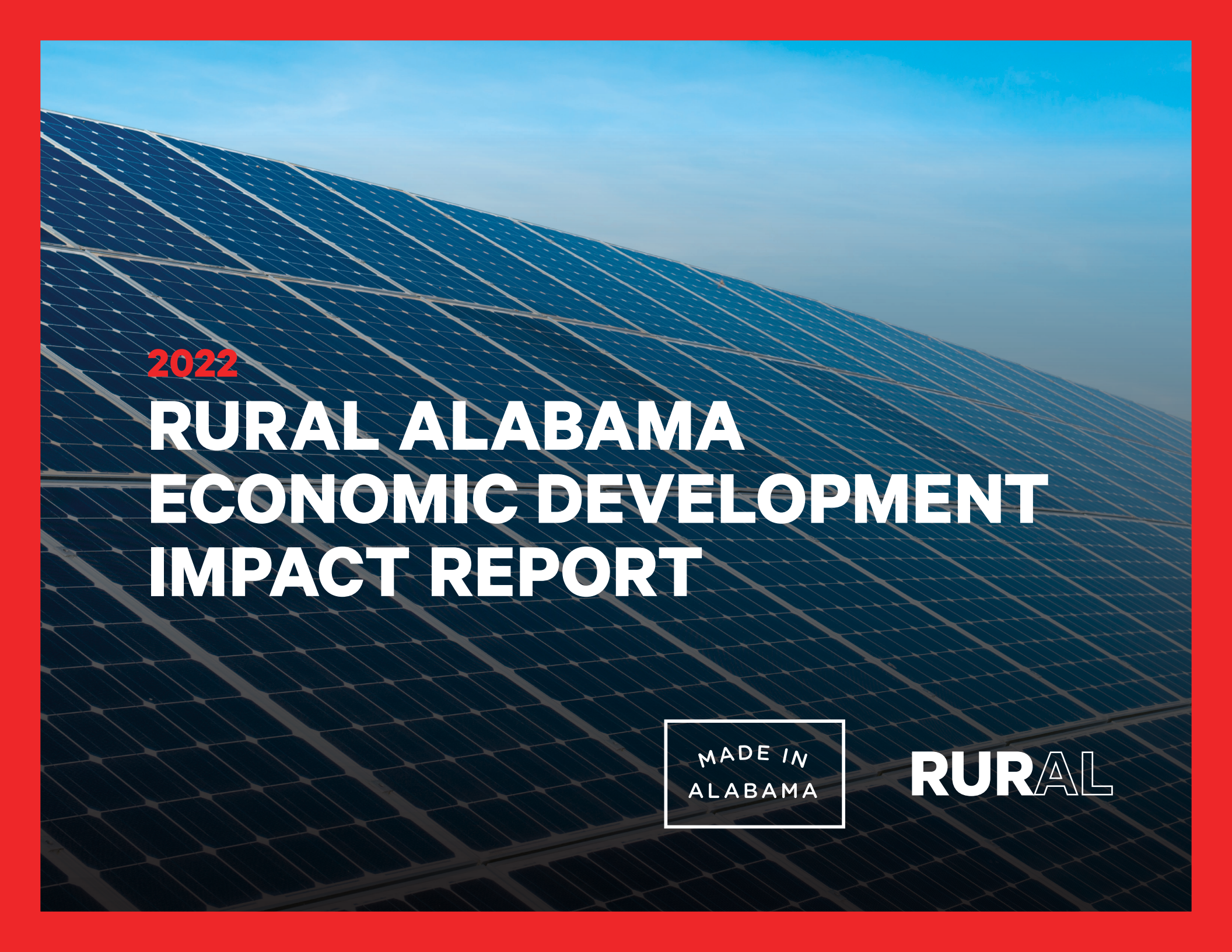




2022

RURAL ALABAMA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IMPACT REPORT

MADE IN
ALABAMA

RURAL

2022

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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MADE IN
ALABAMA

RURAL

GROWTH PROJECTS INJECT ECONOMIC VITALITY INTO RURAL ALABAMA



Having grown up in Wilcox County, I received an introduction at an early age into how hard work is a core value for folks living in rural Alabama. This quality is one of the chief reasons the state's rural communities are a great place for doing business — a fact that companies from around the globe are increasingly discovering.

