Introduction
Discover Cherokee County and the key reasons to locate business here.

Location and Transportation
Home of Weiss Lake and with easy access to highways and interstates, the county is perfect for tourists and businesses alike.

Demographic Information
The numbers you need.

Tourism and Weiss Lake
This great location attracts tournaments, festivals, and outdoor enthusiasts, which translates into tourism dollars.

College Impact
Home to a top-notch nursing program, Gadsden State enjoys key community support, services and an ever-increasing student body.

Industrial Impact
Cherokee County is already home to several industries.

Retail Information
We’ve got room to gain retail. See the numbers on outshopping and the opportunity gap.

Retail Districts
Discover what makes these three distinct cities prime for new business.
14 Cedar Bluff
15 Centre
16 Leesburg

Guide to Doing Business
The resources you need to locate in Cherokee County.

Contact Information
Directory of local and state agencies for businesses.

Thank you for your interest in Cherokee County, Alabama—home of beautiful Weiss Lake. We want to be number one on your list when considering a new location for your retail or commercial business. Nestled in the foothills of northeast Alabama and conveniently located almost equidistant from Atlanta, Birmingham and Chattanooga, Cherokee County offers abundant retail and development opportunities.

With pro-business elected leaders, professional staff and streamlined assistance, we are eager to please and look forward to the opportunity to partner with you to help you make a location decision that will help ensure your new business becomes profitable as quickly as possible.

This guide serves as an outline to help you understand the many advantages of opening a business in Cherokee County, Alabama. Inside you will find an overview of the community including demographics, the impact of tourism, complete contact information, retail districts, trade region, traffic patterns and opportunity gaps.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this information package to you. Please contact us anytime with your business needs.

Sincerely,
Luanne Hayes
Director Economic Development
Gadsden State Cherokee
Cherokee County Industrial Development Authority

801 Cedar Bluff Road • Centre, AL 35960 • 256.927.1805 • FAX 256.927.1811 • www.cherokeecountyida.org
Until Weiss Lake was built in 1961, Cherokee County was rural with an agriculture-based economy. Now, the county has become an increasingly popular tourism destination and has attracted a growing number of residents, including many retirees.

**WHY HERE**

**Four reasons to locate in Cherokee County**

- **Steady increase** in resident and tourist populations
- **Available land** ready for development
- The retail opportunity gap in the area is $425,213,125
- **Per capita income** increased by 31% from 2000 to 2009

**Located in the ABC Triangle**

Cherokee County is located almost equidistant between Atlanta, Birmingham, and Chattanooga, within a two-hour drive from all three cities. The close proximity to these cities makes the county a prime location for vacationers looking for an escape from city life.

**LOCATION TOURISM**

**Magnet for outdoor enthusiasts**

During the summer months, the population in Cherokee County can bring as many as 15,000 people to campgrounds, RV parks, resorts, and other lodging facilities.

**Tourist draws**

- Fishing
- Boating
- Rock Climbing
- Hiking
- Camping
- Sports Tournaments

**DISTINCTION**

**Cedar Bluff**
Growing retirement community with lakefront and mountain residential neighborhoods.

**Centre**
The county-seat and the largest city in the county. Contains most major retail development.

**Leesburg**
Industrial center of county and fishing tournament locale.
Highways
There are four major highways in the retail districts of Cherokee County.

**U.S. Highway 411** runs east-west through the county and crosses through the southern parts of Leesburg and Centre.

**AL Highway 68** joins U.S. Hwy 411 in Leesburg and runs east to Centre and then northeast through Cedar Bluff. **AL Highway 9** connects Centre and Cedar Bluff with Rome, Georgia and then south to Anniston.

Leesburg also has access to **AL Highway 273**.

**Distance to Interstate 59**
- Cedar Bluff: 22.7 miles / 36 minutes
- Centre: 16.6 miles / 26 minutes
- Leesburg: 11 miles / 15 minutes

**Centre-Piedmont-Cherokee County Regional Airport**
The Centre-Piedmont-Cherokee County Regional Airport was officially dedicated in October 2010. The airport has a 5,500 foot runway and can accommodate small corporate jets. The airport has available leasing space for hangar construction. Additional improvements for the airport are planned.
## POPULATION

