

# Joy plans to expand workforce this year

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Joy Mining Machinery is expanding its workforce, thanks to an increased demand for coal.

Joy, an underground mining equipment maker, is the largest industrial employer in Venango County, with manufacturing plants in Franklin and Reno. An update on the company's job picture is featured in the July newsletter published by the Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce.

"Since the spring of 2004, there has been a steady increase in the demand for skilled and semi-skilled craftsmen at our Joy Franklin and Reno plants," said Lou Boltik, director of marketing and communications.

"And, with no sign of the current increasing demand for coal ending soon, we anticipate this trend will continue into the foreseeable future as we strive to meet the demands of the coal industry for quality underground mining equipment," he added in remarks contained in the newsletter.

Boltik said the firm's local plants have just over 1,000 employees, about 65 percent of whom are union craftsmen representing a broad assortment of technical and mechanical skills — from designers and computer programmers to welders, machinists and mechanical technicians.

This year, he said, the company expects to add 110 employees. Eighty-five of those positions would fall under union representation.

"The same effort that goes into producing the world's finest underground mining equipment is put forth in developing and recruiting the finest craftsmen possible," Boltik said.

At the same time, he added, Joy continues its extensive in-house education and training efforts to provide its employees with more opportunities for advancement.

## ► Joy

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The newsletter pointed to Joy's role as the largest employer in the Franklin area, also noting that the company contributes to the health of the local economy by providing above-average wages that are re-circulated through the purchases of goods and services.

Joy also is the area's largest single taxpayer, the newsletter stated.