



Orlando-based Unicorp National Developments is spearheading 26 projects totaling about \$2 billion in Central Florida, including the \$1-billion, mixed-use O-Town West project about five miles from Disney World in southwest Orlando. Unicorp President Chuck Whittall predicts the boom will continue for "some time."

**Forecast: DEVELOPMENT**

**Chuck Whittall, President**  
**Unicorp National Developments, Orlando**



"Central Florida is just such a great place to live. The hurricanes just don't hit often — we get a lot of threat, but very little hit. Miami is full, so Central Florida is feeling the effects of South Florida being full. With \$5 billion of road construction going on, it's only going to make development here get better, especially as our transit improves. I think the Dr. Phillips Performing Arts Center, the Amway Center, the soccer stadium, Creative Village, the UCF expansion, Medical City — all those things are mak-

ing Central Florida more desirable. There's so much critical mass here now that I believe we'll continue to boom for a very long time. The economy overall, with interest rates coming down, it's been very stimulating for development. I

think it's going to be awhile before the interest rates go up, as long as Democrats and Republicans keep fighting with each other, which will be forever. I think interest rates are going to stay down. I'm fearful in the next election that if someone is elected who wants to add a bunch of crazy policies that tax the wealthy and Medicare for all and things like that, there could be a bump in the economy, but based on today's environment, I think it's going to remain strong at least for another year."



**Forecast: WORKFORCE**

**Pamela Nabors**  
**President / CEO**  
**CareerSource Central Florida**

"We're outpacing the state and the country in terms of continuing low unemployment and continuing jobs creation. It's been eight-plus years of growth, and as I look into 2020, I don't see this region slowing down. I think there's been a lot of discussion that sometime in 2020 the economy and the country will slow — but here in Central Florida, on any given day, we have thousands of jobs and all of our growth sectors here are being advertised through Employ Florida and other means. I think 2020 is going to be continued growth in not just our hospitality sector but also construction. Residential, transportation and commercial (construction) will continue to need labor. We have a number of different initiatives for skilled labor, for superintendents, for middle management that we're working with all our education partners. Construction will certainly grow, as well as trade and logistics, and there is good focus and growth in our simulation, technology and advanced manufacturing sectors."

**Regional Snapshot**

**JOBS**

MSA	Oct. 2019	Jobless Rate
Orlando/Kissimmee/Sanford	1,358,576	2.7%
Deltona/Daytona Beach/Ormond Beach	297,337	3.2
Melbourne/Titusville/Palm Bay	278,298	2.9

Source: Agency for Workforce Innovation

**HOMES** Single-family, existing-home sales

MSA	Oct. 2019 Sales	1-Year Change	Oct. 2019 Price	1-Year Change
Orlando/Kissimmee/Sanford	2,845	+1.6%	\$276,456	+5.9%
Daytona Beach	965	+2.8	225,000	+4.7
Melbourne/Titusville/Palm Bay	739	-8.7	240,000	+4.3
The Villages	106	NC	260,000	+2.0

Source: Florida Realtors