

This Executive Summary is
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Jackson County Economic Development Authority

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Table of Contents

Demographics	5
Municipal Information	6
Utility Services	7
Community Services	10
Transportation	16
Labor and Industry Information	18
Local Taxes	19
Summary of Available Incentives	21

Jackson County, Alabama
Executive Summary

Revised January 2010

Jackson County, Alabama

Demographics

Population Growth

	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>Estimate</u>
Scottsboro	13,866	14,762	14,486 (2008)
Stevenson (radius 0-5 miles)	4,190	4,512	4,250 (2007)
Bridgeport (radius 0-5 miles)	8,681	8,978	8,592 (2007)
Jackson County	47,796	53,926	53,800 (2008)

Area

Scottsboro	55 square miles
Jackson County	1,124 square miles

Climate

Average Temperature	January: 41; July: 78
Average Rainfall	45 inches
Prevailing Winds	7 mph, Southeast
Altitude:	
Scottsboro	653 feet
Stevenson	628 feet
Bridgeport	644 feet

Nearest Metro Areas (From Scottsboro-center of county)

Atlanta	140	Birmingham	90
Chattanooga	60	Huntsville	38
Nashville	135	Tuscaloosa	155

Year Established

Jackson County	1819
Scottsboro (county seat)	1869
Stevenson	1866
Bridgeport	1891

Municipal Information

Form of Government

County - Chairman and Five Commissioners

Cities - Mayor and Five Council Members

Note: There are 13 incorporated municipalities in the county.

Services offered by each vary.

Police Protection

	Full-time Personnel	# Cars
County	27	31
Scottsboro	70	31
Stevenson	5	5
Bridgeport	11	5
Hollywood	2	3

Fire Protection

	Full-time Personnel	Volunteers	Ins. Rating
Scottsboro	37	4	4
Stevenson	0	22	7
Bridgeport	2	25	6
Hollywood	0	14	7

Planning & Zoning

Cities of Scottsboro, Stevenson, Bridgeport & Town of Hollywood

Building Permits

Cities of Scottsboro, Stevenson, Bridgeport & Town of Hollywood

Utility Services

Electricity - Supplied by Tennessee Valley Authority

Scottsboro - Distributed by:

Scottsboro Electric Power Board
404 E. Willow St., P.O. Box 550
Scottsboro, AL 35768

256-574-2680

East of Tennessee River - Distributed by:

Sand Mountain Electric Cooperative
402 Main St., W.
P.O. Box 277
Rainsville, AL 35986

256-638-2153

West of Tennessee River (Except Scottsboro) - Distributed by:

North Alabama Electric Cooperative
41103 U. S. Hwy 72
P.O. Box 628
Stevenson, AL 35772

256-437-2281

Water & Sewer

Scottsboro - Distributed by:

Scottsboro Water, Sewer & Gas Board
404 E. Willow Street
Scottsboro, AL 35768

256-574-1515

Water:

Supply

Tennessee River

Capacity

8,000,000 GPD

Demand

4,200,000 GPD

Storage

8,000,000 gallons

Sewer:

Treatment	Secondary
Capacity	5,000,000 GPD
Demand	4,100,000 GPD

Stevenson – Distributed by:

Stevenson Utilities Board
42274 US Hwy 72
Stevenson, AL 35772 256-437-0277

Water:

Supply	Wells & Springs
Capacity	850,000 GPD
Demand	450,000 GPD
Storage	700,000 gallons

Sewer:

Treatment	Secondary
Capacity	750,000 GPD
Demand	380,000 GPD

Bridgeport – Distributed by:

Bridgeport Utilities
P.O. Box 36
Bridgeport, AL 35740 256-495-2471

Water:

Supply	Springs & Tennessee River
Capacity	4,000,000 GPD
Demand	1,700,000 GPD
Storage	2,590,000 gallons

Sewer:

Treatment	Secondary
Capacity	2,000,000 GPD
Demand	500,000 GPD

Natural Gas

Natural gas is distributed by the Scottsboro Gas Board, Bridgeport Gas Board, Stevenson Utilities Board and the Dekalb-Cherokee Gas System. Scottsboro and Dekalb-Cherokee are supplied by Southern Natural Gas, Inc. Bridgeport and Stevenson (via Bridgeport) are supplied by East Tennessee Gas System.

Landfill

The City of Scottsboro owns and operates their own landfill. This site is about 156 acres in total area located in Jackson County near Martintown Community. The landfill operates under a permit in full compliance with applicable Federal and State regulations to dispose of inert and sanitary waste. Sufficient space is available to handle future waste loads for the next 60-65 years with normal growth and increased waste loads from the expanded service area.

