

INVEST IN GREATER FORT WAYNE

BUSINESS EXPANSION GUIDE



**GREATER
FORT WAYNE INC.**

METRO CHAMBER ALLIANCE



Get to know Greater Fort Wayne

Grow your business in one of the fastest-growing metros in the Midwest. Innovation, Hoosier Hospitality, and a competitive business climate set Fort Wayne and Allen County apart from their peers, creating an environment where businesses and people can thrive. Come join us!

#1

Fastest-growing big city
in the Midwest

U.S. Census Bureau, 2024

TOP-10

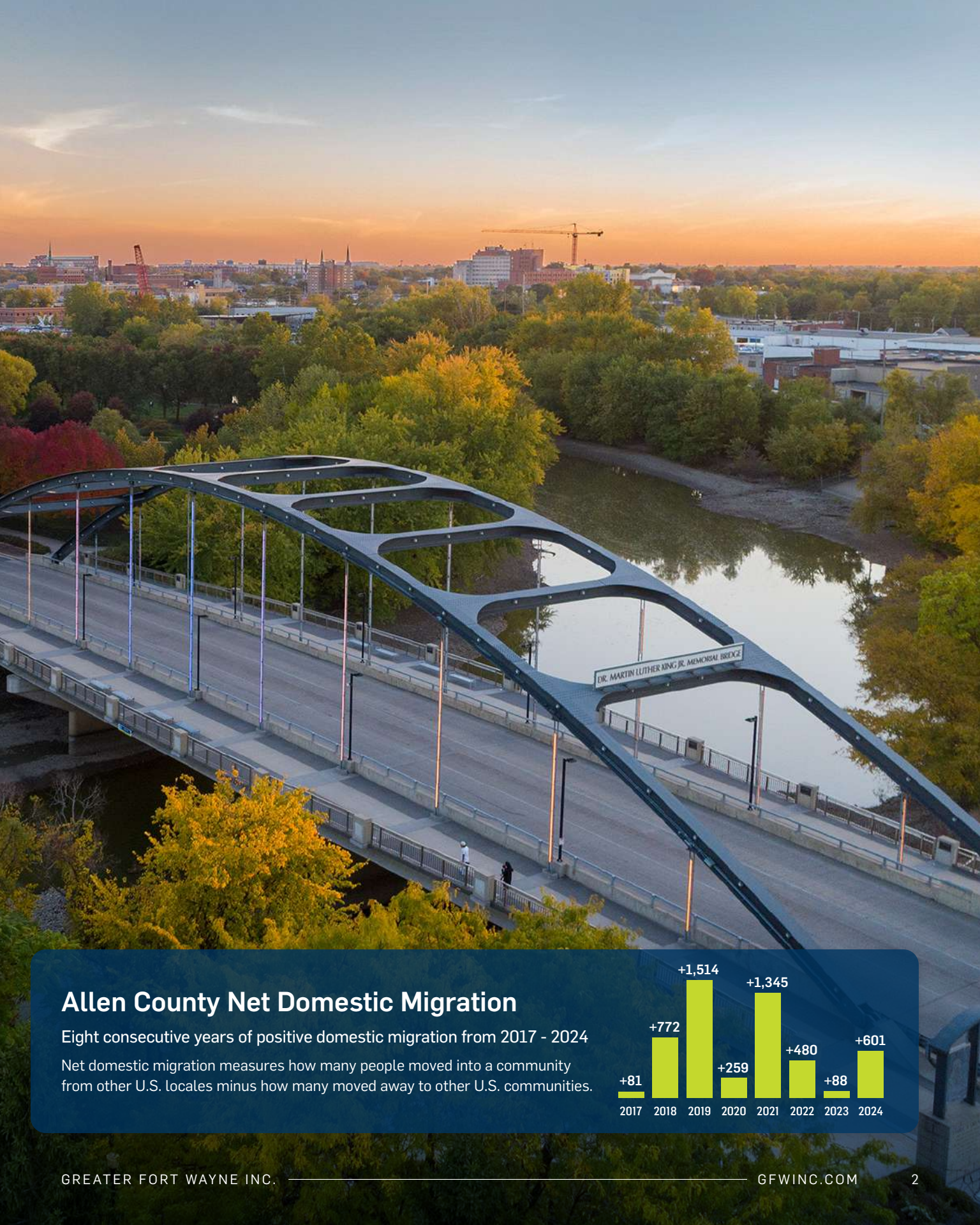
Emerging housing
market in the U.S.

Realtor.com, Jan. 2024

1.5M+

Population within
a 60-Mile Radius

U.S. Census Bureau, 2023



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. MEMORIAL BRIDGE

Allen County Net Domestic Migration

Eight consecutive years of positive domestic migration from 2017 - 2024

Net domestic migration measures how many people moved into a community from other U.S. locales minus how many moved away to other U.S. communities.



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A Message from Our CEO

Greetings!

Your interest in Allen County marks the first step towards an exciting journey. Fort Wayne and Allen County aren't just a place to visit but a place to stay, grow, and thrive. Our community stands ready to welcome you, showcasing why now is the perfect time to join the momentum.

Why Allen County?

