



Top Stories:

- Broward County adds 12,500 jobs year over year
- SOLD OUT: Alliance Mid-Year Luncheon featuring Governor Ron DeSantis

Top Stories

Broward County Adds 12,500 Jobs Year Over Year

Broward County's job report indicated a 3.1 percent unemployment rate in March 2019. This rate was 0.4 percentage points lower than the region's year ago rate of 3.5 percent. Nonagricultural employment increased by 12,500 jobs (+1.5 percent) over the year, with an employment of 862,700 in the Ft. Lauderdale-Pompano Beach-Deerfield Beach MSA (Broward County). The region's jobless rate was 0.2 percentage points lower than the state rate (3.3 percent). The labor force was 1,033,300, up 1,761 (+0.2) over the year. There were 32,081 unemployed residents in the region. "We're very pleased to continue to see favorable overall job growth, and to outpace the state in annual job growth rates in several industry sectors," said Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance President and CEO Bob Swindell. "Our pace of growth in these sectors is a testament to our success in diversifying Broward's economy working with our partners." To read more, [click here](#).

SOLD OUT: Alliance Mid-Year Luncheon

The Alliance's Mid-Year Luncheon, being held Wednesday, May 8 from 11:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Pier Sixty-Six Hotel & Marina is SOLD OUT. A waiting list is now available. The Presenting Sponsor is FPL, with Platinum sponsors: JetBlue, JM Family Enterprises Inc., Pier Sixty-Six Hotel & Marina, the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the South Florida Business Journal. Gold sponsors are AutoNation, Becker, Broward County Office of Economic and Small Business Development, Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport, Memorial Healthcare System and South Florida Business & Wealth. Silver sponsors are: ANF Group, Inc., Capital Analytics Associates, Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport, Crown Castle Fiber, Kaufman Rossin and Morris Southeast Group. For more information, visit www.gflalliance.org/midyear.

In the News

Florida Trend: [Research Park at Florida Atlantic University named Chairman](#)

South Florida Business and Wealth: [Gov. DeSantis coming to major economic development meeting](#)

Global Trade: [Top 10 States for Tech-Driven Manufacturing](#)

UrbanLand.com: [Drawing More Talent, Large Employers to Southeastern Florida](#)

Education and Workforce Development News

[Dillard Center for the Arts Receives National Recognition for Commitment to Music Education](#)

[Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Student Named National Merit Corporate-Sponsored Merit Scholarship Winner](#)

[McNicol Middle School Named Finalist in National Middle School Kindness Challenge](#)

[BCPS Receives \\$60,000 Grant to Support Students Using STEM for Social Good](#)

[Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Debuts in Fort Lauderdale](#)

[NSU Receives National Award for Dual Degree D.O./D.M.D. Program – First in the Country](#)

[Broward College Students Earn National Recognition for Academic Prowess](#)

[Aspen Institute recognizes Broward College as one of Top Ten Finalists in National Prize Competition](#)

[NSU's Huizenga Business College to Recognize Prominent South Florida Entrepreneurs](#)

Alliance Member Companies in **Bold**

The **Broward Center for the Performing Arts** has broken ground on the \$27 million renovation of Parker Playhouse which will take the iconic entertainment venue into the 21st century. Donors, city and county officials, the Broward Performing Arts Foundation Board of Directors and members of the Performing Arts Center Authority were at the Parker to celebrate the milestone. "This is an exciting next step in the transformation of Parker Playhouse," said Kelley Shanley, president and CEO of the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, which has managed the Parker since 2005. "The Parker is not only a legendary cultural and entertainment venue, it also serves as an economic catalyst and a vibrant classroom for students who attend educational programs and performances." To read more, [click here](#).

The Broward Performing Arts Foundation's Annual Celebration raised \$300,000 for the award-winning education and enrichment programs at the **Broward Center for the Performing Arts**. The Saturday Night Live themed benefit began with a cocktail reception under a beautiful sunset overlooking the New River at the scenic Huizenga Pavilion and Wendt Terraces. Guests then moved into the Au-Rene Theater for "An Evening with SNL All-Stars" featuring some of Saturday Night Live's biggest stars and former cast members, Dennis Miller, Rob Schneider, Darrell Hammond and Jon Lovitz. To read more, [click here](#).

