

Labor Market Information In Review: 2019 Annual Economic Report



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Executive Summary

The Ohio unemployment rate declined slightly through 2019. The seasonally adjusted rate was 4.3% in January and was 4.1% from September through December. Mercer County had the lowest annual unemployment rate at 2.6%, and Monroe County had the highest rate at 8.3%. The JobsOhio Central Region had the lowest annual unemployment rate among the regions at 3.6%; the Southeast Region had the highest annual rate at 5.4%.

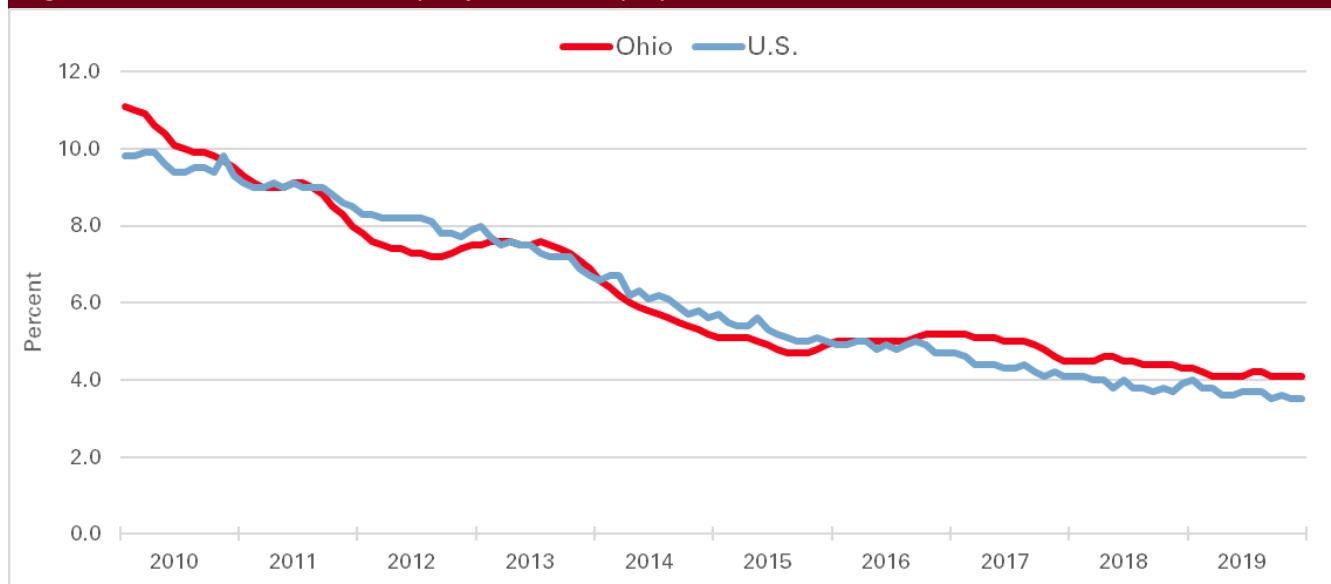
The volume of online job ads for 2019 was slightly higher than for 2018. The top advertised jobs were for registered nurses and first-line supervisors of retail sales workers.

Ohio added jobs in 2019. Annual total nonfarm employment grew by 23,600 jobs from 2018 to 2019, and annual total private employment grew by 23,400. Industry sector growth from 2018 to 2019 was led by educational and health services (+9,700). The increase was driven primarily by the healthcare and social assistance subsector (+7,400). The retail trade subsector had significant losses over the year (-11,400). The Cincinnati, Cleveland-Elyria, and Columbus metro areas had the largest total private employment increases (+0.9%).

The Labor Force and Unemployment Rates

The traditional indicator of the health of the labor force is the unemployment rate. Figure 1 shows the seasonally adjusted monthly unemployment rates from January 2010 through December 2019 for the U.S. and Ohio. Ohio's unemployment rate has been higher than the national rate since May 2016.

