ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF WESTERN HAMILTON COUNTY

Prepared for the

Western Economic Council

By the

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Executive Summary

The Western Hamilton County area has a number of economic strengths relative to other areas in the Greater Cincinnati region. In particular, our analysis reveals the following strengths:

- Western Hamilton County is a family-oriented community with relatively high rates of home ownership. Reasonable housing prices have been a significant factor in these home ownership rates.

- Western Hamilton County is more residential in nature than other areas of Hamilton County and Greater Cincinnati, and this offers quality of life amenities that are absent in other parts of the region.

- The business composition of Western Hamilton County is slightly more diverse than the rest of Hamilton County. A lower percentage of businesses in Western Hamilton County are in the service industry, and a higher percentage are in the construction and repair industries.

Alongside these relative strengths, there are a number of cases where Western Hamilton County is not as strong as other areas in the region.

In many instances we do not see the positive economic trends in Western Hamilton County that have made other areas of Greater Cincinnati so attractive to live and do business in. Furthermore, the economic and demographic projections in this report reveal that between now and 2002, a number of key economic variables in Western Hamilton County will decline relative to the remainder of Hamilton County and Greater Cincinnati.

The following are some examples of relative economic weaknesses in Western Hamilton County:

- Between 1990 and 2002, population in Western Hamilton County will decline by six percent – a decrease of over 19,000 people. This is a faster rate of decline than the remainder of Hamilton County where population will decline by one percent. Population in Greater Cincinnati over this period will increase ten percent.

- In 1997, per capita income was $17,489 in Western Hamilton County and $23,616 in the remainder of Hamilton County. This disparity in income levels is expected to worsen through 2002. For example, in 1979, per capita income in Western Hamilton County was 88 percent of the per capita income level in the remainder of Hamilton County. By 2002, per capita income in Western Hamilton County is expected

to be 70 percent of the per capita income of the remainder of Hamilton County.

- While lower median housing values have likely led to higher rates of home ownership in Western Hamilton County, housing values are projected to fall relative to average housing values in the rest of Hamilton County. Furthermore, the number of housing units in Western Hamilton County is expected to decrease two percent between 1997 and 2002.

For additional information contact the Economics Center for Education & Research, email Econeduc@uc.edu.
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