Bureau of Labor Market Information: Program and Data Guide

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The Ohio Bureau of Labor Market Information

The Ohio Bureau of Labor Market Information (BLMI) is the state's leading source for labor market data, covering Ohio and its local areas. It gathers, analyzes, and publishes key information on the state's workforce, industries, and occupations, while also offering technical assistance and training to workforce development organizations.

BLMI operates under a partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The BLMI also receives funding through a federal Workforce Labor Market Information Grant from the DOL's Employment and Training Administration (ETA). The bureau collaborates with the BLS on several important programs, including the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS), Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), and Current Employment Statistics (CES). The Workforce Research section oversees the management of products and activities required by the grant.

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In addition, the BLMI produces county economic profiles, issues monthly press releases on Ohio's and the U.S.'s employment trends, provides labor market briefings for the Governor's office, and prepares special reports as needed.

Office of Workforce Development
Bureau of Labor Market Information
March 2025

Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)

The QCEW program collects industry employment and wage data from about 340,000 business establishments covered by Ohio and federal unemployment insurance laws. These establishments employ around 5.5 million people, including private sector employees, and federal, state, and local government workers.

Data is gathered at the six-digit level of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) for counties, which can be grouped into different industry categories and geographic areas. To expand coverage and capture employment and wage data, as well as track changes in business location and activity, data from the ODJFS Office of Unemployment Insurance Operations (OUIO) is supplemented with data collected from four reports/surveys administered to business establishments.

BLMI staff perform the following activities for the QCEW program:
- Produce the Enhanced Quarterly Unemployment Insurance Report. This detailed report provides Ohio's employment and payroll data by firm, using information from the UI tax files, the Ohio Department of Administrative Services, and Multiple Worksite Report. Approximately 24,000 Multiple Worksite Reports are distributed each year.
- Process data from the Annual Refiling Survey. Each year, around 50,000 business establishments are surveyed to verify and/or update information, including their industry, county, mailing and physical addresses, phone number, and multiple worksite status.
- Assign industry codes monthly to about 2,000 new and re-established employers for the OUIO. The OUIO uses industry codes to help determine companies' contribution rates. BLMI staff also review rate and code appeals for OUIO.
- Establish predecessor/successor relationships for BLS purposes so that data are not duplicated or lost when information transfers from one business owner to the next.
- Create and publish 22 unique reports annually.
- Calculate the maximum weekly earnings for all workers covered by Ohio's unemployment insurance law for the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation annually, as required by state law.

QCEW information for Ohio is available at OhioLMI.com:
- **Overview and Data Links:** ohiolmi.com/Home/QCEW/QCEWpubs, Users can view and download up to 22 unique reports that provide Ohio and county-level employment data by industry and business size for different time periods.
- **Data Search Tool:** ohiolmi.com/DataSearch, Users can search the number of private business establishments, employees, total wages paid, and average annual wage by industry for specific Ohio counties, workforce areas, metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) or the entire state, from 2001 to the present.

Uses and users of QCEW data:
- Many individuals and organizations use QCEW data for economic analysis, forecasting, sampling, and projections including state budget forecasters, local economic planning and development groups, private sector and university researchers, the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, and the BLS.

Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)

The OEWS program gathers data on wage and salary workers from a sample of nonfarm businesses to estimate employment and wages across roughly 800 occupations. These estimates come from surveys of business worksites.