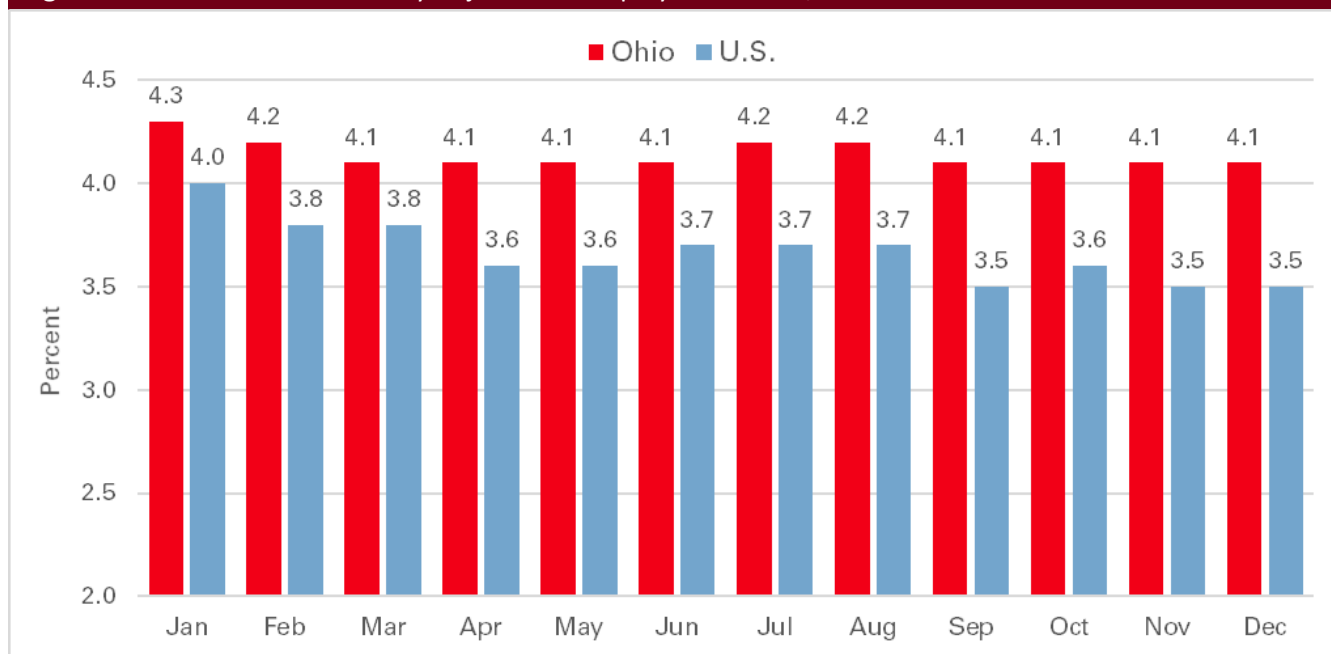
Figure 1. U.S. and Ohio Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates, 2010 – 2019



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

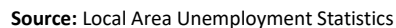
Ohio's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in January was 4.3% and continued to decline for the remainder of the year. From March through June 2019 and September through December 2019, the unemployment rate was consistently 4.1%. For the remaining months of February, July and August the unemployment percentage rate was 4.2. The annual average unemployment rate for 2019 was 4.1%, a 0.4% decrease from 2018. The average number of unemployed Ohioans decreased 19,000 over the year to 239,000; the average number of employed Ohioans increased 41,000 to 5,563,000.

Figure 2. Ohio and U.S. Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates, 2019



