



2014-2015
ANNUAL REPORT



MISSION STATEMENT

The GROW Licking County CIC provides responsive and individualized economic development support which enables businesses to expand or relocate in Licking County, Ohio. We are the front door of the community – welcoming development, connecting resources and increasing opportunities.



NEW YEAR, NEW ENERGY, RENEWED FOCUS

2015 was an exciting year for GROW Licking County – full of wonderful new developments, expansions of existing companies, and the announcement of new leadership for the organization. Since joining GROW Licking County in December of 2015, I have been exceptionally impressed with the continued growth, development, and partnerships that have been fostered here in Licking County. That said, my primary goal for GROW is to continue to facilitate these positive relationships while aiding in the continued expansion of industry as well as life-sustaining, family-sustaining job opportunities right here in Licking County.

As 2016 begins, I hope to build on the successes from 2015 (and beyond) while aiding in the ongoing discussions of regional workforce development initiatives and opening lines of communication between communities and the businesses that operate in or serve them.

Thank you to our investors, regional partners, and the Board of Directors for continued support of GROW Licking County's mission serving as the County's front door for expanding and locating businesses to Licking County.



Nathan Strum
Director of Economic Development
GROW Licking County CIC



Mark Johns
Current Chair
Mayor of Heath, Ohio

There is a phrase which I frequently think about... You're either getting better, or you're getting worse – nothing ever stays the same. I believe that to be true, and it forms the basis for what I see as the mission of GROW Licking County in 2016.

Licking County is coming off a year of unquestioned economic development successes. The challenge before us is to not be satisfied with the growth we've had in 2015, but to continue striving for improvement in what we do, how we do it, and the effect we have to help foster success for businesses already in Licking County, as well as those looking to locate here. Over the next 12 months, opportunities exist for GROW Licking County to broaden its impact here at home as well as outside our region, state, and even country. The GROW Licking County team is focused on positive growth for all of Licking County, and as its chairman in 2016, I am fortunate to be part of an organization which is so dedicated to better economic opportunities for everyone in the community.

We recognize that future success of GROW Licking County cannot happen without the continued and strengthening support of our investors and stakeholders. Thank you for that support, and together we will help Licking County achieve an even brighter economic future.

MOMENTUM. THAT'S THE ONE WORD THAT SUMS UP 2015 FOR GROW LICKING COUNTY.

Momentum is defined as “the impetus gained by a moving object or course of events.” The Licking County economy was that moving object in 2015. The course of events ranged from the 1,500-job announcement by Amazon at Etna Corporate Park to the L Brands distribution center opening at the New Albany International Beauty Park. In between, were expansions, new plant locations, and new speculatively-built buildings all over Licking County.

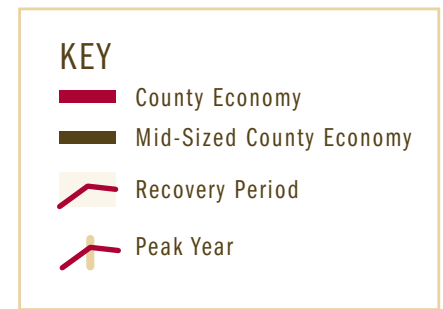
GROW Licking County's role was different on virtually every project, but one thing was consistent: it has emerged as the “face” of economic development as it was intended when it was established in 2011. The trust of our investors is no small part in the success of GROW Licking County. On behalf of the Board of Trustees of GROW Licking County, we are grateful for the resources that make international marketing, site selector visits, and industrial development interaction a day-to-day part of what GROW Licking County does. Thank you!



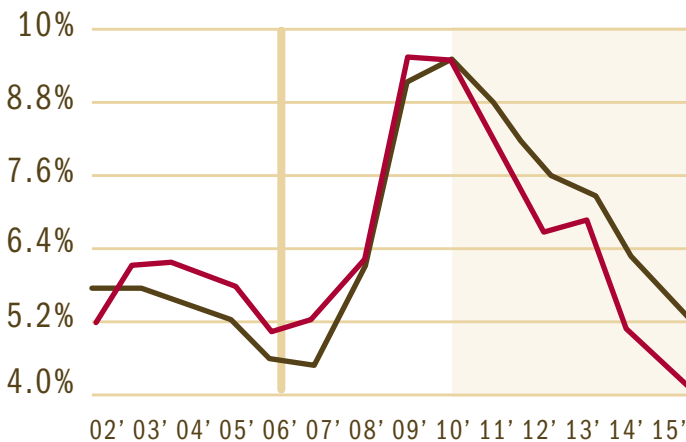
Rick Platt
Immediate Past Chair
President & CEO, Heath-Newark-
Licking County Port Authority

