

Jacksonville's Winning Economy

50 economic news stories from the last year proving freedom is good for the economy: Jacksonville does not need the HRO to attract the best people, companies, and growth.

- [Formativ Health to open operations center, bring about 500 jobs to Jacksonville](#)**
January 17, 2017 02:00 pm - Updated January 18, 2017 10:34 am
Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry and JAX Chamber Chairman Darnell Smith held a joint news conference at City Hall Tuesday to announce Formativ Health will bring about 500 jobs to Jacksonville.
<http://jacksonville.com/metro/2017-01-17/formativ-health-open-operations-center-bring-about-500-jobs-jacksonville>
- [Amazon confirms plans for second Jacksonville fulfillment center, additional 1,000 full-time jobs](#)**
January 4, 2017 07:12AM-Updated January 4, 2017, 10:06AM
The second fulfillment center, which is going into the Cecil Commerce Center on the Westside, will bring Amazon's announced footprint in Jacksonville to approximately 2,500 jobs.
<http://jacksonville.com/business/2017-01-04/amazon-confirms-plans-second-jacksonville-fulfillment-center-additional-1000>
- [General Electric gets \\$74 million for aircraft engine work in Jacksonville](#)**
Dec 29, 2016, 11:31AM EST
General Electric, of Lynn, Massachusetts, was awarded a \$74 million performance-based contract for repair and support of F/A-18 aircraft, with work to be done in Jacksonville. The work is expected to be completed by April 2017.
<http://www.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/news/2016/12/29/general-electric-gets-74-million-for-aircraft.html>
- [Report: People are moving to Jacksonville](#)**
Dec 29, 2016, 8:23AM EST
The data showed that much of the moves are coming from areas like New York and Boston to Atlanta, Charlotte and Florida. New York, Detroit and Chicago are losing the most residents, the report says, given the harsh winters and high costs of living.
<http://www.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/news/2016/12/29/report-people-are-moving-to-jacksonville.html>
- [IKEA, Amazon, Town Center and more: What to watch for in 2017](#)**
December 28, 2016
The last couple of years have been full of announcements in the Jacksonville area. This article provides a look at some of what's expected to open or happen this year.
<http://jacksonville.com/slideshow/slideshows/2016-12-28/ikea-amazon-town-center-and-more-what-watch-2017#slide-1>
- [Survey: Consumer confidence in Florida is surging](#)**
December 23, 2016, 11:54AM
Consumer confidence in Florida is surging to some of its highest levels since the Great Recession. The monthly University of Florida consumer survey released Friday measured confidence at 97.2, which is nearly seven points higher than it was in November.
<http://jacksonville.com/business/2016-12-23/survey-consumer-confidence-florida-surging>

7. **[Jacksonville tech grew, matured in 2016](#)**
Dec 20, 2016, 8:25AM EST
Jacksonville's tech industry showed that it was much more than just One Spark, with the success of several First Coast companies reaching for the next level. The year kicked off with Web.com's acquisition of Yodle, a digital marketing company. The acquisition, a plan by Web to continue diversifying its offerings and bring on new technology, was for \$300 million.
<http://www.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/news/2016/12/20/jacksonville-tech-grew-matured-in-2016.html>
8. **[Year in Review: Biggest land deals of 2016 centered on retail, Amazon](#)**
Dec 13, 2016, 3:03PM EST
Hines, Books-A-Million, and Amazon were among the companies buying land for company development and expansion in 2016.
<http://www.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/news/2016/12/13/year-in-reviewbiggest-land-deals-of-2016-centered.html>
9. **[Lyft generates \\$5 million for Jacksonville's economy in 2016](#)**
Dec 12, 2016, 03:01 ET
A new economic survey released by Lyft reports the local Jacksonville economy would see an extra \$5 million in 2016 thanks to the availability of Lyft's affordable, convenient rides. Conducted by the Land Econ Group, the study also showed passengers in Jacksonville will save \$1.4 million in travel time value and over 33,000 travel hours.
<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/lyft-generates-5-million-for-jacksonvilles-economy-in-2016-300376390.html>
10. **[Year in Review: JIA grew with new flights, improvements in 2016](#)**
Dec 9, 2016, 2:25PM EST
Various airlines including Allegiant and Silver Airways increased their flights, allowing Jacksonville infrastructure to continue growing.
<http://www.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/news/2016/12/09/year-in-reviewjia-grew-with-new-flights.html>
11. **[BioFlorida Conference set for Jacksonville raises local profile of life science industry](#)**
December 8, 2016 04:17PM-Updated December 8, 2016, 06:12PM
The conference will run through Tuesday and is centered at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront hotel in downtown where several dozen speakers and panel participants will hold seminars and workshops on the latest developments in the life sciences industry.
<http://jacksonville.com/business/2016-12-08/bioflorida-conference-set-jacksonville-raises-local-profile-life-science>
12. **[A closer look at Jacksonville International Airport's \\$19 million infrastructure investment](#)**
Dec 7, 2016, 2:25PM EST
The system improvements proposed means Jacksonville's airport infrastructure can continue to grow alongside its growth in passengers.
<http://www.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/news/2016/12/07/a-closer-look-at-jacksonville-international.html>

