

Tampa Bay Area

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The **Tampa Bay Area** is the region of west central Florida adjacent to Tampa Bay. Definitions of the region vary. It is often considered equivalent to the **Tampa–St. Petersburg–Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area** (or MSA) defined by the United States Census Bureau.

A wider definition is adopted by other entities, including state agencies like Enterprise Florida and the Florida Department of Transportation,^[5] and the Tampa Bay Partnership, a not-for-profit organization created to promote economic growth in the region.^[6] These entities include additional nearby counties. According to the Tampa Bay Partnership the Greater Tampa Bay Region contains 4 million residents.^[7] The Tampa Bay Partnership and U.S. Census data showed an average annual growth of 2.47 percent, or a gain of approximately 97,000 residents per year between 2000 and 2006. The combined Greater Tampa Bay region experienced a combined growth rate of 14.8 percent, growing from 3.4 million to 3.9 million and hitting the 4 million mark on April 1, 2007, in the continuous Tampa Bay urban area.^[7] A 2012 estimate of the Tampa Bay Area shows a population of about 4,310,524 people and a 2017 projection of about 4,706,854.

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Tampa Bay Area

Tampa–St. Petersburg–Clearwater MSA

MSA



A simulated-color satellite image of the Tampa Bay Area. Taken on NASA's Landsat 7 satellite.



Location in Florida
Coordinates: 28°N 82.3°W

Country	United States
State	Florida
Largest city	Tampa
Counties (in the MSA)	List
Area	
• MSA	2,554.5 sq mi (6,616 km²)

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• Urban	2,077.9 sq mi (5,382 km2)
Highest elevation	301 ft (92 m)
Lowest elevation	0 ft (0 m)
Population (2010, Urban; 2011, MSA) ^{[1][2][3]}	
• MSA	2,783,243
• Urban	2,441,770
	Urban area ranked 17th as of 2010
Time zone	EST (UTC-5)
• Summer (DST)	EDT (UTC-4)
Area code(s)	813, 727, 352, 941 ^[4]

Definitions

Precise definitions of the Tampa Bay region vary. The U.S. Census Bureau defines the Tampa–St. Petersburg–Clearwater Metropolitan Statistical Area as comprising Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, and Hernando counties.^[8]

Other entities use a wider definition. Enterprise Florida, the state's economic development agency, identifies the Tampa Bay region as one of eight economic regions used by the agency and other state and outside entities, including the Florida Department of Transportation. This definition includes the four counties above with the addition of Manatee and Sarasota counties (constituting the North Port–Bradenton–Sarasota MSA) to the south, Citrus County to the north, and Polk County (coextensive with the Lakeland – Winter Haven MSA) to the east.^[5] The Tampa Bay Partnership, private growth and development organization, also uses this definition.^[6]

The Tampa Bay media market includes the wider region promoted by the Tampa Bay Partnership. Polk County is served by media outlets from both Tampa^[7] and Orlando,^[9] although the east of that county has closer economic ties to Orlando. Significant daily commuting also occurs within the region promoted by the Tampa Bay Partnership.

The Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA) includes the four core counties plus Citrus, Manatee, and Sarasota counties.^[10]

Cities

The following is a list of important cities and unincorporated communities located in both the core Tampa–St. Petersburg–Clearwater MSA, along with the other counties included in some definitions of the Tampa Bay region.

Tampa–St. Petersburg–Clearwater MSA

Principal cities

Each of these cities has a population in excess of 100,000 inhabitants.

- Tampa
- St. Petersburg
- Clearwater
- Brandon (unincorporated)

More than 10,000 inhabitants

- Bayonet Point (unincorporated)
- Bloomingdale (unincorporated)
- Citrus Park (unincorporated)
- Dunedin
- Oldsmar
- Palm Harbor (unincorporated)
- Palm River-Clair Mel (unincorporated)
- Pinellas Park
- Plant City

Historical population		
Census	Pop.	%±
1950	409,143	—
1960	772,453	88.8%
1970	1,013,594	31.2%
1980	1,613,600	59.2%
1990	2,067,959	28.2%
2000	2,395,997	15.9%
2010	2,783,236	16.2%

source:^[11]



