

# Deals During the Pandemic

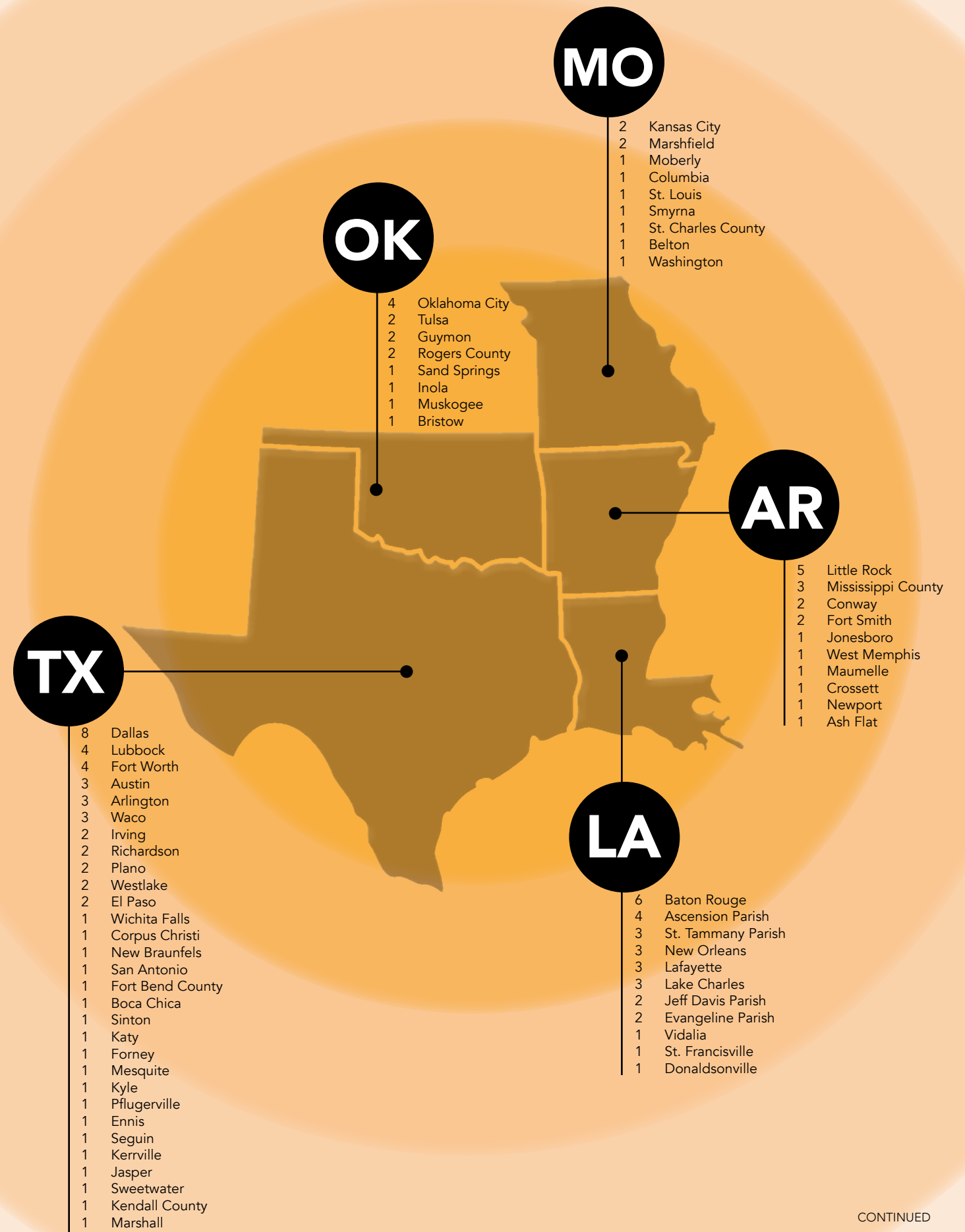
Many economic development agencies in the South have been affected by the pandemic in one way or another. Hundreds of economic development projects have been postponed or canceled. However, at Southern Business & Development, we have been pleasantly surprised by the number of project announcements that have been made in a variety of sectors since March 1 when the virus began to affect site selection.

The usual suspects have been somewhat active even in a pandemic as automotive, aerospace, distribution, technology, pharmaceuticals, energy storage and PPE manufacturers led the way in 2020. Conspicuously missing were the 200 to 250 projects coming each year from foreign firms, both manufacturing and services. Foreign direct investment in the U.S. fell 61 percent in the first half of 2020. The U.S. attracted \$51 billion, a far cry from years 2015 and 2016 when over \$200 billion was invested by foreign companies in the first half of both those years, according to the United Nations' Conference on Trade and Development.

Here are communities in all 15 Southern states that captured at least one major project meeting or exceeding 200 jobs and/or \$30 million in investment announced between March 1 and October 31, 2020, in that city or county. There may be a few missing, but we did the best we could.

The communities recognized should be congratulated for job and investment generation during one of the worst crises in American history. Among those that stand out are tiny Mississippi County, Ark.; Henry County, Ga.; Baton Rouge, La.; Lee County, Miss.; Sumter County, S.C.; and Maury County, Tenn.

