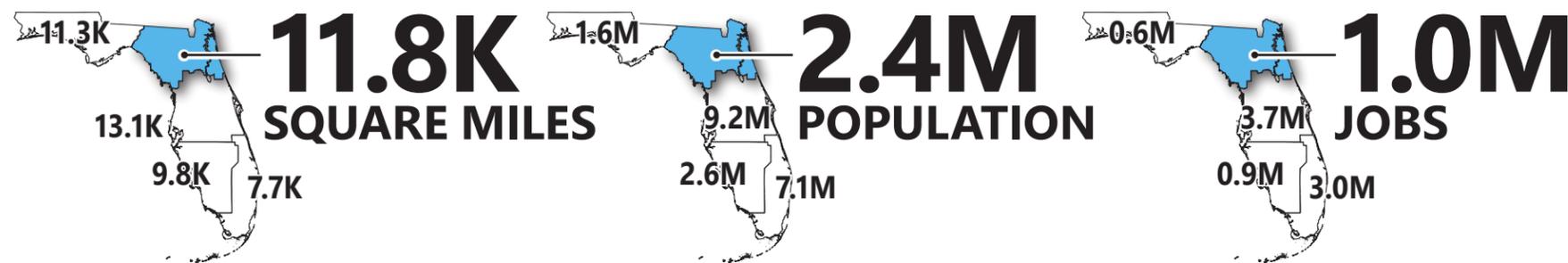


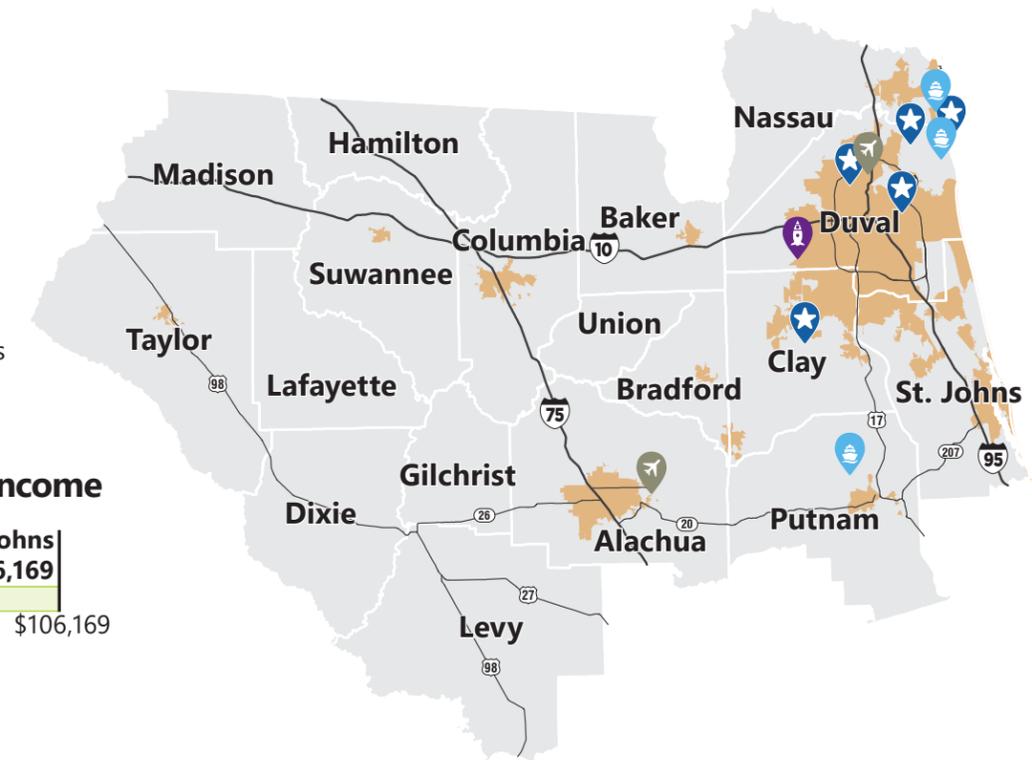
# NORTHEAST FLORIDA

## TRANSPORTATION TRENDS & CONDITIONS

The Northeast communities have a rich historical legacy along the St. Johns River, evolving over time into a thriving hub with varied economies, including logistics, health care, and military industries. The area is a crucial regional center and gateway of the state for access both on land and at sea. Recent emerging technology and multimodal infrastructure investments, such as river routes, smart streets, and bus rapid transit, reinforce the Northeast's dedication to accommodating viable growth and multimodal connectivity. With a relatively younger demography and more rural areas, Northeast Florida will continue to grow at a steady pace around existing urban