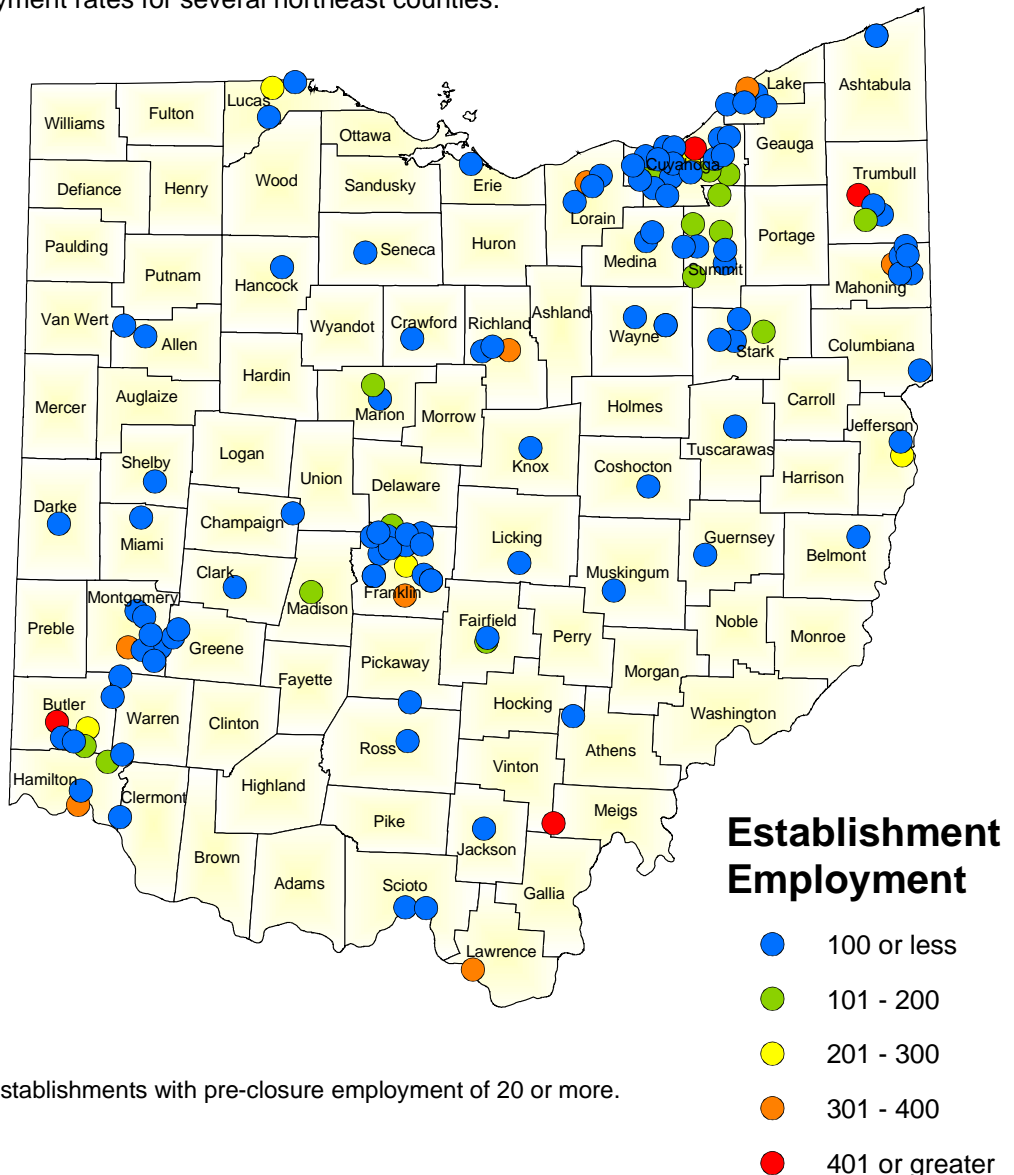


Establishment Closures in 2001*

In 2001, there were 136 establishment closures resulting in the separation of 12,606 employees. These closures, verified through the Mass Layoff Statistics program, represent establishments with a pre-closure employment of 20 or more employees in either a single unit within a multi-unit establishment or the entire establishment. The major reasons employers cited for the closings were bankruptcy, reorganization within the company and financial difficulties. Approximately 39% of the separations occurred in the steel producing industry. Statewide covered employment reflects this loss of workers as average employment in primary metal industries fell from 84,300 in 4th quarter 2000 to 72,000 in 4th quarter 2001. Especially hard hit was the northeast portion of the state. This was reflected in higher than normal unemployment rates for several northeast counties.



*Establishments with pre-closure employment of 20 or more.