



Economic News from Ohio's Regions

Provided by The Ohio Urban University Program and the
Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs at CSU

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Weekly News and Opinion from Ohio's Newspapers

January 27 - February 2, 2009

Greetings!

Welcome to the latest issue of *Economic News from Ohio's Regions*, a new weekly newsletter from the [Ohio Urban University Program](#) and the [Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs, Cleveland State University](#). We'll search Ohio's papers to bring you economic news and key happenings that impact Ohio's regions.

Urban Developments

A New Urban Landscape - Artfully Done

By Dr. Edward "Ned" Hill and Fran Stewart

President Barack Obama has signaled a new emphasis on the nation's urban core, going so far as to create a Cabinet-level Office of Urban Policy. Armond Budish, the first Cleveland-area Ohio House Speaker since the 1930s, also seems determined to make urban revitalization a top priority. Given that Ohio is the sole state in which two of its major cities - Cleveland and Cincinnati - repeatedly appear among the nation's 10 poorest, a serious effort to transform the state's urban landscape is welcomed news.

However, in their push to tackle the ugly urban issues of poverty, unemployment, crime and foreclosure, political leaders shouldn't overlook the beauty. What we need today is a New City Beautiful - a model of development that emphasizes urban design and the importance of public spaces as a way of creating and holding value in private places.

At Cleveland State University, we have been exploring the important intersection of business, art and culture, particularly as an attraction and neighborhood-building strategy. With this new monthly column, we hope to highlight a broad range of CSU research and activities, as well as draw on the extensive expertise of faculty members at the Levin College of Urban Affairs

to frame some of the major issues that the state and region must face. Our first column is dedicated to the vital but too long neglected task of rebuilding downtown.

As fuel prices resume their upward push at the end of this nasty recession and concerns over global warming increasingly influence location choices, people will become more and more open to returning to urban areas. The cities that will emerge as winners will be those that offer a rich, diverse environment in which to work, live, play, and build community. People are poised to ..(to continue reading the full article, [click here](#))

News From Around Ohio

[**Gov. Strickland will use up Ohio's \\$1 billion rainy-day fund to balance budget**](#) (The Plain Dealer, January 30, 2009) The state would face a \$7 billion-plus deficit for its next two-year budget cycle, if the current levels of revenue collection and spending were allowed to hold steady.

[**Cuyahoga County's median price for homes not involved in foreclosure drops 4%**](#) (The Plain Dealer, January 29, 2009) The median price dropped from \$138,000 in 2007 to \$132,500 in 2008 for existing single-family homes that had not been sold at recent sheriff's sales.

[**Ohio governor sticks to education promise**](#) (Mansfield News Journal, February 2, 2009) At a time when Ohio and the nation are fixated on the economy's downfall, Gov. Ted Strickland is trying to sell an overhaul of how education is funded and students are taught.

[**Governor Strickland's relies on pay cuts, \\$3 billion from feds**](#) (Toledo Blade, February 2, 2009) The state would force many Ohioans to pay higher fees, would refinance some of its debt to delay payments, slash funding for some state agencies, and move more non-violent offenders away from state prisons to community programs under Gov. Ted Strickland's proposed \$54.7 billion, two-year budget unveiled Monday.

[**Cuyahoga County reform will get another chance in legislature, former speaker Jon Husted says**](#) (The Plain Dealer, January 30, 2009) State Sen. Jon Husted, former speaker of the Ohio House, today predicted that the General Assembly will again tackle the issue of reforming Cuyahoga County government.

Regional Talent Network wants to bring workers, employers together (The Plain Dealer, February 1, 2009) The effort, in an early stage, is playing out across 12 economic development districts set by the Ohio Department of Development.

New college looks for students with job experience (Delaware News, February 1, 2009) As Ohio businesses continually lay off workers, one nationally accredited college hopes to slow Central Ohio's bleeding by offering a way up and out to some.

Editorial: ACT for Ohio (Akron Beacon Journal, February 1, 2009) How to improve the quality of public education in the state? The governor rightly answers with a college entrance exam.

Editorial: Reshaping Ohio schools (Toledo Blade, February 1, 2009) Gov. Ted Strickland set out an ambitious plan to reshape the nature of primary and secondary education in his State of the State address. How to pay for it may be another matter.

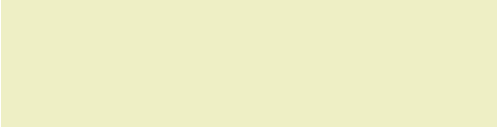
Filings jump 15.2% in Ohio (Columbus Dispatch, February 1, 2009) Filings in the state rose 15.2 percent to 58,475, and Columbus-area bankruptcies were up 20.7 percent to 12,991, according to the U.S. Bankruptcy Court.

Vacancies rise in metro retail, industrial, office buildings (Toledo Blade, February 1, 2009) As retailers and other firms succumb to tough times across northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan, businesses that have moved into space they vacated don't exactly inspire confidence about outsiders' view of metro Toledo's economy.

Champaign seeking economic coordinator (Springfield News-Sun, February 1, 2009) City and county officials have started advertising for an economic development coordinator, a position they hope will help turn the tide of job losses throughout the county.

New technology center in the works (Dayton Daily News, January 30, 2009) A proposed center for testing and developing sensors, communications and control equipment and on-board power for unmanned aerial vehicles is intended to help small companies get into the field at lower cost, a backer of the project said.

Cincy wants stimulus lobbyist (Cincinnati Enquirer, February 2, 2009) Cincinnati City Council members



who cut a state lobbyist to save money now are reconsidering that decision as they try to be ready to get money from the federal stimulus package.

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