



Florida is one of the most international U.S. states. With its multilingual, multicultural population and strategic location at the crossroads of the Americas, Florida is a major global hub for trade and investment, high technology, banking and insurance, travel and tourism, communications, healthcare, and education.

- ▶ Florida is a major gateway for merchandise trade between North America, Latin America, the Caribbean, and other world regions. In 2008, goods valued at more than US\$130 billion entered or exited the United States through Florida's two U.S. Customs Districts. (*U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Division*)
- ▶ Florida's combined exports of goods and services amounted to US\$84.6 billion in 2008, helping to sustain over 1.1 million jobs in the state. (*Enterprise Florida estimates*)
- ▶ Florida ranks 5th in the nation in state-origin exports (i.e. those actually produced or with significant value-added in the state), which reached US\$54.3 billion in 2008. (*World Institute for Strategic Economic Research*)
- ▶ Florida ranks 3rd among all U.S. states in high-tech exports, reaching over US\$14.6 billion in 2008. (*AeA Cyberstates and Enterprise Florida estimates*)
- ▶ Florida is a diversified global exporter of knowledge-intensive services, such as accounting, consulting, engineering, legal, medical, telecommunications, and transportation services. Florida's services exports amounted to more than US\$30 billion in 2008. (*Enterprise Florida estimates*)
- ▶ The total value of holdings by foreign-affiliated companies in Florida reached US\$39.3 billion in 2006, making Florida the 9th largest recipient of foreign direct investment among all U.S. states. (*Bureau of Economic Analysis*)
- ▶ There are about 1,500 foreign-affiliated companies, operating at nearly 2,200 individual business locations all over Florida. These companies employed some 273,100 Floridians in 2006, ranking the state 5th among the states in total employment by foreign-affiliated firms. (*Bureau of Economic Analysis*)
- ▶ Miami is second only to New York as a U.S. center for international banking. Over 80 foreign and domestic banks active in international trade and finance have offices in Florida, including 6 of the 10 largest banks in the world. (*Florida International Bankers Association*)
- ▶ Florida is the world's telecommunications gateway to Latin America and the Caribbean: numerous undersea and terrestrial fiber optic cables converge in Florida, ensuring unparalleled global connectivity.
- ▶ Florida sits at the nexus of transportation links in the Americas. The state's 14 deepwater seaports, over 30 airports certified for air carrier operations, and 56 officially-designated multimodal connectors ensure the seamless movement of people and goods between any two points on the planet.
- ▶ Florida is home to 800 airports, including 19 commercial service airports and 100+ general aviation airports. Florida's airports have numerous direct flights to all key Latin American and Caribbean destinations, most major European cities, and one-stop air services to the Asia/Pacific region.
- ▶ Since the beginning of the 21st century, Florida has gained over half a million new residents originating from other countries, and about 80,000 new immigrants settle in the state each year. (*U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division*)
- ▶ According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Florida has 4.4 million speakers of languages other than English. Best represented are speakers of Spanish (3.2 million), followed by Indo-European languages (865,000), and Asia and Pacific Islander languages (239,000).
- ▶ Florida ranks 6th among U.S. states in the number of international students: in the 2007-08 academic year, nearly 27,000 students from outside the U.S. were enrolled at Florida's colleges and universities. (*Institute of International Education*)