

# DeKalb County, AL



GREATER CHATTANOOGA  
ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP



**DeKalb County** is located in Northeast Alabama, less than two and a half hours from over six major Southeastern markets. I-59 runs through the county, and DeKalb is also close to I-20, I-24, I-65, and I-75.

DeKalb County is served by the Norfolk Southern Railroad that traverses the valley region from a southwest to northeast direction through the towns of Collinsville and Valley Head and the city of Fort Payne. This main rail line parallels both I-59 and U.S. Hwy. 11 and runs from the Gulf Coast to the Northeast, linking the Gulf and the East Coast. Norfolk Southern provides daily car pickup and deliveries and is a major line for the railroad company. General aviation services are available at Isbell Field-Fort Payne Municipal Airport with a runway length of 5,080 feet. The Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport, located within 62 miles of DeKalb County offers non-stop service to nine locations throughout the U.S. Air cargo is also available. Airlines serving the Chattanooga airport include: Allegiant, American Airlines, American Eagle, Delta and United Airlines.

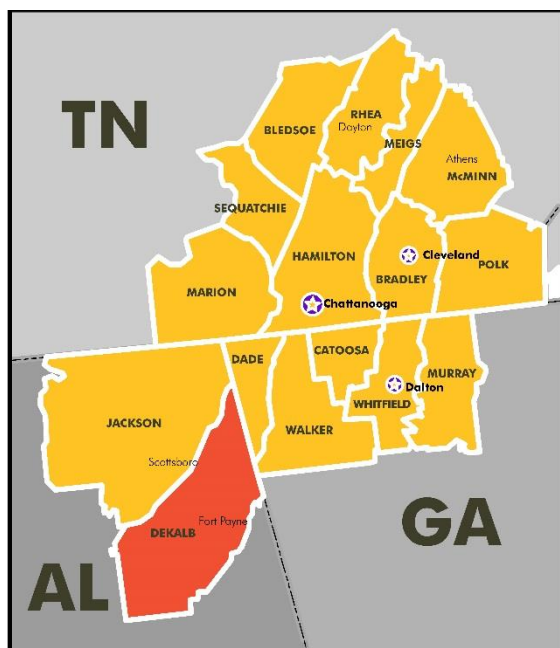
There are several industrial site options. The I-59 Fort Payne Industrial Park is within the Fort Payne city limits and in a New Market Tax Credit area of the state. Rainsville Industrial Park provides large and small site options within the Rainsville city limits and is approximately 6.5 miles from Interstate 59. Fyffe Industrial Park is located on Alabama Highway 75.

The Northeast Alabama Community College is on the Jackson County-DeKalb County line and provides a two-year program. The college offers both academic and technical degree programs, as well as

workforce development and skills training courses. Additionally, a wide selection of community, state and private colleges and universities are all within a short drive.

DeKalb Regional Medical Center serves DeKalb County for acute care with 134 licensed beds and is served by 30 active and 33 courtesy physicians. The hospital provides obstetrical, cardiac, surgical, general diagnostic services, ER, and Home Care services. In addition, DeKalb County delivers many medical services providing quality health care.

Desoto State Park in DeKalb County Alabama is one of the most visited state parks in Alabama providing cabins, campgrounds, hiking trails, fishing, restaurants, etc. Little River Canyon National Preserve is the nation's newest national preserve which lies on the Eastern boundary of DeKalb County. This preserve consist of approximately 16,000 acres and provides camping, hiking and other activities. The Little River Management area provides thousands of acres of hunting land for quail, deer, turkey, and other small game.