centers, with targeted investments for transit, advanced technology, prioritization of environmental assets, and enhanced amenities for outdoor activities.



[Statewide Transportation Trends & Conditions]



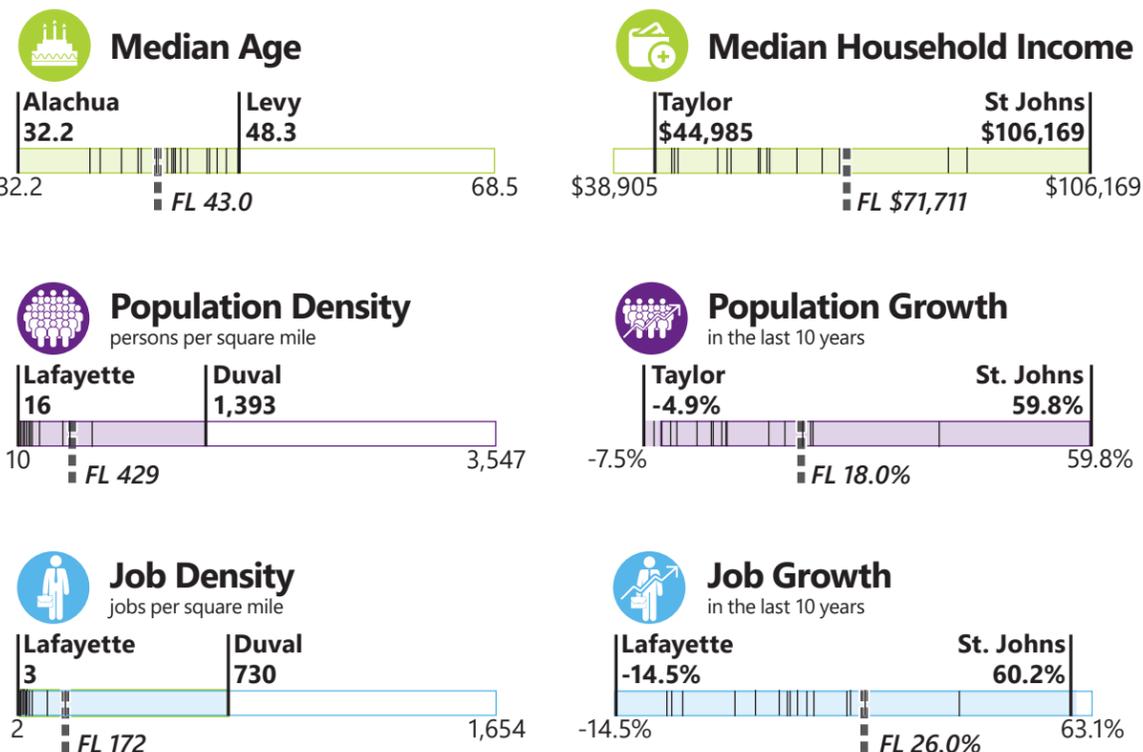
### TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM HIGHLIGHTS

- 22,313** Public Road Miles
- 676** Rail Mainline Miles
- 260** Existing SUN Trail Miles
- 2,101** Highway Bridges
- 8** Transit Systems
- 2** Commercial Service Airports
- 3** Seaports
- 5** Military Installations
- 1** Spaceport

[Florida Transportation Fast Facts]

### DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Reference scale bars reflect the range of values for each demographic characteristic across the state. Lines within shaded areas reflect values for Northeast communities.



