



# WELCOME

**Board of Directors Update  
June 12, 2025**

 **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, workforce and community development, residential needs and educational outcomes.





# 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.

Jeff Bennett, Chairman  
Managing Partner  
McColly Bennett Real Estate

Theodis Pace, Vice Chair  
President  
Kankakee County NAACP

Matt Alexander-Hildebrand, Kankakee County Board  
Bernie Anderson, Regional Manager, Community Affairs, Nicor Gas  
Dr. Michael Boyd, President, Kankakee Community College  
Dr. Gregg Chenoweth, President, Olivet Nazarene University  
Rosemary Foster, Kankakee County Board  
Jeff Hammes, President / CEO, Peoples Bank  
David Johns, Partner, GJM Advisory  
Phil Kambic, President / CEO, Riverside Healthcare  
Ryan Marion, Kankakee County Board  
John McCann, Economic & Business Development Manager, ComEd  
Chad Miller, Kankakee County Board  
Russell Tobey, Vice President, Kankakee Valley Construction Co.  
Dr. Matt Vosberg, Superintendent, Bradley Bourbonnais Com. High School  
Patrick Young, President, Kankakee Iroquois Building Trades







# **BUSINESS OPERATIONS**

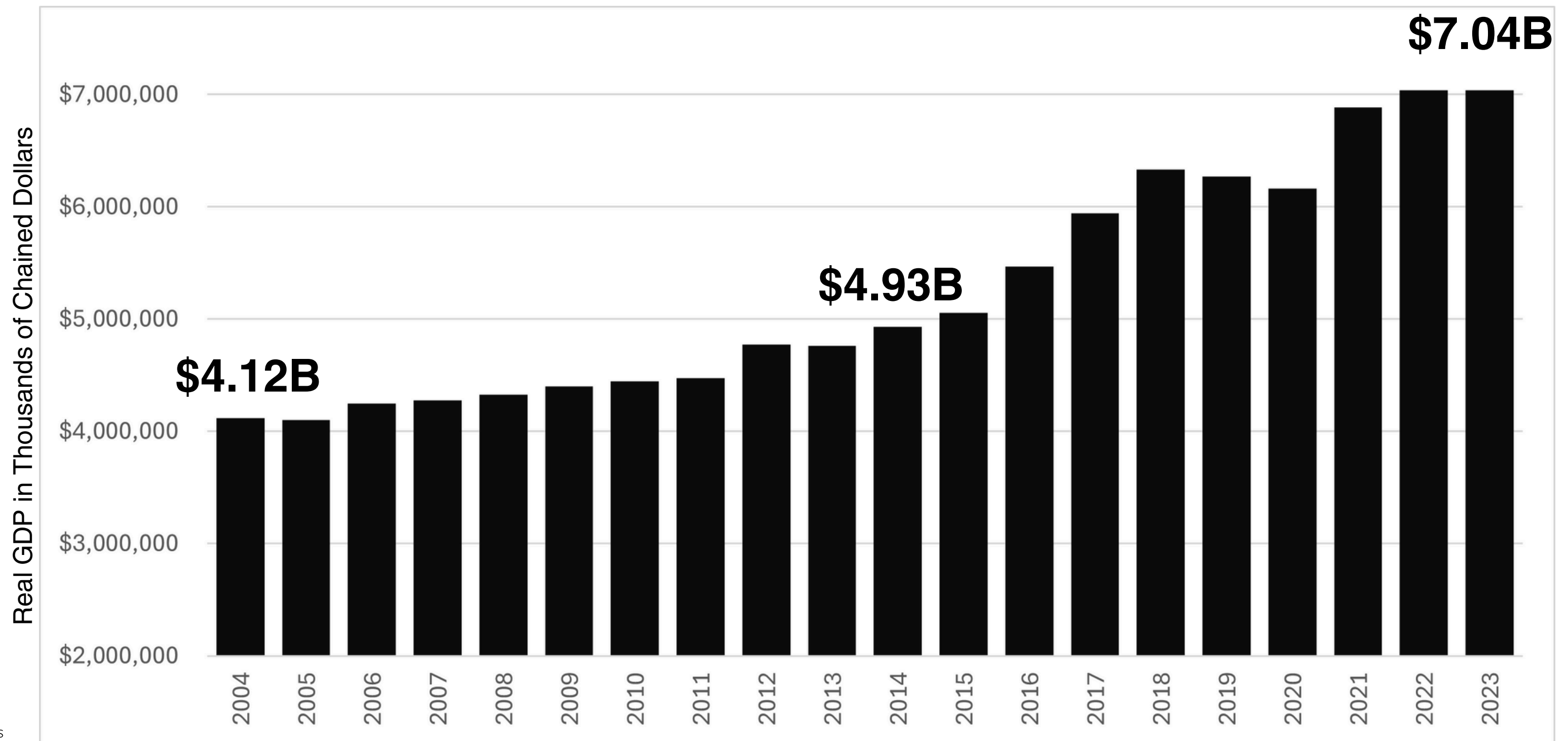


# GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT KANKAKEE COUNTY

## GDP

Value of final  
goods and  
services produced

**+71%**  
IN 20 YEARS



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis



# GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT NATIONAL RANKING

METRO AREA	2019 GDP	2023 GDP	Growth in GDP	National Rank (of 384 MSAs)
Kankakee	\$6,272,833	\$7,040,527	12%	91
Champaign-Urbana	\$11,603,527	\$12,595,022	9%	163
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin	\$697,507,917	\$725,745,075	4%	268
Rockford	\$16,150,668	\$15,713,990	-3%	367
Bloomington	\$14,977,037	\$12,363,558	-17%	384



Source: Wirepoints, Bureau of Economic Analysis





## Retention visit April 30, 2025

- Located in Momence, 274 employees
- Largest harvest facility in the country for Johnsonville
- Produced 250,000 lbs sausage batter/day locally; Company-wide produce 2M lbs/day

