

# 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

## In This Issue

News From Around Ohio

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## Email the Editor

Send to:

[m.s.schnoke@csuohio.edu](mailto:m.s.schnoke@csuohio.edu)

## Weekly News and Opinion from Ohio's Newspapers March 18 - March 24, 2008

### Greetings!

Welcome to the eighth 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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### Education in Ohio

[Ohio Regents Draw Up Public College's Goals](#) (Columbus Dispatch, March 20, 2008) Too many Ohioans don't go to college. If Ohio is to generate more and better trained graduates and better paying jobs, the state must address many issues in its education system.

[Fingerhut's Plan to Merge Universities Ditched](#) (The Plain Dealer, March 21, 2008) State Higher Education Chancellor Eric Fingerhut is abandoning his idea to merge Cleveland State University and the University of Akron - at least for now, he said Thursday.

[Fingerhut Wants to Add Medical Schools to Northeast Ohio Campuses](#) (Akron Beacon Journal, March 21, 2008) The head of Ohio's higher education system said Thursday he supported the expansion of the Northeastern Ohio Universities Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy into Akron and Cleveland.

[University of Toledo Begins Push to Improve Ranking Among U.S. Colleges](#) (Toledo Blade, March 23, 2008) The University of Toledo has

begun a formal initiative to raise its U.S. News rankings from the "fourth tier" to the "third tier" of national universities when the next edition hits newstands in August.

**[Editorial: A Road Map to Get Better Schools](#)**

(Cincinnati Enquirer, March 21, 2008) A first-time status report on district performance and student attainment was recently released by a partnership of local corporate, social service, education, faith, non-profit, philanthropic, government and civic leaders, formed in 2006 to improve education in the urban core.

**[Stark State to Get \\$1 Million for STEM](#)**

**[Program](#)** (Canton Repository, March 24, 2008) Stark State College will receive nearly \$1 million to help attract and graduate in five years nearly 800 students in the science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medical fields (STEM).

**News From Around Ohio**

**[Commission Finds Argent Mortgage Biased Against Blacks](#)**

(The Plain Dealer, March 19, 2008) The Ohio Civil Rights Commission has ruled there is evidence that Argent Mortgage Co. discriminated against black homeowners and homebuyers in Greater Cleveland by targeting them with predatory, subprime home loans that they could not afford.

**[Editorial: Grading State Management](#)** (Toledo Blade, March 18, 2008) Ohio's government can learn from Michigan, which, despite its economic problems, outranks Ohio in state management.

**[3 Lucas County Agencies Aim to Collaborate](#)**

(Toledo Blade, March 19, 2008) Lucas County is working to combine resources of its three social service agencies with plans to merge two of the organizations in a couple years.

**[Community Forum to Look at Ignored Areas](#)**

(Dayton Daily News, March 19, 2008) A local group wants to get the community talking about ways to tackle such problems as disinvestment in troubled neighborhoods and lack of support for minority business owners.

**Editorial: State-Sponsored Keno Would Cause Problems Without Solving Any** (Dayton Daily News, March 18, 2008) Governor Strickland's move to expand the lottery only gets him a tenth of the way toward resolving the \$730 million budget shortfall.

**Perry Considering Use of Windmill Energy** (Canton Repository, March 19, 2008) Perry Township is considering proposals to regulate alternative energy systems.

**Editorial: Downbound Ohio** (Akron Beacon Journal, March 19, 2008) The economic decline didn't begin in this decade or the previous one. It started 40 years ago. When will the state adequately respond?

**Where Cuyahoga's Population is Going** (The Plain Dealer, March 20, 2008) Cuyahoga County ranked among the state's biggest population losers. Six other Ohio Counties were also declined.

**Ohio Jobless Rate Falls, But So Does Unemployment** (The Plain Dealer, March 21, 2008) Ohio's labor market showed mixed results in February, with the jobless rate dropping to 5.3 percent but total nonfarm employment decreasing 11,600 over the month.

**Editorial: Youngstown's Fiscal Problems Represent Years of Giveaways** (Youngstown Vindicator, March 23, 2008) Through the years, as Youngstown city employees received pay raises or other financial benefits, we kept reminding the mayor and city council that the day of reckoning was not far off.

***Edited and compiled by: Molly Schnoke, Center for Civic Education, Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs, Cleveland State University***

CSU Levin College Forum | Cleveland State University | Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs | 1717 Euclid Avenue | Cleveland | OH | 44115