

GENERAL INFORMATION RELATIVE TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Set forth below is certain general information concerning County government and certain governmental services provided by the County.

History

Miami-Dade County, Florida (the "County") is the largest county in the southeastern United States in terms of population. The County covers 2,209 square miles, located in the southeastern corner of the State of Florida (the "State"), and includes, among other municipalities, the cities of Miami, Miami Beach, Coral Gables and Hialeah. In 2014, the population of the County was estimated at 2,586,290.

The County was created on January 18, 1836 under the Territorial Act of the United States. It included the land area now forming Palm Beach and Broward Counties, together with the land area of the present County. In 1909, Palm Beach County was established from the northern portion of what was then Dade County. In 1915, Palm Beach County and the County contributed nearly equal portions of land to create what is now Broward County. There have been no significant boundary changes to the County since 1915.

County Government

The State Legislature in 1955 approved and submitted to a general election a constitutional amendment designed to give a new form of government to the County. The amendment was approved in a statewide general election in November 1956. A Dade County Charter Board was constituted and, in April 1957, completed a draft charter for the County. The proposed charter (the "Charter") was adopted in a countywide election in May 1957 and became effective on July 20, 1957. The electors of the County were granted power to revise and amend the Charter from time to time by countywide vote.

Since 2007, the electors have amended the County Charter to materially change how the County is governed. Previously, the County was governed by a Board of County Commissioners ("Board") with all administrative matters handled by a County Manager who reported to the Board. Under this form of government, the elected Mayor had limited powers. As a result of three Charter amendments, the electors have established a "strong mayor" form of government. All administrative matters were transferred from the County Manager to the Mayor on November 4, 2008 and the office of County Manager was eliminated as a charter office on November 14, 2012. The Mayor has authority over all departments including the appointment of each director.

The County has home rule powers, subject only to the limitations of the Constitution and general laws of the State. The County, in effect, is both (1) a county government with certain powers effective throughout the entire County, including 34 municipalities, and (2) a municipal government for the unincorporated area of the County. The County does not displace or replace the cities, but supplements them. The County can take over particular activities of a city's operations if the services fall below minimum standards set by the Board or with the consent of the governing body of a particular city.

The County has assumed responsibility on a countywide basis for an increasing number of functions and services, including the following:

(a) Countywide police services, complementing the municipal police services within the cities and providing full-service police protection for the unincorporated areas of the County, with direct access to the National Crime Information Center in Washington, D.C. and the Florida Crime Information Center.

(b) Uniform system of fire protection, complementing the municipal fire protection services within five municipalities and providing full-service fire protection for the Miami-Dade Fire and Rescue Service District, which includes the unincorporated area of the County and the 30 municipalities which have consolidated their fire departments within the Miami-Dade Fire and Rescue Department. The Miami-Dade Fire and Rescue Department also provides emergency medical services by responding to and providing on-site treatment to the seriously sick and injured.

(c) Certain expenses of the State's consolidated two-tier court system (pursuant to Florida Statutes §29.008), are the responsibility of the County. The two-tier court system consists of the higher Circuit Court and the lower County Court. The Circuit Court handles domestic relations, felonies, probate, civil cases where the amount in dispute is \$15,000 or more, juvenile cases, and appeals from the County Court. The County Court handles violations of municipal ordinances, misdemeanors and civil cases where the amount in dispute is less than \$15,000.

(d) Countywide water and sewer system operated by the Water and Sewer Department.

(e) Jackson Memorial Hospital ("JMH") which is operated, maintained and governed by an independent governing body called the Public Health Trust (the "Trust"). Based on the number of admissions to a single facility, JMH is one of the nation's busiest medical centers. The Board appoints members of the Board of Trustees for the Trust and also approves the budget of the Trust. The County continues to subsidize treatment of indigent patients on a contractual basis with the Trust.

(f) Unified transit system, consisting of various surface public transportation systems, a 24.8 mile long rapid transit system, the Metromover component of the rapid rail transit system with 4.4 miles of an elevated double-loop system, and Metrobus operating approximately 29 million revenue miles annually.

