

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



ELIZABETHTOWN
HARDIN COUNTY
INDUSTRIAL FOUNDATION

MESSAGE FROM OUR COO

At the Elizabethtown-Hardin County Industrial Foundation (EHCIF), we have the great fortune of working with local and state partners to serve as a business resource for companies worldwide as they expand to new markets.

The amount of regional growth we have seen in the industrial sector in the past 12 months would be a source of pride in any annual retrospective, but the fact that key players in our region found ways to grow amid the continuing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic makes these advancements all the more remarkable.

The announcement of the BlueOval SK Battery Park located at the Glendale Megasite in September was one of the most widely-discussed local stories of the year, and for good reason. The anticipated investment of \$5.8 billion will eventually create 5,000 new jobs and is the single largest manufacturing investment in Kentucky history.

Kruger Packaging, another new addition to Hardin County's industrial sector, also made headlines this year as the company broke ground on a \$114.2 million state-of-the-art manufacturing

operation in Elizabethtown. Existing area manufacturers also announced and completed new developments in 2021.

New developments within EHCIF's leadership structure also took place in 2021 as the EHCIF board announced that Andrew "Andy" Games would be the organization's first vice president, a role he took on in October.

It is hard to fathom the kind of economic impact the developments we've seen in the past year will bring to the region. But as we celebrate the achievements of the past year, we also look forward to new developments and announcements for our growing region in 2022.

With Gratitude,
Richard A. Games
President & COO



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2021 FIGURES

AMONG THE NATION'S BEST IN MANUFACTURING



3.5%

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
AS OF DECEMBER 2021
(national average: 3.9%):



\$1139

AVERAGE WEEKLY
INDUSTRY WAGES IN
HARDIN COUNTY



154000+

GROWING POPULATION
IN THE ELIZABETHTOWN-
FORT KNOX MSA



70+

POSTSECONDARY
EDUCATION AND
TRAINING PROGRAMS



NO. 3

BEST PLACE TO WORK
IN MANUFACTURING



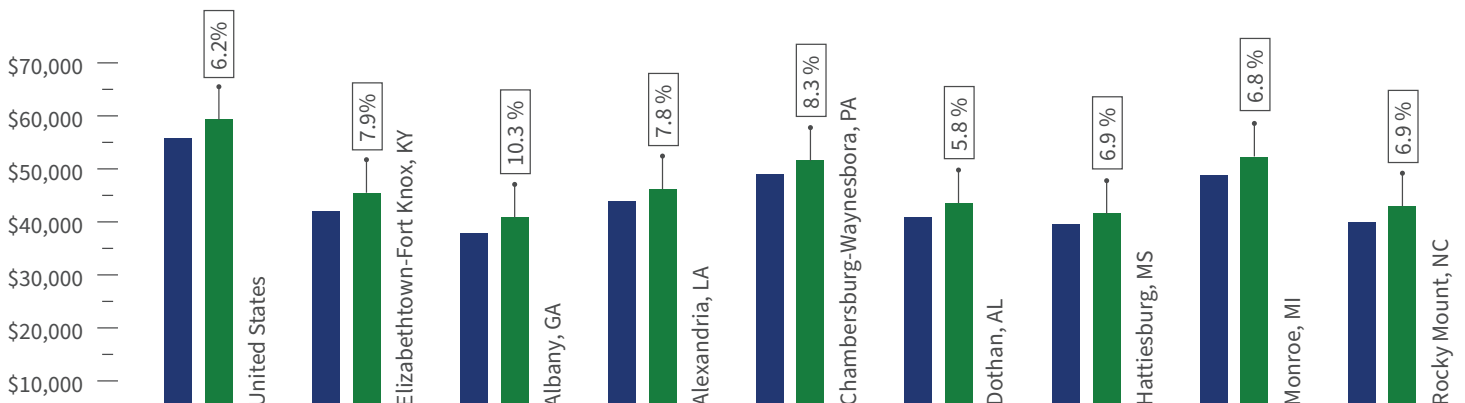
\$5000+

POSTSECONDARY
EDUCATION AND
TRAINING PROGRAMS

2020 PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME GROWTH ELIZABETHTOWN-FORT KNOX CLIMBS TO \$46,770

A look at U.S. and similar Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) in 2020 as compared to 2019

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Dept. of Commerce (released Nov 2021)



WORKFORCE AND EDUCATION

ECTC UNIVERSITY CENTER CAMPAIGN CONCLUDES

Elizabethtown Community and Technical College (ECTC) donors, volunteers and supporters celebrated the conclusion of the University Center campaign. Launched in 2019 with a historic \$1 million gift from Dr. Robert and Rita Robbins, the campaign concluded with over \$2.1 million in donations to support the renovation of ECTC's Student Center. The newly renovated facility will house the ECTC University Center, transfer services, and serve as a hub for student life. Most importantly, the University Center will provide affordable access to four-year degree programs that are in line with workforce needs in our community. The Elizabethtown-Hardin County Industrial Foundation recognizes that retaining our region's local talent is critical to the growth of our community and we were proud to donate \$25,000 to support the ECTC University Center campaign.



