
The latest from the government and leadership office of the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce

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Resilient Business Initiative - Week 9

Vendors, Supply Chain & External Dependencies

Purpose

Map the outside organizations, services, and lifelines your business depends on to continue operating before, during, and after a disruption. From an Incident Command System perspective, this is a preparedness task first: identify which vendors, contractors, utilities, software platforms, transportation links, and service partners must be available for operations to stabilize, respond, and recover. During an incident, this information supports faster decision-making and resource coordination; after the incident, it helps leadership prioritize restoration and reconstitution.

Why This Matters to Venice-Area Businesses

For many Venice area businesses, disruption does not begin at the storefront or office door—it starts when a supplier misses a delivery, a payment platform goes offline, fuel is delayed, or communications fail. ICS professionals plan for these cascading effects because a single outside failure can quickly create staffing, customer service, inventory, and safety problems. Thinking in terms of preparation, response, and recovery helps businesses move from reacting to improvising less and coordinating more.

Key Concept

The key concept is dependency visibility. External systems are outside your control, but their impacts can be anticipated, ranked, and managed. In ICS terms, leaders should identify critical dependencies, assess the operational consequences of failure, and establish priorities for sustaining essential functions. The goal is not to predict every outage, but to know which disrupted dependency requires immediate action, which can be worked around, and which can wait until recovery operations are underway.

Business-Friendly Incident Command Insight

ICS emphasizes common terminology, clear roles, and coordination across organizations. Applied to a business incident, that means assigning someone to gather vendor status, someone to track operational impacts, someone to source alternate resources, and someone to communicate with customers, staff, and partners. This mirrors the ICS approach of organizing information, operations, logistics, and communications so leaders can prepare before disruption, respond with discipline during the event, and recover in an orderly sequence afterward.

Who are your operations and logistics gurus? This is where they shine.

10-Minute Weekly Task

- List your critical vendors, service providers, and external systems that support life safety, revenue, communications, facilities, technology, payroll, and customer operations.
- Mark each dependency as preparation, response, or recovery critical—or all three—based on when it matters most during an incident.
- Identify at least one alternate supplier, workaround, or substitute process for each high-priority dependency.
- Confirm emergency contact information, after-hours escalation paths, and expected restoration timelines.
- Note the trigger point that would require leadership to activate a formal incident management structure.

Deliverable

A critical vendor and external dependency worksheet that names each dependency, its business function, primary contact, alternate option, outage impact, and restoration priority. This becomes an operational reference for preparedness planning, an action tool during response, and a recovery tracker after the incident stabilizes.

Dependency	Supports What Function?	Primary Contact	Alternate / Workaround	Incident Phase	Priority
Vendor / system name	Point-of-sale, fuel, internet, payroll, deliveries, etc.	Name, phone, email	Backup vendor or manual process	Preparation / Response / Recovery	High / Medium / Low

Readiness Outcome

- We know which outside partners and services are essential to keep people safe and operations functioning.
- We understand what actions to take if a critical dependency fails during response operations.
- We have practical backup options to support continuity and accelerate recovery.
- We can brief leadership quickly using a shared, incident-oriented picture of vendor status and operational impacts.

Connection to Local Emergency Partners

Does your business offer a supply item or service to local emergency responders or emergency management components, including vital health care providers. These may be life/safety collaborators depending on the event. A supply issue that affects you may affect them. Dependency awareness strengthens coordination with local emergency partners because businesses can communicate specific needs, constraints, and restoration priorities more clearly. When private-sector organizations understand their outside dependencies, they are better prepared to align with local emergency responders or management, utility restoration timelines, transportation changes, and regional resource shortages during both response and recovery.

Next Week

Week 10 - Financial Resilience & Cash Flow Continuity

Economic Outlook

With the help of our new Venice Chamber intern, FSU grad student Nicholas Liberoni, here is our summary and additional comments from last Friday's presentation by Dr. Jerry Parrish:

In 2025, the United States added 116,000 jobs after revisions. Florida, however, had a net loss of 25,400 jobs in 2025. While certain factors such as immigration or AI could be cited as potential factors for the negative job numbers, the main worry for businesses across the country is investment uncertainty. Due to the unknown status of some tariff rates, businesses are reluctant to reinvest in their own companies for fear of being on the losing end of national trade policy. This has led the job market to be described as "No Hire, No Fire", as firms are showing a reluctance to invest in the talent acquisition of new workers while also being reluctant to let go of current staff.

While Florida had a net loss of jobs in 2025, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton metropolitan area was 2nd amongst all Florida metropolitan areas in job growth, adding 4,200 jobs. This highlights the area's resilient economy that remains desirable to businesses.

