



2021 Annual Report



BUSINESS & INDUSTRY
COMMUNITY
ENTREPRENEURSHIP
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

NEW OFFICE | NEW LOGO | NEW BEGINNINGS

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Partners, Stakeholders, and Community Leaders,

We are elated to share the growth and progress in our local economy and our initiatives over 2021 with positive momentum carrying into 2022.

Highlights of 2021 include:

- Gained community awareness on our initiatives, created committees, and started meeting with key community leaders to move forward countywide broadband and housing strategies
- Increase in business expansions resulting in job growth, job retention, and overall sustainability for our existing business and industry
- Increase in overall total investment from year over year
2021 marked the largest single year of tracked investment in our 16-year history
- New Office location - more centralized and accessible - to better serve our greater community

We are so grateful for all the investments you make, whether that is financially or personal time invested.

We make it our priority to welcome you, your family, and your business!



Anton King, President/CEO
DeKalb County Economic Development
Partnership, Inc.





BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

The board gratefully acknowledges the DeKalb County Commissioners, the DeKalb County Council, Mayor Mike Ley (Auburn), Mayor Mike Hartman (Butler), Mayor Todd Fiandt (Garrett), and all city and town councils for their leadership and commitment to economic development.

**Standing (L-R): Anton King, President/CEO (Staff)
Debra Bruce, Executive Assistant (Staff)
Mike Ley, City of Auburn
Sarina Harig, Project Manager (Staff)
Brent Shull, Town of Hamilton
Vivian Likes, City of Butler
Mike Hasselman, Town of Ashley
Danielle Aldrich, Town of Corunna**

**Seated (L-R): Pam Howard, Town of Waterloo - Vice President
Jack Bercaw, At-large, Banking & Finance - President
Mary Simcox, Town of St. Joe - Secretary**

**Not Pictured: Victoria Searcy, Vice President (Staff)
Aaron Schaffer, At-large, Community State Bank - Treasurer
Amy Demske, DeKalb County Council
Darrick Brinkerhoff, City of Garrett
Jim McCanna, DeKalb Attorney, County Commissioners**

The board consists of thirteen members. Ten are appointed by county, city, and town officials and three are appointed by the board.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Our focus is to strategize and plan by creating measurable goals.

- Committed and serving as a cohesive team: accessible, responsive, knowledgeable, and flexible.
- Improving quality of life, enhancing employment opportunities, and responsible growth of business & industry.
- Have a diverse economic base, improve infrastructure, support, and promote all fields of business and industry.



SLOVAKIAN DELEGATION MEETING | NE INDIANA & RADOVAN JAVORCIK

OUR FUTURE

Our vision is to facilitate investment into making DeKalb County a premier economic driver in Northeast Indiana and in the greater Midwest region of the United States.



WALMART DISTRIBUTION CENTER

KEY ACTIVITIES

Collaboration & Networking

- Economic Growth - working with organizations/entities:
 - Cities - Towns - County
 - Indiana and Regional economic development agencies
 - SBDC - OCRA - WorkOne
 - Brokers - Utilities - Site Selectors
 - DeKalb Chamber Partnership
 - Auburn Main Street
 - Butler Main Street
 - Waterloo Main Street
 - Northeast Indiana College & Universities Network

Industrial & Business Attraction

- Leads & Submittals -- Local, State, Regional, Broker, Utility, Site Selector
- Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership
- LEDO Council

Consultation & Service

- Tax Phase-ins
- Resolution Preparations
- Abatement Calculations
- TIF Infrastructure
- Social Economic Demographic Dissemination

