



2023 ANNUAL REPORT



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A MESSAGE FROM THE
**Executive
Director**

On behalf of the East AlabamaWorks Board of Directors, we are pleased to present our 2023 Annual Report. As we reflect on the past year's achievements, we are proud to share the progress we have made in fulfilling our mission and serving our stakeholders.

East AlabamaWorks has remained steadfast in our commitment to our mission of providing every person with the opportunity and motivation to develop and expand their skills to create a quality workforce and enhance economic prosperity. Looking ahead, we remain committed to serving East Alabama business and industry. Working with education and training providers and community partners, we will continue to seize every chance to create a positive impact in our community and beyond.

Together, we will achieve even greater success in the years to come.

Lisa Morales

Lisa Morales
Executive Director



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Workforce Statistics and Information

Economic Overview

378,842

Population (2022)

Population grew by 4,025 over the last 5 years and is projected to grow by 6,319 over the next 5 years.

140,914

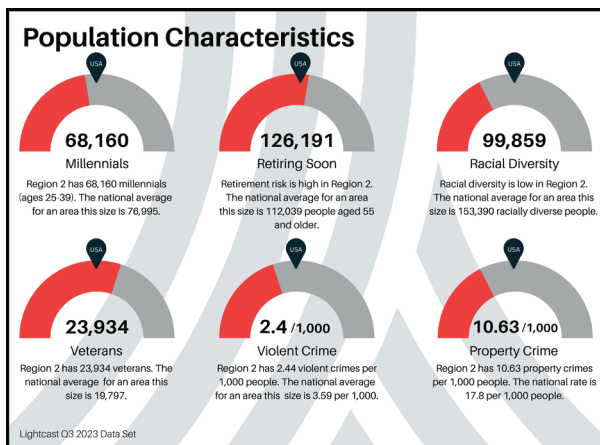
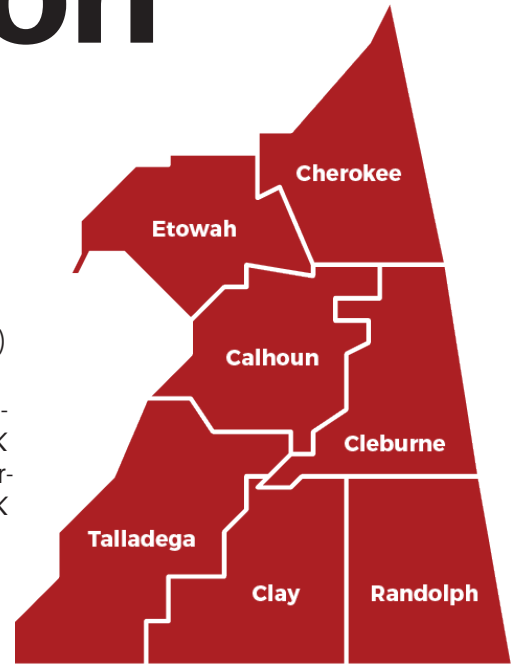
Regional Employment

Jobs decreased by 1,145 over the last 5 years but are projected to grow by 3,989 over the next 5 years.

\$55.5K

Avg. Earnings (2022)

Regional average earnings per job are \$25.4K below the national average earnings of \$80.8K per job.

