

Workforce UPDATE

JUNE 2015



Unemployment in Northwest Ohio went from 6.3% in January 2015 to 5.5% in March 2015. During the same January through March time period the national percent went down from 5.7% to 5.5% while Ohio was stable at 5.1% for the three months.

The total available workforce for Northwest Ohio, which includes all employed and unemployed people was 607,600 as of January 2015 and was down to 605,600 in March 2015. The number of people in the workforce is decreasing and so is the unemployment.

There were 18,238 job openings advertised in Northwest Ohio in March 2015 as identified by Wanted Analytics. The number one job in demand in our area is Heavy and Tractor-trailer Truck Drivers followed by retail sales.

Four out of five of the non-manufacturing corporations hiring were in healthcare fields. This area represented 7% of all advertised openings. The top three leading occupation categories in the region by number of openings advertised were: transportation, retail sales, and office service support.

These three categories represent 29% of all positions advertised.

The Regional Growth Partnership and JobsOhio, in collaboration with Owens Community College, Northwest State Community College, NORED, and OhioMeansJobs Lucas County offer this quarterly snapshot of the economic status in Northwest Ohio. This data tracks the vitality of our regional economies as well as offers insights into business development trends and issues.

Top 10 Corporations Hiring

1. ProMedica
2. Lowe's
3. Mercy Healthcare
4. Parexel
5. HCR ManorCare
6. United States Infrastructure
7. The Dollar General
8. Blanchard Valley Health System
9. Roehl
10. University of Toledo

Top 5 Open Occupations

1. Heavy and Tractor Trailer Truck Drivers
2. First Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers
3. Retail Salespersons
4. Registered Nurses
5. Maintenance and Repair Workers

Top 10 Manufacturers Hiring

1. Dana Corporation
2. Cooper Tire & Rubber Company
3. Owens Corning
4. Owens-Illinois
5. Cooper Health System
6. Therma-Tru
7. Advanced Drainage Systems
8. Johnson Controls
9. Federal Mogul
10. Pepsico

Top 5 Open Manufacturing Occupations

1. Industrial Engineer
2. First Line Supervisors of Production Occupations
3. Mechanical Engineers
4. Maintenance and Repair Workers
5. Helpers-Production Workers

Source: Wanted Analytics

Orange is the Color of Money in Northwest Ohio

In the May 18th edition of *The Wall Street Journal*, the book *Move* by Roseabeth Moss Kantor laments the terrible state of our nation's infrastructure and how other countries notice the pothole problem facing many states. The State of Michigan recently tried the ballot to fix their roads and it failed to pass.

Those living in Northwest Ohio are keenly aware of "Orange Barrel" season and the delays and challenges they offer everyone driving in this area. Orange Barrels, however, are good news for our region. In the February 1, 2015 edition of *Toledo Business Journal*, Todd Audet, district deputy director for Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) District 2, was interviewed about the \$1 billion for NW Ohio highway construction. There are many reasons not to take this for granted.

Every Orange Barrel is a symbol that this area has its eye on the importance of logistics in the delivery of goods throughout our country. Our region is positioned at the crossroads of two of our country's largest freight corridors: Interstates 75 and 80. The widening of I-75 from Findlay to Perrysburg represents a nearly \$500 million investment by the State to ease congestion and enhance the movement of people, goods, and services.

It offers unique opportunities in multimodal logistics, such as the CSX Intermodal Facility in North Baltimore, Norfolk Southern Airline Junction in Toledo, the Port of Toledo, and Toledo Express Airport. Reconstructing the roads and improving intermodal connectivity provides an essential platform for economic development. In Northwest Ohio investment in

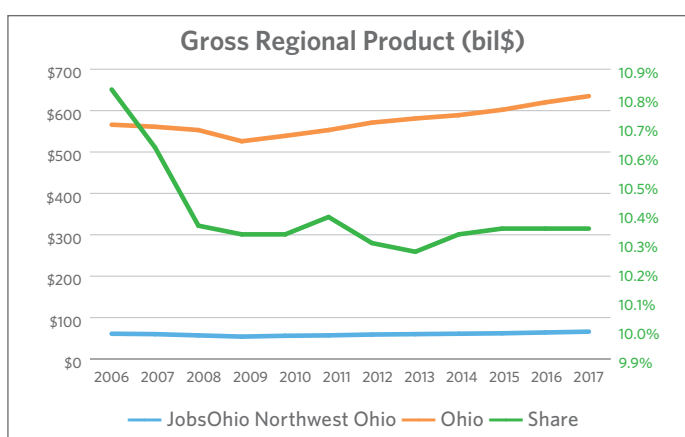


infrastructure is positioning this area to lead the nation in the transportation of goods and services.

