



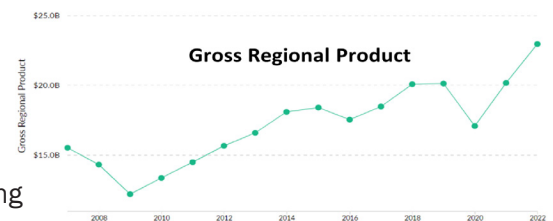
The Center to Advance Manufacturing Monthly News

March 2024

Dear Associates,

Good policy, curriculum and workforce training programs reflect the regional economy. Each month the Center to Advance Manufacturing analyzes data for the benefit of the seventeen economic development directors that serve the Regional Growth Partnership's (RGP) territory. This month, I wanted to provide you with a breakdown of manufacturing in Northwest Ohio. The Center utilizes Lightcast, a data platform with detailed information about skills, jobs, and supply and demand throughout the labor market, to analyze the regional data.

Northwest Ohio currently has 112,155 employees working in manufacturing. The national average for an area the size of Northwest Ohio would have 47,678 people employed in manufacturing. So, our region employs nearly 2.4 times as many people in manufacturing as is typical in our country. It is estimated that over 28,000 of these manufacturing workers are at or near retirement age. While employment in manufacturing has stayed consistent over the past few years, the Gross Regional Product attributable to manufacturing has continued to increase. This is a direct result of manufacturers innovating to increase capacity, quality, and efficiencies.



Manufacturers are constantly hiring new associates. Over time these job postings provide insight, revealing skills that may be evolving to meet the needs of industry. The chart below shows the skills that manufacturing companies are seeking in Northwest Ohio. Some of the skills that have seen the largest changes include finance, process improvement, auditing, machinery, and manufacturing processes. More specifically, continuous improvement and process improvement have each seen over a 20 percent increase in job postings. The Center is working to identify and align potential manufacturing employees with credit and non-credit training that addresses the real-time changes that are occurring in the skills required to be employed in manufacturing.

Generally, job postings in Northwest Ohio have a median posting duration of 29 days. The automotive industry is the most active in hiring associates. While analyzing the top common skills, it is no surprise to see communication at the top of the list. Other common skills include problem solving and leadership.

Meeting the needs of manufacturers can be a complex task. The Center utilizes data such as this every day to make sure we are informed and can pass this information on to businesses. If you ever have an interest in taking a deeper dive on an industry, company, region, workforce availability, etc. please reach out and we would be happy to assist.

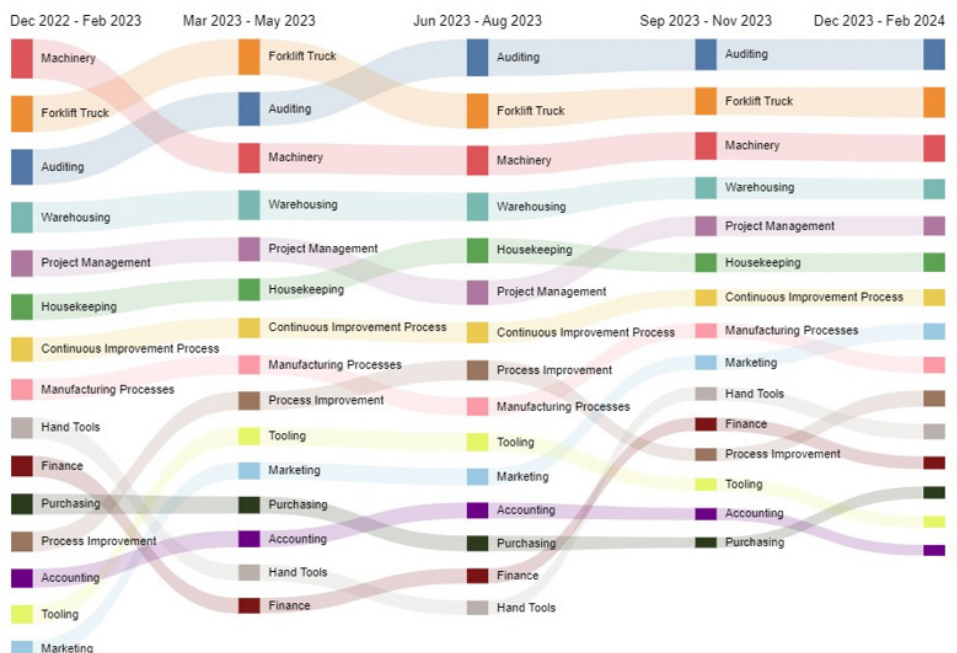
Sincerely,




Tim Mayle
Executive Director
419-788-0490

Top 15 Skills for All Job Types by Quarter

Skills help us understand the direction an industry is headed.





Northwest Ohio Manufacturing Alliance (NOMA) Quarterly Meeting

Center staff attended the quarterly NOMA Meeting, which was hosted at Lott Industries in Toledo. Speakers from the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce, Junior Achievement of Northwestern Ohio, Center for Regional Development, and Ohio Small Business Development Center shared information on their programs and upcoming events.

Two projects that the Center is involved in were highlighted in the meeting: language training assistance to a local manufacturer and the pilot program of microcredentials at Bowling Green State University (BGSU).

In addition, Lott Industries President, Tim Menke and Director of Sales, Ken Ball gave an overview of their business and attendees enjoyed a facility tour.



NOMA attendees learning about one of Lott Industries projects from Ken Ball during the factory tour.

A room full of Northwest Ohio professionals eager to learn about area manufacturing news.



