

# Workforce UPDATE

DECEMBER 2014

Unemployment in Northwest Ohio decreased from 5.7 percent in June 2014 to 4.9 percent in September 2014. During the same time period, the percentage decreased from 6.3 to 5.7 nationally and from 5.9 to 5.1 in Ohio.

The total available workforce for Northwest Ohio, which includes all employed and unemployed people, was 608,900 as of September 2014, a slight increase from the 608,000 in July 2014. The number of people in the workforce is increasing and unemployment is declining.

Two of the top three businesses hiring in Northwest Ohio were in healthcare and five out of ten were in retail sales. The top three leading job categories in the region by number of

openings advertised remained the same as last quarter. They were transportation, retail sales, and office/administration support.

There were 17,377 job openings advertised in Northwest Ohio in September 2014 as identified by Wanted Analytics. The number one job in demand in the Northwest Ohio area is Heavy and Tractor-trailer Truck Drivers followed by retail salespeople.

The Regional Growth Partnership and JobsOhio, in collaboration with Owens Community College, 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. HCR ManorCare
4. University of Toledo
5. The Andersons
6. Blanchard Valley Health Systems
7. Sears Holding
8. PNC Financial
9. The Dollar General
10. Best Buy

## Top 5 Open Occupations

1. Sales
2. Office and Administrative Support
3. Transportations and Material Moving Occupations
4. Management
5. Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations

## Top 10 Manufacturers Hiring

1. Dana Holding Corporation
2. First Solar
3. Cooper Tire & Rubber
4. Whirlpool
5. Chrysler Group LLC
6. Owens-Illinois
7. Trinity Industries
8. Owens Corning
9. Johnson Controls
10. Defiance Metal Products

## Top 5 Open Manufacturing Occupations

1. Architecture and Engineering
2. Production
3. Installation, Maintenance and Repair
4. Management
5. Office and Administrative Support

Source: Wanted Analytics

## Workforce Leadership in Northwest Ohio



**Wendy Gramza**  
President of the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce

Who are the leaders in our community that will ensure that the Toledo Region will differentiate itself as a leading place to do business? One place to look is to the nearly 2,000 businesses committed to this community that make up the membership of the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce. Businesses located here understand our region's strengths. They know the work that still needs to be done to maintain the area's economic

health and forge new opportunities. Their success benefits all who call the Toledo Region home. Through their association with the Chamber, these businesses speak with one voice to set the economic development priorities that will continue to advance our region's position as a place worthy of investment, where businesses are supported and can thrive.

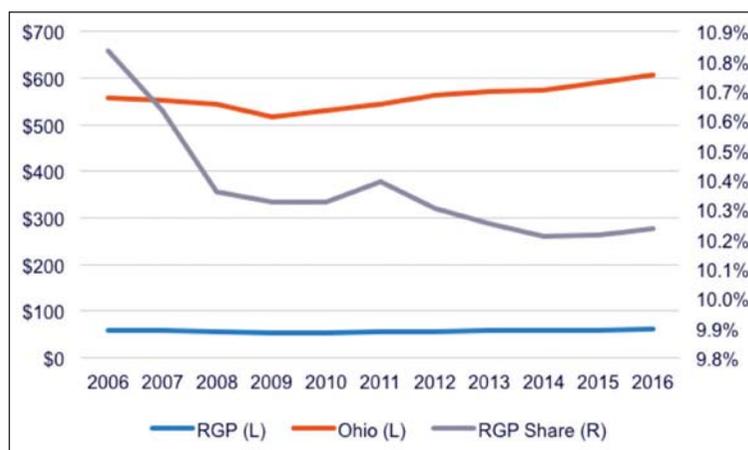
The Chamber has a history of working to support and develop the assets that make our region great. For example, it was the Chamber that led the fight to retain the 180th ANG when this major employer and community asset was faced with the possibility of closure or reduction of scale in 2005. The organization is equipped to do so again in the event that this or any of our region's resources is compromised.

The Chamber works with equal strength to support the innovative new industries that will propel further growth for our area and the established companies on which the Toledo Region was built. The Business Development Services Programs at the Chamber helps companies to gain a

competitive advantage and achieve greater market potential through their counseling, training and peer networking services. The Chamber's advocacy efforts are driven by its members who work to minimize burdensome restrictions that could potentially put businesses in our region at a disadvantage. It is the voice of business.

