

# Kankakee County Board Update

January 2022

 **ECONOMIC ALLIANCE**  
OF KANKAKEE COUNTY



# Mission

The Economic Alliance of Kankakee County is a public-private partnership that works to create jobs and expand the economic base by improving the local business climate in Kankakee County.

The Alliance employs a collaborative approach to support development in the strategic areas of business retention, expansion and attraction, and workforce and community development.



# 2022 Board of Directors

The Economic Alliance of Kankakee County Board of Directors is comprised of private-sector leaders and elected members of the Kankakee County Board.

Chairman Jeff Hammes, President / CEO, Peoples Bank

Vice Chairman Dr. Michael Boyd, President, Kankakee Community College

Jeff Bennett, Managing Partner, McColly Bennett Real Estate

David Johns, Partner, Geoffrey, Johns & Associates

Melissa Kahoun, Environmental Compliance Manager, Aqua Illinois

Phil Kambic, President / CEO, Riverside Healthcare

Stephen Liehr, Kankakee County Board

Steve Magruder, IBEW retired

Pat Martin, Market President, Midland States Bank

Chad Miller, Kankakee County Board

Theodis Pace, President, Kankakee County NAACP

Samuel Payton, Kankakee County Board

Maureen Powell, Head of Communications, CSL Behring Kankakee

Christopher Shride, President / CEO, AMITA Health

Russell Tobey, Vice President, Kankakee Valley Construction Co.

Andrew Wheeler, Kankakee County Board



# A Look Back, A Look Ahead

Propelling Kankakee County Forward





# 2021

**23 PROJECTS ANNOUNCED**

**\$256M CAPITAL INVESTMENT**

**58K+ SF OF DEVELOPMENT**



**2021**

**23 RFI PROJECT REQUESTS**

**49 PROPERTIES SUBMITTED**



# Rebuild Illinois

## Greater Kankakee Airport

- \$1.6M in capital funding through Rebuild Illinois Improvement Program
- \$179K in local funding
- Widen taxiway and relocate taxiway D
- Support from 19 local businesses



# Proposed Pipeline Expansion

Pembroke Township Natural Gas Investment Pilot Program created by HB3404, signed by Gov. Pritzker



Nicor Gas ability to serve

- Pembroke Township, Hopkins Park areas
- 500 ft. gas main extension per customer

Public informational sessions every  
➤ Thursday in January  
Pembroke Public Library  
12:00 - 5:00 pm

- Contact for info: 630-388-2008, [pembroke@southernco.com](mailto:pembroke@southernco.com)





## Kankakee Riverfront Society

- \$3.5M East Riverwalk project, expected start Q3 2022
- 300 ft. riverfront, dramatic overlook, multi-purpose event space, watercraft docking and portage
- Q3 2025 expected completion



