

Scottsboro, Alabama is home to the nation's only lost luggage store called Unclaimed Baggage. This retailer of luggage lost traveling on airplanes has five decades of experience processing large volumes of one-of-a-kind items, maximizing each item's potential for a second life.

Did You Know?

The 'Most Fascinating Finds' in Unclaimed Baggage's first-ever "Found Report" (*A Look Inside America's Lost Luggage*) have been revealed. And the most fascinating finds among the contents of lost suitcases for 2023 included these following items:

- Two live snakes
- A mounted ram head
- A jar full of shark teeth
- Two Hermes Birkin bags
- 19 Rolex watches
- A funeral casket key
- A life-sized Winnie the Pooh
- A fossilized fish
- A braille keyboard
- A hand painted Ostrich egg
- A diamond tennis necklace appraised at \$35,000



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North Alabama
Headlines — Q2/2024

Industry Expansions

DeKalb County

Kudzu Millwork Inc., the manufacturer of All Temp Windows has expanded into their additional 40,000SF facility in Fort Payne with a new vinyl line and automated equipment representing an investment of \$2.2M, creating 15 jobs.

Madison County

Lockheed Martin, opened their new \$18M engineering center in Huntsville. This 122,000SF facility will provide the space needed for 500 employees working to advance national security capabilities and drive innovation to North Alabama.

Raytheon, launches their \$115M expansion project at their Redstone Missile Integration Facility, creating 185 jobs and further solidifying our position as a hub for defense technology.

Toyota Motor Manufacturing Alabama is investing \$282M in another expansion at the Huntsville engine plant, creating 350 jobs. Toyota Alabama currently supplies engines to seven Toyota vehicle plants in North America. The Huntsville-assembled engines power the Corolla, Highlander, RAV4, Sequoia, Sienna, Tacoma, and Tundra, as well as the Corolla Cross, which is assembled at the Mazda Toyota Manufacturing (MTM) plant in Huntsville.

Marshall County

ColorMasters, Inc., a leading company in flexible films and food packaging solutions, has expanded its operations in Albertville with an investment of \$19M, creating 39 jobs.

Media

Cullman, AL secures the ranking of the nation's #2 Micropolitan according to the *Site Selection Magazine* economic development rankings. The magazine describes a micropolitan as a city of 10,000-50,000 in population. Cullman's performance among the top micropolitan areas, a consistent top-5 presence annually, is noteworthy.

Huntsville, AL has been ranked as the 7th Best Place to Live in the latest *U.S. News and World Report* rankings. Also mentioned in the evaluation, "But even with its consistent growth and access to high-paying careers, Huntsville is still the second-most affordable place to live in our analysis."

Huntsville International Airport was voted the #1 Best Small Airport in the nation in the 2024 *Newsweek* Reader's Choice Awards.

"Huntsville International Airport is well-known for its convenience and the beauty of our campus." — Philip "Trey" Bentley, Chair of the Board

"It's our privilege to give the best customer service we can and provide first-rate facilities to our community, and we are thankful to our customers for supporting their hometown airport...we appreciate the significant contributions of our airline partners to the success of Huntsville International including newly expanded air service meaning more frequent flights and bigger planes." — Butch Roberts, CEO, Huntsville International Airport

Huntsville International recorded its largest number of passengers in 2023, more than 1.47 million.

Tharptown High School, located in Franklin County, is currently the reigning national champions of the American Rocketry Challenge and recently competed on the international stage, winning second place against teams from France, Japan, and the U.K.

Updates

In 2023, **Alabama** became the top auto-exporting state in the United States, with exports totaling \$11.2 billion. Honda, Hyundai, Mazda, Mercedes-Benz, and Toyota have each made their home here, along with an ever-expanding network of auto suppliers. Alabama is now in the Top-5 nationally for automotive production states with the capacity to produce 1.3 million vehicles each year.

The Shoals

The Shoals EDA's Remote Shoals Program has been renewed. In June, additional funding was approved, bringing the lifetime incentive funding to \$1,500,000. Since its launch, Remote Shoals has welcomed 134 remote workers into The Shoals, bringing with them over \$13M in annual payroll. All 264 new residents (spouses, partners, children, etc.) give back to the community in many ways. Applications reopen on September 1st.

Limestone County

The **Devaney Site** in Tanner, has recently been chosen by CSX for their prestigious Silver Select Site designation:



New Investment

Limestone County

OMCO Solar, one of the nation's largest manufacturers of steel structures for solar panels, will be investing over \$10M into its second production facility in Alabama, creating 70 jobs. This new facility houses multiple high-speed manufacturing systems designed specifically to produce the Series 7 PV module back-rail for First Solar, the #1 US-based solar module manufacturer, currently completing construction on their \$1.1B solar panel factory also located in North Alabama in Lawrence County.

