

2013 State of the Cities





INTRODUCTION

When you think of a Florida city, what does it look like? **Jacksonville? Miami? Orlando?** In reality, Florida is a state of small cities. Nearly half of Florida cities have a population of less than 5,000 people. The majority of Floridians live within a municipality, and cities in Florida are steadily growing each year.

Florida boasts beautiful weather and a variety of outdoor activities. People continue to move to Florida's cities for the abundance of parks and the emphasis on public safety.

Throughout the recent economic challenges hitting the public and private sectors, Florida's cities strive to maintain quality services, be responsive to the citizens they serve, and initiate efforts to put people to work.

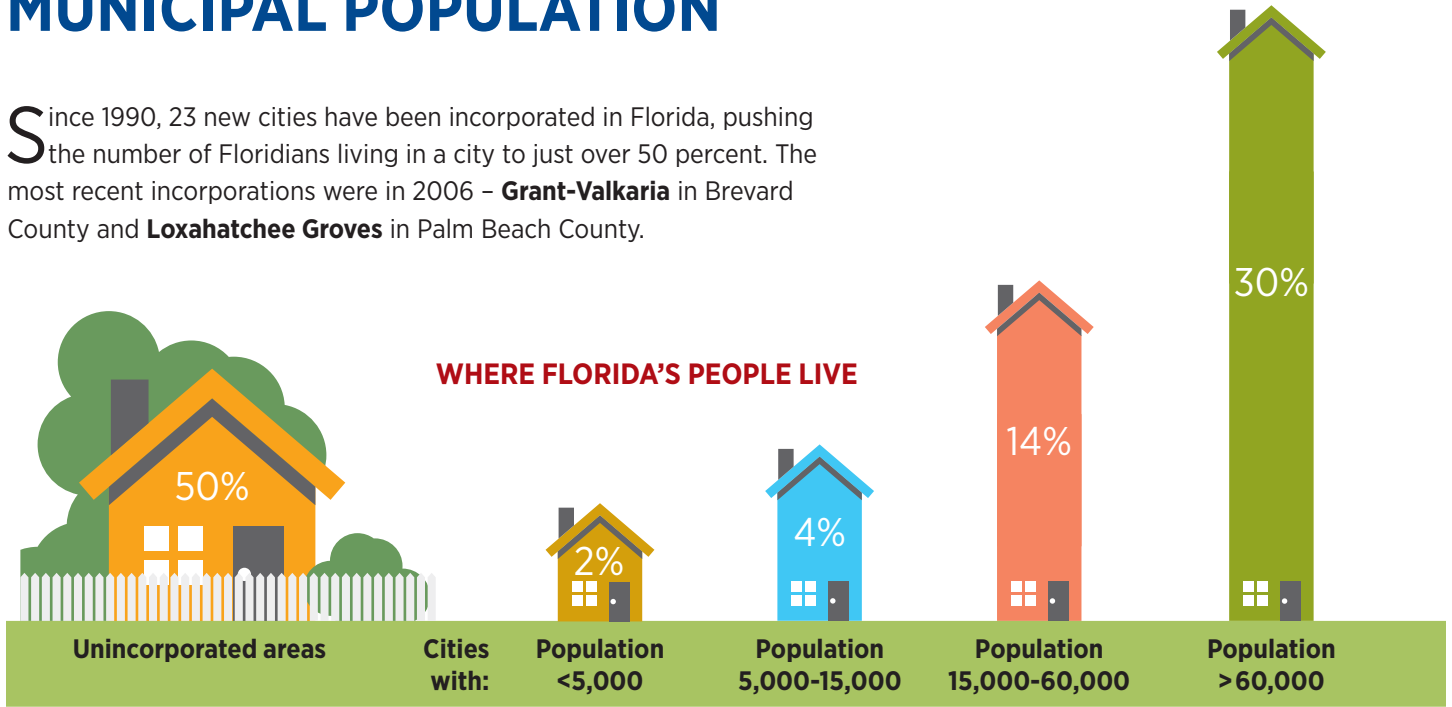
The following is an overview of the current state of Florida cities and how they have changed over the past three years. The results are based on the annual **CityStats** survey, produced by the **Florida League of Cities Center for Municipal Research and Innovation**. The Center serves as the central source of local government research and resources at the League. Data is collected from various research institutes across the state and nation as well as through the CityStats survey.

In Florida, a city, town or village is a municipal government. There is no legal difference between the three. In this document, the words municipality and city are used interchangeably.



