

Ohioans to see federal unemployment benefits cut

These days, the only dates Richard Crowe takes his wife on are hunts for bargains at the grocery store. Crowe, of Wintersville, was laid off last year from RG Steel's coke plant in nearby Follansbee, W.Va., after 34 years with the company. He is among the Ohioans who will see their unemployment checks cut about 16 percent, or an average of about \$50 week, as federal benefits in Ohio are reduced beginning Sunday. Reductions are required of all states under automatic federal spending cuts. Crowe has relied on unemployment compensation to help pay for necessities like electricity and water and is worried about how he will pay his bills. "We're already living on the bare essentials," Crowe, 54, said. "But we will have to try to cut back even more, if possible." When unemployed Ohioans run out of eligibility for state benefits after 26 weeks, they can move into the federal program. About 37,000 people receive the federal jobless benefits in Ohio, though state officials don't know exactly how many will be affected by the spending cuts. The federal program consists of two stages of benefits of 14 weeks each. A third nine-week stage will be available starting Sunday because Ohio's most recent three-month average unemployment rate increased to about 7 percent. Only states with unemployment rates at 7 percent or above qualify for that stage. The average weekly compensation of around \$313 a week will drop to about \$263 for Ohioans when they enter the federal benefits program or move to a new stage within the program, state officials say. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services estimates the total reduction will amount to \$25 million between now and the end of the federal fiscal year, Sept. 30. Currently, 91,000 Ohioans receive regular state unemployment compensation, and those benefits won't be cut, said Job and Family Services spokesman Benjamin Johnson. Despite the extension, Crowe says the reductions will hurt. "We already don't travel anywhere or eat out, and if I can't make payments for my son's college education, we could lose our home," he said. Crowe says he searches seven days a week for employment, but "it's tough for older workers to find a job." While states are allowed to set their own times and methods, the goal is to get all states to implement the reductions before July, according to a U.S. Department of Labor spokesman. "The earlier, the better," said Jason Kuruvilla, who says the longer it takes to make the cuts required by the end of the federal fiscal year, the deeper individual cuts will have to be. Ohio is among about 25 states to implement the changes so far and one of at least four not making across-the-board cuts, according to the New York-based National Employment Law Project. "Not cutting across the board means a state has to get the same amount of money out of fewer people, and we think it would be fairer to spread them out and keep individual cuts lower," said Maurice Emsellem, policy co-director for the nonprofit research group that promotes policies to help low-wage and unemployed workers. But Johnson says that "while reducing everyone's benefit at once may have resulted in a slightly smaller reduction, it would not have given people time to budget and prepare, which was one of our primary goals." Zach Schiller, research director for the nonprofit Policy Matters of Ohio, said that \$50 cuts will be significant for many, regardless of when they are made. "Getting \$300 a week keeps some people out of poverty," he said. "And to reduce that is cruel."