Inert Waste: \$29.64 per ton

Sanitary Waste: \$38.45 per ton

Pick-up at site provided:

40 yard roll-off: \$256.25 per disposal/\$82.00 rental

20 yard roll-off: \$153.75 per disposal/\$41.00 rental

Roll-Off Deposit: \$250.00

Residents of the county are serviced by The Jackson County Solid Waste Authority which is owned by the county. All waste collected by the county is disposed of in the city landfill. The city also has a curbside recycling program and drop-off points for those who live outside the city limits.

Community Services

Education

All schools in the area are accredited by the Alabama State Department of Education and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Over two-thirds of the classroom teachers in the Scottsboro City and Jackson County school systems have attained a master's degree or higher.

Both the city and county systems are implementing a TechPrep program geared for students who want to enter the technical workforce. This program prepares students for a job after high school or for seeking a more advanced degree at a technical institution.

Scottsboro City Schools - 256-218-2100 - www.scottsboroschools.net

The school system employs over 200 teachers and administrators and another 200 support personnel. There are just over 2,600 students enrolled in the six schools in the system. There are four elementary schools, one junior high school and one high school. The school system operates on an annual budget of about \$28 million. Students in the Scottsboro City System score higher than the state average (within the top 15 of Alabama's 128 school systems on SAT scores) and are at or above the national average on standardized tests. A \$17 million high school housing 750 students opened in December of 2000, and a new \$8.5 million state-of-the-art elementary school opened in 2006. They offer an Agri-Science Department that includes: Industrial Technology (electronics, gear maintenance, belt and chain drive equipment maintenance, pneumatics, hydraulics, precision measuring), Wood Technology, Metal Technology, Horticulture, Traditional Agriculture, Wildlife Management, and Cosmetology.

Jackson County Schools - 256-259-9500 - www.jackson.k12.al.us

The Jackson County Board of Education employs 495 teachers and over 300 support personnel with approximately 6,000 students enrolled in 17 schools. The test scores of the students are also at or above the national averages.

Vocational-Technical

Earnest Pruet Center of Technology (EPCOT)

www.epcot.jc.schoolinsites.com

EPCOT, in Hollywood, Alabama, has an enrollment of 450. Twelve courses include: welding, precision machining, C&C, industrial maintenance (IMT), drafting, and HVAC.

(Consists of juniors & seniors from city and county systems.)

Northeast Alabama Community College - www.nacc.edu

Northeast, in Powell, Alabama, is a comprehensive community college, providing quality programs for academic transfer, adult education, and career/technical training. Career/technical programs offered by Northeast include: Business Management and Supervision, Child Development, Computer Information Systems, Cosmetology, Criminal Justice, Diversified Health Occupations, Drafting and Design Technology, EKG/Cardiovascular Technology, EMT-Paramedic, Home Health/Hospice Aide, Industrial Electronics, Industrial Systems Technology, Machine Tool Technology, Medical Assisting, Nursing Assistant, Office Administration, Paralegal, Patient Care Technician, Pharmacy Technician, Phlebotomy Technician, Practical Nursing, Registered Nursing, and Welding Technology. In addition, the college offers training for business and industry through the Business and Industry Services department, and the Alabama Technology Network center.

Drake Technical College - www.dstc.cc.al.us

Drake, in Huntsville, offers 12 to 21-month skills training programs for associate degrees in 14 career fields such as: Industrial Electronics, Drafting Design and Computer Science.

The Alabama Technology Network (ATN) Center - www.atn.org

ATN is on campus as a resource to assist businesses and industries in Northeast Alabama to remain globally competitive. Ronny Kisor is the director and can be reached at (256) 638-8968 or via e-mail at rkisor@atn.org. ATN offers a wide variety of services in the areas of: technology transfer, lean manufacturing, quality system services such as six sigma and ISO, workforce issues such as training, safety, leadership,

employee turnover, & strategic management, industrial marketing, computer and network training, and much more.

