

FactSheet} Economic Impact of 100 Jobs

The value of a job to Kentucky's economy varies meaningfully by industry within the state. Jobs that are based on significant capital investment have a tendency to create the greatest values for the state's economy. These capital-intensive jobs (*i.e.*, utilities, coal mining, steel production, and motor vehicle production) also command above average salaries and significant benefits for those employed in these industries. Jobs requiring less human capital and physical capital have a tendency to create less economic value for the state's economy. These jobs have a propensity to occur in employment areas located in retail sales, agriculture, and some of the lower skilled manufacturing and construction areas. Lower salary levels generally correspond with these categories of employment.

| <i>Estimated Value Added: 2011</i> | | | | |
|---|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| <i>Economic Impact of Adding 100 New Jobs in Kentucky</i> | | | | |
| Industrial Sector | Direct | Indirect | Induced | Total |
| Accommodation and Food Services | \$3,000,000 | \$956,000 | \$953,000 | \$4,909,000 |
| Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting | \$2,555,000 | \$856,000 | \$717,000 | \$4,128,000 |
| Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation | \$2,155,000 | \$985,000 | \$868,000 | \$4,008,000 |
| Construction | \$5,071,000 | \$1,287,000 | \$1,971,000 | \$8,329,000 |
| Finance and Insurance | \$11,317,000 | \$4,215,000 | \$2,826,000 | \$18,358,000 |
| Health and Social Services | \$5,854,000 | \$1,479,000 | \$2,246,000 | \$9,579,000 |
| Information | \$13,079,000 | \$6,305,000 | \$3,301,000 | \$22,685,000 |
| Manufacturing | \$12,072,000 | \$8,492,000 | \$4,064,000 | \$24,628,000 |
| Mining | \$14,773,000 | \$6,460,000 | \$3,860,000 | \$25,093,000 |
| Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | \$7,515,000 | \$1,535,000 | \$2,479,000 | \$11,529,000 |
| Retail Trade | \$4,375,000 | \$879,000 | \$1,235,000 | \$6,489,000 |
| Transportation and Warehousing | \$8,112,000 | \$2,188,000 | \$2,518,000 | \$12,818,000 |
| Utilities | \$37,990,000 | \$9,148,000 | \$5,817,000 | \$52,955,000 |
| Wholesale Trade | \$11,659,000 | \$1,950,000 | \$2,945,000 | \$16,554,000 |

Note: Not comparable with previous years.

Economic impact modeling captures the direct impact of an employment expenditure on the economy.



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| <i>Estimated Jobs Created: 2011</i> <i>Economic Impact of Adding 100 New Jobs in Kentucky</i> | | | | |
|--|--------|----------|---------|-------|
| Industrial Sector | Direct | Indirect | Induced | Total |
| Accommodation and Food Services | 100 | 12.4 | 14.1 | 126.5 |
| Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting | 100 | 13.4 | 10.6 | 124.0 |
| Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation | 100 | 16.1 | 12.8 | 128.9 |
| Construction | 100 | 18.8 | 29.1 | 147.9 |
| Finance and Insurance | 100 | 50.6 | 41.7 | 192.3 |
| Health and Social Services | 100 | 19.4 | 33.2 | 152.6 |
| Information | 100 | 88.5 | 48.8 | 237.3 |
| Manufacturing | 100 | 108.3 | 60.1 | 268.4 |
| Mining | 100 | 75.4 | 57.0 | 232.4 |
| Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | 100 | 23.0 | 36.6 | 159.6 |
| Retail Trade | 100 | 11.0 | 18.2 | 129.2 |
| Transportation and Warehousing | 100 | 31.9 | 37.2 | 169.1 |
| Utilities | 100 | 122.1 | 85.9 | 308.0 |
| Wholesale Trade | 100 | 26.7 | 43.5 | 170.2 |

Note: Not comparable with previous years.

