

MIAMI

BUSINESS PROFILE & LOCATION GUIDE 2014



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- Gastroenterology & GI Surgery
- Geriatrics
- Gynecology
- Nephrology
- Neurology & Neurosurgery
- Orthopedics
- Pulmonology
- Urology

South Miami Hospital BAPTIST HEALTH SOUTH FLORIDA



AWARDED SPECIALTIES:

- Cardiology & Heart Surgery
- Diabetes & Endocrinology
- Gastroenterology & GI Surgery
- Geriatrics
- Gynecology
- Nephrology
- Neurology & Neurosurgery
- Orthopedics
- Urology

Doctors Hospital BAPTIST HEALTH SOUTH FLORIDA



AWARDED SPECIALTIES:

- Gastroenterology & GI Surgery
- Geriatrics
- Gynecology
- Neurology & Neurosurgery
- Orthopedics
- Pulmonology

Homestead Hospital BAPTIST HEALTH SOUTH FLORIDA



AWARDED SPECIALTY:

- Urology



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 **Baptist Children's Hospital**
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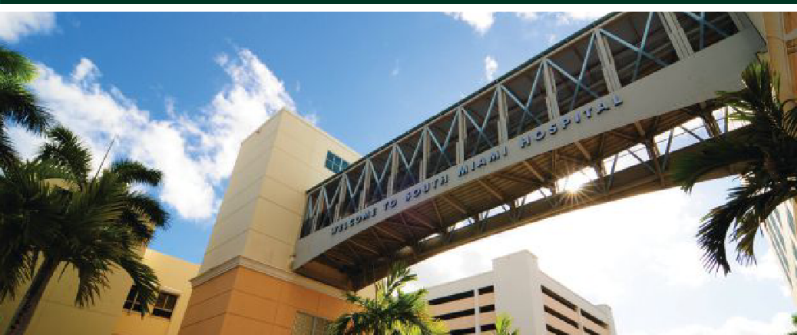
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 **Homestead Hospital**
BAPTIST HEALTH SOUTH FLORIDA



 **Mariners Hospital**
BAPTIST HEALTH SOUTH FLORIDA



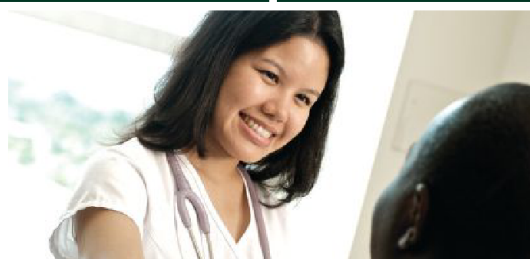
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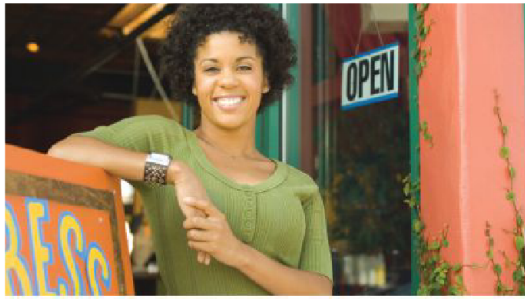
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WHATEVER YOUR BUSINESS, WE'RE WORKING FOR YOU.

The Beacon Council helps small and large businesses locate and expand in Miami-Dade County. Our services are at no cost and confidential, and include help with market research and demographics information, business costs information, site selection assistance, permitting facilitation, employee assistance relocation, access to labor training and access to financial and incentive programs. Call the Beacon Council at 305-579-1300 for more information.



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Quality of Life in Miami-Dade County

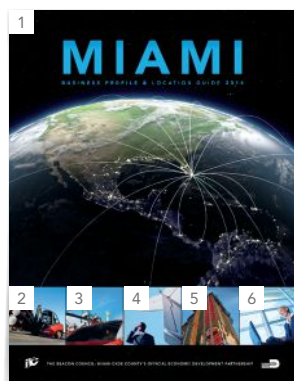
Award-winning academic institutions and state-of-the-art hospitals add to the list of reasons to make Miami-Dade County your new home. Turn to pages 76-83 to learn more about the County's private and public schools and universities, and graduate business programs. Pages 84-89 cover the basics about Miami-Dade's top medical centers.

Plus:

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A quick reference list that includes consulates, trade offices and bi-national chambers for new or expanding businesses.

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Welcome to Miami!

Miami-Dade County has emerged as one of the world's premier destinations for new and expanding businesses. Serving as the hub of transportation and telecommunication links with the Americas, Europe, Asia and Africa, Miami-Dade has long earned worldwide recognition as a major center of international commerce. Miami-Dade has it all!

¡Bienvenido a Miami!

El condado Miami-Dade se ha convertido en uno de los principales destinos del mundo para las empresas nuevas y en expansión. Sirviendo como el punto central de transporte y telecomunicaciones con las Américas, Europa, Asia y África, el condado Miami-Dade es reconocido desde hace tiempo a nivel mundial como uno de los principales centros de comercio internacional. ¡Miami-Dade lo tiene todo!

Bem-vindo a Miami!

O condado de Miami-Dade surgiu como um dos destinos mais nobres, tanto para empresas novas quanto para empresas em expansão. Constituindo o centro de transporte e links de comunicação com as Américas, Europa, Ásia y África, Miami-Dade já de há muito granjeou reconhecimento internacional como um dos principais centros de comercio internacional. Miami-Dade tem de tudo!

Bienvenue à Miami!

Le comté de Miami-Dade est devenu l'une des premières destinations mondiales pour ses activités commerciales nouvelles et celles en expansion. Servant de plaque tournante pour les transports et les liens de télécommunication avec les Amériques, l'Europe, l'Asie et l'Afrique, Miami-Dade est reconnu dans le monde entier comme l'un des principaux centres d'affaires international. Miami-Dade a tout pour plaire!

Willkommen in Miami!

Miami-Dade County hat sich zu einem der bevorzugten Standorte der Welt für neue und wachsende Unternehmen entwickelt. Als Knotenpunkt der Transport und Telekommunikationsverbindungen zwischen den beiden amerikanischen Kontinenten, Europa, Asien, und Afrika ist Miami-Dade seit langem in aller Welt als wichtiges Zentrum des internationalen Handels anerkannt. Miami-Dade hat einfach alles!

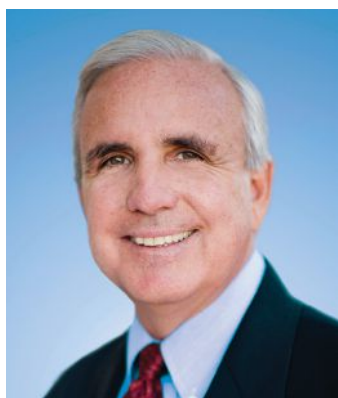
Benvenuti a Miami!

La contea di Miami-Dade si è affermata come una delle principali destinazioni mondiali per attività economiche nuove o in espansione. Svolgendo il ruolo di centro dei trasporti e di collegamento delle telecomunicazioni tra le Americhe, l'Europa, l'Asia e l'Africa, Miami-Dade si è guadagnata da lungo tempo la reputazione a livello mondiale del centro più importante del commercio internazionale. Miami-Dade ha davvero di tutto!

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Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor
Miami-Dade County

Greetings!

As Mayor of Miami-Dade County, I encourage you to make the smart business decision and bring your organization to our dynamic, diverse community. Miami-Dade County is thriving and we offer everything that forward-thinking companies like yours are looking for: a favorable regulatory environment; an educated, multilingual workforce; an established international banking and finance sector; a strategic geographic location as the Gateway to Latin America and the Caribbean; and a robust trade and travel infrastructure that links us to the world by air and by sea. And if that isn't enough to raise your interest, there's always our sparkling beaches, national parks and world-class dining and entertainment.

So go ahead and make the move to a city on the rise. You'll be glad you did.



Sheldon Anderson
Chair
The Beacon Council

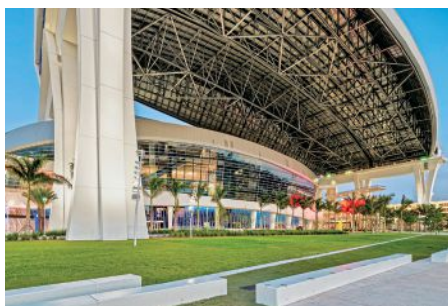
Thank you for your interest in our community. The *2014 Miami Business Profile and Location Guide* is a glance at just some of the benefits we have to offer you and your business. There is much more to Greater Miami than the beaches. It has become a global business center with world-class connectivity, from a growing airport and seaport to a huge telecommunications infrastructure. The workforce is multilingual and multicultural. Local and state governments are business friendly. It is the banking and financial center of the Americas with a large concentration of international banks and a global Life Science and Technology Park. With the success of Art Basel Miami Beach, our performing arts centers, the New World Symphony and Miami City Ballet, and other organizations large and small, Miami-Dade has become a burgeoning arts and culture destination further enhancing the quality of life for our residents.

As chairman of The Beacon Council, I represent both a business community and a public sector with a common vision for a bright economic future. That vision includes working together to help build a local economy that is able to sustain the ebbs and flows of the future. Through its distinguished Board of Directors and member-investors, The Beacon Council produces results-oriented economic development programs that reach the world, promoting Miami-Dade's position as a global business center. Through this publication, we invite you to share our vision and discover all that this community has to offer you and your business.

ALREADY OPEN



Miami International Airport, MIA Mover System



Marlins Park



Miami Intermodal Center

Photos: Courtesy of Miami International Airport, Daniel Korzeniewski / Alamy, J. Kevin Foltz



Larry K. Williams
President & CEO
The Beacon Council

It is a pleasure to present this *2014 Miami Business Profile and Location Guide*, on behalf of The Beacon Council, Miami-Dade County's official economic development partnership. This award-winning publication is filled with valuable research and community information. This profile offers essential information for businesses already here and planning to expand, or for companies interested in re-locating to our community. From information on immigration and visas to lists of professionals from diverse fields, it is a resource for the businesses interested in Miami-Dade County.

Since its creation in 1985, The Beacon Council has helped bring new job-generating investments to Miami-Dade County and assisted existing companies with their expansion efforts. As a result, nearly 900 companies have committed to creating 60,800 direct jobs and retained more than 17,250 existing jobs, and added more than \$3.6 billion in capital investment to our community. The Beacon Council offers businesses a variety of confidential services, at no cost to the company, including market research, demographic information, business costs information, site selection assistance, permitting facilitation, access to labor training and access to financial and incentive programs. We work with all local municipalities throughout this community to help ease the way.

Why choose Miami-Dade County? The infrastructure is one of the best in the nation with the newly renovated Miami International Airport and the almost completed deep dredge of PortMiami. Our connectivity to the world has attracted more than 1,400 multinational corporations. Our diverse workforce can provide professionally fluent foreign-language speakers to employers. Miami-Dade County also has a strong and growing domestic economy serving more than 5.6 million South Floridians. It boasts a high quality of life with a wide range of housing options, year-round outdoor recreational activities, renowned cultural institutions, including two new museums located in the heart of downtown Miami and four major professional sports franchises.

Please use this guide to explore Miami-Dade County's diverse and business friendly community. Visit our website, www.beaconcouncil.com, to see all that both the county and The Beacon Council can offer to make your business grow.

COMING SOON



Pérez Art Museum Miami

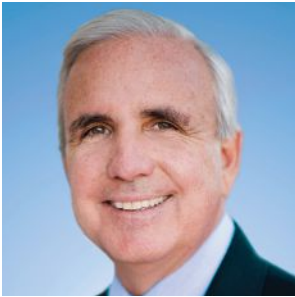


Brickell CityCentre



PortMiami Tunnel and Rail Intermodal Yard

Photos: Courtesy of Pérez Art Museum Miami/Daniel Azoulay, courtesy of Brickell CityCentre, Courtesy of PortMiami



Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor



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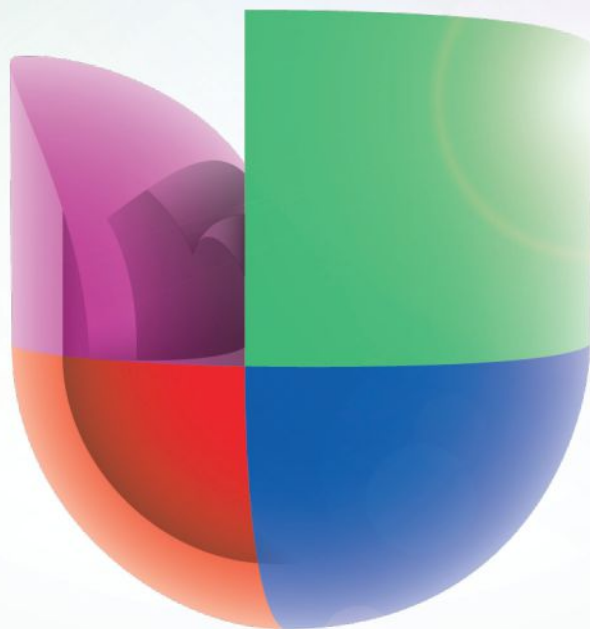


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"The region has become a hotbed for innovation and expansion into some of the fastest growing emerging markets in the world. The center is shifting from New York to cities like Miami for real economic growth and opportunity here in the U.S."

*Luis Navas,
Vice Chair, Global Governance Advisors*

WHY MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

GATEWAY TO THE GLOBE

BY RICHARD WESTLUND

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As a significant center for international trade and finance, Miami-Dade is a gateway to global investment. Reliable infrastructure, convenient air and sea connections and a multilingual workforce – plus an appealing quality of life – make this a dynamic place for new or expanding businesses.





Miami's booming downtown area includes the bustling Brickell neighborhood, a hub for international finance and banking.

Conveniently located near Miami International Airport, the City of Doral has helped attract international companies to the region.

"South Florida's strengths stem from its globally strategic geographical location, vibrant economy and cultural compatibility."

*Jorge Rossell,
Chairman and CEO of TotalBank*



With a gateway location on the U.S. East Coast in the center of the Western Hemisphere, Miami-Dade County is a powerful magnet for global investment and one of the world's most important business centers. It's also an appealing home for C-suite executives, families and the creative knowledge workers who are driving the nation's economy.

"Our main key strategic advantage is location," says Jorge Gonzalez, president and CEO, City National Bank. "South Florida is the center of a region that is vital to so many industries – trade, life sciences, technology,

finance, consumer goods, tourism – from so many regions of the world. We also enjoy a tremendously recognizable brand that drives not just a critical visitor industry but investment in real estate and business, particularly from Latin America and Europe."

A low tax climate, convenient air and sea connections, reliable infrastructure and a unique multicultural workforce are other key attractions for U.S. and international businesses. "Florida leaders have created a climate that encourages private investment," said AT&T Florida President Marshall Criser, III,

Miami-Dade County Annual Average of Business Establishments, 2008–2012					
Industry	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Construction	6,237	5,573	5,031	4,971	5,100
Manufacturing	2,575	2,556	2,580	2,634	2,672
Wholesale Trade	8,998	9,010	9,383	9,642	10,116
Retail Trade	11,117	11,300	11,957	12,451	13,038
Financial Services	10,020	9,354	8,970	9,076	9,374
Professional & Business Services	17,986	17,647	17,954	18,368	19,161
Educational Services	838	862	891	1,000	1,071
Health Care & Social Assistance	8,534	8,678	8,753	8,894	9,092
Leisure & Hospitality	5,953	6,118	6,398	6,677	6,999
Government	239	240	245	246	235
Other	12,956	12,837	13,919	13,735	14,187
Total	85,453	84,175	85,081	87,694	91,045

Source: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Quarterly Census of Employment Wages (formerly ES202), 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012.



Miami among Top Cities for Global Trade

Miami ranked No. 4 in *Global Trade Magazine* as one of the top 25 cities for global trade. Among the highlights, the magazine lists Miami as having \$43.1 billion in total exports in 2011, an increase of \$7.2 billion from 2010 which also equals to an increase of 20.6 percent.

The magazine goes on to call Miami the “Capital of Latin America” and states that more than 1,400 multinational corporations use Miami as the headquarters of their Latin American corporations, including “the big boys: Exxon, AIG, Microsoft, Visa International and Wal-mart, to name a few.” Miami is also expected to become the hemisphere’s tech hub, according to the publication.

Source: *Global Trade Magazine*, 2013

Miami-Dade County Top Public Employers 2013

Company	No. of Employees
Miami-Dade County Public Schools	33,477
Miami-Dade County	25,502
Federal Government	19,600
Florida State Government	18,300
Jackson Health System	8,208
Florida International University	3,534
Miami Dade College	2,356
City of Miami	3,656
Homestead AFB	3,000
Miami VA Healthcare System	2,500

Miami-Dade County Top Private Employers 2013

Company	No. of Employees
Baptist Health South Florida	13,376
University of Miami	12,720
American Airlines	9,000
Publix Super Markets	4,604
Carnival Cruise Lines	3,500
Mount Sinai Medical Center	3,000
Miami Children’s Hospital	2,800
Sedanos Supermarkets	2,600
Royal Caribbean International/Celebrity Cruises	2,051
Bank of America Merrill Lynch	2,000

Source: *The Beacon Council*, 2013

noting that AT&T has invested more than \$2.8 billion in 2010-12, with Miami-Dade being a critical market for early technology adoption and continuous growth. “The investment AT&T is making in our wireless and wired networks is essential to spurring Florida’s economy and creating jobs, specifically in communities like Miami-Dade County. In our increasingly wireless world, mobile and broadband networks create economic opportunities for health care, manufacturing, education, transportation and public safety, and virtually every other economic sector.”

It’s not just Fortune 500 companies and multinationals that are investing and prospering in Miami-Dade. ATR North America, an aerospace company, recently announced plans to relocate its American headquarters from Virginia to Miami Springs, adding up to 40 direct jobs within three years. ATR is an Alenia Aeromacchi and EADS joint venture whose focus is turboprop aircraft manufacturing.

“ATR represents exactly the type of company – and the kind of jobs – that we want to bring here: globally respect-

"The opportunities for furthering Miami-Dade County's international position are boundless. In the future, Miami-Dade can be positioned among those few global cities whose business brand is borderless: London, Tokyo, Paris, New York, and Hong Kong."

One Community One Goal Strategic Plan – Report 4, May 2012

Annual Not Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment Data in Miami-Dade County				
Year	Civilian Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
2012	1,299,265	1,178,732	120,533	9.3%
2011	1,279,460	1,137,129	142,331	11.1%
2010	1,244,809	1,090,699	154,110	12.4%
2009	1,206,746	1,071,136	135,610	11.2 %
2008	1,237,294	1,160,093	77,201	6.2 %
2007	1,245,007	1,193,739	51,268	4.1 %
2006	1,163,204	1,115,756	47,448	4.1 %
2005	1,123,472	1,071,853	51,619	4.6 %
2004	1,107,431	1,046,790	60,641	5.5 %
2003	1,097,565	1,032,845	64,720	5.9 %
2002	1,092,613	1,021,244	71,369	6.5 %
2001	1,098,226	1,031,747	66,479	6.1 %
2000	1,103,485	1,046,900	56,585	5.1 %

Source: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Labor Market Information, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

ed, high-skilled and technology-driven," said Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez. "Miami-Dade County is a great fit for ATR, as well, with our ideal location, strong aviation industry and booming international airport."

Miami-Dade's dynamic multicultural population of 2.5 million includes a fast-growing number of creative workers in fields as diverse as advertising, design and information technology. A warm climate with year-round outdoor recreational activities, new cultural institutions and art districts, and a high-ener-

gy 24/7 urban lifestyle are among the reasons Miami-Dade is a "hot" destination for entrepreneurs and talented workers.

"Miami-Dade has a great deal to offer younger professionals," said Fabiola Fleuranvil, president and CMO, Blueprint Creative Group. Since relocating her marketing and branding to Miami-Dade four years ago, Fleuranvil has grown her nationwide clientele. "You can build business relationships here, be engaged in the community, and take advantage of the opportunities to succeed."

"Miami-Dade's broad understanding of the Latin American market and its importance to the world economy, the diversity of its workforce and its remarkable infrastructure, and the ease with which one can travel to and from the region, all make the location the ideal option for a company like ours to do business."

