OUR COUNTY

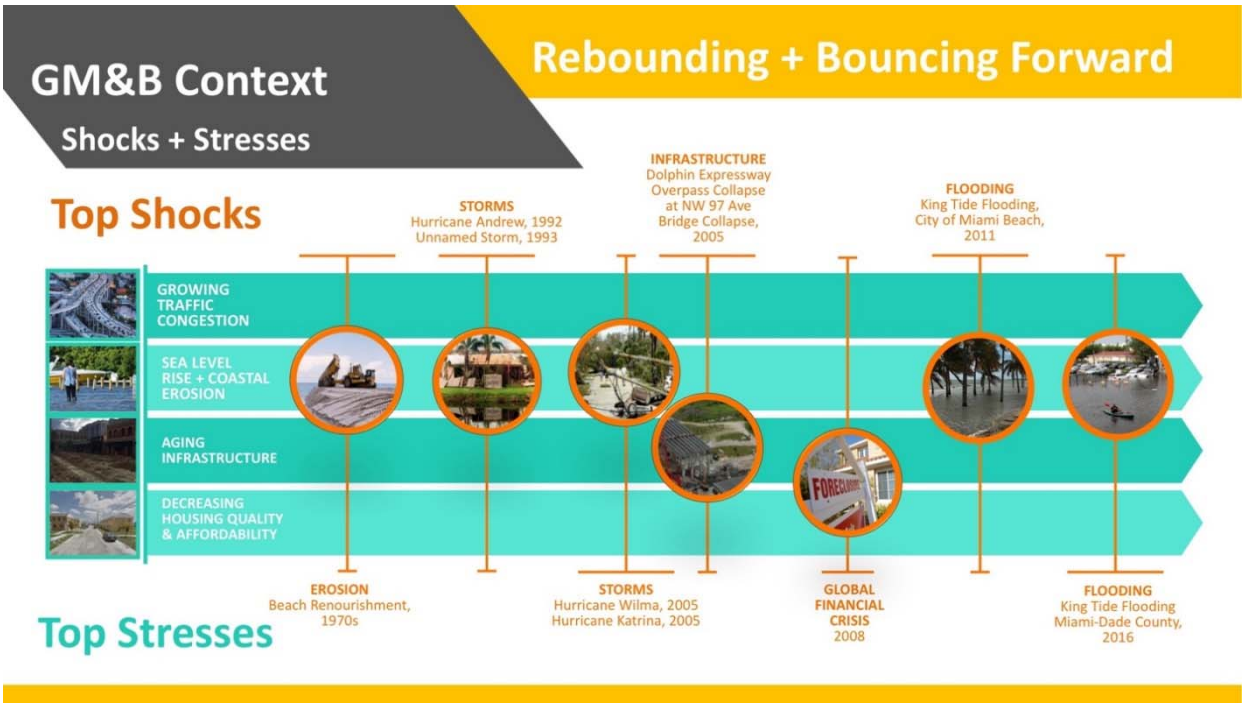
Miami-Dade County has always existed as a crossroads. Early in our history, our region was a site of conflict between Native Americans and European Explorers. Early in its history, Miami-Dade County was a transportation hub serving as the end point of Henry Flagler's railroad that extended from Jacksonville to the mouth of the Miami River and what later became Downtown Miami. 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 Langhorne 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 2.7 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 - West Palm Beach, FL Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the nation's eighth-largest MSA and fourth largest urbanized area, with a total population of more than 6 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.

Resilient Greater Miami and The Beaches

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 take into account future climate change impacts, along with other shocks and stresses, in making decisions regarding capital development, operational needs, and land use. The charts used in this section come from the website for Resilient Greater Miami & The Beaches as well as the Miami-Dade County Planning Department webpage.

