

A large industrial factory interior, likely a steel mill or manufacturing plant. The scene is dominated by a massive overhead crane structure with a sign that reads "50 TON CAP". Below the crane, there are various pieces of machinery, including large rollers and conveyor systems. The floor is polished and reflects the overhead lights. The overall atmosphere is one of industrial scale and precision.

Rural Alabama *Powers Growth* Potential

2024 **RURAL** Report

MadeinRuralAlabama.com

RURAL

MADE IN ALABAMA

Rooted in Strength, Growing Toward the Future



Over the past several years, we have witnessed remarkable progress in strengthening the economic foundations of rural Alabama.

Between 2020 and 2024, our state secured over \$7 billion in new investment through projects in rural communities — efforts that have created almost 9,000 good-paying jobs for our citizens. These figures reflect more than just economic growth; they represent stronger families, more vibrant communities, and a brighter future for all Alabamians, no matter their ZIP code.

This momentum is building for a reason. It is the result of strategic planning, sound policy, and a commitment to making sure opportunity reaches every corner of our state. Rural Alabama is home to incredible natural resources, skilled workers, and communities that take pride in their work ethic.

By investing in these strengths, we are not only creating jobs today but also building the foundation for sustained prosperity in the years ahead.

As Governor, I am deeply committed to making sure rural Alabama shares fully in the prosperity we are building across the state. That means continuing to improve roads, broadband access and workforce training in these communities so that they remain competitive in a fast-

changing economy. It also means listening to local leaders and tailoring our strategies to meet the unique needs of each community.

The people of rural Alabama have always been the backbone of our state's economy. From agriculture and forestry to advanced manufacturing and small business entrepreneurship, rural communities continue to drive innovation and growth. By harnessing that potential and pairing it with strategic investment, we are ensuring that the next generation has every reason to build their future right here at home.

Together, we will keep moving rural Alabama forward — building stronger communities, creating more jobs, and ensuring that every Alabamian can share in the opportunities that lie ahead.

The progress we have made is proof that when we invest in our people and our communities, there is no limit to what we can achieve.

KAY IVEY

GOVERNOR
STATE OF ALABAMA



Where Hard Work and Vision Are *Shaping* Tomorrow



Alabama's rural communities are on the verge of a new era of opportunity. Over the past several years, we have seen rural regions harness their strengths, attract transformative investments, and lay the groundwork for a future defined by sustainable economic growth.

Since 2020, rural Alabama has secured over \$5.8 billion in new investment through projects that will create more than 7,000 jobs for our residents. That kind of momentum doesn't happen by chance — it is the product of vision, commitment and the hard work of local leaders, businesses, and citizens across the state.

As outlined in the newly released 2024 Rural New and Expanding Industry Report, a total of 57 new facility and expansion projects were launched last year in Alabama's "targeted" counties. These counties are designated for enhanced incentives under the Alabama Jobs Act, reflecting the state's commitment to fostering growth in rural areas.

The Alabama Department of Commerce is determined to build on this progress.

The department's Rural Development Manager, Brenda Tuck, and her dedicated team have been instrumental in positioning Alabama's rural areas for sustained growth.

Strategic programs like SEEDS and Growing Alabama are proving their value every day, helping communities enhance industrial sites, improve infrastructure and position themselves competitively for new opportunities.

These initiatives are giving rural Alabama the tools to meet the evolving needs of industries and compete successfully in an increasingly global marketplace.

Looking ahead, the Alabama Development Fund represents another powerful catalyst for rural growth. This funding will allow us to target investments where they can make the most impact — expanding infrastructure, supporting innovation and strengthening the capacity of rural regions to recruit and retain high-quality employers.

By combining these resources with the entrepreneurial spirit and resilience of our rural communities, we can unlock even greater potential.

Our commitment to rural Alabama is not just about job numbers — it's about creating thriving communities where people can live, work and prosper. We are focused on industries that will bring not only employment but also long-term stability and growth.

Whether in advanced manufacturing, agribusiness, technology or renewable energy, we see opportunities for rural Alabama to lead.

We also know that workforce development is key to sustaining this momentum. By partnering with education providers, workforce agencies and employers, we are aligning training programs with the skills in demand today and in the future.

This ensures that rural residents have access to the same pathways to success as those in urban areas, while giving employers confidence in Alabama's ability to meet their needs.

With the foundation we've built and the partnerships we've forged, I believe the future for rural Alabama has never been brighter. Together, we will continue to create opportunities, attract investment and secure a more prosperous future for every corner of our state.

ELLEN MCNAIR

SECRETARY
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Welcome to the rural Alabama you may not *know*.

In case you missed a few headlines, Alabama's rural communities are surging with economic growth, attracting around \$6 billion in new investment since 2020. They're home to major companies from the U.S. and around the world, as well as skilled artisans, talented creators and ambitious entrepreneurs. These communities are well positioned for more growth and eager to bring in new partners.

\$5.8 Billion — New Capital Investment

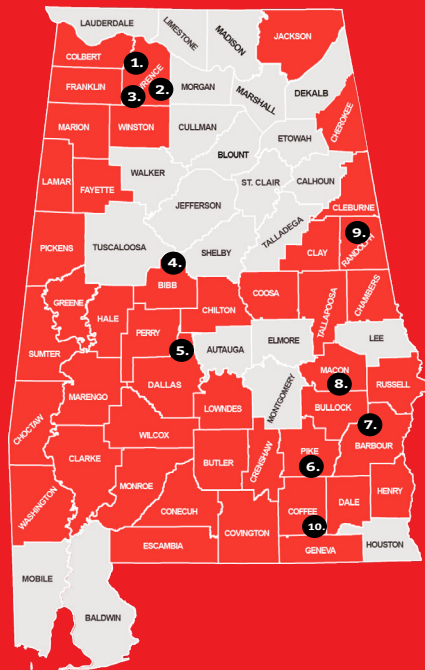
1,500+ — New Job Commitments

\$1.2 Billion+ — Foreign Direct Investment

Timeframe: 2020-2024

Targeted and Jumpstart Counties Map

Alabama's primary incentives platform can provide projects with a tax credit for qualified capital investment expenses and an annual cash rebate for payroll expenses for job creation. Enhanced incentives are possible for projects in 'Targeted' counties.



