



BUDGET MESSAGE

FY 2013/2014

Honorable Chair
Members of the Board of County Commissioners

Dear Commissioners:

I am honored to present the adopted budget for fiscal year 2013-2014. The FY14 base budget was reduced significantly to bring it more in line with prior years' actual spending levels. However, some increases for "above base" items were added due to mandates by the State of Florida, operational demands in certain county departments, small equipment priority purchases and cost-of-living adjustments (COLA).

Highlights of the FY14 budget include:

- State Agencies: Judicial, Medical Examiner, & Health Dept.
 - Flat operating budgets
 - Increases in Court Technology to meet new electronic filing requirements
 - G & A fees and rent (paid to St. Lucie County)
- Constitutional Officers: Sheriff, Supervisor of Elections, Clerk-Finance
 - Increases due to:
 - State FRS mandates
 - Contractual obligations
 - COLA
- Board of County Commissioners
 - Increases due to:
 - State FRS mandate
 - Operational demands
 - COLA
- Maintains fund-balance funding for Torrey Pines economic development legal obligation. \$1.25M annual payment: (FY15 and FY16 payments remaining)
- Maintains fund balance funding for targeted industries economic development incentives (Job Growth Investment Grants).
- Designates \$100,000 fund-balance funding for two-year local small business pilot job incentive program.
- Maintains funding for Economic Development Council at \$158,100; down from \$200,000
 - \$100,000 fund balance funding
 - \$ 58,100 business tax revenue
- Maintains \$1M fund-balance funding of non-profit agencies
- Maintains Contingency Funding at \$1,418,735
- Maintains Emergency Reserve Funding at \$12,578,550: \$679,055 reduction from FY13

- Maintains Budget Stabilization Funds (operating reserves) toward future budgets:
Approximately \$31M
- The FY14 budget includes no tax rate increase except for the Mosquito Control District
 - Millage increase for the Mosquito Control District of:
 - .2029; which brings the District's millage from .2036 to .4065
 - Millage increase for a home with property value of \$100,000 is an annual tax increase of \$20.29
 - Generates additional tax revenue of \$2.8M
 - With the \$2.8M generated from the millage increase; the District's operating budget is balanced and the District's reserves are projected to increase to approximately \$4M.

Looking forward, based on State projections, we are expecting slow growth in property values. The generated tax revenue is likely to be absorbed by anticipated increases in operating expenses. This will expand the operating gap and place additional demands on the amount of operating reserves used to balance future budgets. Thus, the budget stabilization funds are projected to be diminished to an insufficient level by the 2017 fiscal year. Development of a financial plan to bring the operating budget into a sustainable position (one where recurring expenses are in line with recurring revenues) is a matter of priority which will require the continued cooperation and collaboration between the Board and all of the funded agencies.

Sincerely,



Faye W. Outlaw, MPA
County Administrator, ICMA-CM

USER'S GUIDE

This document is the final budget for FY 2013-2014 for the period beginning October 1, 2013 and ending September 30, 2014. The intent of this document is to provide the public with concise and readable information about St. Lucie County. It contains general information, analysis of revenues and expenditures, as well as a budget history.

SUMMARIES/ANALYSIS

This section contains key information from subsequent sections in which the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has extracted and then presented in an understandable format. Staff recommends this section as an excellent starting point for review of the budget because it includes a discussion of the revenue sources. Summaries of the total county budget, each constitutional officer, and of the court and legal system are available to provide ease in understanding the budget. This section contains charts, graphs and spreadsheets showing the history of property values, tax millage rates, and the resulting revenues. This section also includes a personnel history report that shows the percent (%) change in personnel for each year.

BUDGET BY FUND

This section begins with a listing of the numerous funds that make up the county budget along with fund definitions. This section categorizes each fund by type and briefly describes the sources of revenue and types of expenditures found in each fund. This list is followed by a three-year history of each fund showing the budget versus actual amounts. The history also shows the amount budgeted in the new fiscal year and the percent change from the previous year's budget. A section showing the estimated changes in fund balance is also included. The remaining portion of this section is comprised of charts and graphs of selected funds that reveal the amount of budgeted revenue sources and budgeted expenditures.

DEPARTMENTAL SUMMARIES

This section contains budgetary information as it applies to each department. Each department includes an organizational chart, a four-year budget summary of each division located within the department along with the division mission, function, and goals. The divisions also list key indicators, which are used to measure how well each goal is being accomplished.

CAPITAL BUDGET

The heart of this section is the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan. This plan is designed to address the foreseeable capital improvement

needs of St. Lucie County. This section also provides information on the planning and approval process involved in the development of the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan.

The Five-Year Capital Improvement Plans may include capital improvements affecting major infrastructure facilities such as roads, bridges, beach restoration / preservation, environmental lands, drainage and stormwater projects, port and airport facilities, parks and recreational facilities, libraries, general governmental buildings and correctional facilities, utilities and museums.

Each plan identifies the sources of funding and provides a detailed listing of projects and the estimated costs associated with each project.

DEBT SERVICE

This section contains important information regarding outstanding debt issued by the County or, in the case of Community Development District Bonds and Industrial Revenue Bonds, in which the County has a vested interest. Some of the debt, such as the Port Interest & Sinking General Obligation Ad Valorem Bond, was issued as a result of a voter-approved referendum. Others were issued after the Board of County Commissioners approved the funding of improvements through debt financing. Still, the Board, on behalf of County utilities or a third party, issued other debts. The Office of Management and Budget carefully monitors the amount of debt the County issues in order to preserve its creditworthiness.

APPENDICES

The Appendices Section includes a glossary for the definitions of terms and a section on acronyms.

For any additional information, contact our office:

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OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
2300 Virginia Avenue,
Fort Pierce, FL 34982-5652
Telephone (772) 462-1670 • Fax (772) 462-2117

or visit the St. Lucie County website: **www.stlucieco.org**

BUDGET OVERVIEW

Expense Type	Approved Budget 2012-2013	Approved Budget 2013-2014
Personnel Expenses	42,331,763	43,668,613
Operating Expenses	249,916,730	220,547,094
Capital Expenses	91,015,901	87,728,405
Transfers	12,373,302	17,405,950
Reserves	111,331,194	128,200,851
TOTAL	\$506,968,890	\$497,550,913
Percent Change:		-1.86%

* The current year budget is amended throughout the year. Currently, the fiscal year 2012-2013 amended budget is \$612,308,047, which includes \$37,534,157 in Budget Stabilization Funding.

The General Fund and Fine & Forfeiture Fund Budget for the BOCC's personnel and operating expenses are as follows:

	2013 Budget	2014 Appd Budget	Percent Change
BOCC Personnel Expenses	\$24,399,703	\$24,816,389	1.71%
BOCC Operating Expenses	\$20,269,200	\$16,772,706	-17.25%
Total	\$44,668,903	\$41,589,095	-6.89%

The County has continued to be proactive in its approach to balance future budgets. Using one-time monies to fund non-profit agencies and other non-county operations and budgeting a "stabilization fund" to fund future budgets has helped to improve the County's outlook.

Property Values. The County property tax revenues appear to have stabilized. From FY 2008 through FY 2013, the County's property values had declined by \$11.358 billion or 44.45%. Property values increased for FY 2014. This increase was associated with a \$606 million in personal property associated with improvements made by Florida Power and Light, which is located in the unincorporated area.

<u>FY</u>	<u>July 1st Certified Property Value</u>	<u>% Change</u>
2008	25,554,081,157	
2009	21,558,849,841	-15.63%
2010	17,031,103,295	-21.00%
2011	15,165,938,592	-10.95%
2012	14,445,123,153	-4.75%
2013	14,195,971,816	-1.72%
2014	14,958,164,396	5.37%

The following table shows the countywide millage rate history for St. Lucie County:

Countywide Millage Rate History									
FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	Change
7.6183	6.9712	6.4612	6.4612	6.4612	7.1367	7.1881	7.1881	7.3910	2.82%

The countywide ad valorem millage for fiscal year 2013-2014 is 7.3910. The millage consists of the following components:

General Fund	2.9221
Fine & Forfeiture	3.9699
Erosion Control – Zone E	0.0925
Mosquito Control	0.4065
Total	7.3910

General Fund. The general fund budget is the largest component of the operating budget with a fiscal year 2013-2014 budget of \$122,040,797, which represents a decrease of 10.70% compared to fiscal year 2012-2013’s adopted budget of \$136,662,138.

This decrease was mostly due to:

- A reduction in reserves – as the budget stabilization fund is utilized, the reserve balance is reduced. Also, since our emergency reserve policy is to set aside money as a percentage of operations, as operational budgets are decreased so are the reserves.
- Reduction in Community Redevelopment (CRA’s) expenses.
- Establishing a budget for excess fees from Constitutional Officers.
- A reduction in grant funding – as existing grants are spent down, the budget is reduced. When the County gets additional grants during the year, resolutions will be adopted to reflect additional grant revenues.
- Departmental reductions to streamline budgets closer to fiscal year 2012 actual expenses.

Special Revenue Funds. The County’s special revenue funds account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are legally restricted to expenditures for specific purposes, and are budgeted for a total amount of \$215,159,022 which represents a 2.13% increase over fiscal year 2012-2013’s adopted budget of \$210,664,968. This increase is mostly due to increased property tax revenue and grant revenue.

Debt Service Funds. The County’s debt funds account for the payment of annual principal and interest, fees, anticipated new debt, administrative fees, etc. as well as, when stipulated, accumulation of funds for balloon payments for the County’s debt obligations. The debt funds are budgeted at \$17,460,777 for fiscal year 2013-2014, which represents a 6.48% decrease over fiscal year 2012-2013’s adopted budget of

\$18,671,253. The debt service funds decrease is mostly due to refinancing of the Sales Tax Revenue Bonds which reduced next year's debt payment. Also, other contributing causes for the reduction is the early pay down of the SHI Water and Sewer Special Assessment Bonds and early pay off of the SHI-North District wastewater/reuse water collection & transmission system Bonds.

The St. Lucie County debt summary for fiscal year 2013-2014 shows an estimated total outstanding principal debt of \$152,526,554. Some examples of the categories of the County's indebtedness are long-term bonds including \$785,000 in general obligation bonds, \$85,405,000 in bonds covered by governmental funds, \$18,465,000 in bonds covered by enterprise funds, \$24,612,638 in notes payable covered by governmental funds. The total debt funds include other bond expenses, which are not included on the debt schedule of principal and interest for the fiscal year.

Capital Project Funds. The County's capital project funds account for major capital construction and major capital maintenance projects. The capital project funds budget totals \$39,909,722 for fiscal year 2013-2014, representing a decrease of 27.16% in comparison to the FY2012-2013 budget of \$54,791,238. A large component of this decrease continues to be limited funding for new projects as well as use of Impact Fees for anticipation of the purchase of a new library building in fiscal year 2013.

The five-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) includes the capital project funds as well as capital projects within various operational funds. It provides a systematic plan for infrastructure improvements within a prioritized framework. The County CIP serves as a planning tool and provides a guideline for growth and development.

Enterprise Funds. The County's enterprise funds account for operations that are financed in a manner similar to private business in that the cost of providing the services is primarily recovered through user fees, not county tax dollars. The enterprise funds are budgeted for a total amount of \$65,836,194 for fiscal year 2013-2014, representing an increase of 56.07% in comparison to the fiscal year 2013 budget of \$42,183,656. This increase is due to \$10.6 Million in anticipated loan proceeds that are budgeted for refinancing Utilities debt.

Internal Service Funds. The 2013-2014 internal service funds total \$33,727,689. This is a 16.43% decrease over the 2012-2013 approved budget of \$40,358,572. Internal service funds are proprietary type funds that account for operations that provide services to other departments or agencies of the County on a cost-reimbursement basis. The decrease is due to an anticipated reduction in fund balance and bringing revenue estimates more in line.

Trust and Agency Funds. In 2012-2013, the trust and agency funds were budgeted at \$3,637,065. Trust and agency funds account for assets held by a government unit in a trustee capacity or as an agent for individuals, private organizations, other governmental units and/or other funds (i.e. Law Enforcement Trust Fund). The amount for 2013-2014 is \$3,416,712, which represents a decrease of 6.06% from the adopted fiscal year 2012-2013 budget. This decrease is due to some interim Municipal Services Benefit Unit (MSBU) pay down and early payoff of debt liability.

FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT

An indicator of financial strength is the County's current financial reserves. In 2005, the Board established an emergency reserve policy and a fund balance policy. The Board revised this policy in 2010 to the following:

- **Emergency Reserves Fund.** The Board shall maintain a designated Emergency Reserve Fund equal to 5% of the total operating budget excluding funds that have a minimum of 10% or \$2,000,000 in reserves, whichever is greater. By majority vote, the Board may use all or a portion of this designated Emergency Reserve Fund. Such use shall normally be reserved for natural or manmade disasters.
- **Fund Balance Policy.** The Board shall maintain a Fund Balance Reserve in the General Fund equal to 5% of the General Fund operating budget. By a majority vote, the Board may use all or a portion of this fund balance reserve to address unanticipated revenue shortfalls or any unforeseen expenditures not necessarily resulting from a natural or manmade disaster.

Since these reserves are a percentage of the operating budget, they are being reduced by \$679,055 for FY 14 as the operating budget is also decreasing. The following table is a breakdown of the funding as stated in these reserve policies.

	FY 2013/14 Operating Budget*	5%
All Funds (Emergency Reserve Policy)	183,357,550	9,167,878
General Fund (Fund Balance Policy)	68,213,448	3,410,672
Total		\$12,578,550

*Includes operating budget for all agencies the County funds. Does not include Capital, Debt Service or Reserves.

In addition to these reserve policies, the County maintains a general contingency fund budget of \$1,418,735.

MEETING THE CHALLENGES

Economy. Following several years of economic declines, we are finally seeing signs of recovery. The economic outlook for St. Lucie County is expected to continue to strengthen and recover at a modest pace.

Community Redevelopment Agencies (CRAs). The following are the County’s tax refund requirements to the CRAs to be used for various projects within the CRAs. The County’s funding obligation for the CRAs has decreased for the past several years due to declining property values. However, the CRAs continue to have a significant impact on the County’s budget.

Tax Refunds to Port St. Lucie CRA

	<u>2012 Actual</u>	<u>2013 Actual</u>	<u>2014 Appd Budget</u>
General Fund	\$ 344,235	\$ 319,551	\$ 357,000
Fine & Forfeiture	\$ 467,670	\$ 434,136	\$ 448,800
Subtotal	\$ 811,905	\$ 753,687	\$ 805,800

Tax Refunds to Fort Pierce CRA

	<u>2012 Actual</u>	<u>2013 Actual</u>	<u>2014 Appd Budget</u>
General Fund	\$ 903,890	\$ 849,977	\$ 867,000
Fine & Forfeiture	\$1,228,005	\$1,154,760	\$1,183,200
Subtotal	\$2,131,895	\$2,004,737	\$2,050,200
Total	\$2,943,800	\$2,758,424	\$2,856,000

Funding for Constitutional Officers and Outside Agencies. The following table shows the changes in funding for Constitutional Officers and outside agencies. The percent change represents the amount of increase or decrease of the fiscal year 2014 budget as compared to the fiscal year 2013 budget. The following table reflects expenses within the County’s Taxing Funds. The funding for these budgets is in the County’s General Fund and Fine & Forfeiture Fund for all of the agencies except the Tax Collector and Property Appraiser’s budgets, which are funded by each Taxing Fund. A more detailed description of these agencies can be found in the summaries/analysis section of this budget book.

