

**Miami-Dade Economy Expanding at a Strong Pace
in the Second Quarter 2019**
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The Miami-Dade Economy (MDE) continues to expand at a solid rate in the second quarter of this year. This positive development is driven by a number of principal factors:

- The Miami-Dade Economy (MDE) is attracting increasing levels of foreign capital for investment in construction and other industries from European countries such as Spain, the United Kingdom and Germany among others. In the past, most of the foreign capital originated from Latin America. Thus, the sources of foreign capital attracted to Miami-Dade's positive business climate have become more diversified.
- The MDE economy is also becoming more diversified toward high-wage 21st Century industries such as Life Sciences and other knowledge-intensive goods and services. The success of the Annual e-Merge Americas Conference, with growing number of attendees, sponsors and companies, is an example of the MDE becoming a global technology hub.
- The U.S. economy, another principal driver of MDE activity, continues its record economic expansion. This performance benefits the production and sales of goods and services to the rest of Florida and nationwide. Among industries benefiting from a growing U.S. economy are leisure and hospitality, wholesale trade, real estate-related industries and financial services.

The above factors provide a solid underpinning to the MDE. The economy, given current trends, is likely to reach a GDP of \$360 billion this year (what is termed the "Metro Miami-Dade" GDP), with payroll employment reaching a record level of over 2.7 million. The unemployment rate is also likely to remain at 4 percent or slightly below by end-of-year.

However, there are a number of issues that could slow the economy toward the end of 2019. Primarily these issues relate to the current economy slowdown in the global economy, including key trade and investment partners of MDE. According to the latest (April 2019) World Economic Outlook of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the table on the following page presents the economic growth forecasts for the global economy and regional business partners of the MDE.

GLOBAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY
(Annual Percent Change)

Region/Country	2017	2018 ^F	2019 ^F
Global Economic Growth, of which:	3.8%	3.5%	3.0%
Euro Area	2.4%	1.8%	1.0%
Asia (Excluding Japan)	6.6%	6.4%	6.0%
Latin America and Caribbean	1.2%	1.0%	1.4%

Source: International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Economic Outlook, April 2019.

As can be seen in the above table, global economy growth has slowed since 2017. The Latin America and Caribbean Region is growing at a very modest pace from the 3-4 percent growth rates experienced in past decades. The slight pickup in economic growth forecasted by the IMF in 2019 for the Region is driven primarily by the continued economic recovery of **Brazil**, after deep recessions in prior years. The Brazilian recovery, if it strengthens next year, would be a positive development for the rest of South America, and MDE exports of goods and services to the Region.

There are also two other “headwinds” to monitor for your business planning in the second half of the year and into 2020. First, the continuing impasse over an orderly withdrawal of the U.K. from the European Union (E.U.). If the U.K. leaves the E.U. without an agreement, this would adversely impact economic growth throughout Europe and the global economy due to likely trade and investment disruptions. A second factor to monitor is U.S. Trade Policy, especially the need to finalize an agreement with China. China is an important trade partner of the MDE, and one of the largest global economies.

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