Great Lakes Prosperity: The Promise of Investing in People

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Defining the region

Six states

52 million people

Internally diverse

But much in common—especially vs. rest of US
Economic restructuring and recession have battered the Great Lakes, reducing work and incomes for the lower half of the income distribution.
Crushing manufacturing losses 1999-2009 eclipsed those of the late 1970s

Source: US Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis Regional Economic Accounts, series CA25 and CA25N. Note: In the late 1990s, the United States reclassified all its economic activity from the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system to the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS), resulting in the shifting of some manufacturing activities to other sectors. These data show both full- and part-time jobs.
Work has shifted from mid- to low-wage jobs

Source: 2000 US decennial census and 2015 one-year American Community Survey via ipums.org. Limited to respondents reporting at least 11 hours work per week and at least 14 weeks in the previous year and with computed wages over $1 and under $1,000 per hour.
Real incomes down as much as 18% (MI) since 2000

Demographic momentum poses a serious challenge for the Great Lakes
Natural increase has declined…

...and by the 2030s could dip into the negative.

Recent natural increase has been offset by net out-migration...

..pointing toward flat future population growth.

Future growth in seniors will transform the region

![Population Growth Chart]

Look within: People who are born here and move here are the region’s most important assets
Over 600,000 babies born every year?!

That’s enough to fill Ohio Stadium every 2 months.
Future growth depends increasingly on diversity

Three million Great Lakes kids live at or near the federal poverty line, as do >2M African Americans, >1M Hispanics, and >900K immigrants.

Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey, Table S1703
New workers are entering the labor force with higher—but disparate—levels of college attainment

Improve prosperity by investing in young people and the places where they grow up
The Great Lakes can do better.
Thanks

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