



OKEECHOBEE

SUCCESS STARTS HERE

Nestled in the heartland of Florida, Okeechobee County emerges as a lucrative investment destination ripe with potential and opportunity. For savvy business investors seeking a strategic location, a thriving market, and a community prepared for growth, Okeechobee County offers the perfect synergy of elements for a prosperous venture.





OKEECHOBEE COUNTY COURT HOUSE

EXPERIENCE OKEECHOBEE COUNTY

Quietly nestled in the heart of Florida, Okeechobee County stands as a hidden gem waiting to be discovered by those seeking a vibrant community and a flourishing business environment. The County offers a unique blend of natural beauty, thriving businesses, and a strong sense of community that makes it an ideal place to live, work, and invest.

Okeechobee County's untapped potential serves as a gateway for business leaders and investors. Whether you're looking to establish a new venture, expand an existing business, or simply enjoy a new quality of life, Okeechobee has it all.

Allow this report to serve as your guide to understanding the immense potential that Okeechobee County holds for both businesses and residents. It's not just a location on the map; Okeechobee is a thriving community offering a fulfilling lifestyle, prosperous business ventures, and a promising future.



BUSINESS-FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT

Investors find solace in Okeechobee County's business-friendly atmosphere. Local government is not just supportive; it's proactive. Red tape is minimized allowing businesses to navigate regulations smoothly. Grants and tailored support programs create an environment where entrepreneurs can focus on innovation and growth. Whether you're a budding startup or expanding an established organization, Okeechobee welcomes you with open arms!

Okeechobee County is synonymous with business prosperity, and our local government is committed to supporting entrepreneurs like you! We offer tax incentives, comprehensive business support services, and a recently launched Business Retention and Expansion Program. Navigating government processes is effortless, allowing you to focus on what truly matters – growing your business.






LOCATION AND CONNECTIVITY

Situated strategically in the heart of Florida, businesses here enjoy access to key transportation routes. Okeechobee offers unparalleled access to major transportation networks. Whether you rely on road, rail, sea, or air transportation, this desirable location ensures exceptional connectivity, allowing you to reach regional and international markets efficiently. This advantage enhances business' competitiveness and opens doors to new opportunities.

Okeechobee is conveniently positioned at or near the crossroads of major highways, including Interstate 95, Interstate 75, US Highway 441, and the Florida Turnpike. This location places businesses here at the epicenter of Florida's bustling economic activities, enabling them to effortlessly connect with key markets, suppliers, and consumers across the state and beyond. This accessibility not only reduces transit times but also minimizes operational costs, making Okeechobee an attractive hub for companies with national and international distribution networks.

DID YOU KNOW?

Okeechobee County is located within 200 miles of 87% of the Floridian population!

An aerial photograph showing a vast agricultural landscape. The foreground is dominated by a wide, straight canal or canal system, likely part of the South Florida Water Management District. The water is a deep blue. To the left of the canal, there are several large, rectangular plots of land, some of which are green, suggesting crops like sugarcane. The background shows a patchwork of various colored fields, including shades of green, brown, and grey, indicating different agricultural uses or stages of cultivation. The overall scene is a typical representation of the agricultural heartland of South Florida.

PERFECTLY POSITIONED

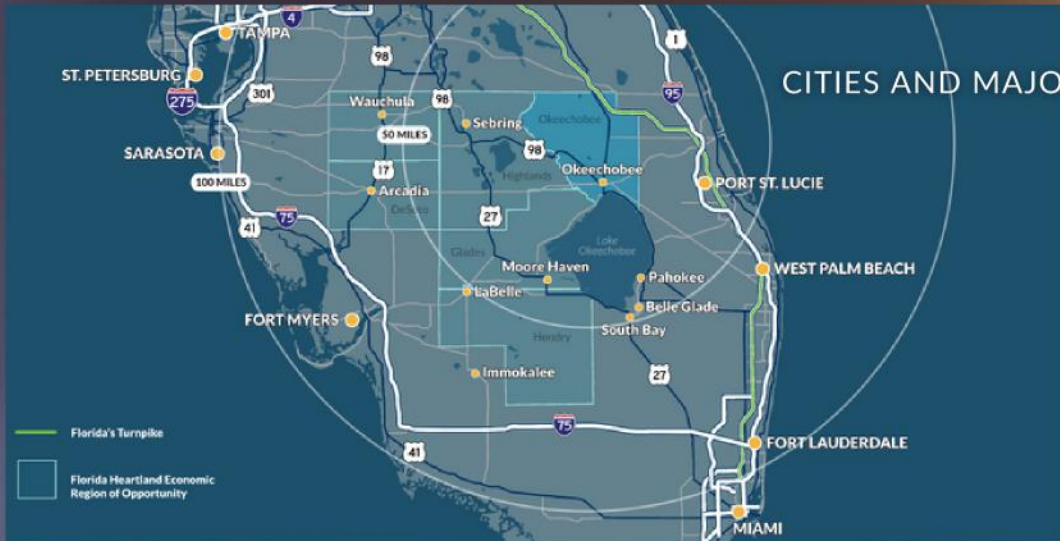
Situated conveniently between the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, Okeechobee County's highways provide a direct route for industries to transport goods, offering efficient routes to major ports, including the Port of Miami, Port of Palm Beach, and Port Everglades. Countless international airports are also within a short driving distance to allow for international travel, including Palm Beach, Miami, Orlando, and Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood, to name a few. Industries can efficiently transport cargo, opening avenues for international trade and exports.