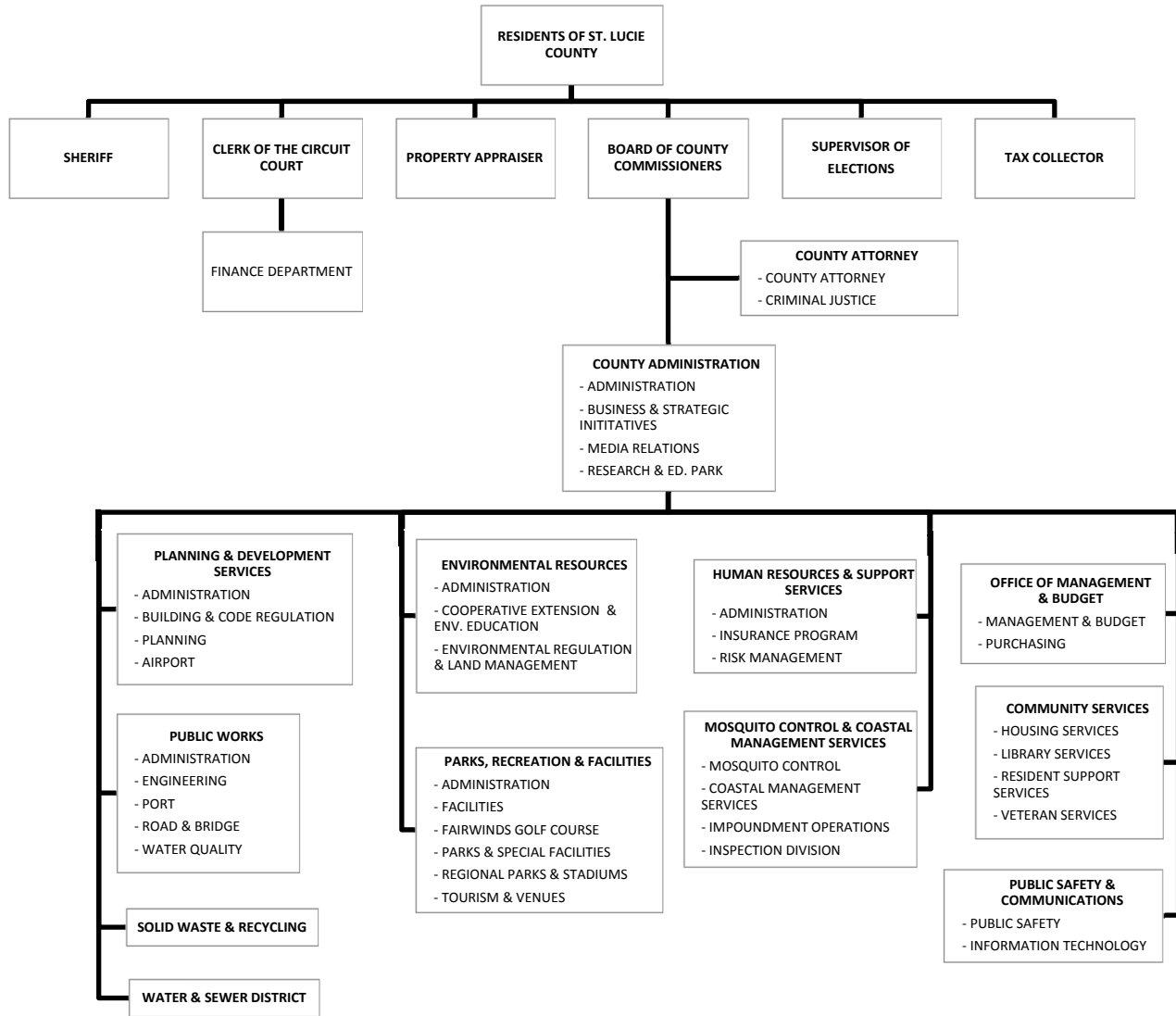
	2013 Approved Budget	2014 Approved Budget	Percent Change
Clerk of Circuit Court	\$ 1,629,258	\$ 1,623,192	-0.37%
Supervisor of Elections (SOE)	\$ 2,293,764	\$ 2,354,085	2.63%
SOE- One Time Funding- Voter Registration Server & Software Upgrade; Voting equipment, & Software License	\$-0-	\$1,153,750	N/A
Sheriff	\$60,954,819	\$63,605,447	4.35%
Sheriff-One Time Funding- Computer Aided Dispatch Training	\$ 225,537	\$-0-	N/A
Tax Collector*	\$ 7,021,487	\$ 5,878,878	-16.27%
Property Appraiser	\$ 4,230,981	\$ 4,548,865	7.51%
Judicial Agencies	\$ 2,281,480	\$ 2,492,800	9.26%
Non-County Agencies	\$ 1,921,540	\$ 1,921,498	0.00%
Other Agencies	\$ 302,954	\$ 250,187	-17.42%

* The Tax Collector’s Budget is estimated based on commissions and fees collected, and not a request from the Tax Collector.

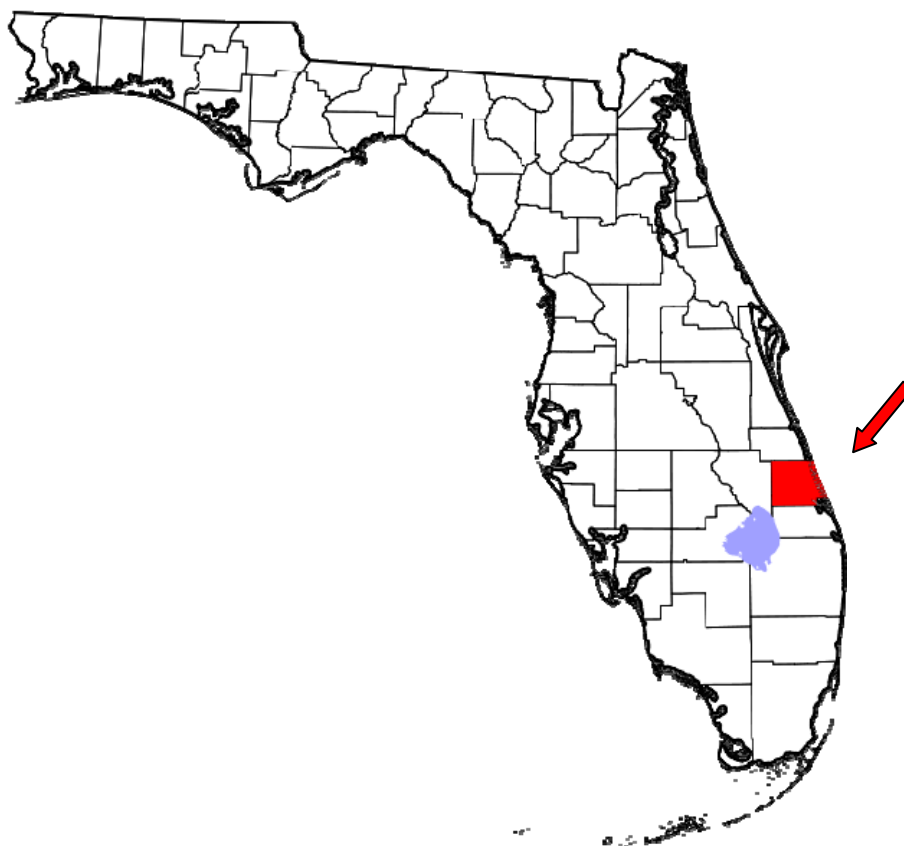
PERSONNEL

Ongoing since 2007, the County continues to take various steps to reduce expenses related to personnel. These steps have included enacting a hiring freeze, early retirement, voluntary layoffs, and involuntary layoffs. For fiscal year 2013-2014, the budget includes 670.71 funded full time equivalent positions. This reflects an increase of 4 positions.

ST. LUCIE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



ST. LUCIE COUNTY PROFILE



HISTORY OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY

Archaeological research indicates that Florida had been inhabited for thousands of years before any European settlements. Of the many indigenous peoples, the largest known were the Ais, the Apalachee, the Calusa, the Timucua, and the Tocobago tribes. Along the east coast of Florida, from Cape Canaveral in the north to as far south as Fort Pierce, was the area of the Ais Indian settlement. Their lands extended westward to the St. Johns River, and encompassed the Indian River. There was little recorded about the Ais by the early explorers and mission priests. From the early 1500's to the late 1800's, the area was settled by Spanish explorers, Seminoles (Creek Indians from Alabama and Georgia), runaway slaves, and shipwrecked sailors.

According to historians, it is believed that the name "St. Lucie" was first given to this area by the Spanish when they began construction of a fort at the Jupiter Inlet in 1565. The garrison (a permanent military installation post) was established on December 13th, in honor of the feast day of the Roman Catholic Saint Lucia. Lucy's Latin name *Lucia* shares a root (*luc-*) with the Latin word for light, *lux*. "In 'Lucy' is said, the way of light". Prior to her execution, her eyes were gouged out, and thus she became the patron saint of those who are blind. She was born in Syracuse, Sicily, Italy, and executed in 304 AD for being a Christian.

HISTORY OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY – continued

The area now known as the Town of St. Lucie Village has been inhabited for centuries, in part, because of its proximity to the Indian River Inlet, a natural inlet that was eventually closed north of the current Fort Pierce Inlet. The sixteenth century Spanish explorer Pedro Menendez, who founded St. Augustine, came through the inlet in 1565 while sailing to Cuba, and established a garrison among the Ais, in the Indian River area. Old Spanish maps identify the area between what is now known as Vero Beach to Stuart as “Santa Lucia”, which is where a Spanish colony was established circa 1567. Shortly after their first contact with the Ais, a war broke out with the Spanish, but peace was concluded later by 1570.

‘In 1763, France, Britain, and Spain signed the Treaty of Paris at the end of the French and Indian War. As part of the treaty, France gave up almost all of its land in North America and Spain gave up Florida. During the French and Indian War, Britain had captured Havana, Spain's busiest port. In exchange for Havana, the Spanish traded Florida to Britain, which in turn, Britain then divided Florida into two territories: East Florida and West Florida.’ Also known as the Floridas, the area known as East Florida consisted of entire peninsula and were bordered on the west by the Apalachicola River. The area known as West Florida, consisted of the land between the Mississippi River to the Apalachicola River, which includes parts of modern day Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana.

The Spanish never had a firm hold on Florida, and maintained tenuous control over the region by converting the local tribes, briefly with Jesuits and later with Franciscan friars. The local leaders demonstrated their loyalty to the Spanish by converting to Roman Catholicism and welcoming the Franciscan priests into their villages. The area of Spanish Florida diminished over time with the establishment of English colonies to the north and French colonies to the west. Spain regained the Floridas after Britain's defeat by the American colonies and the subsequent Treaty of Versailles on September 3, 1783.

The modern day Saint Lucie County was known as East Florida in 1810, and then in 1819, the Spanish lost their settlements when the United States effectively took control of East Florida. During 1821, the area was combined with other lands and renamed St. Johns County. In 1832, the U.S. territory of Florida was created by Congress, and during the Second Seminole War (1835-1842), the U.S. Army began setting up military posts throughout the state. In 1837 Col. Benjamin K. Pierce (brother to the future 14th President of the United States) sailed down the Indian River from St. Augustine. A year later, he built a fort out of palmetto trees near an Ais Indian mound, on what is now known as Old Fort Park on Indian River Drive, in Fort Pierce.

In 1840, St. Johns County was split into several counties, causing the St. Lucie area to become part of the newly formed Mosquito County. The Armed Occupation Act of 1842 provided for the settlement of the unsettled part of east Florida. In 1844, segments of Mosquito County were split off. One area became St. Lucia County and the other became Brevard County. On March 3, 1845, the territory of Florida became the 27th state of the United States of America. And on January 6, 1855, St. Lucia County was renamed St. Lucie County.

The Florida East Coast Railway's first steam locomotive came to Fort Pierce in 1894, and eventually Henry Flagler took his trains all the way down to Key West, before the onset of World War I. The railroad expansion helped create a population boom for the area, but it also brought in the importation of

HISTORY OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY – continued

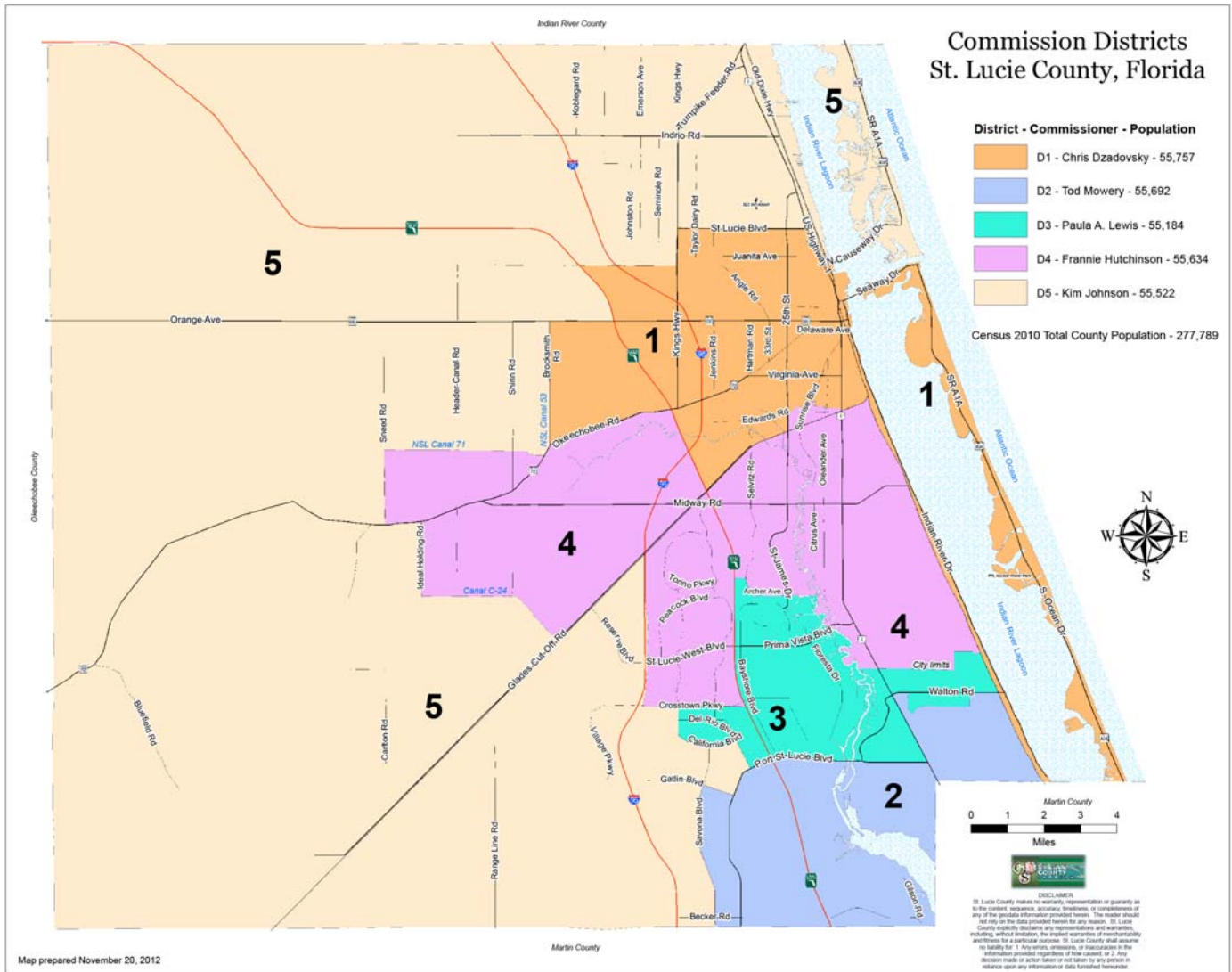
pineapples from Cuba. The pineapple imports, along with the frequent freezes and persistent disease to the area's existing pineapple groves, caused the collapse of the region's pineapple trade. Later, citrus and cattle would become the area's agricultural engine.

