Climate and geography make Michigan the second most diverse state in the U.S. for crop production, and farmers in Macomb County take full advantage of this. In all, nearly a quarter of all county land is dedicated to farming. There are 18 dairy farms, 36 livestock operations, 2.2 million-square-feet of greenhouse and nursery space and 10 community-sponsored farmers markets. It’s a hotbed for agriculture and food processing. And food products grown and manufactured in Macomb are routinely sold to both wholesalers and retailers for distribution. These factors make the area a premier place for doing business. For instance, the county is home to longstanding food-based industries and organizations like the Sanders & Morley Candy Makers Inc., Big Boy, National Coney Island and Bosco’s Pizza Co. Newcomers are finding success as well, including Blake’s Hard Cider Co., Ethel’s Edibles and eight microbreweries. So whether you’re looking to grow or source locally, the region can fit your needs.

### EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farmworkers and Laborers, Crop, Nursery, and Greenhouse</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
<td>$12.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
<td>$14.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Batchmakers</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>$12.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Packaging and Filling Machine Operators and Tenders</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>$12.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bakers</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>$11.71</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources:
1. Source: CoStar Realty Information Inc.
2. Source: MSI Q2 2016 Data Set & Michigan DTMB Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives, Local Area Unemployment Statistics
Since 2009, food manufacturing jobs within Macomb County have nearly doubled, from 762 to 1,409. At the same time, agricultural production jobs have risen from 850 to 1,058. A force driving this growth are breweries. Macomb County is currently home to eight craft breweries. In Michigan, the craft brewing industry has doubled its number of operations since 2011. As a result, three in-state universities are launching college programs centered on fermentation science and sustainable brewing.

**STAFFING PATTERNS**

Blake Farms - Serving southeast Michigan since 1946, Blake Farms is a family owned and operated orchard and cider mill with three locations throughout the region. The three facilities include: Blake’s Cider Mill, Blake’s Big Apple and Blake’s Garden Center. In 2013, they invested in a $2 million expansion to grow the hard cider line, which now offers 19 different flavors of hard cider and wine. Macomb County Planning & Economic Development connected Blake’s with the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development to apply for value added grants and Macomb- St. Clair Michigan Works for multiple hiring needs. Macomb County also helped promote their large events throughout the year via social media platforms and connected them to a network of chocolate and wine companies to bring new products to their stores.

Sanders & Morley Candy Makers, Inc- Founded in 1875, Sanders & Morley Candy Makers is a candy processing facility with two locations in Macomb County. Recently, the company invested in an extensive renovation, which resulted in a 30 percent larger footprint to accommodate an indoor/outdoor seating area with 40 new indoor seats and 75 outdoor seats. Sanders is also leasing a 38,361-square-foot warehouse for storage and supplies and recently purchased property adjacent to its main production facility for future expansion. The company has over 250 employees. The Macomb County Planning and Economic Development team helped Sanders spread the word to local wineries about their new line of chocolates to accompany wine tastings. The County also assisted with exploring financing options and training opportunities through Michigan Works and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

Miller’s Big Red Farms, Washington - Miller’s Big Red Farms is a marketplace brimming with farm fresh produce, made-from-scratch baked goods, gourmet condiments and other exceptional local products. They are currently building a modern barn on site that will be used for research and development, events and processing beer, wine and hard cider. The new facility is a $2 million project and will feature a commercial kitchen to handle events. This facility will open in 2019.

**LOCATIONAL ADVANTAGE**

Macomb County is a preferred location to engage in agriculture or food manufacturing. Our site selection services can find your business a premier location within the county to provide you with the strongest possible advantage. From expansive agricultural operations to integrated food processing facilities, land is available in Macomb County to meet your business growth needs.

**TOP COMPANIES**

Achatz Handmade Pie Co.
Alexander & Hornung
Big Boy
Blake’s Hard Cider Co.
Bosco’s Pizza Co.
Brown Iron Brewhouse
Carmela Foods
Dragonmead Microbrewery
Ethel’s Edibles
Great Fresh Foods
Hessell Greenhouses
Kuhnhenn Brewing Co.
Lipari Foods
Macomb Smoked Meats
Miller’s Big Red Farms
Motor City Malt House
National Coney Island
Nino Salvaggio
Safie Specialty Foods
Sanders & Morley Candy Makers Inc.
Turri’s Italian Foods
Westview Orchards

**AVAILABLE ASSISTANCE**

The business development team of the Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development is here to help. Our job is to be knowledgeable about and connected to a wide assortment of programs available to help businesses succeed. This includes assisting with new investment in facilities and equipment, recruitment and training of new and existing employees, and help with financing, exporting and diversifying the industry sectors your company serves. The business development team will introduce your company to our partner service agencies and work with you to ensure access to available local and state incentives.

Our services are free, confidential and easily accessed. Simply get in touch, and we will arrange for your team to meet with our seasoned professionals. The business development team will listen to your goals to grow your business and act as your project manager to navigate working with government agencies at all levels.

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