

Economy

Agriculture
Business and Industry
Economic Development Team
Owensboro Manufacturers



Agriculture

Daviess County ranks first in Kentucky counties in total crop production.

Daviess County leads the state in soybean production and ranks second in corn.

The County is also a major source of tobacco.

More than 84% of all land area in Daviess County is devoted to agricultural uses, and more than 62% is considered prime cropland.

Business and Industry

The Owensboro-Daviess County area is the industrial hub of western Kentucky, listing major manufacturers and processors in aluminum, steel, distilling, mining and a natural gas transmission corporation.

Locally produced commodities include meat products, smokeless tobacco, office furniture, wire drawing, spaghetti sauce, small electric motors, whiskey, high grade steel, chemicals, large steel vessels, grain processing, soybeans, oil refinery, paper, plastic extensions, ice cream, hand cleaner and casement windows.

Economic Development Team

Economic Development Corporation

The Greater Owensboro Economic Development Corporation is the economic development agency for Owensboro and Daviess County. It is a public/private partnership formed to attract and to grow primary employers. In conjunction with other agencies, it markets the MidAmerica Airpark and the Pleasant Valley Industrial Park. The Greater Owensboro Economic Development Corporation also assists existing businesses with expansion projects.

Nick Brake

Nick Brake is the President/CEO for the Greater Owensboro Economic Development Corporation. As president of GO-EDC, Dr. Brake is responsible for leading the economic and community development efforts for the Greater Owensboro region by working to create a diversified, sustainable economy generating wealth, quality jobs, and improving the quality of life. Prior to coming to GOEDC, Dr. Brake served as a dean at the Owensboro Community and Technical College.

While at OCTC, he worked closely with the consolidation of the technical school with the community college. He also founded the Discover College Program, which seeks to improve the community's college-going rate by giving high school students opportunities to take college classes. He successfully landed Kentucky's first and only grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in 2005. He serves on the board of directors of Greater Owensboro Area Leadership program, the Owensboro Biotech Alliance, Western Kentucky University-Owensboro, the Green River Economic Development Corporation, the Green River Regional Workforce Investment Board, Junior Achievement of Owensboro, and the Owensboro Public Art Commission.

He is the past-chair of the Greater Owensboro Alliance for Education and was a member of the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence Task Force on High Achieving High Schools.

He holds a Ph.D. in Higher Education and Leadership from the University of Louisville. His bachelors and masters degrees are both in history. He has taught history at the high school level and at Western Kentucky University, Brescia University, and the Owensboro Community and Technical College.

Nick can be reached at (270) 926-4339 ext. 218 or by email (nbrake@owensboro.com).

Madison Silvert

Madison Silvert is the Vice President for Entrepreneurship and High Tech Development, and he is the Director of the Emerging Ventures Center for Innovation. Mr. Silvert, a lifetime resident of Owensboro, holds a degree in Economics from Centre College and his Juris Doctor from the Brandeis School of Law at the University of Louisville where he received a special certification in regulatory law and policy. He was in private legal practice for six years prior to joining the Greater Owensboro Economic Development Corporation. Mr. Silvert additionally serves as legal counsel for the Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission.

Madison can be reached at (270) 926-4339 or by email (msilvert@owensboro.com).

Sharla Austin-Darnell

Sharla is Existing Industry Manager for the Greater Owensboro Economic Development Corporation. Sharla is a graduate from Murray State University. She previously served as existing industry manager at the Madisonville-Hopkins County Economic Development Corporation. Before moving into economic development Sharla served as was executive director of the Madisonville-Hopkins County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Sharla can be reached at (270) 663-1046 or by email (sdarnell@owensboro.com).

Becky McCubbins

Becky is Economic Development Manager for the Greater Owensboro Economic Development Corporation. She has been with the organization since 1995. Her responsibilities include assisting with managing responses to prospects and researching and preparing responses to prospect inquiries. She oversees EDC's budget allocations and disbursements.

Becky can be reached at (270) 926-4339 ext. 226 or by email (bmccubbins@owensboro.com).

Melissa Shelton

Melissa joined Greater Owensboro Economic Development Corporation in 2006. She answers the telephone and assists with maintenance of Owensboroworks.com.

Melissa can be reached at (270) 926-4339 ext. 220 or by email (mshelton@owensboro.com).

Major Employers

Company	Product/Service	# of Employees (2007)
O'boro Med. Health System	Hospital	3300
Daviess County Public Schools	School system	1785
US Bank Home Mortgage	Mortgage processing	873
Owensboro Public Schools	School system	778
Texas Gas	Natural Gas Pipeline Headquarters	596
Toyotetsu Mid-America	Automotive parts	560
Specialty Food Group	Meat processing	544
Wal-Mart (2 stores)	Retail store	541
Owensboro Community & Technical College	College	494
City of Owensboro	City government	481
Commonwealth of Kentucky	State government	471
Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline, Inc.	Headquarters -transporting natural gas to markets in the midwest	456
Unilever Foods North America	Ragu spaghetti sauce	445
Swedish Match	Tobacco products	380
Titan Contracting	Mechanical construction	380
Canteen Service Company	Food services	350
UniFirst	Uniform distribution	350
Dana Corp.	Truck frame manufacturers	330
Premium Allied Tool	Metal stamping and fabricated products	330
Kimberly-Clark	Paper products	342
Miles Farm Supply	Farm services	314
MPD, Inc.	Microwave products	264
Daramic	Battery separators	264
The HON Company	Office furniture	260
Owensboro Municipal Utilities	Utility	226
Green River District Health	Health department	224
Hunter Douglas	Window parts manufacturer	218
Barton Brands, Ltd.	Bottling/warehouse plant of whiskey, gin, etc.	207
AT&T	National directory call center	200
DBM Technologies Inc.	Plastic blow molded automotive parts	200
Plastech	Plastic blow molded automotive parts	200