



“For eight consecutive months, Florida has led all other large states in job growth, including our number one competitor Texas.”

— Gov. Rick Scott, Nov. 30, 2015

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Gov. Rick Scott (R)

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Florida

Pop. (2014): 19,603,934
Median household income: \$46,140
Credit Rating: AAA/Stable

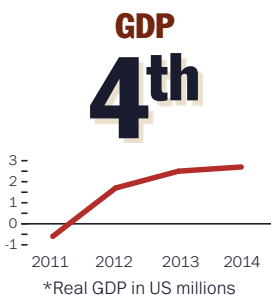
Pop. growth 2013–2018: 5.50%
Median age: 41.6
Right-to-work state: Yes

Legislative Update

- The cap to Florida’s R&D tax credit program was raised from \$9 million to \$23 million for the 2015 tax year; applications open up on March 20, 2016.
- A new law allows a county, or two or more contiguous counties, to designate freight logistics zones.
- Gov. Scott’s business incentive funding request for 2016 includes creating a new \$250-million competitive fund called the Florida Enterprise Fund; increasing the Legislature’s role in competing for job creation projects; reforming the ROI requirements by eliminating the use of waivers and requiring a 10-percent annualized return on top of the original amount invested in a company; and streamlining the state’s approval process while continuing to ensure that no tax dollars leave the state trust fund until a company meets specific job creation goals spelled out in the contract.
- Legislative proposals for 2016 include a measure to promote the state’s medical tourism sector.

Rankings that Matter

Business Tax Climate	4
Legal Climate	44
Higher Ed. R&D Expenditure	9 (2,272,556)
ACT Career Readiness Certificates .23	(113,992)
Lowest Electric Power Cost33 (10.69)
Fiscal Solvency	5
College Attainment	30 (38.6%)



Selected Corporate Facility Projects 2015

Company	City	County	Type	New/ Expansion	Product	Investment (\$ millions)	Employment
Johnson & Johnson							
Vision Care, Inc.	Jacksonville	Duval	MF	E	Contact Lenses	301	100
Florida Fuel Connection	LaBelle	Hendry	DW	E	Logistics	300	50
Icamr, Inc.	Kissimmee	Osceola	RD	E	Semiconductors	280	215
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.	Davenport	Polk	DW	N	Retail Merchandise	206	625
Blue Origin, LLC	Cape Canaveral	Brevard	MF	N	Space Vehicles	200	330
United Technologies Corp.	Palm B.Gardens	Palm Beach	HQ	E	HVAC	115	380
McLane Co.	Jupiter	Palm Beach	DW	E	Food	93	310
Citigroup	Tampa	Hillsborough	OF	E	Commercial Banking	90	1,163
Vitag Florida LLC	Apopka	Orange	MF	E	Fertilizer	85	20
Hoerbiger Compression							
Technology Amer. Holding	Coral Springs	Broward	MF	N	Sealing Elements	43	420
Johnson & Johnson	Tampa	Hillsborough	HQ	N	Shared Services Center	23	500

DT = Data Center MF = Manufacturing OF = Office HQ = Headquarters RD = Research & Development DW = Distribution/Warehouse

Did You Know?

When the Fort Myers area landed the relocation of the global headquarters of Hertz from New Jersey last year, it marked the first time that a Fortune 500 company had moved from another state to Southwest Florida.

The University of South Florida in Tampa was the top Florida university with 79 patents awarded in 2012, good for 15th in the world, tied with Johns Hopkins University. That’s more than Duke, Northwestern, Yale and Harvard.

The Miami Dolphins and Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Miami Heat, Florida Marlins, Tampa Bay Lightning and Tampa Bay Rowdies have won major professional sports championships in football, basketball, baseball, hockey and soccer, respectively.

Cypress Gardens opened in Winter Haven in 1936 as Florida’s first themed amusement park for tourists. It operated until 2009 and the site is now the home of Legoland Florida.



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