

FACT SHEET: IMPACT STORY



Economic Impact. Combined, the 20+ employers at the Port Authority's Central Ohio Aerospace and Technology Center campus represent a powerhouse of critical industry. The survey of Dec 31, 2020 economic impact found:

- 1,650 employed on the campus, a **13% increase** year over year.
- 13 employers had employment level increases and seven companies experienced **double-digit increases in employment**.
- A combined \$127 million payroll, for a **\$77,000 annual average**.



Asked to look ahead to 2021, the campus' customers answered favorably.

- 60% of the companies report expecting employment up in 2021.
- 40% of companies report expecting increased capital investment in 2021.

Impactful. Combined, the employers brought over \$2.8 million in local income tax revenue and ranked among the largest property taxpayers in Licking County.

STEM skills. At least one in six jobs are engineering-related or STEM fields.

Critical industry here stayed open in the pandemic making from ICBM guidance systems to baby formula. The customers are engaged in defense, food, life sciences, metals, energy, and other critical industry sectors.

11 Spec Buildings in 11 Years. Two new speculatively-built industrial buildings came on in 2020. Another is planned in 2021.

FACT SHEET: ABOUT US

The Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority was created in 1995 to ensure the workload and capabilities of the Newark Air Force Base could remain in Licking County. October 2021 will mark the milestone of 25 years since privatization-in-place of Air Force workloads in October 1996. Then, the Port Authority took ownership of the property and equipment of the re-named Central Ohio Aerospace & Technology Center. Boeing, under inertial guidance system repair, and Bionetics, under an Air Force metrology contract, join AFMETCAL, housing the directorate of metrology, and Bionetics Defense Engineering Services Group as the largest customers at the Aerospace Center Base Campus.

The Port Authority has established a reputation as a government innovator. Originally, the Port Authority was thought to need upwards of 50 employees to do its work. Today, it is managed by just six employees and governed by a nine-member board consisting of community leaders. The Port Authority has grown to become **the largest, self-sustaining port authority among 60 port authorities in Ohio**, and in the top five overall.

Management, development, and community solutions describes the triple missions in which the Port Authority is engaged. The Port Authority is charged with property **management** for the former Air Force property home to critical industry. The Port Authority leases to Boeing which guarantees their presence with an option through 2028. Modernization continues. In 2020, a \$6.8 million new Force Lab was completed by the Port Authority to provide new space for the Air Force Primary Standards Laboratory. The 52-lab metrology operation is managed by Bionetics Corporation.

Through major acquisitions, the Port Authority is an industrial **development** land bank for a ready-to-build, industrial campus and two additional properties totaling 700 acres. The Port Authority has invested in public infrastructure as part of the betterment of the Aerospace Center campus to prepare people-ready sites for manufacturers. The Aerospace Center's South Campus has emerged as a diverse manufacturing center in Central Ohio. Six new buildings opened up in 2020 including homes for five plant-based food industry companies--GB Food, Gathered Foods, KeHo Foods, Gushen America, and Nature's One--and a tripling of building space by Ariel Corporation. MISTRAS Group and Samuel Packaging Systems have also expanded here.

The Port Authority takes a role in providing community **solutions** for Licking County and the region. It's *Potentia* community solutions arm has undertaken \$657 million in creative financing for regional projects in the past 19 years, including the state's first-ever sales tax conversion project with L Brands to convert sales tax dollars to public infrastructure funding. To date, over \$7 million has been leveraged for much-needed roadway infrastructure from this creative approach.

The Port Authority has also focused on advocacy for STEM learning. The Port Authority has been among the top funders of and has provided leadership to a national-model STEM initiative at The Works, encouraging young people and their parents to understand the value of science, technology, engineering, and math skills. Port Authority investments have been part of a state-of-the-art SciDome open to the public and a new STEM building at The Ohio State University - Newark campus.