The investment in transportation infrastructure will collectively attract businesses to this area. The Internet delivers messages, but trucks deliver the goods and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. Making the roads safer and contributing to a more efficient network of transportation services will open many unique opportunities for investment and employment to those living in Northwest Ohio.

When driving by the many Orange Barrels in our area think investment and know that the leadership responsible for road construction and improvement in our state has made serious efforts to minimize disruption and avoid congestion during construction. Notice the effort to keeping two lanes open in both directions during peak travel times. When incidents do occur, contractors and public safety personnel make every effort to get the road open to traffic in the shortest time possible. Behind the scenes law enforcement and public safety officials review incidents and refine their response procedures. Communication through all media outlets on changes in the project has been a priority. There is also a Towing and Recovery Incentive Program (TRIP), which involves monetary bonuses for towing and recovery services that quickly relocate large commercial vehicles out of traffic.

Most of the major projects that began in 2014 or will begin in 2015 will take two to three years to complete according to the Ohio Department of Transportation. Drive safely, don't speed or text, and enjoy the coming fruits of the Orange Barrel investment.



Gross Regional Product

- All dollars are in 2014 real/constant dollars
- Dollars are reported in billions
- Data were pulled on 12/10/15

Virtual Classrooms Save Money and Improve Productivity

Have you been struggling with finding time to train your employees without disrupting the flow of business? Are you a business with multiple facilities who needs to have remote employees trained on the same topic?

Virtual classrooms help companies who find themselves in these situations.

Companies are taking advantage of virtual classroom training environments as a way to minimize loss of productivity and to reduce the expenses associated with travel of either employees to a central location or an instructor to the company site. Virtual classrooms also enable remote staff to participate in the same experiences with their coworkers at other locations. Additionally, virtual classroom environments lend themselves well to training on various shifts and across multiple time zones. Training in off-hours can be difficult to manage within a plant in terms of giving access to the instructor, but having them teach virtually can alleviate this difficulty.

How do classes delivered virtually equate to reduced loss of productivity and increased retention?

Based on economies of scale, it is practical for the virtual

classes to be scheduled in a way to minimize disruption of workflow. Shorter blocks of time are possible and can be scheduled in a way to reduce time away from work. Rather than a full-day session, a series of short sessions can be scheduled. This reduces downtime and increases retention of the information by presenting it in shorter segments that are reinforced over a period of time rather than delivered only once.

agement such as digital teaching aids, training boards, simulation software, worksheets, application exercises, and other aids to support the instructor. Additionally, the instructor's use of anonymous polling can reduce fear of appearing unintelligent and can increase employee participation in the training process.

Are virtual classrooms cost prohibitive?

There are many tools available for companies to use. Webinar systems such as WebEx, GotoMeeting, and Adobe Connect provide various costing structures based on features selected and number of users.

Custom Training Solutions at Northwest State Community College has been delivering training using virtual classroom technologies for over 10 years. Our customers have included

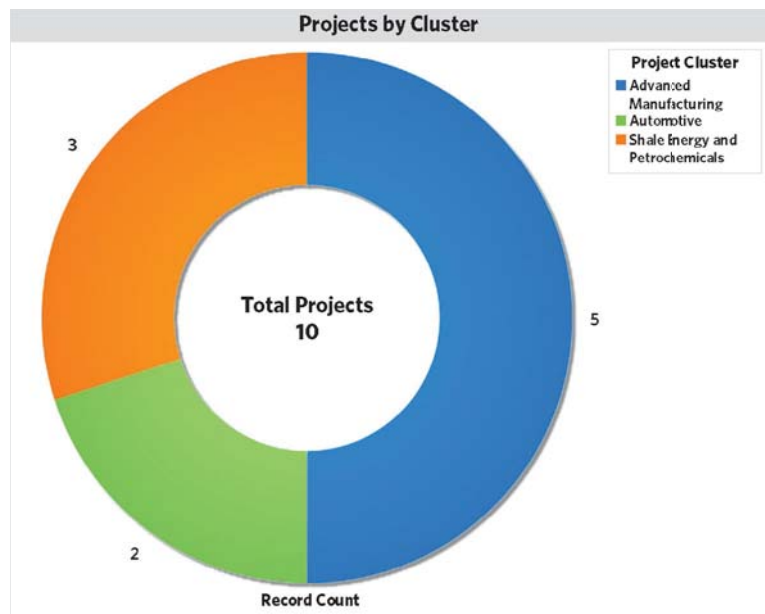
local companies as well as global organizations who have found virtual classrooms to be the best solution to meet their varied training needs. Topics include soft skills, computer applications, and manufacturing and maintenance programs for apprentices.

To see how to implement virtual classroom training within your organization contact Tami Norris at 419-267-1497 or tnorris@northweststate.edu.



