



THE TIME IS NOW

A DISTRIBUTION & MANUFACTURING
OPPORTUNITY FOR FLORIDA

Over the last decade, the State of Florida and other partners have made significant investments in Florida's seaports—including at JAXPORT in Jacksonville.

These investments have laid the foundation for Florida to capture two major business opportunities that we have before us: attract distribution and fulfillment centers and new manufacturing to Florida.

Now is the perfect time to take advantage of these opportunities and bring more jobs and businesses to communities throughout our state.

IMPORTANCE OF FLORIDA'S PORTS



True global gateways—Florida's seaports deliver the goods we all depend on in our everyday lives, while connecting the state's businesses to the global economy.

The economic impact is significant.

Cargo activity at Florida's ports support hundreds of thousands of jobs. JAXPORT alone generates more than 138,000 jobs in Florida.

Port-dependent jobs pay an average annual salary of more than \$70,000, well above the state average of \$46,000.

Recent changes in global trade present tremendous economic opportunity for Florida—to grow these jobs and the positive impact on the Florida families they support.

OPPORTUNITY #1: DISTRIBUTION AND FULFILLMENT CENTERS

Ecommerce has grown at unprecedented rates as the COVID-19 pandemic has people spending more time—and dollars—at home.

Major e-tailers are opening new distribution and fulfillment centers around the state to meet the demand for next day and same day deliveries. These facilities need to be located near major population centers.

Communities such as Jacksonville and their outlying areas can benefit by attracting more of these distribution facilities, which generate jobs at the facilities themselves, as well as additional jobs throughout the supply chain.

These jobs include everything from trucking and warehousing to logistics support and inventory management.

The boom is already underway.

In the last two years alone, some of the world's biggest names in ecommerce have opened facilities in Jacksonville, including Wayfair, Amazon, Cra-Z-art, Article and Industry West.



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These facilities are part of more than 9 million square feet of industrial real estate space that has been built or is under construction in Northeast Florida. Approximately a third of this space has been leased by or sold to retailers engaged in ecommerce.

Estimates show that by 2025, 40 cents of every dollar will be spent online.

As the nation's third most populous state, Florida is an attractive destination for the distribution and fulfillment centers that are being built to satisfy this growing demand.

The Southeastern U.S. is the fastest growing region in the country

70 million consumers live within a day's truck drive of North Florida

The state has great interstate access via I-10, I-95, I-75 and I-4.



The state's ports, including JAXPORT, serve as global gateways for companies with Florida operations to import raw materials or export finished product—bringing even more jobs and revenue to the state.

Continued investment in education and workforce development gives Florida an advantage over our out-of-state competitors.

When Florida prioritizes its ports and invests in its people, global companies take notice opening up new trade lanes with Europe, Asia and the rest of the world.

This presents new opportunities to grow Florida's economy.

OPPORTUNITY #2: NEW MANUFACTURING

Florida also can elevate its position in the global economy, and create high-paying jobs, by attracting new advanced manufacturing.

The timing is right: the COVID-19 pandemic and trade tensions have generated new interest in “reshoring”—bringing manufacturing back to the US—and Florida stands to benefit.

Major manufacturers look for:

- A large, skilled workforce.
- Tailored worker training programs.
- Large tracts of land suitable for industrial development.
- And most importantly, world-class Infrastructure, including rail, roads, utilities and ports.



Florida is primed to attract these “reshoring” opportunities—everything from consumer goods and solar panels, to medical supplies, pharmaceuticals and other critical health care items.

Assembling an overall package, competitive with other Southeastern states, would help bring more production, and the jobs that come with it, to Florida.

Ports like JAXPORT are critical partners in growing Florida manufacturing—everything from importing raw materials to exporting “Made-in-Florida” goods to the world marketplace.

One example of an industry to target is vehicle manufacturing.



In the automotive industry, Jacksonville already has a foothold. JAXPORT is one of the nation’s top vehicle handling ports, handling new cars and trucks for more than a dozen major automobile manufacturers.

And three major auto manufacturers already have distribution facilities in Jacksonville, including BMW, VW, Southeast Toyota and Mercedes-Benz.

Florida has large tracts of properly zoned, shovel-ready sites with access to a variety of labor options and available land within close proximity to ports.



Yet, Florida is the only state in the Southeastern United States without an automobile manufacturing plant. Even though Florida is better positioned than any of these states to provide a consumer market and distribution network for finished vehicles.

Florida leads the region in the sale of new autos—and has multiple ports with worldwide connections to import auto parts and export the assembled vehicles.

As vehicle manufacturing turns increasingly to the production of electric—and eventually autonomous—vehicles, Florida is the ideal state to locate this production. Governor DeSantis and the state's elected officials have provided historic investment in improving Florida's electric vehicle charging grid.

With support from the Florida Chamber, the state is also a leader in autonomous vehicle testing in development.

Bringing vehicle manufacturing to Florida is just the beginning.



NEXT STEPS:

CONTINUE SUPPORT OF FLORIDA PORTS TO GROW JOBS AND COMMERCE.

CONTINUE FUNDING FOR TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS STUDIES.

PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF LARGE DISTRIBUTION CENTERS AND MANUFACTURING NEAR FLORIDA PORTS.