
Language: English

South Florida: Your Global Business Connection



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Strategically located between Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and the Pacific Rim, South Florida is one of the world's most important gateways for international commerce. With a fast-growing population of more than 6.0 million full-time residents, South Florida is also one of the most vibrant domestic markets in the United States. Today, the three South Florida counties – Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach – are home to approximately 1,300 multinationals from throughout the world, as well as numerous Fortune 500 companies. Our top industry clusters include:

- Aviation/Aerospace
- Creative Industries
- Fashion/Lifestyle
- Financial Services
- Hedge Funds/Private Equity
- International Commerce
- Information Technology (IT)/Telecommunications
- Life Sciences
- Logistics and Marine Transport
- Wireless Communications/Mobility



Our regional assets include a highly skilled, multilingual workforce, international airports and seaports, and world-class Internet and telecommunications access. The region has an exceptional quality of life with year-round outdoor activities, arts, culture and sport activities. You will find a wide range of housing options, from beachfront condominiums to suburban single-family homes.

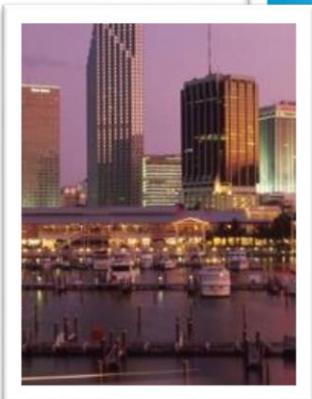
Whether it's through programs such as small business assistance, services for women and minority owned businesses or expedited permitting for companies needing to relocate or expand, you will find local governments with a strong record of providing the foundation for businesses to succeed. South Florida's government leaders have long been on the cutting edge of supporting business location and growth by planning, funding, building and maintaining the infrastructure that is so vital to a strong economy. Not content to rest on past successes, local communities are establishing programs to continue to make South Florida the place to live and work now and in the years to come.

South Florida is business friendly and we invite you to take advantage of our region's dynamic business climate and consider relocating or expanding your company in South Florida: Your Global Business Connection.



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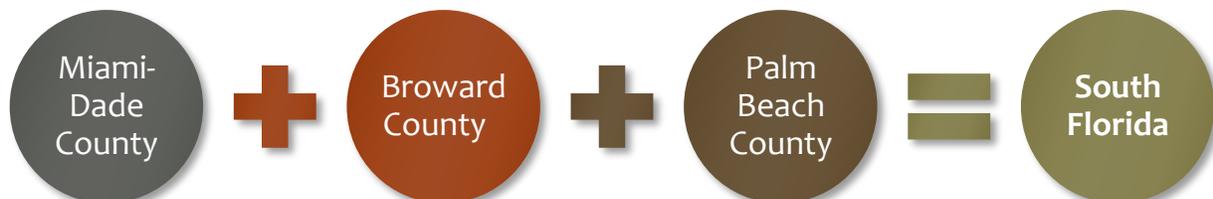


Why South Florida?

Like Hong Kong, London and San Francisco, South Florida is one of the world's most important gateways for trade and commerce. With its strategic location, South Florida is the nexus connecting the United States and Canada with Latin America, the Caribbean, Europe and Asia.

Top Reasons to Choose South Florida

- Strategic location in the Western Hemisphere
- Skilled, multicultural, multilingual workforce
- Convenient U.S. and international air connections
- Seaports, free trade zones and multimodal cargo transportation
- Internet and telecommunications hub
- More than 150 international consulates, trade offices and bi-national chambers of commerce that support international business
- Business-friendly government
- A competitive and highly favorable tax climate
- Dynamic and diverse economy with a population exceeding 6.0 million
- Economic and financial incentives
- Warm climate and exceptional quality of life



Transportation Hub

With three international airports and three major seaports, South Florida provides easy access to domestic and international markets around the world. It has been rated a “5-Star Logistics Metro” by Expansion Management magazine.

Workforce and Education

For global companies, one of South Florida’s most important assets is its highly skilled, multicultural and multilingual workforce. The region’s labor pool consists of more than 3 million residents, who collectively speak more than 100 different languages. In addition, many South Florida workers understand the cultural nuances of doing business throughout the Americas, as well as Europe and the Pacific Rim.

A Robust Domestic Market

Covering a land area of more than 5,000 square miles with a population surpassing 6.0 million full-time residents, South Florida is one of the major consumer markets in the U.S. It is the eighth largest MSA (metropolitan statistical area) in the United States and the average household income is over \$72,000.

Connectivity

A network of fiber-optic cables speeds the flow of voice, data and video communications throughout South Florida and around the world. South Florida has numerous telecommunications carrier facilities, data storage facilities, fiber loops, international cable landings and multiple power grids, including the Telefonica KeyCenter and the NAP (Network Access Point) of the Americas. The latter is one of only five Tier-1 Network Access Points in the world.

International Infrastructure

South Florida businesses can take advantage of one of the most sophisticated and diverse international infrastructures in the world. The region has the third largest consular corps in the United States with approximately 70 consulates and 25 foreign trade offices from the major countries in Latin America and the Caribbean as well as Europe and Asia. Other assistance is provided through more than 45 bi-national chambers of commerce, three World Trade Centers, Enterprise Florida (the State of Florida’s economic development organization), the U.S. Export Assistance Center and many other organizations.

Favorable Cost of Doing Business

South Florida is a highly competitive location in terms of the costs involved in operating a business. Compared to many other major metropolitan areas, South Florida has a low tax structure. There is no state or local personal income tax, and the state corporate income tax is 5.5 percent. Property tax rates are among the lowest of major U.S. metropolitan areas.

With convenient access to regional, U.S. and global markets; a unique multicultural, multilingual, skilled workforce; a dynamic business climate; an outstanding quality of life and long history of entrepreneurial success — South Florida is your global business connection.



Investment, Relocation and Expansion Assistance

The Miami-Dade Beacon Council, The Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance and The Business Development Board of Palm Beach County, provide free and confidential services to companies seeking to relocate or expand operations in South Florida. These services include:

- Market research and demographic information
- Business costs information
- Competitive area analysis
- Site selection assistance
- Access to labor training
- Access to financial and incentive programs
- Permitting assistance

For more Information, please go to:

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