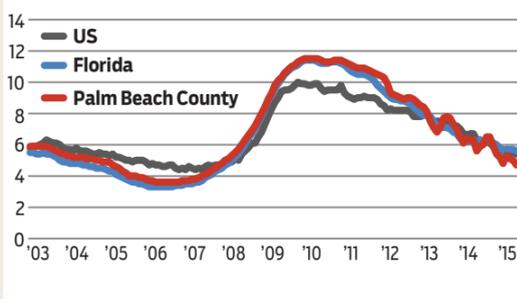


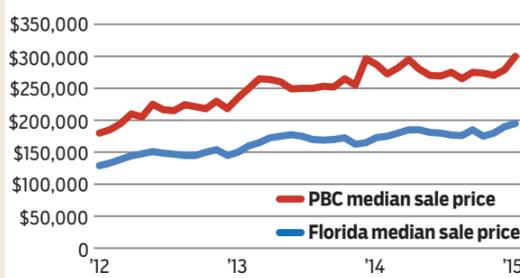
Unemployment

Unemployment rates dropped across the board in April.



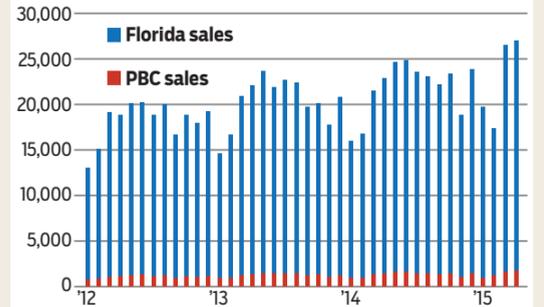
Single-family home prices

Palm Beach County median home price reached a post-recession high of \$300,000 in April.



Single-family home sales

Volume of sales increased 18 percent in April over last year.



Want to receive an e-mail with a monthly snapshot of economic indicators that are driving business in Palm Beach County? Sign up at: palmbeachpost.com/newsletters/subscriptions

SPONSORED CONTENT

CPBC CHAMBER NEWSMAKERS

RIKKI LOBER BAGATELL

Rikki Lober Bagatell is a partner in Shutts & Bowen's West Palm Beach office, where she practices in the Corporate and Real Estate Practice Groups. Her varied practice includes representing clients in buying and selling businesses, including healthcare ventures, representing startup ventures, serving as outside general counsel to companies, and handling financings, split-ups, and other major life cycle events for business entities.

Rikki joins her colleague Matthew Chait in the leadership of the Central Palm Beach County Chamber, as a Trustee.

MICHAEL MORGAN

Michael Morgan is the CEO for the Center for Bone and Joint Surgery of the Palm Beaches. He has been in the healthcare industry for six years. Staffed by twelve highly skilled, board-certified orthopedic surgeons, The Center for Bone and Joint Surgery of the Palm Beaches provides complete orthopedic care, offering the latest advancements in surgical and non-surgical treatment options tailored to your unique problem and circumstances.

Michael is a member of the Board of Directors of the Central Palm Beach Chamber of Commerce.

RICK MURRELL

Rick Murrell is the CEO for Tropical Shipping. He started his career with Tropical in 1969, initially working in the Bahamas for 5 years. In 1987, Rick assumed leadership of Tropical Shipping, which has since become a leading ocean carrier and logistics provider for U.S. and Canadian manufactured exports to the Bahamas and Caribbean. Rick is the keynote speaker for our upcoming June Economic Forum. Rick is a Trustee Member of the Central Palm Beach Chamber of Commerce.



Pictured above: The Orthopedic Surgeons of the Center for Bone and Joint Surgery of the Palm Beaches.

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TRANSFORM LANDSCAPE OF THE HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY

Over the last half decade, we have seen legislative changes vastly transform the landscape of the healthcare industry. Implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Medicaid expansion increased healthcare coverage to American citizens, helping improve one of the worse rates of uninsured populations amongst developed nations. The implementation of the ACA has also been met with a degree of peril. Lack of clarity on the new insurance exchanges creates uncertainty in regards to covered services, co-payments, and deductibles. This leads to increased back-office tasks for healthcare providers electing to accept exchange plans.

Also of note is the change of International Classification of Diseases (ICD). ICD-10 will supplant ICD-9 in October 2015, altering the way providers diagnose patients, increasing the amount of available codes from 17,000 to over 140,000. This implementation will demand

costly training and additional staffing for healthcare providers nationwide.

Michael Morgan, CEO of The Center for Bone and Joint Surgery of the Palm Beaches states: "The ACA, Medicaid expansion, and the transition to ICD-10 has and will continue to add strenuous and time-consuming tasks to workflow, ultimately increasing the already high administrative costs of providing healthcare to US citizens. This does not boast well for a country ranking among the worse of Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) nations in healthcare cost per capita."

From a state perspective, Florida is unique from many in the U.S. due to its Medicaid program. Two years ago, Florida legislatures elected to forgo Medicaid expansion, denying potential coverage to millions and over 100,000 in Palm Beach County alone. Florida legislatures also implemented a plan to place all Medicaid under private

managed care, an effort to reduce costs to the program.