(g) Combined public library system consisting of the Main Library, 48 branches and 2 mobile libraries offering educational, informational and recreational programs and materials. Construction is almost completed at the future Northeast Branch. The Miami-Dade Public Library System continues to play an important role in the lives of our residents. In fiscal year 2014, there were 5.8 million visitors, more than 7.7 million questions answered, 5.6 million materials as books, movies, music, audio borrowed, 2.9 million computer hours logged, and 4.3 million hits on electronic resources. The Library also assisted more than 7,900 patrons in their job search related needs, whether it was spending one-on-one time with staff, or attending a resume writing or computer class. Its web page offers an extensive digital library of more than 8,000 downloadable e-books, videos and music that is available 24/7.

(h) Property appraisal services are performed by the County's Property Appraiser's office. Tax collection services are performed by the Miami-Dade Tax Collector. All collected taxes are distributed directly to each governmental entity, according to its respective tax levy. The municipalities, the Board of Public Instruction and several State agencies use data furnished to them by the Miami-Dade Tax Collector for the purpose of budget preparations and for their governmental operations.

(i) Enforcing minimum standards throughout the County, in areas such as environmental resources management, building and zoning, consumer protection, health, housing and welfare.

(j) Garbage and trash collection, to an average of 322,405 households during Fiscal Year 2014 within the unincorporated area and certain municipalities of the County, and disposal services to public and private haulers countywide.

(k) The Dante B. Fascell Port of Miami (the "Port") is owned and operated by the County through the Seaport Department. The Port is the world's largest multi-day cruise port in terms of cruise passengers, handling over 4,771,983 passengers in Fiscal Year 2014. As of September 2014, the Port had the largest container cargo port in the State, and is within the top ten in the United States in total number of containers held.

(l) The following airport facilities: (i) the Miami International Airport the principal commercial airport serving South Florida; (ii) the Opa-locka Executive Airport, a 1,810 acre facility; (iii) the Opa-locka West Airport, a 420 acre facility that has been decommissioned, (iv) the Miami Executive Airport, a 1,380-acre facility, (v) the Homestead General Aviation Airport, a 960-acre facility; and (vi) the Training and Transition Airport, a facility of approximately 24,300 acres located in Collier and Miami-Dade Counties. All of these facilities are County-owned and operated by the Miami-Dade Aviation Department.

(m) Several miscellaneous services, including mosquito and animal control.

Economy

The County's economy has transitioned from mixed service and industrial in the 1970s to a knowledge-based economy. The shift to knowledge-based sectors, such as life sciences, aviation, financial services and IT/Telecom has diversified the local economy. Other important sectors include international trade, health services and the tourism industry which remains one of the largest sectors in the local economy. Wholesale and retail trades are strong economic forces in the local economy, as well and are projected to continue, which is reflective of the County's position as a wholesale center in Southeast Florida, serving a large international market. The diversification of the economy creates a more stable economic base.

In an effort to further strengthen and diversify the County's economic base, the County commissioned a private consulting firm in 1984 to identify goals and objectives for various public and private entities. The Beacon Council was established as a public private partnership to promote these goals and objectives.

International Commerce

The Greater Miami Area is the center for international commerce for the southeastern United States. Its proximity to the Caribbean, Mexico, Central and South America makes it a natural center for trade to and from North America. Approximately, 1,200 multinational corporations are established in South Florida. In addition, the international background of many of its residents is an important labor force characteristic for multinational companies which operate across language and cultural differences.

Trade with Latin America, Europe and Caribbean countries has generated substantial growth in the number of financial institutions conducting business in the County. The large Spanish-speaking labor force and the County's proximity to Latin America have also contributed to the growth of the banking industry in the County. According to the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, as of September 30, 2014 there were 14 Edge Act Banks throughout the United States; four of those institutions were located in the County with over \$10.0 billion on deposit. Edge Act Banks are federally chartered organizations offering a wide range of banking services, but limited to international transactions only. These banking institutions are: Banco Itau Europa International; Banco Santander International, HSBC Private Bank International and Standard Chartered Bank International.