The BLS provides the methodology, technical support, and survey materials, while the BLMI handles employer solicitation, information verification, data collection, and analysis, applying Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) codes for each employee. Ohio's sample is the sixth largest in the nation, comprising about 13,500 businesses and over 950,000 employees annually. To ensure statistical validity, BLMI must achieve a 75% response rate from sampled businesses in 18 substate areas and 65% for statewide employment, covering around 10,125 businesses and 617,500 employees.
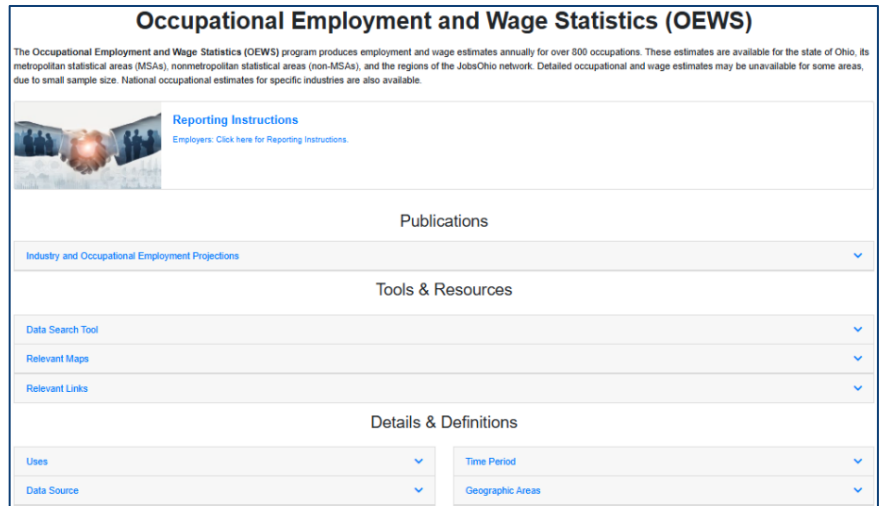
BLMI staff perform the following activities for the OEWS program:
- Mail or email the survey and conduct extensive follow-up and verification via telephone with employers.
- Receive and process employer data submitted by mail, email, phone, fax, or online at idcfoews.bls.gov.
- Contact businesses to update addresses and contact information.
- Report each week to the BLS on the collection/response rate status.
- Participate in reviews of model-based estimation.

The following OEWS information for Ohio is available at ohiolmi.com:
- **Overview and Links to Data:** ohiolmi.com/Home/OEWS/OEWShome
  Users can review and/or download occupational wage estimates for MSAs, the JobsOhio economic development regions, or the state, based on data from the six most recent survey panels (i.e., three years).

Uses and users of OEWS data:
- State and local workforce development boards and professionals use the information to determine the need for local employment and training services.
- Researchers use the data to study trends in the labor market and industries to understand labor costs for new markets.
- Students and career counselors use the information for career planning by comparing employment and wages for different occupations, industries, and areas.
- Compensation specialists use the data to determine equitable and competitive pay and to develop recruiting packages.
- The DOL and the Ohio Department of Commerce use the wage data to set official prevailing wage rates.
- The BLS and the BLMI use OEWS to project short-term and long-term employment.

Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

The LAUS program produces monthly and annual estimates of key labor market indicators, including the number of people in the labor force, the number of people employed, unemployed, and the unemployment rate. These estimates are available for Ohio, MSAs, counties, and cities with populations of 25,000 or more. LAUS uses the same concepts and definitions as the Current Population Survey, the U.S. Census Bureau's monthly household survey conducted for the BLS. The program also provides estimates of employment-population ratios and labor force participation rates at the state level.
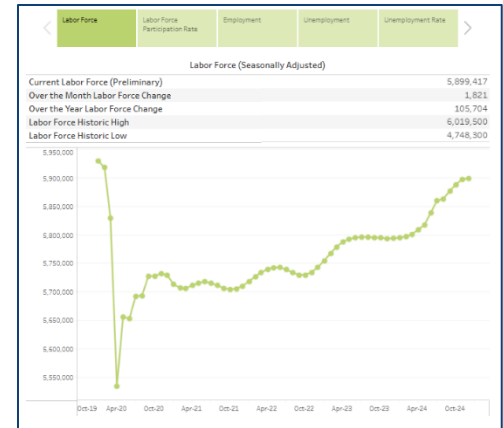
BLMI staff perform the following activities for the LAUS program:
- Publish the official preliminary, revised, and benchmarked LAUS estimates by area.
- Provide data inputs in accordance with BLS standards.
- Review proposed changes to methodology and provide detailed written assessments to the BLS.
- Participate in reviews of model-based estimation.
- Produce data for Areas of Substantial Unemployment, which the BLS defines as a contiguous area(s) of populations of at least 10,000 and unemployment rates of at least 6.5 percent.
- Publish a list of Ohio cities and counties that meet the DOL definition of Labor Surplus Area of having an average unemployment rate at least 20 percent higher than the national average during a specific two-year period. Employers in Labor Surplus Areas may be given preference in bidding on federal procurement contracts.

The following LAUS information for Ohio is available at ohiolmi.com:
- **Overview and Links to Data:** ohiolmi.com/Home/LAUS/LAUSHome
  Under Employment/Unemployment and Local Area Unemployment Statistics, includes links to the Ranking Report, Civilian Labor Force Estimates by County and City, Ohio and U.S. Employment Situation, Rate Map, and Unemployment Rate Methodology.
- **Data Search Tool:** ohiolmi.com/Data Search
  Users can search, review, and download current and historical data for Ohio's counties, MSAs, cities with populations of 25,000 or more, JobsOhio regions and workforce development areas, as well as the state and nation.

