

Economic Development Along the Lakeshore



GMED Receives \$500K EPA Grant for Site Assessments



Pictured above Debra Shore, Regional Administrator, EPA and Cathy Brubaker Clarke, Development Strategist, GMED

EPA Regional Administrator Debra Shore was in Muskegon on May 25 to announce a \$500,000 grant to GMED for brownfield site assessments in Muskegon County, particularly sites within the City of Muskegon and Muskegon Heights. GMED will develop a process for site selection and will hire an environmental consultant to conduct the work, which is expected to begin this fall. The environmental site assessments are expected to spur additional development for manufacturing and mixed-use projects.

Free Energy Assessments Available to Area Manufacturers



Michigan State University's Industrial Assessment Center (IAC) can help small and medium-sized manufacturers in our area save energy, improve productivity, and reduce waste. University-based teams of engineering students and faculty are available to conduct no-cost technical assessments. After an initial site visit, the IAC team provides a comprehensive report with specific details on opportunities to improve competitiveness, including applicable energy rebates and incentives. Eligible manufacturers

must meet the following criteria:

Annual energy bills: \$100K-\$3.5M

Annual sales under \$100M

Fewer than 500 employees at site

No in-house energy professional on staff

Standard Industrial Codes (SIC) 20-39

Eligible commercial buildings must be 100,000 sq. ft or less

To learn more about this free assessment opportunity, click [HERE](#).

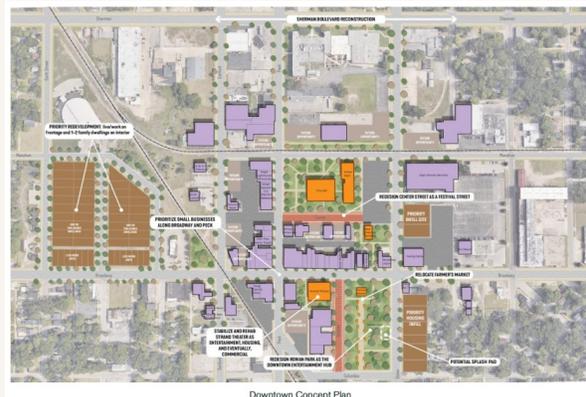
Muskegon Heights DDA Approves Downtown Vision Plan



The Muskegon Heights Downtown Development Authority recently approved the "Reaching New Muskegon Heights" vision plan for downtown. GMED worked with the City of Muskegon Heights and consultant SmithGroup to gather input from the community and develop the plan. Some of the plan's key components are the revitalization of the Strand Theater property and a complete redesign of Rowan Park and properties surrounding the park.

You can read the full press release at <https://www.developmuskegon.org/business-news/muskegon-heights-dda-approves-downtown-vision-plan/>.

Downtown Muskegon Heights Planning Moves Forward with USDA Grant



GMED has been awarded a \$95,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the planning and design of the civic/business center in downtown Muskegon Heights. This planning project is the next step in the recently approved "Reaching NEW Muskegon Heights" vision plan for the City's downtown area, which includes City Hall, the African American History Museum, the farmers' market, Rowan Park and Broadway Avenue in the core downtown.

PTAC to Offer Free 3-Part Course on Successful Market Practices for Gov't Contracts



The Truth About Capability Statements

August 16, 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. (virtual)

In this course, you will learn:

- 1) How to format your capability statement
- 2) What content to include
- 3) When to use it, and
- 4) How to create a content-repurposing process for future versions.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Methods for Communicating Past Performance

August 17, 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. (virtual)

This course will change how you market, communicate and differentiate your products and services with real-world examples that will help you map the value for each of your contracts and then "bridge" them to improve market positions and increase your company's perceived maturity.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Submitting Compliant Offers to Government Agencies

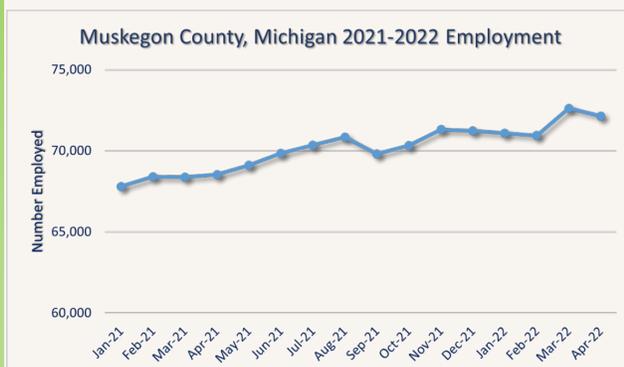
August 18, 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. (virtual)

In this 101-level course, you will learn the basics of submitting "compliant offers" to government agencies. Specifically, you'll learn about the three primary types of offers (quotes, bids, and proposals) solicited by government agencies, how they differ, things to consider in the bid/no-bid decision process, and how to be well prepared when opportunity knocks.

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Data

Employment and Unemployment



There were 72,147 people employed in Muskegon County in April 2022. This represents a decrease of 0.6% from the previous month.

