

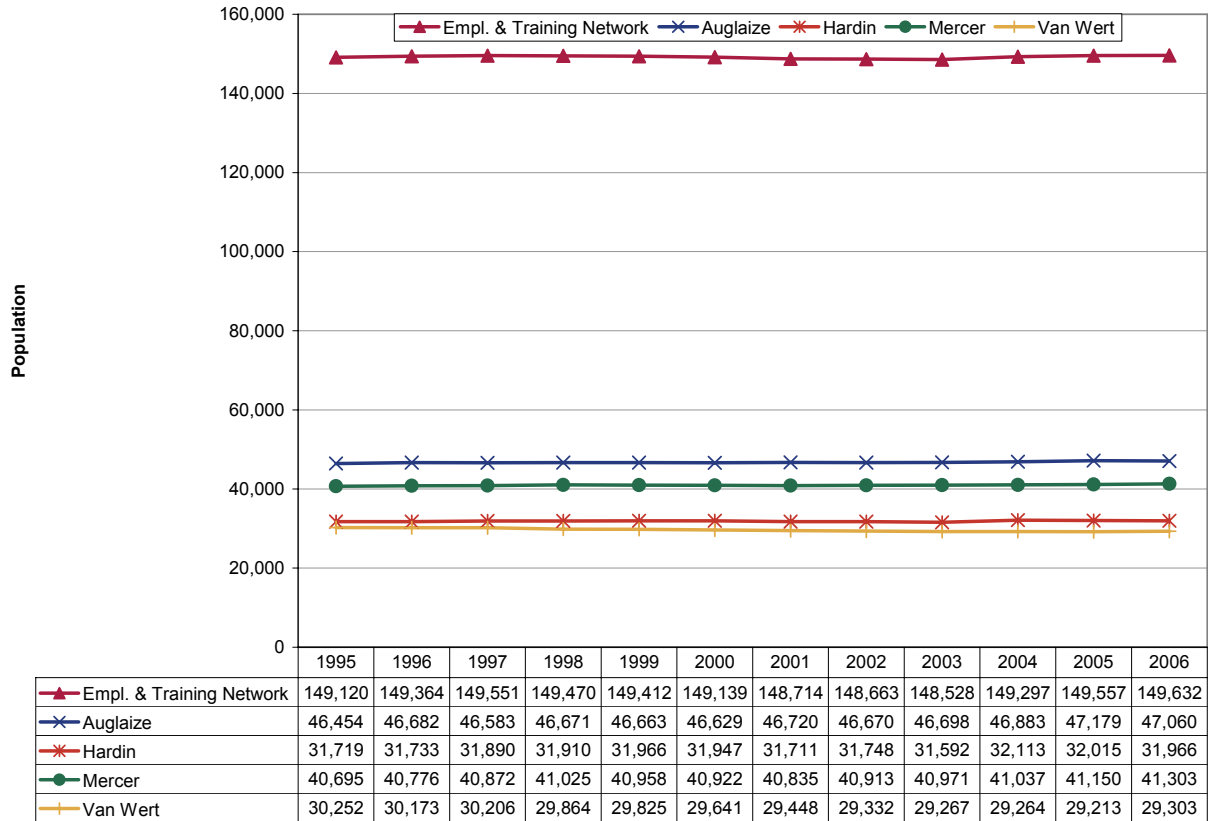
# **Updates to Workforce Analysis Reports One Stop Employment & Training Network July 2007**

This document contains updates to the Workforce Analysis report for the One Stop Employment & Training Network, published in April 2007. This area includes Auglaize, Hardin, Mercer and Van Wert Counties. For additional information, please see the Technical Notes at the end of this document.

