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BLOG #1 – August 20, 2025

Why the Florida Supply Chain is *RED HOT*

For many years, Florida has been viewed as the home of hospitality, thrilling theme parks, and natural beauty. In case you missed it, Florida has been making giant strides in the supply chain industry.

Quietly and without much fanfare, Florida has been steadily progressing, enhancing its infrastructure, educational options, and business friendly reputation. Besides being recognized for its luscious tropical climate, today Florida is winning kudos for its business climate, logistics and supply chain prominence.

Florida's Economic Surge is Powering its Foundation for Supply Chain Growth

Did you know that Florida's GSP is \$1.7 trillion, ranking it 4th in the United States? Its strategic location advantage, leadership in cold chain and regulated goods, continual reinvestment into its already outstanding infrastructure, and significant workforce in trade, transportation, and logistics are fueling the economic surge and prominence in supply chain logistics.

With its 14% increase in freight demand, Florida is among the fastest-growing logistics markets. Florida trails California and Texas in sheer scale, and Georgia in infrastructure depth per capita. With that said, Florida is strong in its trade density, Foreign Trade Zone capacity, rising freight demand, and export participation, backed by a robust multimodal transportation ecosystem. As a critical logistics and trade gateway, Florida holds a commanding position in the Southeastern United States.

Why is Florida an Expanding Market?

- The surge in online shopping and e-commerce has created a corresponding increase in the need for logistics and last-mile deliveries. This has also resulted in the expansion of distribution centers and warehouses. Currently, Florida plays a key role in retailers' next day and same day shipping strategies. In addition, there has been an expansion of rural logistics capacity as well as continued investments in Florida's infrastructure.
- Nearshoring from Latin America continues to increase, bringing operations closer to the United States.
- Due to global trade and other complexities, there continues to be a need for more agile and diversified supply chains. For example, leveraging Florida helps supply chain businesses diversify from using West Coast ports to East/Southeast ports, instead relying on the Panama Canal.





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- Strategic industries are powering Florida’s economic momentum, namely logistics, manufacturing, aerospace, life sciences, and technology.

Let’s take a closer look at why Florida’s supply chain is raging hot:

Strategic Geographic Location: Florida is the Gateway to Global Markets and the U.S. Eastern Seaboard

As the closest U.S. state to the Panama Canal and proximity not only to Latin American and the Caribbean, but also to the crossroads of North-South and East-West trade lanes, Florida is in a vital position for international trade.

As the #1 state for trade with the Caribbean and Latin America, Florida accounts for 29% of trade with this sector. As nearshoring and hemispheric logistics strategies have increased in recent years since COVID, Florida provides a greater advantage for businesses that target North-South trade corridors.

Florida’s World Class Multi-Modal Infrastructure Fuels its Excellence in Logistics

Rich in top notch multi-modal infrastructure, Florida has 16 deepwater seaports, more than 20 commercial airports, and a robust rail network and highway system across the state. Recent investments in Florida’s future have focused on channel dredging, crane upgrades and FTZ expansions. Florida also boasts an extensive highway network that links the state to the entire Eastern Seaboard.

Florida’s robust seaport network supports \$190 billion in trade, moving nearly 100 million tons of cargo annually. Florida has 15 deepwater seaports including JAXPORT, Port Miami, Port Everglades, and Port Tampa Bay.





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Florida’s air cargo superiority, which provides fast air access to Europe, the Caribbean, and Latin America has fueled significant growth in pharma, perishable goods, and e-commerce air cargo.

Now a leader in cold chain logistics for pharma, life sciences, seafood, and produce, Florida continues to expand its infrastructure for temperature-sensitive, FDA-regulated cargo and supports smart logistics hubs and bonded warehouses.

Economic Momentum and Business-Friendly Climate

Florida has the 4th largest state economy in the United States, among the top 2 fastest-growing state economies. With sectors including aerospace, defense, life sciences, advanced manufacturing, fintech and logistics, Florida is well-positioned now and for the future.

Florida ranks 2nd behind Texas in U.S. states for economic momentum. Fueled by population growth, thriving fintech and trade, as well as a business-friendly climate, Florida remains on track to continue its strong economic growth trajectory. There is no state income tax. In addition, Florida provides support for investment incentives and business relocation.

With the 2nd largest Foreign Trade Zone network in the United States, Florida is well-positioned to help offset the imposition of tariffs, offer duty deferral, re-export tax savings and provide inventory control benefits.



Florida Continues to Grow Its Skilled Workforce

Did you know that over 550,000 Floridians work in trade, logistics, and transportation-related sectors? With its strong ties to Central and Latin America, having access to a bilingual skilled workforce is especially important. Florida has a multicultural, multilingual workforce, ideal for global trade and logistics operations. Florida promotes workforce growth through initiatives such as Quick Response Training (QRT) and Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) to upskill employees.





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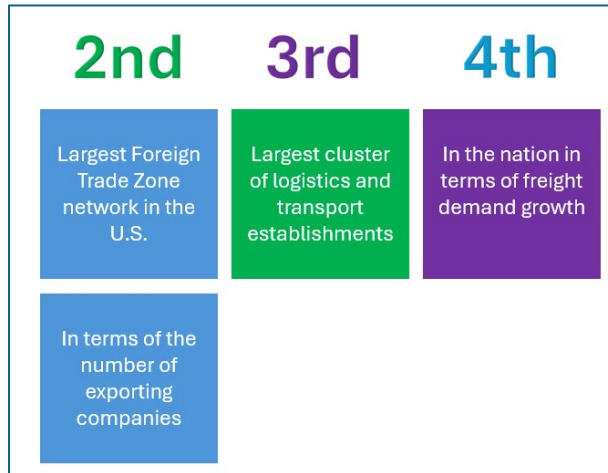
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Florida Powers Innovation and Technology

Florida universities are leading the way in fueling innovation in industries including space technology, semiconductor manufacturing, AI, cybersecurity, and data science. Programs such as UF Innovate at the University of Central Florida has raised over \$10.4 billion in startup-driven private investments. So far, more than 300 startups have been launched resulting in over 7,900 new jobs.

Florida Facts: Florida Rankings



Some Last Words about the Florida Supply Chain

Florida is among the top 2 fastest-growing state economies in 2024-2025. With its business-friendly climate, continued population growth, innovation, strong workforce, and economic momentum paired with its exceptional strategic location and multimodal infrastructure, Florida is poised to be ready and able to continue to grow its supply chain logistics industry and global trade capabilities.