- 1. Rich Talent Pool:** Serving as the economic center for more than 1.5 million people within a 60-mile radius, Fort Wayne's growth continues to outpace state and national averages, ensuring businesses have access to a highly skilled and reliable workforce.
- 2. Business-Friendly Environment:** We offer a unique blend of high quality of life and low cost of doing business, making Fort Wayne and Allen County one of the most affordable and business-friendly locations in the U.S.
- 3. Seamless Investment Process:** From site selection to navigating business complexities, our economic development team ensures a smooth, coordinated effort for your project's success.

Our Commitment to Your Growth:

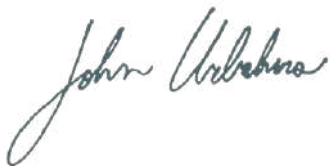
- ▶ **Single Point of Contact:** Guiding you through the process of investing in Allen County.
- ▶ **Overcoming Hurdles:** Assistance with development, legal, financial, and training issues.
- ▶ **Simplifying Site Selection:** Fast-tracking site location through established real estate partnerships.
- ▶ **Spurring Growth with Incentives:** Collaborating with the IEDC to secure beneficial incentives.
- ▶ **Building Connections:** Facilitating introductions and establishing valuable partnerships across various sectors to enhance your business network and support system in Allen County.

Take the Next Step

We are committed to transforming your business goals into tangible successes in Allen County. For further details, please visit our website at greaterfortwayneinc.com. Join our successful and thriving community and discover the strategic benefits of investing in our region—a decision that moves you toward your future objectives with clarity and precision.

Join the momentum – we're excited for you to become part of our community's success story.

Sincerely,



John Urbahns
President / CEO, Greater Fort Wayne Inc.



Building a Nationally Recognized Economy

Growing Jobs. Growing Wages. Growing the Economy.

Over the past decade, our community has experienced unprecedented economic growth in new jobs commitments, increased wages, and more. Greater Fort Wayne Inc. is committed to promoting local investments and quality-of-life improvements that lead to a thriving environment for your business.

Key Statistics from 2014 - 2024

15,000+
New Jobs

\$715M+
New Annual Payroll

\$7B+
Capital Investments

Major Investments in Allen County

Q2 2025

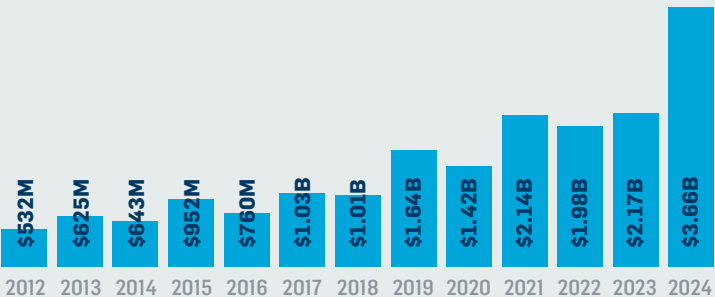
Master Spas	\$31M
Sweetwater Sound	\$85.2M
ElringKlinger	\$29.1M
Dana Corp.	\$209M
Lutheran Downtown Hospital	\$118M
Dreyers Grand Ice Cream	337M
General Motors	\$1.8B
Brotherhood Mutual Insurance	\$25.5M

Amazon	\$289M
Google	\$2B
Fort Wayne Metals	\$260.4M
Continental Diamond Tool	\$21.3M
Do it Best	\$50.8M
Superior Aluminum	\$26.2M
Michelin NA	\$115M
North American Cold Storage	\$91.3M

Building Permit Valuations by Year in Allen County

Building permit valuations are the estimated value of a construction job at the time of application.

Source: Allen County Board of Commissioners



Our Economic Diversity

What do we do here? A more fitting question might be, what don't we do here? Our local economy is rich and diverse, with a broad spectrum of industries from innovative tech startups to Fortune 500 companies, highlighting our community's dynamic business environment.

Do it Best World Headquarters located at Electric Works Campus

A Growing Job Market

Top employers are driving growth in Fort Wayne and Allen County by creating new job opportunities across a variety of industry sectors such as healthcare, manufacturing, technology, specialty insurance, and more. Explore the list below to discover the major private companies employing our local workforce.

Major Private Employers in Allen County

Q2 2025

Company		FTE	Company		FTE	Company		FTE
Parkview Health	HQ	8,986	Master Spas	HQ	910	Raytheon		430
Amazon		4,650	Frontier Communications		652	Sabert		400
General Motors		4,320	Easterseals Arc of NE IN	HQ	650	SIRVA		399
Lutheran Health Network	HQ	4,075	Vera Bradley	HQ	611	Essex Furukawa		394
Sweetwater Sound	HQ	2,400	L3Harris Technologies		600	Indiana Michigan Power		393
Lincoln Financial Group		1,700	Brotherhood Mutual	HQ	570	Brunswick Corporation		357
Michelin		1,500	Kelley Automotive Group	HQ	550	3Rivers Federal Credit	HQ	350
Fort Wayne Metals	HQ	1,500	MedPro Group	HQ	550	Ortho Northeast	HQ	340
Shambaugh & Son	HQ	1,500	Trelleborg AB		506	Franklin Electric	HQ	300
Steel Dynamics Inc.	HQ	1,200	Lutheran Life Villages		500	WaterFurnace	HQ	300
BAE Systems		1,139	Do It Best	HQ	471	K&K Insurance Group	HQ	275
Dana Corp.		960	Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream		434	Google		200

List includes private sector employers only, listed by full-time equivalents in Allen County.