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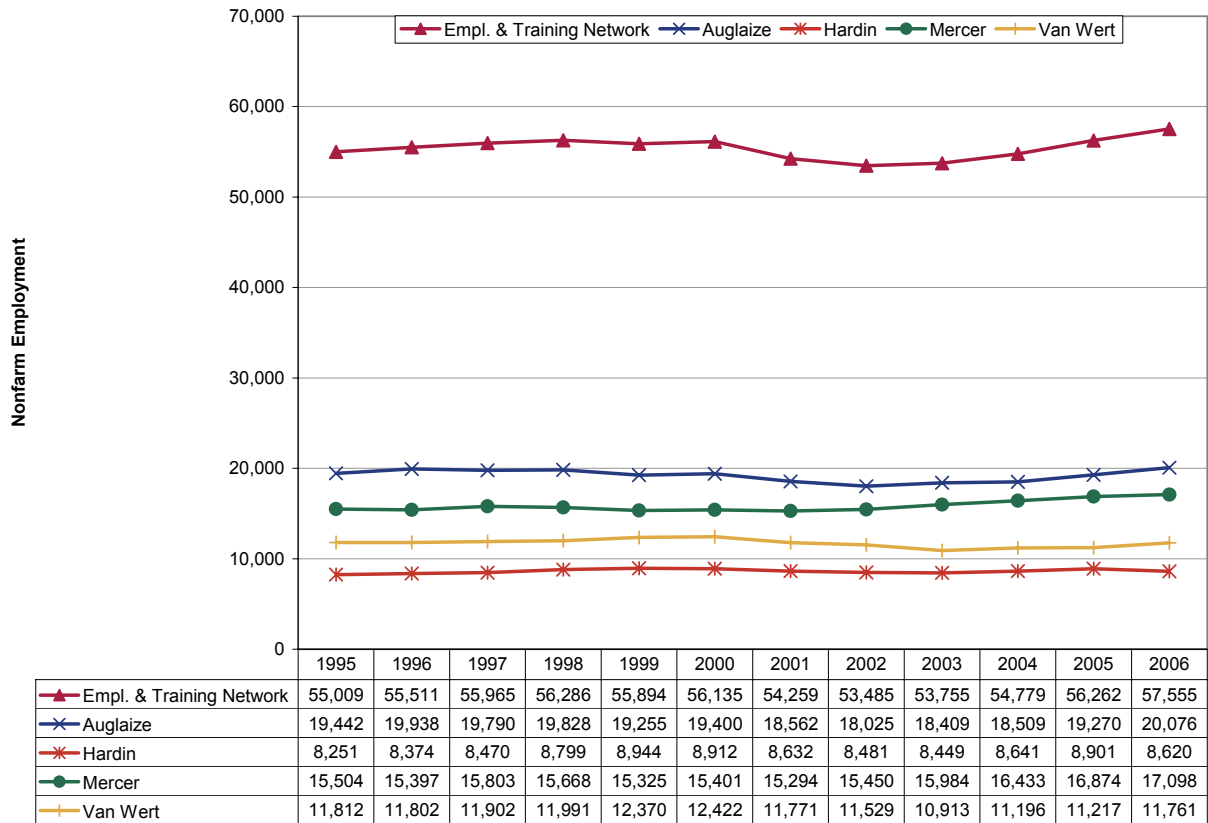
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## Population



