



Grow With Us!



2019
ANNUAL REPORT



GREATER
FORT DODGE
GROWTH ALLIANCE

24 N 9TH STREET, SUITE A
FORT DODGE, IA 50501 | 515.955.5500
WWW.GREATERFORTDODGE.COM



YEAR IN REVIEW

The year 2019 was highlighted by continued partnerships throughout the county and region, as both public and private sectors showed continued economic growth and improvements to the quality of life we all enjoy. We all need to thank local and county governments, educational entities, and all the members of the Greater Fort Dodge Growth Alliance for their leadership, collaboration, cooperation, and ideas that have led to continued economic growth.



The housing partnership between the Growth Alliance, the City of Fort Dodge, and the Fort Dodge Betterment Foundation continued to show new housing starts, new private development as well as housing in Gowrie and other locations in Webster County.

The primary sector business continued to reinvest such as Nestle Purina, White Transfer and Storage and AML Riverside, among others. Some of the larger economic impact in the near future will come from the 2019 startup of Prestage Foods of Iowa in Wright County. The Prestage plant will provide large regional economic multipliers throughout all sectors of our economy.

The Webster County Board of Supervisors sold land to Cargill in Iowa's Crossroads of Global Innovation and further continued improve the economic competitiveness of the park.

The Growth Alliance client list is as large as it has ever been, quality of life and workforce initiatives are continuing to improve, and we expect 2020 to significantly exceed the progress made in 2018 and 2019.

Dennis Plautz

Dennis Plautz
CEO, Greater Fort Dodge Growth Alliance

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Fort Dodge Turns 150

2019 marked the City of Fort Dodge's 150th anniversary of the city's charter. The community celebrated by creating a logo that was used on promotional pieces and to identify events related to the anniversary. The most iconic remembrance of Fort Dodge's 150th celebration was the commission of "The Chronicle", a 22 foot sculpture which represents history and elements of our community.

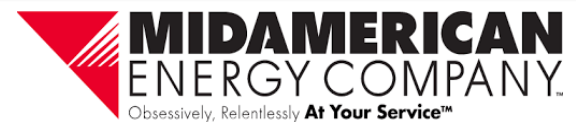


The community of Fort Dodge traces its origins to the U.S. Army's establishment of Fort Clark in 1850. The military post was set up and occupied by the troops of Company E of the 6th Infantry. There were two officers and 66 enlisted men in the unit. In 1851, the post's name was changed to Fort Dodge. The Army shut down the fort in June 1853 and the soldiers were sent to an outpost in Minnesota. William Williams, who was a civilian merchant at the fort, then led the development of a city at the site of the military post. The community of Fort Dodge got its start in the second half of 1853, but wasn't formally chartered until 1869.



MidAmerican Energy Service Center Investment

In early 2019, MidAmerican Energy cut the ribbon on their new 72,000 square foot service center in the Decker Development Park. The facility services over 32,000 customers in North Central Iowa. The building was constructed to create an environmentally friendly place to work and a contemporary design for the efficiency of their employees. MidAmerican Energy is an important partner in economic development by providing over 50% of their energy is renewable. They also financially support the Growth Alliance efforts through their community partnering program.



White Transfer and Storage Expansion

In the fall of 2019, White Transfer and Storage Company invested \$2 Million in a 500,000 square foot warehouse project in Webster County, west of Fort Dodge. This is the second expansion White Transfer had made in the last two years. The expansion will service existing businesses in the region for both outgoing and incoming finished and raw materials.



Iowa Central Community College Expansion

Iowa Central Community College started construction on the Greehey Family Student Success Center. The new center will consolidate veterans services, enrollment services, student advising, financial aid, the registrar, counseling, housing, career services, distance learning, early intervention support and security in one place. The new center is being paid in part by a generous donation from the family of Bill Greehey, a Fort Dodge Senior High School graduate who was the chairman of Valero Energy Corp. He donated \$3 million for the facility. The remaining costs will be covered by the \$25.5 M general obligation bond the college received in 2018.