LICKING COUNTY ECONOMY

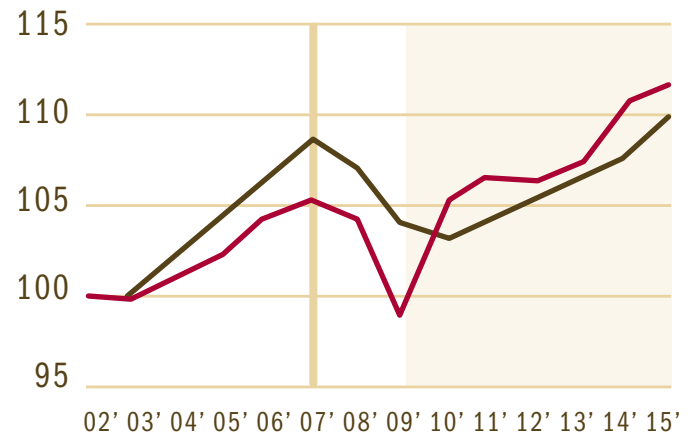
A recent national report shows that Licking County's economy is in the narrow 7% of 3069 counties across the nation to show a full recovery from the most recent recession ending just over 6 years ago. In Ohio, Licking County is one of only 9 counties to show a full recovery. These findings are based on 4 key indicators: jobs, unemployment rate, economic output (GDP) and median home prices. The following charts show how Licking County has recovered to pre-recession levels on all four indicators:



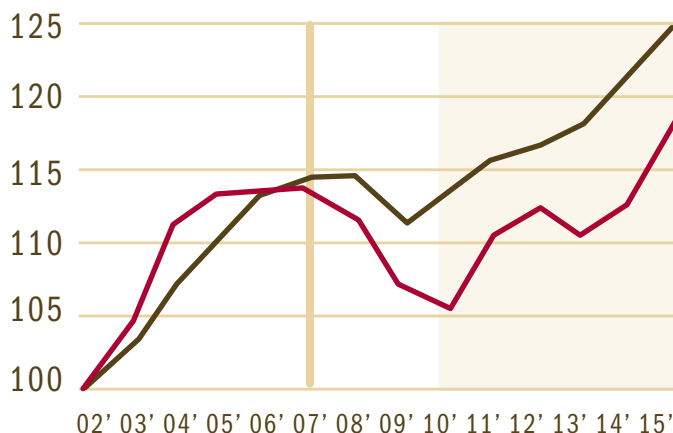
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CHANGE -0.9PPS UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



