



The Center to Advance Manufacturing Monthly News

May 2024

Dear Associates,

As we continue to build out the Center's resources, our staff is working diligently to ensure that we are responding to industry needs in Northwest Ohio. In our most recent newsletters, I have highlighted regional manufacturing data, workforce training, and strategic initiatives at the Center. This month, I am pleased to share some of our latest results.

In early May we hosted our first webinar, "Foreign-Trade Zones: How to reduce, defer or eliminate tariffs on imports," featuring speakers from two Foreign Trade Zones serving Northwest Ohio (FTZ's 8 and 151). Northwest Ohio is home to many companies that rely on the global supply chain, and the response to this webinar reflects the timeliness and relevance of this topic. Twenty-five people attended the webinar from a wide range of sectors including manufacturing and logistics, economic development, and higher education. If you missed the webinar and would like to view the recording, please contact me. We will continue to host webinars and in-person events featuring topics relevant to industry including automation, digitization, workforce training, environmental health and safety, and much more.

Center staff is also deploying the assets of higher education throughout our region in a turnkey fashion. Recently we engaged a regional manufacturer to develop a whitepaper in collaboration with our university partner's computer science and engineering departments. In addition, Center staff has conducted multiple manufacturing site visits in Northwest Ohio with chemistry and engineering faculty to explore research opportunities and facilitate businesses' access to students through internships, co-ops, and employment post-graduation. Also, the Center's new Workforce Training Coordinator has met with multiple companies to develop training plans and leverage State of Ohio programs such as TechCred.

We continue to analyze employment and import data for our economic development and industry partners. Our graduate assistant, who is studying statistics, is available as a resource to our stakeholders to perform targeted data analysis and other custom requests. This data is utilized by economic development professionals as they call on businesses and develop strategies and initiatives to strengthen and grow the region's economy.

In addition, we are in the early stages of evaluating for-credit and non-credit instructional programs. The Ohio Manufacturing Association (OMA) recently completed an analysis of manufacturing needs based on knowledge, skill, and ability detailing which of these are most critical to successful careers in manufacturing. The Center is in the process of reviewing our educational partners' capacities based on instructors, enrollment, and equipment to ensure we have the programs to develop the appropriate knowledge, skills, and abilities.

Finally, we had a very productive Business Advisory Board meeting in April. We posed the question, "What would be a "homerun" for the Center?" It was nearly unanimous that our "homerun" would be having the Center to Advance Manufacturing continue developing as an indispensable provider of services to our regional manufacturing and logistics companies for training, research, operations, and related needs. We strive to reach that goal each day as we broaden and improve the many services that we offer. As we partner in "Manufacturing our Future," please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'T. R. Mayle'.

Tim Mayle
Executive Director
419-788-0490



Wood County Economic Development Commission Meeting

Mayle and the Center's Workforce Training Coordinator, Jeri Steinbrook attended the Wood County Economic Development Commission (WCEDC) quarterly meeting. Wade Gotschalk, WCEDC Executive Director, provided an update on several companies that are investing and expanding in Wood County. Mayle and Steinbrook were excited to see Owens Community College Workforce and Economic Development Executive Director, Charlene Page, and Owens Community College President, Dr. Dione Dorsey Somerville (pictured above).



Northwest Ohio Regional Economic Development Association Annual Meeting

The Northwest Ohio Regional Economic Development Association (NORED) hosted their annual meeting with a focus on rural housing innovative solutions. Mayle emceed the event and attendees enjoyed a panel discussion on housing. The Regional Growth Partnership's VP of Project Management, Chase Eikenbary also presented the Flame Award, which recognizes a distinguished individual for their ongoing leadership and guidance in forming a stronger economic climate throughout Northwest Ohio. Congrats to this year's recipient, Jeff Loehrke!



A panel discussion on rural housing innovative solutions featuring community experts.

Ohio Department of Transportation Announcement

Mayle participated in an event in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Transportation, City of Findlay, and Findlay Hancock Economic Development to announce a major infrastructure investment. The new diverging diamond in Findlay will allow thousands of trucks each day to supply manufacturers in industries including automotive, plastics, food production, and many more.