Made in Rural Alabama, sold worldwide.



Rural Alabama is a fountainhead of unique and high-quality products, made with care and sold in state, regional, national and world markets. Check out this list of some of the great products made in the state's rural regions, as well as exciting activities that are reshaping these areas.

1. First Solar PV panel plant (Trinity)

First Solar Inc. operates a \$1.1 billion solar panel manufacturing facility in Lawrence County, using Alabama-sourced steel, smelted, rolled, and fabricated within a 25-mile radius of the facility.

2. Red Land Cotton (Moulton)

Red Land Cotton, named after the red earth of northern Alabama, sells luxury sheets, blankets, towels and more made from cotton from the founding family's farm.

3. Lockheed Martin 'digital factory' (Courtland)

Lockheed Martin operates an advanced 'digital factory' for the development of hypersonic technologies in Lawrence County.

4. Mercedes Battery plant (Woodstock)

Mercedes-Benz opened its first U.S. battery plant for electric vehicles in Bibb County as it launched EV production in Alabama.

5. Remote Air Traffic Tower Center (Selma)

Dallas County's Craig Field is home to a groundbreaking remote air traffic control tower center that's poised to revolutionize air space management in the U.S.

6. Lockheed Martin missile plant (Troy)

Lockheed Martin builds Javelin and other critical missile systems at its growing Pike County plant.

7. Humminbird's plant (Barbour County)

Humminbird's plant in Barbour County produces marine electronics including fish finders — and anglers are biting, prompting two recent expansions at the facility.

8. Flight Training (Tuskegee)

Republic Airways' LIFT Academy and Tuskegee University are teaming on an advanced flight training program at historic Moton Field that will prepare a new generation of pilots.

9. Victory Game Clocks (Roanoke)

Victory's scoreboards, play clocks, practice timers, shot clocks, scorer's tables and video boards can be seen at professional sports facilities, major universities, high schools and parks and recreation departments nationwide.

10. Enterprise Electronics Co. (Enterprise)

EEC offers a full spectrum of weather radar and satellite data collection and display solutions to customers in the media, government, hydrology, defense and aviation industries.

Key Industries *Driving Growth* in Rural Alabama

Rural Alabama hosts a sweeping array of industries and enterprises that serve as the economic backbone of communities across the state, bringing high-caliber jobs and new investment. Three sectors stand out for their impact: agriculture/food production, forest products and automotive manufacturing.

Agriculture/Food Products

Alabama's agriculture and food products sector is not only a vital part of our state's heritage but also a key driver of the state's economic future — particularly in its rural areas. Since early 2022, over 50 growth projects in the sector have launched in Alabama, paving the way for more than \$2.1 billion in new investment, much of that in rural regions.

8.3 Million
Acres of Farmland

No. 3
Peanut-Producing State

\$19 billion
Annual Poultry
Commodity Sales

\$720 Million
Agriculture/Food
Exports, 2024



Forestry Products

The forestry industry's scope is massive in Alabama, with its total annual economic impact calculated at \$36 billion. The state is home to over 110 manufacturing facilities including sawmills, paper mills and other production sites. The industry's average annual investment in Alabama has been pegged at \$840 million, with almost \$160 million headed to the state's rural regions in 2024 alone.

\$36 Billion
Annual Economic Impact

\$12.5 Billion
Annual Manufactured Goods

124,000+
Industry Jobs

Top 10
Producer of pulp/paper,
lumber and wood panels



Automotive Industry

When textile factories began moving overseas, it meant trouble for much of rural Alabama, which counted on those bread-and-butter jobs. With the spindles and sewing machines gone, rural communities filled the tank with auto industry jobs. Today, auto suppliers from around the globe dot the landscape, often locating in vacant textile plants. These jobs are producing vital parts for best-selling vehicles and adding horsepower to rural Alabama.

\$400 Million
Auto Industry Investment in
rural areas since 2022

1st
Graphite Processing Facility
in U.S.

500+ Auto industry Job
Commitments in rural areas
since 2022

Top 5
Auto-Producing State

A Homegrown Global Business Destination

Rural Alabama is a magnet for foreign direct investment, attracting over \$2.5 billion in FDI since 2015 in projects creating over 5,000 jobs across the state's targeted counties. As a result, companies from South Korea, Canada, Japan and Germany and other countries now have substantial operations in rural Alabama.

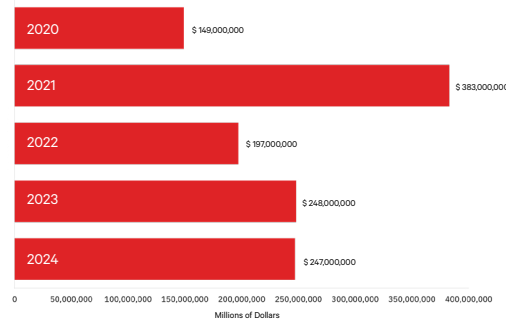
THE STATS

\$1.2 Billion
FDI in Rural Counties

1,347
FDI-Related Job Commitments in Rural Counties

Timeframe: 2020-2024

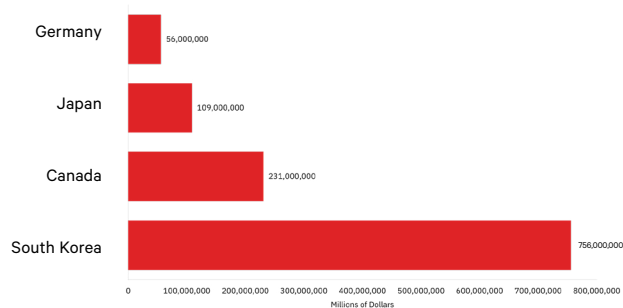
Annual FDI totals for Rural Alabama



Top FDI Sources in Rural Alabama

Companies from South Korea and Canada were the most active foreign investors in rural Alabama during the 2020-2024 period. South Korean companies, all of them in automotive, accounted for 60% of the FDI in rural areas and almost 70% of FDI-related job creation.