Center of radius is located in the middle of Centre.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cedar Bluff</th>
<th>Centre</th>
<th>Leesburg</th>
<th>0-10 Miles</th>
<th>0-20 Miles</th>
<th>0-30 Miles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990 Census</td>
<td>1,174</td>
<td>2,893</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>13,978</td>
<td>67,354</td>
<td>291,686</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000 Census</td>
<td>1,467</td>
<td>3,216</td>
<td>799</td>
<td>17,001</td>
<td>75,987</td>
<td>316,673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 Census</td>
<td>1,820</td>
<td>3,489</td>
<td>1,027</td>
<td>17,576</td>
<td>77,708</td>
<td>331,414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Growth</td>
<td>55.02%</td>
<td>20.60%</td>
<td>371.10%</td>
<td>25.74%</td>
<td>15.37%</td>
<td>13.62%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2010 Census

## BY GENDER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cedar Bluff</th>
<th>Centre</th>
<th>Leesburg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>880</td>
<td>1,614</td>
<td>522</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>940</td>
<td>1,875</td>
<td>505</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## BY AGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cedar Bluff</th>
<th>Centre</th>
<th>Leesburg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median Age</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>45.9</td>
<td>40.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-14</td>
<td>324</td>
<td>564</td>
<td>470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-24</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-44</td>
<td>364</td>
<td>711</td>
<td>258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-64</td>
<td>563</td>
<td>934</td>
<td>302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>346</td>
<td>855</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## BY RACE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cedar Bluff</th>
<th>Centre</th>
<th>Leesburg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>1,568</td>
<td>3,034</td>
<td>991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian or Alaska Native</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>3,41</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some Other Race</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or More Races</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS** *(2010)*  
Center of radius is located in the middle of Centre.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cedar Bluff</th>
<th>Centre</th>
<th>Leesburg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Households</td>
<td>766</td>
<td>1,426</td>
<td>409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Households</td>
<td>521</td>
<td>880</td>
<td>298</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2010 Census

**HOUSING INCOME**  
Center of radius is located in the middle of Centre.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cedar Bluff</th>
<th>Centre</th>
<th>Leesburg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>$29,321</td>
<td>$33,102</td>
<td>$42,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median</td>
<td>$33,000</td>
<td>$43,854</td>
<td>$61,103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per Capita</td>
<td>$17,330</td>
<td>$19,420</td>
<td>$30,376</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: US Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey

**BANK DEPOSITS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th># of Offices</th>
<th>Deposits</th>
<th>Market Share</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cherokee County</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>$262 million</td>
<td>0.32%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: FDIC 2010 Deposit Market Share Report for Alabama
During the summer months, the population in Cherokee County can bring as many as 15,000 people to campgrounds, RV parks, resorts, and other lodging facilities.

About Weiss Lake
Weiss Lake, a 30,200 acre lake, was completed in 1961. It is fed by three rivers – Little River, Coosa, and Chattooga – and is known for its fishing. The lake has become known as the “Crappie Capital of the World” and is also a popular spot for bass, sunfish, and catfish fishing.

Major Fishing Tournaments
**Crappie:**
- Crappie USA
- Crappie Masters
- Super Slab Series
- Other Club Series and Trails

**Bass:**
- BFLW
- Bassmasters Weekend Series
- XTreme Bass Series
- Bama BFL
- Other Club Series and Trails

Out-of-State License Facts
Cherokee County sells more non-resident freshwater fishing licenses than any other Alabama county. In 2010, the county accounted for 22% of Alabama’s total sales. (Source: DCNR for 2009 fiscal year)
In addition to Weiss Lake, Cherokee County annually draws outdoor adventurists to its area parks and attractions.

**Docking Information**

There are four free public access areas and 37 privately run marina services around Weiss Lake.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marinas</th>
<th>Public Ramps</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bay Springs</td>
<td>Hwy 9 Causeway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little River</td>
<td>Cobia Bridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leesburg Landing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow Creek</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cowan Creek/</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pruett’s</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weiss Mart</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marina</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Public Fishing Piers**

- Weiss Dam
- Hwy 9 Causeway
- Cobia Bridge

**Rome Sailing Club**

Each fall, the Rome Sailing Club hosts its Weiss Lake DIYRA Regatta. The 72-member sailing club hosted over 30 boats in the race in 2011.