WHAT WE DO

An Investment in the Greater Fort Dodge Growth Alliance is an investment in the community and in your organization. When the local economy grows, it benefits all area businesses; that is the Growth Alliance's mission - to grow our economy. We do this by actively engaging businesses, stakeholders and community members!

- ◆ **RETAIN EXISTING BUSINESS**
- ◆ **RECRUIT NEW BUSINESSES**
- ◆ **ADVOCATE FOR AREA BUSINESS**
- ◆ **HELP DEVELOP A SKILLED WORKFORCE**
- ◆ **ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**
- ◆ **PARTNER IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**
- ◆ **PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & NETWORKING**



CATALYST TO RETAIL REDEVELOPMENT

As a retail hub for Northcentral Iowa, Fort Dodge saw an opportunity with the sale of the empty Sears building. In the fall of 2019, within days, the 63,340 square foot building was demolished and removed from the 6.25 acre site making way for new development. The sale and removal of the Sears building gave way for the redeveloper to negotiate for the rest of the Crossroads Mall.

FROM THIS



TO THIS



In early 2020, the redeveloper, executed their due diligence, took possession of the site and made plans for the future. The space will become a hub of activity including retail, restaurant, entertainment, commercial and housing opportunities. The City invested in this project as it is an important piece to the quality of life, i.e. workforce recruitment for the region.

OUR IMPACT



MEMBERS



NEW MEMBERS



INVESTOR MEMBERS



VISIONARY MEMBERS



27

RIBBON CUTTINGS



COMMUNITY TOURS GIVEN

55



42
RESUMES
DISEMINATED



BUSINESSES
THAT PARTICIPATED
IN WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

116

INDIVIDUALS WHO
PARTICIPATED
IN WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT
INITIATIVES



376



115
OPPORTUNITIES
FOR MEMBERS TO
NETWORK



19
WORKFORCE
PROGRAMS

20
INTERNSHIP
PARTICIPANTS



LEADERSHIP
FORT DODGE
PROGRAM
GRADUATES

30



LEADERSHIP
FORT DODGE
PROGRAM
CONTRIBUTORS

128



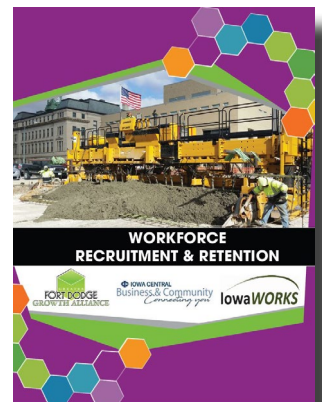
166
JOBS LISTED
ON OUR
WEBSITE

WORKFORCE TOOLS AVAILABLE

30

New Workforce Tool

The Growth Alliance created a new workforce recruitment and retention tool – The Workforce Resource Guide. Workforce recruitment and retention still remains the number one challenge to Midwest companies. To assist in navigating through all the resources and events available to existing and future employers, the Growth Alliance compiled over 30 resources available to employers for recruitment and retention within the region. The Guide includes resources from Iowa Works; Iowa Central Community College; Linking Families and Communities; Children & Families of Iowa; and Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

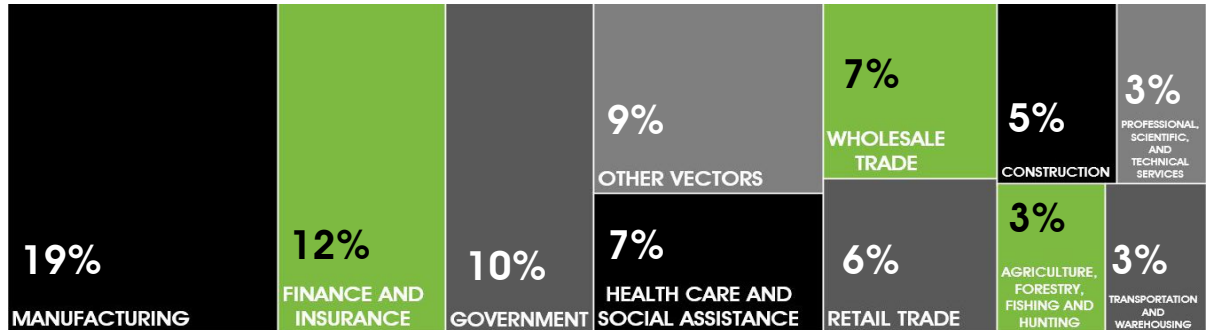


Visit here: <http://www.greaterfortdodge.com/business-resources/p/item/11196/workforce-recruitment-and-retention>

