

## Convergys cited as 'job exporter'

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### *From staff and wire reports*

Cincinnati-based Convergys Corp., which has created thousands of jobs in India and the Philippines in the last two years, will be one of the Greater Cincinnati companies singled out today for criticism at a press conference by an organization called Working America, an affiliate of the AFL-CIO.

Karen Nussbaum, executive director of Working America, was scheduled to appear at a Cincinnati media event today, one day after the organization kicked off its national campaign in Washington, D.C.

A spokeswoman for the organization declined to name any of the other Greater Cincinnati companies that will be mentioned today as "job exporters."

Convergys, which has about 55,000 employees around the world, is receiving a financial incentive package worth about \$200 million from the City of Cincinnati and the state of Ohio so the company will keep its headquarters downtown and create at least 225 new jobs.

But job growth outside the U.S. has dwarfed explosive growth outside the U.S. where the billing and human resources outsourcing firm has created at least 6,500 jobs in India and the Philippines in the last two years.

Cincinnati is the second stop for Working America, which is trying to attract publicity on the issue of offshoring jobs -- moving them outside the country to cut labor costs.

Working America says it plans to track companies that ship U.S. jobs overseas and will make the information available to the public in a database.

The organization has compiled the information from a variety of sources, including the government's trade adjustment assistance program for workers who lose jobs because of trade, companies' annual reports and financial disclosures, and research by interest groups.

Working America is an AFL-CIO organization created for workers unable to join unions. On its Web site, <http://www.workingamerica.org>, visitors can look up companies that have or will move jobs overseas, based on Zip codes, industries and company names.

The database does not distinguish between U.S.-based and international companies. It also does not provide a total figure of U.S. jobs that have gone abroad.

Data is available starting from January 2001, when President Bush took office. The AFL-CIO and most of organized labor has endorsed Democrat John Kerry for president.

The shifting of U.S. jobs is a hot political topic, especially in some Midwestern states that could determine who wins the White House. Kerry, a longtime supporter of trade agreements, has promised organized labor he will review all pacts if he wins the election, and has pledged to strictly enforce labor laws as part of those agreements.

About 2.67 million U.S. manufacturing jobs have been lost since Bush took office. About 300,000 U.S. jobs were eliminated in the past year in favor of cheaper labor elsewhere, Labor Secretary Elaine Chao has said.

Economists say trade greatly benefits the U.S. economy, even if jobs are lost. U.S. consumers are able to buy goods that are less expensive, and in return, jobs also get created in the United States. About 9 million Americans work for U.S. subsidiaries of foreign-owned companies, Chao has said.

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