

# Central Ohio Market News

## Industrial News From Central Ohio

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- Vacant Kmart in Hilliard set to be filled

- Sysco Foods of Central Ohio will close a West Side distribution center by the end of June. The closing will affect an unknown number of the 250 workers employed at the plant. The closure of the facility at 2400 Harrison Road comes as a move to consolidate Sysco's operations regionally and increase efficiency.

- Grove City is in negotiations with the electronics recycling firm Round2 Inc., who is looking to establish a \$900,000 investment at 2101 Southwest Blvd. Grove City and the state of Ohio are offering incentives to lure the firm from other potential locations in Kentucky and Tennessee. The site would employ 89.

- American Standard Cos. renewed a lease on the 900,000 square foot facility in Groveport business park.

- The parent of Columbus-based Abbott Nutrition is set to become the top pharmaceutical company in India with the purchase of an arm of Piramal Healthcare Ltd. Abbott laboratories is purchasing the Piramal

Healthcare for more than \$3.7 billion. The Columbus arm of Abbott is one of the region's top three manufacturers and employs 2,000.

- Genco Marketplace, a wholesale merchandise distributor, leased 155,990 from Prologis at 87 Heritage Dr. in Etna.

- The former Value City Warehouse at 2560 Value Way was sold this month to Columbus-based Wasserstrom Co., a restaurant supply firm. The 410,000-square-foot building became a distressed asset in third quarter 2008. In 2006 the property was valued at 18.4 million and sold recently at \$2.85 million. Sales of distressed and non-distressed assets have been infrequent as banks and firms are behaving very cautiously.

- E.I. DuPont De Nemours & Co has received a 50 percent, 10-year job retention tax credit, as well as a \$250,000 grant to buy machinery for a \$132 million expansion of its Circleville plant. The plans will create about 70 jobs.

## Office News From Central Ohio

- Nationwide Mutual Insurance Co. reported a \$396 million profit in the first quarter 2010 compared to a loss of \$106 million first quarter 2009. Revenues for the firm were up three percent to \$5.1 billion. The firm is looking to fill 600 jobs in Ohio with most of them in Central Ohio.
- Huntington Bank will remain in Central Ohio until 2030. The bank signed a lease renewal at 41 S. High Street. The lease was formerly set to close in 2015. The firm also announced that it will add another 500 jobs to Columbus over the next five years. The firm currently employs 3,600 in Columbus.
- Sterling Commerce Inc., a software and business-to-business tech company, announced its acquisition from their parent AT&T Inc. by IBM Corp. The \$1.4 billion deal will be finalized in the second half of the year. The firm is headquartered on Lakehurst Court and employs nearly 700 people there, 2,500 workers worldwide. No job cuts are tied with the purchase when IBM becomes the third company to take stake in the 35-year-old Columbus company.
- Southwestern College is set to lease 22,000 square feet of space in the former School Employees Retirement System offices at 45 N. Fourth St. The city expects Southwestern College to hire 49 employees, 23 of which are instructors, with an annual payroll of \$1.97 million.
- Focus Management Group, a firm that specializes in working with distressed companies, announced the opening of an office at 4449 Easton Way. The Tampa-based firm will only have two employees locally, but would hire local contractors who work on-site through restructurings, in-office improvements, and insolvency proceedings.
- The Dublin-based Putnam Transportation Insurance Agency Inc. was acquired by Cleveland-based Dawson Cos. Both firms offer specialized insurance for property, casualty, surety bonding, and employee benefits. Dawson sees the move as an expansion of their logistics liability insurance products.

## Economic & Development News

- A majority of voters approved renewing \$700 million in funding for the Third Frontier technology initiative which . The program has run since 2002 and boasts the creation of 41,300 jobs and \$6.6 billion of economic activity in Ohio through 2008. The funding extends the program through 2016, four years beyond the expected lifetime of the fund.
- Large-scale job cuts in Ohio have fallen in the first quarter, which is a marked difference from losses seen in the early part of 2009. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that 90 employers in Ohio cut 50 or more workers which is down very far from a year ago when 212 firms made these cuts. We expect that the unemployment number will rise or decrease very slowly despite the slowing of job losses because discouraged job-seekers are beginning to rejoin the search.
- The City of Dublin's plans to stall its acquisition of private property for an interchange upgrade at Post Road and Route 33 failed this month. The city had hoped to return the land because of an income receipt shortfall funding the project. The project would allow the increase in traffic activity that is expected in the next 25 years

## Central Ohio Market News

Every month, the researchers at Colliers International in Columbus compile the latest business news in Central Ohio. It's difficult to make time during the day to monitor breaking news and to catch every pertinent story, so we make it easy for you to get the information you need to make informed business decisions.

Central Ohio Market News is a publication compiled and researched by the Research Department at Colliers International in Columbus.

Sources: Ohio Department of Development, Business First, The Columbus Dispatch, The Daily Reporter, This Week Daily Newspapers, Wall Street Journal, ColumbusUnderground.com and Costar.

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- Central Ohio has seen a substantial increase in construction activity which is up 33 percent from last month. Commercial contracts totaled \$37.8 million, up 4 percent from \$36.3 million last year. Construction activity bodes well for the region's growth as an indication that firms are moving forward with cash on hand or financing to fulfill necessary projects. Among other things, financing has been difficult to secure.

## Retail News From Central Ohio

- Retailers from around the region reported gains in a key sales measure for the first three months of their fiscal year. Consumers have been more willing to spend on discretionary items. Limited Brands boasted sales open at least a year grew by ten percent. While Big Lots released that sales at stores open at least a year were up by six percent.
- She, a woman's clothing retailer, is moving from 541 S. Drexel Ave. to the former Bexley Stationers and Gifts store at 2580 E. Main St. Also in Bexley, Flavors Eatery closed this month at 2455 E. Main St.
- Ohioans approved the amendment to the casino bill to move the location of the new Penn National facility to the West Side. The former Delphi Automotive Systems will be annexed into Columbus after a deal with Franklin Township and the city of Columbus was hammered out. The casino has great potential to grow retail in the area as speculators have already begun bidding up prices on retail space.
- Anchor Co investment and management firm is looking to transform the Atlas Building at 8 E. Long St. into commercial space and apartments. The renovations at 106-year-old property could run near \$12 million and would mark continued growth of housing in the downtown area and potentially create more demand for retail space.
- Floor and Decor Outlets of America Inc. is hoping to occupy 80,000 square feet of a 121,500 square foot vacant

Kmart store in Hilliard. The 20-year-old Mill Run property has sat vacant for seven years and requires only the approval of the Hilliard Planning and Zoning Commission and should be completed by September.

- Valu King, a discount grocery chain of Giant Eagle Inc., opened its doors at Pataskala Station weeks ahead of schedule. The 27,000-square-foot store employs about 50 workers. The firm has also added another location in Reynoldsburg in the vacated Big Bear Stores Co. at 6300 E. Livingston Ave. The Reynoldsburg location is 55,000 square feet and will employ about 70. The firm is testing this discount chain in Ohio with stores in Cleveland as well as Ravenna and Norwalk.

- Payday lenders may be hit with more legislation as a bill regulating the industry further has passed in the Ohio House of Representatives and is on its way to the Ohio Senate. In particular, H.B. 348 blocks payday lenders from using lending fees instead of facing the capped interest rates.

- Mouton, an artisan meat, cheese, and wine restaurant, opened this month in the former Ohio Art League space at 954 N. High St.

- The home improvement retailer Menards has begun construction at the Northland Mall site with a completion date midway through next year. The 1811 Morse Road location will become the chain's 16th in Ohio.

## Columbus Directory

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