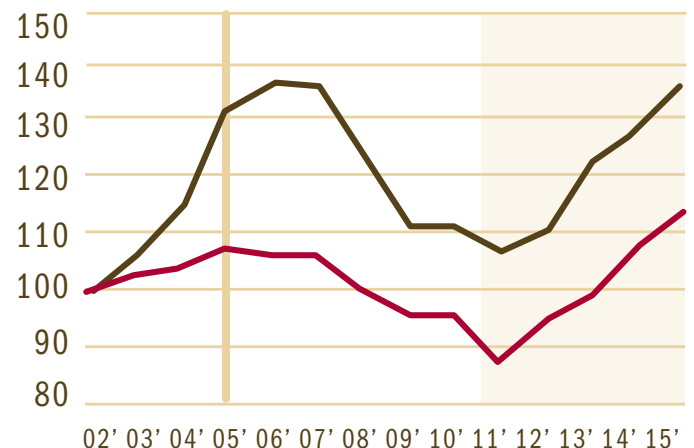
JOB GROWTH RATE 1.3% TOTAL JOBS



ECONOMIC OUTPUT GROWTH RATE 4.7% INFLATION-ADJUSTED GDP



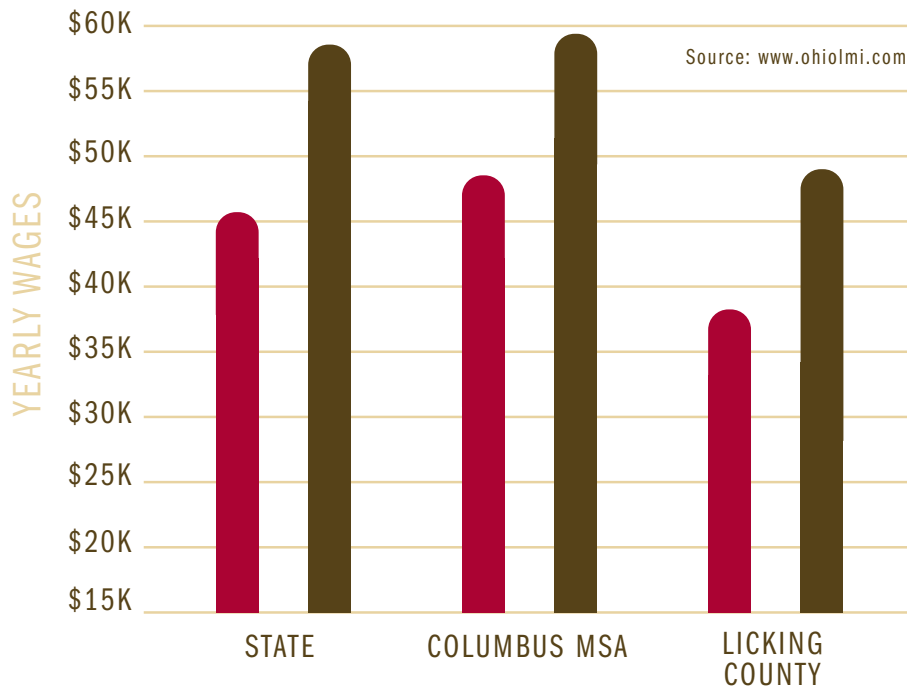
MEDIAN HOME PRICES GROWTH RATE 4.4% MEDIAN HOME PRICES



2015 WAGES

ANNUAL WAGE AVERAGES

KEY Private Employment Manufacturing



WORKFORCE



LABOR FORCE

87,200



EMPLOYED

82,800



UNEMPLOYED

4,400

5.1%

LICKING COUNTY
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

6.2%

2015 NATIONAL
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

2015 PROJECT LEADS & RESPONSES

54

total leads
received

94

property
responses

ANNUAL PRICE AVERAGE COMPARISON FOR INDUSTRIAL & OFFICE REAL ESTATE

Industrial Information

Sale Price/gross sf (average)

2015 - \$42.73/sf

2014 - \$40.12/sf

Land Sales

Average Price/Acre

2015 - \$79,123.70

2014 - \$88,355.79

Office

Sale Price/net rentable area

2015 - \$49.88/nsf

2014 - \$106.58/nsf

INVESTMENT RESULTS

OVER
3,500

NEW JOB OPPORTUNITIES

OVER
1,500

EXISTING JOBS RETAINED
IN OUR COMMUNITY

\$600
MILLION

IN NEW INVESTMENTS

2015 KEY PROJECTS

In 2015 more new and existing businesses discovered that it's easy to do business in Licking County because of our strong infrastructure, diverse workforce, highly accessible transportation, exciting financial incentives, and the pro-business attitude shared by government officials and residents alike. We're proud to share a few key projects that have come to fruition in Licking County.



AMAZON FULFILLMENT CENTER

Perhaps the most high-profile of Licking County project announcements for the year, online retailer Amazon finalized plans to construct an 855,000 sq. ft. fulfillment center in Etna Township. The building is being constructed at the Prologis Park70, located directly off of Interstate 70. This distribution center is one of two in the state that comprise Amazon's first sites of this kind in Ohio. Jobs created by this expansion will total up to 1,500 new positions and is likely to spur further growth in the region. Construction of the new facility is well underway and could be finished as early as September of 2016.

Amazon's new and growing presence in Ohio is good news for the entire state and central Ohio region. Most importantly, it is no small feat that Licking County has proved, not once but twice, to have the resources necessary to support two of the four developments in the state.

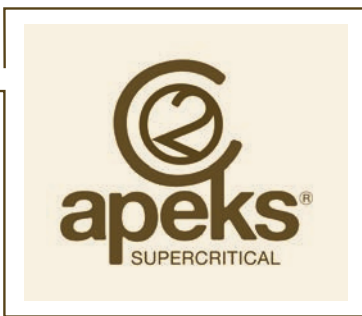
VELVET ICE CREAM

In 2014, family-owned Velvet Ice Cream celebrated 100 years of high-quality ice cream making in Utica at the historic Ye Olde Mill. This past year, they announced their largest capital project to date: a new 21,000 square foot warehouse and distribution space at their headquarters. This \$3 million dollar investment, will allow Velvet to produce more product to keep up with growing demand and facilitate further growth into new markets.



