

Summary: Floridians at Work

Florida's Economy

In a growing economy, many people have jobs in different industries. These jobs help the economy in two ways. First, workers make money producing goods or services for others to buy. Second, people who have jobs can buy these goods or services because they have money.

At one time, Florida's economy depended mostly on farming. Later, other industries such as tourism and mining became important. Today, Florida has many industries due to free enterprise.

Most Floridians work in service industries. Many of these people work in the tourism industry. Floridians also work for high tech industries. They invent and build computers and electronic equipment. These items are sold by workers in the retail industry. Many people also educate Florida's children and work in the government.

Having many industries makes Florida's economy stronger. If one industry does not do well, others may grow. Floridians can still make money to buy the things their families need to live.

Varied Job Choices

People work to earn money. They also look for jobs that they will like doing for a long time. Florida's industries give people many job choices. For example, there are jobs in the space industry. Scientists design space experiments for astronauts to perform in space. Engineers invent and build equipment. Mechanics keep machines working.

Workers must learn new skills to do their jobs well. Some people learn these skills while they work. Others learn them in college. The state of Florida has many colleges and universities. College students study subjects such as farming, history, science, education, and art. Learning about these subjects can help students choose their occupation.



Before You Read

Find and circle each vocabulary word.

free enterprise *noun*, an economic system in which a business can produce any good or service that it wants

retail *noun*, businesses that sell things in stores

occupation *noun*, a paying job



After You Read

REVIEW In what way do jobs help Florida's economy? Underline two sentences that tell how jobs help the economy.

REVIEW In what ways does education help people choose jobs? Highlight one sentence that tells what students do in order to choose their occupation.