Do I have to install Video Conferencing equipment?

Virtual classrooms come in many forms. They can include video, audio only, or be delivered by webinar. Course topic and audience determine the best type of delivery. Some of the methods include the ability to record for review later for participants who want extra review or those who were unable to attend the session. A well-designed program will include tools for student en-



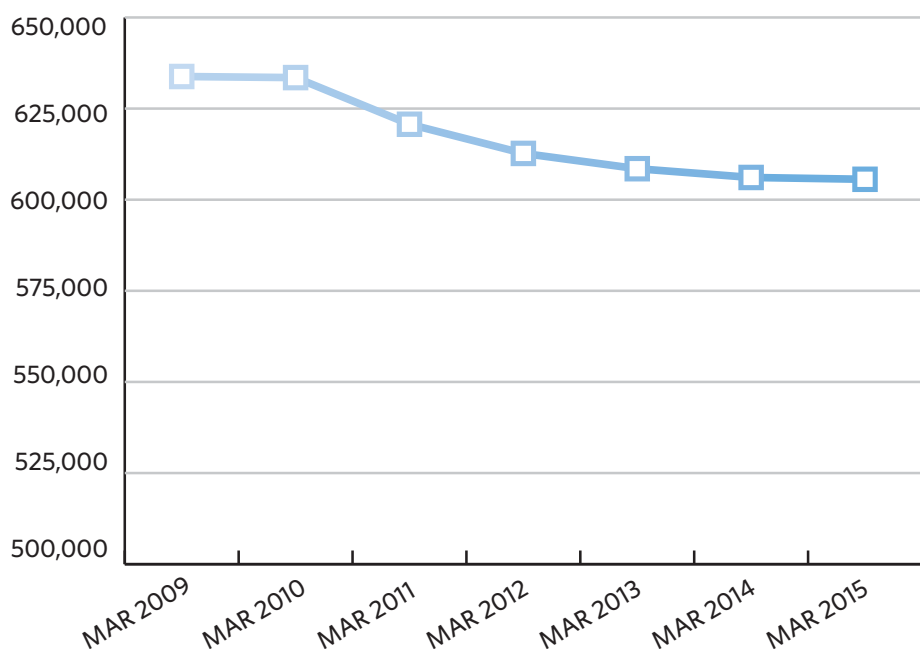
JOB OHIO AND INVESTMENT - 1ST QUARTER 2015

368 Jobs Created

1,024 Jobs Retained

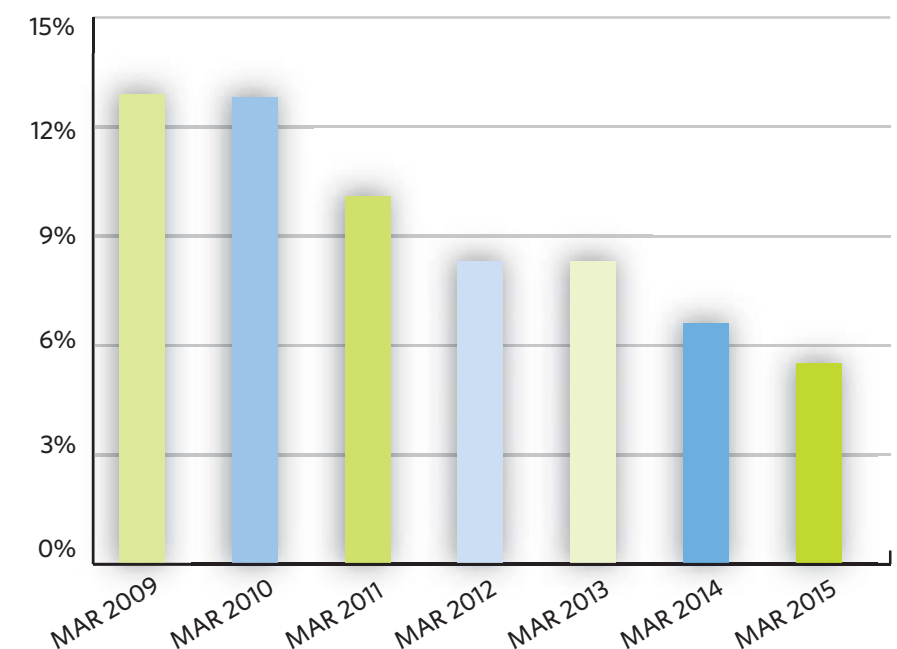
\$884,200,000 Capital Investment

TOTAL AVAILABLE WORKFORCE NORTHWEST OHIO



Source: OhioLMI

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE NORTHWEST OHIO



Source: OhioLMI

For more information about Workforce Update, contact garyjcorrigan@aol.com.