

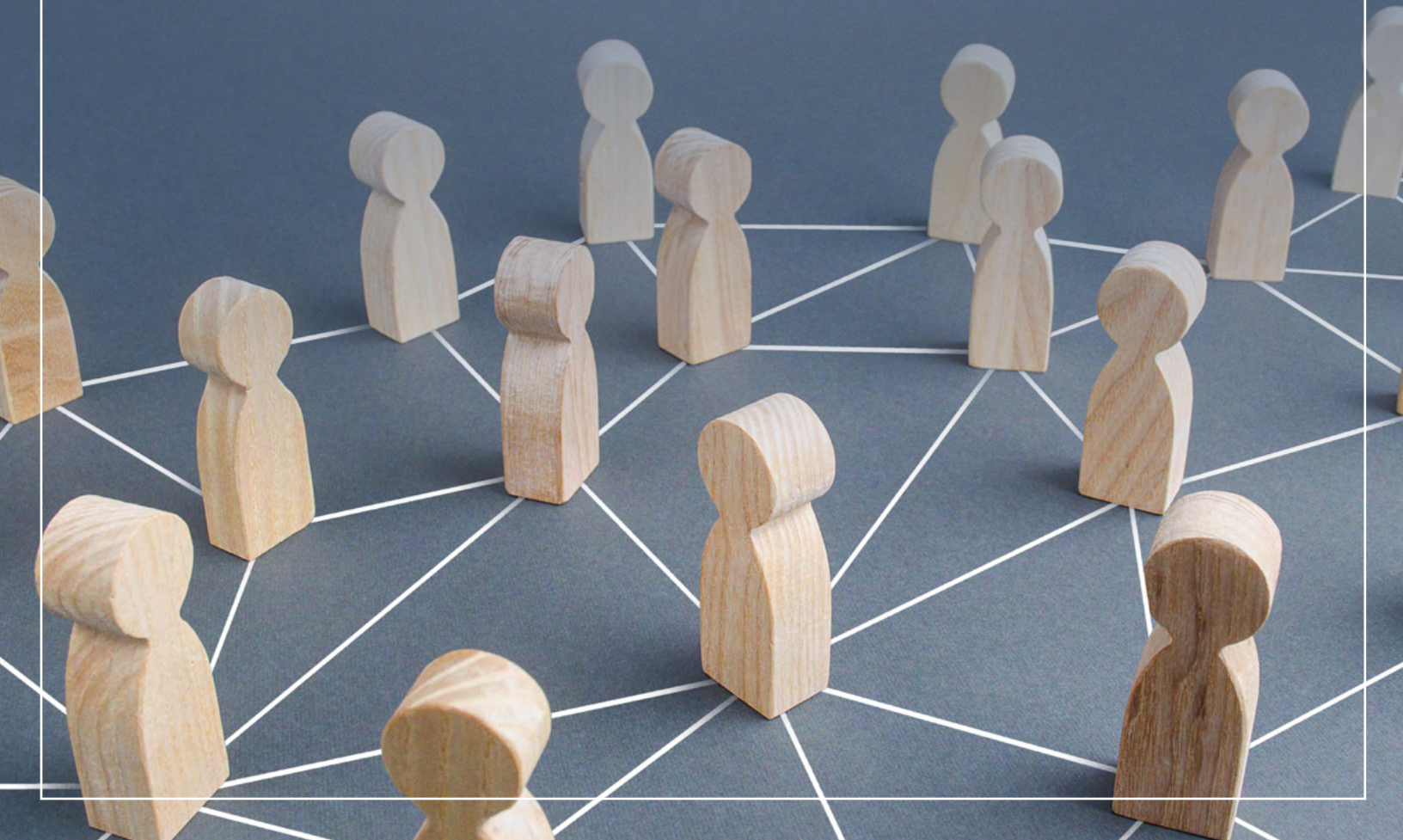
THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA

Culverhouse
College of Business
Center for Business and Economic Research

ALABAMA ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

2022

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The Alabama Economic Outlook 2022 is a product of Alabama Econometric Model which was developed and is maintained by the Center for Business and Economic Research in the Culverhouse College of Business at The University of Alabama. The Alabama forecast is updated quarterly and posted on our website at <https://cber.culverhouse.ua.edu/alabama-business/> and published in Alabama Business.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, CBER was unable to host the annual 2022 Alabama Economic Outlook Conference. As a complimentary service this year, we are providing the publication to our readers free of charge.

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The Alabama Economic Outlook 2022 reflects the opinions of the authors, but not necessarily those of the faculty and staff of the Culverhouse College of Business or the administrative officials of The University of Alabama.

