

# A description of the Tri-County Area

Hillsdale | Jackson | Lenawee

**S**outh Central Michigan is comprised of three counties: Hillsdale, Jackson, and Lenawee. The tri-county area has many characteristics that make it an attractive location for business, workers, and families. In the tri-county region, strong economic outcomes will come from having technologically advanced manufacturing facilities or from using technology as a tool to create scale and efficiency in an industry area challenged by global competition.

Each of these counties has different factors that contribute to their economic health. It is important to consider these areas as a workforce development region given their proximity to each other and the number of residents that commute between the counties for education, training, and work opportunities. It is also important to recognize that these counties are connected to other regional workforce development areas in the state of Michigan and in the neighboring states of Ohio and Indiana. While the proximity of contiguous states has an impact on the economic health of the South Central region, it further serves to add to the desirability of industry and business location marking ease of access to multiple state markets.

## Hillsdale County

Hillsdale County is primarily a rural area with the soil in the county being among the most fertile in Michigan. However, despite its agricultural heritage, over 30% of the workforce is employed in the manufacturing sector. There are several cities and villages in Hillsdale County. The largest city is Hillsdale, with a population of over 8,000 persons. The City of Hillsdale is the location of Hillsdale College, which is gaining a nationwide reputation for academic excellence in the liberal arts and other disciplines. Jackson Community College also has a presence in the county and serves a number of Hillsdale residents at its local campus. The 2000 Census specified the population of 45,527 ranked 35<sup>th</sup> in the State among 83 counties.

## Jackson County

Jackson County is located along the I-94 corridor between Ann Arbor and Battle Creek. According to the Citizen Patriot, Jackson ranks first in the State for the number of golf courses at 24 and is second in the nation to Sarasota, Florida. It is host to Foote Hospital, which serves all three counties. It is also home to the Jackson Symphony Orchestra; Ella Sharp Museum and its extensive park; Sparks Park, home of the famous Cascades Falls; and numerous city parks. Jackson County has three post-secondary institutions- Jackson Community College, Spring Arbor University, and Baker College- which provide education and training to meet the needs of the community. Jackson was originally the hub of the county's railroad, and for over a century it has been known as the crossroads of Michigan. In this modern time, Jackson is accessible from Interstate 94, US 127, M-50 and M-60 as well as the rail lines, making Jackson County a great location for both businesses and residents. The county is its own Metropolitan Statistical Area and ranks 13<sup>th</sup> in the State according to the 2000 Census with a population of 158,422.

## Lenawee County

Although Lenawee County is primarily a rural area, it also features such attractions as the Irish Hills and the Michigan Speedway. The county offers pastoral settings as well as quaint downtowns as found in Adrian, Hudson and Tecumseh. The largest city in Lenawee County is Adrian. Adrian is the location of three institutions of higher learning- Adrian College, Siena Heights University and Jackson Community College- Lenawee Campus. Adrian is also the home to the Croswell Opera House and the Adrian Symphony. Most of the River Raisin watershed lies within Lenawee County. Known as the most crooked river in the world, the Raisin winds its way through some of the finest agricultural land in Michigan. Lenawee County is part of the Ann Arbor Metropolitan Statistical Area, along with Washtenaw and Livingston Counties. With a population of 98,890 according to the 2000 Census, Lenawee County ranks as the 20<sup>th</sup> county of the 83 counties in the State.

# Business Enhancement through Solutions and Training (BEST)

The Business Enhancement through Solutions and Training (BEST) process is to collaborate with workforce, education, and economic development partners to focus on serving business through a demand driven workforce development system.

The concept of B.E.S.T is to leverage all available workforce, economic, and education development assets to keep business competitive in a global market in order to save and create jobs.

With increasing global competition for jobs, it is imperative that employers, education, economic and workforce development partners collaborate and work together for the collective good of the community.

SCMW delivers this process by fostering collaborative partnerships with economic developers, education leaders, and workforce development boards.

The BEST practices process uses a team approach to work with employers, and specifically designs services, processes and training based on the fact finding element to address challenges in the following and other areas:

- Employee turnover and retention rates
- Absenteeism
- Productivity
- Training needs
- Recruitment of new employees
- Organizational climate and labor relations
- Skill upgrade training
- Employee empowerment
- Quality problems
- Loss of business
- Lay-off aversion

South Central Michigan Works! and their Economic Development Partners are collaborating with Michigan State University School of Industrial Relations to introduce to their employer customers a layoff aversion process to help prevent downsizing or closures due to the employer's inability to compete in a global economy.