On July 1, 1905, the County's boundaries changed again, with St. Lucie County acquiring the southern part of Brevard County, which included the City of Fort Pierce. This newly created St. Lucie County included sections of modern day Indian River, Okeechobee, and northern Martin counties. However, there are some historians that believe the county was established on May 24, 1905, but the event was not celebrated until July 1st. Portions of land were stripped away over the years, first in 1917, when the western acres were taken away to become Okeechobee County. Then on May 30, 1925, a northern chunk of land was removed to become Indian River County, and Martin County was formed with land from the southern part of St. Lucie and a portion of northern Palm Beach County.

Now, 100 years later, St. Lucie County is approximately 600 square miles with a diverse population that includes two cities and one village: Fort Pierce, Port St. Lucie and St. Lucie Village. With 21 miles of unspoiled beaches, charming neighborhoods, progressive businesses and friendly people; St. Lucie County is truly the crown jewel of the Treasure Coast.

Sources: St. Lucie County website (<http://www.stlucieco.gov/media/history.htm>)
St. Lucie County Historical Society (<http://www.stluciehistoricalsociety.org/>)
St. Lucie County Historical Society (<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flstluci/slchistory.htm>)
Florida Counties Map (http://www.floridacountiesmap.com/st_lucie_county.shtml)
Ancient Native Heritage of The Ancient Ones (<http://www.ancientnative.org/ais.php>)
Spanish Contacts with the Ais (Indian River) Country (<http://www.treasurelore.com/florida/ais.htm>)
Orlando: A Visual History: Mosquito County 1842 (<http://www.cfhf.net/maps/1839.htm>)
Wikipedia website (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_of_Florida)
Wikipedia website (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Lucy)
Wikipedia website (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_River_County,_Florida)
Exploring Florida: Social Studies Resources for Students and Teachers (<http://fcit.usf.edu/florida/lessons/trnsfer/trnsfer1.htm>)
Maps Etc: Brevard County Maps (<http://fcit.usf.edu/florida/maps/galleries/County/stlucia/index.php>)

MAP OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY



GENERAL INFORMATION

St. Lucie County is located on the eastern edge of the south-central coast of Florida in the heart of the Treasure Coast region. It is bounded on the north by Indian River County, the west by Okeechobee County, the south by Martin County and the east by the beautiful Atlantic Ocean. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the County has a total area of 688 square miles (1,782 km²), of which, 572 square miles (1,483 km²) of it is land and 116 square miles (299 km²) of water that merges with the Atlantic Ocean. The total area is 16.80% water. Between two cities and their major tourist attractions, the City of Fort Pierce is located approximately 60 miles north of West Palm Beach, and 100 miles southeast of the City of Orlando.

Source: Wikipedia (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Lucie_County)

INCORPORATED MUNICIPALITIES

Fort Pierce

The City of Fort Pierce was named after Lt. Col. Benjamin K. Pierce, who established a U.S. Army fort there during the second Seminole War in 1838. But it would take more than 60 years for the area to officially become the City of Fort Pierce.

On Dec. 29, 1900, a notice was posted calling all registered voters to assemble at Davis Hall, Fort Pierce, Brevard County, Florida, on February 2, A.D. 1901, for the purpose of organizing a municipal government. On that date, 54 of the 66 voters who resided in the proposed village voted to incorporate. They elected A.C. Dittmar as mayor, appointed D.L. Alderman, A.Y.W. Hogg, P.P. Cobb, L.L. Carlton and F.M. Tyler as the City's five aldermen. H.I. Klopp was elected as city clerk and D.S. Carlton as marshal. Those 66 residents have now grown to more than 40,000.

Fort Pierce covers 21 square miles and serves as the county seat. The city's early economies were water transportation and fishing, along with the production of pineapple (a crop that was eventually replaced with citrus). Fort Pierce remains the commercial center of St. Lucie County, although it is smaller in population and land area than Port St. Lucie. The City of Fort Pierce is governed by a five-member city commission and employs a professional manager for the management of daily activities.

Port St. Lucie

Its history may not be as old as Fort Pierce's, but the story behind Port St. Lucie is just as interesting.

In 1958, General Development Corporation purchased the River Park property as well as an adjoining 40,000 acres. A subsidiary of Mackle Co., General Development Corporation (GDC) had a budget of \$50 million to develop a new community on the North Fork of the St. Lucie River.

The population boom was on. Full-page ads drew the interest of retirees from the Northeast, offering them 80 x 125-foot lots for \$10 down and \$10 a month. Homes sold for as little as \$9,000. Soon ranchers began selling pasture land that they had purchased for just \$6 an acre for as much as \$225 per acre. At its sales office on U.S. 1 and Prima Vista, GDC sold as many as 300 lots a day.

The City of Port St. Lucie is the largest city both geographically and in terms of population in St. Lucie County. It covers 80 square miles. It was incorporated in 1961 as a residential community and was originally developed in large measure as a retirement community by the GDC. The City of Port St. Lucie is governed by a five-member city council and also employs a professional manager for the management of daily activities.

INCORPORATED MUNICIPALITIES - continued

Town of St. Lucie Village

The community's founding dates back to 1849, when a Seminole attack prompted the U.S. Government to build Fort Capron to protect skittish settlers. The homestead of Major James Paine, who settled there after completing his tour of duty at Fort Capron, his forty acres were along the west bank of the Indian River about one mile south of the fort. Major Paine's family joined him in 1857 and became neighbors with the Bell family around 1872, when Alexander Bell brought his family to the Village and homesteaded from Taylor Creek south. Over the next 20 years the area became known "Sportsman's Paradise", attracted visiting northerners and tourists, and enabled Paine to rent rooms to visitors for \$3.00 per day.

In the 1890's, Mathew Quay, a Republican Senator from Pennsylvania, built a large winter retreat near the Paine home, to which he added a private railroad siding to accommodate his friends' personal railroad cars. Ten of his political allies enjoyed the area so much they formed the St. Lucie Club and built a clubhouse in 1902. This became a center for national Republican politics.

The Village has 36 historic structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a place where generations of some families have resided for a century or more. The roads remain narrow from the days when horse-and-buggy was the mode of transportation. Some of the Village's early economies were the production of pineapples and fishing the Indian River Lagoon for green turtles, oysters, large snook, goliath grouper, redfish, sawfish, mullet, and other various types of native fish.

The Town of St. Lucie Village is a small enclave covering 1.5 square miles of territory in North St. Lucie County located on the west side of the Indian River Lagoon. The village is about 4 miles north of Fort Pierce and 11 miles south of Vero Beach, and was incorporated in 1961. The village is governed by a five-member Board of Aldermen, and the mayor serves as the chief executive officer of the Town.

Sources:

- St. Lucie County website (<http://www.stlucieco.gov/media/history.htm>)
- Florida Counties Map (http://www.floridacountiesmap.com/st_lucie_county.shtml)
- St. Lucie County Historical Society (<http://www.stluciehistoricalsociety.org/>)
- St. Lucie County Historical Society (<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flstluci/slchistory.htm>)
- Wikipedia (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Lucie,_Florida)
- Florida Commission on Ethics (<http://www.ethics.state.fl.us/opinions/94/CEO%2094-008.htm>)
- Indian River Magazine (http://indianrivermag.com/LIVE/index.php?module=pagemaster&PAGE_user_op=view_page&PAGE_id=174)
- St. Johns River Water Management District and the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program: Indian River Lagoon: An Introduction to a Natural Treasure (http://sjr.state.fl.us/itsyourlagoon/pdfs/IRL_Natural_Treasure_book.pdf)

GOVERNMENT

St. Lucie County is a non-charter county governed by a Board of County Commissioners consisting of five-members. The commissioners are elected at large to serve a period of four years. Elections are staggered to provide continuity between boards. A professional administrator, who is appointed by the Board of County Commissioners, manages the County on a daily basis.

Some key facts about St. Lucie County are:

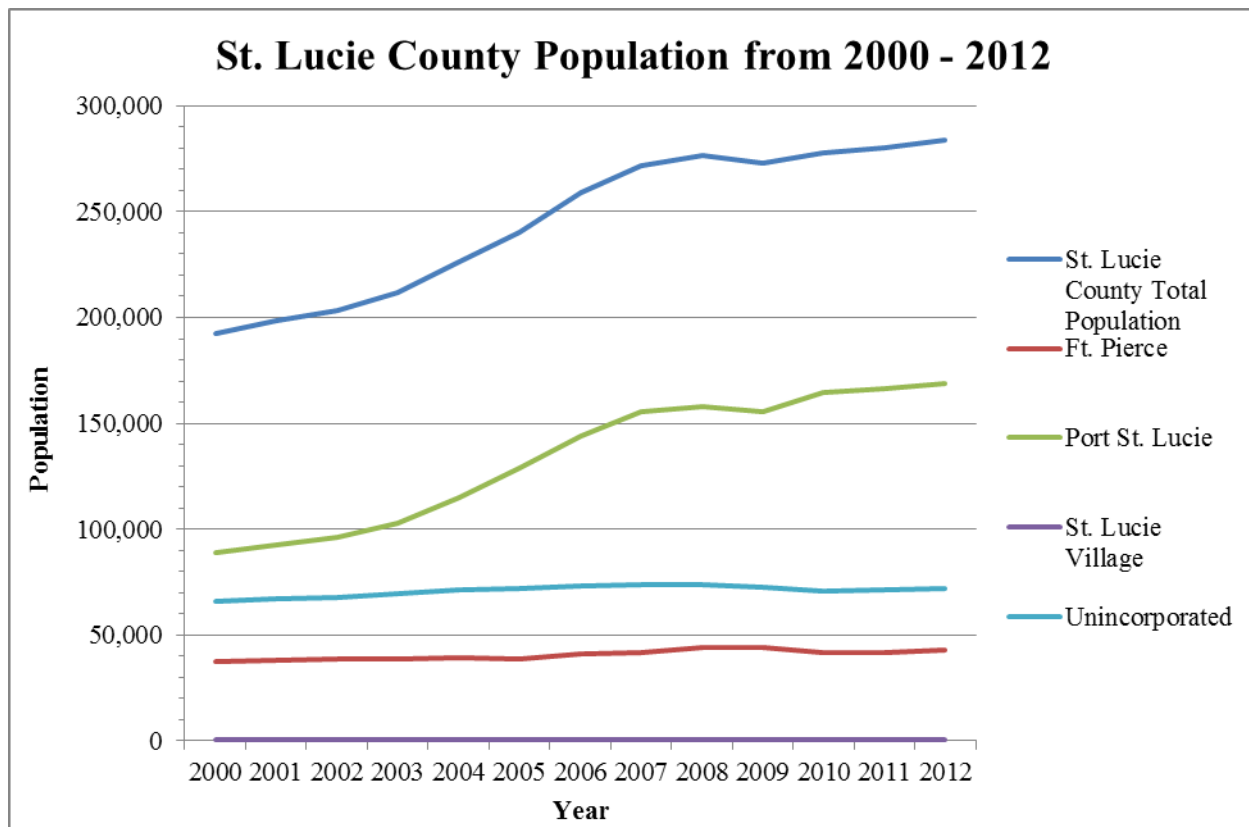
POPULATION

St. Lucie County's population in 2012 is estimated to be 283,866.

2010 is estimated by the census at 277,789, an increase of 4,925 (+1.8%) persons from 2009's population census estimate of 272,864. The population is largely concentrated in the eastern portion of the County within 5-10 miles of the Atlantic Coast. The current population has increased by 47.3% over the 2000 census population of 192,695 and a considerable 89.0% increase since 1990's census population of 150,171.

For 2012, the County's median age was 42.4 and the County was ethnically comprised of 60.4% white, 19.9% black, 17.1% Hispanic, 1.8% Asian, 0.6% American Indian and Alaskan Natives, and 0.1% Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders.

The County's entire population of increased by 1.24% from 280,379 in 2011 to 283,366 in 2012. When looking at the 2012 population concentrations and the (+/- %) shifts in population from 2011 to 2012, there is: 15.4% of the population in Fort Pierce (+1.55%); 60.7% in Port St. Lucie (+1.54%); 0.2% in St. Lucie Village (+0.67%); and 25.9% in Unincorporated (+0.37%).



Sources:

United States Department of Commerce – U.S. Census Bureau – State and County Quick Facts
(<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/12/12111.html>)

United States Department of Commerce – U.S. Census Bureau – Population Estimates: City and Town Totals: Vintage 2011: All Incorporated Places: 2010 to 2011 (<http://www.census.gov/popest/data/cities/totals/2011/index.html>)

EMPLOYMENT

Services, tourism, agriculture, construction and light manufacturing are the principal industries within the County. While St. Lucie County is poised to take advantage of its location, climate and abundant workforce, the growth in employment opportunities has not kept pace with the growth in population between 2000 and 2004. From 2005 to 2010, the St. Lucie County had been greatly affected by the economic downturn with rising unemployment rates. To counter, the County initiated an aggressive campaign to attract targeted businesses. From 2011 to 2012, the economic downturn is starting to show signs of a rebound as the County's unemployment rate declined.

