



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

DAYTONA BEACH AIRPORT TRAFFIC UP IN FEBRUARY -- Passenger traffic at Daytona Beach International Airport increased 17.7 percent in February. During the month, 56,719 passengers flew in or out of the county-operated airport compared to 48,202 passengers last February. The capacity, or number of seats, offered to Daytona Beach International Airport increased by 20 percent in February, directly related to more seats offered to the market and the addition of JetBlue service. It's the largest percentage growth year over year for a month since December 2010. Where do you want to fly? Take our air service development survey at <http://goo.gl/forms/XRMh4Psq6X>.

INNOVATION CHALLENGE -- The Cairns Foundation and the UCF Business Incubator at Daytona Beach International Airport will present the third annual Cairns Foundation Innovation Challenge at 12:30 p.m. April 7 at the Advanced Technology College in Daytona Beach. Finalists from Bethune-Cookman University, Daytona State College, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Rollins College, Stetson University, University of Central Florida, Florida Institute of Technology, and Seminole State College will compete for the top prize of \$10,000 and second-place prize of \$5,000. Both prizes include a one-year enrollment in the UCF Business Incubator. The challenge spotlights commercially viable technologies generated by undergraduate and graduate students. For more information contact the UCF Business Incubator at 386-872-3100.

FASTEST GROWING OCCUPATIONS IDENTIFIED --The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' latest employment projection update from 2014 to 2024 includes a table of the fastest growing occupations. Of the 30 listed, 17 had 2014 median annual wages of over \$50,000 and growth rates of 25 percent or more. They include occupational and physical therapy assistants, web developers, personal financial advisers, audiologists, forensic science technicians and cartographers. The complete table can be viewed at http://www.bls.gov/emp/ep_table_103.htm.

HORTICULTURAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND MARINE SCIENCE ACADEMY --This academy at Mainland High School in Daytona Beach provides training crucial to Florida's unique environment and prepares students to preserve and protect the earth by working in careers related to horticultural and environmental services. Through internships and partnerships, students are involved in ecologically significant projects such as water quality testing, marine life sampling, wildlife gardening, invasive species eradication, and mosquito control monitoring. For more information contact academy director Trevor Williams at tawilli1@volusia.k12.fl.us.

SERVICES EXPORTS -- The Washington, D.C.-based Coalition of Services Industries has released its annual report on U.S. services exports. Based on its estimates, Florida ranked fourth in the U.S. with \$38.5 billion in services exports in 2014, with heavy emphasis on travel-- including activities related to international visitors-- and transportation, such as international air and ocean services. According to the coalition, Florida accounts for 5.6 percent of the U.S. total, with a growth rate of 59 percent since 2006.

VOLUSIA COUNTY INDUSTRIES --The State of Florida Bureau of Labor Market Statistics has ranked the industries with the most projected new jobs by 2023. For Volusia County, the top three industries are ambulatory health care services at 3,273 new jobs, specialty trade contractors at 2,248 new jobs, and local government at 2,044 new jobs. To view the complete industry projection data set by selected county, go to <http://tinyurl.com/c6prsn7>.

FOOD PRICES RISE -- USA Today reports that food prices nationwide, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, increased 31.5 percent from 2005 through 2015, faster than general inflation over that period. To determine the grocery items driving up grocery bills the most, 24/7 Wall St. reviewed consumer price indices from 2005 through 2015 for over 300 goods from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Definitions for each food category also came from the BLS. Eggs had the largest increase in consumer prices from 2005 through 2015, increasing more than 110%.

NEWS ITEMS WANTED! -- Please send your business news items to Joanne Magley, Volusia County Information Director, at jmagley@volusia.org. If you wish to be removed from this weekly broadcast, please let us know.