



Other Measures of Unemployment in Ohio

November 14, 2025

The unemployment rate featured in headlines each month is the “U-3 rate” – but did you know there are other measures of unemployment, as well? This article explains several of them, with a focus on the U-3 and the U-6.

The Official Unemployment Rate: U-3

The **U-3** includes all jobless individuals who are available for work and who have actively looked for a job in the past four weeks. In 2024, **4.3%** of Ohio’s labor force was unemployed, as measured by U-3.

The Broadest Unemployment Rate: U-6

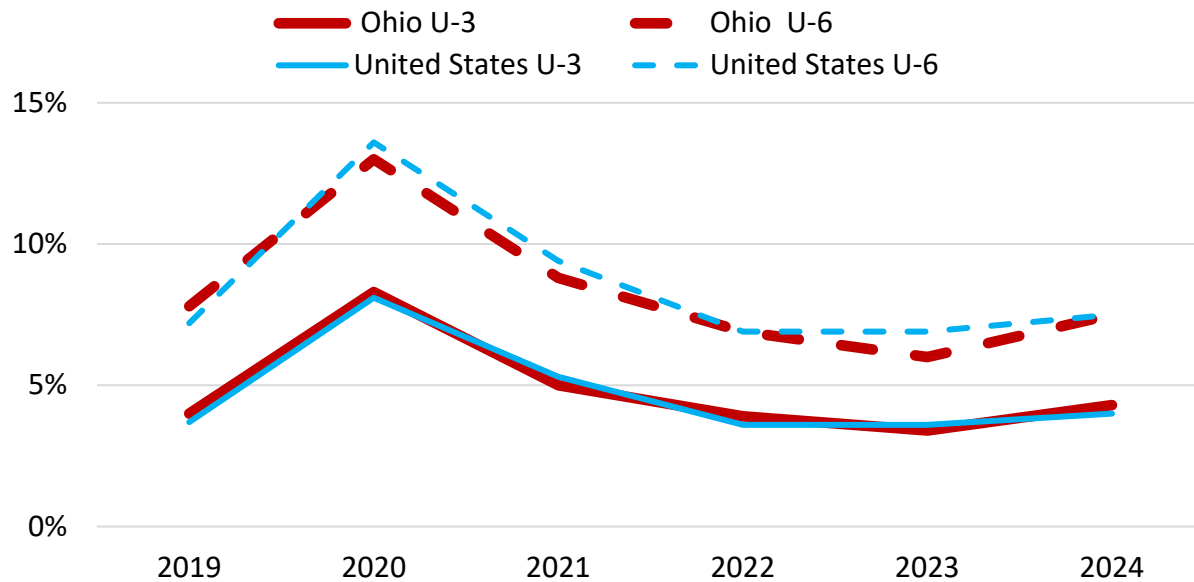
In 2024, the broadest measure of labor underutilization was the **U-6**. This measure includes the unemployed, those working part-time for economic reasons, and those marginally attached to the labor force. In 2024, Ohio’s U-6 rate was **7.5%** in Ohio.

- *Marginally attached workers* are individuals who are not currently in the labor force, but who want and are available for work and who have looked for a job sometime in the past 12 months.
- A subset of these, *discouraged workers*, have stopped looking because they believe no jobs are available for them.

Both U-3 and U-6 rates in Ohio were **not significantly different** from the national annual averages. However, both were **higher than in 2023**. (See *chart 1*.)



**Chart 1. The U-3 and U-6, United States and Ohio,
Annual Averages**

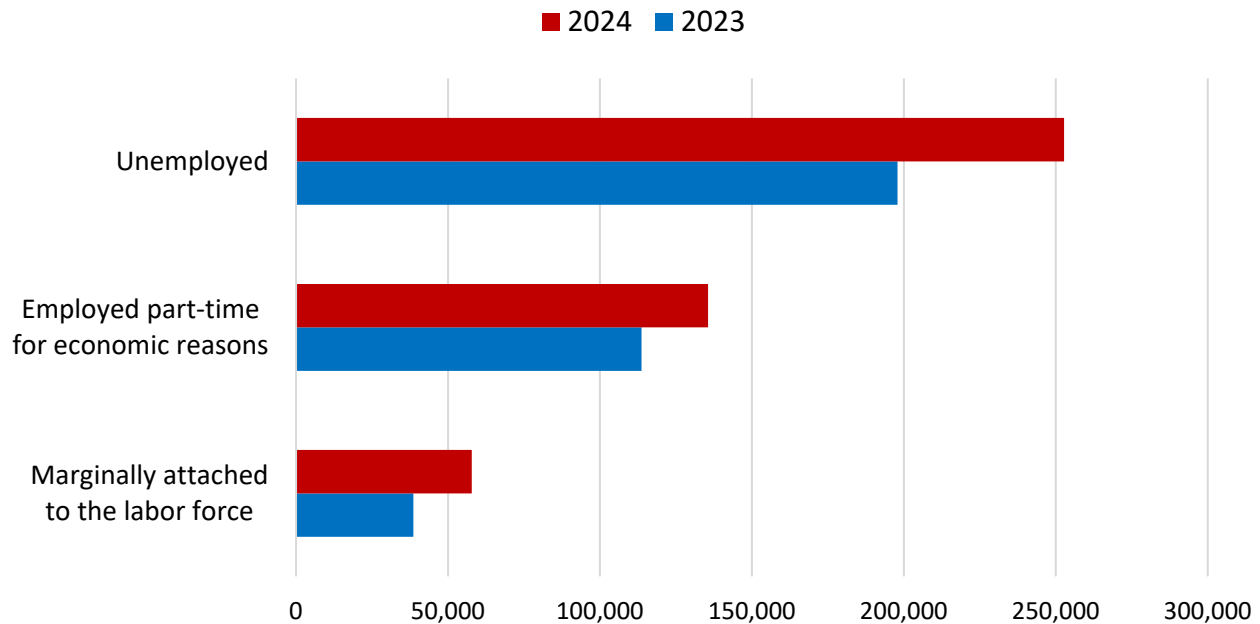


In 2024, Ohio had **252,700 unemployed residents**, according to the Current Population Survey (CPS). Additionally, **135,600 individuals** were working part-time for economic reasons. This could happen because someone is doing less work than usual, business conditions, or the inability to find full-time employment. (See Chart 2.)

Nationwide, **4.47 million** people worked part-time for economic reasons in 2024.



Chart 2. Numbers of Selected Underutilized Workers in Ohio, Annual Averages



Six Measures of Unemployment

The CPS provides a total of six measures of unemployment for users who want narrower (U-1, U-2) or broader (U-4 through U-6) definitions:

- U-1**, persons unemployed 15 weeks or longer, as a percent of the civilian labor force.
- U-2**, job losers and persons who completed temporary jobs, as a percent of the civilian labor force.
- U-3**, total unemployed, as a percent of the civilian labor force (this is the definition used for the official unemployment rate).
- U-4**, total unemployed plus discouraged workers, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus discouraged workers.
- U-5**, total unemployed, plus discouraged workers, plus all other marginally attached workers, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus all marginally attached workers.
- U-6**, total unemployed, plus all marginally attached workers, plus total employed part time for economic reasons, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus all marginally attached workers.

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