

WEEKEND WAVE

06-17-16



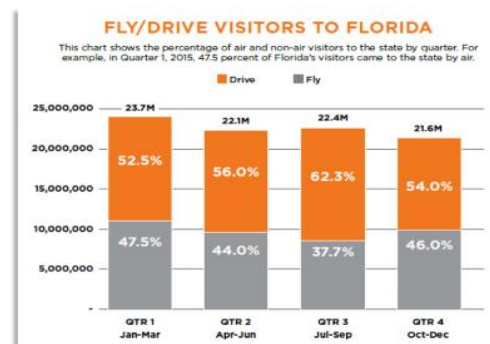
CHARLOTTE COUNTY
Economic Development



Friday Economic Roundup

Florida's Fly And Drive Visitors

When tourists travel to Florida, Visit Florida calculates the percentage between those who travel by plane and by vehicle. This chart displays the amount of air and non-air visitors to the state by quarter. Historically, Quarter 1 has been seen as the dominant season for air visitation, but in 2015 air travel during Quarter 4 grew by four percent, resulting in an even distribution of air visitors across the quarters.



22nd Annual Blue Chip Community Business Award

The 22nd annual Southwest Florida Blue Chip Community Business Award, coordinated and sponsored by BB&T- Oswald Trippe and Company and BB&T Bank will take place Thursday, Nov. 3 at Harborside Event Center, located at 1375 Monroe Street in Fort Myers.

The annual Blue Chip Award program recognizes successful, small business owners who have overcome adversity to achieve success.

Charlotte, Collier and Lee County for-profit businesses that have been in operation for at least three years under the same ownership and employ five to 400 people are eligible for the Blue Chip Award. Applications must be submitted no later than Sept. 6, 2016 and independent judges will select the winning entry.

The 2016 Southwest Florida Blue Chip Community Business Award is endorsed by the Charlotte County Economic Development Office, Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce, Englewood-Cape Haze Area Chamber of Commerce, Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce, Bonita Springs Area Chamber of Commerce, Business Observer, Cape Coral Chamber of Commerce, Christian Chamber of Southwest Florida, City of Cape Coral Economic Development Office, Estero Chamber of Commerce, Florida Gulf Coast University, Florida Southwestern State College, Florida Weekly, Greater Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce, Greater Lehigh Acres Chamber of Commerce, Gulfshore Business, Hodges University, Lee County Economic Development Office/Horizon Council, Sanibel & Captiva Islands Chamber of Commerce, Southwest Florida Business Today, Southwest Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, The Greater Fort Myers Beach Area Chamber of Commerce and The Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce.

For information on attending the Blue Chip Award program or for submitting an application, please contact Stacey Mercado at 239- 433-7189 or SMercado@BBandT.com.

Halfacre Construction Prequalified

Halfacre Construction Company was recently prequalified as a potential construction management firm for future Collier County Public Schools' projects. Halfacre Construction was recognized at a school board meeting on May 10. The contract starts July 1, 2016 and will be active until June 30, 2017. The multi-year prequalification also has the option of two additional years.

FLORIDA ECONOMIC NEWS

- Mednax making \$400 million acquisition to expand medical billing business ([South Florida Sun-Sentinel](#))
- Florida laws give big tax breaks for Embraer project ([Florida Today](#))
- Fort Myers Beach Receives \$6.8M from FL State RLF ([CDFA](#))
- To woo millennial talent, Tampa Bay must stand out from competing metros ([Tampa Bay Times](#))
- Scott to visit Louisiana on mission to bring businesses to Florida ([Tallahassee Democrat](#))
- South Florida's hiring expected to outpace state's ([South Florida Sun-Sentinel](#))
- Fort Myers employers to maintain staffing ([Fort Myers News-Press](#))
- Florida leads the nation in saltwater fishing revenue ([Florida Weekly](#))
- Pair of companies seeking incentives to locate in North Jacksonville ([Florida Times-Union](#))
- Florida generated 7th fastest growing GDP in 2015 ([Tampa Bay Times](#))
- Orlando airport surpasses 40 million annually ([Orlando Sentinel](#))
- Region's jobless rate drops to 4.1 percent ([Sarasota Herald-Tribune](#))

US ECONOMIC NEWS

- US airlines to start scheduled flights to Cuba ([Wink News](#))
- Microsoft to buy LinkedIn for \$26.2 billion in its largest deal ([Florida Trend](#))

ENTREPRENEUR NEWS

- Why it's important to have backup for each employee (including yourself) ([Jerry Osteryoung](#))
- Free assessment Tools for Florida Small Business ([Florida Small Business](#))

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