- 13. [\\$100 million LNG production and storage facility about to be completed on Jacksonville's Westside](#)**
December 5, 2016 03:40PM-Updated December 5, 2016, 04:03PM
The Liquefied Natural Gas facility under construction on Jacksonville's West Side by Eagle LNG Partners will deliver the fuel of Crowley Maritime Inc. that will power ships going from Jacksonville to Puerto Rico.
<http://jacksonville.com/business/2016-12-05/100-million-lng-production-and-storage-facility-about-be-completed-jacksonville>
- 14. [What Amazon's impact could mean for Jacksonville](#)**
Nov 23, 2016, 1:44PM EST
Many in the commercial real estate community expect an "Amazon impact" to propel land sales and spur new construction as ancillary companies locate to Jacksonville, in no small part because two large fulfillment centers the e-commerce giant plans to build about 23 miles apart.
<http://www.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/news/2016/11/23/what-amazons-impact-could-mean-for-jacksonville.html>
- 15. [Florida logistics report shows Jacksonville's gain in containers, future of industrial real estate](#)**
Nov 21, 2016, 1:37PM EST
Cushman & Wakefield released a state of logistics report for 2016, showing that job growth exceeded the national average over the last 39 months.
<http://www.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/news/2016/11/21/florida-logistics-report-shows-jacksonvilles-gain.html>
- 16. [Second Amazon facility brings total investment in Jax to more than \\$315 million](#)**
Nov 21, 2016, 8:22AM EST Updated Nov 21, 2016, 8:26AM EST
Amazon will employ at least 2,700 people in Jacksonville after filing plans for a second fulfillment center that will bring \$115 million in investment to Cecil Commerce Center, according to a permit recently filed.
<http://www.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/news/2016/11/21/second-amazon-facility-brings-total-investment-in.html>
- 17. [Regency merger forms \\$15.6 billion company](#)**
Nov 14, 2016, 8:37PM EST Updated Nov 15, 2016, 7:39AM EST
Jacksonville-based Regency Centers Corp. is buying Equity One. Inc, a New York real estate investment trust. The deal, which the company said in a statement was unanimously approved by the boards of both companies, will create a REIT with a \$15.6 billion total market capitalization.
<http://www.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/news/2016/11/14/regency-merger-forms-15-6-billion-company.html>
- 18. [UPS confirms it is Project Mountain, plans \\$196 million expansion in Jacksonville](#)**
Nov 11, 2016, 1:59PM EST
The United States Parcel Service confirmed Friday afternoon it is the unnamed company in the economic incentive package that has been codenamed Project Mountain, a project which will allow the company's Northwest Jacksonville regional distribution hub to increase the number of packages it can process per hour from 60,000 to 80,000 after investing \$196 million.
<http://www.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/news/2016/11/11/ups-confirms-it-is-project-mountain-plans-196.html>

