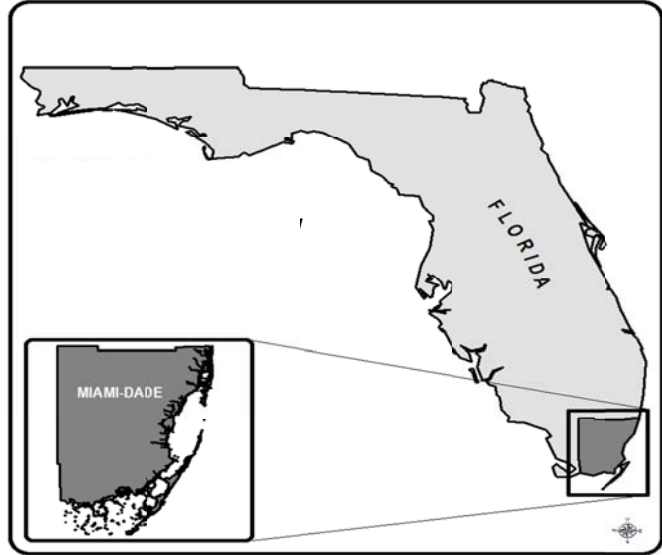


WHERE ARE WE? WHO ARE WE?

Miami-Dade County, formerly known as Dade County, was created on January 18, 1836 under the Territorial Act of the United States. Some believe the city was named Miami, which comes from “Mayaimi” and means very large lake, refers to Lake Okeechobee. The Miami River marked the beginning of a canoe trail through the Everglades to the big lake. Other interpretations include the Native American words for “sweet waters” and “friends.” The County was originally named for Major Francis L. Dade, a soldier killed in 1835 in the Second Seminole War. The name was combined to Miami-Dade County in 1997. Subsequent to the creation of Miami-Dade County, Florida became the twenty-seventh state of the United States of America on March 3, 1845.



Miami-Dade County, Florida is the most populous county in the southeastern United States and the seventh largest in the nation by population. Miami-Dade County is often referred to as the "Gateway to Latin America and the Caribbean." The County's population as of July 2014 is 2,604,265. Miami-Dade County is part of the seven-county South Florida Region, which includes Monroe, Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River counties. Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties comprise the Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the nation's eighth largest MSA and fourth largest urbanized area, with a population of almost 5.828 million.

The population density within the urban area is approximately 1,027 people per square mile. Based on the most recent census data, nearly 77 percent of the total population is White, 19 percent is Black or African American, and four percent is of some other race or combination of races. The largest ethnic group in the County is Hispanic or Latino, representing 65 percent of the population. Approximately 51 percent of the people living in Miami-Dade County in 2011 were foreign-born. Among people, at least five years old, living in Miami-Dade County in 2010, 72 percent spoke a language other than English at home. Of those speaking a language other than English at home, 88 percent spoke Spanish and 12 percent spoke some other language. The 2014 Area Median Income (AMI) for a four-person household as determined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development is \$48,400. As reported by the U.S. Department of Commerce, in 2012 over 19.1 percent of the families in Miami-Dade lived below the poverty line.

