



**2021 ANNUAL REPORT**



**RURAL**

# RURAL

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## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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MADE IN  
ALABAMA

# “I’m committed to unlocking rural Alabama’s growth potential”



*Governor Kay Ivey says she is committed to facilitating growth through strategic economic development in Alabama’s rural areas.*

Having grown up in Wilcox County, I’m very familiar with the economic challenges that Alabama’s rural communities face every single day. At the same time, I’m also fully aware that these areas have a lot to offer companies looking to expand their operations, even if that fact is not always recognized.

That is a major reason my administration has made it a top priority to assist Alabama’s rural communities so they can better compete for economic development projects that will make a difference to generations.

There is much work to be done, but we believe we are making steady progress. Over the past two years, economic development projects in Alabama’s rural counties have generated over \$2.3 billion in new capital investment, along with more than 3,500 jobs.

The recent activity is detailed in the 2021 Rural Economic Development Report, compiled by the Alabama Department of Commerce.

I’m encouraged by the progress we’re making, but I know that achieving all our goals for elevating prosperity in rural Alabama will require a long-term effort. That won’t be easy but make no mistake — we’re willing to put in the work.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kay Ivey".



Kay Ivey  
*Governor of Alabama*

# Growth projects launched in 2021 show rural Alabama is gaining momentum



Commerce Secretary Greg Canfield speaks at a groundbreaking ceremony for the Alabama Graphite Products processing plant in Coosa County, one of the largest projects announced in rural Alabama during 2021. The first phase involves an investment of \$202 million. (Image: Governor's Office/Hal Yeager)

I'm proud to report that economic development activity in Alabama's rural counties was energetic during 2021, with solid growth projects fortifying these areas with new investment and jobs — along with an invigorating economic spark.

Our 2021 Rural Economic Development Report, released today, provides a comprehensive look at 53 new facility and expansion projects launched last year in the state's "targeted" counties, which are eligible for enhanced incentives under the Alabama Jobs Act.

The Report underscores the fact that opportunities abound for growth-minded companies in Alabama's rural communities. Bottom line, new capital investment in the state's 40 targeted counties approached \$1.7 billion in 2021, thanks to projects that will create more than 1,600 jobs.

These results will build upon the robust project activity recorded in 2020, when \$615 million in new investment and 1,940 job commitments were announced for Alabama's rural counties.

Included in the 2021 Report's results are high-impact projects that will elevate communities and families in the state's rural communities. Consider:

- Westwater Resources and its Alabama Graphite Products subsidiary are pumping \$202 million into the first phase of a project to build a graphite processing plant to produce a critical component in EV batteries. The Coosa County facility, the first of its kind in the U.S., will employ 100 people. Investment in the facility is expected to eventually top \$600 million.
- Packaging Corp. of America (PCA) plans to invest \$440 million in its mill in Clarke County, positioning the Jackson facility for the long-term production of linerboard used in corrugated packages, a move that solidifies its future.
- Wellborn Cabinet is creating 200 jobs at its Clay County production plant, where it is adding a planer mill and paint facility, along with new healthcare and daycare facilities. The project is valued at \$15 million.

These results also demonstrate the Alabama Department of Commerce's deep commitment to working toward unlocking the growth potential of the state's rural communities. Commerce's Rural Development Manager, Brenda Tuck, and her team have worked tirelessly with allies across the state to better position rural areas for growth projects.

These efforts are paying off, and we believe our team can capitalize on unfolding developments to increase the momentum for rural Alabama. For one thing, the state is making a major investment to significantly expand the availability of high-speed internet service, which is considered a critical element for sustained economic growth today.

Other positives include transportation infrastructure improvements and the launch of the Alabama Innovation Corporation, a public-private partnership that counts supporting rural development as one of its core goals.

Having served as Alabama's Commerce Secretary since 2011, I know that economic development efforts in rural communities often face specific challenges that are not present in more populous areas. But I am more confident than ever that the partnerships we have developed and the strategies we've put into place are helping to overcome many of those challenges.

The conditions for growth are ripe in rural Alabama, and we want to make sure its communities are harvesting the fruit of new investment and good-paying jobs.