| <i>Estimated State and Local Taxes: 2011</i> <i>Created Economic Impact of Adding 100 New Jobs in Kentucky</i> | | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Industrial Sector | Direct | Indirect | Induced | Total |
| Accommodation and Food Services | \$416,000 | \$87,000 | \$91,000 | \$594,000 |
| Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting | \$152,000 | \$34,000 | \$28,000 | \$214,000 |
| Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation | \$254,000 | \$72,000 | \$61,000 | \$387,000 |
| Construction | \$361,000 | \$79,000 | \$122,000 | \$562,000 |
| Finance and Insurance | \$649,000 | \$281,000 | \$212,000 | \$1,142,000 |
| Health and Social Services | \$401,000 | \$89,000 | \$143,000 | \$633,000 |
| Information | \$930,000 | \$606,000 | \$327,000 | \$1,863,000 |
| Manufacturing | \$1,461,000 | \$1,267,000 | \$658,000 | \$3,386,000 |
| Mining | \$1,453,000 | \$830,000 | \$569,000 | \$2,852,000 |
| Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | \$435,000 | \$94,000 | \$151,000 | \$680,000 |
| Retail Trade | \$741,000 | \$113,000 | \$169,000 | \$1,023,000 |
| Transportation and Warehousing | \$535,000 | \$157,000 | \$182,000 | \$874,000 |
| Utilities | \$4,748,000 | \$2,593,000 | \$1,771,000 | \$9,112,000 |
| Wholesale Trade | \$1,800,000 | \$383,000 | \$604,000 | \$2,787,000 |

Notes: Local education taxes are excluded. Tax estimates are inclusive of corporate, business and household taxes.

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Economic Impacts

Economic impacts are a mathematical method of specifying the economic relationships among all businesses/ industries and between businesses/industries and consumers. Input-output (I/O) modeling is one of the most commonly utilized methods to assess the economic outcomes of job creation or reduction. Economic impact modeling captures the direct impact of an employment expenditure (jobs with wages, salaries, and benefits) on the economy. Additionally, the secondary (indirect) effect on the economy is captured and the consumer based (induced) effects are calculated by the model.

Economic impact analysis typically utilizes an economic model input-output (I/O) which traces the flow of goods and services, income, and employment among related sectors of the economy. The I/O model generates a mathematical depiction of the flow of economic activity. In other words, final demand changes on the industrial sector producing the good/service (output) purchases inputs from other industrial sectors, which in turn purchase inputs from other sectors. These industrial sectors purchase additional labor inputs. Employees of these industries use their compensation to purchase goods and services from the economy. Linkages between industries in a region create an economic ripple effect as a result of changes in demand for products. Strong linkages can lead to a healthier economy, as capital flows through the economy rather than out of it.

Direct Effects: Direct effects are the changes in economic activity during the first round of spending at the original project (initial employment and wage effect).

Indirect Effects: Indirect effects are the impact of local industries buying goods and services from other Kentucky industries. The cycle of spending works its way backward through the supply chain until all money leaks from the Kentucky economy, either through imports or by payments to value added. Indirect effects are the changes in sales, income, or employment within the region in backward-linked industries supplying goods and services. These represent the impacts (e.g. change in employment) caused by the iteration of industries purchasing from industries resulting from direct final demand changes. New jobs will be created outside of the primary industry/direct impact industry.

Induced Effects: Induced effects are the response by an economy to an initial change (direct effect) that occurs through re-spending of income received. This money is recirculated through the household spending patterns causing further local economic activity. New jobs created in the areas of food services, plumbing, medical/dental care, barbershops, clothing sales, police & fire protection, lawn care, legal services, financial services, real estate, merchandise stores, automobile dealers, service stations, etc., are due to the direct and indirect effects of the initial creation of jobs.

Value Added: Indicates the total economic value (impact) attributable to Kentucky's workers and industries. (Data consistent with Kentucky's Gross State Product [GSP] is not identical.)

Source: MIG, Inc. 2011 databases and IMPLAN 3.0 matrices are utilized in the computation of economic impact estimates.

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Fact: Input-output modeling is one of the most commonly utilized methods to assess the economic outcomes of job creation or reduction.

April 2013

Economic Multipliers: How Communities Can Use Them for Planning

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The economic structure of rural communities in Arkansas is changing. Rural Arkansas communities have lost manufacturing, farm and forestry jobs. This has resulted in declining populations, which has caused ripple effects throughout rural Arkansas. Some leaders are revitalizing their communities by diversifying their local economies. Economic multipliers help leaders predict the “ripple effects” of new and expanding, as well as declining, industry.