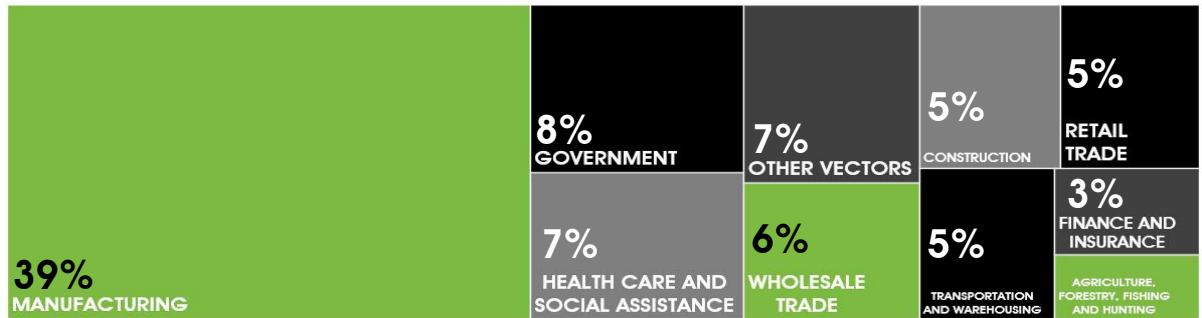
WEBSTER COUNTY ECONOMY

Webster County's total Gross Regional Product is \$2.5 Billion. The manufacturing sector makes up nearly 40% to our economy. Of the manufacturing sector, Biological Products, i.e. vaccines, is the largest contributor.

TOP 10 STATE AND COUNTY ECONOMIC SECTORS

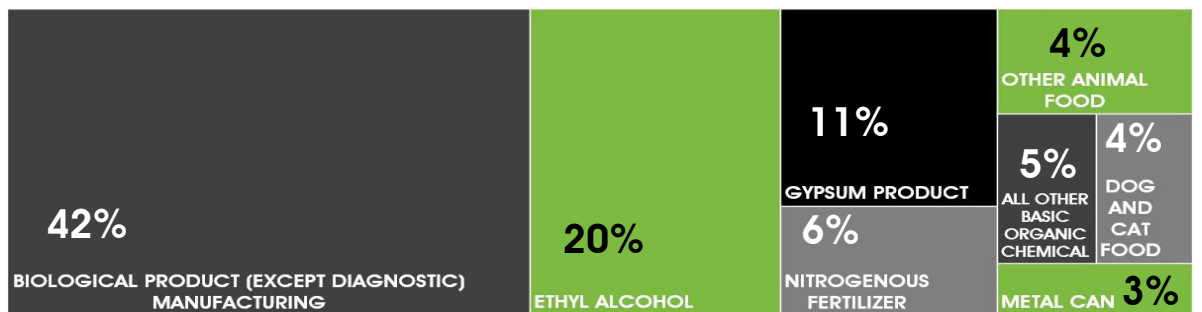


VS



2% ↻

TOP 10 PRODUCTS IN MANUFACTURING FOR WEBSTER COUNTY



GRP WITHIN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR

Within Webster County's Manufacturing GRP, Biological Products make up 42% of the manufacturing sector, with Ethyl Alcohol (Ethanol) and Gypsum to follow. Interestingly, Gypsum production in Webster County makes up 67% of the entire state's manufacturing sector, our metal can sector 48% and biological 33%.