Right now, there are several high-impact growth projects under way across rural Alabama, bringing in significant new investment and triggering the creation of thousands of jobs, while also providing a healthy dose of economic vitality that will be felt for years in communities.

These positive effects are captured in the 2022 Rural Economic Development Impact Report, compiled by the Alabama Department of Commerce. This detailed report shows that Alabama's rural counties attracted growth projects involving almost \$1.8 billion in new capital investment and 1,900 new jobs last year.

This is wonderful news for rural communities including Courtland, Selma, Ozark, Fayette and Geneva, among others. And this growth is great news for the entire state of Alabama.

These results reflect my determination to expand opportunities everywhere across Alabama. In particular, my administration is fully committed to helping overcome hurdles to spark long-lasting economic growth in the state's rural communities.

Yes, there is much work left to be done, but we believe we are making progress in this important endeavor.

Kay Ivey
Governor of Alabama



GROWING COMPANIES SELECT RURAL ALABAMA FOR \$1.8 BILLION IN NEW INVESTMENT



Greg Canfield serves as Secretary of the Alabama Department of Commerce.

A few years ago, we launched a new initiative to elevate our efforts to bring jobs and new investment to Alabama's rural communities through strategic economic development. I'm happy to report that since 2020, rural Alabama has been the destination for growth projects involving \$4 billion in investment and 5,500 anticipated jobs.

As outlined in our 2022 Rural Economic Development Impact Report, last year delivered robust results for Alabama's 40 "targeted" counties, which have fewer than 50,000 residents. Altogether, there were 43 growth projects in these counties, bringing almost \$1.8 billion in investment, along with 1,900 jobs.

Bottom line, the Report's results demonstrate that growing companies are increasingly considering rural Alabama for their plans because these areas offer plenty of advantages, including motivated workforces, training programs, a low-cost environment and much more.

The results also reflect the Alabama Department of Commerce's rock-solid commitment to sparking economic growth in the state's rural communities and creating meaningful opportunities for the hard-working citizens who live there. I want to thank Brenda Tuck, Commerce's Rural Development Manager, and her team for their unrelenting efforts to better position the state's rural areas for growth projects.

Working with our allies across the state, we made significant progress last year toward our goal of fully unlocking the growth potential of rural Alabama.

Consider some of the highlights:

- Arizona-based First Solar Inc., the largest U.S.-based manufacturer of solar panels, announced plans for a \$1.1 billion factory with 700 workers in Lawrence County, the largest project to land in a rural county in recent years.
- Georgia-based Advanced ACT announced plans for a remote air traffic control tower center in Selma that is poised to revolutionize air space management in the U.S. through its technology to serve multiple airports from one location.
- Pennsylvania-based Ecore International, which transforms reclaimed materials into high-performance flooring products, is investing \$25.5 million to open a state-of-the-art manufacturing and recycling facility in Ozark, where it will create 84 jobs.

We're confident that the momentum we've achieved will continue to reap benefits for Alabama's rural areas throughout 2023 and beyond. The state's rural communities are ripe for growth, and we will continue to work to ensure they are able to compete for — and win — high-impact growth projects that make a real difference.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Canfield".

Greg Canfield

Secretary, Alabama Department of Commerce

OVERVIEW

BY THE NUMBERS

2022 RURAL ANNUAL REPORT

TARGETED RURAL COUNTIES

TOP 2022 RURAL COUNTIES - JOBS		TOP 2022 RURAL COUNTIES - INVESTMENT	
COUNTY	JOBS	COUNTY	INVESTMENT
Lawrence	717	Lawrence	\$1,146,841,350
Geneva	180	Crenshaw	\$132,586,759
Dallas	179	Dale	\$121,500,000
Chambers	146	Geneva	\$103,508,164
Butler	104	Chambers	\$100,553,156
Dale	89	Washington	\$90,000,000

