



Bolstering business locally and abroad!

If you are seeking to create, move or expand your business, Tampa Bay comes fully equipped to help make your dreams a reality. Surround yourself with the beautiful weather, thriving economy and big business—factors that make Tampa Bay distinctive. The Tampa Bay Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) has 2.7 million residents in Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco and Hernando counties. Three surrounding counties—Manatee, Polk and Sarasota—swell the population to 4 million. Strong governmental attention to business communication, workforce distinction, outstanding educational and technical training institutions, international sea and airports, interstate highways, reasonable business costs and a lower-than-average cost-of-living for local metropolitan areas—combine to make Tampa Bay a template for success. The Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce’s economic development arm, the Committee of One Hundred, supports the growth and facilitation of new and existing businesses. Coca-Cola Enterprises, T. Rowe Price and Cott are some of the well-known corporations that have significant operations which have relocated or expanded in the Bay area. Adding to the skills of the workforce are several university and technical programs. Forbes.com lists Tampa Bay as one of the best metropolitan areas for business and career. Over the past five years, Tampa Bay has created more new net jobs than Atlanta, Charlotte, Dallas, Jacksonville and Raleigh-Durham combined. With Tampa Bay ranked 13th of “America’s 50 Hottest Cities” by *Expansion Magazine*, there’s no doubt you and your business will heat up.

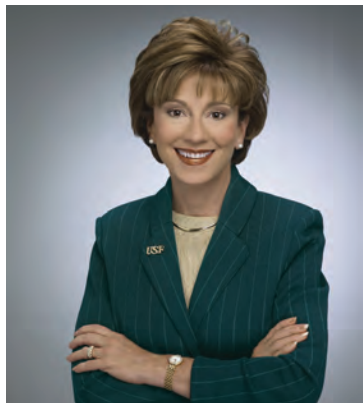
business



Big business, small business, service industry or manufacturing, high tech or agriculture—opportunities in Tampa Bay are endless for you and your employees. A business-friendly government with support systems, tax breaks and visionary perspectives tops the list of what Tampa Bay has to offer.

High-tech incubators and accelerators fuel Tampa Bay's entrepreneurial environment; while university-based research centers foster innovation and productivity. Tampa Bay offers you a diverse, skilled and highly-educated workforce, an excellent business climate and the right mix of local, state and global

transportation systems. Include the lower-than-average cost-of-living and cost-of-doing business, abundant sunshine and almost unlimited recreational possibilities—it's no wonder so many businesses and employees choose Tampa Bay.

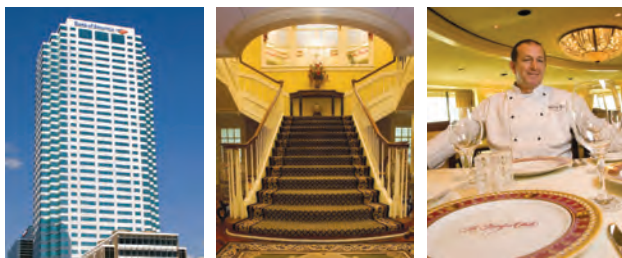


Judy Genshaft
2008 Chair, Board of Directors

"For those looking to expand, relocate or start up a business, there are a host of lifestyle and corporate benefits for choosing the Tampa Bay area. With a thriving arts community, high-quality education system, an array of housing options and a year-round pleasant climate, Tampa companies are able to offer their employees an optimal quality of life. In addition, the access to Tampa's diverse and highly-skilled workforce is an invaluable resource for local employers."

-Dr. Judy Genshaft, 2008 Chair, Board of Directors

Relocating To Tampa? Start At The Top.



Located high above downtown Tampa, atop the Bank of America Building, The Tampa Club is Tampa's premier business, social & dining club. Favored by prominent Tampa executives, professionals and their families for over two decades. The view, the amenities and the friendships are unsurpassed. Please join us.

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WHAT THE EXPERTS ARE SAYING...

- Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater among "Best Cities for Jobs." (*Forbes* magazine, February 16, 2007)
- Tampa is #15 nationally on "Moody's Economy.com Business Vitality Index." (June 2007)
- The Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater's 11.8% job growth between 2001-2006 placed it 11th in the large city category and 71st overall out of 393 metropolitan areas in *INC.* magazine's annual "Boomtown" ranking. (May 2007)
- KPMG's 2006 "Competitive Alternatives Study" ranked Tampa #2 in the country in terms of having the lowest costs of doing business among cities with populations of more than 1.5 million.
- Readers of *Business Facilities* ranked Tampa as their "second most preferred business location among the nation's largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas. (July 2006)
- According to the staffing firm Hudson, Tampa recorded the highest rating (82%) of job satisfaction among 11 metro areas. (Hudson Employment Index, July 2006)
- The Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce's Committee of One Hundred has twice been named as a "Top Ten" Economic Development Group in the World. The group was named one of four recipients of the first "Economic Development Leadership and Accomplishment Award" from CoreNet, a worldwide group of 7,500 plus corporate real estate executives.
- Tampa is among "America's 25 Best Cities Where Creative People Thrive." (*Kiplinger's Personal Finance*, June 2007)

AREA FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

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(813) 931-8855
www.bankatlantic.com

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(813) 739-2159
www.bankofflorida.com

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(813) 569-7500
www.bankofstpetersburg.com

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(813) 872-1201
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Suite 150
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(813) 281-0009
www.bay-cities-bank.com

***BB&T Bank**

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16th Floor
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
(727) 898-5855
www.BBandT.com

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www.centurybankfl.com

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Suite 211
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(727) 896-1641
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(813) 837-2451
www.growfinancial.org

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(813) 286-1053
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www.sc-bank.com

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www.suncoastfcu.com

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Tampa, FL 33602
(813) 224-2416
www.suntrust.com

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3815 North Nebraska Ave.
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(813) 247-4414
www.tampabayfederal.com

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(813) 873-7256
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(813) 276-6632
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MAJOR CORPORATIONS WITH A SIGNIFICANT PRESENCE IN TAMPA BAY

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- CHECKERS DRIVE-IN RESTAURANTS, INC.
- COCA-COLA ENTERPRISES
- FERMAN AUTOMOTIVE GROUP
- GLOBAL IMAGING SYSTEMS, INC.
- MARITRANS, INC.
- OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE

“Early in my restaurant career, I learned that this business is all about people. At OSI, we pride ourselves in the strong foundation that we have built here in the Tampa Bay area in each of our restaurants and at our home office which employs over 600 energetic, intelligent and dedicated people. We are committed to building teams of talented people who genuinely love taking care of others and go out of their way to do extraordinary things for them. We have found this in Tampa.”



-Bill Allen

- RAYMOND JAMES & ASSOCIATES, INC.
- ROOMS-TO-GO
- SYKES ENTERPRISES, INC.

“We relocated our corporate headquarters to Tampa more than 15 years ago. This was one of the best decisions in our corporate history. Our core values reflect the need to serve our customers with integrity and professionalism and the Tampa Bay area provides an excellent resource for recruiting the staff members who exude these values. Not to mention the business-friendly climate has been a positive factor in the growth and success of Sykes Enterprises.”



-Charles Sykes

- SRI/SURGICAL EXPRESS, INC.
- TECO ENERGY, INC.
- WALTER INDUSTRIES

INDUSTRY CLUSTERS

Great cities don't become great without significant foresight, planning and leadership. The Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce has worked diligently to attract a diverse field of businesses to the area, with the goal of expanding certain key “industry clusters” to bolster our economy and provide new high-value and high-paying jobs. These clusters include:

- Corporate Headquarters
- Financial Services
- Lifescience
- Technology
- Manufacturing and Distribution
- International Trade

CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

Companies, large and small—with local or global reach—already call Tampa Bay home. We are enjoying our share of headquarter expansions—a significant indicator of company satisfaction. Tampa has a business-friendly tax structure with no local or state personal income taxes, no county corporate or inventory taxes, no corporate franchise tax on capital stock, no state ad valorem tax on goods-in-transit and a state corporate income tax that is a flat rate of

5.5 percent. Tampa International Airport, the Port of Tampa and public transportation are ideal for any of your shipping needs. A readily available supply of office and industrial space and an excellent communications infrastructure are in place for businesses. Workforce availability—a pool of diverse, talented, enterprising employees who are trained and ready-to-work—makes Tampa Bay an invaluable asset. Companies say their relocation to existing staff is easy to market. *Expansion Management*, an independent publication which highlights the business strengths of locations throughout the country, ranked

Hillsborough County in the top twenty out of 3,141 counties in the U.S. for recruitment and attraction (May 2007). Our cost-of-living, cost-of-doing-business and median sales price of existing homes are below the national average. To top it off, Florida students pay the lowest undergraduate tuition among public universities. Affordable living combined with Tampa Bay's sunny climate and vast recreational resources result in employees who are eager to relocate with their employer. Tampa Bay offers limitless opportunities for your company and a wonderful place to call home.





FINANCIAL SERVICES, INSURANCE AND BANKING

Financial services companies, another high-growth cluster that serves national and global markets, have chosen Tampa Bay because it is a safe haven for businesses in need of a highly-secure environment. Hillsborough County is classified as a “financial services powerhouse” with 77,000 employees, each of which receives more than \$50,000 per year. Decentralization—the need to have separate locations away from New York City—has fueled enormous business growth in Tampa Bay, as has Tampa Bay’s focus on laying the required foundation for secure business operations in high-tech centers. A commitment to delivering a cost-effective operating environment attracts service vendors to support this cluster. With most of our graduates remaining in our communities, there is a constant flow of talented, highly-qualified potential employees from local business schools and universities and also renewable recruitment from within the cluster itself. The University of Tampa offers a major in Financial Services Operations & Systems. Accountancy majors from the University of South Florida have ranked highest in the nation for first-time pass-rate of the C.P.A. exam for the last ten years. The financial services, banking and insurance industry attracts and enables us to keep educated employees in the Bay area. Tampa Bay is a sound investment for the future of you, your company and your employees.

LIFESCIENCE

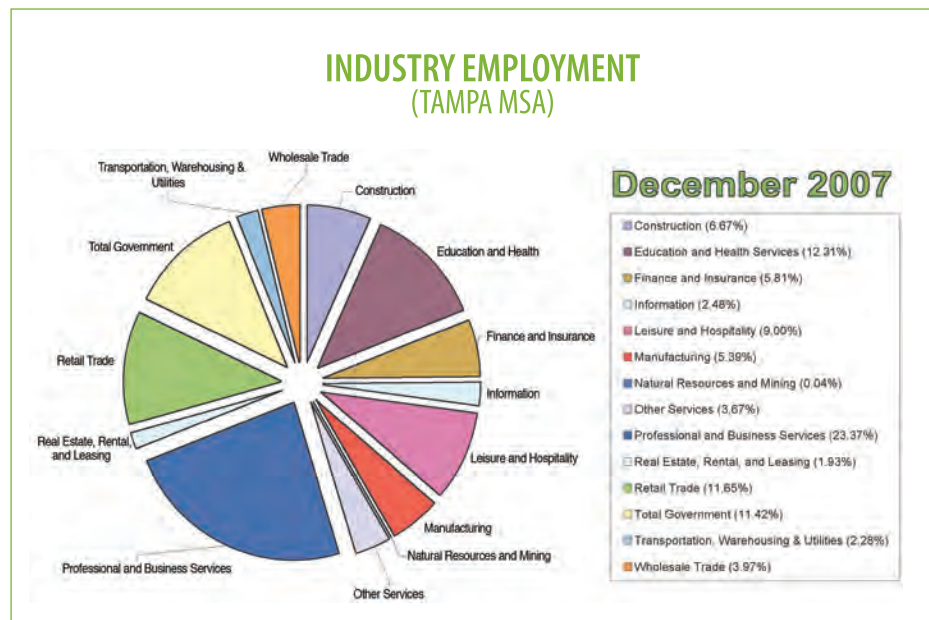
Lifescience is big business in Tampa Bay. An array of advanced industry sectors — forensics, ocean science, security and medicine are examples which comprise this cluster. Medical products is currently one of the largest lifescience sectors, contributing more than \$3.4 billion into the Bay area economy, employing more than 12,000 workers and generating a total combined income of \$889 million, according to a study conducted by the Florida Medical Manufacturers Consortium, Pinellas County Economic Development and the Tampa Bay Partnership. All Children’s Hospital, located in St. Petersburg, has consistently been ranked as one of the top 25 children’s hospitals in the U.S. and was rated the best in Florida, by *Child* magazine’s 2007 rankings. St. Joseph’s was a top hospital in the 2007 “Thomson Top 100 Hospitals: Cardiovascular Benchmarks for Success” and has been awarded, for the second time, the Gold Seal of Approval™ by the Joint Commission for Primary Stroke Centers—a two-year certification for stroke care excellence. St. Joseph’s Children’s Hospital has been at the forefront of pediatric care for years. Featuring the Children’s Heart Center, the Steinbrenner Emergency Trauma Center and one of the most active neonatal ICUs in the country, St. Joseph’s Children’s Hospital treats children from every county in the state of Florida, as well as from out of state. Tampa General Hospital (TGH) recently opened a new vascular ICU