Associated Press. 5/3/13

New jobs reports will trigger another spin cycle among Ohio politicians

Politics and monthly jobs reports are inextricably linked and trapped in a vicious cycle. Depending on what Friday's Ohio unemployment rate shows — it was at 7.1 percent in March — either Republicans will hail Gov. John Kasich for an improving economy or Democrats will blame him for a needle heading in the wrong direction. The same holds true for how many jobs the state will have added or dropped. The reaction to Friday's report will either be misleading, oversimplified, or otherwise incomplete, according to economists and political operatives who spoke with The Dispatch. "There's hype and spin, and then there's the truth," said Ken Mayland, the head of ClearView Economics, an economic-forecasting firm in suburban Cleveland. "There is no one thing that can succinctly define how the economy is doing." Nearly every month, the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Census Bureau conduct separate surveys nationwide. One covers about 60,000 households to determine who is working and who is looking for work to calculate the unemployment rate. The other is of about 145,000 businesses and counts how many jobs were added and in which sectors. Two weeks after the national results are released, Ohio's numbers come out — based on surveys of about 18,000 Ohio employers and 2,000 households. Of the two surveys, local economist Bill LaFayette puts more stock in the business survey because it's more straightforward than the unemployment numbers. A lower unemployment rate doesn't necessarily signal a good thing, especially when the number of people looking for work shrinks. But LaFayette, owner of consulting firm Regionomics, also cautions to be careful with the monthly business surveys, mainly because the numbers change. For example, Kasich defeated Democratic Gov. Ted Strickland in 2010 on a fairly simple message: More than 400,000 jobs had been lost under Strickland's tenure. The revised numbers from that period now show that Ohio dropped about 379,000 jobs under Strickland. It's still a large number, but the point is, the figures fluctuate. Candidates can more easily shout out an unemployment rate that supports their case than explain the current "U-6" rate — or percentage of the labor force who are jobless and looking for work, are discouraged from looking, or have part-time jobs but want full-time work. Those kinds of statistics and others, like the average amount of hours people worked each week (one of Mayland's favorite stats), are all in national monthly reports. Some data subsets aren't as complete in state reports, but they still go beyond simple unemployment and jobs numbers. "Simply going out on a monthly basis and screaming that the unemployment rate went up or that it went down is not a real effective way to educate the American people about the actual health of the economy," said Scott Jennings, who lived this troubled marriage between elections and jobs numbers last year directing Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney's campaign in Ohio. "The sad part is, we take the unemployment rate and if it's good for you, you go out and talk about how great it is, and if it's bad for you, you go out and make some argument about how the underlying statistics are bad. What we lose in that back and forth is a real, honest debate about the actual health of the economy." Still, 18 months before Ohio's next gubernatorial election, both Republicans and Democrats defend the use of the numbers. "Job-creation numbers is a metric that all 50 states and the White House use, and the people who would claim that it is a bad yardstick are those who don't like the fact that it measures the hundreds of thousands of jobs that were lost during the previous administration,"

said Rob Nichols, a spokesman for Kasich, citing the 115,000 jobs added under Kasich as a comparison. Democrats have pilloried Kasich over a bad March report. After Ohio gained about 16,000 jobs in February, the report released last month showed a drop of more than 20,000 jobs. “There are a few indicators to determine Ohio’s economic strengths or weaknesses, like the jobs report last month that Ohio lost 20,400 jobs, worse than any other state in the nation,” said Meredith Tucker, spokeswoman for Democratic gubernatorial candidate Ed FitzGerald. It’s also becoming more common for the same report to be both heralded and vilified by opposing politicians. On the final Friday before Election Day last year, a national jobs report was released while both President Barack Obama and Romney were campaigning in Ohio. Obama championed the report because it showed 171,000 jobs were added in October. Romney blasted the report because unemployment ticked up, from 7.8 percent to 7.9 percent. “It’s rare that headlines will capture all the details of the data,” said Ben LaBolt, national press secretary for the Obama campaign. “Ultimately what we found was that Americans really judge their economic circumstances in a broader context.”

Columbus Dispatch. 5/13/2013.

Ohio's business climate improves more than any other state's: Kasich praises tax cuts and sound management for steady improvement

Ohio has the most improved business climate in the nation according to the annual survey of CEOs by Chief Executive Magazine. Ohio moved up 13 places this year to 22 from 35. Ohio continues to steadily improve, rising from 44 in 2010. In response to the news, Gov. John R. Kasich issued the following statement: “It’s great for Ohio workers when the nation’s CEOs see Ohio more and more as one of the best places in the country to do business. It’s incredibly gratifying to see all of our hard work continue to pay off like that. We’re achieving what we set out to do: get Ohio back on track by creating a jobs-friendly climate. We’re not there yet and we’ve got a lot of work still to do, but we’re making real progress and it’s great news for Ohio’s families.”

Chief Executive. 5/6/2013.

Diverging inequality in Latin America and the United States

Most everyone agrees that inequality matters. Studies by the [World Bank](#), [the IMF](#), and by academics (such as [Richard Wilkinson](#) of the University of Nottingham) demonstrate how harmful inequality can be, affecting a whole host of factors, ranging from economic growth rates to teenage pregnancy rates and crime. Given the stakes, recent trends in Latin America have been quite positive. Using the Gini index, the most common measure of inequality (where zero represents a perfectly equal society, and one is perfectly unequal), Latin America has been one of the most unequal regions in the world, with the worst

