

**CEP** **OCALA METRO**  
CHAMBER & ECONOMIC  
PARTNERSHIP  
AVIATION INDUSTRY



## Ranked # 1 most affordable Metro in Florida

The Ocala Metro's thriving ecosystem is propelling it to the top ranks. Unleash the potential of your company in a city where **innovation** meets unprecedented **growth**. Florida has the largest Aerospace Cluster in the U.S with 640+ Aerospace Establishments. Our housing options make relocation seamless. Elevate your business, elevate your life – **Choose Ocala.**

**#1**  
in MRO  
Establishments &  
**#3**  
in Aircraft  
Manufacturing  
establishments in the  
U.S.

**#17**  
Ranked nationally in  
Housing Heat Index  
which measures home  
value appreciation (#1),  
employment, population  
growth, and housing  
competitiveness.

**#1**  
Fastest  
Growing Metro

For the past decade  
The Ocala Metro was at  
the forefront in

**Inclusion (#3)**  
**Improved Employment  
Rate (#4)**  
**Decrease in Relative  
Poverty (#2)**  
**Racial Inclusion (#12)**  
**Closing the  
Employment Gap (#14)**

**BEST  
PLACES**  
& WORLD REPORT  
**U.S. News**  
TO LIVE

**#1**  
Fastest  
Growing Metro

**#10**  
Safest Place  
to Live

**#16**  
Best Place  
to Retire

As reported in the *Wall Street Journal*, Ocala was hailed as “a Safe Haven” from hurricanes and other climate risks.

## INDUSTRY FOCUS



Florida's Aviation & Aerospace Sector Shines  
**#2** In The Nation With  
Home To Over **16,019**  
Dynamic Aerospace  
Related Companies.

Central Florida has a winning combination of location, talent and training infrastructure, located right in the Florida Research Triangle.

**Educational Institutes**

- Embrey Riddle Research Park
- College Of Central Florida
- Marion Technical College
- University of Florida
- University of Central Florida
- University of South Florida

**Aerospace Companies**

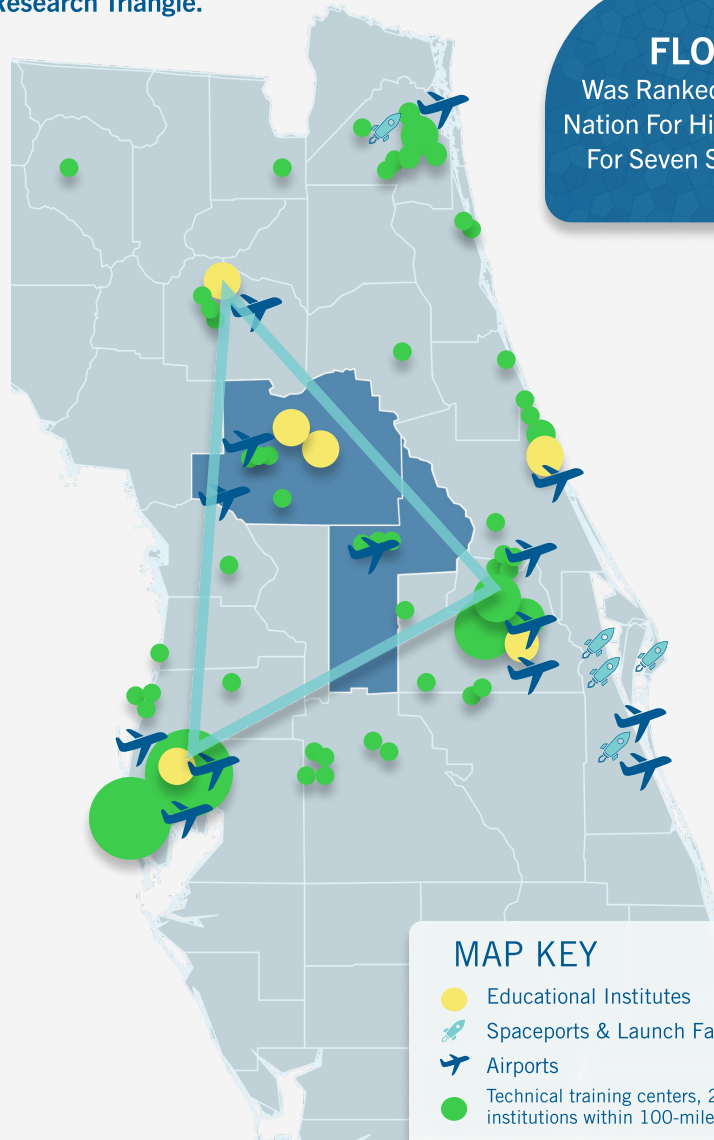
- Lockheed Martin
- Epic Flight Academy
- Dynasty Flight School
- Ocala Aviation
- PRP Aviation