This process brings together the key stakeholders (Management and Labor) in the company to examine the labor and raw material processes used in the making of the final product. By doing this process we are able to identify hidden issues that are causing the loss of profit and the opportunity to gain more work or markets because of inefficiency in the process.

When problems are identified, solutions are discussed and assigned to specific teams for resolution.

By following this process, workforce and economic development partners can offer resources and training that are much more effective than the traditional approach of training for the sake of training and not really solving the core problem thus setting up the customer for failure in the future.



## Our newest innovation

# Mobile One-Stop Center (MOC-1)

Mobile One-Stop Center (MOC-1) is a self-contained vehicle equipped with state-of-the-art telecommunications equipment capable of being deployed inside or outside of the vehicle. The One-Stop unit offers a full array of employment, reemployment and employer services as additional outreach to those services currently provided through the Service Centers located in Hillsdale, Jackson, and Lenawee Counties.

Employers can provide training in computers, job-specific programming, or even certified Microsoft Office Specialist certification. Job Seekers can utilize MOC-1 to access such activities as the Michigan Talent Bank (Michigan Works! online job search program), write resumes and cover letters, or receive personalized computer instruction. MOC-1 will also be made available for use in case of national/state disasters or emergencies. Information on MOC-1 can also be accessed online through the SCMW! Website at [www.scmw.org](http://www.scmw.org)



# Hillsdale County

*Right in the middle of it.*

*A special blend of yesterday and tomorrow.*

*What more could you want?*

*Visit us often.*

*Chances are you'll want to make us your home.*

## Welcome to Hillsdale County

Hillsdale County is a rural oasis in Michigan at the bottom of the mitten, bordering Ohio and Indiana. A community rich in tradition and hometown hospitality, family owned and corporate businesses, Hillsdale County is proud of its past and building for the future.

Centrally located in the middle a network of major highways (US 127, I-94, I-69, and the I-80/90 toll road), only a short drive from major cities like, Lansing, Detroit, Kalamazoo, Toledo, Ohio and Fort Wayne, Indiana. A municipal airport and a locally owned freight and railroad are added connections to broad markets.

Settled by Potawatomi Indians in 1821, the county soon welcomed white settlers in towns like Allen and Jonesville and became a fur trading center, with the first hotel, general store and grist mill. Travelers made the county a popular overnight stop along the great Sauk Trail (US-12) between Chicago & Detroit.

## A Class Act

Hillsdale County residents enjoy excellent educational opportunities in ten traditional public and charter schools, a community college campus and at world renowned Hillsdale College. The educational commitment to quality is enhanced by an award winning intermediate school district, fiber optic connections and a technology training center.

## Country Living Options... With City Conveniences

A plethora of housing options are available countywide - apartment complexes, condominiums, single family homes, subdivisions, farm houses, mobile home sites and appealing lands on which to build. The rolling hills and lovely dales, (flat lands, too!) are the perfect compliment to the relaxed lifestyle.

## Business Expansion

Several of the over 1500 businesses here enjoy state and national prominence. The many family-owned businesses combine with corporate and international establishments in a diverse and pleasing blend. The Hillsdale County Chamber of Commerce supports and promotes business through its network of members. Hillsdale County Industrial Development Commission provides full time service for established, expanding and emerging industries.

As reported in the 2002 Annual Report, industrial growth in Hillsdale County has been greater than expected; most of the growth accrued by expansion of existing industries. There was also growth in the commercial sector with both retail and service business increases noted. Much of this growth is related directly to the payroll of the sustained growth of the industrial sector.

Industry invested more than \$25 million in buildings and equipment. Growth occurred everywhere in the county, but Litchfield led with \$15 million, Hillsdale had \$1 million, Reading \$7.2 million and Jonesville \$1 million with the remainder scattered throughout the county. According to employment data, there was a net gain of 55 new industrial jobs in the county for 2002. One-third of Hillsdale County's workforce is employed by industry, which is significantly higher than the national or state average.

The heart of the promotion and advancement of the economic environment of Hillsdale County rests with the Hillsdale County Industrial Development Commission and The Hillsdale County Chamber of Commerce. Both entities have a comprehensive website showcasing Hillsdale County's opportunities. HCIDC is computer-linked with the state, Jackson Community College and our development equivalents in Jackson and Lenawee counties. The HCIDC is also part of the National Association of Manufacturers site selection program. The industrial parks and business community are constantly transforming to accommodate the growing needs of the contemporary markets and those business as well as industries adapting to meet the challenge.