Greg Canfield  
Secretary, Alabama Department of Commerce

# OVERVIEW

## BY THE NUMBERS

2021 Rural Alabama Annual Report



Targeted Rural  
Counties

### 2021 RURAL COUNTIES — JOBS

COUNTY	JOBS
Franklin	256
Clay	210
Chambers	174
Covington	135
Randolph	130
Dallas	128

### 2021 RURAL COUNTIES — INVESTMENT

COUNTY	INVESTMENT
Coosa	\$602,000,000
Clarke	\$464,500,000
Chambers	\$218,415,180
Bulter	\$92,415,180
Fayette	\$82,200,000
Cleburne	\$62,070,000

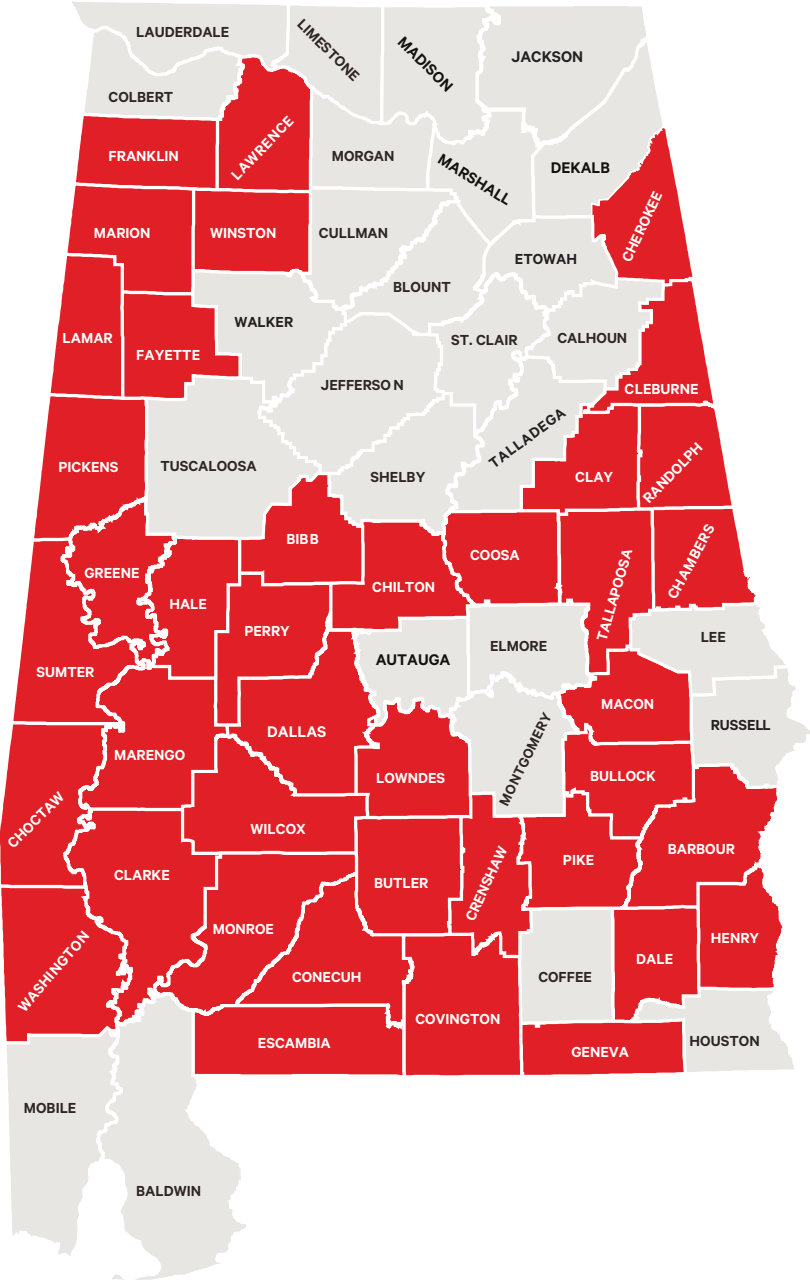
1,638

New and Future Jobs Created

\$1.7  
BILLION

New Capital Investment

# OVERVIEW



## 2021 Targeted & Jumpstart Counties

### MAP KEY

■ Targeted Counties

# OVERVIEW

## COUNTY BREAKDOWN 2021 Rural Alabama Annual Report

COUNTY	NEW			EXPANDING			TOTAL		
County	Projects	Jobs	Investment	Projects	Jobs	Investment	Projects	Jobs	Investment
Barbour				1	77	\$7,500,000	1	77	\$7,500,000
Bullock				1	60	\$15,000,000	1	60	\$15,000,000
Butler	1	6	\$86,575,090	1	20	\$5,840,090	2	26	\$92,415,180
Chambers	2	74	\$24,635,000	7	100	\$193,918,886	9	174	\$218,553,886
Clarke	1	12	\$18,000,000	3	20	\$446,500,000	4	32	\$464,500,000
Clay				2	210	\$16,000,000	2	210	\$16,000,000
Cleburne				1	10	\$62,070,000	1	10	\$62,070,000
Coosa	1	100	\$602,000,000	0	0	\$0	1	100	\$602,000,000
Covington				8	135	\$0	8	135	\$0
Crenshaw				1	0	\$3,227,113	1	0	\$3,227,113
Dale	1	50	\$685,000				1	50	\$685,000
Dallas	2	128	\$6,152,000				2	128	\$6,152,000
Escambia	1	20	\$1,000,000				1	20	\$1,000,000
Fayette	1	27	\$1,200,000	1	0	\$81,000,000	2	27	\$82,200,000
Franklin	2	16	\$1,860,000	2	240	\$2,950,000	4	256	\$4,810,000
Henry				5	41	\$12,875,000	5	41	\$12,875,000
Lamar				2	54	\$19,600,000	2	54	\$19,600,000
Lawrence	1	15	\$40,550,033	2	10	\$4,700,000	3	25	\$45,250,033
Randolph				1	130	\$0	1	130	\$0
Sumter				2	53	\$13,000,000	2	53	\$13,000,000
Washington	1	20	\$4,500,000	1	10	\$750,000	2	30	\$5,250,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>\$787,157,123</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>1,170</b>	<b>\$884,931,089</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>1,638</b>	<b>\$1,672,088,212</b>



