

Updates to Workforce Analysis Reports Tri-County Employment & Training July 2007

This document contains updates to the Workforce Analysis report for Tri-County Employment & Training, published in January 2007. This area includes Gallia, Jackson, and Lawrence Counties. For additional information, please see the Technical Notes at the end of this document.

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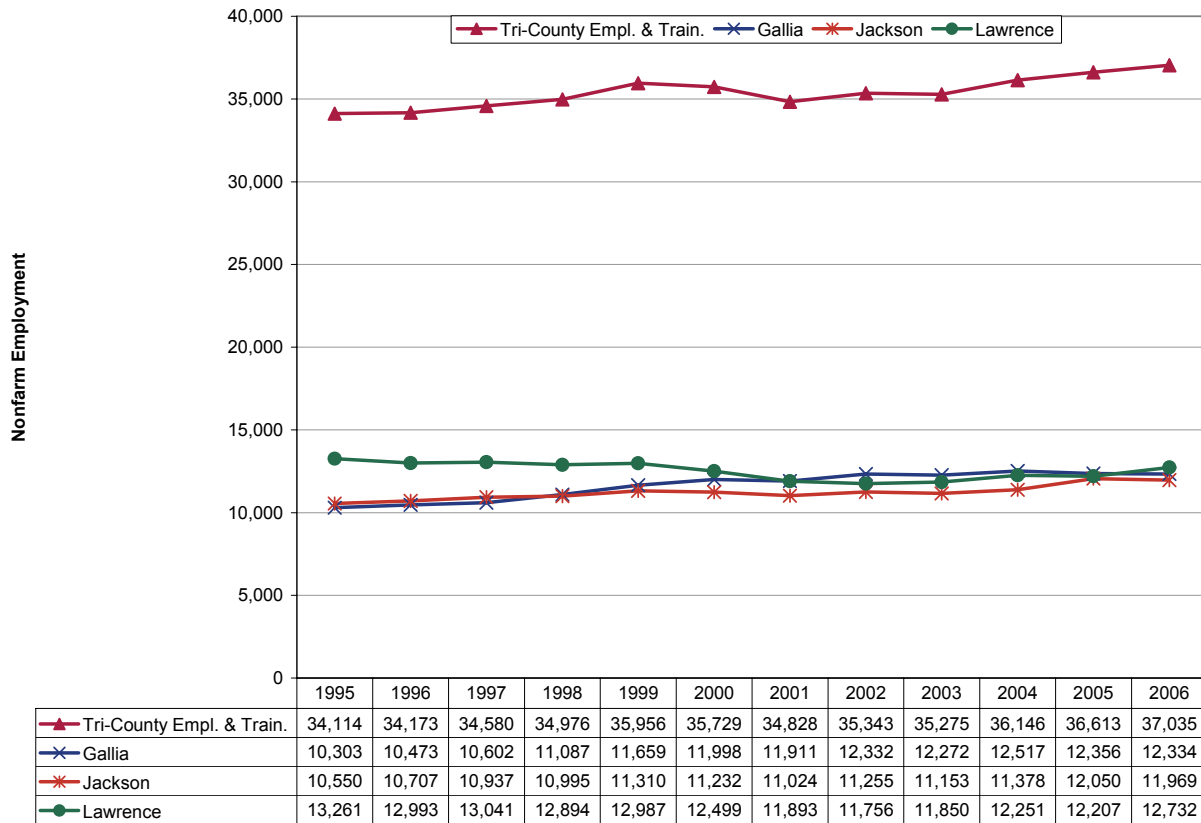
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Population



