, has the talent and resources competitive companies seek plus the space and amenities they need to maximize their growth potential.

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## LOGISTICS / TRANSPORTATION

## KEY PLAYERS

**Amazon** *Ruskin, Lakeland*  
**Blue Grace Logistics** *Riverview*  
**O'Reilly Auto Parts** *Lakeland*  
**PLS Logistics Services** *Tampa*

**TAMPA** Quality Distribution Inc. (QDI) has relocated its headquarters and 250 employees to a 45,000-sq.-ft. space in Tampa's Channel district. A global supplier of liquid bulk transportation, logistics and depot services, QDI works with many Fortune 500 companies, including Procter & Gamble, Dow Chemical and PPG Industries.

**DAVENPORT** A 2.2-million-sq.-ft. Walmart distribution center built to support the retailer's e-commerce operations in eastern Polk County is fully operational and continuing to generate jobs. The facility currently employs close to 600, and Walmart plans to hire up to 1,000 more over the next year.

**RIVERVIEW** BlueGrace Logistics, which has created nearly 300 jobs at its south Hillsborough County headquarters since 2015, plans to create another 300 jobs over the next few years. BlueGrace is a provider of customized transportation management solutions with more than 60 U.S. locations.

**ST. PETERSBURG** Hashtag Fulfillment has leased an 80,000-sq.-ft. fulfillment center and plans to add 50 employees in 2017 to its current staff of 100. Launched in 2014, Hashtag offers direct-to-consumer third party logistics and reverse logistics services for e-commerce businesses.

**TAMPA** Goodwill Industries-Suncoast is building a distribution center and thrift store on a 22-acre parcel of land near the intersection of U.S. 301 and the Lee Roy Selmon Expressway. The facility is expected to open in November 2017 and create up to 70 jobs.



↑ At 5,000 acres, Port Tampa Bay has the largest footprint of Florida's 14 ports. In 2016, it handled 37.5 million tons of cargo – one-third of all cargo moving in and out of Florida – and 813,800 cruise ship passengers. New developments include: a 134,000-sq.-ft. cold storage warehouse; the first cruises from Tampa to Havana in 50 years; and a master plan to add deeper channels, an expanded auto import terminal and a petroleum storage center.

## CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

## KEY PLAYERS

**Bloomin' Brands** *Tampa*  
**Publix Super Markets** *Lakeland*  
**Sykes Enterprises** *Tampa*  
**Tech Data** *St. Petersburg*

**TAMPA** North American Roofing Services is relocating from Asheville, N.C., with plans to create 180 management, finance, HR and IT jobs.

**TAMPA** The Cott Corp. is expanding with 60 jobs and an \$800,000 capital investment. One of the world's largest beverage distributors, Cott has operations in 20 countries.

**SARASOTA** FloorForce, a digital agency for flooring manufacturers and retailers, is relocating to Sarasota with plans to create 72 positions over five years.

**SARASOTA** ITelegen, a leading provider of health care IT support, system administration and professional services, is relocating from New Jersey; 20 jobs are expected.

## BUSINESS / FINANCIAL SERVICES

**TAMPA** McManis & Monsalve Associates, a veteran-owned, HUBZone management consulting firm with an emphasis on risk assessment and mitigation, has expanded to Tampa, along with its precision machining subsidiary Monsalve Tool & Design; 12 jobs are expected.

**TAMPA** Professional services firm BlueLine Associates, which already has offices in Tampa, is moving its global headquarters from Cary, N.C., and creating 150 jobs in its financial, legal and HR groups.

**TAMPA** Lukos, a veteran-owned provider of professional services to the federal government, has expanded its Hillsborough County headquarters with 10 project management and financial analysis positions.

**TAMPA** Chicago-based Fay Servicing, a specialist in managing distressed and

## KEY PLAYERS

**Citigroup** *Tampa*  
**JPMorgan Chase** *Tampa*  
**Northern Trust** *Tampa*  
**Raymond James Financial** *St. Petersburg*

at-risk residential loans, has selected Tampa as the site of its southeastern regional headquarters; 100 jobs are anticipated.

**SARASOTA** Cocoa, Fla.-based Single Stream Recyclers is expanding to Sarasota with plans to hire 40 in 2017 and another 40 in 2018. The firm sorts, bales and ships recyclables collected from residential and business sites.

**TAMPA** Global talent acquisition services provider Velocity Resource Group has relocated its corporate headquarters from Illinois, creating 50 jobs. Currently leasing space in downtown, the firm plans a move to larger quarters by the end of 2017.

## TECHNOLOGY / R&amp;D

## KEY PLAYERS

**Nielsen Media Research** *Oldsmar*  
**ReliaQuest** *Tampa*  
**Vology** *Largo*

**LARGO** Vology, one of the nation's largest managed IT services providers, added 80 workers in 2016 and plans to add 200 more over the next 2-4 years. The company currently employs 310 in Pinellas County.

**TAMPA** ReliaQuest, a provider of cybersecurity solutions, has expanded operations for the second time since 2015. The firm is creating 150 jobs and has moved its headquarters to downtown Tampa to accommodate rapid growth.

**TAMPA** Iron Bow Technologies, a leading IT solutions provider for government, health care and commercial clients, has opened a Tampa Bay contact center and created 170 jobs.

**TAMPA** Global technology and software development company Vendita plans to relocate from Ohio and create 15 jobs by 2019, adding to its current staff of 14.

# Named #1 Hospital in Tampa Bay. And One of America's Best.



Once again, *U.S. News & World Report* named Tampa General Hospital the #1 Hospital in Tampa Bay and one of America's Best Hospitals in six specialties: Cardiology & Heart Surgery; Diabetes & Endocrinology; Gastroenterology & GI Surgery; Nephrology; Pulmonology; and Urology.

Explore more at [TGH.org](http://TGH.org)



Expert care. In your corner.™



Another “lazy”  
afternoon along  
Clearwater Beach

## Military might

The location of MacDill Air Force Base at the tip of a largely residential peninsula jutting out into Hillsborough Bay makes it easy to forget that this is a military town, and a mighty influential one at that. MacDill hosts the U.S. Central Command, responsible for security in 25 nations; the U.S. Special Operations Command, charged with overseeing the global war on terrorism; and the 6th Air Military Wing, which refuels military aircraft worldwide; not to mention almost 19,000 military and civilian personnel. Its economic impact on the region comes to nearly \$5 billion annually.



## Presenting: Water Street Tampa

The \$3-billion, mixed-use redevelopment project planned for downtown Tampa's Channel District — Water Street Tampa — will encompass more than 9 million square feet of new development on 50 contiguous acres, including 3,500 residential units, more than 800 hotel rooms and the University of South Florida's Morsani School of Medicine. Phase 1, consisting of concurrent vertical construction on 18 buildings spanning 10 city blocks, will begin in early 2018 and is scheduled for completion by 2021.

## A+ educational choices

Tampa Bay is home to 20 colleges and universities, the largest of which is the University of South Florida, serving more than 49,000 students across campuses in Tampa, St. Petersburg and Sarasota-Manatee. Here, too, is Florida's newest regionally accredited university, Florida Polytechnic, and Florida Southern College with the world's largest single-site collection of Frank Lloyd Wright architecture; both are in Lakeland. High schools in this region are worth bragging about too: four earned gold medals in *U.S. News & World Report's* “2017 Best High Schools” rankings, including Pine View School in Osprey, which at No. 13, was ranked the highest of all Florida high schools.

## Beaches to brag about

To boast that Tampa Bay has some of the best beaches anywhere is verifiable fact. Siesta Beach, south of Sarasota, is ranked No. 1 on TripAdvisor's “2017 Top 25 Beaches, U.S.,” and close on its heels are St. Pete Beach at No. 3 and Clearwater Beach at No. 4. And by the way, Siesta Beach is both No. 5 on TripAdvisor's “2017 Top 25 World Beaches” (the only U.S. beach to make that list) and No. 1 on Stephen Leatherman's (aka “Dr. Beach”) list of America's 10 best beaches, which also includes Caladesi Island State Park in Dunedin/Clearwater at No. 7.

## Batter up!

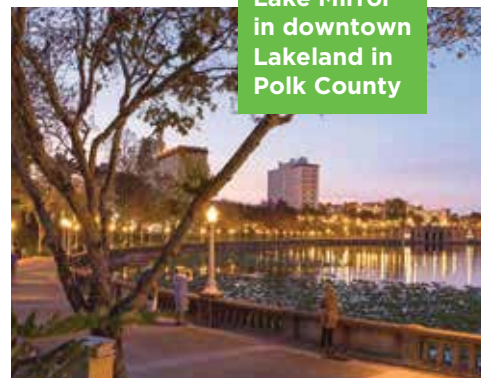
The city of North Port in south Sarasota County is close to finalizing a deal to bring Atlanta Braves spring training baseball to a 70-acre site near the State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota campus. Ground-breaking for the \$75- to \$80-million complex that will include an 8,000-seat stadium, practice facilities and public multi-use fields is expected in fall 2017 with completion to follow by February 2019.



## Welcome home

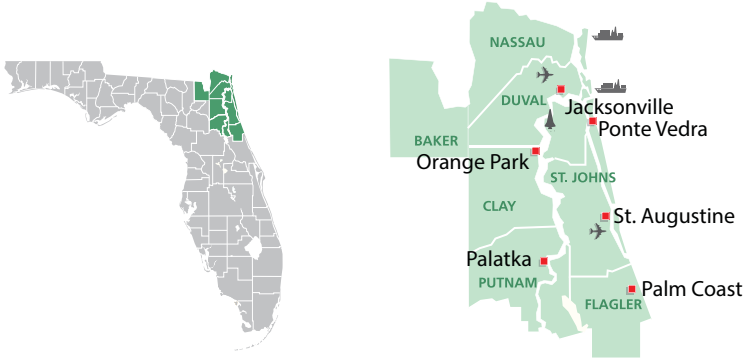
Located midway between Tampa and Orlando, location is today Polk County's greatest asset. The county has become a distribution hub with an integrated logistics center and warehouse space for tenants like Amazon and Walmart. And with 500+ lakes, Detroit Tiger baseball each spring and attractions like Legoland Florida and the annual SUN 'n FUN Fly-In Expo, it's a pretty great place to live.

Lake Mirror  
in downtown  
Lakeland in  
Polk County



# NORTHEAST

COUNTIES BAKER • CLAY • DUVAL • FLAGLER  
NASSAU • PUTNAM • ST. JOHNS



**At 875 square miles,** Jacksonville is the largest city by land area in the continental U.S. and the fifth fastest-growing, according to a 2017 list compiled by *Forbes*.

**Business Insider ranks Jacksonville No. 2** on its list of “10 U.S. cities where everyone wants to live right now” based on migration and population data from realtor.com.

**24 Jacksonville-area firms** made the 2017 Inc. 5000 list of fastest-growing U.S. companies. Ponte Veda Beach-based E-file.com grew by 4,000% in three years.

## KEY DEMOGRAPHICS

Population / **1,658,799**  
Labor Force / **806,615**  
Households / **680,130**  
Total Earnings / **\$44.03 bil.**  
Median Per Capita Income / **\$39,855**  
Total Retail Sales / **\$23.89 bil.**

## KEY ASSETS

Universities/Colleges / **9**  
Commercial Airports / **2**  
Seaports / **2**  
Spaceport / **1**

## On the Move

Offering direct trade with Asian ports through both the Panama and Suez Canals, JAXPORT has recorded an average of 21% annual growth in Asian container volumes since 2013.



## LOGISTICS / TRANSPORTATION

**JACKSONVILLE** UPS will invest \$196 million to expand its ground package hub with the addition of advanced technology and operations automation. Scheduled for completion in fall 2019, the expansion will allow for a 33% increase in processing to more than 80,000 packages per hour.

**JACKSONVILLE** 2016 was a banner year for JAXPORT, which moved a record 968,270 TEUs and saw 19% growth in its container trade with Asia. Since entering this sector in 2009, Asian trade accounts for 36% of JAXPORT's total cargo business. Also recorded in 2016: double-digit growth in automobile imports. State-of-the-art, 100-gauge cranes, capable of lifting up to 65 tons, began operation in December 2016.

### KEY PLAYERS

**Crowley Marine Corp** Jacksonville  
**Landstar System** Jacksonville  
**Volkswagen Group of America** Jacksonville

**JACKSONVILLE** In November 2016, Crowley Maritime was awarded a contract to provide transportation and related services supporting Department of Defense activities in the U.S. and Canada. The contract could be worth up to \$2.3 billion over seven years and is expected to create 70 jobs.