Commerce data show that 2021 was a strong year for economic development in Alabama's 40 "targeted" counties, with new capital investment of \$1.7 billion in projects that will create more than 1,600 jobs in rural areas. (Image: Governor's office/Hal Yeager)

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# COUNTIES IN DEPTH

## COUNTY SUMMARY

2021 Rural Alabama Annual Report

New/Expanding	Company	City	NAICS	Business Activity	Jobs	Capital Investment
<b>BARBOUR</b>						
Expanding	Johnson Outdoors Marine Electronics Inc.	Eufaula	334511	Manufacturer of Electronic Depth Finders, Multifunction Displays, Autopilots, Ice Flashers & Premium Cartography	77	\$7,500,000
<b>TOTALS FOR BARBOUR (1 PROJECT)</b>					<b>77</b>	<b>\$7,500,000</b>
<b>BULLOCK</b>						
Expanding	Bonnie Plants	Union Springs	111998	Crop Production, Warehousing, & Distribution	60	\$15,000,000
<b>TOTALS FOR BULLOCK (1 PROJECT)</b>					<b>60</b>	<b>\$15,000,000</b>
<b>BUTLER</b>						
New	HEP Greenville Solar Inc.	Greenville	221114	Solar Farm	6	\$86,575,090
Expanding	Hwashin American Corp.	Greenville	336110	Stamped Metal Parts	20	\$5,840,090
<b>TOTALS FOR BUTLER (2 PROJECTS)</b>					<b>26</b>	<b>\$92,415,180</b>
<b>CHAMBERS</b>						
New	East Alabama Lumber Co.	LaFayette	321113	Sawmill	33	\$20,000,000
New	Wayne Davis Concrete Co.	Lanett	327300	Produces Concrete, Plant Mix & Panels	41	\$4,635,000
Expanding	AJIN USA	Cusseta	336370	Tool & Die	5	\$20,302,847
Expanding	Daedong Hi-Lex	Cusseta	332510	Manufactures & Distribute Auto Parts	45	\$14,900,000
Expanding	John Soules Foods	Valley	311615	Food Manufacturing	0	\$31,000,000
Expanding	John Soules Foods	Valley	311616	Food Manufacturing	0	\$35,000,000
Expanding	KMIN USA	Valley	336360	Manufactures Automotive Seat & Ancillary Parts	50	\$20,039,000
Expanding	Knauf Insulation	Lanett	327993	Manufactures Fiberglass Insulation Products	0	\$27,315,000
Expanding	Norbord AL	Lanett	321219	OSB Manufacturer	0	\$45,362,039
Expanding	Doncasters Southern Tool	Oxford	331512	Investment Casting	0	\$3,500,000
<b>TOTALS FOR CHAMBERS (9 PROJECTS)</b>					<b>174</b>	<b>\$218,553,886</b>

