



QUALITY OF LIFE

Enhancing our current quality of life is one of the four elements in the Ocala/Marion County EDC's Strategic Plan. We all know there is more to life than business. Successful companies understand the importance of a positive community for the lifestyle of their employees away from the office. Team members who enjoy their down time away from work can bring renewed and energized perspectives to the workplace. It's great for business when it's great for life! Ocala and Marion County can meet those needs.

Culture

Ocala/Marion County is a community rich in cultural and natural resources. The arts flourish through the Appleton Museum, with its outstanding cultural exhibits, and the Ocala Civic Theatre with a wide array of award-winning dramatic and musical productions. Opportunities exist for music appreciation through the Central Florida Symphony Orchestra and the Marion Civic Chorale. West Port High School serves as the Marion County Center for the Arts. In addition, the Marion Cultural Alliance is a community-sponsored agency that encourages art programs and appreciation of all cultural activities in the community.

Cost of Living

Marion County Price Level Index Value of Major Items Weighted State Average = 100	
Marion County	90.51
Rank - 37th of 67 Counties	
Population Weighted State Average = 100	
Food	99.98
Healthcare	96.29
Housing	81.52
Transportation	96.67
Other Goods and Services	96.84

Source: 2008 Florida Statistical Abstract

Recreation

Forget shoveling snow! The mild climate of Ocala/Marion County is ready to host your best round of golf. Both public and private golf, tennis and recreation facilities populate the picturesque countryside. The area is renowned for its natural beauty with many lakes, rivers, crystal clear springs and nature parks throughout the county. If the beach scene sounds enticing, either coast is within a scenic drive less than 60 miles away.

Climate Averages

Average Annual Temperature	70.5 °
Average Maximum in July	91.7 °
Average Minimum in December	47.2°
Days with 90° or Higher	108.4
Days with 32° or Lower	10.5
Annual Precipitation (inches)	52.51"
Annual Snow Days	0
Earthquake Zone	0

Source: 2009 SE Regional Climate Center

Healthcare

The reassuring factor of an outstanding medical community is available in Ocala and Marion County. The area attracts world-renowned physicians specializing in cardiology and stroke care. The caliber of physicians and medical support staff is exceptional. Both of Ocala's premier hospitals, Munroe Regional Medical Center and Ocala Regional Medical Center, were nationally recognized by HCIA-Sachs as recipients of the 100 Top Hospitals Award for 2003 and 2004. Additionally, Ocala's close proximity to the University of Florida's Shands Teaching Hospital, has given our community a wealth of expert health care providers.

Medical Professionals

Chiropractors	64
Dental Hygienists	180
Dental Radiographers	259
Dentists	113
Medical Doctors	515
Nurses, Practical	1,120
Nurses, Registered	3,365
Opticians	76
Optometrists	25
Osteopathic Physicians	45
Pharmacists	216
Podiatrists	16
Psychologists	40
Therapists, Massage	79
Therapists, Occupational	86
Therapists, Physical	159

Source: 2008 Florida Statistical Abstract

Religious Diversity

Faith	Houses of Worship
African Methodist/Episcopal	7
Anglican	1
Apostolic	3
Assemblies of God	10
Baptist	116
Catholic	11
Christian	13
Christian Science	1
Church of Christ	8
Church of God	16
Episcopal	8
Islamic	1
Jehovah's Witness	9
Latter Day Saints	5
Lutheran	20
Methodist	26
Nazarene	3
Non-Denominational	17
Orthodox	1
Pentecostal	25
Presbyterian	12
Scientology	1
Seventh Day Adventist	9
Synagogues	3
Wesleyan	1
Other	16

Source: Ocala/Marion County EDC

Child Care

Program	Number of Facilities	Capacity
Licensed Family Child Care Homes	99	1,061
Registered Family Child Care Homes	19	190
Licensed Child Care Centers	54	4,975
Religious Exempt Child Care Centers	27	2,351
Head Start Programs/ Early Head Start	20	555
Voluntary Pre-K School Year Providers	71	1,694
Voluntary Pre-K Summer Providers	25	426

Source: Early Learning Coalition of Marion County, Inc.

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