in early 2008, designed specifically for patients who have undergone complicated procedures such as aneurysm surgery, peripheral vascular surgery or carotidectomy. TGH also placed in the top 50 hospitals in the nation in five medical specialties – gynecology, kidney disease, orthopedics, urology and ear, nose and throat – according to *U.S. News and World Report’s* 2007 list of America’s Best Hospitals. Moffitt Cancer Center and Merck & Company have joined forces in a new venture designed to develop personalized cancer treatments using genetic information—referred to as M2Gen. Lifescience companies, in conjunction with the University of South Florida, continue to make powerful alliances—creating jobs, providing world-class talent and generating research dollars. The University of South Florida’s leadership in microelectronic research facilitates the development of innovative products and technologies. From test-tubes to transplants—lifescience in Tampa Bay is healthy and thriving.

TECHNOLOGY

Robotics, aerospace, fiber optics and advanced defense systems — Tampa Bay is turning science fiction into science fact. Geographically, Tampa Bay is at the Gulf Coast gateway of the “Florida High-tech Corridor” (FHTC)—spanning across the state from Tampa to the Atlantic Coast. Strong research and development partnerships, economic partnerships and strategic alliances exist within the corridor, enabling companies to cooperate both efficiently and profitably. Tampa Bay businesses and the University of South Florida (USF) are key components in the vision of the FHTC Council. The 2007 report states there were “\$4.5 million in FHTC Council grants to help fund 100 research projects in partnership with 66 companies that brought more than \$13.7 million in cash, equipment, and in-kind matches for a total of \$18.7 million in research.” SRI International, located in St. Petersburg, is one of the world’s leading independent research and technology development organizations. Part of SRI’s mission aids the U.S. government in meeting imperative homeland security and needs. For example, SRI has been awarded a \$36.5-million contract to develop a Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) System by the U.S. Naval Air Systems Command for advanced

INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT (TAMPA MSA)



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(813) 740-2257
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www.nursecore.net
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Spartan Staffing

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*Staffing Now, Inc.

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www.vereduscorp.com
(Information Technology)

*Volt Services Group

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(813) 286-6434
www.volt.com
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Center, Legal, Light Industrial)



sensing and situation awareness technologies to improve port security—only one of its many current projects. SRI is valuable to the region’s high-tech community and another example of the cutting-edge high-tech companies in Tampa Bay. With innovative research and groundbreaking products, high-tech is business as usual in Tampa Bay.