So if you thought 2020 was a black hole for deals in the South, you are wrong. And according to loads of data, 2021 is going to be a banner year.



CONTINUED

**KY**

- 5 Memphis
- 4 Maury County
- 3 Chattanooga
- 2 Washington County
- 2 Nashville
- 2 Rhea County
- 2 Bradley County
- 2 Wilson County
- 2 Lexington
- 1 Jackson
- 1 Williamson County
- 1 Unicoi County
- 1 Cookeville
- 1 Giles County
- 1 Henderson County
- 1 Henderson
- 1 Gallatin
- 1 Sullivan County
- 1 Union City
- 1 Clarksville
- 1 Rutherford County
- 1 Macon County

**TN**

**WV**

- 4 Louisville
- 4 Bowling Green
- 3 Graves County
- 2 Winchester
- 2 Somerset
- 1 Bullitt County
- 1 Hardin County
- 1 Paris
- 1 Montgomery County
- 1 Meade County
- 1 Hart County
- 1 Hebron
- 1 Lexington
- 1 Salyersville
- 1 Rowan County
- 1 Laurel County
- 1 Walton
- 1 Simpson County
- 1 Frankfort

**VA**

- 2 Bridgeport
- 1 Tucker County
- 1 Grant County
- 1 Berkeley County
- 1 Fayette County
- 1 Charleston
- 1 Randolph County
- 1 Davisville
- 1 Pleasants County

- 4 Fairfax County
- 2 Richmond
- 2 Arlington County
- 2 Henrico County
- 2 Martinsville
- 2 Virginia Beach
- 1 Suffolk
- 1 Chesapeake
- 1 Chesterfield
- 1 Roanoke County
- 1 Pittsylvania County
- 1 Bedford County
- 1 Newport News
- 1 James City County
- 1 Grayson County
- 1 Lynchburg
- 1 Prince William County
- 1 Augusta County
- 1 Montgomery County
- 1 Hampton

**NC**

- 5 Wake County
- 4 Durham
- 4 Greensboro
- 4 Catawba County
- 3 Charlotte
- 3 Rockingham County
- 2 Cabarrus
- 1 Asheville
- 1 Gaston County
- 1 High Point
- 1 Sanford
- 1 Rocky Mount
- 1 Wilson County
- 1 Henderson County
- 1 Stanly County
- 1 Lenoir County
- 1 Fayetteville
- 1 Pitt County
- 1 Vance County
- 1 Yancey County
- 1 Graham
- 1 Rowan County
- 1 Pinehurst
- 1 Randolph County

**SC**

- 4 York County
- 4 Sumter
- 4 Greenville County
- 3 Florence
- 3 Anderson County
- 3 Lancaster
- 1 Clarendon County
- 1 Newberry County
- 1 Orangeburg County
- 1 Aiken
- 1 Darlington
- 1 Charleston County
- 1 North Charleston
- 1 Madison County
- 1 Richland County
- 1 Berkeley County
- 1 Cherokee County
- 1 Spartanburg
- 1 Hampton County
- 1 Lexington County
- 1 Marion County
- 1 Dorchester County
- 1 Bamberg County

**MS**

- 6 Lee County
- 4 Olive Branch
- 3 Hancock County
- 3 Tishomingo County
- 2 Corinth
- 2 Panola County
- 1 Clarksdale
- 1 Oakland
- 1 Jones County
- 1 Hattiesburg
- 1 Harrison County
- 1 Sunflower County
- 1 West Point
- 1 Jackson County
- 1 Vicksburg
- 1 Natchez

**AL**

- 5 Huntsville
- 4 Mobile
- 4 Tuscaloosa
- 4 Montgomery
- 4 Auburn
- 2 Jasper
- 2 Eufaula
- 1 Birmingham
- 1 Decatur
- 1 Opelika
- 1 Chambers County
- 1 Calhoun County
- 1 Pike County
- 1 Cullman
- 1 Randolph County
- 1 Marengo County
- 1 Baldwin County
- 1 Jefferson County
- 1 Colbert County
- 1 Escambia County

**GA**

- 10 Atlanta
- 8 Henry County
- 4 Gwinnett County
- 3 Jackson County
- 2 Bartow County
- 2 Whitfield County
- 1 Rome
- 1 Coweta County
- 1 DeKalb County
- 1 Macon
- 1 Dalton
- 1 Covington
- 1 Thomas County
- 1 Spalding County
- 1 Athens
- 1 Appling
- 1 Augusta
- 1 Brunswick
- 1 Murray County
- 1 Newton County
- 1 Valdosta
- 1 Perry
- 1 Catoosa County
- 1 Cook County
- 1 Hall County
- 1 Douglas County

**FL**

- 5 Orlando
- 5 Jacksonville
- 4 Tampa
- 2 Miami
- 2 Polk County
- 1 Bay County
- 1 Hendry County
- 1 Pinellas County
- 1 Naples
- 1 Melbourne
- 1 Sarasota County
- 1 Pensacola
- 1 St. Johns County
- 1 Baker County
- 1 Clay County
- 1 Nassau County
- 1 Union County
- 1 Osceola County