Enrique R. Martínez,
President and Managing Director,
Discovery Networks Latin America/US Hispanic

Key Facts about Miami International Airport

- \$32.8 billion annual economic impact
- Contributes 272,395 jobs directly and indirectly to the local economy
- First among U.S. airports in international freight
- Second among U.S. airports in international travel
- 2.03 million annual cargo tonnage
- 387,581 annual commercial aircraft movements
- 39.5 million annual passengers
- 134 non-stop destinations
- 86 international destinations
- 90 scheduled and charter carriers

Source: Miami-Dade Aviation 2013, www.miami-airport.com

International Business Center 2013	
International Businesses	
Number of Multinationals	About 1,000
Number of International Banks	42
Total Trade	\$124.73 billion
Total Export	\$73.30 billion
Total Import	\$51.43 billion
International Organizations	
Number of Consulates	73
Number of Bi-National Chambers of Commerce	42
Number of Trade Offices	21
International Transportation	
Number of Cities Served by Air	86
Air Passengers	19.4 million
Air Cargo	1.8 million tons
Number of Seaports Served	250
Cruise Passengers	4.1 million
Sea Cargo	8.3 million tons

Source: Miami International Airport, 2013; Port of Miami, 2013; Who's Here Directory, 2013; Miami Trade Numbers 2013, www.federalreserve.gov, December 2012

A Global Business Center

Nearly every region of the world is represented in Miami-Dade County's business community. A recent study by WorldCity and co-sponsored by The Beacon Council found that more than 1,400 multinationals employ 125,000 workers in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties, overseeing more than \$236 billion in annual revenues. Miami-Dade is also the driving force in South Florida's tri-county regional market, whose population is 5.6 million. Service providers and professional, manufacturing and distribution companies

are thriving in the region's dynamic entrepreneurial environment.

One of the reasons Miami-Dade County is a top international business center is its transportation and data infrastructure. Miami International Airport is one of the world's busiest international airports for passengers and cargo with convenient non-stop global connections. PortMiami welcomes millions of cruise passengers every year, along with cargo lines serving Europe, Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. Miami-Dade is also home to NAP of the Americas®, a key

continued on page 26

WORLD-CLASS ACCESS

To A World-Class Destination



Miami International Airport Is The #2 Gateway To The USA, the Leading Airport Connecting The Americas And The Airport of Choice By International Passengers To Florida. MIA Is Now Featuring **ASIP4** Our Most Innovative Airline Incentive Program For Air Service Development.

World-Class Airport.
World-Class Miami.
Come Join Our World.



MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Gateway to Miami, to Florida and to the Americas

marketing@miami-airport.com

[facebook.com/iflymia](https://www.facebook.com/iflymia) [@iflymia](https://twitter.com/iflymia)



Nonstop Flights and Flying Times to Major Cities in the Americas and Europe from Miami

U.S. and Canada	Weekly Flights	Average Flight Time
Atlanta, GA (ATL)	133	1 hr, 55 mins
Boston, MA (BOS)	49	3 hrs, 15 mins
Chicago, IL (ORD)	78	3 hrs, 10 mins
Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX (DFW)	71	2 hrs, 55 mins
Houston, TX (IAH)	62	2 hrs, 35 mins
Los Angeles, CA (LAX)	61	5 hrs, 15 mins
Montreal, Canada (YUL)	23	3 hrs, 25 mins
New York, NY (JFK, LGA)	173	2 hrs, 59 mins
Philadelphia, PA (PHL)	45	2 hrs, 45 mins
San Francisco, CA (SFO)	21	5 hrs, 50 mins
Toronto, Canada (YYZ)	39	3 hrs, 10 mins
Washington, D.C. (IAD, DCA)	90	2 hrs, 25 mins
Mexico and Central America	Weekly Flights	Average Flight Time
Belize City, Belize (BZE)	13	2 hrs, 10 mins
Guatemala City, Guatemala (GUA)	27	2 hrs, 35 mins
Managua, Nicaragua (MGA)	28	2 hrs, 35 mins
Mexico City, Mexico (MEX)	63	3 hrs, 15 mins
Panama City, Panama (PTY)	54	2 hrs, 55 mins
San Jose, Costa Rica (SJO)	30	2 hrs, 45 mins
San Salvador, El Salvador (SAL)	14	2 hrs, 40 mins
Tegucigalpa, Honduras (TGU)	12	2 hrs, 20 mins
Caribbean	Weekly Flights	Average Flight Time
Barbados (BGI)	14	3 hrs, 35 mins
Curaçao (CUR)	34	2 hrs, 55 mins
Freeport, Bahamas (FPO)	28	49 mins
Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands (GCM)	36	1 hr, 25 mins
Kingston, Jamaica (KIN)	22	1 hr, 40 mins
Nassau, Bahamas (NAS)	84	1 hr, 10 mins
Port Au Prince, Haiti (PAP)	45	1 hrs, 55 mins
Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago (POS)	21	3 hrs, 45 mins
San Juan, Puerto Rico (SJU)	49	2 hrs, 35 mins
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (SDQ)	28	2 hrs, 10 mins
South America	Weekly Flights	Average Flight Time
Asuncion, Paraguay (ASU)	4	8 hrs
Bogota, Colombia (BOG)	43	3 hrs, 30 mins
Buenos Aires, Argentina (EZE)	35	8 hrs, 40 mins
Cali, Colombia (CLO)	14	3 hrs, 40 mins
Caracas, Venezuela (CCS)	50	3 hrs, 15 mins
Guayaquil, Ecuador (GYE)	14	4 hrs, 20 mins
La Paz, Bolivia (LPB)	7	6 hrs, 35 mins
Lima, Peru (LIM)	35	5 hrs, 40 mins
Montevideo, Uruguay (MVD)	7	9 hrs, 5 mins
Quito, Ecuador (UIO)	21	4 hrs
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (GIG)	21	8 hrs, 35 mins
Santiago, Chile (SCL)	18	8 hrs, 25 mins
Sao Paulo, Brazil (GRU)	40	8 hrs, 30 mins
Europe	Weekly Flights	Average Flight Time
Amsterdam, Netherlands (AMS)	2	9 hrs, 45 mins
Barcelona, Spain (BCN)	7	9 hrs, 10 mins
Berlin, Germany (TXL)	4	9 hrs, 25 mins
Düsseldorf, Germany (DUS)	9	9 hrs
Frankfurt, Germany (FRA)	7	8 hrs, 55 mins
Lisbon, Portugal (LIS)	3	8 hrs, 45 mins
London (Heathrow) (LHR)	35	8 hrs, 30 mins
Madrid, Spain (MAD)	21	8 hrs, 35 mins
Moscow (DME, SVD)	4	11 hrs
Paris (CDG, ORY)	14	9 hrs
Rome, Italy (FCO)	7	9 hrs, 30 mins
Zurich, Switzerland (ZHR)	9	9 hrs, 20 mins

Source: Miami International Airport. Average flight times are based on airline websites.

"Miami is a culturally diverse community and the undisputed meeting place for conducting business with the Americas."

Juan N. Cento,

President Latin America & Caribbean Division,

FedEx Express

With shipping lines sailing to more than 100 countries, PortMiami is a strategic and reliable resource for international companies.

Miami Customs District Trade by Region in US Dollars 2012			
Region	Exports	Imports	Total Trade
Africa	\$373,198,874	\$125,639,890	\$498,838,764
Asia	\$2,250,477,941	\$10,305,239,787	\$12,555,717,728
Caribbean	\$7,978,256,417	\$4,182,368,794	\$12,160,625,211
Central America	\$9,275,620,682	\$11,570,208,915	\$20,845,829,597
Europe	\$11,754,596,730	\$8,480,199,634	\$20,234,796,364
Middle East	\$1,467,763,140	\$196,594,422	\$1,664,357,562
North America	\$927,451,412	\$3,189,693,750	\$4,117,145,162
Oceania	\$166,378,603	\$165,640,361	\$332,018,964
South America	\$39,101,653,048	\$13,214,385,849	\$52,316,038,897
Overall Totals	\$73,295,396,847	\$51,429,971,402	\$124,725,368,249

Miami Customs District Percentage of U.S. Trade by Region 2012			
Region	Exports	Imports	Total Trade
Africa	1.14%	0.19%	0.50%
Asia	0.58%	1.21%	1.01%
Caribbean	34.93%	25.48%	30.98%
Central America	27.89%	42.40%	34.43%
Europe	3.59%	1.88%	2.60%
Middle East	2.11%	0.17%	0.89%
North America	0.18%	0.53%	0.37%
Oceania	0.47%	1.23%	0.68%
South America	30.60%	10.31%	20.44%

Source: The Beacon Council Research Department, 2013. WISER from U.S. Census Bureau

continued from page 22

connecting point for hemispheric data, voice and video service.

Since 1989, Miami has been one of American Airlines' largest hubs, with more than 300 daily flights to more than 115 destinations. In 2013, American added service from Miami to Fort-de-France, Martinique; Pointe-a-Pitre, Guadeloupe and San Diego, California, and plans to begin flights to Milan, Italy, and new service to Curitiba and Porto Alegre in Brazil. "Miami is an important business and leisure destination for our customers, and we are committed to serving them with a robust

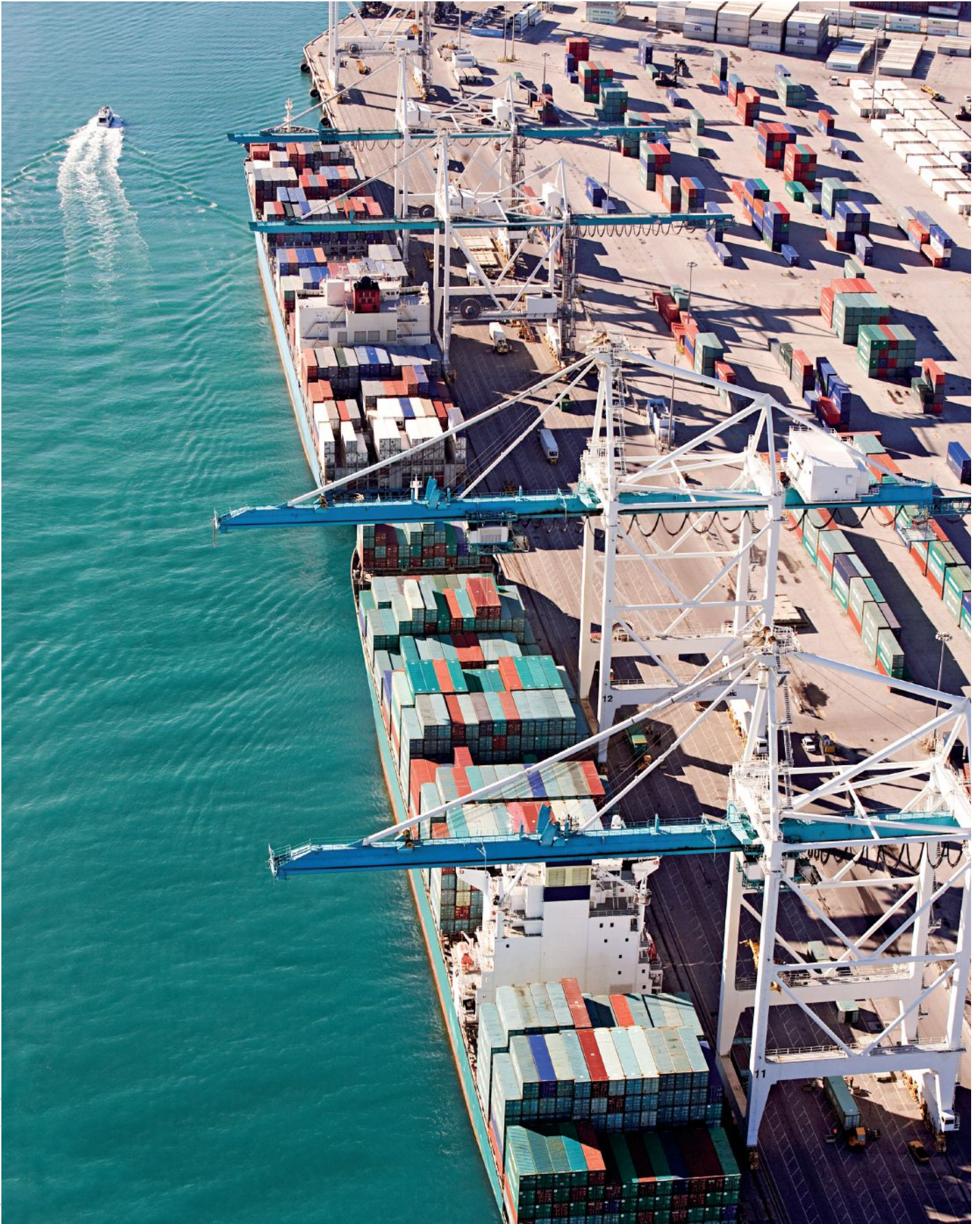
route network from our Miami hub along with top-notch products and services," said Marilyn J. DeVoe, American Airlines' vice president - Miami. "Our growth in Miami has been remarkable during the past decade, and we expect to continue to grow our hub and offer our customers even more choices when travelling to or from South Florida."

Considering Miami-Dade County's global connections, it's no surprise that international trade is one of the strongest driving forces in the region's economy. In 2012, the Miami Customs District set a new record for total trade.

Key Facts about PortMiami

- 16 top shipping lines sail to more than 85 seaports directly
- \$27 billion annual economic impact
- 8.1 million annual cargo tonnage
- Commercial trade combined with the cruise business supports approximately 207,000 jobs
- 3.8 million annual cruise passengers
- Scheduled to open in 2014, the PortMiami Tunnel will provide direct access between the seaport and highways I-395 and I-95.
- Scheduled to be completed in 2015, the Deep Dredge Project will increase trade with Asia as PortMiami benefits from a shift in trade from West Coast to East Coast ports.

Source: 2013 PortMiami, www.miamidade.gov/portofmiami



Gearing Up to Help First Responders



J. Kevin Foltz

Minerva Bunker Gear Cleaners services more than 800 emergency departments across the nation.

It's not just multinationals that find Miami-Dade to be an ideal location for business. Domestic companies like Minerva Bunker Gear Cleaners also benefit from the region's convenient transportation network and skilled multicultural workforce.

"Miami is an excellent site for serving the state of Florida," said Giorgio Palmisano, director of business development for the New York-based company, which provides specialized cleaning services for the "bunker gear" and apparel used by firefighters and other emergency personnel.

In the spring of 2013, Minerva Bunker Gear Cleaners opened a new facility in northwest Miami-Dade County to service fire departments throughout Florida. "It is a pleasure to welcome Minerva Bunker Gear Cleaners to Miami-Dade County," said Miami-Dade County Commissioner Jean Monestime, District 2, when the company's plans were announced. "With this new facility, this firm will help continue to grow our local economy and provide a needed service to the men and women who serve and protect our community as firefighters."

The company's Miami-Dade facility, which currently has nine employees, now serves the fire departments of Miami-Dade County, and the cities of Miami and Miami Beach, and is expanding rapidly elsewhere in the state.

"We are conveniently located near Miami International Airport, for rapid shipments of gear back and forth," Palmisano said. "Our facility also is close to a Metrorail stop, making it easy for our employees to get to work."

The Beacon Council assisted Minerva Bunker Gear Cleaners with permitting and licensing. "Their team was very helpful in facilitating and guiding us through the process, and helping us learn about the tax advantages and other benefits of locating in an Empowerment Zone," Palmisano said. "Since opening here, we've invested in training our workforce to meet the protocols and high standards of maintaining bunker gear."

The company is already active in local and national community organizations, including the Terry Farrell Fund, a charity named for a New York volunteer firefighter who perished in the 9/11 terrorist attacks, and the Fire Fighter Cancer Support Network.

Nationally, Minerva Bunker Gear Cleaners services more than 800 departments and also produces a line of detergents specifically designed for the care and maintenance of bunker gear. "We are committed to providing the firefighting community with the finest possible maintenance care program," said Palmisano. "Our goal is to provide the best service possible because clean gear translates into safe gear."

By Richard Westlund

"Miami's geographic position and cultural diversity make it the ideal hub for business and tourism in the Americas. When you also consider the area's international appeal, entrepreneurial spirit and growing arts and cultural environment, Miami is a city of the future."

Art Torno,

American Airlines Vice President for Mexico, Caribbean and Latin America

2012 Miami-Dade County Population		
Race and ethnicity	Number	Percentage
White	1,841,887	73.8%
Black	472,976	18.9%
American Indian	5,000	0.2%
Asian	37,669	1.5%
Pacific Islander	675	0.03%
Other	79,351	3.2%
Two or more races	58,877	2.4%
Total	2,496,435	100.0%
Hispanic Origin*	1,623,859	65.0%

*Note: Hispanic Origin can be of any race. Source: ESRI forecast for 2012.

Number of Foreign-Born Residents in Miami-Dade County by Region		
Region	Number of foreign-born	Percentage
Europe	43,176	3.3%
Asia	36,129	2.7%
Africa	6,063	0.5%
Australia and New Zealand	240	0.02%
Caribbean	800,844	60.7%
Central America	195,725	14.8%
South America	229,523	17.4%
North America (Non-U.S.)	6,829	0.5%
Total	1,318,529	100.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American FactFinder.

The district includes airports and seaports in the southern sector of Florida. Imports and exports reached \$124.73 billion, as the Miami Customs District rose in the ranking to No. 10 in the United States. Brazil, Colombia and Switzerland were the region's top three trading partners.

"Local, state and federal governments are investing billions of dollars to serve and improve global trade infrastructure here," says City National Bank's Jorge Gonzalez, citing expansion projects at PortMiami and Miami

International Airport. "These initiatives are all coming together at the right time to build an even stronger future for South Florida."

A Multicultural Workforce

One of Miami-Dade's strongest assets is its unique multilingual, multicultural workforce. About half of the metropolitan area's estimated 2.5 million residents were born outside the United States and two-thirds speak a language other than English at home. That workforce diversity is an important resource for compa-

Miami-Dade County: American City of the Future*

-  **No. 9**
North American Major City of the Future
-  **No. 8**
Economic Potential
-  **No. 8**
Infrastructure
-  **No. 7**
Business Friendliness

*In 2013, metropolitan Miami (Miami-Dade County) was named one of the Top Ten American Cities of the Future 2013/14 by fDi (Foreign Direct Investment) Magazine, a Financial Times Publication, which independently researches more than 100 cities in The Americas for its annual competition.

"Miami-Dade has it all in terms of the great attributes for a company's base. Long known as the world's gateway to Latin America and the Caribbean, Miami-Dade's strategic location and state-of-the-art transportation and communications assets have made it a robust connecting point for international companies doing business in Europe, Asia and Africa. It's also a natural entry point for global companies seeking to penetrate the North American market."

Kevin Sheehan,

CEO & President of Norwegian Cruise Line

One Community One Goal

Led by Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez, American Airlines executive Art Torno and Baptist Health South Florida executive George W. Foyo, the program's mission is to identify and prioritize the industries which will have the highest potential for creating the new jobs required in our economy and to work with the education community to provide the training required to support the growth of those industries.

Goals:

- Further diversify the Miami-Dade County economy by expanding job growth in existing industries and new industries
- Gain consensus from public sector, private sector and educational institutions to prioritize, redirect and increase resources toward job growth of top selected industry clusters
- Implement new targeted industry marketing plan with short term and long term goals and objectives.

For more information visit
www.onecommunityonegoal.com

Selected Targeted Industry Snapshot

Industry	Companies	Employees
Aviation	459	20,294
Creative Design	3,408	22,498
Hospitality and Tourism	6,739	125,511
Information Technology	1,485	6,771
International Banking and Finance	2,870	35,381
Life Sciences and Health Care	8,035	117,894
Trade and Logistics	2,262	29,659
Total	25,258	358,008

Source: EMSI, 2013

nies doing business in the Caribbean, Central America, South America, Europe, Asia, the Middle East or other global business centers.

Cultural diversity was a key consideration for Lyones Management Americas in choosing Miami-Dade as the hub for all its offices throughout the Americas. "We're hiring local talent from the University of Miami and Florida International University," said Mario Hoffmann, CEO of the international shopping community and loyalty program for regional and international businesses. "Because we are an international company, we are especially excited by the talent pool of multilingual professionals we have in Miami."

Incubators and accelerators

Miami's start-up ecosystem is increasingly attractive to entrepreneurs and innovators. In recent years, many incubators and accelerators have launched, helping fuel innovation. These

include Venture Hive, the first tech-entrepreneurship program to receive significant local government support, Endeavor Miami, Rokk3r Labs and ProjectLift Miami. The University of Miami's Launch Pad entrepreneurship center plans to open a community accelerator in 2014 at the Verizon Terremark/NAP of the Americas facility in downtown Miami, and UM's Life Science & Technology Park is gaining traction as a tech and science hub with co-working space, shared lab space and a growing number of tenants focused on the health-tech industry. Other co-working spaces have opened, including The LAB Miami, Miami Innovation Center, MEC261, Pipeline Brickell, MiamiShared and Büro.

A Low Tax Climate

A low tax climate, including no personal income tax and property tax benefits for primary homeowners, is another of the area's business

advantages. In addition, a variety of tax, financial and workforce training incentives are available to relocating and expanding companies in Miami-Dade County.

That appealing tax environment was one of the reasons Global Governance Advisors opened its Miami office, according to Luis Navas, vice chair of the international compensation advisory firm whose other offices are located in Toronto, Calgary and New York. "Our firm has worked with other companies that have relocated or expanded their Miami operations in the past few years," Navas said. "Their reason were similar to ours – and due to their larger size, they were also offered very attractive tax incentives by local government."