## MAJOR EMPLOYERS

COMPANY	EMPLOYEES
The Children's Place Dist. Ctr.	1,427
Koch/JCG Foods of Alabama	850
Heil Environmental	725
Renfro Corporation	700
Rainsville Technology, Inc. (RTI)	560

Source: Companies

## POPULATION

Population 2019	72,717
Population 2024	73,223
Households 2019	27,329
Median Age	39.5
Median Household Income	\$40,133
Per Capita Income	\$20,688

Source: Gale Research

## ANNOUNCED PROJECTS (2016-2020)

Number of Projects	22
New Jobs	710
Capital Investment	\$146,883,594

Source: GCEP

## LABOR FORCE (2020 ANNUAL AVERAGE)

Labor Force	30,736
Unemployment Rate	4.5%

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Population 25+	49,025
High School Graduate (only)	35.0%
Some College	18.5%
Associate's Degree	8.9%
Bachelor's Degree	7.2%
Graduate or Professional	4.7%
ACT-County	19.1/17.6
ACT-State	18.9

Source: Gale Research, Alabama Department of Education

## EDUCATION

Public Schools	17
Public School Enrollment	11,684
Private Schools	2
Private School Enrollment	486
School Districts	2

Source: Alabama Department of Education, Individual Schools and GCEP

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

New Employers (Maximum)	2.7%
Experience Rate Range	0.65% to 6.8%
Taxable Base	\$8,000

Source: ADP

## SALES TAX - GENERAL AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS

Sales Tax Rate-State	4%
Sales Tax Rate-County	1%
Electricity* (State/Local)	4%/0%
Piped Natural Gas* (State/Local)	4%/0%
Mfg. Water (State/Local)	4%/0%
	(exemption possible)
Mfg. Fuels (State/Local)	4%/1%
Mfg. Equipment (State/Local)	1.5%/1%
Telecommunications (State/Local)	6%/0%

\*Residential  
Source: Alabama Department of Revenue

## PROPERTY TAX (PER \$1,000 OF ASSESSED VALUE)

Property Taxes-County Incorporated	\$32.5
Property Taxes-County Unincorporated	\$35.5
Property Taxes-County Seat	\$45.0

Source: Alabama Department of Revenue

## INVENTORY TAX

Finished Goods	None
Raw Materials	None
Goods in Process	None
Materials Consumed in Manufacturing	None

Source: Alabama Department of Revenue

## EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES (2020 ANNUAL AVERAGE)

	% OF TOTAL	WEEKLY WAGES
Natural Resources & Mining	1.7%	\$761
Construction	2.9%	\$1,065
Manufacturing	29.0%	\$942
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	21.4%	\$713
Information	0.7%	\$1,166
Financial Activities	2.5%	\$859
Professional & Business Services	5.8%	\$664
Education & Health Services	11.5%	\$794
Leisure & Hospitality	7.8%	\$334
Other Services	1.0%	\$698
Government	15.5%	\$780

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

## ACCESSIBILITY

Largest City or Town	Ft. Payne
Population-2019	14,074
Miles to Chattanooga	54
Nearest Commercial Airport	Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport
Runway Length	7,400 and 5,575
Miles to Airport	62
Nearest Interstate	I-59
Foreign Trade Zone	No
Population within 50-mile radius	1,047,112

Source: GCEP, Gale Research

## UTILITIES

Name of Electricity Provider	Multiple municipal providers
Is Natural Gas Available (Yes/No)	Yes
Name of Natural Gas Provider	Upper Sand Mountain Gas District; DeKalb-Cherokee Gas District
Name of Water Provider	Multiple municipal providers
Name of Wastewater Provider	Multiple municipal providers
Excess System Capacity	Yes

Source: GCEP

## CONTACT US

**Jimmy Durham**  
DeKalb County Economic  
Development Authority  
P.O. Box 680941  
Fort Payne, AL 35968  
256.845.7957  
[jdurham@dekalbeda.com](mailto:jdurham@dekalbeda.com)  
[www.dekalbeda.com](http://www.dekalbeda.com)



**Charles Wood**  
Greater Chattanooga Economic  
Partnership  
811 Broad Street, Suite 100  
Chattanooga, TN 37402  
423.763.4335  
[cwood@greaterchatt.com](mailto:cwood@greaterchatt.com)  
[www.greaterchatt.com](http://www.greaterchatt.com)