1,900

**NEW AND
FUTURE JOBS
CREATED**

\$1.8

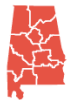
BILLION

**NEW CAPITAL
INVESTMENT**

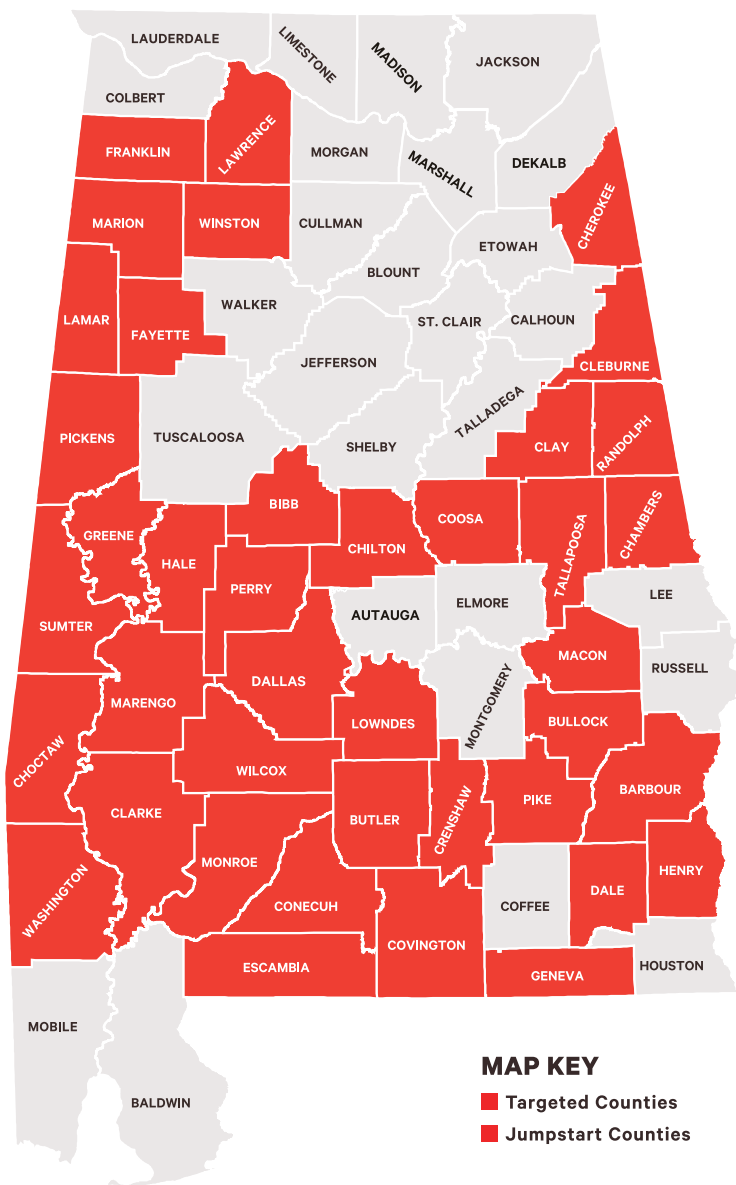
OVERVIEW

BY THE NUMBERS

2022 RURAL ANNUAL REPORT



2022 TARGETED RURAL COUNTIES



OVERVIEW

COUNTY BREAKDOWN

2022 RURAL ANNUAL REPORT

COUNTY	NEW			EXPANDING			TOTAL		
County	Projects	Jobs	Investment	Projects	Jobs	Investment	Projects	Jobs	Investment
Butler	1	4	\$610,000	1	100	\$13,000,000	2	104	\$13,610,000
Chambers				4	146	\$100,553,156	4	146	\$100,553,156
Clarke	1	22	\$5,068,300				1	22	\$5,068,300
Conecuh				2	32	\$15,990,000	2	32	\$15,990,000
Covington	2	23	\$0				2	23	\$0
Crenshaw	1	10	\$10,000,000	7	0	\$122,586,759	8	10	\$132,586,759
Dale	2	89	\$121,500,000				2	89	\$121,500,000
Dallas	1	119	\$12,300,000	2	60	\$1,000,000	3	179	\$13,300,000
Fayette				1	70	\$5,500,000	1	70	\$5,500,000
Franklin				1	60	\$3,300,000	1	60	\$3,300,000
Geneva	2	180	\$103,508,164				2	180	\$103,508,164
Lamar				1	14	\$7,429,000	1	14	\$7,429,000
Lawrence	1	715	\$1,100,000,000	2	2	\$46,841,350	3	717	\$1,146,841,350
Marengo				1	5	\$0	1	5	\$0
Marion	2	36	\$9,900,000	1	0	\$850,000	3	36	\$10,750,000
Monroe				2	103	\$629,607	2	103	\$629,607
Pickens				1	12	\$10,834,520	1	12	\$10,834,520
Randolph	2	60	\$5,000,000				2	60	\$5,000,000
Washington				2	38	\$90,000,000	2	38	\$90,000,000
	15	1,258	\$1,367,886,464	28	642	\$418,514,392	43	1,900	\$1,786,400,856