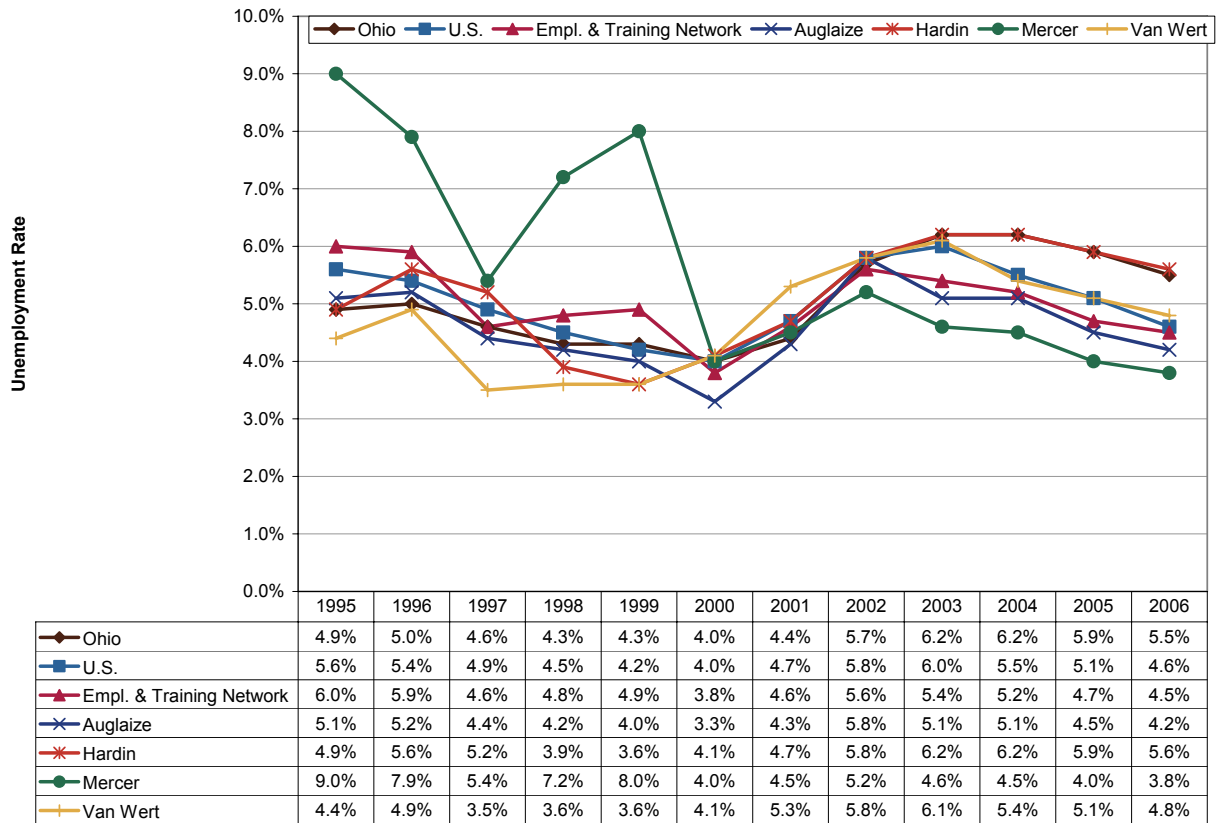
Combined population in 2006 was 149,600, a net increase of only 0.3 percent from 1995. Auglaize, Hardin and Mercer Counties had slight gains in population during this period. Van Wert County was the only county in this region to lose residents. By comparison, statewide population grew 2.5 percent during this period while national population increased by 12.4 percent.