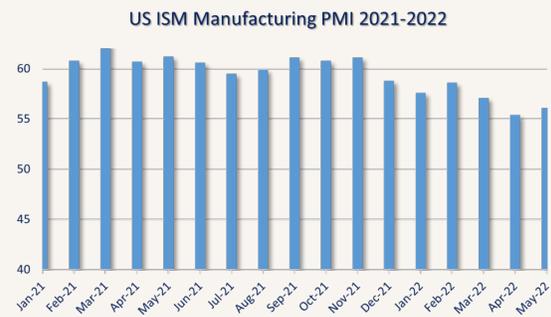
The unemployment rate for April remained steady at 5.3%.



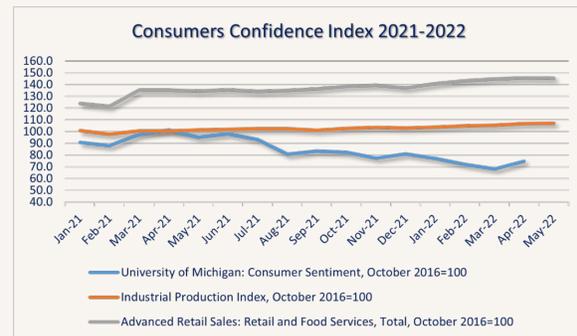
Source: JobsEQ

ISM Manufacturing PMI and Consumers Confidence Index

The ISM Manufacturing PMI for May was 56.1, which represents a 1.2% increase from the previous month.

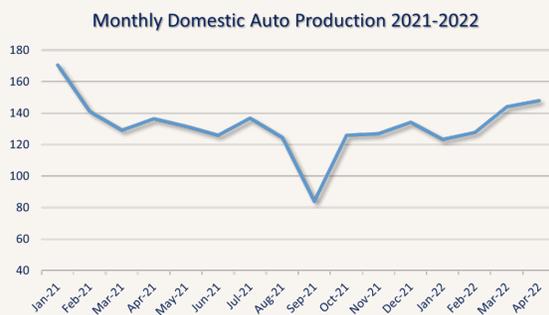


The Consumer Sentiment Index for April was 74.8, up 6.7 points from March. The Industrial Production Index for May was 107.2, up .3 points from the previous month. The Advanced Retail Sales Index for May was 145.5, down .3 points from April.



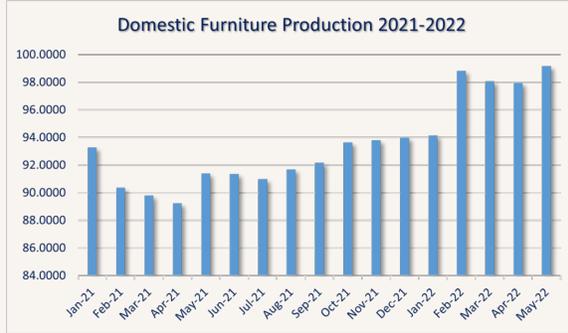
Source: Institute for Supply Management, St. Louis FRED

Monthly Domestic Auto Production and Domestic Furniture Production



148,000 automobiles were assembled in the U.S. in April 2022. This represents an increase of 2.7% from March.

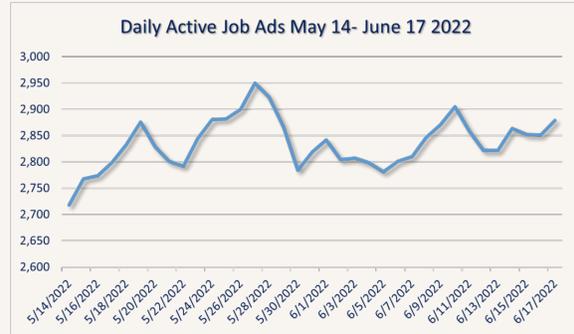
Domestic Furniture Production increased from April to May to 99.1681.



Source: St. Louis FRED

Active Job Postings

There were 4,591 total active job postings in Muskegon County between May 14 - June 17, including 76 postings for production workers.



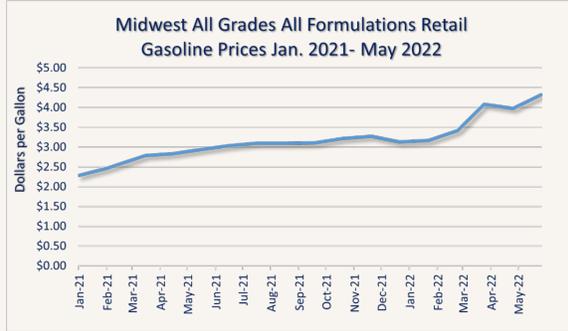
Source: JobsEQ

Durable Goods Manufacturers' Shipments and New Orders and Gasoline Prices



New orders for manufactured durable goods in May increased \$1.9 billion or 0.7 percent to \$267.2 billion. Shipments of manufactured durable goods in May, up twelve of the last thirteen months, increased \$3.6 billion or 1.3 percent to \$268.4 billion

The average price of gasoline in May was \$4.32. This represents an 8.82% increase from the previous month.



Source: US Census



380 W. Western Ave.
Muskegon, MI 49440 Suite 202
P: 231-722-3751
E: info@developmuskegon.org

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