A new or expanding industry can have economic impacts beyond the jobs and income generated by the original project. Often community leaders do not have the time or expertise to obtain and decipher complex economic data to evaluate the benefits and costs of using tax dollars to encourage industry to locate or expand. A multiplier is a single number which summarizes the total economic benefits resulting from a change in the local economy.

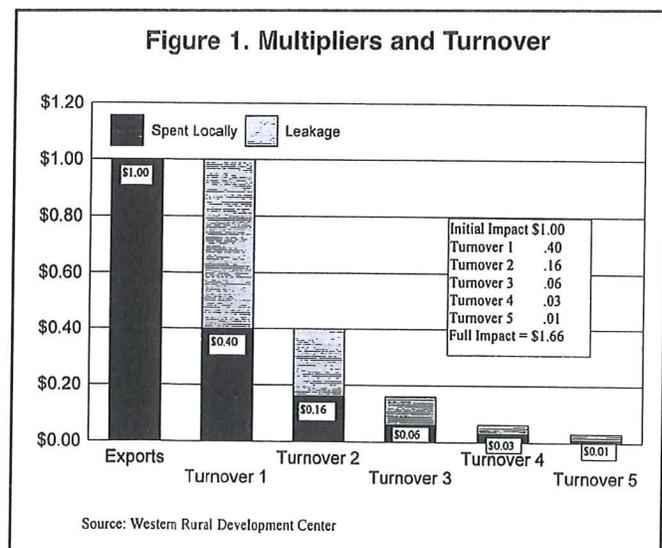
If used wisely, multipliers provide planners and community leaders with estimates of employment, gross sales and income that will result from new economic activity. Comparison of the alternatives can help communities decide where to invest time and resources to get the greatest benefit.

In this fact sheet we define multipliers and show how they are calculated, explain how to interpret them and identify their limitations. We also provide an example to illustrate the use of multipliers.

Multiplier

A multiplier summarizes the total impact that can be expected from change in a given economic activity. For example, a new manufacturing facility or an increase in exports by a local firm are economic changes which can spur ripple effects or spin-off activities. Multipliers measure the economic impact of these new exports, including the resulting spin-off activities.

Figure 1 illustrates the multiplier concept. One dollar is received into the local economy from export sales of a commodity.¹ Of this \$1, 40 cents



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¹ By export we do not necessarily mean international export, rather, sales beyond the community borders.

is spent for goods and services within the community. The firms and individuals who receive this 40 cents spend 16 cents within the community. Of the 16 cents, only 6 cents is spent locally, and so on. The total amount of money received by local firms and residents as a result of the initial \$1 in added export earnings is \$1.66. Therefore, the multiplier is 1.66.

Types of Multipliers

Change may be measured in several ways. Some community leaders may be primarily concerned with employment or income while others may want to estimate the total value added to the local economy. Since multipliers are simple ratios of total to initial change, numerous economic multipliers are easy to calculate (see Appendix). Four multipliers are commonly used to assess impacts of an initial increase in production resulting from an increase in sales, usually called final demand in multiplier analysis. The four are: (1) Output, (2) Employment, (3) Income and (4) Value Added Multipliers.

Output Multiplier

The output multiplier estimates the total change in local sales, including the initial \$1 of sales outside the area, resulting from a \$1 increase in sales outside the study area (final demand). Multiplying the increase in sales of the exporting industry by the output multiplier provides an estimate of the total increase in sales for the study area, including the \$1 export sales. The output multiplier is used to assess the interdependence of sectors in the local economy.

To illustrate the use of multipliers, consider the following hypothetical situation. Lumberland Inc., a sawmill operation in Wilburn County, gets an order from a Japanese furniture manufacturer for an additional \$1 million lumber products.

Using this example, an output multiplier of 1.9 indicates that for every \$1 of lumber exported to Japan, an additional \$0.90 of output is produced in the local economy. If Lumberland sells \$1 million of lumber to Japan, then \$900,000 of additional output is produced locally to supply Lumberland Inc., other affected industries and consumers. If most of the supplies and services are purchased outside the local community, the output multiplier would be considerably lower, such as 1.4, or 40 cents for every dollar of export sales.

Employment Multiplier

Communities often wish to know the number of jobs that will be created as a result of a new economic activity. The employment multiplier measures the total change in employment resulting from an initial change in employment of an exporting

industry. The additional employment in the new activity multiplied by the employment multiplier for the industry provides an estimate of the total new jobs created in the area of study (i.e., county, district, state or region).