GYPSUM PRODUCT

67%



METAL CAN

48%



BIOLOGICAL PRODUCT

33%

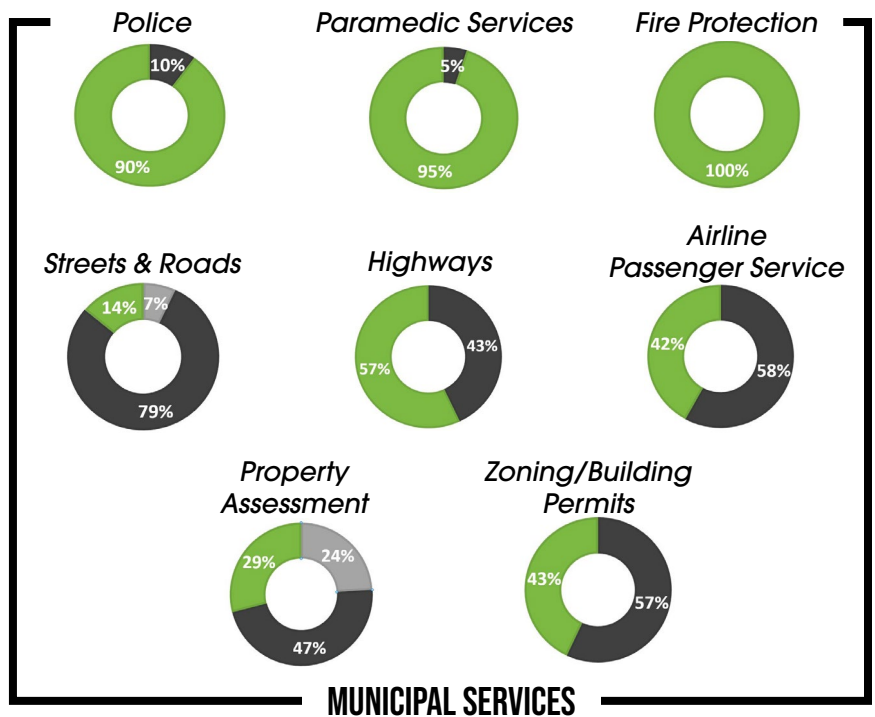
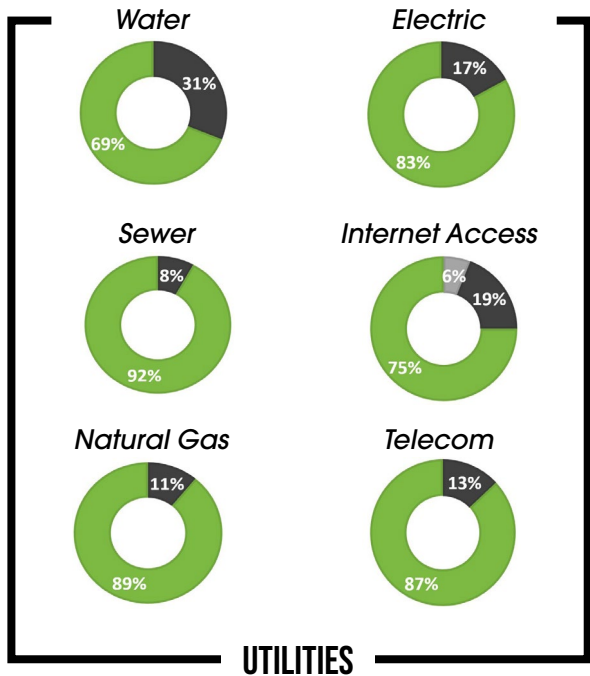
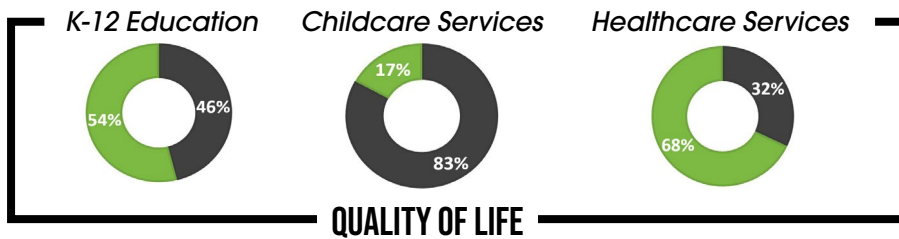


SURVEY SAYS...

