



# On the Economic Scene



A weekly economic development briefing from the Volusia County Department of Economic Development

February 23, 2015

ONLINE VERSION AT [FLORIDABUSINESS.ORG](http://FLORIDABUSINESS.ORG)

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**CENSUS BUREAU REPORTS UPTICK IN MANUFACTURING PROFITS** – According to Census Bureau data, U.S. manufacturing corporation after tax profit and sales for the third quarter of 2014 totaled \$169 billion, up \$18.6 billion from the third quarter of 2013, and \$4.7 billion from the second quarter of 2014.

**DAYTONA STATE COLLEGE OFFERS FREE JOB POSTINGS** -- Daytona State College provides a free service that allows companies to post available positions or internships for students who are seeking employment. For information go to: [daytonastate.edu/career\\_services/employerservices.html](http://daytonastate.edu/career_services/employerservices.html).

**USE OF INDUSTRIAL ROBOTS EXPECTED TO GROW, BOOST PRODUCTIVITY** – According to a Boston Consulting Group study, by 2025 robots will boost productivity by up to 30 percent in many industries. The study projects investment in industrial robots will accelerate over the next decade, from an annual growth that averages 2 to 3 percent today to around 10 percent. As a result, manufacturing labor costs in 2025 could be an average of 16 percent lower in the world's 25 largest goods-exporting nations. For more, go to: [bcg.com/media/PressReleaseDetails.aspx?id=tcm:12-181684](http://bcg.com/media/PressReleaseDetails.aspx?id=tcm:12-181684).

**WORKSHOPS ON HOW TO DO BUSINESS WITH VOLUSIA COUNTY GOVERNMENT** -- The county's purchasing and contracts division will hold informational workshops March 3 from 9 - 11 a.m. and March 4 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. for businesses interested in doing business with Volusia County Government. Both events will be at the Thomas C. Kelly Administration Center, 123 W. Indiana Ave., DeLand. County representatives will explain how to register as a vendor; submit bids, proposals and quotes; and discuss state and local ordinances relevant to working with the county. For information call 386-736-5935, ext. 12490.

**WEBINAR FOCUSES ON EL SALVADOR BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES** -- A webinar March 4 will focus on the business opportunities for U.S. companies doing business in El Salvador. Opportunities exist in industrial sectors that include automotive parts/services, dental, food processing/packaging, hotel/restaurant, renewable energy, security/safety, travel and tourism. For information, call Jessica Gordon, international trade specialist with U.S. Commercial Service, at 601-373-0784 or email [Jessica.gordon@trade.gov](mailto:Jessica.gordon@trade.gov).

**SEMINAR ON 3D PRINTING IN MANUFACTURING** -- The VMA is offering a seminar on 3D printing. The speaker is Ken Brace, president, Rapid Prototyping Services, who will discuss this new technology in manufacturing. The session is March 5 at 6:15 p.m. To register, email Jessica Lovatt at [Jessica.Lovatt@VMAonline.com](mailto:Jessica.Lovatt@VMAonline.com) or call 386-673-0505.

**TIME IS RIGHT TO START A SMALL BUSINESS** -- According to The Week, potential small business owners with solid ideas should consider developing those ideas. Small businesses are leading the economic recovery by adding one million employees in 2014, an average of 90,000 per month, an increase of 10,000 per month from 2013.

**CODE.ORG PROMOTES COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION** -- According to Code.org, a nonprofit dedicated to expanding participation in computer science, computer science drives innovation in the U.S. economy. Top paying computer programming jobs are growing at twice the national average. However, less than 2.4 percent of college students graduate with computer science degrees. Code.org offers educational resources, especially in K-12. For information, go to: [code.org/learn](http://code.org/learn).

**AGE DISCRIMINATION AT PRE-RECESSION LEVELS** -- Money reports that the 20,588 age discrimination charges filed in 2014 is higher than in any year before the recession. However, that number is down from 21,396 in 2013, and down from a peak of 24,582 in 2008, according to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Reasonable cause was found in only 2.7 percent of the cases filed, up from 2.4 percent in 2013, but the lowest rate since at least 1997. From 2000 - 2007, the number of charges ranged between 16,008 - 19,124.

**NEWS ITEMS WANTED!** – Please send your business news items to Dave Byron, Volusia County Community Services Department Director, at [dbyron@volusia.org](mailto:dbyron@volusia.org). If you wish to be removed from this weekly broadcast, please let us know.

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