

# Gov. Walker: Attends Ashley Furniture groundbreaking ceremony in Arcadia

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**ARCADIA** - Governor Scott Walker delivered remarks today at the groundbreaking ceremony for Ashley Furniture's 500,000-square foot expansion to their manufacturing distribution center in Arcadia. The current facility was established in 1970 and is 175 acres.

"Wisconsin is working," Governor Walker said. "Our unemployment rate has dropped to 3.1 percent - down again from last month and the lowest it's been since 1999. And Ashley Furniture recognizes that this is a great time to invest in Wisconsin. Their expansion project here in Arcadia is a win-win, allowing Ashley to better serve their customers throughout the state, the nation, and the world, while also investing in and enhancing the local economy."

The expansion project bolsters Ashley's ability to fulfill online orders, which is an emerging demand. It will also enhance their "speed to market" because more furniture will be stored on site to allow the company to better serve the region's customers. It is the largest expansion of the Arcadia facility since it was established in 1970 and is expected to be completed by February of 2018.

Ashley Furniture's manufacturing workforce in Arcadia has grown to nearly 5,000 employees, and Ashley views the expansion project as an investment in the future of their facilities in Wisconsin.

Established in 1945, Ashley Furniture is one of the largest manufacturers of home

furnishings in the world. The company supplies furniture to vendors in 123 countries and has more than 700 locations in 36 countries. It is the top selling furniture store brand in the world and the number one retailer of furniture and bedding in the United States.