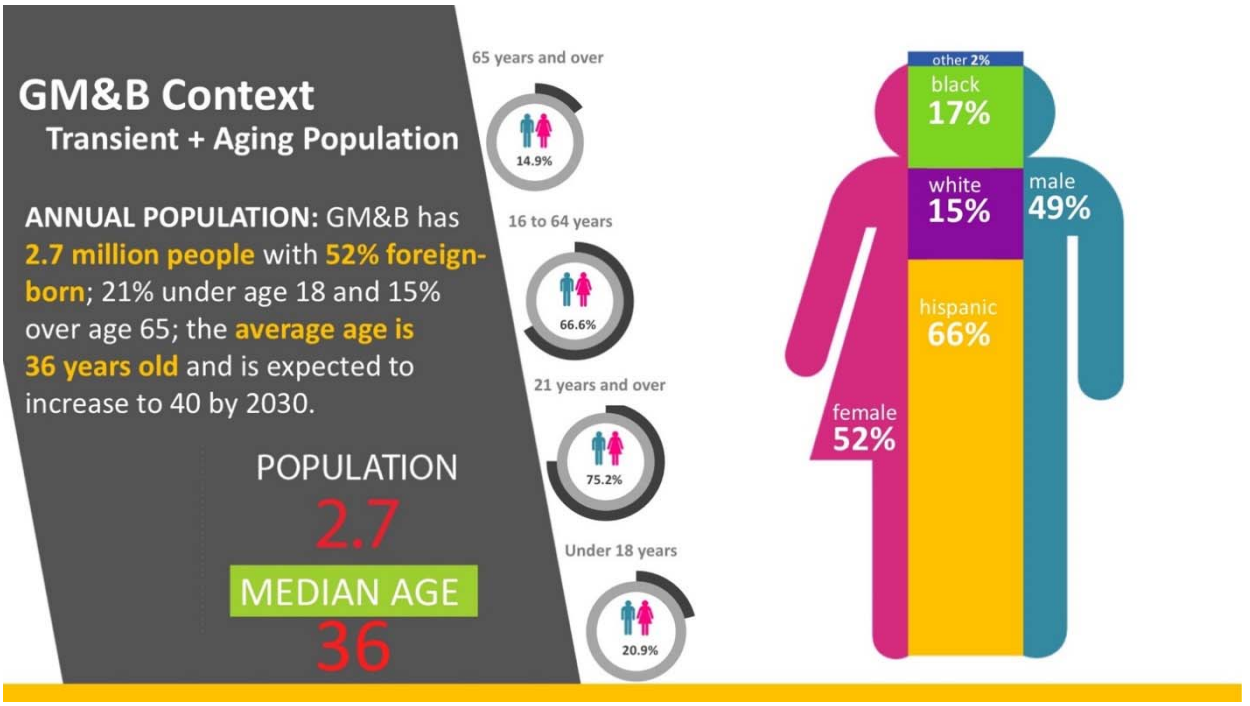


Resilient Greater Miami & The Beaches

Since 2016, Miami-Dade County, along with our municipal partners, Miami and Miami Beach, has been a part of Resilient Greater Miami & the Beaches, a member of 100 Resilient Cities. Also known as # Resilient305, after extensive public outreach and considerable collaboration between governments, agencies, and the private and not-for-profit sectors, the Preliminary Resilience Assessment was released in 2017, serving as the foundation for the next steps in our resilience efforts, outlining six discovery areas.