National consumer sentiment is low due to unpredictable tariff policies and high energy prices. According to the University of Michigan's Consumer Sentiment Index, consumer sentiment is lower now than it was during the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic and the 2008 global financial crisis. Global energy price increases following the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, along with tariff policies, have contributed to April's 3.8% year-over-year increase in consumer prices, as stated in the April Consumer Price Index (CPI). This increased cost on consumers is an important factor in the low national consumer sentiment. Additionally, Dr. Jerry Parrish, the Chief Economist of the Metro Atlanta Chamber, states that the continued closure of the Strait of Hormuz could have lasting negative impacts on the global economy, including continued high inflation rates and a potential recession.

The Federal Reserve is keeping a close eye on monthly CPI news for its future decisions regarding potential interest rate changes. While the new Federal Reserve Chair Kevin Warsh may have incentive to lower interest rates due to political pressure, Dr. Jerry Parrish argues that interest rate cuts are unlikely, especially if the Strait of Hormuz remains closed.

Dr. Parrish also warns about potential private credit and bond crises, citing input from JPMorgan Chase's CEO Jamie Dimon. While Dimon does not view private credit as a threat that could cause systemic risk to the U.S. economy, Dimon warns that these credit risks have significantly increased. This coincides with consumers having longer car loans and increased mortgage rates nationally.

With changing sentiments about the global economy, the Venice area real estate market is impacted in various ways. It is important to understand that real estate sales are affected differently based on the income level of the buyers. As we are operating under a K-shape economy (where higher income levels fare better economically while lower income levels fare worse), it is understood that higher income home buying will likely slow less than the lower income market's home buying.

The inspiration to move to the Venice area is largely due to the lifestyle benefits of living in the area. These benefits largely exist regardless of price fluctuations, meaning that the wealthy who are looking for a change of pace will still look to live in the Venice area. While there may be a change of pace in homebuying, the wealthy are less affected as they can financially navigate the tense market to achieve their desired lifestyle.

Lower income home buying, however, may see a significant change in pace in their market. April 2026's inflation data suggested that there was a 3.8% growth in consumer prices year-over-year. As inflation is much higher than the Federal Reserve's 2% goal, it is unlikely that the new Federal Reserve Chair Kevin Warsh will be able to cut interest rates if the Strait of Hormuz is closed. As lower-income and middle-income families are more likely to take out loans to finance the purchase of houses, it is likely that consumers in this market will remain put in their current homes before opting to move. In essence, home buying has become more taxing for low-income earners than high-income earners, thus leaving the two markets with differing outlooks.

Legislative Update (Week of May 11-15, 2026)

- **Florida Legislature / Budget Special Session:** activity accelerated in Tallahassee during the week of May 11-15 as House and Senate negotiators began working through unresolved budget items. For employers, the Chamber view remains straightforward: *expect quick shifts, limited notice, and business impacts that may come through budget language as much as standalone policy*. A key item we are watching remains the proposed transfer of *USF Sarasota-Manatee* to *New College*. As of week's end, the House continued to back the transfer and related funding shift, while the Senate had not moved to approve that funding transfer and appeared to be holding its position—meaning the issue remained unresolved rather than settled. We are also watching the practical effect of this year's *Live Local Act* amendments, which have already cleared the Legislature and further expand state preemption in affordable and workforce housing approvals. For the Venice area business community, that matters because housing policy, workforce availability, and local land-use predictability are increasingly tied together.
- **Economy and local operations:** affordability and cost-of-living discussions remained part of the week's broader policy conversation, including renewed attention to possible fuel-tax relief measures affecting gasoline and diesel. While no clear final action emerged during the week we are reporting on, the direction of travel is important for employers that depend on commuting workers, delivery fleets, visitor traffic, and price-sensitive consumers. Closer to home, Sarasota County's earlier transportation discussions still matter: businesses benefit when road, signal, and corridor work is communicated early—especially along *US 41*, *SR 776*, and other Venice area routes where congestion, detours, or utility work can quickly reduce customer access and employee mobility.

What we're watching: whether the Senate continues to block movement on the funding side of the proposed *New College* takeover of *USF Sarasota-Manatee*; how the *2026 Live Local Act* changes begin to shape local housing, redevelopment, and local-government authority; and whether economy-focused relief items—including discussion of gasoline and diesel tax breaks—gain real traction as budget negotiations continue. We are also monitoring any Sarasota County follow-up that affects near-term traffic flow, construction sequencing, transit reliability, or corridor access in the greater Venice area.