The overall unemployment rate trend began improving in 2006, when the County's rate declined by .60% to 4.1% and the State's rate declined by 0.50% to 3.3%. The County's total population increased to 259,315, and of which, there were 113,227 employed individuals (43.7% of the County's population) and 4,831 individuals were unemployed (1.9% of the County's population).

But, in 2007, with the overall economic conditions declining, the County's unemployment rate increased by 1.4% to 5.5%, while the State's rate increased by 0.70% to 4.0%. The County's total population was 271,961, of which, there were 117,335 employed individuals (43.1% of the County's population) and 6,878 individuals were unemployed (2.5% of the County's population, which is an increase of 42.4% from 2006).

As the economic conditions continued to decline in 2008, the County's unemployment rate increased by 3.1% to 8.6%, and the State's rate increased by 2.3% to 6.3%. The County total population for 2008 was 276,585, of which, there were 113,699 employed individuals (41.1% of the county population) and 10,734 individuals were unemployed (3.9% of the County's population, which is an increase of 56.1% from 2007).

For 2009, as St. Lucie County's unemployment rate increased by 4.6% to 13.2%, while the State's unemployment rate increased by 4.1% to 10.4%. The County's total population was 272,864, of which, there were 107,129 employed individuals (39.3% of the County population) and 16,229 individuals were unemployed (5.9% of the County's population, which is an increase of 51.2% from 2008).

This trend continued into 2010, with St. Lucie County's unemployment rate increased by 0.70% to 13.9%, and the State's unemployment rate increase by 0.90% to 11.3%. The County total population for 2010 was 277,789, of which, there were 107,321 employed individuals (38.6% of the County's population) and 17,345 individuals were unemployed (6.2% of the County's population, which is a slight increase of 6.9% from 2009).

For 2011, St. Lucie County's unemployment rate decreased unemployment rate decreased by 5.8% to 13.0%, while the State's unemployment rate decreased by 5.8% to 10.5%. The County's total population was 280,379, of which, there were 108,959 employed individuals (38.9% of the County population) and 16,332 individuals were unemployed (13.0% of the County's population).

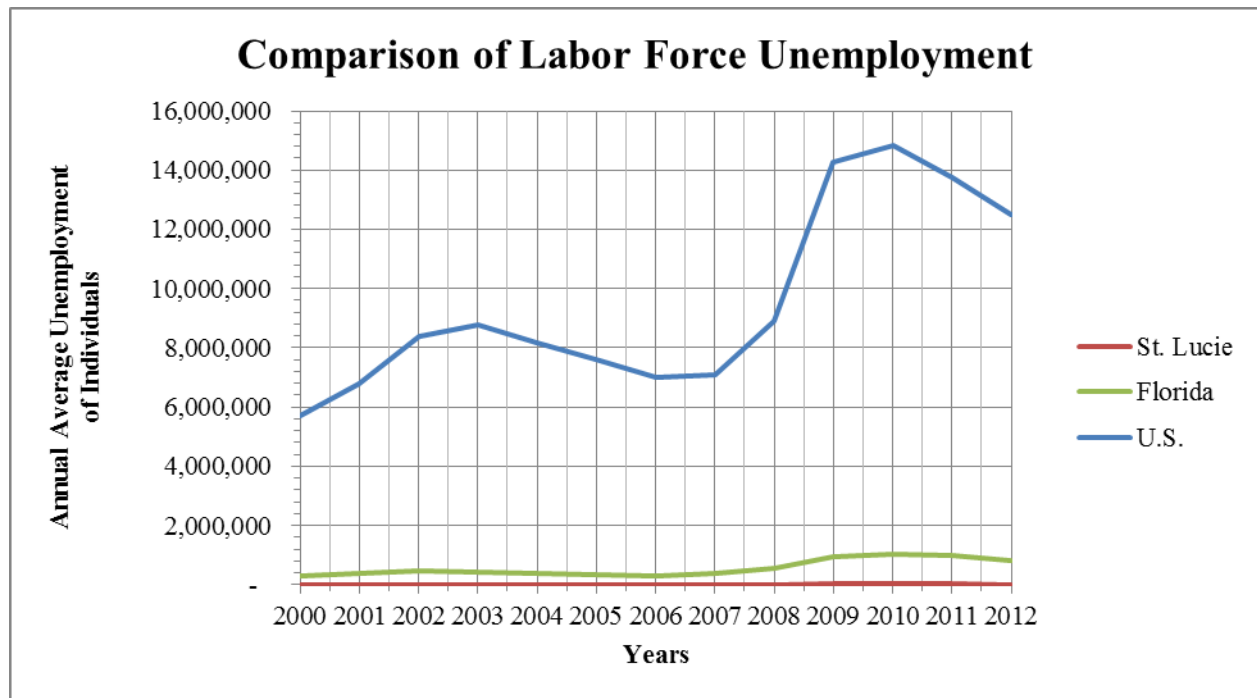
In 2012, as the economic conditions started to turn around, the County's unemployment rate decreased by 1.90%, from 13.0% down to 11.1% from 2011, and was matched by the State's unemployment rate experiencing a decrease by 1.90% from 10.5% down to 8.6%. The County's total population was 283,366, of which, there were 112,010 employed individuals (39.5% of the County population) and 13,931 individuals were unemployed (11.1% of the County's population).

Labor Force Summary: Yearly Average of Unemployed Individuals in St. Lucie County, the State of Florida, and the United States from 2000 through 2012:

Year	St. Lucie	% Change	Unempl. Rate (%)	Florida	% Change	Unempl. Rate (%)	U.S.	% Change	Unempl. Rate (%)
2000	5,017	n/a	5.7%	300,000	n/a	3.8%	5,692,000	n/a	4.0%
2001	5,663	12.9%	6.2%	373,000	24.3%	4.7%	6,801,000	19.5%	4.7%
2002	6,632	17.1%	7.1%	460,000	23.3%	5.7%	8,378,000	23.2%	5.8%
2003	6,471	-2.4%	6.6%	433,000	-5.9%	5.3%	8,774,000	4.7%	6.0%
2004	6,427	-0.7%	6.2%	391,000	-9.7%	4.7%	8,149,000	-7.1%	5.5%
2005	5,294	-17.6%	4.7%	330,000	-15.6%	3.8%	7,591,000	-6.8%	5.1%
2006	4,831	-8.7%	4.1%	296,000	-10.3%	3.3%	7,001,000	-7.8%	4.6%
2007	6,878	42.4%	5.5%	367,000	24.0%	4.0%	7,078,000	1.1%	4.6%
2008	10,734	56.1%	8.6%	577,000	57.2%	6.3%	8,924,000	26.1%	5.8%
2009	16,229	51.2%	13.2%	939,000	62.7%	10.4%	14,265,000	59.8%	9.3%
2010	17,345	6.9%	13.9%	1,030,000	9.7%	11.3%	14,825,000	3.9%	9.6%
2011	16,332	-5.8%	13.0%	970,000	-5.8%	10.5%	13,747,000	-7.3%	8.9%
2012	13,931	-14.7%	11.1%	807,000	-16.8%	8.6%	12,506,000	-9.0%	8.1%

Source:

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (<http://www.floridajobs.org/labor-market-information/data-center/statistical-programs/local-area-unemployment-statistics>)

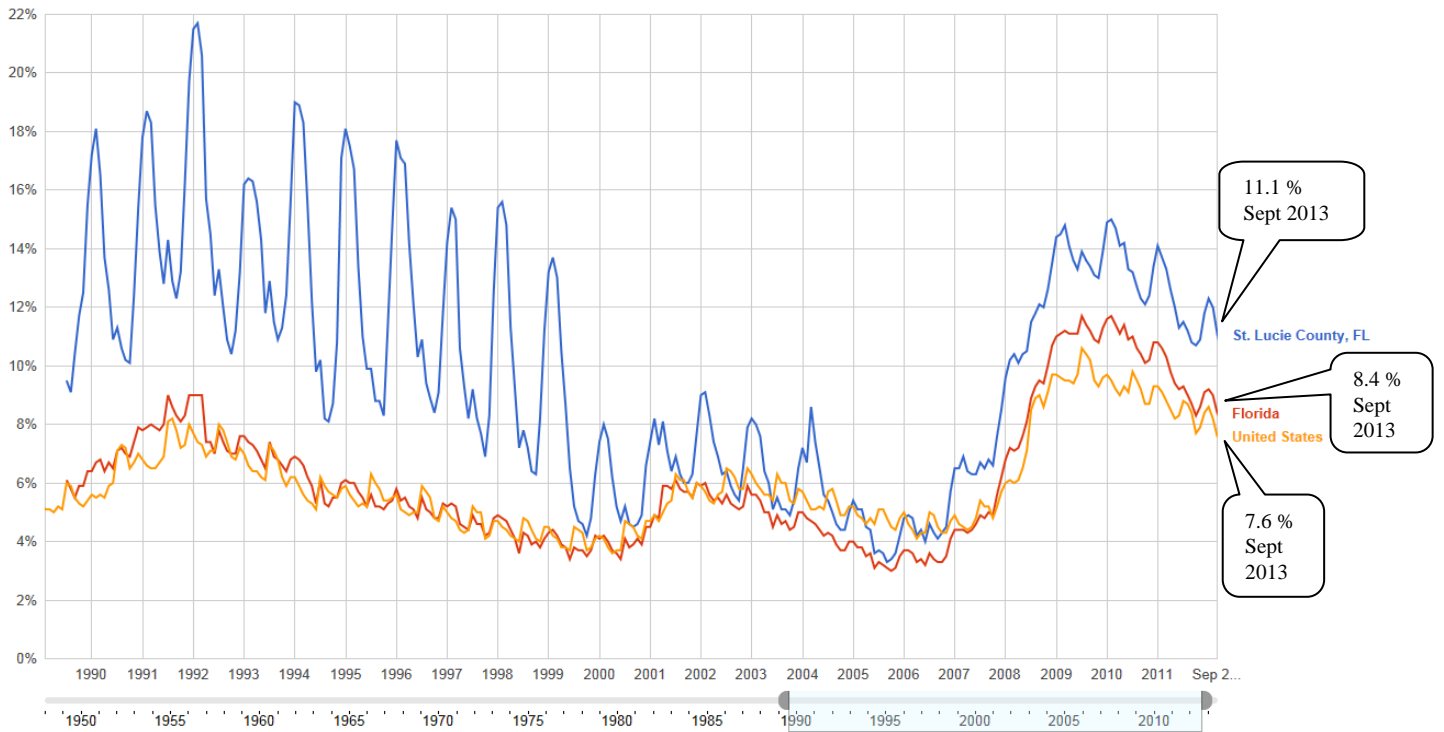


Sources:

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (<http://www.floridajobs.org/labor-market-information/data-center/statistical-programs/local-area-unemployment-statistics>)

Unemployment rate

The percent of the labor force that is unemployed, not seasonally adjusted.

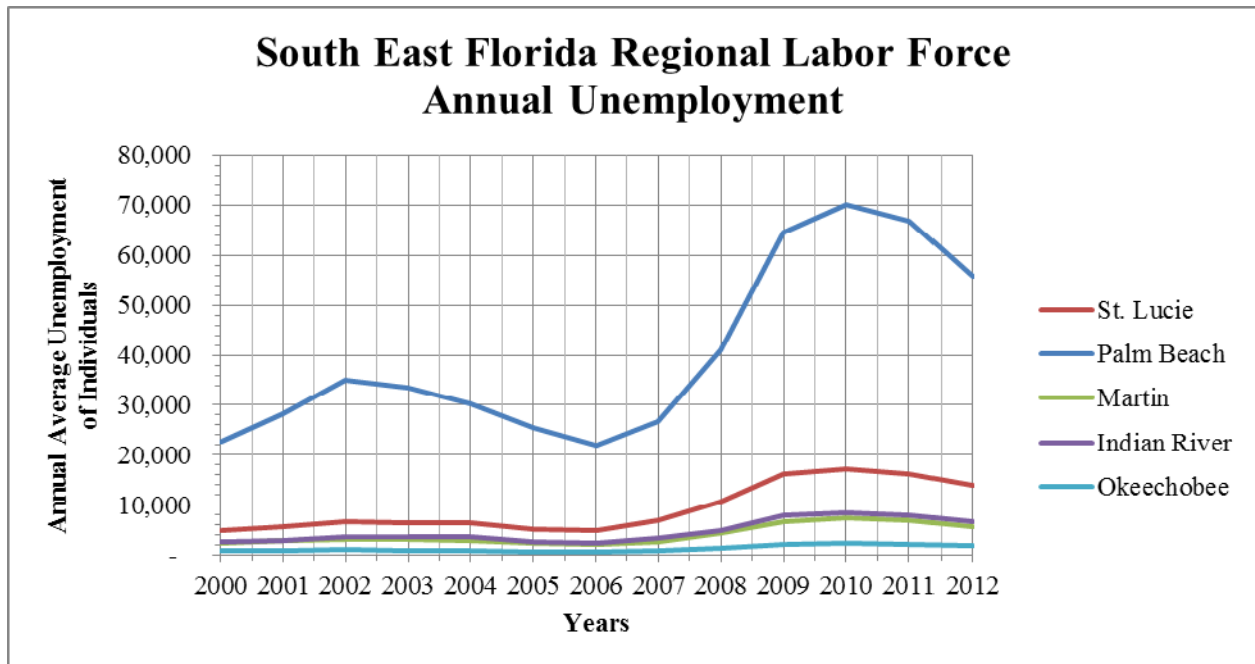


Data from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Last updated: Sep 27, 2013
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Source:

Google Public Data

(http://www.google.com/publicdata/explore?ds=z1ebjgk2654c1_#!ctype=l&strail=false&bcs=d&nselm=h&met_y=unemployment_rate&fdim_y=seasonality:U&scale_y=lin&ind_y=false&rdim=country&idim=country:US&idim=state:ST120000&idim=county:PA121350&ifdim=country&tstart=618552000000&tend=1347076800000&hl=en_US&dl=en_US&ind=false)



Source:

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (<http://www.floridajobs.org/labor-market-information/data-center/statistical-programs/local-area-unemployment-statistics>)

The Major Industry Areas of Employment in St. Lucie County Are:

Industry Descriptions	2009		2010		2011		2011 vs. 2009	2011 vs. 2009
	Labor Force	% Labor Force	Labor Force	% Labor Force	Labor Force	% Labor Force	Change in Growth	% Change in Growth
Agriculture, natural resources, & mining	2,936	3.1%	3,048	3.2%	3,078	3.2%	142	4.8%
Construction	6,486	6.8%	5,617	5.8%	5,331	5.5%	(1,155)	-17.8%
Education and health services	13,155	13.7%	13,777	14.3%	14,295	14.7%	1,140	8.7%
Financial activities	9,682	10.1%	9,608	10.0%	10,124	10.4%	442	4.6%
Government	14,350	15.0%	14,157	14.7%	13,664	14.1%	(686)	-4.8%
Information	883	0.9%	927	1.0%	789	0.8%	(94)	-10.6%
Leisure and hospitality	8,237	8.6%	8,589	8.9%	8,776	9.0%	539	6.5%
Manufacturing	2,339	2.4%	2,325	2.4%	2,381	2.5%	42	1.8%
Other Services	7,208	7.5%	7,416	7.7%	7,399	7.6%	191	2.6%
Professional and business services	12,402	13.0%	12,973	13.5%	13,415	13.8%	1,013	8.2%
Retail trade	10,545	11.0%	10,828	11.2%	10,979	11.3%	434	4.1%
Trade, transportation, and utilities	2,806	2.9%	2,634	2.7%	2,683	2.8%	(123)	-4.4%
Wholesale trade	4,734	4.9%	4,461	4.6%	4,121	4.2%	(613)	-12.9%
Total Employment	95,763	100%	96,360	100%	97,035	100%	1,272	1.3%