**Ceased Momence operations effective June 2, 2025**





# BUSINESS



Closed - April 2023  
112 Employees



Fire - February, 2025  
70 Employees



Closed - June, 2025  
274 Employees



Van Drunen  
Farms

Fire - January, 2022  
Maintained operations, reallocated workforce







# **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**



# 315 SPORTS PARK, BRADLEY

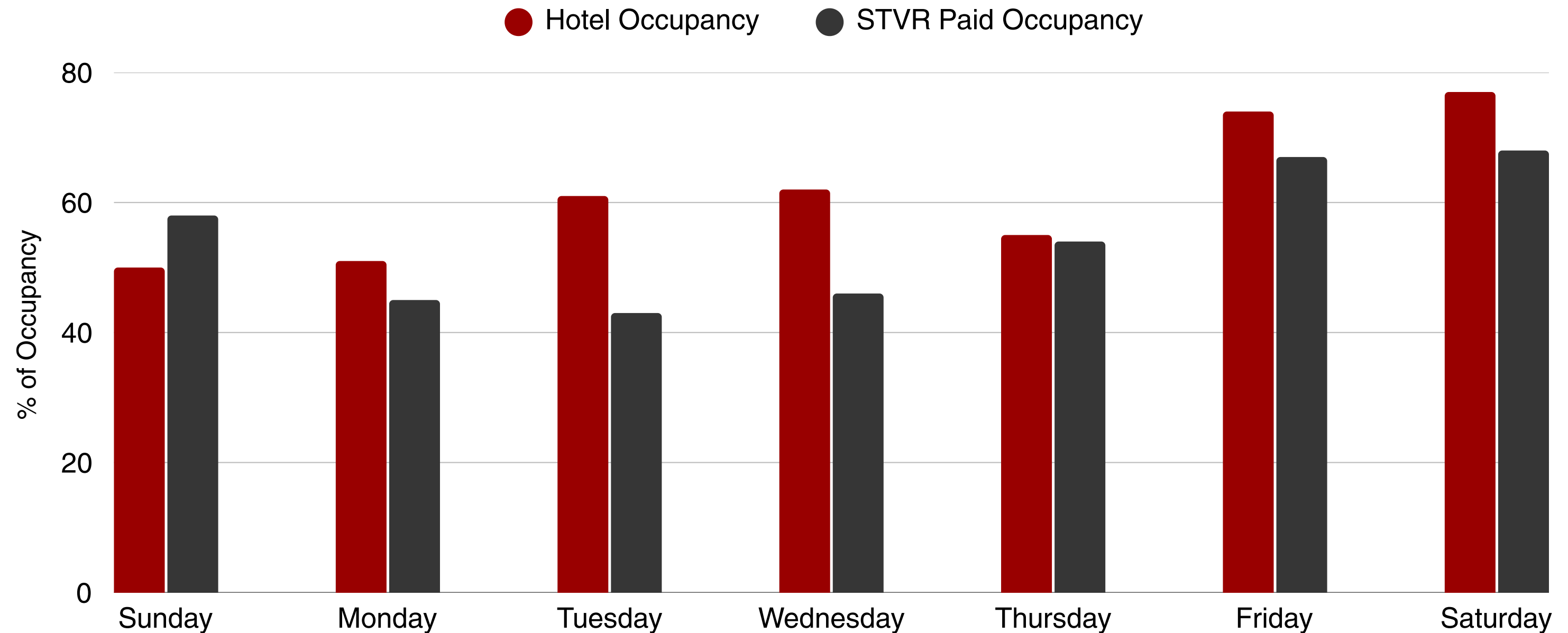
- 12 Baseball/softball fields, 127 acres
- 150+ teams/weekend





# TOURISM

## HOTEL & VACATION RENTALS MAY, 2025



Source:: Visit Kankakee County, \*Does not reflect all lodging properties in Kankakee County





# TRANSPORTATION

- **HOBBIE AVE, KANKAKEE** - \$7M reconstruction
- **ROUTE 50 / ARMOUR ROAD** - \$13.8M project, work continues with night paving, widening of intersection
- **I-57 Exit #312, KANKAKEE** - \$100M reconstruction of interchange, public meetings being held, work expected 2027-2030
- **COUNTY HWY 9, MANTENO** - \$12M project, utilities being relocated, construction to begin late 2025