### ST. JOHNS COUNTY

Burkhardt Distribution is constructing a 113,000-sq.-ft. office/warehouse to serve as company headquarters and distribution center; completion is set for late 2017.



↑ While construction continues toward a fall 2017 opening of its new 800,000-sq.-ft. fulfillment center near Jacksonville International Airport, Amazon announced plans to build a 1-million-sq.ft. fulfillment center on Jacksonville's west side. Total employment: 2,500.

## LIFE SCIENCES / HEALTH CARE

### KEY PLAYERS

**Baptist Health** Jacksonville  
**Johnson & Johnson Vision Care** Jacksonville  
**Mayo Clinic** Jacksonville

**JACKSONVILLE** With the opening of its administrative and operations center in April 2017, Formativ Health is on track to bring 500 jobs to northeast Florida. Providing insurance verification, scheduling and billing, the firm helps patients navigate large healthcare systems and allows doctors to focus on patient care.



**JACKSONVILLE** As construction continues on a \$100-million building for oncology, hematology and neurologic/neurosurgical care, Mayo Clinic has announced two more projects that will provide space for cardiovascular and cardio-thoracic surgery, laboratories, the spine center and pain rehabilitation programs. Since 2015, Mayo has committed to spending more than \$300 million on construction that will double its square footage and the number of patients that can be treated.

← Jacksonville's Baptist Health continues to strengthen its partnership with Houston-based MD Anderson Cancer Center with construction of the

330,000-sq.-ft. Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center directly across the street from a Baptist MD Anderson facility opened in 2015. Anticipated completion: June 2018.

## AVIATION / DEFENSE

### KEY PLAYERS

**Embraer Defense & Security** Jacksonville  
**FlightStar Aircraft Services** Jacksonville  
**Kaman Aircraft** Jacksonville  
**Northrop Grumman** Jacksonville

**JACKSONVILLE** GRACE Aerospace is expanding its product manufacturing operations at Cecil Commerce Center and adding 25 jobs. The firm makes wire harnesses and other electronic equipment for military aircraft suppliers, including Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and BAE Systems.

**JACKSONVILLE** BAE Systems has begun modernization of the U.S. Navy's USS Roosevelt guided missile destroyer at its Jacksonville shipyard. Anticipated completion: April 2018.

**JACKSONVILLE** Mayport Naval Station became homeport for a squadron of U.S. Navy littoral combat ships in December 2016 as base officials welcomed the USS Milwaukee and USS Detroit. Three more ships are expected within a year. Smaller and faster than aircraft carriers, LCS vessels are designed to operate close to shore using steerable jet propulsion rather than propellers.

**CLAY COUNTY** Fleet Readiness Center Southeast is consolidating offices on and near NAS Jacksonville to an 18,000-sq.ft. building in Orange Park. The firm currently employs 3,000 military and 1,000 civilian personnel; the move is expected to create 70 jobs.

## CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

### KEY PLAYERS

<b>CSX Jacksonville</b>	<b>Southeastern Grocers Jacksonville</b>
<b>Fidelity National Information Services Jacksonville</b>	<b>Stein Mart Jacksonville</b>



**YULEE**  
Timber giant Rayonier will move its headquarters to a

site in Nassau County that will bring three offices and 145 employees under one roof. Economic development officials hope the move will be a catalyst for growth in the community of Wildlight, a 2,900-acre mixed-use development that offers highway access, links to three deep water ports and 131 acres adjacent to rail lines.

## MANUFACTURING

### KEY PLAYERS

**Georgia Pacific Palatka**  
**Maxwell House Jacksonville**  
**Swisher International Group Jacksonville**

**JACKSONVILLE** A new aluminum bottle line was officially opened in May 2017 at Anheuser-Busch's Metal Container Corporation facility representing a \$175-million investment and the creation of 75 jobs.

### FERNANDINA BEACH

LignoTech, a joint venture of Rayonier Advanced Materials and Borregaard, will build a \$135-million plant to manufacture lignin, an environmentally friendly alternative to many of the oil-based products used in construction and agriculture. The facility is expected to open in 2018 and create 50 jobs.

### GREEN COVE SPRINGS

Forterra Building Products expects to create up to 150 jobs by 2019 as it ramps up production at the former Hanson Building Products plant in Clay County. Forterra specializes in the production of precast concrete piping for infrastructure projects.

### JACKSONVILLE

German surgical technology company KLS Martin will open its first U.S. manufacturing plant with a focus on 3-D printing and milling of products for reconstructive surgery; 25 jobs are expected.

### PALM COAST

Boat upholstery manufacturer Gioia Sales South will double in size and add 10 jobs to its staff of 43 as it constructs a 25,000-sq.-ft. facility on Commerce Boulevard.

## BUSINESS / FINANCIAL SERVICES

**JACKSONVILLE** Global professional services provider Genpact is expanding its U.S. presence with the opening of a delivery center on the city's southside. The firm employs 77,000 worldwide; plans call for adding 200 at the Jacksonville site within its first year of operation.

### KEY PLAYERS

**Citi Jacksonville**  
**Deutsche Bank Jacksonville**  
**Fidelity National Financial Jacksonville**

**JACKSONVILLE** Deutsche Bank's largest U.S. office outside of Wall Street contin-

ues to grow, adding 150,000 square feet and 350 jobs; the German-based bank employs 1,800+ in the region.

**JACKSONVILLE** Citi has brought another 800 jobs to its credit care operations center, which already employs about 4,000.

# JAXPORT

## INVESTING FOR YOUR FUTURE

**\$1.5 billion has been invested in Northeast Florida's transportation network, with another \$1 billion pledged for the future.**



**FLORIDA'S No. 1 CONTAINER PORT**  
**NATION'S No. 2 VEHICLE PORT**  
**SPECIALTY CARGO EXPERTS**  
**DEEPENING FOR BIG SHIPS**



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**JAXPORT.COM**



Evening sidewalk dining in St. Augustine

## Plenty to see and do

Stretch out on 90 miles of sand along the Atlantic, including TripAdvisor's No. 8 top U.S. beach, St. Augustine. Browse the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens in Jacksonville. Step back in time at the Civil War Battlefield in Olustee or the Victorian seaport village of Fernandina Beach. And explore the quaint narrow streets and historic sites of St. Augustine to find out firsthand why *Condé Nast Traveler* named this small city one of America's 10 best.

## Stellar schools

Seven of this region's high schools earned gold medals in *U.S. News & World Report's* "2017 Best High Schools" rankings; University of North Florida's Coggin College of Business was named one of the nation's best business schools by *The Princeton Review* for the 10th consecutive year; and coming soon: a downtown satellite campus of Jacksonville University offering health care and business courses to about 100 students and a north Florida division of Florida State University's Jim Moran Institute of Global Entrepreneurship.

UNF's Coggin College of Business

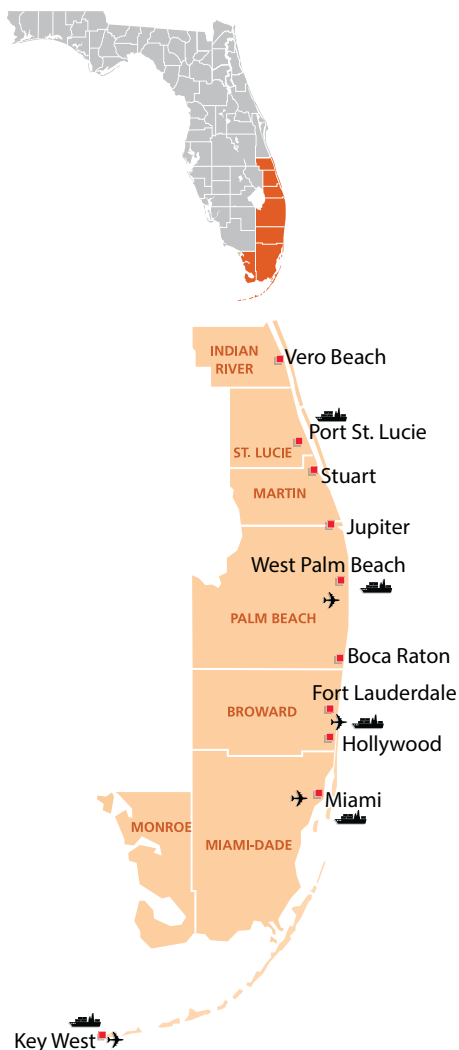


## Sports and recreation

Reasons to cheer in Florida's Northeast include: the NFL Jacksonville Jaguars, the AFL Jacksonville Sharks, the North American Soccer League's Jacksonville Armada FC, AA baseball's Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp and one of college sports' biggest rivalries, the Florida-Georgia Football Classic. Golf is always in season here at more than 80 courses, including TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra where The Players PGA Tournament is held in May.

# SOUTHEAST

COUNTIES BROWARD • INDIAN RIVER • MARTIN  
MIAMI-DADE • MONROE • PALM BEACH • ST. LUCIE



## Sailing Ahead

PortMiami was the world's busiest cruise port in 2016, logging 4.98 million multi-day passengers, up 1.5% over 2015. Counts could soar even higher when Royal Caribbean Cruises opens a \$200-million terminal to accommodate its largest cruise ships in 2018.

### KEY DEMOGRAPHICS

Population / **6,762,235**

Labor Force / **3,370,328**

Households / **2,673,807**

Total Earnings / **\$188.3 bil.**

Median Per Capita Income / **\$67,096**

Total Retail Sales / **\$119.05 bil.**

### KEY ASSETS

Universities/Colleges / **19**

Commercial Airports / **4**

Seaports / **5**

**Miami-Fort Lauderdale overtook** Austin in 2017 to become No. 1 for business startup activity among the nation's 40 largest metro areas; on average, 560 residents per 100,000 here become entrepreneurs every month; 81% of them are driven by opportunity rather than necessity.  
*Kauffman 2017 Index of Startup Activity*

**23% of southeast Florida residents** are foreign-born and Hispanics are the most prevalent immigrant group, making up 68% of the population in Miami-Dade County alone.

U.S. Census Bureau

## TECHNOLOGY / R&amp;D

## KEY PLAYERS

**ADT** *Boca Raton*  
**Citrix Systems** *Fort Lauderdale*  
**Microsoft Latin America**  
*Fort Lauderdale*

**SUNRISE** Synechron has added 50 software developers and engineers to its workforce of 33 in Broward County. The firm employs more than 8,000 financial services specialists at its 18 offices worldwide.

**HOLLYWOOD** RMS International has relocated with 30 employees to the downtown business district. The global toy design/fabrication firm has working relationships with Disney, Marvel, Hello Kitty and other industry icons.

**MIRAMAR** Cable giant Comcast is adding 600 employees in Miramar as part of a nationwide effort to improve customer service. Comcast currently employs more than 30,000 workers in Florida and, since 1996, has invested more than \$8.5 billion in technology and infrastructure in the state.

**SUMMERLAND KEY** Mote Marine Laboratory opened its \$7-million International Center for Coral Reef Research and Restoration in the Florida Keys in May 2017. Built to withstand a category 5 hurricane, the 19,000-sq.-ft. center more than doubles the size of the facility it replaces, allowing Mote to expand the number, size and duration of its experiments aimed at protecting and restoring Florida's coral reef.



↑ **Nova Southeastern University (NSU)** opened its \$80-million Center for Collaborative Research in September 2017 near NSU's Health Professions Division complex on its Fort Lauderdale/Davie campus. The six-story structure houses commercial enterprises, incubators, the U.S. Geological Survey and six research institutes, including the AutoNation Institute for Breast and Solid Tumor Cancer Research, the Emil Buehler Research Center for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and NSU's Institute for Natural and Ocean Sciences Research.

## AVIATION / AEROSPACE

## KEY PLAYERS

**Embraer** *Fort Lauderdale*  
**HEICO Corporation** *Hollywood*  
**KLX Aerospace Solutions Group** *Miami*  
**Piper Aircraft** *Vero Beach*  
**Pratt & Whitney** *West Palm Beach*

**MIAMI** KLX Aerospace Solutions Group will add 100 employees with the expansion of its global headquarters and distribution center. A leading distributor of aerospace fasteners and consumables, KLX currently employs more than 650 Floridians.

**SUNRISE** Aviation Inflatables opened its south Florida headquarters in late 2016. The FAA-licensed repair station and reseller of passenger aircraft accessories and emergency evacuation equipment will add 40 jobs to its current staff of 69.



**PEMBROKE PINES** Broward College is now offering a degree in aerospace sciences for students seeking to study pilot and aviation management. Classes will be conducted at Broward College Aviation Institute.

