

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



MadREP Report: August 13, 2015

Growth in Every Corner of the Region

We're often asked how the Madison Region economy is performing. To summarize it quite simply, **the trend we see is growth**. From all corners of the Madison Region, the facts, figures and headlines point to upward movement.



The latest data found on our [online data dashboard](#) illustrates a rise in metrics like the number of regional business establishments -- up from 24,171 in 2000 to 24,862 in 2013. And per capita personal income has increased from \$30,847 in 2000 to \$45,563 in 2013 -- a nearly 50% increase.

In Rock County alone, the latest federal data shows that [personal income climbed](#) by more than five times the national average at an increase of 4.6 percent from 2012 to 2013. Real estate is also in growing demand, as evidenced by the Columbus City Council's decision to approve [a new Tax Increment Finance district](#) on the west side of the city.

Examples of businesses growing are also prevalent, from [Sub Zero](#) -- which has selected Fitchburg for a \$62 million expansion that will create 300 new jobs; to [Rock Prairie Dairy's](#) plans to invest \$40 million in land, buildings, infrastructure, cattle, feed and equipment at a new farm in Green County; to Iowa County's [Cummins Emissions Solutions](#) whose parent company Cummins, Inc. reports higher-than-expected Q2 profit; to [Johnsonville Sausage's](#) plans to expand its Watertown operations in Jefferson County.



*Finished product in the Wolf factory
Image source: Wisconsin State Journal*

Finally, we see evidence of strategic planning for future growth. The Beaver Dam Chamber of Commerce is joining the [Future Wisconsin Project](#), an investment in the immediate and future workforce needs of the region, while the [GROW BARABOO plan](#) will work to stimulate and enhance area business growth.

These success stories from all eight of the region's counties -- while just a small sampling of business and industry news -- give us optimism for the future and **illustrate the potential for the collective impact** of MadREP and its public and private sector partners as we continue implementation of the [Advance Now Strategy](#).



Video Game Industry & Higher Ed Meet Up August 26, 5-8pm | Filament Games, Madison

Connect and conspire with fellow video game makers and researchers in the Madison Region to create a creative tech sector right here in the best of the Midwest. Leaders in the video game industry and higher education are invited to this first ever meet-up across the sector during [Forward Fest](#) to discuss needs and goals for creating an innovation ecosystem for video games. Network with colleagues over local libations

at the brand new studios of Filament Games.

MadREP is pleased to sponsor this event in partnership with Entertainment Software Association and the Higher Education Video Game Alliance. To register, please RSVP to [Jessica Ace](#) at 608.571.0408.

EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

UW-Madison Corporate Open House **August 19, 8:30am-5pm** **Union South, Madison**

Connect with business and industry liaisons from across campus, learn about existing opportunities, and discover what's possible when you work with UW-Madison.

[Register today!](#)

MITA Summer Social **August 20, 4:30-6pm** **The Edgewater's Boathouse, Madison**

Join Madison International Trade Association at the stunning Edgewater Boathouse for this networking event. [Learn more.](#)

Madison + Ruby 2015 **August 20-22, 9am** **Overture Center, Madison**

Designed for Ruby practitioners or the Ruby-curious, this conference will showcase the assets of the Ruby community and allow visitors to Madison a chance to experience one of the brainiest, least expensive places to live and work in the U.S.

[Register online.](#)

WARF Upstart Program for Minority and Women's Entrepreneurship **Deadline: August 21**

Apply for the fall 2015 cohort of UpStart -- a program of the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation designed to equip entrepreneurially minded women and minorities in the Madison area with the tools needed to launch or expand any business venture. [Learn more.](#)

Wisconsin Global Trade Conference: Together

REGIONAL NEWS

Talent & Training: **Blackhawk Technical College boot camps provide job training**

Blackhawk Technical College with help from the Southwest Wisconsin Workforce Development Board and employers in Rock and Green counties recently offered welding and CNC boot camps designed to teach unskilled workers a trade they could use to get jobs. The program not only trains people and puts them to work, but also creates a pipeline for people who haven't considered continuing their education. Boot camps are designed to fill specific needs requested by employers. "There is such a lack of skilled candidates for many of these jobs," said CNC instructor Tom Pleuger. "It's great whenever we can get them up and running and can help fill that gap."