Top FDI Sources in Rural Alabama



Plug into Rural Alabama's Advantages

There's a growing statewide emphasis on rural economic growth through initiatives from the Alabama Department of Commerce and its partners throughout the state. Here are factors to consider about investing in rural Alabama.

Competitive Operating Costs

- Attractive cost structures for business
- Low cost of living, high quality of life

Workforce Availability

- Strong pipeline of workers
- Customized workforce training support

Supportive Business Climate

- Pro-business state leadership
- Community support

State and Local Incentives

- Access to targeted tax incentives and grants
- Customized local support packages

Ready-to-Go Sites and Infrastructure

- Industrial parks with infrastructure in place
- Spec buildings and certified sites



A constellation of suppliers in rural Alabama supply parts and components to the production lines at Hyundai's Alabama factory in Montgomery.)

Smart businesses are unlocking their growth *potential* in Rural Alabama



At the Alabama Department of Commerce, we believe that opportunity knows no boundaries — and that includes the boundaries of our cities. Rural Alabama is no longer a hidden gem; it's a rising force in economic development, where companies can thrive with the space to grow, the workforce to scale and the support to succeed.

As Rural Development Manager, I've seen firsthand how rural communities across Alabama are stepping up to meet the needs of modern industry — and I'm confident that these regions offer real, long-term value to growing businesses.

One of the most compelling reasons to invest in rural Alabama is the availability of sites that are ready for immediate development due to programs like Growing Alabama and Site Evaluation and Economic Development Strategy (SEEDS) that is investing heavily in our RurAL counties. We've worked with local communities to eliminate guesswork and minimize risk for companies by ensuring sites are equipped with essential infrastructure, due diligence documentation and community support. That means faster timelines, fewer hurdles and a clear path from site selection to operation.

Beyond land and logistics, rural Alabama offers access to a loyal and trainable workforce that is eager to contribute. Many of our rural regions are home to long-standing manufacturing legacies, where the values of hard work and craftsmanship are part of the culture. We also partner closely with AIDT — Alabama's award-winning workforce development agency — and local community colleges to provide tailored training that prepares workers to meet the specific needs of new and expanding industries.

Lower operational costs are another major advantage. In rural areas, companies benefit from affordable land, reduced construction costs and highly competitive utility rates — all while still enjoying access to the state's vast network of highways, railways and ports. This cost efficiency allows companies to reinvest in innovation, workforce and growth — without compromising on connectivity or quality of life.

And when it comes to support, companies in rural Alabama won't find themselves alone. Our rural communities are deeply invested in economic growth and work hand-in-hand with state and regional partners to make each project a success. From permitting assistance and incentives to long-term collaboration, we pride ourselves on being accessible, responsive and solutions-focused every step of the way.

What's more, locating in rural Alabama can be a strategic differentiator for companies looking to demonstrate community impact and sustainability. Rural projects often serve as anchors for broader revitalization, bringing high-quality jobs and new energy to regions that are ready to embrace opportunity. This creates a powerful story for companies and their employees — one of meaningful growth and shared success.

We're also seeing strong momentum in rural Alabama from key industries such as automotive, aerospace advanced materials, forest products food production and more. These sectors are thriving in regions that offer the right blend of space, talent and strategic location. From international leaders to innovative startups, more companies are realizing that rural Alabama isn't a compromise — it's a competitive advantage!

As we look ahead, rural Alabama will continue to be a cornerstone of the state's economic development strategy. Through infrastructure investments, industrial park enhancements, and programs like the SEEDS grant initiative, we're actively equipping rural regions for even greater success. We're not just preparing for growth — we're building it.

To companies planning their next phase of expansion, I encourage you to take a close look at the opportunity in rural Alabama. What you'll find is a business environment that's cost-effective, workforce-ready, and committed to your success. Whether you're breaking ground or building momentum, rural Alabama has everything you need — and so much more!

BRENDA TUCK

RURAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

RURAL
MADE IN ALABAMA

2024 Rural Overview

By The Numbers

RURAL NEW & EXPANDING INDUSTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS



\$1.2 B

NEW CAPITAL INVESTMENT

1,661

NEW JOBS

Top Rural Counties

TOP COUNTIES FOR NEW INVESTMENT

County	Investment
Escambia	\$355,000,000
Chambers	\$133,805,824
Cleburne	\$130,000,000
Coosa	\$115,000,000
Dallas	\$83,038,378
Colbert	\$81,786,000

Escambia

\$355 M

NEW INVESTMENT

Lawrence

TOP COUNTIES FOR JOBS

County	Jobs
Lawrence	244
Chambers	155
Cleburne	135
Coosa	130
Clarke	114
Covington	110

