

## **Economic Development**

According to the Hall County website, the Gainesville-Hall County Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is among the 50 fastest growing metros in the United States. Business and industry make long term investments in Hall County because of its stability, skilled workforce, visionary leadership and quality of life. The area is home to more than 300 manufacturing and processing companies, and 51 locations of international companies representing 16 countries.

Hall County is a vibrant pro-business community offering the best a major metropolitan area has to offer without the chaos and congestion often associated with Atlanta.

Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Report shows that as of the end of 2017, 29 new and expanded businesses in the area announced 900 jobs and \$170 million in capital investment. Some of the firms expending their North American business include King's Hawaiian, Zebra Technologies, Mincey Marble, Etrori, Bitzer US, Mars Wrigley Confectionary, Milliken & Co., Performance Foodservice, and ZF.

The Hall County area is a hub for life science businesses. The state's biotechnology-related scholars have attracted millions in federal and private dollars and created some of the nation's leading bio research centers of excellence, according to the economic development department of Greater Hall County Chamber of Commerce.

Another tie-in for the area is the food processing and poultry support companies. Much of the skill sets, quality management and safety best practices between those and the life sciences industry has been transferable, enabling companies to attract talent. Poultry industry, educational institutions and quality of life have created a special niche within the life sciences industry for Hall County.