Shape Corporation, a global tier-1 automotive supplier of structural components, celebrated the grand opening of their second production facility in Limestone County. The additional 202,306SF facility in Southpoint Industrial Park represents an investment of \$74M over the next 5 years, and is expected to create over 100 new jobs.

Madison County

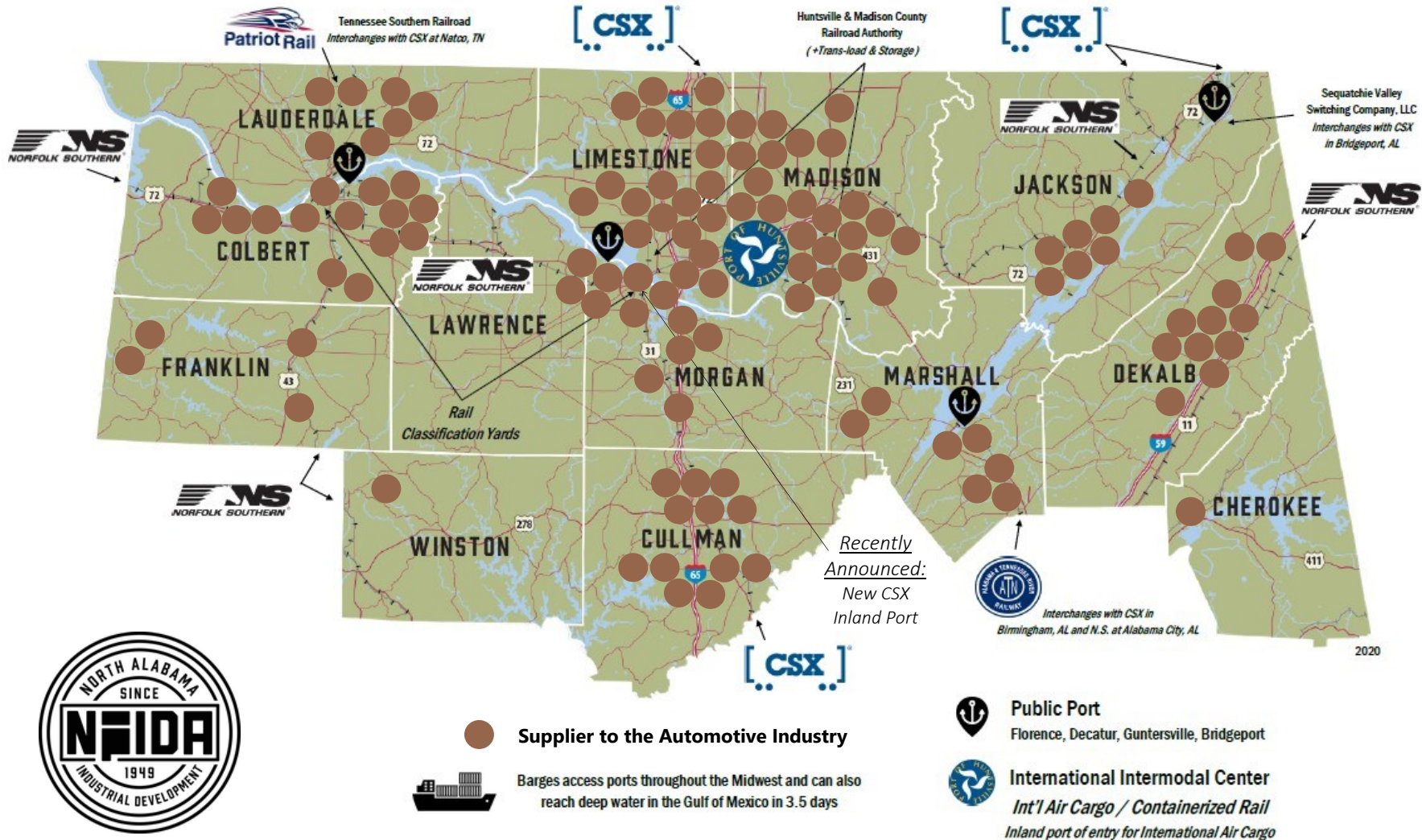
Skyfire Consulting, a drone company formerly headquartered in Atlanta, announced the relocation of their headquarters to the Huntsville International Airport's Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Detection and Mitigation Research Program Test Site.

Recent Development

Muscle Shoals announced their new \$65M mixed-use sports and entertainment complex expected to include indoor (95,000SF) and outdoor sports facilities as well as a 1,000 seat amphitheater adjacent to major retailers.

Automotive Investment Overlay over Transportation Map

North Alabama's Automotive Industry includes finished products from Mazda, Toyota, Polaris, Tiffin Motorhomes, Heil Refuse Collection Trucks, Schwarze Industries Street Sweepers, and over 100 automotive related suppliers.



Alabama ranks #1 among auto-exporting states with shipments jumping to \$11.2B in 2023.