Source:

US Department of Commerce - Bureau of Economic Analysis - Total Full-Time and Part-Time Employment by NAICS Industry
<http://www.bea.gov/iTable/iTable.cfm?ReqID=70&step=1>

The Major Industry Areas of Employment in the State of Florida Are:

Industry Descriptions	2009		2010		2011		2011 vs. 2009	2011 vs. 2009
	Labor Force	% Labor Force	Labor Force	% Labor Force	Labor Force	% Labor Force	Change in Growth	% Change in Growth
Agriculture, natural resources, & mining	160,733	1.6%	169,764	1.7%	173,961	1.7%	13,228	8.2%
Construction	561,159	6.7%	505,175	5.1%	487,130	4.9%	(74,029)	-13.2%
Education and health services	1,266,749	12.8%	1,299,095	13.2%	1,328,910	13.3%	62,161	4.9%
Financial activities	1,120,986	11.3%	1,120,035	11.3%	1,151,273	11.5%	30,287	2.7%
Government	1,204,510	12.2%	1,202,051	12.2%	1,180,843	11.8%	(23,667)	-2.0%
Information	174,336	1.8%	168,275	1.7%	166,508	1.7%	(7,828)	-4.5%
Leisure and hospitality	1,060,370	10.7%	1,077,990	10.9%	1,116,624	11.2%	56,254	5.3%
Manufacturing	354,528	3.6%	335,456	3.4%	340,267	3.4%	(14,261)	-4.0%
Other Services	686,872	6.9%	678,168	6.9%	688,443	6.9%	1,571	0.2%
Professional and business services	1,541,761	15.6%	1,561,111	15.8%	1,581,576	15.8%	39,815	2.6%
Retail trade	1,091,685	11.0%	1,090,767	11.0%	1,115,158	11.1%	23,473	2.2%
Trade, transportation, and utilities	326,077	3.3%	322,919	3.3%	331,003	3.3%	4,926	1.5%
Wholesale trade	357,135	3.6%	347,607	3.5%	347,007	3.5%	(10,128)	-2.8%
Total Employment	9,906,901	100%	9,878,413	100%	10,008,703	100%	101,802	1.0%

Source:

US Department of Commerce - Bureau of Economic Analysis - Total Full-Time and Part-Time Employment by NAICS Industry
<http://www.bea.gov/iTable/iTable.cfm?ReqID=70&step=1>

2012-2013 Major Employers within the County Are:

<u>Public Sector Employers:</u>	<u>Number of Employees</u>
St. Lucie County School District	4,478
City of Port St. Lucie	975
St. Lucie County BOCC	666.59
St. Lucie County Sheriff Department	555.50
St. Lucie County Fire District.....	434
City of Fort Pierce.....	350
U.S. Postal Service.....	275
Fort Pierce Utilities Authority	275
St. Lucie County Clerk of Courts	164.75
St. Lucie County Tax Collector	91
St. Lucie County Property Appraisers	70
St. Lucie County Supervisor of Elections.....	17

<u>Private Sector Employers:</u>	<u>Number of Employees</u>
Lawnwood Regional Medical Center & Heart Institute	1,350
Publix Super Markets, Inc. (10 stores).	1,327
Florida Power and Light Co.....	1,000
QVC St. Lucie, Inc.....	994
Liberty Healthcare Group, Inc.	920
St. Lucie Medical Center	850
Wal-Mart Distribution Center.....	669
Aegis Communications Group, Inc.....	650
Indian River State College.....	625
New Horizons of the Treasure Coast (5 locations).....	340
Tropicana Products, Inc.	330
Martin Memorial Health Systems.....	264
Treasure Coast Hospice	224

USDA, US Horticultural Research Lab	180
FAU’s Harbor Branch Oceanographic	136
Keiser University	130
Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers.....	117
Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Studies.....	117
Waste-Pro of Florida, Inc.....	115
Natalie’s Orchid Island Juice Company	75
Physicians Immediate Care Urgent Care Centers.....	65

Source:

Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County (<http://www.youredc.com/about-st-lucie-county/regional-business/major-employers/>)

Average Annual Employment

	2009		2010		2011		2012	
	St. Lucie County	State of Florida	St. Lucie County	State of Florida	St. Lucie County	State of Florida	St. Lucie County	State of Florida
National Resource and Mining	4.3%	1.3%	4.0%	1.2%	4.4%	1.2%	4.7%	1.4%
Construction	6.4%	5.5%	5.3%	4.9%	5.0%	4.6%	6.4%	5.4%
Manufacturing	3.0%	4.5%	3.1%	4.3%	3.2%	4.3%	4.2%	5.0%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	22.5%	20.4%	22.6%	20.5%	22.3%	20.7%	27.2%	24.3%
Information	0.9%	2.0%	0.9%	1.9%	0.7%	1.9%	1.3%	2.1%
Financial Activities	4.8%	6.7%	4.6%	6.6%	4.6%	6.6%	4.6%	7.8%
Professional and Business Services	9.3%	14.6%	9.2%	14.7%	9.5%	14.6%	12.6%	17.0%
Education and Health Services	15.1%	14.3%	15.9%	14.8%	16.6%	14.9%	20.4%	17.3%
Leisure and Hospitality	10.4%	12.7%	10.9%	12.9%	11.1%	13.3%	14.4%	15.8%
Other services	3.0%	3.2%	3.1%	3.2%	3.1%	3.3%	4.1%	3.8%
Government	20.4%	14.8%	20.4%	15.0%	19.6%	14.5%	23.7%	16.3%

Source:

Office of Economic & Demographic Research (<http://edr.state.fl.us/Content/area-profiles/county/stlucie.pdf>)

Average Annual Wage

	2009		2010		2011		2012	
	St. Lucie County	State of Florida	St. Lucie County	State of Florida	St. Lucie County	State of Florida	St. Lucie County	State of Florida
All Industries	\$ 34,072	\$ 40,973	\$ 34,035	\$ 41,570	\$ 34,544	\$ 41,570	\$ 32,652	\$ 42,446
National Resource and Mining	\$ 20,831	\$ 22,873	\$ 24,538	\$ 24,287	\$ 23,263	\$ 24,287	\$ 26,175	\$ 27,000
Construction	\$ 33,136	\$ 41,500	\$ 31,771	\$ 41,088	\$ 30,980	\$ 41,088	\$ 30,722	\$ 41,561
Manufacturing	\$ 37,716	\$ 50,094	\$ 38,116	\$ 51,847	\$ 41,326	\$ 51,847	\$ 43,449	\$ 53,284
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	\$ 31,402	\$ 36,468	\$ 31,334	\$ 37,111	\$ 31,348	\$ 37,111	\$ 32,567	\$ 38,621
Information	\$ 47,948	\$ 59,026	\$ 52,620	\$ 61,487	\$ 50,247	\$ 61,487	\$ 61,127	\$ 66,794
Financial Activities	\$ 37,253	\$ 54,910	\$ 35,154	\$ 57,043	\$ 32,301	\$ 57,043	\$ 40,610	\$ 61,400
Professional and Business Services	\$ 31,177	\$ 48,200	\$ 31,439	\$ 49,155	\$ 32,691	\$ 49,155	\$ 31,847	\$ 53,121
Education and Health Services	\$ 38,992	\$ 43,253	\$ 40,485	\$ 43,685	\$ 41,622	\$ 43,685	\$ 42,107	\$ 45,172
Leisure and Hospitality	\$ 21,981	\$ 20,994	\$ 18,888	\$ 21,448	\$ 21,421	\$ 21,448	\$ 17,252	\$ 22,305
Other services	\$ 25,572	\$ 29,372	\$ 24,738	\$ 29,608	\$ 23,553	\$ 29,608	\$ 24,180	\$ 30,380
Government	\$ 43,282	\$ 47,365	\$ 43,414	\$ 47,360	\$ 44,557	\$ 47,823	\$ 44,411	\$ 47,896

Source:

Office of Economic & Demographic Research (<http://edr.state.fl.us/Content/area-profiles/county/stlucie.pdf>)

COST OF LIVING

	St. Lucie County		Palm Beach County	Miami-Dade County	Suffolk County	Cook County	San Diego County	U.S. Average
	Port St. Lucie	Fort Pierce	West Palm Beach	Miami	Boston	Chicago	San Diego	
June 2012 Cost of Living								
Overall	91	83	95	108	149	105	143	100.0
Grocery	104	104	107	105	117	108	106	100.0
Health	98	98	108	108	123	104	110	100.0
Housing	66	36	71	120	211	107	237	100.0
Miscellaneous	100	100	104	104	135	102	103	100.0
Transportation	104	104	107	108	108	110	111	100.0
Utilities	95	95	93	95	130	99	112	100.0
Housing								
Median Home Costs	\$95,300	\$ 54,600	\$ 113,100	\$190,600	\$339,600	\$156,100	\$ 360,200	\$153,800
Property Tax Rates	\$ 13.61	\$ 13.61	\$ 13.37	\$ 14.71	\$ 9.23	\$ 16.10	\$ 7.35	\$ 11.20
Health								
Air Quality (100 = best)	92.6	92.6	92	65.3	26.4	6.8	5.2	82.8
Water Quality (100 = best)	55	55	30	50	1	31	74	55
Environment								
Temperature - high / low	90 / 50	90 / 50	90 / 57	90 / 60	84 / 19	83 / 18	72 / 53	87 / 22
Rain - average annual	58"	58"	61"	60"	45"	36"	10"	37"

Source:

Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County (<http://www.youredc.com/about-st-lucie-county/economic-data/cost-of-living>)

FINANCIAL HEALTH

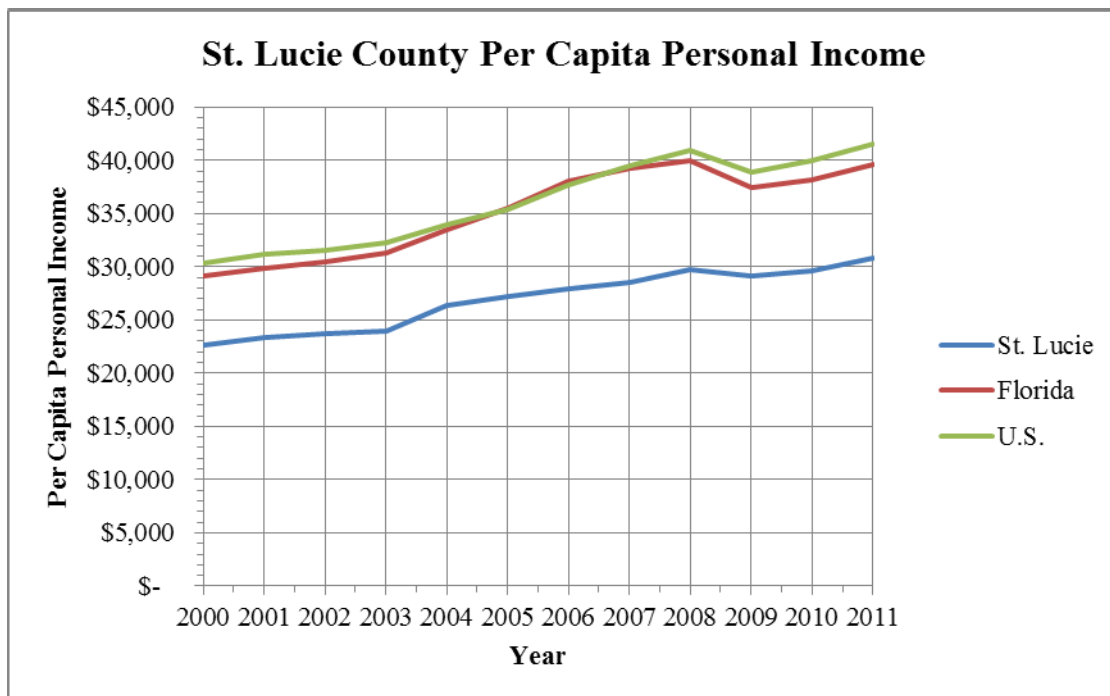
The Per Capita Personal Income from 2000 to 2011:

Year	St. Lucie	% Change	Florida	% Change	U.S.	% Change
2000	\$ 22,645		\$ 29,079		\$ 30,319	
2001	\$ 23,405	3.4%	\$ 29,804	2.5%	\$ 31,157	2.8%
2002	\$ 23,664	1.1%	\$ 30,462	2.2%	\$ 31,481	1.0%
2003	\$ 23,999	1.4%	\$ 31,241	2.6%	\$ 32,295	2.6%
2004	\$ 26,309	9.6%	\$ 33,463	7.1%	\$ 33,909	5.0%
2005	\$ 27,249	3.6%	\$ 35,489	6.1%	\$ 35,452	4.6%
2006	\$ 27,900	2.4%	\$ 37,996	7.1%	\$ 37,725	6.4%
2007	\$ 28,568	2.4%	\$ 39,256	3.3%	\$ 39,506	4.7%
2008	\$ 29,691	3.9%	\$ 39,978	1.8%	\$ 40,947	3.6%
2009	\$ 29,088	-2.0%	\$ 37,382	-6.5%	\$ 38,846	-5.1%
2010	\$ 29,670	2.0%	\$ 38,210	2.2%	\$ 39,937	2.8%
2011	\$ 30,768	3.7%	\$ 39,636	3.7%	\$ 41,560	4.1%

Source:

Bureau of Economic Analysis (<http://www.bea.gov/iTable/iTable.cfm?ReqID=70&step=1&isuri=1&acrdn=5>)

State of New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (<http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/lpa/industry/incpov/pci.htm>)



Source:

Bureau of Economic Analysis (<http://www.bea.gov/iTable/iTable.cfm?reqid=70&step=1&isuri=1&acrdn=5>)

State of New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (<http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/lpa/industry/incpov/pci.htm>)

HOUSING

Residential Housing Trends in St. Lucie County:

	2003 Q1	2004 Q1	2005 Q1	2006 Q1	2007 Q1
Average Price	\$ 142,500	\$ 176,600	\$ 221,600	\$ 265,100	\$ 224,000
# Homes on the Market	1,060	1,663	3,466	6,382	9,014
# Homes Sold	834	1,206	767	1,071	728
# New Homes Built	557	1,113	2,040	1,778	282
Average # Days on Market	75	70	59	88	139

