

## Did You Know?



Since its launch in 2020, the **Alabama School of Cyber Technology and Engineering** (ASCTE), has grown at an extraordinary pace—from just 70 students to 365—and is on mission to reach 450, with expectations of establishing the nation's first K–12 research center. The ASCTE is a one-of-a-kind public, state-wide magnet high school offering tuition-free, commuter and residential options.



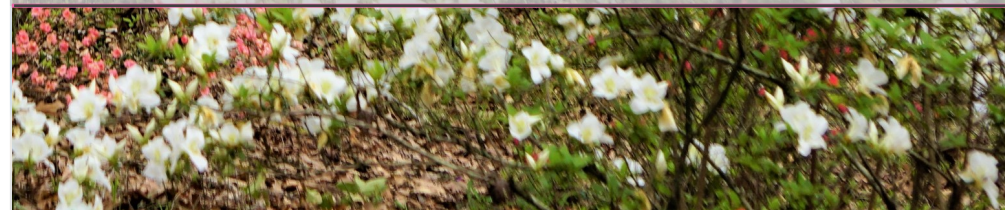
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For information on developments in North Alabama see the 'NEWS' section of our website and follow us on X [@NorthAlabamaUSA](https://twitter.com/NorthAlabamaUSA)



## North Alabama

### Q1 2025



## New Investment

### Jackson County

**Xelevate**—is launching a new Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) operations and training location at the TVA Bellefonte Nuclear Power Plant in Jackson County, Alabama. This site will support testing, training, and demonstrations for UAS technologies, helping federal, state, and local agencies, as well as industry partners, enhance security, innovation, and workforce development in critical infrastructure sectors. The initiative will not impact TVA's operations and is designed to foster safe, cutting-edge drone applications in a unique, secure environment.



We're certainly pleased to learn **Florence (#5)** and **Decatur/Hartselle (#12)** made *Kiplinger's* list of the *25 Cheapest Places to Live: U.S. Cities Edition*

## Industry Expansions

### Cullman County

**HH Technologies**—is adding production lines in Bremen, AL with a \$2M expansion.

### DeKalb County

**Feralloy Corp. (GH Metal Solutions)** - is investing \$3M to purchase new manufacturing equipment.

**Nucor Corp. (Vulcraft)** - is investing \$19M in facility upgrades and the purchase of new equipment.

### Limestone County

**GE Aerospace**—invested \$22M in additional equipment to produce materials that are building blocks for ceramic matrix composite engine parts.

### Morgan County

**Neo Industries (Alabama)** - is investing \$3.75M to upgrade an existing facility with a new roll grinder, overhead crane, and equipment to boost steel and aluminum production, creating 8 new jobs.

## Industry Expansions continued

### Madison County

**Science & Engineering Services**—Huntsville-based SES LLC has opened a new 111,000-square-foot hangar at Jetplex Industrial Park, expanding its aircraft modification capabilities and reinforcing its growing presence in the aviation sector.

Alabama exports totaled \$26.8 Billion of goods and services in 2024, reaching over 200 countries. This ranks as the 2nd highest annual tally for worldwide shipments from the state.

## Recent Developments

Rail lifts at the **International Intermodal Center (IIC)** at the Port of Huntsville reached their highest level since 2008, with a 22.3% increase in 2024 compared to 2023. **On March 19th our International Intermodal Center surpassed 1 million rail lifts!**

To meet our increasing passenger demand, **Huntsville International Airport** will construct a new parking deck next to the existing structure. Design work is set to begin this summer, with construction starting by year's end; the new deck will add approximately 1,300 to 1,400 parking spaces.

**Signature Aviation** has completed its terminal expansion and renovation at Huntsville International Airport, enhancing services for travelers and aviation partners.

**Huntsville, Alabama** secured the No. 5 spot in the **South's Best Metros for Tech 2024**, thanks to its high concentration of tech jobs and companies—largely fueled by its aerospace, defense, and rocketry sectors, alongside a growing diversification. Several key players, including Dynetics, Torch Technologies, and Invariant Corporation, either expanded or relocated to the area between 2019 and 2023, contributing to a 50% surge in tech employment. With 4,779 new tech jobs added from 2019 to 2021 and the lowest unemployment rate among the top 20 metros, Huntsville continues to stand out as one of the South's most resilient and dynamic tech hubs.