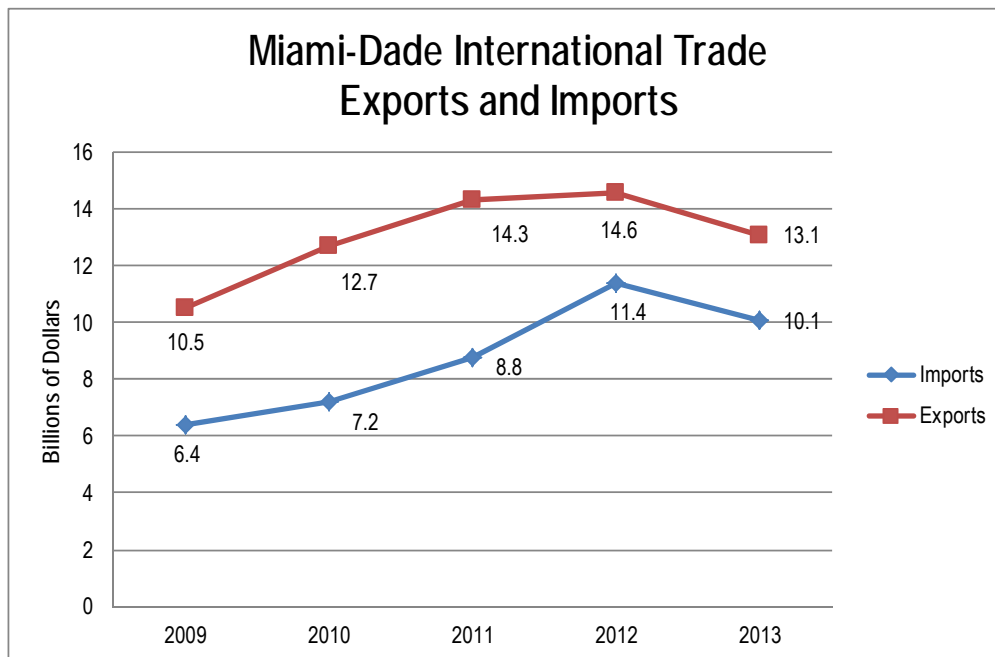
Approximately 424 square miles (excludes bay and coastal water) of the County are within the urbanized area, while the total county land area currently covers a total of 2,420 square miles (1,921 square miles of land and 499 square miles of water) and is bound by Biscayne Bay and the Atlantic Ocean to the east, Everglades National Park to the west, the Florida Keys to the south, and Broward County to the north. Miami-Dade County is the only metropolitan area in the United States that borders two national parks: Biscayne National Park and Everglades National Park.

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The Greater Miami area is the center for international commerce in the southeastern United States and its proximity to the Caribbean, Mexico, and Central and South America makes it a natural center of trade to and from North America and beyond to Europe and Asia. In addition, the international background of many of its residents is an essential labor force characteristic for multi-national companies which must operate across language and cultural differences.

For most of Miami-Dade County's history, the local economy has been based on tourism. In 2013, more than 14.2 million overnight visitors came to Greater Miami, infusing the local economy with \$22.8 billion in direct spending, such as hotel rooms, restaurants, shopping, transportation, and attractions. The hospitality industry employs more than 100,000 residents and generated nearly \$123 million in tourist-related taxes.

During 2012, Miami-Dade County had a total value of \$124 billion in goods and services (Gross Domestic Product), representing 17 percent of the State of Florida's output and almost one percent of the nation's GDP in 2012. While tourism continues to be the principal industry, the region's other five largest private sectors are Health Care and Social Assistance, Retail Trade, Administrative Support and Waste Management Services, Food Services, Professional and Technical Services, and Other Services (including personal care services, religious activities and repair services). In addition, multiple sectors of the Miami-Dade economy are driven by international trade by local companies. Export and import volume through the Miami Customs District continues to expand, and a variety of our target industries has benefited from this growth. Our close proximity to Latin America and the Caribbean make us the center of international trade with those areas.



Source: USA TradeOnline; Regulatory and Economic Resources Department

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In September 2012, the South Florida Regional Planning Council released the South Florida Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for 2012-2017. The CEDS reports that the regional population has begun to grow again, with a significant number of immigrants enhancing our diversity, which is an asset for the region's global competitiveness. While this growth and diversity will provide for the development of new businesses, it will also require the regional governments to make major investments in the region's infrastructure, including water and wastewater, transportation, and solid waste. Lower incomes, higher poverty rates, and relatively lower educational attainment levels mean that improved educational opportunities will be critical to the region's success. The CEDS is intended to align state, regional and local economic development initiatives, utilizing the Florida Chamber Foundation's Six-Pillars of Florida's Future Economy™ as its organizing foundation:

- Talent Supply & Education
- Innovation & Economic Development
- Infrastructure & Growth Leadership
- Business Climate & Competitiveness
- Civic & Governance Systems
- Quality of Life & Quality Places

Miami-Dade County endeavors to support economic development in our region by providing resources to support infrastructure and to make our community livable and sustainable.