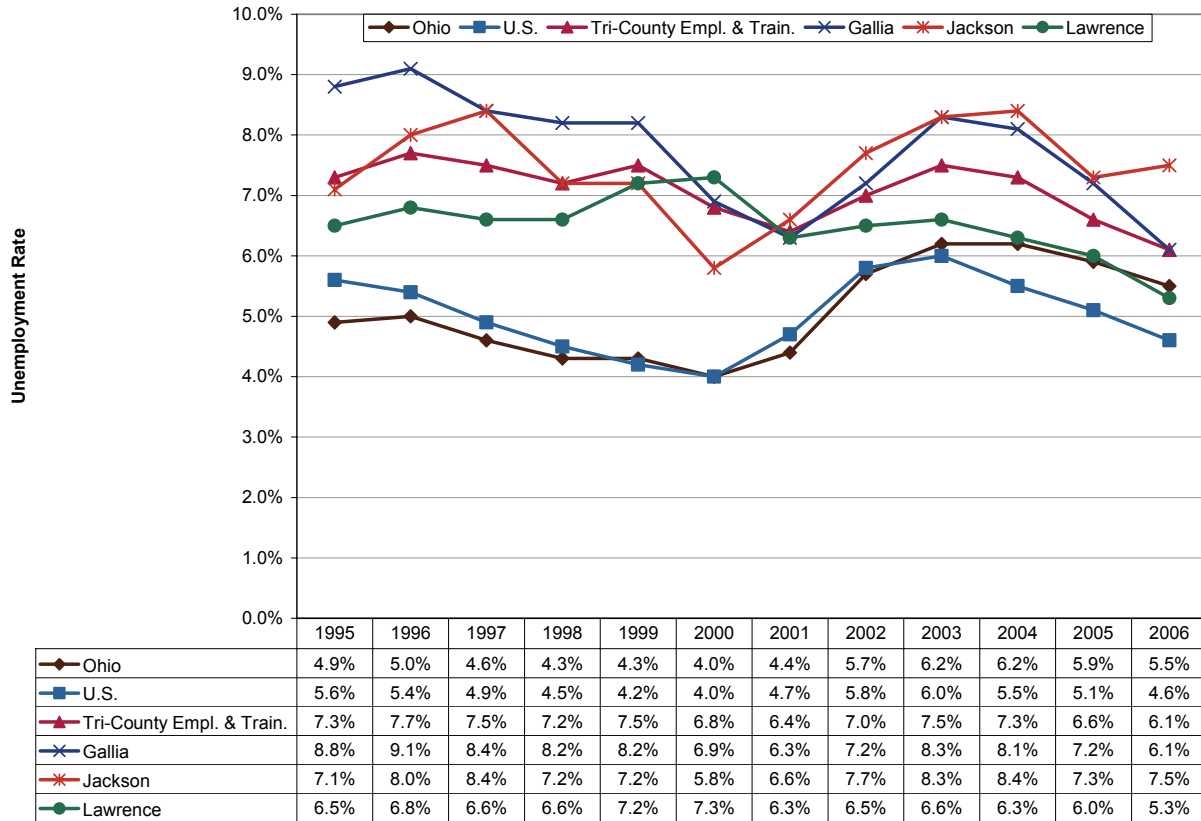
Tri-County population has held fairly stable in the last ten years, increasing 1.5 percent to 128,000 residents in 2006. Jackson and Lawrence Counties had population growth of 5.0 and 0.5 percent, respectively. Gallia County population stayed about the same. By comparison, statewide population grew 2.5 percent during this period while national population increased by 12.4 percent.