Nearest Post-Secondary Education

Two-Year College: Northeast AL State Community College
Powell, AL (10 miles)
256-228-6001
www.nacc.edu
Enrollment: 3,300 credit + 400 non-credit

Universities: University of Alabama in Huntsville
Huntsville, AL (45 miles)
256-824-6335
www.uah.edu
Enrollment: 7,264

University of Tennessee in Chattanooga
Chattanooga, TN (60 miles)
423-425-4111 or 423-425-4363
www.utc.edu
Enrollment: 10,526

Medical Care

Highlands Medical Center and Nursing Home
Scottsboro, Alabama - 256-259-4444
www.highlandsmc.com
Beds: 170 in medical center; 50 in nursing home

Highlands Medical Center includes an emergency department with a physician on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The hospital performs both inpatient and outpatient services, with a staff of doctors who specialize in a number of disciplines, including family practice. For obstetric patients Highland Medical Center has a renovated maternity center with many "home-like" amenities.

	<u>Physicians</u>	<u>Clinics</u>	<u>Dentists</u>
Scottsboro	45	8	14
Stevenson	4	0	2
Bridgeport	4	0	0

Paramedics and E-911 service are available throughout the county.

Recreation and Tourism

Rec-Com - This recreational facility and program operated by the City of Scottsboro Parks and Recreation Department is one of the finest of its kind in the state of Alabama. Youth programs include baseball, softball, soccer, basketball, swimming, wrestling and a summer "Kid's Klub". There are 7 competition ball fields for leagues of all ages. The facility itself consists of:

Gymnasium	Meeting Rooms
Gymnastics Room	Racquetball Courts
Indoor Basketball Courts	1/16 mile Indoor Walking Track
Indoor Competition Pool	Game Room
Outdoor Skateboard Park	Locker Rooms with Showers
Outdoor Playground	

Goose Pond Colony in Scottsboro is a 360-acre resort located on Lake Guntersville. Golf is one of the main attractions with two quality courses. Southern golf pros have voted it the "most fun in the Southeast" and rated it with 4 stars, and "The Place to Play" by Golf Digest. Other amenities include:

- Full Service Marina - includes outdoor and indoor boat storage and gas docks.
- Bait and Tackle Shop
- Campground - 117 paved sites, bathhouses, picnic tables, playground, boat launch, plus a camp store. All sites have hook-ups for water and power, and many have sewer.
- Clubhouse - 150-person seating capacity

- Walking Trails - over 5 miles of scenic trails with views of the Tennessee River.
- Vacation Cottages -Each are on the lake with boat docks (boat docks with power), 2 bedrooms and 2 baths, fully furnished kitchens, central heat and air.
- The Lodge - Six bedrooms with bath, one room with kitchen facilities, and boat dock with power
- Swimming Pool - Olympic size with kiddie pool and bathhouse.
- Amphitheater - 1,500 seating capacity overlooking the river.
- Civic Center - 1,000 person seating capacity
- Lakeside Restaurant
- Snack bar at both golf courses
- Boat Ramps
- Picnic Pavilion
- Playground

First Monday Trade Days, one of the South's oldest events, dates from 1868 when circuit court was held once a month. It is held the first Monday of each month and the preceding Sunday around the Courthouse Square in Scottsboro.

Scottsboro-Jackson County Heritage Center in Scottsboro is a majestic 1880's Greek Revival home containing exhibits from early northern Alabama life.

Russell Cave National Monument in Bridgeport is the only National Park in the State of Alabama, containing exhibits of historic relics from the Native Americans who lived in northeastern Alabama some 10,000 years ago. Jackson County boasts 1,800 of Alabama's 2,942 known caves.

Cathedral Caverns located near the Jackson/Marshall County line is a true natural wonder. The Caverns contain a huge stalagmite column that reaches the ceiling of the cave some 45 feet above.

Stevenson Depot Museum, on the National Register of Historic Places, contains Indian artifacts, railroad memorabilia, and military items. The Stevenson

Depot was one of the seven most important railroad junctions in the Deep South during the Civil War.

Unclaimed Baggage Center is the most visited tourist/retail attraction in Alabama and is “One of the country’s best kept shopping secrets...” according to Oprah Winfrey. All of the nation’s major airlines have long-term contracts to sell their lost and unclaimed passenger property to this locally-owned and “one-of-a-kind” outlet. The expected and unexpected items are unpacked, cleaned and/or reconditioned to offer treasures such as cameras, fine jewelry, fashions from around the world, luggage, sporting goods and much more at a fraction of the original cost.

Transportation

Public Transit System

Buses are available through the Council on Aging and Jackson County Rural Health. These are geared toward serving the elderly and handicapped.