**Lodging Information**

There are 15,000 campsites around Weiss Lake. Other lodging includes:
- Days Inn (Centre)
- Bay Springs Motel (Centre)
- Chestnut Bay Resort (Leesburg)
- The Lighthouse Restaurant and Motel (Cedar Bluff)
- The Secret Bed and Breakfast (Leesburg)
- Weiss Lake Lodge (Centre)

**Area attractions:**

- Canyon Mouth Recreation Area
- Cherokee Rock Village
- Cornwall Furnace Park
- Jacksonville State University Field Schools
- Little River Canyon National Preserve
- Pratt Memorial Park
- Yellow Creek Falls

**Cherokee Rock Village**

Cherokee Rock Village is undergoing major renovations. The park, atop Lookout Mountain, will feature new amenities including camping areas, picnic spots, and walking trails. The park is already a popular destination for rock climbers and hang gliders from around the United States and the improvements are expected to draw even more outdoor enthusiasts to the park. It was even the location for outdoor scenes in the 2006 film *Failure to Launch*.

**Tourism Economic Impact:**

Has shown a steady increase over the last several years.

**Tourism Expenditures 2010:**

$18.2 million

**Jobs:** 242

**Estimated Annual Festival Attendance**

- **Cedar Bluff**
  - Liberty Day: 7,000
  - First weekend in July
- **Centre Fall**
  - Festival: 4,000
  - First weekend in October
- **Leesburg**
  - Day: 2,500
  - Second Saturday in September
- **Sand Rock**
  - Day: 1,000
  - Second Saturday in October

For more information about all of Cherokee County events, visit www.cherokee-chamber.org
Fall semester enrollment at Gadsden State Cherokee has grown from 59 students (when the instructional site was implemented) to 254 students when the new facility was first opened to 363 students fall 2011.

% of In-County vs. Out-County Students
This percentage varies but the typical mix is approximately 65-70% of students reside in Cherokee County and 30-35% reside in surrounding counties including northwest Georgia.

Nursing Program
Gadsden State Cherokee’s nursing program includes a partnership with Cherokee Medical Center and Cherokee County Health and Rehabilitation Center, which allows students to complete their LPN nursing degree in Cherokee County. The program is one of the main degree programs offered on the Cherokee campus.

Community Arena
Gadsden State Cherokee houses the Cherokee Center and Arena with a seating capacity of 2,500 as well as a hospitality community meeting room that accommodates groups of up to 275 people.

Total Investment
A total of $23 million was invested in the construction of Gadsden State Cherokee. The project was funded in part by the state, as well as numerous community partners.
The Advantage
Cherokee County has a lot of advantages to offer businesses — advantages like more tax incentives, lower business costs, customized workforce training programs, and a readily available workforce. Cherokee County is also a designated Enterprise Zone in Alabama, which means new and expanding industries could qualify for additional tax incentives.

MAJOR EMPLOYERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th># of Employees</th>
<th>Town</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cherokee County Board of Education</td>
<td>539</td>
<td>Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KTH (Leesburg Products)</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>Leesburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Apparel</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leesburg Yarn Mills</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>Leesburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wal-Mart</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherokee County Health &amp; Rehabilitation</td>
<td>284</td>
<td>Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preferred Health Services</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherokee Medical Center</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEMCO, Inc.</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>Leesburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sawyer Nursery</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>Leesburg</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NEW AND EXPANDING INDUSTRIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Investment</th>
<th>City</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>KTH Leesburg Products</td>
<td>$16,000,000</td>
<td>Leesburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>American Apparel</td>
<td>$520,307</td>
<td>Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>KTH Leesburg Products</td>
<td>$8,900,000</td>
<td>Leesburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>KTH Leesburg Products</td>
<td>$6,800,000</td>
<td>Leesburg</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cherokee County has room to gain retail trade. As compared to Alabama, the county had a loss of $52,424 in retail sales according to the latest information from the Census and Bureau of Economic Analysis. The county’s tourism growth should continue to increase the retail sales demand in upcoming years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Personal Income ($1,000)</th>
<th>Retail Sales ($1,000)</th>
<th>Sales to Income Ratio</th>
<th>Estimated Gain or Loss of Retail Trade ($1,000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>11,912,300,000</td>
<td>3,917,663,456</td>
<td>32.9%</td>
<td>Comparison Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherokee (AL)</td>
<td>632,266</td>
<td>186,321</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
<td>(21,616)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calhoun (AL)</td>
<td>3,515,455</td>
<td>1,542,981</td>
<td>43.9%</td>
<td>386,834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleburne (AL)</td>
<td>395,725</td>
<td>133,407</td>
<td>33.7%</td>
<td>3,263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DeKalb (AL)</td>
<td>1,742,953</td>
<td>635,185</td>
<td>36.4%</td>
<td>61,971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Etowah (AL)</td>
<td>2,992,715</td>
<td>1,114,841</td>
<td>37.2%</td>
<td>130,610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chattooga (GA)</td>
<td>582,018</td>
<td>147,194</td>
<td>25.3%</td>
<td>(44,217)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floyd (GA)</td>
<td>2,948,924</td>
<td>1,039,780</td>
<td>35.2%</td>
<td>69,951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polk (GA)</td>
<td>1,010,395</td>
<td>314,659</td>
<td>31.1%</td>
<td>(17,635)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### RMP OPPORTUNITY GAP

