



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 December 9 - 15, 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.

All About Budgets

The State of Ohio:

[Economists Give Ohio Governor Bleak Outlook](#)

(Forbes.com, December 11, 2008) Economists who advise Gov. Ted Strickland predicted that Ohio is destined for tougher times and a higher unemployment rates over the next few years.

[Forecast For Ohio: Fiscal Despair](#) (Columbus Dispatch, December 11, 2008) The governor met with his council of economic advisers, and their consensus forecast shows that job loss and unemployment in the state are expected to continue increasing until at least state fiscal year 2011.

[Nightmare Scenario of Budget Cuts Unveiled by Strickland](#) (Toledo Blade, December 11, 2008) Mr. Strickland's budget director last week forecast a potential shortfall of \$640 million in the current fiscal year that will end June 30, 2009 and a possible deficit of \$4.7 billion through the next two-year budget.

[Ohio Budget Woes Could Stall Medicaid Expansion for Kids](#) (The Plain Dealer, December 10, 2008) Nearly 50,000 more Ohio children could be eligible for Medicaid health insurance, but state budget woes could stop the expansion.

[Drastic State Budget Cuts Loom](#) (Columbus Dispatch, December 11, 2008) The administration said it is not recommending the cuts but rather making the

analysis public as a way to educate Ohioans about the extent of the budget problem ahead if the state doesn't get significant federal help.

Read how state agencies would cope with a 25% budget cut by the Columbus Dispatch [here](#).

Many are facing budget issues as well.

[2009 Cuyahoga Budget Call for Cuts in Nearly All Agencies](#)

(The Plain Dealer, December 10, 2008) Cuyahoga County officials say the crumbling economy has forced budget cuts in nearly every county agency next year to balance a \$585.7 million operating budget.

[Commissioners Unveil Budget Ideas](#) (WCPO.com, December 11, 2008) At a meeting of Hamilton county commissioners ideas were presented to cut spending including proposed freeze on raises.

[Budget Challenges Await New Ohio Schools Leader](#)

(Columbus Dispatch, December 9, 2008) Ohio's new superintendent of public instruction comes on board as a state budget crisis is expected to result in significant cuts in aid to Ohio schools next year.

[General Fund Down in '09, But Overall Up](#) (Journal News, December 10, 2008) No layoffs, no pools and no capital improvements from the general fund are among the highs and lows of the city's 2009 budget.

[Cut Pay, Raise Tax](#) (Cincinnati Enquirer, December 10, 2008) About 200 people packed a conference room at Cincinnati State Technical and Community College for the last of three public hearings on the county's 2009 budget. Commissioners refuse to raise taxes which likely means there will be no way to avoid layoffs and public safety cuts proposed by the end of the year.

News From Around Ohio

[Ohio Republicans differ on blueprint for Cuyahoga County reform](#)

(The Plain Dealer, December 10, 2008) Dueling Republican-backed plans to reform Cuyahoga County government could be headed for a showdown as GOP legislative leaders push different blueprints for revamping county offices. Should either plan make it out of Columbus, Cuyahoga voters would have the final say on whether a change in structure is made.

[Ohio Senate Passes Legislation to Create Land Bank](#)

(The Plain Dealer, December 10, 2008) A radical

plan to help turn around decaying Cuyahoga County neighborhoods through a land bank cleared the Ohio Senate Wednesday by a near unanimous vote. The legislation allows officials in the state's most populous county to set up a non-profit land revitalization program to accept or buy foreclosed or abandoned properties.

[Ohioans Agree Economy is Bad, But Most Are Doing OK](#) (Columbus Dispatch, December 11, 2008) Virtually all Ohioans agree the state and national economy is in the dumper, but a surprising 51 percent in a new poll out today say their personal finances are OK.

[Properties in city's historical districts show stability, investment opportunity in roiled market](#) (Columbus Business First, December 11, 2008) Though Ohio remains one of the hardest hit states in the number of foreclosures, there's been little impact, if any, on historic districts here, industry insiders say.

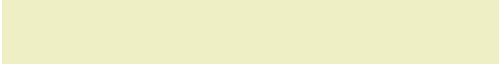
[Ohioans Have Had Enough Dire News](#) (Akron Beacon Journal, December 11, 2008) It is now time to the governor to offer some solutions and outline his plans for Turnaround Ohio.

[Agency Heads Sound Alarm on Cuts](#) (Dayton Daily News, December 11, 2008) If the state Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections has to chop 10 percent from its budget, the prison system would cut 2,749 employees.

[Tough Times Force UltraCell to Lay Off Workers](#) (Dayton Daily News, December 11, 2008) When the Ohio Third Frontier Commission awarded UltraCell Corp.'s Old Springfield Road manufacturing operation \$1 million in March to ramp up production of fuel cells, the company said then that the money would help him add 25 to 30 jobs by the end of this year. Instead, hard times are forcing UltraCell to lay off local workers.

[Town Striving to Overcome Job Losses](#) (Zanesville Times Recorder, December 10, 2008) An area of southwest Ohio that is about to lose a DHL air shipping hub is pushing for local control of the air park and considering ideas such as a "green enterprise zone," which could give tax breaks for employers to go there and develop alternative energy projects.

[Northeast Ohio Has Lost 7,000 Jobs So Far This Year](#) (The Plain Dealer, December 14, 2008) As company after company in Northeast Ohio gave workers pink slips this year, the region saw nearly



7,000 jobs disappear through October.

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