



# On the Economic Scene Make it Volusia

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

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

**STORM READINESS INFORMATION AVAILABLE** -- Do you know the designated emergency evacuation routes from your home or business? Do you know where the nearest shelter is? The Volusia County online hurricane evacuation routes and shelters map can be viewed at <http://tinyurl.com/mzss3pz>. Volusia County's Emergency Management website is a comprehensive source for emergency preparedness with links to information on weather, flooding, shelters and more. Visit [www.volusia.org/emergency](http://www.volusia.org/emergency) for details.

**ACADEMY OF PUBLIC SERVICE PROFESSIONS AND CAREERS** -- The Academy at Mainland High School prepares students for public service through various professional careers such as the military, law enforcement, education, firefighting and fish/wildlife officers. The academy integrates the Air Force JROTC program into the curriculum. For further program details, call 386-258-4665.

**FIME 2017** -- FIME is a trade exhibition for medical equipment, products, services and technologies; it will be held in Orlando Aug. 8-10 at the Orange County Convention Center. FIME showcases everything from hospital equipment to medical disposable products, nursing care, surgery instruments, diagnostic tools, long-term care products, dental equipment, products for rehabilitation and orthopedics, medical services and much more. Enterprise Florida has secured space for a Florida section. To learn more, contact Virgil Kimball at [VKimball@volusia.org](mailto:VKimball@volusia.org) or call 386-248-8048.

**A GREAT BUSINESS PLAN IN SIX EASY STEPS** -- This free workshop is a must for anyone starting a business or for those already in business who do not have a business plan. The workshop will be from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, June 15, at the Daytona State College Campus-UCF Building 150, Room 100, Daytona Beach. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 386-255-6889 or visiting [www.score87.org](http://www.score87.org).

**GROWING DEMAND FOR OFFICE SPACE NATIONWIDE** -- The NAIOP Research Foundation's report forecasts demand for office space moving forward in 2017 after a strong first quarter. The U.S. office market experienced a healthy Q1 2017, and the office sector is well-positioned for expansion as robust growth continues. The NAIOP office space forecast anticipates the net absorption of approximately 39.7 million square feet this year. That's just short of 2016's 41.4 million square feet. For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/zdzicpq>.

**NATIONAL GDP RISES** -- According to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increased 0.7 percent at an annual rate in the first quarter of 2017. This is based on advance estimates of the national income and product accounts. In the fourth quarter of 2016, real GDP increased 2.1 percent. The increase in first-quarter real GDP reflected positive contributions from nonresidential fixed investment, exports, residential fixed investment, and consumer spending. Also increasing in Q1 2017 were real disposable personal income and the prices of goods and services purchased by U.S. residents. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/yaxqalee> for more information.

**WORKPLACE STRESS** -- In a new study by the Toluna Group on behalf of Udemy, an online teaching and learning platform, workplace stress in America was found to be on the rise. The report, Workplace Confidential: The Real Story Behind Stress, Skills and Success in America, found 52 percent of full-time employees feel more stressed today than they did one year ago. Sixty percent of U.S. workers reported being stressed all or most of the time at work. The number one external stress trigger was the current political climate (50 percent), and inside work it was the fear of losing jobs to artificial intelligence or new technology (43 percent). More information is available at <https://about.udemy.com/press-releases/workplace-stress-study>.

**FLORIDA-BASED COMPANIES GARNER PRIVATE EQUITY INVESTMENT** -- Private equity funds invested \$41.8 billion in 219 Florida-based companies in 2016, supporting 33,733 jobs, according to the American Investment Council's annual analysis. According to the Top States and Districts in 2016 analysis, Florida ranked fourth in the nation for private equity investment (as measured in dollars invested) following Texas, California and Massachusetts. Altogether, more than \$644 billion was invested in U.S. companies in 2016.

**E-COMMERCE CONTINUES "CLICKS TO BRICKS" STRATEGY** -- As recently reported by [www.pitchbook.com](http://www.pitchbook.com), capital invested in U.S.-based e-commerce companies has steadily increased since 2012, with the notable exception of this year. But despite venture capital support of e-commerce, brick-and-mortar retail continues to comprise the majority of U.S. sales - and startups are taking note. From clothing and luggage to mattresses and eyewear, startup online retailers are expanding from "clicks to bricks," that is, into brick-and-mortar storefronts. For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/ya8z7p7k>.

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