- Egypt Lake-Leto (unincorporated)
- East Lake (unincorporated)
- Elfers (unincorporated)
- Greater Carrollwood (unincorporated)
- Greater Northdale (unincorporated)
- Gulfport
- Holiday
- Hudson (unincorporated)
- Jasmine Estates (unincorporated)
- Keystone (unincorporated)
- Lake Magdalene (unincorporated)
- Land O' Lakes (unincorporated)
- Largo
- Lealman (unincorporated)
- Lutz (unincorporated)
- New Port Richey
- Riverview (unincorporated)
- Safety Harbor
- Seminole
- Spring Hill (unincorporated)
- Greater Sun Center (unincorporated)
- Tarpon Springs
- Temple Terrace
- Thonotosassa (unincorporated)
- Town 'n' Country (unincorporated)
- University (unincorporated)
- Valrico (unincorporated)
- Wesley Chapel (unincorporated)
- West Lealman (unincorporated)
- Westchase (unincorporated)
- Zephyrhills



St. Petersburg



Clearwater

North Port–Bradenton–Sarasota MSA

Principal cities

- Bradenton
- Sarasota
- North Port

More than 10,000 inhabitants

- Bayshore Gardens (unincorporated)
- Englewood (unincorporated)
- Fruitville (unincorporated)
- Gulf Gate Estates (unincorporated)
- Lakewood Ranch (unincorporated)
- Palmetto
- South Bradenton (unincorporated)
- South Venice (unincorporated)
- Venice

Citrus County

More than 10,000 inhabitants

- Homosassa Springs (unincorporated)

Lakeland–Winter Haven MSA

Principal cities

- Lakeland
- Winter Haven

More than 10,000 inhabitants

- Auburndale
- Bartow
- Haines City
- Lake Wales
- Lakeland Highlands (unincorporated)
- Poinciana (unincorporated)

Demographics

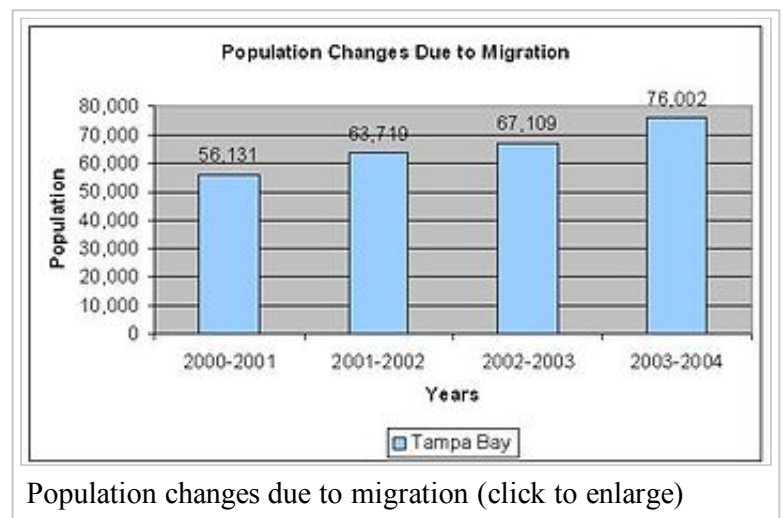
According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the Tampa–St. Petersburg–Clearwater MSA consists of the following ethnic demographics:

- White (Non-Hispanic/Latino) – 1,821,955 76.0%
- Black – 248,058 10.4%
- Hispanic – 248,642 10.4%
- Asian/Pacific Islander – 57,235 2.4%

Population and age

Tampa Bay's expanding population has grown more than 11 percent in the past six years and is projected to grow an additional 9 percent by 2011. The wider Tampa Bay region's population is projected to increase from the current 3.8 million to more than 4.2 million in 2011. That translates to over 70,000 new people a year, mostly through migration.

Population	Wider Tampa Bay region
2011 Projection	4,207,447
2006 Estimate	3,863,811
2000 Census	3,469,880
1990 Census	2,962,824



Regional Counties	2006	2011 Estimate
Hernando	154,045	171,593
Hillsborough	1,139,830	1,264, 811
Pasco	418,075	473,053
Pinellas	937,182	959,546
Manatee	306,512	342,712
Sarasota	367,161	403,990
Polk	541,006	591,742

Nearly 20% of Tampa Bay's population is in the 18–34 age group.

