



## AREA PROFILE

Lee County, on Florida's southwest Gulf Coast, has earned a solid reputation as a cost-effective, well-managed place to grow a business. County officials and business executives are equally quick to attest to the region's extraordinary appeal. Relocating and expanding companies, they say, will find in Lee County a balanced economic environment that supports growth while respecting natural beauty and open spaces.

### **Market Facts**

- The Milken Institute named Fort Myers/Cape Coral the best performing cities in the nation for job growth in their 2004 survey of "Best Performing Cities: Where America's Jobs are Created."
- According to the U.S. Census, an average of 20,700 people move to Lee County annually, adding an estimated 11,400 people to the labor pool.
- Southwest Florida International Airport is the 8th fastest-growing airport in the country and just completed a \$438 million expansion.
- National site consultants ranked the telecommunications infrastructure in Lee County as one of the top five markets in the U.S.
- Southwest Florida's 18-24 year old population (those available to enter the workforce) is growing at a much faster rate than those of the State of Florida and the U.S.

### **What Others Say About Lee County**

*Consumers Digest* Magazine has named Florida Gulf Coast University No. 11 among the top 50 best values for public colleges and universities in the Nation.

*INC* Magazine ranked Fort Myers-Cape Coral 9th among its top 25 medium metropolitan cities for entrepreneurs. (2005)

*Forbes* Magazine ranked Ft. Myers-Cape Coral 2nd among the top 150 cities for job growth. (2005)