discrepancies found in Brazil, Honduras, Ecuador, Colombia, and Bolivia. But over the last decade the Gini declined in fourteen Latin American countries, led by Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, and Panama. One reason is economic stability. The booms and busts of the 1980s and 1990s, which wiped out the savings of so many, have now dissipated. Another important factor has been the global demand for the region's commodities (which range broadly from energy to foodstuffs to minerals), bringing an influx of dollars and spending. Government-run social programs too have mattered, in particular conditional cash transfer programs such as Mexico's *Oportunidades* and Brazil's *Bolsa Familia* that have helped improve the living situations of millions. Taken together, income for Latin America's lower and middle classes rose much more quickly than that of the region's economic elites, reducing inequality. These positive trends contrast to what has been happening in the United States. [Measured by the OECD](#), America's Gini coefficient rose by over .04 points during the last twenty years—placing it above OECD members such as Italy and Japan, and on a more comparable level with Turkey. This growing income inequality stems not from the middle and lower classes getting poorer in absolute terms, but rather from the wealthiest 1 percent pulling away from the pack—their [annual income increased 275 percent from 1979 to 2007](#) compared to 37 percent for those in the middle. An interesting series by the Global Post illuminates these changes, matching up U.S. cities with their equals (in terms of inequality) around the world. For example, Ithaca, NY is on par with Peru (.46), Milwaukee, WI with Uruguay (.45), and Naples, FL with Chile (.52) ([you can see more of the comparisons here](#)). A different back of the envelope inequality measurement divides the annual income of a country's wealthiest 20 percent of the population by the bottom 20 percent. [Calculated by Adam Isacson](#), the United States is now more unequal than ten Latin American countries including Mexico, Venezuela, and Nicaragua. The question now is how to take on these widening gaps, given the social and aggregate economic costs. Here there is something to learn from America's hemispheric neighbors. Economic growth alone won't fix the problem; targeted social programs and safety nets matter. Perhaps too there is something to learn from their politics—with many nations finding their way past years of democratic legislative gridlock to create more socially inclusive policies.

Council on Foreign Relations. 5/21/13

Ohio's large cities losing population

Most of Ohio's large and medium cities have experienced slight population declines over the past two years at a time when most cities nationwide have grown, according to Census estimates released today. Of the 729 cities nationwide that have more than 50,000 residents, nine of every 10 gained population from 2010 to July 1, 2012, according to the new Census data. But in Ohio it was the reverse, as 14 of the state's 15 largest cities lost population in that same period. Every major Ohio city except Columbus ranked near the bottom in percentage population change, with Youngstown listed dead last at 729th in the Census estimates, the only city in the nation to lose more than 2 percent of its population the past two years. Wendy Manning, director of the Center for Family and Demographic Research at Bowling Green, said the news for Ohio isn't all bad, as the total population of the state grew 0.1 percent in the same two-year period, meaning more people may be moving from cities to suburbs or rural areas. "But it's still not good to be on the bottom," Manning said. "On average the U.S. percentage change in population is up 1.7 percent, so we certainly lag behind the national average." The Census Bureau estimated Dayton's population for July 1, 2012 at 141,359 – down from its estimate of 141,713 in 2011, and from the 2010 Census "estimates base" of 141,762. That estimated decline of 0.3 percent (403 residents) matched Kettering, which dropped from 56,163 in 2010, to 56,096 in 2011, to 55,990 in 2012. "We're not as much of a draw for immigrant groups ... we're more of an aging state, and we don't have a real high birth rate," Manning said of Ohio. "I think a real concern is, are states like Ohio losing young population to states in the south and the west?" Dayton City Commissioner

Nan Whaley said jobs are the key to the population changes, pointing out that almost all of the cities losing significant population (17 of the bottom 20) are in the Midwest, where the auto manufacturing industry has suffered. “We’re doing what we can,” she said. “We can do things about being an open, vibrant community, being progressive on issues like the immigrant-friendly stuff, but at the end of the day, if we don’t have job creation here, then we don’t have people staying.” Springfield Mayor Warren Copeland echoed Whaley’s jobs focus as his city’s population dropped 0.8 percent from 60,608 to 60,147 in 2012. Hamilton and Middletown lost an estimated 70 and 3 residents, respectively, and their mayors were upbeat about population stabilizing. The fastest-growing cities in the nation the past two years were small cities in the south and west, according to the Census estimates, with suburbs of Dallas, Austin and San Antonio, Texas taking five of the top seven spots. The seven cities that had the worst population loss by percentage were Cleveland, Youngstown and five Michigan cities, including Detroit.

