



France and Florida today represent two great powers in international trade. As the commercial center of the Americas, Florida is an important relay for the distribution and transport of goods between Latin America, the Caribbean, and the rest of the world for France.

French Exports to Florida (\$3.1 Billion in 2022)

The volume of French exports to Florida demonstrates the importance of this region for French companies.

- **Florida is a key market for French exports.** France placed 13th in 2022 in the list of leading exporters to Florida. French exports to Florida mainly consist of jet engines, perfumes, ethyl alcohol, and aircraft. *Aircraft and jet engines made up 22% of French exports to Florida.*
- *French exports to Florida increased by 11% in 2022.* This increase is mainly due to an increase in exports of jet engines.
- **Florida as a gateway to the vast American market:** Thanks to its excellent merchandise processing units, Florida is a strategic entry point for French products on the American market, whether intended for the local market in Florida or the whole of the United States.



French Imports from Florida (\$601 Million in 2022)

Florida's port and airports facilitate over half a billion dollars of French merchandise imports from Florida.

- **France is an essential economic partner for Florida.** In 2022, France imported products from Florida worth over \$601 million.
- **Florida producers are expanding sales in the French market.** Reflecting the high degree of competitiveness of Floridian entrepreneurs, *aircraft and jet engines make up nearly a third of French imports from Florida.* France also imports paintings, orthopedic appliances, and plants for perfumery or pharmaceutical use.

French Investment in Florida (FDI in 2020)

France is a Major Investor in Florida. France has long been one of the main sources of foreign direct investment (FDI) in Florida, not only in terms of the total amount invested but also in terms of employment. With its strong technological base and advanced transport and commercial links with the rest of the world, Florida has attracted more than 200 French companies, allowing them to prosper and effectively serve the various markets in the rest of the United States as well as nearby Latin America. A *French Tech community in Miami* has been operating since April 2020, joining the global network focused on enhancing French startups and fostering connections with the local community.

- **France is one of the largest employers in Florida:** In 2020, France was the *4th largest foreign direct investor in Florida*, with French-owned affiliates *accounting for more than 37,000 Florida jobs.*

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- This means that roughly *one in ten Floridians employed by a foreign-owned company in 2020 worked for a French firm.*
- **EU Ranking:** France is also the *2nd largest EU investor in Florida*, following Germany but preceding the Netherlands and Ireland.
- Based on the most current statistics from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, French affiliates in Florida were estimated to have *total holdings of USD \$8.8 billion in gross property, plant, and equipment in 2020.*
- According to SelectFlorida’s database of foreign-owned affiliates in Florida, there are more than 200 French-owned companies operating over 350 branch locations throughout Florida.



Select French-Owned Companies with Operations in Florida

| French Parent Company | Florida Subsidiary Company |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Accor Group (Hospitality) | Accor North America, Inc. |
| Air France-KLM Holding Company (Leisure) | AFK Cargo/ Barfield Inc. |
| Bureau Veritas Group (Professional Services) | Inspectorate America Corporation |
| Capgemini (Professional Services) | CHCS Services, Inc. |
| Geodis SA (Logistics) | Geodis USA Inc. |
| LVMH MOET Hennessy Louis Vuitton (Retail) | Hublot of America Inc. |
| Sodexo (Food Services) | Sodexo Inc. |
| Sogeti Group (Professional Services) | Sogeti USA Inc |
| Thales Group (Aerospace) | Thales Avionics |
| Veolia Group (Services) | Veolia North America |

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Florida-headquartered companies in a variety of industry sectors have operations in France, including these well-known companies:

Florida Companies in France

| | |
|---|---|
| Carnival Corporation & PLC (Leisure) | Office Depot, Inc (Retail) |
| Citrix Systems, Inc. (Software) | Rockwell Collins, Inc. (Aerospace) |
| Claire's Stores (Retail) | Sitel Worldwide Corp. (Customer Exp.) |
| Fresh Del Monte Produce, Inc. (Produce) | Sun Capital Partners, Inc (Fin. Services) |
| Hertz Global, Inc. (Retail) | Tupperware Brands Corporation (Sales) |

Cultural Linkages

Cultural Links between France and Florida. The French adventure in Florida dates to the sixteenth century when the French navigator Jean Ribault and his fleet landed in Northeast Florida and established Fort Caroline (Jacksonville) there in 1564. Even today, the "Sunshine State" attracts many French professionals, professors, students, artists, and tourists.

Twin/Sister Cities. Florida has one of the most extensive city-to-city twinning programs, fostering the exchange not only of people, but also of ideas, which is an essential step in building a strong business relationship.

- Coral Gables - Sister City agreement with **Aix-en-Provence**, France
- Crestview - Sister City agreement with **Noirmoutier**, France
- Hollywood - Sister City agreement with **Romorantin**, France
- Jacksonville - Sister City agreement with **Nantes**, France
- Miami - Emeritus Status Sister City agreement with **Nice**, France
- New Port Richey - Sister City agreement with **Cavalaire-sur-Mer**, France
- Orlando - Sister City agreement with **Seine-et-Marne Region**, France
- Pinecrest - Sister City agreement with **Cognac**, France
- Sarasota - Sister City agreement with **Perpignan**, France
- Tampa - Sister City agreement with **Le Havre**, France



University Linkages:

- [Florida-France Linkage Institute, University of South Florida \(USF\) – Tampa](#)
- [France-Florida Research Institute, University of Florida \(UF\) – Gainesville](#)

Air Linkages

There are several **non-stop flights** from Florida to France:

- Miami (MIA) to **Paris** (CDG) – American Airlines, Air France
- Miami (MIA) to **Paris** (ORY) – French Bee



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French Tourism & Diaspora in Florida

- In 2022, **175,000 French people visited Florida**, accounting for **7% of total European visitors** to Florida. This **290% growth** over 2022 signals a strong recovery of French tourism.
- France ranked **3rd largest nationality of EU visitors** to Florida in 2022, following Germany (259,000) and Spain (187,000) but preceding Italy (130,000).
- Over **26,000 French-born residents** live in Florida as of 2021, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey.
- An estimated **103,000 Floridians speak French at home** as of 2021. In addition, Florida brings together a large French-speaking community due to the presence of many expatriates from Quebec and Haiti. The French and francophone community in Florida has a diverse cultural network with organizations, festivals, exchanges, and research programs.



VISIT FLORIDA™

French Government & Business Associations in Florida

- [Consulate General of France – Miami](#)
- Honorary Consulate of France – Jacksonville
- Honorary Consulate of France – Clearwater
- Honorary Consulate of France – Orlando

- [French American Business Council of Orlando](#)
- [French American Chamber of Commerce of West Florida](#)
- [French-American Chamber of Commerce](#)
- [French Tech – Miami](#)



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