	2008 Q1	2009 Q1	2010 Q1	2011 Q1	2012 Q2
Average Price	\$ 172,800	\$ 118,300	\$ 103,600	\$ 112,000	\$ 110,700
# Homes on the Market	8,072	4,399	3,145	3,291	2,686
# Homes Sold	651	1,037	1,334	955	975
# New Homes Built	103	41	46	34	44
Average # Days on Market	135	112	108	142	102

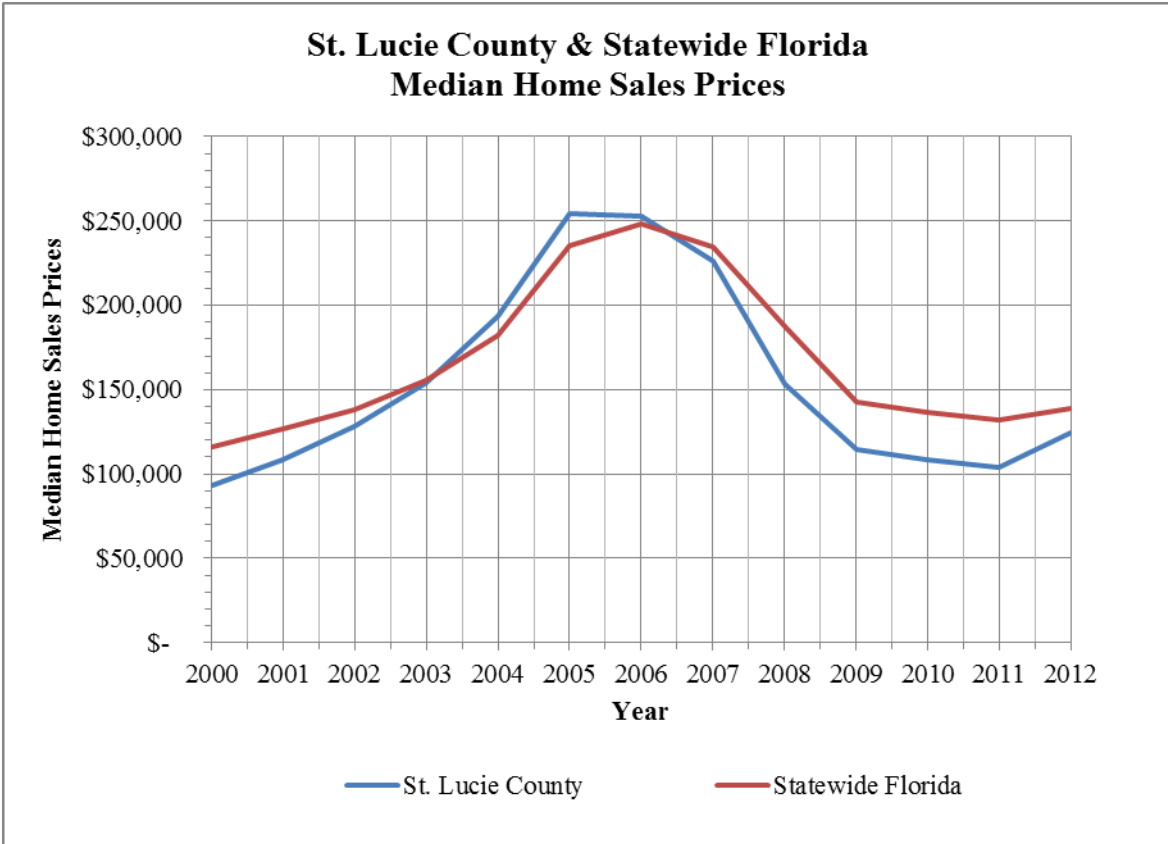
Note: Q1 is for first quarter of each year and Q2 is for the second quarter of each year.

Source:

Regional MLS (<http://www.rmlsfl.com/downloads/Stats.php>)

The Median Home Sales for St. Lucie County and the State of Florida:

Year	St. Lucie County	% Change	Statewide Florida	% Change	Year	St. Lucie County	% Change	Statewide Florida	% Change
2000	\$ 93,100		\$ 115,900		2007	\$ 226,100	-10.7%	\$ 234,300	-5.6%
2001	\$ 108,200	16.2%	\$ 126,600	9.2%	2008	\$ 153,600	-32.1%	\$ 187,800	-19.8%
2002	\$ 128,300	18.6%	\$ 137,800	8.8%	2009	\$ 114,500	-25.5%	\$ 142,600	-24.1%
2003	\$ 153,900	20.0%	\$ 155,800	13.1%	2010	\$ 108,500	-5.2%	\$ 136,500	-4.3%
2004	\$ 193,900	26.0%	\$ 182,400	17.1%	2011	\$ 104,000	-4.1%	\$ 131,700	-3.5%
2005	\$ 254,000	31.0%	\$ 235,200	28.9%	2012	\$ 124,163	19.4%	\$ 138,600	5.2%
2006	\$ 253,200	-0.3%	\$ 248,300	5.6%					



Source:
 Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County (<http://www.yourede.com/about-st-lucie-county/community-living/housing/>)

EDUCATION

The public school system is countywide and is governed by the School Board consisting of five members each elected for a four-year term. The school system is comprised of 19 elementary schools (grades K-5), 12 schools that combine grades K-8, three middle schools (grades 6-8) and six high schools (grades 9-12). Of the total 40 schools in St. Lucie County, there are Charter Schools; and five Magnet Schools, that consist of: three elementary (K-5), one combined (K-8), and one high school.

Higher educational resources within the County include: Indian River State College (IRSC) (formally Indian River Community College), Keiser University, and the extension campuses of Florida Atlantic University, University of Florida, Nova Southeastern University, Barry University, and Strayer University. These prestigious schools enable an individual to obtain two and four-year degrees without having to leave the area.



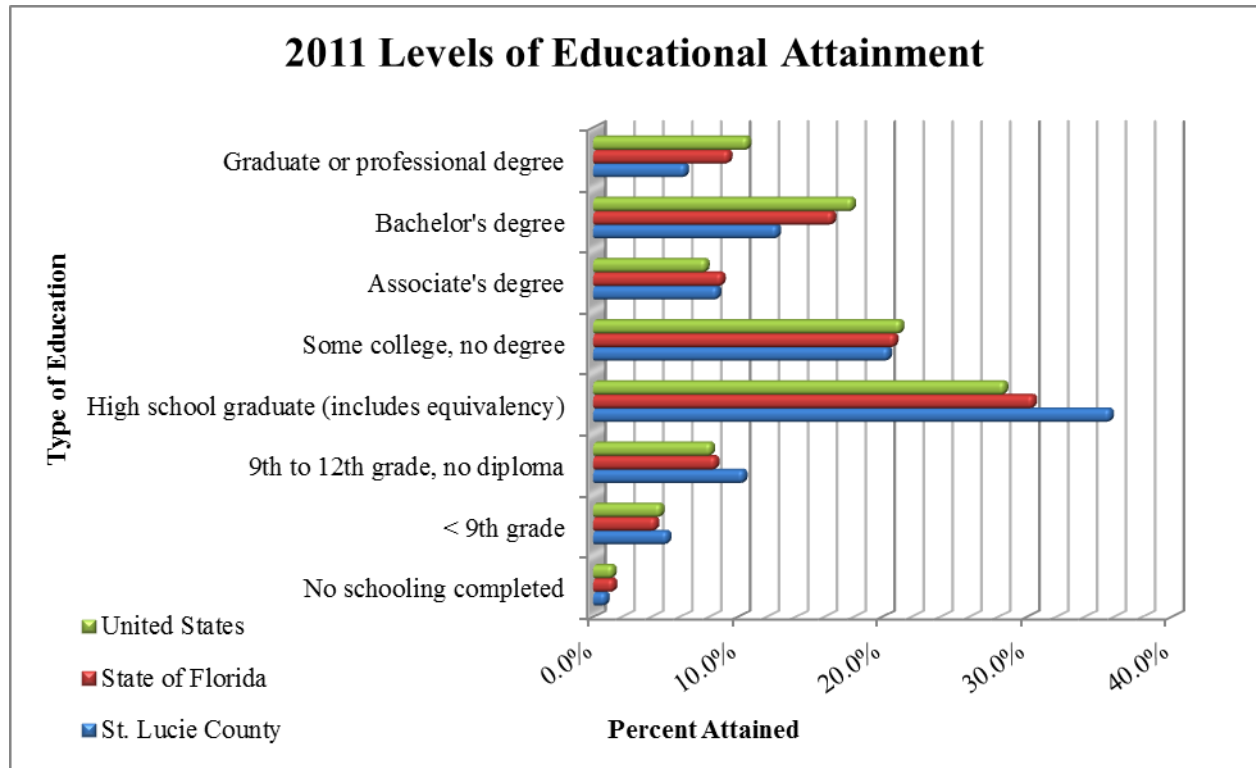
Source:

Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County (<http://www.youredc.com/html/education.asp>)

Educational Attainment Rates in St. Lucie County, the State of Florida, and the United States

2011 Levels of Education:

	St. Lucie County		State of Florida		United States	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
No schooling completed	1,635	0.8%	182,138	1.4%	2,735,152	1.3%
< 9th grade	9,957	5.1%	567,124	4.3%	9,582,454	4.6%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	20,234	10.4%	1,118,540	8.4%	16,771,699	8.1%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	69,649	35.7%	4,033,074	30.4%	58,653,211	28.4%
Some college, no degree	39,732	20.4%	2,761,492	20.8%	43,822,166	21.2%
Associate's degree	16,688	8.6%	1,175,984	8.9%	16,016,175	7.8%
Bachelor's degree	24,750	12.7%	2,190,780	16.5%	36,915,459	17.9%
Graduate or professional degree	12,355	6.3%	1,238,449	9.3%	21,975,354	10.6%
Population 25 years and over	195,000	100%	13,267,581	100%	206,471,670	100%



Sources:

US Census Bureau - Educational Attainment - Population 25 Years and Over - 2011 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_11_1YR_B15003&prodType=table)

QUALITY OF LIFE:

Points of Interest:

- Dolphin Watch & Wildlife Eco Tours – Ft. Pierce
- FPL’s Energy Encounter – Hutchinson Island
- Fort Pierce City Marina – Ft. Pierce
- Ocean Discovery Center, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution – Ft. Pierce
- Heathcote Botanical Gardens – Ft. Pierce
- Hallstrom Planetarium – Ft. Pierce
- Navy UDT-SEAL Museum – Ft. Pierce
- PGA Historical Center – Port St. Lucie
- Manatee Observation & Education Center – Ft. Pierce
- Experimental Oculina Research Reserve – Ft. Pierce
- Smithsonian Marine Ecosystems Exhibit – Ft. Pierce
- St. Lucie County Regional History Center – Ft. Pierce
- Seven Gables House Visitor Information Center – Ft. Pierce



Recreational Opportunities:

- Beaches and Water Sports
- Diving at Artificial Reefs
- Fishing
- Horseback Riding at Frederick Douglass Beach
- 4 County Pools
- 38 Parks
- 23 Ballfields
- 19 Beach Access Sites
- 1 Skate Park



Golf Courses:

- Fairwinds – Ft. Pierce
- Ballantrae – Port St. Lucie
- Gator Trace – Ft. Pierce
- Club Med Resort – Port St. Lucie
- Edward G. Enns Indian Hills – Ft. Pierce
- The Saints – Port St. Lucie



Cultural Events / Festivals:

- Events at St. Lucie County Fairgrounds.....Year Round
- New York Mets Major League Baseball Game.....Majors in Feb-Apr / Minors Apr – Sep
- Art Walk in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce.....2nd Wednesday / month
- Zora Neale Hurston Dust Tracks Heritage Trail.....Year Round
- Zora Fest – various locations in Ft. Pierce.....April
- Friday Fest in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce.....1st Friday / month
- West Fest – Tradition Community..... 3rd Friday / month
- Seafood & Fishing Frenzy.....June

Galleries:

- A.E. “Bean” Backus Museum & Gallery – Ft. Pierce
- Brush Strokes Gallery – Ft. Pierce
- IRSC’s Arts Gallery – Ft. Pierce
- Lafferandre Gallery – Ft. Pierce
- The Littleton Collection – Ft. Pierce

Theater Companies:

- Club Med, Port St. Lucie
- McAlpin Fine Arts Center, IRSC – Ft. Pierce
- Pineapple Playhouse – Ft. Pierce
- Sunrise Theater – Ft. Pierce
- Black Box Theatre – Ft. Pierce

Symphony Orchestras:

- Fort Pierce Jazz Society
- Treasure Coast Symphony at IRSC’s McAlpin Fine Arts Center – Ft. Pierce

Medical Services:

- Lawnwood Regional Medical Center & Heart Institute
- Martin Memorial Health Systems
- Savannas Hospital
- St. Lucie Medical Center

For more information, visit <http://www.visitstluciefla.com/>. For information on the Arts and Cultural Alliance of St. Lucie County, visit <http://www.artsinstlucie.org/p/2/home>

Sources:

- St. Lucie County Tourism (http://www.stlucieco.gov/tourism/galleries_museums.html)
- Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County (<http://www.eflorida.com/profiles/CountyReport.asp?CountyID=36&Display=all>)
- Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County (<http://www.youredc.com/html/attractions.asp>)
- Economic Development Council of St. Lucie County (http://www.youredc.com/html/arts_and_culture.asp)
- St. Lucie County website (<http://www.st-lucie.lib.fl.us/zora/index.htm>)
- St. Lucie County website (<http://www.co.st-lucie.fl.us/zorafest/index.htm>)
- St. Lucie County website (<http://www.stlucieco.gov/parks/index.htm>)
- Wikipedia (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Lucie_County)

OTHER RESOURCES

St. Lucie County is situated in an area where the Florida Turnpike, Interstate 95, US Highway 1, the St. Lucie County International Airport, the Port of Fort Pierce, and the Florida East Coast Railway system are in close proximity to each other. This provides for easy access to County amenities as well as commercial opportunities.

The County is also the home of two prestigious research facilities -- Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute and the Smithsonian Marine Station, Fort Pierce. Additionally, The University of Florida has established an agricultural research center in the County, and the United States Department of Agriculture has selected St. Lucie County as a location for a research facility.

The St. Lucie County Sports Complex is the site of many public events and includes a modern baseball stadium and practice fields that serve as the spring training home of the New York Mets baseball team. It is also home of the St. Lucie Mets, a local farm club that provides near major league quality baseball action for fans at a very affordable rate.

Three local law enforcement departments serve the County. The St. Lucie County Sheriff's Department services primarily the unincorporated area. The Fort Pierce Police Department and the Port St. Lucie Police Departments service their respective cities. The three departments work closely to ensure that St. Lucie County is a safe place to work and live.

