

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 April 8 - April 14, 2008

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.

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News From Around Ohio

[Akron Lands New Digital Think Tank](#) (Akron Beacon Journal, April 10, 2008) Akron is about to become a digital superstar. The city will become the national headquarters of a multi-million dollar think tank that will help communities bring the online world to more people.

[Editorial: Foreclosure Fighters](#) (Akron Beacon Journal, April 9, 2008) On Monday, state officials announced a compact with nine mortgage companies to help reduce the rate of home-loan defaults and foreclosures. The agreement marks a turnaround Ohio's beleaguered subprime borrowers can applaud.

[City Secures \\$400,000 in Grants for Brownfields](#) (Ashtabula Star Beacon, April 9, 2008) The city of Ashtabula received two \$200,000 grants, totaling \$400,000, from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for brownfield remediation.

[Dayton Schools Score High Marks in Survey](#) (Dayton Daily News, April 10, 2008) The opening of seven new schools in the past two years across the

city has helped lift public perception of the school district's quality to a nine-year high in a new survey.

100 To Be Laid Off (Chillicothe Gazette, April 10, 2008) High gas prices that have plagued independent truckers have hit home for Chillicothe's portion of the trucking industry in the form of another job layoff.

ODOT Announced \$118M in Project for 8 County Area (Toledo Blade, April 10, 2008) The big-ticket item on the \$118 million plan that ODOT announced yesterday for Lucas, Wood, Fulton, Henry, Williams, Sandusky, Seneca, and Ottawa counties is the \$47.9 million contract the state awarded last week for the first stage of a new U.S. 24.

Editorial: Tear Down = Less Toledo (Toledo Blade, April 9, 2008) There's an old adage that says you've got to spend money to make money. It should also contain two codicils: Spending money doesn't guarantee making money, and losing money doesn't mean the investment wasn't worth the risk.

Summer Along River is All Work, No Play (Columbus Dispatch, April 10, 2008) Work is under way to transform the east riverfront strip from Bicentennial Park to W. Broad Street into the Scioto Mile, which includes a promenade with benches and swings, bicycle and pedestrian paths, planters and fountains along Civic Center.

Northeast Ohio Employment and Wage Trends (Cleveland State University, April 9, 2008) The Center for Economic Development at the Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs, Cleveland State University has just released its latest Economic Brief, the fourth in a series that provides a broad overview of employment and wage trends for Northeast Ohio.

Northeast Ohio Leaders Want to Pursue Regional Growth, Tax Sharing Plan (The Plain Dealer, April 11, 2008) Key leaders say they want to pursue a revolutionary proposal to plan for growth across 16 counties and share the new taxes that result. The strategy would boost the region's lagging economy by minimizing the costly competition for new business among cities.

Compromise May Have Been Reached on Energy Bill (The Plain Dealer, April 14, 2008) A weekend flurry of phone calls between some of the state's most powerful political and business figures may have set the stage for compromise on Gov. Ted Strickland's utility and

energy bill.

Northeast Ohio Faces Grim Realities of Fiscal Crisis (The Plain Dealer, April 14, 2008) Municipalities in Northeast Ohio are in serious trouble as what one area mayor calls "a perfect storm" of fiscal crises sinks city workers' jobs, blows away amenities and threatens to swamp residents with new taxes and fees.

The Incredible Shrinking City (CNN, April 14, 2008) Youngstown, Ohio, has seen its population shrink by more than half over the past 40 years, leaving behind huge swaths of empty homes, streets and neighborhoods. Now, in a radical move, the city is bulldozing abandoned buildings and tearing up blighted streets.

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