Age	Wider Tampa Bay region	Percentage
0–17	852,600	22.0%
18–34	757,808	19.6%
35–54	1,066,684	27.3%
55–64	447,581	11.6%
65 and over	750,138	19.4%
MEDIAN AGE	41.39 years old	

Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Tampa Bay	Percentage
Caucasian	3,141,549	72.3%
Hispanic or Latino	479,936	11.0%
African American	411,157	9.5%
Asian	77,296	1.8%
Other	149,948	3.5%
Two or more races	83,861	1.9%

Hispanic or Latino by Origin

Ethnicity	Tampa Bay	Percentage
Mexican	145,685	30.4%
Puerto Rican	135,133	28.2%
Cuban	63,728	13.3%
All Others	135,390	28.2%

Migration

From 2000 to 2004, total net migration for the Tampa Bay region was 262,961 or an average of 65,740 per year. During this time Tampa Bay accounted for nearly 20% of Florida's total net migration. The annual migration totals grew steadily since 2000 until 200 people a day moved to Tampa Bay in 2004. Two Tampa Bay region counties are among the top counties in the country for net in-migration. Pasco County ranks 8th in the nation for net migration and Hillsborough County ranks 13th out of more than 3,000 counties.

Housing

In 2008 the area's construction based boom was brought to a sudden halt by the financial crisis of 2007–2010, and by 2009 it was ranked as the fourth worst performing housing market in the United States.^[12]

Changes in house prices for the area are publicly tracked on a regular basis using the Case–Shiller index; the statistic is published by Standard & Poor's and is also a component of S&P's 20-city composite index of the value of the U.S. residential real estate market.

Climate

The Tampa Bay area has a humid subtropical climate (Köppen *Cfa*), with warm temperatures and the threat of thunderstorms during the summer and the winter frost at least once a year. However, large freezes only occur in the area about every 10–15 years, and the area shows some characteristics of a tropical monsoon climate. The area is listed by the United States Department of Agriculture as being in hardiness zone 9b, which is about the northern limit of where coconut palms and royal palms can be grown. Highs usually range between 65 and 95 °F (18 and 35 °C) year round. Surprisingly to some, Tampa's] official high has never reached 100 °F (38 °C)—the all-time record high temperature is 99 °F (37 °C). St. Petersburg's all-time record high is exactly 100 °F (38 °C).^[13]



Pinellas County lies on a peninsula between Tampa Bay and the Gulf of Mexico, and much of the city of Tampa lies on a smaller peninsula jutting out into Tampa Bay. This proximity to large bodies of water both moderates local temperatures and introduces large amounts of humidity into the atmosphere. In general, the communities farthest from the coast have more extreme temperature differences, both during a single day and throughout the seasons of the year.

Climate data for Tampa, Florida (Tampa Int'l), 1981–2010 normals, extremes 1890–present ^[a]													
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Record high °F (°C)	86 (30)	88 (31)	92 (33)	93 (34)	98 (37)	99 (37)	98 (37)	98 (37)	96 (36)	95 (35)	90 (32)	86 (30)	99 (37)
Average high °F (°C)	69.9 (21.1)	72.5 (22.5)	76.3 (24.6)	81.0 (27.2)	87.2 (30.7)	89.6 (32)	90.1 (32.3)	90.2 (32.3)	88.9 (31.6)	84.3 (29.1)	78.0 (25.6)	72.0 (22.2)	81.7 (27.6)
Average low °F (°C)	51.6 (10.9)	54.4 (12.4)	58.2 (14.6)	63.0 (17.2)	69.7 (20.9)	74.8 (23.8)	75.9 (24.4)	76.2 (24.6)	74.5 (23.6)	68.0 (20)	60.3 (15.7)	54.2 (12.3)	65.1 (18.4)
Record low °F (°C)	21 (−6)	22 (−6)	29 (−2)	38 (3)	49 (9)	53 (12)	63 (17)	66 (19)	54 (12)	40 (4)	23 (−5)	18 (−8)	18 (−8)
Average rainfall inches (mm)	2.23 (56.6)	2.81 (71.4)	3.03 (77)	2.03 (51.6)	2.10 (53.3)	6.68 (169.7)	7.07 (179.6)	7.77 (197.4)	6.30 (160)	2.26 (57.4)	1.55 (39.4)	2.47 (62.7)	46.3 (1,176)
Avg. rainy days (≥ 0.01 inch)	6.8	6.6	6.6	4.9	5.5	12.7	15.9	16.0	12.2	6.5	5.1	5.8	104.6
Avg. relative humidity (%)	74.9	73.0	71.8	69.0	69.8	74.4	76.6	78.4	77.6	74.2	75.0	75.0	74.1
Mean monthly sunshine hours	199.9	202.7	267.5	299.1	314.5	277.8	265.3	249.5	223.0	233.9	201.7	191.6	2,926.5
Percent possible sunshine	61	65	72	78	75	67	62	61	60	66	62	60	66
Source: NOAA (relative humidity and sun 1961–1990) ^{[14][15][16]} Weather Channel ^[17]													

