



The EDACENTER

at the University of Minnesota Crookston

The EDA Chronicle-May 2014

www.edacenter.org

Volume 4, Issue 5

Events of Interest:

June 4-5

- Symposium on Small Towns Understanding Rural Migration: Myths, Trends and Opportunities Exposed hosted by the University of Minnesota Morris Center for Small Towns. For the schedule of events, please go to <http://www.morris.umn.edu/cst/symposium/schedule/>.

June 16-18

- AAEL's 93rd Annual Conference and Expo to be held at Hyatt Regency Hotel in Minneapolis. For more information and to register, please go to <https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1407881>.

June 23-26

- BIO 2014 trade show will be held in San Diego, CA. There will be a delegation representing Minnesota at a booth (among them will be the Mayo Clinic). If you are interested in participating, please contact Sarah Walbert at Sarah.Walbert@state.mn.us. For more information about BIO 2014 and to register, please go to <http://convention.bio.org/2014/>

June 24

- EDAM Webinar: Legislative Update. This webinar will cover activities of EDAM's Government Relations Committee and EDAM's 2014 legislative agenda. For more information and to register, please go to http://www.edam.org/events/event_details.asp?id=446776.

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Identifying and Addressing Needs Across the Region

At the EDA University Center Showcase this past April we discussed ways to provide better technical assistance across our respective states. This involved a series of workshops: identifying and addressing needs across the region, leveraging EDA dollars, and measuring impacts of provided technical assistance. Over the coming months we will address each of these topics in the newsletter to make you aware of what we are doing to better serve the state of Minnesota.

One important consideration when providing technical assistance is how do we identify and address needs across the region? While I am not sure where I first heard it, I have often said "We don't know what we don't know". As assistance providers, we have an idea of what we think others need. We can come in, observe an organization and see something that may be of value to the organization. This does not always match the wants or goals of the organization with whom we are working. To make sure we adequately address the needs of organizations, we must incorporate what the organization actually needs/wants with our perceptions of what is beneficial to the organization.

This process begins with a request from an organization with explicit description of their needs and wants. On our website, we have a link to a document that can be completed and sent in to us (http://www.edacenter.org/downloads/EDA_RFA_Form.pdf) or the request can be completed and submitted online (http://www.edacenter.org/technicalAssistance_request.php). Once we receive this request, we will work with the submitting organization to determine how we can

assist. There are some improvements that can be made to this process. Not everyone is aware of how to request technical assistance or think their needs do not fall within our expertise. As a result, there are people we could be assisting that are marginalized. If we could reach these people, we could make a better use of resources The EDA Center has to offer.

An initiative we are involved in aims to address this very topic. The staff of The EDA Center at the University of Minnesota Crookston along with two representatives from MADO (Cheryl Lee Hills and Nicole Griensewic) are taking part in the Great Lakes Training Initiative. This initiative includes the EDA University Centers from five states (Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin), rural, and urban economic development representatives who comprise an advisory board.

The purpose of this initiative is to look at how do we determine training needs? To answer this, we need to know what is currently being done and what needs still are unmet. For example, how can we recognize underutilized assets and make better use of them? The final piece we are working on is how can we effectively communicate with our stakeholders so they are aware of how we can help? Some examples we are working on is developing a website for the entire Great Lakes Region to use as a resource. This would also include frequent communication like newsletters. Look for more information as we continue this process and please contact us if you have any questions about our services.

REMINDER: EDA Federal Funding Opportunity for FY 2014-2105 Deadlines

Just a reminder to any organizations who may be interested: the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) FY 2014 Economic Development Assistance Programs Federal Funding Opportunity deadlines are coming soon. The purpose of this FFO is to "support construction, non-construction, technical assistance, and revolving loan fund projects" as part of the EDA's Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance programs. "Grants made under these programs will leverage regional assets to

support implementation of regional economic development strategies designed to create jobs, leverage private capital, encourage economic development, and strengthen America's ability to compete in the global marketplace."