244

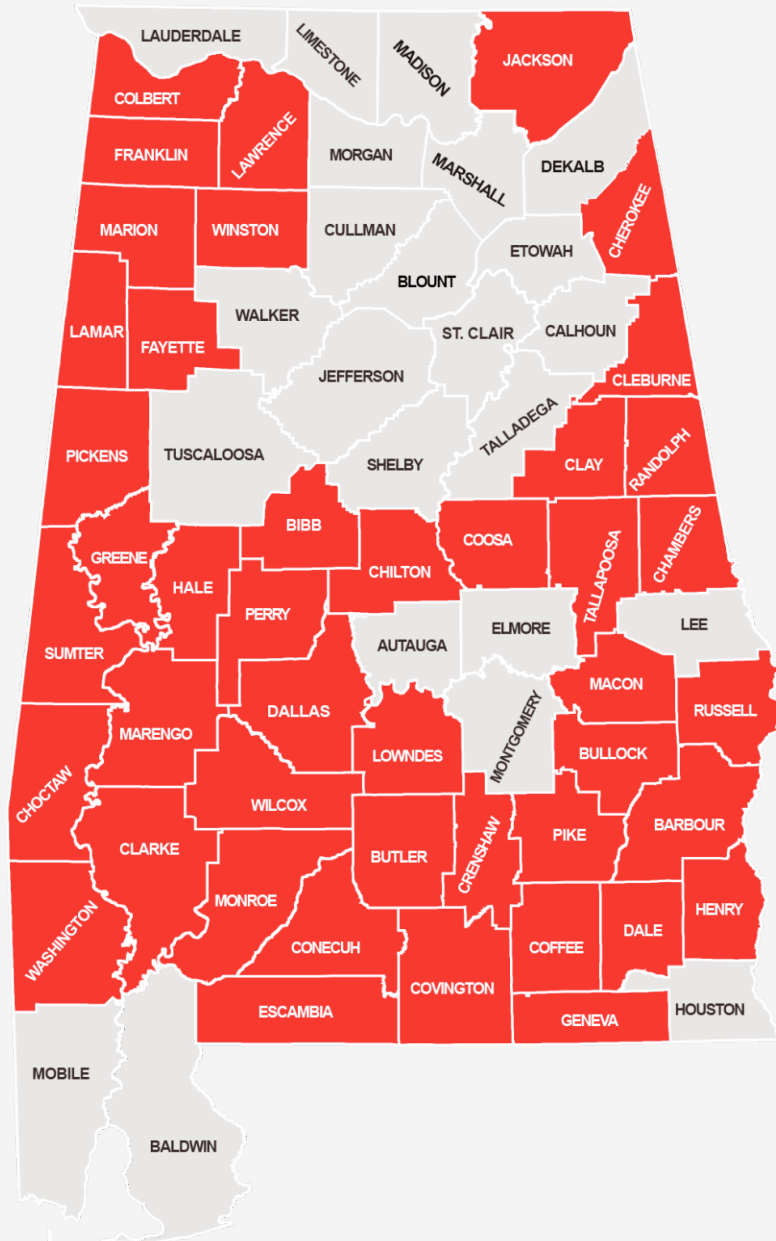
NEW JOBS

Overview

By The Numbers

RURAL NEW & EXPANDING INDUSTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Targeted Rural Counties



County Overview

County Breakdown

RURAL NEW & EXPANDING INDUSTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COUNTY	NEW			EXPANDING			TOTAL		
County	Projects	Jobs	Investment	Projects	Jobs	Investment	Projects	Jobs	Investment
Blount	1	80	\$2,970,000	1	14	\$3,950,000	2	94	\$6,920,000
Bullock	2	20	\$800,000				2	20	\$800,000
Butler	1	76	\$4,000,000	1	26	\$14,716,962	2	102	\$18,716,962
Chambers	1	35	\$2,155,000	4	120	\$131,650,824	5	155	\$133,805,824
Chilton	1	13	\$3,978,373				1	13	\$3,978,373
Clarke				3	114	\$30,847,832	3	114	\$30,847,832
Clay				3	10	\$11,090,000	3	10	\$11,090,000
Cleburne				1	135	\$130,000,000	1	135	\$130,000,000
Colbert				2	98	\$81,786,000	2	98	\$81,786,000
Coosa				1	130	\$115,000,000	1	130	\$115,000,000
Covington				1	110	\$57,750,000	1	110	\$57,750,000
Dale	1	10	\$1,800,000	2	27	\$18,239,000	3	37	\$20,039,000
Dallas	1	4	\$83,038,378				1	4	\$83,038,378
Escambia	3	33	\$355,000,000				3	33	\$355,000,000
Franklin				2	55	\$4,917,500	2	55	\$4,917,500
Henry				4	5	\$8,906,000	4	5	\$8,906,000
Jackson				3	4	\$17,412,687	3	4	\$17,412,687
Lamar				2	23	\$6,275,000	2	23	\$6,275,000
Lawrence				1	244	\$0	1	244	\$0
Macon	2	72	\$37,000,000	1	5	\$7,000,000	3	77	\$44,000,000
Marengo				1	3	\$500,000	1	3	\$500,000
Marion				1	13	\$2,057,000	1	13	\$2,057,000
Monroe	1	15	\$1,500,000	3	43	\$9,598,000	4	58	\$11,098,000
Randolph	1	55	\$5,000,000	1	5	\$700,000	2	60	\$5,700,000
Russell				1	24	\$2,040,000	1	24	\$2,040,000
Sumter				2	30	\$5,494,945	2	30	\$5,494,945
Washington				1	10	\$2,341,000	1	10	\$2,341,000
	15	413	\$497,241,751	42	1,248	\$662,272,750	57	1,661	\$1,159,514,501

Counties in Depth

County Summary

RURAL NEW & EXPANDING INDUSTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

New/Expanding	Company	City	NAICS	Business Activity	Jobs	Capital Investment
BLOUNT						
New	Birmingham and Associates	Hayden	332312	Manufactures Fabricated Structural Metal	80	\$2,970,000
Expansion	Hydra Service Inc.	Unincorporated	332710	Machine Shop	14	\$3,950,000
TOTALS FOR BLOUNT (2 PROJECTS)					94	\$6,920,000
BULLOCK						
New	Fiblast	Union Springs	326199	Manufactures Fiberglass Production	14	\$500,000
New	Rich Nuts	Fitzpatrick	311911	Organic Sprouted Nuts	6	\$300,000
TOTALS FOR BULLOCK (2 PROJECTS)					20	\$800,000
BUTLER						
New	Pigeon Creek Manufacturing	Greenville	332992	Manufactures Ammunition	76	\$4,000,000
Expansion	Connector Manufacturing Co./ Hubbell Power Systems	Greenville	335931	Machined Electrical Connectors	26	\$14,716,962
TOTALS FOR BUTLER (2 PROJECTS)					102	\$18,716,962
CHAMBERS						
New	Haywood Forest Products Inc.	LaFayette	321110	Sawmill	35	\$2,155,000
Expansion	Chambers Troup Group	Valley	336390	Manufactures Other Motor Vehicle Parts	80	\$14,580,000
Expansion	JOON LLC (AJIN USA)	Cusseta	336370	Automotive Stamping	20	\$62,938,599
Expansion	JOON LLC (AJIN USA)	Cusseta	336370	Automotive Stamping	20	\$30,416,352
Expansion	WestRock	Lanett	322212	Paper Packaging	0	\$23,715,873
TOTALS FOR CHAMBERS (5 PROJECTS)					155	\$133,805,824
CHILTON						
New	Alabama Mineral Springs	Jemison	312112	Natural Mineral Springs Bottled Water	13	\$3,978,373
TOTALS FOR CHILTON (1 PROJECT)					13	\$3,978,373

Counties in Depth

County Summary

RURAL NEW & EXPANDING INDUSTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