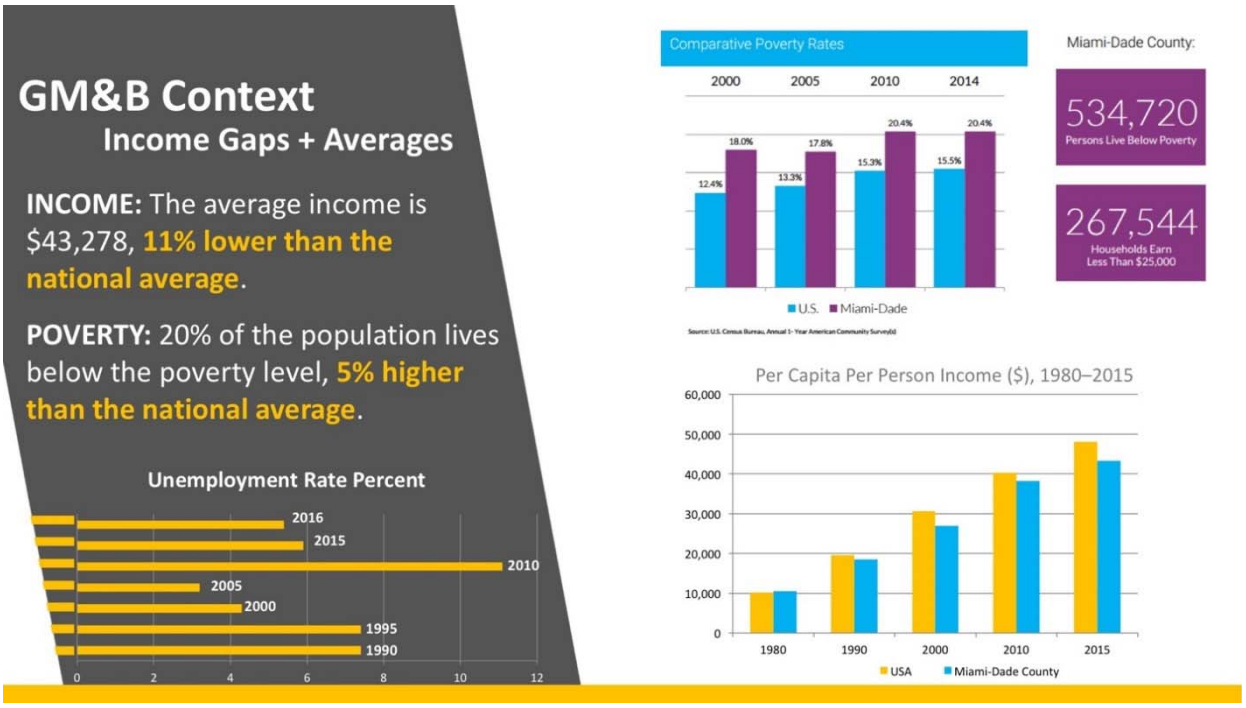
Resilient Greater Miami & The Beaches

By learning more about the people who comprise our community and the economic realities they face, we can better prepare for the future. Miami-Dade County is a very diverse, international community. More than half of the people living in Miami-Dade County at the beginning of this decade were foreign-born and 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, as well as statistics regarding age and gender.