Geography

The Tampa Bay area is located along Tampa Bay which it is named for. Pinellas County and St. Petersburg, Florida lies on a peninsula between Tampa Bay and the Gulf of Mexico, and much of the city of Tampa, Florida lies on a smaller peninsula jutting out into Tampa Bay.

Economy

Largest employers in the Tampa Bay area (2013)^[18]

Employer	Employees	Industry
BayCare Health System	19,600	Healthcare
Publix Super Markets	13,800	Retail
HCA West Florida	13,150	Healthcare
Verizon	9,950	Telecommunications
Tampa General Hospital	6,600	Healthcare
Wal-Mart	5,800	Retail
Florida Hospital	5,100	Healthcare
Lakeland Regional Medical Center	5,000	Healthcare
Moffitt Cancer Center	4,300	Healthcare
Citi	4,000	Finance

Finance

Nearly one in four of the state's business and information services firms resides in Tampa Bay. These firms range from financial services firms to information technology providers to professional services organizations such as law firms, accounting firms, engineering firms, consulting and more. As a gateway to the Florida High Tech Corridor, Tampa Bay is home to many information technology firms along with many business services providers.

Financial services firms:

- Bank of America
- JPMorgan Chase
- Citigroup
- Deposit Trust & Clearing Corporation
- Raymond James Financial
- Franklin Templeton
- Metlife
- USAA
- Progressive Insurance
- State Farm

Information technology

Tampa Bay serves as the gateway to the Florida High Tech Corridor which spans 23 counties. Created as a partnership between the University of South Florida, University of Central Florida and now including the University of Florida, the Florida High Tech Corridor promotes the growth of the high-tech industry across Central Florida.

Higher education and research

Academic research is a key component of high-tech growth and a powerful economic engine. The presence of cutting-edge research in the region is vital to technology transfer, which enables innovative ideas discovered in academia to achieve commercialization in the marketplace. Tampa Bay has several powerhouse research centers that are engaged in both pure scientific research and aggressively pursuing technology transfer to enrich people's lives.

Researchers at the University of South Florida's Nanomaterials and Nanomanufacturing Research Center (NNRC), H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and the Center for Ocean Technology at USF's College of Marine Science are researching how to use nanotechnology for a myriad of targeted uses including drug delivery, mechanized microsurgery, customized laser microchips, ways to turn sunlight into electricity, purifying water, storing hydrogen in small nanotubes, designing and developing marine sensors using microelectromechanical systems (MEMS) and curing cancer.

Health care

With more than 50 hospitals, dozens of clinics and ambulatory care centers, the Tampa Bay has an abundance of top-rated health care facilities for children and adults. The region also has a wealth of well-trained medical professionals—nearly 53,000 nurses and more than 9,200 physicians (including physician assistants)—provide care to Tampa Bay residents and visitors every year.

