



Findlay · Hancock County
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FINDLAY·HANCOCK COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

AUGUST 2023

SHEETZ ANNOUNCES INVESTMENT IN FINDLAY, OH

On August 28th, Sheetz, Inc. announced that it will construct a new \$150M facility in Findlay, Ohio that will house additional food preparation and distribution functions as they expand their footprint into new markets. The company had identified Northwest Ohio as a strategic location with easy access to markets in Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio. Formerly known as Project Hat Trick, the Findlay-Hancock County Economic Development office has been working on this project alongside local, regional, and state partners since December 2022. Alignment of purpose and dedication to a *stakeholder engagement process* by all parties helped to secure this investment for our community. This result is yet another demonstration of the FindlayFormula™ at work. To read more about the announcement, [please see the press release here.](#)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOCUS AREAS

Retention & Expansion |

- Progress continues to be made surrounding Project Peak. This expansion of an existing Hancock County manufacturer would result in an additional ~100,000 sf and the creation of 200 net new jobs, with the potential for later phases. Current discussions led by the ED office with the company and other partners center around incentives, roadwork, and utilities.
- Findlay-Hancock County Economic Development has engaged with Project Toby to assist an existing white-collar company find a new office location within the Findlay area. Retaining these jobs within our community will help to ensure a vibrant downtown and healthy workforce.

Attraction |

- Project Windmill reached out to the ED team as they consider markets in the Midwest and Southeast for a potential expansion. The company is in the plastics space with the potential to leverage synergies with other manufacturers in our area.

Workforce |

- Owens Community College (OCC) is in the early stages of rolling out a CDL training program on the Findlay Campus. Initially OCC will offer small classes as a pilot over ten weekends. Area logistics companies have been requesting this program and the demand should support the initiative. The Findlay Campus will be licensed by the State of Ohio and taught by licensed instructors. The program provides training with the required 160 course hours – 40 in the classroom and 120 hours of on-the-road training. The course will certify the skills needed to become a Professional CDL Class A Truck Driver.
- Project Kanga is in the planning stages and will result in another residential community offering 1- and 2-bedroom apartment homes for seniors aged 55 and older. The development will include amenities such as a business center, fitness center and community gathering spaces for residents to utilize.

Small Business |

- The City of Findlay and Hancock County offer a Revolving Loan Fund program for existing or new businesses needing to close a financing gap for projects such as building and land acquisition, new construction, renovation and expansion of an existing facility, demolition and site preparation, or new or used machinery and equipment acquisition. To learn more about this program, please [visit the website here](#).
- The JobsOhio Inclusion Grant program can provide financial support for businesses owned by underrepresented populations like minorities, women, veterans, and people with disabilities. This support is intended for small to medium-sized companies with annual revenues of up to \$25M who primarily engage in business-to-business sales. To learn more about this program, please [visit the website here](#) and reach out to the ED office if you are interested in discussing it in more detail.