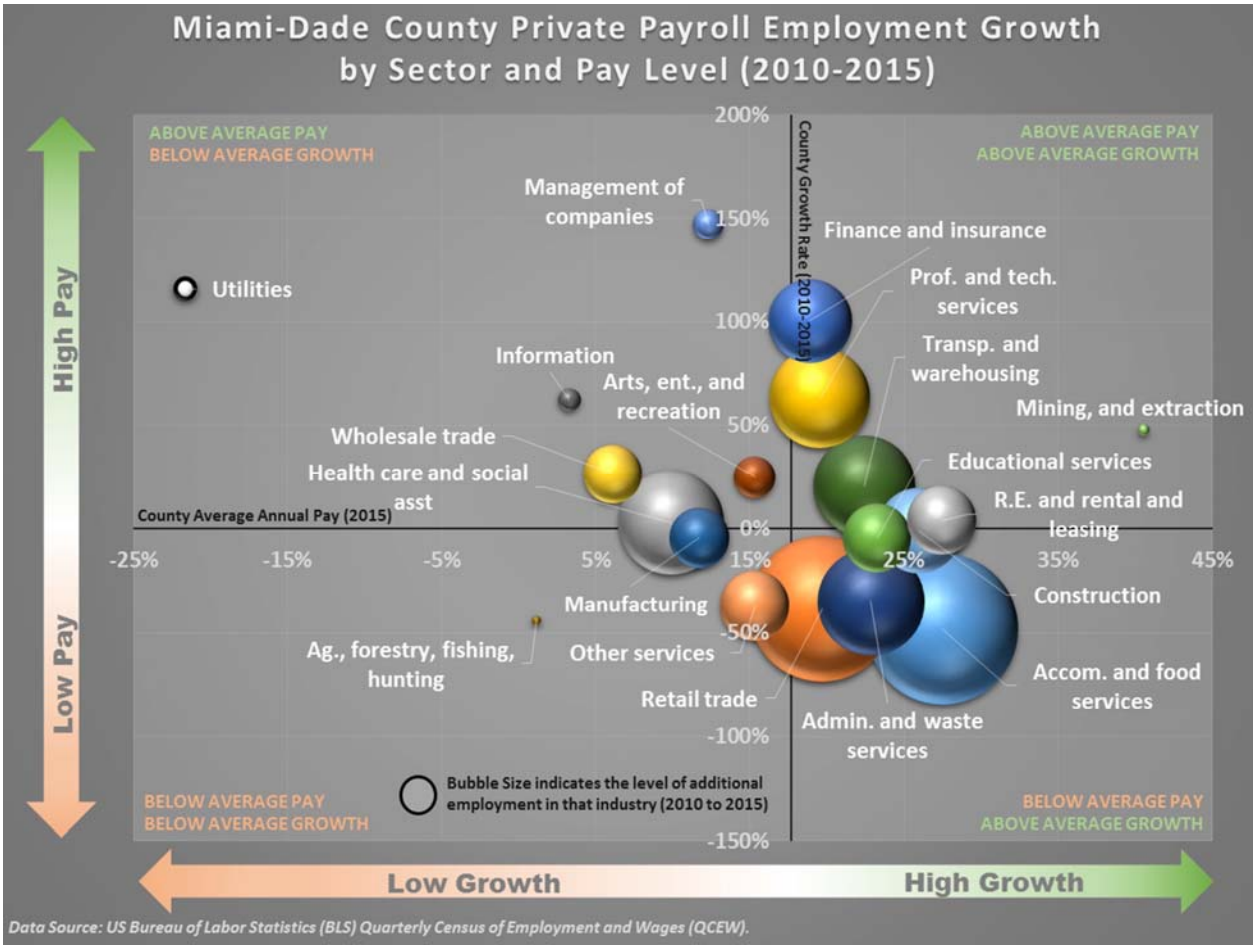
Resilient Greater Miami & The Beaches

The average income of residents in Miami-Dade County is lower than that of the nation as a whole and our rate of poverty is higher than the average for the United States of America. The 2016 Area Median Family Income (MFI) for a four-person household as determined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development is $51,800. In 2015, according to the American Community Survey (ACS), almost 17 percent of the families in Miami-Dade lived below the poverty line. Now, approximately 20 percent of families have an income below the poverty line which is determined to be $28,290 for a family of four in 2017. 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 their worst recent performance. The unemployment rate, which was 11.1 percent in 2010, has dropped to 4.7 percent at the end of 2017.



