

CEP **OCALA METRO**
CHAMBER & ECONOMIC
PARTNERSHIP
MANUFACTURING 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**. Our housing options make relocation seamless. Elevate your business, elevate your life – Choose Ocala.



Ocala's Cost of Living is


16.2%

Less than the US Average & 2nd lowest in the State



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

Brookings, Metro Monitor, April 2023



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)



#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.

The Ocala Metro 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
- Cirus Repair

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



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


MAP KEY

- Yellow circle: Educational Institutes
- Rocket icon: Spaceports & Launch Facilities
- Blue airplane icon: Airports
- Green circle: Technical training centers, 2 year & 4 year institutions within 100-mile radius of Ocala

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

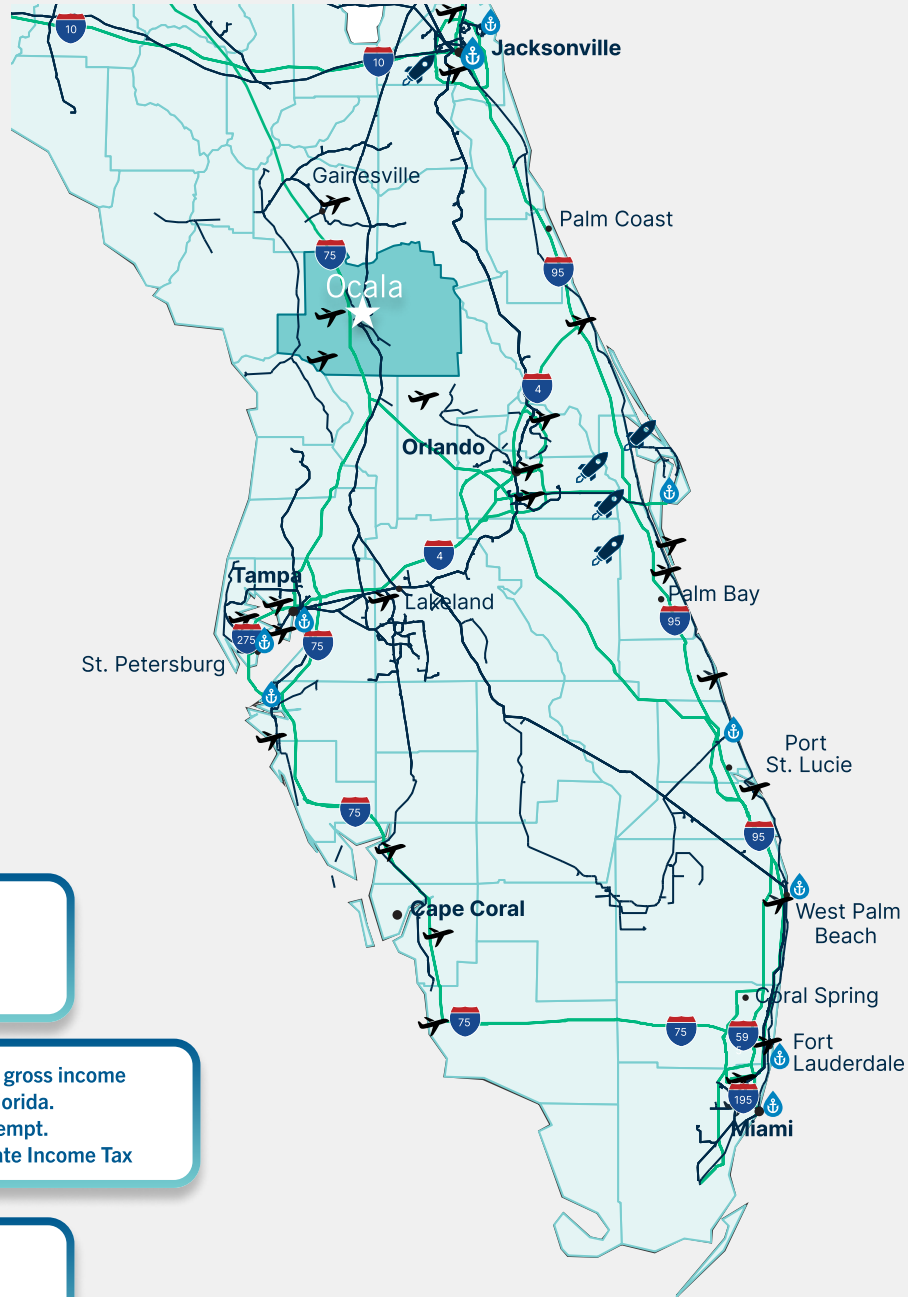
20 Commercial Service Airports 

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

COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGES

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

College of Centra Florida

1,600 enrolled annually in STEM A.S Degrees

Certifications

Rapid Prototyping Certificate

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

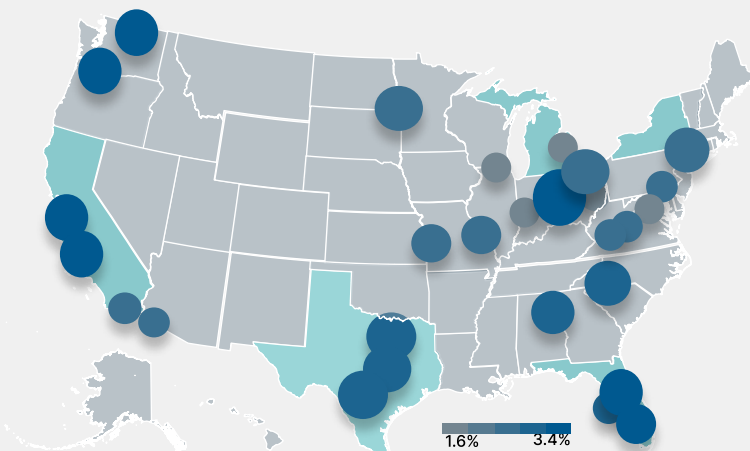
- Mechanical Engineering: 312 degrees awarded last year
- Aerospace Engineering: 146 degrees awarded last year
- Computer Science: 342 degrees awarded last year
- Industrial Engineering & Management Systems: 132 degrees awarded last year

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

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

STEM Employment Growth



FLORIDA
Ranked No. 3 For
STEM Job Growth



**COLLEGE of
CENTRAL
FLORIDA**



The College of Central Florida (CF) is set to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of advanced manufacturing. With a \$5M grant from The Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program (CAP Grant). This funding will establish a Center for Advanced Manufacturing at the Ocala campus, marking a significant stride in aligning education with the high-demand fields of Advanced Manufacturing, Medical Device Manufacturing, and Additive Manufacturing.

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.



CF's Vintage Farm Campus is a 103 acre farm that provides experiential agricultural and animal life science education utilizing practical, hands-on training. CF's Associate in Science programs in Equine Studies and Agribusiness and the Bachelor of Applied Science in Business and Organizational Management Agribusiness and Equine Studies specializations are all offered classes at Vintage Farm.