Greater Fort Wayne Inc. staff collects information based on the latest available data.

Headquarters, Office, and IT

Sustaining & Growing

Fort Wayne and Allen County are recognized for their mix of corporate headquarters, research and development operations, and a thriving IT sector. This blend underlines the county's strength in supporting business growth, and its focus on technological innovation, contributing to a dynamic economic environment.



Interior of Sweetwater Sound Headquarters

Industry Leaders in Allen County



INDUSTRY CASE STUDY

Photography: Google

Google

[Business Attraction, 2024](#)

GFW Inc. services provided: Site selection assistance, land acquisition, utility coordination, project management

The first phase of a proposed 12-building complex is currently under construction, bringing Google to Southeast Fort Wayne. Utility partners Indiana Michigan Power and City Utilities worked hard to ensure the infrastructure needs could be met to keep the project on schedule. This multi-phased project will develop into one of the largest data centers in the world.

► **TOTAL LOCAL INVESTMENT: \$2 BILLION (PHASE I)**

Specialty Insurance

Setting the Standard

Over 100 years ago, Lincoln National Corp. ignited the emergence of Allen County's insurance market when they established their business in downtown Fort Wayne. This now thriving sector includes specialty insurers, reinsurers, and brokerages, which together capitalize on a highly skilled workforce proficient in regulatory compliance, IT, user-experience design, sales, and customer service.



Historic Signage of Lincoln Financial Headquarters

Industry Leaders in Allen County



INDUSTRY CASE STUDY

Photography: Brotherhood Mutual

Brotherhood Mutual

[Latest Local Expansion, 2019](#)

GFW Inc. services provided: Incentive coordination, partner coordination for infrastructure and traffic management

In recent years, Brotherhood Mutual has experienced three significant expansions, investing millions and adding hundreds of jobs. These expansions have enhanced the company's operations, underscoring its commitment to economic growth and job creation, establishing it as a key industry leader.

► **TOTAL LOCAL INVESTMENT: \$25.5 MILLION**

Automotive Tech

Made in Allen County

As America's top state for manufacturing, Indiana boasts a thriving industry fueled by technological innovation, a competitive business climate, and a workforce renowned for its adaptability and expertise. Discover why Fortune 500 companies choose to invest in Allen County and experience the driving force behind our industrial success.



Chevy Silverado production line at General Motors

Photography: General Motors - Fort Wayne Assembly

Industry Leaders in Allen County



INDUSTRY CASE STUDY

SH America

FDI Business Attraction, 2023

GFW Inc. services provided: Location Assistance, Project Management, Labor Market Data, Incentive Coordination

SH America, a South Korean EV component supplier to Samsung, is investing \$62 million in a new location within the Stonebridge Business Park, adding 400 jobs. This investment is in support of Samsung's construction of three battery plants statewide in collaboration with Stellantis and GM, boosting electric vehicle production in the area.

► **TOTAL LOCAL INVESTMENT: \$62 MILLION**

Aerospace & Defense

Protecting Tomorrow

Fort Wayne, home to innovative defense leaders such as BAE Systems, Raytheon, and L3Harris, has a rich history of engineering excellence, contributing to the development of renowned military technologies like the SINCGARS combat net radio and the NTS-3 satellite. Fort Wayne is well-positioned to fuel further growth and achieve continued success, thanks in part to the talent attraction efforts in this industry cluster.



Industry Leaders in Allen County



L3Harris

[Latest Local Expansion, 2023](#)

GFW Inc. Services Provided: Business & Talent Attraction Support

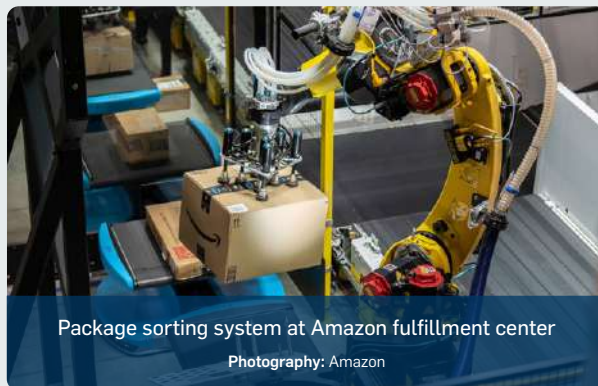
Satellite developer L3Harris is advancing its growth strategy in Fort Wayne by constructing a 113K SF facility to enhance testing and manufacturing. The company's focus on talent attraction saw more than 125 skilled technicians and engineers moving to or staying in Fort Wayne in 2023, including local graduates from Allen County universities and interns nationwide.

► **TOTAL LOCAL INVESTMENT: \$125 MILLION**

Logistics & Distribution

Strategic Location

Allen County's central location positions it within a one-day drive of half the U.S. market, giving the logistics and e-commerce sector fast, efficient, and reliable access. Our extensive transportation network and proximity to the nation's largest markets ensure seamless connections and unmatched customer reach.