Consider the example of Lumberland hiring 300 new employees if the employment multiplier for sawmills is 2.1. In this scenario, an additional 330 jobs (630 - 300) would be created as a result of the 300 new jobs in Lumberland.

Income Multiplier

The income multiplier measures the total increase in income in the local economy resulting from a \$1 increase in income received by workers in the exporting industry. Multiplying the initial change in income by the income multiplier for the industry provides an estimate of the increase in income for all individuals in the study area resulting from the initial growth of one industry.

Consider the Lumberland sawmill example. If it is known that Lumberland will pay out new wages and salaries of \$350,000 and the income multiplier is 2.0, then the resulting increase in income in all sectors is \$700,000 ($\$350,000 \times 2.0$). For every \$100 in wages Lumberland pays, an additional \$100 in wages will be added to the total payroll of the study area.

Value Added Multiplier

The value added multiplier provides an estimate of the additional value added to the product as a result of this economic activity. Value added includes employee compensation, indirect business taxes, proprietary and other property income.

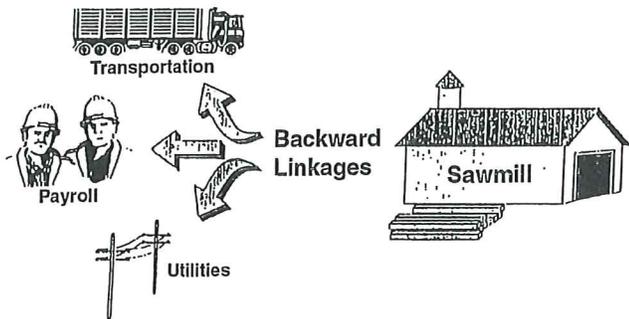
Consider again the situation of Lumberland which is to produce \$1 million worth of lumber products to be exported to Japan. The total value added that is generated from the production of the lumber products can be calculated by multiplying the value added to the lumber products times the multiplier. If the value added to the \$1 million of lumber products is \$360,000 and the value added multiplier is 2.2, then \$432,000 ($\$360,000 \times 1.2$) of "value" is added to products in other industries affected by the increase in lumber sales.

Geographic Area and Multipliers

Everyone, especially economic development workers, likes to show that the new firm being recruited or the existing industry being expanded will have large spin-off effects (i.e., high multipliers). Multipliers usually range between 1.0 and 3.0 and vary by the amount of economic activity within an

Inc. with raw materials and services must increase their production to meet Lumberland's needs. Likewise, the increase in sales of Lumberland's suppliers generates more business for the firms that supply them. These effects are referred to as "indirect effects" and occur in the backward-linked industries (see figure 3). Indirect effects result from production changes in industries that supply the firm where the change was initiated.

Figure 3. Indirect Effects



Each dollar of employee income earned in the direct and indirect activities triggers an additional chain of spending. This spin-off effect is referred to as an "induced effect," which is sometimes called the consumption effect. The workers hired by Lumberland to fill the order for Japan earn new income as do the new workers hired to supply Lumberland's increased needs.

Induced effects occur as households spend some of their additional income on goods and services in the local community. The increased production of lumber generates additional income, some of which is spent on goods and services within the community, thus increasing the multiplier effect.

Type I and Type II Multipliers

A multiplier is a simple ratio. Most multipliers are calculated as:

$$\text{Multiplier} = \frac{\text{Total Change}}{\text{Initial Change}}$$

You will most often hear or read of Type I and Type II multipliers. This is economic jargon for identifying which effects are included when calculating the multiplier. Type I multipliers include the direct and indirect effects. The indirect effects are those associated with changes in the backward-linked industries due to an increase in demand from the directly affected industry. Therefore, Type I multipliers are calculated as follows:

$$\text{Type I Multiplier} = \frac{(\text{Direct} + \text{Indirect Effects})}{\text{Direct Effects}}$$

A Type II multiplier (sometimes referred to as Type III) includes the direct, indirect and induced effects. It includes the effect on the backward-linked industries as well as the induced or consumption effect. Type II multipliers are similar to Type III multipliers, except the method of calculating the induced effects is different. Type II (and Type III) multipliers are calculated as follows:

$$\text{Type II Multiplier} = \frac{(\text{Direct} + \text{Indirect} + \text{Induced Effects})}{\text{Direct Effects}}$$

The reader may find it helpful to remember and interpret multipliers as simple ratios. Economic multipliers provide estimates of the total impact resulting from an initial change in economic output (final demand). The higher the multiplier, the greater the effect on the local economy.