Resilient Greater Miami & The Beaches

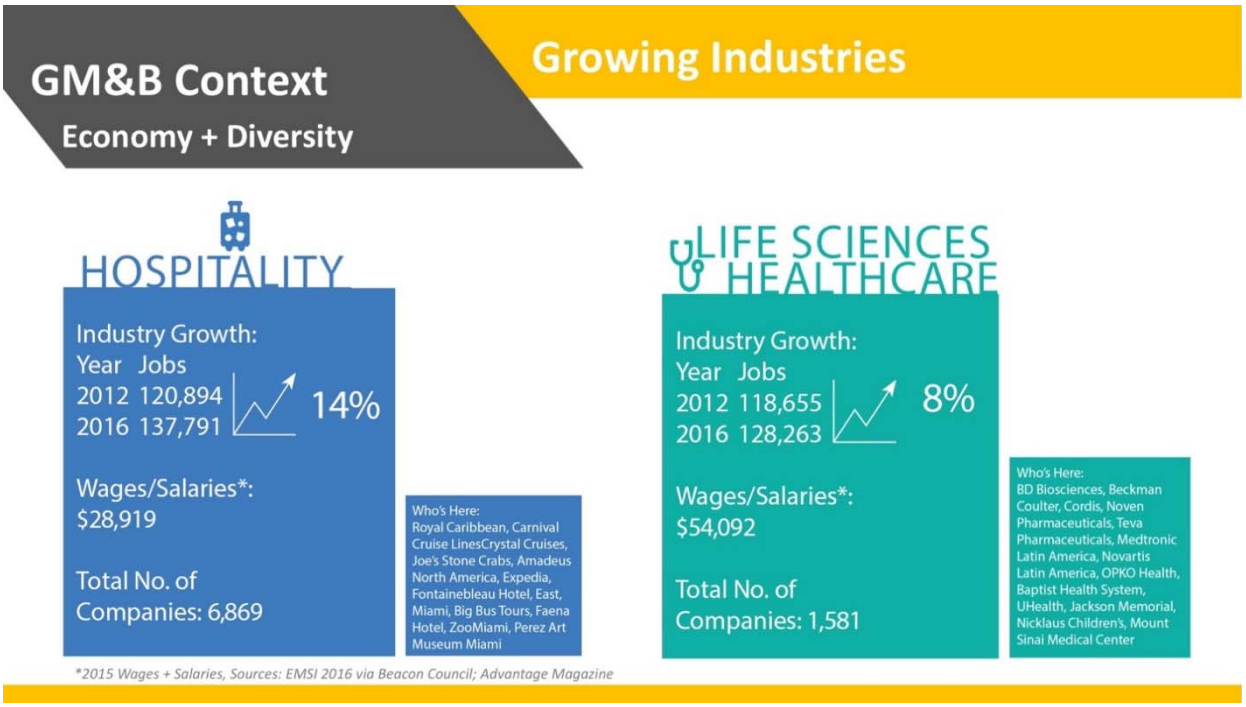
In 2016, the Gross Regional Product in Miami-Dade County grew to $142 billion. The leading industries in the region contributing to this growth include real estate, wholesale trade, retail trade and accommodations and food services. Total private employment grew by more than 18 percent from 2010 to 2015, with the fastest growing sectors including professional and business services, leisure and hospitality, education and health services, financial activities, retail trade, education and health services, and transportation and utilities. Hiring in construction and manufacturing has slowed of late, with both industries shedding jobs in 2015. Public sector employment continued its decade-long decline, also shedding nearly 13,000 jobs in that period.



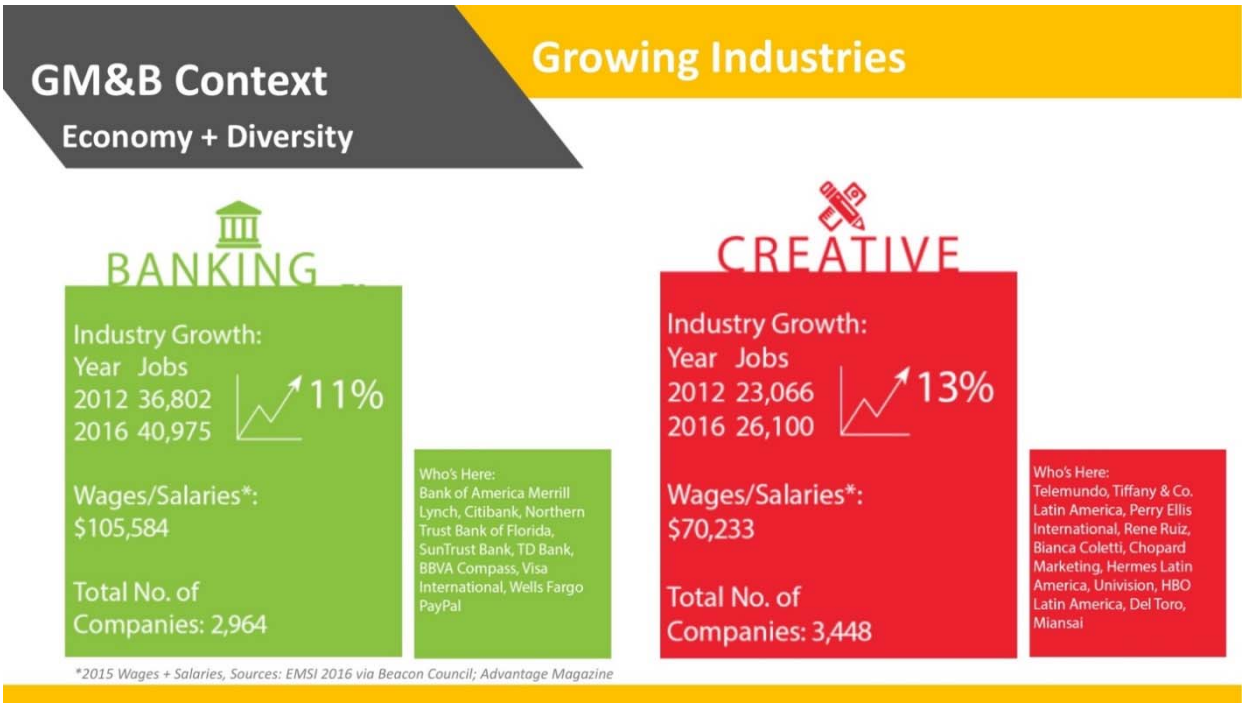
Miami-Dade County Planning Department webpage