A recent compensation study by Global Governance Advisors and *The Miami Herald* showed that South Florida executives are paid about 12 times more on a relative basis compared with other U.S. executives. As Navas said, "This finding, coupled with one of the most attractive tax regimes in the U.S., makes Miami a great place for CEOs to consider locating their headquarters here."

Targeted Industries

The Beacon Council is engaged in a concerted effort to diversify and

strengthen the area's economy, building a strong and sustainable foundation for the future. In 2012, Miami-Dade County business and community leaders unveiled a collaborative roadmap – the One Community One Goal (OCOG) strategic initiative – to create 75,000 industry jobs over the next five years in the following targeted industries:

- Aviation
- Creative Design
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Information Technology
- International Banking and Finance
- Life Sciences and Health Care
- Trade and Logistics

OCOG aligns all leadership organizations throughout Miami-Dade County around a single set of target industries. It creates a focused effort to support those industries by improving the local business environment while marketing to companies in that industry across the globe. More than 5,000 people participated in creating the strategic plan, which updates a prior OCOG report that was released in 1999. Participants are now developing action steps based on the new report's 80 recommendations. 

THE TAKEAWAY

Benefits of doing business in Miami-Dade County.

- Excellent business climate with no local or state personal income tax.
- More than 100 foreign consulates, trade offices and bi-national chambers of commerce that support the worldwide flow of goods and services.
- Ability to ship goods efficiently anywhere in the world through PortMiami, Florida's largest container port.
- Convenient direct air service from Miami International Airport to all major destinations in the United States and Europe, as well as Latin America and the Caribbean — more flights to the region than any other U.S. airport.
- Global broadband connectivity, advanced data solutions and state-of-the-art telecommunications services.
- A central location in the Western Hemisphere and in the Eastern time zone, facilitating global communications.
- Skilled multilingual, multicultural workforce — including international banking, legal and other professional services drawn from more than 100 nations.
- Fast-growing number of creative workers in fields such as advertising, design and information technology.
- High quality of life with wide range of housing options, year-round outdoor recreational activities, renowned cultural institutions and four major professional sports teams.
- Strong, growing domestic economy serving more than 5.5 million South Floridians.
- Ready access to sophisticated international banking, insurance and legal services, and other professional services.
- Financial and workforce training incentives available to qualified companies.

"Miami is a young city whose personality continues to be shaped by the diverse, entrepreneurial people that have made it their home. The city is surrounded by national and international business headquarters, top-rated colleges and universities, world-class cultural events, balanced by pristine beaches and outdoor parks. Not to mention, we have some of the finest hotels and restaurants that reflect the dynamic people that make Miami an ideal place to call home."

Vivian Feinberg,

Senior Vice President,

Commercial Loan Officer of Coconut Grove Bank

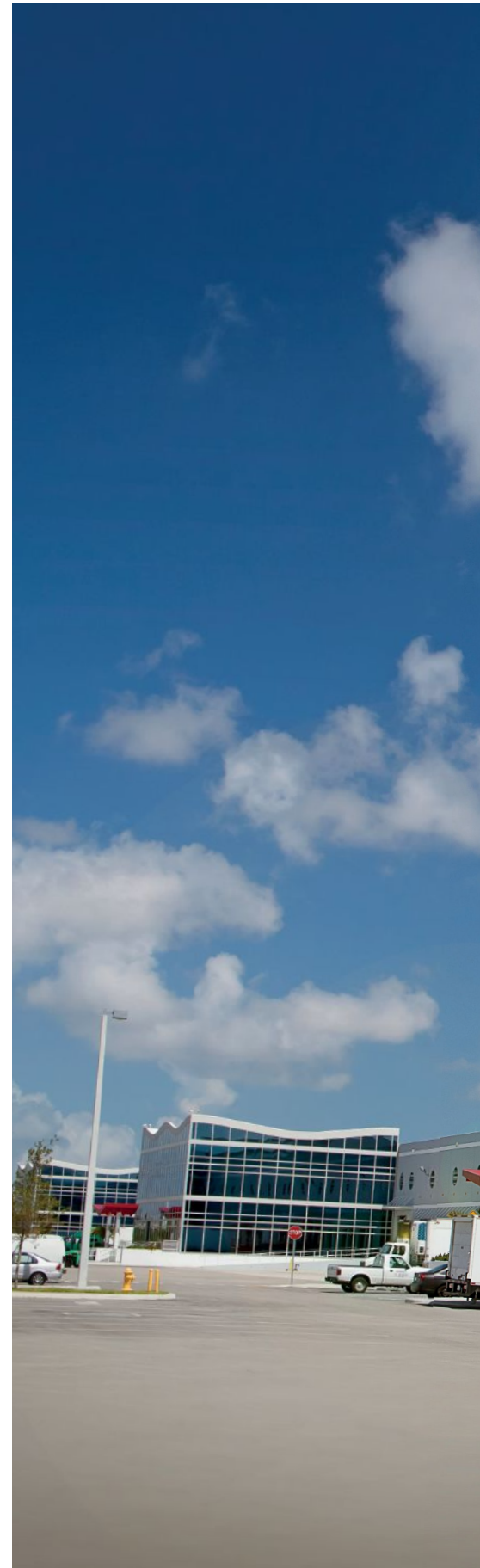
HOW TO LOCATE & EXPAND IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

STARTING UP YOUR BUSINESS

BY MIKE SEEMUTH

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With unmatched assets for global and domestic commerce, Miami-Dade welcomes all businesses, from small ventures to Fortune 500 and multinational corporations. From legal considerations to immigration requirements, learn the necessary steps to set up or expand your business in Miami-Dade County.





Miami-Dade has become a magnet for international trade and commerce, such as the newly opened Centurion Cargo facility near Miami International Airport.

The Beacon Council offers assistance researching markets, selecting sites and applying for public incentives.



Digital Vision / Getty Images

The Beacon Council No-cost and Confidential Services

- Site Identification Services
- Customized Research
- Access to Elected Officials and Industry Sector Business
- Business Incentives
- Financing Programs and Assistance
- Permitting and Regulatory Assistance
- Labor Recruitment and Training
- Employee Assistance Relocation Program

All Beacon Council services are provided at no cost to the company and information gathered is treated as confidential. For more information visit www.beaconcouncil.com

Miami-Dade County welcomes newly arrived entrepreneurs, investors and executives from around the world every day while helping existing local businesses to expand. Companies of all shapes and sizes enter Miami-Dade to take advantage of its unmatched assets for domestic and international commerce. The multilingual workforce, the transportation network and communication infrastructure of the Miami area provide business advantages that few cities can match. The Miami advantage extends from local access to world-class expertise in such professional fields as accounting, finance and legal services. The region also boasts one of the largest concentrations of international banks outside of New York, plus

one of the largest collections of consular offices and foreign trade offices in the nation.

Businesses that want to start operating or to expand in the Miami area often get help from The Beacon Council, the economic development agency of Miami-Dade County. The Beacon Council assists businesses in providing business cost information, selecting sites, applying for public incentives to create jobs, and obtaining permits from county and municipal agencies.

Caterpillar, Nokia, Porsche, Telefonica and Volkswagen are among the best-known companies that have started doing business in the Miami area with support from The Beacon Council. Recent beneficiaries of guid-

PROGRAMS ORGANIZED BY



GREATER MIAMI
CONVENTION &
VISITORS BUREAU

MIAMI TEMPTATIONS



**MIAMI CRUISE
MONTH**
jan



**MIAMI ROMANCE
MONTH**
feb



**SHOP MIAMI
MONTH**
mar



**MIAMI SPORTS
MONTH**
apr



**MIAMI MUSEUM
MONTH**
may



**MIAMI FILM
MONTH**
jun



**MIAMI SPA
MONTH**
jul+aug



**MIAMI SPICE
RESTAURANT MONTH**
aug+sep



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oct



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Florida has a comparatively low corporate income tax rate of 5.5 percent, with no inventory tax, no unitary tax and several sales tax exemptions.

Banks that are members of The Beacon Council

- Bank of America Merrill Lynch
www.bankofamerica.com
- BankUnited
www.bankunited.com
- BB&T Corporation
www.bbt.com
- Citigroup Inc.
www.citigroup.com
- City National Bank
www.citynationalcm.com
- Commercial Bank of Florida
- Continental National Bank
www.continentalbank.com
- FirstBank Florida
www.firstbankfla.com
- Northern Trust
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- SunTrust Bank, Inc.
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- TD Bank
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ance from the economic development agency range from Boston-based information technology company Sapient Corp. to French aircraft manufacturer ATR, Brazilian fast-food restaurant operator Giraffas, and FCC Construcción S.A., a large Spanish construction group that specializes in civil engineering projects.

FCC Construcción opened an office in downtown Miami that is expected to employ 37 full-time workers by 2016. Giraffas, which established its U.S. headquarters in Miami, has expanded its chain of nearly 400 restaurants in Brazil by opening more in Miami-Dade County and neighboring Broward County. France-based aircraft manufacturer ATR decided to relocate its American headquarters from Virginia to Miami Springs, near county-operated Miami International Airport. Sapient consolidated three remote operations in Miami at one location with more total space after evaluating

an alternative plan to relocate the operations and their 283 jobs to Toronto, Canada.

Tax Incentives in Miami-Dade County

What drives the commercial attraction to Miami? It starts with affordability. Compared to other major cities, Miami has a highly competitive tax structure. No state income tax for individuals exists in Florida. Miami-area companies pay a state corporate income tax rate of 5.5 percent, low compared to state income tax in such locations as Chicago, New York, Philadelphia and San Diego. Companies in Miami pay no local income tax or property tax on business inventories, and many benefit from sales-tax exemptions. The Beacon Council works with the state government to help growing companies apply for tax refunds and other types of publicly funded economic development incentives on a confidential basis.

Tax Comparisons for Major Metropolitan Areas

Metro Areas	Personal Income Tax (%)		Corporate Income Tax (%)		Sales Tax (%)	
	State	Local	State	Local	State	Local
Atlanta	1.0 – 6.0%	None	6.0%	None	4.0%	4.0%
Boston	5.25%	None	8.0%	None	6.25%	None
Chicago	5.0%	None	9.5%	None	6.25%	3.0%
Denver	4.63%	None	^{up} to 4.63%	None	2.9%	4.72%
Houston	None	None	1.0%	None	6.25%	2.0%
Los Angeles	1.0 – 13.3%	None	8.84%	None	7.25%	1.75%
Miami-Dade	None	None	5.5%	None	6.0%	1.0%
New York	4.0 – 8.82%	2.907 + ^{up} to 3.876%	7.1%	8.85%	4.0%	4.875%
Philadelphia	3.07%	3.98%	9.99%	None	6.0%	2.0%
San Francisco	1.0 – 13.3%	None	8.84%	None	7.25%	1.5%

Source: America's Top Rated Cities, Grey House Publishing 2013.

HOW TO START A NEW BUSINESS IN MIAMI-DADE: PRACTICAL 7-STEP GUIDE

To operate in Miami-Dade County, your company may have to register and file reports with certain government agencies.

Follow the 7 basic steps described in the chart below to start a new business based in Miami-Dade:



U.S. Entry Requirements:

Visas and Work Permits

A citizen of a foreign nation who wishes to visit the United States generally must apply for a U.S. visa. There are two major categories of U.S. visas:

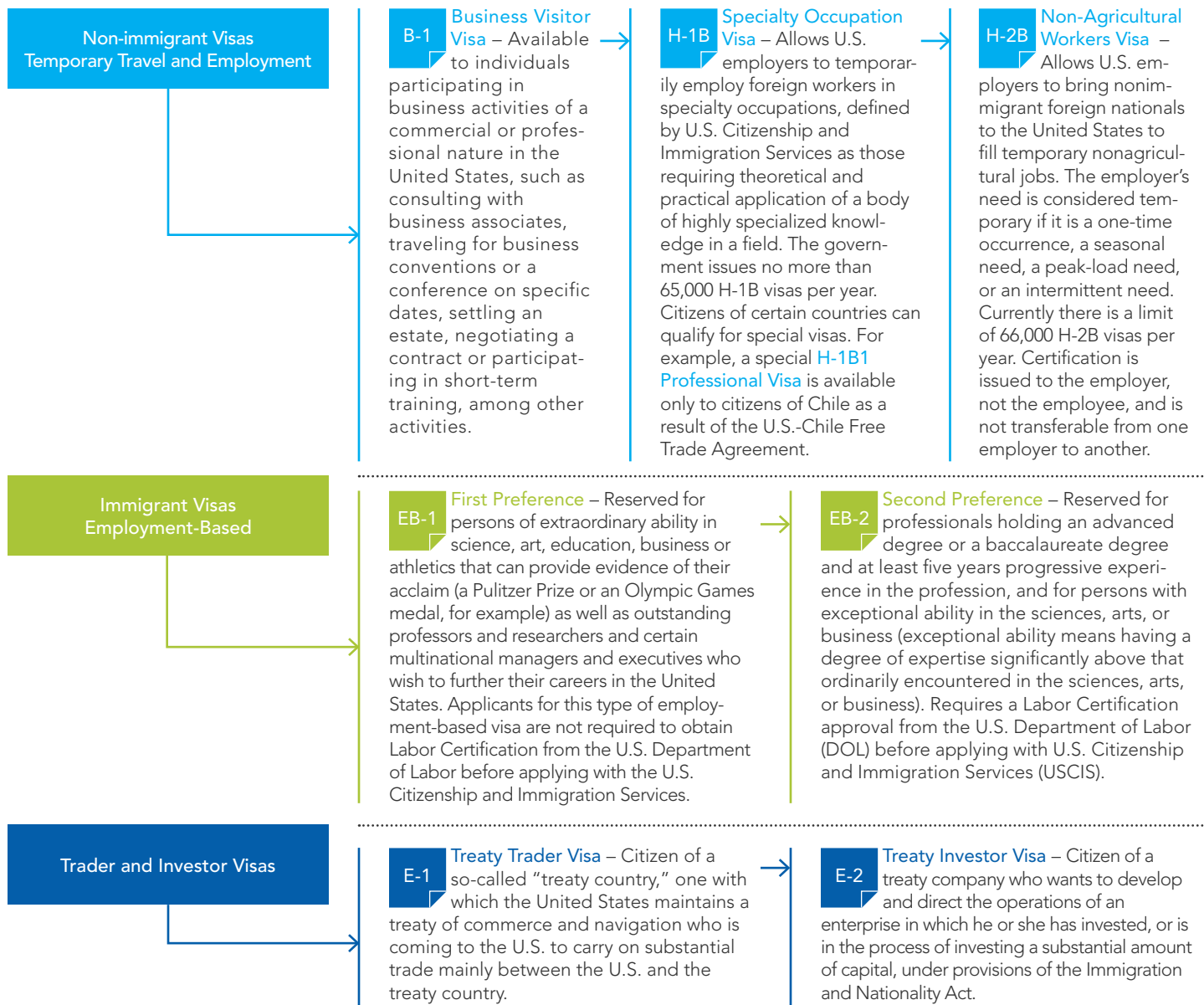
- Nonimmigrant visas for temporary travel and/or employment.
- Immigrant visas for relocation to a permanent U.S. Residence.

The U.S. government issues more than 20 types of visas for nonimmigrant visitors, and it

issues many more types for citizens of foreign countries seeking permanent U.S. residence. Always consult with a professional who specializes in immigration law before embarking on this process because of the complexity of the regulations and requirements.

U.S. embassies and consulates worldwide have programs to assist business owners who wish to visit or reside in the United States. For more information, visit the U.S. Department of State's website at travel.state.gov and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' website at www.uscis.gov.

HOW TO LOCATE & EXPAND IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY



Source: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. See a list of the treaty countries at travel.state.gov/visa/fees/fees_3726.html

Experienced attorneys and accountants in Miami-Dade County can guide you in the location and expansion process for your business.

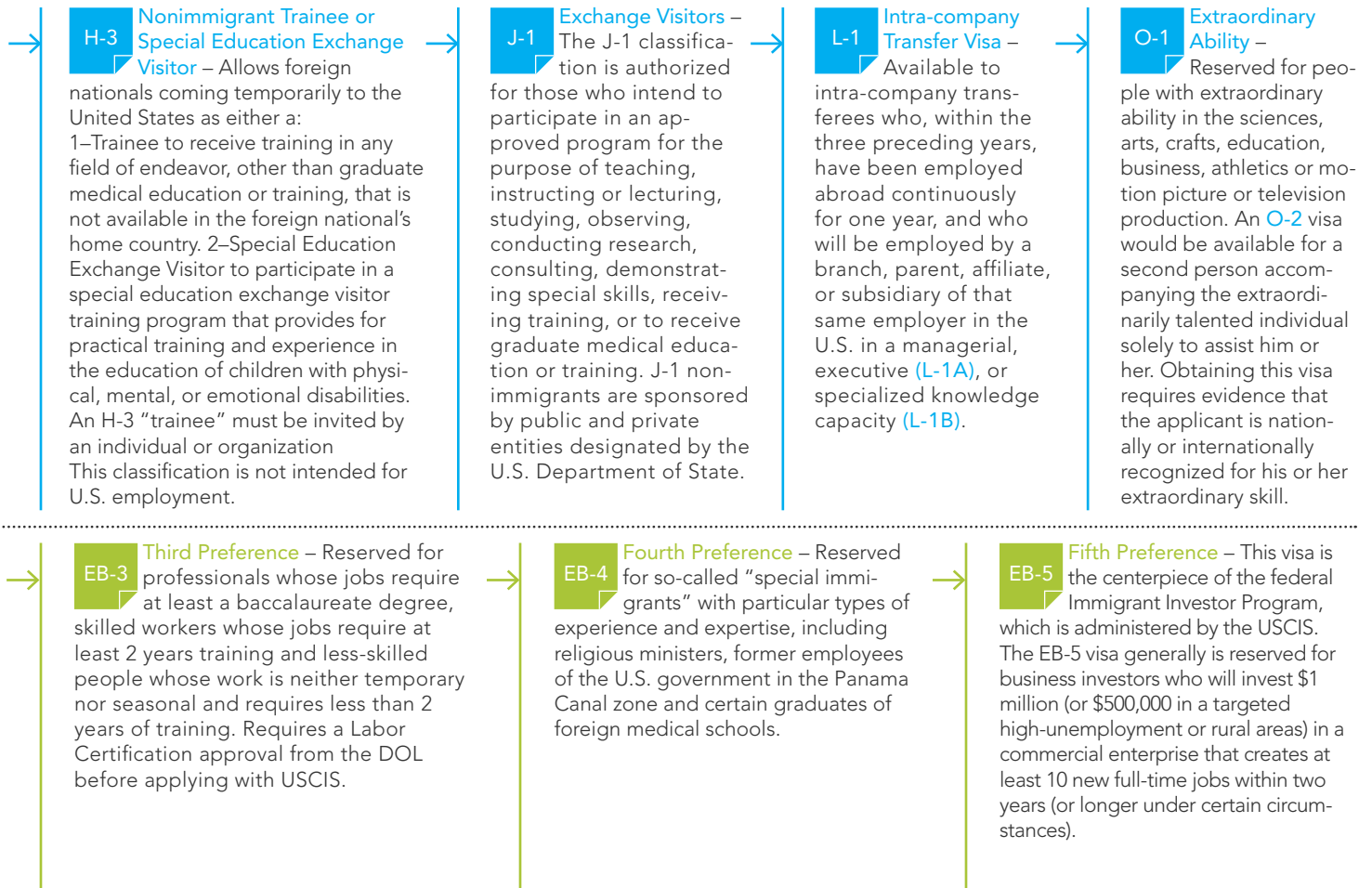
Visa Waiver Program

Qualified visitors from foreign countries can travel without a visa to the United States through the Visa Waiver Program (VWP), which permits citizens of 37 participating countries to visit for business or leisure trips as long as 90 days without a visa. Spain, Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United Kingdom, and several Asian countries, are among the 37 participating countries. Travelers who plan to visit the United States without a visa through the Visa Waiver Program first must

obtain travel authorization from U.S. Customs and Border Protection. It operates a system called ESTA, the Electronic System for Travel Authorization, to permit or deny authorized travel to the United States without a visa.

Nonimmigrant Visa for Temporary Travel

The Business Visitor Visa (B-1) is available to individuals participating in commercial or business activities in the United States, such as traveling for business conventions, negotiating a contract or participating in short-term training.



It's important to note that, like the Visa Waiver Program, B-1 visas are not intended for the purposes of permanent employment or pursuit of an academic degree. The spouse and children of a qualified business visitor can visit the United States as a family by obtaining B-2 visas for temporary travel.

Nonimmigrant Visas

Several government agencies must approve the hiring of nonimmigrant foreign workers to fill jobs in the United States.