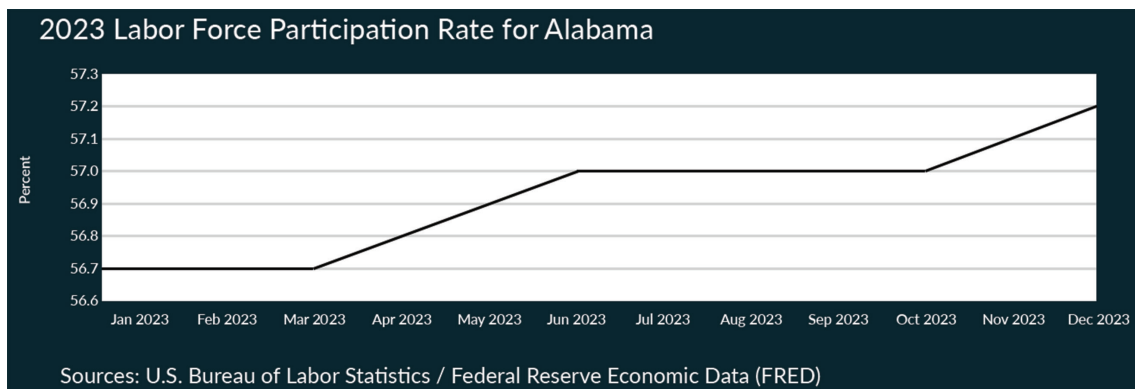


East Alabama's Fastest Growing Occupations

Career World	Occupation Title	Average Annual Openings
Business and Entrepreneurship	Financial Managers	20
Communications, Media and Marketing	Market Research Analysts & Marketing Specialists	30
Engineering and Technology	Industrial Engineers	40
Engineering and Technology	Mechanical Engineers	30
Healthcare	Nurse Practitioners	20
Healthcare	Occupational Therapy Assistants	15
Transportation, Distribution and Logistics	Logisticians	25

*2022-2023 Demand Occupations provided by the Alabama Department of Labor (ADOL) and the Alabama Committee on Credentialing and Career Pathways (ACCCP).

Alabama's Labor Force Participation Rate January 2023 - December 2023



EAST ALABAMA WORKS



WORLDS OF WORK

PRESENTING SPONSOR

EASTMAN

March 7 - 9, 2023

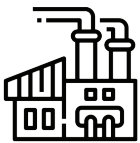
Worlds of Work 2023

By the Numbers



8,165 STUDENTS

105 SCHOOLS FROM 7 COUNTIES



116 CAREERS PRESENTED

1,212 VOLUNTEERS





LEADERSHIP SKILLS TRAINING

East AlabamaWorks Leadership Skills Training classes are offered throughout Region 2

The East AlabamaWorks Leadership Skills Training program is an important service provided to our business and industry partners in Region 2. We offer a full series of classes - LS1, LS2, and LS3 - each quarter. Classes are hosted by community partners and held throughout the region.

Leadership Skills Training classes are a great way for our business and industry partners to provide leadership training for current managers and supervisors, for recently promoted associates, and for staff being considered for advancement. The classes are also great for small businesses and members of the general public.

12 Classes
38 Companies Served
273 Participants

Etowah County Educators Participate in Immersive Workforce Program



The Etowah Qualified Workforce Immersion Program (EQWIP) is the state's largest event for hosting educators for tours in local business and industry, as well as visits to the technical education programs at Gadsden State Community College. Participants come from all three of Etowah County's school systems and represent the full spectrum of learning from elementary through high school.

EQWIP is a partnership between East AlabamaWorks, The Etowah Chamber, Attalla City Schools, Gadsden City Schools, and Etowah County Schools. Ten different business and industry partners participated in the October 2023 event by hosting educator tours of their facilities. These tours allow educators to experience the kind of jobs and careers, and the skills needed in those careers, available in the community.

The Gadsden State Community College tours allow participants to learn about the technical education options available to their students as part of a dual-enrollment program, or after graduation. Ultimately, EQWIP allows educators to return to their classrooms equipped with knowledge which will encourage them to have productive conversations with students about their future education and career options.