Employment



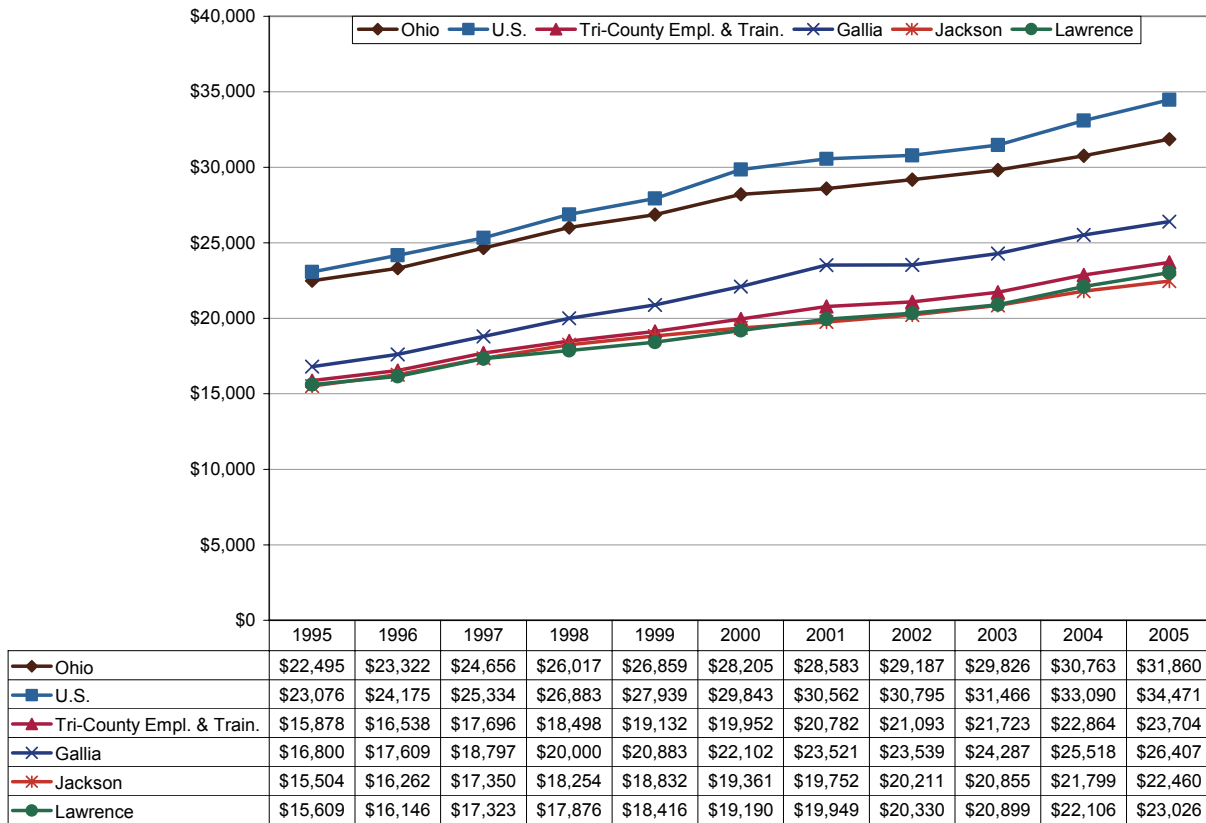
Being a largely rural area, employment levels in the Tri-County area are fairly low: 37,000 in total. The region has, however, seen significant relative job growth between 1995 and 2006: 8.6 percent across the region, and unlike the state, has recovered the jobs lost since the 2001 recession. During this period, Gallia and Jackson Counties saw employment increases of 19.7 and 13.5 percent, respectively. While Lawrence County experienced declining employment during this period, it has recently been gaining jobs. For comparison, Ohio nonfarm employment grew 4.0 percent while U.S. employment increased by 16.1 percent between 1995 and 2006.