Mayle speaking to local officials at the ODOT announcement.

Following the announcement, a public meeting was hosted at the Owens Community College Findlay Campus to share details on the project.

Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments Transportation Summit

The Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) brought together hundreds of area professionals to discuss transportation in the region. This year's event focused on advanced air mobility with a panel of engineers and transportation planners from Bowling Green State University, the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority, and TMACOG who shared upcoming projects. In addition, Tim Sweeney from JobsOhio spoke on how aerial vehicles could become a bigger part of our transportation network.



Japan-America Society of Central Ohio Gala



Each year the Japan-America Society of Central Ohio brings together leaders in industry, economic development, education, and government to celebrate the Japanese/Ohio relationship. Japan is the largest foreign direct investor in Ohio, supporting thousands of manufacturing careers. Center staff shared a table with representatives from Findlay Hancock County Economic Development, the University of Findlay, the Ohio Department of Development, and the City of Findlay (pictured left).



Northwest Ohio Tech Prep SuccessBound Conference

Northwest Ohio Tech Prep hosted their SuccessBound event at Terra Community College in late April. Mayle presented information on the Center and participated on a panel. The panel highlighted how Ohio, Michigan, and Illinois are creating innovative ways to connect education with industry. The day was full of many informative presentations on educational resources in the region.





Ohio's TechCred Application Period is Open!

Ohio's TechCred Program gives employers the chance to upskill current and future employees in today's tech-infused economy. Businesses of all sizes, from any industry, are eligible for up to \$30,000 per round. Employers who submit successful applications will be reimbursed up to \$2,000 per credential when current or prospective employees complete eligible technology-focused credentials. The current TechCred application period is open and will close on May 31, 2024 at 3:00 PM. Training for the May application must be completed within 12 months from the award date.

Need assistance applying? Contact our Workforce Training Coordinator, Jeri Steinbrook! For more information, visit techcred.ohio.gov.



TechCred

University of Findlay All Hazards Training Center



The All Hazards Training Center, established by the University of Findlay, is the nation's leader in the development and delivery of customized environmental, health and safety training programs. Safety is a number one priority in manufacturing facilities, which makes their courses extremely valuable to industry. They have a full catalog of courses covering topics including emergency response, hazardous waste, confined space rescue, crisis management, OSHA compliance, and much more. Most recently, they are working with one of the world's largest auto manufacturers and built out a customized training program that focuses on confined space protocol. This training introduces the employer's role and responsibility as it pertains to equipping and facilitating a confined space rescue team and written procedures. Participants will be instructed in techniques of safe and effective confined space rescue for both non-entry and limited entry rescue in a hands-on approach. Trainees will implement safe rescue procedures inclusive of isolation, ventilation, atmospheric monitoring, and the use of associated rescue equipment and retrieval systems. If you would like additional information on what the All Hazards Training Center can do, please feel free to reach out.

Site Visits



ValGroup

Program Manager, Ford Weber and University of Findlay College of Sciences representatives visited the Valgroup facility in Findlay. Valgroup executives outlined their corporate sustainability program for the faculty members, described their corporate career paths (Leadership & Transformation/Technical Knowledge & Subject Matter Expertise), and discussed opportunities to expand internship opportunities. This was followed by a tour of their plastic film production plant.

Willis Machinery

Mayle and Weber visited Willis Machinery in Toledo to discuss industry needs. Willis Machinery is a local supplier of industrial equipment. Industry relies on CNCs, lathes, drills, and more everyday to manufacture products. Center staff is working daily to understand equipment needs and processes.