#### 0-20 Miles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Retail Stores</th>
<th>2010 Demand</th>
<th>2010 Supply</th>
<th>Opportunity Gap /Surplus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicle &amp; Parts Dealers</td>
<td>172,398,979</td>
<td>88,601,539</td>
<td>83,797,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture &amp; Home Furnishings Stores</td>
<td>19,050,023</td>
<td>9,236,143</td>
<td>9,813,880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronics &amp; Appliance Stores</td>
<td>20,453,407</td>
<td>9,237,627</td>
<td>11,215,780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bldg Materials, Garden Equip. Stores</td>
<td>98,801,708</td>
<td>54,067,556</td>
<td>44,734,152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food and Beverage Stores</td>
<td>147,364,982</td>
<td>75,865,204</td>
<td>71,499,778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Personal Care Stores</td>
<td>69,041,825</td>
<td>42,064,437</td>
<td>26,977,388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gasoline Stations</td>
<td>101,098,565</td>
<td>144,737,383</td>
<td>(43,638,818)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores</td>
<td>42,127,617</td>
<td>13,693,195</td>
<td>28,434,422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sporting, Goods, Hobby, Book &amp; Music Stores</td>
<td>16,920,011</td>
<td>10,432,885</td>
<td>6,487,126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Merchandise Store</td>
<td>138,673,005</td>
<td>99,183,498</td>
<td>39,489,507</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc. Store Retailers</td>
<td>29,073,947</td>
<td>6,300,794</td>
<td>22,773,153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Store Retailers</td>
<td>70,418,361</td>
<td>8,833,026</td>
<td>61,585,335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Service &amp; Drinking Places</td>
<td>102,932,544</td>
<td>40,888,565</td>
<td>62,043,979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Retail Sales</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,028,354,977</strong></td>
<td><strong>603,141,852</strong></td>
<td><strong>425,213,125</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Center of radius is located in the middle of Centre. 2011 The Nielsen Company

### Major Existing Retailers/Lodging

#### National Retailers
- Cato
- CVS Pharmacy
- Dollar General
- Dollar Tree
- Fred’s
- Goody’s
- Hibbett Sports
- Kmart
- Wal-Mart

#### National Grocers
- Ingles
- Piggly Wiggly
- Wal-Mart

#### Retail Centers
- Cherokee Corners
- Cherokee Plaza
- Chesnut Centre
- Johnson Center
- Lakeside Plaza
- Sunflower Court
- Weiss Lake Plaza

#### National Hotel Chain
- Days Inn

#### National Food Establishments
- Burger King
- Captain D's
- KFC/Taco Bell
- Jack’s
- McDonald’s
- Sonic
- Subway
- Waffle House
- Wendy’s

### Recent Announcements

#### Regional restaurant
- opened, January 2011

#### Financial institution
- opened, March 2011

#### Goody’s
- opened, April 2012

#### Hibbett Sports
- opened, August 2013
The major retail districts in Cherokee County are primarily found in the towns of Cedar Bluff, Centre, and Leesburg.

Cedar Bluff: Growing retirement community with lakefront and mountain residential neighborhoods.

Centre: County-seat and largest city in the county. Includes most major retail development.

Leesburg: Industrial center of county and fishing tournament locale.
Cedar Bluff’s location directly on Weiss Lake has made it a popular place for retirees looking for the relaxed pace of lakefront living. The community is still small and rural in nature, but has a growing number of new neighborhoods and businesses.

Retirees in Cedar Bluff can choose from lakefront or mountain living. New residential developments like The Bluffs are located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains and offer spectacular views of the lake. On the lake, retirees can live in luxury condos such as Sunset Shores.

In addition to retirees, Cedar Bluff is popular among fisherman and families on vacation. The town has several campgrounds and marinas.

### Retail District
Cedar Bluff’s current retail stores are primarily located on Highways 68 and 9 and in the downtown area. The two highways are well-traveled and merge in Cedar Bluff.

