

THE BEACON COUNCIL

Miami-Dade County's Official Economic Development Partnership

The Beacon Council, Miami-Dade County's official economic development partnership is one of only 25 economic development organizations in the nation with the official designation of an Accredited Economic Development Organization (AEDO)

SELECT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RANKINGS FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

- Miami-Ft. Lauderdale ranked as the 4th most diverse metropolitan “melting pot” in the United States by Washington D.C.-based The Brookings Institution (April 2006).ⁱ
- The State of Florida has been named as one of the "**Top Ten Pro-Business States**" in 2005 and 2006 by Pollina Corporate Real Estate, Inc. (March 2006).ⁱⁱ
- Florida is ranked fourth among the 50 states for the best business tax climates in the United States by the Washington, D.C.-based Tax Foundation. (February 2006).ⁱⁱⁱ
- Miami ranks **#7** among “**Top 10 Cities for Moviemakers**” in the United States by *MovieMaker Magazine*. (February 2006).
- Miami-Fort Lauderdale ranked #1 in a study of the best metropolitan areas for small businesses in the United States by Bizjournals.com. (February 2006).
- Miami ranks among “**America’s 50 Hottest Cities**” for relocations and expansions by *Expansion Management Magazine*. (February 2006)
- Florida is among the “**Top 10 fastest growing states,**” in the country by the Census Bureau. (December 2005)
- Miami-Dade County is home to two of the “**Top 10 Business Schools for Hispanics**” in the United States. *Hispanic Business Magazine* ranked the University of Miami School of Business Administration **#5** and the Chapman Graduate School of Business at Florida International University **#9**. (September 2005).
- Miami has placed **third** in the category of “**Best Quality of Life**” in *fDi Magazine’s “US Cities and States of the Future 2005-06”* awards. The State of Florida won **second place** for “**Best Economic Potential.**” (June 2005)
- Miami-Dade County has **four** public senior high schools ranked among the **top 100 in the country** by *Newsweek* magazine in their annual list of top public high schools. (May 2005)^{iv}
- Miami has consistently ranked among the **top two Best Cities to Do Business in Latin America** by *AméricaEconomía*. (2001-2005)
- Miami ranks as #7 among **the nation's top regions for entrepreneurship and innovation** by the US Small Business Administration. (April 2005)
- Miami ranks as # 8 in the **top best cities for independent filmmakers to live and make movies** by *MovieMaker* magazine. (Winter 2005)
- Miami-Ft. Lauderdale ranked as **#2** in the **Top Markets for Business Vitality** by the *American City Business Journals*. (January 2005)
- South Florida ranks as one of the **top 5 U.S. regions for attracting foreign investors' commercial real estate investments**, according to a survey by Kingsley Associates, a real estate investment firm. (January 2005)^v
- Miami ranked **#1** as the **Most Exciting City** by *Wallpaper* magazine in the inaugural awards issue. (January 2005)^{vi}
- Miami ranked **#32** nationally among the **top 50 metro areas in the "Metro Area and State Competitiveness Report 2004"** prepared by the Beacon Hill Institute. (November 2004)^{vii}