The chart above portrays both relative growth and the relative pay of the major industries employing residents of Miami-Dade County. The countywide average annual pay in 2015 was $49,835 per job, a 1.8 percent increase over 2010 when adjusted for inflation. In 2015, jobs in the construction, manufacturing, trade, educational and food services industries paid less than the average wage. Transportation, information, financial, health care and technical services jobs paid more than the average in 2015.

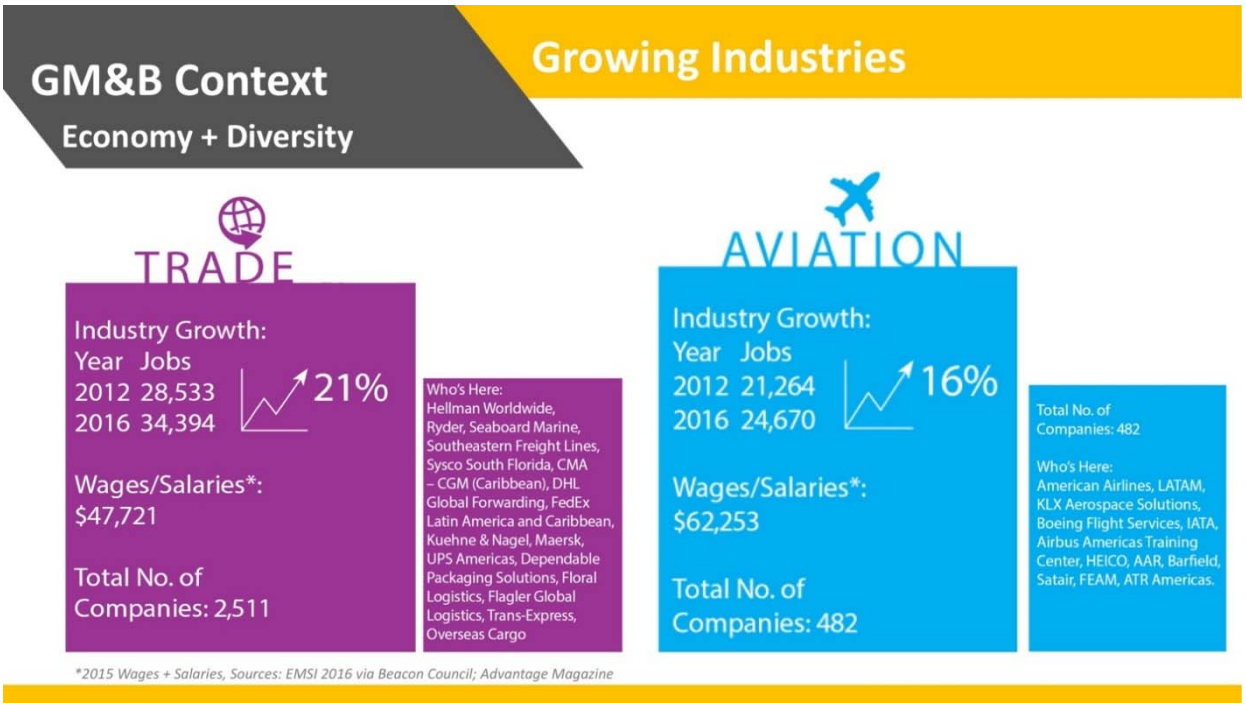
The Preliminary Resilience Assessment provided information regarding the leading growth industries in Miami-Dade County. The follow charts illustrate the number of jobs, the average wages, and the representative companies for the top industries, including hospitality, life science and health care, banking, creative, trade, aviation and technology.