Michael Morgan stated: "The Center for Bone & Joint Surgery of the Palm Beaches (CBJ), was founded twenty years ago by Dr. Harvey Montijo as a single location, one physician practice. Through brilliant physician addition, coupled with ancillary expansion, CBJ now provides one-stop complete orthopedic care throughout Palm Beach County, striving to maintain our goal of providing affordable, accessible care to all."

Dr. Harvey Montijo stated: "It feels as if just a few years ago I moved into the western communities of Palm Beach County and started CBJ, never really expecting to see the practice evolve into what it is today. We have been blessed with a group of surgeons ready and eager to accept the challenges of the future, while continuing our commitment to bringing quality musculoskeletal care to the communities of Palm Beach County."

Shutts & Bowen: Making A Difference In Palm Beach County

As the Florida economy continues to improve, the legal needs of Palm Beach County businesses change. Firms that offer a variety of practice areas are well poised to adapt with the improving economy. One law firm ready to meet the challenges of the shifting legal needs of its clients is Shutts & Bowen LLP.

Founded in 1910, Shutts & Bowen now has 250 attorneys in seven offices throughout Florida, including 31 attorneys in its West Palm Beach office, which opened in 1978. After 37 years of growth, the West Palm Beach office is a full service office, with attorneys practicing in business litigation, real estate, corporate, tax, land use, trusts and estates, and health care.

"Our firm has been steeped in a culture of service since it was founded back in 1910,"



says partner Matthew Chait, elected earlier this year to the Board of Directors of the Central Palm Beach County Chamber of Commerce. "The attorneys in our West Palm Beach office are committed not only to our clients, but to serving the community at large."

Members of the Shutts & Bowen West Palm Beach team have helped lead the way for many Palm Beach County organizations, including the Central Palm Beach County Chamber of Commerce, United Way of Palm Beach County, American Heart Association,

Business Development Board, Economic Council of Palm Beach County, Habitat for Humanity, Housing Leadership Council, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Historical Society of Palm Beach County and the South Florida Science Museum, among many others. Many of its partners have advanced through Leadership Palm Beach County, including Matthew Chait, who graduated with the 2015 class.

Says Chait: "Our firm fosters collaboration and teamwork to help our clients come up with the right solutions, and some of our most gratifying work comes in applying our skills, training and dedication to making this a better community."

With Shutts & Bowen LLP at the helm, Palm Beach County is ready to face any legal needs and truly make a difference in the community.

CHAMBER EVENTS

SUMMER 2015

ECONOMIC FORUM EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES, PORT EXPANSION AND THE ECONOMIC IMPACT FOR PALM BEACH COUNTY

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: RICK MURRELL, CEO, TROPICAL SHIPPING

Date: June 18
Time: 11:30am - 1:30pm
Location: Breakers West
1550 Flagler Parkway
West Palm Beach, FL 33411
Contact: Johnny Brief
Phone: (561) 578-4817

BUSINESS ACADEMY 1-2-3

SOCIAL SECURITY SAVVY

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: BRANDON D. SHAUGHNESSY, VICE PRESIDENT, AIG FINANCIAL DISTRIBUTORS

Date: June 24
Time: 7:45am - 10:15am
Location: Biotest Plasma
Center 100 Business Park Way,
Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411
Contact: Johnny Brief
Phone: (561) 578-4817

ECONOMIC FORUM PREVENTING FLORIDA'S BRAIN DRAIN

UNITING BUSINESS AND EDUCATION TO RETAIN OUR COMMUNITY'S BRIGHTEST YOUNG MINDS AND BUILD A SKILLED WORKFORCE

Date: August 20
Time: 11:30am - 1:30pm
Location: Breakers West
1550 Flagler Parkway
West Palm Beach, FL 33411
Contact: Johnny Brief
Phone: (561) 578-4817

To register for any of our upcoming events, please visit the Chamber website at www.cpbchamber.com and click on Business Calendar!

If you need assistance, please email Johnny@cpbchamber.com.

CHAMBER MESSAGE



Chamber Chief Executive Officer

WAYNE BURNS

I am excited to announce the Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) is looking for students, entering grades 6-12, who have what it takes to start their own small business, from the ground up, with instruction and inspiration from local leaders. Students must be creative, energetic, motivated, and interested in entrepreneurship.

YEA! is a groundbreaking and exciting program that transforms local middle and high school students into real, confident entrepreneurs. Through the year-long program, students in grades 6-12 generate business ideas, conduct market research, write business plans, pitch to a panel of investors, and launch their very own real companies.

Currently, YEA! is accepting applications for the Class of 2015 - 2016. Classes from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm on Wednesday nights.

YEA! kicks off in October 2015 and ends in May 2016. The selection process is competitive and applicants are urged to apply early.

Both scholarship and program applications can be requested by emailing Martina@CPBChamber.com.