- The employer must first submit an application for labor certification from the Employment and Training Administration (ETA), within the Department of Labor.
- The Department of Labor must then certify that there is a shortage of workers in the field of intended employment and that the use of a foreign worker won't adversely impact the wages and working conditions of domestic workers.
- The employer then must submit an immigration petition (Form I-129) to the

Planning Ahead

Visa applications are now subject to a greater degree of review than in the past so it is important to apply for your visa well in advance of your travel departure date. After the interview, some visa applications require further administrative processing. If required, this additional processing is usually completed within 60 days of the application date, though in some cases it takes longer.

For more information visit www.uscis.gov



Peter Tritley

As evidenced by its prominent display of international flags, Miami International Airport welcomes thousands of visitors daily from across the globe.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for an employee’s visa.

Applicants for a Temporary Work visa (H, L or O) should apply at the U.S. Embassy or consulate with jurisdiction over their place of permanent residence. Foreign-based spouses and children of nonimmigrant temporary workers can also apply directly at a U.S. consulate for a visa.

Annual allocations of visas can be scarce due to strong demand. Citizens of certain countries can qualify for special visas. For example, a special H-1B1 Professional Visa is available only to citizens of Chile as a result of the U.S.-Chile Free Trade Agreement, which became effective Jan. 1, 2004.

Employment-Based Immigrant Visas for Permanent Relocation

Immigrating to the United States and establishing a permanent U.S. residence in-

volves interaction with multiple government agencies, including those within the departments of Labor, State and Homeland Security. The employer of an applicant for an E visa, or employment-based immigrant visa, may face a two-step process:

- Obtain a labor certification approval from the Department of Labor.
- File Form I-140, the immigrant petition for an alien worker, with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

The USCIS has five categories, or “preferences,” for employment-based immigrant visas:

- The first preference visa, or EB-1, is reserved for “priority workers.” These include citizens of foreign countries who have extraordinary ability in the arts, athletics, business, education

Miami-Dade County		
Visitor Industry		
	2011	2012
Total visitors	12.6	13.9
(in millions)		
Domestic.....	6.9	7.1
(in millions)		
International.....	6.5	6.8
(in millions)		
Expenditures.....	\$20.7	\$21.8
(in billions of \$)		

Source: GMCVB 2012 Visitor Industry Overview, http://global.miamiandbeaches.com/members/research_annualrpt_2012.pdf

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A Second Home in South Florida



BSIP SA / Alamy

**Canada-based
Helix Hearing Care
establishes its
U.S. headquarters
Miami-Dade County**

A Canada-based provider of hearing care established its U.S. headquarters in Miami and received a helping hand from The Beacon Council, the economic development partnership of Miami-Dade County.

Helix Hearing Care opened its 1,568-square-foot office in Miami in 2013 to oversee a planned expansion of its network of hearing care clinics in Canada to the United States. The Beacon Council assisted the company with research and marketing analysis as well as business contacts and referrals.

"The Beacon Council has assisted Helix in getting our name out there, promoting our brand through marketing and promotional efforts," said Tom Cutting, managing director of U.S. operations for Helix, based in Hawkesbury, Ontario.

Helix had seven employees at its Miami corporate office six months after it occupied the space in early 2013. The staff included a marketing coordinator, office manager, information technology specialist, senior ac-

countant, junior accountant and two accounting data-entry clerks. By early 2016, the company expects to make capital investments totaling \$52,000 at the Miami office and to have 10 or more employees there.

Miami is easy to reach by air from just about anywhere in the world, and its international nature also added to the city's appeal as a regional headquarters location for Helix. "Miami is an international hub, and we chose it for its convenience and centralization," Cutting said. "The U.S. corporate office is the centralized supervisor of our clinics throughout the United States and aids in overseeing that our clinics run smoothly."

Helix has a community-driven approach to spreading helpful information about hearing care. Company-employed audiologists regularly participate in local health and wellness events in the markets where Helix operates. The company also contributes to public awareness campaigns to focus attention on hearing loss.

By Michael Seemuth


or the sciences and who have extensive documentation of showing sustained acclaim in their area of expertise. Outstanding professors, researchers and multinational executives are among the types of applicants who obtain the E-1 visa.

- The second preference visa, or EB-2, is for professionals who hold one or more advanced degrees (beyond a baccalaureate degree) and who have at least five years of continuous work in their field of expertise. People with extraordinary ability in the arts, business or science also may be eligible.
- The third preference visa, or EB-3, is for professionals, skilled workers and unskilled workers. Employers of such workers must obtain labor certification for them from the Department of Labor as well as file Form I-140 immigration petitions on their behalf with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.
- The fourth preference visa, or EB-4, is for so-called "special immigrants" with specific types of training and experience. These include religious clergy, certain graduates of medical schools, certain former employees of the U.S. government abroad, and Iraqi and Afghan translators who have worked directly with the U.S. military.
- The fifth preference visa, or EB-5, is the centerpiece of the federal Immigrant Investor Program. It grants immigrant visas for permanent U.S. residence to foreign nationals who invest at least \$1 million (\$500,000 in Enterprise Zones) in a domestic business that employs at least 10 full-time workers within two years of inception.

Visas for Traders and Investors

The Treaty Trader Visa (E-1) is for a citizen of a so-called "treaty country," one with which the United States maintains a treaty of commerce and navigation who is coming to the United States to carry on substantial trade mainly between the United States and the treaty country.

The Treaty Investor Visa (E-2) is for a citizen of a treaty company who wants to develop and direct the operations of an enterprise in which he or she has invested, or is in the process of investing a substantial amount of capital, under provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

E-1 and E-2 visa applicants ages 14 through 79 must undergo an interview at an embassy consular section as part of the visa-request process. Interviews in some cases can be scheduled on an expedited, emergency basis. The waiting time for an interview appointment for applicants can vary so early visa application is strongly encouraged. 

THE TAKEAWAY

Professionals that work closely with The Beacon Council*

Accountants/Consultants

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Berkowitz Dick Pollack & Brant Certified Public Accountants & Consultants
www.bdpd.com | • Goldstein Schechter Koch
www.gskcpas.com |
| • CBIZ
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Attorneys

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Akerman Senterfitt
www.akerman.com | • Greenberg Traurig, LLP
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www.bilzin.com | • McDermott, Will & Emery LLP
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*Private members of The Beacon Council that have listed themselves as accountants/consultants and attorneys.

"I've been a resident of South Florida for many years and I can tell you, unequivocally, that Miami is a unique place for both work and play. We call it the Magic City because it's rife with diversity and excitement. The vibrancy of our physical and cultural landscape is second to none."

*Pat Riley,
President, Miami HEAT*

WHERE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME

BY RICHARD WESTLUND

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Miami-Dade offers a variety of lifestyles that appeal to people and businesses from around the world – from beachfront properties, downtown highrises and artistic enclaves to suburban communities, rural estates and historic neighborhoods.





Miami-Dade's rich residential market includes the picturesque City of Coral Gables.

Prospective corporate tenants can find a large selection of options at a broad range of price points.



Tom Merton/Getty Images/OJO Images

"We can help businesses test the market through a virtual office program that lets them have a presence in Miami. Also, several companies use our facilities as sales offices for their business in the Americas."

*Carolina Rendeiro,
CEO of Right Space Management, Inc.*

Commercial Real Estate

Today, Miami-Dade's commercial real estate markets offer excellent values for corporate tenants, business investors and property owners. "Bargains abound for business tenants," says Jack Lowell, senior managing director, Flagler Real Estate Services, Coral Gables. "We have an adequate supply of space and a broad price range to meet the requirements for almost any size of enterprise."

From downtown Miami/Brickell Avenue to Coral Gables to Doral/Airport West, Miami-Dade has plentiful class A office space to accommodate corporate locations and expansions, including many buildings with

energy-efficient, cost-saving features. In the industrial market, Miami-Dade's role as a regional, national and hemispheric distribution center drives strong demand for warehouse space. For retailers, Miami-Dade is filled with locations to reach the region's unique multicultural consumer market.

When making location or expansion decisions, businesses can analyze a long list of office, industrial and retail properties to determine the most suitable site. The Beacon Council offers companies assistance in identifying commercial real estate opportunities throughout Miami-Dade County that best suit business requirements. In addition, the area's commercial real estate pro-

Miami-Dade Office Market Statistics 2013			
Submarket	Rentable Building Area Square Feet	Total Vacancy Rate %	Average Direct Asking Lease Rate (FSG)
Central Business District			
Brickell	7,151,802	16.7%	\$40.19
Downtown Miami	7,442,092	21.1%	\$32.76
Suburban (Major Submarkets)			
Airport West	9,869,795	19.4%	\$25.01
Aventura	1,386,017	14.5%	\$34.74
Biscayne Blvd.	1,214,469	31.4%	\$30.29
Coconut Grove	1,073,406	7.0%	\$31.44
Coral Gables	6,413,044	17.4%	\$33.69
Kendall	3,441,300	13.3%	\$26.68
Miami Beach	1,863,532	8.7%	\$37.24
Miami Lakes	1,523,917	25.6%	\$23.91
North Miami	1,415,369	22.1%	\$21.23
Other	1,354,816	11.7%	\$19.48
South Dade	467,756	30.1%	\$23.90
Overall Total	44,671,279	18.1%	\$31.01
Class A Total	21,170,017	19.0%	\$36.49
Class B Total	17,560,404	17.1%	\$26.18
Class C Total	5,886,858	17.8%	\$21.97

Source: CB Richard Ellis, First Quarter 2013.

professionals can examine local markets and advise on whether it makes more sense to lease space, buy a property or construct a build-to-suit facility.



Office — From modern Class A buildings with full tenant amenities to less expensive class B existing space, Miami-Dade County has more than 44 million square feet of office space. The direct vacancy rate was 11.1 percent at the end of the second quarter of 2013, according to a market survey by CB Richard Ellis. The average direct asking lease rate was \$34.41 per square foot, and about 320,000 square feet of new space was under construction.

“Miami-Dade’s large selection of product has resulted in excellent values for corporate tenants,” says Donna Abood, chairman of Colliers South Florida. “Even users who need several hundred thousand square feet of space can be accommodated.”

The largest concentration of class A space —well suited to corporate and regional headquarters as well as professional service firms —is located in downtown Miami and the Brickell Avenue corridor. Two of the newest buildings are 600 Brickell at Brickell World Plaza, a 615,000-square-foot office building that was LEED Platinum pre-certified; and 1450 Brickell, a 35-story LEED Gold certified corporate tower with 582,817 rentable square feet.

Mark Your Calendar 2014

January

Orange Bowl: Historic college football game at Sun Life Stadium.

February

Coconut Grove Arts Festival: Celebrates visual, culinary and performing arts.

South Beach Wine & Food Festival: Brings culinary superstars to SoBe.

March

Carnaval Miami on Calle Ocho: Little Havana fair with Latin flair.

Sony Open Tennis: Tennis stars compete on Key Biscayne.

World Golf Championships-Cadillac Championship: Trump National Doral Miami hosts through 2023.

Miami International Film Festival: Attracts the best of global cinema to South Florida.

May

eMerge Americas: Five-day tech conference in Miami Beach showcases innovations.

June

Juneteenth celebrations: Commemorates the emancipation of slaves and honors local African-American leaders.

August

Goombay Festival: Coconut Grove celebrates Bahamian culture.

November

Miami Book Fair International: Week-long literary gathering and street fair at Miami Dade College’s Wolfson Campus.

December

Art Basel Miami Beach: Noted art fair attracts international collectors and dozens of satellite fairs.



J. Kevin Foltz

The Brickell area in downtown Miami is the heart of the region's finance and banking industries.

Miami-Dade Industrial Market Statistics 2013			
Major Submarkets	Rentable Building Area Mil. Square Feet	Total Vacancy Rate %	Average Direct Asking Lease Rate (IG)
Airport/Doral	55,338,616	7.0%	\$9.45
Central Dade	38,887,204	6.3%	\$5.77
Hialeah	12,946,977	4.6%	\$6.52
Kendall/Tamiami	12,353,967	2.3%	\$9.61
Medley	36,713,559	4.2%	\$7.38
Miami Lakes	6,286,145	5.4%	\$9.32
North Central Dade	36,067,696	5.8%	\$6.48
North East Dade	2,612,867	6.9%	\$8.55
South Dade	4,612,867	5.3%	\$7.96
Total	206,035,953	5.6%	\$7.68
Manufacturing	19,916,181	4.3%	\$7.31
Warehouse/Dist.	168,518,871	5.8%	\$7.42
Flex/R&D	10,798,335	7.2%	\$11.19
Other Industrial	6,802,566	3.1%	\$9.67

Source: CB Richard Ellis, First Quarter 2013

Hong Kong-based Swire Properties is developing Brickell CityCentre, a \$1 billion mixed-use project now under construction with 5.4 million square feet of office, retail, hospitality and residential components.

Coral Gables is another prime location for many multinationals and other businesses. Recent office projects include 396 Alhambra Circle, a new 273,000-square-foot, Class A, two-tower office and retail development that has attracted both U.S. and international tenants. Other Class A buildings are situated close to Miami International Airport, including the City of Doral and the Waterford business park, as well as in Aventura, Kendall and other Miami-Dade submarkets.

Other new buildings under construction in Miami-Dade County's suburban office markets include Doral Park Centre with 120,000 square feet in the Airport/Doral submarket, 331 Sunny Isles Blvd. with 80,000 square feet in the Aventura submarket and SoMi Building with 50,000 square feet in Kendall.



Executive Suites — Many international businesses, as well as startups and professional firms, choose to open their offices in executive suite locations. These shared-space facilities typically provide individual offices, meeting rooms and other business amenities, minimizing the initial cost of entry.

"Several companies use our facilities as sales offices for their business in the Americas," says

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www.blancacre.com
- CBRE
www.cbre.com
- Colliers International
South Florida
www.colliers.com
- CPF Investment Group
www.cpfinv.com
- Cresa Partners
www.cresapartners.com
- Esslinger-Wooten-Maxwell Realtors
www.ewm.com
- NAI Miami Commercial
Real Estate Services
www.naimiami.com

Real Estate Services*

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www.blumbergcapitalpartners.com
- Chateau Group
www.chateaugroup.net
- Coastal Construction
www.coastalconstruction.com
- Douglas Elliman Florida LLC
www.ellimanflorida.com
- Flagler Real Estate Services, LLC
www.flaglerdev.com
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www.transwestern.net

*Private members of The Beacon Council who have listed themselves as real estate brokers or real estate services.

Miami Dade County Retail Market Statistics 2013			
Major Submarkets	Rentable Building Area Mil. Square Feet	Total Vacancy Rate %	Average Direct Asking Lease Rate (FSG)
Aventura/Sunny Isles	1,998,139	3.6%	\$34.44
Carol City/Opa Locka	1,788,948	3.3%	\$22.50
Central Miami	221,338	8.0%	\$17.72
Coral Gables	6,289,302	3.7%	\$29.24
Cutler Bay	1,131,998	7.4%	\$20.24
Doral/Medley	1,757,169	3.2%	\$25.22
Downtown Miami	1,146,436	5.9%	\$42.50
East Kendall	3,853,982	4.5%	\$31.91
Hialeah	4,706,359	3.1%	\$21.15
Homestead	2,646,212	2.2%	\$12.48
Miami Beach	1,333,066	8.1%	\$133.63
Miami Lakes	1,467,943	5.9%	\$21.45
Miami Shores	2,034,626	7.1%	\$39.29
North Miami	1,972,606	10.6%	\$20.28
West Kendall	4,562,744	4.4%	\$24.42
West Miami	4,492,356	4.1%	\$23.92

Source: CB Richard Ellis, First Quarter 2013

Miami-Dade County Enterprise Zone Fiscal Incentives

To encourage investment and job creation, Miami-Dade County offers fiscal incentives to businesses that locate or expand within its enterprise zone.

North Central Dade:

- Miami International Airport
- Miami Gardens
- North Miami
- Sections of Hialeah

South Dade:

- Homestead
- Florida City
- Sections of Cutler Bay and Perrine

Miami Beach:

- Sections along Collins Avenue
- North Beach and South Beach areas

For more information, contact The Beacon Council or visit www.miamidade.gov/housing/business/enterprise-zones.asp.

Carolina Rendeiro, CEO, Right Space Management, Inc. and former president of the worldwide Office Business Centers Association International. "We can also help businesses test the market through a virtual office program that lets them have a presence in Miami."



Industrial — Thanks to Miami-Dade's strategic hemispheric location and thriving international trade, the metro area's dynamic industrial real estate market is primarily focused on warehouse and distribution facilities. As of second quarter 2013, Miami-Dade's industrial market totaled 206 million square feet with a 5.3 percent vacancy rate, according to a CB Richard Ellis report. The average asking direct lease rate was \$7.84 per square foot, and about 830,000 square feet of new space was under construction.

Much of the county's industrial inventory is located north, west and south of Miami

International Airport, including manufacturing space in the Hialeah-Medley submarket. New warehouse and distribution space was absorbed rapidly in 2013. For example, the new Pan American North Distribution Center, a 185,520-square-foot Class A warehouse/distribution facility in Medley was fully leased by logistics giant OHL shortly after completion.



Retail — Miami-Dade County's 77 million-square-foot retail real estate market is also strengthening. A recent CBRE report indicates that vacancy rates in Miami-Dade's 14 retail submarkets ranged from 2.2 percent in Homestead to 10.6 percent in North Miami, with average direct leasing rates from \$12.48 per square foot in Homestead to \$34.44 in Aventura/Sunny Isles Beach and \$133.63 in Miami Beach.

Approximately 450,000 square feet of space have been added in 2013, according to the

firm Marcus & Millichap's second quarter 2013 report. Recently projects include Biscayne Corridor Retail Market, a Publix-anchored 57,000-square foot center. Another 46,000 square feet of retail space was completed near the Marlins Park in Little Havana. Now under construction is the four-block, mixed-use Brickell CityCentre in downtown Miami, which will contain a 520,000-square foot up-scale shopping center.

Enterprise Zone

DeliverLean, a gourmet food delivery service, recently established a new office and kitchen in Hialeah, an area known for

industry. DeliverLean will add 135 direct jobs and \$500,000 in capital investment within three years. Based in Boca Raton, DeliverLean's new facility will be located in Miami-Dade's Enterprise Zone, an area with policies that encourage economic growth and development. Miami-Dade County offers financial incentives to businesses that opt to locate in the Enterprise Zone, which encompasses several local neighborhoods across the county. "We're not just spreading our message of personal health and wellness, we're also supporting the community through new job creation," says Scott Harris, founder and CEO.

Online Site Selection Tool

The Beacon Council has launched a new GIS (geographic information system) site selection tool, which provides access at no cost to in-depth information that previously required costly and time consuming research.

The new website features available sites and buildings, area demographics, industry data & analysis, and GIS mapping with live connection feeds directly from Miami-Dade County. Visit The Beacon Council's online GIS site selection tool at miamidadesites.com

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South Florida

"When you consider our year-round sunshine, great schools and numerous recreation and entertainment options, Miami-Dade offers an attractive lifestyle for almost everyone."

*Ron Shuffield,
President & CEO, EWM Realtors*

Housing Choices in Miami-Dade County

- Urban condominiums in the downtown, Brickell and Biscayne Boulevard neighborhoods
- Suburban condos throughout the county
- Luxury beachfront and waterfront condos along the Atlantic Ocean, Biscayne Bay and the Intracoastal Waterway
- Waterfront, island and country club estate homes suited for executives and business owners
- Ranches and farms southwest of the region's urban center
- Single-family houses, including:
 - Vintage homes from the 1920s and '30s with unique architectural features
 - Art Deco homes from the 1930s and '40s
 - Suburban single-family homes from the 1950s onward
 - New homes with the latest design and energy-saving features.

For a map of Miami-Dade County, see page 57



Radius Images/Getty Images

Residential Real Estate

While plenty of locals and new transplants relish the sunny perch of a waterfront building, Miami-Dade offers a rich variety of residential neighborhoods to choose from. From suburban single-family homes to walk-to-work downtown condos to waterfront executive estates and sprawling rural ranches, Miami-Dade has one of the most diverse housing markets in the country. You'll find neighborhoods to suit all lifestyles, from the relative tranquility of suburban enclaves that offer single-family homes to the bustling energy that has become the trademark of the downtown corridor.

"Many people think that everyone in Miami-Dade lives by the ocean in a high-rise condominium," says Ron Shuffield, president and CEO, EWM Realtors. "But we

have more than 30 different municipalities, each with its own character and flavor." Many neighborhoods are ideal for families, featuring parks and youth activities like soccer and Little League, as well as houses of worship and nearby shopping centers. Shuffield notes that Miami-Dade's median home sale prices have become much more affordable in recent years, reflecting the adjustments in the national housing market. Meanwhile, builders are starting new projects, reflecting renewed demand for Miami-Dade homes. "Our home and condominium prices today generally offer excellent value," he says. "When you consider our year-round sunshine, great schools and numerous recreation and entertainment options, Miami-Dade offers an attractive lifestyle for almost everyone."

