



KEY ADVANTAGES OF A BUSINESS LOCATION IN JACKSONVILLE

Jacksonville is a proven market for corporate success.

- ❖ Jacksonville is home to four Fortune 500 company headquarters. More than 80 local companies have national or divisional headquarters in Northeast Florida. In fact, *Inc.* magazine ranked Jacksonville as the 12th “**Best Large City for Business.**”
- ❖ *Expansion Management* magazine ranked Jacksonville one of the “**Top 10 Hottest Cities for Business Relocation and Expansion**” in the U.S. for eight straight years and Jacksonville is the only city to be ranked first three times.

Northeast Florida is a talent magnet.

- ❖ Northeast Florida’s population is more than 1.5 million and the total workforce is comprised of 750,000 people. The median age in Jacksonville is 37, providing a young and dynamic workforce equal in age to the national average and three years less than the Florida average. Jacksonville was the only major city to rank in Next Generation Consulting’s “**Hotspots for Young Professionals to Live and Work in the U.S.**”
- ❖ Business 2.0 ranked Jacksonville in the “**Top 10 Hottest Cities that will lead job growth through 2015.**” With population growth exceeding two percent per year, our workforce is expanding at twice the national average. Area colleges and universities graduate more than 20,000 students per year, with an outstanding retention rate.
- ❖ With all the amenities of a Florida location, Jacksonville companies report that it is easy to recruit employees to the area. And trailing spouses are in luck because *Forbes* magazine ranked Jacksonville in the “**Top 10 Best U.S. Cities to Find a Job.**”
- ❖ Four area military installations provide employment to approximately 46,000 active duty, reserve and civilian men and women. Of the personnel who exit the military each year, more than 3,000 choose to remain in the region, providing a steady stream of skilled workers for area businesses.

Jacksonville offers an unbeatable business climate.

- ❖ The cost of constructing new facilities in Jacksonville is 20 percent less than the U.S. average. Real estate lease rates are below most major metro areas, averaging \$19.27 per square foot for office and \$4.05 per square foot for industrial space.
- ❖ The tax situation in Florida is very positive. Florida has no corporate franchise tax, no state personal income tax, no taxes on inventories and no taxes on foreign income.
- ❖ As the western most location on the East Coast, Jacksonville is actually the least likely place on the Atlantic or Gulf Coasts to experience a hurricane. This is due to the “recurvature effect.” Storms heading toward Jacksonville are influenced by the Bermuda high pressure system from the west and are either driven northward into the Carolinas, or more often, back out to sea. No major hurricane has ever made landfall within 100 miles of Jacksonville.





KEY ADVANTAGES OF A BUSINESS LOCATION IN JACKSONVILLE

Northeast Florida offers a strategic location for your business.

- ❖ Jacksonville International Airport (JAX) offers 82 non-stop daily flights to 27 destinations with an average ticket price that is 15 percent lower than East Coast hub airports. After investing more than \$300 million in recent improvements, JAX is now one of the most modern airports in the world.
- ❖ Northeast Florida boasts a world-class intermodal system, comprised of four airports, three marine terminals and a vast network of railways and interstate roadways that put 45 million customers within a day's drive. *Logistics Today* has consistently named Jacksonville a “**Top Five Star Logistics Metro**” area and one of the nation’s “**Top 10 Logistics-Friendly Cities.**” Distribution center activity is at an all-time high for our region since Mitsui O.S.K. Lines and Hanjin both agreed to provide direct shipping service between Asia and Jacksonville, which will triple the container throughput at JAXPORT.

The quality of life in the Jacksonville region is hard to beat.

- ❖ Northeast Florida is known for its outdoor recreational opportunities, featuring 90 miles of beaches along the Atlantic Ocean and the majestic St. Johns River for boating, fishing and kayaking. *Parenting* magazine ranked Jacksonville number one on the list of “**Ten Best Cities for Recreation.**” Jacksonville has more than 131 square miles of city, state and national parks – making it the largest urban park system in the nation.
- ❖ *AmericanStyle* magazine ranked Jacksonville as one of its “**Top 25 Arts Destinations.**” Culture lovers will appreciate the Museum of Contemporary Art, Cummer Museum and Gardens and Museum of Science and History as well as the spectacular Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens. The area is also home to several performing arts venues and the world-renown Jacksonville Symphony.
- ❖ *Forbes* magazine ranked Jacksonville as the ninth “**Best U.S. Shopping City.**” Jacksonville has several great shopping centers including the newest addition at St. Johns Town Center, an out door mall that also features a variety of high end dining, nightlife, hotels and residential living options.
- ❖ Sports enthusiasts can cheer for the NFL Jacksonville Jaguars, AFL Jacksonville Sharks, ABA Jacksonville Giants and the Jacksonville Suns AA baseball team. The region also features more than 85 elite golf courses, including the famed Players Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass and the World Golf Hall of Fame.
- ❖ Jacksonville was ranked in the Top 10 of *Mobility* magazine’s “**Best Cities for Relocating Families.**” The average commute time to work is only 25 minutes. The average cost of a newly constructed 2,400 square foot home in Jacksonville is only \$205,715. Our region boasts more than 185 “A-rated” schools with a proven track record of superior performance. *Newsweek* ranked Stanton College Preparatory School and Paxon School for Advanced Studies among the top 10 in its annual ranking of “**America’s Best High Schools.**”
- ❖ Our region offers a world class health care system, home to one of only three Mayo Clinic campuses in the U.S. and several other distinguished area hospitals and medical research facilities.

Contact the JAXUSA Partnership if Your Company is Considering an Expansion or Relocation.

The JAXUSA Partnership is Jacksonville and Northeast Florida’s regional economic development initiative supporting Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns counties. Please let us know how we can help grow your company in Jacksonville and Northeast Florida by contacting us at (904) 366-6639 or bizrelo@jaxusa.org