MUNICIPAL POPULATION

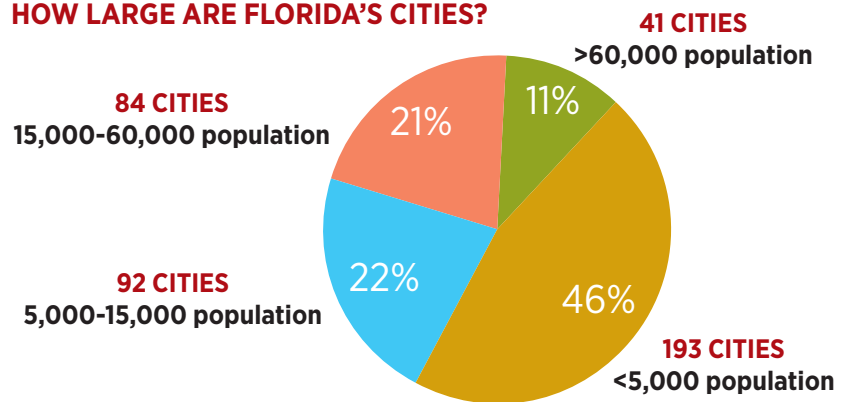
Since 1990, 23 new cities have been incorporated in Florida, pushing the number of Floridians living in a city to just over 50 percent. The most recent incorporations were in 2006 – **Grant-Valkaria** in Brevard County and **Loxahatchee Groves** in Palm Beach County.



*Information obtained from Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Florida, 2013 population estimates

Florida's cities vary greatly in population – from more than 800,000 in **Jacksonville** to less than 10 in **Weeki Wachee**. Only six municipalities in Florida have a population greater than 200,000, while six municipalities have a population of less than 100.

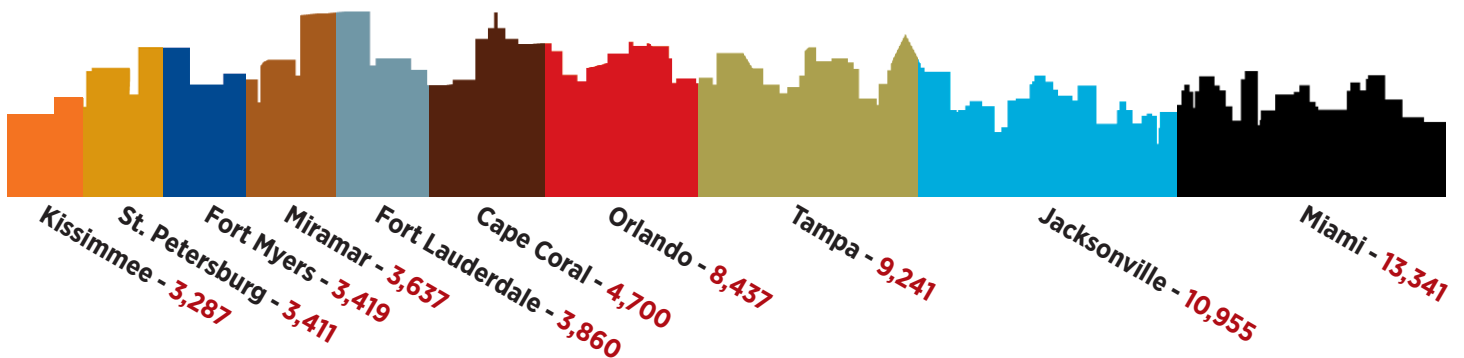
HOW LARGE ARE FLORIDA'S CITIES?



*Information obtained from Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Florida, 2013 population estimates

After several years of stagnation, people are once again moving to Florida. Many of Florida's metropolitan areas are showing steady growth at an average rate of 3 percent.

10 CITIES WITH THE LARGEST POPULATION INCREASES FROM 2011-2013



*Information obtained from Bureau of Economic and Business Research, University of Florida, 2013 population estimates

MUNICIPAL SERVICES & UTILITIES

Cities provide many services to improve their residents' quality of life. While public safety and parks and recreation are the most visible, there are others that are rarely thought about. Three examples include ensuring drinking water is regularly tested and contaminant-free, sewage is quickly removed and treated, and storm water is properly handled to minimize flooding.

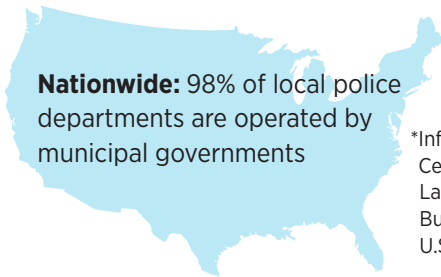
More than half of all Florida cities offer parks, water services, police and fire services. Some cities are beginning to add newer services such as employee health clinics and charter schools.