# Kankakee



# Workforce

Adjusting to a New Pandemic Normal



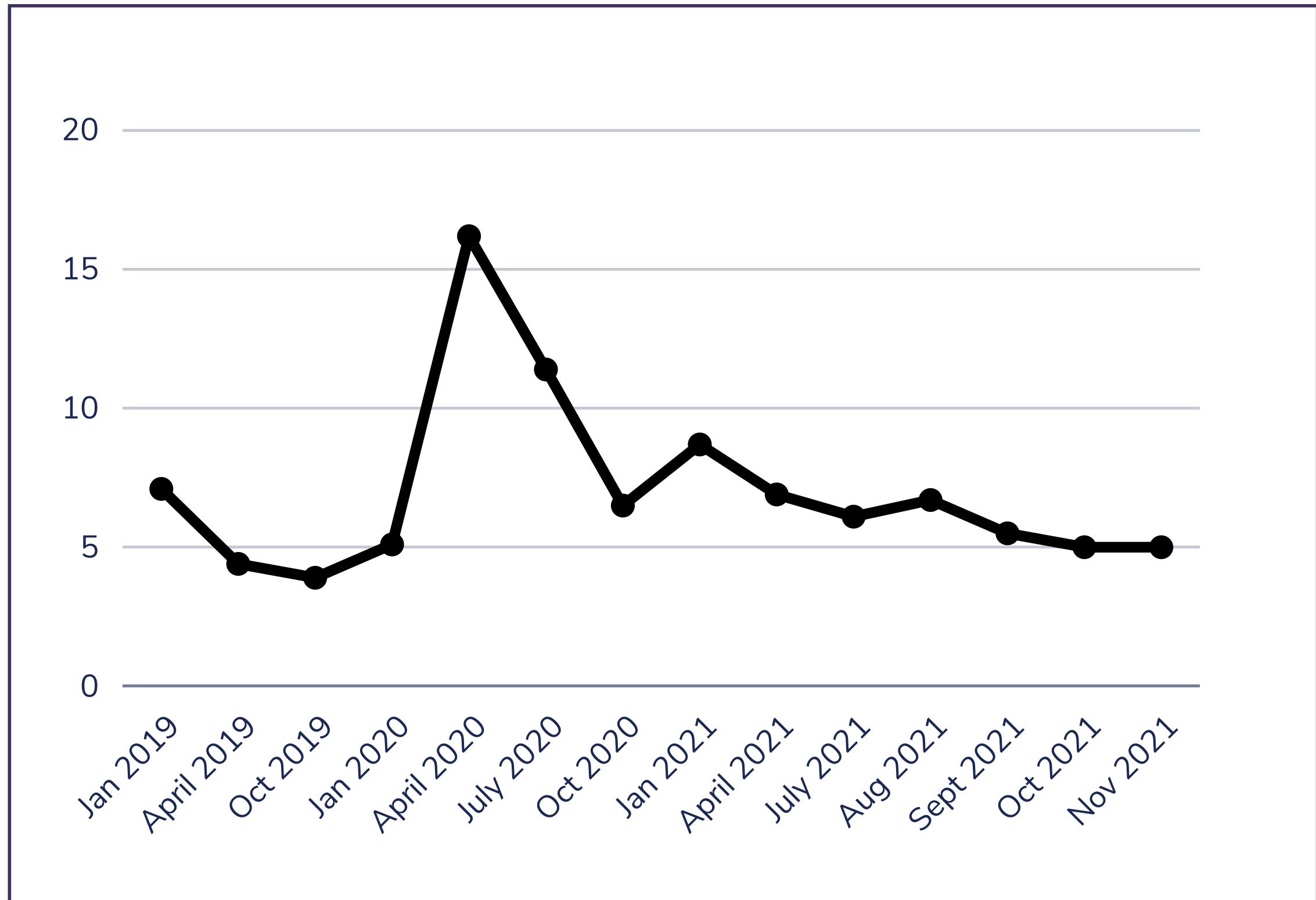
# Workforce

**5.0%**

Kankakee County  
unemployment,  
November 2021

**5.7%**

Illinois  
unemployment,  
November 2021



Kankakee County Unemployment Rate

Source: Illinois Department of Employment Security



# Workforce

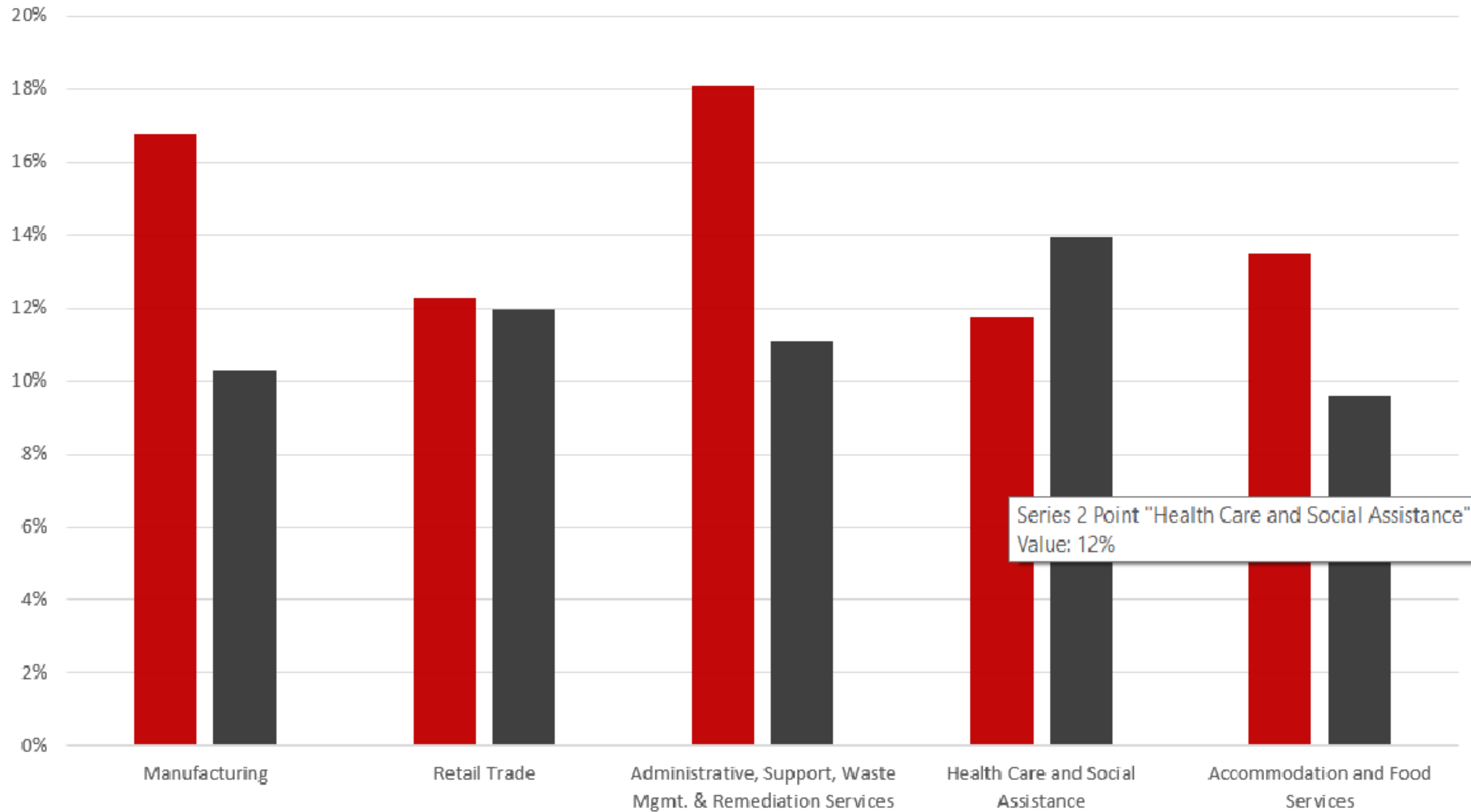
