



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

U.S. PROFIT -- According to a USA TODAY analysis of data from S&P Global Market Intelligence, 28 companies account for more than half the total net income reported by U.S.-based companies in Standard & Poor's 500. The number is down from 52 companies in 2014. The analysis includes 462 U.S.-based companies that have reported their net income for calendar year 2015. The S&P Global analysis also found that total adjusted profit in the entire S&P 500 has declined 0.7 percent excluding unusual charges that Wall Street analysts typically ignore.

ACADEMY OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP, MARKETING AND MANAGEMENT -- The Academy at Deltona High School provides students with a strong, focused view of careers in marketing and business. Through partnerships with local businesses and universities, the academy provides career exposure via field trips, job-shadowing and internships, as well as extended learning through dual enrollment and seminars. For more information contact Academy Director Debra Blanchard at dablanch@volusia.k12.fl.us.

ELECTRONIC FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS -- The Electronic Payments Association, the Automated Clearing House (ACH) Network and others operate at the core of U.S. commerce, electronically moving money and information from one bank account to another through payments, debits and deposits. The ACH Network of 10,000 financial institutions currently supports 90 percent of the total value of U.S. electronic payments and annually moves \$40 trillion through nearly 23 billion electronic financial transactions. Approximately 4.98 billion transactions moved \$10.6 trillion in the fourth quarter of 2015. To learn more go to <http://tinyurl.com/pubspnx>.

VETERAN UNEMPLOYMENT -- According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Florida was in the lower 25 percent of states in veteran unemployment. Each year the agency compiles veteran employment information through monthly surveys. Overall, Florida ranks better than 11 other states with a 5.4 percent unemployment rate among veterans. Iowa had the lowest rate at 1.9 percent and the District of Columbia the highest at 7.7 percent.

TOP CATEGORIES OF COMPLAINTS -- In January the Federal Trade Commission announced the new version of IdentityTheft.gov, which gives consumers the ability to create a personalized identity theft recovery plan. In 2015 the network collected 3,083,379 consumer complaints. Florida, Georgia and Michigan were the top three states for fraud while Missouri, Connecticut and Florida were the top three states for identity theft complaints.

APPRENTICESHIPS -- USA Today reports the number of apprentices registered by the U.S. Department of Labor and states rose by 27,000 to nearly 450,000 in the fiscal year ending September 2015, and it's up by nearly 100,000 since bottoming out in 2011. In 2015 the Department of Labor awarded \$175 million to 46 colleges, nonprofits and others to train and hire 34,000 apprentices over the next five years, helping meet the administration's goal of doubling the number of apprenticeships between 2014 and 2019. Another \$90 million is being allocated to states and nonprofits to market the programs locally.

BEST STATES TO RETIRE -- Bankrate.com has used data from Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and other sources to rank all 50 states according to their cost of living, crime rate (violent and property crimes), health care quality, state and local tax burden, personal well-being for seniors and weather (temperature, percentage of sunshine, humidity). Only one east coast state, Virginia, ranked in the top 10 while Florida ranked 28. Wyoming ranked number one followed by South Dakota, Colorado and Utah. To learn more visit www.bankrate.com/finance/retirement/best-places-retire-how-state-ranks.aspx.

FLORIDABUSINESS.ORG -- The county's www.floridabusiness.org website contains a wide variety of data and key reports and past issues of On the Economic Scene and the Economic Development Quarterly publication.

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