



# On the Economic Scene



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

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

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**OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK AVAILABLE** -- The 2016 - 17 Occupational Outlook Handbook has been released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The handbook includes BLS employment projections for the 2014 - 24 decade and is one of the nation's most widely used sources of career information. It provides details on hundreds of occupations and is used by career counselors, students, parents, teachers, jobseekers, career changers, education and training officials, and researchers. For the handbook go online to: [bls.gov/ooh](http://bls.gov/ooh).

**ACADEMY PREPARES FUTURE ARCHITECTS, DESIGNERS** -- The Academy of Design and Manufacturing Technology at Deltona High School is for students interested in architecture, engineering, construction, computer aided manufacturing, drafting, electronics, and interior design. Students work with computer-numerically-controlled machines, robotics, and lasers. The academy is affiliated with Project Lead the Way. For additional information go online to: [myvolusiaschools.org](http://myvolusiaschools.org).

**SURVEY: CONTRACTORS TO ADD WORKERS** -- According to a survey released by the Associated General Contractors of America and Sage Construction and Real Estate, 71 percent of construction firms plan to expand their payrolls. Conducted as part of The Challenges Facing a Growing Industry, the survey indicates that contractors foresee a positive year despite tight labor conditions, regulatory burdens, and IT security challenges. For the survey go online to: [agc.org/news/2016/01/05/seventy-one-percent-construction-firms-plan-expand-headcount-2016-contractors-expect](http://agc.org/news/2016/01/05/seventy-one-percent-construction-firms-plan-expand-headcount-2016-contractors-expect).

**GIG ECONOMY GROWS** -- The on-demand economy, aka the Gig economy, is growing. A recent poll shows 44 percent of U.S. adults who are Internet users have participated in it and 22 percent have offered goods or services in this economy. The poll, by Time, the Aspen Institute's Future of Work Initiative, and PR firm Burson-Marsteller, polled 3,000 people in late November. The survey also found that 47 percent of the general population feel the gig economy is exploiting lack of regulation. For more, go online to: [siliconbeat.com/2016/01/07/100334/](http://siliconbeat.com/2016/01/07/100334/).

**FIREWORKS SALES EXPERIENCE EXPLOSIVE GROWTH** -- According to Global Trade, sales of consumer fireworks are expected to set a record above \$725 million in 2015. In 2014, Americans bought 225 million pounds of fireworks -- more than six times the amount purchased in 1980. China designs and produces about 90 percent of the world's pyrotechnics. It is estimated that 60 percent of the fireworks exported to the U.S. are manufactured in Liuyang (nicknamed Boomtown). The city has more than 1,000 fireworks factories. Incidentally, the U.S. Fire Administration's National Fire Incident Reporting System shows firework-related fires have declined more than 50 percent since 2000.

**SEMINAR OUTLINES SIX EASY STEPS TO A BUSINESS PLAN** -- The local SCORE chapter is presenting a free seminar on six easy steps to develop a business plan. The session will be January 28 from 6 - 8 p.m. at Daytona State College. For reservations go online to: [score87.org](http://score87.org) or call 386-255-6889.

**REDUCE, REUSE AND RECYCLE** -- Recycling saves landfill space and helps to protect our water, air, land, energy and cultural resources. Florida's Solid Waste Management Act, passed in 1988, requires each county to reduce its solid waste disposal by 30 percent through waste reduction and recycling programs. Volusia County is meeting this goal. For information go online to: [volusia.org/services/public-works/solid-waste-and-recycling/recycling/](http://volusia.org/services/public-works/solid-waste-and-recycling/recycling/).

**LARGEST CONTAINER SHIP DOCKS IN LA** -- According to Foreign-Trade Zone, the largest container ship ever to dock in the U.S. arrived in Los Angeles just before the new year. The 18,000 TEU Benjamin Franklin, owned by French shipping line CMA CGM SA, is 30 percent larger than any previous container vessel to grace U.S. shores. It took 1,500 longshoremen 56 hours and a record nine cranes to move 11,229 containers on and off the ship.

**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.