From: BRIAN CHAMBERS
Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2025 7:39 PM
To: City Council <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>; Planning <Planning@a2gov.org>; Dohoney Jr., Milton <MDohoney@a2gov.org>; Delacourt, Derek <DDelacourt@a2gov.org>; Lenart, Brett <BLenart@a2gov.org>; Paul Krutko; Reynolds, Kelly <KReynolds@a2gov.org>; Hall, Jennifer (Housing Commission) <JHall@a2gov.org>
Cc:
Subject: Area Employment Trend Analysis by Sector

Mayor Taylor and Administrator Dohoney:

Apparently, the US Bureau of Labor Statics data is still available, so I checked what was released on the Ann Arbor MSA through December for employment trends by major occupational sector.

The decline of the STEM sectors is still an issue for both the 6 month and 12 month percent changes in area employment. See the table below, ordered by occupation sector total area employment. Declining or flat sectors are highlighted in yellow.

The main reason to share this data is to emphasize the fragile nature of our local economy. While the 'Government' sector grew by 12% over the last 6 months, it accounts for City, County, State, Federal and University (U-M, Eastern and Washtenaw Community College) employment. Based on the cuts to Federal funding occurring with the new Administration, we can likely expect a decline in that sector, too.

While the US Bureau of Labor Statistics provides these data at the level of the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) or County, these data can certainly related to our Ann Arbor economy itself, I believe.

It will 'take a village' for us to get through this in the coming years. It is well timed to be securing a Director for the City's Ann Arbor Economic Development office.

Occupational Sector	Ann Arbor Area MSA - US Bureau of Labor Stastics		
	December '24 Employment (1,000s)	6 Month % Change	12 Month % Change
Total Nonfarm	236.0	4%	1%
Government	90.1	12%	2%
Education and Health Services	33.0	1%	1%
Professional and Business Services	30.1	-1%	-1%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	29.0	3%	1%
Leisure and Hospitality	17.3	-5%	1%
Manufacturing	12.3	-2%	-3%
Other Services	6.8	1%	5%
Financial Activities	6.8	0%	0%
Information	5.4	-2%	-4%
Mining, Logging, and Construction	5.2	-5%	8%

Best wishes for the turbulent times.

Brian
Ward 3

On 11/17/2024 10:37 AM EST BRIAN CHAMBERS wrote:

Mayor Taylor, City Administrator Dohoney, City Council, Paul Krutko, and City Economic Development and Planning leaders:

The attached two-page overview of Ann Arbor area employment and wage trends is in response to the recent MLive article on this topic. Using US Bureau of Labor Statistics data, declines have been most significant this year in STEM professions, including Finance, Information and Professional and Business Services sectors.

Some of you may already be aware of the details of these trends. Hopefully, this type of information, using US Bureau of Labor Statistics data, is of value to your policy and decision making needs.

Situation: Despite these declines, many remaining jobs offer higher incomes, with wages rising in numerous sectors even as the employment declines. With overall growth since 2019 in Management, Education, Healthcare, and Business professions, Ann Arbor remains attractive to higher-income occupations, especially as real estate professionals rank it the 8th best location for work.

Target: However, if Ann Arbor wants to retain more early-career, young professionals, the city needs more companies to expand or locate here, as well as greater housing affordability. Supporting STEM, STEAM, production, construction, renovation, food, and office services sectors would also help.

Proposals: Investments in mixed-use, walkable low- and moderate-income housing on public land or within a community land trust could improve the quality and affordability of life here, retaining critical workers across income levels.

While I fully support placemaking initiatives, I believe Ann Arbor requires broader modernization and economic development efforts. In addition to placemaking, we need substantial housing and business growth, particularly as Management, Education, Healthcare and Business sectors continue to expand.

Two areas around the downtown core could really leverage placemaking. The area around the downtown library and its redevelopment could serve as a cultural centerpiece, underscoring the city's role in the knowledge economy.

Another consideration for placemaking is around the redevelopment of the Amtrak train station combined with the restoration of the Huron River waterfront to make a truly iconic experience similar to many top university cities' waterfronts, like Cambridge, MA (Harvard), Vancouver, BC (University of British Columbia), Madison, WI (University of Wisconsin), Spokane, WA (University of Washington), or Columbus, OH (Ohio State).

Two regional transit stations offer great placemaking opportunities for economic development, and would enhance both of these re-developments of the downtown library and the train station around the downtown core area.

I appreciate everyone's efforts already underway to address these challenges, of course.

Yours in equity-based, sustainable development,

Brian Chambers
3rd Ward