Acknowledgment is given to Tracy Armbruster, former Extension associate, as co-author of the original fact sheet.

This report was prepared with special grant funds from the USDA Extension Service.

Printed by University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Printing Services.

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area and by the interaction of industries within the area. The more inputs purchased locally and the more consumer expenditures at local shops, the higher the multiplier. The larger the area, the more economic activity will likely occur within the area.

Figure 2 illustrates this concept. The output multiplier for poultry processing increases as we expand the area. The multiplier increases from 1.3 for Howard County to 1.5 for the Southwest Planning and Development District and is 2.3 for Arkansas. It would be inappropriate to use the state multiplier of 2.3 to estimate the economic impact on Howard County.

Figure 2. Output Multipliers

| Type of Industry | Howard Co. | Southwest PDD | Arkansas |
|--------------------|------------|---------------|----------|
| Poultry Processing | 1.3 | 1.5 | 2.3 |

The area included when computing multipliers should be large enough to serve as a functional economic unit. However, it would be inappropriate to use a state or multi-state multiplier to analyze the economic impact on a county's local economy. As you expand the geographic area to include more of the backward-linked industries and businesses that supply goods and services, you increase the size of the multiplier. A state multiplier will reflect all interactions between businesses and industry throughout the state and not the economic interrelationships within a county or region within the state.

Danger in Generalization

Multipliers vary widely from industry to industry depending on where input purchases are made. In Arkansas, poultry processing plants have an output multiplier of 2.3, whereas the canned fruit and

vegetable industry has a multiplier of 1.6. Increasing sales (final demand) by \$1 in the poultry processing industry increases production and sales in other sectors of the economy by \$1.30. This compares with an increase of only 60 cents for every \$1 increase in sales in the canned fruit and vegetable industry.

Using the average multiplier for manufacturing, which is 2.0, would overestimate the impact of the canned fruit and vegetable industry and underestimate the impact in the poultry processing industry. Using an industry specific multiplier provides more accurate estimates of economic impacts.

Multipliers Versus Turnover

Turnover refers to the number of times some of the initial dollar, that is received from outside the community, changes hands within the community. Turnover is sometimes incorrectly used interchangeably with multiplier. When money is received from outside the community, only part of the money remains in the community when it changes hands. Therefore, turnover is the number of times some portion of the money changes hands within the community. A multiplier, however, reveals how much of each dollar turns over in the community.

Figure 1 illustrates the difference between turnover and multiplier. In the example, \$1 received from exports changes hands five times within the local economy. The multiplier is 1.66, although some portion of the initial dollar turns over five times.

During each exchange of money for goods or services, some of the original dollar leaves the local economy, which reduces the amount spent locally during the next exchange. Multipliers measure the full impact of a dollar on the local economy, whereas turnover merely indicates the number of times some of the initial dollar is spent locally.

APPENDIX

Computing Multipliers

Direct, Indirect and Induced Effects

To understand how multipliers are calculated, knowing the meaning of direct, indirect and induced effects is essential.

- **Direct effects** are those occurring to the firm that exports additional goods or services.
- **Indirect effects** occur to industries in the backward-linked industries that supply the exporting firm.
- **Induced effects** result from households spending some of the additional income they receive in the local area.

To illustrate the three effects, the Lumberland sawmill example will be further developed.

Lumberland gets an order from a Japanese furniture manufacturer for an additional \$1 million of lumber products. Because of the new contract, Lumberland must add workers and spend additional dollars for transportation services, utilities and other production needs. Lumberland's expenditures for the additional production inputs used in manufacturing the Japanese order are referred to as "direct effects." "Direct effects" are production changes required to produce the product.

