

Economic News from Ohio's Regions

Brought to you by The Ohio Urban University Program
The Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs, Cleveland State University

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Weekly News and Opinion from Ohio's Newspapers March 11 - March 17, 2008

Greetings!

Welcome to the seventh 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.

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The State of Ohio's Middle Class

The cost of living is outpacing income in Ohio and middle class families are quickly finding themselves at the bottom of the nation's economic ladder. The Akron Beacon Journal reports on how incomes are failing to keep pace with inflation and rising costs of higher education and health care.

[The very things that define the middle class slipping out of reach for many Ohioans](#)

[Today's story about a middle-class family is unusual for us](#)

[Middle class hanging by thread as rich get richer, poor get poorer](#)

[Tracking Wages and salaries through the years - Compare your salary with other generations](#)

News From Around Ohio

[NetJets Says Will Expand Columbus Workforce](#)
(Columbus Dispatch, March 12, 2008) NetJets is

planning to add at least 810 jobs during the next five to six years to the work force at its Columbus operations hub.

[Small Manufacturers Make Transition to Medical Devices](#)

(The Plain Dealer, March 11, 2008) Many small Ohio companies that have made industrial products for generations are quietly moving into the burgeoning market for medical devices.

[Major Expansion Planned at Akron-Canton Airport](#)

(Canton Repository, March 13, 2008) A \$110 million, 10-year expansion project being planned, with completion of a runway extension that will allow bigger aircraft that can fly longer distances, will open the facility to international and transcontinental flights.

[Editorial: Ohioans Could Pass Constitutional Amendment that Would Require State Legislators to Act](#)

(Canton Repository, March 13, 2008) School funding in its present form is unconstitutional. The Statehouse and statesmen have ignored the court rulings. Why not, via the voters, we the people, attempt to put on the ballot as soon as possible a constitutional amendment forcing the state to fix this problem or face harsh consequences.

[Ohio Rises in Medical Equipment](#) (Akron Beacon Journal, March 12, 2008) State ranks 2nd in Midwest with 625 companies in field.

[Ohio Worries About Economy](#) (Akron Beacon Journal, March 13, 2008) Nearly three-fourths of Ohioans think the state's economy is on the wrong track ranking economic issues, like jobs and prices, a high priority. These were among the results of a statewide poll released Wednesday by the Bliss Institute of Applied Politics at the University of Akron.

[Council Panel to Mull City's Role in LCIC](#) (Toledo Blade, March 13, 2008) Toledo's involvement in Lucas County's publicly funded economic development agency is likely to be hashed out next week by a City Council committee - nearly two months after Mayor Carty Finkbeiner said the city will not contribute financially

[Medical Mart-Convention Center deal gets OK; could open in 3 years](#)

(The Plain Dealer, March 14, 2008) A new Medical Mart-Convention Center complex got a thumbs-up with the announced deal with a private

partner in Chicago.

[Strickland Sees House as a Hurdle](#) (Cincinnati Enquirer, March 14, 2008) Governor Ted Strickland said Thursday the delay in getting Ohio House approval of his energy bill is hurting the state's economy.

[Editorial: No Small Talk on School Reforms](#) (Cincinnati Enquirer, March 14, 2008) Governor Strickland spoke passionately Thursday in a meeting with the Enquirer Editorial Board, promising more innovation in Ohio schools and a shake-up in how the state department of education and state school board do business.

[Commissioners Explore Refinancing Geneva Lodge \\$22 Million Debt](#) (The Ashtabula Star Beacon, March 13, 2008) One Ashtabula County Commissioner is seeking support from his fellow board members to explore the best way to refinance the \$22 million Geneva Lodge & Conference Center debt to lower interest rates.

[Ethanol Plant to Begin Production in April](#) (The Lima News, March 12, 2008) As gasoline prices near the \$4 per gallon mark, Greater Ohio Ethanol is gearing up to produce a greener, cheaper fuel within a month.

[Editorial: They Call it Good News](#) (Toledo Blade, March 15, 2008) Economic news in recent months - both locally and nationally - has ranged from bad to worse. Unfortunately, the latest break in Ohio's gloomy outlook, while commendable, appears not to be a harbinger of better days ahead for the Toledo area.

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