Uses and users of LAUS data:
- The federal government uses the data to determine state and local funding allocations and eligibility for assistance.
- States use the data to determine funding allocations to local areas.
- State and local governments use the data for planning and budgetary purposes and to determine the need for local employment and training services.
- Private employers, researchers, the media, and others use the data to assess local labor market developments and make comparisons across areas and over time.
- Businesses and individuals use the data for worksite and residence location decisions.

Current Employment Statistics (CES)

The CES program produces monthly estimates of industry employment, hours, and earnings for Ohio and its 12 MSAs. These estimates are based on data collected from a voluntary survey, also known as the business establishment survey, of more than 23,000 worksites across Ohio. Employers provide data for the pay period that includes the 12th of the month, and payroll and hours data are gathered for private-sector production, construction, and non-supervisory workers. Each month, the BLS summarizes these estimates by industry for Ohio and its MSAs.

ohiolmi.com/_docs/ces/lmr.pdf

BLMI staff perform the following activities for the CES program:
- Evaluate estimates and recommend adjustments based on unusual behavior or local events (e.g., labor disputes).
- Collect employment data for state government employers and workers not covered by Ohio's UI law (e.g., railroad workers, clergy, some insurance agents, student workers, elected officials).
- Publish statewide and MSA data reports typically the third Friday of each month and The Labor Market Review the following week.

The following CES information for Ohio is available at ohiolmi.com:
- **Overview and Links to Data:** ohiolmi.com/Home/CES/CEShome
  Includes links to Employment by Sector, Ohio Seasonally Adjusted Nonagricultural Employment Table, and the Labor Market Review.
- **Data Search Tool:** ohiolmi.com/DataSearch
  Users can search and download current and historical data on employment by industry for Ohio and its 12 MSAs. Where available, hours and earnings are provided.
- **Labor Market Review:** ohiolmi.com/_docs/CES/LMR.pdf
  This monthly publication contains the following information for Ohio and its 12 MSAs:
  - Current and historical data on employment by industry.
  - Hours and earnings for production, construction, and non-supervisory workers.
  - Civilian labor force estimates of employment and unemployment.
  - Select UI data.
  - Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey Data (JOLTS).

Uses and users of CES data:
State administrators, economic developers, researchers, and economists use CES data for a variety of things:
- To evaluate the economic health of the labor market.
- To guide fiscal and monetary policy decisions.
- To forecast tax revenues.
- To guide decisions on location planning, sales, and purchases.
- To compare employment, hours, and earnings across industries or the economy.
- To determine the employment base of states and areas for bond ratings.
- To analyze phases of the business cycle.
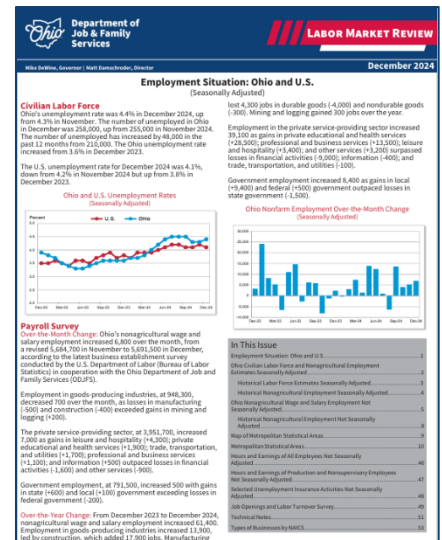
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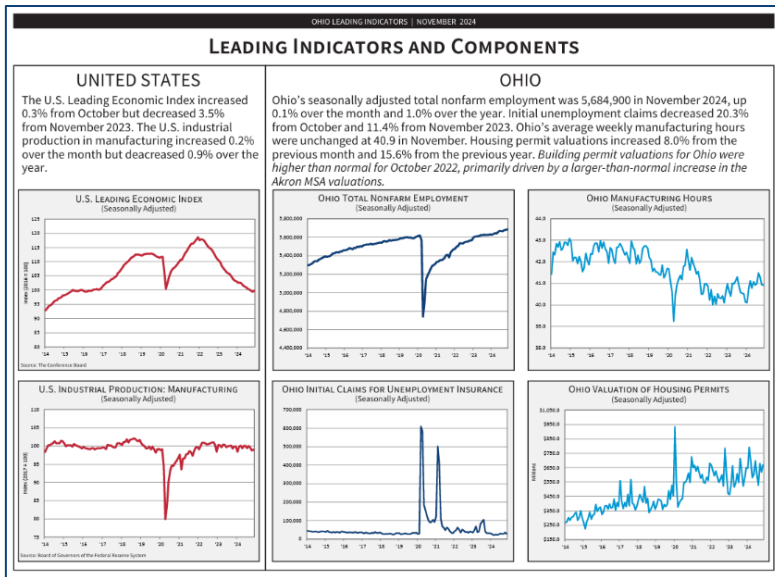
The BLMI Workforce Research section produces and disseminates all products and activities required by the federal Workforce and Labor Market Information Grant, including industry and occupation projections. The section also educates others about labor market information through presentations and interactive webcasts and provides labor market analysis and assistance to internal and external customers.

