



By Denise Bonura  
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Franklin County is slowly climbing up the ladder from the recession and the future is looking good, according to Mike Ross, president of the Franklin County Area Development Corp.

"We're starting to see an uptick in manufacturing, which is causing companies to bring people back," he said. "So when Manitowoc, JLG, Johnson Controls and Tyco Electronics are hiring, then their whole supply chain is affected and they start to bring people back."

There are a lot of positive signs that we are seeing recovery. I don't think we're out of the woods. But, on May 11, 2010, it's a lot clearer than it was on May 11, 2009. We're going in the right direction, we're starting to see a better employment picture and it will strengthen significantly by next year."

Ross said the unemployment rate, which skyrocketed to historic highs in 2007, has dropped in the county from 9.1 percent in February to about 8.5 percent.

"There are more construction jobs out there and some retail jobs, especially in the hospitality sector for the summer, and those are positive signs," Ross said. "In speaking with businesses, they're all starting to say it's starting to get somewhat better for them."

A new distribution center in Chambersburg — DDS Inc. — is hiring more than 40 full-time shift materials handlers. DDS Inc. is a multi-national provider of packaging, janitorial, business forms, printed documents and cleaning supplies for the retail industry.

### **Recession**

The recession that began in 2007 made a number of local companies cut their forces and work weeks to stay afloat when the workload dwindled. Manitowoc, Tyco Electronics, Johnson Controls and JLG Industries were just a few. Many of the companies have called workers back in recent months as workloads have increased.

Tyco Electronics on North Grant Street in Waynesboro has added a heat treatment facility, part of Tyco Electronics Global Application Tooling Division, to the plant. The addition will be complete by the end of this month or the beginning of June, according to company spokesman Mike Ratcliff.

Tyco has hired about 80 people since November and is looking for 35 skilled machinists and production workers, human resources adviser Beth Wood said.

The company was given the opportunity to build the addition in September when a Tyco plant in Mount Sidney, Va., was forced to close due to the recession. The workload was transferred to the Waynesboro plant and about a dozen workers relocated to the area. Close to 100 employees at the Virginia plant were laid off.



"I think business is fairly good," Ratcliff said. "We have seen an increase in workload there (the Waynesboro plant). In general, there's a positive outlook, specifically with the global application tooling division in Waynesboro."

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