



# On the Economic Scene



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

February 15, 2016

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

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**FLORIDA EXPECTED TO CONTINUE STRONG JOB GROWTH** – According to the December 2015 Economic Commentary, Florida added nearly 250,000 jobs last year and the state’s job market is expected to continue to experience strong growth. For the full Florida TaxWatch economic commentary go online to: [floridatrend.com/article/19449/a-sunny-economic-outlook-for-florida-in-2016](http://floridatrend.com/article/19449/a-sunny-economic-outlook-for-florida-in-2016).

**EX-IM APPROVES \$12.4 BILLION IN AUTHORIZATIONS DURING FY 2015** -- The Export-Import Bank of the U.S. (Ex-Im) has released its 2015 fiscal year annual report which shows the Ex-Im approved \$12.4 billion in authorizations, supported more than \$17 billion in U.S. exports, and an estimated 109,000 U.S. jobs. The report also shows that Ex-Im transferred \$431.6 million in deficit-reducing receipts to the U.S. general fund during the fiscal year. For more information go online to: [exim.gov/sites/default/files/reports/annual/EXIM-2015-AR.pdf](http://exim.gov/sites/default/files/reports/annual/EXIM-2015-AR.pdf).

**CAREER ACADEMY FOCUSES ON AGRISCIENCE RELATED COURSES** -- The Veterinary Assisting Academy at Pine Ridge High School provides courses in agriscience, food, and natural resources. Students acquire the skills to help provide solutions to global issues such as feeding and clothing population groups, managing natural resources, and rehabilitating damage to the environment through theme-based, communication and technology courses and activities. For information email Cera Troy, academy director, at: [CJTroy@volusia.k12.fl.us](mailto:CJTroy@volusia.k12.fl.us).

**ECONOMY, COMMUNITY PROFILE DATA READILY AVAILABLE** -- Information about Volusia County is available online 24/7. The quarterly updated dataset provides information on population, employment and income. An interactive map is available at: [zoomprospector.com](http://zoomprospector.com). In addition, Volusia County Government’s website, [volusia.org](http://volusia.org), provides a wide variety of community data. For business-related searches, go to: [volusiasites.com/](http://volusiasites.com/) for custom map searches on development locations and much more.

**ITA A GOOD RESOURCE FOR EXPORTING INFORMATION** -- The International Trade Administration (ITA) has resources and websites that can assist businesses that are seeking to enter markets where the U.S. already has inroads. For information on U.S. trade, statistics, and methodology go online to: [trade.gov](http://trade.gov).

**DIAL 511 FOR FLORIDA TRAVEL INFORMATION** -- Florida 511 is a free service of the Florida Department of Transportation to create a personalized profile for an unlimited number of custom travel routes. The service provides travel information when you dial 511 from a registered cell or land line phone, and allows you to receive phone, text or e-mail alerts about incidents along your route. My Florida 511 users can create custom profiles for up to two phones, including a preference for English or Spanish. For information go online to: [dmv.org](http://dmv.org).

**39.5 MILLION RETIREES DRAW SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS** -- As reported by USA Today, 39.5 million retired Americans are receiving Social Security benefits and 64 percent of these rely on Social Security for more than half of their incomes. The average Social Security retirement benefit is \$1,335 per month. For 2015, Social Security is expected to have taken in \$913.9 billion and paid out \$904.7 billion.

**VOLUSIA MAGAZINE IS COUNTY PRODUCED TELEVISION** – Volusia County Government’s weekly public information television program, Volusia Magazine, airs Sundays at 5 p.m. and repeats Mondays at 7:30 p.m. on WDSC-TV15. All cable television stations in Volusia County carry WDSC TV-15. Back issues of the program are available on the county’s website: [volusia.org](http://volusia.org). The weekly program includes county news of the week, information segments, and actions by the Volusia County Council.

**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.