

# FLORIDA'S INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS FAST FACTS

## INTERNATIONAL TRADE



Florida is home to nearly **60,000 exporting companies** – second in the nation. **One out of every five (20%) U.S. exporters is located in Florida.** ([U.S. Census Bureau](#))



**95% of Florida exporters are small or medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)** with 500 or fewer employees. SMEs accounted for **58% of Florida exports** in 2021. ([U.S. Census Bureau](#))

With **\$191 billion in two-way merchandise trade** in 2023, Florida is a major gateway for trade between North America, Latin America, the Caribbean, and other world regions. **\$87 billion in exports and \$105 billion in imports** were shipped through the state's 14 seaports and 21 airports. ([SelectFlorida Research, U.S. Census Bureau](#))



Widely recognized as a global hub for the Western Hemisphere, Florida accounts for nearly **30% of total U.S. trade with Latin America and the Caribbean.** ([SelectFlorida Research, U.S. Census Bureau](#))



**Florida ranks sixth in the nation in state-origin exports** (i.e., those produced, or with significant value-added) and reached an **all-time record of \$69 billion** in 2023. ([SelectFlorida Research, U.S. Census Bureau](#))

**Global imports destined for the state** also recorded an **all-time record of \$113 billion**, ranking Florida the **ninth largest U.S. destination for imports** in 2023. ([SelectFlorida Research, U.S. Census Bureau](#))



Florida is responsible for **\$61.9 billion in services exports, ranking as the fourth largest state in the country** in 2022, and accounting for more than **300,000 jobs.** ([Coalition of Services Industries and SelectFlorida Research using WISERTrade Analysis](#))



**Florida ranks third among U.S. states in high-tech exports** – reaching **\$14.9 billion** in 2023 – with Latin America serving as a prime destination for these products. ([SelectFlorida Research using WISERTrade](#))

## TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Florida sits at the nexus of transportation links in the Americas. Florida's **14 active deepwater seaports and 21 commercial airports** ensure the seamless movement of travelers and goods throughout the state. ([Florida Department of Transportation](#))



Florida's seaports and airports handled more than **47 million metric tons of internationally traded goods** in 2023. ([U.S. Census Bureau](#))



Home to the **second largest foreign trade zone (FTZ) network** in the nation, Florida has **19 FTZs** statewide. ([U.S. Department of Commerce](#))

Miami International Airport (MIA) ranks **number one busiest airport in the U.S. for international freight shipments and second busiest for international passengers in 2023.** MIA offers more service to Latin America and the Caribbean than any other airport in the U.S. ([Miami International Airport](#))



# FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT



Foreign-owned companies employed **417,000 Floridians** in 2021, the **fifth** highest in the nation and **first** in the Southeast. ([SelectFlorida Research based on Bureau of Economic Analysis data](#))



Miami International Airport (MIA) **ranks 1st** in the U.S. for **international freight shipments** and 2nd for international travelers, welcoming 60% of all foreign visitors to Florida annually. MIA also offers more service to Latin America and the Caribbean than any other airport in the U.S. ([Financial Times-Nikkei](#))

Foreign-owned affiliates in Florida are estimated to have **total holdings** of Gross Property, Plant, and Equipment (PP&E) valued at **\$97.7 billion** in 2021, ranking Florida **ninth** in the U.S. and **second** in the Southeast. ([SelectFlorida Research based on Bureau of Economic Analysis data](#))



# INTERNATIONAL VISITORS



Florida welcomed a record total of **11.5 million international visitors** in 2023, including 3.2 million Canadian travelers. ([VISIT FLORIDA Research](#))



Florida was the **number one most visited state in the U.S. by overseas visitors** in 2022, accounting for 30% of the national total, excluding visitors from Canada and Mexico. ([U.S. Department of Commerce, National Travel and Tourism Office](#))

International visitors contribute to Florida's tourism economy, **spending \$12.2 billion** in 2022. ([VISIT FLORIDA, Economy Impact Study](#))



The Miami and Orlando metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) served as destinations for **17% and 12% of all overseas visitors to the U.S.**, in 2022. ([U.S. Department of Commerce, National Travel and Tourism Office](#))



# MARKET SIZE AND GLOBAL RANKING



With a Gross Domestic Product of nearly **\$1.6 trillion** in 2023, Florida is the **fourth largest economy in the U.S.** and would be the **16th largest economy globally** if ranked as a country, similar in size to the economies of Mexico or Spain. ([Bureau of Economic Analysis and the World Bank](#))



The state also had the **second fastest-growing population in the U.S.** in 2023 by both percentage and numeric growth. ([U.S. Census Bureau](#))

Florida ranks as the **third largest U.S. state** in the country with a **population of 23 million** in 2024, making it an attractive consumer market for both domestic and overseas producers and suppliers. ([Office of Economic & Demographic Research](#))



# GLOBAL COMMUNITY



More than **6.7 million speakers of languages other than English** call Florida home, representing 30% of the state population in 2023. ([U.S. Census Bureau](#))

Florida has the **second largest diplomatic presence** in the U.S. with consulates from more than 85 countries, along with **70+ bilateral chambers of commerce**, and more than **260 sister-city relationships**. ([The Beacon Council, Florida Department of State, Office of International Affairs](#))



With an emphasis on Latin America in particular, Miami has the **second highest concentration of international banks** in the U.S. ([The Beacon Council](#))

Florida ranks **seventh** in the U.S. and first in the southeast in **international student enrollment**, with 42,000+ international students in the 2022-2023 academic year contributing **\$1.4 billion** to the state economy and supporting more than **12,000 Florida jobs**. ([NAFSA; Institute of International Education](#))