# COUNTIES IN DEPTH

## COUNTY SUMMARY

2021 Rural Alabama Annual Report

New/Expanding	Company	City	NAICS	Business Activity	Jobs	Capital Investment
<b>CLARKE</b>						
New	CM Biomass dba Jackson Pellet Mill	Jackson	321999	Wood Pellet Manufacturing	12	\$18,000,000
Expanding	Boise White Paper LLC	Jackson	322130	Produces Corrugated Shipping Containers	0	\$440,000,000
Expanding	C & C Custom Lumber LLC	Coffeeville	321113	Cut Moldings & Lumber Specialty	20	\$500,000
Expanding	Canfor Southern Pine	Fulton	423990	Produces Sustainable Wood-Building Products	0	\$6,000,000
<b>TOTALS FOR CLARKE (4 PROJECTS)</b>					<b>32</b>	<b>\$464,500,000</b>
<b>CLAY</b>						
Expanding	Wellborn Cabinet Inc.	Ashland	337110	Manufactures Cabinets	200	\$15,000,000
Expanding	Williams Fire Apparatus	Ashland	423850	Service & Supply Facility	10	\$1,000,000
<b>TOTALS FOR CLAY (2 PROJECTS)</b>					<b>210</b>	<b>\$16,000,000</b>
<b>CLEBURNE</b>						
Expanding	Southwire Company/Forte Power Systems LLC	Heflin	423510	Manufactures Wire, Cables, Tools, Components & Assembled Solutions	10	\$62,070,000
<b>TOTALS FOR CLEBURNE (1 PROJECT)</b>					<b>10</b>	<b>\$62,070,000</b>
<b>COOSA</b>						
New	Alabama Graphite Products LLC	Kellyton	3279	Graphite Processing	100	\$602,000,000
<b>TOTALS FOR COOSA (1 PROJECT)</b>					<b>100</b>	<b>\$602,000,000</b>
<b>COVINGTON</b>						
Expanding	Dynamic Diesel and Fleet	Opp	811111	General Automotive Repair	6	\$0
Expanding	Dyne Products	Opp	332321	Storm Windows Manufacturing	5	\$0
Expanding	MOJO Sportswear	Floralda	315990	Apparel Labeling	25	\$0
Expanding	Owner Operators	Opp	484220	Trucking & Specialized Freight	5	\$0
Expanding	RCA Logistics	Opp	484220	Trucking & Logistics	2	\$0
Expanding	RCA Trucking	Opp	484220	Trucking & Specialized Freight	33	\$0
Expanding	Tellico	Opp	451130	Manufacturer of Sewn Products	19	\$0
Expanding	Tellico	Sanford	451130	Manufactures Ammunition Carriers, Blackhawk Holsters, Commercial Truck Seat Covers	40	\$0
<b>TOTALS FOR COVINGTON (8 PROJECTS)</b>					<b>135</b>	<b>\$0</b>