Tampa Bay ranks in the top 20 nationwide for medical device manufacturing clusters. The industry employs more than 10,000 people with an average wage in excess of \$49,000 and produces over \$2 billion worth of goods and services for an economic impact of more than 51,000 jobs and \$5 billion. Tampa Bay's history of manufacturing for the defense industry has created a workforce skilled in high-precision fabrication of electronic parts and assemblies and experience in dealing with government relations, easing the transition to the highly regulated medical manufacturing industry.

Avionics, defense, and marine electronics

The University of South Florida's Center for Ocean Technology, which has been a leader in microelectromechanical systems research and development and has been using the technology to collect biological and chemical data to monitor water quality, provided underwater technology for port security at the 2004 Republican National Convention. USF's Center for Robot-Assisted Search and Rescue used its miniature robots to assist rescue teams at Ground Zero following the September 11 terrorist attacks. Tampa Bay is also the location of two major military installations, MacDill Air Force Base and Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater. MacDill AFB is home to the 6th Air Mobility Wing of the Air Mobility Command (AMC) and the 927th Air Refueling Wing of the Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC). Both wings share flight operations of a fleet of KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft. MacDill also hosts multiple tenant organizations, to include two major combatant commands: United States Central Command (USCENTCOM), which directs military operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, and the Middle East; and United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM), which has responsibility for all special operations forces in the U.S. Armed Forces. CGAS Clearwater is located at the St. Petersburg–Clearwater International Airport. It is the largest air station in the United States Coast Guard, operating HC-130 Hercules aircraft and HH-60 Jayhawk helicopters with principal missions focused on search and rescue, counternarcotics interdiction, and homeland security.

Media

The Tampa Bay media market also includes Citrus, Manatee, Sarasota, and Polk counties.^[7]

Education

Primary and secondary education is provided by the school districts of the individual counties making up the region.

The area is home to several institutions of higher learning, including the main campus of the University of South Florida in Tampa and the satellite campuses of USF St. Petersburg, USF Sarasota-Manatee, and USF Polytechnic in Lakeland. Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, the University of Tampa, Clearwater Christian College, Florida College in Temple Terrace, Saint Leo University in Pasco County, Southeastern University and Florida Southern College in Lakeland, Webber International University in Crooked Lake, Warner University in Lake Wales, Trinity College (Florida) in New Port Richey, New College of Florida, and Ringling College of Art and Design, both in Sarasota, are all four-year institutions located in the area.

There are two law schools in the area, Stetson University College of Law and Thomas M. Cooley Law School. Stetson University has campuses in Gulfport and Tampa. The newly built (May 2012) Thomas M. Cooley Law school is located in Riverview.

Hillsborough Community College, St. Petersburg College, Polk State College, State College of Florida, Manatee–Sarasota, and Pasco-Hernando State College are community colleges serving the area.

Culture and recreation

Arts and culture make a big impact in Tampa Bay. In a single year, the economic impact of the cultural institutions in the Tampa Bay area was \$521.3 million, according to a recent PricewaterhouseCoopers study. In 2004 5.6 million people attended plays, musical performances, museum exhibits, and other cultural institutions in Tampa Bay, supporting 7,800 jobs.

The area is home to an unusually high concentration of quality art museums. Long established communities, particularly those near the bay such as Cuban flavored Ybor City, Old Northeast in St. Petersburg, and Palma Ceia and Hyde Park in Tampa contain historic architecture. Florida Southern College in Lakeland is home of the world's largest single-site collection of Frank Lloyd Wright architecture. Fresh seafood and locally grown produce are available in many restaurants and in weekly farmers' markets in multiple urban centers in the area. Yuengling, the largest American-owned brewer, operates a brewery in Tampa, as does the highly regarded craft brewer Cigar City Brewing. Sports attractions, in addition to the teams listed below, include many professional quality golf courses, tennis courts, and pools. Ybor and the Channel District in Tampa, downtown St. Petersburg, and the beaches all along the coast all attract a vibrant nightlife.