A man wearing safety glasses and yellow gloves is working on a solar panel in a factory setting. He is using a tool to work on the panel, which is mounted on a yellow frame. In the background, there are industrial structures and another worker. The scene is brightly lit, and the overall atmosphere is one of industrial activity.

First Solar Inc. plans to invest \$1.1 billion to establish a solar module manufacturing facility in Lawrence County, creating over 700 jobs in North Alabama. The U.S. company already operates plants in Ohio. (Image: First Solar)

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COUNTIES IN DEPTH

COUNTY SUMMARY

2022 RURAL ANNUAL REPORT

New/Expanding	Company	City	County	NAICS	Business Activity	Jobs	Capital Investment
BUTLER							
Expanding	Hwashin America	Greenville	Butler	336110	Automobile and Light Duty Motor Vehicle Manufacturing	100	\$13,000,000
New	Camellia City Metal Fabrication	Greenville	Butler	332	Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	4	\$610,000
TOTALS (2 PROJECTS)						104	\$13,610,000
CHAMBERS							
Expanding	John Soules Foods Alabama, LLC	Valley	Chambers	311991	Perishable Prepared Food Manufacturing	100	\$81,000,000
Expanding	AJIN USA	Cusseta	Chambers	336370	Motor Vehicle Metal Stamping	15	\$7,452,075
Expanding	AJIN USA	Cusseta	Chambers	336370	Motor Vehicle Metal Stamping	20	\$6,699,669
Expanding	AJIN USA	Cusseta	Chambers	336370	Motor Vehicle Metal Stamping	11	\$5,401,412
TOTALS (4 PROJECTS)						146	\$100,553,156
CLARKE							
New	P&B Partitions	Jackson	Clarke	332312	Fabricated Structural Metal Manufacturing	22	\$5,068,300
TOTALS (1 PROJECT)						22	\$5,068,300
CONECUH							
Expanding	GuyoungTech	Castleberry	Conecuh	336110	Automobile and Light Duty Motor Vehicle Manufacturing	20	\$15,000,000
Expanding	Tenax	Evergreen	Conecuh	325211	Plastics Material and Resin Manufacturing	12	\$990,000
TOTALS (2 PROJECTS)						32	\$15,990,000
COVINGTON							
New	McDermott Aviation	Samford	Covington	334511	Search, Detection, Navigation, Guidance, Aeronautical and Nautical System and Instrument Manufacturing	12	\$0
New	Isolair	Samford	Covington	334511	Search, Detection, Navigation, Guidance, Aeronautical and Nautical System and Instrument Manufacturing	11	\$0
TOTALS (2 PROJECTS)						23	\$0