**44,100** Currently in workforce

**3,000** Less than in 2017

**7%** Decline



# Unemployment by Industry



Series 2 Point "Health Care and Social Assistance"  
Value: 12%



# Livability

Rebounding Residential Market & Cost of Living



# Livability

**90.7%**  
Cost of Living Composite

---

**72.9%**  
Housing

**91.1%**  
Misc. Goods & Services

**96.5%**  
Utilities

**101.6%**  
Grocery Items

**97%**  
Health Care

**118.5%**  
Transportation

---

Kankakee County Rental Cost: **\$863**

National Average: **\$1,259**

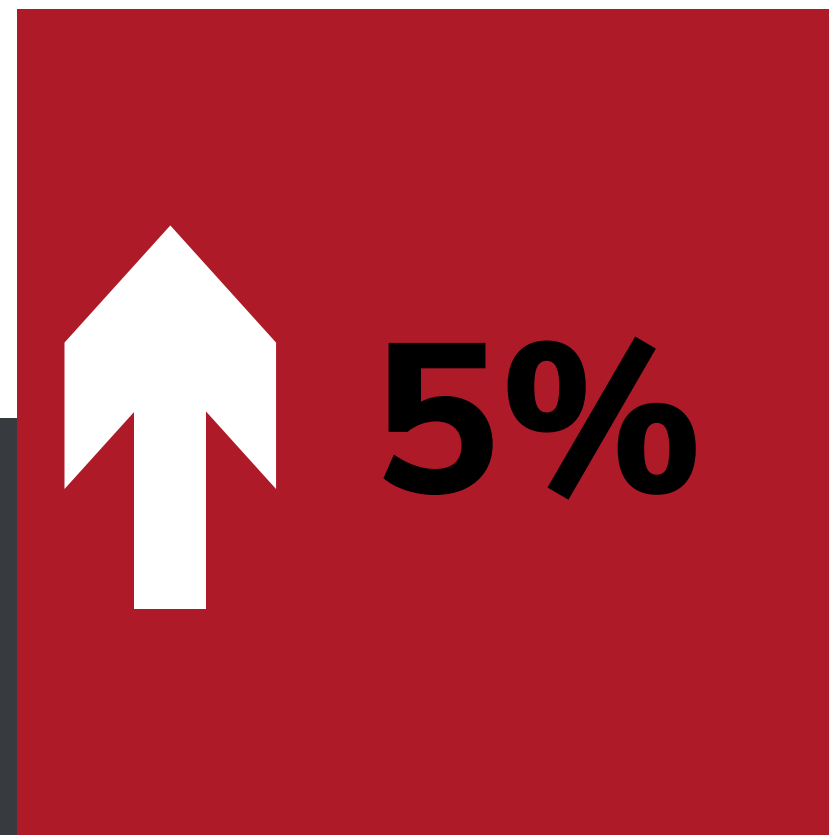


# Housing

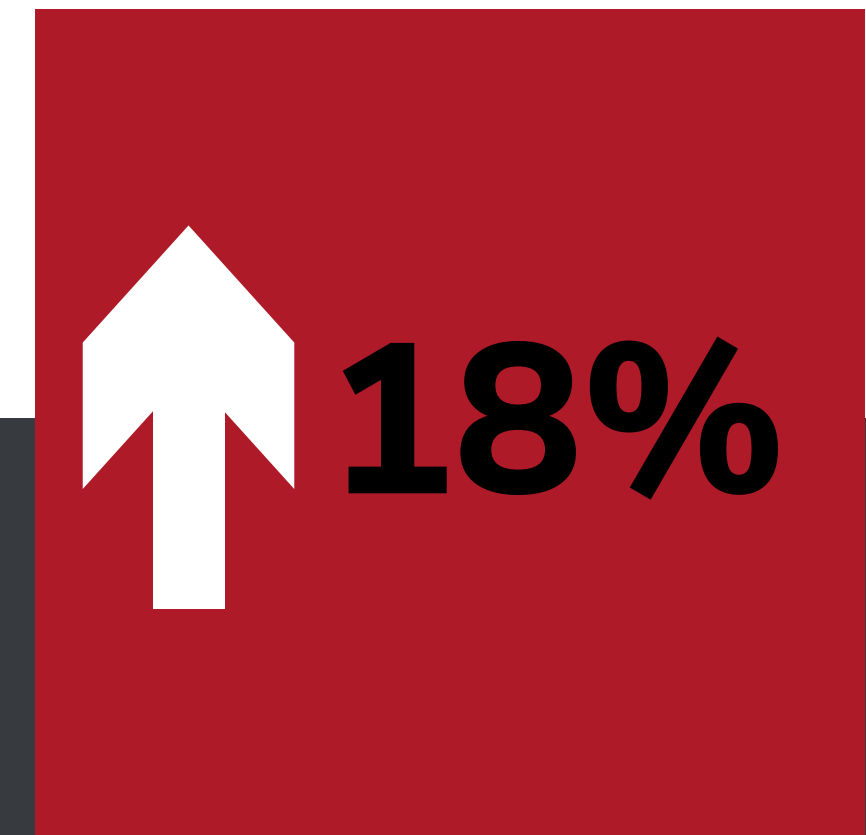
Year-over-year Sales Statistics for 2020 / 2021