**FORT LAUDERDALE** JetSmarter opened a corporate headquarters in September 2016. Offering travelers access to private jet services in more than 170 countries, JetSmarter allows users to charter planes via mobile app. Since its founding in 2013, JetSmarter has created more than 100 jobs in south Florida.

**STUART** Triumph Aerospace Structures was recognized by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for its stewardship and commitment to implementing environmental management policies. The manufacturer of fuselages, wings and other aerostructures for commercial, military and business jet aircraft opened here in 1950.

← **Aerolease Aviation of Miami** has signed a deal to purchase 10 MRJ90 regional jets from Mitsubishi Aircraft; delivery expected in 2018.

## ENERGY

## KEY PLAYER

**Florida Power & Light** *Juno Beach*

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY** Florida Power & Light (FPL) expects to begin generating 74.5 megawatts of power — enough to power 15,000 homes — from each of two Indian River-based solar plants in 2018. The Indian River Solar Energy Center is scheduled to become operational in January. The 432-acre Blue Cypress Solar Energy Center has a target opening date of April. Both will operate as universal solar centers — virtually silent and requiring neither water nor staff to operate.

**ST. LUCIE COUNTY** FPL's Loggerhead Solar Energy Center is scheduled for completion by March 2018. The site will generate 74.5 megawatts of zero-emissions electricity. FPL sites already operating in the region include:

- Martin Next Generation Solar Energy Center, a combination solar and natural gas facility, near Indiantown.
- SolarNow arrays at the Broward Young at Art Museum & Library in Davie and Palm Beach Zoo & Conservation Society.
- A solar research installation at Florida International University in Miami.

Miami International Airport

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## LOGISTICS / DISTRIBUTION

## KEY PLAYERS

DHL Solutions Americas *Plantation*  
 FedEx Express Latin America *Miami*  
 Ryder System *Miami*  
 Seaboard Marine *Miami*

**MIAMI-DADE** DB Schenker is consolidating and relocating its Americas headquarters to a site near Miami International Airport. With more than 10,000 employees and operations in Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Venezuela and the U.S., DB Schenker is one of the largest integrated logistics service providers in the Americas.

**MIAMI** Seaboard Marine completed construction in spring 2017 on an 11,000-cubic-ft., temperature-controlled cold chamber at PortMiami to provide a safe environment for storing delicate cargo as it undergoes customs inspection and transfer procedures.

**FORT LAUDERDALE** At Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport — Florida's third busiest — passenger traffic for 2016 was 29.2 million, up 8.4% from 2015. For a third consecutive year, international travel alone grew by 10%, helped by the addition of 12 international cities and two new carriers, Emirates Airlines and British Airways.

**BROWARD COUNTY** Port Everglades is moving forward with plans to build the Port Everglades International Logistics Center on 17 acres of port property west of McIntosh Road. Plans call for the center to include approximately 240,000 square feet of warehouse facilities with an attached 45,000-sq.-ft. office building; completion is anticipated by April 2019. Also in the works: the purchase of three low-profile Super Post Panamax gantry cranes capable of handling containers stacked eight units high as well as rail infrastructure to accommodate them, and the addition of five new berths for larger cargo ships.

**HOLLYWOOD** Online pet products retailer Chewy.com is bringing a customer service center and 1,100 jobs — an undisclosed amount of which will be new hires — to Hollywood before the end of 2017. The firm, which maintains a ready-to-ship stock of more than 18,000 items, was founded in south Florida in 2011 by millennial entrepreneurs who met in a computer chat room. Earlier in the year, Chewy announced plans to create 600 jobs at an e-commerce fulfillment center at Ocala in Florida's north central region. The firm's headquarters will remain in Dania Beach.



↑ Mitsui O.S.K. Lines' MOL Majesty was the first ship to call at PortMiami after passing through the Panama Canal's new, larger locks. In preparation for the arrival of post-Panamax ships, PortMiami spent \$1.3 billion dredging its shipping channel to a depth of 52 feet, buying larger cranes and building a tunnel that provides direct access between marine terminals and interstate highways.

**MIAMI-DADE** Amazon broke ground in June 2017 on an 800,000-sq.-ft. fulfillment center, its 10th Florida location and first mega warehouse in the southeast region. The new facility, located at the Carrie Meek International Business Park adjacent to Opa-Locka Executive Airport, is expected to open in 2018 and create 1,000 jobs. At the same time, Amazon Prime Now opened a hub in Miami's Wynwood neighborhood aimed at south Florida's Hispanic population.

**MEDLEY** San Diego, Ca.-based PriceSmart opened a 325,000-sq.-ft. distribution center in May 2017 that will serve 75 warehouse clubs across Latin America. The largest operator of membership warehouse clubs in Central America, Colombia and the Caribbean, PriceSmart has no storefronts in the U.S., but sells more than \$1 billion worth of U.S.-sourced merchandise annually and maintains a workforce of more than 200 at its Miami facilities.

← Home to 106 airlines — the most of any U.S. airport — Miami International continues to be Florida's busiest. In 2016, MIA welcomed 44.6 million passengers and 2.2 million tons of cargo. Since 2012, MIA has added 43 destinations, 36 of which are international. In April 2017, Icelandic low-cost carrier WOW began non-stop service to Reykjavik; El Al will begin non-stop flights to Tel Aviv in November 2017.



## LIFE SCIENCES / HEALTH CARE

### KEY PLAYERS

**Baptist Health South Florida**  
*Miami*

**University of Miami Health System**  
*Miami*

**Cancer Treatment Centers of America** *Boca Raton*

**MIRAMAR** As part of a \$184-million expansion, the largest Canadian-owned pharmaceutical company — Apotex — is constructing an R&D center and advanced manufacturing and packaging facility in Miramar that will serve as its U.S. headquarters and offices for Apobiologix, which is currently located in Weston; 150 full-time jobs are expected. Apotex produces more than 300 generic pharmaceuticals with an annual \$2 billion in worldwide sales.

**BOCA RATON** Health care IT firm Modernizing Medicine plans to expand operations in the historic Boca Raton Innovation Center in Palm Beach County and add a total of 838 jobs by 2022. Founded in 2010, Modernizing Medicine works with physicians to develop specialty-specific systems for more efficient management of their electronic health records. The company's many touch- and cloud-based products and services are programmed by a team that includes practicing physicians representing a variety of specialties, including dermatology, ophthalmology, orthopedics, pain management and plastic surgery.



↑ **Nicklaus Children's Hospital** in Miami, where even the CAT scan machine is designed with children in mind, is ranked among the top 50 "Best Children's Hospitals 2017-18" in eight specialties — the most of any pediatric hospital in Florida — including neurology, neonatology, urology, orthopedics and cardiology.

**CORAL SPRINGS** Cleveland Clinic Florida began work in April 2017 on a family health and ambulatory surgery center in Broward County. Scheduled to open in 2018, the center will include six operating rooms, 34 prep and recovery bays, two endoscopy suites, 40 exam rooms and imaging services.

**JUPITER** Pharmaceutical products firm CTD Holdings is growing its footprint in Florida with a corporate headquarters in Jupiter and 51 new jobs.

**MIAMI** For the 14th straight year, Miami's Bascom Palmer Eye Institute-Anne Bates Leach Eye Hospital was named the nation's No. 1 hospital for ophthalmology by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Baptist Health South Florida opened its \$430-million Miami Cancer Institute in January 2017. A member of the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Alliance (the only Florida institution so designated), the new interdisciplinary facility houses south Florida's first proton radiation therapy center. Proton therapy enables oncologists to target tumors with precisely aimed radiation in order to avoid damaging healthy cells. ↓



## CORPORATE / REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS

### KEY PLAYERS

**AutoNation** *Fort Lauderdale*

**NextEra Energy** *Juno Beach*

**World Fuel Services** *Miami*

**FORT LAUDERDALE** Fiber optics telecommunications provider Hotwire Communications has relocated its headquarters from Pennsylvania. Hotwire employs 300 Floridians, and with the opening of its new Hotwire Technology Center in Fort Lauderdale, expects to create 375 jobs.

**CORAL GABLES** Cosentino Group, a global leader in natural stone, quartz and recycled surfacing, is relocating its Americas headquarters from Texas and adding 85 jobs. The family-owned, Spain-based firm employs 60 Floridians at distribution centers in Orlando, Fort Lauderdale and Lauderdale and plans to open a design center in Miami's Design District.

**SUNRISE** After nearly two years of construction, American Express has moved into its \$200-million, 400,000-sq.-ft. regional headquarters. The third largest employer in Broward County, American Express will house 3,000 customer service, marketing, HR and legal services employees in the new space.

**MIAMI** Norfolk, Va.-based Boats Group, a leading online marketplace for buying and selling boats, has moved its corporate headquarters to Florida, where approximately a quarter of its customers are already located, and has begun filling an anticipated 80 jobs.

### PALM BEACH GARDENS

Construction continues at United Technologies' headquarters and product showcase for its Climate Controls and Security division at I-95 and Donald Ross Road. The \$115-million development is expected to create 380 jobs.



Hollywood Circle will offer residential, hotel, retail and a new Publix right in the heart of Downtown.

# DOWNTOWN HOLLYWOOD

## The Suite Life.

### A Destination for Business



Parc Place



This mural from artists "The London Police" — one of more than two dozen pieces in the Downtown Hollywood Mural Project — was inspired by the city's downtown and oceanfront vibe.

Florida's Hollywood is bustling with business — and opportunity. For more information, visit [HollywoodCRA.org](http://HollywoodCRA.org)

Entrepreneurs, CEOs, emerging startups, creative professionals, and others looking for the ideal live, work, play destination in a tropical urban environment need look no further than Downtown Hollywood in Florida's Hollywood.

Hollywood encompasses 27 square miles along the Atlantic Ocean between Miami and Fort Lauderdale. The Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport lies along the city's northern limits. Port Everglades, one of the world's busiest cruise ports, lies primarily within the city's boundaries. In addition, I-95, US-1, Florida's Turnpike, Tri-Rail, Amtrak, and public transportation provide convenient accessibility from Hollywood to the rest of the country.

"We have office professionals, retail and services, restaurants, art galleries, entertainment, and business friendly leadership," says Jorge Camejo, executive director of the Hollywood Community Redevelopment Agency. "Downtown Hollywood, our central business district, has the perfect amenities, services, and attractions to help any business thrive."

#### The Location for Your Vocation

Downtown Hollywood is one of South Florida's fastest growing business districts. Innovative and creative companies that have recently relocated here include:

> **RMS International** The global toy design and fabrication company that has relationships with Disney, Marvel, and Hello Kitty is bringing 30 creative employees to its new high energy, ultra-modern downtown workplace.

> **Büro** The shared workspace concept caters to entrepreneurs, freelancers and young professionals who seek to work, live and play in proximity to a thriving downtown.

> **O'Connell & Goldberg Public Relations** The long-time public relations and marketing firm relocated to the heart of Downtown into its new, open-concept, pet-friendly office with antique windows and doors, brick walls, wood floors, and exposed ceilings.

> **The Rolon Group** A full-service and digital agency that provides call center and technology services calls Downtown Hollywood home.

The office set enjoys the variety of restaurants and cafés in walking distance that offer lunch, dinner and happy hour specials: American English Kitchen + Bar, The Little Sugars, La Bonne Adresse, and Pesce & Pasta Italian Fusion Cuisine. These join long-time eateries The Greek Joint, Runa's Peruvian Cuisine, Mama Mia's Italian Ristorante, Shabo's BBQ, Whiskey Tango, and the festive happy hour at the Topsy Boar Gastropub.

There is no shortage of entertainment for after work. Cinema Paradiso Art House Theater, The Art & Culture Center of Hollywood, Boxroom Escape Games, a variety of art galleries, nightlife, and special events offer a selection of options.

### New Luxury Apartments and Hotels Transform Downtown

Downtown Hollywood's skyline is growing around Young Circle. Buildings rising or being renovated include:

> **Hollywood Circle.** Expected to open this fall, the development will bring 397 luxury residential units, a 104-room boutique hotel and 58,000 square feet of ground-floor retail, including a new Publix Super Market.

> **Parc Place.** Hollywood natives know this as the property that includes the Hollywood Bread Building. The development will deliver more than 400 apartments with commercial and retail space, as well as an artist loft and ground-floor shared gallery space.

Millions more in commercial, office, retail, and residential developments are planned throughout Downtown Hollywood's footprint.

### Award-Winning Downtown Hollywood Mural Project

Although home to numerous galleries, Downtown Hollywood's largest canvas is its exterior building walls. The Downtown Hollywood Mural Project features more than 24 contemporary murals at key locations, enhancing and enriching the cultural fabric of the community.