https://ohiolmi.com/_docs/LeadingIndicators/LI.pdf

BLMI Workforce Research staff conduct the following activities:

- Produce annual short-term (two-year) industry and occupational employment projections at the statewide level and long-term (10-year) industry and occupational employment projections for the state, the eight largest MSAs, and the JobsOhio regions. This process produces industry staffing patterns and occupational employment profiles. In addition, the data are used to help identify the Ohio's Top Jobs List highlighted on OhioMeansJobs.com.
- Produce an annual economic analysis and special reports analyses.
- Develop new products for users.
- Produce an Ohio Leading Indicators report that uses annualized growth rates to forecast six-month employment growth for Ohio and its eight largest MSAs.
- Populate the Workforce Information Database, which contains employment statistics, labor market information, state licensure information, business listings, and related economic and demographic data. The database is maintained by the Analyst Resource Center.
- Develop and facilitate interactive, live web-based trainings and self-guided tutorials on LMI products for workforce development professionals, businesses, and researchers.

The following resources are available at ohiolmi.com:

- **Employment Projections:** ohiolmi.com/Home/Projections/ProjectionsHome
  Includes links to Occupational Trends, a pamphlet of Ohio occupations with favorable job prospects.
- **Data Search Tool:** ohiolmi.com/DataSearch
  Users can obtain industry and occupational employment projections for Ohio, the eight largest MSAs, and the six JobsOhio regions.
- **Publications:** ohiolmi.com/home/publications
  Includes links to special publications.

Job Posting Analytics

Online Job Posting Reports are created with "real-time" online job ad information and are a supplementary product of OhioMeansJobs.com. The reports reflect one aspect of the overall labor market picture in an area and are intended to be used with other local labor market information. Snapshot information reflects a snapshot in time and may not represent long-term trends.

Four types of reports are generated monthly: A Snapshot of Job Ads, Internship Ads, Occupations by Ad Demand, and Regional Talent Reports. These monthly report series are generated to help describe labor demand during a specific time frame utilizing TalentNeuron™'s electronic job posting data. TalentNeuron™ is a global research and advisory company that collects job posting data from global sources daily and in real-time.

BLMI staff conduct the following activities:
- Produce monthly reports generated for JobsOhio Network Areas and the state of Ohio.

The following resources are available at ohiolmi.com:
- **Overview and Links to Data**: ohiolmi.com/Home/JobPostings
- **Snapshot of Job Ads:**
  Includes the monthly total of job openings posted online at OhioMeansJobs.com. Includes a Salary Range, Education Range, Top Certifications, Top Skills, Top Employers with the Most Job Ads, and Top Occupations with the Most Job Ads.
- **Internship Ads:**
  Includes the monthly total of internship ads posted online at OhioMeansJobs.com. Includes a Salary Range, Education Range, Top Certifications for Internship Ads, Top Skills for Internship Ads, Top Employers with the Most Area Internship Ads, and Top Occupations with the Most Area Internship Ads.
- **Occupations by Ad Demand:**
  Includes a breakdown of job ads by occupational focus.
  - Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations
  - Sales and Related Occupations
  - Transportation and Material Moving Occupations
  - Management Occupations
  - Computer and Mathematical Occupations
  - Office and Administrative Support Occupations
  - Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations
  - Business and Financial Operations Occupations
  - Architecture and Engineering Occupations
  - Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations
- **Regional Talent Reports:**
  Includes a report on the talent in Ohio for the top 12 in-demand jobs listed, including the number of resumes posted by specified skills and education level.
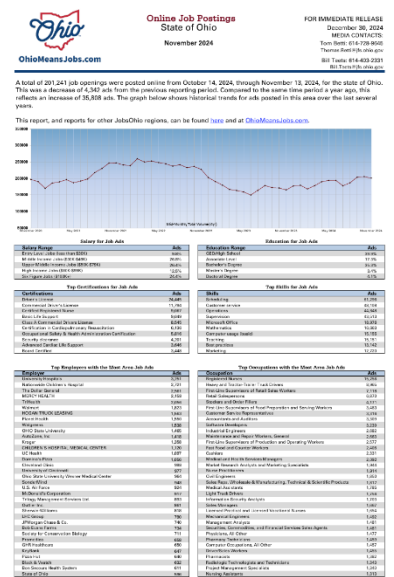
How Employment Information Differs by Program