[Florida Trends & Conditions]

- Urban Area
- Airport
- Seaport
- Spaceport
- Military Installation
- Roadways

■ Florida (FL)  
■ Median

[Sources]

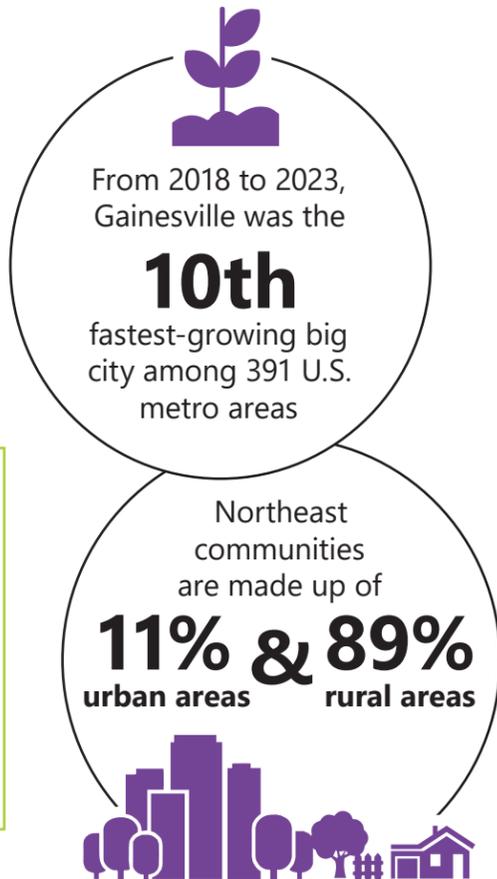
**MULTIFACETED REGION WITH DISTINCT URBAN CENTERS**

644,575 new residents  
727,075 new jobs  
by 2050

Northeast’s historical communities grew along the fertile banks of the St. Johns River, and its socioeconomic landscape was later shaped by agriculture and the building of railroads. Most recently, the area’s economy has been driven by its ports and military bases. Today, the Northeast is complex in its geography, demography, and infrastructure.

- Destinations like Amelia Island and Ponte Vedra Beach are popular locations for water sports and golf, anchoring the area’s **tourism industry** and complementing its **cultural attractions**.
- Northeast’s **1 million jobs** encompass more than traditional industries, and include finance, health care, and technology. Its bio-science and cancer research hub includes the Mayo Clinic and University of Florida Health.
- In the next 30 years, St. Johns and Duval Counties will have significant population increases, **growing more than two times faster** than the other 16 counties in the area. However, **14 out of 18 counties in the Northeast** have a higher percentage of people **living below the poverty level** compared to the state.

