

County Profile

Established
April 1803

County Seat Columbus
15th largest city in US

Size
532 square miles

Population
1.2 million

Civilian labor force
644,840

Median Household Income
(2009-2013) \$50,877

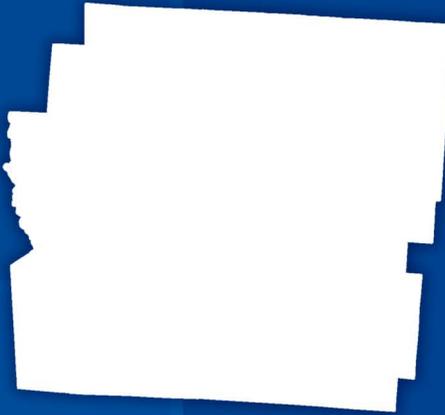
Quality of Life

- ★ Wide range of entertainment and recreation options
- ★ The No. 1 ranked zoo, public library and science museum in the nation
- ★ Affordable housing market
- ★ Commute time below the national average
- ★ Healthcare providers among the best in the country
- ★ Cost of living well below other metro areas



Franklin County

Where Government Works



Franklin County Contact Info

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Photos provided courtesy of: Huntington Park, Easton Town Center, John Angelo, Ed Elberfeld, Due Amici, Stephen Brady/Brady Design, Ltd.



Franklin County, Ohio 2015





Marilyn Brown



Paula Brooks



John O'Grady

Welcome from the Commissioners

Welcome to Franklin County, Ohio. Our county continues to be recognized nationally for sound financial planning and overall management practices and in May 2015 the County's double-Triple A bond ratings issued by Moody's Investors Services and Standards & Poor's were reaffirmed for the 22nd consecutive year. These ratings place Franklin County among the top 1% of counties nationwide.

Franklin County is the second largest county in Ohio, and the fastest growing. It's one of the 30 largest counties in the U.S., and within a day's drive of half of all Americans and 70% of North America's manufacturing. One point two million people live here. Thousands more move here each year, and because of the 62 colleges and university campuses in the City of Columbus and around Central Ohio, our population is younger and better-educated than the national average. Sixty percent of working Franklin County residents are employed in one of the Professional, Education, Health, Government, or Leisure and Hospitality fields. The unemployment rate is below 4%, and consistently below that of the nation, Ohio, and other large counties in the state.

Franklin County values partnerships, especially those with the private sector which are a high priority in our efforts to spur economic development and job creation. Located at the heart of the Midwestern United States, the Columbus Region provides easy access to major national and global markets, including being within a 10-hour truck drive of 45-percent of the U.S. population, 44-percent of US manufacturing capacity and 47-percent of US headquarters operations.

Franklin County has so much to offer.
Come and experience our smart +
open community.

Finding the future in Franklin County, Ohio

Franklin County has been around for as long as Ohio has been a state and its success then, as now, has always been due to its resourceful, hardworking people.

If you're a business looking to start or expand your business in the United States, put Franklin County on your radar. In Franklin County, we have a long history of finding the future faster. In fact, our county is named after Benjamin Franklin – a man who discovered the future faster as an inventor, an entrepreneur, a diplomat, and a daring businessman. This spirit of discovery and the pursuit of knowledge and commerce is something we pride ourselves on and has helped make Franklin County, Ohio one of the premier business locations in the United States.

Our success is showing. Since 2008, Franklin County has been named the #1 Up and Coming Tech City in America by Forbes Magazine, and Ohio was chosen as winner of the coveted Governor's Cup for the most new and expanded corporate locations in the U.S. Working with our partners at the State of Ohio, the City of Columbus, Rev1 Ventures, and the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, Franklin County stands ready to help as you consider a possible presence in the United States.

The Columbus Region is home to Port Columbus International Airport which offers 31 destination airports with more than 140 daily flights and Rickenbacker International Airport which offers a tremendous base of air, rail and road transport to companies, handling more than 300,000 lifts a year and more than \$600 million in transportation cost saving to shippers.

We are home to Battelle, the world's largest contract research and development organization, 63 universities and colleges, including The Ohio State University which enrolls over 57,000 students each year, 15 Fortune 1000 companies and five Fortune 500 companies. There are more than 450 foreign-owned businesses in our Region, employing 54,000 people. One hundred and nine different languages are spoken throughout the Columbus Region and Ohio has no corporate income tax, and has been recognized as one of the top five tax climates in the United States.

Franklin County's Business Development Focus

In 2012, County Commissioners introduced a new effort to target the ongoing strategic investments made by the County into workforce development, job retention and job creation: "Smart Works in Franklin County." Through incentives, entrepreneur training and financial support, Franklin County encourages the retention and growth of existing businesses and the creation of innovative new businesses. At the same time, the County invests in efforts to grow our smart workforce and to build smart partnerships to generate new discoveries that fuel economic growth. Because of these smart investments to improve the opportunity for economic development in Franklin County, the region continues to be a magnet for smart and creative talent.

How Franklin County can help

Business Navigator Services –We can facilitate conference calls, arrange meetings and provide a network of contacts in your specific business field.

Workforce – Often a major concern with growing companies is the availability of a trained, knowledgeable workforce. The Columbus Region boasts a young, well-educated and diverse workforce that is nearly one million strong. But what sets them apart is not their numbers. It's their attitude. Columbus-area workers are not just skilled; they are filled with that incomparable Midwestern work ethic. That means as an employer, you don't just get good work; you get hard work. And, with more than 140,000 students attending local colleges and universities, there's a skilled workforce just waiting for you.

In 2015, Commissioners announced People Works, a program designed to help cover the training costs incurred by employers who are interested in and agree to hire clients of Franklin County's social service agencies

Infrastructure Assistance – There may be instances where your company will need assistance with physical infrastructure including water and sewer improvements to the property. Depending on the specific circumstances, tax increment financing (TIF) may be utilized to help offset the cost of such improvements. In addition, there are State of Ohio grants such as the Industrial Sites Improvement Fund which can help with extraordinary infrastructure costs.

New in 2014 under the Commissioners Smart Works suite of programs, Franklin County now offers to local municipalities below market rate interest loans through the Franklin County Infrastructure Works program. The purpose of Smart Works is to encourage and accelerate investment in infrastructure projects that will result in significant economic growth and job creation, achieved through flexible financing and technical assistance.

Financing – Franklin County's Economic Development and Planning Department offers low interest loans for capital equipment and real estate purchase through our financing partner Community Capital Improvement Corporations and the Columbus-Franklin County Finance Authority. Loan amounts can range from a minimum of \$3,000 to a maximum of \$5 million depending on project parameters.

Incentives – If your company is considering constructing a new building in qualified areas of Franklin County, you may be eligible for a real property tax abatement of up to 100% for 15 years based upon job creation and investment figures.

Information is available on line at
www.FranklinCountyOhio.gov/SmartWorks