Dayton Daily News. 5/22/13

Ohio continues to attract jobs: Companies to create 1,108 jobs and retain 21,264 jobs statewide

Gov. John R. Kasich today announced the approval of assistance for 10 projects set to create more than 1,100 jobs and retain 21,264 jobs statewide. During the Ohio Tax Credit Authority’s (TCA) monthly meeting, it reviewed economic development proposals brought to the board by JobsOhio and its regional partners. Together the projects are expected to result in more than \$51 million in new payroll and \$72 million in investment across Ohio. Projects approved by the TCA include:

idX Corporation, LLC (Location TBD) expects to create 110 full-time positions, generating \$3.3 million in additional annual payroll and retaining \$3.6 million in existing payroll as a result of the company’s new location project at a to-be-determined location. idX offers craftsmanship, technical capabilities, project management and retail services for the retail, financial, hospitality and point-of purchase markets. The TCA approved a 53 percent, nine-year Job Creation Tax Credit for this project.

Dynamit Technologies LLC, City of Columbus (Franklin Co.) expects to create 30 full-time positions, generating \$2.1 million in additional annual payroll and retaining \$2.4 million in existing payroll as a result of the company’s expansion project in the City of Columbus (Franklin Co.). Dynamit is a digital consulting firm which assists businesses in strategy, design and technology. The TCA approved a 45 percent, five-year Job Creation Tax Credit for this project.

HD Supply Facilities Maintenance, Ltd., City of Groveport (Franklin Co.) expects to create 111 full-time positions generating \$5.2 million in additional annual payroll and retaining \$770,000 in existing payroll as a result of the company’s expansion project in the City of Groveport (Franklin Co.). HD Supply Facilities Maintenance provides maintenance, repair and operations products to owners and managers of multifamily, hospitality, education and commercial properties, healthcare providers and municipal and government facilities. The TCA approved a 40 percent, six-year Job Creation Tax Credit for this project.

International Engineering Group, LLC, City of Hilliard (Franklin Co.) expects to create 27 full-time positions, generating \$1.4 in additional annual payroll and retaining \$40,000 in existing payroll as a result

of the company's expansion project in the City of Hilliard (Franklin Co.). International Engineering Group specializes in building injection molds. The TCA approved a 40 percent, five-year Job Creation Tax Credit for this project.

JP Morgan Chase Bank, Cities of Dublin, Columbus, Westerville and Gahanna (Franklin Co.) expects to create 500 full-time positions, generating \$25 million in additional annual payroll and retaining \$1.3 billion in existing payroll as a result of the company's expansion project in the Cities of Dublin, Columbus, Westerville and Gahanna (Franklin Co.). JP Morgan is a global financial service firm. The TCA approved a 75 percent, 15-year Job Creation Tax Credit for this project.

Proform Industries, Ltd., City of Columbus (Franklin Co.) expects to create 120 full-time positions, generating \$4.7 million in additional annual payroll and retaining \$2.1 million in existing payroll as a result of the company's expansion project in the City of Columbus (Franklin Co.). Proform manufactures and is a Tier 1 supplier of fuel tanks, air tanks, battery boxes and related assemblies to the commercial vehicle industry. The TCA approved a 50 percent, six-year Job Creation Tax Credit for this project.

Valeo Climate Control Corp., City of Hamilton (Butler Co.) expects to create 105 full-time positions generating \$4.3 million in additional annual payroll and retaining \$5.5 million in existing payroll as result of the company's expansion project in the City of Hamilton (Butler Co.). Valeo is a global automotive supplier. The TCA approved a 55 percent, seven-year Job Creation Tax Credit for this project.

VEGA Americas, Inc., City of Cincinnati (Hamilton Co.) expects to create 30 full-time positions generating \$1.5 million in additional annual payroll and retaining \$14.4 million in existing payroll as a result of the company's expansion project in the City of Cincinnati (Hamilton Co.). VEGA offers a product line of level, density, weight and pressure measurement solutions. The TCA approved a 40 percent, seven-year Job Creation Tax Credit for this project.

GKN Sinter Metals, LLC, City of Gallipolis (Gallia Co.) expects to create 50 full-time positions, generating \$2.2 million in additional annual payroll and retaining \$8.4 million in existing annual payroll as a result of the company's expansion project in the City of Gallipolis (Gallia Co.). GKN Sinter Metals supplies metal powder precision components to the vehicle and aircraft industries. The TCA approved a 50 percent, eight-year Job Creation Tax Credit for this project.