19. **[\\$22.7 million permit issued for new IKEA](#)**
 November 8, 2016 04:08PM - Updated November 8, 2016 05:25PM
 The city issued a building permit Monday to Marcobay Construction for the new store going in at 7801 Gate Parkway. The details: 290,238 square feet at a cost of \$22,699,687.
<http://jacksonville.com/business/2016-11-08/227-million-permit-issued-new-ikea>
20. **[Jacksonville IKEA construction begins](#)**
 Nov 3, 2016, 12:10PM EDT Updated Nov 3, 2016, 12:20PM EDT
 Representatives of Swedish retailer Ikea held a ground breaking ceremony at the future location of their Jacksonville store. The store will create 500 jobs and employ 250 people.
<http://www.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/news/2016/11/03/jacksonville-ikea-construction-begins.html>
21. **[This merger will create a \\$1 billion trucking firm based in Jacksonville](#)**
 Oct 26, 2016, 11:34AM EDT Updated Oct 26, 2016, 11:44AM EDT
 Sunteck Transport Group, an agent-based freight trucking and freight management company headquartered in Jacksonville, is merging with TTS LLC, based in Dallas. The combined company, operating under Sunteck/ TTS Holdings LLC, will be one of the largest multimodal agent-based providers in the country, approaching \$1 billion in gross revenue and managing more than 700,000 shipments annually.
<http://www.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/news/2016/10/26/this-merger-will-create-a-1-billion-trucking-firm.html>
22. **[JAA grew revenue, total passengers for 2015-2016 fiscal year](#)**
 Oct 25, 2016, 1:32PM EDT
 Jacksonville Aviation Authority posted revenues of \$79.6 million for the fiscal year ended Sept. 30, 6 percent increase over revenues for the previous fiscal year, when it was \$75 million. Operating income jumped 11 percent, from \$27 million to \$30 million.
<http://www.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/news/2016/10/25/jaa-grew-revenue-total-passengers-for-2015-2016.html>
23. **[Construction companies awarded up to \\$75 million in Navy contracts for work in Jacksonville](#)**
 Sep 29, 2016, 2:13PM EDT
 Several companies were awarded Navy contracts for construction projects, many of which will be done in Jacksonville. The value of all six contracts for the base period and four option years will be about \$75 million combined.
<http://www.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/news/2016/09/29/construction-companies-awarded-up-to-75-million-in.html>
24. **[Boeing gets \\$13 million Navy contract for Jacksonville aircraft electronic work](#)**
 Sep 29, 2016, 2:08PM EDT
 The Boeing Co. in Seattle was awarded a \$13 million modification to a previous Navy contract for electronic work on maritime aircraft, with significant work to be done in Jacksonville.
<http://www.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/news/2016/09/29/boeing-gets-13-million-navy-contract-for.html>
25. **[Multifamily real estate firm CEO sees Jacksonville as growth market](#)**
 Sep 28, 2016, 8:00AM EDT
 Electra America's most recent apartment property purchase in Jacksonville is its seven in the area and likely won't be the last. Jackson Square Properties sold The Glades to Electra America in a joint venture with Robbins Property Associates. Electra America plans to invest \$2.6 million in the property in a value-add play for the 360-unit apartment community that was built in 1985.
<http://www.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/news/2016/09/28/multifamily-real-estate-firm-ceo-sees-jacksonville.html>

26. **[Census data: Jacksonville's unemployment down, income up, and we're still bigger than San Francisco](#)**
 September 14, 2016 10:38PM-Updated September 14, 2016, 11:04PM
 Jacksonville is still the nation's 12th most populous city, thanks to San Francisco's slowing growth. Data provided by American Community Survey 2015 data for counties, cities, states and metro areas showed income growth across the country. In Jacksonville, it hit its highest level since the recession that began in 2008.
<http://jacksonville.com/news/metro/2016-09-14/story/census-data-jacksonvilles-unemployment-down-income-and-best-all-were>
27. **[\\$85 million expansion at Baptist Medical Center South in Jacksonville](#)**
 Aug 5, 2016, 2:45PM EDT Updated Aug 9, 2016, 3:46PM EDT
 Baptist Medical Center South is moving toward a \$85 million expansion project that will see the hospital grow to 407 beds over the next 10 years.
<http://www.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/news/2016/08/05/85-million-expansion-at-baptist-medical-center.html>
28. **[TECO Peoples Gas expanding system to support Jacksonville growth](#)**
 August 5, 2016
 Supporting the growth of JEA and other industrial customers, including the Pivotal LNG facility, in the Jacksonville area, TECO Peoples Gas (PGS) is investing more the \$9 million to expand the PGS gas transmission and distribution systems.
<http://economicdev.com/teco-peoples-gas-expanding-system-to-support-jacksonville-growth/>
29. **[Jacksonville tourism sees more record-setting visitation figures in June](#)**
 August 4 2016-Updated August 5 2016, 6:22AM
 Visit Jacksonville, the city's tourism bureau, reported Thursday that the June hotel occupancy rate was 73.6 percent, a 6.5 percent increase over the same time in 2015, which was a record then. The June hotel room revenue generated was \$34.68 million, a 12.1 percent jump over June 2015 and the most the city has ever recorded for any June.
<http://jacksonville.com/news/metro/2016-08-04/story/jacksonville-tourism-sees-more-record-setting-visitation-figures-june>
30. **[Amazon confirms plans to bring 1,500 jobs to new fulfillment center on Jacksonville's Northside](#)**
 July 27, 2016 09:22AM-Updated July 28, 2016, 11:19AM
 Amazon is bringing 1,500 jobs to Jacksonville, company officials confirmed Wednesday. JAX Chamber President Daniel Davis called it the largest single jobs announcement in the city's history.
<http://jacksonville.com/jobs/local-jobs-news/2016-07-27/story/amazon-confirms-plans-bring-1500-jobs-new-fulfillment-center>
31. **[Jacksonville Business Journal's 50 fastest growing companies](#)**
 Jul 25, 2016, 4:27PM EDT
 Features companies such as Advantage Design Group, which experienced 35.57% revenue growth, and Landon Homes, which had 30.15% revenue growth.
<http://www.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/news/2016/07/25/jacksonville-business-journals-50-fastest-growing.html>
32. **[German company to 3D print medical supply equipment in Jacksonville, will add 25 jobs](#)**
 Jul 20, 2016, 2:26PM EDT Updated Jul 20, 2016, 5:51PM EDT
 A German medical-supply company will open its first U.S. manufacturing facility in Jacksonville, according to Florida Gov. Rick Scott's Office.
<http://www.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/news/2016/07/20/german-company-to-3d-print-medical-supply.html>

