



If you are a Florida company interested in exporting to the Israeli market, please click [here](#).

### Israel and Florida: A Strong and Growing Economic Partnership

The State of Israel and the U.S. State of Florida have a strong relationship, sharing many common areas of business activity. In 2013, Florida and Israel signed a Memorandum of Understanding to promote collaborative research, development, and commercialization of projects related to aviation, aerospace, and life sciences. Under this agreement, the governments of Israel and Florida are matching each other, dollar for dollar, to establish a fund to provide grants to Israeli and Florida companies that present joint R&D projects for innovative technologies.

Florida and Israel also have a history of strong cooperation in the [defense and homeland security](#) and [life sciences](#) sectors. Both high-tech industries are highly developed in both Israel and in Florida, and Israeli companies are increasingly looking to Florida when seeking to expand to the U.S and/or Latin America.

Florida's [information technology sector](#) is a global leader in Modeling, Simulation and Training, Photonics/Optics, and Software & Computer Systems Design. Home to iconic IT pioneers such as IBM and Citrix Systems, as well as home-grown start-ups with a global reach, Florida has the nation's third-largest tech industry, and is a leader in the production of graduates in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).

Florida has much to offer Israeli companies, and is home to a large and active Jewish community. [The Florida-Israel Business Accelerator](#) (FIBA), launched in 2016, is a technology accelerator designed to establish and grow successful Israeli high-growth tech ventures in the Tampa Bay Area. Furthermore, Florida has numerous accelerators and soft-landing programs available to assist Israeli companies with market-ready products or technologies to expand in the U.S. market – and beyond.

In May 2019, Florida **Governor Ron DeSantis** led a [historic Business Development Mission to Israel](#) with more than 100 Florida delegates. This mission further strengthened the bonds between Florida and Israel through deeper cooperation among academia, government, and private-sector business, resulting in the conclusion of more than 20 Memoranda of Understanding between Israeli and Florida entities. Governor DeSantis returned to Israel during a second business development mission in April 2023.



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## Israeli Investment in Florida (FDI in 2020)

- Based on the most recent statistics from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, Israel is the **19<sup>th</sup> largest foreign direct investor** in Florida, with Israeli-owned affiliates **accounting for more than 2,500 jobs**.
- **Middle East Ranking:** Israel is also by far the **#1 largest Middle Eastern investor** in Florida, preceding both the UAE and Saudi Arabia.
- Israeli affiliates in Florida are estimated to have had **total holdings of USD \$647 million in gross property, plant, and equipment in 2020**.
- According to SelectFlorida's database of foreign-owned affiliates in Florida, there are more than 50 Israeli companies operating over 65 branch locations in Florida.



## Select Israel-Owned Companies with Operations in Florida

Israeli Parent Company	Florida Subsidiary Company
Bank Hapoalim (Financial Services)	Bank Hapoalim
Bank Leumi Le Israel BM (Financial Services)	Bank Leumi USA, Inc.
El Al Israel Airlines Ltd. (Air Travel)	El Al Israel Airlines
Elbit Systems Ltd. (Aerospace/ Defense)	Elbit Systems of America, Inc.
Frutarom Industries Ltd. (Production and Distribution)	CitraSource
Hazera Genetics Ltd. (Agriculture)	Hazera Seeds USA, Inc.
INSIGHTEC Ltd (Medical Devices)	Insightec, Inc.
Israel Discount Bank (Financial Services)	IDB Bank
Rafael Advanced Defense Systems (Defense)	C4 Advanced Tactical Systems LLC
SimiGon Ltd (Aviation)	Simigon, Inc.
Tabit (Software)	Tabit Technologies Inc.
Wix.com Ltd (Software)	SpeedETab, Inc.
ZIM Integrated Shipping Services Ltd. (Logistics)	Zim American Integrated Shipping Services Co.

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## Florida Companies in Israel

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

Airspan Networks, Inc (Communications)	Greenberg Traurig, LLP (Law)
Amadeus North America (Travel)	Hertz Global Holdings (Car/Equip. Rental)
Arthur Murray International, Inc (Leisure)	Jabil Inc (Manufacturing)
Duty Free Americas, Inc (Retail)	Kaplan, Inc (Educational Services)
GAMA Business Travel (Travel)	Lee Hecht Harrison LLC (Professional Services)

## Air Linkages

There is one, regular **non-stop flight** from Florida to Israel:

- Miami (MIA) to **Tel Aviv** (TLV) – EL AL Israel Airlines



## Cultural Linkages

### Sister Cities:

The State of Florida has one of the most active Sister City programs in the United States, promoting the exchange of people, ideas, and culture as a first step towards establishing commercial ties. Partnerships include:

- Cocoa - Sister City agreement with **Beit Shemesh**, Israel
- Deerfield Beach - Sister City agreement with **Acre**, Israel
- Fort Lauderdale - Sister City agreement with **Haifa**, Israel
- Gainesville - Sister City agreement with **Kfar Saba**, Israel
- Hollywood - Sister City agreement with **Herzliya**, Israel
- Miami - Emeritus Status Sister City agreement with **Ramat-Hasharon**, Israel
- Miami Beach - Sister City agreements with **Nahariya** and **Ramat Gan**, Israel
- North Miami Beach - Sister City agreement with **Migdal**, Israel
- Sarasota - Sister City agreement with **Tel Mond**, Israel
- Sunny Isles Beach - Sister City agreement with **Netanya**, Israel
- Tallahassee - Sister City agreement with **Ramat-Hasharon**, Israel
- Tampa - Sister City agreement with **Ashdod**, Israel
- West Palm Beach - Sister City agreement with **Tzahar Region**, Israel



### University Linkages:

- [Florida-Israel Linkage Institute, Florida Atlantic University \(FAU\) – Boca Raton](#)

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## Israeli Government & Business Associations in Florida

- [Consulate General of Israel – Miami](#)
- [America-Israel Chamber of Commerce, Florida Chapter – Davie](#)
- [Florida-Israel Business Accelerator \(FIBA\)](#)



## SelectFlorida Presence in Israel

### SelectFlorida – Israel

Limor Ashkenazi, *Business Development Director*  
Hahaskala 9 Street  
P.O. Box 19391  
Tel Aviv, 6119302, Israel  
Phone: +972-50-750-9959  
[limor@eflorida.co.il](mailto:limor@eflorida.co.il)  
[www.selectflorida.org/israel](http://www.selectflorida.org/israel)



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