

In The News...

- FCADC Turns 40!
- State of the Economy Event Held March 3
- Quick Lock USA Begins Production
- FCADC Loan Supports ACE Hardware

County Unemployment Rate Remains Steady

In February, the PA Department of Labor and Industry reported that the unemployment rate for Franklin County remained steady at 3.8 percent. The local rate was lower than both the state and national averages of 4.2 and 4.4 percent respectively. Total jobs in the County remained steady at more than 63,000. It is important to note that over the last year, the manufacturing sector added 100 new jobs, reaching 8,700 County-wide.

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Volume 17, Issue 1

1st Quarter 2026

www.fcadc.com

...Message from Mike

As we marked March 3, 2026, with our annual State of the Economy luncheon, we did so with a special sense of pride and gratitude. That date also marked the 40th anniversary of the Franklin County Area Development Corporation — four decades of partnership, vision, and purposeful investment in the future of our community.

Anniversaries invite reflection, and this milestone offers a powerful reminder of what can be accomplished when people come together around a shared goal. Over the past 40 years, FCADC has helped support 1,073 projects, leveraging \$3.7 billion in capital investment and \$355 million in economic development assistance, while impacting more than 62,000 jobs throughout our region. Those numbers are significant, but they tell an even bigger story — one of businesses launched, facilities expanded, farms sustained, families supported, and communities strengthened.

Our impact in agriculture reflects that same commitment. FCADC has supported 63 agricultural projects that resulted in \$193.5 million in capital investment, \$22.8 million in economic development assistance, and an impact on 900 jobs. These efforts underscore our belief that a strong economy is built through balance: honoring our agricultural roots while embracing innovation and new opportunity.

Economic diversification has long been the hallmark of FCADC's work. That commitment has guided our efforts across industries and through changing economic cycles, helping Franklin County remain resilient, competitive, and positioned for growth. It is also reflected in FCADC's direct investment in our future. Over the years, FCADC has invested more than \$49 million of its own funds into building construction and acquisitions across 26 projects — a clear demonstration of our willingness to lead, not just support, strategic growth. While we are proud of what has been accomplished over the last four decades, this anniversary is not only about looking back. It is also about looking ahead. The same spirit that shaped FCADC 40 years ago continues to drive our mission today: creating opportunity, strengthening our economy, and building a more diverse and prosperous future for Franklin County.

Thank you to the many board members, investors, partners, businesses, and community leaders who have made this work possible. FCADC's story is truly a shared success story and we are just getting started.





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State of the Economy Luncheon Held March 3rd Event Also Marks FCADC's 40th Anniversary

On March 3rd more than 200 business and community leaders gathered for the FCADC's annual *State of the Economy* luncheon. This year's program featured a comprehensive 2025 Year in Review, highlighting key economic developments across the County and the broader region. Attendees heard about continued business growth, strategic investments, and the resilience of the local economy. The review underscored FCADC's role in supporting expansion, workforce development, and entrepreneurial activity throughout the year. Looking forward, the discussion turned candidly toward 2026 and the challenges ahead. Topics included workforce availability, infrastructure needs, housing pressures, and the evolving demands of a competitive economic landscape. The luncheon also served as a meaningful milestone for the organization, marking the FCADC's 40th Anniversary. As part of the celebration, attendees were presented with a look back at four decades of impact showcasing how the corporation has helped shape the region's economic trajectory. From business attraction and retention to community partnerships, the presentation highlighted the long-term value of sustained economic development efforts.



Quick Lock USA Begins Local Production

Quick Lock USA, Inc., the U.S. affiliate of Germany-based Quick Lock GmbH has started local production. Quick Lock specializes in trenchless internal pipe rehabilitation and repair equipment serving sanitary sewer and water utilities. The company has officially launched local production at the Chambersburg facility located at 1675 Orchard Drive. Company officials marked the milestone by hosting an open house on March 20. The event welcomed partners, stakeholders, and community members for a firsthand look at operations and the company's innovative technology. When fully operational, Quick Lock USA is expected to employ 20 to 25 full-time workers. The project not only repurposes an existing facility but also strengthens Franklin County's manufacturing base by introducing new production capabilities and creating high-quality technical jobs.