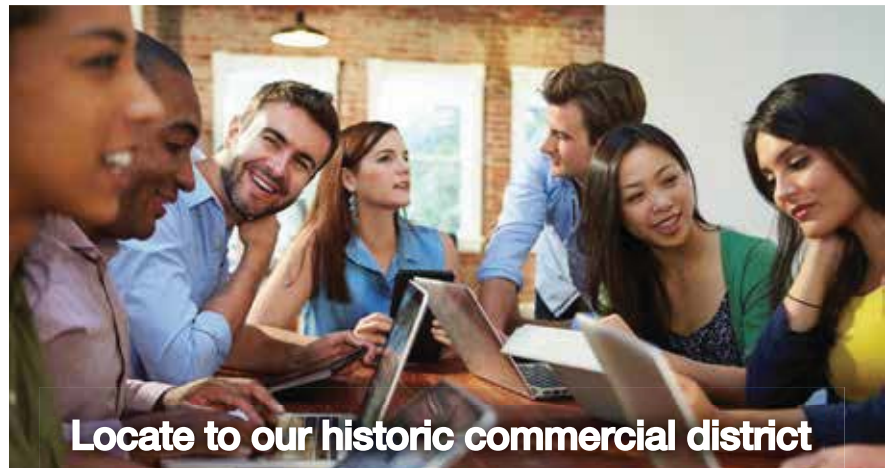
### Public Investment in Downtown Hollywood

From the Boulevard to the Beach, Florida's Hollywood is investing in tomorrow — today. Downtown Hollywood will be illuminated with strings of light and updated with fresh landscaping. Along its famed beachfront to the east, Hollywood's A1A Streetscape project, with new pavers and lighting, will meet the needs of cars, cyclists and pedestrians alike. Newly-designed lifeguard towers and first aid stations are planned to give the beach an iconic appeal.



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**Everglades  
National  
Park**

## Naturally good-looking, too

Southeast Florida has a reputation for glitz and glam, but natural wonders also can be found here. The region boasts three national parks: Biscayne (within the Miami city limits); Everglades (just a short drive west of the city); and Dry Tortugas (a dot in the ocean 70 miles from Key West). Also in this region: three of TripAdvisor's 2017 "Top 25 Beaches, U.S." — Hollywood and Fort Lauderdale Beach in Broward County (Nos. 6 and 11, respectively) and South Beach in Miami-Dade (No. 12).

## Widely respected educational options

Twenty-one Southeast Florida high schools earned gold medals in *U.S. News & World Report's* "2017 Best High Schools" rankings; nine were among the top 100. This region is also home to 19 not-for-profit colleges, including the University of Miami, site of the UM Life Science & Technology Park (recently renamed Converge Miami). Also in this region: Florida International University, ranked No. 5 for its international business programs on *U.S. News & World Report's* "Best Colleges 2017"; Broward College and Indian River State College, both finalists for the 2017 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence; Miami Dade College, with eight campuses and an entrepreneurial center; and, opening in Miami's Wynwood neighborhood in fall 2017, Miami College of Design, the state's first college devoted to industrial design.

## Fun for all

Southeast Florida is packed with things to see and do. People watch over "con leche and a Cuban" or a cocktail and conch fritters at one of many seaside venues. Shop for designer togs along Worth Avenue in Palm Beach, or for bargains at Sawgrass Mills outlet mall in Sunrise. Take a leisurely drive down U.S. 1 to Key West for great history, sunsets and underwater adventure — the world's third largest coral barrier reef system is just a few miles offshore. Get close to nature as you kayak the Indian River Lagoon or enjoy an air-boat tour of the Everglades. Play a round of golf or watch the pros compete in your favorite team sport; depending on the season, there's football, hockey, baseball, basketball and soccer to enjoy.

## Young, smart and urban-oriented

Young professionals are flocking to Miami's central business district — and not just for jobs. A report from Miami's Downtown Development Authority shows an urban population increase of 33% since 2010 in the 3.8-square-mile area that includes the central business district as well as the Brickell, Overtown, Wynwood, Midtown, Edgewater and Arts & Entertainment neighborhoods. Current estimates put the population here at 88,540, with projections to reach 100,000+ by 2021. Almost half of downtown residents are age 25-44 and well-educated — 29% have an undergraduate degree; another 22% hold graduate degrees.

## Browsing and buying at Art Basel

The contemporary art fair that helped put south Florida's arts and culture scene on the international map continues to draw crowds to the Miami Beach Convention Center every December. More than 250 galleries from 30+ nations exhibit, and some 70,000 art dealers, artists, collectors and aficionados come to browse and buy.



**Frost  
Museum  
of Science**

## On Exhibit

The long-awaited 250,000-sq.-ft. Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science has opened at Miami's Museum Park. Highlights include a 250-seat planetarium, one of only 13 world-wide equipped with an advanced 8K projection system, and a three-level 500,000-gallon aquarium where sharks, rays and other sea creatures can be viewed from an open-air deck or through a 31-foot-wide lens.



## THE POWER OF A LEADING WORLD PORT

At Port Everglades, we move more than 24 million tons and nearly 4 million cruise and ferry passengers, generating \$30 billion in economic activity for Broward County. Our ongoing investment in port improvements will generate 7,000 direct jobs in Broward County and 135,000 jobs statewide. Discover how Florida's Powerhouse Port generates big economic advantages that flow right into our community. Visit us at [porteverglades.net](http://porteverglades.net) or call 800-421-0188.



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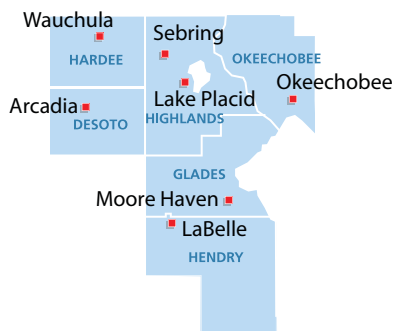
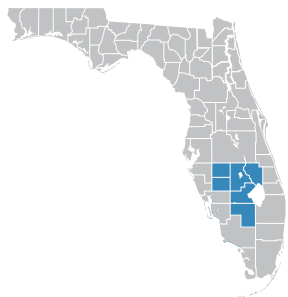
[PortEvergladesFL](https://www.youtube.com/PortEvergladesFL) |



[port-everglades](https://www.linkedin.com/company/port-everglades)

# SOUTH CENTRAL

COUNTIES DESOTO • GLADES • HARDEE  
HENDRY • HIGHLANDS • OKEECHOBEE



SOUTH CENTRAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

## KEY DEMOGRAPHICS

Population / **257,651**  
Labor Force / **96,860**  
Households / **104,061**  
Total Earnings / **\$3.71 bil.**  
Median Per Capita Income / **\$28,306**  
Total Retail Sales / **\$2.62 bil.**

## KEY ASSETS

State College / **1**

**Average population density** here is 49.8. At just 17 persons per square mile, Highlands County has the most room to grow.

**52% of Hendry County residents are of Hispanic descent** compared to 24% statewide; next closest in South Central is Hardee County with a 43% Latino concentration.  
U.S. Census Bureau

## ENERGY

### KEY PLAYERS

**Florida Power & Light** *Juno Beach*  
**Seminole Electric Cooperative** *Tampa*

**DESOTO COUNTY** Florida Power & Light (FPL) expects to begin generating 74.5 megawatts of power — enough for 15,000 homes — from its Wildflower Solar Energy Center by 2018. The state's first solar plant, DeSoto Solar Energy Center, opened here in 2009, and the Citrus Solar Energy Center opened in 2016. DeSoto generates more solar power than any other Florida county.

**HENDRY COUNTY** Currently under construction, FPL's Hammock Solar Energy Center is expected to begin generating 74.5 megawatts of power in spring 2018. Like the DeSoto plant, the Hendry facility will operate as a universal solar center — virtually silent and requiring no water or staff to operate.

**HARDEE COUNTY** Seminole Electric Cooperative unveiled a solar facility in December 2016 on the grounds of its natural gas-fired Midulla Generating Station in Bowling Green. With more than 8,000 panels, the 2.2-megawatt facility is the utility's first large-scale solar project. Seminole Electric provides power for more than 1.6 million Floridians through nine member-owned distribution cooperatives, including Glades Electric Cooperative in Moore Haven and Peace River Electric Cooperative in Wauchula.

## MANUFACTURING

### KEY PLAYERS

**Entegra Roof Tile** *Okeechobee*  
**Pacer Marine** *Bowling Green*  
**UTC Aerospace Systems** *Lake Suzy*

**CLEWISTON** Aluminum recycling and manufacturing firm ATIO USA will open a \$26-million manufacturing facility in Hendry County; 39 jobs paying an average yearly wage of \$42,000 are expected.

## Energized for Growth

Florida utilities have found South Central Florida, with its abundance of wide-open space and sunshine, an ideal environment for solar power plants. Three are up and running; two more will be completed before spring 2018.



# For Business Locations, Florida's Heartland is The Ultimate Destination.



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ON TWO COASTS**



**4 MAJOR INTERSTATE  
HIGHWAYS**



**19 AIRPORTS  
(8 ARE INTERNATIONAL)**



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## AGRIBUSINESS

### KEY PLAYERS

**Mac-Bee Harvesting** *Arcadia*

**The Mosaic Company**  
*Wauchula*

**United States Sugar**  
*Clewiston*

### HIGHLANDS COUNTY

CitraPac, maker of Fruit Pearls real-fruit frozen snacks, has completed construction on its 42,000-sq.-ft. manufacturing facility at Sebring Commerce Park and continues to hire workers. The facility is expected to generate 240 jobs at full production.



↑ Arcadia Construction broke ground in January 2017 on a new home for the Arcadia All-Florida Championship Rodeo, Florida's longest-running and largest rodeo event. The \$7-million Mosaic Arena will replace the arena built in 1959 and boost capacity to 7,800 seats. Anticipated completion is fall 2017, well ahead of the 90th annual event scheduled for March 2018.

## LIFE SCIENCES / HEALTH CARE

### KEY PLAYERS

**DeSoto Memorial Hospital**  
*Arcadia*

**Florida Hospital Heartland Medical Center** *Sebring, Lake Placid*

**Florida Hospital Wauchula**  
*Wauchula*

**Florida Institute for Neurologic Rehabilitation**  
*Wauchula*

**SEBRING** Florida Hospital Heartland Medical Center Sebring was one of four medical centers in the U.S. selected to perform live case transmissions for the annual Complex Cardiovascular Catheter Therapeutics' Advanced Endovascular and Coronary Intervention Global Summit (C3). Three procedures performed at the

hospital's Heart & Vascular Center were transmitted via satellite in June 2017 to the C3 summit attended by more than 1,500 physicians in Orlando.

**WAUCHULA** Florida Hospital Wauchula is on track to complete construction of a \$32-million state-of-the-art building by December 2017.

## LOGISTICS

### KEY PLAYERS

**Walmart Distribution Center**  
*Arcadia*

**Walpole** *Okeechobee*

**MOORE HAVEN** Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores opened in March 2017 at Americas Gateway Logistics Center (AGLC) along U.S. 27 and State Road 78 in Glades County. Love's 14th travel stop in Florida and the first tenant at AGLC's master-planned industrial campus, the new facility offers food and fuel for all motorists, plus showers and parking for long-haul truckers. AGLC offers 770+ acres of industrial distribution and manufacturing space, including commercial frontage on U.S. 27 and rail access.

## AVIATION

### KEY PLAYER

**Paradise Aircraft USA** *Sebring*

**SEBRING** Pictaio Aerospace has relocated from Iowa to Sebring Regional Airport after teaming up with the Spanish gyroplane manufacturer ELA Aviation. Founded in 2012, Pictaio offers gyroplane sales, service and pilot training; CEO Chris Lord has flown more than two dozen types of gyroplanes and is an FAA Designated Pilot Examiner.

**SEBRING** In May 2017, Sebring Airport Authority and the City of Sebring hosted the mayor of Anyang City and delegates from the Aero Sport Association, People's Republic of China. The purpose of the meeting was to develop a relationship between the cities and strengthen their aviation industries. Widely considered the general aviation capital of China, Anyang has established similar relationships with just 28 cities worldwide.

## LIFE & LEISURE

## Festivals aplenty

Whatever the season, there is something worthy of public celebration at a South Central Florida festival: swamp cabbage (LaBelle), speckled perch (Okeechobee), caladiums (Lake Placid), sour oranges (Lakeport) and alligator hatching (Palmdale), to name a few. The four-day Okeechobee Music & Arts Festival drew 25,000 concert-goers in spring 2017 to the 800-acre Sunshine Grove site.