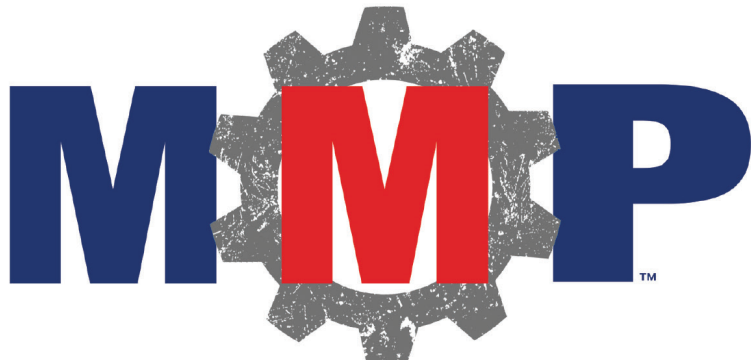
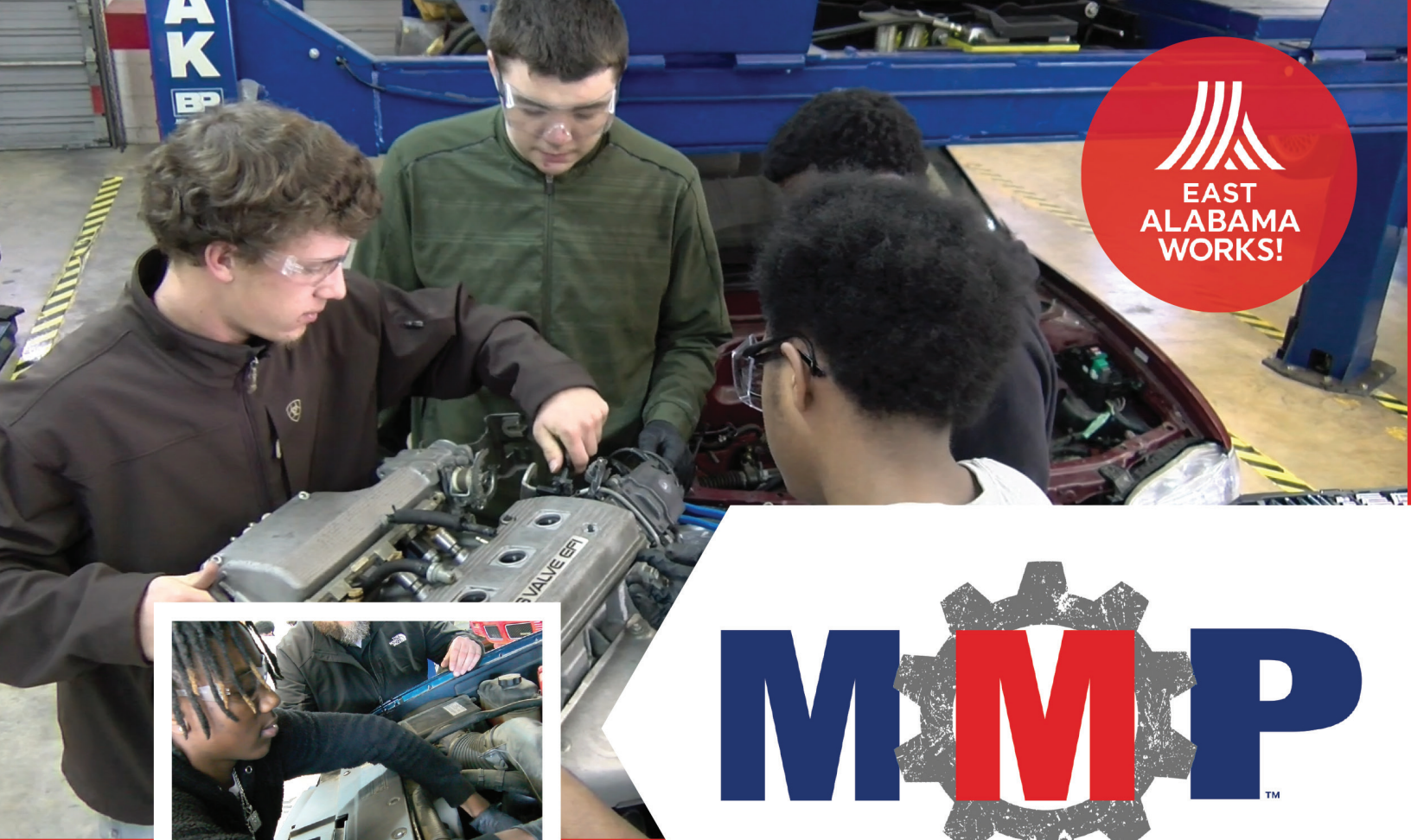
400
EDUCATORS

10
INDUSTRY
PARTNERS

3
SCHOOL
SYSTEMS

1
DAY





MODERN MANUFACTURING PROGRAM

- Created for Alabama's Manufacturing Industry
- Learn Modern Manufacturing Skills in High School
- Train for High-Demand, High-Wage Jobs in Manufacturing
- Direct Hire Opportunities with Regional Industry Partners
- MMP Classes Offered in Seven Regional School Systems
- More than 330 Students Currently Enrolled



For more information, contact
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**SHIFT YOUR
CAREER INTO
HIGH GEAR!**



2023 COHORT

- 160 Applications •
- 46 Students Interviewed •
- 32 Students Signed •
- 11 Industry Partners •

East Alabama FAME Continues Growth

2023 was a big year for the East Alabama FAME program. As the program continues to gain prominence and popularity among students and employers, more students - and industry partners - are choosing to be part of this valuable earn-while-you-learn training program.

Thanks to the recruiting efforts of the Gadsden State Community College staff, 2023 saw 160 applications for the FAME program. The applicant pool was narrowed to 46 students who were interviewed by the industry partners, and, ultimately, 30 applicants were chosen to join the 2023 East Alabama FAME cohort and were drafted by the 11 industry partners.