Package sorting system at Amazon fulfillment center

Photography: Amazon

Industry Leaders in Allen County



INDUSTRY CASE STUDY

ABF Freight

[Latest Local Expansion & Relocation, 2021](#)

GFW Inc. services provided: Land Acquisition Coordination and Incentive Assistance

In 2021, ABF Freight Systems opened a new \$4.8 million facility in Southeast Fort Wayne, spanning 27,600 square feet, to support its operations and allow for Dreyer's expansion. This investment boosted ABF's logistics and preserved 28 jobs, significantly benefiting the local economy.

► **TOTAL LOCAL INVESTMENT: \$4.8 MILLION**

Food & Beverage

Experience Sweet Success

Allen County's thriving agricultural economy encompasses everything from dairy to chocolate production, as well as brewing and packaging. Our community is renowned for its corn, soybean, and ice cream production, accompanied by substantial cost savings on water pre-treatment for industrial enterprises.



Walmart Dairy Processing Plant

Industry Leaders in Allen County



INDUSTRY CASE STUDY

Froneri / Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream

FDI, Business Expansion & New Investment Attraction, 2021

GFW Inc. Services Provided: Land Acquisition Coordination & Incentive Assistance

In 2023, Dreyer's invested \$145 million to add 145 new jobs to its existing 400 through the launch of two new Drumstick® production lines. The expansion builds on a previous investment in 2020, expanding capabilities to increase capacity and streamline production of their most popular product.

► **TOTAL LOCAL INVESTMENT: \$337.4 MILLION**

Advanced Materials

Elite Supply Network

Allen County provides a strong base for advanced materials companies. With close access to Purdue University Fort Wayne and Indiana Tech, the area supports research partnerships and offers a steady pipeline of skilled talent.



Rea Magnet Wire Employee

Photography: Rea Magnet Wire

Industry Leaders in Allen County



INDUSTRY CASE STUDY

Photography: Essex Furukawa

Essex Furukawa

FDI, Business Expansion & New Investment Attraction, 2018

GFW Inc. Services Provided: Incentive Coordination, Familiarization Tour, Labor Market Data

Essex Furukawa, formed through a partnership between Atlanta-based Superior Essex and Japan-based Furukawa, opened the MagForceX North American research and development center in Fort Wayne. As a key supplier of magnet wire, Essex Furukawa is driving magnet wire innovations for e-mobility technology in the automotive industry and for transmission lines.

► **TOTAL LOCAL INVESTMENT: \$17 MILLION**

Medical Devices

Advanced Orthopedic Solutions

From knee and hip replacement joints to spinal implants, bioconductors, and medical-grade wires, medical device companies such as DePuy Synthes, Zimmer Biomet, and Stryker have established Northeast Indiana as the orthopedic capital of the world.



Employees at Fort Wayne Metals

Photography: Fort Wayne Metals

Industry Leaders in Allen County



INDUSTRY CASE STUDY

Fort Wayne Metals

[Latest Local Expansion, 2024](#)

GFW Inc. Services Provided: Project Management, Incentive Coordination

After two successful expansions, Fort Wayne Metals is again expanding its Indiana facility to incorporate tantalum wire processing. As the company expands, it expects to hire an additional 340 workers to meet the global demand for its products.

► **TOTAL LOCAL INVESTMENT: \$260.4 MILLION**

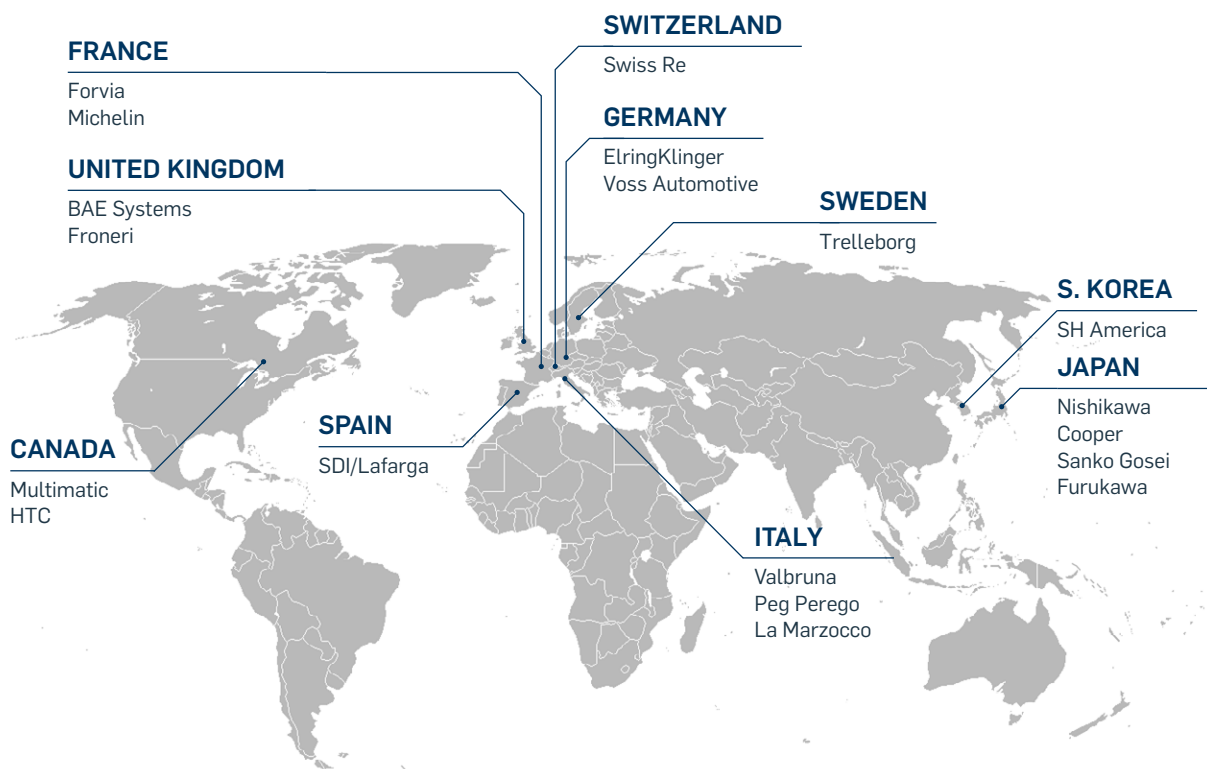
FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT

Attracting Businesses from Across the Globe

Business leaders from Canada to Europe to the Pacific Rim have chosen to grow their companies here, and we're eager to welcome you, too. Our outstanding workforce, central location, and strong business environment make Fort Wayne and Allen County a great place to build your U.S. operations.



Grand Opening of Swiss Re Insurance Group in Fort Wayne



"Once our executive team made their way to the U.S. and started to see what Fort Wayne had to offer, there was a lot of positive energy around the factory, around the people who work here, and the manufacturing environment in Fort Wayne."

Justin Larkin, Factory Engineering Manager
Froneri / Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream



Froneri / Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream
Over \$330M Invested in Allen County since 2020

OUR COMMUNITY

A Fastest-Growing Metro

Fort Wayne is the second-largest city in Indiana and is among the 100 largest nationally. And we're growing faster than peer cities like Cincinnati, Omaha, and Louisville. Fort Wayne and Allen County provide welcoming and inclusive communities that embody the very best of Hoosier Hospitality. It's why we are one of the fastest-growing metros in the Great Lakes region.

Promenade Park Along Downtown Riverfront Redevelopment

Supporting Our Local Growing Communities

Greater Fort Wayne Inc. serves all of Allen County's local communities. From our urban core to our rural townships, each offers something different for everyone, providing unique opportunities for investment and growth.

- ▶ Fort Wayne

▶ New Haven

▶ Grabill
- ▶ Harlan

▶ Hoagland

▶ Huntertown
- ▶ Leo-Cedarville

▶ Monroeville

▶ Woodburn



Allen County Demographic Information

Local Population Estimates
Q2 2025

Allen County	396,635	Town of Huntertown	11,468
City of Fort Wayne	270,593	Within a 60-Mile Radius	1.5 Million
City of New Haven	15,876	Median Age	36.1 Years

Allen County Wages & Income
Q2 2025

Per-Capita Personal Income	\$60,607
Average Annual Wage	\$60,212
Median Household Income	\$69,403

Median Home Prices, National Association of Realtors
Q1 2025

Fort Wayne, IN	\$239,600	Chattanooga, TN	\$331,500	Greenville, SC	\$338,200
Omaha, NE	\$294,600	Indianapolis, IN	\$316,200	Durham, NC	\$425,700
Louisville, KY	\$278,100	Grand Rapids, MI	\$321,400	Des Moines, IA	\$300,000
Cincinnati, OH	\$293,900	Columbus, OH	\$321,800	Huntsville, AL	\$312,000

EDUCATION IN ALLEN COUNTY

Talent Within Reach

Fort Wayne's success as one of the fastest-growing metropolitan areas in the Great Lakes region can be attributed to our growth rate consistently outpacing the national average. This achievement results from our strategic focus on creating dynamic quality-of-life amenities and cultivating a premier talent base through collaboration with educational partners.



Students at the University of Saint Francis

Major Higher Education Partners in Allen County

Right here in Allen County, residents have access to world-renowned degree programs all the way up to the doctorate level. Plus, continuing education is readily available for professionals looking to sharpen their skills.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY
FORT WAYNE

IVY TECH
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

TRINE
UNIVERSITY

IWU
INDIANA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
FORT WAYNE

HUNTINGTON
UNIVERSITY

Manchester
University

UNIVERSITY OF
SAINT FRANCIS

INDIANA TECH

Colleges & Universities

Allen County benefits from a highly skilled workforce, thanks to nearby nationally ranked colleges and universities within a **200-mile radius**. This proximity offers local businesses access to a rich pool of **over two million** educated individuals, significantly boosting our community's economic growth and development.



ALLEN COUNTY WORKFORCE

Our Growing Workforce

Northeast Indiana boasts an expanding workforce, making it an ideal location to build your business. With a growing economy and a pool of talented professionals, Allen County offers ample opportunities to establish your business in Northern Indiana.