The Broward County Commission approved the appointment of Glenn Wiltshire as Acting Chief Executive and Port Director of **Port Everglades** following the recent death of Steven Cernak. Wiltshire, a 30-year U.S. Coast Guard veteran, has served as Deputy Port Director since 2006. During Wiltshire's tenure at Port Everglades, he successfully implemented several innovative programs to support increasing cargo, cruise, and petroleum volumes. To read more, [click here](#).

Riders become readers beginning May 2019 when **Broward County Library** becomes the first in the world to launch Pop Up Libraries on buses. A pilot project "on wheels" will allow Broward County Transit riders access to hundreds of free eBooks instantly with no library card and no special app required. The "Read While You Ride" initiative kicks off with Pop Up Libraries on seven Broward County Transit buses. It is a partnership between the library, Broward County Transit and Baker & Taylor, one of the largest book, services and technology providers to public libraries. To read more, [click here](#).

National CPA and advisory firm, **Cherry Bekaert**, will again be one of the sponsors of this year's **SUP-X** startup competition. Cherry Bekaert, with offices globally and over 1,100 professionals, will also again be offering free mentoring to this year's contestants. "We're excited to once again partner with SUP-X and its startup competition," said Fort Lauderdale based partner, Cris Nieto. To read more, [click here](#).

National Top 100 furniture retailer **City Furniture** recently announced the complex operational goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2040. City Furniture's 2040 Green Promise goal encompasses the company's showrooms, warehouses and offices, plus its statewide delivery fleet and massive recycling initiatives, according to company President Andrew Koenig. The firm already leads the U.S. furniture industry with 240,000 square feet of LEED-certified showroom space and is converting its fleet of delivery trucks to run on compressed natural gas (CNG) instead of relying on diesel fuel. In-house recycling equipment annually keeps 6 million pounds of cardboard, plastic and Styrofoam waste out of landfills. "Our purpose has always been to enrich people's lives and make the world a better place," said Koenig. To read more, [click here](#).

Covelli Enterprises, the largest franchisee of **Panera Bread**, partnered with the Dan Marino Foundation during April through the launch of its 'Pieces of Hope for Autism' cookie campaign in honor of Autism Awareness month. From Monday, April 8 through Sunday, April 14, 100% of the proceeds from all 'Pieces of Hope' cookie sales were donated to the cause. The puzzle piece cookie has been specially designed to represent the symbol for autism and will be sold in all 31 cafes in Broward County and Palm Beach County. To read more, [click here](#).

Colliers International, on behalf of the **City of Dania Beach** and the Community Redevelopment Agency (the City), is pleased to present the opportunity to re-develop the approximately six and one half (6.5) acres City Center Site. The City is willing to contribute the site as part of an overall Public Private Partnership ("P3") plan. The Site was recently appraised at \$12,310,000 and currently consists of the existing City Hall Building of approximately 29,000 square feet together with a 440-space parking structure that is able to be expanded to 660 spaces by adding two floors. The City is seeking to create a new City Hall and commercial complex as part of an overall vision to stimulate development in the City's "Urban Core". To read more, [click here](#).

FPL announced plans to build the world's largest solar-powered battery and drive accelerated retirement of fossil fuel generation. The innovative modernization plan will replace a pair of aging natural gas power generating units with clean and renewable energy, saving FPL customers more than \$100 million while eliminating more than 1 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions. The FPL Manatee Energy Storage Center's battery system is projected to have four times the capacity of the world's largest battery system currently in operation. Charged by an existing, co-located FPL solar power plant, the planned battery storage center will increase the predictability of solar - extending its benefits even when the sun is not shining. To read more, [click here](#).

Gunster, one of Florida's oldest and largest full-service business law firms, announced that the firm is a leader in eight practice areas in the 2019 edition of Chambers and Partners. Gunster had 16 individual lawyers recognized by Chambers USA, a UK-based organization that identifies and ranks lawyers and law firms based on evaluation of applications and interviews conducted by its research team. Law firms and individual lawyers are ranked in bands from 1 (highest) to 6 (lowest), nearly half of Gunster's honored attorneys are ranked as

band 1 or received Senior Statesman recognition. Gunster attorneys increased in Chambers USA rankings by nearly 19% over the previous year. To read more, [click here](#).