Eligible applicants include: private institutions of higher education, state governments, city or township governments, 501 (c) (3) and other nonprofits, Native American tribal governments, county governments, and other organizations listed in the grant

opportunity announcement. Applicants from rural and urban areas are welcome to apply. Deadlines for the next two funding cycles are:

- June 13, 2014 for FY 2014 funding cycle 4
- October 17, 2014 for FY 2015 funding cycle 1

To view the funding opportunity notice and to apply please go to <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=248297>.

Minnesota Exports \$20.7 Billion Worth of Goods in 2013

In the recent Annual Export Report, DEED values the amount of goods exported at \$20.7 billion for 2013. This is a \$106 million decrease from 2012, or approximately 0.5 percent recession. This ranks Minnesota 20th among all states in 2013. As shown in table 1, the top five countries remain the same as 2012: Canada (\$5.76 billion, -8%), China (2.46 billion, -1%), Mexico (\$1.47 billion, +14%), Japan (\$1.07 billion, -10%), and Germa-

ny (\$760 million, +4%).

While the growth in exports over the past year was lower than the U.S. average (2.1%), Minnesota is still exporting a near record amount in goods. More than 8,600 businesses in the state of Minnesota exported goods and services which helped generate approximately 136,900 jobs in Minnesota, 17th largest among all states (according to International Trade

Administration data). Of the jobs created, 65,100 jobs were in the manufacturing sector while 71,800 jobs were in sectors integral to delivering goods to market (such as marketing/sales, transportation, and logistics).

For the full Annual Report, please go to <http://mn.gov/deed/images/Annual%20Export%20Report%202013.pdf>.

Table 1: Minnesota Top Ten Export Markets, 2013

Rank 2012	Rank 2013	Country	Exports, 2013 (millions)	Distr. 2013	Value Change, 2012-2013	MN Percent Change, 2012-2013	US Percent Change, 2012-2013	MN as a Percent of the U.S.
1	1	Canada	\$5,757	28%	-\$530	-8%	3%	1.9%
2	2	China (incl. Hong Kong)	\$2,463	12%	-\$16	-1%	11%	1.5%
3	3	Mexico	\$1,474	7%	\$178	14%	5%	0.7%
4	4	Japan	\$1,068	5%	-\$112	-10%	-7%	1.6%
5	5	Germany	\$760	4%	\$32	4%	-3%	1.6%
7	6	Belgium	\$721	3%	\$80	12%	8%	2.3%
6	7	South Korea	\$624	3%	-\$83	-12%	-2%	1.5%
9	8	Philippines	\$552	3%	\$56	11%	4%	6.6%
8	9	United Kingdom	\$528	3%	\$17	3%	-14%	1.1%
13	10	Netherlands	\$521	3%	\$77	17%	5%	1.2%

DEED Report: 2013-2014 Local Area Unemployment Statistics and Jobs Report

After seasonal adjustments, unemployment in April dropped to 6.3 percent in the U.S. and 4.7 percent in Minnesota. Minnesota unemployment claims in April dropped 2,959 to 17,153 when compared to March. Over the year unemployment claims decreased 16.1 percent when compared to April 2013.

Minnesota employers eliminated 4,200 jobs in April. Professional Manufacturing (2,400), Government (1,500), and Information (200) added