Salvador Dalí Museum

The area is highly noted for its beaches, with the warm, blue gulf waters and nearly 70 miles of barrier islands from North Pinellas south to Venice, attracting tourists from all over the world. Three of the beaches in this area, Fort De Soto's North Beach (2005), Caladesi Island (2008), and Sarasota's Siesta Key (2011) have been named by Dr. Beach as America's Top Beach.^[19] The 15th IIFA Awards would be held at Tampa Bay Area in April 2014.^[20]

Museums

- Tampa Museum of Art in downtown Tampa
- USF Contemporary Art Museum on the USF's main Tampa campus
- Florida Museum of Photographic Arts in downtown Tampa (<http://fmopa.org/>)
- Museum of Science and Industry adjacent to USF's main Tampa campus
- Museum of Fine Arts near the Pier in downtown St. Petersburg
- Salvador Dalí Museum in downtown St. Petersburg
- Florida International Museum at St. Petersburg College in downtown St. Petersburg
- Florida Holocaust Museum in downtown St. Petersburg
- Tampa Bay Automobile Museum in Pinellas Park
- Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art on the Tarpon Springs Campus of St. Petersburg College
- John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art in Sarasota
- Polk Museum of Art in Lakeland
- The Royal Theater & Manhattan Casino Historic Landmarks in St. Petersburg
- The Carter J. Woodson African-American Museum St. Petersburg

Performing Arts Halls

- Straz Center for the Performing Arts (<http://www.strazcenter.org/>) in Tampa
- Ruth Eckerd Hall in Clearwater
- Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall (<http://www.vanwezel.org/>) in Sarasota
- Mahaffey Theater in St. Petersburg

Theme parks

- Adventure Island in Tampa
- Busch Gardens in Tampa
- Dinosaur World in Plant City
- Legoland Florida in Winter Haven
- Weeki Wachee Springs in Hernando County

Zoos and Aquariums

- Lowry Park Zoo in Tampa
- Florida Aquarium in Tampa
- Clearwater Marine Aquarium in Clearwater
- Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary in Indian Shores
- Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota

Botanical gardens

- Florida Botanical Gardens, part of the Pinewood Cultural Park in Largo
- Bok Tower Gardens, in Lake Wales
- Sunken Gardens in St. Petersburg, a former tourist attraction now run by the City of St. Petersburg
- USF Botanical Gardens in Tampa
- Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota

Cultural events

- Gasparilla Pirate Festival held every January in Tampa
- Florida Strawberry Festival held every March in Plant City
- Clearwater Jazz Holiday held every October in Coachman Park in downtown Clearwater; in its 32nd year
- Guavaween, a Latin-flavored Halloween celebration held every October in the Ybor City section of Tampa
- Festa Italiana, annual festival of Italian heritage held every April in Ybor City, Tampa's Latin Quarter

Notable public parks and recreation areas

The Tampa Bay area is home to an extensive system of state, county, and city parks. Hillsborough River State Park in Thonotosassa and Myakka River State Park in Sarasota are two of Florida's original eight state parks and Honeymoon Island State Park, near Dunedin, is Florida's most visited state park. De Soto National Memorial in Bradenton commemorates the 1539 landing of Hernando De Soto in the area. Pinellas County is home to the Fred Marquis Pinellas Trail, a 37-mile running and cycling trail over a former railroad bed connecting Tarpon Springs to St. Petersburg. Skyway Fishing Pier State Park, the remnants of the approaches to the original Sunshine Skyway Bridge forms the world's largest fishing pier in Pinellas and

Manatee counties. The shallow waters and many mangrove islands of the bay and gulf make the area popular with kayakers. The gulf is also home to a large number of natural and artificial coral reefs that are popular for fishing and scuba diving.

Sports

Sports teams

The Tampa Bay Area is home to three major professional sports teams and a number of minor-league and college teams. Regardless of the specific city where they play their games, all of the major pro teams use "Tampa Bay" in their name to signify that they represent the entire area.



Amalie Arena, formerly the *Tampa Bay Times* Forum.