## Power of the People

Eighteen townships, six villages and three cities comprise the governmental structure of our county. Citizen's concerns are also addressed through a board of seven commissioners at the county level. A pioneering community information service/geographic information system computer site is a unique link to the world for this county's 48,000 residents and for its businesses, schools and agencies.

## Making a Difference

The spiritual needs of Hillsdale County residents are met by an array of religious opportunities of various denominations throughout the community. Culture is nestled within the community including theater, genealogy, history, arts, music and museums. Many non-profit agencies and service clubs award Hillsdale County with a better quality of life.

## Helping Hands

Health care is second to none. The Hillsdale Community Health Center is a hospital providing 24 hour emergency medicine, urgent care, medical/surgical services, a critical care unit, orthopedic specialists, joint replacement, a birthing center and a full range of outpatient services. This state-of-the-art medical center is home to over 50 physicians and specialists. Other health care amenities are a county medical care facility, community health agency, nursing homes, assisted living, adult foster care, home health care and a county senior citizens service center. Many dentists, orthodontists, optometrists, chiropractors, massage therapists, audiologists, and physical therapists provide care within our community.

## Game Time

An abundance of natural beauty and scenery can be found in this serene setting. Hillsdale County offers acres of parks, lakes, outdoor recreational land, picnic facilities, tennis courts, golf courses, softball & baseball diamonds, biking & hiking trails, frisbee golf, hundreds of acres of state hunting grounds, soccer fields, playgrounds, wildlife observatories and a dazzling array of lakes for fishing, boating and swimming.

## Places To Go & Things To Do

Choose from over a dozen hotels, motels, campgrounds, bed & breakfast locations, and enjoy local festivals and special programs, events at Hillsdale College that are open to the public and every September “The Most Popular Fair on Earth” – the Hillsdale County Fair.

## In The Line Of Duty

Local law enforcement agencies work with the sheriff’s department and Michigan State Police with a united committed to serve and protect. Integrity and devotion and a spirit of cooperation are equally evident in local fire departments, ambulance services and 9-1-1 central dispatch services.

## From The Beginning

Hillsdale County takes pride in its diverse business community. Since its “unofficial” founding in 1827 and formally recognized by the state in 1835, Hillsdale County has grown from primarily agricultural to a diverse economic base.

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## Putting You in Touch

For more information, please feel free to visit any of the following websites:

- [www.co.hillsdale.mi.us](http://www.co.hillsdale.mi.us) ..... Information regarding Hillsdale County
- [www.hillsdalecounty.info](http://www.hillsdalecounty.info) ..... Information regarding Hillsdale County
- [www.hillsdalecountychamber.com](http://www.hillsdalecountychamber.com) ..... Hillsdale County Chamber of Commerce
- [www.hillsdale-isd.org](http://www.hillsdale-isd.org) ..... Hillsdale County Intermediate School District
- [www.hcinddev.org](http://www.hcinddev.org) ..... Hillsdale County Industrial Development Commission

# Jackson - A Great Place to do Business!

- Urban location directly on Interstate 94 and US 127 highways, strategically positioned to supply the automotive market and other industries.
- Corporate airport in Jackson, plus Detroit and Lansing airports are both within a 1-hour drive.
- Approximately 350 firms in Jackson, about 60% sell to the automotive market.
- Availability of workers skilled in automotive parts production and assembly.
- One of the lowest costs locations to do business in Michigan and the Midwest.
- Utility rates are competitive with other Midwest locations.
- The state and local tax burden is 13th lowest in the United States.
- An Economic Development staff poised to help your business succeed

## Incentives for Businesses:

**Jackson has set up five tax-free areas within the County** in order to attract new business investment and job creation. These areas, known as “Renaissance Zones,” are free from all state and local taxes for up to 15 years. Most of these areas are former industrial sites, with good roads and services available.

These areas have the tax benefits already in place, and there is nothing necessary in order to qualify for the tax exemption, no application process, no forms to fill out, no fees to be paid, and no hassles. A company or individual simply needs to purchase some property in one of these areas and begin building. The only requirement is that the business or individual must not be delinquent in any state or local taxes in order to qualify for the tax-exempt status.

The Renaissance Zone is the most powerful market-based incentive available for businesses looking to relocate or expand their operations, but their designation does not last forever. All of the Zones in Jackson County were granted their tax-free status on January 1, 2000 and were designated for 12 years, with a buildup of 25% in each of the next three years, until the normal tax status is resumed after 2015. The clock is ticking on these Zones, and the maximum benefit continues to tick away.