By offering businesses reliable road, rail, sea, and airway connections, industries can adapt swiftly to market changes, manage product efficiently, and scale operations with demand. This adaptability not only ensures our economic stability, but also positions Okeechobee as a magnet for investments in an ever-evolving business landscape.



READY TO TAKE OFF?

Fly into Okeechobee County Airport and enjoy a seamless travel experience. Owned and operated by Okeechobee County, our airport stands as a testament to self-sufficiency. Our facilities are meticulously managed and offer comprehensive aviation services, complying with stringent Federal Aviation Administration standards and holding a license from the Florida Department of Transportation. As a vital component of our county's infrastructure, Okeechobee County Airport plays a pivotal role in bolstering the local economy. Discover the convenience of the Okeechobee County Airport, where aviation meets exceptional services.



CITIES AND MAJOR HIGHWAYS



RAIL, SEAPORTS, AND AIRPORTS

Okeechobee County is perfectly positioned within one of the most dynamic areas for growth in the United States. In less than 125 miles, you will find countless airports and seaports, including:

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|----------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| ✈ St. Pete Clearwater International Airport | ⚓ Port Miami |
| ✈ Tampa International Airport | ⚓ Port Everglades |
| ✈ Sarasota – Bradenton international Airport | ⚓ Port of Palm Beach |
| ✈ Southwest Florida International Airport | ⚓ Port Manatee |
| ✈ Treasure Coast International Airport | ⚓ Port Tampa Bay |
| ✈ Palm Beach International Airport | |
| ✈ Ft. Lauderdale – Hollywood International | |
| ✈ Miami International Airport | |



SKILLED WORKFORCE & QUALITY EDUCATION

Okeechobee County's commitment to education ensures a constant influx of talent into the job market. From technical skills to creative talents, Okeechobee's educational institutions prepare students for the demands of the modern workplace. Business investors benefit not only from a pool of skilled professionals, but also from an environment that promotes continuous learning and is adaptable to local needs.

Partners at educational institutions like Indian River State College and Okeechobee High School are always eager to collaborate closely with businesses to tailor curricula, ensuring graduates are not just academically proficient, but also job-ready. High school graduation rates have increased at a rate faster than that of the State of Florida's since 2015, further broadening the opportunities available for eager young people.

Local leaders in education have also championed specific programming for students, uniquely developed to build leadership potential, demonstrate the vital importance of soft skills, and instruct on basic employability skills necessary for today's professional employers.



NURTURING BRIGHT MINDS FOR BIG FUTURES

Excitement fills the air in Okeechobee as the new Okeechobee High School campus takes shape, promising a brighter future for our community and a wealth of opportunities for local businesses. This \$82 million, state-of-the-art educational facility (currently under construction) signifies more than just a school; it represents progress, innovation, and a commitment to nurturing our next generation of leaders. The vibrant local synergy between education and commerce creates a dynamic ecosystem, encouraging entrepreneurship, enhancing the local economy, and fostering a strong sense of community pride. The new Okeechobee High School campus isn't just a building; it's an investment in our shared future, promising a thriving business landscape and a prosperous tomorrow for all.



A photograph of the Shoeb County Court House, a grand neoclassical building with a prominent portico supported by tall columns. The words "SHOEB COUNTY COURT HOUSE" are inscribed above the archway. Palm trees are visible in the foreground and background.

SHOEB COUNTY COURT HOUSE

HOMETOWN QUALITY OF LIFE

Okeechobee County is proud to host state-of-the-art healthcare facilities and services. HCA Raulerson Hospital stands as a beacon of health and wellness in our community, offering not just vital medical services but also a multitude of benefits to our thriving business community. With its cutting-edge facilities, highly skilled medical professionals, and compassionate care, Raulerson Hospital ensures that our community members receive top-notch healthcare close to home.

Investing in Okeechobee County means more than just financial gains; it means becoming part of a thriving community. Picture your employees living where the pace of life allows for work-life balance. Access to nature's wonders, from tranquil lakes to lush parks, provides the perfect backdrop for relaxation and recreation. The strong sense of community fosters social bonds, creating a supportive environment for families and individuals alike.



EXPERIENCE LIFE, OKEECHOBEE STYLE

Surrounded by picturesque landscapes, including the stunning Lake Okeechobee, the County offers a plethora of recreational opportunities. Residents can enjoy boating, fishing, hiking, and other outdoor activities, making it an ideal place for nature enthusiasts. Okeechobee's parks and recreational areas provide a perfect backdrop for family outings, fostering a healthy and active lifestyle.

If you're an outdoor enthusiast, Okeechobee is your playground. With the vast Lake Okeechobee as your backyard, you can enjoy fishing, boating, and water sports to your heart's content. Our parks and nature preserves offer hiking and wildlife viewing opportunities for those seeking adventure on land.

Okeechobee County is not just a location; it's a community. The people here are warm and friendly, creating a close-knit atmosphere that's rare to find in today's fast-paced world. Residents take pride in our community and actively participate in various events and organizations, fostering a strong sense of belonging.

Okeechobee County stands as a canvas of potential, inviting you to paint your success story. It's more than a hidden gem; it's a flourishing landscape of opportunities waiting to be explored. Embrace the warmth of the community, the opportunities of the market, and the support of the local government. Your journey to business success starts here, in the heart of Okeechobee County.



OKEECHOBEE COUNTY
Economic Development Corporation



FLORIDA
THE FUTURE IS HERE

