

December 11th, 2017

- Industry diversification in Southwest Florida increased in the 2nd quarter of 2017. The increase resulted in an improvement in the rankings for the region, rising from 11th to 10th out of all 24 workforce regions.
- The Naples-Immokalee-Marco Island MSA ranked 4th in the state in industry diversification, rising two spots from the previous quarter, out of 22 total Florida MSA's. Punta Gorda MSA ranked 20th (increasing from 21st), while the Cape Coral-Fort Myers MSA's ranking remained at the same level (7th) from the previous quarter.
- Industry diversification for the state of Florida increased to 8.594 for the 2nd quarter of 2017, ranking it 20th out of 50 states.
- See the Industry Diversification project interactive website (<http://lutgert.fgcu.edu/IDP>) for the latest indices and rankings for Florida MSAs, Florida workforce regions, and all U.S. states.

## Southwest Florida

The *FGCU Industry Diversification Index* for the Southwest Florida workforce region—comprising Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee counties—increased in the second quarter of 2017, indicating an increase in workforce diversification for that time period. The workforce region's *IDI* measured 8.436, which was higher than both the 1st quarter of 2017 (measured at 8.361) and the 2nd quarter of 2016 (measured at 8.410). The region rose one spot in the rankings, registering as the 10th most diversified workforce region in the state, out of 24 total regions. The index can register between 0 and 10, with 0 being the least diversified, and 10 being the most diversified.

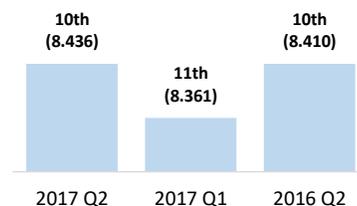
The growth in industry diversification for Southwest Florida follows the usual trend for this quarter. Southwest Florida typically measures higher index measures during the quarters spanning April through September, and lower index measures during the quarters spanning October through March. The lower index measures, expected during the winter period, can be attributed to an influx of tourism and seasonal residents, which leads to an increase in demand for both the retail trade and accommodation and food service industries to meet the seasonal demand. When the winter period ends and seasonal residents leave the region, the demand for both of these industries contracts, leading to a more diverse economy during the spring and summer period.

## MSAs

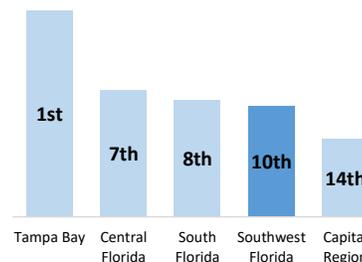
The Cape Coral-Fort Myers *IDI* increased in the 2nd quarter of 2017, registering at 8.490. This was an increase from both the 2nd quarter of 2016 (measured at 8.426) and the 1st quarter of 2017 (measured at 8.458). Despite the increase in the *IDI*, the MSA remained the 7th most diversified MSA in the state, out of 22 total MSAs in the state of Florida.

The Naples-Immokalee-Marco Island *IDI* increased in the 2nd quarter of 2017, with an *IDI* of 8.606—higher than the 1st quarter of 2017 (measured at 8.471), but lower than the 2nd quarter

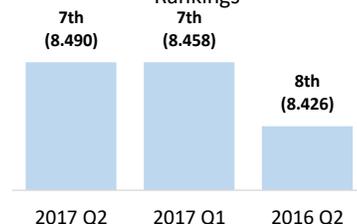
Southwest Florida Rankings



Major Workforce Regions



Cape Coral-Fort Myers Rankings



of 2016 (measured at 8.652). The Naples-Immokalee-Marco Island MSA also had an increase in the rankings, rising two spots to 4th in the state of Florida.

The Punta Gorda *IDI* decreased in the 2nd quarter of 2017, measured at 7.539. This was an increase over both the 1st quarter 2017 measure (7.502) and the 2nd quarter 2016 measure (7.517). The increase resulted in the Punta Gorda MSA rising one spot in the rankings, to 20th in the state of Florida.

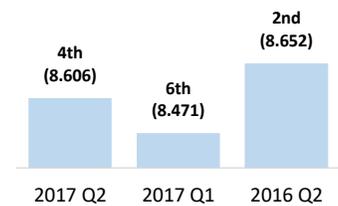
## Florida

Florida's workforce experienced an increase in industry diversification in the 2nd quarter of 2017, while also increasing in the rankings nationally. Florida's *IDI* measured at 8.594, an increase from both the 1st quarter of 2017 (measured at 8.562) and the 2nd quarter of 2016 (measured at 8.555). The increase in Florida's *IDI* also led to an increase in the rankings, with Florida ranked as the 20th most diverse state workforce in the country, behind Washington (8.632) and ahead of Louisiana (8.592). This ranking also marks a four-spot increase from the 2nd quarter of 2016 (24th). Despite the gains the state of Florida has made in the *IDI*, the state continues to rank in the bottom of the Southeast Region, which contains five of the top 10 states with the highest *IDI* in the United States.

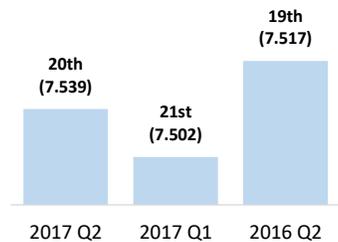
Nationally, the most diversified states in the country were Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina, and the least diverse states were Maine, West Virginia, and Nevada. The *IDI* for the United States was 8.645.

The complete rankings for the *FGCU Industry Diversification Index* by state, Florida workforce region, and Florida MSA are available on the FGCU Industry Diversification Project website (<http://lutgert.fgcu.edu/IDP>), with results dating back to the 1st quarter of 2000. This link also contains information about the methodology used to construct the *IDI*.

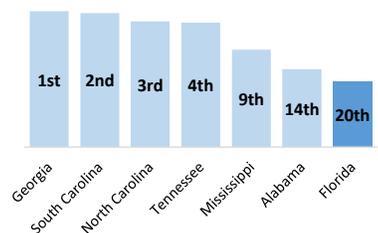
Naples-Immokalee-Marco  
Island Rankings



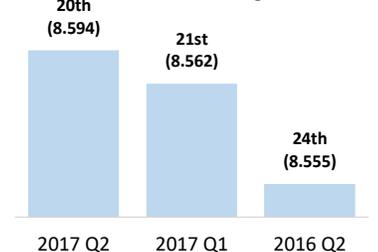
Punta Gorda Rankings



Southeast Rankings



Florida Rankings



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