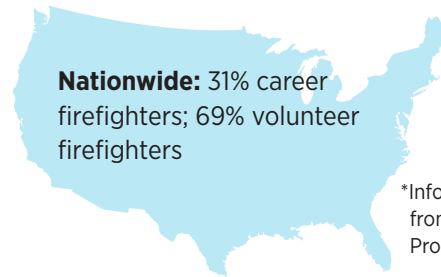
PUBLIC SAFETY

Cities work hard to ensure their residents have quality police and fire services, which are consistently among the top four municipal services provided. Police services include crime prevention, suppression and investigation, in addition to uniformed patrol and response. Fire services include fire prevention, suppression and rescue.

Municipalities typically provide services either directly by city employees or by contracting with another government entity, such as a county. Half of cities with a population below 5,000 depend on other jurisdictions for law enforcement. Just over one third of these cities depend on other jurisdictions for fire service assistance.



*Information obtained from Census of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies, Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice



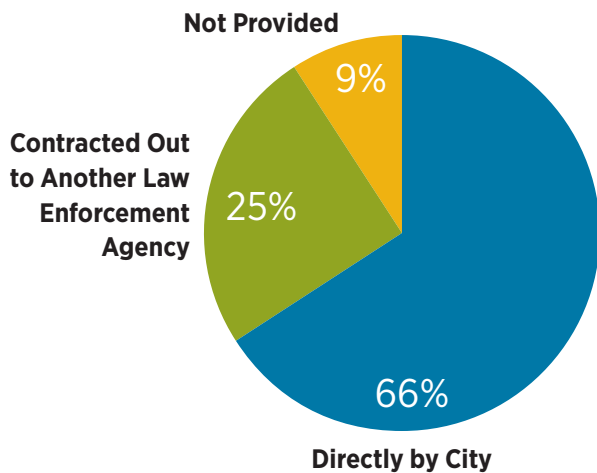
*Information obtained from National Fire Protection Association

Florida has 270 local police agencies; 22,506 sworn local police officers; 122 sworn local police officers per 100,000 residents

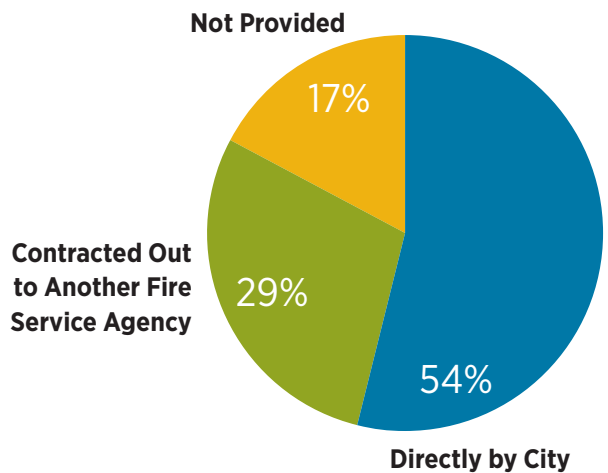
*Information obtained from Census of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies, Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice

44% of Florida cities below 5,000 population utilize volunteer firefighters

*As reported in the 2013 CityStats survey



*Cities who do not provide police services rely on the county sheriff for law enforcement



*Cities who do not provide fire services rely on the county or volunteers

BUDGET, ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT

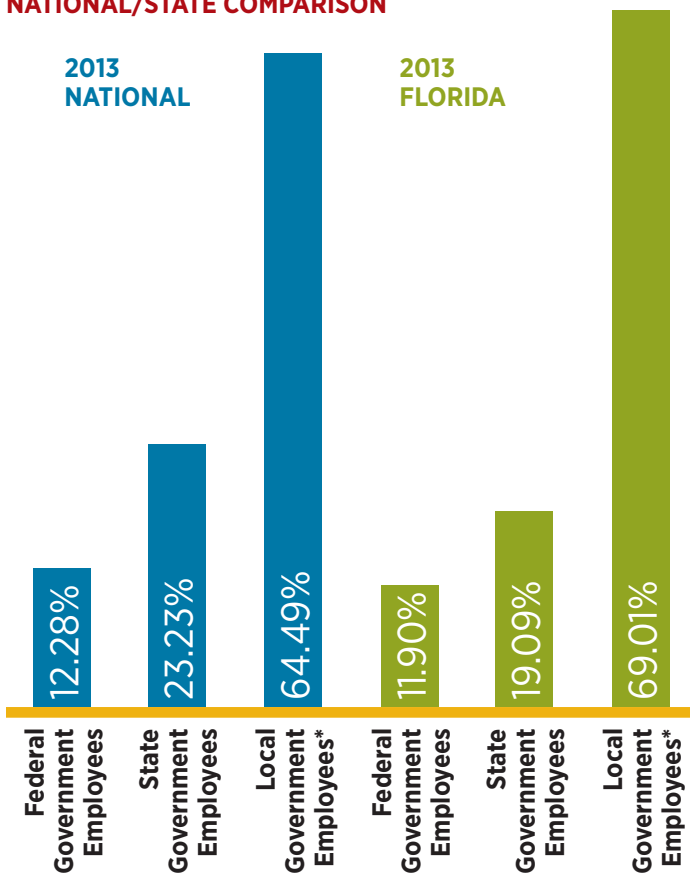
There are several indicators to the financial health of city governments. Trends in budget, economic development and employment rates indicate that cities are beginning to rebound from the economic recession. Municipal budgets – largely affected by changes to available revenue sources such as property taxes, state funding and revenues from services and fees – have begun to stabilize.