Tropicana Field



Raymond James Stadium

Team	League	Sport	Stadium	Location	Attendance
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	NFL	American football	Raymond James Stadium	Tampa	58,818
USF Bulls football	NCAA, DI	American football	Raymond James Stadium	Tampa	34,702
Tampa Bay Lightning	NHL	Ice hockey	Amalie Arena	Tampa	18,626
Tampa Bay Rays	MLB	Baseball	Tropicana Field	St. Petersburg	17,857
Tampa Bay Storm	AFL	Arena football	Amalie Arena	Tampa	11,402
Tampa Bay Rowdies	NASL (D2)	Soccer	Al Lang Stadium	St. Petersburg	4,998
USF Bulls basketball	NCAA, DI	Basketball	USF Sun Dome	Tampa	4,406

MLB spring training teams

Major League Baseball teams have come to the Tampa Bay area for spring training since 1913. Grapefruit League games are still a favorite pastime for both residents and tourists alike every March. The following Major League Baseball teams play spring training games in the Tampa Bay area:

- The New York Yankees play spring training games at Steinbrenner Field in Tampa
- The Philadelphia Phillies play spring training games at Bright House Networks Field in Clearwater
- The Toronto Blue Jays play spring training games at Florida Auto Exchange Stadium in Dunedin
- The Baltimore Orioles play spring training games at Ed Smith Stadium in Sarasota
- The Pittsburgh Pirates play spring training games at McKechnie Field in Bradenton
- The Detroit Tigers play spring training games at Joker Marchant Stadium in Lakeland

Minor League teams

Minor League baseball teams in the area include: Florida State League (Single-A baseball)

- The Tampa Yankees: George M. Steinbrenner Field formerly Legends Field in Tampa
- The Clearwater Threshers: Bright House Networks Field in Clearwater
- The Dunedin Blue Jays: Florida Auto Exchange Stadium in Dunedin
- The Bradenton Marauders: McKechnie Field in Bradenton
- The Lakeland Flying Tigers: Joker Marchant Stadium in Lakeland

Sporting events

Major League sports

- Four Super Bowls have been held in Tampa: Super Bowl XVIII in 1984, Super Bowl XXV in 1991, Super Bowl XXXV in 2001, and Super Bowl XLIII in 2009
- The 1978 AFC–NFC Pro Bowl was held in Tampa at Tampa Stadium
- The 2008 MLB World Series; Games 1 and 2 were played in St. Petersburg at Tropicana Field

- The 1999 NHL All Star Game was held in Tampa at the Ice Palace
- The 2004 NHL Stanley Cup Finals; Games 1, 2, 5 and 7 were played in in Tampa at the St. Pete Times Forum

NCAA sports

- The NCAA football Outback Bowl is held annually at Raymond James Stadium, usually on January 1
- The NCAA football Beef 'O' Brady's Bowl is held annually at Tropicana Field, usually in December. (Began in 2008)
- The NCAA football East–West Shrine Game is held annually at Tropicana Field, usually in January. (Since 2012)
- Two NCAA football ACC Championship Games (2008 and 2009) have been played in Tampa at Raymond James Stadium
- The Amalie Arena in Tampa has been the site for various rounds of NCAA Men's and Women's basketball championship tournament over the years, as well as conference tournaments.
- The 1999 NCAA Men's Final Four was held in St. Petersburg at Tropicana Field
- The 2008 and 2015 NCAA Women's Final Four was held in Tampa at the Tampa Bay Times Forum
- Five NCAA Division I Men's Soccer Championships have been held in Tampa: 1978, 1979, 1980, 1990 and 1991
- The 2012 NCAA Men's Frozen Four was held in Tampa at the Tampa Bay Times Forum

Other sports

- The Tampa Bay Derby (*Grade II*) thoroughbred horse race is held annually in mid March at Tampa Bay Downs near Oldsmar
- The Indy Racing League's Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg is held annually during the first weekend of April
- The USEF's top 30 ranked equestrians compete each spring in the American Invitational for the sport's largest purse in Tampa at Raymond James Stadium,^[21]
- Three ArenaBowls have been held locally: ArenaBowl IX in 1995 (St. Petersburg), ArenaBowl XI in 1991 (Tampa) and ArenaBowl XI in 2003 (Tampa)
- Three NASL Indoor Championships (1976, 1979–80 and 1981–82) have been decided in St. Petersburg at the Bayfront Center
- The 1984 USFL Championship Game was played in Tampa at Tampa Stadium
- The 1990 Davis Cup Final was played in St. Petersburg at the Florida Suncoast Dome
- The 2012 NASL Championship Series' second leg was played in St. Petersburg at Al Lang Stadium

Transportation

Transportation in the Tampa Bay Area is heavily affected by its position around Tampa Bay. For more about marine transportation in the area, including the many bridges over Tampa Bay, see Tampa Bay#Transportation.

