

NORTHEAST INDIANA REGIONAL REPORT



May 2026

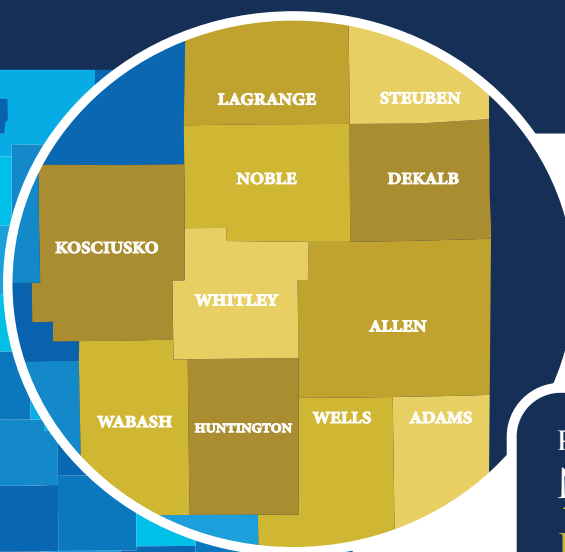
“Indiana’s strength comes from its people – Hoosiers who work hard, solve problems and take pride in building something better for the next generation.

Across our state, we’re seeing what’s possible when business, higher education and community leaders come together to solve problems with a shared purpose. Those partnerships are driving growth, creating jobs and opening new doors for Hoosiers.

In Northeast Indiana, that momentum is clear. From Tau Wire’s decision to establish its first U.S. facility in Fort Wayne to Hanjung America’s new investment in Huntington and Slate Auto’s truck production in Warsaw, this region is attracting global companies and creating high-quality jobs. Combined with continued investment in downtown Fort Wayne and strong regional collaboration, Northeast Indiana is building on its strengths and helping drive Indiana’s growth.

By staying focused, working together and delivering results, we’re building an economy that is strong today and positioned for the future.”

— Governor Mike Braun



REGIONAL IMPACT

NORTHEAST INDIANA

IN THE LAST YEAR...

- ◆ **21 businesses** committed to locating or growing in NE Indiana
- ◆ More than **\$363 million in capital investment** committed
- ◆ More than 2,200 new jobs announced, with an **average wage of \$34.51/hour**
- ◆ **\$163 million in new payroll** created

SCAN TO WATCH
NORTHEAST INDIANA
ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHT VIDEO



Experience the region momentum in this two-minute video.

STORIES FROM AROUND THE REGION

TAU WIRE SELECTS FORT WAYNE FOR FIRST U.S. FACILITY

- ◇ \$18 million in capital investment
- ◇ 70 new jobs
- ◇ High-performance magnet wire for electrical vehicles, renewable energy and advanced manufacturing sectors

“Establishing our first manufacturing footprint in the United States represents a pivotal step in our global strategy,” said **Francesco Taiariol**, CEO of Tau Wire’s Italian parent company, Tretau. “Fort Wayne’s strong industrial ecosystem, skilled workforce, and legacy in magnet wire production make it an ideal location for our next phase of growth.”

HANJUNG AMERICA WILL MAKE U.S. DEBUT IN HUNTINGTON

- ◇ Manufacturer of energy storage systems for Samsung SDI
- ◇ 300 high-wage jobs, growing to 440
- ◇ New facility on 133 acres in Riverfork West Industrial Park

“We are delighted to establish Hanjung America in Huntington and to become a member of the Indiana community, and we look forward to contributing to regional development,” said **Kevin Kim**, president of Hanjung America, a subsidiary of South Korea-based Hanjung NCS. “This new location allows us to better serve our local customers with our leading-edge technology ESS components.”

SLATE AUTO TO BUILD ELECTRIC TRUCKS IN WARSAW

- ◇ \$400 million in capital investment
- ◇ 2,000+ new jobs
- ◇ Conversion of 1.4-million-square-foot former printing plant

“From the earliest days, we knew if we simplified manufacturing, we could deliver an affordable vehicle and bring pride back to American-made cars,” said Slate CEO **Chris Barman**, a Crown Point native and fifth-generation Hoosier. “What Slate is about to build for America begins in Warsaw.”

TOP STORY

BILLIONS IN INVESTMENTS FUEL NORTHEAST INDIANA'S UPWARD TRAJECTORY

FORT WAYNE AND THE REGION HAVE CONTINUED THE UPWARD TRAJECTORY that comes along with \$1 billion in investments that have happened over the last decade. But that number pales in comparison to what's coming.

Private investment is pouring in. Google is investing \$2 billion in the region. And the city is in the early stages of remaking its downtown riverfront, which several companies are vying to develop.