- Metropolitan Miami ranked **# 22 overall among "America's 100 Most Logistics Friendly Metros,"** in the 2004 Logistics Quotient™ ranking by *Expansion Management* and *Logistics Today* magazines. (October 2004)
- Miami ranked **#1** in 2003 and **# 2** in 2004 as **Top City for Hispanics to Live**, by *Hispanic* magazine. (August 2004)^{viii}
- Two Miami-Dade County companies ranked among the **"100 Best Places to Work In Information Technology"** in the country. *Computerworld* Magazine ranked the University of Miami in Coral Gables as **#2**, and Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. as **#13**. (June 2004)
- Miami has ranked among the **top five markets for percentage growth in building permits** in the nation by *Builder* Magazine. (May 2004)
- Miami-Hialeah ranked among the **"Top 25 Cities to Do Business in America"** by *Inc. Magazine*. (March 2004)
- Miami ranked **# 8** among the **Top 10 "Best Cities for Entrepreneurs"** by Entrepreneur.com. (October 2003)
- Miami ranked among the **"Top 10 Large Metropolitan Areas with the Strongest Growth"** by *USA TODAY*. (July 2003)^{ix}
- Miami-Dade County ranked **third in the nation for increase in businesses** by the *U.S. Department of Commerce Census Bureau*. (April 2003)
- *Miami International Airport* reports that Miami-Dade County is **# 1 for having More Flights to Latin America and the Caribbean than any other U.S. airport**, and **#1 in International Freight** for 2003.
- Miami was ranked **# 7 in Top 30 U.S. Markets for Commercial Real Estate Investment and Development** by *Emerging Trends in Real Estate*® 2002. (Fall 2002)^x
- Miami ranked **# 8 for Global Cities** by *Business Development OUTLOOK* magazine. (June 2002)
- Miami ranked **# 1 Healthiest City** in the United States by *Natural Health* Magazine. (April 2002)
- Miami-Dade County was named among the **Top Three Best Industrial Real Estate Markets for 2002** by the *National Association of Realtors*. (April 2002)^{xi}
- Miami rated among the **Top 15 Cities Most People Would Like to Live** by *The Harris Poll*. (September 2001)^{xii}
- Miami ranked as **#4 among 100 Cities - Best Place to Raise a Child in the U.S.** by *Child* magazine. (April 2001)
- Miami ranked **# 5 in the World for the Top 20 Telecom Hubs** by *America's Network* magazine. (September 2000)

ⁱ The Brookings Institution (<http://www.brookings.edu/default.htm>) is a private nonprofit organization devoted to independent research and innovative policy solutions. This survey examines continuing shifts in the nation's metropolitan areas by race and ethnicity during the first part of the current decade.

ⁱⁱ The Top Ten survey ranks Florida among the best places in the nation for conducting and succeeding in business due to its progressive pro-business policies, quality workforce and overall economic climate. The comprehensive national study, released annually by the Chicago-based Pollina Corporate Real Estate, Inc., examines 29 factors considered important in conducting and succeeding in business and through such indicators measures the business-friendliness of each state.

ⁱⁱⁱ The report by the Tax Foundation looked at five areas: individual income taxes, major business taxes, sales taxes, unemployment insurance taxes and taxes on wealth or assets such as property.

^{iv} The magazine ranks the schools by dividing the number of Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate tests taken in the entire school by the number of students graduating the same year. **Coral Reef Senior High** in Southwest Miami-Dade, an all-magnet school with specialized curricula, was the region's highest-ranked school at 13. Also in the top 100 were **Design and Architecture Senior High** in the Miami Design District at 33, **Palmetto Senior High** in Pinecrest at 53 and **MAST Academy** on Virginia Key at 66.

^v The survey called Miami "a 24-hour city with an internationally friendly business climate" that made South Florida attractive along with strong markets in Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach.

^{vi} Wallpaper Magazine states that a booming architectural scene, a thriving arts community and an economy that's as thrusting as the beach-goers' peccs make Miami this year's hottest urban destination.

^{vii} The State and Metro Area Competitive Indexes are designed to measure the long-term competitiveness of an area. The Beacon Hill Institute considers a state or a metropolitan area to be competitive if it has in place the policies and conditions that ensure and sustain a high level of per capita income and its continued growth. To achieve this, a state or metropolitan area needs to be able both to attract and incubate new businesses, and to provide an environment that is conducive to the growth of existing firms.

^{viii} The ranking was based on a number of factors, including job opportunities, affordable cost of living, the powerful political force of Hispanics in the area, and the area's tribute to Latino heritage and cultural events.

^{ix} The rankings are a projection based on an analysis of cities and regions nationwide that are expected to grow and create jobs at a quicker than average pace as the economy rebounds.

^x The publication, released by PricewaterhouseCoopers, is a 62-page annual forecast of the US commercial real estate market -- offering in-depth insight, projections, guidance, and outlooks for the future.

^{xi} According to Sigrid Fennemore, a Senior Economist with the *National Association of Realtors*.

^{xii} *The Harris Poll* is a leading barometer of public opinion in the United States for more than 40 years.