### Festival Draw
Cedar Bluff’s annual Liberty Day draws an estimated 15,000 people to the town’s center. The festival is held in July at the height of the town’s summer tourist season.
Centre is the county seat and is the largest town in Cherokee County. The town has experienced the most growth in retail development of the three major towns in the county and has experienced a steady growth in population since 1990. The town was selected as the location of the Cherokee Campus of Gadsden State Community College, which has brought an influx into the area. Centre also plays host to several state-level sporting tournaments each year.

Retail Districts
Retail, food, lodging establishments are located in three main areas throughout the town – Highway 411, Chestnut Bypass, and historic downtown.

Highway 411:
Much of the new retail development, including the Wal-Mart, is located on Highway 411 where it meets the Chestnut Bypass.

Chestnut Bypass:
The Chestnut Bypass has been primarily developed with small retail stores, fast food restaurants, and banks. The Bypass is a main route to the Gadsden State Cherokee campus.

Historic Downtown:
The historic downtown area has underground utilities and has been streetscaped. The historic buildings are located within a two-block area and feature specialty shops and restaurants, the county museum and courthouse.
Leesburg has experienced tremendous population growth since 1990, increasing by 371.1% from 1990 to 2010. The town has become an industrial center for the county, as well as an increasingly popular vacation destination. Leesburg has developed a city landing on Weiss Lake and annually plays host to regional and state fishing tournaments.

**Retail Districts**

**Highway 68:** Highway 68 brings in traffic from Interstate 59 and commuters from DeKalb County. Most of the town's manufacturing companies are located along this route.

**Highway 411:** Highway 411 connects Leesburg with Centre. It is a major route through the city, leading to Gadsden, Alabama and Rome, Georgia.

**Industrial Concentration**

There are three major manufacturing employers in Leesburg – KTH (Leesburg Products), Leesburg Yarn Mills, and PEMCO. Many workers commute to the area from the surrounding region, creating a higher daytime population.

**Fishing Tournaments**

Leesburg is known as a prime spot for fishermen, and the town annually hosts regional FLW Outdoors and Bassmaster Weekend Series tournaments.
Doing business in Cherokee County is simple. The processes are often streamlined and representatives from each town are ready to help you.

Finding a Location
There are many available sites in Cherokee County that are suitable for retail development. Some available buildings are also available. To find a property or building space that is perfect for you business, contact an area commercial broker or the Cherokee County Industrial Development Authority at 256.927.1805.

Obtaining a County Business License
Administered by the county probate judge.
256.927.3363.

Paying Workers’ and Unemployment Compensation
Alabama Department of Industrial Relations
- www.dir.alabama.gov
- 334.242.2868.

Getting Help from Other Retailers
You can find area networking opportunities from the Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce
- www.cherokee-chamber.org
Find state-level support from the Alabama Retail Association
- www.alabamaretail.org

Registering for Taxes
Tax rates vary in each town. For information, visit
Specific sales and use tax for the county or each town
- www.revenue.alabama.gov/salestax/sales/index.cfm
County property (ad valorem) taxes
- www.revenue.alabama.gov/advalorem/index.html

City Taxes
Register with the city clerk at the town hall of the town your business will be located.

County Taxes
Register with the Cherokee County revenue commissioner at the Cherokee County Administration Building.

State of Alabama
- www.revenue.alabama.gov
- 334.242.1170

Federal Taxes
- www.eftps.com

Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board
- www.abc.alabama.gov
County Information

Cherokee County Commission
www.cherokeecounty-al.gov
260 Cedar Bluff Road
Centre, AL 35960
Phone: 256.927.3668
Fax: 256.927.3669

RESPONSIBILITIES: Creates and administers legislation on the county level.

Cherokee County Revenue Commissioner
www.cherokeetagandtax.com
260 Cedar Bluff Road
Suite 102
Centre, AL 35960
Phone: 256.927.5527
Fax: 256.927.5528

RESPONSIBILITIES: Collects property taxes.

Cherokee County Judge of Probate Court
www.cherokeetagandtax.com
260 Cedar Bluff Road
Suite 101
Centre, AL 35960
Phone: 256.927.3363

RESPONSIBILITIES: Oversees business licenses.

Cherokee County Health Department
www.adph.org
833 Cedar Bluff Road
Centre, AL 35960-1005
Phone: 256.927.3132

RESPONSIBILITIES: Provides special permits (food, septic tank, etc.).