MANUFACTURING AND DISTRIBUTION

From heavy metals to fine cigars—the assembly line never stops in Tampa Bay. CorpTech of Woburn, Massachusetts, an independent business research firm, recently ranked the Tampa Bay MSA as one of the nation’s top areas for high-tech manufacturing job growth. Existing tax measures allow manufacturing companies to expand facilities and create more jobs; a new tax measure with favorable exemptions gives manufacturers the ability to expand through the elimination of a sales tax on machinery which is used fifty percent of the time toward research and development. One of Tampa’s best recognized manufacturers is located in historic Ybor City—Tampa’s “Latin Quarter.” Family-owned J.C. Newman Cigar Company

has been producing 35,000 Cuesta-Ray label Regolettos daily since 1895. Tampa is affectionately called “Cigar City” partially due to J.C. Newman’s success. In 1982, Tampa was designated Foreign Trade Zone #79 by the United States Department of Commerce. The Tampa Foreign Trade Zone is a secured area located within the United States, but technically considered to be outside the territory of U.S. Customs. Foreign trade zones offer the ability to defer, reduce or even eliminate Customs duties on products. When foreign goods are stored, assembled or manufactured in a foreign trade zone, no duty is due. When the finished goods are entered into Customs territory, duty is paid only on goods entered, not on materials or parts used in production. From factories to foundries, cigars to construction goods—manufacturing and distribution in Tampa Bay are forging a bright future for your company.

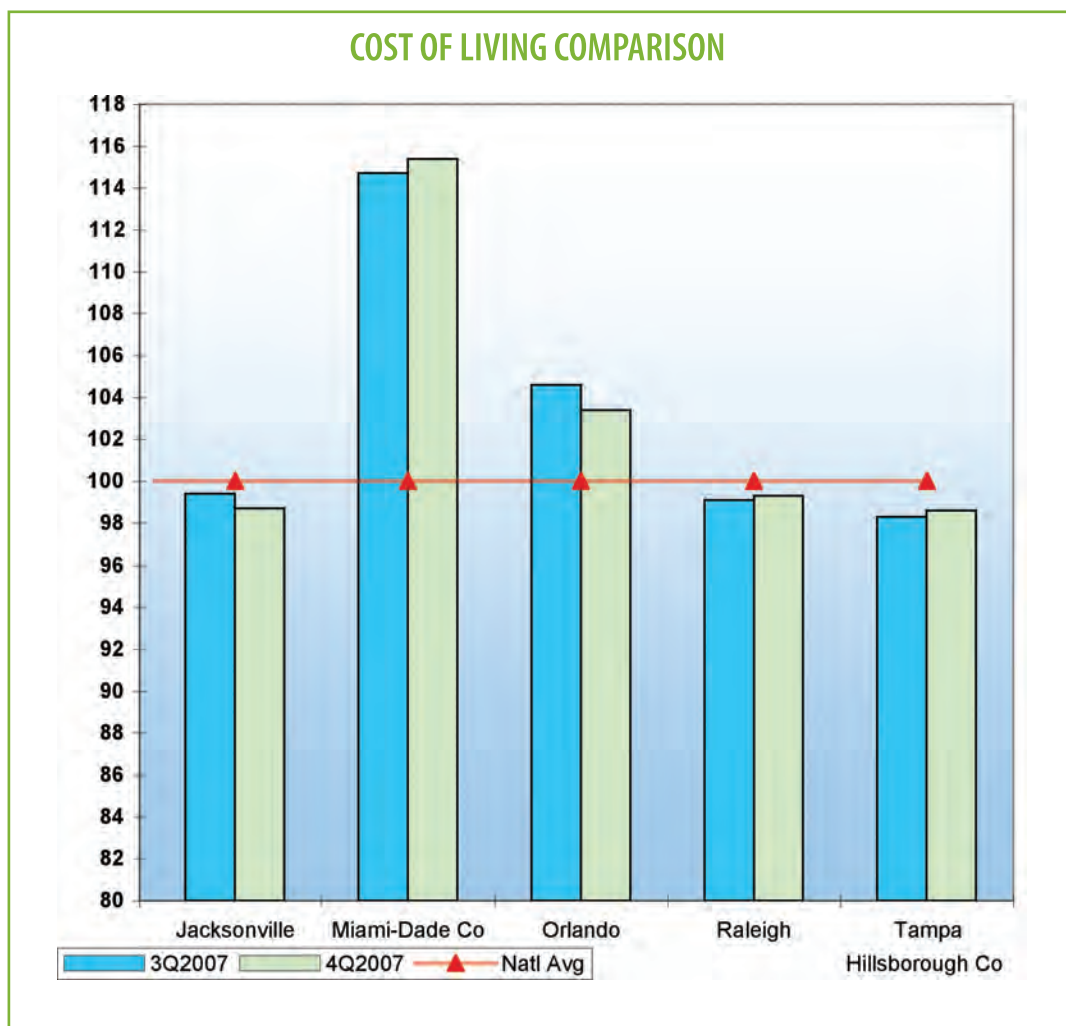
INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Spanish explorers first brought trade to Tampa Bay, a thriving tradition which is now an integral part of our economy contributing billions annually. The Port of Tampa is the largest in Florida and the nation’s 14th largest port overall—12th largest in tonnage. It is also the closest full-service port to the Panama Canal and is tied as the #1 gateway to central and northern South America. Recently, the Port of Tampa became the first U.S. stop