**Okeechobee Music & Arts Festival**

## New golfing challenge

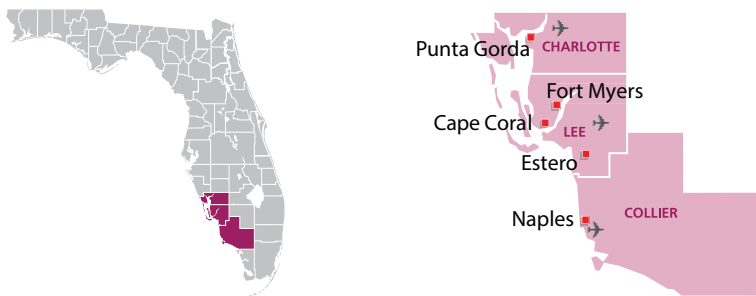
Named to *Forbes'* list of most eagerly awaited golf courses, Streamsong Black debuts in fall 2017 at Mosaic's Streamsong Resort in Bowling Green. Designed by Gil Hanse, designer of the 2016 Olympics course in Rio de Janeiro and Castle Stuart Golf Links in Scotland, the par-73 course joins the acclaimed Streamsong Red and Streamsong Blue courses at the resort.

## Real Florida adventure

South Central offers a slice of "old Florida" and plenty of fun. Go antiquing in Arcadia; peruse one man's collection of quirky sculptures at Solomon's Castle near Wauchula; don a bright red nose in Lake Placid at a school where dozens of clowns have trained; paddle your way down the Peace River; get LOST (otherwise known as "take a hike along the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail"); learn about the first Floridians from the things they left behind now on display at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum at Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation in Clewiston; and stick around after dark to enjoy some of Florida's best stargazing at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park.

# SOUTHWEST

COUNTIES CHARLOTTE • COLLIER • LEE



**The Cape Coral-Fort Myers metro area** tops *Forbes'* 2017 list of America's fastest growing cities. Anticipated growth: population, 3.6%; employment, 3.8%; output 6.8% (thanks to expanding hospitality and housing markets).

**Collier County boasts the highest per capita income** in Florida (\$71,596), 7th highest proportion of millionaires in the U.S. and best health. For the 2nd year in a row, Naples-Immokalee-Marco Island was named America's healthiest, happiest community. Gallup-Healthways State of America Well-Being 2016

## KEY DEMOGRAPHICS

Population / **1,265,937**

Labor Force / **565,401**

Households / **540,711**

Total Earnings / **\$26.1 bil.**

Median Per Capita Income / **\$45,821**

Total Retail Sales / **\$20.75 bil.**

## KEY ASSETS

Universities/Colleges / **4**

Commercial Airports / **2**

## Going Strong

The livin' is easy and rewarding in southwest Florida where a vibrant economy and good health habits work hand in hand.



## LIFE SCIENCES / HEALTH CARE

## KEY PLAYERS

*Arthrex Naples**Lee Memorial Health System  
Fort Myers**NCH Healthcare System Naples*

**LEE COUNTY** Lee Memorial Health System continues to expand. In early 2017, Lee Health opened its 128-bed, \$242-million Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida. The facility features a pediatric emergency department and a 64-room neonatal ICU. Also construction began at Lee Health-Coconut Point, a 163,000-sq.-ft. outpatient campus expected to open in fall 2018. Coming next: an additional 24,000 square feet at Lee Health's Regional Cancer Center to accommodate a larger

pharmacy, genetic counseling services and palliative care.

**FORT MYERS** Florida Gulf Coast University has opened a genetic research center at its newly completed Emergent Technologies Institute. The Clinical & Transitional Research Institute will work with health care providers to study best methods for prescribing commonly used drugs based on a patient's genetic makeup.

**NAPLES** Wolford College, a singularly focused private school in Naples, produces a fifth of the nurse anesthetists that are trained annually in Florida. Enrollment in Wolford's 28-month master's degree program is limited to 64 students a year.



↑ Arthrex will expand its operations in North Naples with an investment of \$63 million and the creation of 560 jobs. A global leader in arthroscopic surgery and developer of more than 9,500 orthopedics surgical procedures and products, Arthrex employs 2,300+ in southwest Florida and trains 6,000 physicians annually.

## LOGISTICS / TRANSPORTATION

## KEY PLAYERS

*Allyn International Fort Myers**Cheney Brothers Punta Gorda**R+L Global Logistics Fort Myers*

**FORT MYERS** Southwest Florida International Airport broke two records in 2016 — largest number of passengers served in a year (8.6 million) and single-largest month for passenger traffic (nearly 1.3 million in March alone). Twelve carriers offer non-stop flights to five international and more than 40 U.S. destinations.

**PUNTA GORDA** Food products distribution firm Cheney Brothers Inc., which opened a 345,000-sq.-ft. distribution center along I-75 in Charlotte County in 2015, has exceeded its goal of creating 380 jobs within five years and continues to grow. Cheney exports food products worldwide and serves customers in Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas from distribution centers in Ocala, Orlando, Miami and Punta Gorda.



↑ Punta Gorda Airport experienced its busiest year in 2016 and continues to grow. The 1.1 million passengers served in 2016 represented a 34% increase over the previous year. Frontier Airlines launched air service from Punta Gorda in fall 2016 with non-stop flights to Chicago O'Hare, Philadelphia and Trenton, N.J., and beginning in fall 2017, Allegiant Air will add five non-stop routes to its current 32.

## TECHNOLOGY / FINANCE

## KEY PLAYERS

*ACI Worldwide Naples**ASG Technologies Naples**Gartner Fort Myers*

**BONITA SPRINGS** Software solutions provider eMaint Enterprises has been named to Deloitte's list of fastest growing tech companies in North America for the fourth consecutive year. In 2016, the Florida-based firm, which was recently acquired by Fluor Corp., a global leader in

electronic test tools and software, relocated to Bonita Springs and added 150 jobs.

**NAPLES** Electronic payments firm ACI Worldwide will spend \$1.5 million to expand operations and double its staff with 57 jobs. From its headquarters in Naples, ACI powers electronic payments totaling up to \$14 trillion per day for some 5,100 organizations. One of the Gulf Coast's largest companies by revenue, ACI is No. 18 on the latest IDC Financial Insights 2016 Fintech Rankings.

**FORT MYERS** Tech research and advisory firm Gartner plans its fourth expansion here since 2012. This latest development, an investment of more than \$21 million, is expected to create 600 jobs in sales, client service, research and finance. A fixture in southwest Florida for nearly 20 years, Gartner employs almost 9,000 associates across the globe. The Fort Myers office is its second-largest with a staff of more than 1,100.

# Cape Coral:

## Ideal for Biotech Startup and Expansion



Since 1998, Ecological Laboratories has been expanding its research, manufacturing and distribution center in Cape Coral. The creator of sustainable, all-natural solutions for water quality issues and soil enhancements is undertaking its sixth expansion to increase its facilities to 78,000 square feet.

Cape Coral is an ideal fit for biotech research, development and light manufacturing because there is plenty of room to grow. Cape Coral is a 120-square mile city—the third largest geographically in the state—but it is only 50 percent built out. Matt Richter, of Ecological Laboratories, says it's easy to attract new hires to Cape Coral thanks to its unparalleled natural amenities. "We live where people vacation," Richter explains.

Cape Coral is ranked the No. 1 fastest-growing metro area in the nation. Bring your vision to Cape Coral—a unique community where you can begin to relax the moment you step out of your lab or office.



Cape Coral  
Economic Development Office  
+1 (239) 574-0444  
[ecodev@capecoral.net](mailto:ecodev@capecoral.net)  
[bizcapecoral.com](http://bizcapecoral.com)

## MANUFACTURING

## KEY PLAYERS

Fox Electronics *Fort Myers*Pelican Wire *Naples*S4J Manufacturing *Cape Coral*

**CAPE CORAL** Custom boat builder Nor-Tech will establish its world headquarters at North Cape industrial park with construction of a 45,000-sq.-ft. manufacturing facility; 150 jobs are expected.

## TOURISM / HOSPITALITY

## KEY PLAYERS

Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa  
*Bonita Springs*Marco Island Marriott Beach Resort  
*Marco Island*Ritz Carlton *Naples*South Seas Island Resort  
*Captiva Island*

**CHARLOTTE COUNTY** Tourism officials have begun marketing Charlotte County as one of the best places in Florida for outdoor recreation with the tag line “Our Best Side Is Outside.” The county offers 28 miles of sandy beaches and 53 canoe and kayak “blueway” trails totaling more than 190 miles.



↑ Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa has opened a \$7.1-million water park that includes three-story water slides and a heated lazy river.

## LIFE &amp; LEISURE



Kayaking in  
Charlotte  
County

## Be lively or laid-back

It's your choice. Florida's southwest has the right combination: quaint shops and galleries to explore in Fort Myers, Bonita Springs and Naples; symphony orchestras, theaters, festivals and museums; non-stop adventure on 22 miles of ATV trails at Florida Tracks & Trails in Punta Gorda; natural wonders like Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, Ten Thousand Islands, Big Cypress Preserve and Everglades National Park; and, of course, the ultimate luxury get-aways — Captiva and Sanibel Islands.

## Educational excellence

Florida South Western State College — ranked one of the nation's “50 Best Community Colleges” by College Choice in 2017 — offers baccalaureate, associate and certificate programs at four sites across the region. And at Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers, 53 undergraduate and 26 graduate programs are offered as well as workshops and counseling for entrepreneurs at its Small Business Development Center. Also in southwest Florida, two private universities: Hodges, with campuses in Naples and Fort Myers and a class-size average of just 14, and Ave Maria, a Catholic university and surrounding town just outside Naples created by Domino's Pizza founder Tom Monaghan.

## Staying healthy and fit

Named America's healthiest city for the second time in 2016, Naples refuses to rest on its laurels. This city is Florida's first to embrace the Blue Zones Project, a community-wide well-being improvement initiative to help make healthy choices easier. The concept originated from research by National Geographic fellow Dan Buettner who identified the common healthy-living traits of five “blue zones” — places in the world with the highest concentrations of centenarians. NCH Healthcare System launched the Blue Zones Project in Naples and, to date, more than 50 organizations and businesses across southwest Florida have joined the effort to make this already healthy region an even better place to live, work and play.

## A place in the sun

Developer Syd Kitson's bold plan to build a town in southwest Florida that would run on solar power is soon to be reality. Construction on homes is under way and the first residents are expected to move in before the end of 2017; a charter public school is taking shape. Already in place is Founders Square, in the heart of downtown, and the 74.5-megawatt Babcock Ranch Solar Energy Center built by Florida Power & Light to power the community's planned 19,500 homes and 6 million square feet of civic, commercial and industrial space.

Babcock  
Ranch  
rendering



# POINTS OF CONTACT / BUSINESS LEADERS

To purchase Florida Trend's Top 125 Public Companies and Top 225 Private Companies lists with additional data not published here, go to [www.floridatrend.com/toprank](http://www.floridatrend.com/toprank) or call (727) 892-2643.

## LARGEST PUBLIC COMPANIES

2017 Rank	Company	Location	Revenue (in billions)	% Gain or Loss over Previous Year	Employees	Line of Business
1	World Fuel Services	Miami	\$27.0	-11.1 ▼	5,000	Petroleum products distribution
2	Tech Data	Clearwater	26.2	-0.6 ▼	9,500	Computer distribution
3	Adecco Group North America	Jacksonville	22.7	3.2 ▲	33,000	Personnel and temporary employment
4	AutoNation	Fort Lauderdale	21.6	3.6 ▲	26,000	Auto dealerships
5	Jabil	St. Petersburg	18.4	2.5 ▲	138,000	Electronic components manufacturing
6	Carnival	Miami	16.4	4.3 ▲	97,200	Cruise line
7	NextEra Energy	Juno Beach	16.2	-7.6 ▼	14,700	Energy provider
8	WellCare Health Plans	Tampa	14.2	2.5 ▲	7,400	Health insurance services
9	CSX	Jacksonville	11.1	-6.3 ▼	26,628	Railroads
10	Office Depot	Boca Raton	11.0	-23.9 ▼	38,000	Office products retail and distribution
11	Lennar	Miami	10.9	15.6 ▲	8,336	Home builder
12	Fidelity National Financial	Jacksonville	9.6	4.6 ▲	55,219	Title insurance
13	Fidelity National Information	Jacksonville	9.2	40.1 ▲	57,000	Information technology support services
14	Hertz Global Holdings	Estero	8.8	-2.4 ▼	36,000	Car rental
15	Royal Caribbean Cruises	Miami	8.5	2.4 ▲	65,900	Cruise line
16	Harris	Melbourne	7.5	47.0 ▲	21,000	Telecommunications equipment development
17	Darden Restaurants	Orlando	6.9	2.5 ▲	150,942	Restaurants
18	Ryder System	Miami	6.8	3.3 ▲	34,500	Transportation services
19	Raymond James Financial	St. Petersburg	5.4	1.8 ▲	11,900	Financial services
20	MasTec	Coral Gables	5.1	22.0 ▲	18,600	Telecom infrastructure services

Ranked by 2016 revenue. ▲ = Percent increase over previous year. ▼ = Percent decrease over previous year. Companies listed are those with Florida-based headquarters; derived from data collected for Florida Trend's Public 125 list. ©Copyright 2017 Trend Magazines Inc. This list may not be reproduced in any format without written permission from the publisher.