East Alabama FAME Growth

Graduates with Associate Degree and Working in Business & Industry: 34
Students in the Pipeline: 51

A LOOK AHEAD

With the completion of the new Advanced Manufacturing Center set for Spring 2024 on the Gadsden State Community College campus in Gadsden, the East Alabama FAME program will expand to serve students and industry partners on two campuses. 2024 looks to be another record-setting year for East Alabama FAME.

2023 FAME Industry Partners

Bridgewater Interiors • Eastman Chemical
General Dynamics OTS • GH Metal Solutions
Honda Alabama Auto Plant
Koch Foods • Koller Craft • Kronospan
Legacy Cabinets • M&H Valve
Prince Metal Stampings



East AlabamaWorks Regional Hiring Fair



Held annually in the Fall, the East AlabamaWorks Regional Hiring Fair helps jobseekers and employers make connections which may otherwise be missed. Oxford Civic Center provides the perfect location for the event as it is centrally located in the East AlabamaWorks region. The hiring fair's afternoon and early evening time frame affords first-time jobseekers, and those who are underemployed or looking for something new, the opportunity to attend at a time that better suits their schedules. The 2023 Hiring Fair was held on Tuesday, November 7, 2023 and was well-received by participating companies. Employers noted they received numerous qualified resumes, conducted many on-site interviews, and made on-the-spot hires.

260

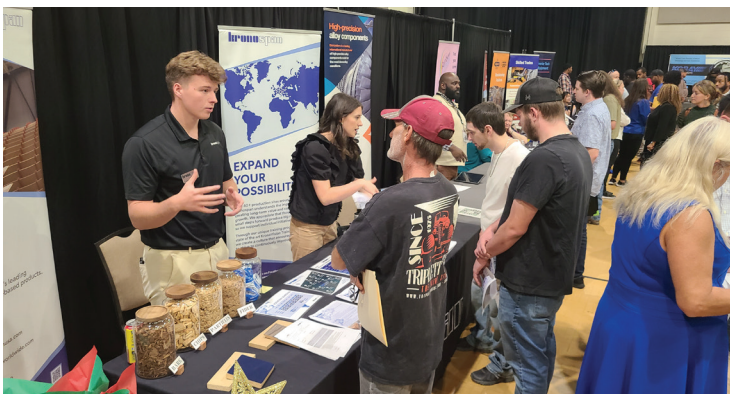
Registered
Jobseekers

45

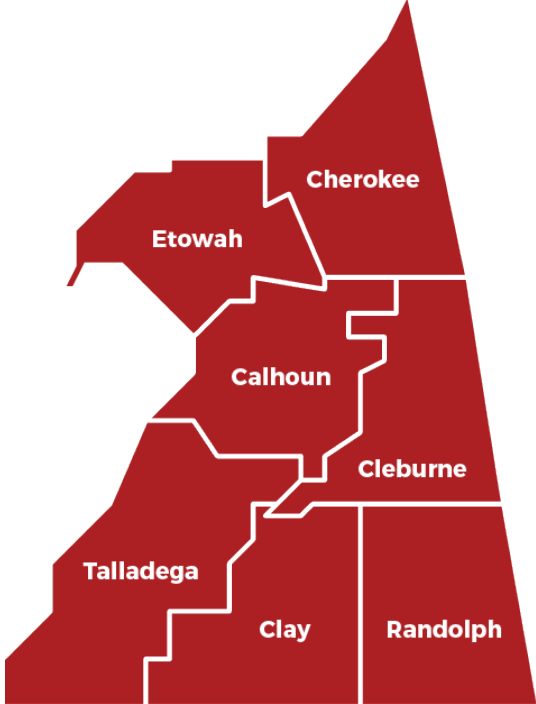
Business &
Industry
Employers

830

Open Jobs
to be
Filled



Impact of Region 2



10,328

STUDENTS
CONNECTED WITH
JOB SKILL
INFORMATION

204

BUSINESSES LINKED
TO WORKFORCE
RESOURCES

691

K-12 EDUCATORS
TRAINED WITH
REGIONAL
OPPORTUNITIES

\$2,350,960

TRAINING DOLLARS
AWARDED TO
INDUSTRY

2,734

JOBSEEKERS
CONNECTED TO
EMPLOYMENT



**EAST
ALABAMA
WORKS!**



Return on Investment
\$154,394,044

2022 - 2023 Legislative Investment
\$512,674

East Alabama Works Team



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