Workforce Development

- Northeast Indiana Works
- Launch DeKalb Partner

Education & Information

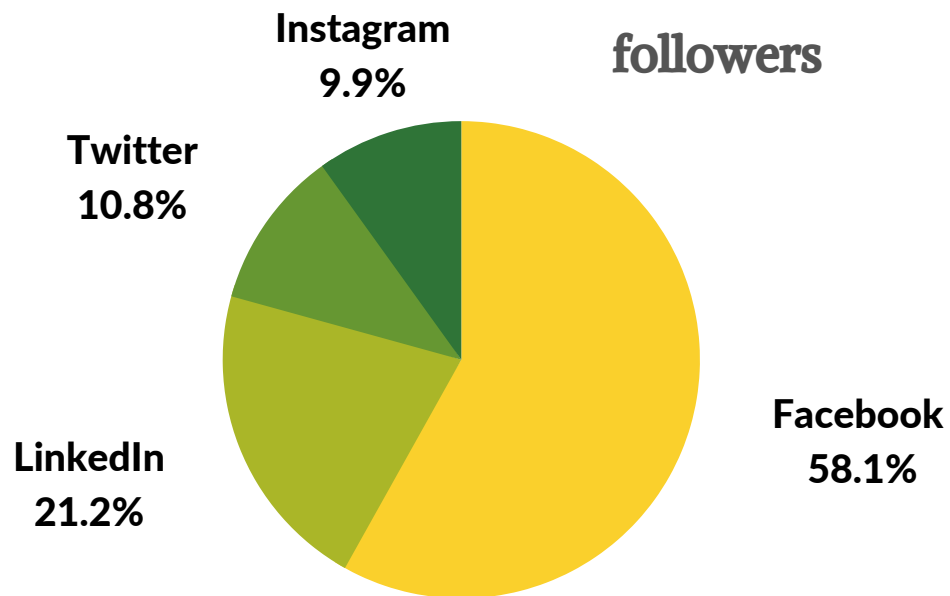
- Five-County Economic Development Forum
- Wage & Benefit Survey
- Social Media & Website
- DeKalb Promise

DeKalb LEADS

Business Expansion & Retention

- Program Connections & Alignment

SOCIAL MEDIA ANALYTICS



*Instagram account was created Q2 2021



Page Likes: 1,113

Q1: 1,046

Q2: 1,074

Q3: 1,103

Q4: 1,113



of Tweets: 108

Impressions: 30,281

Followers: 133



of Updates: 109

Followers: 411



of Posts: 65

Followers: 198

OUR KEY PARTNERS

incentive consultation · expansions · relocations · investment · solutions



Ashley · Auburn · Butler · Corunna · Garrett · Hamilton · St. Joe
Waterloo · DeKalb County

OUR INITIATIVES



Housing

- Launched a countywide housing strategy— a year-long process. The plan is to take a formal analysis of where we stand, countywide, where our potential growth areas are, and how we can help incentivize and cultivate growth to meet our county housing demands.



Broadband

- We are working diligently to help improve broadband infrastructure and to assist local internet providers with extending broadband to underserved areas. The Federal Communications Commission maps indicate that more than 50% of rural areas in DeKalb County, especially on the east side, are underserved.

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY NEWS



**Color Master, Heidtman Steel,
New Millennium Building Systems,
Nucor Building Systems and Steel Dynamics —
made a \$13,500 investment in Eastside students
by donating six new welding units to the school
(Q2 2021)**



DeKalb County Eastern
COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT



**Groundbreaking of
Credent Wealth Headquarters
downtown Auburn (Q1 2021)**

Featured Projects



Early Ford V-8 Museum
Capital Investment: \$1.85M
(Project Announced)