VADATA (AMAZON WEB SERVICES)

Vadata, announced in mid-2015 that it would be locating one of three data centers in New Albany, north of the Personal Care and Beauty Park. The \$300-million facility will occupy 150,000 square feet and create a minimum of 25 skilled jobs.



APEKS SUPERCritical

Apeks Supercritical moved in to a brand-new facility, marking the completion of phase one of a two-phase expansion announced in 2014. The company was named the 2nd fastest growing business in central Ohio by Columbus Business First as part of the annual Fast 50 ranking in 2015.



MPW INDUSTRIAL SERVICES

In 1972, the concept that was soon to be known as MPW Industrial Services bought its first cleaning truck. Now, they are a nationally recognized provider of high-quality, low-impact, safety-first, industrial cleaning and water purification services. They have continued to expand over the past 44 years, and in 2015 announced a \$10 million expansion to add a 76,000 square foot engineering and technology center to the headquarters in Hebron. The project will create nearly 60 jobs over the next five years, and serve as a foundation for future growth in Ohio and across the United States and Canada.



ARIEL CORPORATION

Ariel Corporation, headquartered in Mt. Vernon, Ohio, expanded into Licking County last year, setting up shop in a newly constructed speculative building from Southgate Corporation. The new 50,000 square foot facility at the Central Ohio Aerospace & Technology Campus increased Ariel's manufacturing capacity for the production of reciprocating compressors and created 100-150 new skilled jobs. Ariel is the largest manufacturer of separable reciprocating gas compressors worldwide.

PLANS FOR 2016 (AND BEYOND)

As part of a strategy for raising awareness of Licking County (and the sites and communities that call Licking County home), GROW will be undertaking a multi-media/ multi-prong approach to better position ourselves in the Central Ohio/Midwest marketplace.

THESE EFFORTS INCLUDE:

- Radio advertisements on local and regional radio outlets discussing opportunities and economic development efforts here in Licking County
- Traveling to various domestic and foreign trade industry shows with the intent to recruit industry and investment to Licking County
- Pursuing digital media opportunities in regional business publications discussing opportunities for development in Licking County
- Raising the awareness of Licking County through the sponsorship of events with Central Ohio's Chapter of NAIOP (Commercial Real Estate Development Association)
- Strengthening regional relationships with economic development-based associations
- Sponsoring various economic development trainings and discussions over the course of the next 12 months

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Timothy E. Bubb

President, Licking County Board
of Commissioners

Jennifer Chrysler

Director of Community Development,
New Albany

Michael Compton

Mayor, City of Pataskala

John D. Fisher

Director of Licking County Department
of Jobs & Family Services

Patrick Guanciale

Coldwell Banker King Thompson Real Estate

Cheri Hottinger

President & CEO, Licking County
Chamber of Commerce

Mark Johns

Mayor, City of Heath

Jim Lenner

Village Administrator,
Village of Johnstown

Michael McFarland

Mayor, Village of Hebron

Dan McVey

Vice President,
The Energy Cooperative

Roney Murphy

President, Mid-Ohio
Development Corporation

Jerry Newton, AICP

Director, Licking County Department
of Planning and Development

Robert O'Neill

President, Southgate Corporation

Rick Platt

President & CEO,
Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority

Joseph Robertson

Trustee, Monroe Township

INVESTORS

ADR & Associates

AEP Ohio

Anderson Layman Company

City of Heath

City of Newark

City of Pataskala

C-TEC Licking County

Denison University

The Energy Cooperative

First Federal Savings & Loan

Heartland Bank

Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority

Jerry McClain Company

Jobes Henderson & Associates, Inc.

Licking County Chamber of Commerce

Licking County Board of Commissioners

Licking Memorial Health Systems

Matesich Distributing

Mid-Ohio Development Corporation

Ohio State University-Newark

COTC-Newark

Park National Bank

ProLogis

Robertson Construction

Shai Commercial Real Estate Ltd.

Southgate Corporation

Truck One

TrueCore Federal Credit Union

Union Township

Village of Granville

Village of Hebron

Village of Johnstown

To explore the possibilities, please contact:

Nathan Strum, Director of Economic Development

Grow Licking County CIC

nstrum@growlickingcounty.org

P: 740.345.9757 ext. 3 | F: 740.345.5141

50 W. Locust Street | Newark, OH 43055

growlickingcounty.org

Follow us @GROWLickingCo