## Jackson Small Business & Technology Development Center

**The Jackson Small Business Development Center** provides assistance to potential entrepreneurs and existing business owners to help them start or grow their businesses in Jackson.

## Economic Development Incentives/Services

- 100% personal property tax abatement in the City of Jackson, if eligible.
- 50% real and personal property tax abatement throughout Jackson County, if eligible.
- Renaissance Zone Availability—No personal or real property taxes and no state taxes or local taxes through the year 2015 (note: phase-in of taxes occurs starting in year 2013).
- CDBG funds for infrastructure improvements, if eligible.
- State and federal employment and training dollars, if available and/or eligible.
- Identifying, securing and screening employees.
- Direct project management assistance to handle all permitting, site searches and relocation issues.
- Use of project office during new business start-up phase.

## Jackson Area Manufacturers Association (JAMA):

JAMA is a not-for-profit association of manufacturers and associate partner members in Jackson County.

Our mission is to champion activities and create an environment that provides tools and resources to our manufacturers, assisting them in continuous improvement and success. We are devoted to finding solutions to help our members maintain and improve their bottom line.

We are a volunteer organization focused on helping improve business processes and practices by being a leader in technology information and training, offering state governmental help and guidance, educational assistance and workforce development. To achieve our goals, we provide an open forum atmosphere where members cooperate in developing and promoting solutions that enhance the prosperity of the manufacturing industry in Jackson County and its surrounding areas.

JAMA members work together because they believe there is strength in numbers and that critical issues facing Jackson manufacturing can be addressed that might otherwise be impossible to tackle by a single company. Through cooperation, we believe our efforts will result in the resounding success of all of our members, the manufacturing community, and the community as a whole. In the end, we all gain an improved quality of life.

JAMA represents the interests and needs of more than 200 members, ranging from small manufacturing companies to international corporations. In fact, manufacturers who are members of JAMA employ more than 24% percent of Jackson County's workforce.

## The Emerging Marketplace for High Tech, R & D:

Jackson's industrial base has paved the way for growing technology and R&D sectors. More than ever, Jackson employees are developing products from conception to production. Jackson is creating a 1000-acre high-tech industrial park straddling two townships that will bring 2,000 + jobs over the next several years.

## Technical Assistance Center for South Central Michigan:

The Technical Assistance Centers, (formerly The Centers for State and Federal Procurement), were established in Onaway, Michigan in 1981. The concept and benefits of selling to the governments were so well received by the economic development community that in 1984 grants to help fund the Technical Assistance Centers were made available by both the State (Michigan Jobs Commission) and the federal government (Department of Defense). There are now more than 100 Technical Assistance Centers located throughout the United States, 12 of which are located in Michigan. The Technical Assistance Center in Jackson was established in 1982.

The Technical Assistance Center of South Central Michigan is housed with The Enterprise Group, a non-profit organization. The procurement program is administered by The Enterprise Group and executed by the Technical Assistance Center staff. The Technical Assistance Center assists businesses, in a seven county area, in acquiring federal and state government contracts. The Center also helps identify international product and service markets for companies wanting to export. The TAC's budget is composed of grants from both the state and federal government as well as in-kind services (i.e.; use of office equipment, furniture, computers, bookkeeping services, etc.) provided by the Jackson Enterprise Group of Jackson, Inc.

### The Technical Assistance Center's services include but are not limited to:

- Orientation to the procurement system
- One-on-one counseling
- Bid preparation assistance
- Targeting government markets
- Daily listings of government bids
- Subcontracting opportunities
- Government specifications for bidding
- Training seminars and conferences
- Procurement resource library
- Bid history and contract award results
- Placement of firm on vendor lists
- Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) assistance
- Export counseling and market planning
- Analysis of firms' readiness to export
- Identifying countries that buy products or service
- Listings of export trade leads
- Assistance preparing export documents
- Payment and finance options
- Government regulations necessary for exporting
- Training seminars and trade show opportunities
- Extensive export resource library

**TAC MISSION STATEMENT:** *The Michigan Economic Development Corporation provides support to the Michigan Technical Assistance Centers located throughout the state. This network of 12 locally-based offices provides government contract assistance. Highly skilled professionals assist businesses in acquiring federal and state government contracts.*



## 2006 Successes for Jackson County:

Overall, 23 companies expanded in 2006, creating over \$32 million in new investment, creating approximately 421 new jobs, and retaining 1,028 jobs within the county.

