

This summer I completed an internship with the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development as a Research Analyst. The mission of the Department of Economic and Community Development is to bring high quality jobs to the state of Tennessee and attract corporate investment in order to stimulate the growth of Tennessee's economy. The Research Division of ECD receives numerous RFIs (Requests for Information) on a daily basis from all over the state government and other agencies. These reports help officials complete press releases and generate briefs for government leaders that help them make more informed decisions. My work in Research always varied; in a general sense, though, most of my work involved collecting information and organizing it into a meaningful form for the person who requested it. On a daily basis, I could be doing anything from gathering data about Tennessee's MBA programs for an assistant commissioner looking for information for future hires to creating aggregated reports on Tennessee's imports and exports. I spent many of my days at ECD creating spreadsheets that broke down statistics concerning Tennessee's most important trade industries. Utilizing a government trade database, I generated numerous reports that helped indicate where new investment and trade opportunities for Tennessee could exist. Furthermore, I helped update the County Data Sheet database that site selectors use when helping to decide where to have their company located. I also wrote a 20-page report on how the County and Community Data Sheet database could be improved. I am very grateful for the opportunities ECD presented me with as I now feel I have a better grasp on how to efficiently compile information and generate an effective, informed report in a timely manner.