January 2022

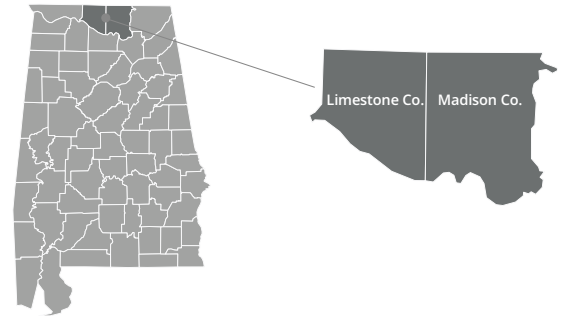
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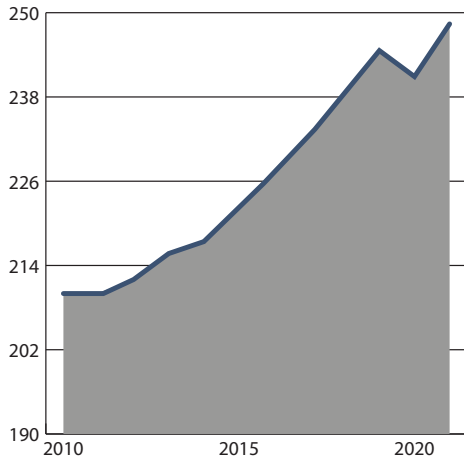
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HUNTSVILLE



HUNTSVILLE NONFARM EMPLOYMENT *(Thousands)*



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

OUTLOOK HIGHLIGHTS

Mazda Toyota Manufacturing (MTM) has begun production at its \$2.3-billion plant in Limestone County. The plant is currently hiring an additional 1,700 employees in this initial phase, with plans to create up to 4,000 jobs at full production. KC Logistics is investing \$12 million to establish an Athens location that will allow the company to transport seats from autosupplier TBAKI to the Mazda Toyota Manufacturing plant, creating 100 jobs. Amazon is expanding its presence in Limestone County with a 1 million-sq-ft. Huntsville XL Fulfillment Center that will open in 2022 and create more than 250 full-time jobs. Gregory Industries, an Ohio-based producer of roll-formed steel, is investing \$30 million to open a factory in Athens that will create 100 jobs in the area by fall 2022. Construction has begun on Buc-ee’s in Athens with plans to open by the end of 2022. The 54,000-sq-ft. travel center represents \$35 million of investment and will create 175 jobs. Two of the six Meta Data

Center buildings in Huntsville are now online. Construction is continuing on the rest of the \$1-billion campus, with expectations to create 200 jobs when complete. HudsonAlpha has broken ground on two new additions to its Huntsville campus that are expected to be operational by the end of 2022. The projects are partially funded through a \$15-million grant from Alabama’s Public School and College Authority and will strengthen the company’s partnerships with Alabama A&M and Auburn universities. The \$40-million Orion Amphitheater in Huntsville will host its first concert in May 2022. The venue will seat up to 8,000 guests and host community cultural events in addition to music experiences.

GDP AND EMPLOYMENT FORECAST

Huntsville’s real GDP registered at \$27.0 billion in 2020 after decreasing 0.8 percent from 2019. In 2022, the metro is expected to have strong employment and output growth, increasing 3.2 percent and 4.0 percent, respectively.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS	MOST RECENT DATA	CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR*	METRO RANK
Real GDP 2020 (millions of 2012 \$)	\$27,022	-0.8%	2
GDP Forecast 2022 (percent increase)	4.0		3
Exports 2020 (millions)	\$1,263	-17.7%	5
Civilian Labor Force, October 2021	234,375	-1.2%	2
Nonfarm Employment, October 2021	253,100	3.4%	2
Nonfarm Employment Forecast 2021 (percent increase)	3.2		3
Available Labor Pool (Unemployed + Underemployed), October 2021	51,603	-4.1%	2
Unemployment Rate, October 2020	2.0%	-2.3	11-12
Underemployment Rate 2020	20.4%	0.3	10
Employment - Manufacturing, October 2021	27,400	3.6%	2
Employment - Service Providing Industries, October 2021	215,000	3.6%	2
Per Capita Income 2020	\$55,126	5.6%	1
Average Annual Wage 2020	\$58,730	4.9%	1
Median Family Income FY2021	\$82,900	-2.8%	1
Residential Building Permits, Single Family Jan. - Sep. 2021	3,513	10.2%	1
Total Homes Sold, Jan. - Sep. 2021	9,029	8.2%	2
Population Count 2020	491,723	6.2%	2
Population Projection 2035	629,453		2

Additional details and data available on pp. 45-53

* Changes in unemployment rate and underemployment rate are presented in percentage points.