The Jackson County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority helps local businesses and prospective businesses take advantage of the tax benefits of redeveloping abandoned or underutilized industrial sites. Current state legislation limits environmental liability for new purchasers and developers of these sites, making them more attractive to redevelop. Brownfield incentives are designed to level the playing field to redevelop blighted properties, rather than promoting urban sprawl by developing greenfields.

## The Enterprise Group of Jackson, Inc.

**MISSION STATEMENT:** *“The Enterprise Group will build and sustain a vibrant, diversified economy, thereby improving the Jackson community’s quality of life.”*

**A VISION FOR THE FUTURE:** Jackson County is a state-of-the-art community where business and government work to encourage new diverse business development, further the success of existing businesses, and revitalize the urban core while maintaining the area’s high standard for quality of life.

**As a state-of-the-art community, the goals are for Jackson to enjoy:**

- World-class industrial facilities
- Technological driven manufacturing processes
- World-class education, health and recreation
- Proactive, innovative and collaborative leadership from both the private and public sectors
- A commercially thriving downtown area that is the envy of every city in Michigan
- A friendly environment that embraces a balanced land use plan

**Who we are:** The Enterprise Group of Jackson, Inc. is a partnership between the principal economic development entities in Jackson County, local units of government and our business leadership. Our economic development agency, manufacturer’s association, Academy for Manufacturing Careers, government procurement and small business development organizations are all conveniently located in a one-stop shop that provides businesses and visitors alike easy access to information about our community and the resources that are available in Jackson County to help business succeed.

**What we do:**

Manage and provide single-point access to the combined resources and talents of the:

- Economic Development Division, which includes The Jackson County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority and The County Economic Development Corporation, Blackman DDA, Leoni DDA, Blackman LDFA, and Parma LDFA
- The Jackson Area Manufacturers Association
- Academy for Manufacturing Careers
- Armory Arts Village Project
- The Procurement Technical Assistance Center
- The Jackson Small Business & Technology Development Center

Combined, these organizations serve to:

- Provide customized business services and solutions to entrepreneurs, start-up companies, and businesses looking to relocate, expand or contract operations;
- Market and sell Jackson County as a great place to locate and expand businesses to industrial, commercial and retail businesses
- Serve as project managers for companies looking to move to Jackson County.
- Redevelop or reuse existing industrial infrastructure to create a sustainable community and help put in place new infrastructure to respond to market opportunities.
- Help build and promote consensus between local units of government to create a better environment for the economic growth of Jackson County
- Champion and/or support initiatives that advance or preserve Jackson County’s ability to compete nationally and globally for new investment, technology and jobs.
- Enhance the economic vitality and diversity of the community through targeted recruitment activities.

## Quality of Life in Jackson County

- Jackson was originally the hub of the county's railroad, and for over a century it has been known as the crossroads of Michigan. In this modern time, Jackson is accessible from Interstate 94, US 127, M-50, and M-60 as well as the rail lines, making Jackson County a great location for both businesses and residents.
- Jackson County has plenty of options for recreational activities. From golf to shopping, to festivals, there's plenty to do. The Jackson Symphony Orchestra and the Potter Center offer shows; summers light up with all sorts of contests, tournaments, festivals and parades. The Michigan Theatre offers a variety of films, plays and musical productions.
- NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series and IRL races occur regularly at nearby Michigan International Speedway. During the summer of 2005, the two-mile speedway oval hosts two Nextel Cup Series Races, and an IRL race in July. The track has reserved seating for over 137,000 race fans, including a brand new suite level and club seating section.
- Jackson has over 200 restaurants, offering full-service and family dining to include Chinese/Asian fare restaurants, Mexican/Southwestern, Italian, and Pizzerias. Jackson also has a variety of bakeries and numerous fast food restaurants along with many chain restaurants. Don't forget our famous Coney's at a number of great locations. Jackson has been designated as one of America's best markets in which to open a restaurant.
- Jackson County has consistently been rated as one of the ten most affordable housing markets in the United States. In a county of 707 square miles and more than 163,000 residents, there's plenty of room for privacy or estate living. The land is rolling with farms, meadows, lakes, woods and small communities.
- Just about every weekend during the summer you can find a festival in the area, from the Rose Festival during the month of June, to the Hot Air Jubilee and Race Week in July, the four-week-long Michigan Shakespeare Festival and the Midwest's largest Civil War Muster in August. Jackson has all the action, whether for couples, families or groups of many. Outdoor events are easy to enjoy. Jackson County is host to over 500 holes of golf, 188 lakes and 27 public parks covering 17,000 acres. With the third largest number of public golf courses per capita in the United States and the second oldest harness racing track in the nation, there is year 'round fun indoor and out.
- In 1830, the community that was settled a year earlier was given the name of Jacksonburgh in honor of Andrew Jackson. That name was changed to the tongue-twisting "Jacksonopolis" and then ultimately (and mercifully) shortened to Jackson in 1833. On July 6, 1854, the Republican Party was founded in Jackson in order to help fight the spread of slavery. Six years later, Abraham Lincoln became the first Republican president. Jackson became an important player in the Civil War as home to the main Union training camp in the state of Michigan. Jackson was also home to the state's first prison, a stop on the "Underground Railroad" used by slaves to escape to freedom, and a pioneer in the automobile industry.
- Traditional shoppers seeking large retailers are in luck, as are those who enjoy seeking out specialty shops and antique collections. Jackson County is strong in collectibles and you can always take a break at Gramer's Candies or Gilbert's Chocolates, both long-standing Jackson traditions. Antique treasures can be found in small boutiques throughout Jackson County. At the other end of the spectrum, Jackson offers exceptional hunting and fishing opportunities including rocker Ted Nugent's hunting preserve. Visit some of America's most extensive outfitters including, Schupbach's and Knutson's. Many chain department stores call Jackson home as well.