33. **[Homes in Jacksonville are selling at fastest rate in a decade](#)**
 Jul 15, 2016, 2:39PM EDT
 The average days on market for a Jacksonville area single-family home is just 74 days, the shortest average amount between when a property has been listed and sold in about a decade, according to statistics maintained by the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors.
<http://www.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/news/2016/07/15/homes-in-jacksonville-are-selling-at-fastest-rate.html>
34. **[Mercedes-Benz to move New Jersey division to Jacksonville facility](#)**
 Jul 5, 2016, 6:36PM EDT Updated Jul 5, 2016, 7:50PM EDT
 Mercedes-Benz USA will be moving an engineering services division from New Jersey to Jacksonville, Gov. [Rick Scott](#) announced Tuesday. The project includes an incentives package totaling \$448,200 with a \$64,800 local contribution. The City Council approved the local contribution for the incentive package last month, voting on the project under the codename Project Grace.
<http://www.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/news/2016/07/05/mercedes-benz-to-move-new-jersey-division-to.html>
35. **[Forbes: Jacksonville #2 city Americans moving to](#)**
 July 5 2016, 4:28 PM EST
 The magazine cites low unemployment (4.4%) and a low cost of housing as the primary reason people are choosing to move to Jacksonville.
<http://www.firstcoastnews.com/news/local/forbes-jacksonville-2-city-americans-moving-to/264664488>
36. **[\\$127 million in capital projects slated for Jaxport, which welcomes major new tenant](#)**
 Jun 29, 2016, 8:05AM EDT
<http://www.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/news/2016/06/29/127-million-in-capital-projects-slated-for.html>
37. **[Anheuser-Busch's \\$23.3 million plant expansion permit approved](#)**
 Jun 22, 2016, 1:22PM EDT Updated Jun 22, 2016, 3:39PM EDT
 The Haskell Co. will begin work on a \$23.25 million expansion project for the Anheuser-Busch plant at 1055 Peavy Road. The project is permitted for a one-story, 44-foot-tall, 192,405 square foot structure that will serve as a warehouse and allow Anheuser-Busch to expand manufacturing.
http://www.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/blog/money_makers/2016/06/amheuser-buschs-23-3-million-plant-expansion.html
38. **[Check out the complete list of Jacksonville's fastest growing companies](#)**
 Jun 16, 2016, 8:00AM EDT Updated Jun 21, 2016, 10:27PM EDT
 For 25 years, the Jacksonville Business Journal has identified the fastest growing companies on the First Coast. With the help of Ennis, Pellum & Associates CPAs, this list has tracked companies that boomed during the good times, that grew even when the economy shrank, that stand as an example of what ingenuity, hard work and creativity can lead to.
<http://www.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/news/2016/06/16/here-are-the-fastest-growing-companies-on-the.html>
39. **[Jacksonville named in top 5 "sweet spots" to buy a home](#)**
 Jun 15, 2016, 2:34PM EDT
 According to a new study released by the homeownership website Zillow, Jacksonville's metro area is one of the top five "sweet spots" for homeownership in the U.S.
<http://www.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/news/2016/06/15/jacksonville-named-in-top-5-sweet-spots-to-buy-a.html>