COUNTIES IN DEPTH

COUNTY SUMMARY

2022 RURAL ANNUAL REPORT

New/Expanding	Company	City	County	NAICS	Business Activity	Jobs	Capital Investment
CRENSHAW							
Expanding	SMART Alabama, LLC	Luverne	Crenshaw	336370	Motor Vehicle Metal Stamping	0	\$39,163,426
Expanding	HMMA (Smart)	Luverne	Crenshaw	336370	Motor Vehicle Metal Stamping	0	\$33,000,000
Expanding	SMART Alabama, LLC	Luverne	Crenshaw	336370	Motor Vehicle Metal Stamping	0	\$24,739,891
Expanding	Dongwon	Crenshaw	Crenshaw	336370	Motor Vehicle Metal Stamping	0	\$11,000,000
New	Pepsi-Cola Bottling of Luverne	Luverne	Crenshaw	424490	Other Grocery and Related Products Merchant Wholesalers	10	\$10,000,000
Expanding	HMMA (Dongwon)	Crenshaw	Crenshaw	336370	Motor Vehicle Metal Stamping	0	\$7,000,000
Expanding	SMART Alabama, LLC	Luverne	Crenshaw	336370	Motor Vehicle Metal Stamping	0	\$4,495,214
Expanding	SMART Alabama, LLC	Luverne	Crenshaw	336370	Motor Vehicle Metal Stamping	0	\$3,188,228
TOTALS (8 PROJECTS)						10	\$132,586,759
DALE							
New	Panther Path Solar	Newton	Dale	221114	Solar Electric Power Generation	5	\$96,000,000
New	Ecore International	Ozark	Dale	326299	All Other Rubber Product Manufacturing	84	\$25,500,000
TOTALS (2 PROJECTS)						89	\$121,500,000
DALLAS							
New	Advanced ATC	Selma	Dallas	488111	Air Traffic Control	119	\$12,300,000
Expanding	HMMA: Seoyon E-Hwa Interior Systems Ala.	Selma	Dallas	336110	Automobile and Light Duty Motor Vehicle Manufacturing	60	\$600,000
Expanding	HMMA: Lear	Selma	Dallas	336110	Automobile and Light Duty Motor Vehicle Manufacturing	0	\$400,000
TOTALS (3 PROJECTS)						179	\$13,300,000
FAYETTE							
Expanding	O'Neal Manufacturing Services	Fayette	Fayette	33299	All Other Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	70	\$5,500,000
TOTALS (1 PROJECT)						70	\$5,500,000
FRANKLIN							
Expanding	Leisure Creations	Russellville	Franklin	33712	Household and Institutional Furniture Manufacturing	60	\$3,300,000
TOTALS (1 PROJECT)						60	\$3,300,000

COUNTIES IN DEPTH

COUNTY SUMMARY

2022 RURAL ANNUAL REPORT

New/Expanding	Company	City	County	NAICS	Business Activity	Jobs	Capital Investment
GENEVA							
New	Hethcote Energy	Unincorporated	Geneva	221114	Solar Electric Power Generation	100	\$96,000,000
New	ISA Corporation	Hartford	Geneva	326299	All Other Rubber Product Manufacturing	80	\$7,508,164
TOTALS (2 PROJECTS)						180	\$103,508,164
LAMAR							
Expanding	Brown Wood Preserving	Kennedy	Lamar	321114	Wood Preservation	14	\$7,429,000
TOTALS (1 PROJECT)						14	\$7,429,000
LAWRENCE							
New	First Solar	Courtland	Lawrence	334413	Semiconductor and Related Device Manufacturing	715	\$1,100,000,000
Expanding	Lockheed Martin Space	Courtland	Lawrence	336414	Guided Missile and Space Vehicle Manufacturing	0	\$44,841,350
Expanding	PhillTech, LLC	Courtland	Lawrence	3251	Basic Chemical Manufacturing	2	\$2,000,000
TOTALS (3 PROJECTS)						717	\$1,146,841,350
MARENGO							
Expanding	RBC Enterprises	Linden	Marengo	238130	Framing Contractors	5	\$0
TOTALS (1 PROJECT)						5	\$0
MARION							
New	KJS Forest Products	Guin	Marion	321	Wood Product Manufacturing	18	\$7,400,000
New	River Wood Forest Products Inc.	Bear Creek	Marion	321	Wood Product Manufacturing	18	\$2,500,000
Expanding	Clayton Supply	Guin	Marion	321992	Prefabricated Wood Buildings Manufacturing	0	\$850,000
TOTALS (3 PROJECTS)						36	\$10,750,000
MONROE							
Expanding	Vanity Fair Intimates Inc. Monroe	Monroeville	Monroe	551114	Corporate, Subsidiary and Regional Managing Offices	50	\$629,607
Expanding	P&S Transportation	Monroeville	Monroe	541614	Process, Physical Distribution and Logistics Consulting Services	53	\$0
TOTALS (2 PROJECTS)						103	\$629,607