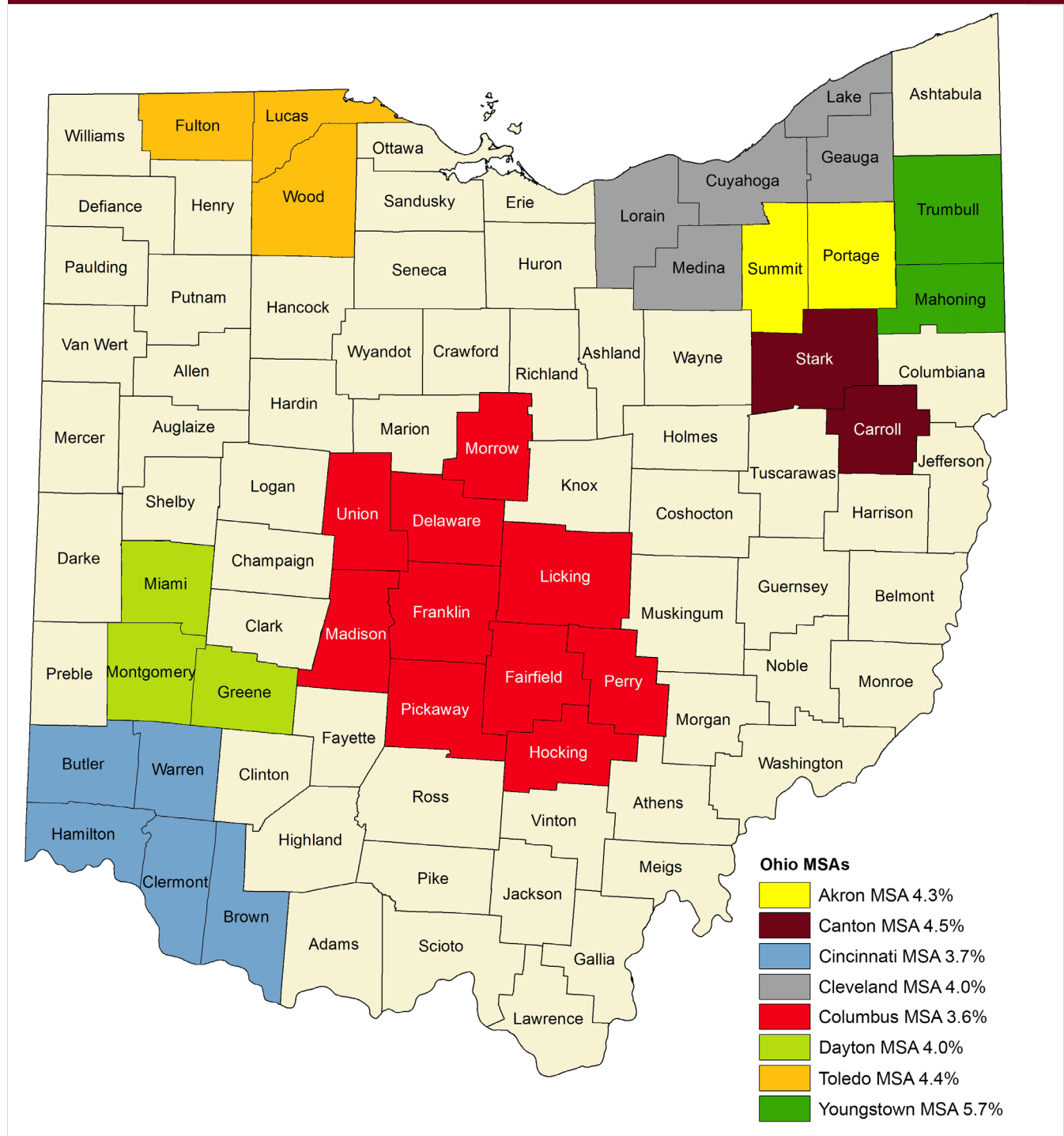
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Figure 3. 2019 Annual Average Unemployment Rates by County



Ohio's eight largest metropolitan areas account for about 77% of Ohio's labor force. The Columbus, Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Dayton metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) had annual unemployment rates below the Ohio annual rate of 4.1%. The Akron, Canton, Toledo, and Youngstown MSAs had annual unemployment rates above or equal to the Ohio annual rate. The Youngstown MSA had the highest annual unemployment rate at 5.7%. The Columbus MSA had the lowest annual unemployment rate in the state at 3.6%, below the U.S. annual rate of 3.7%.

