



# Chief Financial Officer Jeff Atwater's DOLLARS & SENSE

Florida Department of Financial Services

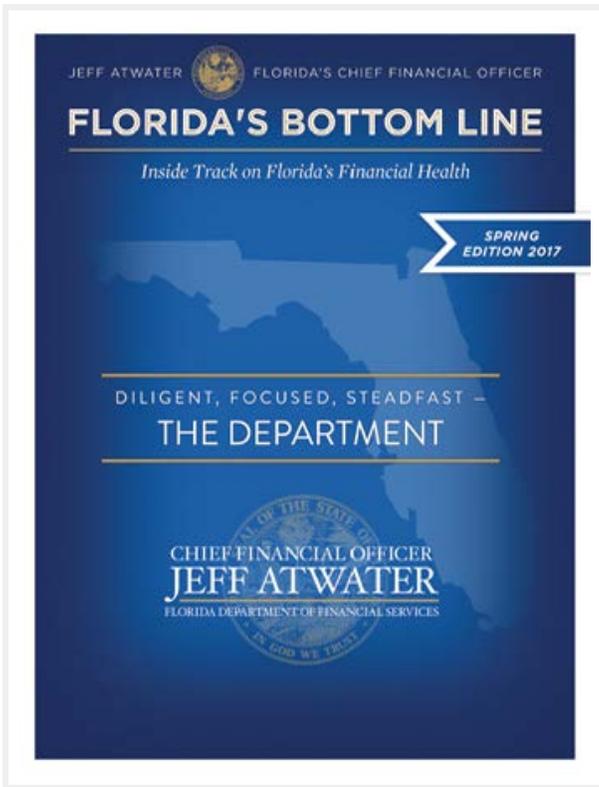
## Dear Fellow Floridians:

For seven years, we've worked to keep Floridians updated on the health of our economy by putting together a quarterly magazine that features commentary from experts in academia, business, tourism and more. During that time, we've highlighted many focus areas for Florida, everything from aerospace and aviation to sports tourism and small businesses.

Today we release the Spring 2018 edition of ***Florida's Bottom Line***, and it will be the last that is published during my tenure as Florida's Chief Financial Officer. In keeping with our theme of gaining insight from experts in their fields, we've recounted some of our Department's proudest accomplishments in this edition, with stories written by those on our team who led the charge.

We've ushered in change on pressing statewide issues, and lent our voice and our Department's expertise to resolve many emerging challenges across our state. I am thankful to have had a committed team of professionals who shared my vision for our state of Florida, and worked tirelessly, day-in and day-out to make our vision of a transparent Florida become a reality.

I encourage you to take a few minutes and read about what we have achieved. Inside, you will find several success stories, including the establishment of the Firefighter Memorial on the State Capitol grounds, key legislative victories, and Departmental changes that will continue to positively impact the state of Florida for many years to come.



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**May 17, 2017**

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I am proud of what we have accomplished and the lasting impacts that these triumphs will have on our state. It has been a privilege to work alongside and share them with you.

Sincerely,



Jeff Atwater  
Chief Financial Officer  
State of Florida

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## News of Interest

WFTV 9: [9 Investigates food stamp hustles](#)

Treasure Coast Palm: ['Hurricane Hunters' ready for Atlantic storm season](#)

Gainesville Business Report: [Why is Gainesville Florida's biotech hub?](#)

Fox 35 Orlando: [Tourists still coming to Florida in record numbers](#)

Bloomberg News: [States Where the Economy Isn't Struggling to Recover](#)

Construction Dive: [FL cities lead the best housing markets for first-time buyers](#)

Naples Daily News: [Florida gas prices drop 14 cents in three-week streak](#)

NewsTalk Florida: [Florida's Golden Opportunity--Getting Old](#)

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## Operation S.A.F.E., Be Scam Smart Workshop in Neptune Beach Next Week

Florida Chief Financial Officer Jeff Atwater invites you to participate in **Operation S.A.F.E., Be Scam Smart**, a free workshop for seniors, their families, and caregivers.

The Florida Department of Financial Services launched Operation S.A.F.E. (Stop Adult Financial Exploitation) as part of CFO Atwater's **On Guard for Seniors** initiative. Be Scam Smart workshops help inform, empower, and protect Florida's seniors from financial scams and fraud. If you want to make sure your savings are protected, register for this workshop and get a better understanding of how scam artists and scams work.

Be Scam Smart by learning more about:

- How to Spot Fraudulent Behavior – Are you at risk?
- Common Scams that Target Seniors – Is this too good to be true?



- How to Fight Identity Theft – Protect, Prevent, Police

Feedback from seniors who attended a Be Scam Smart workshop:

*“Really learned a lot of valuable information.” - Jacksonville*

*“This was a very valuable topic of interest in our present world.” - Arcadia*

*“I live alone and learned a lot of helpful information that I can share with other seniors.” - Zephyrhills*

*“As a result of this presentation I will be more aware of what is going on around me.” - Pensacola*

*“The info was very good and eyes opened more than ever.” - Ormond Beach*

Find out more about us in the [About Us](#) section or [Register](#) for an upcoming event, including the following workshop:

**Wednesday, May 24th – Neptune Beach**

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Neptune Beach Senior Center

2004 Forest Avenue, Neptune Beach, FL 32266

[Register](#) | [Directions](#) | [Flyer](#)

This Be Scam Smart workshop is brought to you in partnership with the City of Neptune Beach and the Neptune Beach Police Department.



Please let us know if you would like to [request a workshop](#) in your area.

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## Florida Economic Briefs

### Florida had 5th highest real GDP growth in 2016

According to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Florida’s real GDP grew 3.2 percent in 2016, and was the fifth highest in the nation. Florida’s real GDP growth was also higher than that of the nation at 1.7 percent.

Source: **U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis**

### Florida ranked the second best state for business

In a recent report from Chief Executive, Florida was ranked as the second best state for business in 2017. Only Texas outperformed Florida in this year’s rankings.

Source: **Chief Executive Group**

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