



The EDACENTER

at the University of Minnesota Crookston

The EDA Chronicle-January 2014

www.edacenter.org

Volume 4, Issue 1

Events of Interest:

February 9-11

- NBIA's Eight Summit for Advanced Incubation Professionals at the Buena Vista Palace Hotel and Spa in Orlando, FL. Registration is \$585. For more information and to register, please go to <http://www.nbia.org/events/summit2014/index.php>.

February 18

- Minnesota Trade Office's International Trade Resources (You Shouldn't be Without) is being held at the DEED Conference Center from 9-11AM. Registration is \$25 if you pre-register and \$30 the day of the event. To register, please go to <https://www.regonline.com/Registrar/Checkin.aspx?EventID=1457539>.

February 24

- DEADLINE: USDA Value-added Producer Grant applications due. For more information, please go to http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_VAPG.html.

April 22-23

- EDA University Center Showcase hosted by The EDA Center at the University of Minnesota Crookston at the Best Western Plus Bloomington/Mall of America in Bloomington. More information located on page 2.

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New EDA Center Report Coming Soon

This past October the federal government shut down for 16 days due to the budget impasse. During that time all federal employees deemed "non essential" were furloughed and federal facilities not staffed were closed. The sting of this shutdown was all across the country. The shutdown of the National Park Service (NPS) affected all 50 states and Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. Table 1 shows a summary of recreation/non-recreation visitors, hours spent, and the number of overnight stays at all NPS sites in 2012.

The state of Minnesota was not immune to the effects of the federal government shutdown. Minnesota has four designated National Park Service sites: Voyageurs National Park, Grand Portage National Monument, Pipestone National Monument,

and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

The EDA Center and U of M Extension Center for Community Vitality are studying the economic impact analysis of the closure of these National Park Service Sites on communities close to each site. Because the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area is so expansive, we are not including this site in the analysis. Brigid Tuck, an economic impact analysis, from the U of M Extension is collecting quantitative data related to the federal government shutdown while Eddie Walker and Kevin Cooper are interviewing local chamber/CVB officials as well as NPS staff.

The report should be released within a couple of months and will be available at www.edacenter.org.

Table 1: Summary of Visitors to all National Park Sites in 2012

Category Summary	
Recreation Visits	282,765,682
Recreation Visitor Hours	1,228,318,424
Non-Recreation Visits	149,441,180
Non-Recreation Visitor Hours	77,197,884
Concessioner Lodging Overnights	3,297,080
Concessioner Camping Overnights	1,255,590
Tent Camper Overnights	3,203,413
Recreation Vehicle (RV) Overnights	2,121,646
Backcountry Overnights	1,816,904
Miscellaneous Overnights (Groups and Aboard Boats)	2,379,712
Non-Recreation Overnights	225,239
Total Overnight Stays	14,299,585

The EDA Center is Hosting EDA University Center Showcase

The EDA Center will be hosting the annual EDA University Showcase on April 22-23 at the Best Western Plus in Bloomington, Minnesota. The EDA University Center Showcase provides an opportunity for EDA University Centers in the Chicago region to share projects and activities each center has underway to promote economic development in their respective states. The Chicago region consists of Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Provided below is a **TENTATIVE** agenda for the showcase and is subject to change:

April 22, 2014

9:00 AM – 12:45 PM

Great Lakes Training Initiative Board Meeting

1:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Welcoming comments from Jeanette Tamayo

Introductions

Overview of the agenda

1:30 PM – 2:00 PM

Overview of Foundation Building/Resource Mapping Exercise

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Workshop #1 - Identifying and Addressing Needs Across the Region

3:00 PM – 3:15 PM

Break

3:15 PM – 3:45 PM

Presentation #1 Illinois

3:45 PM – 4:15 PM

Presentation #2 Michigan

4:15 PM – 4:45 PM

Presentation #3 Minnesota

4:45 PM – 5:00 PM

Wrap Up/Evaluation

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Poster Reception

**Dinner on your own

April 23, 2014

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM

Comments and Q&A from Day 1

9:00 AM – 9:30 AM

Presentation #4 Ohio/Cleveland State

9:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Presentation #5 Ohio/Bowling Green State, Ohio University

10:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Presentation #6 Wisconsin

10:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Break/Check out of Hotel

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Workshop #2 Leveraging EDA Dollars – Examples from UCs and EDDs