Welder at Steel Dynamics

OVER 650,000 WORKERS WITHIN 60 MILES OF ALLEN COUNTY

Occupations & Estimated Employment in Northeast Indiana	IN DWD, 2024	Occupations & Estimated Employment in Northeast Indiana	IN DWD, 2024
Architecture and Engineering	5,790	Healthcare Support	15,230
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	3,620	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	16,700
Grounds Cleaning and Building Maintenance	9,540	Legal Occupations	1,480
Business and Financial Operations	14,960	Life, Physical, and Social Science	1,750
Community and Social Service	5,410	Management	16,710
Computer and Mathematical	5,780	Office Administrative Support	38,710
Construction and Extraction	15,270	Personal Care and Service	5,320
Educational Instruction and Library	17,140	Production	56,530
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	410	Protective Services	5,980
Food Preparation and Serving Related	30,570	Sales and Related	30,450
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	23,140	Transportation and Material Moving	39,120

Resources to Build your Business

Allen County has the tools to help cultivate, attract, and retain the workforce your business needs to thrive. Explore resources specializing in workforce development, employment services, talent recruitment, and more.

RESOURCES.GFWINC.COM



Transportation

Fort Wayne International Airport (FWA)

Serving more than 700,000 passengers in a typical year, Fort Wayne International Airport (FWA) is not only the **“Friendliest Airport in the United States”** it is also convenient and cost-competitive. FWA offers direct flights to major cities, including Orlando, Tampa, Atlanta, Dallas, Sarasota, Las Vegas, Detroit, Myrtle Beach, Chicago, Phoenix, Minneapolis, Fort Myers, Charlotte, and Fort Lauderdale.



Business Amenities

FWA is equipped to support your business, featuring services such as air cargo service, foreign trade zone designation, 24-hour FAA air traffic control and customs services, T-hangar rentals, state-of-the-art Fixed Base Operator (FBO) terminal for private aircraft, and more.

Project Gateway

FWA continues to raise the bar. The **\$120 Million** Project Gateway builds on a decade of growth, improving the travel experience with a major terminal expansion, upgrades to the rental car area, and more.

FWAIRPORT.COM

Rail Service

Allen County is served by Norfolk Southern Railroad and Genesee & Wyoming Inc.

Moving Goods

Norfolk Southern's East Wayne Yard is a thriving depot that supports the transportation and logistics operations of businesses in Allen County and beyond. This strategic location largely contributes to improved operational efficiency in the region.



Utilities

Electricity & Natural Gas

Local Energy Partners in Allen County



Water & Wastewater

Proven, Stable, Long-term Water Supply

- ▶ The St. Joseph River is projected to continue providing a plentiful water supply.
- ▶ Fort Wayne City Utilities has **2.5 Billion gallons** of storage capacity.
- ▶ Former Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry and the Sustain Fort Wayne Plan received the **2024 NACWA National Environmental Achievement Award** for a commitment to sustainable water services.

Treatment Capacity and Savings

- ▶ Average-day water demand is **32.8 Million gallons**, below City Utilities' **total daily capacity of 72 Million gallons**.
- ▶ Typical pre-treatment cost reduction is 25-30% for industrial users.

Wastewater Capacity and Flexibility

- ▶ Average-day wastewater flow is **45.9 Million gallons per day**, below the **total daily capacity of 100 Million gallons**.
- ▶ Fort Wayne City Utilities has a great deal of flexibility and can accept wide variations in waste streams.



TOP-5

State in the nation for
infrastructure quality
CNBC, 2023

\$122M

Investment in FWA
terminal expansions

TOP-10

Best-run city
in America
Wallethub.com, 2024

Allen County Together Plan

Our Economic Development Plan for the Next 10 Years

The momentum in our community is real—and we're just getting started. Our Allen County Together (ACT) economic development action plan sets the pace and tone for our next decade of growth. **The plan focuses public and private efforts around three main pillars:**



High-Growth



Innovative



Inclusive

The ACT plan is our roadmap for community-wide success: accelerating high-quality space development to attract jobs and talent, building a strong support network for entrepreneurs and tech-driven businesses, and aligning public and private partners to ensure equitable access to economic and educational opportunities across Allen County. Together, these strategies aim to drive high-growth, innovation, and inclusion.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ALLEN COUNTY TOGETHER PLAN

Scan the QR code or visit act.gfwinc.com for more information.



"They're committed to their downtown, and they've got a plan. Probably more importantly, they have some really, really good people to work with, so when you come up and sit down, these folks know what they're doing."

Rex Barrett, Executive Vice President,
Barrett & Stokely



The Riverfront at Promenade Park
\$89M Investment in Downtown Fort Wayne

DOWNTOWN MOMENTUM

Building a More Vibrant Community

The excitement continues to build in downtown Fort Wayne, as quality-of-place improvements attract businesses and residents alike to the urban core of one of the fastest-growing metros in the Great Lakes region. Parkview Field's opening in 2009 spurred more than \$1.7 Billion in downtown private investment—and unleashed a community-wide revitalization.

