



Findlay · Hancock County  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## FINDLAY·HANCOCK COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

March 2024

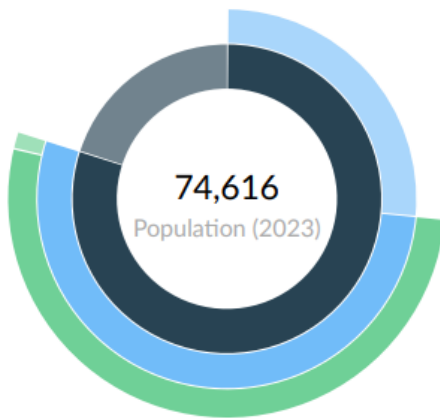
### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN FOCUS THIS MONTH

#### Attraction |

The recent rezone approval of the Sheetz project from agricultural to light industrial marks a significant milestone in the progress of the project. This decision reflects a strategic shift towards accommodating the evolving needs of the community while fostering economic growth and job creation. With Sheetz, a well-known convenience store and gas station chain, slated to establish their newest production facility in Findlay, the rezoning paves the way for ground breaking early this summer.

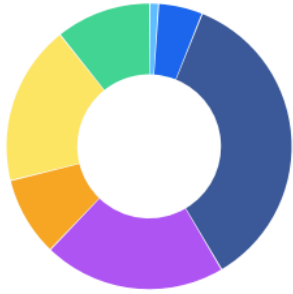
#### Workforce

##### Labor Force Breakdown

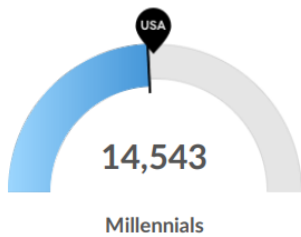


	Population
● 16+ Civilian Non-Institutionalized Population	59,614
● Not in Labor Force (16+)	19,709
● Labor Force	39,905
● Employed	38,948
● Unemployed	957
● Under 16, Military, and institutionalized Population	15,003

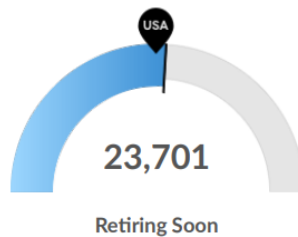
## Educational Attainment



	% of Population	Population
Less Than 9th Grade	1.0%	512
9th Grade to 12th Grade	5.0%	2,573
High School Diploma	35.4%	18,224
Some College	20.7%	10,621
Associate's Degree	9.0%	4,618
Bachelor's Degree	18.1%	9,322
Graduate Degree and Higher	10.8%	5,551



Hancock County, OH has 14,543 millennials (ages 25-39). The national average for an area this size is 15,222.



Retirement risk is about average in Hancock County, OH. The national average for an area this size is 22,434 people 55 or older, while there are 23,701 here.

Source: Lightcast Q1 2024 Data Set | lightcase.io

## Community Planning |

Economic Development's Catalytic Plan represents a strategic blueprint for driving transformative growth and revitalization initiatives at the Main Street bridge and surrounding area. Grounded in collaboration and innovation, this comprehensive plan identifies key opportunities for catalytic development projects that have the potential to spur economic activity and attract investment. By focusing on the Main Street and West Main Cross corridors and leveraging public-private partnerships, the plan aims to unlock the full potential of underutilized areas, catalyzing development and fostering a vibrant urban landscape.

Through targeted investments in infrastructure, mixed-use developments, and placemaking initiatives, the Catalytic Plan in partnership with public and private sector investment seeks to create dynamic hubs of activity that serve as magnets for talent, commerce, and culture. These catalytic projects aim to further position the city as a competitive and desirable destination for businesses, residents, and visitors alike.