Ross Testifies Before PA House Policy Committee

On Tuesday, March 17, FCADC President Mike Ross was invited by State Representative Chad Reichard (PA-90) to provide testimony before the Pennsylvania House of Representatives Policy Committee. The hearing, titled "*Built in Pennsylvania: Strengthening Industrial Competitiveness*," was held at Manitowoc Crane Group's facility in Shady Grove. The discussion centered on how Pennsylvania's regulatory environment, energy policies, and infrastructure investments can better support manufacturing employers and enhance the Commonwealth's overall industrial competitiveness. Ross joined a panel of industry leaders that included Mike Reed, Vice President and General Manager of North America operations for Manitowoc Cranes, and Gustavo Casagrandi, General Manager of Volvo Construction Equipment. In addition to the hearing, attendees participated in a tour of Manitowoc's production facilities, highlighting the region's advanced manufacturing capabilities.





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FCADC Assistance Supporting ACE of Chambersburg

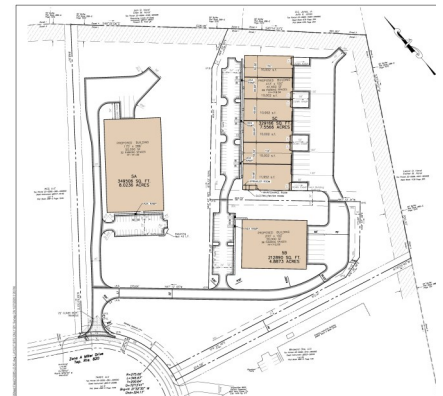
In February, FCADC, through its Franklin County First Fund (FCFF) loan program, approved a \$100,000 loan to support the stabilization and relaunch of Ace of Chambersburg. The funding is helping the Lincoln Way West business maintain appropriate inventory levels, manage start-up expenses, and build sales momentum following its reopening. As the project moves forward, Ace of Chambersburg is positioned to reestablish itself as a key retail destination for the community—serving homeowners, contractors, and small businesses alike—while also contributing to local job creation. Over the next three years, the project is expected to generate four full-time equivalent positions.



FCADC Lot 5 Wharf Road Project Update

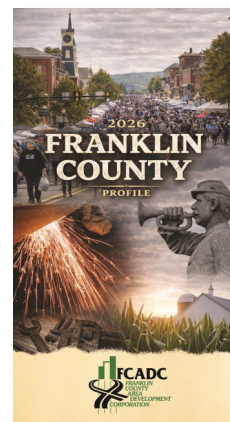
All 3 Lots Under Agreement

The FCADC has reached a significant milestone in its 20.5-acre, three-lot subdivision project in Waynesboro, marking strong momentum for continued economic growth in the region. FCADC recently submitted both a land development plan and a subdivision plan for the site, moving the project into its next phase of formal review and approval. Even more notably, all three lots within the subdivision are now under agreement, signaling robust interest from prospective users and reinforcing the site’s strategic value. The project was designed to create flexible, development-ready parcels capable of supporting a range of commercial or industrial uses. With infrastructure planning now underway through the submitted plans, the project is positioned to transition efficiently from concept to construction. “This is exactly the type of progress we aim for,” said FCADC president, Mike Ross. “Having all three lots under agreement at this stage demonstrates both the demand for quality sites in Franklin County and the effectiveness of proactive site development.”



FCADC 2025 Annual Report & 2026 County Profile Available

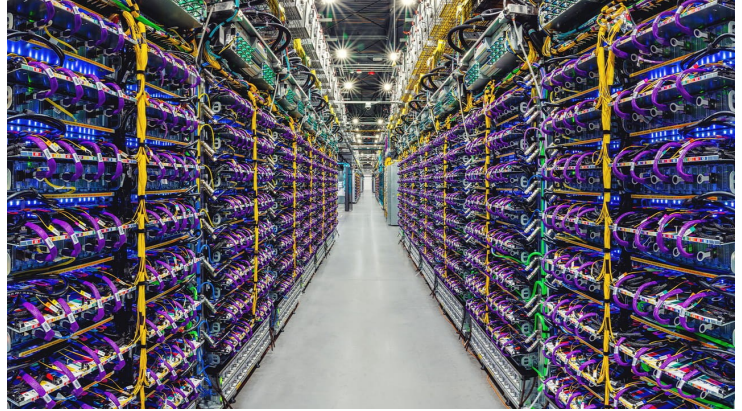
The 2025 FCADC Annual Report highlights a year of continued economic development activity, including business expansions, new investments, and strategic initiatives that support job creation and long-term growth across Franklin County. The report reflects FCADC’s ongoing commitment to strengthening the local economy and supporting our business community. In addition, the 2026 Franklin County, PA Socio-Economic and Demographic Profile offers a comprehensive snapshot of the county’s population trends, workforce characteristics, housing data, and economic indicators. This resource is designed to support decision-makers, site selectors, and community stakeholders with up-to-date, data-driven insights. Both publications are available for download on the FCADC website.



