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# On the job hunt

## Job expo, business showcase give hope to local workers, owners

September 23, 2011

By LARRY RINGLER - Business Editor ([lringler@tribtoday.com](mailto:lringler@tribtoday.com)) , Tribune Chronicle | TribToday.com

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An aging work force prompted Tata Thomas Steel Strip to seek job candidates Thursday at the Oh-Penn Job Expo 2011 at Youngstown's Covelli Centre, where it drew a steady line of applicants.


About eight miles to the south, a Brookfield entrepreneur showed off her home scents products to visitors at the Regional Chamber Business Showcase at Mr. Anthony's banquet center in Boardman.

From steelmaking to apple pie scents, the two events showed the range of jobs offered by Mahoning Valley businesses.

Robert Hammercheck was interested in the former. The 44-year-old Cortland resident said he was laid off three months ago at Star Extruded Shapes Inc. in Canfield.

After going through previous layoffs at KraftMaid in Middlefield and Alcoa in Warren, he was looking to turn his 10 years of manufacturing experience into steady work.



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"I have a mortgage payment, child support, utilities," he said as he waited in one of the lengthier lines at the job fair.

Jason Schnabl, manager of employee relations for Tata Thomas Steel, said the Warren Township steel mill is hiring to replace retiring workers.

"We're getting a lot of good candidates, primarily for factory floor work," he said.

Job officials said the two-state job fair drew an estimated 3,000 job seekers and 70-plus employers, along with 23 training providers.

The fair attracted about 3,500 job hunters last year, as well as 90 employers and 30 training organizations.

The declines might be encouraging, a jobs official said.

"It may mean the bigger picture economy is picking up," said William Turner, work force administrator for the Trumbull County Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

He noted the area's manufacturing and natural gas drilling sectors have been improving.

Home business owner Dawn Rust was optimistic enough to start her second home party business to sell scents that are melted in an electric plug-in warmer.

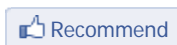
The Brookfield resident said she's starting to build a team of consultants for Scentsy, the Idaho-based company that's spreading its fragrances around the world.

"I treat it like a business because I know it's good," she said.

A Chamber official said the showcase drew slightly more than 85 exhibitors, about the same as last year.

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Highlights from job fair at Covelli Centre and showcase at Mr. Anthony.

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