# **WORKFORCE & EDUCATION**





# UNEMPLOYMENT KANKAKEE COUNTY

4.2%

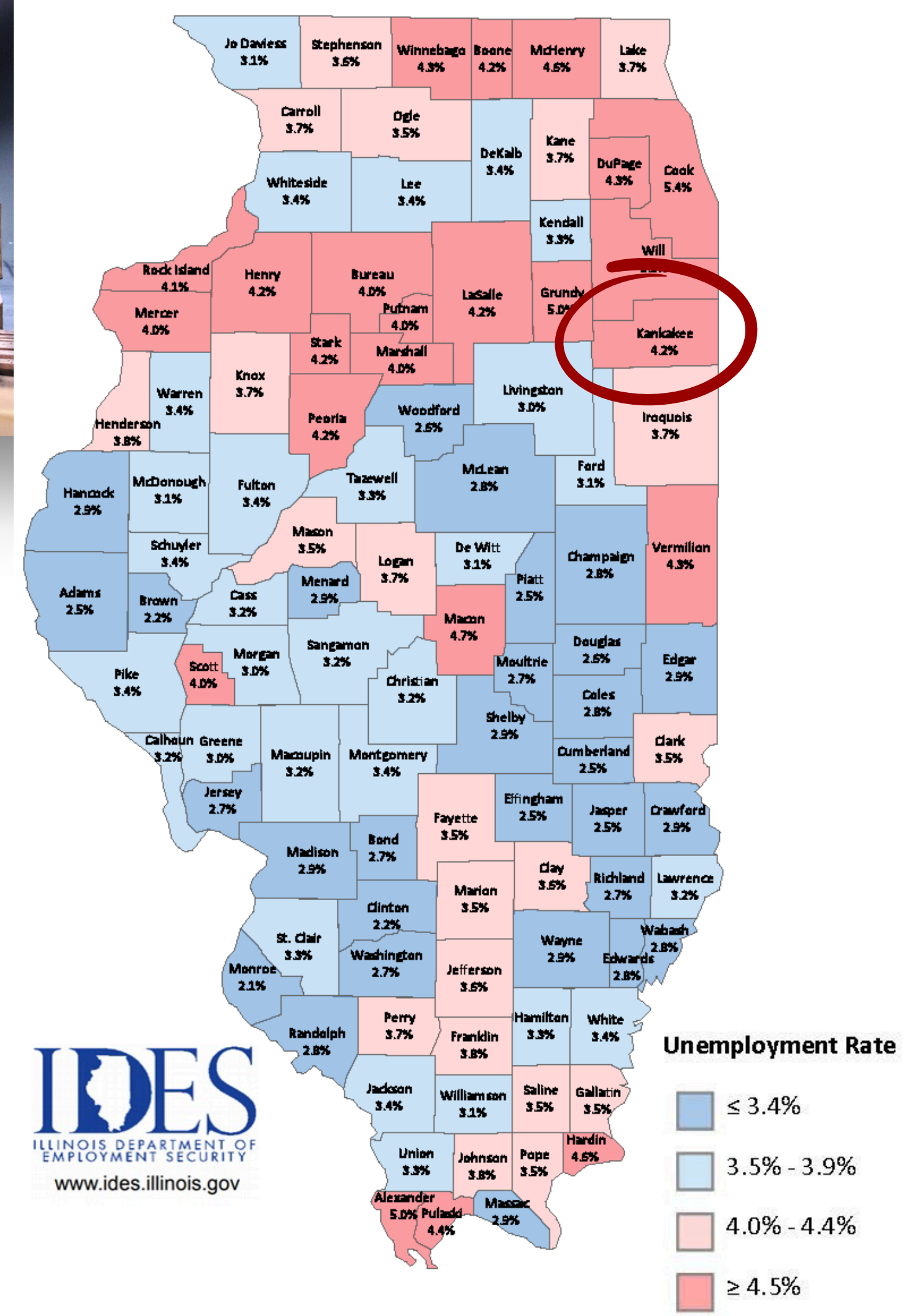
Kankakee County  
unemployment  
April 2025

4.5%

Illinois unemployment  
April 2025

3.9%

U.S. unemployment  
April 2025







# UNEMPLOYMENT ILLINOIS

22.1

Average number of  
weeks unemployed

\*Same as 20 years ago

12%

Percentage who are unemployed  
for more than 52 weeks

\*Down from 16% 20 years ago

\*Illinois unemployment benefits available for 26 weeks/year  
Possible extension available



