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Focus on Facts

Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs – Cleveland State University

September 2019, No. 1.

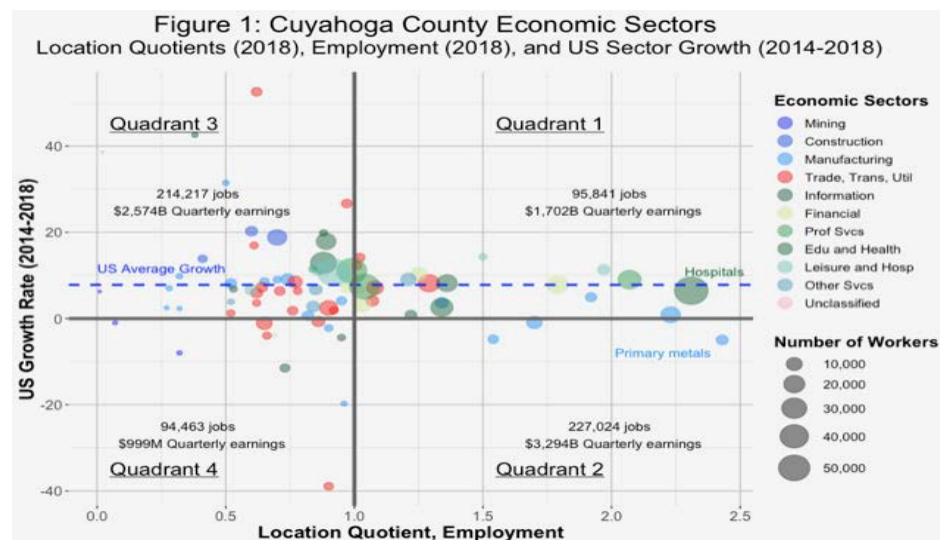
Identifying Sector-Based Opportunities to Create Living-Wage Jobs in Cuyahoga County, Ohio.

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- Figure 1 was included in a previous Focus on Facts (see May 2019, No. 1). The figure helps visualize why Cuyahoga County’s rate of job growth remains below national averages despite ten years of continual U.S. job growth. Cuyahoga County’s economy has high shares of jobs (Employment Location Quotients above 1.0) in sectors with low national growth rates, and low shares of jobs (ELQ’s below 1.0) in sectors with high national growth rates.¹



- Boosting the County’s rate of job growth could occur by expanding sectors that have low local ELQ’s and high rates of U.S. job growth. In Figure 1, these “Target Sectors” are located above the blue dotted line in Quadrant 3: ELQs below 1.0 and U.S. job growth rates above the average of 7.8% and in the portion of Quadrant 4 above the horizontal axis (ELQ’s below 1.0 and U.S. job growth rates between zero and the average of 7.8). Increasing ELQ’s to 1.0 would create “missing jobs.”
- But some Target Sectors in Quadrants 3 & 4 have high U.S. job growth rates because they produce many low-paying jobs. Cuyahoga County’s persistent disparities in income will not be improved by creating thousands of low-wage jobs.
- The MIT Living Wage Calculator,² estimates that a household with two adults and two children in Cleveland needs at least one worker to earn \$23.60 per hour, which is \$944 per week (40 hours).

¹ As discussed in Focus on Facts, May 2019, No. 1., an ELQ greater than 1.0 indicates more than average jobs. An ELQ less than 1.0 indicates fewer than average jobs. Data from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, June 2018.

² Developed by Amy K. Glasmeier, see <http://livingwage.mit.edu>

The national movement to support a minimum wage of \$15 per hour implies a minimum of \$600 per week. Table 1 identifies the Target Sectors from Figure 1 that fall into two groups. Group A sectors have average weekly wages in Cuyahoga County in 2018 above \$944 per week. Group B sectors have average weekly wages in the County between \$600 and \$944.³

Table 1
Estimated “Missing Jobs” in Target Sectors
Cuyahoga County, 2018

	Existing Jobs 2018	2018 ELQ	Avg. Wkly. Wage	Est. Missing Jobs If ELQ=1.0
Group A Sectors (Above \$944/week)				
238 Specialty Trade Contractors	15,532	0.70	\$1,138	6,650
621 Ambulatory Health Care Services	32,493	0.88	\$1,095	4,430
236 Construction of Buildings	4,802	0.60	\$1,266	3,200
237 Heavy and Civil Engineering	2,041	0.41	\$1,413	2,930
484 Truck Transportation	4,558	0.62	\$1,003	2,790
336 Transport Equip Mfg.	6,325	0.74	\$1,432	2,220
Other Group A Sectors	63,470	0.38-0.98	\$956-1,826	6,650
Group B Sectors (\$600-\$944/week)	45,972	0.28-0.97	\$614-931	22,180
Total Group A & Group B Sectors	175,193			51,050

- Some sectors are able to report high average weekly wages because they employ a small proportion of very highly educated, highly paid workers along with many low-wage workers. Table 2 examines the occupational mix within all of the Target Sectors that are included in Group A and Group B in Table 1. Table 2 indicates that most “missing jobs” that could be created in Cuyahoga County by expanding jobs in Target Sectors are in occupations that could be accessible to many local residents through coordinated/parallel efforts of job growth in Target Sectors and expanded workforce training.

Table 2
Estimated “Missing Jobs” in Target Sectors, by Occupation
Cuyahoga County, 2018

Construction and Extraction Occupations	8,430
Production Occupations	7,460
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	6,340
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	5,950
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	3,130
Sales and Related Occupations	3,030
Management Occupations	1,930
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	1,730
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	1,690
Healthcare Support Occupations	1,250
All Other Occupations	10,110
Total	51,050

- Not every sector of Cuyahoga County’s economy can achieve an ELQ of 1.0 (i.e. national average). In addition, continuous efforts to help high ELQ sectors maintain their strengths are essential (Quadrants 1 & 2 in Figure 1). Yet Target Sectors in Group A and Group B offer unexamined opportunities to create tens of thousands of well-paying jobs that can boost the County’s rate of job growth closer to U.S. averages, and create exciting opportunities to address the County’s persistent income disparities.

³ The Target Sectors in Figure 1 also include 10 sectors in Group C with average wages less than \$600/week. These sectors, which could create an additional 17,600 “missing jobs,” are excluded from Table 1 and Table 2.