The County had the highest concentration of international bank agencies on the east coast south of New York City, with a total of 25 foreign chartered banks as of September 30, 2014, according to the Florida Department of Financial Services, Office of Financial Regulations.

Corporate Expansion

The favorable geographic location of the County, a well-trained labor force and the favorable transportation infrastructure have allowed the economic base of the County to expand by attracting and retaining many national and international firms doing business with Latin America, the Caribbean, the United States and the rest of the world. Among these corporations with world and/or national headquarters in the County are: Carnival Cruise Lines, Royal Caribbean Cruises, and Lennar. Those corporations with Latin American regional headquarters include: Exxon, AIG, Microsoft, Visa International and Wal-mart.

Industrial Development

The role of the Miami-Dade County Industrial Development Authority (the "IDA") is the development and management of the tax-exempt industrial development revenue bond program which serves as a financial incentive to support private sector business and industry expansion and location. Programs developed are consistent with the IDA's legal status and compatible with the economic development goals established by the Board and other economic development organizations operating in the County. Between 1979 and the creation of the Beacon Council in 1986, the IDA provided expansion and location assistance to 195 private sector businesses, accounting for a capital investment of \$695 million and the creation of over 11,286 new jobs.

The IDA's principal program, the Tax-Exempt Industrial Development Revenue Bond Program, has generated 454 applications through September 2014. From 1986 to February 2014, bonds for 237 company projects have been issued in an aggregate principal amount in excess of \$2.0 billion. Approximately 10,093 new jobs have been generated by these projects. The IDA continues to manage approximately 34 outstanding Industrial Development Revenue Bond Issues, approximating \$727 million in capital investment.

Other Developmental Activities

In October 1979, the Miami-Dade County Health Facilities Authority (the "Health Authority") was formed to assist local not-for-profit health care corporations to acquire, construct, improve or refinance health care projects located in the County through the issuance of tax-exempt bonds or notes. As of September 2014, the total amount of revenue bonds issued by the Health Authority was over \$2.1 billion.

In October 1969, the Board created the Miami-Dade County Educational Facilities Authority (the "EFA") to assist institutions of higher learning within the County to have an additional means to finance facilities and structures needed to maintain and expand learning opportunities and intellectual development. As of September 2014, the EFA had issued 53 series of bonds totaling over \$1.8 billion.

In December 1978, the Housing Finance Authority of Miami-Dade County (Florida) (the "HFA") was formed to issue bonds to provide the HFA with moneys to purchase mortgage loans secured by mortgages on single family residential real property owned by low and moderate income persons residing in the County. Since its inception the HFA has generated \$1.20 billion in mortgage funds through the issuance of revenue bonds under the Single Family Mortgage Revenue Bond Program. As of September 2014, under the HFA's Multi-Family Mortgage Revenue Bond Program, revenue bonds aggregating approximately \$1.091 billion had been issued for new construction or rehabilitation of 19,515 units.

The bonds issued by the foregoing authorities and the IDA are not debts or obligations of the County or the State or any political subdivision thereof, but are payable solely from the revenues provided by the respective private activity borrower as security therefor.

Film Industry

Miami-Dade County's film and entertainment industry growth has declined rapidly because of the depletion of available tax credits in the State Entertainment Production Tax Incentive Program since the end of 2013. Direct production spend has declined approximately 40% since last year. Despite the statewide lobbying efforts of industry stakeholders, the Florida production tax incentive program was not infused with more funding and the result is a loss of business to States like Georgia and Louisiana that have well-funded programs. High Impact television series have been our largest economic generator in the film industry. Miami-Dade County saw the return of the high Impact Fox Television series, Graceland. Netflix brought a new television series (by the producers of Damages) Bloodline to our area and in November 2014, Home Box Office (HBO) begins shooting the television series Ballers, starring Dwayne (The Rock) Johnson which has made its production base in Downtown Miami. Both Bloodline and Ballers have benefited from the State's production tax incentive program and are anticipated to bring in approximately \$60 million to the County. Spanish language television, in particular, Telenovelas, continue to be a constant in Miami-Dade County. Some notable recent Spanish language telenovelas are Cosita Linda, Sangre en el Divan, En Otra Piel, Reina de Corazones, Duenas Del Paraiso, Voltea Pa Que Enaromes, Santa Diables, Ruta 35, Dama Y Obrero, Relatos. Miami is still a favorite shooting locale for Reality television shows such as Million Dollar Listing Miami, Real Housewives of Miami, South Beach Tow, Bakery Boss, Despirita America, Four Weddings, Top Gear and Keeping Up with the Kardashians. Television commercials and print advertising continue to shoot their projects in Miami-Dade County. This sector generated approximately \$28 million in direct spend to the local economy. Despite the lack of statewide entertainment production incentives, Miami-Dade County is still an attractive place for all sectors of the film and entertainment production industry to shoot their projects. As we look for alternative ways to encourage long-term growth of this very important and economic generating industry and retain our skilled workforce, we are encouraged that our diverse locations, our experienced crew and talent base and industry infrastructure will continue to attract film and entertainment production to Miami-Dade County.