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If students stay close to home to complete their education through the University Center, they are much more likely to connect with local employers and start careers here.

- ECTC President, Dr. Juston Pate

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Renovations on the Student Center will begin in 2022, with University Center services planned for the 2023-2024 academic year.



INDUSTRY GROWTH

In 2021, EHCIF celebrated numerous announcements and expansions among local manufacturers. With approximately 80 manufacturers and supporting industries, more than 9,500 people work in the manufacturing sector in Hardin County, accounting for \$421 million in earned wages.

Among those industries completing major expansions was WL Plastics, who announced plans to construct a new 60,000 square-foot facility – forecasted to begin in 2022. Fischbach USA also began construction on a 70,000 square-foot addition to accommodate sales growth, and is expected to create 30 new jobs. And finally, Soudal, a Belgian-based adhesive company, also completed its 11,000 square-foot expansion which is now home to their North American corporate office.



HISTORIC DOWNTOWN ELIZABETHTOWN

Historic Downtown Elizabethtown continues to see impressive growth as new businesses such as J.R. Neighbors join the square. Opening its doors in December 2021, the new three-story structure is well suited for Historic Downtown Elizabethtown, with a name that reflects our community's rich history.



AIRPORT IMPROVEMENTS

Operations at Addington Field were improved with the installation of a glide slope instrument navigation system to improve the airport's all-weather capability for incoming flights. A part of the airport's Instrument Landing System (ILS), this navigation tool indicates the proper path for an airplane to use on approach. With this ILS addition, Addington Field will see more traffic as pilots are less likely to bypass Elizabethtown during inclement weather.

BLUEOVAL SK BATTERY PARK



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Ford is very excited to make this historic investment in the great state of Kentucky. With this announcement, Kentucky will play an essential role as Ford fulfills its commitment to lead the electric vehicle revolution and create thousands of jobs in the commonwealth, and we look forward to working with Kentuckians to create the future together.

*Ford North America
Chief Operating Officer,
Lisa Drake*

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In September 2021, Ford Motor Company and SK Innovation announced plans to build two electric battery plants in the BlueOval SK Battery Park. Recognized as the single largest economic development project in the history of Kentucky, the \$5.8 billion investment will create 5,000 jobs for residents in our region. The plants will be built on the 1,551-acre economic development site near Interstate 65, formally known as the Glendale Megasite, with production slated to begin in 2025.

CENTURY-LONG PARTNERSHIP

1913



With just 13 employees, Ford rolls a Model T off the assembly line in Louisville, Kentucky. Output reaches 12 Model T bodies a day.

1925



A new Ford assembly plant opens in Louisville and begins producing 400 cars a day, including the Model T and Model A.

1955



The Louisville Assembly Plant opens where Kentucky workers assemble the Ford Escape and Lincoln Corsair.

1969



The Kentucky Truck Plant opens where Kentucky workers assemble Ford Super Duty Trucks, the Ford Expedition and the Lincoln Navigator.

SINCE 1987

Ford has directed more than \$6.3 billion in investments and upgrades to Kentucky. Today, the Louisville Assembly Plant and Kentucky Truck Plant directly employ over 13,000 workers with thousands more working for suppliers and dealerships.



KRUGER PACKAGING

OPENING SUMMER 2022

In May, Canada-based Kruger Packaging announced plans to invest \$114.2 million in Hardin County to establish a state-of-the-art packaging manufacturing operation – a project that will create more than 150 quality jobs in the coming years.

The new 400,000-square-foot facility will utilize robotic and automated technology and represents the company's first corrugated box plant in the U.S. A fourth-generation family-owned and operated company, Kruger Packaging has been a North American leader in eco-friendly packaging for over 117 years. Founded in 1904, Kruger Packaging's parent company, Kruger Inc, is headquartered in Montréal, Canada, and produces 100% recycled containerboard products, corrugated packaging, tissue products, publication and specialty papers, renewable energy, cellulosic biomaterials and wines and spirits. The company also is a major North American recycler of paper and paperboard.

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At the Elizabethtown-Hardin County Industrial Foundation, we continue to focus our economic development efforts on jobs and wage growth. This announcement is a testament to the strength of Hardin County's manufacturing sector and will bring new jobs at a critical time in pandemic recovery.

EHCIF Board Chairman, Greg Pawley

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► **\$114M INVESTMENT**

► **400,000 SQ. FT. FACILITY**

► **150 NEW JOBS**

► **2.4 BILLION SQ. FT. ANNUAL PRODUCTION**

of 100% recycled corrugated boxes; equivalent to nearly three football fields

EHCIF MISSION

The Elizabethtown-Hardin County Industrial Foundation (EHCIF) provides a broad scope of tailored services to meet the needs of our business partners. Since its establishment in 1956, one primary mission has driven the foundation – to create jobs and elevate Hardin County as the top destination for advanced manufacturing, distribution and industrial companies from across the nation and around the world.



ELIZABETHTOWN
HARDIN COUNTY
INDUSTRIAL FOUNDATION

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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