The data was collected by interviewing 19 industry leaders of Greater Fort Dodge. A company's survival in today's economy depends on keeping pace with the market through innovation and introduction of new products.

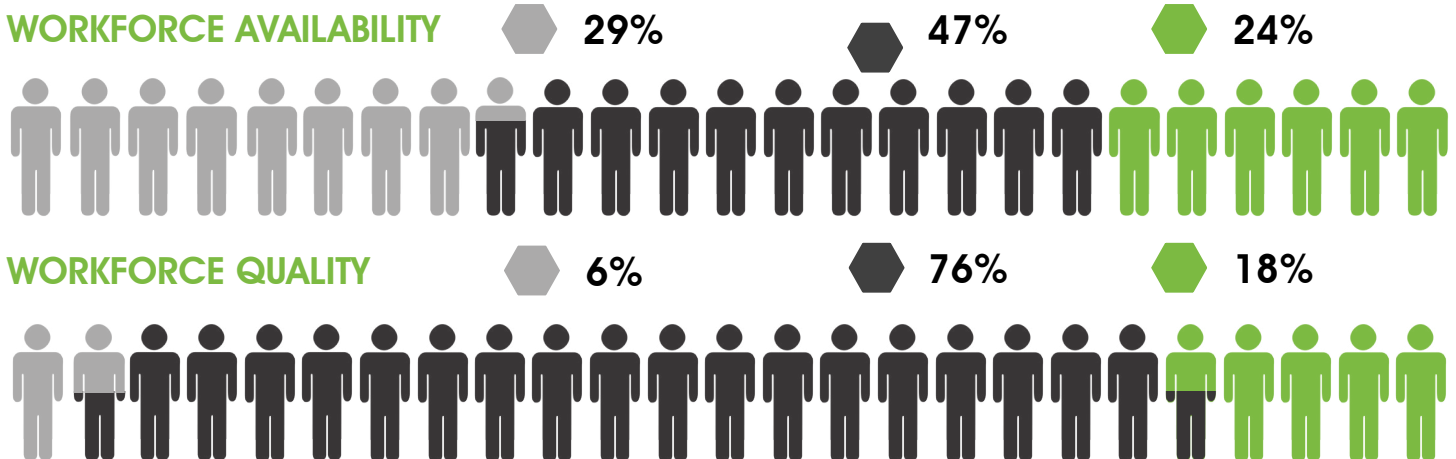
FUNDAMENTALS

Rarely does one get up in the morning thinking about the fundamental services provided by the government or a community. These services are still critical to the day-to-day operations of a business.



WORKFORCE

Having an available and productive workforce is key to supporting a successful, growing business climate. Through our interviews, we found that workforce availability and quality have perceivably increased. In 2018, 95% of business leaders ranked workforce quality either good or excellent.





"The Gowrie Development Commission have been working side by side with the Greater Fort Dodge Growth Alliance for years to make both of our communities prosper. Not everyone wants to live in the city and that's one of the ways Gowrie has been able to step in as a thriving small town to help attract some of the industry employees that the Greater Fort Dodge Growth Alliance brings to Webster County."

-Phillip DeCastro
President, Gowrie Development Commission

"Our affiliation with the Greater Fort Dodge Growth Alliance offers the City of Manson valuable resources and collaboration opportunities to assist us with our continued economic development planning. With a large percentage of the Manson population employed in Fort Dodge our relationship with the Growth Alliance allows ongoing communication to address each other's needs as they arise."

-Dave Anderson
Mayor, City of Manson



"Working with the Growth Alliance has strengthened the relationship between Dayton and the rest of Webster County. Dayton offers the second largest tourist attraction in Webster County with the Dayton Rodeo, which is held Labor Day weekend. Obviously, with such a huge annual event and crowds in the thousands--the better the rodeo does, the better the county does--especially hotels, restaurants, and retail. The more partnership between Dayton and greater Webster County--the better for us all!"

-Kendra Breitsprecher
Dayton City Council Member

