



A Quarterly Assessment of Key Local Economic Indicators in Lucas County

What is the Wade Wire?

As a public information service, the *Wade Wire* is 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 · Fourth Quarter Highlights

Local Economic Outlook Continues to Improve

Are People Working?

- Unemployment Numbers Trending Downward
 - Finished 2013 With Lower Rate Than 2012
 - Some Jobless People No Longer Seeking Work

Are People Spending?

- Strength of 3rd and 4th Quarters boosts economy
 - 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 Robust (Especially New Toledo Activity)
- Most Discouraging Numbers:
 - 2013 Residential Adds/Alts lower than 2012
 - Area Slow to Regain Jobs and Wages Lost in Recession

Economy Poised for Growth in 2014