Town Information

Cedar Bluff Town Hall
www.cedarbluff-al.org
3420 Spring Street
Cedar Bluff, AL 35959
Phone: 256.779.6121

RESPONSIBILITIES: Business licensing and town tax information for Cedar Bluff.

Centre Town Hall
www.cityofcentre.org
401 E. Main Street
Centre, AL 35960-1522
Phone: 256.927.5222

RESPONSIBILITIES: Business licensing and town tax information for Centre.

Leesburg Town Hall
www.leesburgal.org
215 Industrial Boulevard
Leesburg, AL 35983
Phone: 256.526.8890

RESPONSIBILITIES: Business licensing and town tax information for Leesburg.

State Information

Alabama Department of Revenue Taxpayer Service Center
www.ador.state.al.us
235 College Street
Gadsen, AL 35901
Phone: 256.547.0554

RESPONSIBILITIES: Sales and use taxes, Alabama state tax license number, and Alabama estimated quarterly business tax return.

Alabama Department of Industrial Relations
www.dir.alabama.gov
649 Monroe Street
Montgomery, AL 36131
Phone: 334.242.8055

RESPONSIBILITIES: Workers’ compensation, unemployment compensation, employment service, labor marketing information.

Alabama Development Office
www.ado.state.al.us
401 Adams Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36130
Phone: 334.242.0400

RESPONSIBILITIES: State economic development recruiting.

Alabama Beverage Control Board
www.abc.alabama.gov
210-A Exchange Place
Huntsville, AL 35806
Phone: 256.726.0401

RESPONSIBILITIES: Liquor licensing.

Tennessee Valley Authority
www.tva.com
Corporate Headquarters
400 W. Summit Hill Dr.
Knoxville, TN 37902-1499
865.632.2101

RESPONSIBILITIES: Energy sales and power generation.
Utilities and Telecommunications

**TVA / Cherokee County Electric Cooperative**
www.cherokee-electric.org
P.O. Drawer O
1550 Clarence Chestnut Bypass
Centre, AL 35960
Toll Free: 800.952.2667
Phone: 256.927.5524
**Responsibilities:** Electricity for the entire county.

**DeKalb Cherokee Natural Gas Company**
www.dcgas.org
1111 West Main Street
Centre, AL 35960
Toll Free: 800.239.5606
Phone: 256.927.5925
**Responsibilities:** Natural gas for the entire county.

**Cherokee County Water & Sewer Authority**
161 East Main Street
Centre, AL 35960
Phone: 256.927.8348
**Responsibilities:** Water and sewer for parts of the county.

**NE Alabama Water**
www.neawater.com
216 Beck Industrial Blvd. W
Fort Payne, AL 35968
Phone: 256.845.6186
**Responsibilities:** Water for parts of the county.

**TDS Telecom**
www.tdstelecom.com
1460 W Main Street
Suite J – Weiss Lake Plaza
Centre, AL 35960
Phone: 256.927.4444
**Responsibilities:** Phone and high speed internet services for the entire county.

Business Planning Assistance

**Cherokee County Industrial Development Authority**
www.cherokeecountyida.org
801 Cedar Bluff Road
Centre, AL 35960
Phone: 256.927.1805
Fax: 256.927.1811
**Responsibilities:** Economic development recruitment and retention.

**Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce**
www.cherokeechamber.org
801 Cedar Bluff Road
Building A
Centre, AL 35960
Phone: 256.927.8455
Fax: 256.927.2768
**Responsibilities:** Business and tourism support.

**Jacksonville State University Small Business Development Center**
www.jsusbdc.com
SBDC Counseling at Cherokee Chamber of Commerce
First Tuesday from 9-11 a.m.
Reservations: 256.927.8455

**College of Commerce and Business Administration**
Jacksonville State University
700 Pelham Road North
Room 114 Merrill Hall
Jacksonville, AL 36265
Phone: 256.782.5271
**Responsibilities:** Business mentoring and market research resources.

**SBA Birmingham District Office**
www.sba.gov
801 Tom Martin Drive Suite #201
Birmingham, AL 35211
United States
Phone: 205.290.7101
Fax: 205.290.7404
**Responsibilities:** Provides loans, loan guarantees, contracts, counseling sessions and other forms of assistance to small businesses.
The Cherokee County Industrial Development Authority is funded annually by these outstanding partners.

Cherokee County Commission

Cherokee Electric Cooperative

A Natural Advantage

www.cherokeecountyida.org