Surface Transportation

The County owns and operates through its Transit Department a unified multi-modal public transportation system. Operating in a fully integrated configuration, the County's Transit Department provides public transportation services through: (i) Metrorail - a 24.8-mile, 23-station elevated electric rail line connecting South Miami-Dade and the City of Hialeah with the Downtown and Civic Center areas as well as Miami International Airport providing 21.6 million passenger trips annually; (ii) Metromover - a fully automated, driverless, 4.4-mile elevated electric double-loop people-mover system interfaced with Metrorail and completing approximately 9.9 million passenger trips annually throughout 21 stations in the central business district and south to the Brickell international banking area and north to the Adrienne Arsht Center; and (iii) Metrobus, including both directly operated and contracted conventional urban bus service, operating approximately 29 million revenue miles per year, interconnecting with all Metrorail stations and key Metromover stations, and providing over 76.8 million passenger trips annually.

The County also provides Para-transit service to qualified elderly and handicapped riders through its Special Transportation Service, which supplies over 1.68 million passenger trips per year in a demand-response environment.

Additionally, the County's Transit Department is operating the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) on the South Miami-Dade Busway, a dedicated-use BRT corridor that runs parallel to US1/South Dixie Highway. The South Miami-Dade Busway, which began operating in 1997 and was extended in December 2007, traverses over twenty miles, connecting Florida City (SW 344th Street) with the Metrorail system, with connection to downtown Miami.

Airport

The County owns and operates the Miami International Airport (the "Airport"), the principal commercial airport serving Southeast Florida. The Airport has also the second highest international passenger traffic in the U.S. During Fiscal Year 2014, the Airport handled 40,844,964 passengers and 2,187,943 tons of air freight. The Airport is classified by the Federal Aviation Administration as a large hub airport, the highest classification given by that organization. The Airport is also one of the principal maintenance and overhaul bases, as well as a principal training center, for the airline industry in the United States, Central and South America, and the Caribbean.

Passengers and Cargo Handled by Airport 2010-2014

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Passengers (in thousands)</u>	<u>Cargo Tonnage (in millions)</u>	<u>Total Landed Weight (million lbs.)</u>
2010	35,029	1.99	31,148
2011	37,633	2.00	32,516
2012	39,564	2.10	33,548
2013	40,115	2.13	34,438
2014	40,845	2.18	35,298

SOURCE: Miami-Dade County Aviation Department

Seaport

The Port is an island port, which covers 640 acres of land, operated by the Seaport Department. It is the world's largest multi-day cruise port. Embarkations and debarkations on cruise ships totaled over 4.7 million passengers for Fiscal Year 2014. With the increase in activity from the Far-East markets and South and Central America, cargo tonnage transiting the Port amounted to approximately 7.6 million tons for Fiscal Year 2014.

The following table sets forth a five-year summary of both cruise passengers served and cargo handled:

Passengers and Cargo Handled by Port 2010-2014

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Cruise Passengers (in thousands)</u>	<u>Cargo Tonnage (in millions)</u>
2010	4,145	7.38
2011	4,018	8.22
2012	3,774	8.10
2013	4,078	7.98
2014	4,771	7.69

SOURCE: Miami-Dade County Seaport Department

Tourism

The Greater Miami Area is a leading center for tourism in the State of Florida. Miami was the primary destination for domestic air travelers after Orlando according to the Florida Division of Tourism. It is also the principal port of entry in the State for international air travelers. The Airport has the second highest international passenger traffic behind New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport.

