



# Daytona Regional CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



## ADVOCACY IN ACTION

### *Florida's Workforce Needs*

Much like most of the nation, Florida is not immune to the ongoing workforce crisis.

A new Florida Chamber of Commerce study reveals that skill gaps and existing opportunities have created a deficit in critical high-demand workforce areas within Florida. High-paying careers that include the most significant demand are in Healthcare, Business/Finance, IT/Math, and Architecture/Engineering.

The Florida Chamber has committed to advancing Florida's footprint in the world's economy. In the pursuit of advancement to the 10th largest economy globally from its current position of 17th, the Florida Chamber's study has summarized skills and requirements essential to achieve this advancement.

The move from the 17th to the 10th position will require more than 60 percent of Floridians age 25-64 to have a high-value post-secondary certificate, degree, or training experience.

Although Florida has been open for business through most of the pandemic, the state currently has 512,900 job openings. Compare that to the 503,000 people actively looking for work. Mark Wilson, Florida Chamber President, and CEO opined, "Addressing the current workforce crisis by reimagining the existing workforce and preparing a strong future workforce by providing a roadmap for building, upskilling and reskilling Florida's talent pipeline is essential to help us grow to a top 10 global economy."

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According to the study, Florida is anticipated to add four million jobs by 2030 but will also have to add an additional 2 million jobs to eclipse the 10th spot in the world's economy. Volusia County will have to add about 21,000 net new jobs by 2030 to aid in the overall goal. Improving Florida's talent pipeline and developing a highly skilled workforce is the key to expanding current businesses and attracting new business to Florida.

Healthcare, IT/Math, Business/Finance, and Architecture/Engineering are the four career areas that show high-volume and demand gaps in Florida. These four areas represent 32 percent of all job postings in Florida. The four targeted areas also represent some of the most competitive wages, capable of providing \$20,000 above Florida's average annual salary.

Mark Wilson also added, "It is our hope that the Florida business community and education leaders will collaboratively leverage the data found in the Florida Workforce Needs Study to ensure that we must align education and training curriculum to career opportunities and industry needs, as much as possible, to give Florida's current and future talent, and job creators alike, the best opportunity to succeed."

The Florida Chamber's complete study can be found here: [Florida Workforce Needs Study](#)