

“Grassroots: The Space Coast Moves into a Lower Orbit,” by Charles Davidson, staff writer for *EconSouth*

EconSouth first quarter 2012

Discussion questions

1. How has the Space Coast’s economy changed since 2006? How did the ending of the space shuttle program affect area employment? How did this event compare in terms of unemployment when the Apollo program ended?
2. How has the Space Coast’s economy diversified since the 1970s and ‘80s? What two sectors are doing well now that aerospace is a less important part of the economy?
3. How have demographics helped the area recover from the contraction of the aerospace industry?
4. What new types of aerospace projects are being pursued now that the space program is slowing down? How will reliance on private-sector companies, versus government contract work, help the region?

Related links

[“60 Minutes” report on end of space shuttle program \(video\)](#)

[Economic Development Commission of Florida’s Space Coast](#)

[Florida Space Coast Office of Tourism](#)

[Florida Trend: Florida’s Space Coast](#)

[Kennedy Space Center](#)

[“On Space Coast, Signs of a Comeback after End of an Era”: *New York Times*](#)

[University of Central Florida–Florida Space Coast History Project](#)