for an Asia-Gulf container shipping express route. Generating more than \$8 billion in economic benefits and creating nearly 100,000 regional jobs and 16,000 local port jobs, it is considered “the largest economic engine in west-central Florida.” A \$48-million investment in container cranes and infrastructure, plenty of available land for expansion, and excellent transportation connections are indicators of continued growth. The port’s close proximity to business districts, interstates, rail terminals and Tampa International Airport offers a competitive advantage. Cargo arriving in Tampa Bay can be easily transported to desired locations.

One of the top 20 container shipping companies in the world, ZIM American Integrated Shipping Services made news last year when one of its ships, the ZIM Adriatic, made its first port-of-call from Asia to Tampa. Bringing expanded reach to our importers and exporters, ZIM has recently added a second vessel. The Port of Tampa is the the nation’s largest exporter of phosphate and Florida’s largest port handling construction and steel—from raw materials to finished products. From citrus to chemicals, scrap metal to new vehicles, 50 million tons of cargo and close to a million cruise passengers passed through our seaport last year. With countless opportunities for international trade, Tampa Bay now reaches beyond the Gulf Coast and throughout the world.





TOURISM

Sparkling blue waters, abundant sunshine and a variety of entertainment offerings fill busy itineraries. Billions of tourism dollars pour into the Tampa Bay economy every year as business people attend regional, national and international conventions. Vacationers enjoy boating, fishing and a wealth of other outdoor activities, in average annual temperatures of 63°F low and 82°F high while spending millions on sporting equipment and other costs associated with “fun in the sun.” Smith Travel Research reports that Hillsborough County alone received 16.9 million visitors in 2006, creating 847 million dollars in wages for more than 50,000 employees in the hospitality industry. The Tampa Convention Center had its best year financially in 2007, receiving \$3 million in rental fees and \$7 million in food and beverage sales. Last year, with record-breaking numbers, Pinellas County played host to 5.3 million over-night visitors who collectively spent more than \$3.3 billion. According

to pinellascounty.org, “if the early explorers were to return today, they would find their ‘gold’ in the form of tourism...” Sand, sun and fun—makes Tampa Bay a great vacation destination.