40. [Randrr tech firm to expand to 200 employees in Jacksonville, spend \\$9 million for additions](#)
 June 8 2016, 9:29 PM
 A Jacksonville technology firm will grow tenfold in the next two years and plans to add 200 jobs that pay as much as \$200,000 a year for each position. Randrr is planning a \$9 million expansion to its facilities at the Flagler Center off Old St. Augustine Road, going from 20 current employees to the 200 announced at a Wednesday news conference at the JAX Chamber offices.
<http://jacksonville.com/news/metro/2016-06-08/story/randrr-tech-firm-expand-200-employees-jacksonville-spend-9-million>
41. [10 Cities Americans Are Moving To Right Now | Forbes](#)
 June 7, 2016
 More Americans are moving to Jacksonville due to the median home price at \$272,400 and the unemployment rate of 4.4%.
<http://www3.forbes.com/leadership/10-cities-americans-are-moving-to-right-now/10/>
42. [Northern Pizza chain eyeing Jacksonville for 25 new stores](#)
 Jun 1, 2016, 8:15AM EDT
 The Washington-based take-and-bake pizza chain Papa Murphy's wants to expand its franchises in Jacksonville from eight to more than 30.
<http://www.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/news/2016/06/01/northern-pizza-chain-eyeing-jacksonville-for-25.html>
43. [Jacksonville makes list of "100 Best Places to Live"](#)
 April 05, 2016, 1:12 PM, Updated: 1:12 PM, April 05, 2016
 U.S. News & World Report recently released a list of the 100 best places to live in America & Jacksonville made it onto the list. Coming in at #34 out of the top 100 places to live. According to the report, factors for the ranking include a boom in the art & music scene along with a stimulating business economy. As a result, the report states, Jacksonville is undergoing an economic boom.
<http://www.news4jax.com/river-city-live/jacksonville-makes-list-of-100-best-places-to-live>
44. [How a southern chicken chain is expanding in Jacksonville](#)
 Mar 17, 2016, 2:20PM EDT Updated Mar 17, 2016, 2:22PM EDT
 Chicken Salad Chick has grown to 50 locations since opening its first location in Auburn, Alabama in 2008. Now, the restaurant is planning to open four additional locations across Jacksonville, after opening its second at the St. Johns Town Center.
<http://www.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/news/2016/03/17/strategy-how-a-southern-chicken-chain-is-expanding.html>
45. [Jacksonville is second in Florida in job growth](#)
 Tuesday, March 15, 10:03 AM.
 Jobs are growing in Northeast Florida at a much faster rate than previously thought, according to the state's latest data on the labor market. The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity reported Monday that Jacksonville area non-farm businesses increased jobs by 28,100 from January 2015 through January 2016, a 4.5 percent growth rate.
https://www.jaxdailyrecord.com/showstory.php?Story_id=547213

46. **[BMW plans expansion in Jacksonville](#)**

March 2, 2016 02:06PM - Updated March 2, 2016 04:41PM

BMW is planning a major expansion of its parts distribution center in Jacksonville. The company has a 200,000-square-foot facility that employs 80 people on Westside Industrial Drive.

<http://jacksonville.com/jobs/local-jobs-news/2016-03-02/story/bmw-plans-expansion-jacksonville>

47. **[Cashing In: The Top 25 Cities to Launch a Finance Business](#)**

February 29, 2016

Business.com lists Jacksonville as one of its top 25 cities to launch a finance business because Jacksonville, in particular, has a solid record successful young companies could use under the guidance of a finance professional.

<http://www.business.com/finance/top-25-cities-to-launch-a-finance-business/>

48. **[Made in JAX: Jacksonville home to manufacturers large and small, producing a range of products](#)**

February 20, 2016 09:43PM - Updated February 21, 2016, 02:52PM

Jacksonville has gained attention in just the past couple of years as a place for start-ups, for new companies to hatch and grow. A recent report from the University of Southern California ranked Jacksonville up there with cities such Chicago, London, Singapore and Berlin when it comes to being a birthplace for new businesses. Atlanta and Miami didn't rank that high.

<http://jacksonville.com/business/2016-02-20/story/manufacturers-large-and-small-produce-range-products-jacksonville>

49. **[The Home Depot plans to hire 585 employees in Jacksonville](#)**

Feb 12, 2016, 2:13PM EST Updated Feb 12, 2016, 4:54PM EST

The Home Depot plans to hire 80,000 people across the country, including 585 in the 13 Jacksonville area stores. The hiring spike is in preparation for spring, the busiest time for the home improvement retailer, it said in a news release.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/news/2016/02/12/the-home-depot-plans-to-hire-585-employees-in.html>

50. **[Study: Jacksonville among top global cities for startup businesses](#)**

February 6, 2016 05:25PM - Updated February 6, 2016 05:30PM

Jacksonville ranks among the top cities and regions in the world in fostering successful startup businesses and that's no idle boast from local cheerleaders.

<http://jacksonville.com/news/metro/2016-02-06/story/study-jacksonville-among-top-global-cities-startup-businesses>