COUNTIES IN DEPTH

COUNTY SUMMARY

2022 RURAL ANNUAL REPORT

New/Expanding	Company	City	County	NAICS	Business Activity	Jobs	Capital Investment
PICKENS							
Expanding	Natures Earth Pellets, LLC	Reform	Pickens	32199	All Other Wood Product Manufacturing	12	\$10,834,520
TOTALS (1 PROJECT)						12	\$10,834,520
RANDOLPH							
New	Eugene's, LLC	Roanoke	Randolph	315210	Cut and Sew Apparel Contractors	40	\$4,000,000
New	R&W Welding and Fabrication	Roanoke	Randolph	332	Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	20	\$1,000,000
TOTALS (2 PROJECTS)						60	\$5,000,000
WASHINGTON							
Expanding	Linde	McIntosh	Washington	325120	Industrial Gas Manufacturing	16	\$83,000,000
Expanding	Fruitdale Pellet Mill	Fruitdale	Washington	321999	All Other Miscellaneous Wood Product Manufacturing	22	\$7,000,000
TOTALS (2 PROJECTS)						38	\$90,000,000



Linde, a leading global producer of industrial gases, is building a hydrogen plant in Washington County as part of an \$83 million growth project in rural Alabama. (Image: Linde)

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FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT IN TARGETED COUNTIES

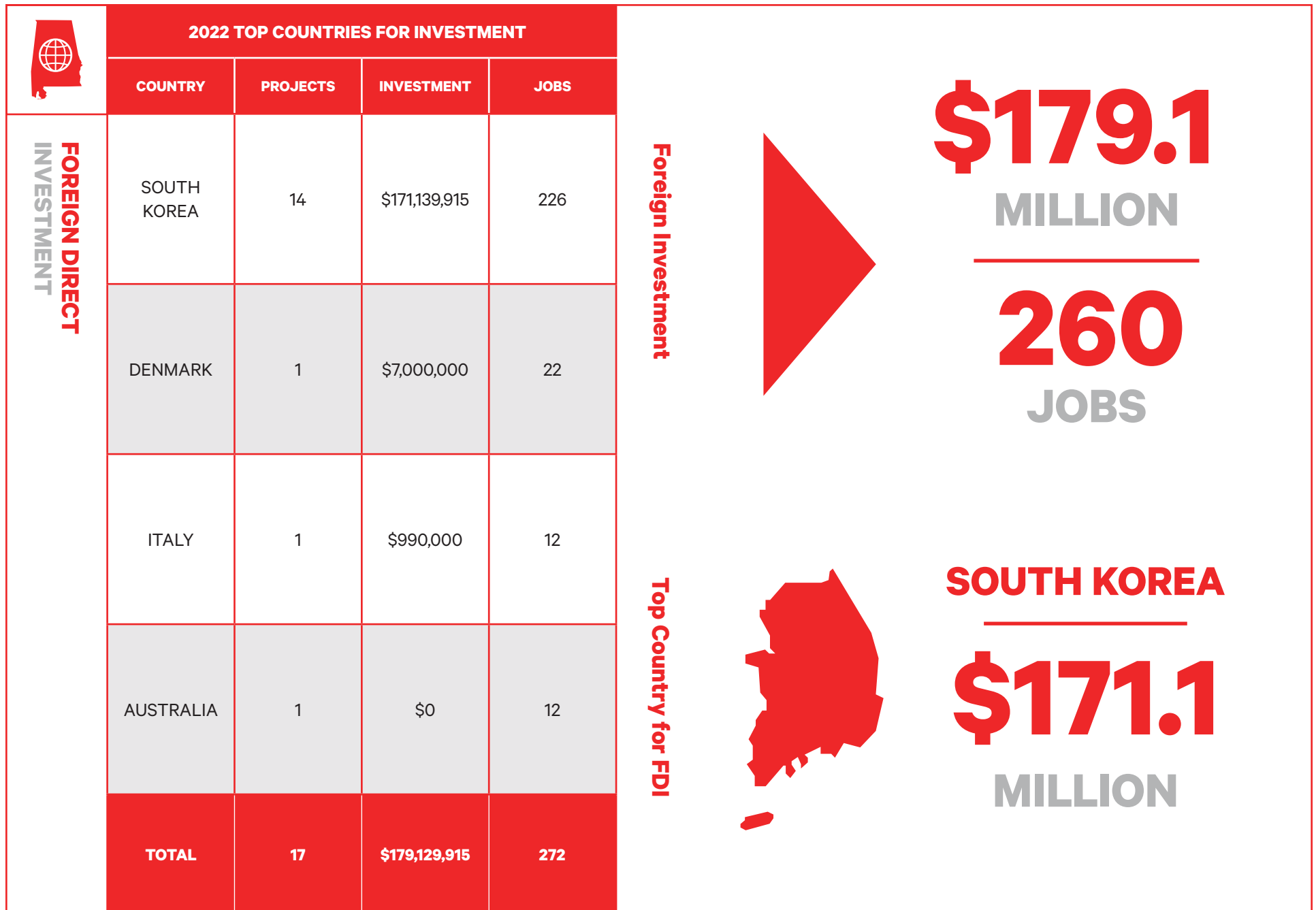
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RURAL