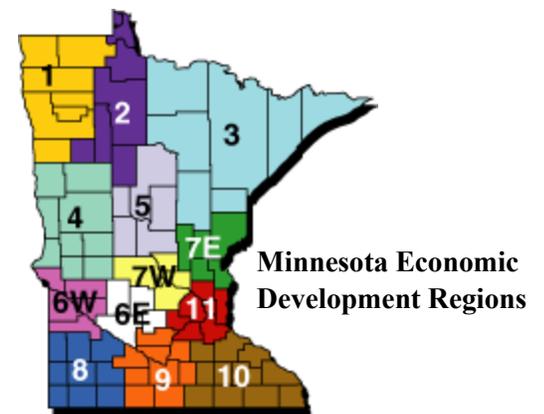
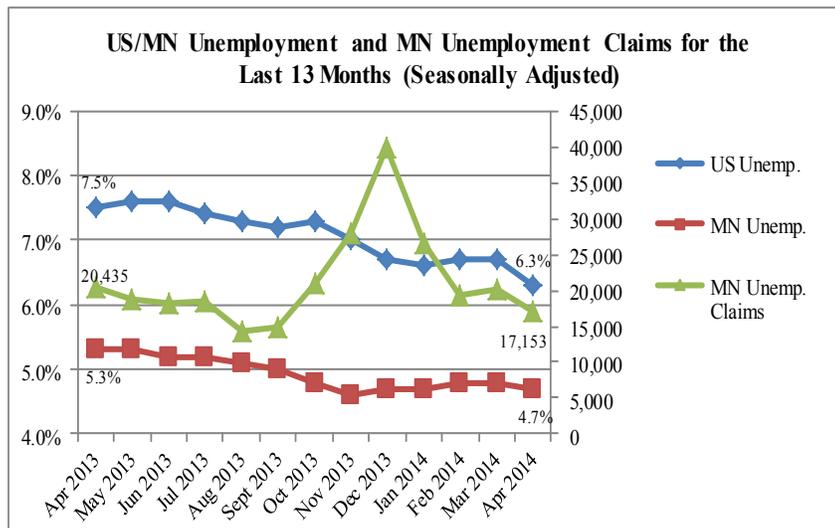
jobs in April. Professional/Business Services (-2,200), Construction (-2,200), Leisure/Hospitality (-1,700), Financial Activities (-800), Educational/Health Services (-700), Other Services (-600) and Mining/Logging (-100) posted job losses in April. Trade/Transportation/Utilities employment remained steady.

Minnesota has experienced 1.5 percent growth from 1 year ago with 41,934 additional jobs over the past year. This growth is below the U.S.

growth rate of 1.7 percent over the past 12 months.

April unemployment for all EDRs dropped when compared to March. The North Central region experienced the largest drop in unemployment at 1.8 percent.

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



2013-2014 Minnesota Unemployment by Economic Development Region (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Date	EDR1	EDR2	EDR3	EDR4	EDR5	EDR6E	EDR6W	EDR7E	EDR7W	EDR8	EDR9	EDR10	EDR11
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%
Jan 2014	7%	9.1%	7.4%	5.8%	9%	6.6%	6.8%	8.7%	6.4%	5.2%	5.8%	5.4%	4.9%
Feb 2014	6.5%	8.8%	7.4%	5.6%	8.7%	6.5%	6.3%	8.7%	6.3%	5.1%	5.8%	5.4%	4.8%
Mar 2014	6.6%	8.7%	7.2%	5.4%	8.7%	6.3%	5.9%	8.6%	6.3%	4.8%	5.6%	5.2%	4.7%
Apr 2014	5.3%	7.4%	6.3%	4.3%	6.9%	5.1%	4.7%	7.1%	4.9%	3.8%	4.5%	4.3%	4%

The EDA Center's "Regional Round-up"

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

Northwest Minnesota

By Linda Kingery

Thriving by Design II: Achieving Rural-Urban Economic and Community Health, -Crookston July 30-31

Design is a process. It is a process by which designers create the physical artifacts that surround us in our daily lives and define our civilization. The results of the design process are meant to solve problems.

Yet, all of us have problems to solve, issues to address, or things to create. In this regard, we are all designers.

Designers have the benefit of formal training in the design process, allowing them a way of thinking that is best described as design thinking.

Design thinking:

- can be imagined as a method of applying *creativity to action*;
- seeks to identify creative and practical solutions to address specific issues and problems while attempting to achieve broader and holistic goals – an improved future condition;
- examines both present and future conditions, allowing simultaneous exploration of a problem and possible solutions; and
- can be applied to nearly any issue or problem.

Join us for a Rural Design Conference

to explore design thinking and practice, applying the technique to specific issues on the rural landscape: nature-based recreation, food systems, and the role of Extension.