Unemployment



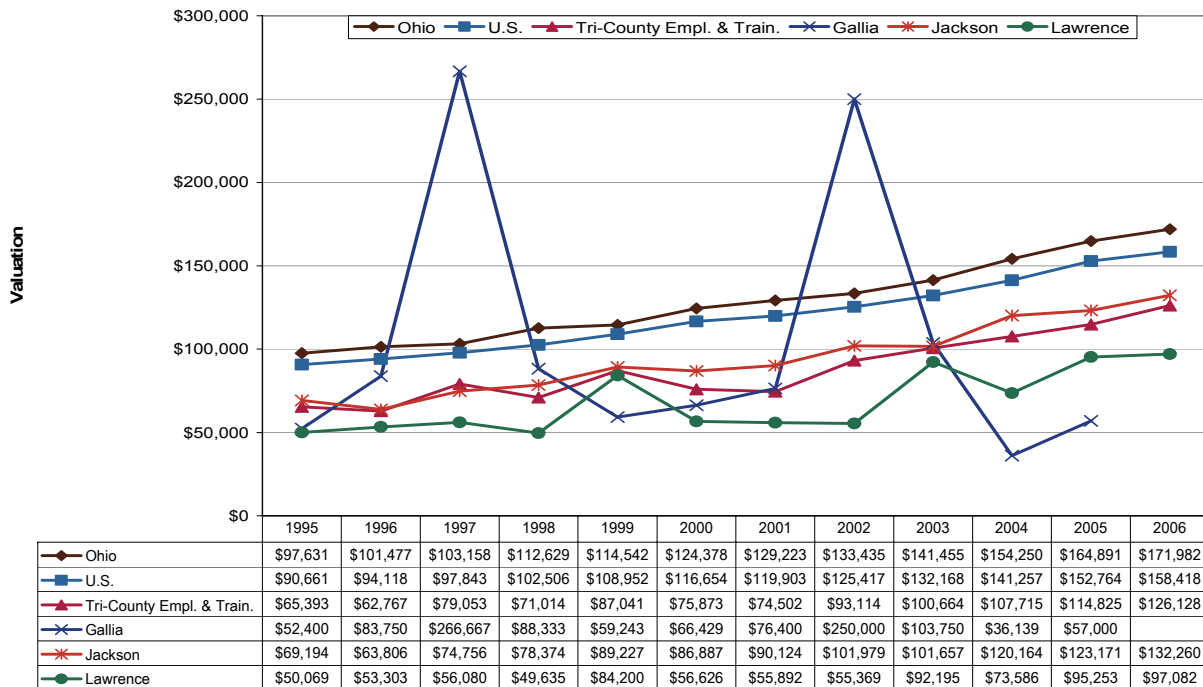
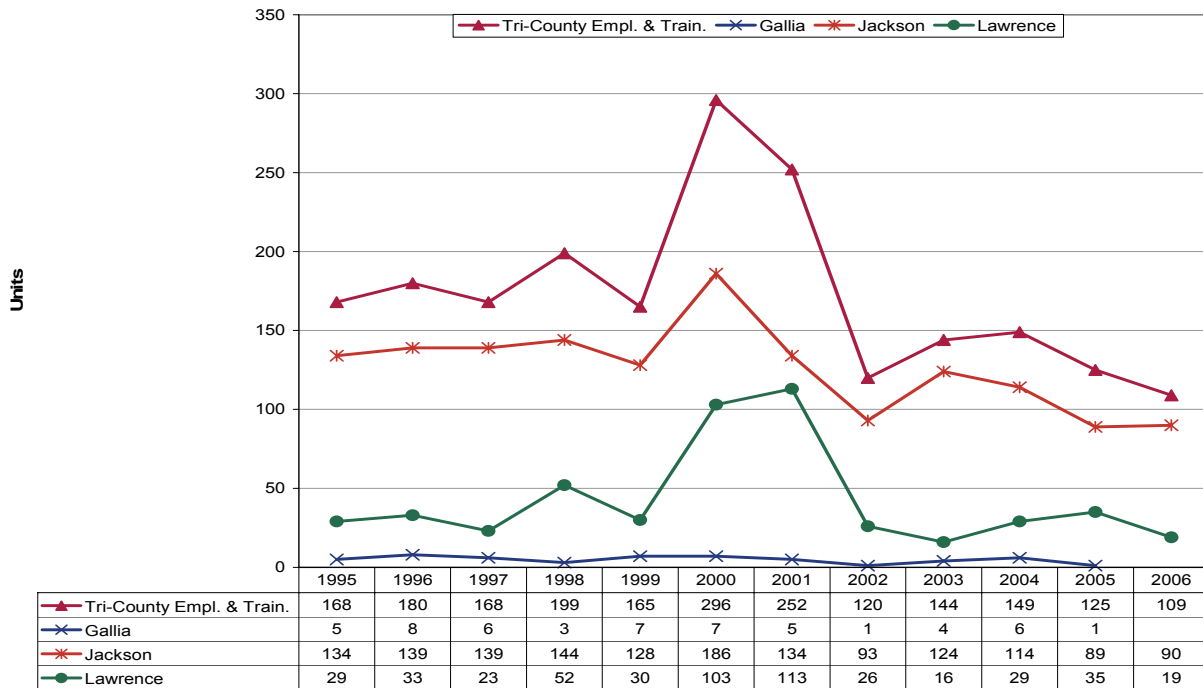
Unemployment in 2006 was 6.1 percent, above the statewide rate but 1.4 percentage points lower than the peak in 2003. Between 1995 and 2006, Lawrence County—part of the Huntington-Ashland metropolitan area in Kentucky and West Virginia—generally had the area's lowest unemployment rates: 5.3 percent by 2006. The Ohio and U.S. unemployment rates fell 0.7 and 1.4 percentage points from their peaks in 2003, respectively.