**Airports**

- Ocala International
- Marion County Airport
- Gainesville Regional
- Leesburg Regional
- Daytona International
- Orlando International
- Orlando Sanford International
- Jacksonville International
- Tampa International

**Spaceports & Launch Facilities**


- Cape Canaveral Spaceport
- Cecil Spaceport
- Eglin Air Force Base
- Space Coast Regional Airport
- Space Coast Regional Spaceport
- Patrick Airforce Base



**DEGREES AWARDED IN FLORIDA**


PROGRAMS	TOTAL	ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE	BACHELOR'S DEGREE	MASTER'S DEGREE	DOCTOR'S DEGREE
Engineering General	8,889	67	6,344	1,979	499
Aerospace Engineering	910	61	662	168	19
Mechanical Engineering	2,198	0	1,787	329	82
Mechanical & Electronics Engineering	1,328	23	846	346	113


\*Source: Lightcast. Data as of the 2020-2021 academic year

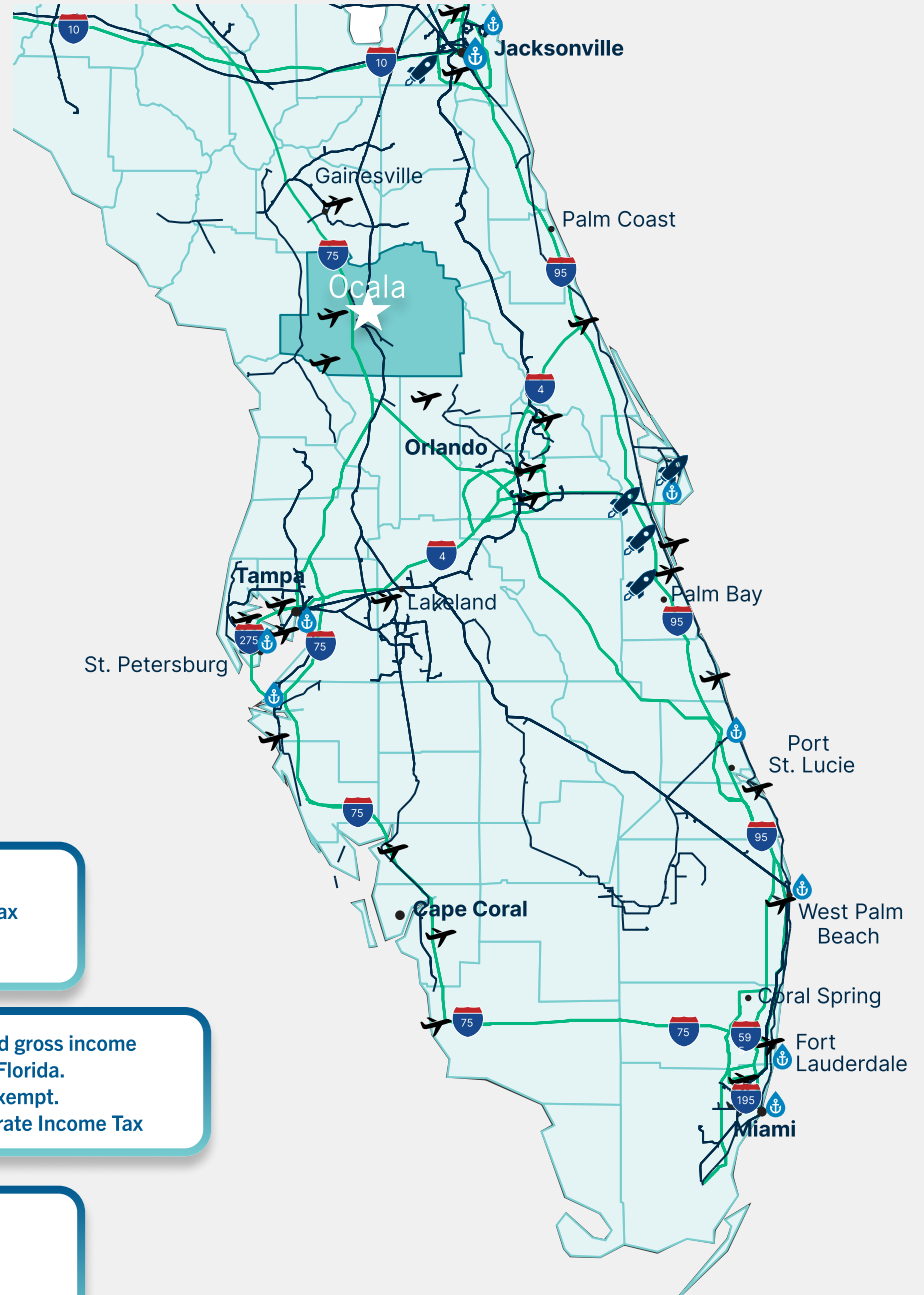
**20** Commercial Service Airports 

**13** Spaceport Facilities 

**120,000+** Miles of Roadway 

**15** Deepwater Seaports 

**2,700+** Miles of Rail Tracks 



**SALES TAX** | 6% of non-exempt sales amount.  
1.5% Local Sales Tax. Total sales tax 7.5%

**OCALA METRO BUSINESS CLIMATE**

**STATE CORPORATE INCOME** | 5.5% of adjusted gross income apportioned to Florida.  
First \$50,000 exempt.  
No Local Corporate Income Tax

**AD VALOREM** | County - 4.2900  
Ocala - 6.6177  
Schools - 6.3230  
No State Ad Valorem

**Local Incentives** 

- Marion County Economic Development Financial Incentive Grant Program
- Expedited Permitting
- Workforce Training
- Ad Valorem Tax Abatement
- EIP - Economic Incentive Program

## MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

STEM Programs  
2 Middle Schools 1,253 Enrolled  
7 High Schools 1,447 Enrolled

### Certifications

Advanced Manufacturing Technologies → Certified Production Technician

Global Logistics & Supply Chain → Certified Logistics Technician (CLT)

Applied Robotics → Certified Solids Works Associate

Applied Engineering Technologies → Autodesk Certification

Power & Energy Technology Welding → Certified Welder

**FLORIDA**  
Was Ranked No. 1 In  
The Nation For Higher  
Education For Seven  
Straight Years

## COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGES

**College of Centra Florida**  
1,600 enrolled annually in STEM A.S Degrees