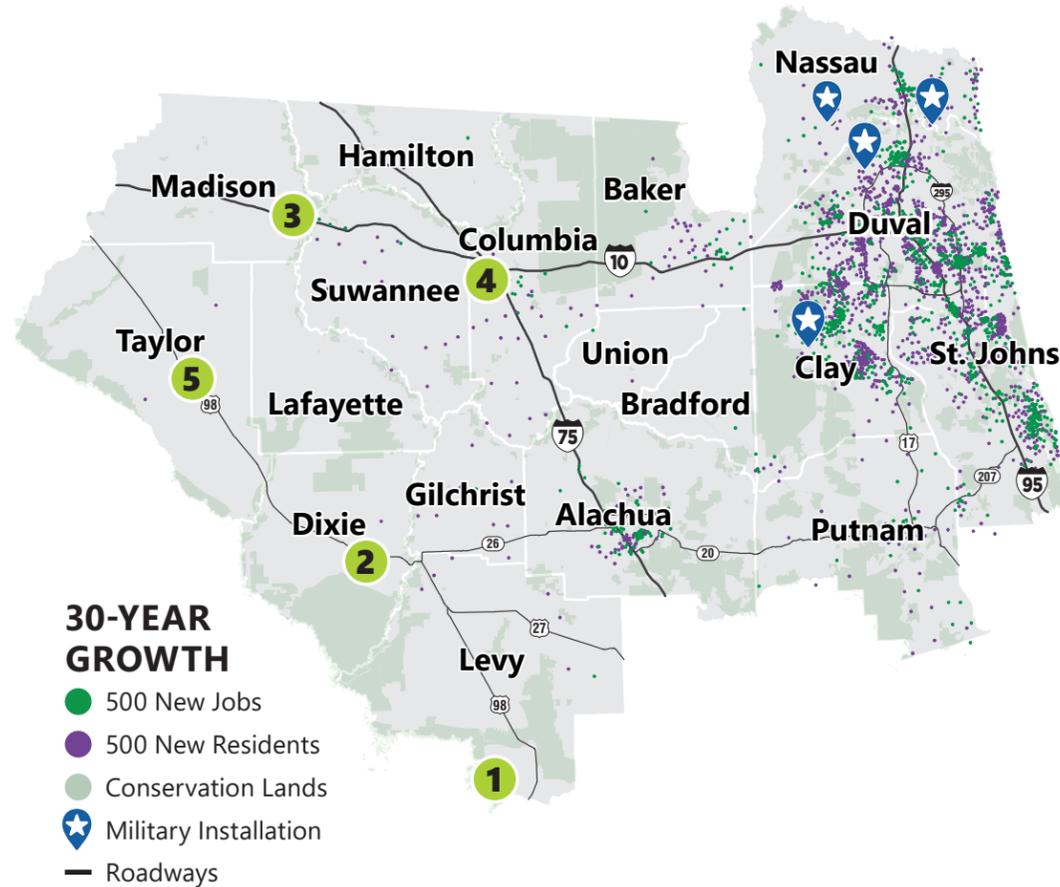
**TOP 3 EMPLOYMENT**



**ENHANCING NORTHEAST’S RURAL ASSETS**

**89%** of Northeast Florida is rural

Even with modest population growth in the rural areas, addressing their transportation needs is a priority. The **Rural Infrastructure Fund** (RIF) program awarded over \$5.9 million of the total \$20 million 2024 statewide funds to Northeast communities to support infrastructure projects that can spur economic development and expand job opportunities.



- 1 Cedar Key Water & Sewer District—\$2,500,000** to continue rehabilitating 17 lift stations following Hurricane Idalia, which caused significant flooding and operational failures.
- 2 Dixie County—\$300,000** to develop a master plan to improve Cross City Airport’s primary access road.
- 3 Town of Lee—\$1,100,000** to complete construction and construction engineering inspection of upgrades to the waterline that will service the Madison County Industrial Park.
- 4 City of Live Oak—\$559,365** to rehabilitate an existing lift station with new equipment and infrastructure that will increase capacity, improve reliability, and support city growth.
- 5 City of Perry—\$1,396,319** to demolish and rebuild a new lift station to help prevent sanitary sewer overflows and mitigate risks from the use of obsolete equipment.

**COMMITMENT TO TRANSPORTATION SAFETY**

The Northeast Florida Community Traffic Safety Team is providing tips to increase the safety of rural driving. Their “Buckle Up and Slow Down” campaign is focused on rural drivers and includes guidance for All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) operation.



FDOT was honored by the Southeastern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials for pedestrian and bicyclist improvements along University Avenue (SR 26) in Gainesville. The \$2.7 million project enhances connectivity and creates a safer environment for all roadway users in the area north of the University of Florida.

## RECREATIONAL AMENITIES THAT SUPPORT COMMUNITIES

Northeast Florida will continue to invest in recreational amenities to celebrate its natural assets, support community livability and healthy living, encourage multimodal travel, and boost tourism.



FDOT has planned 640 miles of **Shared Use Nonmotorized (SUN) Trail** segments, of which 31% has already been funded including portions of the Timucuan Trail in Duval County, the East Coast Greenway in Nassau County, the Palatka to St. Augustine Trail in St. Johns County.



