

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS FACTS

ABOUT FLORIDA

FOREIGN TRADE

International trade supports more than **2.7 million Florida jobs related to exporting and importing**. These jobs **grew three times faster** than total employment from 1992 to 2019. ([The Business Roundtable](#))

Florida is home to **nearly 60,000 exporting companies** – second only to California. One out of every five (**20%**) **U.S. exporters are located in Florida**. ([U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Division](#))

Ninety-five percent (95%) of Florida exporters are small or medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with 500 or fewer employees. These small and medium-sized companies **accounted for fifty-eight percent (58%)** of Florida exports in 2021. ([U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Division](#))

With \$190 billion in two-way merchandise trade in 2022, Florida is a major gateway for trade between North America, Latin America, the Caribbean, and other world regions. **U.S. exports of more than \$85 billion and imports of more than \$100 billion** were shipped through the state's 15 seaports and 20 airports. ([EFI Research, U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Division](#))

Widely recognized as a global hub for the Western Hemisphere, **Florida accounts for nearly 30% of total U.S. trade with Latin America and the Caribbean**. ([EFI Research, U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Division](#))

Florida ranks **6th in the nation in state-origin exports** (i.e., those produced, or with significant value-added) and reached an **all-time record of \$68 billion** in 2022. ([EFI Research, U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Division](#))

Global imports destined for the state also recorded an **all-time record of \$112 billion**, ranking Florida the **8th largest U.S. destination for imports** last year. ([EFI Research, U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Division](#))

Florida ranks **3rd among all U.S. states in high-tech exports** – reaching \$14.4 billion in 2022 – with Brazil, Paraguay, and Argentina the three leading destinations. ([EFI Research using WISERTrade](#))

Services exports valued at \$46.6 billion ranked Florida the **4th largest state** in the country in 2021 and accounted for 306,000 jobs in 2019. ([EFI Research using WISERTrade](#), and [Coalition of Services Industries](#))

FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT

Foreign-owned companies employed nearly **410,000 Floridians in 2020**, the **5th highest in the nation**, and **1st in the Southeast**. ([EFI Research based on Bureau of Economic Analysis data](#))

These foreign-owned affiliates are estimated to have total holdings of Gross Property, Plant, and Equipment **valued at \$95.4 billion** as of 2020, ranking Florida **1st in the Southeast** and **6th in the U.S.** ([EFI Research based on Bureau of Economic Analysis data](#)).

Miami was ranked as the **#1 U.S. city for foreign businesses** by the Financial Times/Nikkei with Orlando (#2), Jacksonville (#8) and Tampa (#11) firmly represented in the top 15 cities nationally. ([Financial Times-Nikkei](#))

MARKET SIZE AND GLOBAL RANKING

Florida ranks as the **3rd largest U.S. state** in the country with a population of 22.2 million, making it a very attractive consumer market for both domestic and overseas producers and suppliers. ([U.S. Census Bureau](#))

The state also had the **fastest-growing population in the U.S.** in 2022, an impressive gain for the country's **3rd largest state**. ([U.S. Census Bureau](#))

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With a Gross Domestic Product of \$1.3 trillion, Florida is the **4th largest economy in the U.S.** and would be in the **top 20 economies globally** if ranked as a country. ([Bureau of Economic Analysis](#) and the [World Bank](#))

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

The state welcomed seven million visitors from overseas and another 2.8 million from Canada in 2022 for a total of **9.8 million**. ([VISIT FLORIDA Research](#))

Florida was the **#1 most visited state** in the U.S. by overseas visitors in 2021, accounting for 45% of the national total, excluding Canada and Mexico. ([National Travel and Tourism Office](#))

The Miami, Orlando, and Fort Lauderdale metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) were the destination for nearly 50% of all overseas visitors to the U.S. in 2021. ([National Travel and Tourism Office](#))

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Florida sits at the nexus of transportation links in the Americas. The state's **15 deep-water seaports, 20 commercial airports, and 50+ officially-designated multimodal connectors** ensure the seamless movement of people and goods between any two points on the planet. ([Florida Department of Transportation](#))

Home to the **second-largest foreign trade zone network** in the nation, Florida has 20 such facilities around the state. ([U.S. Department of Commerce](#))

Miami International Airport **ranks number one in the U.S.** for both international freight shipments and international passengers and offers **more service** to Latin America and the Caribbean than any other airport in the U.S. ([Miami International Airport](#))

GLOBAL COMMUNITY

More than **6 million speakers of languages other than English** call Florida home. ([U.S. Census Bureau](#))

Florida has the second-largest **diplomatic hub** in the U.S. with consulates from more than 85 countries, along with 70+ bi-national chambers of commerce, and more than 260 sister-city relationships. ([The Beacon Council](#), [Florida Department of State, Office of International Affairs](#))

With an emphasis on Latin America in particular, Florida has the second highest concentration of international banks in the U.S. ([The Beacon Council](#))