The **Jim Moran Institute for Global Entrepreneurship**, in Florida State University's College of Business, has extended its application deadline for its Small Business Executive Program (SBEP) and Nonprofit Executive Program (NPEP) until May 6. Offered at no cost to participants, the programs are funded by The Jim Moran Foundation and Jim and Jan Moran. Qualified applicants must be actively involved in running a business, be a key decision-maker and their company must have been established for at least three years with five or more employees (or volunteers if the company is a nonprofit). To read more, [click here](#).

National Jets at Fort Lauderdale / Hollywood International Airport (KFLA) tied for 5th place overall for line service in the 2019 AIN FBO Survey. In addition, they also ranked in the top 20% of the Top Rated FBO's in the Americas. Thank you for your continued support! We have received our rankings through listening to our guests To read more, [click here](#).

Governor Ron DeSantis and First Lady Casey DeSantis visited with child patients and their families at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital (part of **Memorial Healthcare System**) recently. Joined by special superhero guest Spider-Man, the Governor and First Lady toured the facility at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital and handed out comic books donated by Marvel Entertainment. To read more, please [click here](#).

Congratulations to Maureen and Tom Shea of **Right Associates** who received the Lifetime Achievement Award from **South Florida Business & Wealth Magazine** - Excellence in HR Awards. To read more, [click here](#).

Sheltair Aviation, one of the nation's leading aviation services companies, hosted a beam signing ceremony to mark a milestone in the construction of its new 20-acre \$30-million Northside Hangar Complex at Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport, Florida, which will offer "white glove" fixed-base operator services provided by Banyan Air. Construction is proceeding on a state-of-the-art 207,000 square foot hangar and office complex that will include eight hangars that can welcome large cabin-class sized aircraft, and an additional 31,000 square feet of office and shop space. The complex will also be the home of Banyan's Northside FBO terminal, allowing them to meet the needs of an expanding, exclusive clientele that insists on professionalism and privacy for their travel arrangements. To read more, [click here](#).

Applications are now being accepted to the **SUP-X** Startup Competition. Approximately 30 startups will be accepted to exhibit and compete. The competition includes a 10'x10' exhibit booth in main exhibit hall alongside a total of approximately 100 exhibitors, the opportunity to meet investors, partners, clients/customers, potential employees and others who may help your venture grow and succeed and the opportunity for a 10-minute pitch on the pitch stage in the main exhibit hall. Five finalists will compete in a pitch competition judged by VC investors at the last general session of SUP-X in front of 1000+ attendees. A minimum of \$25,000 in cash and prizes will be awarded to the winner. To read more, [click here](#).

Tripp Scott announced that Norman D. Tripp, Wilson C. Atkinson, Edward R. Curtis, Paul O. Lopez, Daniel E. Taylor and Stephanie Toothaker have made the "Top Lawyers" list in the 2018 edition of South Florida Legal Guide. In addition, Jeffrey Fauer and Ian Lis were named "Top Up and Comers" and the firm was recognized as a "Top Law Firm" for its commitment to excellence in the legal field. To read more, [click here](#).

Results of the latest Casino Gaming Executive Satisfaction Survey have further cemented the top spot of **Seminole Hard Rock** as the clear "Employer of Choice" among the industry's 34 casino companies or standalone casinos. According to the survey, which was conducted from August through October 2018 and released this year, Almost 25 percent of all respondents ranked Seminole Hard Rock as one of their top three employers of interest. To read more, [click here](#).

Ultimate Software, a leading global provider of human capital management (HCM) solutions in the cloud, announced that 4,200 HR and business professionals, partners, and industry analysts from around the globe attended this year's Connections, Ultimate's annual customer and partner conference, held April 2-4 at the Wynn Las Vegas and Encore Resort. To read more, please [click here](#).

Featured Property



[Bank of America Center](#)
1401 N. University Dr., Coral Springs 33071
Type of space: Class A Office
Listed by [Bobby Benton](#), Avison Young
Additional details at www.GreaterFortLauderdaleProperties.com

Upcoming Events



Alliance Events

Alliance Mid-Year Meeting and Luncheon (Sold Out)

Wednesday, May 8, 11:15 am - 1:30 pm

Location: Pier Sixty-Six Hotel & Marina

For more information, please contact Tania Vinaixa at 954-627-0133 or tvinaixa@gflalliance.org or [click here](#).

Alliance Partner Council Meeting (Invitation Only)

Thursday, May 9, 2019, 8:30 a.m.

Location: City of Lauderhill, City Hall Multipurpose Room

For more information, please contact Helen Kulp at 954-627-0131, or hkulp@gflalliance.org

Alliance Leadership Council Meeting (Invitation Only)

Tuesday, June 18, 8:30 a.m.