12:00 PM – 12:45 PM

Lunch

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

Workshop #3 Measuring Impacts

1:45 PM – 2:00 PM

Final comments from Jeanette Tamayo

2:00 PM Adjourn Showcase

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Time for University Centers with Jeanette and Pat – Q & A

3:00 PM Adjourn University Centers

If you have any questions, please contact any of The EDA Center at the University of Minnesota Crookston staff listed below:

Brent Hales – (Office) 612.626.8256
or (Cell) 601.467.1280

Kevin Cooper - (Office)
218.281.8187

Eddie Walker - (Office)
218.281.8251

REMINDER: RCP Proposals for 2014-2015 Due February 14th

Don't forget that proposals for the Resilient Communities Project (RCP) for cities and counties to be the community partner in 2014-2015 are due no later than 4:30 PM on February 14, 2014. "RCP is a year-long partnership between the University of Minnesota and one local community in Minnesota. Through the partnership, students and faculty from across the University collaborate with the partner community to address its self-defined sustainability-related needs through course-based projects. The collaboration results in on-the-

ground impact and momentum for a community working toward a more sustainable and livable future." Cities, counties, and communities along transportation corridors, around regional centers, or within watersheds are eligible to apply.

Preference is given to communities within a 2 hour drive of Minneapolis to minimize travel and time costs. Communities located further than 2 hours may be considered if additional funds are contributed to aid in travel costs. The RCP will notify the

community selected sometime in March 2014.

If you are submitting a proposal and would like our assistance or a letter of support, please contact either Brent Hales (bdhales@umn.edu) or Kevin Cooper (coope474@crk.umn.edu) and they will be happy to assist.

For more information and to apply please go to <http://rcp.umn.edu/home/communities/apply-to-rcp/>.

DEED Report: 2012-2013 Local Area Unemployment Statistics and Current Employment

After seasonal adjustments, unemployment in December dropped again to 6.7 percent in the U.S. and remained steady at 4.6 percent in Minnesota. Minnesota unemployment claims in December increased 11,990 to 39,915 when compared to November. Over the year unemployment claims increased 13.7 percent when compared to December 2012.

Minnesota employers added 9,500 jobs in December. Information Trade/Transportation/Utilities (4,600), Gov-

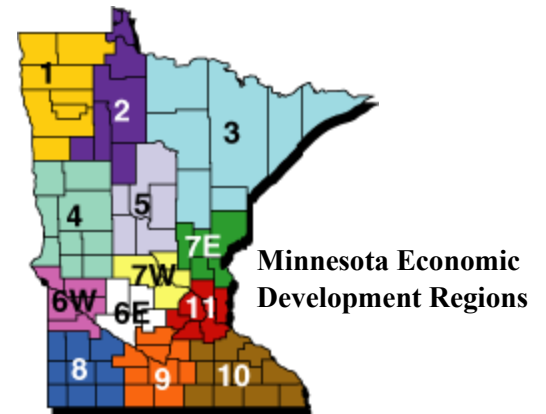
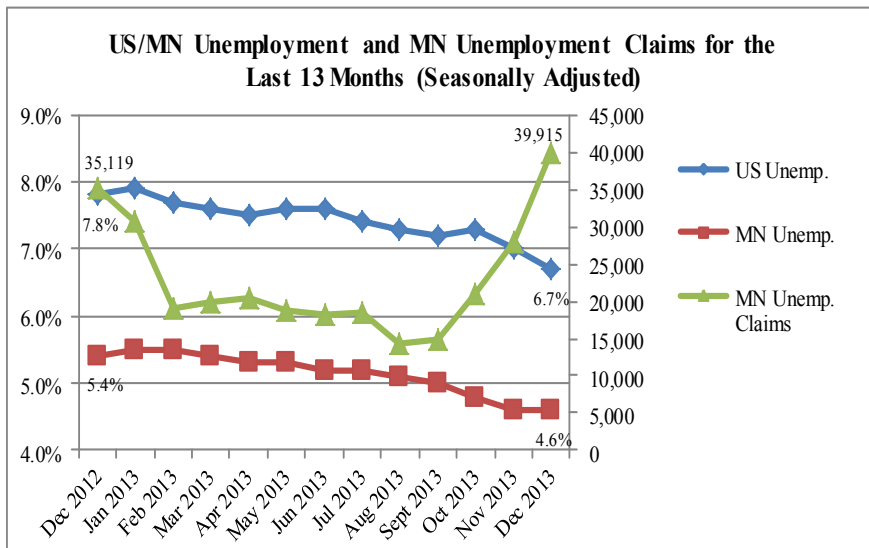
ernment (2,600), Manufacturing (1,700), Education/Health Services (1,200), Professional/Business Services (1,000), Construction (400), and Mining/Logging (100) were the seven sectors to post job gains in December. Four sectors posted job losses in December. These sectors include: Leisure/Hospitality (-800), Other Services (-700), Financial Activities (-500), and Information (-100).