Targeted to start in early 2026, the **Timucuan Trail** will connect to the existing trails at the entrance to Huguenot Memorial Park on Heckscher Drive/State Road A1A and on the Fort George River Bridge. The trail will feature a 12-foot-wide paved trail adjacent to the east side of Heckscher Drive/State Road A1A.



The **City of Jacksonville** released a web-based interactive map of bikeway and trails in 2024, covering most of Duval County. Over 898 miles of on-street and off-street facilities are included.

## TECHNOLOGY-DRIVEN SOLUTIONS

Northeast Florida is a hotbed of multimodal transportation technology pilot applications. Many of these initiatives are advanced in partnership with FDOT and other regional agencies and include:



**Smart North Florida** is committed to collaborating among communities, coordinating on data transparency and sharing, and deploying smart technologies. Since its inception, it has piloted new technologies to accelerate infrastructure project deliveries.



**SMART St. Augustine** has advanced the \$15.3 million citywide deployment of innovative technologies, such as broadband access, cell deployment, traffic and parking management and automation, and safety, surveillance and wayfinding systems, into the Design Phase. Implementation of these technologies is scheduled for Fall 2025.



Palatka to St. Augustine Trail segment of the River to Sea Loop

Source: Florida State Parks

**Jacksonville** boasts more green space than any other city in the United States, with **more than 80,000 acres of urban parks**

The **Jacksonville Skyway** is a **2.5-mile elevated driverless monorail** over St. Johns River in Downtown Jacksonville.

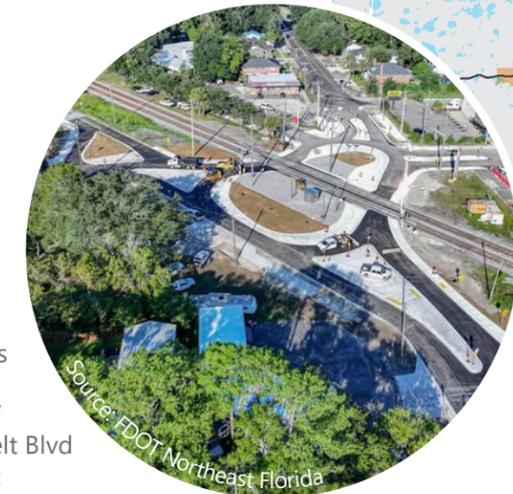
A **\$430-million-850,000- square-foot** aviation manufacturing and production facility at Cecil Airport will bring almost **400 new high skilled jobs** to Jacksonville.

## FOSTERING CONNECTIONS & ACCESS

**54,000** workers travel between St. Johns and Duval Counties daily.

Northeast Florida's development was originally spurred by rail and its communities will continue to prioritize, improve, and expand regional modal connections.

- 1 A new **roundabout** opened at Jacksonville's Post St/ McDuff Ave/Old Roosevelt Blvd in October 2025. Originally a challenging configuration of three signals, two rail crossings, and seven approach roadways, the new design with additional safety enhancements anticipates at least a 78% reduction of rail incidents.
- 2 The City of St. Augustine proposed a comprehensive plan amendment introducing a **Mobility Oriented Development** land use category.
- 3 JTA increased the **Mayport Ferry service** frequency by 50% and plans to add a ferry by 2028.



Jacksonville's Post St/ McDuff Ave/ Old Roosevelt Blvd Roundabout

Source: FDOT Northeast Florida

### MODAL PROJECTS

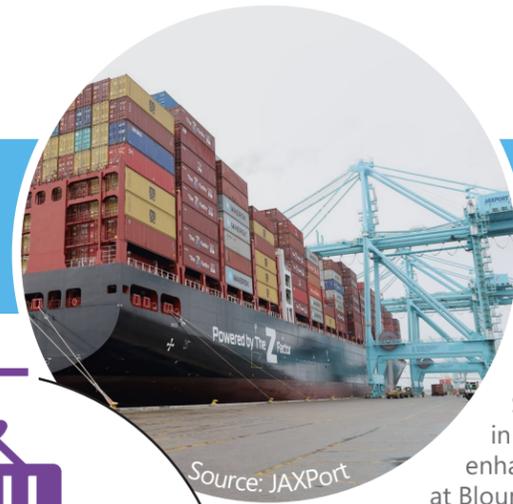
- Areas Within City Boundaries
- Roadways

