

# 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 22 - April 28, 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

[Cleveland School, E Prep Charter Join Forces](#) (The Plain Dealer, April 28, 2008) The Cleveland School District and charter-school operator John Zitzner find that the old adage, "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em," sometimes works for both sides.

[Editorial: Changing State Tax Structure will Make it More Attractive Location](#) (The Newark Advocate, April 23, 2008) Recently, the Federation of Tax Administrators released its 2007 state tax rankings. This year, the FTA has moved Ohio up 11 places in the state rankings, from 27th in 2005 to 38th in 2007, with first being the highest state tax burden and 50 being the lowest.

[Editorial: After Bargaining, Energy Reform Bill Should Work for Ohio](#) (The Plain Dealer, April 24, 2008) The energy bill that emerged this week from the Ohio House and was quickly affirmed by the Senate and embraced by Gov. Ted Strickland isn't perfect, but it showed what is possible when key players in the state spend as much time listening and negotiating as pandering and dictating.

### **Investor Takes Shine to Fledgling Toledo Firm**

(Toledo Blade, April 26, 2008) It was not the first time California venture capitalist Mark Iwanowski has been in Toledo. Shortly after detailing his venture capital company's \$22.3 million investment in Xunlight Corp., a start-up solar energy firm on Nebraska Avenue, the former top executive with technology giant Oracle Corp. vowed yesterday that it wouldn't be his last.

### **Latta Hears Region's Business Pleas**

(Toledo Blade, April 26, 2008) The high cost of energy - gas and electricity - the need for expensive infrastructure projects, and frustration over government red tape were at the top of the lists of the region's business leaders.

### **Editorial: Health Care Jobs Grants Boosts**

#### **Cleveland Kids and Its Economy**

(The Plain Dealer, April 28, 2008) Many youngsters in school now will someday hold jobs that don't even exist today. And local job growth will be concentrated in higher-tech sectors, data show. That's why a \$2.5 million U.S. Department of Labor grant to the Cleveland and Cuyahoga County workforce development agency, aimed at training 800 students for health care jobs, holds such promise.

### **More Properties Go Up for Auction**

(Canton Repository, April 28, 2008) Impatient with a sputtering real estate market, in which available homes are plentiful and prices are continuing to fall, people struggling to sell their homes in Northeast Ohio are putting their properties up for auction.

### **Editorial: Streetcars Ultimately Will Benefit**

**Everyone** (Columbus Dispatch, April 28, 2008) Columbus needs streetcars. I have heard people ask why "we" should have to pay for streetcars that "we" will never use. The great thing about the proposed streetcar-funding package is that those benefiting most will be the ones providing most of the funding.

### **Editorial: Comeback**

(Columbus Dispatch, April 26, 2008) Strip-mined Ohio land will again support forests and birds as a bit of the state's strip-mined land is being redeemed in the name of nature.

### **Wright-Patterson Construction Offers Opportunities**

(Dayton Daily News, April 27, 2008) The base's biggest construction project since World War II offers Miami Valley Career Technology Center graduates job opportunities.

**[Here Comes the Neighborhood](#)** (Columbus Dispatch, April 28, 2008) The Downtown billboard that morphed into a residential building soon will take on a new incarnation: urban neighborhood entryway.

**[Editorial: College Have to be Better than Passing](#)** (Dayton Daily News, April 28, 2008) In an age when "dashboards" that display measurements of productivity and quality for employees and even outsiders to see are all the rage, the idea of a long list of objectives by which the governor - and taxpayers - should judge colleges isn't innovative. But it is a new and potentially powerful course for Ohio.

**[Editorial: Failure is Not an Option](#)** (Akron Beacon Journal, April 28, 2008) Governor Strickland sounds serious about repairing school funding. He spoke to the Ohio Education Association restating his desire to see a funding system that meets the constitutional standard crafted by the Ohio Supreme Court 11 years ago. He stated that he would do "whatever is necessary" to achieve the objective.

**[Editorial: Overgrown in Ohio](#)** (Akron Beacon Journal, April 27, 2008) An Ohio looking to improve its global competitiveness must examine the many layers of its local government. Now an effort has begun to gain support at the Statehouse. State Rep. Larry Wolpert has proposed establishing a commission that would look across the state at local governments and their structure.

**[Editorial: Streetcar Debate Continues](#)** (Cincinnati Enquirer, April 28, 2008) Cincinnati City Council may have approved a streetcar plan by a 6-2 vote last week, but debate over the proposed \$185 million Downtown/Over-the-Rhine/Uptown transit system will continue.

**[Great Lakes Manufacturing Forum to Develop Workforce Strategy](#)** (MCADCafe.com, April 28, 2008) Those attending the Great Lakes Manufacturing Forum in Cleveland, Ohio, on July 9-11, 2008 will play a key role in developing a regional manufacturing workforce strategy that will provide a skilled, creative workforce that embraces innovation and entrepreneurship and readily adapts to change.

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

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