# COUNTIES IN DEPTH

## COUNTY SUMMARY

2021 Rural Alabama Annual Report

New/Expanding	Company	City	NAICS	Business Activity	Jobs	Capital Investment
<b>CRENSHAW</b>						
Expanding	SMART Alabama, LLC	Luverne	336370	Stamped Metal Parts & Componets	0	\$3,227,113
<b>TOTALS FOR CRENSHAW (1 PROJECT)</b>					<b>0</b>	<b>\$3,227,113</b>
<b>DALE</b>						
New	Brittanie's Thyme LLC	Ozark	325611	Production of Organic Skincare	50	\$685,000
<b>TOTALS FOR DALE (1 PROJECT)</b>					<b>50</b>	<b>\$685,000</b>
<b>DALLAS</b>						
New	Turbine Worx Inc.	Selma	488190	Aircraft Maintenance, Upgrades & Charter Services	30	\$402,000
New	Globe Metallurgical Inc.	Selma	331419	Manufactures Metallurgical, Chemical-Grade Silicon Metal & Silicon-Based Alloys	98	\$5,750,000
<b>TOTALS FOR DALLAS (2 PROJECTS)</b>					<b>128</b>	<b>\$6,152,000</b>
<b>ESCAMBIA</b>						
New	Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries Food Inspections (Headquarters)	Atmore	926150	Food Inspection	20	\$1,000,000
<b>TOTALS FOR ESCAMBIA (1 PROJECT)</b>					<b>20</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>
<b>FAYETTE</b>						
Expanding	Dyne Products	Opp	332321	Storm Windows Manufacturing	5	\$0
Expanding	MOJO Sportswear	Floral	315990	Apparel Labeling	25	\$0
<b>TOTALS FOR COVINGTON (8 PROJECTS)</b>					<b>135</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>FRANKLIN</b>						
New	American Barrel Co.	Phil Campbell	332994	Manufacture Gun Barrels	5	\$1,275,000
New	Belgreen Coatings LLC	Russellville	325510	Manufacture Coatings & Associated Products	11	\$585,000
Expanding	Leisure Creations	Russellville	337124	Manufacture Metal Furniture	100	\$950,000
Expanding	Sunshine Homes Inc.	Red Bay	321991	Mobile Home Manufacturing	140	\$2,000,000
<b>TOTALS FOR FRANKLIN (4 PROJECTS)</b>					<b>256</b>	<b>\$4,810,000</b>

# COUNTIES IN DEPTH

## COUNTY SUMMARY

2021 Rural Alabama Annual Report

New/Expanding	Company	City	NAICS	Business Activity	Jobs	Capital Investment
<b>HENRY</b>						
Expanding	Alabama Crop Improvement Association	Headland	424590	Warehouse & Distribution for Seed Peanuts	4	\$2,600,000
Expanding	Greenbush Wood Products	Abbeville	321114	Other Wood Product Manufacturing	26	\$5,200,000
Expanding	Headland Peanut Warehouse Cooperative	Headland	424590	Peanut Warehouse & Distribution	6	\$3,500,000
Expanding	Henry County Gin	Newville	115111	Cotton Gin	3	\$1,200,000
Expanding	Keel & Company Distillery	Headland	312140	Micro Distiller	2	\$375,000
<b>TOTALS FOR HENRY (5 PROJECTS)</b>					<b>41</b>	<b>\$12,875,000</b>
<b>LAMAR</b>						
Expanding	Trachte Building Systems Inc.	Vernon	332311	Manufacturer of Steel Self-Storage Systems	54	\$11,500,000
Expanding	Bolzoni-Auramo	Sulligent	333924	Fork Lift Positioners, Carton Clamps & Related Products	0	\$8,100,000
<b>TOTALS FOR LAMAR (2 PROJECTS)</b>					<b>54</b>	<b>\$19,600,000</b>
<b>LAWRENCE</b>						
New	Joe Wheeler Electric Membership Corporation	Countywide	517311	Fiber Optic Network	15	\$40,550,033
Expanding	Red Land Cotton	Moulton	424990	Warehouse, Customer Service, Ecommerce, Distribution	10	\$1,100,000
Expanding	Servico Inc.	Courtland	115111	Cotton Processing	0	\$3,600,000
<b>TOTALS FOR LAWRENCE (3 PROJECTS)</b>					<b>25</b>	<b>\$45,250,033</b>
<b>RANDOLPH</b>						
Expanding	Mohawk Industries	Roanoke	313110	Carpet Manufacturing	130	\$0
<b>TOTALS FOR RANDOLPH (1 PROJECT)</b>					<b>130</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>SUMTER</b>						
Expanding	Southwest Paper Sales (K&Z, LLC)	Livingston	322219	Paperboard Container Manufacturing	15	\$5,000,000
Expanding	WestRock	Livingston	322130	Paperboard Mills	38	\$8,000,000
<b>TOTALS FOR SUMTER (2 PROJECTS)</b>					<b>53</b>	<b>\$13,000,000</b>
<b>WASHINGTON</b>						
New	Southern Forestry Products	Millry	321113	Sawmill/Stuffing Operation	20	\$4,500,000
Expanding	Prism Systems Inc.	McIntosh/Chatom	541511	Provides Systems Design & Integration Services	10	\$750,000
<b>TOTALS FOR WASHINGTON (2 PROJECTS)</b>					<b>30</b>	<b>\$5,250,000</b>