## Employment



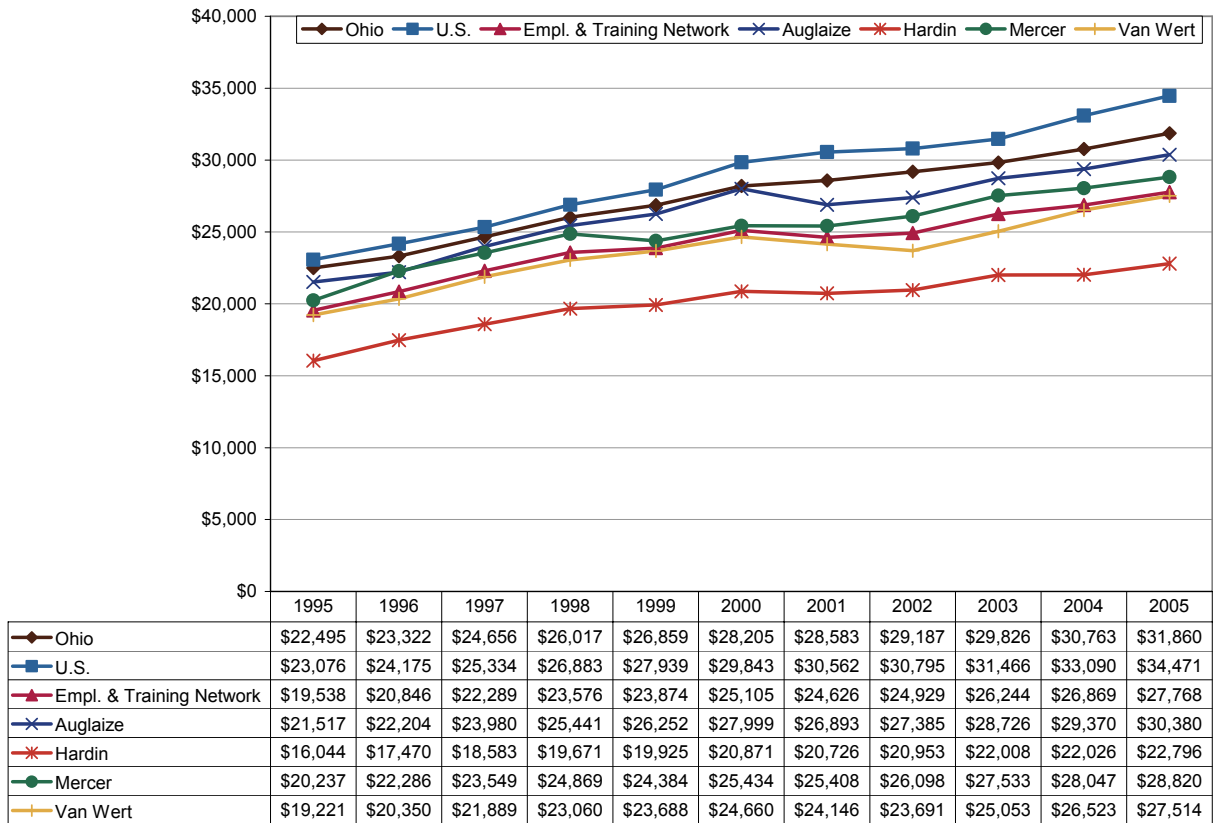
The Employment & Training Network has fully recovered from jobs lost after the 2001 recession, with nonfarm employment growing 2.5 percent since 2000. Without any significant employment drop in the last economic cycle, Mercer County had the region's strongest job growth during this period: 11.0 percent. By comparison, Ohio nonfarm employment fell 3.5 percent from 2000 to 2006 after slight gains since 2003.