Days on Market



Change in  
Closed Sales

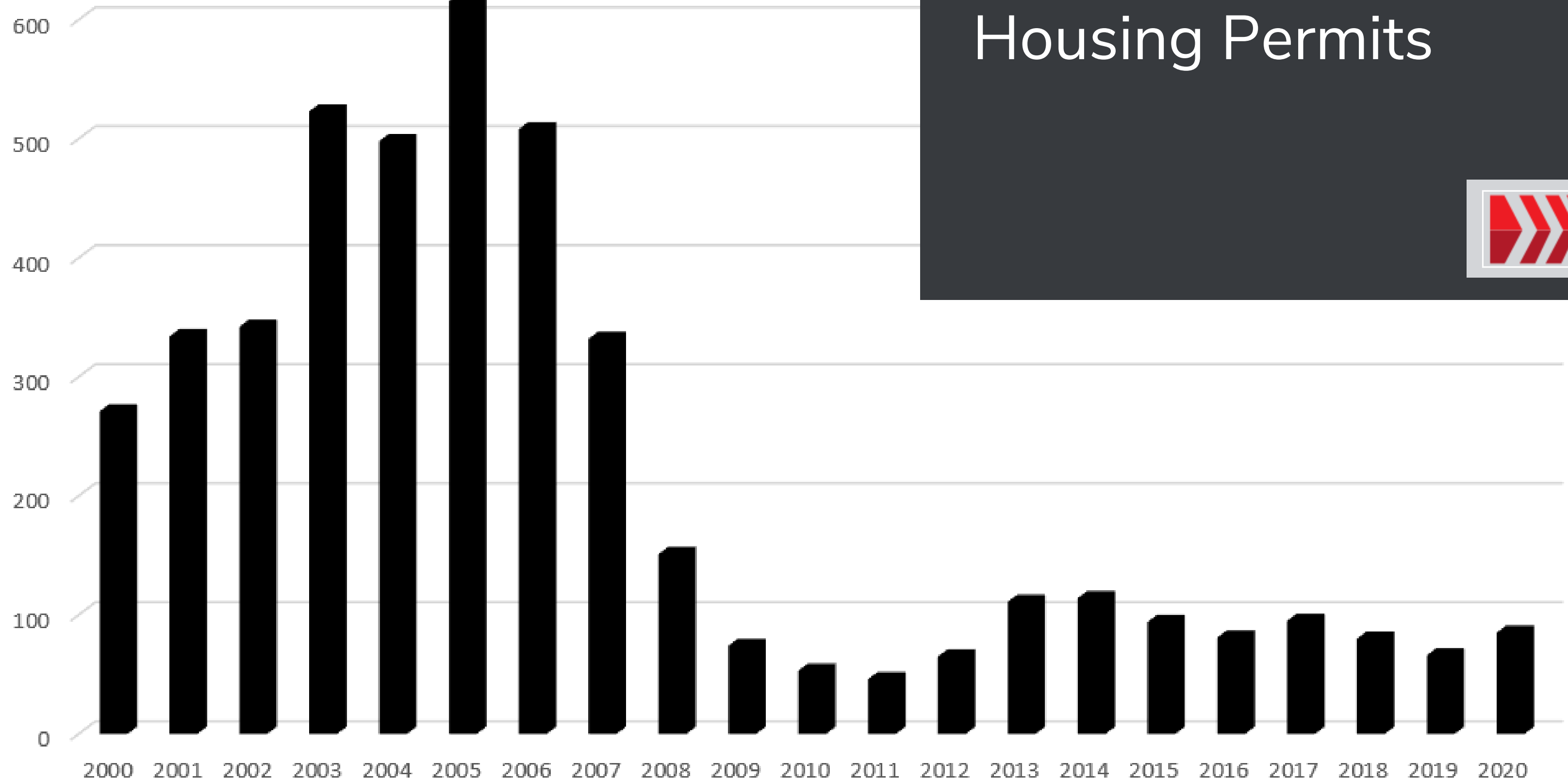


Total Sales  
Volume





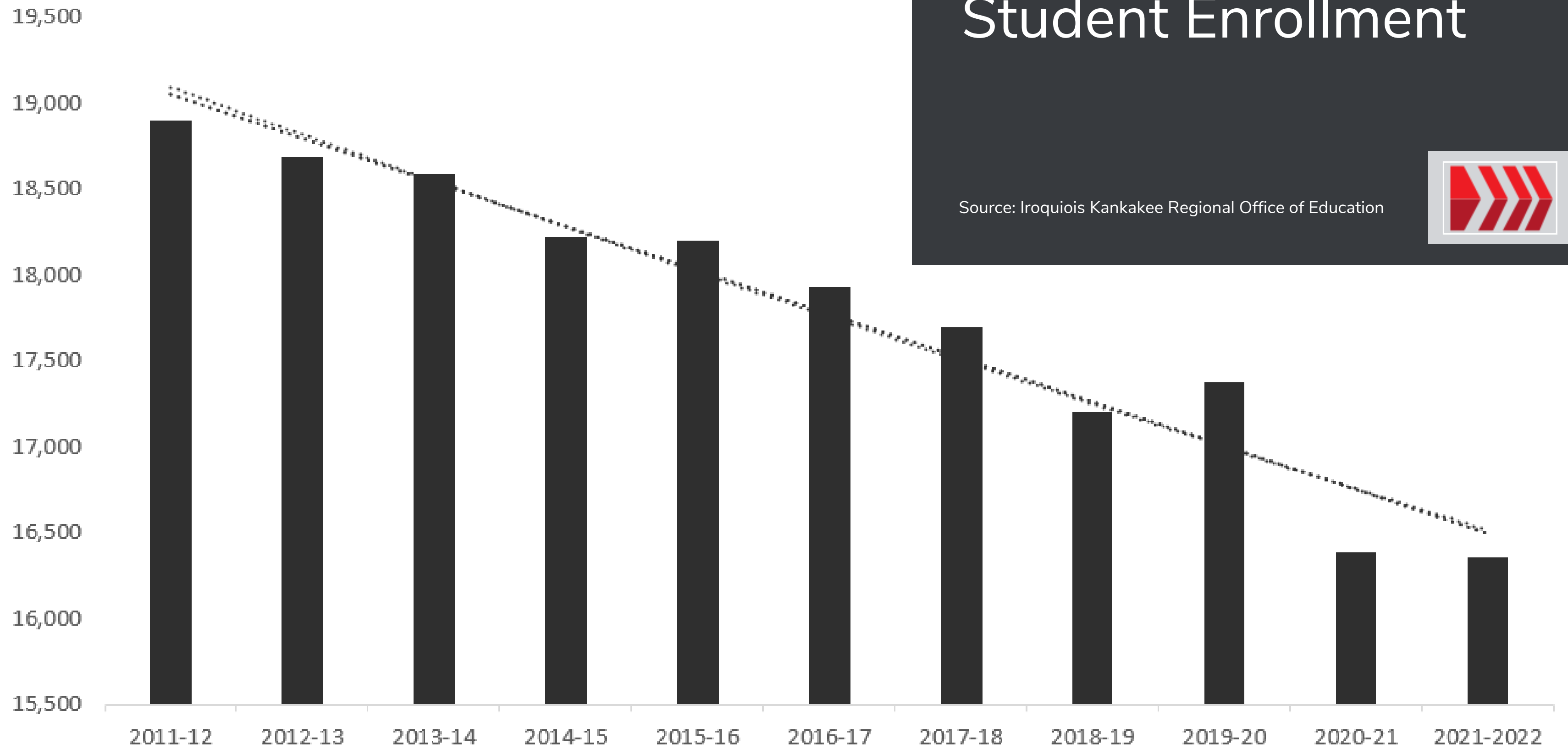
# Kankakee County Housing Permits



Accumulated from various county-wide entities

# Kankakee County Student Enrollment

Source: Iroquois Kankakee Regional Office of Education



# Residential Rebuild Initiative

Extending enterprise zone benefits to builders/homeowners to incentivize residential growth