## ECONOMY DRIVEN BY FREIGHT MOVEMENT

**3.7 million daily combination truck miles traveled in 2023, a 3.8% increase from 2022**

The transport of goods via three interstates (I-10, I-75, I-95), Jacksonville's extensive deepwater ports, Norfolk Southern, and CSX rail operations is expected to continue, fostering job growth and economic development in the area.

- **JAXPORT** is Florida's largest container port by volume and one of the nation's top vehicle-handling ports. With access to major interstate highways I-10 and I-95 and multiple direct rail connections, it is among the most well-connected Florida ports. It is also the only U.S. port to offer on-dock liquid natural gas fueling capabilities.
- To prepare for rapid freight growth projected by 2050, the **North Florida TPO** developed strategies such as reducing delays at grade railroad crossings, expanding truck parking, strengthening port gate security and access, and improving the interstate system..
- Northeast's truck traffic is projected to grow more than 40 percent, from 329 million miles in 2019 to 456 million miles by 2050.
- FDOT developed the **Truck Parking Availability System** (TPAS) to address the increasing challenge of parking shortage along the interstates. In the Northeast, the TPAS initiative consists of 24 **dynamic message signs** (DMS) that **gather and display parking availability** in real time.



Source: JAXPort

JAXPORT Completed \$100 Million in berth enhancements at Blount Island



In 2024, JAXPORT transported more than 19.2 million tons and 1.4 million 20-foot equivalent units (TEUs), **17% and 32% of the state's total seaport tonnage and TEU volumes, respectively.**

**37,000+** JAXPORT-supported jobs by 2035, representing **\$4.3 billion** of regional economic impact.



## VULNERABILITY OF THE NORTHEAST COMMUNITIES

Both the Atlantic and the Gulf coasts experience threats and the impacts of storms. The combination of these factors limits the magnitude of future development along the coasts. FDOT and other agencies in the region work together to plan for and rapidly respond to these storms.

- FDOT plans to invest more than \$40 million to build a 42-inch coquina barrier between the Bridge of Lions and Charlotte Street to **raise the sea wall** and prevent flooding in St. Augustine.
- Using storm surge, flood risk, and sea level rise data, the North Florida TPO identified **86 vulnerable projects** to strengthen critical facilities in the transportation network. By addressing these risks proactively, the TPO aims to ensure a sustainable, efficient, and reliable transportation system that can adapt to future challenges.
- **FDOT** rapidly responded to support relief efforts and removed more than 100,000 cubic yards of debris within the first two weeks of Hurricane Idalia. As of 2024, over 7.6 million cubic yards of debris were removed from state, local, and private roadways.

Hurricane Matthew Impact on St. Augustine Beach



Source: FDOT



Source: FDOT

Debris cleanup in District 2 communities

## RECENT KEY PROJECTS

The Gainesville Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization has undertaken a study of managed lanes on **I-75** from the Marion County line to US Highway 441, with an interchange modification planned at Williston Road.



Source: FDOT

I-75

The **First Coast Expressway** (FCE) is a 46-mile limited-access toll road that will cross parts of Duval, Clay, and St. Johns Counties and extends to I-95. It includes a new bridge over the St. Johns River with a shared path. By providing additional capacity via a beltway around the Jacksonville metropolitan area, the FCE will help relieve congestion and provide mobility options to I-95.



Source: FDOT

FCE New St. Johns River Bridge

**I-95** will receive over a billion dollars in the next five years from the FDOT Work Program. Investment will go toward widening I-95 from Baymeadows Road to the Duval-St. Johns County line, the FCE, and the International Golf Parkway. Recently, a design-build contract was awarded for widening I-95 from Atlantic Boulevard to just south of Emerson Street.



Source: FDOT

I-95