A Tour of Miami-Dade County Communities

From downtown condos and penthouse apartments with ocean views to executive estates and single-family homes nestled in suburban communities, Miami-Dade County boasts a richly diverse housing market.

By Richard Westlund

Holly Wilmeth

A Tour of Miami-Dade County Communities



Romina Rivadeneira

With new retail and residential options, downtown Miami has undergone a modern makeover.

City Of Miami

In recent years, **downtown Miami** has undergone a residential makeover. New office, hotel and residential high-rises, many with sweeping views of Biscayne Bay and the Miami River, now dot the skyline. Residences cover different price points, from affordable to luxurious, and there's also a strong rental market. Downtown's affordability and convenience attracts young professionals who can live, work and play in a pedestrian-friendly community, walking or riding the Metrorail, Metromover or Metrobus

transit system, as well as municipal trolley-style buses. With the influx of downtown residents, new stores, restaurants and cultural attractions have also opened in the area, adding to downtown's business appeal. On the educational side, downtown is served by Miami Dade College's Wolfson Campus, Florida International University's Downtown on Brickell campus and New World School of the Arts, a public magnet high school and college that consistently ranks among the top schools in the country, according to *U.S. News & World*

Report. Culturally, downtown Miami hosts the highly regarded Miami International Film Festival, the Miami Book Fair International, and the ING Miami Marathon, among other events. At the waterfront Museum Park, just north of AmericanAirlines Arena (home of the Miami HEAT), the new Pérez Art Museum Miami was completed in December 2013, and construction is well underway on the neighboring Miami Science Museum.

Urban living, business and the arts coexist along the **Biscayne Boulevard Corridor**, officially known as the Arts & Entertainment District, and also part of downtown Miami. The corridor is home to the NAP (Network Access Point) of the Americas, a cutting-edge fiber-optic exchange, as well as AmericanAirlines Arena, and the world-class Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts, the heartbeat of this burgeoning area. A number of entertainment companies are sprouting in this district, quickly making it a hub for the film and production industries. Heading north along Biscayne Boulevard, new retail, restaurant and service businesses are infusing renewed life up and down the corridor, with neighborhood stores, boutiques, galleries and hip restaurants springing up along Biscayne Boulevard.

Northwest of downtown is historic **Liberty City**, home to an active African-American community. Miami Dade College's Carrie P. Meek Entrepreneurial Education Center in Liberty City offers courses in entrepreneurship, e-commerce and small business management. Nearby, **Little Haiti** is the center of the area's Haitian population and culture, including Caribbean cuisine and music.

Just east of Biscayne Boulevard are the historic single-family home neighborhoods

of the **Upper Eastside**: Magnolia Park, Bay Point, Morningside, Bayside, Palm Bay, Palm Grove, Belle Meade and Shorecrest. Bayside and Morningside feature the area's oldest and most architecturally significant homes, while Bay Point is an exclusive neighborhood of waterfront estates. The area between 50th and 77th Streets has been designated as the Miami Modern Biscayne Boulevard Historic District, a series of hotels and buildings representing the Miami Modernist Architecture from the 1950s and 1960s.

On the west side of Biscayne Boulevard is the **Miami Design District**, which serves as the trade center for the South Florida interior design, home furnishing and decor industry. The 18-block neighborhood boasts designer showrooms and stores — such as Kartell and Fendi Casa, the first U.S. showroom and stateside headquarters for the company — and over a dozen art galleries, as well as artists' lofts, design and architecture firms, and media companies. The area is also home to Design Architecture Senior High (DASH), ranked number 20 on *U.S. News and World Report's* 100 Best High Schools. Many fashion-lifestyle companies also operate from offices in the Design District. Developer Craig Robins is planning a large-scale mixed-use project that would include a four-block pedestrian promenade, restaurants, upscale shops and two department stores with extensive "green" features.

Adjacent to the Miami Design District lies **Wynwood**, a former warehouse district that evolved into a leading-edge arts enclave of studios and galleries. The Wynwood Art District houses the Miami Fashion District and more than 70 galleries. Museums feature world-



Jorge Ramirez



Romina Rivadeneria

From top: Little Havana's colorful scenery includes its trademark rooster statues. The Miami Design District boasts designer showrooms and stores.

A Tour of Miami-Dade County Communities

Key Biscayne



Holly Wilmeth

Colorful Coconut Grove is a popular Miami neighborhood.

class private collections, and like the Design District, Wynwood hosts monthly Art Walks. The area lures emerging artists, art aficionados and out-of-towners searching for an urban connection. A focal point in the Wynwood neighborhood is Midtown Miami, an 85-acre mixed-use development with residential towers, cafes, offices and the Shops at Midtown Miami in a pedestrian-friendly setting. As an emerging neighborhood for the arts, **Midtown Miami** has its own Art Park featuring public art installations.

Downtown Miami's **Brickell Avenue** corridor is South Florida's major financial district, featuring office towers, top-tier hotels and elegant high-rise condos. Considered the "Manhattan of the South," Brickell is home to a dynamic cluster of international banks, law firms, and financial service providers. In recent years, new residential towers, retail shops and restaurants have added a "live and play" appeal to Brickell's work environment. One popular destination is Mary Brickell Village, which provides a charming and relaxed atmosphere for dining and shopping. From Brickell Key on the east to the Miami River on the north to I-95 on the west, the neighborhood is filled with condominiums, lofts and rental apartments that attract young professionals. Just to the south of Brickell is **The Roads**, a neighborhood of attractive single-family homes on tree-shaded streets. Settled in the 1920s, The Roads is a friendly community for families and young professionals with a shopping and dining corridor along Coral Way.

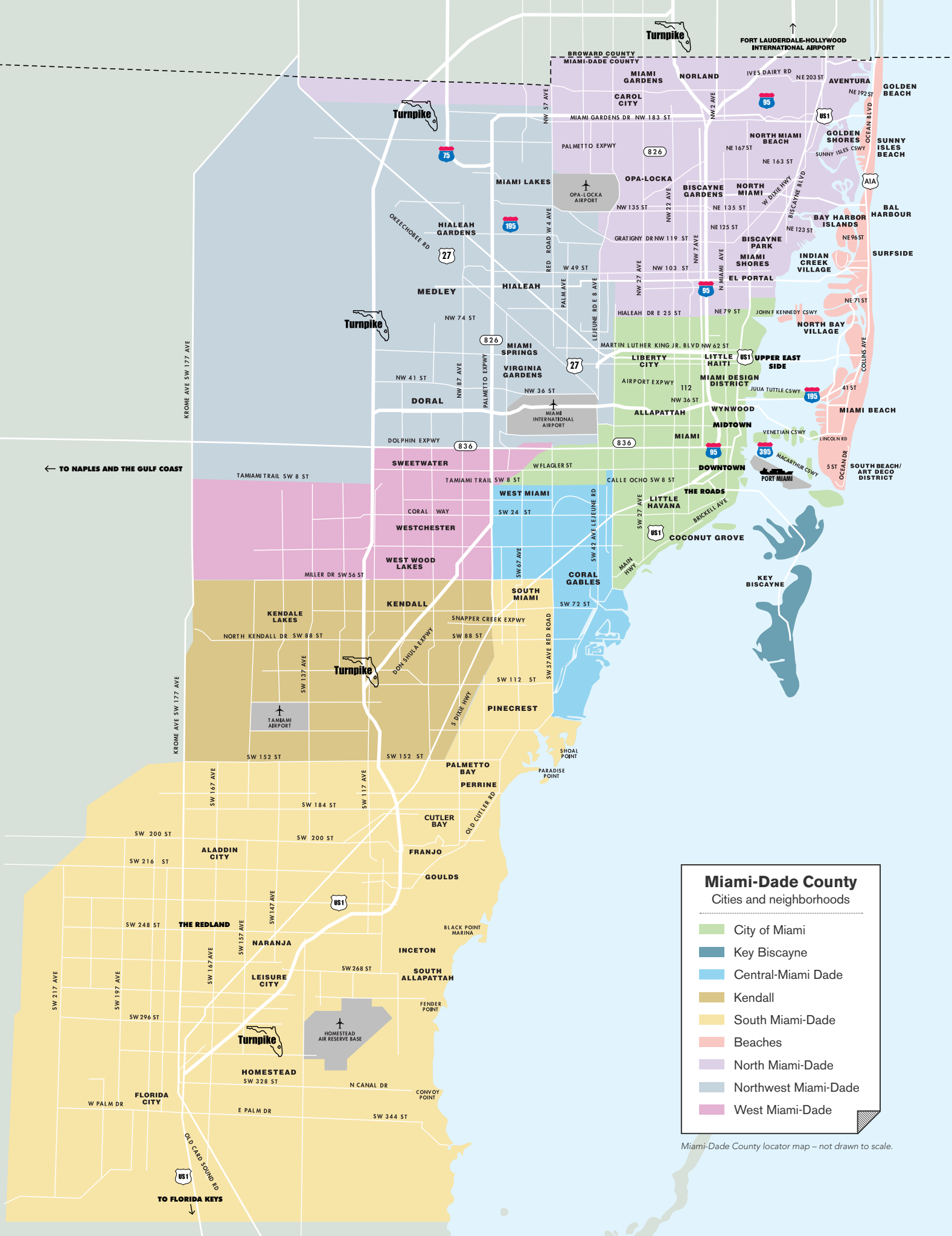
Southwest of downtown is **Little Havana**, the favored 1960s home of Cubans who settled here following Castro's revolution. Today, Little Havana is a melting pot of cultures and

social activities. Little Havana's core — Calle Ocho (Southwest Eighth Street) — attracts locals and tourists alike for good conversation, Cuban coffee, authentic Cuban dishes and hand-rolled cigars. The older generation likes to gather at Maximo Gomez Park to play dominoes and swap stories. The famous Carnival on Calle Ocho brings more than 1 million people to Little Havana each year.

One of Miami's most popular neighborhoods is **Coconut Grove**, whose winding, tree-shaded streets offer glimpses of homes surrounded by landscaped gardens, and a vista of boats rocking gently on the waters of Biscayne Bay. Residential options range from luxury condominium towers and waterfront enclaves to modest, low-rise condominiums and a scattering of rental apartments. A pedestrian- and bike-friendly village, Coconut Grove is known for sidewalk cafés, people watching and a vibrant nightlife. There are two open-air shopping centers, Mayfair in the Grove and CocoWalk, as well as dozens of fine restaurants offering a variety of cuisines. The area is served by Mercy Hospital, a 473-bed acute care Catholic hospital with multiple specialties.

Key Biscayne

From downtown Miami, it's a short drive over the Rickenbacker Causeway past the Miami Seaquarium, the award-winning Maritime and Science Technology High School (MAST) Academy, ranked 96th on *U.S. News and World Report's* 100 Best High Schools, and the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences to the village of **Key Biscayne**. The island residences include single-family homes, exclusive ocean-front compounds, and a few condominium



Miami-Dade County

Cities and neighborhoods

- City of Miami
- Key Biscayne
- Central-Miami Dade
- Kendall
- South Miami-Dade
- Beaches
- North Miami-Dade
- Northwest Miami-Dade
- West Miami-Dade

Miami-Dade County locator map – not drawn to scale.

A Guided Tour of Miami-Dade Communities

Central Miami-Dade



Courtesy of Business Improvement District of Coral Gables

Coral Gables' many amenities include a trolley-style municipal bus that provides service to the city's business, shopping and dining districts.

and rental apartment complexes. A business district along Crandon Boulevard includes neighborhood shops, boutiques, ethnic eateries and family-friendly restaurants. For recreation, there's the Village Green, five local parks, Crandon Park Tennis Center (host of the Sony Open tennis tournament every spring) and the wide, sandy beaches of Crandon Park and Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park.

Central Miami-Dade

Coral Gables, known as "The City Beautiful," dates back to the 1920s, when developer George Merrick launched a carefully planned neighborhood of stately homes on winding roadways shaded by ancient banyans and oaks.

The Spanish-style that he envisioned prevails today for many private homes and public buildings, thanks to strictly enforced zoning codes and architectural guidelines. In addition to majestic homes, the area also features residential high-rises and mixed-use developments, mainly in the downtown area and along Ponce de Leon Boulevard. The area near the University of Miami's main campus is characterized by condominiums, rental apartments and single-family homes, while the southern end of the Gables is defined by its impressive estate homes in exclusive waterfront neighborhoods such as Cocoplum and Gables Estates. The city's vibrant business center is home to hundreds of professional firms, national companies, multinational corporations and nearly a dozen foreign consul-

ates. The Coral Gables Trolley loops around the city throughout the day with regular stops at local landmarks, the downtown area and Village of Merrick Park to the south. Gourmet restaurants, specialty shops, boutiques and art galleries add to the high-energy ambience along the stretch of Coral Way known as Miracle Mile. Doctors Hospital, a 281-bed acute care facility that is part of the Baptist Health South Florida network, and Coral Gables Hospital, a 245-bed acute care facility, serve area residents.

Kendall

Family-friendly **Kendall**, the largest unincorporated community in Miami-Dade County, offers a wide range of older residential communities and new housing developments with large and small homes, modern town-houses and apartment complexes clustered around lakes, canals or parkland. Its abundance of neighborhood parks, playgrounds and recreational programs in the county-run park system make Kendall an extremely popular community for raising a family. It's also a favored shopping destination. Dadeland Mall is one of the country's most successful shopping centers, while Downtown Dadeland includes high-rise luxury condominiums, office buildings and stores. The 350,000-square-foot Dadeland Station (adjacent to the Dadeland North Metrorail Station) is a vertical shopping center housing national big-box retailers on several levels. The Kendall area is also home to Miami Dade College's South Campus, the Kendall-Tamiami Executive Airport and several industrial parks in the southern part of the area. Two Metrorail stations, Dadeland North and Dadeland South, connect Kendall to downtown Miami. Baptist Hospital of Miami, located midway between U.S. 1 and the Florida Turnpike, has been serving the region for more than 50 years, while West Kendall Baptist Hospital opened in 2011.

South Miami-Dade

The **City of South Miami** is a commuter-friendly community, thanks to its location along the Metrorail and U.S. 1 just south of Coral Gables. The family-oriented neighborhoods are populated with spacious, older houses and apartments on tree-lined streets where the residents can safely jog, stroll and walk their dogs. There's a lively scene of small shops, antique stores and art galleries along Sunset Drive and Red Road in the downtown area, as well as The Shops at Sunset Place, featuring name-brand retailers and a 24-screen movie theater. For medical care, residents rely on South Miami Hospital, a 467-bed hospital known for maternity care and inpatient and outpatient services.

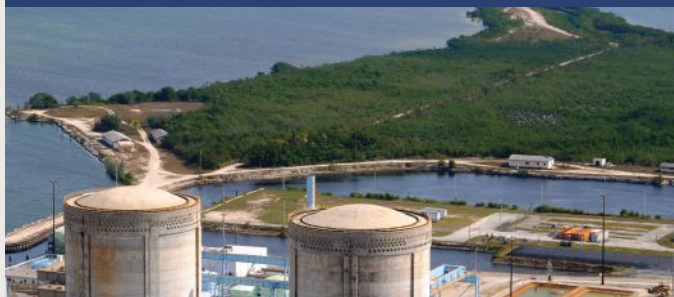
The **Village of Pinecrest**, southwest of Coral Gables, is known for its excellent municipal services and is ranked as one of the highest per-capita

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A Tour of Miami-Dade Communities

The South Dade Cultural Arts Center offers performances, plays and concerts year-round.



Courtesy of South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center / Robin Hill

income communities in the Southeastern United States. Its convenient commuting location and quality of private and public schools make it a very desirable, upscale residential area. Residential options consist mainly of single-family estate homes on large lots of an acre or more. The exclusive neighborhood of Deering Bay, south of Pinecrest, offers luxurious homes and apartments. Just to the south, the **Village of Palmetto Bay** attracts families with its recreational activities and exceptional schools. Residents of both villages can shop at The Falls, one of the nation's largest open-air

shopping venues, featuring major department and specialty stores.

The town of **Cutler Bay** — formerly known as Cutler Ridge — and the unincorporated area of **Perrine** offer moderately priced single-family homes and townhomes. Boasting the highest density of parks in Miami-Dade, the area is home to the South Dade County Government Center, which serves all of unincorporated South Dade. The area's multiethnic population adds a rich cultural element, apparent in small stores, eateries and festive events. South

Miami Lakes ~ Where Businesses Work, Play & Grow

Known as one of the most beautiful residential areas in South Florida, Miami Lakes is home to a thriving business community, high quality office developments, and charming suburban areas.

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John Kanas
Chairman, President and CEO
BankUnited



"The Orange Bowl is a regional organization, hosting many events in both Miami-Dade and Broward. Having our office in Miami Lakes is ideal – within easy reach of major highways, ports, and rail."

Michael Saks
Chief Operating Officer
Orange Bowl Committee

A Tour of Miami-Dade County Communities

The Beaches offer lively neighborhoods and a distinctly South Florida experience.



iStockphoto.com

Dixie Highway, the main commercial thoroughfare, is lined with shopping centers, businesses and restaurants, while the Southland Mall in Cutler Bay features brand-name stores. The area has its own state-of-the-art performing arts venue, the multidisciplinary South Dade Cultural Center.

To the west, **The Redland** is a wide-open rural neighborhood with farms, ranches and century-old clapboard homes. The area's growers produce tropical fruits, plants and up to two crops of vegetables a year. Among the attractions are Fruit and Spice Park, Monkey Jungle and Knaus Berry Farm known for its milkshakes and cinnamon buns. Along U.S. 1 are Coral Castle, a rock gate park on the National Register of Historic Places and Cauley Square in nearby Goulds, whose quaint craft and antique shops and famous tearoom are housed in historic cottages.

At the southern end of Miami-Dade is **Homestead**, just minutes from the Florida Keys and the gateway to two unique natural treasures: Everglades and Biscayne National Parks. The laid-back neighborhood retains its traditional small-town character while embracing its new status as a burgeoning suburb with many urban amenities. Residential choices include single-family homes, townhouses and condominiums and there are plenty of shops, commercial buildings, public squares and acres of green open space. Homestead's quaint main street is populated with antiques stores, specialty shops and restaurants. Bargain shopping is available at the nearby Prime Outlets Mall in **Florida City**. The area is served by a campus of Miami Dade College, and Homestead Hospital a 142-bed acute care facility.

Beaches

In the northeastern tip of Miami-Dade, **Sunny Isles Beach** is an upscale residential neighborhood with luxury condominium towers and apartments. Luxury hotels line the beachfront. A wide beach and new parks add to the city's amenities, providing opportunities for water sports, fishing and tennis. Bustling shopping centers feature fine restaurants, while Samson Oceanfront Park provides a spot to relax and for children to play. The ultra-luxurious **Golden Beach** is a tiny, exclusive community of bayfront and oceanfront mansions.

On the 79th Street Causeway across Biscayne Bay lies **North Bay Village**, a three-island community with luxury condominiums, single-family homes and apartments, as well as restaurants and service-based businesses. To the east is **Surfside**, a quiet oceanfront residential community with a "hometown" shopping district. **Bay Harbor Islands** is located on both sides of the Broad Causeway. The community's East Island houses a commercial area of medical offices, shops, art galleries, restaurants and multifamily buildings, while the West Island consists of upscale single-family homes, many directly on the water, as well as luxury condominiums and apartments. On the Atlantic Ocean, **Bal Harbour** is one of the area's most exclusive communities, with abundant landscaping and a curving arc of beach bordered by a walking path. The village's elegant homes and oceanfront luxury condominiums are complemented by the upscale Bal Harbour Shops, an open-air shopping venue featuring 100 world-renowned boutiques and stores, serene gardens and fish-filled ponds.

Along with its beaches, shopping, dining and nightlife, **Miami Beach** offers a range



J. Kevin Foltz

Upscale residential neighborhoods offer luxury condos with spectacular views.

A Tour of Miami-Dade County Communities



Jorge Ramirez

Aventura Mall, South Florida's largest shopping center, is consistently one of the country's highest-grossing malls.

of housing options from tiny cottages to grand estates, studio apartments to luxury condominiums. Single-family homes in the mid-beach area (north and south of 41st Street) date back to the 1920s. **South Beach**, also called SoBe, is home to the Art Deco District, the world's largest collection of Art Deco architecture listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Wolfsonian Museum-FIU, featuring a collection of objects from the 1885-1945 era, is within walking distance of many historic hotels. Ocean Drive is the heartbeat of the community with an active outdoor din-

ing scene, and the Collins Avenue Shopping District is lined with designer shops. Nightlife prevails along Washington Avenue, where the party never stops. Another attraction is Lincoln Road, a seven-block pedestrian mall that features restaurants, shops, art galleries and cafes. The area maintains a reputation for its art and culture scene, including the state-of-the-art, Frank Gehry-designed concert hall for the New World Symphony. Area residents are served by Mount Sinai Medical Center, the largest private independent not-for-profit teaching hospital in South Florida.