## LARGEST PRIVATE COMPANIES

2017 Rank	Company	Location	Revenue (in billions)	% Gain or Loss over Previous Year	Employees	Line of Business
1	Publix Super Markets	Lakeland	\$34.0	4.9% ▲	190,000	Grocery stores
2	H.I.G. Capital Management	Miami	18.3	1.1% ▲	300	Investment holding company
3	Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits	Miami	16.5	34.0% ▲	20,000	Wine and spirits distributor
4	Sun Capital Partners	Boca Raton	15.7	-15.0% ▼	135	Private investment firm
5	JM Family Enterprises	Deerfield Beach	14.9	2.8% ▲	4,200	Auto distributor
6	Brightstar	Miami	11.6	-3.9% ▼	9,000	Wireless device solutions and distribution
7	Southeastern Grocers	Jacksonville	10.3	1.0% ▲	60,000	Grocery stores
8	Oasis Outsourcing	West Palm Beach	7.7	22.5% ▲	916	Professional employer organization
9	Fanjul/Florida Crystals	West Palm Beach	4.6	7.4% ▲	2,200	Agriculture/consumer products/energy/tourism/real estate
10	ADT	Boca Raton	3.7	4.3% ▲	17,000	Electronic security provider
11	TBC	Palm Beach Gardens	3.5	NC	10,000	Automobile tires
12	NASCAR	Daytona Beach	3.1	-0.6% ▼	1,500	Auto racing
13	Chiquita Brands International	Fort Lauderdale	3.1	2.0% ▲	20,000	Food products
14	Staluppi Auto Group	North Palm Beach	3.0	7.8% ▲	2,200	Auto dealerships
15	South East Personnel Leasing	Holiday	2.9	-2.5% ▼	225	Professional employment organization
16	Oxbow	West Palm Beach	2.6	-16.2% ▼	1,300	Energy petroleum products/fuel
17	George E. Warren	Vero Beach	2.6	3.7% ▲	35	Wholesale petroleum distributor
18	Red Lobster Hospitality	Orlando	2.5	3.7% ▲	58,000	Restaurants
19	Greenway	Orlando	2.4	8.3% ▲	2,750	Automotive dealerships
20	MBF Healthcare Partners	Coral Gables	2.3	54.4% ▲	10	Private investment firm

Ranked by 2016 revenue. ▲ = Percent increase over previous year. ▼ = Percent decrease over previous year. Companies listed are those with Florida-based headquarters; derived from data collected for Florida Trend's Private 225 list. ©Copyright 2017 Trend Magazines Inc. This list may not be reproduced in any format without written permission from the publisher.

# POINTS OF CONTACT / ASSISTANCE & FUNDING

## BUSINESS INCUBATORS

EAST CENTRAL	Location	Website
Blackstone LaunchPad	Orlando	<a href="http://cel.ucf.edu/launchpad">cel.ucf.edu/launchpad</a>
Burnout Game Ventures	Orlando	<a href="http://burngameven.com">burngameven.com</a>
Catalyst	Orlando	<a href="http://catalystspaces.com">catalystspaces.com</a>
Goldstein Business Accelerator	Oviedo	<a href="http://goldsteinaccelerator.com">goldsteinaccelerator.com</a>
Groundswell Startups	Melbourne	<a href="http://swellstartups.com">swellstartups.com</a>
GuideWell Innovation Center	Orlando	<a href="http://guidewellcenteratlakenona.com">guidewellcenteratlakenona.com</a>
Lake Sumter State College Business Incubator	Eustis, Groveland	<a href="http://lssc.edu/BOC">lssc.edu/BOC</a>
Melbourne Makerspace	Melbourne	<a href="http://melbournemakerspace.org">melbournemakerspace.org</a>
MicaPlex Technology Business Incubator	Daytona Beach	<a href="http://erau.edu/micaplex/incubator">erau.edu/micaplex/incubator</a>
Momentum Student Business Incubator	Melbourne	<a href="http://sbi.fit.edu">sbi.fit.edu</a>
National Entrepreneur Center	Orlando	<a href="http://nationalec.org">nationalec.org</a>
Seminole Technology Business Incubation Center	Sanford	<a href="http://seminoleinc.com">seminoleinc.com</a>
Starter Studio	Orlando	<a href="http://starterstudio.com">starterstudio.com</a>
TrepHub	Melbourne	<a href="http://trephub.com">trephub.com</a>
University of Central Florida Business Incubation Program	Apopka, Central Florida Research Park, Daytona Beach International Airport, Kissimmee, Orlando, Photonics (UCF Campus), Winter Springs	<a href="http://incubator.ucf.edu">incubator.ucf.edu</a>
VentureScaleUp	Orlando	<a href="http://venturescaleup.com">venturescaleup.com</a>
weVENTURE	Melbourne, Rockledge	<a href="http://weventure.fit.edu">weventure.fit.edu</a>

NORTHWEST	Location	Website
Business Innovation Center	Panama City	<a href="http://bicpc.com">bicpc.com</a>
Co:Lab	Pensacola	<a href="http://colabpensacola.com">colabpensacola.com</a>
Domi Station	Tallahassee	<a href="http://domistation.com">domistation.com</a>
InNOLEvation Center	Tallahassee	<a href="http://business.fsu.edu/innolevation-center">business.fsu.edu/innolevation-center</a>
Millaway Institute for Entrepreneurship	Panama City	<a href="http://gulfcoast.edu/community/millaway-institute">gulfcoast.edu/community/millaway-institute</a>
TechFarms	Panama City Beach	<a href="http://techfarms.com">techfarms.com</a>
Venture Hive Veterans Business Accelerator	Fort Walton Beach	<a href="http://fwb.venturehive.com">fwb.venturehive.com</a>

TAMPA BAY	Location	Website
Catapult	Lakeland	<a href="http://catapultlakeland.com">catapultlakeland.com</a>
Englewood Incubation Center	Englewood	<a href="http://englewoodincubationcenter.org">englewoodincubationcenter.org</a>
Entrepreneur Collaborative Center	Tampa	<a href="http://hillsboroughcounty.org/locations/entrepreneur-collaborative-center">hillsboroughcounty.org/locations/entrepreneur-collaborative-center</a>
Florida Business Incubator	Clearwater	<a href="http://clearwaterbusinessspark.com">clearwaterbusinessspark.com</a>
Florida-Israel Business Accelerator	Tampa	<a href="http://fiba.io">fiba.io</a>
The HuB	Sarasota	<a href="http://hubsarasota.com">hubsarasota.com</a>
Small Business Assistance Center	Lakeland	<a href="http://cfdc.org/startexpand/start-a-business">cfdc.org/startexpand/start-a-business</a>
SMARTstart Pasco Business Incubator	Dade City	<a href="http://smartstartpasco.com">smartstartpasco.com</a>
Spark Growth	Bradenton	<a href="http://sparkgrowth.net">sparkgrowth.net</a>
Station 2 Innovation	Bradenton	<a href="http://station2innovation.com">station2innovation.com</a>
Tampa Bay Innovation Center / TEC Garage	St. Petersburg	<a href="http://tbinnovates.com">tbinnovates.com</a>
Tampa Bay WaVE	Tampa	<a href="http://tampabaywave.org">tampabaywave.org</a>
Travel Startups Incubator	Lake Wales	<a href="http://travelstartups.co">travelstartups.co</a>
USF CONNECT	Tampa	<a href="http://usfconnect.org">usfconnect.org</a>

NORTH CENTAL	Location	Website
Bradford County Incubator	Starke	<a href="http://sfcollege.edu/cied/incubator/index">sfcollege.edu/cied/incubator/index</a>
Gainesville Technology Entrepreneurship Center	Gainesville	<a href="http://sfcollege.edu/cied/incubator/index.php?section=gtec">sfcollege.edu/cied/incubator/index.php?section=gtec</a>
Innovation Hub	Gainesville	<a href="http://floridainnovationhub.ufl.edu">floridainnovationhub.ufl.edu</a>
Power Plant Business Incubator	Ocala	<a href="http://powerplantincubator.com">powerplantincubator.com</a>
Santa Fe College Entrepreneur Incubator	Gainesville	<a href="http://sfcollege.edu/cied/incubator">sfcollege.edu/cied/incubator</a>
Sid Martin Biotechnology Institute	Alachua	<a href="http://sidmartinbio.org">sidmartinbio.org</a>
Starter Space	Gainesville	<a href="http://starterspace.com">starterspace.com</a>
Tech Toybox	Gainesville	<a href="http://fitechtoybox.org">fitechtoybox.org</a>

NORTHEAST	Location	Website
Beaver Street Enterprise Center	Jacksonville	<a href="http://bsecenter.net">bsecenter.net</a>
Palm Coast Business Assistance Center	Palm Coast	<a href="http://bac.palmcoastgov.com">bac.palmcoastgov.com</a>

SOUTHEAST	Location	Website
EcoTech Visions	Miami	ecotechvisions.com
Endeavor Miami	Coral Gables	endeavormiami.org
FAU Tech Runway	Boca Raton	techrunway.fau.edu
Florida Women's Business Center	Delray Beach	flwbc.org
Founder Institute	Fort Lauderdale, Miami	fi.co/s/fort_lauderdale
GBDC Entrepreneurship Institute	Boynton Beach	gbdcei.com
Hialeah Technology Center	Hialeah	hiatec.org
Indian River State College Pioneer Incubator	Fort Pierce	irscbiz.com
Innovation Hub	Fort Lauderdale	broward.edu/innovationhub
Lauderhill International Trade Incubator	Lauderhill	lauderhill-fl.gov/economic-development/international-trade-incubator
The Launch Pad	Miami	thelaunchpad.org
Metro Broward Small Business Success Center	Fort Lauderdale	metrobroward.org
Rokk3r Labs	Miami	rokk3rlabs.com
South Florida Accelerator	Fort Lauderdale	tsfa.co
StarHub	Miami	starhubcenters.com
StartUP FIU	Miami	startup.fiu.edu
Startup Miami	Miami	startup-miami.com
Technology Business Incubator	Boca Raton	www.research-park.org
TED Center Business Incubator	Delray Beach, West Palm Beach	tedcenter.org
Venture Hive	Miami	venturehive.com

SOUTHWEST	Location	Website
ARCEO Soft Landing Incubator	Naples	arceo.us
Naples Accelerator	Naples	naplesaccelerator.com
Proton Enterprises	Naples	protonenterprises.com
The Rocket Lounge	Fort Myers	therocketlounge.com
Southwest Florida Enterprise Center	Fort Myers	swflenterprisecenter.com

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## VENTURE CAPITAL FIRMS

Firm Name	Location	Website
<b>3Si Holdings</b>	Miami	3siholdings.com
<b>Advantage Capital Partners</b>	Gainesville, Orlando	advantagecap.com
<b>AGP Miami</b>	Miami	agpmiami.com
<b>Antares Capital</b>	Melbourne, Miami	antarescapital.com
<b>Arsenal Venture Partners</b>	Winter Park	arsenalvp.com
<b>Athenian Venture Partners</b>	Fort Lauderdale	athenianvp.com
<b>Ballast Point Ventures</b>	Tampa	ballastpointventures.com
<b>Caerus Ventures</b>	West Palm Beach	caerusvc.com
<b>ClearSky</b>	North Palm Beach	clear-sky.com
<b>DSCN Capital</b>	Miami	dscncapital.com
<b>Easton Capital Investment Group</b>	Miami	eastoncapital.com
<b>Emergent Growth Fund</b>	Gainesville	emergentgrowth.com
<b>EV Private Investments</b>	Boca Raton	evprivateinvestments.com
<b>FAN Fund</b>	Orlando	thefan.fund
<b>Florida Funders</b>	Tampa	floridafunders.com
<b>Florida Gulfshore Capital</b>	Naples	gulfshorecap.com
<b>H.I.G. BioVentures</b>	Miami	higbio.com
<b>HealthQuest Capital</b>	Gainesville	healthquestcapital.com