Location: TBD

For more information, please contact Tania Vinaixa at 954-627-0133 or tvinaixa@gflalliance.org or [click here](#).

Alliance Corporate Council Meeting (Invitation Only)

Wednesday, June 19, 8:30 a.m.

Location: GUNSTER, Fort Lauderdale

For more information, please contact Helen Kulp at 954-627-0131, or hkulp@gflalliance.org

Alliance Governor Council Meeting (Invitation Only)

Tuesday, June 25, 2019, 8:30 a.m.

Location: TBD

For more information, please contact Peggy Doty at 954-627-0134 or pdoty@gflalliance.org

Member/Partner Events

Broward College - Dinner at the Square: Can Sea Level Rise Be Stopped?

Wednesday, May 1, 6:00 p.m.

Location: Funky Buddha Brewery, Oakland Park

For more information, [click here](#).

Tower Forum Breakfast - Competing in a Global Economy

Thursday, May 2, 7:30 a.m.

Location: Tower Club, Fort Lauderdale

For more information, [click here](#).

Dolphin Family Fit Fest

Saturday, May 4, 10:00 a.m.

Location: Baptist Health Training Facility, Davie

For more information, [click here](#).

A Night of Laughter at Gulfstream Park with Monique Marvez

Saturday, May 4, 8:00 p.m.

Location: Gulfstream Park Sport of Kings Theater, Hallandale

For more information, [click here](#).

Broward College Aviation Institute - 12th Aircraft Repossession

Wednesday, May 8

Location: Emil Buehler Aviation Institute - Broward College, Davie

For more information, please [click here](#).

Broward College Aviation Institute - 7th US Corporate Aviation Summit

Thursday, May 9

Location: Emil Buehler Aviation Institute - Broward College, Davie

For more information, please [click here](#).

BCPS 2019 Community Involvement Awards

Thursday, May 9, 8:00 a.m.

Location: Bailey Hall, Broward College A. Hugh Adams Central Campus, Davie

For more information, please [click here](#).

Broward Education Foundation: An Evening in Emerald City

Friday, May 10, 6:30 p.m.

Location: Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Fort Lauderdale

For more information, please [click here](#).

Inclusion Incorporated Forum w/ US Chamber Foundation

Friday, May 17, 8:30 a.m.

Location: Crowne Plaza - Downtown Orlando

For more information, [click here](#).

MIASF 2019 Annual Dinner Meeting & Awards Ceremony

Saturday, May 18, 8:30 a.m.

Location: Conrad Fort Lauderdale Beach

For more information, [click here](#).

Small Business Leadership Conference

Wednesday, June 26 – Friday, June 28

Location: JW Marriott Orlando Grande Lakes, Orlando

For more information, [click here](#).

Calendar items are subject to change without notice. Please visit www.gfalliance.org for the most current calendar of events and meetings and for more information regarding the Alliance.

Enterprise Florida Events

Doing Business in Colombia Roadshow

May 14 - 17

Locations: Miami, *Ft. Lauderdale*, Tampa, Orlando, Jacksonville

Categorized in: Seminars/Workshops

For information, [click here](#).

Hospitalar 2019

May 21 - 24

Location: São Paulo, Brazil

Categorized in: International Trade Show

For information, [click here](#)

Export Sales Mission to Vietnam

May 31 - June 8

Location: Ho Chi Minh City & Hanoi, Vietnam

Categorized in: Export Sales/Trade Mission

For information, [click here](#)

Veterans Florida Expo

June 15, 8:00 a.m.

Location: Hilton Orlando

For information, [click here](#).

International Paris Air Show 2019

June 17, 2019 - June 21, 2019

Paris, France - Le Bourget

Categorized in: International Trade Show

For Information, [click here](#).

Enterprise Florida (EFI) conducts or participates in an extensive schedule of export marketing missions and exhibitions worldwide. These trade events are open to all businesses registered in Florida. For more information and more event listings, please [click here](#).

Looking for commercial properties and demographic information? Visit www.greaterfortlauderdaleproperties.com.
Why have so many companies relocated to Greater Fort Lauderdale? [Click here](#) to find out (90 second video).

#WhyGFL - [Click here](#) to find out why millennials and emerging leaders love living and working in Greater Fort Lauderdale