New/Expanding	Company	City	NAICS	Business Activity	Jobs	Capital Investment
CLARKE						
Expansion	Canfor Southern Pine Inc.	Fulton	321113	Sawmill	64	\$19,266,832
Expansion	Clark Gas Company Propane Cylinder Exchange	Thomasville	221210	Propane Cylinder Service and Distribution	40	\$10,200,000
Expansion	South Alabama Machine LLC	Thomasville	332710	Manufactures Specialty Parts for Mills	10	\$1,381,000
TOTALS FOR CLARKE (3 PROJECTS)					114	\$30,847,832
CLAY						
Expansion	Integrity Cabinets	Lineville	337110	Manufactures Cabinet	0	\$825,000
Expansion	Wellborn Cabinet	Ashland	337110	Manufactures Cabinet	2	\$8,665,000
Expansion	Williams Fire Apparatus	Ashland	336120	Manufactures Heavy Duty Trucks (fire trucks)	8	\$1,600,000
TOTALS FOR CLAY (3 PROJECTS)					10	\$11,090,000
CLEBURNE						
Expansion	Southwire Co.	Heflin	423510	Manufactures Wire, Cables, Tools, Components and Assembled Solutions	135	\$130,000,000
TOTALS FOR CLEBURNE (1 PROJECT)					135	\$130,000,000
COOSA						
Expansion	Two Rivers Lumber Co. LLC	Kellyton	321113	Sawmill	130	\$115,000,000
TOTALS FOR COOSA (1 PROJECT)					130	\$115,000,000
COVINGTON						
Expansion	Conecuh Sausage	Andalusia	311612	Meat Processing	110	\$57,750,000
TOTALS FOR COVINGTON (1 PROJECT)					110	\$57,750,000

Counties in Depth

County Summary

RURAL NEW & EXPANDING INDUSTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

New/Expanding	Company	City	NAICS	Business Activity	Jobs	Capital Investment
DALE						
New	SetaTech USA Inc.	Ozark	325311	Manufactures Nitrogenous Fertilizer	10	\$1,800,000
Expansion	Averitt Express Inc.	Midland City	493110	Trucking, Warehousing and Distribution	20	\$16,239,000
Expansion	Motobilt	Ozark	441330	Automotive Parts and Accessories Retailers	7	\$2,000,000
TOTALS FOR DALE (3 PROJECTS)					37	\$20,039,000
DALLAS						
New	Alabama Creek Solar LLC	Unincorporated	221114	Solar Power Generation	4	\$83,038,378
TOTALS FOR DALLAS (1 PROJECT)					4	\$83,038,378
ESCAMBIA						
New	Creamer Dozer Service	Brewton	238910	Site Preparation Contractors	0	\$2,000,000
New	Pine Gate Renewables	Canoe	221114	Solar Electric Power Generation	3	\$350,000,000
New	SteraTek	Atmore	315990	Apparel Accessories and Other Apparel Manufacturing	30	\$3,000,000
TOTALS FOR ESCAMBIA (3 PROJECTS)					33	\$355,000,000
FRANKLIN						
Expansion	Innovative Hearth Products	Russellville	333414	Design and Manufactures Gas Burning Fireplaces, Wood Burning Stoves, and Inserts	25	\$2,217,500
Expansion	Leisure Creations	Russellville	337126	Metal Fabrication, Metal Furniture	30	\$2,700,000
TOTALS FOR FRANKLIN (2 PROJECTS)					55	\$4,917,500

Counties in Depth

County Summary

RURAL NEW & EXPANDING INDUSTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

New/Expanding	Company	City	NAICS	Business Activity	Jobs	Capital Investment
HENRY						
Expansion	Abbeville Fiber	Abbeville	32113	Sawmill	5	\$5,506,000
Expansion	Greenbush Wood Products	Abbeville	321999	Manufactures Wood Products	0	\$2,300,000
Expansion	Headland Wood Products	Headland	321999	Manufactures All Other Miscellaneous Wood Products	0	\$500,000
Expansion	Red Star Yeast	Newville	311999	Manufactures All Other Miscellaneous Foods	0	\$600,000
TOTALS FOR HENRY (4 PROJECTS)					5	\$8,906,000
JACKSON						
Expansion	Engineered Floors	Bridgeport	314110	Carpet and Rug Mills	0	\$9,165,000
Expansion	US Gypsum Co.	Bridgeport	327420	Manufactures Gypsum Products	0	\$6,244,687
Expansion	Wenzel Metal Spinning, Inc.	Scottsboro	332439	Manufactures Metal Containers	4	\$2,003,000
TOTALS FOR JACKSON (3 PROJECTS)					4	\$17,412,687
LAMAR						
Expansion	Bolzoni-Auramo	Sulligent	333	Manufactures Forklift Parts	0	\$2,300,000
Expansion	McGee Buildings	Vernon	321991	Manufactures Manufactured Homes (Mobile Homes)	23	\$3,975,000
TOTALS FOR LAMAR (2 PROJECTS)					23	\$6,275,000
LAWRENCE						
Expansion	Lockheed Martin	Courtland	336415	Manufactures Aerospace Product and Parts	244	\$0
TOTALS FOR LAWRENCE (1 PROJECT)					244	\$0
MACON						
New	Republic Airlines (LIFT)	Tuskegee	611512	Flight Training	35	\$27,000,000
New	Shinsung NVH USA Inc.	Shorter	3363	Manufactures Motor Vehicle Parts	37	\$10,000,000
Expansion	Samkee America Inc.	Tuskegee	3363	Manufactures Motor Vehicle Parts	5	\$7,000,000
TOTALS FOR MACON (3 PROJECTS)					77	\$44,000,000

Counties in Depth

County Summary

RURAL NEW & EXPANDING INDUSTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