Firm Name	Location	Website
<b>Inflexion Partners</b>	Gainesville, Orlando	inflexionvc.com
<b>Krillion Ventures</b>	Miami	krillionventures.com
<b>Las Olas Venture Capital</b>	Fort Lauderdale	lasolasvc.com
<b>Mayport Venture Partners</b>	Jacksonville	mayport.cc
<b>Miami Innovation Fund</b>	Miami	miamiinnovationfund.com
<b>Morgenthau Venture Partners</b>	Fort Lauderdale	morgenthau.com
<b>ProQuest Investments</b>	Naples	proquestvc.com
<b>PS27 Ventures</b>	Jacksonville	ps27ventures.com
<b>Richmond Global</b>	Miami	rglobal.com
<b>Riverside Management Group</b>	Miami	rmginvestments.com
<b>Rokk3r Fuel</b>	Miami	rokk3rfuel.com
<b>Scout Ventures</b>	Miami	scoutventures.com
<b>Seven Funds</b>	Sarasota	sevenfunds.com
<b>SI Ventures</b>	Fort Myers	siventures.com
<b>South Poplar Ventures</b>	Gainesville, Orlando	southpoplar.com
<b>Stonehenge Growth Equity Partners</b>	Tampa	stonehengegrowthequity.com
<b>Third Security</b>	West Palm Beach	thirdsecurity.com
<b>Tusk Ventures</b>	Miami	tuskventures.com
<b>Vocap Investment Partners</b>	Vero Beach	vocappartners.com
<b>z9 Capital</b>	Boca Raton	z9capital.com

Compiled with data supplied by PitchBook Data (pitchbook.com). List includes major venture capital firms and select angel funds. ©Copyright 2017 Trend Magazines Inc. This list may not be reproduced in any format without written permission from the publisher.

## REGIONAL, COUNTY AND CITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS

Multi-county economic development organizations are listed first, followed by Enterprise Florida's official primary partner (indicated by \*). Florida Economic Development Council (FEDC) members are also listed.

For information about Enterprise Florida, visit [www.enterpriseflorida.com](http://www.enterpriseflorida.com); for FEDC, visit [www.fedconline.org](http://www.fedconline.org).

### EAST CENTRAL

#### Orlando Economic Development Commission\*

301 E. Pine St., Suite 900  
Orlando, FL 32801  
(407) 422-7159  
[orlandoedc.com](http://orlandoedc.com)

#### BREVARD COUNTY Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast\*

6525 3rd Street, Suite 304  
Rockledge, FL 32955  
(321) 638-2000  
[spacecoastedc.org](http://spacecoastedc.org)

City of Titusville  
(321) 567-3775

North Brevard Economic  
Development Zone  
(321) 264-6750

#### LAKE COUNTY Lake County Economic Development & Tourism Division\*

315 W. Main St., Suite 520  
Tavares, FL 32778  
(352) 742-3918  
[businessinlakefl.com](http://businessinlakefl.com)

City of Tavares  
(352) 742-6402

#### ORANGE COUNTY Orlando Economic Development Commission\*

301 E. Pine St., Suite 900  
Orlando, FL 32801  
(407) 422-7159  
[orlandoedc.com](http://orlandoedc.com)

Orlando Economic Partnership  
(407) 476-0270

Orange County Office of Economic,  
Trade & Tourism Development  
(407) 836-7314

Prospera  
(407) 413-8564

**OSCEOLA COUNTY**  
**Osceola County Economic  
Development Department\***  
3 Courthouse Square, 2nd Floor  
Kissimmee, FL 34741  
(407) 742-4200  
[greaterosceola.com](http://greaterosceola.com)

City of St. Cloud  
(407) 957-7234

Greater Osceola Partnership for  
Economic Prosperity  
(407) 742-4251

#### SEMINOLE COUNTY Seminole County, Economic Development\*

1055 AAA Drive, Suite 145  
Heathrow, FL 32746  
(407) 665-7134  
[seminolecountyfl.gov](http://seminolecountyfl.gov)

Seminole County Government  
(407) 497-7412

Seminole County Port Authority  
(407) 322-4798

City of Lake Mary  
(407) 585-1426

#### SUMTER COUNTY Sumter County Economic Development\*

7375 Powell Rd.  
Wildwood, FL 34785  
(352) 689-4400  
[sumterbusiness.com](http://sumterbusiness.com)

#### VOLUSIA COUNTY Volusia County Division of Economic Development\*

700 Catalina Drive, Suite 200  
Daytona Beach, FL 32114  
(386) 248-8048  
[floridabusiness.org](http://floridabusiness.org)

City of Deltona  
(386) 878-8619

City of Ormond Beach  
(386) 676-3266

Team Volusia Economic  
Development Corporation  
(386) 265-6333

### NORTH CENTRAL

#### North Florida Economic Development Partnership\*

3200 Commonwealth Blvd., Suite 7  
Tallahassee, FL 32303  
(850) 487-1870  
[nflp.org](http://nflp.org)

#### ALACHUA COUNTY Gainesville Council for Economic Outreach\*

300 E. University Ave., Suite 100  
Gainesville, FL 32601  
(352) 378-7300  
[greatergainesvilleregion.com](http://greatergainesvilleregion.com)

North Central Florida Regional  
Planning Council  
(352) 955-2200

#### BRADFORD COUNTY North Florida Regional Chamber of Commerce\*

100 E. Call St.  
Starke, FL 32091  
(904) 964-5278  
[northfloridachamber.com](http://northfloridachamber.com)

#### COLUMBIA COUNTY Columbia County Economic Development Department\*

259 N.E. Franklin St., Suite 101  
Lake City, FL 32055  
(386) 758-1033  
[edcolumbiacountyfl.com](http://edcolumbiacountyfl.com)

#### DIXIE COUNTY Dixie County, Economic Development\*

214 N.E. Highway 351  
Cross City, FL 32628  
(352) 498-1426  
<http://dixie.fl.gov>

#### GILCHRIST COUNTY

**Gilchrist County\***  
209 S.E. 1st St.  
Trenton, FL 32693  
(352) 463-3198  
[gilchrist.fl.us](http://gilchrist.fl.us)

#### HAMILTON COUNTY Hamilton County Development Authority\*

1153 U.S. Hwy. 41 N.W., Suite 4  
Jasper, FL 32052  
(386) 792-6828  
[hamiltoncountyflorida.com/cd.devauthority.aspx](http://hamiltoncountyflorida.com/cd.devauthority.aspx)

#### LAFAYETTE COUNTY Lafayette County Chamber of Commerce\*

P.O. Box 364  
Mayo, FL 32066  
(386) 294-2705  
[lafayettecountychamber.com](http://lafayettecountychamber.com)

#### LEVY COUNTY Levy County Nature Coast Business Development Council\*

109 N.W. 3rd Ave.  
Chiefland, FL 32626  
(352) 493-6797  
[naturecoast.org](http://naturecoast.org)

#### MADISON COUNTY Madison County Development Council\*

229 S. W. Pinckney St., Suite 219  
Madison, FL 32341  
(850) 973-3179  
[madisonfldevelopment.com](http://madisonfldevelopment.com)

#### MARION COUNTY Ocala/Marion County Chamber & Economic Partnership\*

310 S.E. 3rd St.  
Ocala, FL 34471  
(352) 629-8051  
[ocalacep.com](http://ocalacep.com)

#### SUWANNEE COUNTY Suwannee County Economic Development Office\*

Suwannee County Airport  
13302 80th Terrace  
Live Oak, FL 32060  
(386) 364-1700  
[floridasnewfrontier.com](http://floridasnewfrontier.com)

#### TAYLOR COUNTY Taylor County Development Authority\*

103 E. Ellis Street  
Perry, FL 32347  
(850) 584-5627  
[floridasrisingstar.com](http://floridasrisingstar.com)

#### UNION COUNTY Union County Board of County Commissioners\*

15 N.E. 1st St.  
Lake Butler, FL 32054  
(386) 496-4241  
[unioncounty-fl.gov](http://unioncounty-fl.gov)

### NORTHEAST

#### JAXUSA Partnership\*

3 Independent Drive  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
(904) 366-6652  
[jaxusa.org](http://jaxusa.org)

#### BAKER COUNTY Baker County Development Commission\*

20 E. Macclenny Ave.  
Macclenny, FL 32063  
(904) 259-6433  
[bakerchamberflorida.com](http://bakerchamberflorida.com)

#### CLAY COUNTY Clay County Economic Development Corporation\*

1845 Town Center Blvd., Suite 110-B  
Fleming Island, FL 32003  
(904) 375-9394  
[chooseclay.com](http://chooseclay.com)

#### DUVAL COUNTY JAXUSA Partnership\*

3 Independent Drive  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
(904) 366-6652  
[jaxusa.org](http://jaxusa.org)

Jacksonville Office of Economic  
Development  
(904) 630-1185

Northeast Florida Regional Council  
(904) 279-0880

#### FLAGLER COUNTY

#### Flagler County Department of Economic Opportunity\*

1769 E. Moody Blvd.  
Bunnell, FL 32110  
(386) 313-4071  
[flaglercountyedc.com](http://flaglercountyedc.com)

#### NASSAU COUNTY

#### Nassau County Economic Development Board\*

76346 William Burgess Blvd.  
Yulee, FL 32097  
(904) 548-4460  
[nassauflorida.com](http://nassauflorida.com)

#### PUTNAM COUNTY

#### Putnam County Chamber of Commerce\*

1100 Reid Street  
Palatka, FL 32177  
(386) 328-1503  
[putnamcountychamber.com](http://putnamcountychamber.com)

#### ST. JOHNS COUNTY

#### St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners\*

500 San Sebastian View  
St. Augustine, FL 32084  
(904) 209-0552  
[sjcfl.us/economicdevelopment](http://sjcfl.us/economicdevelopment)

St. Johns County  
Chamber of Commerce  
(904) 687-2055

### NORTHWEST

#### Florida's Great Northwest\*

100 College Blvd., Building 330  
Niceville, FL 32578  
(850) 729-6848  
[floridasgreatnorthwest.com](http://floridasgreatnorthwest.com)

#### Opportunity Florida\*

4636 Highway 90, Suite K  
Marianna, FL 32446  
(850) 633-4118; (850) 633-4119  
[opportunityflorida.com](http://opportunityflorida.com)

#### BAY COUNTY

#### Bay County Economic Development Alliance\*

5230 West Highway 98  
Panama City, FL 32401  
(850) 215-9965  
[bayeda.com](http://bayeda.com)

#### CALHOUN COUNTY

#### Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce\*

20816 Central Ave. E., Suite 2  
Blountstown, FL 32424  
(850) 674-4519  
[calhounco.org](http://calhounco.org)

#### ESCAMBIA COUNTY

#### FloridaWest Economic Development Alliance\*

3 W. Garden St., Suite 618  
Pensacola, FL 32503  
(850) 898-2201  
[floridawesteda.com](http://floridawesteda.com)

# POINTS OF CONTACT / ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## FRANKLIN COUNTY

**Franklin County Board of County Commissioners\***  
33 Market St., Suite 305  
Apalachicola, FL 32320  
(850) 653-9783  
[franklincountyflorida.com](http://franklincountyflorida.com)

## GADSDEN COUNTY

**Gadsden County Development Council\***  
2140 W. Jefferson St.  
Quincy, FL 32351  
(850) 875-7255  
[gadsdenfldev.com](http://gadsdenfldev.com)

City of Gretna  
(850) 856-5257

## GULF COUNTY

**Gulf County Economic Development Coalition\***  
1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd., Room 312  
Port St. Joe, FL 32456  
(850) 229-6144  
[gulfcountyedc.com](http://gulfcountyedc.com)

## HOLMES COUNTY

**Holmes County Development Commission\***  
106 E. Byrd Ave.  
Bonifay, FL 32425  
(850) 547-6154  
[holmescountyonline.com](http://holmescountyonline.com)

## JACKSON COUNTY

**Jackson County Development Council\***  
P.O. Box 920  
Marianna, FL 32447  
(850) 526-4005  
[jacksoncounty.com](http://jacksoncounty.com)

## JEFFERSON COUNTY

**Jefferson County Economic Development Council\***  
492 Walnut St.  
Monticello, FL 32344  
(850) 728-5191  
[jeffersoncountyedc.com](http://jeffersoncountyedc.com)

