



INDIAN
RIVER
COUNTY,
FLORIDA



ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

Agriculture & Aquaculture

Indian River County has a strong history of agriculture. The climate is favorable to growing citrus, and Indian River grapefruit is world-renowned. Indian River County is also becoming an important hub in Florida's burgeoning \$100 million aquaculture industry. A number of aquaculture businesses, research facilities, and organizations are located here, with more continuing to move into and expand in the area.



Representative Employers

Company	Industry	Employees
B & W Quality Growers	Agriculture - Arugula	200+
Premier Citrus	Citrus Groves, Wholesale Fruit Packaging	100-199
Riverfront Groves	Citrus Groves, Wholesale Fruit Packaging	50-99
Hale Groves/ Southern Fulfillment	Citrus & Gourmet Food Gifts	50-99
Perricone Farms	Citrus Groves, Wholesale Fruit Packaging	100-199
Syngenta Agricultural Research Center	Pest Management Research	25-49
Seald Sweet International	Citrus Distribution	1-24
Peace River Citrus	Citrus Processing	1-24

1st FLORIDA IS #1 IN THE U.S. FOR THESE FARMED FISH:

- GROUPEL
- PINK SHRIMP
- POMPANO
- SPINY LOBSTERS
- MULLET
- SPANISH MACKEREL
- STONE CRAB

(<http://www.freshfromflorida.com>)

2nd INDIAN RIVER COUNTY IS #2 OUT OF ALL U.S. COUNTIES IN GRAPEFRUIT PRODUCTION

(Source: USDA Census of Agriculture, 2012)

8th FLORIDA IS #8 OUT OF ALL U.S. STATES IN FRESH SEAFOOD PRODUCTION

(<http://www.freshfromflorida.com>)

10th INDIAN RIVER COUNTY IS #10 OUT OF ALL U.S. COUNTIES IN ORANGE PRODUCTION

(Source: USDA Census of Agriculture, 2012)

13th INDIAN RIVER COUNTY IS #13 OUT OF ALL U.S. COUNTIES FOR EMPLOYMENT IN THE AGRICULTURAL SERVICES SECTOR

(Source: USDA Census of Agriculture, 2012)



Wages & Workforce

The great value provided by the agricultural labor force in Indian River County gives employers a competitive advantage. Wages are consistently lower than the averages for Florida, the surrounding states, and for the U.S. as a whole.

	Sebastian-Vero Beach MSA	GA	SC	AL	MS	US
Mean Hourly Wage (Overall)	\$21.11	\$28.47	\$23.10	\$25.25	\$21.07	\$31.02
Graders and Sorters, Agricultural Products	\$11.34	\$12.32	N/A	\$13.22	\$12.96	\$14.89
Farmworkers and Laborers, Crop, Nursery, & Greenhouse	\$10.98	\$11.97	\$13.01	\$11.25	\$12.07	\$14.36
First-Line Supervisors	\$21.58	\$26.02	\$28.17	\$28.56	\$26.10	\$24.42

(Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2020)



Riverfront Packinghouse, Vero Beach



Education & Research

Indian River State College

- Five campuses offering programs in a variety of fields including agriculture, agriculture production technology/ aquaculture, and agriculture economics

Florida Institute of Technology - Vero Beach Marine Laboratory

- Offers Bachelors, Masters, and PhD. degrees in aquaculture, biotechnology, ecology, marine biology, coastal zone management, environmental science, oceanography, and ocean engineering

Florida Atlantic University - Harbor Branch

- Undergraduate "Semester at Sea" and courses in marine sciences
- Graduate courses and degrees in biology, integrative biology, and environmental sciences

