



A Quarterly Assessment of Key Local Economic Indicators in Lucas County

What is the Wade Wire?

As a public information service, the *Wade Wire* will be a regularly published/released quarterly report in which we identify, measure, and analyze key local economic indicators within Lucas County.

Rather than formulating a complex Index of Leading Economic Indicators aimed at predicting trends yet to occur, we want to determine how well our local economy is *currently* performing (compared to the prior year) based on three essential questions:

1. Are people working?
2. Are people spending?
3. Are people building?

The data sources we use generally fall under the category of “concurrent” economic indicators (reflective of present conditions). However, some of them have had historically leading or predictive qualities. Thus, each report will also include a quarterly assessment, aimed at summarizing significant developments within and among our indicators and evaluating their potential impact on our county’s economy.

Wade Kapszukiewicz
Lucas County Treasurer

2013 · Third Quarter Highlights

• *Local Economy Better Off Today Than 2012*

Are People Working?

- Unemployment Numbers Mixed
 - Down Last Several Months
 - But Up From 2012

Are People Spending?

- Positive Trends in Retail Sales & Consumer Confidence
 - Sales Tax Collections Up From 2012
 - Auto Sales Continue 5-Year Upward Trend

Are People Building?

- Construction Sector Continues Growth
 - Virtually All Categories Show Improvement from 2012
 - New Construction Especially Strong
- Most Discouraging Numbers: Residential Adds & Alterations
 - Lone Category to Show Decline
 - Makes Efforts to Stabilize Neighborhoods Critical

• *Economy Should Continue to Show Progress Into 2014*