Resilient Greater Miami & The Beaches



Resilient Greater Miami & The Beaches



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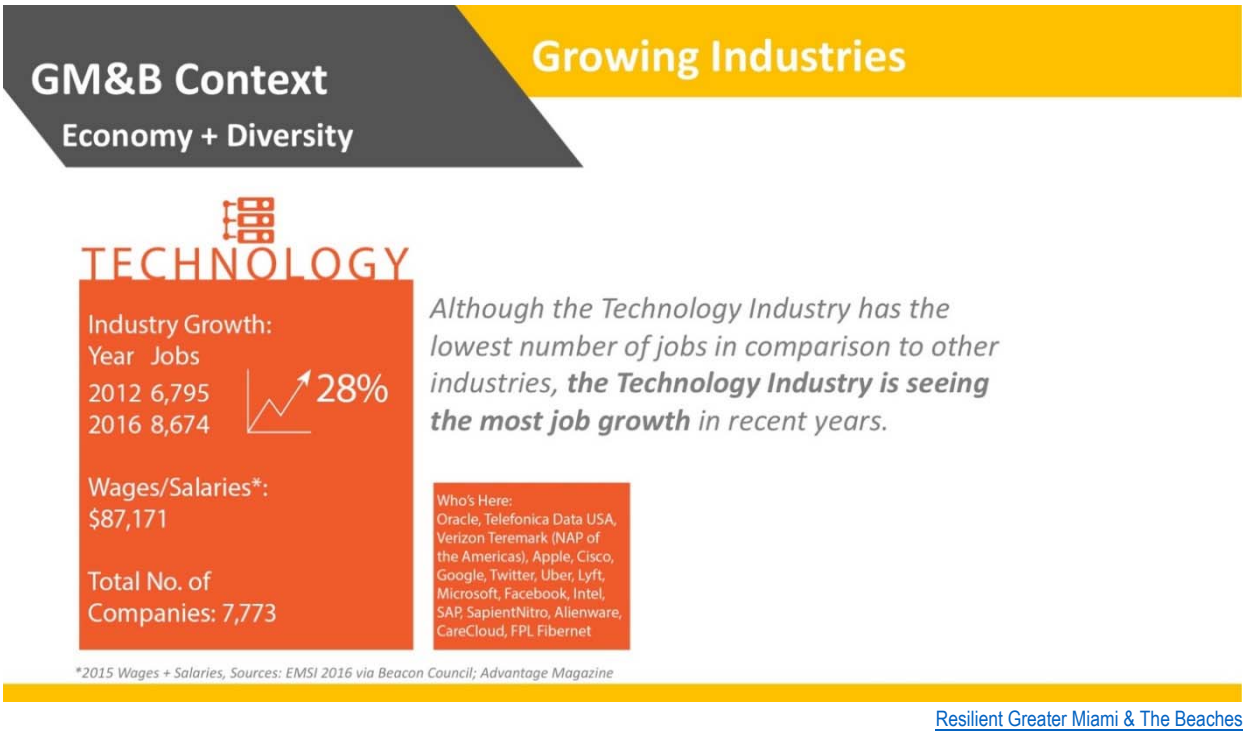

Resilient Greater Miami & The Beaches

Miami-Dade County home sales surged to a new high in May 2017 – 9.9 percent higher than May of 2016 and better than the previous record of 1,276 transactions in May of 2015. Prices for single family homes were up 14.1 percent and condominiums/townhouses were 6.1 percent higher in 2017. Although cash buyers of homes are declining, Miami-Dade County continues to remain well above the historical average, which has led to increases in the property tax rolls beyond expectations. However, because of the hot real estate market, rent, as a share of household income, is much higher in Miami-Dade County than the share nationally and the average share of the 25 largest counties in the United States. Rents for single family homes, as a share of local monthly median income, were triple the ratio calculated nationwide and the same measure for rents in the multi-family market were two and a half times higher than the national average.

