

# Downtown Akron seeing more office workers, but it's not clear how many will come back

Jim Mackinnon Akron Beacon Journal



The Peanut Shoppe is getting busier.

And that be a sign of better things to come for downtown Akron and outlying areas as the COVID-19 pandemic appears to be waning and vaccinations increase.

The iconic salty-and-sweet snack downtown destination, which reopened last October after closing for months during the pandemic and Main Street reconstruction project, says customer counts are going up.

"It seems every week I see a few more people, familiar faces," said Marge Klein, Peanut Shoppe owner. "The foot traffic is starting to pick up."



The store had a good lunch hour on Thursday, she said.

"We saw a lot of faces. They're all back to work, a lot of them. They said it was their first day back," Klein said. "Things will get better as time goes on. ... Things are getting better. It's gradual, but it's getting better."

Many of Akron's largest employers in the downtown and elsewhere in the city either have employees returning to offices now at least part time or plan to have employees return in upcoming months. And on a related matter, they say they are keeping track of Akron income tax collection for remote employees who live outside the city limits.