➤ Property tax abatement

➤ Free or discounted building permits

➤ Tax exemptions on building materials

➤ Incentives are boundary specific

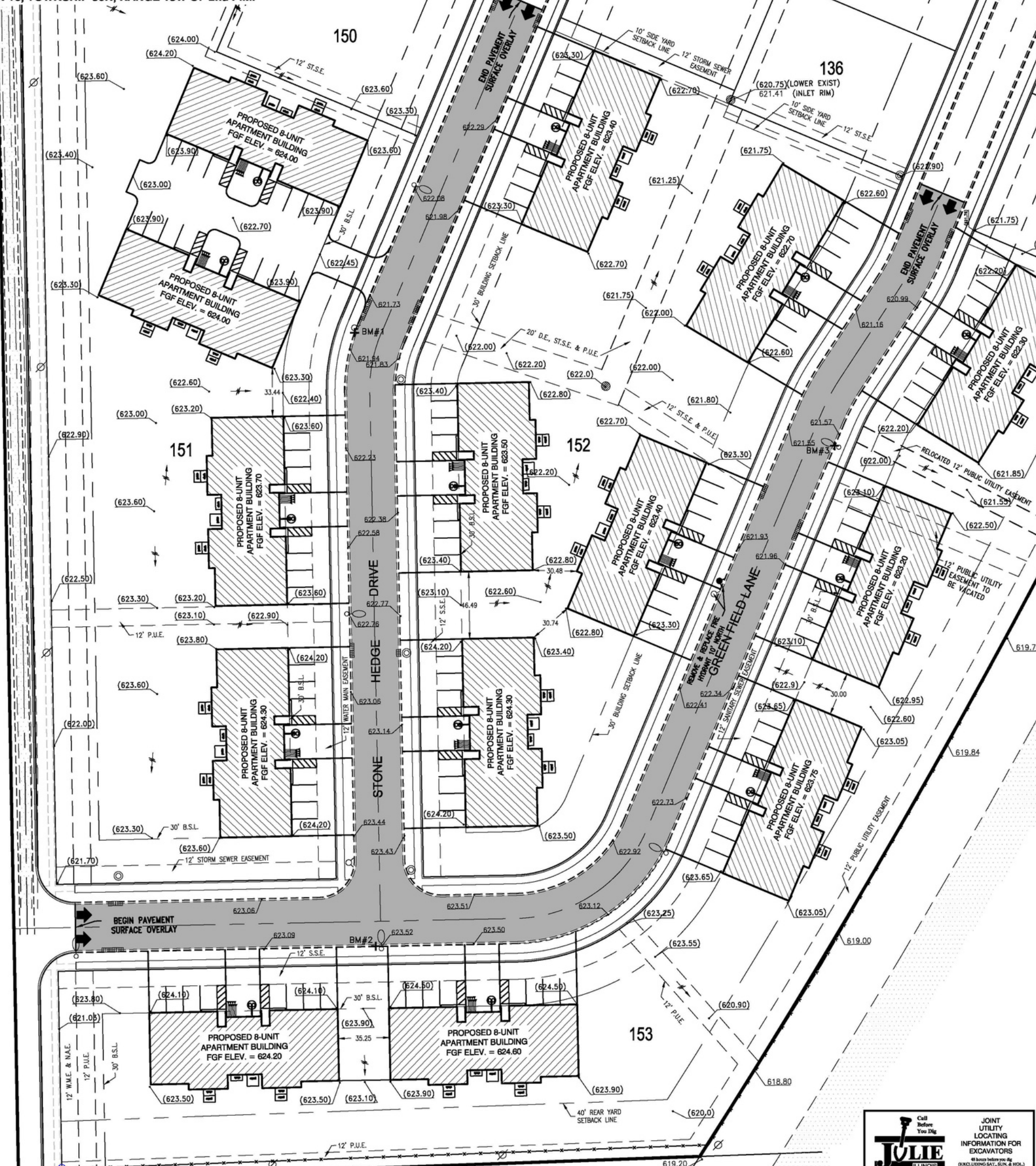
➤ New residential construction only

➤ Municipalities can set own qualifications



# 400+

Residential Lots Available for  
Development in Kankakee  
County



# Marketing & Outreach

Direct Outreach to Local Stakeholders,  
Employers and Organizations





- Small business recovery grants for Covid relief from Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
- \$450K Community Navigator partnership with eight organizations across Chicago south suburbs
- Focus on small business outreach
- 300+ Kankakee County businesses applied for B2B Grants



# Small Business Resources

## SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY NAVIGATORS

### ASK US HOW WE CAN HELP!

- Marketing
- Financing
- Business Plans
- Mentorship
- Counseling
- Paycheck Protection Loan
- GATA Support
- I-STEP Program

THE STATE'S FIRST B2B GRANT HAS WRAPPED UP BUT...

### SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF IS STILL AVAILABLE

- If you are looking for entrepreneurial related assistance from Small Business Development Centers such as marketing, financing, business plans, mentorship, and counseling, etc,

#### WE CAN HELP

- If you took out a Paycheck Protection Plan Loan and need help with PPP forgiveness,

#### WE CAN HELP

- If you need GATA pre-qualification to get grants from the State of Illinois

- If you are curious about Participation Loan Program (PLP) under Advantage Illinois, and other forms of capital access.