This chart shows the differences between the QCEW, CES, and LAUS programs, which provide data commonly used to analyze the labor market. If you're looking for employment data, start with these sources.

	QCEW	**CES**	**LAUS**
Industry	Data are published by **INDUSTRY** (sector and subsector)	Data are published by **INDUSTRY** (some sectors and some aggregates of sectors)	Data are published in **TOTAL**, not by industry
Geography	Data are published by **STATE, MSA, REGION, and COUNTY**	Data are published by **STATE and MSA**	Data are published by **STATE, MSA, REGION, and CITY** (population of 25,000 or more)
Period of Availability	**Beginning in 1975** for total employment by state and county **and 1990** for all geographies and industries	**Beginning in 1939** for aggregate industry and most major sector data **and 1990** for most data series	**Beginning in 1976** for statewide data and 1990 for substate data
Jobs v. People	Counts **JOBS** (those holding multiple jobs could be counted more than once)	Counts **JOBS** (those holding multiple jobs could be counted more than once)	Counts **PEOPLE** (those holding multiple jobs are counted only once)
Collection Process	Is a **CENSUS** (count) of jobs and is not based on a survey (Data are based on workplace location)	Utilizes an **ESTABLISHMENT SURVEY** (Data are based on workplace location)	Utilizes a **HOUSEHOLD SURVEY** (Current Population Survey; data are based on residence location)
Frequency of Publication	Data are published **QUARTERLY**, six months after the end of each quarter	Data are published **MONTHLY**	Data are published **MONTHLY**
Data Reference Week	Reference week is the **PAY PERIOD** that includes the 12th of the month	Reference week is the **PAY PERIOD** that includes the 12th of the month	Reference week is the **CALENDAR WEEK** that includes the 12th of the month
Seasonal Adjustment	Because data represents a census, data are **NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**	**SEASONALLY ADJUSTED** data are available for total nonfarm employment (all areas) and for supersectors (state only)	**SEASONALLY ADUSTED** data are available for the state and MSAs, but not the counties or cities
Workers on Unpaid Leave	A job held by a person on unpaid leave during the reference week **IS NOT COUNTED**	A job held by a person on unpaid leave during the reference week **IS NOT COUNTED**	A person on unpaid leave **IS COUNTED** as employed because they will return to their job
Self-Employed Workers	**DOES NOT COUNT** self-employed workers	**DOES NOT COUNT** self-employed workers	**DOES COUNT** self-employed workers
Agricultural Workers	**INCLUDES SOME** agricultural workers, but excludes most on small farms	**DOES NOT INCLUDE** agricultural workers	**INCLUDES** both agricultural and non-agricultural workers
Unpaid Family Workers	**DOES NOT COUNT** unpaid family workers	**DOES NOT COUNT** unpaid family workers	**COUNTS** unpaid family workers if they worked 15+ hours for a family business or farm
Workers on Strike	Workers on strike during the reference period **ARE NOT COUNTED**	Workers on strike during the entire reference period **ARE NOT COUNTED**	Workers on strike during the reference week **ARE COUNTED** as employed
Members of the Armed Forces	**DOES NOT COUNT** members of the armed forces	**DOES NOT COUNT** members of the armed forces	**DOES NOT COUNT** members of the armed forces
Domestic Workers	**COUNTS SOME** domestic workers but only those earning a certain amount	**DOES NOT COUNT** domestic workers	**DOES COUNT** domestic workers