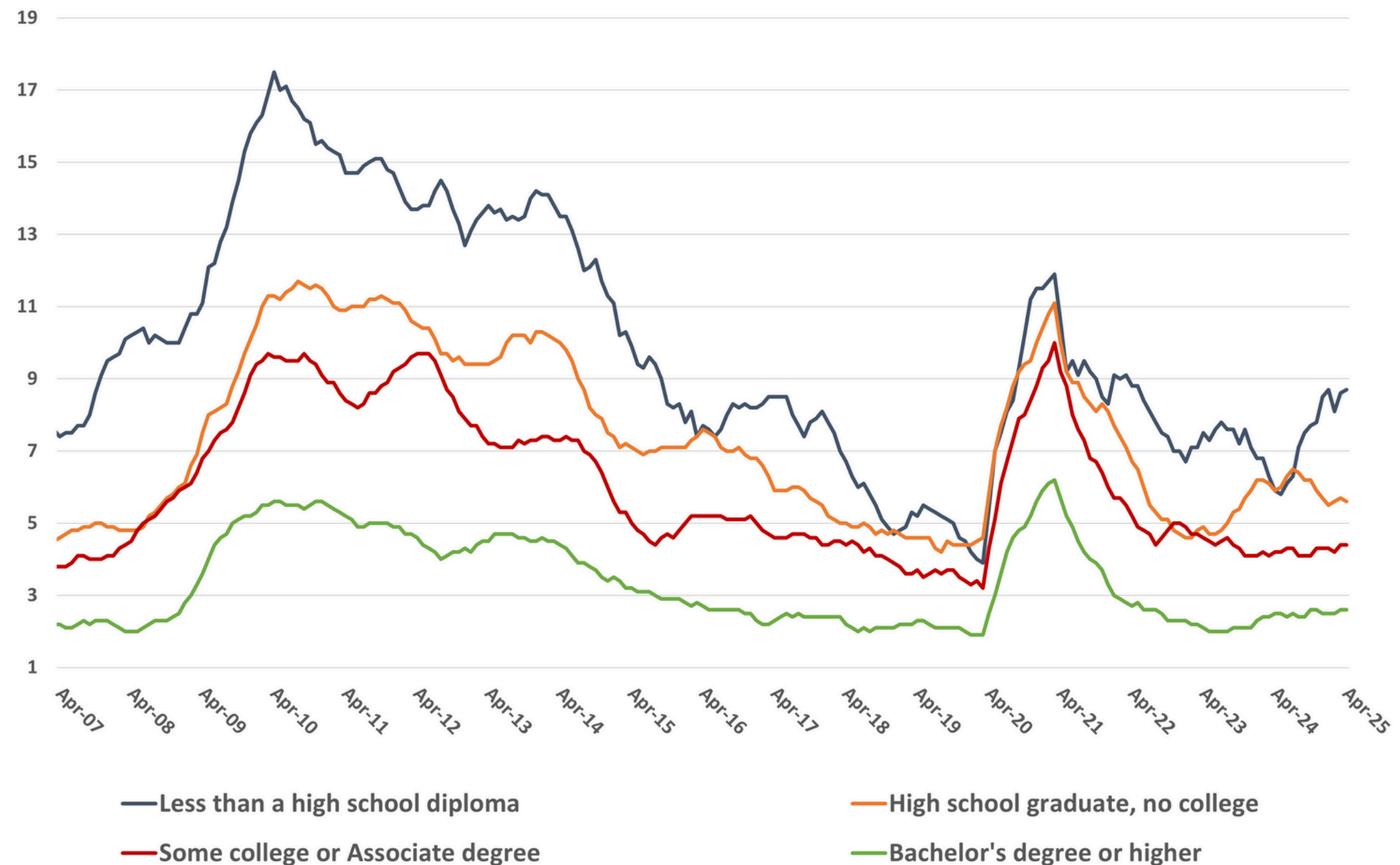
Source: Illinois Department of Employment Security



# UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

STATEWIDE, AGES 25+

- 8.7%** Less than high school diploma
- 5.6%** High School Graduates
- 4.4%** Some college/associates degree
- 2.6%** Bachelors degree or higher



Source: Illinois Department of Employment Security



# EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT



**566** Bachelors Degree  
Spring, 2025

**247** Continuing Education  
Spring, 2025



**315** Total Degrees  
Spring, 2025

**138** Total Certificates  
Spring, 2025





# AVIATION PATHWAY AT KACC

Two year program for high school students via Kankakee Area Career Center, cost savings of \$30,000

Pathway for pilot or drone pilot positions, air traffic control, aerospace engineer, rocket scientist, airport operations, maintenance and technicians