Downtown Fort Wayne Skyline

OVER \$1.7 BILLION IN DOWNTOWN INVESTMENT SINCE 2009

Quality of Place Investments in Downtown Fort Wayne



Parkview Field

Opened 2009

\$89M Investment



Ash Skyline Plaza

Opened 2018

\$98M Investment



Lutheran Downtown Hospital

Opened 2021

\$118M Investment



Arts Campus Fort Wayne

Opening 2025

\$43M Investment

Riverfront Fort Wayne

The transformation has begun, turning the confluence of the St. Marys, St. Joseph, and Maumee rivers into a vibrant regional landmark. With trails, boat excursions, kayaking, playgrounds, and more on the way, Promenade Park provides a variety of opportunities to explore.

RIVERFRONTFW.ORG

Promenade Park along Downtown Riverfront Redevelopment

BOLD PROJECTS

Recent Investments in Allen County

In Fort Wayne and Allen County, we invest in ourselves and our people. Through strategic investments and partnerships, we're building a vibrant community full of opportunities to help you achieve your full potential. Take a look at the improvements that are reshaping our skyline and making Fort Wayne one of the fastest-growing metros in the Great Lakes region.

The Elix at Electric Works



The Landing

Opened 2019

This investment brings boutique shopping and fine dining to Fort Wayne's original business district. Located just two blocks south of the Riverfront, the redevelopment of this charming street and its architecturally significant buildings includes 91 new downtown apartments.

Total Investment: \$44M



Electric Works

Phases I & II Opened 2022

One of the largest redevelopment projects in the country, Electric Works is the redevelopment of the former General Electric campus, creating a new hub for innovation and entrepreneurship. Featuring Union Street Market, the new world headquarters for Do it Best, co-working spaces, an innovation-focused high school, and residential and retail on the way.

Total Investment: \$500M



East Allen's Rural Revival

Completed 2022

The momentum is spreading. This package of quality-of-place improvements enhances parks, sidewalks, downtown streetscapes, housing, and more across seven communities in east Allen County.

Total Investment: \$65M

Additional Bold Projects



STAR Financial Bank at The Ashberry

Opened 2024

STAR Financial Bank established a new company headquarters in the downtown Ashberry project—a two-tower, mixed-use building that includes a 387-space public parking garage, just steps away from other downtown attractions like The Bradley, The Landing, The Pearl, and more.

Total Investment: \$31M



The Pearl & Pearl Street Arts Center

Opened 2024

Nestled next door to The Bradley, this innovative downtown development features commercial and event space along with more than 70 residences. The project, led by the founder of Sweetwater Sound, adds to the buzz of activity in the nearby Harrison Street Corridor, The Landing, and the Riverfront District.

Total Investment: \$100M



The Lofts at Headwaters Park

Estimated Completion 2025

Overlooking Headwaters Park and the St. Marys River, this six-story, mixed-use project is in the middle of the downtown scene. The building features more than 200 apartments, 15 townhomes, commercial space, and a 650-space parking garage—all with easy access to restaurants, festivals, and the Rivergreenway trail system.

Total Investment: \$98M



New Haven Fieldhouse

Ground Broken in 2025

Located at Minnich Road and I-469, Fields of Grace is a partnership between the City of New Haven, Grace Gathering Church, and Card & Associates. The 150-acre youth sports park will feature a 140,000 sq. ft. multi-sport fieldhouse and eight outdoor diamonds for baseball and softball. Plans also include future residential and hospitality uses around the development.

Total Investment: \$31M

Local Incentives

Property Tax Phase-ins (aka Tax Abatements)

Tax phase-ins give local governments the option of allowing certain businesses to phase in those new taxes that would otherwise be assessed to their property because of new building construction or the purchase of equipment used for manufacturing, research and development, logistical distribution, and information technology.

Eligible Vacant Building Deductions

If a commercial or industrial building that has sat 100% vacant for a year or longer becomes occupied, the owner/occupant can apply for the eligible vacant building property tax deduction. Documentation must be provided proving that the building has been unoccupied, but actively marketed for sale or lease, for at least a year. The deduction is 100% of existing real property taxes for year one and a 50% deduction in year two.

Tax Increment Financing

TIF districts are established through redevelopment commissions. New taxes generated as a result of development in the TIF may be used as debt service on bonds issued for the purpose of developments and improvements in the area. Proceeds from the bonds may be used to construct public improvements on roads, sewers, etc.

Northeast Indiana Works

Northeast Indiana Works connects with various state and federal agencies to offer grants and incentives to businesses to help train workers. Northeast Indiana Works can also assist with hiring a skilled workforce for companies that are expanding operations.

Façade Grants

Businesses located within the Downtown Improvement District or within an Economic Development Target Area can apply for a façade grant from the City of Fort Wayne. It is a 50% matching grant worth up to \$40,000. A property owner must work with city planning staff to make sure façade improvements meet certain guidelines.

Low-Interest Loans

The Community Development Corporation (CDC) of Northeast Indiana facilitates five loan programs for new and existing businesses interrelated with job creation. These programs can fund a variety of business expenses, including building purchase, renovation or construction, equipment, and working capital, ranging in size from a few thousand dollars up to \$5.5 million on the CDC portion of the project.

Summit City Entrepreneur and Enterprise District (SEED)

SEED focuses on programs that support entrepreneurship, innovation, technology development, and small business development. SEED also offers tax incentives (investment deduction of 100% up to 10 years, abatement deductions for vacant buildings, and personal property assessed value floor exemption) to businesses locating in the SEED boundaries. The district is located in the heart of the community, along the railroad corridor that runs from east to west just south of downtown. The district also includes several urban corridors.