Minnesota gained 45,908 additional jobs over the past year. Minnesota's

1.7 percent growth is above the U.S. growth rate of 1.6 percent.

All 13 EDRs experienced a rise in unemployment rates in December. Unemployment rate rise ranged from 0.2 percent (7 County Twin Cities region) to 1.5 percent (East Central region). Unemployment numbers for the EDRs are NOT seasonally adjusted.

Go to the DEED website; www.positivelyminnesota.com to view more employment and wage statistics.



2012-2013 Minnesota Unemployment by Economic Development Region (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Date	EDR1	EDR2	EDR3	EDR4	EDR5	EDR6E	EDR6W	EDR7E	EDR7W	EDR8	EDR9	EDR10	EDR11
Dec 2012	5.7%	8.1%	6.9%	5.2%	8.1%	6.1%	5.4%	7.9%	6%	4.2%	5.2%	4.9%	5%
Jan 2013	8.1%	10.1%	8.4%	6.7%	10.2%	7.9%	7.4%	10%	7.6%	5.8%	6.7%	6.2%	5.8%
Feb 2013	7.1%	9.2%	7.7%	6.1%	9.3%	7.3%	6.5%	9%	6.9%	5.4%	6.1%	5.8%	5.3%
Mar 2013	7.1%	9.2%	7.5%	6%	9%	7.1%	6.4%	9%	6.6%	5.2%	5.9%	5.5%	5.1%
Apr 2013	6.5%	8.7%	7.1%	5.3%	7.9%	6.1%	5.7%	8.1%	6%	4.7%	5.4%	5%	4.8%
May 2013	4.6%	7.1%	6.7%	4.1%	6.3%	5.1%	4.9%	6.4%	4.9%	4%	4.7%	4.6%	4.7%
Jun 2013	4.9%	7%	6.7%	4.3%	6.2%	5.3%	4.8%	6.3%	5.2%	4.2%	5%	4.9%	5.1%
Jul 2013	4.9%	6.8%	6.5%	4.1%	6%	5.1%	4.8%	6%	5%	4.7%	4.9%	4.8%	5%
Aug 2013	4.4%	6.2%	6%	3.7%	5.6%	4.6%	4.5%	5.5%	4.6%	3.8%	4.4%	4.5%	4.7%
Sept 2013	3.9%	5.8%	5.7%	3.6%	5.4%	4.4%	4.1%	5.3%	4.3%	3.6%	4.1%	4.2%	4.6%
Oct 2013	3.4%	5.4%	5.3%	3.2%	5.1%	4%	3.5%	4.8%	3.9%	3.8%	3.7%	3.8%	4.1%
Nov 2013	4%	6.3%	5.8%	3.6%	6.3%	4.3%	3.7%	5.4%	4.2%	3.2%	3.8%	3.7%	4%
Dec 2013	5%	7.4%	6.3%	4.6%	7.5%	5.3%	4.7%	6.9%	5.1%	3.9%	4.5%	4.3%	4.2%

The EDA Center's "Regional Round-up"

Every month The EDA Center will collect information from the different regions in Greater Minnesota in an effort to highlight various projects and events across the state. If you have any projects or events you would like for us to highlight in future newsletters, please submit them to walke810@umn.edu prior to the 15th of every month.

West Central Initiative (WCI)

By Sheri Booms Holm

West Central Initiative has opened its 2014 grant round for its Capital Improvement Plan Grant program for towns under 5,000 in the counties of Becker, Clay, Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens, Traverse and Wilkin. The deadline for applications is March 3, 2014. For more

information visit www.wcif.org/page/CIP, or contact Greg Wagner at 800-735-2239, greg@wcif.org.