#### WE CAN HELP

- If you are wondering whether your company's exports qualify you for the ISTEP Program's exporting grants,

#### WE CAN HELP



 **ECONOMIC ALLIANCE**  
OF KANKAKEE COUNTY

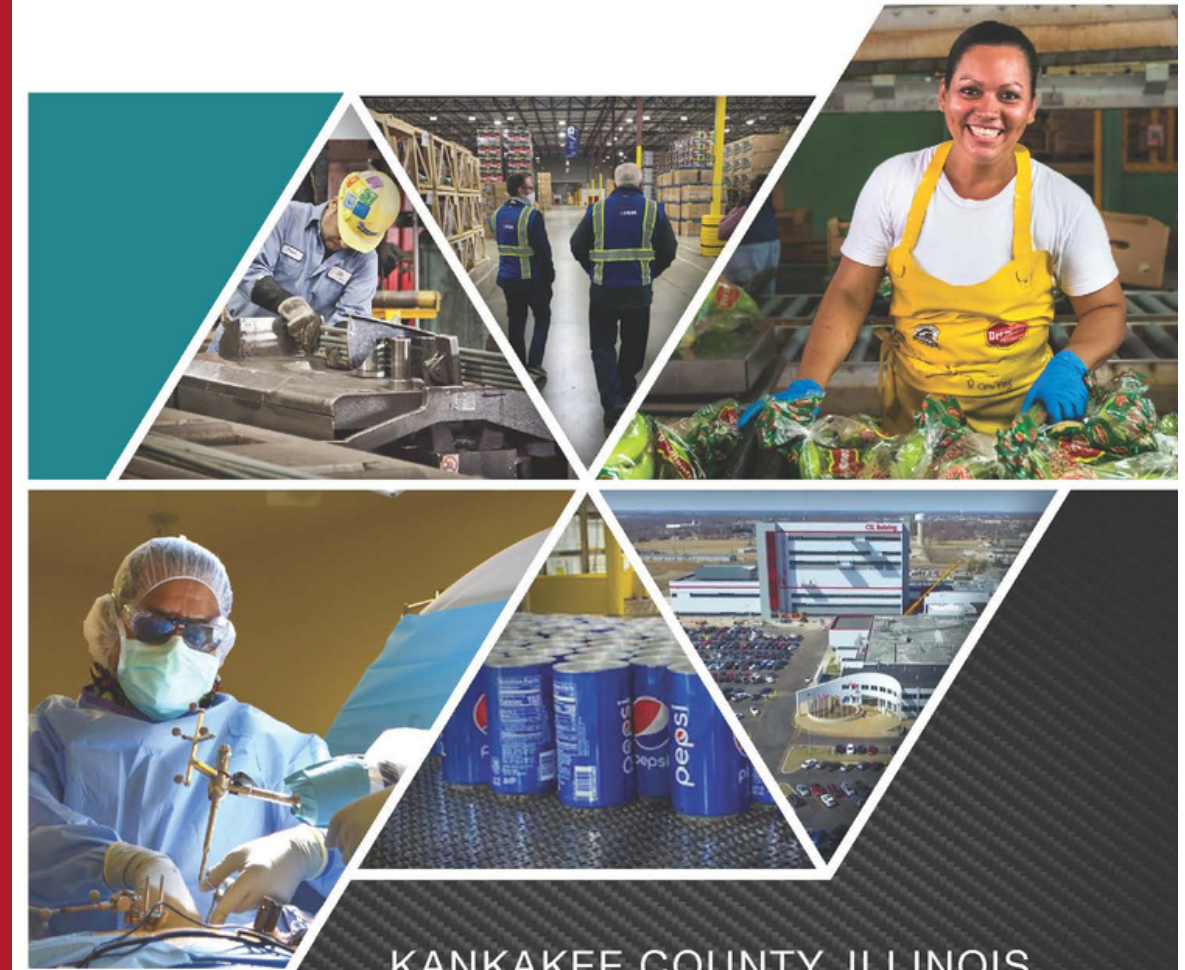
815.935.1177  
kankakeecountyed.org  
info@kankakeecountyed.org



# 2022 Market Profile

## 2022 MARKET PROFILE

 ECONOMIC ALLIANCE  
OF KANKAKEE COUNTY



KANKAKEE COUNTY, ILLINOIS





# Veterans Resources

HEALTH / WEALTH / WORTH



## VETERANS INCENTIVES IN KANKAKEE COUNTY

Ideally situated just 45 minutes south of Downtown Chicago along the I-57 corridor, Kankakee County boasts a diverse mix of an urban and rural lifestyle - offering a suite of business, residential and recreational benefits catering to Veterans.

## VETERAN STRONG

HOME IS KANKAKEE COUNTY



### PROPERTY TAX BENEFITS

- Returning Veterans' Homestead Exemption
- Specially Adapted Housing Exemption
- Tax Exemptions for Mobile Homes
- Disabled Veterans Standard Homestead Exemption



### EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

- Employer tax credits
- Assistance for Veterans with employment barriers
- Education requirements waived for police & firefighters
- State licenses and credential testing and fees may be waived for EMT, CNA, EMR, and CDL



### SUBSIDIZED HOUSING

The Kankakee County Housing Authority utilizes a separate veterans preference wait list.