[Read more.](#)

Startup Scene: **Madison start-up presents at the White House**

Export Abroad was invited to show off its product at the White House during the first-ever White House Demo Day. The company, based at 100state, helps other firms with market research and sales leads in foreign countries. Instead of pitching ideas to investors, entrepreneurs from around the country will make short presentations to President Barack Obama. The White House announced Demo Day in March as a way to bring exposure to entrepreneurs, especially women and minorities, and promote the entrepreneurial economy. "These are the folks whose stories show exactly why we need to grow the pie to make sure there's opportunity for everyone in our innovation economy," said Megan Smith, U.S. Chief Technology Officer.

[Read more.](#)

Capital Connection: **Madison start-ups compete for Silicon Valley trip**

Six Madison start-ups have been chosen by the Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce to compete for an all expenses paid trip to Silicon Valley to pitch to top investors during the chamber's neXXpo: Business in Fast Forward event on August 25. The event will include a happy hour sponsored by Zendesk, and a Startup Showcase, where very young companies will have the chance to make 5 minute presentations. The start-ups competing for the Silicon Valley trip are bluGiagnostics, Fetch Rewards, Health eFilings, Redox, SmartUQ, and Swallow Solutions.

[Read more.](#)

Company Profile: **Need a part? Midwest Prototyping can make it for you**

After immersing himself in 3D printing as a student at the Milwaukee School of Engineering, Steve Grundahl founded Midwest Prototyping, a company that specializes in custom prototype parts made from various materials. The company's customers include product development and design firms as well as manufacturing companies like Spectrum Brands, Sub Zero, Fiskars, and Spring Window Fashions. Located in the Blue Mounds Industrial Park, expansion is likely in the company's future as revenue grew 30 percent over the previous year in 2013 and by 41 percent in 2014. The company has been on the Inc. 5000 list of the nation's fastest growing companies.

[Read more.](#)

Business Expansion:

**Towards Tomorrow
August 24, 7:30am-4:30pm
Blue Harbor Resort,
Sheboygan**

The 3rd annual Wisconsin Global Trade Conference will feature a full day of presentations on global business and networking opportunities. [Find out more.](#)

**Speed Networking for
Entrepreneurs: Connect &
Move Your Ideas Forward
August 24, 12-1:30pm
AmFam DreamBank,
Madison**

In this highly interactive speed networking event, you'll join fellow entrepreneurs to make new connections, learn how to move your ideas forward, and develop win-win relationships. [Learn more.](#)

SUBMIT YOUR NEWS

[Send us](#) your business and economic news.

**Business Expansion:
Wollersheim set to open
distillery**

Wollersheim Winery will showcase its new \$4 million, 25,000 square-foot distillery in Sauk City at an open house Aug 14-15. Having broken ground one year ago, the distillery is Philippe and Julie Coquard's most significant building project since a fermentation room, bottling room and case storage space were built in 1994. To Philippe, brandy and other spirits symbolize growth and the continuation of his family's heritage. "It's somewhat emotional because it's a culmination of three years in planning the building and the construction," Philippe said. "Friday and Saturday are going to be among the biggest days in the winery's history...It's extremely exciting and a little scary at the same time."

[Read more.](#)

**Milton Plan Commission
approves Charter NEX Films
expansion**

Plastic manufacturer Charter NEX Films gained Milton Plan Commission's approval this week for an expansion that would double its size and workforce, adding 91,000 square feet of warehouse and production space and eventually 50 new jobs. "That's kind of a big driver for me," Plant manager Aaron LaPointe said. "It's great to see a company that's been here for the number of years that we have, expanding. It's a bright spot." City officials agree the plant's growth is good for Milton.

[Read more.](#)

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT



Thanks to [Alliant Energy Corporation](#) and all of our [investors](#).

MADISON REGION ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

www.madisonregion.org | info@madisonregion.org | 608.571.0420



[Forward this email](#)



This email was sent to jpark@madisonregion.org by communications@madisonregion.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [About our service provider.](#)



Madison Region Economic Partnership | 455 Science Drive | Suite 160 | Madison | WI | 53711