Wellborn Cabinet is creating 200 jobs at its Clay County production plant, where it is adding a planer mill and paint facility, along with new health care and day care facilities. The project is valued at \$15 million.

# 2021 Foreign Direct Investment in Targeted Counties

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# OVERVIEW

## BY THE NUMBERS

2021 Rural Alabama Annual Report



Foreign Direct  
Investment

### 2021 TOP COUNTRIES FOR INVESTMENT

COUNTRY	PROJECTS	INVESTMENT	JOBS
JAPAN	2	\$95,900,000	45
CANADA	2	\$51,362,039	0
SOUTH KOREA	4	\$49,409,050	75

Foreign Investment

Top Country for FDI

**\$247.7** MILLION

**230** JOBS

JAPAN

**\$95.9** MILLION

NEW INVESTMENT



# COUNTRIES IN DEPTH

## COUNTRY SUMMARY

2021 Rural Alabama Annual Report

New/Expanding	County	Company	City	NAICS	Business Activity	Jobs	Capital Investment	
<b>CANADA</b>								
Expanding	Clarke	Canfor Southern Pine	Fulton	423990	Produces Sustainable Wood-Building Products	0	\$6,000,000	
Expanding	Chambers	Norbord AL	Lanett	321219	OSB Manufacturer	0	\$45,362,039	
<b>TOTALS FOR CANADA (2 PROJECTS)</b>						<b>0</b>	<b>\$51,362,039</b>	
<b>DENMARK</b>								
New	Clarke	CM Biomass dba Jackson Pellet Mill	Jackson	321999	Wood Pellet Manufacturing	12	\$18,000,000	
<b>TOTALS FOR DENMARK (1 PROJECT)</b>						<b>12</b>	<b>\$18,000,000</b>	
<b>GERMANY</b>								
Expanding	Chambers	Knauf Insulation	Lanett	321999	Manufactures Fiberglass Insulation Products	0	\$27,315,000	
<b>TOTALS FOR GERMANY (1 PROJECT)</b>						<b>25</b>	<b>\$27,315,000</b>	
<b>JAPAN</b>								
Expanding	Chambers	Daedong Hi-Lex	Cusseta	332510	Manufactures & Distribute Auto Parts	45	\$14,900,000	
Expanding	Fayette	SHOWA Group	Fayette	423450	Disposable PPE Nitrile Single Use Gloves	0	\$81,000,000	
<b>TOTALS FOR JAPAN (2 PROJECTS)</b>						<b>45</b>	<b>\$95,900,000</b>	
<b>SOUTH KOREA</b>								
Expanding	Butler	Hwashin American Corp.	Greenville	336110	Stamped Metal Parts	20	\$5,840,090	
Expanding	Crenshaw	SMART Alabama LLC	Luverne	336370	Stamped Metal Parts & Componets	0	\$3,227,113	
Expanding	Chambers	AJIN USA	Cuesseta	336370	Tool & Die	5	\$20,302,847	
Expanding	Chambers	KMIN USA	Valley	336360	Manufactures Automotive Seat & Ancillary Parts	50	\$20,039,000	
<b>TOTALS FOR SOUTH KOREA (4 PROJECTS)</b>						<b>75</b>	<b>\$49,409,050</b>	
<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>								
New	Dallas	Globe Metallurgical Inc.	Selma	331419	Manufactures Metallurgical, Chemical-Grade Silicon Metal & Silicon-Based Alloys	98	\$5,750,000	
<b>TOTALS FOR UNITED KINGDOM (1 PROJECT)</b>						<b>98</b>	<b>\$5,750,000</b>	
<b>11 PROJECTS</b>						<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>\$247,736,089</b>