New/Expanding	Company	City	NAICS	Business Activity	Jobs	Capital Investment
MARENGO						
Expansion	Superior Inland Terminal	Demopolis	484220	Specialized Freight (except used goods) Trucking, Local	3	\$500,000
TOTALS FOR MARENGO (1 PROJECT)					3	\$500,000
MARION						
Expansion	Integrated Solutions for Systems	Unincorporated	541715	Research and Development in the Physical, Engineering, and Life Sciences	13	\$2,057,000
TOTALS FOR MARION (1 PROJECT)					13	\$2,057,000
MONROE						
New	Farm Fresh Cattle	Monroeville	3116	Animal Slaughtering and Processing	15	\$1,500,000
Expansion	Lan SE LLC	Monroeville	327390	Manufactures Precast Construction Panels for Shipping	25	\$3,798,000
Expansion	Owens Lumber Co.	Old Texas	321113	Pole Mill	14	\$2,700,000
Expansion	Sterling Packaging Co.	Monroeville	322212	Manufactures Folding Paperboard Box	4	\$3,100,000
TOTALS FOR MONROE (4 PROJECTS)					58	\$11,098,000
RANDOLPH						
New	Airco Inc.	Wadley	337125	Steel Fab Patio Furniture	55	\$5,000,000
Expansion	Dickert's Forest Products LLC	Wadley	321113	Sawmill	5	\$700,000
TOTALS FOR RANDOLPH (2 PROJECTS)					60	\$5,700,000
RUSSELL						
Expansion	Alatrade Foods	Phenix City	311612	Poultry Processing	24	\$2,040,000
TOTALS FOR RUSSELL (1 PROJECT)					24	\$2,040,000
SUMTER						
Expansion	Prystup Packaging Products	Livingston	322212	Manufactures Folding Paperboard Box	10	\$3,494,945
Expansion	Southwest Paper/S3 Holdings LLC	Livingston	322219	Manufactures Other Paperboard Container	20	\$2,000,000
TOTALS FOR SUMTER (2 PROJECTS)					30	\$5,494,945
WASHINGTON						
Expansion	BASF Corp.- McIntosh	McIntosh	541715	Research and Development	10	\$2,341,000
TOTALS FOR WASHINGTON (1 PROJECT)					10	\$2,341,000

Republic Airways' LIFT Academy is teaming with Tuskegee University and the City of Tuskegee to base a flight training center at storied Moton Field, where the Tuskegee Airmen received flight training. (Image: Governor's Office/Hal Yeager)



RURAL
MADE IN ALABAMA

Industries in Depth

Sector Breakdown

RURAL NEW & EXPANDING INDUSTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

New/Expanding	Company	City	County	NAICS	Business Activity	Jobs	Capital Investment
AEROSPACE & AVIATION							
New	Republic Airlines (LIFT)	Tuskegee	Macon	611512	Flight Training	35	\$27,000,000
Expansion	Lockheed Martin	Courtland	Lawrence	336415	Manufactures Aerospace Product and Parts	244	\$0
TOTALS (2 PROJECTS)						279	\$27,000,000
AGRICULTURAL & FOOD PRODUCTION							
New	Alabama Mineral Springs	Jemison	Chilton	312112	Natural Mineral Springs Bottled Water	13	\$3,978,373
New	Farm Fresh Cattle	Monroeville	Monroe	3116	Animal Slaughtering and Processing	15	\$1,500,000
New	Rich Nuts	Fitzpatrick	Bullock	311911	Organic Sprouted Nuts	6	\$300,000
Expansion	Alatrade Foods	Phenix City	Russell	311612	Poultry Processing	24	\$2,040,000
Expansion	Conecuh Sausage	Andalusia	Covington	311612	Meat Processed from Carcasses	110	\$57,750,000
Expansion	Red Star Yeast	Newville	Henry	311999	Manufactures All Other Miscellaneous Foods	0	\$600,000
TOTALS (6 PROJECTS)						168	\$66,168,373
AUTOMOTIVE							
New	Shinsung NVH USA Inc.	Shorter	Macon	3363	Manufactures Motor Vehicle Parts	37	\$10,000,000
Expansion	Chambers Troup Group	Valley	Chambers	336390	Manufactures Other Motor Vehicle Parts	80	\$14,580,000
Expansion	JOON LLC (AJIN USA)	Cusseta	Chambers	336370	Automotive Stamping	20	\$62,938,599
Expansion	JOON LLC (AJIN USA)	Cusseta	Chambers	336370	Automotive Stamping	20	\$30,416,352
Expansion	Motobilt	Ozark	Dale	441330	Automotive Parts and Accessories Retailers	7	\$2,000,000
Expansion	Samkee America Inc.	Tuskegee	Macon	3363	Manufactures Motor Vehicle Parts	5	\$7,000,000
Expansion	Williams Fire Apparatus	Ashland	Clay	336120	Manufactures Heavy Duty Trucks (fire trucks)	8	\$1,600,000
TOTALS (7 PROJECTS)						177	\$128,534,951
CHEMICALS							
New	SetaTech USA Inc.	Ozark	Dale	325311	Manufactures Nitrogenous Fertilizer	10	\$1,800,000
Expansion	BASF Corp.- McIntosh	McIntosh	Washington	541715	Research and Development	10	\$2,341,000
TOTALS (2 PROJECTS)						20	\$4,141,000

Industries in Depth

Sector Breakdown

RURAL NEW & EXPANDING INDUSTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS


New/Expanding	Company	City	County	NAICS	Business Activity	Jobs	Capital Investment
DISTRIBUTION / LOGISTICS / WAREHOUSE							
Expansion	Averitt Express Inc.	Midland City	Dale	493110	Trucking Warehousing and Distribution	20	\$16,239,000
Expansion	Clark Gas Company Propane Cylinder Exchange	Thomasville	Clarke	221210	Propane Cylinder Service and Distribution	40	\$10,200,000
Expansion	Superior Inland Terminal	Demopolis	Marengo	484220	Specialized Freight (except used goods) Trucking Local	3	\$500,000
TOTALS (3 PROJECTS)						63	\$26,939,000
FORESTRY PRODUCTS							
New	Haywood Forest Products Inc.	LaFayette	Chambers	321110	Sawmill	35	\$2,155,000
Expansion	Abbeville Fiber	Abbeville	Henry	32113	Sawmill	5	\$5,506,000
Expansion	Canfor Southern Pine Inc.	Fulton	Clarke	321113	Sawmill	64	\$19,266,832
Expansion	Dickert's Forest Products LLC	Wadley	Randolph	321113	Sawmill	5	\$700,000
Expansion	Greenbush Wood Products	Abbeville	Henry	321999	Manufactures Wood Products	0	\$2,300,000
Expansion	Headland Wood Products	Headland	Henry	321999	Manufactures All Other Miscellaneous Wood Products	0	\$500,000
Expansion	Integrity Cabinets	Lineville	Clay	337110	Manufactures Cabinet	0	\$825,000
Expansion	Owens Lumber Co.	Old Texas	Monroe	321113	Pole Mill	14	\$2,700,000
Expansion	Southwest Paper/S3 Holdings LLC	Livingston	Sumter	322219	Manufactures Other Paperboard Containers	20	\$2,000,000
Expansion	Two Rivers Lumber Company LLC	Kellyton	Coosa	321113	Sawmill	130	\$115,000,000
Expansion	Wellborn Cabinet	Ashland	Clay	337110	Manufactures Cabinets	2	\$8,665,000
TOTALS (11 PROJECTS)						275	\$151,811,832
METAL & ADVANCED MATERIALS							
Expansion	Leisure Creations	Russellville	Franklin	337126	Metal Fabrication Metal Furniture	30	\$2,700,000
Expansion	South Alabama Machine LLC	Thomasville	Clarke	332710	Manufactures Specialty Parts for Mills	10	\$1,381,000
Expansion	Wenzel Metal Spinning Inc.	Scottsboro	Jackson	332439	Manufactures Metal Containers	4	\$2,003,000
TOTALS (3 PROJECTS)						44	\$6,084,000

Industries in Depth

Sector Breakdown

RURAL NEW & EXPANDING INDUSTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

New/Expanding	Company	City	County	NAICS	Business Activity	Jobs	Capital Investment
OTHER							
New	Airco Inc.	Wadley	Randolph	337125	Steel Fab Patio Furniture	55	\$5,000,000
New	Alabama Creek Solar LLC	Unincorporated	Dallas	221114	Solar Power Generation	4	\$83,038,378
New	Creamer Dozer Service	Brewton	Escambia	238910	Site Preparation Contractors	0	\$2,000,000
New	Fiblast	Union Springs	Bullock	326199	Manufactures Fiberglass Production	14	\$500,000
New	Pigeon Creek Manufacturing	Greenville	Butler	332992	Manufactures Ammunition	76	\$4,000,000
New	Pine Gate Renewables	Canoe	Escambia	221114	Solar Electric Power Generation	3	\$350,000,000
New	SteraTek	Atmore	Escambia	315990	Manufactures Apparel Accessories and Other Apparels	30	\$3,000,000
Expansion	Bolzoni-Auramo	Sulligent	Lamar	333	Manufactures Forklift Parts	0	\$2,300,000
Expansion	Connector Manufacturing Co./ Hubbell Power Systems	Greenville	Butler	335931	Machined Electrical Connectors	26	\$14,716,962
Expansion	Doncasters	Oxford	Calhoun	332911	Manufactures Valve	0	\$1,350,000
Expansion	Douglas Manufacturing Co. Inc.	Pell City	St. Clair	333922	Manufactures Conveyor and Conveying Equipment	50	\$11,678,500
Expansion	Engineered Floors	Bridgeport	Jackson	314110	Carpet and Rug Mills	0	\$9,165,000
Expansion	Innovative Hearth Products	Russellville	Franklin	333414	Design and Manufactures Gas Burning Fireplaces Wood Burning Stoves and Inserts	25	\$2,217,500
Expansion	Lan SE LLC	Monroeville	Monroe	327390	Manufactures Precast Construction Panels for Shipping	25	\$3,798,000
Expansion	McGee Buildings	Vernon	Lamar	321991	Manufactures Manufactured Homes (Mobile Home)	23	\$3,975,000
Expansion	Prystup Packaging Products	Livingston	Sumter	322212	Folding Paperboard Box Manufacturing	10	\$3,494,945
Expansion	Southwire Co.	Heflin	Cleburne	423510	Manufactures Wire Cables Tools Components and Assembled Solutions	135	\$130,000,000
Expansion	Sterling Packaging Co.	Monroeville	Monroe	322212	Manufactures Folding Paperboard Box	4	\$3,100,000
Expansion	US Gypsum Co.	Bridgeport	Jackson	327420	Manufactures Gypsum Products	0	\$6,244,687
Expansion	WestRock	Lanett	Chambers	322212	Paper Packaging	0	\$23,715,873
TOTALS (20 PROJECTS)						480	\$663,294,845

A large industrial sawmill structure with a red overlay containing text. The structure is made of metal beams and has a sign that says "DESIGN" on it. In the background, there are stacks of logs and a forest. The red overlay is a semi-transparent rectangle with a white border, containing white text.

In April 2024, Two Rivers Lumber Co. LLC announced plans to invest \$115 million to build a state-of-the-art sawmill in Coosa County, creating 130 jobs.

RURAL
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Foreign Direct Investment Breakdown

2024 RURAL Report

MadeinRuralAlabama.com

RURAL

MADE IN ALABAMA

Overview

By The Numbers

RURAL NEW & EXPANDING INDUSTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Foreign Direct Investment

2024 TOP COUNTRIES FOR INVESTMENT			
COUNTRY	PROJECTS	INVESTMENT	JOB
South Korea	5	\$124,934,951	162
Canada	1	\$19,266,832	64
Germany	1	\$2,341,000	10
Italy	1	\$2,300,000	0
Total	8	\$148842,783	236

Foreign Investment



\$148

MILLION

236

JOB

Top Country for New Investment



\$125

MILLION

162

JOB

South Korea

Countries in Depth

Country Summary

RURAL NEW & EXPANDING INDUSTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

