



## 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

### 2015 · Third Quarter Highlights

#### *Pace of Growth Slows, But Economy Improves in Key Areas*

##### Are People Working?

- Local labor market improves in third quarter, jobless rates continue to drop
  - Lucas County unemployment, Sept. 2015: 4.5% (Sept. 2014: 5.7%)
  - Toledo unemployment, Sept. 2015: 4.9% (Sept. 2014: 6.3%)

##### Are People Spending?

- Area consumer spending healthy, especially among durable goods
  - Q3 sales tax collections up 2.38% from 2014, 7.19% YTD
  - Q3 new car sales up slightly (0.11%), but on pace for a record-setting year

##### Are People Building?

- Local construction sector recovery continues, but with mixed indicators
  - All permit categories down slightly in Q3
  - YTD New Residential ahead, New Commercial projects double 2014 figures

##### Report Highlights:

- U.S. adds disappointing 513,000 jobs in Q3, rebounds with 271,000 in October
- U.S. jobless rate dips to 5.1% in Sept., wages grow in Q3 and October
- Encouraged by recent data, Fed hints at December rate hike