### Certifications

Rapid Prototyping Certificate

NUC Robotics Program

- FANUC Handling Tool Operations & Programming
- FANUC 2D iRVision Operation & Handling
- Automation & Mechatronics

### Associate Degrees

- Engineering Technology
- Advance Manufacturing
- Quality
- Electronics

### Marion Technical College

- Advanced Welding Technology
- Building Construction Technology
- Automotive Service Technology
- Diesel and Aviation Mechanic

### Rasmussen University

### Lake Sumter State College

### Taylor College

## UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE POST GRADUATE

Located in Research Hubs  
Alachua & Gainesville Tampa Orlando

### University Of Florida

- Mechanical Engineering: 218 degrees awarded last year
- Aerospace Engineering: 104 degrees awarded last year
- Computer Science: 298 degrees awarded last year
- Industrial and Systems Engineering: 132 degrees awarded last year

### University Of South Florida

- Mechanical Engineering: 172 degrees awarded last year
- Electrical Engineering: 142 degrees awarded last year
- Computer Science & Engineering: 214 degrees awarded last year
- Industrial Engineering: 88 degrees awarded last year

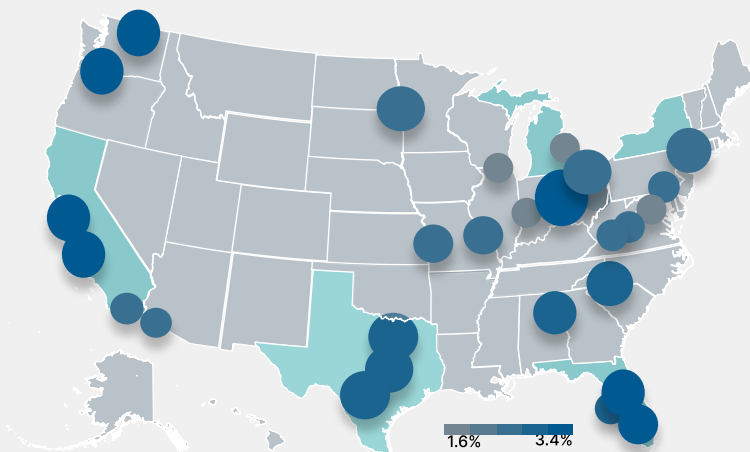
### University Of Central Florida

- Mechanical Engineering: 312 degrees awarded last year
- Aerospace Engineering: 146 degrees awarded last year
- Computer Science: 342 degrees awarded last year
- Industrial Engineering & Management Systems: 132 degrees awarded last year

### Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

- Aeronautics: 442 degrees awarded last year
- Aerospace Engineering: 242 degrees awarded last year
- Aviation Maintenance Science: 85 degrees awarded last year
- Mechanical Engineering: 70 degrees awarded last year
- Electrical Engineering: 65 degrees awarded last year

## STEM Employment Growth



**FLORIDA**  
Ranked No. 3 For  
STEM Job Growth

**LOCKHEED MARTIN**



Lockheed Martin's Missile and Fire Control manufacturing operation in Ocala Metro exemplifies the region's strong aerospace and aviation capabilities. Employing over 1,200 engineering professionals, Lockheed Martin has thrived in Ocala for more than 40 years.