Mitsubishi Chemical Performance Polymers, Inc., City of Bellevue (Sandusky Co.) expects to create 25 full-time positions, generating \$1.5 million in additional annual payroll and retaining \$5.2 million in existing payroll as a result of the company's expansion project in the City of Bellevue (Sandusky Co.). Mitsubishi develops and manufactures resins with unique elasticity, durability and heat resistant features. The TCA approved a 40 percent, six-year Job Creation Tax Credit for this project.

Ohio Governor John R. Kasich. 5/20/13

High-tech jobs lead Northeast Ohio for wage increases

With the exception of high-tech jobs, a new report shows that salaries in Northeast Ohio continue to stagnate. The wages for most jobs have only gone up by 2 or 3 percent since the recession, the 2013 Employers Resource Council Salary & Wage Survey said. The report included 202

organizations representing for-profits and nonprofits, and about 9,000 salaried employees. About half are manufacturers. Companies have been reluctant to invest more in fixed costs, like salaries, for the last five to seven years, said Marty Mordarski, director of research and membership at the ERC, a Northeast Ohio human resources consulting firm. He's also noticed a trend of more companies shifting from traditional-based pay increases to more variable pay-for-performance plans. "That way if people perform better they'll be paid accordingly relative to that performance versus traditional across the board base pay increases," he said. "If the company doesn't do well they're not stuck with that increase." That's not the case for IT jobs. IT positions commanded the strongest industry gains by growing about 7 percent since last year, according to the survey. "Virtually every organization has some sort of IT functions," said Mordarski. "We do other surveys throughout the year and companies are always asking us about competitive salaries for IT positions." With a 4 percent average growth rate, the science/ research and development industry is another area reporting above average gains with jobs such as lab technicians, chemists and managers. The job outlook for computer and mathematics occupations are outpacing estimates for overall job growth projections at the national, state and local levels. Still in Ohio, a 17.5 percent growth projection from 2010 to 2020 falls below national growth projections of 22 percent, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. For that same period nationwide, all other occupations expect an average of 14.3 percent job growth, compared with 4.3 percent in Ohio. Eric Younkin, branch manager at Robert Half Technology in Cleveland, said he is not surprised to hear about ERC's survey results, because they reflect what he sees in this market. According to his firm's salary guide research, they expect a 5.3 percent increase nationwide this year, from the previous year. However, some positions report much higher wage increases, including mobile applications developers and business intelligence analyst with a 9 percent increase from 2012. Data modelers, who take complex data and make sense of it, report a 7 percent increase, he said. Younkin said his company did a recent Cleveland survey of chief information officers and 64 percent said they plan to hire this year, while just 4 percent expected to reduce jobs. "That's a pretty big swing," Younkin said. "It's an exciting time for us," he said "We like to be in an industry and a market that's growing."

Cleveland Plain Dealer. 5/15/13

Unemployment down slightly to 7%, State says

Ohio's unemployment rate fell from 7.1% to 7% from March to April, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services announced Friday. Over the month, total nonfarm wage and salary employment increased by 7,600, from 5,175,600 to 5,183,200, the state [reported](#). The national unemployment rate for April was 7.5%, down from 7.6% in March. In April of 2012, the national unemployment rate was 8.1% ODJFS said goods producers added a total of 800 jobs over the month, while the service sector added 7,400 positions. Among goods producers, 2,400 jobs were added in manufacturing, while 1,400 jobs were lost in construction. In the service sector, leisure and hospitality industries added 5,300 jobs, while trade, transportation and utilities added 3,500 positions and other services added 1,500. Job losses were seen in professional and business services, which dropped 2,300 positions, financial activities lost 1,000 jobs and information dropped 400 positions. The agency noted that overall government employment fell by 600, with losses in federal government (-900) and local government (-300) were partly offset by a 600-job gain in state government. [Speaker Bill Batchelder](#) (R-Medina) lauded Friday's report. "We are continuing to move in the right direction and prioritize economic development, a

pledge we made to Ohioans at the beginning of the previous general assembly," he said in a statement. Ohio Democratic Party Chairman [Rep. Chris Redfern](#) (D-Port Clinton) took a dimmer view. "Let's put the latest report in perspective: after shedding 20,400 jobs the month before, Ohio added 7,600 jobs; meanwhile, our state's flagship university alone, Ohio State, just awarded over 10,000 degrees," he said. "We have to do better."