Rep. Jackie Haas Job Fair  
June 2025

40+ Employers, 175+ Attendees



# OPEN FOR OPPORTUNITY



CAREER FAIR  
Shapiro Developmental Center

June 17, 2025  
Noon - 2:00pm  
100 East Jefferey St., Kankakee, IL





# **LIVABILITY**





# COST OF LIVING KANKAKEE COUNTY

**85.8%**  
of U.S. Average  
Q1 2025 Composite Cost of Living

Housing **64.7**  
Transportation **93.0**  
Misc. Goods & Services **93.3**  
Health Care **99.2**  
Grocery Items **98.1**  
Utilities **98.7**







# COST OF LIVING KANKAKEE COUNTY

**85.8%**  
of U.S. Average  
Q1 2025 Composite Cost of Living

Most Expensive - Manhattan, NY - 232.6%

Least Expensive - Harlingen, TX - 79.2%







# COST OF LIVING KANKAKEE COUNTY

Average Home Price  
\$295,393

Average Apartment  
Rental \$1,337







# COST OF LIVING KANKAKEE COUNTY

Average Home Price  
\$295,393

Average Apartment  
Rental \$1,337

## CHANGE FROM 2016-2025

	KANKAKEE COUNTY	UNITED STATES
HOME PRICE	+18%	+65%
RENTAL PRICE	+56%	+60%





The background is a collage of three images. The top-left image shows a man in a dark shirt in a meeting room with several framed certificates on the wall. The top-right image shows two women, one with blonde hair and glasses and one with dark curly hair, looking at a tablet together. The bottom image shows a person's hands holding a magnifying glass over a document on a desk, with a blue object in the foreground.

# **BUILDING ENTREPRENEURS**



# CONGRATULATIONS



## HOLDEN HALL EVERGREEN ENTERTAINMENT

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in National CEO Pitch Competition
- Three winners at ONU's Createur Conference
- 9 students enrolled for upcoming year