## Downtown |

### Downtown Redevelopment District

The Findlay Downtown Redevelopment District initiative represents a transformative effort aimed at revitalizing the heart of the city and reinvigorating its urban landscape. With a focus on enhancing the vibrancy and vitality of downtown Findlay, this initiative encompasses a comprehensive strategy to attract new businesses, promote economic growth, and create a more inviting and pedestrian-friendly environment. Through strategic investments in infrastructure, public spaces, and cultural amenities, the Redevelopment District initiative seeks to capitalize on Findlay's rich history while embracing innovation and modernization.

At the core of the Findlay Downtown Redevelopment District initiative is a commitment to community engagement and collaboration. By requesting support from City Council, parcel owners, Findlay City Schools and other stakeholders, the initiative aims to encourage and incentivize investment in the downtown.

## Small Business |

The Findlay Ohio Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) is additional financial support for local business, offering assistance to entrepreneurs, startups and existing businesses seeking to begin or expand operations. Administered by the Hancock County Regional Planning, the RLF provides low-interest loans to qualifying businesses for a variety of purposes, including expansion, equipment purchases, and working capital needs. With flexible terms and favorable interest rates, the RLF is an excellent tool for economic development, helping businesses to seize opportunities for growth, create jobs, and contribute to Findlay-Hancock County's economy.

## Other |

The *Top Metropolitan* business event on March 25, 2024, in Findlay, Ohio, delivered a hallmark occasion celebrating the remarkable achievements in economic development and growth. As the nation's #1 top micropolitan area, Findlay has garnered widespread recognition for its strategic initiatives and vibrant business community. This event was an opportunity to showcase Findlay's resilience, innovation, and collaborative spirit, bringing together local leaders, regional partners, and stakeholders to commemorate continued success.

Attendees participated in a program filled with insightful discussions, networking opportunities, and recognition of outstanding contributions to Findlay's economic landscape. From highlighting key industries driving growth to exploring future opportunities for innovation and investment, the Top Metropolitan event underscored Findlay's position as a dynamic hub for business and entrepreneurship. Thanks to all who joined us to celebrate excellence.

<https://tinyurl.com/Site-Selection-March-2024>

### Project Status Updates - Hancock Diamond (I-75 @ CR99 Diverging Diamond)

[I-75/CR 99 interchange improvements | Ohio Department of Transportation](#)

### Project Status Updates - Hancock Roundabout (Route 68 / 15)

[U.S. 68/State Route 15 interchange and local road reconfiguration | Ohio Department of Transportation](#)

## Advanced Air Mobility |

### Ohio UAS Center Receives Approval to Fly Beyond Visual Line of Sight

ODOT's UAS Center has recently received approval from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to conduct flights using a large drone along a section of U.S. 33 without direct visual oversight from the pilot, a method commonly referred to as beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) operation. This clearance allows ODOT pilots to operate the 20-pound Censys Sentaero drone, which features a wingspan of 7.5 feet, along a four-mile portion of U.S. 33 between U.S. 42 and Watkins Road. The primary goal of this initiative is to evaluate the effectiveness of drone technology in monitoring traffic flow and managing incidents on the road. Safety measures include equipping the drone with a system for detecting and avoiding other aircraft, supplemented by ground-based visual observers to maintain visual contact. Notably, this marks the first instance of a drone of this size being authorized for such operations and only the second in the U.S. approved for flights over people and traffic without a parachute. While ODOT currently operates more than 1,000 stationary cameras across Ohio, drones have the potential to provide visual coverage in areas where camera infrastructure is lacking, particularly during emergencies. Utilizing drones beyond the pilot's line of sight holds promise for delivering real-time data to ODOT, assisting in identifying congested areas, accidents, or hazards on the road, and detecting dangerous substances to protect emergency responders. The results of testing these operations along this highway stretch will inform future decisions regarding the potential expansion of this approach to other areas across the state.

Findlay-Hancock County will continue to monitor this testing and its results with an eye toward attracting future Advanced Air Mobility projects to the community.

## Legislative Update |

### Tracking March Ohio Senate Bills

[Tracked Senate Bills – March 2024 | OEDA \(ohioeda.com\)](#)

### Tracking March Ohio House Bills

[Tracked House Bills – March 2024 | OEDA \(ohioeda.com\)](#)