Per Capita Income



From 1995 to 2005, per capita income in this area grew at an annual average compound rate of 4.1 percent—about as fast as the country as a whole—reaching \$23,704 at the end of the period. Throughout this time, not only did Gallia County have the region's highest per capita income levels (\$26,407 in 2005) but also a very fast rate of growth: 4.6 percent per year. State and national growth rates were 3.5 percent and 4.1 percent, respectively. Per capita income levels tend to be substantially lower in rural areas like Tri-County, compared to large urban areas.

Residential Building Permits



Jackson County has generally accounted for most residential construction activity in this area and has generally had the most highly-valued units. Wide swings in average valuations in Gallia County are due to the exceptionally low number of permits granted. Nationwide and in Ohio, there was a significant drop in the number of residential building permits granted from 2005 to 2006.

Technical Notes

For a map of Ohio's Workforce Investment system, please visit <http://lmi.state.oh.us/maps/MapofOneStops.htm>.

All population figures are annual estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau, published on the Internet as of May 2007. Analysts at the Ohio Bureau of Labor Market Information (LMI) summed county population to produce totals for local regions. Please visit <http://www.census.gov/popest/estimates.php> for additional information.

Employment figures are from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and LMI, published on the Internet in 2007. 2006 figures are based on preliminary quarterly data posted on the Labor Market Info Classic site and subject to revision this fall. Federal government employment, which is not covered by Ohio's unemployment compensation system, had inadvertently been omitted from the totals for 1995-1998 in the original report. That has been corrected in this update. In most counties the difference was negligible. Please visit http://lmi.state.oh.us/cep/CEP_NAICS.htm#Publications for additional statistics.

All unemployment figures are annualized, non-seasonally adjusted estimates by the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) Section of LMI, published on the Internet as of May 2007. For additional statistics, please visit <http://lmi.state.oh.us/ASP/LAUS/vbLaus.htm>.

Per capita income figures for counties are in nominal dollars (not adjusted for inflation) and were published April 26, 2007 by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). Analysts at LMI calculated income figures for WIAs. For more information, please visit <http://www.bea.gov/regional/index.htm#state>.

Construction data are reported by the U.S. Census Bureau and are available through the Ohio Department of Development, Office of Strategic Research at http://www.odod.state.oh.us/research/Reports_in_population_and_housing-Housing_reports.htm#P6. Analysts at LMI calculated summary data for WIAs. Data are also available at <http://www.census.gov/const/www/permitsindex.html>.