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[www.enterprisegroup.org](http://www.enterprisegroup.org)

## Quality of Life Extras

- Jackson County has a state-of-the-art hospital with a total of 411 beds.
- Jackson County houses the City of Jackson Police Department, Sheriff's Department, a State Police Post and National Guard Armory.
- There are 43 firefighters with three stations in the City. Jackson has a Class IV Fire Rating; there are more volunteer and professional stations throughout the County.
- One district library with 13 branches throughout the County with 300,000 volumes.
- Over 250 Churches
- 20 hotels with a total of 1,110 beds.
- Average temperature range: January, 15-29° F and in July, 61-83° F
- Average annual snowfall is 39" and average annual rainfall is 29"
- Altitude 900-1100 ft. above sea level for Jackson County and 920-925 ft. above sea level for the City of Jackson.
- 707 Square miles

## Education

Jackson County has 16 public school districts consisting of: Columbia, Concord, East Jackson, Grass Lake, Hanover Horton, Jackson County Intermediate School District, Educational Service Center, Jackson Area Career Center, Lyle A. Tarrant Center, Jackson Public Schools, Michigan Center, Napoleon, Northwest, Springport, Vandercook Lake and Western, along with two Charter schools with a total enrollment of 29,531. In addition, Jackson County has 16 private or parochial schools.

Colleges in Jackson County: Jackson Community College, Baker College, Spring Arbor University, Michigan State University Extension—Jackson County, Siena Heights Extension, and Michigan Virtual University.

Colleges within one hour of Jackson include: Adrian College, Albion College, Eastern Michigan University, Western Michigan University, Hillsdale College, Michigan State University, University of Michigan, Concordia College, Great Lakes Bible College, Siena Heights College, Kellogg Community College, Lansing Community College, Washtenaw Community College, Olivet College and Cooley Law School.

## Educational Attainment

High school diploma .....	78.0%
Some college or Associates Degree .....	30.7%
Bachelor's degree .....	27.4%

\*Source: U.S. Census Bureau—2000 Census/Michigan Department of Career Development 2003, Jackson County.

**In Closing:** To get information about Jackson, or for help with moving to, or starting a business in Jackson, it only takes one phone call to The Enterprise Group of Jackson, Inc (EG). The EG was established in 1997 to lead business recruitment and retention in our area.

# Lenawee - Your County with a Vision

## Quality of Life in Lenawee

Lenawee County is not only a great place to do business, but also the perfect place to live. We have the “small town atmosphere” with our own local cultural and business opportunities. We are located close to Ann Arbor, Dundee, Jackson, and Detroit, Michigan as well as Toledo, Ohio giving ample opportunity to connect with business prospects or to “get away” for the day with friends. The desire to live in Lenawee County is evident by the ongoing growth in new homes, condominiums and apartment complexes.