OVERVIEW

BY THE NUMBERS

2022 RURAL ANNUAL REPORT



COUNTRIES IN DEPTH

COUNTRY SUMMARY

2022 RURAL ANNUAL REPORT

New/Expanding	County	Company	City	NAICS	Business Activity	Jobs	Capital Investment
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AUSTRALIA

New	Covington	McDermott Aviation	Samford	334511	Search, Detection, Navigation, Guidance, Aeronautical and Nautical System and Instrument Manufacturing	12	\$0
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TOTAL (1 PROJECTS) 12 \$0

DENMARK

Expanding	Washington	Fruitdale Pellet Mill	Fruitdale	321999	All Other Miscellaneous Wood Product Manufacturing	22	\$7,000,000
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TOTALS (1 PROJECT) 22 \$7,000,000

ITALY

Expanding	Conecuh	Tenax	Evergreen	325211	Plastics Material and Resin Manufacturing	12	\$990,000
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TOTALS (1 PROJECT) 12 \$990,000

S. KOREA

Expanding	Butler	Hwashin America	Greenville	336110	Automobile and Light Duty Motor Vehicle Manufacturing	100	\$13,000,000
Expanding	Chambers	AJIN USA	Cusseta	336370	Motor Vehicle Metal Stamping	15	\$7,452,075
Expanding	Chambers	AJIN USA	Cusseta	336370	Motor Vehicle Metal Stamping	20	\$6,699,669
Expanding	Chambers	AJIN USA	Cusseta	336370	Motor Vehicle Metal Stamping	11	\$5,401,412
Expanding	Conecuh	GuyoungTech	Castleberry	336110	Automobile and Light Duty Motor Vehicle Manufacturing	20	\$15,000,000
Expanding	Crenshaw	SMART Alabama, LLC	Luverne	336370	Motor Vehicle Metal Stamping	0	\$24,739,891
Expanding	Crenshaw	SMART Alabama, LLC	Luverne	336370	Motor Vehicle Metal Stamping	0	\$3,188,228
Expanding	Crenshaw	SMART Alabama, LLC	Luverne	336370	Motor Vehicle Metal Stamping	0	\$4,495,214
Expanding	Crenshaw	SMART Alabama, LLC	Luverne	336370	Motor Vehicle Metal Stamping	0	\$39,163,426
Expanding	Crenshaw	Dongwon	Crenshaw	336370	Motor Vehicle Metal Stamping	0	\$11,000,000
Expanding	Crenshaw	HMMA (Smart)	Luverne	336370	Motor Vehicle Metal Stamping	0	\$33,000,000
Expanding	Crenshaw	HMMA (Dongwon)	Crenshaw	336370	Motor Vehicle Metal Stamping	0	\$7,000,000
Expanding	Dallas	HMMA: Lear	Selma	336110	Automobile and Light Duty Motor Vehicle Manufacturing	0	\$400,000
Expanding	Dallas	HMMA: Seoyon E-Hwa Interior Systems Ala.	Selma	336110	Automobile and Light Duty Motor Vehicle Manufacturing	60	\$600,000

TOTALS (14 PROJECTS) 226 \$171,139,915



Advanced ATC Inc. selected Craig Field, the airport and industrial park in Selma, as home for the nation's first Remote Tower Air Traffic Control Center, along with a training academy. The project is expected to create 119 jobs. (Image: Advanced ATC)

MADE IN
ALABAMA

RURAL

TOP 10 2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

BRENDA TUCK

RURAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

1 SIMULATED TRAINING AND READINESS

Rural Development's STAR Program continues to have a major impact, preparing counties to compete for new projects or project expansions within their counties. This 8-week program for each participant encompasses all aspects of an active RFI and emulates the actual site visit processes for an economic developer.