The Rural Design Conference is titled **Thriving by Design II: Achieving Rural-Urban Economic and Community Health**, and it will be held **July 30-31, 2014 at the University of Minnesota Crookston.**

Who should attend: Community leaders, elected officials, and planners, especially those from rural and small urban areas, designers, and anyone interested in learning about the use of design and design thinking as a problem-solving opportunity.

What you will get out of the conference: You will gain experience in visualizing and using design to achieve, sustain, and strengthen community vitality across our region. By using design and design thinking techniques, you will help create, select, and frame ideas and goals that can inform Minnesota's community development.

Tracks available include nature-based recreation and tourism, food systems and Extension reconsidered.

Additional details and registration information is available on the [conference website](#).

DEED 2014 Small Cities Development Program Grants

Northwest

Badger – \$223,104
Rental housing rehabilitation

Climax – \$320,000
Sanitary sewer treatment improvements

Crookston – \$350,000
Rental housing rehabilitation

Oklee – \$379,500
Owner-occupied housing rehabilitation

Oslo – \$399,280
Owner-occupied/rental housing

rehabilitation/commercial building rehabilitation

Mahnomen – \$552,000
Owner-occupied housing and commercial building rehabilitation

North Central

Akeley – \$345,000
Owner-occupied housing rehabilitation

Backus – \$410,000
Owner-occupied housing and commercial building rehabilitation

Deer River – \$772,875
Owner-occupied housing and commercial building rehabilitation

Grand Rapids – \$615,552
Owner-occupied and rental housing rehabilitation and commercial building rehabilitation

Kelliher – \$600,000
Water distribution line improvements and water tower construction

Riverton – \$309,500
Owner-occupied housing rehabilitation and replacement of water distribution lines

Verndale – \$645,880
Owner-occupied housing rehabilitation and replacement of sanitary sewer lines

Northeast

Cook County – \$350,175
Rental housing and commercial building rehabilitation

Beaver Bay – \$425,250
Owner-occupied housing rehabilitation

West Central

Breckenridge – \$459,600
Owner-occupied housing rehabilitation

Campbell – \$286,800
Owner-occupied housing rehabilitation

Chokio – \$342,000
Owner-occupied housing rehabilitation

Clara City – \$613,295
 Owner-occupied/rental housing rehabilitation/commercial building rehabilitation

Glenwood – \$249,750
 Owner-occupied housing rehabilitation

Herman – \$320,000
 Water tower construction

Sacred Heart – \$600,000
 Replacement of water distribution lines

Central

Princeton – \$370,300
 Owner-occupied housing and commercial building rehabilitation

Sartell – \$395,000
 Owner-occupied and rental housing rehabilitation

Southwest

Jeffers – \$487,900
 Owner-occupied housing rehabilitation

Luverne – \$941,760

Owner-occupied and rental housing rehabilitation and commercial building rehabilitation

Mountain Lake – \$890,900
 Owner-occupied housing rehabilitation, construction of a well and construction of a water line from the well to the water treatment facility

Tracy – \$740,900
 Owner-occupied housing rehabilitation and construction of a mechanical wastewater treatment facility

South Central

Arlington – \$262,194
 Rental housing rehabilitation

Gaylord – \$598,086
 Owner-occupied housing and commercial building rehabilitation

Lewisville – \$576,000
 Improvements to water distribution lines and rehabilitation of a water tower

Vernon Center – \$678,500
 Owner-occupied housing and

commercial building rehabilitation

Southeast

Austin – \$497,200
 Owner-occupied housing rehabilitation

Red Wing – \$683,184
 Owner-occupied housing and commercial building rehabilitation

Wanamingo – \$552,521
 Owner-occupied and rental housing rehabilitation

For more information about the DEED Small Cities Development Program, please go to

<http://mn.gov/deed/government/financial-assistance/community-funding/>.

Applications for this round of awards were due in November of 2013. While there has been no announcement about applications for next year, look out for this potential funding opportunity closer to the fall.



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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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