

# Covered Employment & Payroll

County Trends  
1986 - 2000

This publication presents the historical series of employment, payroll and earnings data reported by employers covered under the Ohio Unemployment Compensation law. These data are arranged by state, county and major industrial division for the last 15 years. Covered state and local government employment is included. Although the agricultural industrial division is not listed separately, it is included in the annual totals.

The quarterly tax report filed by covered employers with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services includes an employment count of those on payroll the 12<sup>th</sup> of each month. Employment figures include executives, production workers and part-time and full-time employees. Workers temporarily earning no wages because of labor-management disputes or other reasons are not reported as employed. Tabulations of the total payrolls of covered employers include earnings, bonuses, commissions and incentive earnings. Average weekly earnings should be considered estimates. These estimates assume: (1) that average covered employment is approximately the same as covered employment in an average week and (2) that total covered payroll in the calendar year, divided by 52, fairly represents the covered payroll in an average week. Industries in which many part-time workers are employed or in which tipping is traditional show lower average weekly earnings. Industries requiring a great deal of overtime show higher weekly earnings.

**Uses of the Data.** These data have broad economic significance in evaluating labor market trends and major industry developments in time series analyses. Uses of these data have been extensive and varied. Employment and average wage historical data are indispensable for understanding local economic conditions and preparing long and short-range economic projections. These data are used by both the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics for studies on job market conditions, hiring practices and wage rates, as well as for impact studies of labor-management disputes, layoffs and construction projects. Business firms use these data as indicators of the economic health of an area or as guides for plant locations, sales and purchase decisions. The Bureau of Economic Analysis of the U.S. Department of Commerce uses these data as a base for estimating a major portion of the total wage and salary component for national personal income and Gross National Product. The Bureau of Economic Analysis also uses these data to estimate the wage and salary component of personal income for both states and local areas.

**Limitations of the Data.** The 1972 and 1987 editions of the Standard Industrial Classification Manual, published by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, have been used in these tabulations to determine the industry of each employer. Industry code changes are put into effect at the beginning of each calendar year. Therefore, data for specific industrial categories between years are not always precisely comparable. Data are excluded on the tables where there are fewer than three employers. Major non-covered groups include the self-employed, many family workers, interstate railroad workers, student employees of colleges or universities and federal employees.

**Changes in Coverage Since 1972.** Changes in the Ohio Unemployment Compensation Law have affected the reporting data. Increase in employment data can be seen in 1972, 1974 and 1978 when Ohio extended coverage to more employers. Prior to 1972 employers who employed three or more workers at one time within a calendar were subject to the Ohio Unemployment Compensation Law. Beginning in 1972, employers of one or more employees, nonprofit organizations and classified employees of the State of Ohio and its instrumentalities were covered. Elected state officials and state government employees in unclassified service were not covered, although the majority employed by universities and hospitals were covered. Also, most employees of local government were covered. Coverage of employees of political subdivisions was not mandatory. Beginning in 1974 all local government classified employees and all employees of public school districts (except substitute teachers) were covered. Effective 1978, Ohio extended coverage to some agricultural labor and domestic workers, employees of nonprofit or parochial schools (other than colleges or universities) and most state and local government workers not in classified service.

**Additional Data.** Similar data for the years 1943 through 1985, more detailed tabulations for individual counties and Federal employment and wage data are available upon request.

