



The Veteran's Memorial Bridge is the county's link to Pittsburgh.

major north-south Interstate, is less than an hour away. There are also excellent air cargo facilities in Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and other nearby airports. In addition, Jefferson County's expanding airpark is available for private aircraft.

Still a Strong Industrial Base—and Work Force

Steubenville and Jefferson County are located in the heart of America's Steel Valley, the region that produced the steel backbone for this country's economic growth.

Steel no longer dominates the region's diverse economy, but don't call Jefferson County the "Rust Belt." On the contrary, its steel production is alive and well. The mills are a natural magnet for development, providing a ready market for the products and services of dozens of suppliers.

Thanks to the significant quality and productivity advances steel companies have achieved in recent years, the mills—new, "environmentally friendly" mills—produce more steel today than they did in their so-called heyday, with 1/3rd the people!

As a result, Jefferson County can offer employers something few communities with a higher unemployment rate can promise: a pool of available employees with extensive industrial experience, a strong work ethic, and a strong commitment to the area. Wages are more than competitive, too.

It's a diverse, professional work force. Many new employers operate in non-union environments, but the county's unionized operations are among their companies' most productive. Thanks to a growing

partnership between management and labor, more than one employer has brought jobs back to Jefferson County from rural southern operations.

More—Much More—Than Just Location

Jefferson County's location makes it a great economic choice for companies looking to relocate or expand, but it's

the Quality of Life there that helps companies attract and retain the talented employees they need to grow!

In the county, there's a strong, growing array of retail shops and services; extensive medical and health care facilities; a vibrant educational community, including a vocational college, technical education center, and several internationally known universities. The Jefferson Community College and the county's vocational school district both work closely with area employers and employees to develop necessary talents and skills. Franciscan University of Steubenville offers even more educational advantages.

The county's schools are another plus. Steubenville's City School District, for example, was recently honored as one of the nation's elite Blue Ribbon School Districts, recognized for its ability to deliver great academic achievement and low costs. (Ohio had twenty Blue Ribbon districts in the state; Pennsylvania had none!)

If you're looking for outdoor recreation, the county offers everything from fishing and hunting to available marina space on the Ohio River. There are 20 golf courses within 20 miles.

As far as housing is concerned, Jefferson County provides something few other similar communities can: a vibrant real estate market. There's everything from affordable existing homes to a number of new, high-end "executive housing" developments.

Multiple musical and cultural organizations provide entertainment options in Jefferson County. Of course, that short, one-stoplight commute to downtown

Pittsburgh also works when you're heading to the city to see a Pirates game, to hear the Symphony, to take in the big-city shopping, or to see a touring Broadway Show at one of the theaters. In fact, Pittsburgh's famous Star Lake Amphitheater, summer home to the best in entertainment, is just 15 minutes away!

You're just a couple of hours away from Cleveland, too, a city offering everything from a world class Symphony Orchestra and Art Institute to the Rock 'N Roll Hall of Fame!

Room to Grow

Companies looking to relocate to or expand in Jefferson County will find a variety of available sites throughout the area. One development centerpiece is Jefferson County's new Industrial Park, located on a 1,000-acre tract of land just north of Steubenville.

Like much of the county, it offers existing water and sewer, completed roads, available and economical natural gas and electricity, and rail service—all in an Enterprise Zone area. The park, which developers have called "the flattest large parcel of land available in Northeast Ohio," is just part of the county's economic development story.

Steubenville's downtown area has also seen strong development efforts, as a number of outgoing call centers and back-office operations have renovated former retail and commercial space there.

'One-Stop Shopping' for Employers

Once its new highways opened development doors for Jefferson County, its leaders moved to make certain that bureaucratic red tape and internal squabbling wouldn't close those doors.

Their answer: Alliance 2000, a joint economic development partnership between Jefferson County, the City of Steubenville, and the county's Chamber of Commerce. This original group has since been joined by the city of Toronto and Villages of Mingo Junction, Stratton, and Wintersville.

The new organization, a division of the Community Improvement Corporation, is much more than just a flag-waver for the region. Funded by more than \$500,000 in contributions from the business community, Alliance 2000 has

A Winning Combination

Jefferson County and its communities have a lot to offer to employers and employees, but those natural advantages are magnified by two important plusses: Ohio and Appalachia. Because the State of Ohio, already a leader in economic development, has developed a special set of incentives available to employers locating or expanding in the state's river crescent.

Ohio's incentives are internationally recognized for their effectiveness. In fact, during the 1990s, more U.S. companies—over 6,000—selected Ohio for investments in new facilities and expansions than any other state. More global companies have made Ohio their second home than any other state, too. Over 1,200 non-U.S.-owned companies have decided to invest in Ohio.

The state's incentive philosophy is built on several cornerstones:

- *Provide meaningful incentives that help companies grow — incentives such as tax credits that reward investment and job creation, training assistance, and other programs.*
- *Offer those programs to new and existing employers, to help companies that already operate in the state build their future in Ohio.*

The success of those development policies is obvious: 44 other states have adopted economic development programs that mirror Ohio's! Capitalizing on their benefits is one of the cornerstones of the Governor's Opportunity Agenda.

But employers choosing Jefferson County for projects enjoy additional benefits, thanks to the state's commitment to encourage development in its Appalachian region.

For example, the Governor's Office of Appalachia funds economic development, training, travel and tourism, and other initiatives.

To learn more about the State of Ohio's economic development efforts, contact the Ohio Department of Development at 1-800-345-OHIO.