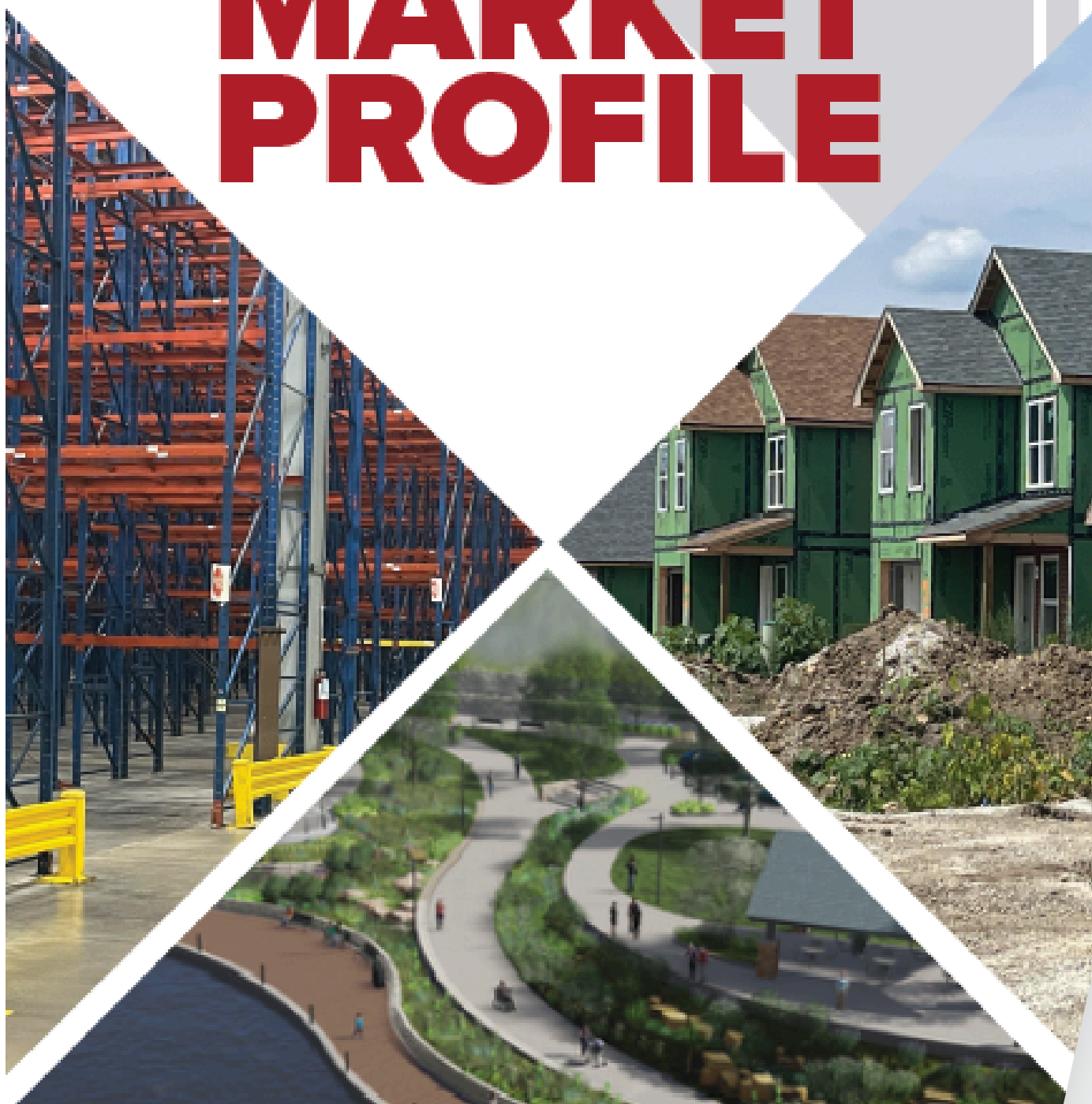
# MARKETING & OUTREACH





# 2025

## KANKAKEE COUNTY **MARKET PROFILE**



 **ECONOMIC ALLIANCE**  
OF KANKAKEE COUNTY

# NOW AVAILABLE



Contact Angela Morrey for copies  
[amorrey@kankakeecountyed.org](mailto:amorrey@kankakeecountyed.org)



# BOARD & COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION



- 79th District Economic Opportunity & Advisory Council, IL Representative Jackie Haas
- Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley
- Great Lakes Economic Development Council
- Illinois Industrial Biotechnology Coalition
- International Economic Development Council
- Kankakee Area Career Center Executive Advisory Committee
- Kankakee Development Corporation
- Kankakee Co.LAB Advisory Committee
- KCC Business/Office Professional Advisory Committee
- KCC Manufacturing Technology Advisory Committee
- KCC Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity President's Council
- Kankakee County Chamber of Commerce Legislative Committee
- Kankakee County CEO
- Kankakee County Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Kankakee Riverfront Society
- Pembroke Township & Village of Hopkins Park Utility Infrastructure Initiative
- United Way of Kankakee & Iroquois Counties
- U.S. Rep. Robin Kelly's Economic Development Task Force
- Will Kankakee Regional Development Authority



# 2025 MEETINGS

September 11, 2025

7:30-9:00am

November 13, 2025

Location TBD

Previous board reports available at [kankakeecountyed.org](http://kankakeecountyed.org)



200 East Court Street, Suite 507

Kankakee, IL 60901

Phone: 815.935.1177

[kankakeecountyed.org](http://kankakeecountyed.org)





# CONTACT US

Tim Nugent  
President/CEO

tnugent@kankakeecountyed.org  
815-482-1537



Angela Morrey  
Vice President  
Business Development

amorrey@kankakeecountyed.org  
630-800-0006

Ben Wilson  
Special Projects

bwilson@kankakeecountyed.org  
815-228-6995







# THANK YOU



**ECONOMIC ALLIANCE**  
OF KANKAKEE COUNTY