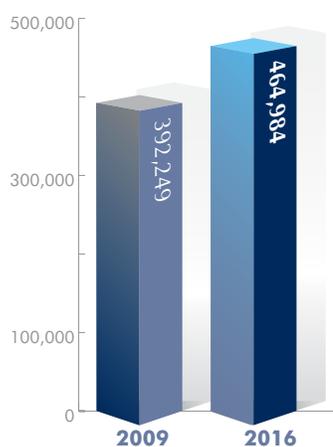




Foster Continual Economic Growth and Vitality

Creating high-wage jobs for you is essential to our community's future prosperity. In 2016, we continued to work toward this goal by strengthening our economy through business services, professional and technical outreach opportunities and partnerships. Additionally, we worked to give you more transportation choices and faster travel routes.

Attracting and Retaining Jobs



**Pinellas County Job Growth
2009 - 2016**

For the first time in nearly a decade, Pinellas County's unemployment rate dropped below 4%, with 464,984 Citizens employed in the County in September 2016. That's over 70,000 jobs that returned to our community since December 2009, the low of the Great Recession.

Here and abroad, we worked to create opportunities for Pinellas

County businesses. In partnership with the Tampa Bay Export Alliance, the County led a major trade mission to Costa Rica, resulting in \$12 million in projected sales for companies in the Tampa Bay area.

Just like you, we want our small businesses to grow and thrive. Thanks to our partnership with the Florida Small Business Development Center, local business owners are obtaining training and education services. Through these efforts, a dozen new businesses are set to open their doors in Pinellas, more than 700 jobs will be created or retained and our business community will garner \$150 million in sales.

Work also continued on 18 corporate relocations and expansions. Combined, these are projected to create more than 1,100 new jobs, keep 150 current jobs and provide an estimated \$116 million in capital investments in our community.

Recognizing some of the partnerships that made these and other successes possible, we highlighted various local businesses in our monthly "Thank You for Doing Business" recognitions presented at our Board meetings.