West Central Initiative's 2014 grant round for its Competitive Workforce Grant program is open Jan. 10 through March 14, 2014. WCI will provide one-year grants to qualified organizations and partnerships that want to try out innovative ideas and pilot new ways to address skill shortages in west central Minnesota. For more information visit cwg.wcif.org, or contact Wendy Merrick at 800-735-2239, wendy@wcif.org.

Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC)

The Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging is looking for volunteers to be leaders in the Powerful Tools for Caregivers program. This program is

an educational program helping family caregivers of older adults develop skills they need to better take care of themselves as they provide care for other. Volunteers will receive 16 hours of training to become a Caregivers class leader. A two-day training class for leaders will be held in Duluth February 11th and 12th. Registration is limited to 16 people. You must register by February 3rd. For more information contact Lee Swenson at 1-800-333-2433 ext. 81019. The full press release may be viewed at [http://www.ardc.org/documents/NewsItems/PTC%20News%20Release%20Jan%202014%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.ardc.org/documents/NewsItems/PTC%20News%20Release%20Jan%202014%20(2).pdf).

Minnesota Exports Grow 0.8% to \$5.2 Billion for the 3rd Quarter of 2013

The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) reports that Minnesota exports grew 0.8 percent in the 3rd quarter of 2013. This is behind the U.S. growth rate of 2.8 percent during the same time period. The report indicates that 28 states reported increases in exports with 26 states reporting between 5 percent growth and 5 percent decline in exports.

North America continues to receive the largest amounts of exports (\$1.9 billion; -3%) along with Asia (\$1.6 billion; +1%). The strongest growth was in the Middle East (\$30 million; +34%),

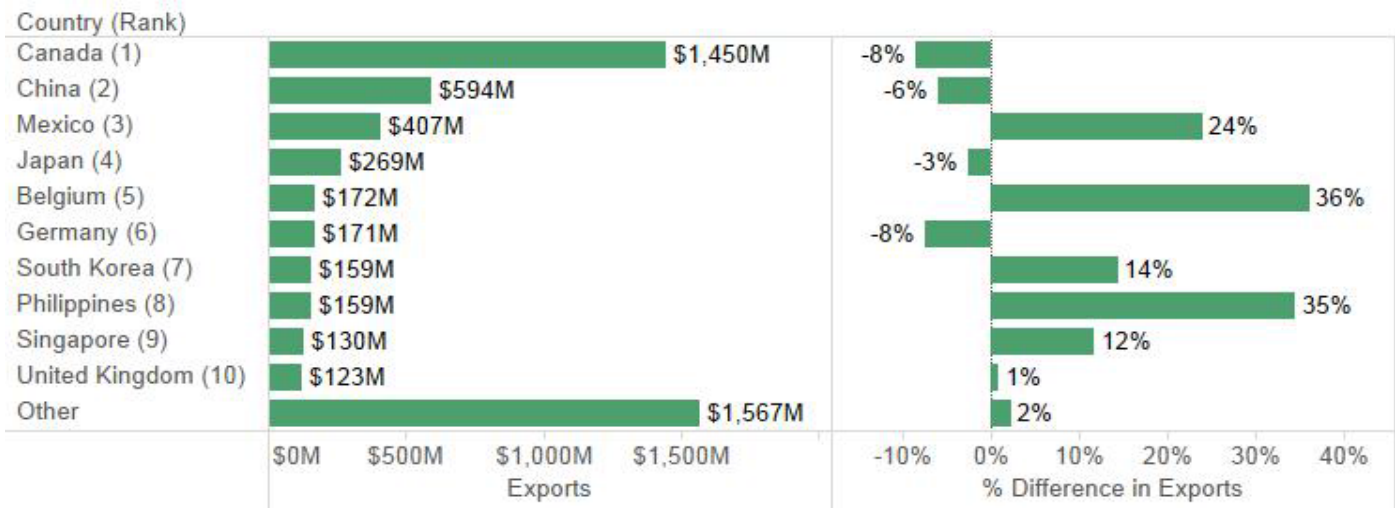
Africa (\$57 million; 25%), and Central and South America (\$267 million; +15%). The top ten countries receiving exports remain unchanged from the 2nd quarter report. Figure 1 from the DEED report (on the following page) shows the dollar value and decline or growth in exports in the top ten countries. As you can see from the figure, six countries in the top ten experienced growth ranging from 1 percent to 36 percent. Declines in exports to the top ten countries ranged from -3 percent to -8 percent.