FINANCIAL POLICY

FINANCIAL POLICY STATEMENT

St. Lucie County has an important responsibility to its citizens to correctly account for public funds, to manage county finances wisely and to plan for adequate funding of services desired by the public. St. Lucie County needs to ensure that it is capable of adequately funding and providing local government services needed by the community.

Sound fiscal policies that are realistic and consistent provide useful guidance for the long-term programming of services and facilities. They also provide a set of assumptions under which budget and tax decisions should be made. While established for the best management of government resources, generally accepted fiscal policy also helps set the parameters for government's role in the broader economy of the community. The following fiscal policies set a framework to guide the operations of the County.

FINANCIAL STRUCTURE

All operations of St. Lucie County are accounted for by the use of fund accounting, in order to provide proper accountability for the different kinds of resources. Various funds have been established to track transactions. Funds with similar objectives, activities and legal restrictions are placed in one the following three groups:

Governmental Funds - These funds account for general governmental functions, such as the court system and law enforcement. They use a spending measurement focus; which means that only current assets and liabilities are generally included on the fund types' balance sheets, and the difference between these assets and liabilities is classified as fund balance. Governmental Funds types are classified into four generic fund types as follow:

- X **General Fund** is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in a specific fund. Most countywide activities are accounted for in this fund.
- X **Special Revenue Funds** account for proceeds of specific revenue sources that legally restricted to expenditures for specified purposes.
- X **Debt Service Funds** are used to account for the accumulation of resources for and the payment of general long-term debt principal, interest and other costs associated with long-term debt.
- X **Capital Project Funds** are used to account for the purchase or construction of major capital facilities, such as buildings, infrastructure and lands.

Proprietary Funds - These funds are used to account for governments' ongoing activities that are similar to those of private enterprise. They are accounted for on a cost of service basis. There are two types of Proprietary Funds:

- X **Enterprise Funds** are used to account for the provision of public services that are similar to services provided by business enterprises. Operating costs of such funds are paid from user charges or other non-governmental revenue.

- X **Internal Service Funds** is the financing of goods or services provided by one department to other departments within the same government on a cost reimbursement basis.

Fiduciary Funds - These funds account for assets belonging to others, held by a government in a trustee capacity or as an agent. Agency and expendable trust funds are accounted for like governmental funds. Non-expendable trusts are accounted for in the same manner as proprietary funds. Fiduciary Funds consists of two groups:

- X **Expendable Trust Funds** account for assets held by the County in trust for administration and disbursement for specific purposes.

- X **Agency Funds** account for assets belonging to others, which are held pending disposition.

BUDGETARY BASIS

Modified Accrual Basis for Governmental Funds - All Governmental Funds (General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, Debt Service Funds, Capital Project Funds), Expendable Trust Funds and Agency Funds are maintained on the modified accrual basis of accounting. Modified accrual is essentially accrual accounting, modified to recognize the governmental environment and unique accounting measurement objectives. Revenues are generally recognized during the fiscal year when they are quantifiable, measurable and there is a reasonable expectation that they will be collected during that period. In most cases, expenditures are recorded when the good or service is actually delivered, regardless of when the funds are disbursed. As a budgetary control measure, the funds are encumbered or "reserved" when the good or service is ordered.

Accrual Basis for Proprietary Funds- Proprietary Funds include the Internal Service Funds and the Enterprise Funds. Under the Accrual basis revenues are budgeted based on the measurable amount expected to be "earned" during the fiscal year. Expenditure estimates are developed for all expenses anticipated to be "incurred" during the fiscal year. Revenue is recognized when earned and expenditures are recognized when incurred. Transactions are recorded when they occur - regardless of when cash is received or disbursed. This is essentially the same method used in the private sector; however there are a few differences:

1. Capital expenditures and debt principal are budgeted as appropriations
2. Compensated absence accruals are not budgeted

Fund Balance - Fund balance is the result of the previous fiscal year's beginning cash balance plus revenues received minus actual expenditures. It includes unallocated resources that may be used to fund new projects/programs as well as unspent allocated funds, which will be carried forward to fund those existing projects/programs. Fund balance is adjusted for inventory and other non-cash assets and liabilities.

Depreciation - For budget purposes, depreciation is recognized in a designated reserve only to the extent that it is funded.

GRANTS BUDGETING

Grants are funds awarded to St. Lucie County by the federal government, state agencies, or other organizations to finance projects such as capital improvement, cultural and educational activities, environmental projects, economic development, planning and research, etc. Grant revenues are received into governmental or proprietary funds related to the project. Each grant is individually budgeted as a sub-fund subordinate to its hierarchy governmental or proprietary fund. Transfers of grant local matches, interest monies and residual cash between a grant and its hierarchy fund are permitted without Board approval.

CAPITAL BUDGETING

St. Lucie County maintains a Capital Improvements Plan (CIP), which covers a five-year period and is updated annually. The Office of Management and Budget determines the amount of funds available for capital projects. Proposed projects are prioritized and the available funds are allocated accordingly. A separate section of this document is designated for the CIP projects detail. Projects in the CIP this fiscal year are funded; however out years are estimated needs and may exceed future available revenues.

The capitalization threshold is \$25,000 for buildings or infrastructure with a life span of more than one year. Budgets for buildings and infrastructure under \$25,000 are reflected in the County's operating budget instead of the Capital Improvement Program.

GENERAL BUDGET POLICY

1. The operating budget authorizing expenditure of County money will be adopted annually by the Board at the fund level.
2. The budget shall reflect the estimated beginning balances of all funds and all planned revenues or receipts for each fund for which the County must maintain accounts. Once the annual audit is completed, staff may prepare a Budget Resolution to adjust the beginning balances from the estimated to the actual.

3. No monies shall be expended or disbursed from accounts of the Board of County Commissioners except pursuant to authorization reflected in the adopted budget. The Clerk of Courts shall advise the Board of any exceptions to this policy required by law or generally accepted accounting practice.
4. Florida law states that a county must have a balanced budget. Therefore, the budgeted expenditures and reserves of each fund (including reserves for contingencies, cash flow and all other purposes) will equal the sum of projected fund balance at the beginning of the fiscal year and all revenues and receipts which reasonably can be expected to be received during the fiscal year.
5. Reserves:
 - a. A reserve for contingency may be budgeted in each of the funds. At the Board's discretion, these funds may be allocated as needed during the year to fund unexpected operations or events.
 - b. The Board will also maintain a designated Emergency Reserve of 5% of the total operating budget excluding funds that have a minimum of 10% or \$2 million in reserves (whichever is greater). By majority vote, the Board may use all or a portion of this designated Emergency Reserve, however, the use is normally reserved for natural or manmade disasters.
 - c. The Board will also maintain a fund balance reserve in the general fund equal to 5% of the general fund operating budget. By a majority vote, the Board may use all or a portion of this fund balance reserve to address unanticipated revenue shortfalls or any unforeseen expenditures not necessarily resulting from a natural disaster.
6. Transfers:
 - a. Transfers to reserve accounts may be made during the fiscal year by the County Administrator or the Management & Budget Director as required for proper management of the budget.
 - b. Transfers among expenditure or revenue accounts may be made during the fiscal year by County Administration and/or the Office of Management & Budget, if re-allocations within a fund are determined to be needed. Additional procedures will be established by the County Administrator. No transfers having an impact on capital facility improvement will be made without Board authority.
 - c. No transfer affecting the total allocations to a Constitutional Officer may be made without Board approval.
 - d. No transfer may be made between funds if the result of such transfer will be to change the adopted total budget of a fund, except pursuant to a public hearing and Board action to amend the adopted budget.

- e. Transfers from reserves for contingency will require approval of the Board.
7. Changes in the adopted total budget of a fund will be made only with Board approval of a budget amendment resolution.
8. To provide information to the Board on budget and financial operations the Office of Management & Budget will prepare quarterly analyses of financial condition.
9. The operating budget will reflect programmatic expectations of the Board and County Administrator for each department. The budget will emphasize the relationship between financial and managerial (operations) planning.
10. For purposes of budget preparation, in the event policies or stated desires of the Board regarding appropriations or service levels prove to be incompatible with forecasted revenues or revenue policies, these conflicts will be resolved in favor of the revenue policy.
11. The Capital Improvement Budget showing estimated annualized costs of capital projects will be updated on an annual basis.

REVENUE POLICY

1. The use of general ad valorem tax revenues will be limited to the General, Law Enforcement & Courts (Fine & Forfeiture), MSTU Funds, and dependent special districts, unless required in other funds by bond indenture agreements or by the terms of municipal service taxing units ordinance.
2. The use of ad valorem tax revenues based on millage levied for the Mosquito Control, and Erosion Control Special Districts will be limited to those districts.
3. The use of gas tax revenues will be limited to the Transportation Trust and Transportation Projects Funds, unless required in other funds by bond indenture agreements.
4. The use of sales tax revenues will be limited to the General and Law Enforcement & Courts (Fine & Forfeiture) funds except when allocated to debt service funds to meet non-ad valorem debt service requirements.
5. Pursuant to Ordinance, Tourist Development Tax proceeds will be appropriated as follows:
 - a. 20% for tourist advertising and promotion within St. Lucie County.
 - b. 40% for stadium expenses.
 - c. 33.40% debt service for stadium renovations.
 - d. 6.60% for capital facilities that promote tourism in the Fairgrounds and the area north of Midway Road.

6. The use of revenues pledged to bondholders will conform in every respect to the bond covenants committing those revenues.
7. Periodic cost studies of all County services for which user fees are imposed will be prepared, and proposed fee adjustments will be presented for Board consideration. Fee revenues will be anticipated for purposes of budget preparation using fee schedules, which have been adopted by the Board.
8. County staff will continue to aggressively pursue grant funds. For purposes of preparing the annual budget, revenues will be budgeted at actual award levels when known, and at anticipated grant award levels for continuing grants. Other grants will be budgeted upon notice of award.
9. Ad valorem taxes will be anticipated for purposes of operating budget preparation at 95% of the final assessed taxable value as determined by the Property Appraiser.
10. Millages for Debt Service will be established at the amounts, which will generate sufficient revenue, to make all required payments plus any reserve amount deemed prudent by the Office of Management and Budget or prescribed by covenant or ordinance.
11. All revenues, which are reasonably expected to be unexpended and unencumbered at the end of the fiscal year, will be anticipated as "fund balance" in the budget of the following fiscal year.

DEBT POLICY

1. Neither the Florida Constitution, Florida Statutes, nor the Board of County Commissioners place a limit on the amount of debt the voters may approve by referendum. However, as a practical matter, debt is limited by the availability of revenue streams to pay debt service, by market factors, and by Board/voter discretion.
2. In concert with the County Administrator and the County Finance Team, and to facilitate better short-term decisions, the Office of Management and Budget creates an annual debt schedule to the Board, which lists current debt and projects debt requirements.
3. The County will not fund operations or normal maintenance from the proceeds of long-term financing and will confine long-term borrowing and capital leases to capital improvements, projects, or equipment that cannot be financed from current or projected financial resources. To conserve debt capacity as well as maintain a high bond rating the County will utilize pay-as-you-go financing to the maximum extent possible.
4. Notwithstanding extenuating circumstances, the County's debt capacity will be maintained within the following generally accepted benchmarks:
 - Direct debt per capita shall remain below four hundred dollars (\$400.00). Direct debt includes general obligations and governmental fund bond debt.

- Direct debt per capita as a percentage of income per capita should not exceed 2%.
 - Direct debt as a percentage of the final assessment value of taxable property as provided by the Office of the Property Appraiser shall not exceed 1%.
 - The ratio of direct debt service expenditures as a percentage of general governmental expenditures will not exceed 10%. General governmental expenditures are considered General Fund expenditures, Fine and Forfeitures Fund expenditures plus transfers to the Constitutional Officers, the Airport, the Port and all transfers to Internal Service Funds.
5. The County strives to maintain a minimum underlying bond rating equivalent to ‘Upper Medium Grade’ (Moody Rating Service A or Standard & Poor’s A). The County shall request an evaluation of their underlying rating every five years or as deemed necessary by the Board.
 6. The County shall strive to keep the average maturity of general obligation bonds at or below fifteen (15) years.
 7. When financing capital projects or equipment by issuing bonds, the County will amortize the debt over a term not to exceed the useful life of the project or piece of equipment.
 8. Each year the County will review its outstanding debt for the purpose of determining the feasibility of refunding an issue.
 9. To the maximum extent possible, the County will use special assessment (i.e. Municipal Services Benefit Unit) or self-supporting bonds (i.e. Revenue Bonds) in lieu of general obligation bonds so that those benefiting from the improvements will absorb all or part of the project costs.

APPROPRIATION POLICY

1. Fund appropriations of the Board will be allocated to departments, divisions, programs, organization codes, projects, and line item object codes as deemed appropriate by the Management & Budget Director, with the approval of the County Administrator, to facilitate managerial control and reporting of financial operations.
2. Each year, before Department Directors and Division Managers begin to prepare operating budget requests, the Office of Management & Budget will issue budget preparation instructions. These instructions will take into consideration: 1) County financial policies; 2) The expressed desires of the Board and County Administrator for changes in service or service levels; 3) Projected costs of authorized services; 4) Forecasted revenues. County managers will prepare annual budget consistent with these instructions.
3. The County, in conjunction with an independent consultant, will prepare and maintain an indirect cost allocation plan, which conforms to federal guidelines for grant reimbursement

of administrative costs. Managers will bill and collect indirect cost charges to eligible grant projects, enterprise funds, and other funds as appropriate.

4. The budget requests of County agencies will include itemized lists of all desired operating equipment, and of any equipment in inventory for which replacement is being requested. Purchase of equipment valued in excess of \$1,000 not on the approved budget list will require approval by the County Administrator or the Board on a case-by-case basis.
5. Each year the County will prepare a comprehensive five-year capital improvement program identifying needed public facilities by service type and geographic area for approval by the Board.
6. The annual budget will contain appropriations to fund capital projects identified by Departments for the purpose of completing the first year of the five-year capital improvement program. Operating budget implications of these capital projects will be identified; such expenses for the first (budgeted) year of the capital plan shall be funded.

THE BUDGET PROCESS

Budget preparation is a year round process. In February, the Office of Management and Budget distributes the Budget Preparation Manual and tentative schedule to the departments. OMB then begins finalizing the schedule for County Administration's review, which takes place in May, and the Board's workshops in July.

Departments prepare their 'requested' budget during the months of February and March. County Administration reviews the budgets in May and the 'recommended' budget is reviewed by the Board during the month of July. Once the Board approves the budgets and adopts the proposed millage rates in July, OMB notifies the Property Appraiser and prepares the Tentative Budget. The Tentative Budget is presented to the citizens of St. Lucie County and the Board of County Commissioners at the first public hearing in September. The Board will then adopt the Tentative Budget and Tentative Millage as presented or as amended. At the second and final public hearing the Board adopts the final millage rate and final budget.