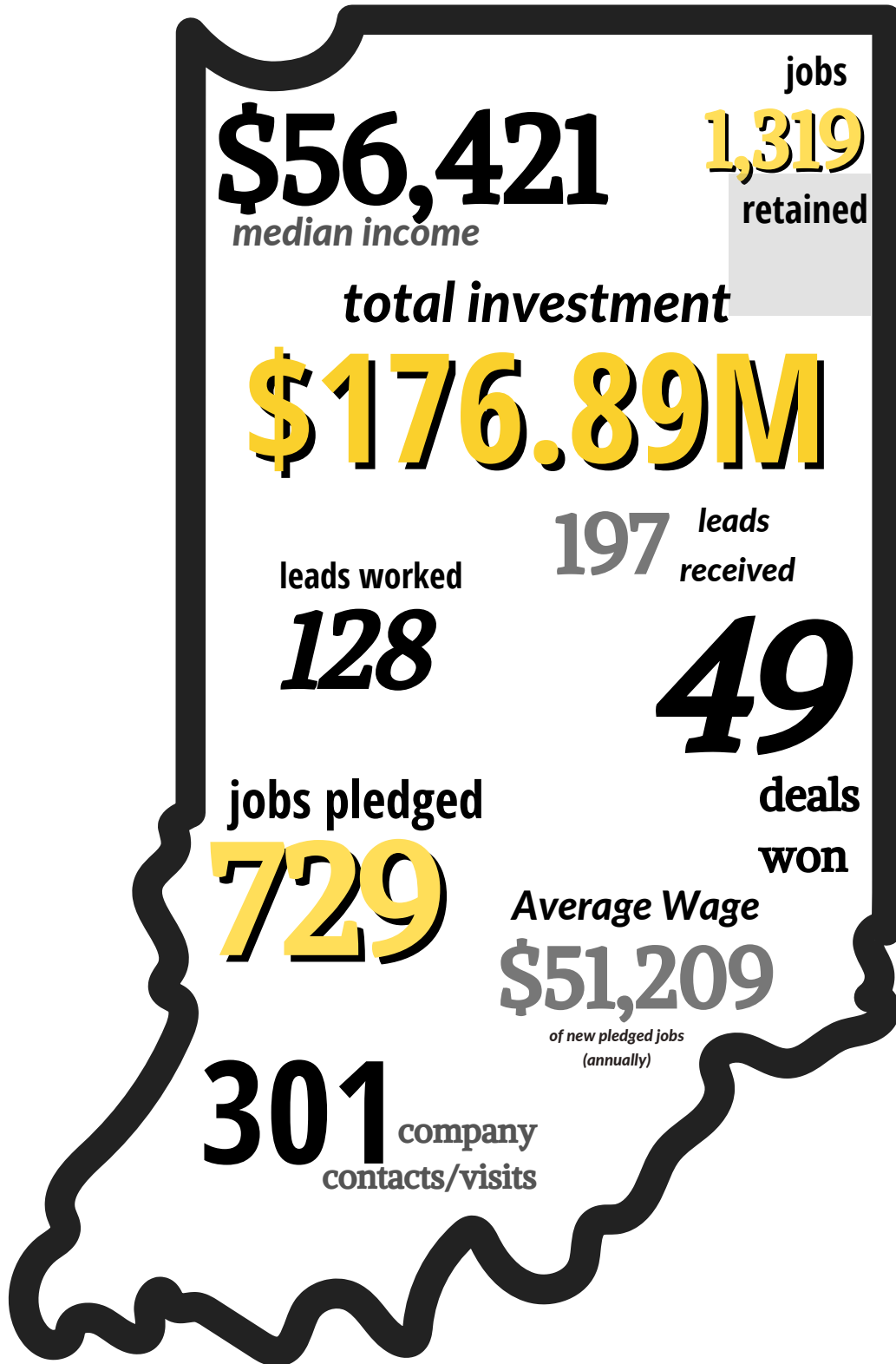
Therma-Tru
Capital Investment: \$42.7M
Pledged Jobs: 53
(Project Announced)



Auburn Renewables Solar
Capital Investment: \$20M
(Project Announced)