Fostering a talent pipeline through apprenticeships with the College of Central Florida significantly reduced their hiring challenges. The established presence of such a key industry player provides a solid foundation for other aerospace companies considering expansion. By choosing Ocala Metro, businesses can leverage a skilled workforce and a community committed to supporting aerospace industry growth.

**EMBRY-RIDDLE**  
Aeronautical University



Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida is a cornerstone of aerospace education and training, producing over 2,000 graduates annually with highly specialized degrees in General Aeronautics & Aerospace Science & Technology, Aerospace, Aeronautical, & Astronautical Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering to name a few. The presence of Embry-Riddle contributes to a robust talent reservoir, making Florida an attractive location for aerospace and aviation companies looking to harness top-tier expertise and innovation. Businesses investing in this region benefit from access to a new generation of aerospace professionals trained to lead and innovate.



Ocala's aviation environment is enriched by the presence of four distinguished flight schools, each located on airport property, offering unique advantages for potential aerospace companies. Epic Flight Academy, an FAA Part 141 satellite flight school, provides a structured pathway for aspiring commercial pilots, featuring comprehensive training programs and a high first-time pass rate. PRP Aviation, another key player, not only offers top-tier pilot training but also serves as an authorized Cirrus repair facility and operates a private charter service, adding a significant layer of aviation expertise. Dynasty Aviation and Ocala Aviation further complement this robust ecosystem, ensuring that Ocala remains a strategic location for aerospace companies looking to tap into a well-trained, aviation-focused workforce.

**\$2.6**  
BILLION DOLLARS  
Annual economic impact of the Equine Industry

**29.4**  
MILLION SQ FEET  
Of Manufacturing, warehouse and Distribution Assets

**TOP 20**  
Of Manufacturing, warehouse and Distribution Assets



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**Sheltair's** FBO at Ocala International Airport is a key part of the area's aerospace sector, featuring a new 20,000 square foot hangar for large-cabin jets. Located near the World Equestrian Center and Ocala Breeder's Sales Company, it offers premium services like ground support, concierge, refueling, and ample ramp space. With award-winning customer service and a NATA Safety 1st Clean certification, Sheltair exemplifies excellence and safety in aviation, supporting Ocala's growing general aviation needs.



**Epic Flight Academy** in Ocala offers a structured pathway for those aiming to become commercial pilots through its FAA Part 141 satellite flight school. The academy provides comprehensive pilot training with 100% student financing available, boasting a high first-time pass rate for its graduates. As a full-service flight school, Epic supports students from initial training to professional airline careers. Additionally, the academy serves as a Cessna service center, further enhancing its capabilities and support for aviation training needs. This integration of extensive pilot training and aircraft servicing makes Epic Flight Academy a pivotal institution for aspiring pilots in Ocala.



**Southern Aviation Transport, Inc.**, based in Ocala, Florida, specializes in the secure and efficient transport of aviation parts and components. Founded in 2016 and woman-owned, the company leverages over 30 years of industry experience. Southern Aviation operates a state-of-the-art fleet equipped with Air-Ride technology and satellite tracking, ensuring sensitive shipments are handled with the utmost care. Available 24/7, their highly experienced drivers and comprehensive Operations Control Center provide top-tier service across 49 states and Canada.

# OCALA BUSINESS PARK

OcalaAirportPark.com



## Utilities

Fiber Provider	Ocala Fiber Network
Electric Service Provider	Ocala Utility Services, 3 Phase
Natural Gas Service	Yes
Natural Gas Provider	TECO
Natural Gas Line Size	6 Inch
Sewer Service	Yes
Sewer Service Provider	Ocala Utility Services
Sewer Service Size	8 Inch
Water Service	Yes
Water Service Provider	Ocala Utility Services
Water Line Size	12 Inch
Sanitary Sewer Supplier	Ocala Utility Services

## Infrastructure Information

Zoning	Industrial
Enterprise Zone/LAMBRA	Yes
Wetlands	No
Flood Plain	No
Phase I Environmental Report Available	Yes
Soil Boring Report Available	Yes

## Four (4) Flight Schools On Site



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