Gongwer News Service. 5/17/13

Ohio among top 14 states for tech job growth

Ohio added 1,500 new technology jobs last year, ranking it 14th among all states for tech job growth, according to the TechAmerica Foundation in its annual report on tech hiring. Ohio's 170,700 tech workers earned an average annual wage of \$72,600 in 2012, the foundation said. Those wages were 73 percent more than the average private sector wage of \$42,000 in Ohio. "Ohio's tech industry remains a critical component of its local economy, with good growth in 2012 and high wages," said Matthew Kazmierczak, the TechAmerica Foundation's vice president of research and reports, in a statement. "It might surprise some that 4 percent of Ohio's private sector workforce is in tech. Ohio has a well-educated workforce and strong college system both of which are critical to supporting a strong tech industry." Ohio has a significant cluster of measuring and control instruments manufacturers with 7,500 workers, ranking it 10th among all states in that industry, the foundation said. The state's computer systems design and related services industry had 58,900 workers in 2012, putting Ohio 10th in the nation for that industry. Another major tech industry in Ohio last year was Internet and telecommunication services with 35,900 jobs, ranking the state 12th in the nation for that industry, the foundation said. Nationally, the U.S. tech industry added 67,400 net jobs in 2012, for a total of 5.95 million workers, representing 5.4 percent of the entire private sector workforce. Overall, the average U.S. tech wage was \$93,800 compared to \$47,700 for the average private sector worker. The report relies on data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The report compiles information on tech employment, wages, establishments, payroll, wage differential, and employment concentration. All data are the most recent available at the time of production, the foundation said. Tech jobs in Ohio:

- 170,700 tech workers in 2012 (12th nationwide)
- 1,500 net jobs added between 2011 and 2012 (14th nationwide)
- Tech firms employed 4 percent of private sector workers in 2012 (32nd nationwide)
- Tech workers earned an average wage of \$72,600 (34th nationwide)
- Total tech payroll of \$12.4 billion in 2012 (16th nationwide)
- 12,800 tech establishments in 2012 (13th nationwide)

Dayton Daily News. 5/14/13

Housing market gains continue in Ohio

The number of homes sold across Ohio rose 20.5 percent in April, according to the Ohio Association of Realtors (OAR). This marks the 22nd consecutive month the market has posted gains in activity. Sales in April reached 10,991, a 20.5 percent increase from the 9,121 sales posted during the month in 2012, and reached the best mark since 2007. The average sales price of \$134,388 was a 3.5 percent increase from the prior year. “The Ohio marketplace, with each passing month, continues to make significant progress in building a solid foundation for a sustained, growing housing sector,” said OAR President Thomas J. Williams. Sales through the first four months of 2013 reached 35,412, a 15.6 percent increase from the 30,636 sales posted during the same period a year ago. The average sales price this year is \$128,547, a 5.1 percent increase from the \$122,349 mark set during the same period a year ago.

McDonald Hopkins Statehouse Update. 5/24/13

Climb back is steep one for manufacturing in Ohio

Manufacturing in Ohio has begun to show signs of life since the state emerged from the recession. But a new report shows just how far the sector has to go to return to levels of employment seen in 2000. In 2000, 18.3 percent of Ohio workers were employed in manufacturing, according to the report from IHS Global Insight. Today, 12.8 percent are, even after the sector has gained ground the past three years. “It’s been a miserable decade, to say the least, particularly when it comes to Ohio manufacturing,” said Karl Kuykendall, an IHS economist. “We know when we look in the rearview mirror, the pain that we felt was real,” said Eric Burkland, president of the Ohio Manufacturers’ Association. Ohio manufacturers were first hurt by a recession in the early 2000s. Then manufacturing took a nose dive during the most-recent recession, the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression. Job cuts were dramatic, and cash flow for much of the industry dried up to the point that Burkland said there were “worries that we would lose so much fundamental industry capability that we couldn’t recover.” The state’s manufacturing sector shed about 400,000 jobs over the decade, according to Ohio Department of Job and Family Services data. The state had about 1 million manufacturing jobs in 2000. But manufacturers have started to come back, adding about 55,000 jobs over the past three years. Productivity also is improving. Innovation has kept the industry alive. Burkland said the state’s manufacturers have developed new designs and embraced new kinds of materials and technologies. “That’s really the big story,” Burkland said. “It’s productivity increases that keep us competitive in global markets.” Even with the loss of jobs, Ohio’s manufacturing sector produced \$80.7 billion worth of goods in 2011, the fifth-most in the country and 16.7 percent of the state’s total economic output. The state averaged about \$85 billion from 2005 to 2007 before dropping during the recession. Despite the cuts over the years, the sector still accounts for nearly a fifth of the state’s wages, and Ohio’s percentage of workers in manufacturing is seventh-highest in the country, according to state and IHS figures. Productivity per worker is up about a third since 2000, according to IHS figures. IHS’ most-recent report shows that although Ohio continues to add manufacturing jobs, neighboring states including Indiana, Michigan and Kentucky have been adding them at a higher percentage over the past year. “Ohio came out very strong,” Kuykendall said of the state’s gains immediately after the recession. “The momentum has cooled a bit since.” Also, the state’s manufacturers have yet to benefit in a big way from the