North Miami-Dade

Aventura features luxurious single-family homes, townhouses, courtyard homes and condominiums. Many of the newer upscale buildings offer access to the Intracoastal Waterway. It's not uncommon to spot residents jogging, biking and skating around the fitness trail that encircles the private Fairmont Turnberry Isle Resort & Club golf courses. The nearby Founders Park features a children's playground, tennis courts and a multipurpose athletic field, while Veterans Park offers residents a dog-friendly recreational space. Aventura Mall is in the top five of the country's highest-grossing malls and South Florida's largest shopping center. Aventura Hospital and Medical Center, a 407-bed, acute-care medical and surgical facility, meets the community's health care needs and is recognized for its fast ER times. The city's thriving business community focuses on retail, service providers and numerous professionals, who have a choice of numerous Class A office buildings.

Conveniently located near the major highways of Interstate 95, SR-826 and Florida's Turnpike, **Miami Gardens** has residential options that range from apartment rentals and new condominiums to family homes. The area boasts a vibrant shopping district for the furniture trade, and a number of auto dealerships line U.S. 441. The Miami Dolphins play at Sun Life Stadium, while Calder Casino & Race Course offers horse racing and gaming. Various educational pursuits are available at Miami Garden's two universities — Florida Memorial University and St. Thomas University.

North Miami Beach exudes the "small town in a big city" atmosphere throughout its distinct neighborhoods. Most of the cur-

rent homes and apartments were built in the 1960s and 1970s. Cozy starter houses and practical single-family homes line North Miami Beach streets, along with some low- and mid-rise condominium buildings and upscale waterfront properties. Residents can access the county's historic Greynolds Park, characterized by its nine-hole golf course and abundant wildlife. The state's largest urban park, Oleta River State Park on Biscayne Bay, offers bicycle and canoe trails, a beach and fishing pier. The Julius Littman Performing Arts Theater presents off-Broadway productions, variety shows, orchestras, concerts and ballets. Jackson North Medical Center, a 382-bed acute center, serves the area with its 24-hour adult and pediatric ER, and also maternity, orthopedics, surgery, inpatient and outpatient services. Shopping areas include The Mall at 163rd Street. Enclaves of neighborhood shops can be found throughout the city. Dining choices range from ethnic eateries and bistros to upscale chain restaurants.

North Miami's neighborhoods include everything from multimillion-dollar estates to affordable single-family homes, medium- and high-rise condominiums, and rental apartments. Johnson & Wales University is located here as is Florida International University's Biscayne Bay Campus. The state-of-the-art Museum of Contemporary Art (MoCA) adds a strong cultural focus to North Miami and showcases both recognized and emerging artists. North Miami offers dynamic business opportunities in retail and service, mainly along Northeast 125th Street and Biscayne Boulevard. There are more than 250 entertainment-related businesses, with over



North Miami-Dade's Oleta River State Park is beloved by outdoor enthusiasts.

A Tour of Miami-Dade County Communities



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The City of Hialeah is home to a historic racetrack, as well as its many city parks.

70 companies providing studio space, post-production facilities, sound stages and more. It is also home to several parks, including Arch Creek Park.

Miami Shores is a family-oriented community that includes older homes in every architectural style (notably Mediterranean Revival) on tree-lined streets stretching west from Biscayne Bay. The golf course of the village-owned country club cuts a swath of green across the northeast corner of Miami Shores, and its tennis courts and aquatic center add to the amenities available. There are also plenty of neighborhood shops and eateries. Barry University, a Catholic university best recognized for its business, nursing and health sciences offerings, is located in Miami Shores. The charming town of **Biscayne Park**, founded in 1933 and located north of Miami Shores, is strictly a residential community with a peaceful setting, sheltered from the hustle and bustle of city life. **Biscayne Gardens**, an unincorporated community, offers moderately priced homes, many of which have been updated and feature spacious lots and tropical vegetation. Originally called Sherwood Forest for its picturesque beauty, the village of **El Portal** is a small, “green” community nestled between Miami Shores and Miami. The village is a state-designated bird sanctuary, and a nature trail now winds through this peaceful neighborhood, which features single-family cottages and bungalows designed in 1930s and 1940s South Florida architecture.

The largest collection of Moorish architecture in the Western Hemisphere is said to be found in **Opa-locka**. Just south of the

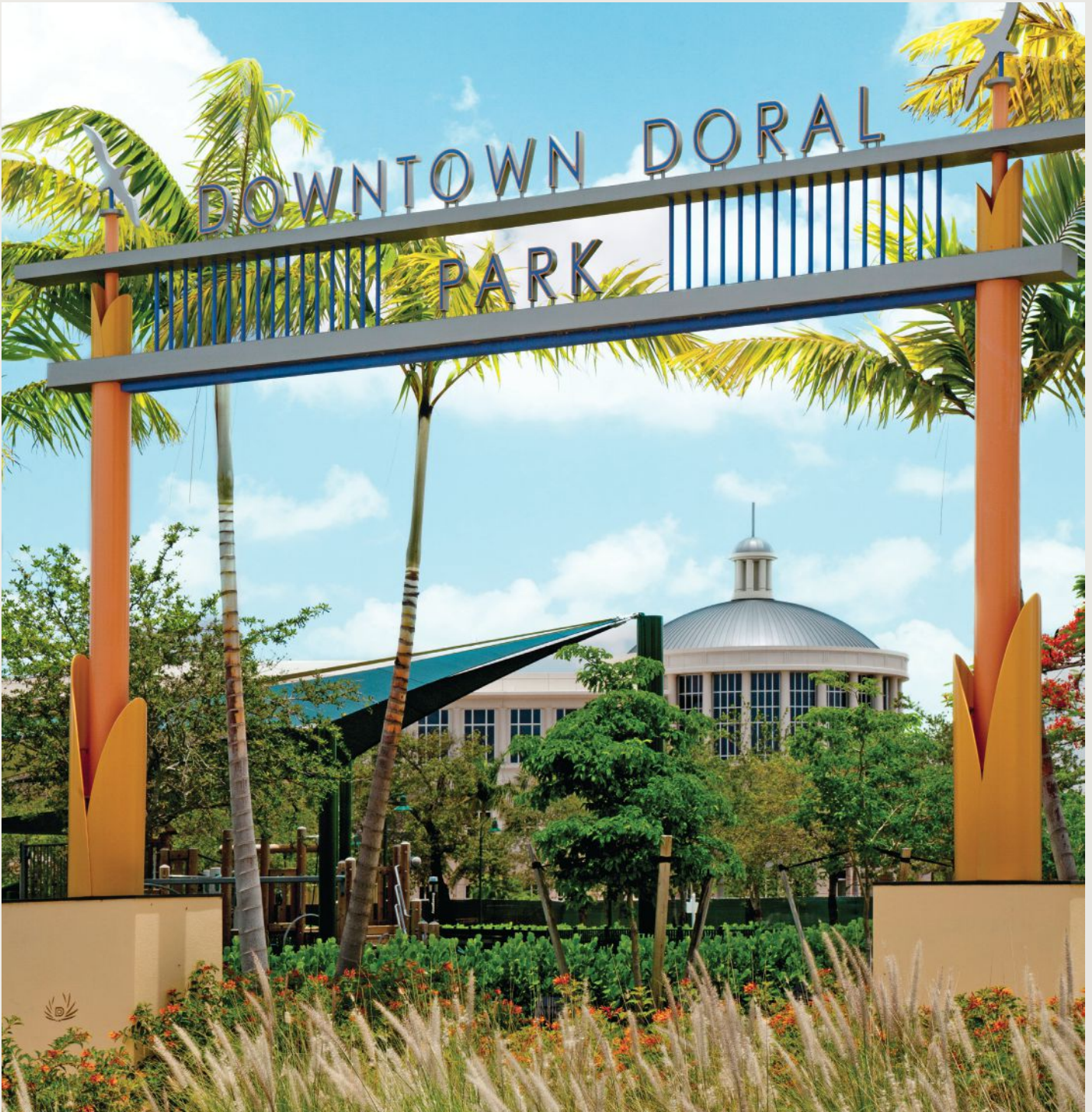
city, Amelia Earhart supposedly launched her globetrotting trek across the skies. Today, the small community is predominantly known as an industrial area, primarily for Opa-locka Executive Airport (OPF), which accommodates private, leisure and business flights, and claims one of the country’s longest general aviation runways. Opa-locka boasts many single-family homes and a handful of schools. Among them is Monsignor Edward Pace High School, a Catholic college-preparatory school that has been ranked as a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the U.S. Department of Education.

This area of the county is also home to Miami Dade College’s bustling North Campus.

Northwest Miami-Dade

A suburban live-work-play community, the City of **Doral** is ranked among the country’s best places to live and launch a business by CNNMoney.com. Many Fortune 500 companies and government headquarters are housed in Doral, including Carnival Cruise Lines, Pepsi Bottling Company and the Federal Reserve. The city offers an extensive commercial area of industrial parks, warehouses and office buildings, and is home to The Miami Free Zone. Doral also features bustling residential communities, including gated enclaves, townhomes, low-rise condominiums and single-family homes at all price points. Doral is home to Carlos Albizu University and campuses for Barry University and Miami Dade College. Shopping options include Miami International Mall and Dolphin Mall in neighboring Sweetwater, an outlet shopping and entertainment center. The Trump National Doral Miami, home of a famed championship

Downtown Doral, with its mix of retail, commercial and industrial enterprises, is a one of the many thriving business districts in Miami-Dade.



A Tour of Miami-Dade Communities

West Miami-Dade



J. Kevin Foltz

Miami Lakes is known for its quaint Main Street.

course, is the center for both business conventions and vacationers.

The **Airport West** area is home to many national and international corporate offices.

The Town of **Miami Lakes** is an award-winning, mixed-use master-planned community characterized by winding tree-lined roadways and neighborhoods built around scenic lakes with a 'main street' type of small town feel. Within walking distance of all the neighborhoods are retail, offices, parks and green spaces.

Residents enjoy natural scenic beauty, and a vibrant cultural environment. Miami Lakes offers businesses an ideal environment for success. Some of the country's most respected companies reside here, such as Johnson & Johnson, Merck, and BankUnited, enticed by a highly-educated, skilled, and multilingual workforce.

A strong logistics infrastructure complements the enviable geographic position and forms a conduit for a continuous stream of visitors and commerce into the area. The Town of Miami Lakes maintains one of the lowest tax and flood insurance rates in Miami-Dade County.

Hialeah is Florida's fifth-largest city. Although it boasts a strong industrial and commercial presence, it is also a family-friendly city filled with various different types of housing and many rental apartments. Residents have access to a number of recreational facilities and parks, including various pools and aquatic centers, and also enjoy easy access to Hialeah Hospital, the Hialeah Campus of Miami Dade College, Westland Mall and other retail districts. Nearby **Hialeah Gardens** is a place favored

by families. It's next to major roadways, making it an ideal commercial area, yet there are plenty of residential communities, along with parks and youth programs. Palmetto General Hospital, a 360-bed acute-care facility, is among the healthcare institutions serving the area.

Founded by aviation pioneer Glenn Curtiss, **Miami Springs** was designed to reflect Pueblo Revival and Mission architectural styles. The community, named in recognition of its 15 natural underground springs, is north of Miami International Airport and south of the Miami Canal. The heart of the area is Miami Springs Circle, a quaint plaza of small shops, galleries and restaurants, and the Miami Springs Golf & Country Club. Nestled between Miami Springs and the airport is **Virginia Gardens**, a small residential village with an aviation-oriented commercial district. The village has more flight simulators for pilot training, per capita, than any other city in the world.

West Miami-Dade

Just south of Doral are the incorporated town of **Sweetwater** and unincorporated **Westchester**. These two family-oriented communities are filled with moderately priced single-family homes, townhomes, condominiums and rental apartments. Westchester is also home to several retail districts, as well as the Maidique Campus of Florida International University, the National Hurricane Center and Tamiami Park — site of the annual Miami-Dade County Fair and Exposition, one of the top 20 fairs in the United States. 🏡

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MIAMI-DADE COUNTY NEWCOMERS GUIDE

Miami-Dade County is ready to welcome you! Get settled with these useful phone numbers and websites for forwarding mail, connecting utilities, getting a driver's license, signing up the kids for school and much more.

The Beacon Council

Miami-Dade County's official economic development partnership

- Tel: 305-579-1300
www.beaconcouncil.com

Newspaper Services

- The Miami Herald
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Tel: 305-THE-HERALD (305-350-2111)
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- El Nuevo Herald
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- Tel: 800-275-8777
www.usps.com

Driver's Licenses

The law requires you to obtain a Florida driver's license within 30 days of establishing permanent residency. New residents exchanging a valid out-of-state license for a Florida license must pass vision and hearing tests only. Unmarried drivers under age 18 must have their license application signed by one parent or legal guardian.

For replacement licenses, the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles must be notified of a change in name or address within 10 days of moving. A state identification card for non-drivers is also available with valid identification.

- Florida Division of Driver Licenses
Tel: 305-229-6333
www.flhsmv.gov

Vehicle Registration

In the State of Florida, a motor vehicle must be registered within 10 days of the owner either becoming employed, placing children in public school or establishing residency. Registering a motor vehicle is associated with the titling process. Proof of liability insurance is required.

VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) verification is required for all used motor vehicles. Registration fees vary according to classification (private/commercial use) and weight of vehicle.

- Tel: 305-375-3591
www.flhsmv.gov

Boat Registration

All motorized boats operated on Florida waters must be registered and numbered with the State within 30 days of purchase. Fees are based on the length of the craft.

- Tel: 305-375-3591
www.flhsmv.gov

Animal Services

New residents bringing any dog over four months of age into Miami-Dade County



Kevin Dodge / Blend Images / Getty Images

must register the dog with the **Department of Animal Services** within 30 days of entering the county. They must obtain a license tag — available at the Department, Humane Society of Greater Miami shelters and individual veterinary offices — that the dog is required to wear at all times. Dogs, cats and ferrets must be vaccinated against rabies beginning at four months, and must be revaccinated every one or three years, depending on the vaccine manufacturer. Pit bulls are prohibited in Miami-Dade County.

- **Animal Services**
Tel: 305-884-1101
www.miamidade.gov/animals
- **Humane Society of Greater Miami**
Tel: 305-696-0800
www.humanesocietymiami.org

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- **Miami-Dade Water & Sewer Department Customer Service**
Tel: 305-665-7488
24-Hour Emergency Call Center
Tel: 305-274-9272
www.miamidade.gov/wasd

Telephone

- **AT&T**
The main provider of local phone service in South Florida.
General Information/
Customer Service
Residential: 888-757-6500
www.att.com
Commercial: 877-253-0009
www.business.att.com

There are a number of long distance, cell phone and Internet providers serving South Florida. Please check the Yellow Pages.

Cable Companies

(Companies serve specific neighborhoods.)

- **Atlantic Broadband**
Tel: 1-888-752-4222
www.atlanticbb.com

- **Comcast Broadband**
Tel: 1-800-COMCAST
www.comcast.com
- **AT&T U-verse**
Tel: 1-800-288-2020
www.att.com

Satellite TV Companies

- **DirecTV**
Tel: 1-800-531-5000
www.directv.com
- **Dish Network**
Tel: 888-825-2557
www.dishnetwork.com

Government Agencies

- **Florida State Government**
Tel: 850-488-1234
www.myflorida.com
- **Miami-Dade County Government**
Tel: 305-468-5900
www.miamidade.gov
- **Miami-Dade County Building & Neighborhood Compliance (formerly Team Metro)**
Main: 786-315-2000
Voice Response:
305-591-7966
www.miamidade.gov/building

Voter Registration

To register to vote in Florida, you must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age by Election Day and have proof of residency. Law requires an actual residence

address; P.O. boxes are not accepted. (Qualified minors may pre-register to vote at age 17 or when they receive a valid Florida driver's license.)

- Tel: 305-499-VOTE (8683)
www.miamidade.gov/elections

Miami-Dade County Consumer Services Department (Complaint Hotline)

This department protects consumers and mediates complaints.

- Tel: 305-375-3677
www.miamidade.gov/csd

Department of Environmental Resources Management (Derm)

Miami-Dade County offers "single-stream" recycling, meaning residents don't have to separate recyclable materials. Recyclables are placed in 65-gallon wheeled carts issued by the county, and are picked up every other week.

- Tel: 305-374-6789
www.miamidade.gov/derm

For information on recycling, places to dispose of trash and hazardous materials, and local environmental programs:

- Tel: 877-EARTH-911
or 800-CLEANUP
www.earth911.com

Municipalities**Aventura**

305-466-8910
19200 W. Country Club Drive
Aventura, FL 33180

Bal Harbour

305-866-4633
655 96th Street
Bal Harbour, FL 33154

Bay Harbor Islands

305-866-6241
9665 Bay Harbor Terrace
Bay Harbor Islands, FL 33154

Biscayne Park

305-899-8000
640 NE 114th Street
Biscayne Park, FL 33161

Coral Gables

305-466-6800
405 Biltmore Way
1st Floor
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Town of Cutler Bay

305-234-4262
10720 Caribbean Blvd.
Suite 105
Cutler Bay, FL 33189

Doral

305-593-6725
8300 NW 53rd Street
Suite 100
Doral, FL 33166

The Village of El Portal

305-795-7880
500 NE 87th Street
The Village of El Portal, FL 33138

Florida City

305-247-8221
500 NE 87th Street
Florida City, FL 33034

Golden Beach

305-932-0744
One Golden Beach Drive
Golden Beach, FL 33160

Hialeah

305-883-5820
501 Palm Avenue
Hialeah, FL 33010

Hialeah Gardens

305-558-4114
10001 NW 87th Avenue, Bldg. 5
Hialeah Gardens, FL 33016

Homestead

305-224-4400
790 N. Homestead Blvd.
Homestead, FL 33130

Indian Creek

305-865-4121
9080 Bay Drive
Indian Creek, FL 33154

Key Biscayne

305-365-5511
88 West McIntyre Street
Key Biscayne, FL 33149

Town of Medley

305-887-9541
7777 NW 72nd Avenue
Medley, FL 33166

Miami

305-250-5360
3500 Pan American Drive
Miami, FL 33133

Miami Beach

305-673-7000
1700 Convention Center Drive
Miami Beach, FL 33139

Miami Gardens

305-622-8000
1515 NW 167th Street, Suite 200
Miami Gardens, FL 33169

Miami Lakes

305-364-6100
6601 Main Street
Miami Lakes, FL 33014

Miami-Dade County

305-375-5311
111 NW First Street
Miami, FL 33128

Miami Shores

305-795-2207
10050 NE 2nd Avenue
Miami Shores, FL 33138

Miami Springs

305-805-5010
201 Westward Drive
Miami Springs, FL 33166

North Bay Village

305-756-7171
1666 Kennedy Cswy., Suite 700
North Bay Village, FL 33141

North Miami

305-893-6511
776 NE 125th Street
North Miami, FL 33161

North Miami Beach

305-948-2986
17011 NE 19th Avenue
North Miami Beach, FL 33162

Opa-locka

305-688-4611
780 Fisherman Street
Opa-locka, FL 33054

Village of Palmetto Bay

305-259-1234
8950 SW 152nd Street
Palmetto Bay, FL 33157

Pinecrest

305-234-2121
12645 Pinecrest Parkway
Pinecrest, FL 33156

South Miami

305-663-6338
6130 Sunset Drive
South Miami, FL 33143

Sunny Isles Beach

305-947-0606
18070 Collins Avenue
Sunny Isles Beach, FL 33160

Town of Surfside

305-861-4863
9293 Harding Avenue
Surfside, FL 33154

Sweetwater

305-221-0411
500 SW 109th Avenue
Sweetwater, FL 33174

Virginia Gardens

305-871-6104
6498 NW 38th Terrace
Virginia Gardens, FL 33166

West Miami

305-266-1122
901 SW 62nd Avenue
West Miami, FL 33144

Founded in 1925, UM is a private research university that annually conducts \$360 million of research, primarily at the university's school of medicine but also in such disciplines as education, engineering, marine science and psychology.