Miami's trade with the world rose 3.08 percent, from $104.49 billion to $107.71 billion in 2017 when compared to the same period the previous year, according to a WorldCity analysis of latest U.S. Census Bureau data. Through December the district's top five trade partners were Brazil, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, and Chile. Miami's exports increased 5.45 percent while imports rose 0.34 percent. Miami's surplus was $10.65 billion. Miami's top five exports by value through December were aircraft parts; cellular telephones and related equipment; computers; gold; and medical instruments for surgeons, dentists, and veterinarians, accounting for 31.56 percent of total exports from Miami. The top five imports by value were gold; exports returned without change; cellular telephones and related equipment; returned exports, after repair; and aircraft. They accounted for 26.71 percent of all inbound shipments.

The tourism industry is a critical part of the South Florida economy and Miami International Airport and Port Miami are significant economic generators for our community, bringing tourists and cargo, and creating jobs and revenue. The tourism industry anticipated a significant impact from the combination of the Zika virus outbreak, as well as the arrival of Hurricane Irma in September 2017. Despite those shocks to the tourism economy, again in 2017, Greater Miami and the Beaches were visited by a record number of tourists, with more than 15.8 million overnight visitors. Domestic tourism was relatively flat, but international tourism grew by more than two percent. During 2017, overnight visitors spent an estimated $25.97 billion in direct expenditures in our community, with international tourist accounting for more than 60 percent of total spending. The average daily expenditure per visitor was $270.62 and the average expenditure per person per visit was $1,637.26, an increase of 1.8 percent compared to 2016, and was primarily influenced by increased spending on shopping and entertainment. Miami Beach remained the most common area for visitor lodging, with Downtown Miami and North Dade/Sunny Isles Beach also top destinations. The following is a percentage breakdown of where visitors to Miami-Dade County who used lodging stayed in 2017:

- Miami Beach (58.5%)
- Downtown Miami (14.9%)
- Airport Area (10.9%)
- North Dade/Sunny Isles Beach (8.1%)
- South Miami-Dade (2.4%)
- Coconut Grove (2.0%)
- Coral Gables (1.9%)
- Doral (1.7%)
- Key Biscayne (1.5%)

Tourist tax revenue collections in Miami-Dade County were virtually flat FY 2016-17, when compared to FY 2015-16. However, these collections are projected to grow more than 14 percent in FY 2017-18 and another almost five percent

for FY 2018-19, helped by an agreement with Airbnb to pay applicable tourist taxes for visitors using its service. Negotiations continue with other similar service providers.

Our ports were busy in 2017. More than 44 million passengers traveled through Miami International Airport, a slight decrease from the prior year due to the flight cancellations during Hurricane Irma. Cargo tonnage grew slightly to 2.3 million tons, up from 2.2 million tons in 2016. Cruise passengers through Port Miami are anticipated to increase by four percent to 5.6 million in FY 2017-18, helped by new cruise ship arrivals. Cargo through Port Miami is anticipated to increase by just over four percent in FY 2017-18 to 1.07 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalents).

To provide for a safer and stronger community, the resilience strategy promoted by 100 Resilient Cities, we need to focus on infrastructure investment, provision of affordable housing, development of a diverse economy, and public safety. Each of these areas is a focus in our Proposed Budget. Development of a diverse economy is perhaps the most critical, because a healthy economy can provide the resources needed to fund the other needs. We learned during and after Hurricane Irma that our dependence upon the tourism industry can be a weakness for our community. It is important that we work to identify other employment sectors for our residents. The shock of Hurricane Irma to our local economy led to nearly 600,000 applications for individual assistance due to lost wages and other hurricane related expenditures. In the coming fiscal year, emphasis will be placed on developing opportunities for more sustainable employment opportunities, with jobs that are not as susceptible to impact by weather events.