Lumberland's additional spending triggers a series of chain reactions, or spin-off effects. Logging companies and businesses which supply Lumberland

8 September, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

As a schedule conflict prevents my attendance at the Thursday meeting called to address certain use of the fairgrounds issues, I submit the following statement:

My name is Fred Cogelow, and college years excepted, i have spent all but one of my 64 years in the the family home originally constructed by my great grandfather in 1900 on property which he had inhabited since 1888. That one year's absence was the one during which my wife Doris and I extensively remodeled and updated the structure (it was, incidentally, during the hiatus from weekly auto racing...). In the years since, i believe that i have done more than most in service to the neighborhood, and hence the community at large, through assisting neighbors in need of a hand, scooping considerable amounts (somewhere's in excess of 1.5 cubic yards) of clay and sand that regularly washed out of the fairgrounds and onto the street, picking up racers' litter both within and without the fairgrounds, and redeveloping as a quality single family property a parcel which otherwise would have gone to parties that would have set upon it three homes (of questionable value to the neighborhood). We have been anchors and stabilizers in our neighborhood, helping to make it one in which others are happy to stay as long as possible (providing they are not overwhelmed by the weekly racing noise and exhaust...). The city has reaped considerable benefit from that commitment to the neighborhood.

You are likely aware that i have also established a reputation as one of the best sculptors in wood on this continent. Given the paucity of competition in that category, it may not be much to crow about, yet the distinct possibility remains that my work may be far more esteemed in future years than at present (who is to say what direction art appreciation will take?), and the indications are that a good many people in this community will show no hesitation in claiming my work as a product of this community.

This year has seen far more than the usual amount of promotion. In mid-August our return from a sculpture show in Loveland, CO was followed by more travels on family matters and the usual catching up. It takes a while to get back in the spirit and stride of production, but as the month was ending things were finally cooking, when suddenly, at 4:30 on a Friday afternoon, the bass line i was hearing was coming from something other than the Springsteen song that was playing. In short order, the entire studio was quaking and shaking, and i headed out to see what was amiss. Once outside, the cause was immediately apparent. There happened to be a deputy sheriff parked across the street, so i headed over to voice objection to him, even if it wasn't his bailiwick. He wasn't particularly sympathetic, perhaps on account of his own lack of hearing, or of the background noise in and acoustics of his vehicle, but my neighbor Bob Salonek, a retired policeman with a high tolerance for bass, came charging out a minut or so later exclaiming, "What the heck was that?!!!"

I made a number of the usual complaints, but was told that Dave Baker had sought and received the proper permits for "an event" at the fairgrounds and that there was nothing, beyond a polite appeal to Baker for consideration and whatever moderation, that they or i could do. That included any of the carving planned for the balance of the evening, as i was too riled, and there would be no fine focus.

Most of the evening was not as bad as the initial soundcheck. After doing some weeding and recycling, i retired to the livingroom to watch some TV with my wife. That went okay until about 9:30, when the background thumping became too irritating to continue. I went to the garage, did some maintenance on a chainsaw, and observed that this band "Slimeball" had some technically very competent musicians, and that the Jimi Hendrix version of the Star-Spangled Banner still required the same skill and esthetic obtuseness as before. Finally i retreated to the basement for sundry housekeeping duties there until the racket mercifully ended.

There have since been reports of neighbors about equally split between those that liked the music and sat outside and those who found it quite to very aggravating and those who didn't notice it at all. One neighbor, 3/4 of a block closer to the action, said they really enjoyed it and that it wasn't all that loud but that, when she went into her garage, "the ladder was thumping and jumping like crazy." Two others, on Seventh Street and Olaf and in the far reaches of Oak Lane, said they barely noticed.

Much of that is to be expected. During the civil war, many of the pitched battles were loud enough that they were deafening some fifteen miles from the action, yet it was often reported that some two miles from the fight people would find it was so quiet that the birds could clearly be heard singing. Add to that the fact that some people, owing either to particular bumps in their hearing range and/or brain damage, are simply more affected by bass. Finally, it is the case that certain sounds are transmitted thru the soil as well as the air, and that certain structures (i would suspect those with balloon framing and certain window types) can actually become subwoofers.

I fully accept that individual interests must at times be compromised for the sake of the public good, but there is also the matter of balance and fairness. It seems to be the policy and attitude of many associated with the fair-

grounds and use thereof that anyone residing in its vicinity should either accept any and all escalation of its uses or move elsewhere. I have no problem with musical performances in the fairgrounds, but having a permit for such should not mean that the upper decibel limits will be determined solely by the technological capacity and the permittee's desires, rather than by balanced considerations.