The Chamber is in a unique position to be in a leadership role in the ongoing development of one of our region's greatest assets – its workforce. While there are a number of organizations in the region that address economic development, only the Chamber is focused on developing a workforce based on the needs of the business community. As an association of business leaders, the Chamber is perfectly situated to gain invaluable insight into what business needs from its workforce so that gaps can be identified and addressed.

Sustained economic development can only truly be achieved in combination with an engaged business community and in the Toledo Region, the 2,000 business leaders that make up the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce are leading the way. In fact, the organization was honored in 2014 as Chamber of the Year by the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives for its work to positively impact the Toledo Region's business climate. The Chamber, through the leadership of its members, will continue to develop and implement the economic development initiatives that make the Toledo Region competitive on a global scale and then communicate them to the world.



### Gross Regional Product

- All dollars are in 2013 real/constant dollars
- Dollars are reported in billions
- Since we are at the end of 2014, we have started to include forecast estimates for 2016.
- Data was pulled on November 7, 2014

# Short-Term Training Means Employment

Over half the advertised help wanted occupations in Northwest Ohio last month were for positions that could be filled by people who had taken short term, non-credit certificate training. Non-credit courses are short-term classes that provide no academic credit toward a degree but often offer a certificate. People enroll in non-credit courses for personal enrichment and professional development goals, such as to expand their knowledge, develop personal interests, learn a new skill or upgrade existing skills.

Short-term certificate programs are designed to prepare people to work in areas where a 4-year college education may not be required. Participants in these programs are usually required to take only courses within the field of study. Short-term certificate programs are commonly offered in the areas of health services, computer skills and business supervision.

In Northwest Ohio there were over 9,000 jobs in the following five areas: transportation, sales, office services, maintenance services, and production occupations. In six months or less, a person could earn a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) or upgrade their skills in welding, CNC or PLC programming. Software skills in various word processing and finance programs can be learned quickly or can be part of an office certificate program.

Owens Community College, through its Workforce and Community Services offers a variety of short-term classes that lead to employment. Short-term, focused modules are available in welding, robotics, certified safety manager, quality technician, PLC, CNC, basic electricity and hydraulics. There are also over 1,000 positions that require people with supervisory experience. Such skills are available through various courses in supervision offered by the college. For a complete list of professional development courses and certificates, go to [www.OwensWorks.com](http://www.OwensWorks.com).

Many schools offer short-term certificate programs online. Some of these programs are designed to help information technology workers keep abreast of the latest technology. Certification programs are offered in Cisco, IBM-Lotus, Novell, RSA Security, Linux and UNIX. Other online programs aim toward retraining professionals interested in making a career change. There are also short-term certificate programs that teach special interest subjects for students seeking personal enrichment.

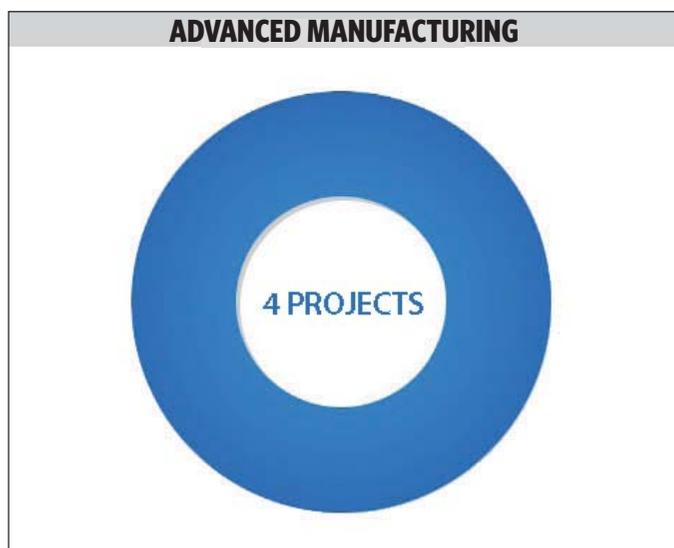
Local area governments have programs that support short-term training. For example, training and assessment is available through Work Ready Lucas County. This program provides a suite of assessments and certifications that measure a person's basic



workplace skills – math, reading, information location – a that is often required for the majority of today's jobs. The assessment and supporting training is available at no charge. For details, contact Mike Veh at OhioMeansJobs Lucas County (formerly The Source) at 419-213-JOBS (5627) or [mveh@co.lucas.us](mailto:mveh@co.lucas.us).