The budget is adopted at the fund level. During the course of the year, the administration may approve the transfer of funds among line items within the same department as may be necessary for proper budgetary and fiscal management. The budget may be amended (increased or decreased) and funds transferred from contingency reserves only by action of the Board of County Commissioners as set forth in Florida Statutes.

The Truth In Millage (TRIM) timetable and budget process schedule for fiscal year 2013 – 2014 follow.

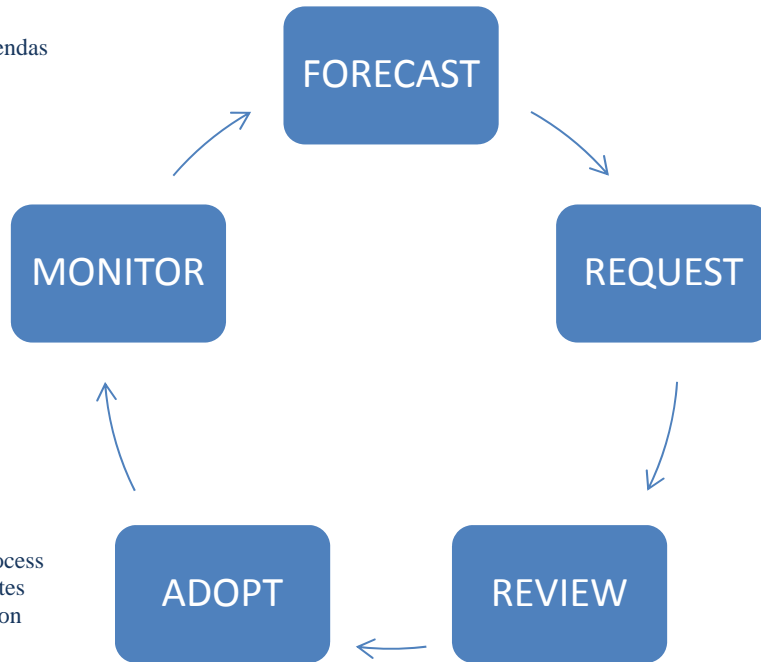
ST. LUCIE COUNTY BUDGET PROCESS OVERVIEW

October – September:

- ✓ Occurs Year Round
- ✓ Budget is loaded into Banner Accounting System
- ✓ Transmit Adopted Millage
- ✓ Review Departmental Accounts
- ✓ Process Line To Lines, Budget Amendments, Budget Resolutions, and New Equipment Requests
- ✓ Verify Departmental Agendas
- ✓ Grant Monitoring
- ✓ Grants Quarterly Status Report
- ✓ Monitor CIP Projects

November – March:

- ✓ Beginning of the Budget Process
- ✓ Outline the Budget Process to the Departments
- ✓ Begin the CIP Process
- ✓ Calculation of Fund Balance Forward
- ✓ Meet with Departments for Revenue and Expense Projections



January – June:

- ✓ Staff Training of Microsoft Office and Banner as needed
- ✓ Department Requests (including equipment and position changes)
- ✓ CIP Requests
- ✓ Department Mission, Goals, Objectives, and Key Indicators
- ✓ Revenue Projections

July – September:

- ✓ Ending of the Budget Process
- ✓ Set Proposed Millage Rates
- ✓ Tentative Budget Adoption
- ✓ TRIM Notice
- ✓ Public Hearings
- ✓ TRIM Advertisement
- ✓ Final Adoption of the Budget

March – September:

- ✓ Review of Budget Packages Submitted
- ✓ County Administrator’s Budget Review
- ✓ Balancing of the Budget
- ✓ BOCC Budget Review Workshops

The budget formulation, adoption, and execution in St. Lucie County, involve the year-round interaction of the Board of County Commissioners, County Administration, and staff at various levels within the County. The purpose of the budget process is to identify departmental needs, develop strategies to meet those needs, and to develop detailed revenue and expenditure estimates to carry out the financial plan. The budget process for fiscal year 2013 - 2014 for St. Lucie County incorporates the scheduled activities listed on the Budget Preparation And Implementation Calendar, beginning in October 2012.

BUDGET PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION CALENDAR

Date: 2012

ACTIVITY

October

- The new 2012/2013 fiscal year begins on October 1st.
- Implementation of the FY 2012/2013 adopted budget.
- Prepare Truth In Millage (TRIM) compliance packet for Florida Department of Revenue.
- Comply with GFOA requirements for submission for the budget awards program.
- Monitor FY 2012/2013 beginning year activity.
- Prepare any needed budget amendments.
- Begin policy planning for FY 2013/2014.
- The FY 2012/2013 final budget book is printed and uploaded to the County's website.

November

- Close out FY 2011/2012.

December

- Adjust prior year estimates to unaudited actual.

Date: 2013

ACTIVITY

January

- Citizens Budget Committee elects chair and vice chair members and schedules meeting dates for the calendar year.

February

- Distribute budget preparation guidelines to departments.
- OMB opens Banner — enabling departments to input requested budget data.
- Banner & Microsoft Office training for Budget Coordinators as needed.

Date: 2013

ACTIVITY

February

- Work on payroll projections and Department's approved positions.
- Departments prepare budget requests.
- Provide budget assistance to Departments.
- Department Directors review budgets.
- OMB calculates preliminary fund balance estimates.

March

- Departmental budget packages and Capital Improvement Plans due to OMB.
- Departmental Banner input completed.
- Analyze budget requests.
- Update audited carryover amounts.
- Balance Funds.
- Make preliminary revenue, expense, and Fund Balance Forward estimates.
- OMB conducts technical budget reviews with departments.

April

- Strategic Planning meeting with the BOCC.
- Judges, Court Administrator, Public Defender, State Attorney, Guardian Ad Litem and Medical Examiner budgets are due.

May

- County Administrator's budget review with Departments.
- Work with Departments and enter the County Administrator's budget changes into Banner's recommended phase of the FY 2013/2014 budget.
- Clerk of Court, Sheriff, and Supervisor of Elections budgets are due.

Date: 2013

ACTIVITY

May

- Complete recommended phase budget changes.
- If necessary, rebalance Funds from applied recommended budget changes.
- Update the preliminary revenue, expense, and Fund Balance Forward estimates.

June

- Start compiling the tentative budget packets for the Board's review in July.
- Property Appraiser's budget and Property Value Estimates are due.
- Complete compiling the tentative budget packets and convert the packets to PDF format.
- Distribute budget summaries to Departments for review.

July

- Property Appraiser certifies property values to the BOCC (DR420's).
- Distribute budget to the Commissioners.
- The County Administrator presents the proposed budget to the BOCC.
- Conduct the BOCC Budget Review Workshops.
- The BOCC sets the proposed millage rates to be advertised in the Notice of Proposed Property Taxes.
- Enter the BOCC's budget changes into Banner's tentative phase of the FY 2013/2014 budget.
- Complete tentative phase budget changes.
- OMB returns completed DR420's to Property Appraiser.

Date: 2013

ACTIVITY

August

- Tax Collector's budget is due on August 1st.
- Prepare and print the tentative budget book.
- Departments turn in their purchase order roll-over requests for FY 2013/2014 to OMB.
- Property Appraiser distributes TRIM notices to all property owners. The TRIM notice notifies property owners of the 1st public hearing for the tentative budget and millage.
- Prepare for public hearings.

September

- The BOCC holds the 1st public hearing of the FY 2013/2014 budget in September and tentatively adopts the budget and millage rates.
- The County advertises in newspapers the 2nd public hearing for the adoption of the final budget and millage.
- The BOCC holds the 2nd public hearing of the FY2013/2014 budget in September and adopts the final budget and millage rates.
- Certify final millage with the Property Appraiser and State of Florida Department of Revenue within 3 days of final adoption.
- The 2012/2013 fiscal year ends on September 30th.

CATEGORIES OF REVENUES & EXPENDITURES

REVENUES ARE DIVIDED INTO THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

A. Taxes - The State of Florida does not have a state or local income tax. Specific types of taxes levied by local government include ad valorem (real and personal property), and sales and use taxes (imposed upon sale or consumption of goods and services levied locally). Sales and use taxes imposed by county government include the tourist development taxes, and local option gas taxes. Property tax revenue estimates are based on certified property valuations. Sales and use tax revenues are based on history and state provided estimates.

Franchise fees are also accounted for in this category. These fees may be levied on a corporation or individual by the local government in return for granting a privilege or permitting the use of public property subject to regulations. The State collects fees imposed under the Telecommunications Act and disperses them to participating counties. The County also collects electrical and solid waste franchise fees. Revenue estimates are based on history and customer base projections.

B. Licenses and Permits - These revenues are derived from the issuance of local licenses and permits. Within this category are professional and occupational licenses, building permits and any other licenses and permits (e.g., building, roofing, plumbing permits; occupational license fees). Revenue estimates are based on prior year collections.

C. Intergovernmental Revenues - Included are revenues received from federal, state and other local governmental sources in the form of grants, shared revenues and payments in lieu of taxes. The state shared revenues that are of most importance to county government are revenue sharing, mobile home licenses, alcoholic beverage licenses, racing tax, local government half-cent sales tax, constitutional gas tax, and county gas tax. The state provides revenue estimates, except for grants; grant revenues are estimated based on information provided by grantors.

D. Charges for Services - These revenues include all charges for current services such as recording of legal documents, zoning fees, county officer fees (fees remitted to county from officers whose operations are budgeted by the Board of County Commissioners), county court fees, circuit court fees, water utility, garbage/solid waste, sewer fees, park, library and recreation fees. Revenue estimates are based on revenue history and operating agency projections.

E. Fines and Forfeitures - This group of revenues includes moneys received from fines and penalties imposed for the commission of statutory offenses, violation of lawful administrative rules and regulations or for neglect of official duty. Some examples include court fines, library fines, and pollution control violations. Revenue estimates are based on revenue history.

F. Miscellaneous Revenues - Monies in this category are primarily interest earnings. Types of interest earnings include moneys on investments, contracts and notes, interest earnings of the Clerk of Court, Tax Collector, Sheriff, Property Appraiser and Supervisor of Elections. Also included would be rents and proceeds for use of public property. Revenue estimates are based on history and analysis of fund balances.

G. Internal Service Charges - The Risk Management program generates revenue to fund the program by billing the departments for services provided. Revenues are determined by agency requirements, which are determined in the budget review process. The expenditure to the department is an example of an Internal Service Charge. The use of an internal service fund enhances cost accounting and accountability for this in-house service; however, since expenditures are counted in both the originating department and in the internal service fund, this results in a double count of the expenditures.

H. Non-Revenues - Non-revenues are categories of monies that are not generated by traditional activities such as taxes, fees for services, or intergovernmental transfers from State to County. Included are such groupings as transfers, bond proceeds, insurance proceeds and unspent budgets and interest earned by Constitutional Officers which must, by State law, be returned to the County. Estimates are based on history or on anticipated transactions such as bond issuances.

I. Less 5% Anticipated Revenues - State law requires that budgeted collections for ad valorem (property tax) revenues be set at not less than 95% of estimates projected by the Tax Collector, and that receipts generally, except for fund balances brought forward, be budgeted at 95% of anticipated levels.

EXPENDITURES ARE DIVIDED INTO THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

A. General Government Services - Includes the costs of providing representation of the citizenry by the governing body (Board of County Commissioners) as well as executive management and administration of the affairs of local government (County Administrator's Office). Also included in this category are the financial and administrative costs of government (budgeting, accounting, auditing, property appraisal, tax collecting, personnel, purchasing, communication, printing, stores, property control, grants development and any other support services).

In addition, General Government includes legal services (County Attorney), comprehensive planning (County Planning Department), costs of providing a court system (Court Administrator, County Court, State Attorney, Public Defender, Law Library), court reporting, and Information Technology.

B. Public Safety - Security of persons and property is the major focus of this category. Included are law enforcement (Sheriff, Public Safety), detention and/or correction (county jail),

protective inspections (building and zoning inspections), emergency and disaster relief services (emergency management, communications system), and medical examiner.

C. Physical Environment - Costs of services provided to achieve a satisfactory living environment are assigned to this group. Categories include utility services, garbage/solid waste control, sewer services, conservation and resource management, flood control and other physical environmental needs.

D. Transportation - Costs incurred for the safe and adequate flow of vehicles, travelers and pedestrians are included. Specific subcategories include road and street facilities, traffic engineering, street lighting (County Department of Public Works), airports (Port & Airport), water transportation systems (canals, terminals, dock and ports), and transit systems.

E. Economic Environment - Costs of providing services to develop and improve the economic conditions of the community, including tourist development, are allocated to this category. Not included are welfare functions, which are included in human services.

F. Human Services - Costs of providing services for care, treatment and control of human illness and injury are included. Expenditures in this function include mental health, physical health, welfare programs, special needs and interrelated programs such as the provision of health care for indigent persons. Specific health care activities related to the County included the Health Unit, New Horizons, Mosquito Control, Abbie Jean Russell Center, and the Council on Aging.

G. Culture and Recreation - Costs incurred in providing and maintaining cultural and recreational facilities and activities for citizens and visitors are included in this function. Separate categories include all library costs, recreational programs, golf courses, swimming pools, tennis courts, public parks, community centers, camping areas and bicycle paths. Any expenses for special events such as county fairs, civic events, historical celebrations etc. are assigned here.

H. Internal Services - Expenditures incurred by one County department for services requested by another County department. Risk Management (Insurance Fees) is an example of an internal service expenditure.

I. Non-Expenditure Disbursements - Included in this category are transfers, reserves and transfer to constitutional officers. Interfund transfers represent amounts transferred from one fund to another to assist in financing the services of the recipient fund. Transfers do not constitute additional revenues or expenditures of the governmental unit, but reflect the movement of cash from one fund to another. Transfers to constitutional officers are disbursements to the constitutional officers (Sheriff, Supervisor of Elections and Clerk of the Circuit Court).

EXPENDITURES ARE ALSO DIVIDED INTO THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT TYPES:

A. Personnel - Expense for salaries, wages, and related employee benefits provided for all persons employed whether on full-time, part-time, temporary, or seasonal basis. Employee benefits include employer contributions to a retirement system, social security, insurance, sick leave, terminal pay, and similar direct benefits as well as other costs such as Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) expense accrual, Worker's Compensation and Unemployment Compensation Insurance.

B. Operating - Includes expenditures for goods and services, which are not defined as personal services or capital outlays.

C. Capital Plan - Outlays for the acquisition of or addition to land, buildings and infrastructure.

D. Capital - Other - Outlays for the acquisition of or addition to fixed assets other than land, building and infrastructure. This category includes machinery and equipment, library books and materials, and software.

E. Debt Service - Outlays for debt service purposes.

F. Grants & Aids - Grants and Aids include all grants, subsidies, and contributions to other government entities/reporting units and private organizations.

G. Other Uses - Expenses for intragovernmental transfers, reserves, emergency reserves, contingency, project reserves and transfers to Constitutional Officers.