Oconee County among top US foreign investor locations

THE JOURNAL STAFF

SENECA — Oconee County is among the top locations in the country in terms of the percentage of its jobs created by foreign direct investments.

The Brookings Institution, a research organization based in Washington, D.C., recently released a micropolitan- and metropolitan-level analysis of foreign direct investment for the Upstate region.

Among the country's 616 micropolitan areas, Oconee County ranks 38th for share of jobs in foreign-operated enterprise at 11.7 percent.

A micropolitan area, as defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, refers to an urban cluster with a population of 10,000 to 49,999.

In a news release, Oconee Economic Alliance board of directors chairman Glenn Buddin said the ranking was a "testament" to Oconee's diverse industrial base with foreign-owned companies such as Sandvik and BASF.

"Sometimes we take for granted the economic activities taking place in our community, and seeing numbers like this, indicating we are one of the top locations in the United States, is encouraging as we continue to work hard on the economic development front," Buddin said.