



# 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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**FLORIDA SIXTH FOR EXPORTS** -- Florida regained its position as the sixth largest export state in 2015, narrowly surpassing Michigan. Florida ended the year with \$53.8 billion in exports, down 8 percent from the previous year. Texas was first with \$1.5 billion. Canada became Florida's top destination for origin exports in 2015, surpassing Brazil which declined 27.4 percent. NAFTA partner Mexico moved up from sixth place to become the state's third largest export market for Florida origin exports.

**ACADEMY PREPS STUDENTS FOR HOSPITALITY, TOURISM CAREERS** -- The Academy of Culinary Design at Seabreeze High School prepares students for careers in hospitality and tourism. The academy uses ProStart, the Florida Restaurant Association's curriculum, to provide industry standard training with restaurant owners and chefs mentoring academy students. Students who complete the program may qualify for Florida Bright Futures Scholarships. For information email Samantha Crouch, academy director, at: [spcrouch@volusia.k12.fl.us](mailto:spcrouch@volusia.k12.fl.us).

**PRESENTATION ON DOING BUSINESS WITH DUBAI** -- The Dubai Department of Economic Development's Foreign Direct Investment Development Agency is a resource for information about the innovation driven economy of Dubai. An upcoming event will detail the 10 major innovation pillars of Dubai. The event will be in Orlando March 14 at 9 a.m. For information or registration go online to: [eventbrite.com/e/doing-business-with-dubai-tickets-21450354588](http://eventbrite.com/e/doing-business-with-dubai-tickets-21450354588).

**MIAMI, ORLANDO LEAD FLORIDA VENTURE CAPITAL RANKINGS** -- According to a report from the National Venture Capital Association, eight companies in Orlando raised \$96.3 million in 2015, an 8 percent dip from 2014 when nine companies raised \$104.4 million. Orlando trailed only Miami in Florida, and the Orlando region ranked 46th in number of companies receiving deals. This annual study looks at 133 metro areas in the U.S. to determine investment activity, not including smaller investments made by local startup supporters and programs. For information go online to: [nvca.org/](http://nvca.org/).

**SCORE TO OFFER FINANCIAL BASICS WORKSHOP** -- The local SCORE chapter will offer a free workshop on the basics of costs and cash for successful small businesses. The workshop will be February 25 from 6 - 8 p.m. at Daytona State College. To register call 255-6889 or go online to: [score87.org](http://score87.org).

**CLIMATE CHANGE TOPS RISK LIST** -- Failure of climate change mitigation and adaptation is ranked as the most impactful future risk, ahead of weapons of mass destruction and water crises, according to the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Global Risks Report. Business risks, unemployment, and underemployment also are concerns, followed by national governance failures, fiscal crises, asset bubbles and cyberattacks. For the full report, go online to: [weforum.org](http://weforum.org).

**COST OF SMOKING CALCULATED** -- Analysts at WalletHub have gauged the true per person cost of smoking in each of the 50 states; Florida ranks 21<sup>st</sup>. The rankings show the potential monetary losses, including the cumulative cost of smoking a pack of cigarettes per day over several decades, health care expenditures, income losses and other costs, brought on by smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke. For the ranking go online to: [wallethub.com/edu/the-financial-cost-of-smoking-by-state/9520/](http://wallethub.com/edu/the-financial-cost-of-smoking-by-state/9520/).

**RELIABILITY OF GROUNDHOG WEATHER REPORT A BIT SHADOWY** -- A report by the National Centers for Environmental Information concludes Punxsutawney Phil's weather predictions leave a bit of doubt as to the groundhog's predictive skills. Since 1988, the groundhog was right 13 times and wrong 15 times as it relates to an early spring. Since 1887, the groundhog has seen his shadow 102 times to forecast a longer winter and not seen it 17 times to predict an early spring. Go online to: [ncdc.noaa.gov](http://ncdc.noaa.gov).

**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.