New/Expanding	Company	City	County	NAICS	Business Activity	Jobs	Capital Investment
CANADA							
Expansion	Canfor Southern Pine Inc.	Fulton	Clarke	321113	Sawmill	64	\$19,266,832
TOTALS (1 PROJECT)						64	\$19,266,832
GERMANY							
Expansion	BASF Corp. - McIntosh	McIntosh	Washington	541715	Research and Development	10	\$2,341,000
TOTALS (1 PROJECTS)						10	\$2,341,000
ITALY							
Expansion	Bolzoni-Auramo	Sulligent	Lamar	333	Manufactures Forklift Parts	0	\$2,300,000
TOTALS (1 PROJECT)						0	\$2,300,000
SOUTH KOREA							
New	Shinsung NVH USA Inc.	Shorter	Macon	3363	Manufactures Motor Vehicle Parts	37	\$10,000,000
Expansion	Chambers Troup Group	Valley	Chambers	336390	Manufactures Other Motor Vehicle Parts	80	\$14,580,000
Expansion	JOON LLC (AJIN USA)	Cusseta	Chambers	336370	Automotive Stamping	20	\$62,938,599
Expansion	JOON LLC (AJIN USA)	Cusseta	Chambers	336370	Automotive Stamping	20	\$30,416,352
Expansion	Samkee America Inc.	Tuskegee	Macon	3363	Manufactures Motor Vehicle Parts	5	\$7,000,000
TOTALS (15 PROJECTS)						162	\$124,934,951
TOTAL (18 PROJECTS)						236	\$148,000,003



Governor Kay Ivey and Commerce Secretary Ellen McNair joined Brenda Tuck, Commerce's Rural Development Manager, far left, at the 2024 RurAL Summit. (Image: Governor's Office/Hal Yeager)

RURAL
MADE IN ALABAMA

2024 RurAL Accomplishments

BRENDA TUCK

RURAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

We issued a bold challenge in the fall of 2024: Deliver the 212th degree in 2025 — the degree that transforms boiling water into steam; the difference between cooking pasta and powering a locomotive. We asked this of both our economic developers and ourselves. The results have been extraordinary, producing our strongest and most productive year to date.

6th Annual Commerce RurAL Summit

Held November 3–6, 2025, the Summit spanned three locations and featured:

- Two leadership development speakers from two countries.
- A comprehensive rural counties report.
- Presentations from project managers and all Commerce departments.
- Engagement with our new workforce leadership, the college system, AIDT and others.

Highlights:

- **Community Development Showcase:** We were on-site at 17 Springs, spotlighting outdoor recreation, tourism, retail and commercial growth.
- **Workforce Development Excellence:** We transitioned to Marbury High School, showcasing one of the most innovative workforce programs in the state.
- **Record Growth:** With 28 sponsors, resource providers and agency partners, our attendance approached 200 — our largest crowd yet.
- **Strategic Outlook:** Secretary McNair, McKenzie Consultants and RurAL Development Manager Brenda Tuck unveiled the 2025 review and strategy for 2026.

Strengthening the RurAL Office

- Introduced Carter Thomas as RurAL Project Manager.
- Partnered with AIDT to bring in experts Shemedia Johnson, Director of Federal Programs, and Angela Cummings, grant writer.
- Expanded support across all facets of community and economic development in RurAL counties.

Advancing Strategic Planning

- Our plan built upon the Catalyst Plan, launched in 2024, ensuring every county had a voice in shaping priorities.
- Continued consultant collaboration in 2025 to refine the RurAL strategy.

- Updated the mission statement.
 - » *Our mission is to Provide economic development capacity, connections, and expertise to enable rural counties to compete for development projects and create a better life for all Alabamians.*

Collaboration & Resource Expansion

- **One RurAL:** Established a formal working group of partners and agencies. The first meeting in 2025 produced immediate results, including two new resource calls focused on grant opportunities.
- **Team RurAL:** Began categorizing partners and agencies by industry sector and subcategory to streamline access for developers. Completion is expected in 2026, with resources available on the RurAL website.
- **Weekly Webinars:** Delivered 150 RurAL Resource Webinars to date, providing unprecedented access to training and information.

Education & Training

- Two developers completed the intensive Site Analysis Identification and Development (Site AID) trainings.
- One developer completed the eight-week Simulated Training and Readiness (STAR) program.
- Incorporated the initial STAR/Site AID training into the RurAL Summit for the easiest accessibility. Three counties with new developers participated, one is expanding his knowledge of STAR and we have two additional counties scheduled join this STAR Cohort. All will complete this training and education program in the spring of 2026.

Site Development & Grants

- In 2025, 15 RurAL Communities were awarded SEEDS grants for site development. RurAL communities received \$6.8 million in total from the SEEDS grant program in 2025.
- RurAL communities made up over half of the SEEDS applicants in the Fall 2024 application cycle.
- Again, in the Fall 2025 application cycle, over 50% of SEEDS applicants were in RurAL communities.
- Growing Alabama tax credits were awarded to seven RurAL communities in 2025, amounting to \$7.1 million.
- Between Growing Alabama and SEEDS, RurAL communities were awarded nearly \$15 million, representing a sizeable investment in site development in Alabama.

Data & Reporting

- Enhanced delivery of county-level business history spanning two decades, including expansions, closures and WARN notices.
- Implemented a plan to make these reports accessible year-round via the RurAL website.

Business Retention & Expansion (BRE)

- Rolled out a statewide BRE survey in 2025 to monitor and support ongoing programs.
- According to our 2025 survey, we currently have 26 counties that have recognized BRE programs. We will continue to work with 18 counties in 2026 to identify and formalize BRE programming.

Partnerships & Community Development

- Strengthened partnerships through continued MOUs with SBA and SBDC.
- Expanded collaboration with Innovate Alabama, Communities Unlimited, Mainstreet, ACE, Extension, Opportunity Alabama and others.
- Expanded our collaborations with AIDT and EDPA.
- Added new alignments with Auburn University's Rural Partnership Institute and the Alabama Resiliency Commission.

Looking Ahead

- Partnered with Lori Vincent of the national Acceleration by Design Stand Up Rural America Conference.
- For the first time, Alabama will host the Stand Up Rural America Southeast Regional Conference in April 2026.
- We're also collaborating with regional partners to provide the platform for the Southern Economic RurAL Alliance (SERA) which has been in development for over a year.
- This will bring together State level RurAL Managers and Directors to collaborate and share best practices to further develop RURAL across the Southeastern United States.

2025 was a year of transformation. By embracing the 212th degree challenge, we elevated our efforts, strengthened partnerships, expanded resources and set new records. With momentum building, we are positioned to make 2026 an even greater year for Alabama's rural communities.