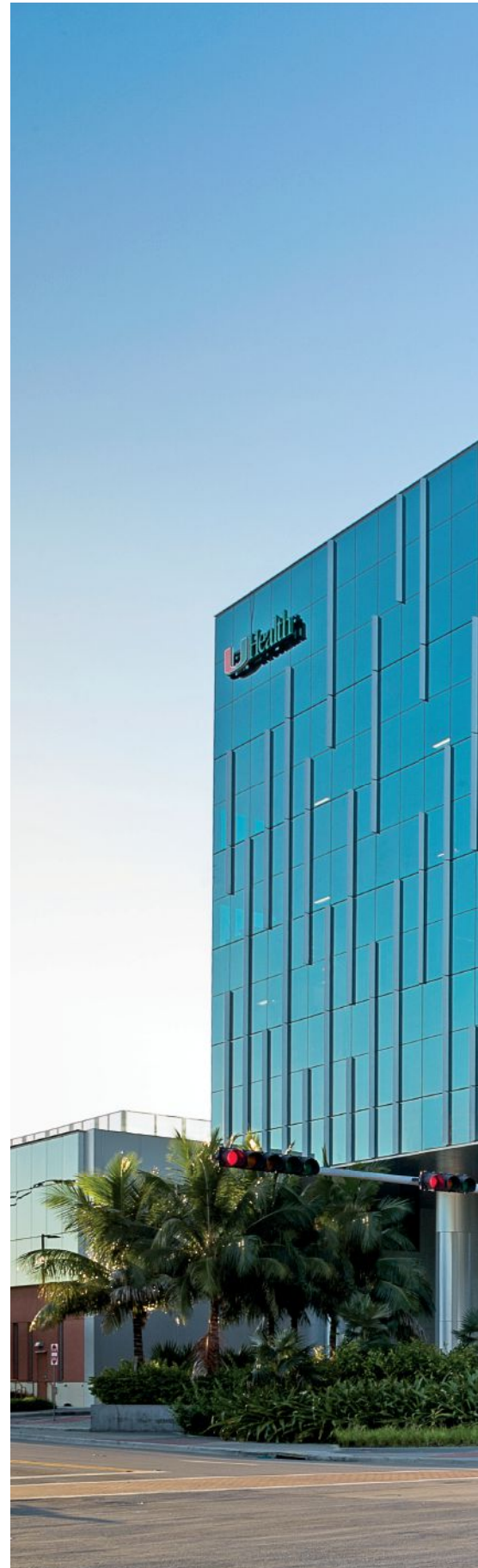
EDUCATION & HEALTH

QUALITY OF LIFE
IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

BY MIKE SEEMUTH

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Education is key in Miami-Dade County, with top-quality primary education to world-renowned institutions of higher learning. Residents also benefit from state-of-the-art medicine, offered at more than a dozen award-winning hospitals, as well as convenient medical and outpatient centers.





University of Miami Life Science & Technology Park is the centerpiece of the university's medical campus in downtown Miami.

Florida International University's main campus in west Miami-Dade boasts a diverse and thriving student body.



Courtesy of Florida International University

"We are so proud of our incredible location in a vibrant, edgy, globally connected, 24/7 city. Our bright and ever-changing skyline, tasteful tropical cuisine, dynamic and varied arts, elegant malls, and array of ethnic neighborhoods make for an unforgettable college experience."

*Mark B. Rosenberg
President, Florida International University*

"A" in Academics

Opportunities for lifelong learning abound in Miami-Dade County for everyone from kids to corporate executives. The Miami area is home to excellent elementary schools, secondary schools, colleges and universities that serve the dynamic needs of this international community.

The public school system of Miami-Dade County, the fourth largest in the nation, and the many private schools in the Miami area provide a rich array of learning environments for kids from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. There are 382 private schools in Miami-Dade County serving a total of about 76,000 students, according to the New York-based Private School Review.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools has four core values – excellence, integrity, equity and citizenship – and a distinct international flavor. The system serves approximately 353,000 students who speak 56 languages and represent 160 countries. The public school system has nearly 20,000 teachers and 392 schools. These include elementary schools, middle schools and high schools as well as charter schools and vocational centers for adult education.

The public school system was named winner of the 2012 Broad Prize for Urban Education, an annual award that honors urban school districts across the country that are making the greatest progress in raising stu-

Components of Public Education System – Employees 2012-2013

Personnel	Total Number
Teachers Total	19,397
Average Teacher's Salary	\$52,702
Teacher to Pupil Ratio	1 to 18
Career Academy Programs	49
Schools with Magnet Programs	98

Components of Public Education System – Students 2012-2013

Grade Level	Number of Students Fall 2012
Pre-K	8,304
Kindergarten	25,916
1-5	131,027
6-8	81,367
9-12	106,528
Total Student Enrollment	353,142

Source: Miami-Dade Public School System, July 2013

dent achievement. This is the fifth time that Miami-Dade Public Schools had been recognized as a finalist.

Four Miami-Dade public high schools were included in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2013 list of the 100 best high schools in the nation: International Studies Charter High School in Miami (ranked 15th); Design and Architecture Senior High School (DASH) in Miami (20th); Young Women's Preparatory Academy in Miami (25th), and Maritime and Science Technology High School (MAST) in Key Biscayne (96th). *U.S. News & World Report* evaluated more than 21,000 public high schools in 49 states and the District of Columbia to compile its list of the 100 best.

Besides traditional public schools, students also can enroll in magnet schools that focus on special interests, talents and abilities. Magnet programs, which are available primarily at Miami-Dade's public middle schools and high schools, have six themes of study: careers and professions, international programs, liberal arts, virtual offerings, visual and performing arts, and mathematics, science and technology. Among similar accolades

from other national publications, *Newsweek* magazine has named four Miami-Dade magnet schools among its top 1,000 schools in the country. Another educational alternative is attending a charter school. Charter schools are fully recognized as public schools in Florida and operated by, or organized as, not-for-profit organizations.

One rare institution in the Miami-Dade public school system is George T. Baker Aviation School, located adjacent to Miami International Airport, where licensed technicians prepare students for aviation careers in such fields as avionics and aircraft maintenance. Baker Aviation is one of only two schools in Florida accredited by the National Center for Aircraft Technician Training (NCATT) and the only one in the country offering NCATT-accredited courses to high school students.

Intellectual Assets: Higher Education Opportunities

Colleges and universities in Miami-Dade County offer a rich mix of educational opportunities, with undergraduate and graduate

How to enroll in Miami-Dade County Public Schools

Students enrolling Miami-Dade public schools for the first time must present the following documents:

- Original birth certificate. (Other documents, such as a valid passport, may be acceptable if a birth certificate is unavailable. Contact school system for more details.)
- A health examination form (DH 3040) completed within one year prior to enrollment and a Florida Certificate of Immunization (DH 680) from a private doctor or local health care clinic.
- Two of these three forms as proof of current address:
 - an electric utility bill or receipt
 - a signed lease agreement or statement of property purchase,
 - a current homestead exemption card for property tax filing purposes
- Students transferring from another school district also must present certain records to verify the academic credits they have earned and confirm their grade placement.

For further information, contact:

Miami-Dade County
Public Schools
www.dadeschools.net
305-995-1000



Courtesy of Miami Dade College

Miami Dade College offers 160 degree programs at eight campuses.

degree programs in all major fields of study. The leading colleges and universities in Miami-Dade include the following:

Miami Dade College

www.mdc.edu

With more than 175,000 students, Miami Dade College is the largest institution of higher learning in the United States and annually awards more associate degrees than any other community college in the country. It offers more than 160 degree programs leading to two-year and four-year degrees in such fields as aviation, business, education, engineering, health sciences, justice and nursing. MDC has eight campuses and offers courses online, too. Its annual schedule of cultural activities includes sponsorship of the Miami

Book Fair International and the Miami International Film Festival. The Wolfson Campus, in the heart of downtown Miami, is also home to the Miami Culinary Institute.

Florida International University

fiu.edu

FIU is Miami's first and only four-year public research university offering bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in more than 200 different programs. Enrollment was 50,000 in the fall of 2012, and annually, FIU graduates 11,300 students. Its enrollment of 50,000 in fall 2012 ranked FIU seventh nationally by enrollment among public universities. The university has accumulated nearly 200,000 alumni. Graduate-level educational centers include the FIU College of

Law and the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine. The college of medicine has specialty fields of study that include dermatology, family medicine, gynecology, psychiatry and rheumatology.

University of Miami

miami.edu

U.S. News & World Report ranked UM the 44th best national university in its 2013 rankings. The university offers more than 250 degree programs at the bachelor's, master's and doctoral level. Founded in 1925, UM is a private research university that annually conducts \$360 million of research, primarily at the university's school of medicine but also in such disciplines as education, engineering, marine science and psychology. UM recently ranked 61st among all U.S. universities for federally funded research and development. The university's Toppel Career Center has a program called Launch Pad to advise students and alumni who view starting a new business as a promising career path. Renowned faculty at the university's law school have expertise in legal fields from property law to international arbitration to criminal law, among many others. UM's Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine, founded in 1952 as the state of Florida's first accredited medical school, provides medical staff for the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital, the largest hospital in the Miami area.

A new addition to the medical campus is the UM Life Science & Technology Park, opened in 2011, a six-story, 252,000-square building in Miami with space available for lease. It houses wet and dry laboratories and other facilities to encourage the startup of ventures based on new medical technology. The University of Miami intends for the building to become a hub of biotech research and development.

Barry University

barry.edu

Barry University, the second-largest Catholic university in the Southeast, offers more than 100 bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs. Barry has its main campus in Miami Shores, operates its Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law in Orlando, and maintains off-campus sites for adult continuing education in 16 counties in Florida. Founded in 1940 by the Adrian Dominican Sisters as a women-only university, the co-educational institution offers a full range of programs in the arts and sciences, business, communications, education, law, nursing, podiatry, psychology, social work and theology. Business magazine *Forbes* included Barry in 2012 for the second consecutive year in its annual list of "America's Best Colleges." The university also supports dance recitals, theater performances, art shows and photography exhibitions, often open to the community free of charge.

St. Thomas University

stu.edu

St. Thomas University in Miami Gardens develops leaders in business, justice, ministry, science and other fields. The university has expanded its unique offerings to include degree programs in global entrepreneurship and international business, sports administration and intercultural human rights. The university significantly increased its undergraduate research capability with the opening of the Carnival Cruise Lines Science and Technology Building.

Florida Memorial University

fmuniv.edu

Florida Memorial University, founded in 1963, is the only historically black college or university in Miami. The university is the product of a 1941 merger of two education institutions founded in the 1800s. Florida Memorial offers 41 bachelor's degree programs and four



"Thanks to what I learned from the program, we've done more business in the last six months than in the last three years."

- Angelica, Owner, Colmex Construction



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Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses graduate, Angelica, knew she wanted to grow her construction business, but didn't know how. Through our program, she gained practical skills, like contract negotiation, that she immediately put into action within her company. These skills, coupled with the advice and support of business experts and like-minded small business owners, helped Angelica nearly double the size of her construction business. And Angelica is not alone: More than half of our scholars increased their revenue after graduation.

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to the next level.**

Learn more about 10,000 Small Businesses in Miami at mdc.edu/10ksb, or call 305-237-0305.

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Courtesy of Barry University

Barry University attracts a diverse student population to its Miami Shores campus.

master's degree programs in such fields as aviation, business, communications, computer science, criminal justice, education, and health and natural sciences.

Johnson & Wales University

jwu.edu

This privately run, non-profit institution best known for its culinary arts instruction has one of its four U.S. campuses in North Miami. Johnson & Wales, a leader in career education since 1914, also offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs in arts and sciences, business, education, hospitality and technology. The school, which offers continuing education courses and the option of online classrooms, has accumulated nearly 90,000 alumni in 140 countries.

Miami International University of Art & Design

www.artinstitutes.edu/miami

This specialty educational institution is part of a network of 45 throughout North America providing skilled graduates ready for the workplace in media arts, fashion and culinary production. Miami International University of Art & Design, founded in 1965, offers associate's and bachelor's degree programs in the applied arts, with instructional emphasis on such disciplines as advertising, audio production, computer animation and fashion design.

Training Tools: Graduate Schools of Business

Miami-Dade is home to a wealth of academic programs for the pursuit of a master's degree

in business administration, or an MBA. The diversity of MBA programs in Miami-Dade County reflects the many different types of enterprises that drive the Miami economy. Myriad MBA programs provide multiple fields of academic concentration and delivery channels designed to fit the needs of full-time and part-time students. Here are five business schools in the Miami area that serve up MBA programs in dozens of different flavors:

Barry University

Andreas School of Business

www.barry.edu/business

The Andreas School of Business, accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, offers programs for a

master's degree in business administration, or MBA, in six specialized areas of study. These include programs for a master's degree in accounting and a master of science in management. In addition, the university has a double degree program allowing students to earn an MBA from Barry and an MBA from another university in a foreign country. Barry also offers dual degrees that couple an MBA with a master of science degree in nursing, podiatric medicine or sports management.

Florida International University

Chapman Graduate School of Business

www.business.fiu.edu

The Chapman Graduate School of Business provides multiple paths for the pursuit of a



Ransom Everglades School

More than a century of honor and excellence

Guided by the words of its founder Paul C. Ransom, Ransom Everglades School seeks to produce graduates who "believe that they are in the world not so much for what they can get out of it as for what they can put into it".

Faculty, staff and parents preserve and perpetuate a school community that cultivates emotional, moral and physical well-being in addition to developing each student's intellectual capacity through academics, arts and athletics.

Ransom Everglades School is an independent co-ed college preparatory school in Coconut Grove serving Grades 6-12.

2045 South Bayshore Drive / Coconut Grove, Florida 33133 / 305.250.6850

3575 Main Highway / Coconut Grove, Florida 33133 / 305.460.8800

www.ransomeverglades.org

The School is accredited by the Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS) and by the Southern Association of Colleges (SAC). Ransom Everglades is also a member of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) and the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).



Courtesy of Florida Memorial University

Florida Memorial University's fields of undergraduate study include aeronautical science, communications and business, among many others.

master's degree in business administration. The FIU business school, which enrolls more than 1,000 graduate students annually, has five centers and institutes that focus on leadership, entrepreneurship, business education and research, real estate, and supply chain management. FIU offers MBA programs structured especially for busy professionals and executives, providing them with such options as online study and weekend classroom meetings. Specialized MBA programs lead to such degrees as executive master of science in taxation, master of accounting, and master of science in management information systems. Eligible students may pursue joint degree programs that couple an MBA with another graduate degree, with a master of science in finance, for example, or a master of international business or human resource management. FIU also offers global MBA programs beyond South Florida in the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Mexico and Panama.

Kellogg School of Management Northwestern University

www.kellogg.northwestern.edu

Northwestern University's prestigious Kellogg School of Management now has a Miami campus in Coral Gables for students enrolled in the

Executive MBA program. Students travel to Miami one long weekend per month beginning in January and ending two years later in December, with breaks during both summers. In addition, students attend three intensive Live-In Weeks either on the Miami or Evanston, Ill., campus. The highly competitive program attracts executives from a wide range of fields. The typical student has an average of 10-14 years of professional experience. The Miami campus is conveniently located near ideal shopping and dining establishments and encompasses newly designed state-of-the-art classrooms complete with private study areas. The campus adjoins the Hyatt Regency Coral Gables.

The University of Manchester Manchester Business School — Miami Centre www.mbs.ac.uk

This well regarded British business school based in Manchester, England, also operates dedicated MBA centers in Miami and Rio de Janeiro as well as Hong Kong, Shanghai, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates. Students can upgrade general management skills or focus specifically on finance, engineering or project management. A 2013 survey by the British business newspaper *Financial Times* ranked Manchester's MBA program fifth-best in Europe and 29th-best in the world. Business magazine *Forbes* calculated that the return on investment in a Manchester MBA is the second-highest in the world for a graduate business program. Graduates include employees of such companies as AstraZeneca, KPMG, Bank of New York Mellon, HSBC and PwC. The Manchester MBA program is one of the few in the world accredited by all three major accrediting bodies, including the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

St. Thomas University School of Business www.stu.edu/business

Students pursuing graduate degrees at the

St. Thomas University School of Business choose from academic concentrations including human resource management, international business, justice administration, and tourism and hospitality. Class sizes average 15 students, giving the business school an exceptionally low student-to-faculty ratio. Faculty with practical work experience in the subjects they teach bring a real-world perspective to classroom discussion that fosters questions and debate.

**University of Miami
School of Business**

www.bus.miami.edu

The University of Miami has a broad menu of MBA programs to meet the educational

needs of both full-time students and working professionals who are part-time students. Accounting, industrial engineering, health care and taxation are among the academic concentrations that MBA students can elect. Among the newer offerings by the business school is an accelerated, 18-month MBA program with a focus on real estate, which includes working as a paid intern for a real estate company. It is one of several initiatives to expand graduate business instruction with a focus on real estate. One MBA program for executives is conducted in Spanish. In a 2013 survey, *América Economía* magazine ranked the MBA program at UM as the 10th-best in the United States for Latin Americans.



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To schedule a UHealth Executive Physical, call **305-243-2738**
or visit **uhealthexecutive.com**.



Miami-Dade's robust health care sector provides state-of-the-art treatment.



Monkey Business Images / Dreamstime.com

"As changes and challenges unfold in healthcare, Baptist Health South Florida remains a strong partner committed to its not-for-profit mission of improving our community's health and well-being."

*Brian E. Keeley, President and CEO,
Baptist Health South Florida*

Health Resources: Hospital Care and Medical Research

Miami-Dade County has an enviable health care sector providing medical treatment and researching breakthroughs in medical technology. Indeed, specialty care available at such health care institutions as the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital and the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute draws many foreign visitors to the Miami area every year for medical treatment unavailable in their countries. Here are details on six of Miami-Dade County's leading hospitals and a new medical research facility in the area:

Aventura Hospital And Medical Center

20900 Biscayne Boulevard
Aventura, Florida 33180
305-682-7000;
www.aventurahospital.com

More than 700 physicians serve patients at Aventura Hospital and Medical Center, a 407-bed acute care facility in the city of Aventura in northeastern Miami-Dade County. The fully accredited hospital provides inpatient and outpatient diagnostics, medical services, surgery and cancer treatment. A recently expanded section of the hospital features 243 private rooms with private baths, a 28-bed emergency department, a surgical

UM/Jackson Memorial Hospital is home to the Ryder Trauma Center.



Courtesy of Jackson Health System



Jorge Ramirez

Miami Children's Hospital is home to the David M. Walters Serenity Fountain, named for the founder of the hospital's foundation.

services suite with 10 operating rooms and two intensive care units.

Baptist Hospital of Miami

8900 North Kendall Drive
Miami, Florida 33176
786-596-1960
www.baptisthealth.net

Baptist Hospital of Miami is the flagship institution of Baptist Health South Florida, a system that includes six other hospitals and a cardiac care center, the Baptist Cardiac & Vascular Institute, and altogether they record a million patient visits annually. Baptist Hospital, opened in 1960, is the largest hospital in the Baptist system, with 680 beds and more than 1,400 attending physicians. Services range from cancer treatment, cardiovascular

care and diabetes management to orthopedics, spine care, surgery and women's health care. *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked Baptist Hospital of Miami as the 12th best hospital in Florida and the fifth best in the Miami metropolitan area. The hospital handled 34,926 patient admissions and 107,236 emergency-room visits in fiscal year 2012.

University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital

1611 NW 12th Ave.
Miami, Florida 33136
305-585-1111
www.jhsmiami.org

University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital is the centerpiece of the largest not-for-profit health care system in the Miami area. It

is home to the Ryder Trauma Center, the only Level 1 center for treating traumatic injuries in Miami-Dade County, and one of the leading burn-treatment centers in the nation. Jackson is Miami's largest hospital with more than 1,500 licensed beds. The hospital shares the same address as its affiliate Holtz Children's Hospital. *U.S. News and World Report* found in national survey that Holtz Children's Hospital ranked among the nation's best children's hospitals in six pediatric specialties. The medical school at the University of Miami provides staff for Jackson Memorial. UM also provides medical staff for the nearby University of Miami Hospital, one of three university-owned hospitals in the Miami area. The other two are the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center and Anne Bates Leach Eye Hospital, home to the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, the nation's top-ranked provider of ophthalmological services, according to *U.S. News & World Report*. The publication also has rated Jackson Memorial as a strong performer in cancer treatment, gastroenterology, geriatrics, nephrology, neurology and neurosurgery, orthopedics, psychiatry and urology.

Mercy Hospital

3663 S. Miami Ave.
Miami, Florida 33133
305-854-4400
www.mercymiami.com

Miami-Dade County's only Catholic hospital is a longtime provider of medical services affiliated with more than 700 physicians representing 27 specialties. Mercy opened in 1950 with hospital staff provided by the Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Augustine, Florida. Mercy later would become the first hospital in Miami to open its doors to Cuban exiles in the 1960s. The hospital is a 437-bed acute care medical facility sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph and affiliated with Nashville, Tennessee-based hospital operator HCA. Mercy has

"centers of excellence," or medical specialties, that include cancer treatment, cardiovascular care, maternity care, minimally invasive surgery, orthopedics and surgical weight loss. Among other honors, Mercy has received the Magnet designation for excellence in nursing from the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

Miami Children's Hospital

3100 SW 62nd Ave.
Miami, Florida 33155
305-666-6511, 800-432-6837
www.mch.com

South Florida's only licensed, free-standing hospital exclusively for children is renowned for its high-quality care. The hospital has 289 beds and affiliations with more than 650 attending physicians with expertise in more than 40 pediatric specialties and subspecialties of treatment for infants, children and young adults. According to a 2013-2014 survey of the best children's hospitals in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*, Miami Children's has 10 nationally ranked pediatric care programs for the treatment of conditions including cancer, cardiac ailments, diabetes, orthopedic problems and neurological and urological disorders. Miami Children's also is home to the largest pediatric teaching program in the Southeast. The American Nurses Credentialing Center has designated the hospital a Magnet facility, the most prestigious institutional honor in the nursing profession.