**Bixby Medical Center and Herrick Medical Center**, members of ProMedica Health System, offers inpatient and outpatient services. Bixby Medical Center (BMC) is an 88-bed, full-service, acute care hospital located in Adrian, Michigan. BMC has more than 120 active physicians working to meet the needs of the community. The BMC staff of medical professionals includes the fields of general surgery, cardiology, obstetrics and gynecology, neurology, behavioral medicine, oncology, orthopedics, pulmonology, pediatrics, mental health, family medicine, critical care and more.

**The Hickman Cancer Center at Bixby Medical Center** is a premier cancer center of the Midwest, serving Southeast Michigan and Northwest Ohio. This achievement is due to the excellent training of physicians, nurses, technicians, physicists and support staff determined to provide care to improve the health of local patients and their families.

**Herrick Medical Center** (HMC) is a 25-bed, full-service, critical access community hospital located in Tecumseh, Michigan. HMC has more than 75 active physicians working to meet our community's health care needs. HMC staff of medical professionals includes the fields of general surgery, cardiology, obstetrics and gynecology, neurology, behavioral medicine, oncology, orthopedics, pulmonology, pediatrics, mental health, family medicine, critical care and more.

## Lenawee Education Options

**Public Educational** opportunities are available at every level in Lenawee County.

- Lenawee has twelve K through twelfth grade school districts
- Jackson Community College campus is located with the Lenawee Vocational technical Center.

**Private Education** is also available in Lenawee County.

- St. Joseph Academy provides Montessori Toddler program for eighteen month through three year olds at their Adrian Campus and a Pre-Primary Program for three through six year olds at both the Adrian and Tecumseh Campuses. Saint Joseph Academy, established in 1896 is a Catholic school sponsored by the Adrian Dominican Sisters and provides education kindergarten through eighth grade.
- Lenawee Seventh-Day Adventist School provides first through eighth grade education.
- Sacred Heart School in Hudson offers pre-school three year old through seventh grade education.
- St. Stephen Lutheran School is a Christian Elementary School offering a complete elementary education for children from kindergarten through eighth grade.
- Berean Baptist Academy and The Lenawee Christian School, provide kindergarten through twelfth grade education.
- Siena Heights University is a Catholic university founded and sponsored by the Adrian Dominican Sisters. Founded in the liberal arts tradition, Siena offers associate's, bachelor's and master's degrees. The university is headquartered in Adrian, Michigan with degree completion centers located throughout Michigan.
- Adrian College offers a liberal arts education with over forty majors and pre-professional programs.

## Lenawee is a Great Location!

- US-12, US-23, US-223, M-50, M-52, M-156, M-34 and US -127 are all accessible in Lenawee and can get you from almost any part of Lenawee to Ann Arbor, Saline, Toledo, Jackson, Dundee or Monroe within 30-40 minutes.
- Corporate and private aircraft can be serviced through the Lenawee County Airport near Adrian.
- In nearby Detroit and Toledo, two international airports and two major seaports give Lenawee Businesses an open door to lucrative markets all over the world.

## Lots of Things to See and Do Including:

**Irish Hills Family Fun Attractions** are located in the Irish Hills on US -12 a designated Heritage Route. While visiting enjoy the lakes, beaches, fishing, boating, camping, golf and go-karts. Stagecoach Stop USA has a variety of things to see and do taking you back to the 1800's era.

**Hidden Lake Gardens** is located in Tipton. The gardens offer beautiful scenery including the lake and pond, natural woodlands, and open fields that are maintained by Michigan State University and accessible via hiking trails and paved auto roads. A wide variety of plants are displayed in a tropical conservatory, dwarf conifer collection hosta hillside and perennial garden. Year round learning events are held for all ages as well as a master gardeners program.

**Michigan International Speedway** is a premiere attraction for the Irish Hills area. The MIS is home to some of the nation's most exciting NASCAR and Indy Racing League competitions. On race weekends the MIS is the third largest city in Michigan and generates the same economic impact as a Super Bowl only on a yearly basis!

**Museums** can be visited in the City of Adrian, Village of Blissfield, City of Hudson, and City of Tecumseh as well as the Southern Michigan Railroad Museum in Clinton. These gems will fill you in on the history and past cultures of our communities.

**Croswell Opera House** located in Adrian is the oldest continuously operating theater in Michigan and one of the oldest in the country. Its stage has been graced by legendary figures including Susan B. Anthony, Frederick Douglas and Edwin Booth. Some of the shows this season are "Thoroughly Modern Millie," "The Pirates of Penzance" and "The Music Man."