Air

Tampa International Airport is the largest airport in the region with 21 carriers and more than 17 million passengers served last year. In addition to the recent opening of a new terminal, improvements are being planned to handle 25 million passengers by 2020. Traveler satisfaction has always been a top priority for "America's Favorite Airport." It has won high recognition in the international J.D. Power and Associates

Global Airport Passenger Satisfaction Study for three consecutive years. The *Condé Nast Traveler* recognized TIA as the third best airport in the world and IATA Skytrax 2003 survey named TIA as the No. 2 airport in North America.

Sarasota–Bradenton International Airport has experienced a 19.2 percent increase in passenger traffic during the first quarter of 2005, mainly due to the addition of AirTran Airways and expanded service to destinations.

St. Petersburg–Clearwater International Airport provides access to commercial airliners, and smaller charter craft. The airport is currently planning an expansion which will include new terminal facilities and runway extension. Dotting the landscape throughout the area, are many general aviation airports for the aircraft enthusiast and smaller corporate jets.

Rail

Amtrak provides passenger rail service from Union Station in Tampa.

CSX provides freight rail service for the entire Tampa Bay region. The railroad serves every major population and industrial center east of the Mississippi including Ontario and Montreal. CSX also connects with more than 166 bulk intermodal distribution terminals and rail-to-truck bulk transloading facilities throughout its service area, linking it to all of North America.

Transit systems

Bus service is provided in Hillsborough County by Hillsborough Area Regional Transit (HART), in Pinellas County by Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA), in Pasco County by Pasco County Public Transportation and in Hernando County by THE Bus. HART and PSTA provide express services between Tampa and Pinellas County, and PSTA provides connections to Pasco County.

HART also operates the TECO streetcar between downtown Tampa and Ybor City. In 2013 HART also began operating a Bus rapid transit system called MetroRapid that runs from downtown Tampa to the University of South Florida.

On July 1, 2007, an intermodal transportation authority was created to serve the seven county Tampa Bay area. The Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA) was formed to develop bus, rapid transit, and other transportation options for the region.

Roads and freeways

The Tampa Bay Area is served by these interstate highways.

-  Interstate 4
-  Interstate 75
-  Interstate 175
-  Interstate 275
-  Interstate 375

Hillsborough County is also served by other roadways such as the Lee Roy Selmon Expressway (SR 618) which commutes workers from Brandon into downtown Tampa and the Veterans Expressway/Suncoast Parkway (Toll 589) which serves traffic from the Citrus/Hernando County border southward into Tampa.

In Pinellas County, U.S. 19 is the main north–south route through the county, and is being upgraded to freeway standards complete with frontage roads to ease congestion through the north part of the county. Also, the Bayside Bridge allows traffic to go from Clearwater into St. Petersburg without having to use U.S. 19.

The Courtney Campbell Causeway (SR 60) is one of the three roads that connect Pinellas County to Hillsborough County across the bay. The other two are the Howard Frankland Bridge (I-275) and Gandy Bridge (U.S. 92). The Sunshine Skyway Bridge is part of I-275 and connects Bradenton and other Manatee County and Sarasota County commuters into Pinellas County.

See also

- Central Florida
- Florida Suncoast
- United States metropolitan area

Notes

- a. Official records for Tampa were kept at downtown from April 1890 to December 1940, Peter O. Knight Airport from January 1941 to 5 June 1946, and at Tampa Int'l since 7 June 1946. For more information, see ThreadEx (<http://threadex.rcc-acis.org/>)

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External links

- Tampa Bay 365 (<http://tampabay365.com>) Daily photo stories of people, events, and places in the Tampa Bay area

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Tampa_Bay_Area&oldid=670422228"

Categories: Tampa Bay Area | Hillsborough County, Florida | Metropolitan areas of Florida | Pasco County, Florida | Pinellas County, Florida | Regions of Florida | Central Florida

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