2021 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DeKalb County



BY THE NUMBERS

EXPANSION ANNOUNCEMENTS



MSS ENGINEERING
MCDANIEL STRUCTURAL SOLUTIONS
Engineering, Consulting, & Design



NEW MILLENNIUM
BUILDING SYSTEMS

SCHUST
A MEMBER OF THE SCHEUCH GROUP



COUNTRY HERITAGE WINERY

THERMA TRU
DOORS



Garrett
COUNTRY CLUB



VISION SOURCE
SIGNATURE EYE CARE



Continental
ContiTech



DEKALB HUMANE SOCIETY



NEW BUSINESS



j.kruse
education
center



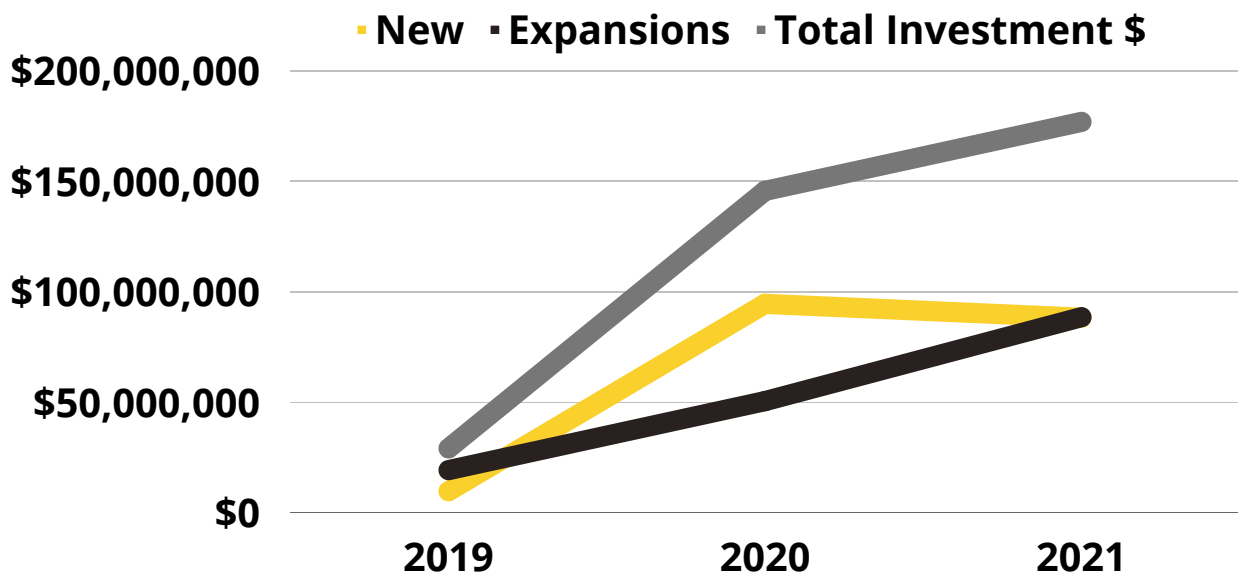
HARBOR FREIGHT
QUALITY TOOLS LOWEST PRICES

everside
HEALTH™





INVESTMENTS



2021 EVENTS



Announced the construction and location of our new office downtown Auburn!



Astral at Auburn, 166 unit senior living complex ribbon cutting (May).



C & A Tool Engineering, Inc. started producing high-quality disposable face masks at their Auburn facility.



DeKalb Humane Shelter started construction in October for their new facility.

- **DeKalb County ranks 4th out of 92 Indiana Counties, 51st out of 1,055 Midwest Counties, and 114th out of 2,548 small counties nationally via Fourth Economy Community Index**
- **City of Auburn ranked 4th for 2021 Safest Midsize City to Live in Indiana via AdvisorSmith**
- **Butler welcomed International Monster Truck Museum by ribbon cutting in May**
- **Northeast Indiana Population Growth Rate grew, with DeKalb growing 0.3%**
- **SDI Named One of World's Best Employers for 2021 via Forbes**
- **Garrett Career Development Program Announced Welding Apprenticeship Program**

SITES & BUILDINGS

DeKalb County's industrial market inventory slipped slightly in 2021.

DeKalb County's % of Regional Market

2020 - 8.34%

2021 - 8.29%

We track movement of sites and buildings in our database via Zoom Prospector. This is where we submit our leads received from the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC), the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership (NEIRP), among other various sources.

Industrial Inventory in DeKalb County (2021)

50

**active
properties**

5

**gained
industrial
sites/buildings**

4

**newly occupied
industrial
sites/buildings**

ZoomProspector

INVESTORS

The DeKalb County Economic Development Partnership is supported by the generous investments from our county's top industries and the communities we represent. Their support is critical to expand our economic base. Business, civic and elected leaders realize a vibrant community is required to support our economic base and that a community and economic prosperity go hand in hand.



Anton King, President/CEO
DeKalb County Economic Development Partnership, Inc.
112 S Jackson St.
Auburn, IN 46706-9492
www.dekalbedp.org