## Unemployment Rates



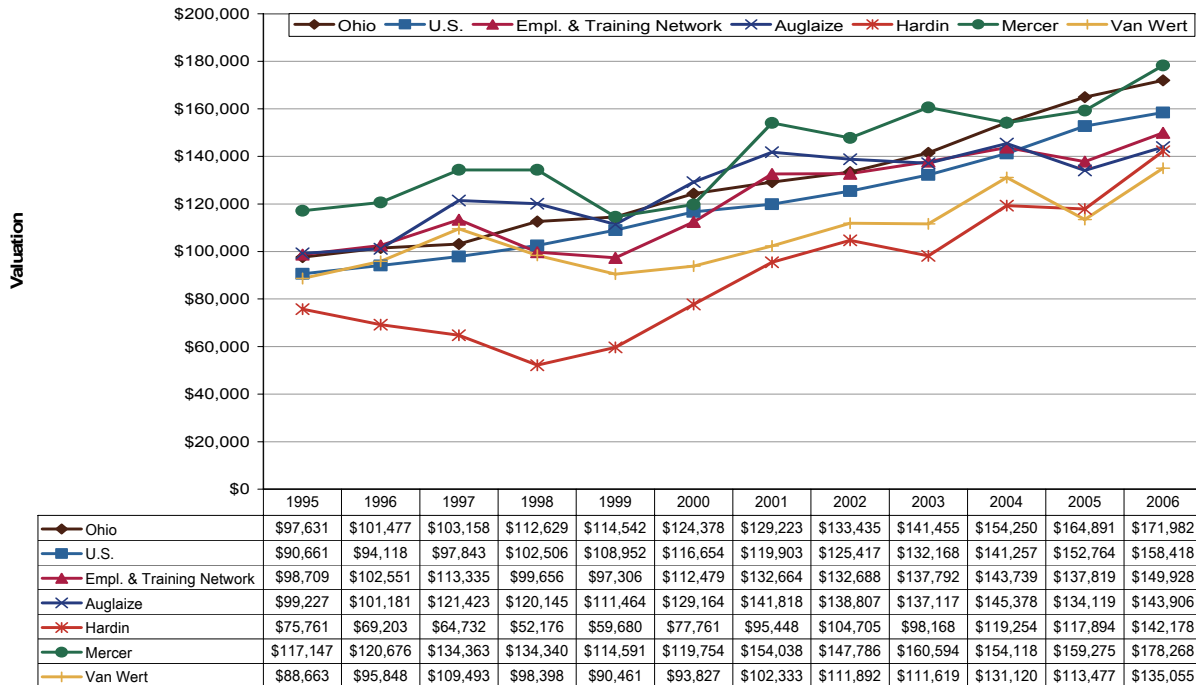
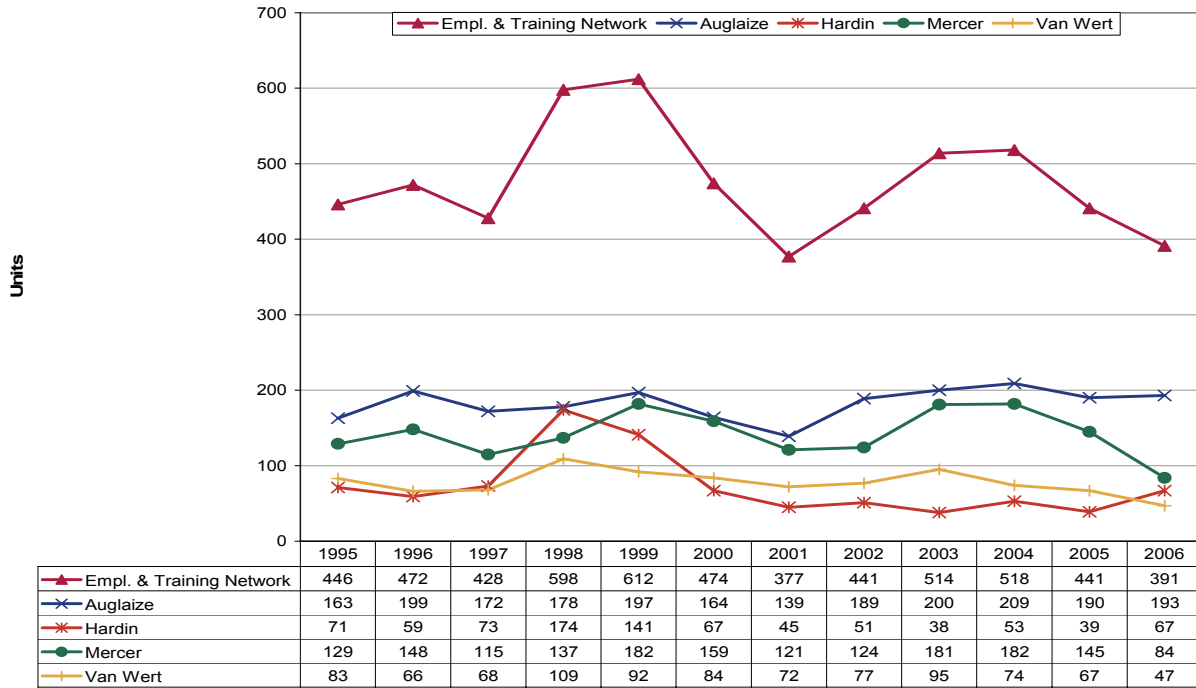
Unemployment for this region in 2006 was 4.5 percent, well below the statewide rate and 1.1 percentage points lower than the peak in 2002. The jump in Mercer County's unemployment rate in 1998 and 1999 was primarily due to global competition leading to the shutdown of a major employer in the area. Since that time, however, the county unemployment rate has fallen below state and national rates. The Ohio and U.S. unemployment rates fell 0.7 and 1.4 percentage points from their peaks in 2003, respectively.

### Per Capita Income



In 2005, per capita income in this area was \$27,768, an average annual compound rate of growth of 3.6 percent from 1995. Throughout this period, Hardin County had the region's lowest per capita income levels—only \$22,796 in 2005. Rural areas tend to have lower income levels than urban areas, and Hardin County is the least urbanized county in this region. Van Wert County had the fastest rate of growth during this period: a 3.7 percent annual compound rate of growth. State and national growth rates were 3.5 percent and 4.1 percent, respectively.

## Residential Building Permits



After a building boom in 1998-1999 and 2003-2004, new residential construction activity has cooled somewhat in this region. Auglaize County granted the most permits in this area during the period of analysis. Mercer County generally had the highest-valued units. Ohio permits began to drop in 2004. Nationwide, there was a significant drop in the number of new 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](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](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>.