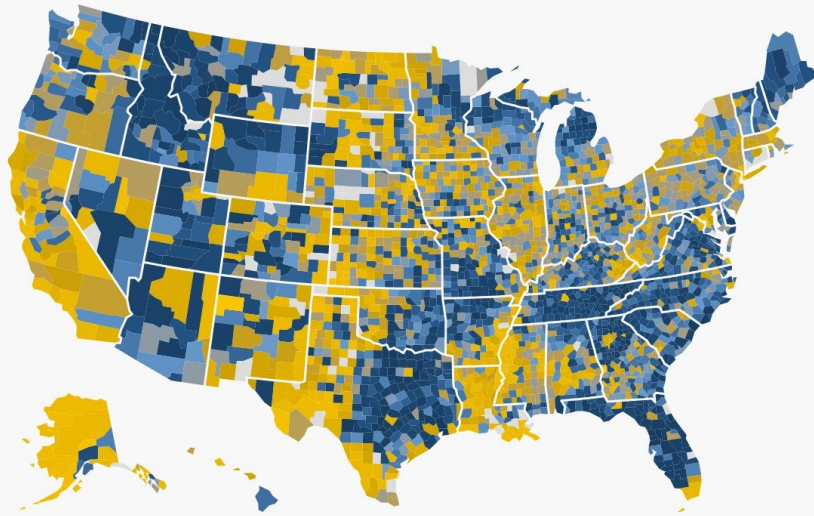
## Workforce

The **North Alabama** region leads the state of Alabama in Labor Force Participation at **61.1%** for January 2025. —*North Alabama Works*

## County-Level Migration 2021-2022

Net Gain/Loss of Residents as a Share of 2021 County Population

-5.8% 7.1%



Note: Tax Foundation calculations using IRS and Census data.  
Source: IRS, SOI Tax Stats.

Map: Andrey Yushkov



**Limestone County** has been named the fastest-growing county in the state of Alabama, according to newly released data from the U.S. Census Bureau. The county experienced a population increase of 4,139 residents from July 1, 2023 to July 1, 2024, a 3.6% growth rate. Over the past four years, Limestone county has seen an impressive population surge of 15,381 new residents, marking a 14.9% increase since 2020.

**The Huntsville metro area, including the rapidly expanding Madison and Limestone counties, ranked as the 15th fastest-growing metro in the nation.**

## Industry Expansions continued

**Wolverine Industries**—is adding to its integrated aluminum manufacturing operations with new fabrication equipment, anodizing capabilities, and an additional extrusion press. The \$20.4M investment is expected to create 26 new jobs over the next three years.

## Recent Development



**United Launch Alliance's** new Vulcan rocket has been certified by the U.S. Space Force for National Security Space Launch (NSSL) missions. With this certification, ULA—based in Decatur—becomes one of only two launch providers eligible to carry out these critical missions. This milestone marks the beginning of a new era in U.S. space capability: *“Any payload, anytime, directly to any orbit.”*

The competitive Space Force contract award covers 40% of the nation's most vital satellite launches, including missions to the most challenging and exotic orbits.

*“We are proud to have launched 100 national security space missions and are honored to continue serving the nation with our new Vulcan rocket”* said Tory Bruno, President and CEO of ULA.

# industrialservices.naida.com

To support companies looking to source more American-made content for their products, we are enhancing our industrial services website to include a comprehensive industrial directory. The integration of this additional data is scheduled for completion in Q2.



Industries

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Product

NAICS

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DeKalb

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**Product:** Miscellaneous Manufacturing

**NAICS:** 339950

**Location:** 302 1st St E, Fort Payne, AL, 35967-2016

Website

Alabama Machine Works, Inc

**Product:** Metal Products Manufacturing

**NAICS:** 332999

**Location:** 8601 Al Hwy 227, Crossville, AL, 35962

Website

Alabama Tube Corporation

**Product:** Metal Products Manufacturing

**NAICS:** 331315

**Location:** 398 Star Road, Fort Payne, AL, 35968-4934

Website

B B Truck Crane Repair

**Product:** Industrial Machinery Repair and Maintenance

**NAICS:** 811310

**Location:** 3394 Al Highway 117, Mentone, AL, 35984-2861

Website

Bailey Enterprises

**Product:** Trucking

**NAICS:** 484110

**Location:** 151 35th St NE, Fort Payne, AL, 35967-3959

BlueScope Steel

**Product:** Metal Products Manufacturing

**NAICS:** 332311

**Location:** 1274 Church Ave NW, Rainsville, AL, 35986-6230

Website

Colortrim Plastics LLC

**Product:** Rubber and Plastic Product Manufacturing

**NAICS:** 326199

**Location:** 22251 Al Hwy 75

Darrell Hayes Trucking, Inc.

**Product:** Trucking

**NAICS:** 484121

**Location:** 21041 Al Highway 117, Idor, AL, 35991-4654

Davin Ladon Stone

**Product:** Trucking

**NAICS:** 484110

**Location:** 894 Carissa Rd, Sylvania, AL, 35088-2518