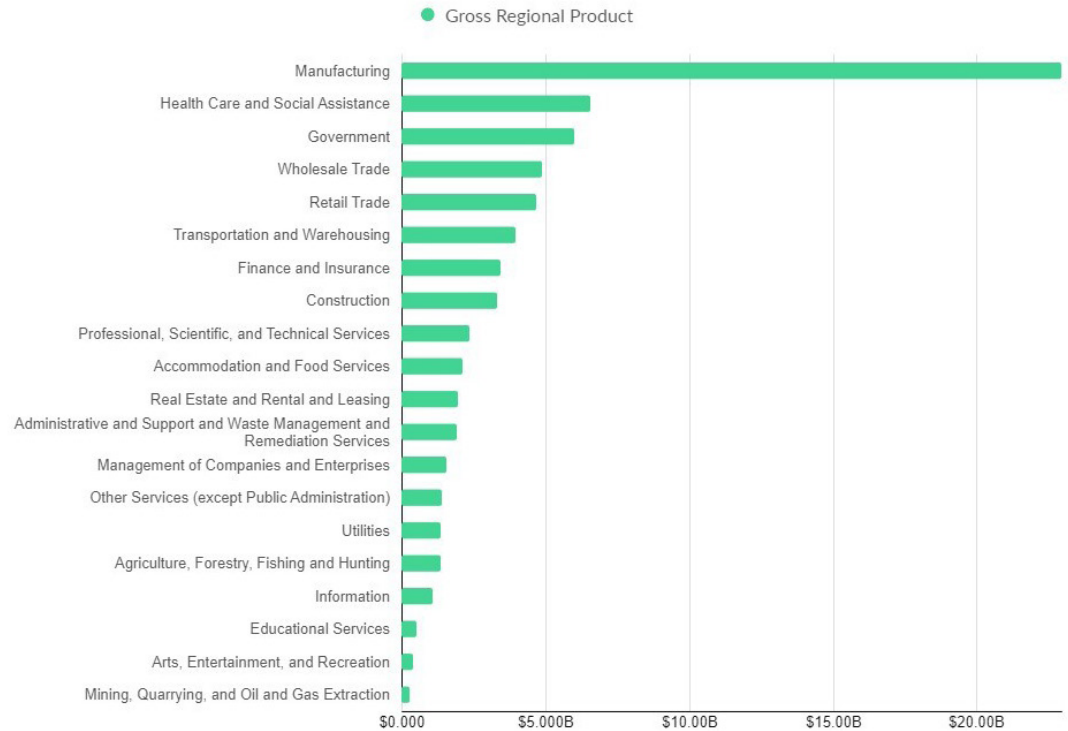




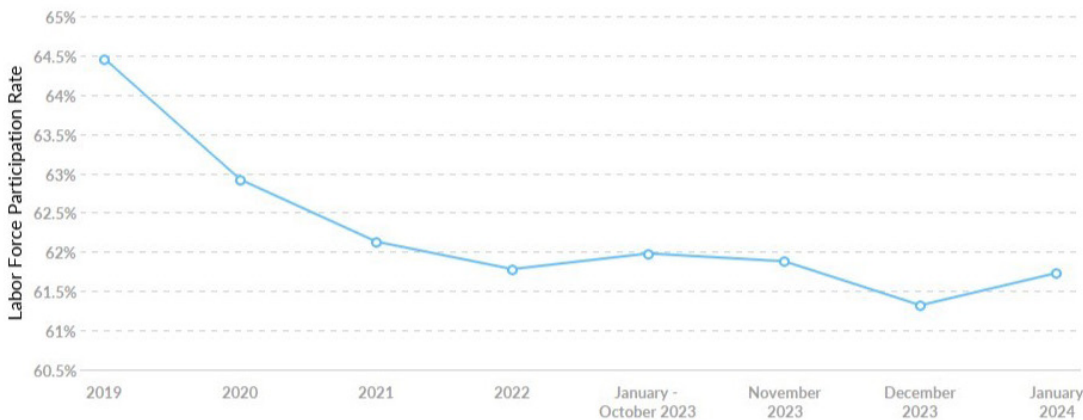
Data included on this page details information for the 17 counties in the Regional Growth Partnership territory and was pulled from labor market data source, Lightcast.

Gross Regional Product (GRP) measures the final market value of all goods and services produced in a region. As shown, the manufacturing industry far exceeds others in GRP in Northwest Ohio.

Top Industry GRP



Labor Force Participation Rate Trends



The Labor Participation Rate in Northwest Ohio saw a large decline during the Covid-19 pandemic, reaching some of the lowest rates on record.

For the first time since the pandemic, there is an uptick in participation, which is a positive sign for the workforce in the region.

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Contact Us Today

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