

# SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

## A Great Place to Do Business

### While Enjoying a Remarkable Lifestyle



## WELCOME

**Southwest Florida** enjoys an exceptional climate for business as well as for lifestyle. That's why global companies are locating here.

**Southwest Florida** is a fast growing economy that provides a competitive framework to global companies such as Chicos FAS, Gartner, Inc. and Shaw Development. The region has 1.2 million residents, a workforce of over 500,000, and prime available locations including acreage, office space, warehousing, and manufacturing. Key benefits include great infrastructure connecting to the world, friendly and flexible business climate, strong educational systems, and fabulous quality of life.

In 2013, Hertz announced the company would relocate its corporate headquarters from New Jersey to **Southwest Florida**. Hertz CEO Mark Frissora said, "We are so grateful for this welcome to the Sunshine State. We did not make the decision to relocate lightly. We wanted to know that Florida was not only attractive to us as a company, but also to our employees."

### KEY SOUTHWEST FLORIDA STATISTICS:

- **Population:** 1,205,584
- **Median age:** 46.9
- **Median household income:** \$50,469
- **Mean household income:** \$74,412
- **Labor Force 553,674** (April 2014)
- **Median single-family home sales prices:** \$65,000 in Hendry County to \$340,000 in Collier County
- **Number of students in the K-12 public system:** 135,000
- **Number of tourists annually:** 6.8 million
- **Land area in square miles:** 5,422

## TOP EMPLOYERS



From Biofuels, healthcare, technology, apparel design, and sugar production, Southwest Florida employers are the driving force behind the region's success. The table below provides a few examples of some key employers in **Southwest Florida**.

### GLOBAL HEADQUARTERS:

- **Algenol Biofuels** - Industrial biotechnology
- **Arthrex, Inc.** - Medical devices
- **Chico's FAS** - Women's specialty apparel retailer
- **Fox Electronics** - Specialty electronics manufacturer
- **Hertz, Inc.** - Vehicle rentals and sales
- **Shaw Development** - Manufacturing fluid management
- **U.S. Sugar Corporation** - Agricultural and food manufacturer
- **21st Century Oncology** - Healthcare

### OTHER:

- **Gartner, Inc.** - Global IT research and advising
- **Lynx Services, LLC** - Customer Service Center, subsidiary Pittsburgh Glass Works

## ▶ TALENT AND WORKFORCE



### A LARGE AND HIGHLY SKILLED WORKFORCE

■ Our region has experienced tremendous growth in the past fifteen years; a key part of that growth can be attributed to the human and intellectual capital that exists in our area. Currently, the **Southwest Florida** region features a workforce in excess of 500,000.

### TRAINING TO SUPPORT AND ENHANCE

- We are committed to expanding the opportunities available to our professionals. CareerSource Southwest Florida, our local CareerSource Florida Network partner, has tailored training programs for both new and expanding companies.
- There is a strong connection between the business community and education systems including internship and apprenticeship programs. **Southwest Florida** has nine colleges and universities, five technical vocational schools and public and private offerings.

***“The quality of the candidates has far exceeded our expectation here. We can get good people here.”***

– Richard Broome, Executive Vice President, Hertz

## ▶ QUALITY OF LIFE

The five counties of **Southwest Florida** – Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Hendry, and Glades – are best known for their tropical climate with plenty of sunshine, water, wildlife and a unique environmental ecosystem consisting of preserves, sanctuaries, and estuaries. Major cities are Naples, Fort Myers, Cape Coral, Bonita Springs, Punta Gorda, Marco Island, Sanibel and Fort Myers Beach.



### SOUTHWEST FLORIDA FEATURES:

- Professional and amateur sporting events year-round, including baseball spring training for the Boston Red Sox, Minnesota Twins, and Tampa Bay Rays.
- More than 150 golf courses and is known as the golfing capital of the world.
- A myriad of entertainment options from shopping and art festivals to symphony and fine dining along with fabulous sunsets.
- World-renowned attractions including the Edison Ford Winter Estates, Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge, Everglades National Park, and Babcock Wilderness Preserve.
- An array of water recreation opportunities with world-class fishing and beaches ranked in the U.S. top ten. Miles of intercostal and coastal waters provide excellent pleasure boating, beach combing, swimming, and kayaking, as well as bird, dolphin, and manatee watching.
- A wide range of housing choices on and off the water, on and off golf course, in town and out in the countryside from condominiums to sprawling estates.

## ▶ KEY ASSETS

- Low cost of doing business with available incentives at the state and local levels, a business-friendly regulatory climate, and a low corporation tax rate.
- Southwest Florida International Airport with more than 8 million passengers annually and direct flights to 43 destinations in North America and Europe.
- Skilled workforce and an education system ready to train.
- Strong work/live balance with an abundance of leisure activities and sunshine along with short commute times and an engaged, professional business community.
- No State of Florida personal income tax.



### CONTACT INFORMATION:

- ▶ [Alliance@swfleda.com](mailto:Alliance@swfleda.com)
- ▶ 844.707.SWFL
- ▶ Southwest Florida Economic Development Website: [www.swfleda.com](http://www.swfleda.com)

The Southwest Florida Economic Development Alliance is a private/public partnership created in 2013. Working with all of our communities, our goal is to facilitate business expansion and relocation opportunities.