It is my understanding that the Slimeball concert was somehow associated with benefitting the school football programs and enhancing the player/parent/staff *esprit de corps*. It is often said that participation in football programs builds character, teaching participants the meaning of discipline, coordinated cooperation, effort and sacrifice. The papers over the past decade have likewise featured football programs that have inculcated or advanced thuggery, misogyny and gang rape. I would like to think that the local programs build the former values, but it worries me when it advances its ends with utter disregard for either the aural health of concert attendees or the right of neighbors to enjoy their own property. How do we teach kids to keep the auto sound systems at respectful levels when their parents organize events designed to shake loose all the nearby siding nails and sheetrock screws?

I am uncertain as to how such events (and it should be added the soundcheck phase of the event with the fire-trucks and ambulances in the fairgrounds was also unreasonably loud...) mesh with such precepts as "first do no harm" and the golden rule, or with the established principle that citizens of this country are not to be deprived of their property nor of the reasonable enjoyment thereof without due compensation. When the fairgrounds resumed racing two decades (or whatever) ago, board president Denny Baker pleaded with the nearby residents to give them a chance to prove that they could race and yet be good neighbors. There followed, without any permitting process or hearings—but with city acquiescence—an extensive revamping of the facility and alteration of the weekly events. On evenings which are still or have a modest breeze from the northwest, the pollution levels are such that any fool who remains outside for long risks his long term health (...did the exhaust from the cars lined up to race just across the fence from my sister have a role in her development of fatal brain cancer...)? Unless there is work which absolutely must be done, the racket drives me from the place anyway, limiting our personal exposure. (It should be noted, if the breeze is very light from the south, and the exhaust and dust gets too much for the grandstand crowd, races will end early. ...It should also be noted that the racers have a quiet period for eating and schmoozing and bonding, much like the jerk with the loud car sound system turns it down when he wishes to take a phone call. If racing noise is not that bad, or in fact enjoyable, the racers should be required to play recordings of racing racket while they try to communicate. ...and all forms of hearing protection should also be banned from the fairgrounds during racing events!)

Forgive the digression, i simply wish to satiate that that the escalation of fairground noise (which now includes their "improved" sound system) has deprived me of a considerable amount of enjoyment of my own property over the years, and has negatively affected both the quantity and quality of my work to a significant though unquantifiable extent, which may well, in the long term, have deprived the city as well. The Slimeball incident alone set my progress off by a week, aggravating not only as an event, but more broadly as an escalation and a portent of things to come. What particularly bothers me is that, while i am doing the best work of my career, i have a rapidly closing window of opportunity to make the most of my skills, and these disruptions are increasingly costly.

While my case presents some longterm downsides to the city if this nuisance continues, it does not diminish the regard which ought be shown for others who simply wish for peaceful enjoyment of their homes. Many of my other neighbors find themselves likewise detrimentally affected, all justified by a purported economic return to the city which is more fantasy than reality (and how one justifies such pollution extravaganzas in the face of such frightful concerns about climate change is absolutely and utterly beyond me...). There comes a time to give suckers an even break. Set decibel limits on the concerts as a minimum, and if attendees are not satisfied without bass levels which are detrimental to their health, have them hold their concerts in the ice arena.

fred cogelow, 904 Olaf Av NW, Willmar, MN

addendum: Some years ago, when i protested the droning hum of the snow-making machines that kept me from sleeping in my own bed at night, the previous mayor, in an underhanded attempt to diminish the stature of my complaint, waited until i had used up my allotted speaking time before the council ere stating that he had sent administrator Mick Schmidt out to check the irritation level for himself. Mick reported that he had driven to the intersection of Park and Ninth around noon, got out of his car, and found that he "really couldn't hear nothing." I was not allowed to point out that our bed was not in that intersection, nor at that elevation, and that my attempt to sleep was at an hour in which atmospheric stratification was liable to much more pronounced. There was further no chance to point out that proximity is not the sole factor, nor even a consistent one in determining loudness. There was no opportunity to point out that Schmidt's ears were not my own, that he hadn't had his examined ere the endeavor to use them as scientific instruments, or, for that matter, that his exercise had nothing whatever to do with scientific method. Not one councilman stepped to my defense, presumably from failure to reflect on what had just transpired.

I will be most disappointed if those attending to this matter fail to conduct their inquiry with greater intellectual rigor than was manifest on that occasion.