*Westwater Resources and its Alabama Graphite Products subsidiary are pumping \$202 million into the first phase of a project to build a graphite processing plant in Coosa County. (Image: Governor's office/Hal Yeager)*

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# RURAL Top 10 2021 Accomplishments

Report from Brenda Tuck, Rural Development Manager,  
Alabama Department of Commerce

## 1 **FIRST ANNUAL COMMERCE RURAL SUMMIT and ANNUAL REPORT**

The first in-person Annual Rural Summit was held with overwhelming attendance by both rural economic developers and resource providers, and by popular demand, it will grow into a multi-day event in 2022, which we are already working on.

The 2021 event was held at Commerce and provided updates from throughout the agency, as well as updates and information from partnering agencies and resources. We rolled out the first Rural Annual Report from the 2020 calendar year and provided educational, branding, and marketing materials to all rural developers.

## 2 **EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMUNICATIONS**

We continued to provide COVID response communications to all rural developers with critical information for their counties to utilize.

## 3 **VIRTUAL RURAL WORKFORCE SUMMIT**

Having held a very successful in-person Rural Workforce Summit in 2019, we transitioned to a Virtual Rural Workforce Summit in 2021 to continue to reach the State's rural counties with this critical information, utilizing 12 critical workforce resources within our State.

## 4 **RURAL RESOURCE WEBINARS**

We provided 41 resource webinars to the rural developers in 2021. In January, Rural Development implemented a Monday Resource Webinar that represents local, state, and federal agencies, public and private resources, site development assistance, workforce resources, and community development and project funding resources. These webinars provide the rural developer an hour of

unrestricted opportunity to interact with critical resources, learning all aspects of each program provided by the subject matter expert, and provides them with direct communication to that resource for their current and future endeavors. The programs are recorded and made available to the developers throughout the year on the RURAL website for those who cannot attend live or who may want to refer to any materials that were reviewed and to the presentation in the future.

## 5 **RURAL REGIONAL SUMMITS**

Having hosted virtual regional meetings in 2020, we transitioned to in-person regional meetings by establishing eight regions within the footprint of our rural counties where resources and opportunities were discussed, Commerce and State information was disseminated efficiently, and networking and mentoring was fostered within these groups.

## 6 **RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION**

We continue to identify resources for each county as we work toward the education of the local economic development team and the improvement of infrastructure and industrial sites.

## 7 **PROJECT SUPPORT**

We continually provide project support as needed in cooperation with the Commerce Project Management team. The project managers or the local developer can request our assistance on any project.

## 8 **EXPANDED RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM**

By adding Carissa Crayton as the Special Projects Manager to the Rural Development Team, we can expand more programs and services into the 40 rural counties.

## 9 **MARKETING & BRANDING**

We continued our Marketing and Branding efforts of Alabama's Rural counties through promotional items and the official rollout of the rural website [www.madeinruralalabama.com](http://www.madeinruralalabama.com). New content continues to be added to this site. This site interfaces with our existing Made in Alabama brand and website.

## 10 **SIMULATED TRAINING AND READINESS (STAR) PROGRAM**

The STAR program was finalized and implemented in May to provide effective efficient technical assistance that will create a real-time wholistic scenario of project development from the RFI and its many components to the presentation, site, building, and the in-person visit. This program is in direct collaboration with PowerSouth, Alabama Power, EDPA, AIDT, and Commerce Project Managers.

This is designed to be an 8-week program, but has flexibility built in if more assistance is needed. We had four rural developers complete this program in 2021, with two more scheduled to complete in February 2022. While we do have a waiting list already for the next sessions, we do have room for any others who are ready to go through this program that brings Commerce Project Managers, Utility Providers, AIDT and many others into their community and makes introductions to many resources that will prove invaluable in the work of the rural developers.

Governor Ivey is slated to recognize the completers of this program from its first 12 months during the EDAA Summer Conference.



*Brenda Tuck, Rural Development Manager for the Alabama Department of Commerce, presents Gov. Kay Ivey with a car tag displaying the 'RurAL' brand at the Rural Economic Development Summit, Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2021. (Image: Governor's Office/Hal Yeager)*

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