

OUR COUNTY

Miami-Dade County has always existed at a crossroads. Early in our history, our region was a site of conflict between Native Americans and European Explorers. At the time of the creation of Miami-Dade County, we were an early transportation hub at the mouth of the Miami River where Henry Flagler's railroad met the ocean. Because we are such a diverse community, we are representative of the American experience, reflecting both the conflict and concord that comes with bringing different people together. Our geographic location has put us squarely at the crux of the climate change crisis. We stand today at the crossroads of our past and the future.

Dade County was created in 1836 and encompassed an area from the present-day Palm Beach County to the Florida Keys. Interpretations of the name "Miami" include the Native American words for "very large lake," "sweet waters," and "friends." Major Francis Dade, our namesake was a soldier killed during the Second Seminole War. In 1997, the two names were combined to become the current Miami-Dade County. With an estimated population of 2.691 million people, Miami-Dade County is the most populous county in the southeastern United States and the seventh largest in the nation by population. 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 total population of more than 5.5 million.



Approximately 424 square miles (excluding bay and coastal water) of the County are within the urbanized area, while the total county area currently covers a total of 2,431 square miles, 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.

As a member of 100 Resilient Cities, we employ the City Resilience Framework (CRF) to assess the extent of our resilience, identify critical areas of weakness, and identify actions and programs to improve upon our strategies. In September, an agenda-setting session was facilitated by the Rockefeller 100 Resilient Cities organization, bringing together community leaders, climate change and resilience experts, and government officials to establish a foundation for our efforts together.

City Resilience Framework

4 Dimensions

Health & Wellbeing: *the health & wellbeing of everyone living and working in the city*

Economy & Society: *the social & financial systems that enable urban populations to live peacefully, and act collectively*

Infrastructure & Environment: *the way in which man-made & natural infrastructure provide critical services and protects urban citizens*

Leadership & Strategy: *effective leadership, empowered stakeholders, and integrated planning*

Because of our location, we are considered to be one of the most vulnerable areas to climate change. The impact of sea level rise has been the focus of our resilience efforts from the beginning. In 2009, Miami-Dade County joined the Southeast Florida Climate Change Compact to collaborate with our neighbors on issues related to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Since its creation, the partners in the Compact have successfully completed a Regional Climate Action Plan, developed a unified sea level rise projection for Southeast Florida, and completed a regional greenhouse gas emissions inventory and a regional vulnerability to sea-level rise analysis. We are now integrating future climate change impacts into community and government decision making for capital, operational, and land-use issues, as we move along the path of the CRF dimension regarding infrastructure and the environment.

Miami-Dade County is a very diverse, international community. More than half of the people living in Miami-Dade County in 2011 were foreign-born and in 2010, more than 70 percent of residents spoke a language other than English at home. The chart below illustrates the breakdown of our major racial and ethnic groups.

Demographics



FY 2016-17 Adopted Budget and Multi-Year Capital Plan

In 2014, the Gross Regional Product in Miami-Dade County grew to \$137.8 billion. The leading industries in the region contributing to this growth include real estate, wholesale trade, retail trade and accommodations and food services. In 2015, total private employment grew nearly 3.6 percent, with the fastest growing sectors including construction, professional and business services, leisure and hospitality, education and health services, financial activities, and retail trade. The top three trade partners in 2014 were Brazil, Colombia, and China and other countries in the top 25 include Costa Rica, Singapore, and United Arab Emirates. When comparing the total value of goods traded between 2013 and 2014, there was a 6.9 percent decline. Projected economic weakness in Europe, South America, and Central America, coupled with a slow-down in China, instability in the Middle East and Eurasia, and a stronger dollar could suppress exports in the coming year.

The 2015 Area Median Income (AMI) for a four-person household as determined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development is \$49,900. In 2014, according to the American Community Survey (ACS), 16.9 percent of the families in Miami-Dade lived below the poverty line, which is determined to be \$24,250 for a family of four in 2015. In 2015, median sale prices continued to grow in Miami-Dade County with single-family homes up 9.7 percent and condominiums/townhomes up 5.4 percent. Although cash buyers of homes are declining, Miami-Dade County continues to remain well above the historical average. Unemployment, foreclosures, and poverty rates were all higher in South Florida as a result of the worst recession since the Great Depression. All are currently greatly improving from the worst performance. The unemployment rate, which was 11.1 percent in 2010, has dropped to 6.9 percent in 2014. Of the fifteen counties with a population above 500,000 that experienced the strongest recovery period and business establishment growth between 2010 and 2014, Miami-Dade County was ranked sixth. Since 2012, the Beacon Council (Miami-Dade County's Official Economic Development Partnership) has worked with 145 different businesses looking to expand in or relocate to Miami-Dade County. That work has led to 2,301 jobs being retained, 10,588 new direct and indirect jobs created, and investments of over \$1.2 billion in new capital.

Because of our diverse population and the challenges faced by people of different backgrounds and economic circumstances, a focus on the health and wellbeing of our residents, as well as our economy and society (two other dimensions of the CRF) are critical for a sustainable future. Drivers of these dimensions include the provision of basic needs, such as affordable and workforce housing, as well as offering opportunities to enable people to secure their own basic needs, including job skills training and capacity building for community-based organizations providing services at the grassroots level. Local funding in the forms of the maintenance of effort from the General Fund and public hospital sales tax revenue ensures public health services are available in our community. The presence of law enforcement and the dedication of crime prevention, especially to deal with the crisis of youth violence, are critical to the ongoing resilience of our community. Defense of our economic position, through effective emergency management for both natural and man-made disasters, contingency planning, and attracting a new and wider array of businesses and investors to our community are all ways that we work to ensure a prosperous future for our residents.