GRANTS BOOST REGION

CITIES AND TOWNS BUILD MOMENTUM WITH \$95 MILLION IN READI FUNDS

HOUSING. WORKFORCE TRAINING. ARTS FACILITIES.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT. Projects of all kinds are in the works from Fort Wayne to Ossian thanks to \$95 million from the state's Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative, also known as READI. The funds awarded to projects across northeast Indiana have leveraged millions more to improve quality of place for Hoosiers. Among the projects underway or on tap:

- ◆ **Transformation of a former junkyard into 100 market-rate apartments** in downtown Wabash. A \$3 million READI grant was key to this \$27 million project.
- ◆ **The \$24.2 million modernization and expansion of the Arts United Center**, an iconic community theater that anchors Fort Wayne's Arts Campus, thanks to a \$6 million READI grant.
- ◆ **An expansion and upgrade of Fort Wayne International Airport's passenger terminal**, positioning the airport for anticipated regional growth.
- ◆ **Construction of a \$44 million health care education and training building** to grow the region's health care workforce. The Fort Wayne project, fueled by a \$4 million READI grant, is a collaboration of Parkview Health and the Trine Fort Wayne College of Health Professionals.
- ◆ **The Eddy, a \$40 million mixed-use development** along the Fort Wayne riverfront featuring 111 apartments, 3,100 square feet of restaurant space and a 235-space parking garage.
- ◆ **A mixed-use tower with apartments and office space** in downtown Fort Wayne's The Landing District. The state's \$3.1 million READI grant leveraged almost \$15 million for the project.
- ◆ **The Arts and Entrepreneurship Center and UB Lofts**, a hub of activity, connectivity and creativity in downtown Huntington. READI funds were used for infrastructure improvements vital to this transformation of downtown Huntington.
- ◆ **Construction of 161 workforce housing units** in Ossian to fuel growth in Wells County and nearby Fort Wayne.
- ◆ **A mixed-use, four-story structure in Auburn** that will bring life back to the former site of the iconic Auburn Hotel.



ENTREPRENEUR SUCCESS STORIES

ENTREPRENEURSHIP & INNOVATION

SMALL BUSINESSES MAKE UP THE HEART OF THE INDIANA ECONOMY and employ more than 1.2 million Hoosiers. Helping would-be entrepreneurs add to that number is the Northeast Indiana Small Business Development Center at Purdue Fort Wayne, which this year has already assisted 139 entrepreneurs and small businesses put their ideas to work.

Entrepreneurship isn't limited to people with business degrees who've spent years training to start and operate a business. Actionable business ideas can come from anyone, including these owners of new Indiana businesses:

- ◆ **Ruby Campbell-Carpenter, founder of Tailored Bites.** Campbell-Carpenter, a senior at North Side High School, and her classmates started the company at the Amp Lab at Electric Works, a hands-on learning lab for Fort Wayne high school students. Their product is a frozen dog food made with high-quality, locally sourced chicken, chicken livers, green beans, blueberries and other ingredients. Tailored Bites' product was a hit at last summer's farmers' markets and Campbell-Carpenter is working on a similar product for cats. Tailored Bites was one of 10 finalists selected from among 1,000 student teams entered in last year's Innovate WithIN contest and the startup won the 2025 Fort Wayne Foundry Pitch Competition.
- ◆ **Taylor Burnett, founder of Tay's Auto Detailing.** Cleaning cars was a side gig for Burnett when she worked full time at Fire Police City County Federal Credit Union. But after losing that job in 2022 and collecting unemployment, a friend encouraged Burnett to visit the Northeast Indiana Innovation Center in Fort Wayne and explore going into auto detailing full time. With coaching from Rosalina Perez, director of NIIC's Women's Business Center, Burnett took the plunge and hasn't looked back. Revenue has doubled every year and she recently expanded the company's service area to include Indianapolis. Burnett is in love with the freedom that comes along with owning a business. "Being my own boss and having that freedom is the greatest part of this journey." In 2024, Tay's Auto Detailing won the Mirro Award for Entrepreneurial Excellence from the Northeast Indiana Innovation Center.



ENTREPRENEURS HELPING ENTREPRENEURS

LACK OF AFFORDABLE CHILDCARE IS A PERSISTENT PROBLEM

experienced by Indiana workers, adding a significant challenge for Hoosier employers, most of which are small businesses. Stepping in to help is the Childcare Entrepreneurial Training Program. Led by SEED Fort Wayne and Brightpoint Development Fund, the Childcare Entrepreneurial Training Program will provide structured education, mentorship and resources to childcare entrepreneurs. The training program will equip current childcare providers with the business knowledge, financial skills and operational strategies needed to successfully launch and sustain childcare enterprises.

HEADLINES FROM AROUND THE REGION



[Fort Wayne taps Philadelphia firm to create new downtown plan](#) (April 15, 2026)

[Groundbreaking set for Hanjung manufacturing plant in Huntington](#) (April 13, 2026)

[Fort Wayne breaks ground on next stage of The Landing](#) (April 17, 2026)

[Huntington University to use Lilly Endowment grant for AI exploration](#) (January 27, 2026)

[Slate Auto completes \\$650 million funding round as Warsaw production nears](#) (April 14, 2026)

[Ohio distribution facility relocates to Bluffton](#) (March 17, 2026)

[Fort Wayne football club details naming rights for new soccer stadium](#) (April 6, 2026)