**Adrian Symphony Orchestra** located in Adrian offers exciting professional entertainment. Their season includes Classics, Pops and Jazz, Discovery Concerts for the family as well as Candlelight Classics. This year will bring "Wine Women and Song," Rogers & Hammerstein Pops Concert, and Pinocchio.

**Tecumseh Center for the Arts** provides live entertainment in the performing arts. This seasons offerings include "Yesterday, A Tribute to the Beatles," "Oliver," "Encore Dance Studio" and much more.

**Antiquing** can be found in just about every city and village in Lenawee. There are over 60 antique shops and 900 dealers.

To obtain information about community events such as festivals, farmers markets and much more contact the Lenawee Chamber for Economic Development at (517) 265-5141 or call the Lenawee Conference and Visitors Bureau at (800) 536-2933 and ask for Marilyn. Website [www.visitlenawee.com](http://www.visitlenawee.com)

## The Lenawee Chamber for Economic Development

**Mission:** *To facilitate cooperative planned economic development among governmental units, business, agriculture, community organizations and education.*

“The Lenawee Chamber for Economic Development is a “solutions based” team organization. When problems arise within a Lenawee Chamber member’s business we have a responsive team each providing different parts of a possible solution for that business. Each staff member carries their own expertise to each development issue.”

### Randall Yagiela, President & CEO

The **Lenawee Chamber for Economic Development** serves as the voice of business in the Lenawee County area and as an advocate for a quality community. The Chamber is a leader in identifying alternatives and solutions to challenges faced by business owners and residents of Lenawee County. The Chamber continues to seek collaborative approaches to economic and community development and problem solving.

### Core Business

The Lenawee Chamber for Economic Development maintains services for our business community.

■ **Jobs** We respond to site selection Request for Proposals in pursuit of new employers. We work with our partners to assist existing businesses maintain their current level of employment.

■ **Business Services** and assistance with:

- Tax abatement applications
- Establishment of Industrial Development Districts
- Industrial Bonding
- Revolving Loan Funds
- Training

■ **Renaissance Zones** are regions set aside by the State as virtually TAX FREE. Lenawee has two renaissance zones, one in the Hudson Industrial Park and one in the Morenci Industrial Park.

## What’s New in 2007?

### The Lenawee Chamber for Economic Development ...

...has received a grant from the USDA that is providing training money for the new employees at the Riga, Michigan **Global Ethanol** facility. Currently they are producing at a rate of 50 million gallons of ethanol per year with 42 employees. Some of their by product output is being recycled for animal feed and they are hoping to expand into new bio-fuel endeavors in the future.

... has pursued and received a grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce that started a workforce development project at Adrian High School focusing on our **chemical industry**. The stakeholder base has grown to include; Siena Heights University, Adrian College, South Central Michigan Works!, the Lenawee Intermediate School District and community colleges. With input from our local chemical companies, headed by Wacker Chemical and Anderson Development, new curriculum is in place at Adrian High School and the Lenawee Vo-Tech Center for Chem-Tec and Bio-Tec coursework.

...has pursued and received a grant from the Michigan Department of Agriculture to proceed with a feasibility study for placing a **kitchen and agricultural processing incubator** in Lenawee County for the growing potential of our entrepreneurs.

...has applied for a grant through the USDA to train the upcoming workforce at **NextDiesel** which is currently under construction in Adrian. South Central Michigan Works! is coordinating the application, interviewing and hiring for this project.

## The Lenawee Chamber for Economic Development ... (continued)

...has written a **Certified Economic Development Strategy** (CEDS) for Lenawee County, the first since 1976. This document once approved by the EDA and our County Commission will allow us to apply for grants to obtain updated and new infrastructure for our Industrial Parks to attract business expansion in Lenawee County.

... is conducting a feasibility study for a **Center for Community Leadership**. This center will eventually be comprised of an extensive network of comprehensive partners and organizations that will meet the needs of the South Central Michigan area businesses, community leaders, community organizations and the underserved population.

**The Lenawee Chamber for Economic Development** is an interdependent organization whose effectiveness would not be possible without the collaboration with our partners:

- South Central Michigan Works!
- The Michigan Economic Development Corporation
- The Lenawee County Commission
- Siena Heights University
- Adrian College
- Michigan State University School of Labor and Industrial Relations
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U. S. Department of Commerce / Economic Development Administration
- Lenawee Intermediate School District and Vocational Technical Center
- Cities, Villages, Townships and all municipalities in Lenawee

Contact the Lenawee Chamber for Economic Development

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