Rail Service

<u>Company</u>	<u>Route</u>
CSX	Chattanooga - Nashville
Norfolk Southern	Chattanooga - Nashville - Memphis
Sequatchie Valley	Bridgeport, AL - Jasper, TN

Motor Freight

There are over thirty motor freight carrier companies licensed to serve the needs of Jackson County businesses. Those with local terminals:

C.T. Transportation
Mason & Dixon Lines
Meteor Express
Story Trucking
Tennessee Valley Trucking

Air

Local - General aviation facilities for private aircraft.

Scottsboro	Municipal	5,050 ft. lighted runway
Stevenson	Municipal	4,100 ft. lighted runway

Area/Regional - Commercial Aircraft Facilities

Huntsville International Airport* - One 10,000-ft. runway and one 12,600-ft. runway. More than 80 flights daily. Served by American, Delta, US Airways, Continental, and United.

Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport - 7,400-ft. and 5,575-ft. runways. Ten non-stop destinations. Served by Allegiant Air, American Eagle, Delta Connection, and US Airways Express.

Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport - 12,000 ft. and 7,100 ft. runways. 72 daily departures to airports in 37 different cities. Served by American, American Eagle, Comair, Continental, Delta, Southwest, United, and US Airways.

*An International Intermodal Center is located at the Huntsville International Airport to transfer, receive, store, and distribute air, rail and highway cargo with overnight delivery throughout the Southeastern United States. The Airport and Intermodal Center are designated by the U.S. Customs Service as a Foreign Trade Zone Port of Entry.

Water

The navigable Tennessee River traverses Jackson County in a southwesterly direction offering a nine-foot channel depth for economical shipments. Both public and private use barge terminals are available for loading and off-loading timber, steel, coal, iron ore and other bulk products. The State of Alabama has licensed inland ports in Bridgeport and nearby Huntsville. The Tennessee River is part of an interconnected waterway system which serves 21 states. Utilizing the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway barge shipments can reach the deepwater port of Mobile in approximately 4 ½ days.

Labor and Industry Information

Labor Analysis, 2006

Civilian Labor Force	16,459
Manufacturing	6,326
State and Local Government	3,317
Wholesale and Retail Trade	2,835
Accommodation and Food Services	1,010
Healthcare & Social Assistance	883
Professional, Technical & Business Svcs.	680
Finance & Insurance	386
Construction	357
Transportation and Warehousing	286
Utilities and Information	158
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	113
Other	56
Mining	52
Male	49%
Female	51%
Minority	8%

Local Taxes

Scottsboro

Manufacturers Real Property

	Rate/	Assess.	Effective Rate	
	<u>\$1000</u>	<u>Ratio</u>	<u>In City</u>	<u>Out City</u>
City	\$22.50	20%	\$4.50	
County	\$20.50	20%	\$4.10	\$4.10
State	<u>\$ 6.50</u>	<u>20%</u>	<u>\$1.30</u>	<u>\$1.30</u>
Total	\$49.50		\$9.90	\$5.40

*(Above tax figures include 14.50 mills for schools if living within the city limits.
3 mills of the state tax is also a school tax.)*

Retail Sales

City	3.0%
County	2.0%
State	<u>4.0%</u>
Total	9.0%

Stevenson

Manufacturers Real Property

	Rate/	Assess.	Effective Rate	
	<u>\$1000</u>	<u>Ratio</u>	<u>In City</u>	<u>Out City</u>
City	\$20.00	20%	\$4.00	
County	\$23.50	20%	\$4.70	\$4.70
State	<u>\$ 6.50</u>	<u>20%</u>	<u>\$1.30</u>	<u>\$1.30</u>
Total	\$50.00		\$10.00	\$6.00

*(Above tax figures include 10.00 mills for county-wide schools. 3 mills of the
state tax is also a school tax.)*

Retail Sales

City	3.0%
County	2.0%
State	<u>4.0%</u>
Total	9.0%

Bridgeport

Manufacturers Real Property

	<u>Rate/ \$1000</u>	<u>Assess. Ratio</u>	<u>Effective Rate</u>	
			<u>In City</u>	<u>Out City</u>
City	\$10.00	20%	\$2.00	
County	\$23.50	20%	\$4.70	\$4.70
State	\$ 6.50	20%	\$1.30	\$1.30
Total	\$40.00		\$8.00	\$6.00

(Above tax figures include 10.00 mills for county-wide schools. 3 mills of the state tax is also a school tax.)