Degrees and Certificates include:

- Basics of Agribusiness, A.T.C.
- Equine Industry Management, A.T.C.
- Equine Exercise Physiology Specialization, A.S.
- Equine Business Management Specialization, A.S.
- Agribusiness Management, A.S.
- B.A.S in Business and Organizational Management
- Agribusiness Specialization
- Equine Studies
- Equine Technician, C.C.C.
- Equine Assistant Management, C.C.C.
- Livestock Production Management, C.C.C.

\$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



Dollar Tree/Family Dollar has chosen Ocala as its hub for the Southeast by investing \$300 Million into their 1.2 Million SF facility employing 400 people. Starting off with their 600,000 SF Phase 1 Distribution Center, they decided to double-down and expand their footprint to a total of 1.2 million SF. The expansion is a first-of-its-kind ASRS automated facility, consisting of a vertical racking system reaching 148' high. This facility serves as the hub for the whole state of Florida, demonstrating our strategic location for distribution.



The medical service & manufacturing industry trusts R+L Global Logistics as a knowledgeable and reliable partner for their transportation and logistics needs. They can do the same for you! Benefit from seamless full truckload, dry van, intermodal, temperature-controlled, flatbed, warehousing, and Mexico transborder services, alongside comprehensive importing and customs clearance solutions.



Ocala has become a notable hub for food manufacturing in Florida, highlighted by the presence of Signature Brands and Outlaw Snacks. Together, these companies have made a combined investment of over \$50 million and occupy more than 330,000 square feet of industrial space. They collectively employ more than 450 people, contributing significantly to the local economy and reinforcing Ocala's reputation as a center for food manufacturing.



Ocala has become a cluster of Cannabis Cultivation in Florida with the presence of Jungle Boys and Green Thumb Industries. They've made a combined investment of over \$100 Million and occupy more than 280,000 SF of industrial space. Together, they have more than 350 employees working in cultivation, processing, and packaging.



\$6 Million Dollar Capital Investment with 75 jobs created. Injection Molding, Engineering, Phototyping, Assembly, In House Tooling. Secondary Operations include Annealing, Hot Stamping, Pad Printing, Solvent Bonding, Ultrasonic Cleaning & Welding, Ultraviolet Bonding



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