[Click Above to View the Publications](#)

County Commissioners Propose Guidelines for Data Center Development

The Franklin County Commissioners have taken a step toward helping municipalities plan for future growth by presenting an amendment to the county’s existing subdivision and land development ordinance that would establish regulations for data centers in Franklin County. The amendment outlines standards and regulations for the construction, installation and operation of data centers in Franklin County. Specifically, its guidelines promote conscientious economic development while still protecting the health, safety and welfare of residents. The amendment also provides clear criteria that would limit data centers from having significant impacts on farmland, natural resources and other sensitive areas. “We want to ensure our municipalities are well positioned to make educated, informed decisions about responsible growth,” said Franklin County Commissioner Chairman Dean Horst. In Pennsylvania, land use and development policies are primarily controlled by individual municipalities. Currently 21 of Franklin County’s 22 municipalities have subdivision and land development ordinances, and 12 have adopted zoning ordinances. The county’s amended ordinance provides added safeguards – in the event a municipality would repeal an existing ordinance – to guide the development of data centers while staying true to the commissioners’ goals of smart growth, protecting Franklin County’s natural resources and valuable farmland, and preserving the character of local communities. Franklin County residents are encouraged to review the amendment, available online at www.franklincountypa.gov or at the commissioners’ office.



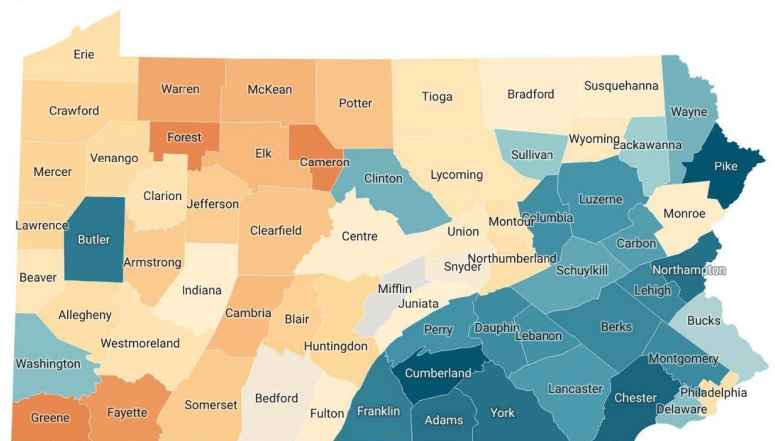
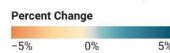
Franklin County Among Pennsylvania’s Fastest-Growing Counties

New information from the Penn State Data Center highlights continued population growth in Franklin County, reinforcing the region’s momentum as an attractive place to live, work, and invest. According to the report, Franklin County ranked as the 8th fastest-growing county in Pennsylvania, with a 3% population increase between 2020 and 2025. This steady growth reflects ongoing demand for housing, employment opportunities, and quality of life amenities across the county. The trend is even more pronounced in neighboring Cumberland County, which ranked 2nd in the state with a 6.9% population increase over the same period. Together, these figures underscore the strength of the broader south-central Pennsylvania region as a hub for residential and economic expansion. Franklin County’s growth is driven by a combination of factors, including its strategic location along major transportation corridors, a diverse and expanding employment base, and a high quality of life that continues to attract new residents. Proximity to larger metropolitan areas such as Harrisburg, Baltimore, and Washington, D.C. further enhances its appeal.

Population Change for Pennsylvania Counties, 2020-2025

Change in Population Estimate Base to July 1, 2025 Population Estimate

STATEWIDE: +56,679 (+0.4%)



Map: PA State Data Center • Source: U.S. Census Bureau • Created with Datawrapper