Mount Sinai Medical Center

4300 Alton Road
Miami Beach, Florida 33140
305-674-2121
www.msmc.com

Mount Sinai Medical Center, founded in 1949, is the largest private, independent, non-profit teaching hospital in southeast Florida. The hospital has 672 licensed beds, 700-plus af-



J. Kevin Foltz

Baptist Health's Homestead Hospital serves patients in the South Dade area.

filiated physicians, and more than 3,000 employees. *U.S. News & World Report* ranked Mount Sinai as the seventh-best hospital in southeast Florida and 16th-best in the state in the publication's 2012-2013 survey of the nation's best hospitals. The survey classified the hospital's programs in cardiology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, geriatrics, neurology and urology, among other specialties, as high-performing. The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has reported that Mount Sinai has the best heart-attack survival rate among its patients, compared to

all other hospitals in Florida. The state Agency for Health Care Administration rated the cardiac-surgery survival rate at Mount Sinai the best among Florida hospitals with a high volume of complex cases.

Homestead Hospital

975 Baptist Way
(Campbell Drive and Southwest 147th Avenue)
Homestead, Florida 33033
786-243-8000
www.baptisthealth.net

Homestead Hospital has been part of the community in southern Miami-Dade County since 1940, when local physician James Archer Smith opened it as a 10-bed facility. The hospital has been rebuilt since May 2007, when the original facility was replaced. It now has 142 beds and 374 affiliated physicians. Services include cancer diagnosis and treatment, cardiac testing, diabetes management, diagnostic imaging, endoscopic services, maternity care and surgery. It is one of seven hospitals in the Baptist Health South Florida system.

West Kendall Baptist Hospital

9555 SW 162nd Avenue
Miami, Florida 33196
786-467-2000
www.baptisthealth.net

West Kendall Baptist Hospital is a 133-bed teaching hospital in the Baptist Health South Florida system with a mix of diagnostic, emergency, maternity and surgical units. It opened for patient care in April 2011. Services include cancer treatment, cardiac testing, diabetes management, maternity care, pediatrics and urological care. The hospital has 133 beds and 469 physicians. It handled 5,486 patient admissions in fiscal year 2012.

Kendall Regional Medical Center

11750 SW 40 St.
Miami, FL 33175
(305) 223-3000
www.kendallmed.com

A seven time winner of the Thomson Reuters 100 Top Hospitals® National Benchmark award, Kendall Regional Medical Center is a 412-bed, full-service hospital in southwest Miami-Dade County. The hospital offers 24-hour comprehensive medical, surgical and diagnostic services, along with a wide range of patient and community services. Kendall Regional Medical Center has been honored

by being nationally recognized with many awards and accolades, including a Health-Grades Distinguished Hospital (Top 5%) for Clinical Excellence, The Joint Commission certification as a Primary Stroke Center, accredited Chest Pain Center with PCI, and by *U.S. News and World Report* for receiving The American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines – Stroke Gold Plus award.


Palmetto General Hospital

2001 W 68 Street
Hialeah, FL 33016
(305) 823-5000
www.palmettogeneral.com

Located in Hialeah, Palmetto General Hospital is a 360-bed acute care hospital with more than 2,000 employees and medical staff. The hospital offers a broad range of services, including adult and pediatric emergency rooms, a cardiac program that includes both medical and surgical services, a bariatric program that has been designated a Center of Excellence by the American Society for Bariatric Surgery and a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence as designated by the American College of Radiology.

Hialeah Hospital

651 E 25th St.
Hialeah, FL 33013
305-693-6100
www.hialeahhosp.com

Hialeah Hospital offers a broad range of health care services, including 24-hour emergency care, a Level II Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and a surgical weight loss program that has been designated a Center of Excellence by the American Society for Bariatric Surgery. Hialeah Hospital is fully accredited by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, the nation's oldest and largest hospital accreditation agency. 

THE TAKEAWAY

Miami-Dade County's schools, universities and hospitals have garnered numerous recognitions

- 2012 Broad Prize for Urban Education
- #20 - Design and Architecture Senior High School (*U.S. News and World Report's* 100 Best High Schools)
- # 25 - Young Women's Preparatory Academy (*U.S. News and World Report's* 100 Best High Schools)
- # 15 - International Studies Charter High School (*U.S. News and World Report's* 100 Best High Schools)
- # 96 - Maritime and Science Technology High School (*U.S. News and World Report's* 100 Best High Schools)
- #38 - University of Miami (*U.S. News and World Report's* national university rankings)
- #10 - Florida International University (*U.S. News and World Report's* international business rankings)
- #1 - Jackson Health System's Bascom Palmer Eye Institute (*U.S. News and World Report's* ophthalmological care national rankings)
- #11 - Miami Children's Hospital (*U.S. News and World Report's* pediatric neurology & neurosurgery national rankings)
- #19 - Miami Children's Hospital (*U.S. News and World Report's* pediatric cancer care national rankings)

A QUICK REFERENCE FOR NEW OR EXPANDING BUSINESS

A favorable tax structure and tax assistance, training programs, business incentive programs, and financial assistance have encouraged many domestic and international companies to locate to or expand their operations in Miami-Dade County. This section outlines everything from business incentives to tax credits.

Assistance is available through the State of Florida, Miami-Dade County and numerous local municipalities. The Beacon Council can customize incentive packages for locating or expanding companies. For more information, visit www.beaconcouncil.com or call 305-579-1300. Florida's status as a "right-to-work" state is an additional asset when recruiting or relocating employees to Miami-Dade County.

Taxes

On the state level, businesses and individuals pay no personal income taxes. Florida has a comparatively low corporate income tax rate of 5.5 percent, with no inventory tax, no unitary tax and several sales tax exemptions. Compared to other major metropolitan areas, Miami-Dade County has a competitive tax structure. Businesses enjoy relatively low sales and property taxes, and there is no local personal or local corporate income tax. Florida and Miami-Dade County have:

- No corporate income tax on limited partnerships
- No corporate income tax on subchapter S-corporations
- No local corporate income taxes
- No local personal income taxes
- No sales/use tax on boiler fuels
- No franchise tax on capital stock
- Sales/use tax exemption for aircraft modification, maintenance and repair

- Sales/use tax exemption for the entertainment industry
- Foreign source dividends are deleted from the corporate income tax base
- No state personal income tax guaranteed by constitutional provision
- No corporate franchise tax on capital stock
- No state-level property tax assessed
- No property tax on business inventories
- No property tax on goods-in-transit for up to 180 days
- No sales and use tax on goods manufactured or produced in Florida for export outside the state
- No sales tax on purchases of raw materials incorporated in a final product for resale, including nonreusable containers or packaging
- No sales/use tax on co-generation of electricity

State Incentives

The State of Florida has several important incentive programs for companies, including The Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund Program (QTI) provides an incentive for target industries to locate new facilities in Florida or to expand existing facilities in Florida. The program provides for a tax refund of up to \$3,000 per new job created (up to \$6,000 in an Enterprise Zone) in Florida by qualifying businesses after being certified through Enterprise Florida. To qualify for the QTI program, a company must create at least 10 new jobs (or a 10 percent increase for expanding Florida companies), pay an average of

at least 115 percent of area wages, have a significant positive impact on the community and have local support. The Quick Response Training Program provides customized start-up training grants that could offset up to 50 percent of the cost of training per employee. The Economic Development Transportation Road Fund Program can provide up to \$2 million to local governments for public transportation infrastructure improvements as an inducement for a company's expansion or location.

Labor Training

Several training assistance programs are available to employers. South Florida Workforce offers on-the-job training for private industry. Miami-Dade County Public Schools, as well as local educational institutions like Florida International University and Miami Dade College offer a wide range of vocational and occupational training certificate programs.

Capital Investment Tax Credit

The State of Florida has available a Capital Investment Tax Credit that is used to attract and grow capital-intensive industries in Florida. It is an annual credit, provided up to 20 years, against the corporate income tax. The amount of the annual credit is based on the eligible capital costs associated with a qualifying project. Eligible capital costs include all expenses incurred in the acquisition, construction, installation and equipping of a project from the beginning of construction to the commencement of operations.

Industrial Revenue Bonds

The Miami-Dade County Industrial Development Authority offers industrial revenue bonds. This financing option is available to a broad range of manufacturing

business ventures. Interest rates on industrial revenue bonds are generally issued at below prime interest rate.

Miami-Dade Targeted Jobs Incentive Fund (TJIF)

The Targeted Jobs Incentive Fund program is specific to Miami-Dade County and is modeled after the State of Florida's Qualified Targeted Industry Tax Refund Program. The TJIF is an inducement program that provides incentives to expanding or relocating companies that create full-time equivalent Miami-Dade County jobs and invest at least \$3 million in capital. Under this locally funded program, Miami-Dade County may provide the company incentives that are proportionate to the new capital investment being made. If awarded, the incentive is incrementally paid out over a six-year period. The incentive may be increased if the investment is within Miami-Dade County's Designated Priority Areas. There are also bonuses for green businesses, locating in a LEED certified facility and for businesses that implement or serve alternative energy products. To qualify for the program, the company must create at least 10 new full-time jobs.

Enterprise Zones Incentives

The State of Florida and Miami-Dade County established Enterprise Zones to encourage business development, expansion and job creation in economically distressed areas. Businesses that locate or expand in an Enterprise Zone and hire employees who live in the zone can reduce their State and Miami-Dade County tax liability. Miami-Dade County Enterprise Zone No.1301 encompasses a combined area of 53.1 square miles.

- **Enterprise Zone Property Tax Credit:** A 96 percent credit against corporate income tax up to \$50,000 on any ad valorem property taxes on the new or improved property not abated by local government.
- **Enterprise Zone Jobs Tax Credits:** A 20-30 percent credit against corporate income tax or sales and use tax on the wages paid to each new employee who is a resident of the Enterprise Zone.
- **Sales Tax Refund:** A 97 percent refund of sales tax up to \$10,000 in business equipment and on building materials purchased for use by the company.
- **Credit on Corporate Donations:** A state tax credit of 50 percent of the value of donations for Florida corporations making donations toward community development and low-income housing projects.

Foreign Trade Zones

Foreign trade zones are federally designated areas which are considered to be outside of the commerce and customs territory of the United States. Foreign and domestic merchandise may be admitted into zones for operations such as storage, exhibition, manufacture, redistribution and more. Companies are able to operate without being subjected to federal entry procedures or federal excise taxes, while minimizing involvement from other regulatory compliance agencies. The benefit of operating as a foreign trade zone is that import/export tariffs are deferred, reduced, and/or eliminated depending on the final form and destination of the product.

The Miami Free Zone is a designated 47-acre foreign trade zone in West Miami-Dade. Products are imported from more than 65 countries and exported to more than 75 countries worldwide. The Miami Free Zone – also known as Zone No. 32 – is one of the largest privately owned and operated general purpose foreign trade zones in North America. (For more information, visit www.miamifreezone.com.)

PortMiami Foreign Trade Zone No. 281, created in 2012, is a new Alternative Site Framework-Foreign Trade Zone that stretches north from Southwest Eighth Street to the Broward County line. The new zone is among the nation's first to operate under new, streamlined processes. In addition to the seaport, it encompasses economic engines including Miami International Airport and Opa-locka Airport, as well as the Miami River and the Doral/Hialeah warehousing areas. There are more than 100 international consulates, trade offices and binational chambers of commerce within the zone. (For more information, visit www.miamidade.gov/portmiami/foreign-trade-zone-281.asp.) Since the establishment of FTZ 281, over 1.6 million square feet of warehouse and logistics space have been designated to benefit from FTZ advantages.

The Homestead Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ #166) is a General Purpose zone located in east Homestead. It is the southernmost free trade zone in the continental United States and provides a unique opportunity for Latin American operations. Comprised of approximately 1,000 acres, the FTZ encompasses the Homestead Park of Commerce, portions of the Homestead-Miami Speedway, the Homestead Baseball Complex and adjacent lands to the south. Vision Foreign Trade Zone, Inc. is the FTZ grantee. (For more information, visit www.visioncouncil.com/foreign-trade-zone/.) 

Consular Corps of Miami

Consular Corps of Miami
200 S. Biscayne Blvd.
Suite 2650
Miami, FL 33131

Antigua and Barbuda
25 SE 2nd Avenue
Suite 300
Miami, FL 33131

Argentina
800 Brickell Avenue
Penthouse #1
Miami, FL 33131

Australia
251 Buttonwood Drive
Key Biscayne, FL 33149

Austria
1454 NW 17th Avenue
Suite 200
Miami, FL 33125

The Bahamas
25 SE 2nd Avenue
Suite 818
Miami, FL 33131

Barbados
150 Alhambra Circle
Suite 1000
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Belgium
100 N. Biscayne Blvd.
Suite 500
Miami, FL 33131

Belize
1600 Ponce de Leon Blvd.
Suite 404
Miami, FL 33134

Bolivia
700 S. Royal Poinciana Blvd.
Suite 505
Miami Springs, FL 33166

Brazil
80 SW 8th Street
Suite 2600
Miami, FL 33130

Canada
200 S. Biscayne Blvd.
Suite 1600
Miami, FL 33131

Chile
800 Brickell Avenue
Suite 1230
Miami, FL 33131

Colombia
100 N. Biscayne Blvd.
Miami, FL 33132

Costa Rica
1101 Brickell Avenue
Suite 40
Miami, FL 33131

The Czech Republic
Emerald Lake Corporate Park
3111 Sterling Road
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312

Dominican Republic
1038 Brickell Avenue
Miami, FL 33131

Ecuador
1101 Brickell Avenue
Suite M-102
Miami, FL 33131

El Salvador
283 Catalonia Avenue

Suite 100
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Finland
3399 Ponce de Leon Blvd.
Suite 200
Coral Gables, FL 33134

France
1395 Brickell Ave., Suite 1050
Miami, FL 33131

Gambia
12875 NE 14th Avenue
Miami, FL 33161

Germany
100 N. Biscayne Blvd.
Suite 2200
Coral Gables, FL 33132

Grenada
201 S. Biscayne Blvd.
Suite 2800
Miami, FL 33131

Guatemala
1101 Brickell Avenue
Suite 1003-S
Miami, FL 33131

Guyana
795 NW 72nd Street
Miami, FL 33150

Haiti
259 SW 13th Street
Miami, FL 33130

Honduras
7171 Coral Way, Suite 309
Miami, FL 33155

Hungary
2655 Le Jeune Road

Suite 303
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Iceland
5220 N. Ocean Drive
Hollywood, FL 33019

Italy
4000 Ponce de Leon Blvd.
Suite 590
Coral Gables, FL 33146

Jamaica
25 SE 2nd Avenue
Suite 842
Miami, FL 33131

Japan
80 SW 8th Street
Suite 3200
Miami, FL 33130

Korea
One SE 3rd Avenue,
27th Floor
Miami, FL 33131

Lebanon
6600 SW 57th Avenue
Suite 200
Miami, FL 33131

Lithuania
44 Cocoanut Road
Suite T-10
Palm Beach, FL 33480

Mali
1701 W. Cypress
Creek Road
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309

Malta
13829 Via Da Vinci
Delray Beach, FL 33446

Mexico

5975 Sunset Drive
Suite 302
Miami, FL 33143

Monaco

3655 NW 87th Avenue,
6th Floor
Miami, FL 33178

The Netherlands

701 Brickell Avenue
5th Floor
Miami, FL 33131

The Netherlands Antilles

701 Brickell Avenue
5th Floor
Miami, FL 33131

Nicaragua

8532 SW 8th Street
Suite 270
Miami, FL 33144

Norway

1007 North
American Way
Suite 305
Miami, FL 33132

Panama

2801 Ponce de Leon Blvd.
Suite 1050
Miami, FL 33133

Paraguay

25 SE 2nd Avenue
Suite 705
Miami, FL 33131

Peru

444 Brickell Avenue
Suite M-135
Miami, FL 33131

Philippines

1635 Miami Road, Suite 3
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316

Poland

1440 79th Street Causeway
Suite 117
Miami, FL 33141

Portugal

1901 Ponce de Leon Blvd.
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Quebec

801 Brickell Avenue
Suite 1500
Miami, FL 33131

Romania

641 South Mashta Drive
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8th Floor
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Senegal & Togo

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2601 S. Bayshore Drive
Suite 800
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Slovak Republic

5200 NW 67th Avenue
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Slovenia

1048 South
Ocean Blvd.
Palm Beach, FL 33480

Spain

2655 Le Jeune Road
Suite 203
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Suriname

6306 Blue Lagoon Drive
Suite 325
Miami, FL 33125

Sweden

2550 Eisenhower Blvd.
#310
P.O. Box 13094
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316

Switzerland

825 Brickell Bay Drive
Suite 1450
Miami, FL 33131

Taipei

2333 Ponce de Leon Blvd.
Suite 610
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Tanzania

1045 E. Atlantic Avenue
Suite 206
Delray Beach, FL 33483

Thailand

2199 Ponce de Leon Blvd.
Suite 301
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Trinidad & Tobago

1000 Brickell Avenue
Suite 800
Miami, FL 33131

Tunisia

1236 SW 21 Terrace
Miami, FL 33145

United Kingdom

1001 Brickell Bay Drive
Suite 2800
Miami, FL 33131

Uruguay

1077 Ponce de Leon Blvd.
Suite B
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Foreign Trade Offices**Belgium**

Belgian Trade Center
100 N. Biscayne Blvd.
Suite 500
Miami, FL 33122

Brazil

Brazilian Trade Bureau
80 SW 8th Street, 26th Floor
Miami, FL 33130

Canada

Canadian Government
Trade Office
200 S. Biscayne Blvd.
Suite 1600
Miami, FL 33131

Catalonia

ACC10
2655 Le Jeune Road
Suite 810
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Chile

Prochile Chilean Trade Bureau
800 Brickell Avenue
Suite 900
Miami, FL 33131

China China Latin America Trade Center 2340 NW 27 th Avenue Miami, FL 33142	Guatemala Guatemala Trade Office 1101 Brickell Avenue Suite 1003-S Miami, FL 33133	5301 Blue Lagoon Drive Suite 150 Miami, FL 33126	Miami, FL 33129 Tel: 305-858-1516 Fax: 305-858-3767 www.argentinaflorida.com
Colombia Colombian Government Trade Bureau Pro Export 601 Brickell Key Drive #801 Miami, FL 33131	Italy Italian Trade Commission 4000 Ponce de Leon Blvd. Suite 590 Coral Gables, FL 33146	Thailand Thai Trade Center 200 S. Biscayne Blvd. Suite 4420 Miami, FL 33131	Asian-American Chamber of Commerce 1250 E. Hallandale Beach Blvd. Suite 405 Hallandale Beach, FL 33009 Tel: 954-454-7478 (Broward) Tel: 305-937-4803 (Dade) Fax: 954-454-7976
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France French Commission in Florida and the Caribbean Espiritu Santo Plaza 1395 Brickell Avenue Suite 1050 Miami, FL 33131	Peru Consulate of Peru 444 Brickell Avenue Suite M-135 Miami, FL 33131	American–Turkish Chamber of Commerce, Inc. 3120 NW 16 th Terrace Pompano Beach, FL 33064	Cameroon–American Chamber of Commerce, Inc. P.O. Box 8842 Jacksonville, FL 32239 Tel: 904-553- 4095 www.cam-usa.us
Germany German Trade Commission 100 N. Biscayne Blvd. #2200 Miami, FL 33132	Spain Trade Commission of Spain 2655 Le Jeune Road Suite 1114 Coral Gables, FL 33134	Argentine–Florida Chamber of Commerce 1901 Brickell Avenue Suite B-201	Colombian–American Chamber of Commerce

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Dutch Chamber of Commerce 701 Brickell Ave., 5 th Floor Miami, FL 33131 Tel: 786-866-0484 Fax: 305-625-8965 www.dutchbizmiami.com	French American Chamber of Commerce 14 NE 1 st Avenue Suite 1005 Miami, FL 33132 Tel: 305-374-5000 Fax: 305-358-8203 www.faccmiami.com	Italy-America Chamber of Commerce Southeast 270 NE 4 th Street, # 2 Miami, FL 33132 Tel: 305-577-9868 Fax: 305-577-3956 www.iacc-miami.com	The Norwegian Shipping Club/Norwegian American Chamber of Commerce 1007 North America Way Suite 305 Miami, FL 33132 Tel/Fax: 305-682-9370
The Ecuadorian American Business Association			

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