Retail Sales

City	3.0%
County	2.0%
State	<u>4.0%</u>
Total	9.0%

Hollywood

Manufacturers Real Property

	<u>Rate/ \$1000</u>	<u>Assess. Ratio</u>	<u>Effective Rate</u>	
			<u>In City</u>	<u>Out City</u>
City	\$ 5.00	20%	\$1.00	
County	\$23.50	20%	\$4.70	\$4.70
State	\$ 6.50	20%	\$1.30	\$1.30
Total	\$35.00		\$7.00	\$6.00

(Above tax figures include 10.00 mills for county-wide schools. 3 mills of the state tax is also a school tax.)

Retail Sales

City	3.0%
County	2.0%
State	<u>4.0%</u>
Total	9.0%

Summary of Available Incentives

1. **Sales and Use Tax Savings** - The State of Alabama allows for the exemption of sales and use taxes (except for the portion earmarked for schools) on the initial costs of building and equipping a new facility. This covers all purchases of materials, equipment and furnishings related to putting a manufacturing facility into operation or for major expansions. Of course the labor portion isn't taxed by this method. Equipment is taxed at 4% with 2.5% eligible for the exemption.
2. **Ad Valorem Tax Savings** - Property taxes, for both real and personal property, may also be abated for ten years from the date that the project facility is operational (placed in service). This would offer savings on the taxable amount of total fixed assets for the first year with a declining amount available in the second through the tenth year, due to depreciation. New or used equipment when included in the total expenditures would increase the available savings. This abatement also applies only to the portion not earmarked for schools.

*The tax incentive programs described above are available to your company regardless of the method of financing.

3. **Miscellaneous Tax Benefits** -

- Alabama is one of only six states that allow federal income tax to be deducted before computing state income tax resulting in an effective tax rate of approximately 3.5%
- All raw materials, goods in process and finished goods are exempt from inventory (ad valorem) tax.
- Alabama law provides for deductions or exemptions on corporate income tax, ad valorem tax, franchise tax, and sales tax for the amount invested in pollution control equipment.
- In Alabama, state and local taxes per capita are only 67% of the average paid in the nation.

4. **Enterprise Zone** - Jackson County has been designated as a State Enterprise Zone. This program offers state franchise and income tax credits of up to \$2,500 per employee annually to approved companies within the zone boundaries. As administrator of the zone, the Jackson County E.D.A. will make the application to the State and County to include your company, thereby offering these benefits.

4. **Capital Investment Tax Credit** - The State of Alabama allows a corporate income tax credit of 5% of capital invested in a single project for twenty years for new and expanding industries. Certain job, investment, and wage minimums do apply, varying from creating 5-20 new employees, an investment of \$500,000 - \$2million, and wages from \$12.00 - \$14.15 per hour depending on your location in the county.

5. **Utility Tax Credit** - Under specific conditions, industries may be excluded from the state sales tax levied on electricity and natural gas if it is used by the manufacturer or compounder in an electrolytic or electro-thermal manufacturing or compounding process to convert raw materials prior to the use of the raw material. And from the sales tax levied on water, if at least 51% of the water consumed is used in the manufacturing process.

6. **Industrial Grants** - Grants are available up to \$150,000 to reimburse your company for costs associated with the preparation of a means to access a site as well as clearing, excavating, grading, drainage, and reasonable rehabilitation costs of buildings and other structures. The actual amount of the grant is based on the capital investment for the project.

7. **Free Employee Training** - No summary would be complete without offering the services of The Alabama Industrial Development Training Institute which is one of the premier recruitment and retention tools in the nation. Their mission is to screen, train, and offer a workforce that will surpass the productivity of your company's (any company's) workers in other states. Their slogan "Our attitude is priceless. Our training is free." suggests that they will furnish potential employees (you choose from a group of trainees) that not only have the skills that you require but also have the outlook you desire. This all-inclusive, fully-customized training program is available at no cost. Absenteeism and turnover rates of less

than 2% have been experienced throughout the first year by the 500+ companies that have utilized the AIDT system. Management seminars and expansion support are also available in future years.

8. HUBZone Designation

The HUBZone Empowerment Contracting Program allows small businesses, located in so-called historically under-utilized business zones, to negotiate sole source contracts and participate in restricted competition limited to HUBZone firms. Qualified companies also qualify for a 10% price evaluation preference in full and open competition. The firm must be a small business that is owned and controlled by U.S. citizens and at least 35 percent of its employees must be HUBZone residents.

9. Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) – TVA provides a variety of incentives based on the number of jobs created, electrical load, and capital investments. They offer low-interest loans for qualified projects as a gap financing tool. TVA also has a Small Manufacturing Credit and Enhanced Growth Credit based on electricity usage. There are many other services TVA can provide.