Financial support is also available for people interested in taking short term, non-credit courses. Career training loans can cover the costs of trade school or technical training. Several loan programs are available. Learn how to obtain a loan to pay for non-credit courses by doing an Internet search of the term Career Training Loans. Numerous institutions have plans to meet an individual's needs.

For additional information on how Owens Community College short term training courses and certificates can bridge the skills gap, contact [gary\\_corrigan@owens.edu](mailto:gary_corrigan@owens.edu).

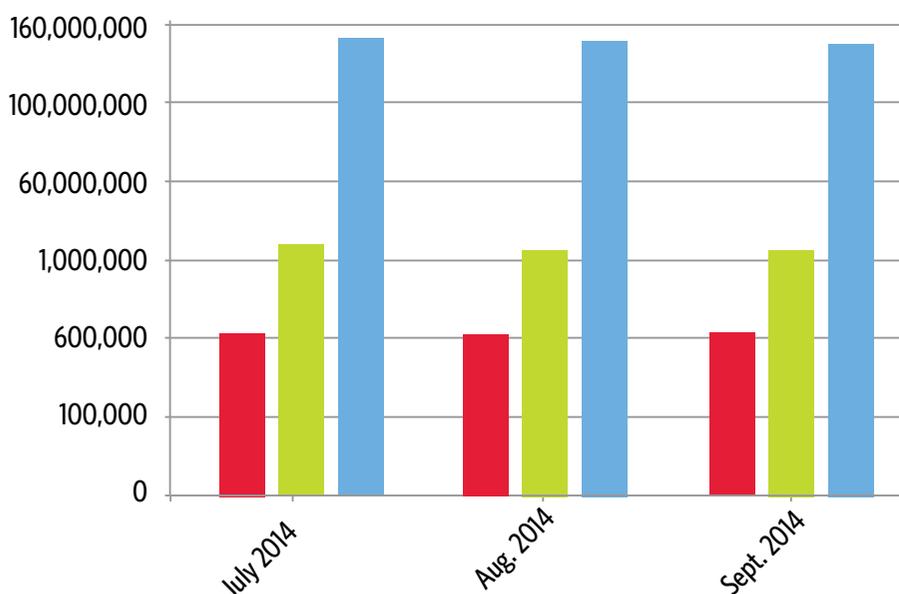


## JOB SOHIO AND INVESTMENT - 3RD QUARTER 2014

**414** Jobs Created and Retained

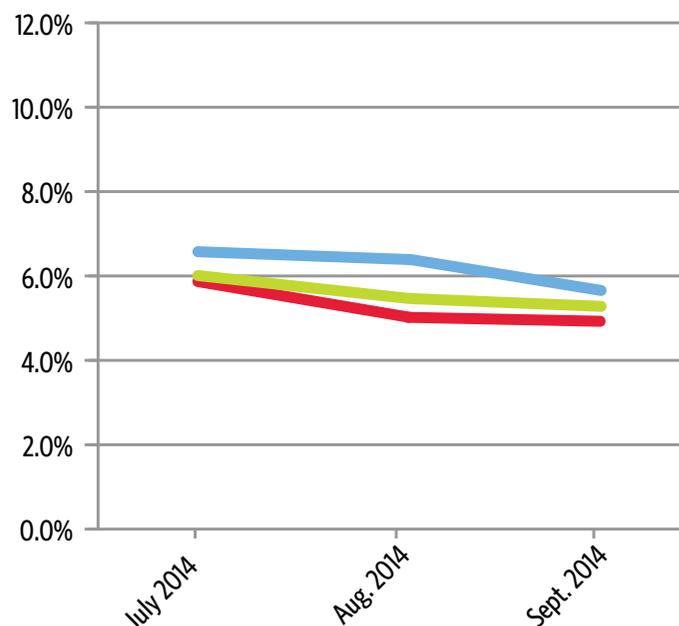
**\$25,060,000** Capital Investment

### TOTAL AVAILABLE WORKFORCE



Source: OhioLMI

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



Source: OhioLMI

For more information about Workforce Update, contact [dickerson@rgp.org](mailto:dickerson@rgp.org) or [brian\\_paskvan@owens.edu](mailto:brian_paskvan@owens.edu).