International Economic Development Council Conference

Center Program Manager, Ford Weber, attended the International Economic Development Council's Leadership Summit in Phoenix in early February. He attended in-depth sessions on building local funding networks, supply chain management, international strategies at a local level, cultures of innovation, economic development strategies, and much more.



2024 Economic Outlook: Elliot Eisenberg

In late February, State Bank hosted their annual economic outlook event in Maumee. Mayle attended and enjoyed hearing their keynote speaker, Elliot Eisenberg, share his thoughts on wages, inflation, labor productivity, and interest rates. Eisenberg does not anticipate a recession this year; however, if one occurs, he predicts it would be very mild.



Japanese Emperor Celebration

Mayle was honored to attend a birthday celebration for the Japanese Emperor at Consulate-General Shindo's residence. Ohio and Japan have very strong educational, government, and business relationships that the Center is committed to support through workforce training, continuous improvement, language training, and supply chain analysis.

During the event JobsOhio representatives also shared a special message from Governor Mike DeWine.



Consul General Shindo, Findlay Mayor Christina Muryn, Sarah Mayle, Tim Mayle, and Seiko Shindo, enjoying the event.



Owens Community College Robotics Courses

Interested in upskilling your workforce? Check out these TechCred eligible courses that Owens Community College will be starting this month.



Intro to Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) Operator

This training is recommended for students who have a background in electrical work and would like to learn basic PLC operation.

OWENS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

For full class details and to register, visit:
<https://buff.ly/3T78qHI>

FANUC Robotics Training

This class offers hands-on pendant training with lecture, including how to write a program from scratch to how to recover the robot from common fault situations. The course is geared towards students who have zero robot experience and those with a basic understanding.

For full class details and to register, visit:
<https://buff.ly/42P8SxF>

Co-ops & Internships

Has your office considered participating in a cooperative education program (co-op) or hiring an intern?

Co-ops and internships combine classroom study with work experiences. There are many programs that require that students have experiential learning, including engineering, environmental health and safety, and business. A key priority of the Center is to act as a liaison between Northwest Ohio manufacturers and our partner universities to expand upon the co-op and internship opportunities for students, with the goal of having as many students as possible being employed in the area.

Students gain value from the work experience and the mentoring that is provided. Employers also benefit by developing a pipeline of talent and bringing fresh energy to the day to day work.

If you would like more information on how to establish a co-op or internship, or learn more about what programs have students available, please reach out to our staff.

Goodwill Industries

In 2023, the Northwest Ohio Manufacturing Association hosted a quarterly meeting at Goodwill Industries of Northwest Ohio, located in Toledo. As a result, Goodwill Industries President/CEO Amy Wachob and Mayle met to discuss ways to create pathways for individuals receiving workforce training at Goodwill Industries. Goodwill is often known for its drop-off locations and storefronts; but, many people are unaware of their mission, "Changing Lives Through the Power of Work." Furthermore, they utilize the proceeds from their stores to support their goal of building dignity and enhancing the quality of life for individuals and families throughout the areas they serve. They exist to help people build their skills and give the opportunities needed to find meaningful employment and become self-sufficient.

The Center will support Goodwill Industries through continued workforce training for manufacturing and access to regional employment.



Northwest Ohio Happenings

Millstream Career Center

Millstream Career Center is growing! In the last 5 years, Millstream, has seen a steady increase of students. This year their record-breaking applications prove that an expansion is necessary to continue to operate successfully and meet the needs of their students. With the help of the state budget and the Career Tech Expansion grant, they were awarded 3.4 million dollars to add a manufacturing wing onto the building at the start of the 2025-2026 school year. They also plan to expand their engineering and robotics lab. This space will allow for more students to take advantage of career tech education.

Millstream is located in Findlay and they currently serve 14 school districts in Wyandot, Hancock, and Putnam counties.



Dowa THT

Center staff coordinated a meeting between Bowling Green heat treatment manufacturer, Dowa THT and the Bowling Green State University College of Technology, Architecture and Applied Engineering faculty and staff to explore opportunities for collaboration. Dowa THT representatives gave an overview of their business and operations, as well as future plans. Attendees also took a factory tour to examine their set-up and analyze potential areas of improvement. As a result, the Center to Advance Manufacturing team will be working to assist DOWA THT with the digitization of the manufacturing process. BGSU faculty and students have expertise in process control that will drive savings across the board.



Findlay Manufacturing

In February, Mayle met with representatives from the University of Findlay (UF), Findlay Hancock Economic Development, and Raise the Bar Hancock County to discuss increasing the engagement of industry with the university. College of Sciences Dean, Lok Lew Yan Voon, and Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, Damon Osborne, led the discussion for UF. In addition to alignment with industry, Dean Lok has been meeting with the University of Toledo and Bowling Green State University to develop partnerships in research and the articulation of courses. One of the first programs the stakeholders will be collaborating on will be the supply chain program in the UF College of Business.



Center Administrative

The Center is excited to announce that we have hired a Workforce Training Coordinator! The position will begin in early April. As a reminder, this employee will be available to assist area manufacturers in several areas including:

- Processing referrals for workforce training services such as TechCred and IMAP
- Evaluating funding program eligibility
- Preparing and processing program-related documents, tracking program deadlines, and providing high contact "concierge" administrative services to ensure program compliance and successful funding
- Tracking programmatic projects and overall program performance
- Interfacing with funding agencies to stay abreast of program rules and trends

We look forward to onboarding this new position and providing further support to area manufacturers.

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Contact Us Today

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