

To: Village of Romeoville Board of Trustees

From Mike Shurhay

Subject: Will County Industry Dynamics

A study was recently conducted on the Industry Dynamics of Will County. The findings included found employment tracking of the county since 2001 and the industry's most individuals worked in. Romeoville is located in Northern Will County. The county includes cities like Bolingbrook, Lockport, and Joliet as the county seat to name a few. The county is part of the collar counties that surround the City of Chicago and Cook County. Will County has access to numerous highways and borders Northwest Indiana. The county has seen tremendous growth as detailed in the findings of the study.

Findings

Will County has seen tremendous growth over the last twenty years not only in industry, but employment as well. The finding below from the Bureau of Economic Analysis detail the findings below.

Description	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Employment by place of work																			
Total employment (number of jobs)	197576	204959	212092	223732	238180	253433	269188	273867	268302	272569	281923	284556	295059	300847	310895	320819	331321	340290	346301
By type																			
Wage and salary employment	158672	162698	165919	174061	183076	195425	207491	212689	205476	210195	215403	219986	228932	232789	239848	248510	258245	264061	267309

With the exception of 2009, Will County has seen fairly steady job and wage growth. The decline in 2009 can be explained because of the recession the prior year of 2008. Almost every industry in Will County has seen a steady rise of employment and wage within the last twenty

years. The industry with the greatest jump is transportation and warehouse. The industry has nearly quadrupled over the last twenty years of the growing infrastructure of warehousing and transportation. The county has seen one major exception to the growth. This is the industry of Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction. This industry has seen a steady decline over the last twenty years. Some of the reasons for this include the rise of clean energy in the United States. The rise of clean energy and less emissions is leading to the need of oil and gas extraction. Another reason for the decline is the lack of space for quarrying in Will County. In Romeoville, the quarry is nearing the end of its life and the plant is almost out of space for blasting. This can cause a reduction in work and a reduction in jobs.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics provided the data for the largest employment industries in Will County along with the average wages. As seen below in the data chart, the top ten industries revolve around warehousing, transportation, and trucking.

	Annual Establishments	Annual Average Employment	Total Annual Wages	Annual Average Weekly Wage	Annual Wages per Employee	Annual Average Employment Location Quotient	Total Annual Wages Location Quotient
NAICS Sub-Sector							
NAICS 493 Warehousing and storage	116	19,171	\$778,398,682	\$781	\$40,604	7.6	8.47
NAICS 484 Truck transportation	996	5,985	352,175,244	1,132	58,841	2.37	3.07
NAICS 326 Plastics and rubber products manufacturing	44	2,691	190,501,196	1,362	70,801	2.27	3.41
NAICS 424 Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	194	7,295	607,822,073	1,602	83,320	2.08	2.72
NAICS 488 Support activities for transportation	158	2,423	134,800,075	1,070	55,643	2.06	2.27
NAICS 446 Health and personal care stores	201	3,319	121,830,748	706	36,705	1.99	2.06
NAICS 811 Repair and maintenance	580	4,076	217,647,036	1,027	53,396	1.88	2.51
NAICS 335 Electrical equipment and appliance mfg.	20	1,132	83,806,750	1,424	74,056	1.73	2.17
NAICS 221 Utilities	21	1,576	235,837,522	2,879	149,683	1.69	2.66
NAICS 451 Sports, hobby, music instrument, book stores	71	1,369	40,226,791	565	29,377	1.69	2.35

Trucking and transportation do not come as much of a surprise for being the county leaders as the county is situated near Chicago and major interstates. These interstates include Interstates

55, 57, 355, and 80. The county is also home to a major intermodal that is located in Joliet, IL. This does not come as a surprise the location quotient is seven times higher for warehousing. What is disappointing is the average wages in warehousing are significantly lower compared to other industries. Warehousing and storage are typically high turnover jobs because of the lower wages and the need for many individuals to be working in the industry. However, utilities do present promise in the industry as they are the ninth largest employment industry in Will County. Utilities also have the largest annual wages in the entire data chart from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Conclusion

Will County is fortunate to see steady job and wage growth of the past twenty years. The county is especially fortunate for the location and proximity to major highways and interstates. Without the location, Will County would not see the warehousing and storage boom that the past twenty years has brought. The industry provides many jobs and is the highest job provider in the county. Since the industries are typically large industrial buildings, they provide great property tax revenue for the county and municipalities. The industry is especially important in Romeoville with the taxes collected through motor and fuel tax. This helps improve transportation in the area and helps repair roads and infrastructure in the area. However, the industry provides some of the lowest wages out of all the industries. Romeoville needs to work with industrial not only as industrial runs out of space in the village, but also to work on creating good paying jobs and lasting careers for the residents of Romeoville and Will County.

One of the major industries that Romeoville and Will County need to keep an eye on is the Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction industry. As the rise of clean energy continues, the village and Will County should not rely on the Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction industry. Instead, Romeoville and Will County should be looking to attract businesses for clean and renewable energy. These industries and companies are looking to become an industry leader and the village and county should be looking to attract these types of businesses. As a leader in transportation and warehousing, clean energy would be a perfect fit for the area. As transportation and clean energy rises, so will the need for clean energy supply in Romeoville and Will County.