## LEON COUNTY

**Tallahassee-Leon County Office of Economic Vitality\***  
315 S. Calhoun St., Suite 450  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
(850) 219-1060  
[oevforbusiness.org](http://oevforbusiness.org)

Apalachee Regional Planning Council  
(850) 488-6211

## LIBERTY COUNTY

**Liberty County Chamber of Commerce\***  
11493 Summers Rd.  
Bristol, FL 32321  
(850) 643-2359  
[libertycountyflorida.com](http://libertycountyflorida.com)

## OKALOOSA COUNTY

**Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County\***  
1170 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Building 7, Suite 717  
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547  
(850) 362-6467  
[florida-edc.org](http://florida-edc.org)

## SANTA ROSA COUNTY

**Santa Rosa County Economic Development Office\***  
6491 Caroline St., Suite 4  
Milton, FL 32570  
(850) 623-0174  
[santarosaedc.com](http://santarosaedc.com)

Escambia River Electric Cooperative  
(850) 675-4521

## WAKULLA COUNTY

**Wakulla County Chamber of Commerce\***  
23 High Drive  
Crawfordville, FL 32327  
(850) 926-1848  
[wakullacountychamber.com](http://wakullacountychamber.com)

## WALTON COUNTY

**Walton County Economic Development Alliance\***  
76 N. Sixth St.  
Defuniak Springs, FL 32433  
(850) 892-4859  
[wcedafl.com](http://wcedafl.com)

## WASHINGTON COUNTY

**Washington County Chamber of Commerce\***  
672 5th St.  
Chipley, FL 32428  
(850) 638-4157  
[washcomall.com](http://washcomall.com)

## SOUTH CENTRAL

**Florida's Heartland Economic Region of Opportunity**  
304 N.W. 2nd St., Room 123  
Okeechobee, FL 34972  
(863) 697-6325  
[flaheartland.com](http://flaheartland.com)

## DESOTO COUNTY

**DeSoto County Economic Development Office\***  
201 E. Oak St., Suite 201  
Arcadia, FL 34266  
(863) 993-4800  
[teamedesoto.com](http://teamedesoto.com)

## GLADES COUNTY

**Glades County Economic Development Council\***  
998 South U.S. Hwy. 27  
Moore Haven, FL 33471  
(863) 946-0300  
[gladescountyedc.com](http://gladescountyedc.com)

## HARDEE COUNTY

**Hardee County Economic Development Council\***  
107 E. Main St.  
Wauchula, FL 33873  
(863) 773-3030  
[hardeebusiness.com](http://hardeebusiness.com)

## HENDRY COUNTY

**Hendry County Economic Development Council\***  
644 S. Main St.  
LaBelle, FL 33935  
(863) 675-6007  
[hendryedc.com](http://hendryedc.com)

## HIGHLANDS COUNTY

**Highlands County Economic Development\***  
501 S. Commerce Ave.  
Sebring, FL 33870  
(863) 402-6924, (850) 402-6906  
[highlandsedc.com](http://highlandsedc.com)

## OKEECHOBEE COUNTY

**Okeechobee County Board of County Commissioners\***  
304 N.W. 2nd St., Room 123  
Okeechobee, FL 34972  
(863) 763-6441  
[co.okeechobee.fl.us](http://co.okeechobee.fl.us)

## SOUTHEAST

### BROWARD COUNTY

**Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance\***  
110 E. Broward Blvd.  
Suite 1990  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301  
(954) 524-3113  
[gfalliance.org](http://gfalliance.org)

Broward County Office of Economic & Small Business Development  
(954) 357-6400

City of Coral Springs  
(954) 344-5771

City of Deerfield Beach  
(954) 480-4222

City of Fort Lauderdale  
(954) 828-6359

City of Lauderdale Lakes  
(954) 535-2491

City of Miramar  
(954) 602-4357

Hollywood Community Redevelopment Agency  
(954) 924-2980

South Florida Regional Planning Council  
(954) 985-4416

### INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

**Indian River Economic Development\***  
1216 21st St.  
Vero Beach, FL 32960  
(772) 567-3491  
[indianriveredc.com](http://indianriveredc.com)

### MARTIN COUNTY

**Business Development Board of Martin County\***  
1002 S.E. Monterey Commons Blvd., Suite 207  
Stuart, FL 34996  
(772) 221-1380  
[yesmartinfl.com](http://yesmartinfl.com)

### MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

**The Beacon Council\***  
80 S.W. Eighth St., Suite 2400  
Miami, FL 33130  
(305) 579-1300  
[beaconcouncil.com](http://beaconcouncil.com)

City of Coral Gables  
(305) 446-6800

City of Florida City  
(305) 247-8221

City of Hialeah, Department of Grants & Human Services  
(305) 883-5839

Miami-Dade County Industrial Development Authority  
(305) 579-0070

### MONROE COUNTY

**Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce\***  
12222 Overseas Hwy.  
Marathon, FL 33050  
(305) 743-5417  
[floridakeysmarathon.com](http://floridakeysmarathon.com)

### PALM BEACH COUNTY

**Business Development Board of Palm Beach County\***  
310 Evernia St.  
West Palm Beach, FL 33401  
(561) 835-1008  
[bdb.org](http://bdb.org)

### ST. LUCIE COUNTY

**Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County\***  
500 N.W. California Blvd.  
Building F, Suite 109  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986  
(772) 336-6250  
[youredc.com](http://youredc.com)

St. Lucie Government  
(772) 462-1791

## SOUTHWEST

**Southwest Florida Economic Development Alliance**  
4984 Royal Gulf Circle  
Fort Myers, FL 33966  
(239) 208-7627  
[swfleda.com](http://swfleda.com)

### CHARLOTTE COUNTY

**Charlotte County Economic Development Office\***  
18501 Murdock Circle, Suite 302  
Port Charlotte, FL 33948  
(941) 764-4941  
[floridasinnovationcoast.com](http://floridasinnovationcoast.com)

### COLLIER COUNTY

**Collier County Economic Development Office\***  
2390 Tamiami Trail North, Suite 210  
Naples, FL 34103  
(239) 403-2914  
[collieredo.org](http://collieredo.org)

Collier County Office of Business and Economic Development  
(239) 252-4040

Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce  
(239) 262-6376

### LEE COUNTY

**Lee County Economic Development Office\***  
2201 Second St., Suite 500  
Fort Myers, FL 33901  
(239) 338-3161  
[leecountybusiness.com](http://leecountybusiness.com)

City of Cape Coral  
(239) 574-0444

Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council  
(239) 338-2550

## TAMPA BAY

**Tampa Bay Partnership**  
4300 W. Cypress St., Suite 700  
Tampa, FL 33607  
(813) 878-2208  
[tampabay.org](http://tampabay.org)

### CITRUS COUNTY

**Economic Development Authority for Citrus County\***  
915 N. Suncoast Blvd.  
Crystal River, FL 34429  
(352) 795-2000  
[edacitrus.com](http://edacitrus.com)

### HERNANDO COUNTY

**Hernando County Office of Business Development\***  
15800 Flight Path Drive  
Brooksville, FL 34604  
(352) 540-6400  
[hernandobusiness.com](http://hernandobusiness.com)

### HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

**Tampa Hillsborough Economic Development Corporation\***  
101 East Kennedy Blvd., Suite 1750  
Tampa, FL 33602  
(813) 218-3300  
[tampaedc.com](http://tampaedc.com)

Hillsborough County Economic Development Department  
(813) 273-3719

Tampa Bay Trade & Protocol Council  
(813) 276-9457

Tampa Port Authority  
(813) 905-7678

### MANATEE COUNTY

**Bradenton Area Economic Development Corporation\***  
4215 Concept Court  
Bradenton, FL 34211  
(941) 803-9030  
[bradentonareaedc.com](http://bradentonareaedc.com)

Manatee County Economic Development  
(941) 749-3029

### PASCO COUNTY

**Pasco Economic Development Council\***  
16506 Pointe Village Drive, Suite 101  
Lutz, FL 33558  
(813) 926-0827  
[pascoedc.com](http://pascoedc.com)

### PINELLAS COUNTY

**Pinellas County Economic Development\***  
13805 58th St. N., Suite 1-200  
Clearwater, FL 33760  
(727) 464-7332  
[pced.org](http://pced.org)

City of Largo  
(727) 587-6700

City of St. Petersburg Economic Development  
(727) 893-7787

City of Tarpon Springs  
(727) 943-4932

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council  
(727) 570-5151

#### POLK COUNTY

##### Central Florida Development Council\*

5908 Hillside Heights Drive  
Lakeland, FL 33812  
(863) 937-4430  
[cfdc.org](http://cfdc.org)

Haines City Economic Development Council  
(863) 422-2525

Lake Wales Area Chamber of Commerce & EDC  
(863) 676-3445

#### SARASOTA COUNTY

##### Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County\*

1680 Fruitville Rd., Suite 402  
Sarasota, FL 34236  
(941) 309-1200  
[edcsarasotacounty.com](http://edcsarasotacounty.com)

City of North Port  
(941) 429-7029



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Business Development Board - Palm Beach County	<a href="http://www.bdb.org/LetsTalkBusiness">www.bdb.org/LetsTalkBusiness</a>	11
City of Cape Coral	<a href="http://ecodev@capecoral.net">ecodev@capecoral.net</a> ; <a href="http://bizcapecoral.com">bizcapecoral.com</a>	89
Enterprise Florida Inc.	<a href="http://floridathefutureisshere.com">floridathefutureisshere.com</a>	4-5
Florida Atlantic University	<a href="http://www.science.fau.edu/cmmb">www.science.fau.edu/cmmb</a> ; <a href="http://www.BDB.org">www.BDB.org</a>	41
Florida's Heartland	<a href="http://www.FlaHeartland.com">www.FlaHeartland.com</a>	85
Florida Ports Council	<a href="http://flaports.org">flaports.org</a>	15
Florida's Hollywood	<a href="http://HollywoodCRA.org">HollywoodCRA.org</a>	80 and 81
FPL	<a href="http://FPL.com/BizEasyToSave">FPL.com/BizEasyToSave</a> ; <a href="http://PoweringFlorida.com">PoweringFlorida.com</a>	1 and 3
Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce & CEO	<a href="http://www.greatergainesvilleregion.com">www.greatergainesvilleregion.com</a>	55
Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance	<a href="http://gflalliance.org">gflalliance.org</a>	19
Gunster	<a href="http://Gunster.com">Gunster.com</a>	17
Hamilton County Development Authority	<a href="http://www.hamiltoncountyflorida.com/cd_devauthority.aspx">www.hamiltoncountyflorida.com/cd_devauthority.aspx</a>	58-59
Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport	<a href="http://orlandoairport.regency.hyatt.com">orlandoairport.regency.hyatt.com</a>	Inside Front Cover
JAXPORT	<a href="http://JAXPORT.COM">JAXPORT.COM</a>	73
Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital	<a href="http://HopkinsAllChildrens.org">HopkinsAllChildrens.org</a>	35
Miami International Airport	<a href="http://www.miami-airport.com/cargo.asp">www.miami-airport.com/cargo.asp</a>	77
NeoCity	<a href="http://neocityfl.com">neocityfl.com</a> ; <a href="http://GoBRIDG.com">GoBRIDG.com</a>	53
North Brevard County / City of Titusville	<a href="http://www.nbedz.com">www.nbedz.com</a> ; <a href="http://www.titusville.com">www.titusville.com</a>	45
Orlando Economic Partnership	<a href="http://orlando.org">orlando.org</a>	50 and 51
OUC The Reliable One	<a href="http://www.oucpowersgrowth.com">www.oucpowersgrowth.com</a>	49
Pasco Economic Development Council	<a href="http://www.pascoedc.com">www.pascoedc.com</a>	67
Port Everglades	<a href="http://porteverglades.net">porteverglades.net</a>	83
Port Tampa Bay	<a href="http://www.porttb.com">www.porttb.com</a> ; <a href="http://www.PLRs.com">www.PLRs.com</a>	65
Space Florida	<a href="http://www.spaceflorida.gov">www.spaceflorida.gov</a>	28-29
Tampa General Hospital	<a href="http://TGH.org">TGH.org</a>	69
Team Volusia Economic Development Corp.	<a href="http://TeamVolusiaEDC.com">TeamVolusiaEDC.com</a>	47
University of Central Florida	<a href="http://ucf.edu">ucf.edu</a>	7
University of Florida	<a href="http://research.ufl.edu">research.ufl.edu</a>	36-37
University of South Florida	<a href="http://usf.edu/business">usf.edu/business</a>	Back Cover
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