

# 2021 Annual Report



# 24th Ranked U.S. Micropolitan Sidney-Shelby County

## POLICOM ECONOMIC STRENGTH RATING—2021



Growing Shelby County Employers like Choice One Engineering participate in a variety of recruitment activities.

The Sidney-Shelby Micropolitan Area ranked 24th in the 2021 POLICOM Economic Strength Rating. “While Site Selection looks at an annual snapshot of economic investment, the POLICOM ranking shows economic strength over the long haul,” said Jim Hill, SSEP Executive Director. “While Ohio has a significant number of micropolitans in the POLICOM ranking, Sidney is the second highest Ohio community in the ranking,” added Hill.

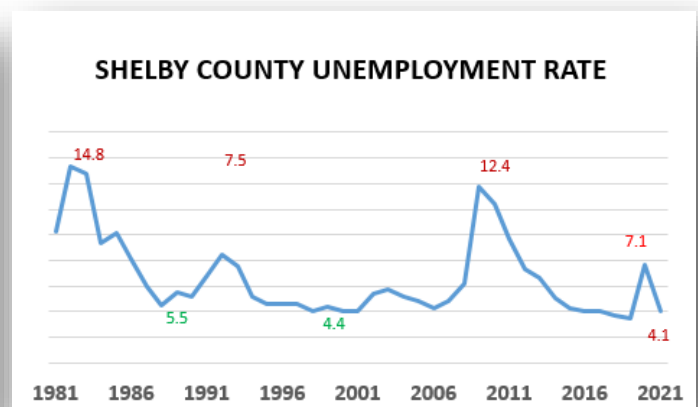
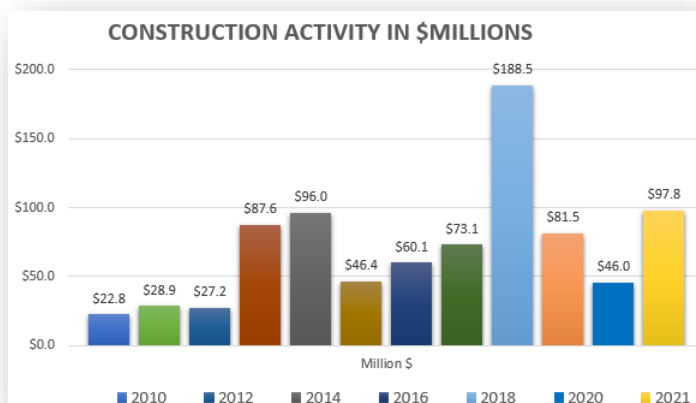
In addition, our micropolitan area was also ranked as a Top 100 Micropolitan by Site Selection Magazine in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021. The micropolitan area of Sidney and Shelby County moved up four spots from 15th to 11th in 2020. “The micropolitan rankings provide a good measure that business investment is strong and Sidney-Shelby County continues to be a great place to do business,” added Hill.

## A Year of Progress

### SiteOhio Certification, Housing Growth and Industrial Expansion

2021 was a very busy year in economic development and below are a few of the highlights:

- Anna, Sidney, Botkins, Jackson Center and Russia all experienced expansion of new housing opportunities, which is key to fulfilling SSEP’s housing initiative that was established in late 2018.
- 2021 investment included eight major business and industrial expansions in five communities.
- The Chamber launched [www.experiencesidney.com](http://www.experiencesidney.com) to promote Sidney and Shelby County’s quality of life.
- SSEP successfully secured more than \$2 million in brownfield clean-up funds, enabling the Land Bank to proceed with foreclosure of the former Wagner Manufacturing site.
- The Sidney Ohio Industrial Park received SiteOhio Authentication, which puts the park among the premier shovel-ready sites in the state.
- Downtown redevelopment initiatives continue throughout the county, including early implementation of the Downtown & Riverfront Development Strategy by CityVision Associates.





# President's Report

"Growing momentum". Those are two words that describe the past year of activity at the SSEP. While 2021 was a challenging year in many ways, it also was a year where several of our strategic initiatives that were set out in late 2018 reached a tipping point. I really feel like we have great momentum as we move into 2022.

The year saw progress on new housing developments, industrial site development and major progress on securing brownfield funding for the former Wagner Manufacturing brownfield. Private and public leaders are working together on these and other community development priorities and the results are very positive.

The good news can be seen on the [SSEP website](#), social media and on the new [Experience Sidney website](#). We have included the links so you can see for yourself.

I want to thank all the businesses and public entities who support the SSEP with finances, leadership and direction. Without all the support, Sidney and Shelby County would not be experiencing all the growth and progress throughout our community.

**Martin L. Given**  
President of the Board of Trustees

## Cargill Multi-Year Expansion

**Project Buckeye is a \$225 million Expansion of Sidney Site**

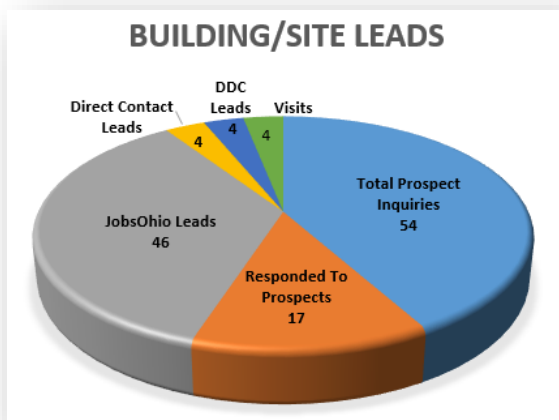
Cargill is moving full-steam ahead on an expansion of their soybean processing operations that will make Sidney the largest soybean crushing facility in North America.

The site is undergoing significant upgrades to accommodate the growth. New soybean dumping stations will allow more efficient and expanded soybean processing onsite.

Oil processed at the facility is sold bulk to major restaurant chains like McDonalds, Wendy's and Chick-fil-A. The facility also serves numerous retail and wholesale customers.



**48.9%**  
EMPLOYED IN  
MANUFACTURING  
#1 IN OHIO



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**Betty Wehrman**, Admin. Assistant

**TOTAL**  
MANUFACTURING  
SHIPMENTS  
**\$7.1 BILLION**

# TOP INDUSTRIAL EXPANSIONS

- **Shaffer Metal Fab**—30,000 s.f. building addition, Sidney
- **Honda Engine Plant**—Significant engine mfg line upgrades, Anna
- **Sunrise Cooperative**—Expanded bin and elevator pit, Botkins
- **O'Reilly Machine**—10,840 s.f. building expansion, Russia
- **Tooling Technology**—10,000 s.f. building and machinery expansion, Ft. Loramie
- **Buckeye Electric**—12,000 s.f. warehouse expansion, Botkins
- **Cargill** — Approximately \$8 million investment in addition to Project Buckeye, Sidney

## ABOUT SSEP:

Sidney Shelby Economic Partnership (SSEP) is a not-for-profit organization comprised of business, government and community leaders dedicated to the economic growth of Sidney and Shelby County communities.

SSEP works to improve the overall business climate in order to grow existing businesses, in addition to supporting business creation and new business attraction to the region.

**Sidney-Shelby Economic Partnership**  
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The Sidney-Shelby Economic Partnership is a not-for-profit organization that depends solely on contributions from investors. THANK YOU to our investors for your continued support.