Within the first year of the program, we have completed training with 10 of the 36 rural developers, representing 12 of our rural counties. There are two currently in training that will have the opportunity to complete the program in 2023, with additional classes slated to begin in the both the Spring and Fall of 2023.

2 RURAL RESOURCE WEBINARS

Rural Development implemented 24 Resource Webinars in 2022 representing local, state and federal agencies, public and private resources, site development, community development and project funding resources, for a total of 65 featured resources over the past 24 months. These Resource Webinars are recorded and are available to the developers continually.

3 RURAL WORKFORCE SUMMITS

In cooperation with Alabama's Regional Workforce Councils and Regional Planning Commissions, another Rural Workforce Summit was completed, with more being planned in various counties. These Summits bring at least 12 of the state's most valuable workforce resources into the rural counties to highlight the programs of On-the-Job Training, Work-Based Learning, Ready to Work, State Existing Industry Training Program, Federal Incumbent Worker Training Program, Alabama Technology Network, AIDT, Apprenticeship, and many others. Local and state subject matter experts are brought into the rural county to provide education on each program in

an atmosphere where local business and industry can forge the relationships needed for partnerships to utilize these programs on an ongoing basis.

4 COMMERCE LOCAL OFFICIAL TRAINING

Rural Development and Business Development teamed up to create and deliver a one-day local elected/appointed official economic development training to educate those who support rural development. This training explains the processes of economic development within Commerce and the roles of the local entities. Additionally, RurAL is supporting other elected official programs provided by partner agencies and organizations.

5 ENTREPRENEURSHIP SUPPORT

In cooperation with the Alabama Association of RC&D Councils and the Commerce Office of Small Business, Rural Development is assisting rural counties in growing their own business and industry through support for entrepreneurship programs by identifying new programs and cultivating existing partnerships. RurAL acquired a \$25,000 grant from the Alabama Association of RC&D Councils to provide entrepreneurial workstations in 15 rural counties that had identified this as a resource lacking. Additionally, we are continuing to promote the many other agencies and organizations that support entrepreneurship for rural economic development.

6 RESOURCE SUPPORT & GRANTS

Rural Development has worked directly with funding partners to secure information and assistance for many of Alabama's rural counties to acquire grants at the appropriate times throughout the year that directly benefit their economic development efforts. In 2022, eight counties secured \$741,614 from USDA Rural Development after we featured this resource, its timelines and uses on a rural webinar. Rural Development is continually supporting our

other agencies and organizations that provide resources and assistance to further aid Alabama's rural counties.

7 INDIVIDUAL COUNTY SUPPORT

Rural Development consistently works on county requests for assistance that includes, but is not limited to, project support, site development, building/educating the local economic development team, community development, and more.

8 SITE IMPROVEMENT & DEVELOPMENT

Rural Development constantly works to promote the development of additional sites throughout Alabama's rural counties through the identification of resources and property reviews, on an individual county basis, and collectively.

9 BUSINESS RETENTION & EXPANSION (BRE)

Rural Development is visiting local industries with rural developers and encouraging BRE programs to be included in every county to identify economic opportunities and provide resources specific to individual and collective existing industry needs.

10 COMMERCE RURAL SUMMIT

The 4th Annual Commerce RurAL Summit was held Oct. 25 and 26, expanded to include two days, and featured Speakers from across Commerce and agency resource partners. Secretary Canfield and Director Clem provided greetings and updates from Commerce Business Development. Governor Kay Ivey presented the STAR program partner agencies with plaques recognizing their valued participation; she also recognized the 15 counties that were creating new entrepreneurial programs from the RC&D grant. The 2023 Summit is expected to expand to three days and to be held at a larger venue.