### WORKFORCE & TRAINING

Career training, resume building and job placement assistance with Workforce Services of Kankakee. Veterans also receive priority of service.



### EDUCATION & TRAINING

Institutions offering incentives/scholarships for tuition, books, housing and living expenses.

- Kankakee Community College
- Olivet Nazarene University
- State Education Benefits:
  - Illinois Veterans' Grant
  - Illinois National Guard Grant
  - G.I. Bill
  - MIA/POW Scholarship
  - Children of Veterans Scholarship

"As a non-profit organization that services our nation's veterans, starting up in Kankakee County was easier than we could have imagined. One of the most inspiring and beautiful things that we have experienced as an organization, is just how much support we have from our local government, local businesses, and community members alike. This is the environment where we can thrive, and we have our community to thank for that."

— Eric Peterson, Co-Founder: Project Headspace and Timing



**6.5k** Veterans live in Kankakee County

**5.9% OF KANKAKEE COUNTY POPULATION**

Source: US Census Bureau

HEALTH / WEALTH / WORTH

## VETERAN STRONG

Kankakee County is home to a state-of-the-art \$65 million Illinois Army National Guard Readiness Center and Army Aviation Support Facility.



THE GUARD OFFERS THE FOLLOWING INCENTIVES TO VETERANS:



### OUTDOORS & MORE:

- Kankakee River State Park – Free or discounted license fees for hunting, fishing, camping & admission
- Veterans Discount Program – The VAC of Kankakee County provides a discount card ID to use at local establishments for veterans or active duty.



### HEALTH AND TREATMENT FACILITIES

- Manteno Veterans Home
- VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic
- The Prince Home
- Veterans Treatment Court



### VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS:

- American Legion #40, #85, #295, #755, #766, #795, #842, #1019, #1164
- AmVets
- Disabled American Veterans #34
- Marine Corp. League #1253
- NABVets
- Project Headspace & Timing
- Student Veterans of America (SVA)
- Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)
- Veterans Assistance Commission of Kankakee County
- VFW #2857, #7535, #9961



For more information on Kankakee County's Veterans support services contact: Angela Morrey, [amorrey@kankakeecountyed.org](mailto:amorrey@kankakeecountyed.org)



# Hispanic Community Outreach



Kankakee Alderman Victor Nevarez

vnevarez0301@gmail.com 773-885-3915

Welcome Center

367 S. Schuyler, Kankakee

815-386-5586

- 700+ Hispanic families served
- Rental Assistance
- Link for immigrants, refugees
- Medicare / Medicaid assistance



# Survey Outreach

## ➤ Human Resources Needs Assessment

- Kankakee Area Human Resources Management Assoc. (KAHRMA)

## ➤ Hospitality Industry Survey

- Kankakee County Convention & Visitor Bureau

## ➤ Compensation & Benefits Survey

- Grundy Livingston Kankakee Workforce Board



# EMSI Career Coach

Free web-based tool connecting available local jobs and training with user interests. Post your job, or register at: [kcc.emsicc.com](http://kcc.emsicc.com)

1,686

Unique Career Coach users in 2021

761

Self-assessments completed in 2021

## Top Searched Occupations

- Registered Nurse
- Materials Engineer
- Allergist and Immunologist



# 2021 Board/ Committee Participation

United Way of Kankakee & Iroquois Counties

Kankakee County Convention & Visitors Bureau

Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley

Healthy Business Alliance of Kankakee County

City of Momence Vision 2030 Task Force

Pembroke Township & Village of Hopkins Park Utility Infrastructure Initiative

Kankakee Development Corporation

Venture Kankakee County

U.S. Rep. Robin Kelly's Economic Development Task Force

Grundy Livingston Kankakee Workforce Board Talent Outreach

Kankakee County Chamber of Commerce Legislative Committee

Illinois Industrial Biotechnology Coalition

Kankakee Area Human Resource Managers' Association marketing partner

Kankakee Community College Business/Office Professional Advisory Committee

Kankakee Community College Manufacturing Technology Advisory Committee

Kankakee Area Career Center Executive Advisory Committee

International Economic Development Council

Great Lakes Economic Development Council



# CONNECT

## 2022 Board of Director Meetings

- February 10  
Army National Guard Aviation Support Facility
- April 14
- June 9
- September 8
- November 10

**Tim Nugent**  
President/CEO

tnugent@kankakeecountyed.org  
815-482-1537

**Ben Wilson**  
Special Projects

bwilson@kankakeecountyed.org  
815-228-6995

**Angela Morrey**  
Director

amorrey@kankakeecountyed.org  
630-800-0006

**Marketing & Business Attraction**

**Joshua Megchelsen**  
Intern

intern@kankakeecountyed.org  
815-935-1177



# Thank You

 **ECONOMIC ALLIANCE**  
OF KANKAKEE COUNTY

