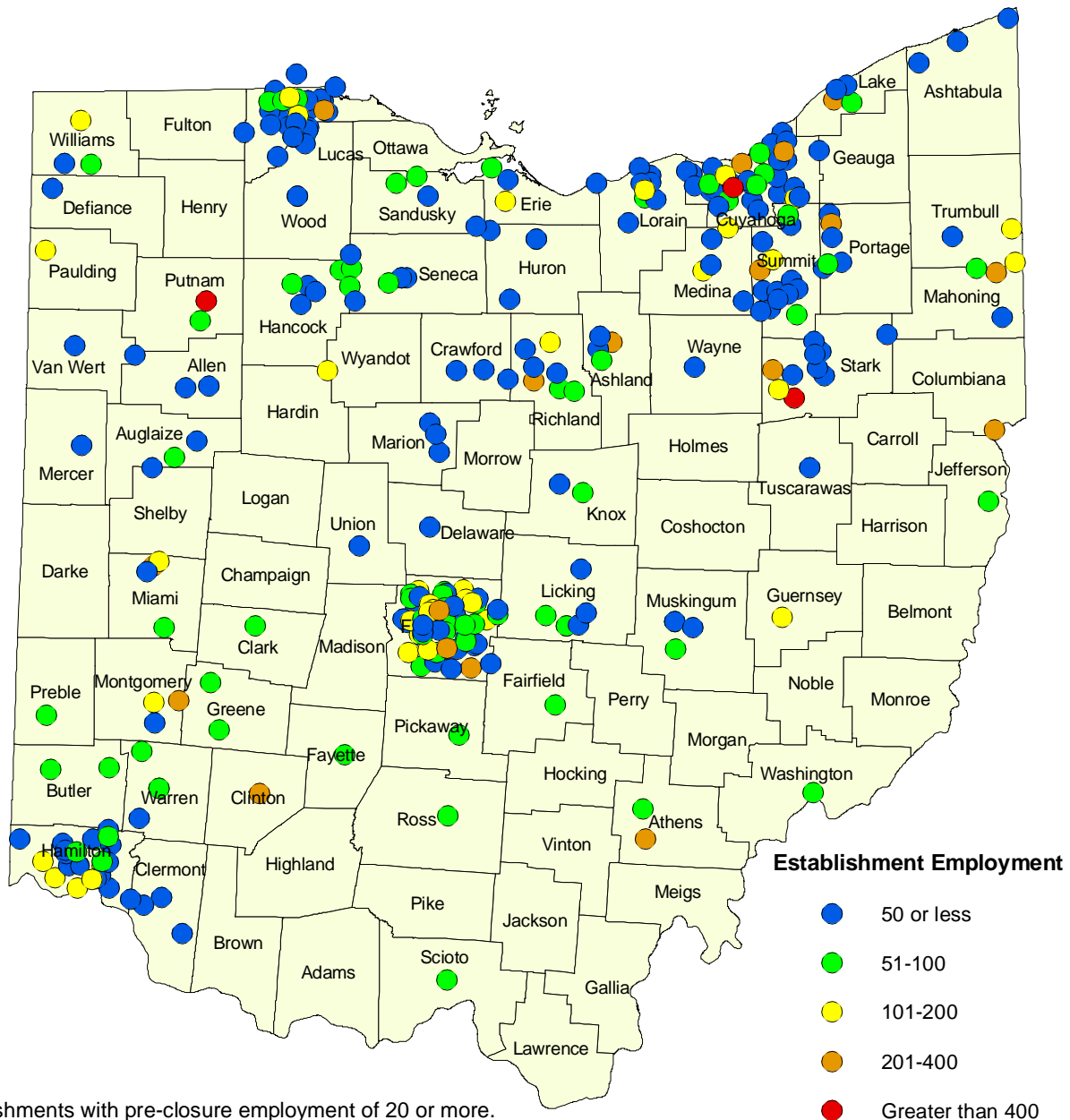


Establishment Closures in 2003*

In 2003, there were 316 worksite closures in the Mass Layoff Statistics Program resulting in lost jobs for 20,737 employees. This compares to 363 establishment closures with 20,576 employees in 2002. Forty-seven percent of jobs lost occurred in retail trade industries with those in food and beverage industries accounting for a large portion of that figure. Most of these establishments were large employers with multiple locations. Thirty percent of those who experienced job loss due to closures had worked in manufacturing establishments while wholesale trade accounted for 5.8% of jobs lost.

Covered Employment and Wage data for the state confirms retail trade employment in the state dropped to approximately 628,000 in 2003 from 637,000 in 2002. Manufacturing employment decreased about 40,800 over the same period while wholesale trade average employment dropped from about 239,000 in 2002 to 235,000 in 2003.

Closures of worksites with more than 200 employees were scattered around the state. Franklin County in the Columbus Metropolitan Area and Cuyahoga in the Cleveland Metropolitan Area led the state with the highest number of closures (3 each) of establishments with 200 or more employees. Franklin County also recorded the most closures (54) and lost the most jobs (4,189). Overall, sixty-seven percent of Ohio counties experienced a worksite closure event as defined by the Mass Layoff Statistics Program. Major reasons employers cited for the closings were financial difficulties, reorganization within the company, and bankruptcy.



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