In an effort to increase economic development within their cities, nearly 60 percent of Florida municipalities offer economic development incentives to encourage business.

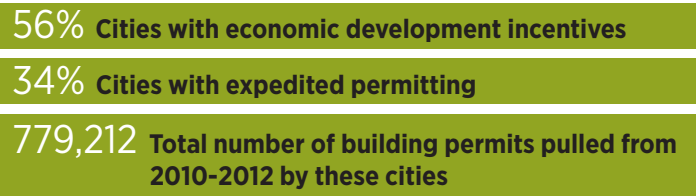
The most common are expedited permitting and favorable land development regulations. Of cities reporting expedited permitting incentives, more than 750,000 building permits were issued between 2010 and 2012.

Typical staffing levels in Florida’s cities can range from less than 10 employees in smaller cities all the way up to more than 800 employees in larger cities. The number of municipal employees will vary not only based on a city’s population, but also on the level and number of services provided.

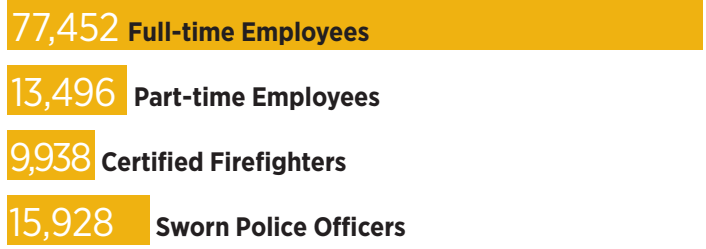
NATIONAL/STATE COMPARISON



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



STATEWIDE MUNICIPAL EMPLOYMENT



*As reported in the 2013 CityStats survey

**“Local” includes school board, county and municipal employees

*Information obtained from U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics Program and Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Bureau of Labor Market Statistics

CITYSTATS MEDIAN GENERAL FUND BUDGETS

Nationwide: Based on construction, consumer and producer price indexes, the year-over-year “cost-of-living” increase to run a municipal government from 2013 to 2014 was 2.09%.

*Municipal cost index as compiled by *American City & County Magazine*

| Median general fund budgets for: | FY2010-2011 | FY2011-2012 | FY2012-2013 | % increase/decrease |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Population range: | | | | |
| <5,000 | \$1,540,042.00 | \$1,625,041.00 | \$1,584,200.00 | 2.87% |
| 5,000-15,000 | \$9,114,740.00 | \$9,290,277.00 | \$9,363,165.00 | 2.73% |
| 15,000-60,000 | \$25,369,414.00 | \$23,308,833.00 | \$25,000,000.00 | -1.46% |
| >60,000 | \$93,354,710.00 | \$93,356,270.00 | \$97,842,598.00 | 4.81% |

ABOUT THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES CENTER FOR MUNICIPAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION AND THE CITYSTATS SURVEY

The Center for Municipal Research and Innovation

The Center is the central source of local government research and resources at the Florida League of Cities. It serves as a link between Florida's public policy researchers and municipal governments, bridging the gap between academics and public policy makers and administrators.

CityStats Survey

Unless otherwise noted, all information included in the State of the Cities is from Florida League of Cities CityStats Surveys, 2011-2013.

The FLC Center for Municipal Research and Innovation has conducted the CityStats survey since 2011. The survey consists of approximately 40 questions about municipal operations, budgets, policies and services. In 2013, surveys were collected from 370 of Florida's 410 municipalities, equaling 90 percent of all cities and 87 percent of the total statewide municipal population.

A copy of the full survey and the list of respondents are available upon request. Individual municipal profiles and the League's "Find a Peer City" database are available for viewing on the League's website at www.floridaleagueofcities.com/ResearchMaterial.aspx.



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