

Smart Growth —in— Blount County

Job Creation | Financial Growth | Updated Infrastructure

Blount County is experiencing positive growth, and we've all played an integral role in achieving this. We have always worked hard, along with you, to bring jobs to our county, increase capital investments, and update our infrastructure. All of this has served to transform Blount County into a more attractive place for businesses of all kinds to come and grow within *our community*.

Since 2010, **more than 2,200 new jobs** have been created. Businesses are finding us, and they are locating here. We know that in most cases, if we can bring a business here, then that company and its employees will stay for an indefinite period of time. However, this type of enrichment and success does not come without hard work and never-ending dedication to our county. You are all a big part of that great success. Without your continued efforts to keep Blount County a strong, prosperous and happy place, we would not see this type of sustained growth.

We've also witnessed an influx of nearly \$421 million in capital investment from the economic development efforts being led by our commissioners, city councils, local leaders and the Blount Partnership. It's this type of "we're in this all together" approach that makes us unique, and poised for continued growth.

Cooperation among us is a huge catalyst for our local economy, and it has helped in funding updates to our community. Some of these influential updates include the many infrastructure improvements we've made in Blount County. Railroad crossing lights and railroad spur installations have made rail traffic safer and more efficient. We have also added several traffic signals and made numerous other roadway improvements throughout the community. Overall, Blount County has become safer for all those who travel within its boundaries. However, these transportation improvements are just the beginning of the work we have done. We plan to continue working to make our community one that businesses want to operate and grow in. As the numbers thus far show; it's working.

Blount County is a great place to call home. We all know that, or we wouldn't be here. Let's continue to work together to bring prosperity to our home.

Here's a snapshot of some great things we have seen happen in Blount County since 2010:



In May of 2013, Alcoa Inc. announced it was adding 200 jobs and investing \$275 million in the community. The expansion was necessary in order for the company to meet the growing demand for light, durable and recyclable aluminum sheet for global automotive production.



In February 2013, ProNova announced it was bringing 525 jobs to Blount County and a \$52 million investment into Pellissippi Place. Construction is in progress on a facility designed to commercialize a next-generation, compact proton therapy system as part of the latest in cancer treatment technology.



In March of 2014, K12 Inc. announced its addition of 300 jobs to Blount County at a \$2.4 million investment. The company is opening a family support center to provide technical assistance to students and parents in the areas of enrollment, academic advising, general questions, and class demonstrations.



In August 2013, Surface Igniter announced 100 jobs to Blount County, along with a \$3.8 million investment. The company is bringing its production facility, quality control and engineering departments from Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, and its sales, customer service and company headquarters from Chagrin Falls, Ohio.



In September 2011, TeamHealth brought 550 jobs to Blount County with an \$18 million investment at Base Pointe Business Park in Alcoa. TeamHealth continues to provide emergency medicine, anesthesiology, hospital medicine, and pediatric staffing and management services to more than 700 civilian and military hospitals, clinics and physician groups in 45 states.



In May 2011, Royal Metal Powders was introduced to the area by establishing its workplace at the Littlebrook Industrial Park with an initial investment of \$5 million and 50 employees. The company utilizes water and air atomization technology for production of copper powders, copper alloy powders, pre-alloyed bronze and premixes for nationwide distribution.



FIRST HORIZON
NATIONAL CORPORATION

First Horizon, a computer science and software development company, announced it was making a \$50 million investment with more than 100 employees in April 2010 at the Blount County Industrial Park.



Keeping Taxes Down

More businesses in Blount County means that we all win. Companies bring with them equipment and machinery subject to a tangible personal property tax that does not apply to individuals. Businesses' real property is also assessed at 40%, while individual/residential real property is assessed at only 25%. When new companies open in a county, the county's revenues will increase.

These increases in revenue help aid our economy and meet budgetary needs by minimizing the possibility of additional tax burdens on individuals. By meeting this demand with businesses' tax dollars, we are all able to enjoy a constant standard of living in a beautiful area.

In addition to the benefits businesses provide to Blount County's tax structure, we are also making a lot of really great improvements to the county. Not only is this good for you, but the improvements help us remain ideally positioned for additional business growth. By investing in our infrastructure for instance, we are able to support business locations throughout the county. And we've seen this happening — with new companies coming in from such industries as

automotive, aerospace, medical devices and primary metals, just to name a few. By remaining a regional destination for business, we are having workers from other communities seek out Blount County for their future jobs, while also keeping our unemployment rate here (4.9 percent) consistently below the rate for the state (6.3 percent) as of April 2014.

We truly are a destination for new businesses because Blount County and the cities within it share in the efforts to bring those businesses here. It's this idea of an equal balance with the business community that continues to make us so strong. And it's this collaborative approach that keeps Blount County the great place it is for you to live and work.

Unemployment Rate Percentage

Annual	2013	2012	2011	2010
USA	7.4	8.1	8.9	9.6
Tennessee	8.2	8.2	9.2	9.8
Blount	6.8	7.0	7.7	8.4
Anderson	7.8	8.0	8.4	9.0
Jefferson	9.9	10.2	11.2	12.1
Knox	6.5	6.4	6.9	7.5
Loudon	7.3	6.9	7.7	8.2
Monroe	10.7	10.8	12.3	13.5
Roane	7.3	7.7	8.0	8.0
Sevier	8.6	9.0	10.0	10.4

Industrial Announcements by Year

2000	2	2005	3	2010	2
2001	2	2006	2	2011	3
2002	5	2007	3	2012	2
2003	4	2008	4	2013	5
2004	2	2009	4	2014	1

- Since 2000, a span of 15 years, there have been 44 announcements regarding industrial development or expansion in Blount County. That's an average of nearly three per year and we aren't done with 2014 yet. To break it down even more, the Blount Partnership in conjunction with the county and city councils are making a new industrial announcement every four months.
- To put into further perspective, there were only 45 of these major industrial announcements between 1970-99, a span of 30 years.
- Without recruiting by the Blount Partnership to bring these companies to the area or encouraging expansion by already established entities, they would have located elsewhere.
- Over the past four years these industrial announcements have resulted in 2204 well-paying jobs and \$420,900,000 in capital investment. As a result, the county's infrastructure has seen safety improvements with railroad crossing lights, railroad spurs and additional traffic signals.
- The Blount Partnership also provided \$225,000 in training grants for Blount County citizens to increase their skills that led to employment at K12 Inc., Surface Igniter and Cermaspeed.
- Some of these heavy hitters include: K12 Inc., TeamHealth, ProNova Solutions, Alcoa Inc., AESSEAL, Surface Igniter, Microtherm/Promat.



The Economic Development Board of Blount County (EDB) works with the Chamber of Commerce, local government, and regional/state economic development agencies to bring new industry to the area. The board's efforts are global in scope, and attract national and international organizations. The EDB is a government agency that represents Blount County, City of Alcoa, City of Maryville, and is funded by those three municipalities.

The EDB is a part of the Blount Partnership. The Partnership is a cooperative effort between three of the county's key development organizations: Blount County Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Board and the Smoky Mountain Tourism Development Authority.

The Economic Development Board is located at:
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Maryville, Tennessee 37804
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For more information, contact Bryan Daniels