A record estimated 14.5 million visitors spent at least one night in Greater Miami and the Beaches in 2014, a 2.4% increase over 2013. Domestic visitors accounted for 50% of all overnight visitors and international visitors made up 50% of all overnight visitors. Compared to other domestic cities, Miami has the largest percentage of international visitors.

Latin America continued to be a leading source of international visitors to Greater Miami and the Beaches, accounting for over 5.0 million visitors in 2014. Visitors from Europe increased in 2014, compared to 2013 accounting for over 1.4 million visitors. Canadian and other visitors increased in 2014 up 4.9%, accounting for roughly 820,000 visitors overall.

The following is a five-year schedule of domestic and international visitors, including a further breakdown of international visitors by region of origin, and the estimated economic impact produced by those visitors:

Tourism Statistics 2010-2014						
	Visitors (in thousands)			Estimated Economic Impact (in millions)		
	<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Int'l</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Int'l</u>	<u>Total</u>
2010	6,544	6,060	12,604	\$ 6,485	\$ 12,430	\$ 18,915
2011	6,948	6,495	13,443	7,089	14,529	21,618
2012	7,075	6,834	13,909	7,482	15,183	22,665
2013	7,087	7,132	14,219	7,840	15,954	23,794
2014	7,303	7,260	14,563	7,885	15,966	23,851

SOURCE: Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau

International Visitors by Region 2010-2014 (in thousands)					
<u>Year</u>	<u>European</u>	<u>Caribbean</u>	<u>Latin American</u>	<u>Canada /Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
2010	1,307	689	3,362	703	6,061
2011	1,325	703	3,720	748	6,496
2012	1,368	719	3,986	761	6,073
2013	1,332	719	4,300	781	7,132
2014	1,430	755	4,254	820	7,259

SOURCE: Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau

Employment

The following table illustrates the economic diversity of the County's employment base. No single industry dominates the County's employment market, and there have not been any significant decreases within the industry classifications displayed for the latest years for which information is available:

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL ESTABLISHMENTS 2012-2014

	Sept. 2012	Percent	Sept. 2013	Percent	Sept. 2014	Percent
Goods Producing Sector						
Construction	27,700	2.7	30,100	2.9	39,200	3.6
Manufacturing	34,800	3.5	36,500	3.5	38,900	3.6
Mining & Natural Resources	400	0.0	400	0.0	400	0.0
Total Goods-Producing Sector	62,900	6.2	67,000	6.4	78,500	7.2
Service Providing Sector						
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	61,500	6.1	61,700	6.0	66,300	6.0
Wholesale Trade	68,900	6.8	74,800	7.2	70,800	6.5
Retail Trade	134,200	13.3	137,400	13.3	146,700	13.4
Information	17,500	1.7	18,000	1.7	18,100	1.7
Finance Activities	62,700	6.2	73,000	7.0	75,400	6.9
Professional and Business	140,600	13.9	138,400	13.4	152,400	14.0
Education and Health Services	171,200	16.9	162,900	15.7	165,800	15.2
Leisure and Hospitality	109,800	10.9	122,900	11.9	127,700	11.7
Other Services	39,900	3.9	44,700	4.3	50,600	4.6
Government	142,300	14.1	134,700	13	139,400	12.8
Total Service Providing Sector	948,600	93.8	968,500	93.5	1,013,200	92.8
Total Non-Agricultural Employment	1,011,500	100%	1,035,500	100%	1,091,700	100%

SOURCE: Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation, Labor Market Statistics, Current Employment Statistics Program (In Cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics). Miami-Dade County Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources, Planning Research and Economic Analysis Section, October, 2014.

