



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

FLORIDA WORLD TRADE MONTH

WHEREAS, international business accounts for about 17 percent of Florida's economy; and

WHEREAS, more than 60,000 companies in Florida export products or services; and

WHEREAS, 95 percent of Florida's exporters are small and medium-sized companies; and

WHEREAS, last year, Florida welcomed 11.5 million overseas visitors and 3.7 million Canadian visitors; and

WHEREAS, Florida ranks eighth in the United States for exports of agricultural commodities, valued at more than \$4.1 billion, up 1.9 percent increase over 2012; and

WHEREAS, international companies grow faster, are more profitable, pay higher wages, and are more resilient during economic downturns; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, Florida's total merchandise trade (exports plus imports) reached \$158.4 billion, the second highest level ever; and

WHEREAS, Florida ranks sixth in the nation in terms of foreign direct investment employment and ranks first in the southeastern United States in the same category; and

WHEREAS, foreign companies employ 238,600 Floridians; and

WHEREAS, the impact of international commerce on Florida's economy cannot be overstated; and

WHEREAS, trade and foreign direct investment will play a significant role in Florida's future job and economic growth;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing May 2014 as *Florida World Trade Month* in recognition of the important role international commerce plays in Florida's current and future economy.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 18th day of March in the year two thousand fourteen.



Governor