Other |

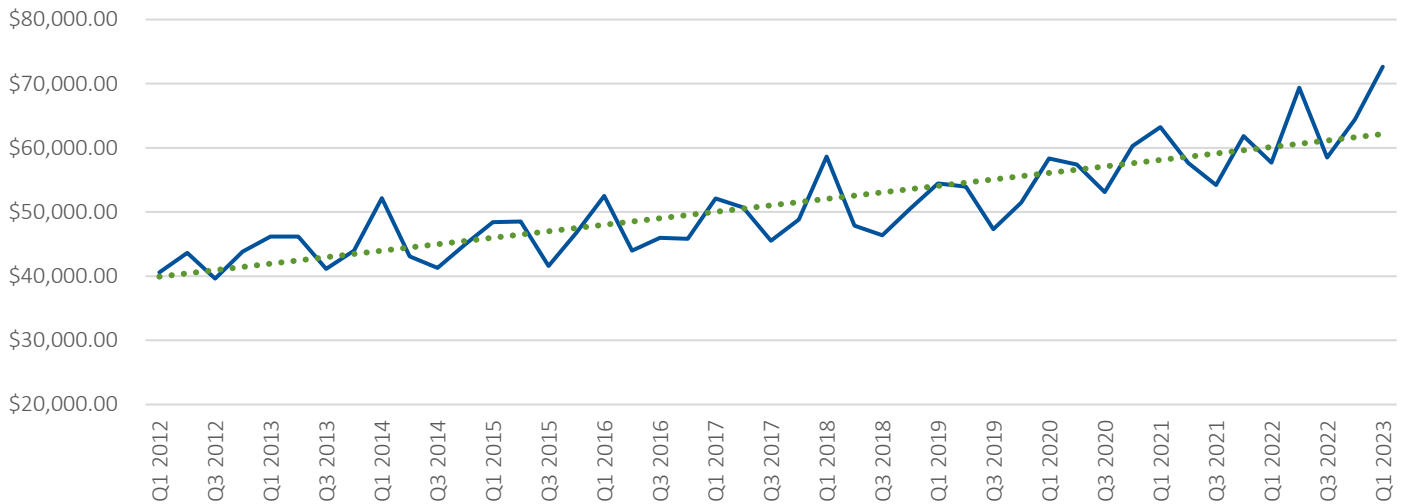
- The Findlay-Hancock County Economic Development office attended the Center for Automotive Research Management Briefing Seminar in early August. Sessions included discussions on supply chain considerations around automobility, emerging technologies in automotive manufacturers, and the future of internal combustion engines versus electric vehicles. This conference helps to inform the office as they work to support our local automotive suppliers.
- The ED team attended the Owens State of the College at the Findlay campus. Dr. Dione Somerville shared the key objectives of Owens' five-year strategic plan. The plan's priorities include building a community of belonging; expanding partnerships; developing an agile framework; deepening employee engagement; ensuring a sustainable organization; and telling their story.
- Sheaffer attended the Center to Advance Manufacturing's Legislative Roundtable alongside industry leaders and presidents from BGSU, University of Findlay, and Owens Community College. Legislators that attended include Rep. Jon Cross, Rep Gary Click, Rep Jim Hoops, Rep Roy Klopfenstein, Rep Susan Manchester, Rep Josh Williams, and Sen Theresa Gavarone. The Ohio General Assembly passed a State Operating Budget that Governor DeWine signed HB 33 into law in July. The budget included a \$1,000,000 investment toward the Center.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

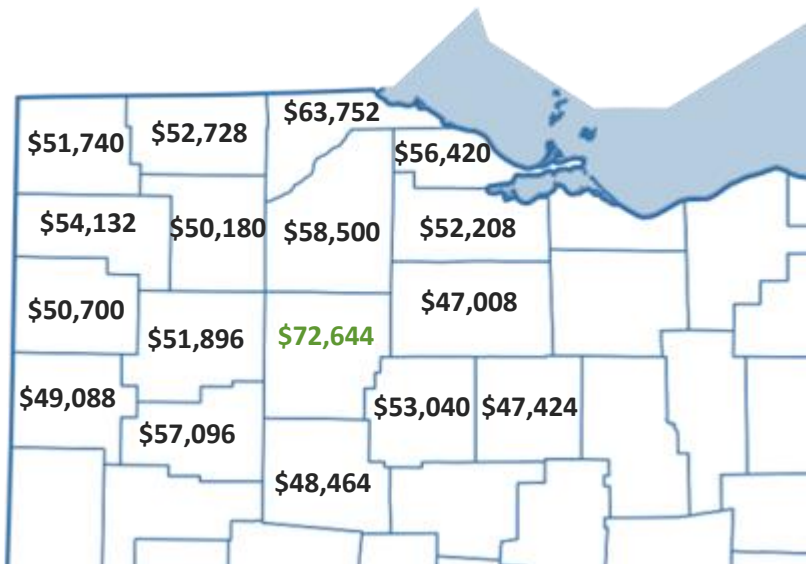
The charts and graphs below provide a snapshot of the current economic state within Hancock County and northwest Ohio.

Hancock County Historical Wage Data |

Hancock County Wages by Quarter



Northwest Ohio Average Annual Wages by County |



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages 2023 Q1 Values.