

# Erie County Port Authority 2025 Report

**ERIE COUNTY  
PORT AUTHORITY**

administered by





# ERIE COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY

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## 2025 REPORT

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On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to share the 2025 End of Year Report for the Erie County Port Authority. The Port Authority exists to ensure businesses and communities across our region have access to flexible, effective tools that support private investment, modern infrastructure, and long-term economic growth. These tools are critical to helping projects move forward, reducing costs for employers, and strengthening the region's competitive position.

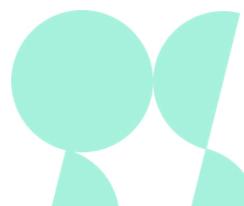
In 2025, the ECPA supported projects across North Central Ohio that expanded operations, created and retained jobs, and reinforced key industries including manufacturing, agribusiness, and hospitality. Through cooperative agreements and strong partnerships with county economic development organizations, the ECPA delivered meaningful local impact while reinvesting back into partner communities. A new cooperative agreement with the Huron Joint Port Authority further strengthened coordination and ensured continuity of service for projects in the region.

The results outlined in this report reflect the importance of having trusted financing mechanisms in place to support private-sector growth. These investments represent confidence in our workforce, our communities, and our region's future. I am grateful to our partners, participating counties, and the businesses that continue to invest here, as well as the leadership and staff who make this work possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James Miller".

**JAMES MILLER | CHAIRMAN**  
**ERIE COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



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The Erie County Port Authority (ECPA), administered by the Greater Sandusky Partnership, helps finance major capital investments through flexible tools designed to reduce project costs and accelerate development. Through cooperative agreements, the ECPA can assist eligible projects in neighboring counties, ensuring local economic impact while reinvesting back into partner communities. The ECPA has been active in seven (7) counties in North Central Ohio:



1. Erie
2. Huron
3. Ottawa
4. Sandusky
5. Seneca
6. Wyandot
7. Auglaize

## Board of Directors

Created in 2011 by the Erie County Commissioners to spur economic development, the ECPA is governed by a five-person Board of Directors appointed by the Erie County Commissioners.

**James Miller | Chairman**

**Jeremy Normington-Slay | Vice Chairman**

**Caleb Stidham | Treasurer**

**Lisa Crescimano**

**Steve Poggiali**

## Huron Joint Port Authority

In the latter half of 2025, ECPA, the Huron Joint Port Authority (HJPA) and GSP entered into a new cooperative agreement that delineates what port authority will serve as the lead entity for projects located within Erie County. The agreement also ensures redundancy in providing economic developments services and incentives to our partners and projects outside of Erie County as both ECPA and HJPA now have capabilities to service these areas.

## Driving Investment & Business Growth

Over the past 12 months, the ECPA completed nine (9) approved projects, helping businesses expand operations, invest in modern infrastructure, and strengthen their long-term presence in the region. Year-to-date, these efforts have facilitated **\$230M in capital investment, 2,150 created and retained jobs** across multiple industries, and delivered meaningful cost savings to local employers.

### TOTAL COMPANY SAVINGS

**\$3.97M** through capital lease and bond financing programs

### Top Company Savings

- Kalmbach Feeds (\$1.63M)
- Autokiniton/Tower (\$870K)
- Vaughn Industries (\$489K)

## Supporting Jobs and Workforce Stability

The Erie County Port Authority's projects resulted in:



**500**

New jobs created



**1,650**

jobs retained



**459**

Manufacturing jobs



**7**

Food & Agribusiness jobs



**30**

Hospitality jobs

## Supporting Regional Partners

**\$400K+** distributed in shared fees to regional partners

Shared fees are distributed to partner county economic development organizations when the ECPA supports projects located outside Erie County. These partners work directly with companies in their counties and assist in facilitating a connection with Greater Sandusky Partnership to access ECPA programs and tools.

In 2025, fees were distributed to our regional partners including the Huron County Growth Partnership, Ottawa County Improvement Corporation, Sandusky County Economic Development Corporation, Seneca County Collaborative, and Wyandot County Office of Economic Development.



# 2025 PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS

## TOFT DAIRY

In 2025, Toft Dairy completed a **\$7 million** expansion, adding over **20,000 square feet** of freezer space to modernize distribution operations. The project addressed longstanding challenges caused by outdated storage infrastructure, allowing Toft to more efficiently serve farms, schools, hospitals, and restaurants across the region.

With support from Port Authority programs, Toft realized **\$111,000** in project savings. The expansion created **7 new jobs** and retained **76 existing positions**, reinforcing Toft Dairy's role as a trusted regional employer and essential economic driver.



## AUTOKINITON/TOWER AUTOMOTIVE

Autokiniton/Tower Automotive expanded operations through the construction of a **215,000 square foot** manufacturing facility, representing a **\$32 million** investment in Sandusky County. The expansion allows the company to increase production capacity while maintaining its role as a key regional employer.

Through Port Authority programs, the project achieved **\$870,000** in savings. The expansion created **97 new jobs** and retained **440 existing positions**, supporting continued industrial growth and workforce stability in the county.



## KALMBACH FEEDS

Kalmbach Feeds completed the largest private expansion in Wyandot County history with the construction of a **9,750 square foot** industrial facility and a **180,000 square foot** production space. Representing an estimated **\$40 million** investment, the project significantly expanded production capacity and positioned the company for continued growth.

Port Authority assistance generated **\$1.63 million** in company savings while supporting the creation of **213 new jobs** and the retention of **546 existing positions**. This expansion strengthens Kalmbach Feeds' longstanding presence in the region and supports a stable, growing workforce.



# 2025 PROJECTS OVERVIEW

## Manufacturing Projects

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### Vaughn Industries – Wyandot County

Vaughn Industries is a national industrial contractor serving the power, manufacturing, and energy sectors. The new **120,000-square-foot** manufacturing facility supports operational growth and increased project capacity. The **\$18 million** investment strengthens Wyandot County's advanced manufacturing base and modern industrial infrastructure.

### HP Young Industrial Park Project – Sandusky County

The HP Young Industrial Park project includes a **100,000-square-foot** industrial facility designed to support future business attraction and expansion. This **\$6.85 million** investment improves Sandusky County's inventory of modern industrial space and enhances site readiness for long-term economic development.

### Growers Mineral Project – Erie County

Growers Mineral developed a **12,375-square-foot** industrial facility with **4,500 square feet** of office space to support agricultural and industrial markets. The **\$9.5 million** investment improves operational efficiency and reinforces Erie County's role in supporting specialized agribusiness and industrial supply chains.

### Sealcore – Huron County

Sealcore constructed a **35,000-square-foot** production and distribution facility to support expanded manufacturing and logistics operations. The **\$4.5 million** investment increases local production capacity and contributes to Huron County's industrial diversification.

## Food & Agribusiness Projects

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### Heritage Cooperative Project – Wyandot County

Heritage Cooperative developed a **40,000-square-foot** retail agronomy facility to support agricultural producers across the region. The **\$10 million** investment enhances access to agronomy services and inputs, strengthens the local agricultural supply chain, and supports the continued viability of Wyandot County's farming community while retaining **20 jobs**.

## Hospitality Projects

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### Springhill Suites by Marriott – Sandusky County

The SpringHill Suites by Marriott project includes the development of a **52,000-square-foot** hotel to support Sandusky County's tourism and business travel market. The **\$12 million** investment expands lodging capacity, enhances the area's hospitality infrastructure, and supports local economic activity through the creation of **30 new jobs**.

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