Utica shale in eastern Ohio, he said. That could change as the area, which is expected to produce significant oil and natural gas, becomes more developed and produces more manufacturing jobs, Kuykendall said. For now, manufacturers are leery of adding workers, Burkland said. Although the nation's auto and housing industries have picked up, economic growth in the U.S. has slowed, Europe is stuck in recession and the Asian economies have stalled, Burkland said. "It all adds up to cautious hiring," he said.

Columbus Dispatch. 5/28/13

Ohio business: April home sales up 20% from last year; Limited Brands sees earnings, sales increase; DSW says total sales are up

Ohio home sales reached their highest level since 2007, rising 20.5% in April compared to the same time last year, according to [statistics](#) from the [Ohio Association of Realtors](#). Monthly sales reached 10,991; up from the 9,121 sales posted in April of 2012, marking the state's 22nd consecutive month of gains, the OAR said in a release. The average sales price for the month was \$134,388, a 3.5% increase from the previous year. Sales through the first four months of 2013 reached 35,412, a 15.6% jump from the 30,636 sales posted during the same period a year ago. The average sales price for the four-month period was \$128,547, a 5.1% increase from the first four months of 2012. Total dollar volume between January and April was more than \$4.5 billion, a 21.4% increase from the same time last year. "The ongoing recovery of the Ohio housing market is widespread...with 17 of the 20 markets we track showing gains in activity so far in 2013," OAR President Thomas J. Williams said in a statement. "Having so many of our individual markets record positives in a state as diverse as Ohio - with its unique blend of big urban markets and smaller, rural locales - is an indication that the Buckeye State is making significant headway in its recovery effort." **Limited Brands:** First-quarter earnings per share increased 17% to \$0.48, while quarterly operating income and net sales also rose compared to the same time last year, the [company](#) said in a [release](#). First quarter operating income was \$311.2 million, compared to \$293.2 million during the first quarter of 2012. Net income was \$142.5 million, up from \$124.6 million last year. Net quarterly sales were up 5% from last year, reaching \$2.3 billion. Comparable store sales increased 3% over last year's first quarter. The company stated that it expects second-quarter earnings per share to be \$0.50 to \$0.55, compared to adjusted earnings per share of \$0.50 per share last year. For 2013, the company said it expects earnings per share of \$2.95 to \$3.15. **DSW:** The Columbus-based shoe [company](#) reported \$601.4 million in first-quarter sales, a 7.7% increase over the same time last year. However, comparable sales were down 2.4% for the quarter. Adjusted EPS rose to \$1 per share, an increase of \$0.02 per share from last year, the company said in a [release](#). Net income was \$34.5 million, or \$0.75 per diluted share. "DSW's first quarter performance demonstrated remarkable execution flexibility in a time of unprecedented swings in weather patterns," President and CEO Mike MacDonald said. "Our merchandising and supply chain teams were able to adjust merchandise receipts in weather-sensitive categories while continuing to support trending categories with

fresh product flow. We were pleased with the strong sales rebound in the final four weeks of the quarter that allowed us to minimize our comparable sales decline and exit the quarter with well positioned inventories." Mr. MacDonald continued, "We are confident in the long-term growth potential of our business, which is reflected in our decision to raise our regular quarterly dividend by 39% from \$0.18 per share to \$0.25 per share. For the full year we expect same store sales to range from flat to 2% growth and Adjusted EPS to range from \$3.40 to \$3.60 per share."

Gongwer News Service. 5/29/13