Machinery led the way in export volume (\$969 million; +2%) with optics and medical instruments

(\$807 million; -1%) right behind. Also close behind are electrical machinery (\$639 million; +7%) and non-railway vehicle goods (\$563 million; +3%). Rounding out the top ten in exported goods are: plastic (\$250 million; 0%), food waste (\$161 million; +18%), aircraft/spacecraft (\$114 million; +1%), beverages (\$99 million; +81%), iron/steel products (\$85 million; +14%), and meat (\$79 million; +13%). All other goods totaled \$1.437 billion (-8%).

For the entire 3rd quarter report, please go to <http://mn.gov/deed/images/Third%20Quarter%20Exports%202013.pdf>.

Figure 1: Growth in Six of Minnesota’s Top 10 Markets for Q3 2013



EDA Center Seeks Applicants for Technical Assistance Projects

The EDA Center seeks to enhance economic development efforts throughout Minnesota by engaging in community and region-focused technical assistance projects. We are dedicated to being responsive to the priorities and projects of Minnesota’s communities and regions by providing timely expertise in a way that accelerates progress and increases the likelihood of positive outcomes. We do this by securing university consultants with related experience that can add value to client’s efforts. If your organization has a project that can benefit from the EDA Center, please take the time to download, complete, and submit the Request for Assistance (RFA) form at the end of this article. When an application is received, EDA Center staff will:

1. Review the request;
2. Discuss the project with the applicant;
3. Define a work plan;
4. Assess time and expertise commitments, and;

5. Make a decision on how to proceed.

While the EDA Center will make every effort to assist all well-conceived proposals, from time-to-time it may need to delay a project start-date or forego an engagement based on available financial or staff/faculty resources. Project duration must be less than 12 months in duration.

While the EDA Center does not charge for its services, it does expect active involvement from the client organizations we serve. We have found that the best outcomes occur when the client organization is working hand-in-hand with us, not simply acting as a passive service recipient.

Eligible Applicants:

Public, tribal-supported and nonprofit economic development agencies supporting rural areas which includes community, county, and regional organizations.

Types of Assistance:

Over the years the EDA Center has found success in assisting economic development in organizations in the following ways:

- Market Research
- Technology Studies
- Workforce Development Studies & Support
- Economic Impact Analysis
- Student Intern Placement
- Economic Development Planning
- Action Plan Development
- Statistical Studies
- Tourism-related studies
- Entrepreneur Infrastructure Development

To Apply:

Requesting assistance from the EDA Center is simple and streamlined. Simply complete the RFA application with a cover letter.

Applications can be downloaded and submitted via email or completed and submitted online. The PDF can be downloaded at http://www.edacenter.org/downloads/EDA_RFA_Form.pdf. The online application can be found at http://www.edacenter.org/technicalAssistance_request.php.

Application Deadlines:

There are no set deadlines for submitting technical assistance requests. Each application will be evaluated and responded to in a timely manner.

Have Questions?:

Contact Brent D. Hales, Ph.D., EDA Center Director at (w) 612.626.8256;

(c) 601.467.1280 or email at bdhales@umn.edu.

You may also contact Kevin Cooper, EDA Center Associate Director at 218.281.8187 or email at coope474@crk.umn.edu.

EDA Summer Internships Available

Does your organization have projects, initiatives, or other priorities you want to move ahead with but don't have the time to address? If so, the EDA Center invites you to consider becoming a partner in our Summer Intern program. This program is intended to match community and regional development organizations with University of Minnesota Crookston students interested in the field of economic and community development. Involvement in this pro-

gram will be mutually beneficial to participating development organizations and university students. Participating development organizations will obtain assistance from motivated and technologically-savvy soon-to-be college graduates, while students gain insight into the field. The EDA Center will match up to \$3 for each \$1 committed by the applying organization. Interns will typically be expected to work a minimum of 300 hours to com-

plete their internship requirements. Details concerning requirements and internship sponsor application material can be accessed at http://www.edacenter.org/downloads/EDA_Center_Internship_Program.pdf. For further questions feel free to call Kevin Cooper at 218-281-8187



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The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

The EDA Center at the University of Minnesota Crookston is one of more than 40 university centers nationwide, supported by the Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

We conduct applied research, provide direct technical assistance and deliver educational programs development agencies that support the economy of economically-distressed rural communities throughout Minnesota.

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