County Demographics

**Miami-Dade County
Estimates of Population by Age
2000 to 2030**

Age Group	2000	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Under 16	495,375	479,211	497,975	535,382	573,080	615,553
16-64	1,457,435	1,659,816	1,741,608	1,804,055	1,851,342	1,902,394
65 & Over	300,552	352,013	367,615	392,106	440,980	496,204
Total	2,253,362	2,491,040	2,607,198	2,731,543	2,865,402	3,014,151

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census Report for 2000 and 2010. Projections (2015-2030) provided by Miami-Dade County Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources, Planning Research and Economic Analysis Section, October, 2014.

**Trend and Forecasts, Population in
Incorporated and Unincorporated Area
1960-2020**

Year	Population in Incorporated Areas	Population in Unincorporated Areas	Total	Percentage Growth in Population
<u>Trends:</u>				
1960	582,713	352,334	935,047	N/A
1970	730,425	537,367	1,267,792	35.6 %
1980	829,881	795,900	1,625,781	28.2
1990	909,371	1,027,723	1,937,094	19.1
1995	973,912	1,110,293	2,084,205	7.6
2000	1,049,074	1,204,288	2,253,362	8.1
2005	1,298,454	1,105,018	2,403,472	6.7
2010	1,386,864	1,109,571	2,496,435	3.9
2014	1,440,858	1,145,432	2,586,290	3.6
<u>Forecasts:</u>				
2015	1,433,959	1,173,239	2,607,198	1.6
2020	1,502,349	1,229,194	2,731,543	4.8

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census Reports for 1960-2010. Projections (2015 - 2020) provided by Miami-Dade County Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources, Planning Research and Economic Analysis Section, October, 2014.

Miami-Dade County
Population By Race and Ethnic Group⁽¹⁾
1970 - 2010
(in thousands)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total⁽²⁾</u>	<u>Hispanic⁽¹⁾</u>	<u>Black⁽¹⁾</u>	<u>Non-Hispanic Whites and Others</u>
1970	1,268	299	190	782
1975	1,462	467	237	765
1980	1,626	581	284	773
1985	1,771	768	367	656
1990	1,967	968	409	618
1995	2,084	1,155	446	519
2000	2,253	1,292	457	534
2005	2,403	1,455	461	497
2010	2,496	1,624	496	449

(In Percentages)

1970 ⁽²⁾	100%	24%	15%	62%
1975 ⁽²⁾	100	32	16	52
1980 ⁽²⁾	100	36	17	48
1985 ⁽²⁾	100	43	21	37
1990 ⁽²⁾	100	49	21	31
1995 ⁽²⁾	100	55	21	25
2000 ⁽²⁾	100	57	20	24
2005 ⁽²⁾	100	61	21	20
2010 ⁽²⁾	100	65	20	18

Notes:

- (1) Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race. Hispanic Blacks are counted as both Hispanic and Black. Other Non-Hispanics are grouped with Non-Hispanic White category. Sum of components exceeds total.
- (2) Numbers may not add due to rounding

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Census of Population Reports for 1970-2010. Projections provided by Miami-Dade County Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources, Planning Research and Economic Analysis Section, October, 2014.

The following tables set forth the leading public and private County employers for 2014:

Ten Largest Public Employers

<u>Employers' Name</u>	<u>Number of Employees</u>
Miami-Dade County Public Schools.....	33,477
Miami-Dade County	25,502
U.S. Federal Government	19,200
Florida State Government.....	17,100
Jackson Health System.....	9,797
City of Miami	3,997
Florida International University	3,534
Homestead Airforce Base	3,250
Miami VA Healthcare System	2,500
Miami Dade College.....	2,390

Ten Largest Private Employers

<u>Employers' Name</u>	<u>Number of Employees</u>
University of Miami.....	12,818
Baptist Health South Florida	11,353
American Airlines	11,031
Publix Super Markets.....	4,604
Miami Children's Hospital.....	3,500
Mount Sinai Medical Center.....	3,321
Florida Power & Light Company	3,011
Royal Caribbean International/Celebrity Cruises	2,989
Sedan's Supermarkets.....	2,600
Wells Fargo	2,050

SOURCE: The Beacon Council/Miami-Dade County, Florida
 March 31, 2015

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