CONSTRUCTION

New construction across Tampa Bay is resulting in a very different skyline, as well as a strong economy. The Ritz-Carlton Hotel, the preeminent operator of five-star hotels and resorts around the world, has chosen Tampa as one of their newest and most exclusive Sun Coast regional addresses. The upcoming 269-room Ritz-Carlton-Tampa Bay and The Residences of Tampa Bay will occupy a scenic waterfront location with a bayside boardwalk, pool cabanas and a marina. Other hotels planning to open before the 2009 Super Bowl include the Hilton Garden Inn, Townplace Suites, and Homewood Suites. 2007 also saw continued development of Riverwalk, a 2.2-mile linear

park along the east bank of the Hillsborough River in downtown Tampa. The construction industry in Tampa Bay is laying a strong foundation for the future of your business.

EDUCATION

From technical training to doctorate degrees—Tampa Bay is the place for education. Whether just beginning in your discipline, furthering your own education or your employees’ ability to enhance your business opportunities, you’ll have plenty of options from which to choose: University of South Florida, The University of Tampa, Eckerd College, St. Petersburg College, Stetson University College of Law, Hillsborough Community College and many other universities and technical schools in our area.

With 44,891 students in the fall of 2007, USF set a new enrollment record and is now one of largest universities in the Southeast. USF is among the top 63 public research



universities in America and one of only 76 community engaged universities, as designated by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Fortunately for the Tampa Bay area, seventy-five to eighty percent of USF graduates remain in the community. For the second year in a row, the John H. Sykes College of Business at The University of Tampa was named by the *Princeton Review* as an outstanding business school—and one of the 290 best business schools in the world.

From kindergarten to high school, community colleges to higher learning institutions, research grants to tax reimbursement (up to seventy-five percent) for business employee training —Tampa Bay is the place where innovation and education will increase your business productivity.

AGRIBUSINESS

Florida agriculture is ripe and ready for picking. Aside from being the citrus capital of America, Florida offers everything from livestock to fish farms. Hillsborough County has 2,969 farms, the 2nd most of any county in the state, and ranks 3rd in the state in agricultural production. Of the 3,141 counties in America, Hillsborough ranks 45th in agricultural production. The most significant commodities for the Tampa Bay MSA include citrus, beef, poultry, dairy, ornamental plants, tomatoes, strawberries and tropical fish. Hillsborough

County's Plant City has become known as the "Winter Strawberry Capital of the World." Pasco County boasts a thriving agricultural industry, producing everything from beef to citrus. Agribusiness is a blossoming industry in Tampa Bay.

Hillsborough County produces:

- 90% of the strawberries in Florida and 14% of the strawberries in the nation.
- 11% of Florida's tomatoes and 4% of the tomatoes grown in the U.S.
- 85% of the tropical fish produced in Florida.

MILITARY PRESENCE

On April 16, 1941, MacDill Air Force Base was formally named and dedicated. Located just eight miles south of downtown Tampa, MacDill is now the home of Central Command (CENTCOM), Special Operations Command (SOCOM), and the NOAA hurricane hunter fleet and Aircraft Operations Center. The 6th Air Mobility Wing, known for flying missions to enhance the posture of military air refueling and airlift operations in the southeast U.S. and contributing to military operations

around the world, is also based at MacDill. MacDill Air Force Base and its joint-service forces conduct operations at home and overseas, helping to keep America safe. Tampa and MacDill's symbiotic relationship results in a \$5.6-billion annual impact on the Tampa Bay area. MacDill also employs about 12,000 military and 7,000 civilian personnel, making it one of the region's top employers. Roughly eighty percent of military members at MacDill live in local communities rather than on-base housing. The total impact of military operations equals nearly \$1.4 billion. The payroll for local retired veterans exceeds \$2.2 billion and their total economic impact to the Tampa Bay community exceeds \$3.5 billion annually. As important as MacDill Air Force Base is to our nation's security, it is also an intrinsic part of the Tampa Bay community. Tampa is the only metropolitan area to win the prestigious Abilene Trophy, twice in four years, for best community support of an Air Mobility Command installation. Tampa Bay and MacDill are working together to keep America safe and prosperous.



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