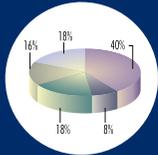


THE SEDP REPORT

June 2018



SHIAWASSEE COUNTY ECONOMIC TRENDS



Since the last report:

- Unemployment at 4.5%, below the State of Michigan average
- 300+ more residents working
- Incomes rose 3.2%
- Total property value increased 3.7%
- Homes for sale dropped to approximately 150 county-wide

Sources: Michigan Office of Labor Market Information, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Shiawassee County Tax Equalization, MLS Data

COMPANY HIGHLIGHTS



The producer of Crest pontoon boats continued its explosive growth, hosting a job fair and doing significant hiring throughout the year, ultimately resulting in them becoming the county's 2nd largest manufacturer with over 200 employees in Owosso Charter Township. A sister facility in the township, National Composites (a composite material manufacturer), also expanded with their own job fair.

ELITE VR

The new technology startup opened a virtual reality gaming facility in Caledonia Charter Township, which is expected to draw players from throughout the state and create several jobs. The township provided necessary approvals to move the project forward.

PROJECT OF THE YEAR



PROLIME

This agribusiness is constructing the first pelletized lime and gypsum processing facility in Michigan in Woodhull Township. The project includes a \$5.7 million investment in a new 38,000 square foot building and processing equipment, and is expected to create 15-20 new jobs. The Shiawassee County Board of Commissioners provided necessary governmental approvals and the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development offered a \$50,000 grant to help with project costs.



TRI-MER CORPORATION & RWI MANUFACTURING

The maker of custom air pollution control systems, along with its sister operation (a custom metal fabricator), are expanding in the Owosso Southeast Industrial Park with a \$2.5 million investment (building and equipment), helping to create 25 new jobs. Tax abatement assistance was provided by the City of Owosso, with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation offering \$100,000 to help with job creation and Michigan Department of Transportation providing \$325,000 to help rebuild industrial park roads (also supported by Owosso).

COMPANY HIGHLIGHTS (CONT'D)

RUGGED LINER

The manufacturer of OEM and aftermarket truck accessories, recently acquired by Truck Hero based in Ann Arbor, is expanding their business at their two plants located in Caledonia Charter Township and the City of Owosso. The firm is investing \$9.2 million, and held a job fair with a goal of filling 56 new positions. The project was aided by a \$300,000 grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.



ADVANCED DRAINAGE SYSTEMS

The drainage pipe manufacturer strengthened their operations in Owosso, with 85th District State Representative Ben Frederick leading passage of legislation that allows for a custom truck hauler to transport their pipe, ultimately improving safety, reducing cost and improving efficiency of shipping their product.

RETRIEVER SOLUTIONS

Local technology firm Say Computer merged with Colorado-based Retriever Software to create the new company, which is providing a multitude of products and services with a focus on the movie theater industry. They acquired the former Baker College Bentley Campus building in Owosso to support their growth, and plan to add several new workers. Necessary governmental approvals for the property were provided by the City of Owosso.

GREAT LAKES FAMILY OF COMPANIES

The group of businesses (Great Lakes Fusion, Great Lakes Ready Mix, Great Lakes Fabrication & Machining, Great Lakes Precast Products, and Great Lakes Rental & Supply) continued its substantial growth under the leadership of owner and entrepreneur Bryan Marks. They did significant hiring (including hosting a job fair to find 20 new workers), and also began work on cleaning up concrete debris on their property with a goal of developing it into a future industrial park. Public partners included Vernon Township, Shiawassee County Brownfield Authority, Shiawassee County Board of Commissioners, and 85th District State Representative Ben Frederick.



SPARTAN FENCE

The fence manufacturer and distributor is significantly expanding in the Perry Township Industrial Park, acquiring land and building a new 20,000 square foot facility (quadrupling its current size) with a \$900,000 investment and plans to double its workforce from 10 to 20 people. They received tax abatement assistance from Perry Township.

SONOCO PROTECTIVE SOLUTIONS

The South Carolina-based company, a maker of foam products for the automotive industry at their Owosso location, chose to expand operations at the site with a \$1.2 million investment and 31 new jobs. The Michigan Economic Development Corporation offered a \$155,000 grant in support for job creation and the City of Owosso also worked with the firm on water and road infrastructure improvements.

SEDP'S TALENT STRATEGY

The SEDP has identified access to talent as the top issue facing Shiawassee County companies, and we have made building the talent pipeline our organization's top priority. More specifically, we are conducting work in five key areas to help with hiring needs:

Commuters - Market available employment opportunities to residents currently leaving the county for work (18,000 people, 70% of the total labor force).

Training - Offer educational opportunities and identify funding programs to support skills growth for existing employees.

Reducing Employment Barriers - Promote organizations and programs that help tackle challenges to full-time employment, including lack of skills, access to childcare, access to transportation, and drugs.

Education & Business Partnerships - Serve as a connection point between our eight local school districts, Shiawassee RESD, Baker College and the business community to strengthen their collaboration.

Population Growth - Attract more people to move to Shiawassee County, with a focus on developing additional housing options and revitalizing downtowns.