Foreign Trade Zone #182

The Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) program operates in a 12-county region in northeast Indiana. Any company within this area can apply to be a FTZ operator, allowing it to defer or even void payment of import duties, and often enjoy a lower tariff rate. Restrictions, limitations, and regulations regarding how much merchandise can be brought into the country are eased or eliminated as long as the merchandise remains in the FTZ.

Qualified Opportunity Zones

The federal Opportunity Zones (OZ) program is an economic development tool aimed at catalyzing new, long-term investments and development in economically challenged urban and rural communities across the country. Allen County is home to 10 Qualified OZs, and local incentives may be eligible for use in conjunction with the OZ program.

State Incentives

Economic Development for a Growing Economy Tax Credits (EDGE)

EDGE is a refundable tax credit program that rewards companies creating jobs and contributing to the growth of Indiana's economy. EDGE credits are calculated as a percentage of payroll tax withholding for net new Indiana jobs. EDGE credits may be awarded for a period of up to 10 years.

Hoosier Business Investment Tax Credits (HBI)

This program encourages capital investment in Indiana by providing a credit against a company's Indiana tax liability. The credit amount is based on a company's qualified capital investment with the final credit amount determined by the Indiana Economic Development Corp. (IEDC), based on an analysis of the economic benefits of the proposed investment.

Skills Enhancement Fund (SEF)

SEF provides financial assistance to businesses committed to training their workforce. Trainees must be Indiana residents. SEF reimburses eligible training expenses over a two-year term. Companies may reapply for additional SEF funds after their initial two-year term. IEDC typically does not provide reimbursement for training that is required by law.

Community Revitalization Enhancement District Tax Credits (CReED)

CReED Tax Credits are available to taxpayers who make qualified investments for the redevelopment or rehabilitation of property located within a revitalization district. Only those projects that the IEDC expects to have a positive return on investment will be considered. Eligible costs include acquisition, rehabilitation, architectural and engineering services, environmental remediation, construction management, and demolition.

Patent Income Exemption

The Patent Tax Exemption allows certain income derived from qualified patents to be exempt from taxation. The Tax Exemption for Patent-Derived Income defines qualified patents to include only utility patents and plant patents. The total amount of exemptions claimed by a taxpayer in a taxable year may not exceed \$5 million.

Research and Development (R&D) Tax Credit

The Research and Development credit provides a credit against state tax liability for qualified company research expenses.

Elevate Ventures

Elevate Ventures is a private venture development organization that nurtures and develops emerging and existing high-potential businesses into high-performing, Indiana-based companies. Elevate Ventures accomplishes this by providing access to capital, rigorous business analysis, and robust advisory services that connect companies with the right mix of resources businesses need to succeed long term.

Next Level Jobs

Next Level Jobs is a campaign that targets working-age Hoosiers and Indiana employers with the goal of skilling up our workforce to fill the high-wage jobs available right now in every part of the state. The Employer Training Grant can provide training reimbursement of up to \$5,000 for each new employee who is trained, hired, and retained for six months. The Workforce Ready Grant provides free training for Hoosiers in the state's highest-demand jobs.

Redevelopment Tax Credit

The Redevelopment Tax Credit incentivizes redevelopment of distressed properties. To be eligible for the credit, the taxpayer must make a qualified investment (approved by the IEDC) in the redevelopment or rehabilitation of real property located within a qualified redevelopment site. A qualified redevelopment site can be composed of buildings, vacant land, or brownfields. The amount of credit that may be awarded is 10-25% of the total cost of the project. Projects that qualify for New Markets Tax Credits or that are located in a designated Opportunity Zone may be eligible for an additional 5% credit.

Data Center Sales Tax Exemption

The Data Center Gross Retail and Use Tax Exemption provides a sales and use tax exemption on purchases of qualifying data center equipment and energy to operators of a qualified data center for a period not to exceed 25 years for data center investments of less than \$750 million. If the investment exceeds \$750 million, the IEDC may award an exemption for up to 50 years. This program is established by Indiana Code § 6-2.5-15. Local governments may also provide a personal property tax exemption on qualified enterprise information technology equipment to owners of a data center who invest at least \$25 million in real and personal property in the facility.



Proud Winner of the 2025 ACCE Chamber of the Year Award

In 2025, Greater Fort Wayne Inc. was honored to be awarded the national Chamber of the Year award, presented by the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE). Throughout the application process, our team showcased an extensive organizational strategy, powerful performance metrics, and recent success stories highlighting the ways GFW Inc. continues to impact our community.

For over 10 years, GFW Inc. has served as the chamber of commerce and economic development engine for Fort Wayne and Allen County, Indiana, creating the conditions that attract talent, drive investment, and fuel community growth. Our success continues to be proven by national rankings such as these:

#1

**FASTEST-GROWING
BIG CITY IN THE MIDWEST**
U.S. Census Bureau, 2024

TOP-10

**BEST-RUN CITIES
IN AMERICA**
WalletHub.com, 2024

TOP-20

**BEST PLACES TO LIVE
IN THE U.S.**
U.S. News & World Report, 2024



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