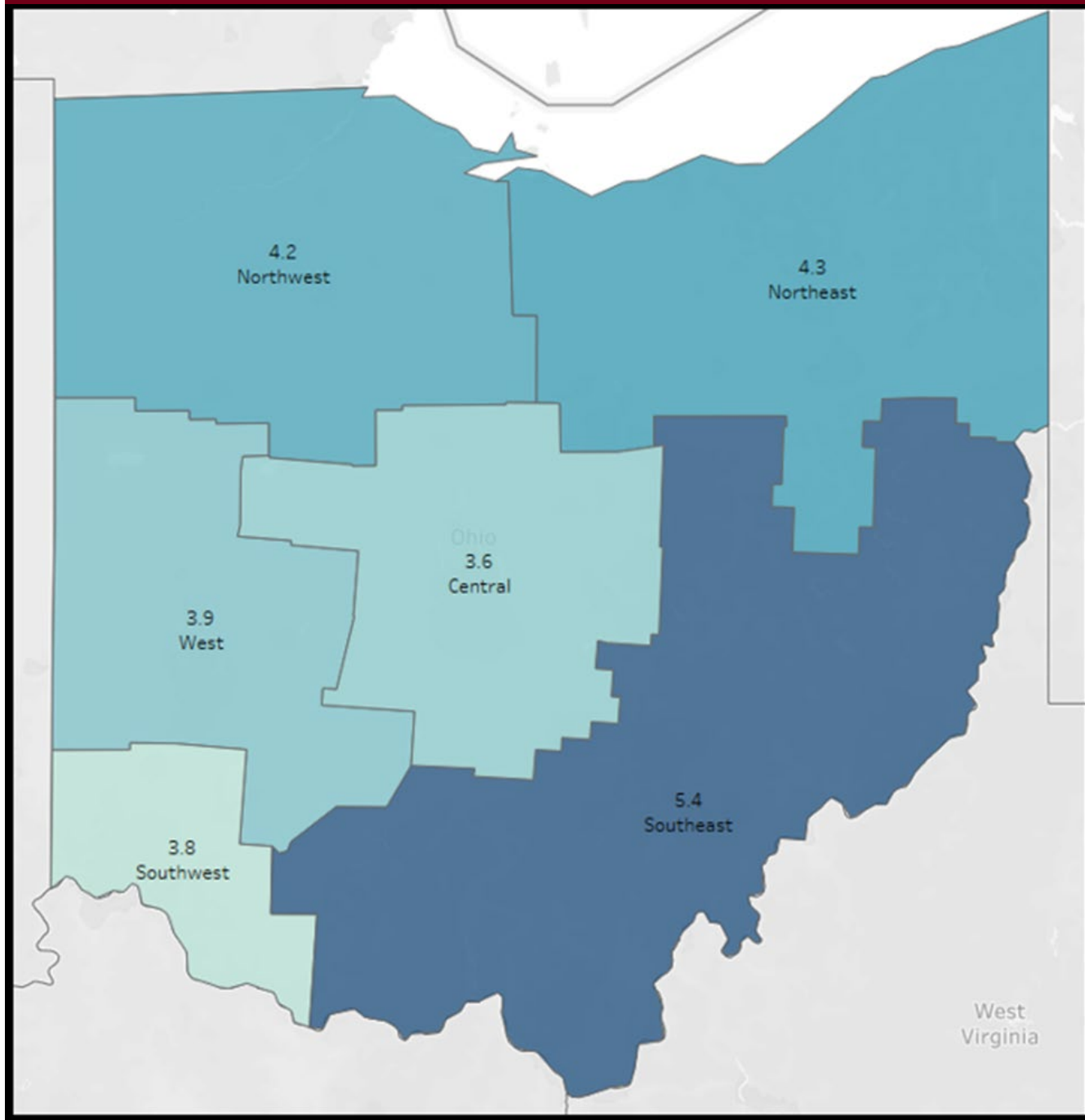
Figure 4. 2019 Annual Average Unemployment Rates by MSA



Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics

JobsOhio is a private, nonprofit organization that promotes job creation and economic development for Ohio. The state has six geographic regions anchored by Ohio's major metropolitan areas, each with specific industry strengths and resources. Consistent with last year's Annual Economic Report the Southeast region had the highest annual average unemployment rate at 5.4%, and the Central region had the lowest annual rate at 3.6%. The remaining four JobsOhio regions unemployment rate ranged from 4.3% (Northeast) to 3.8% (Southwest).

Figure 5. 2019 Annual Average Unemployment Rates by JobsOhio Regions

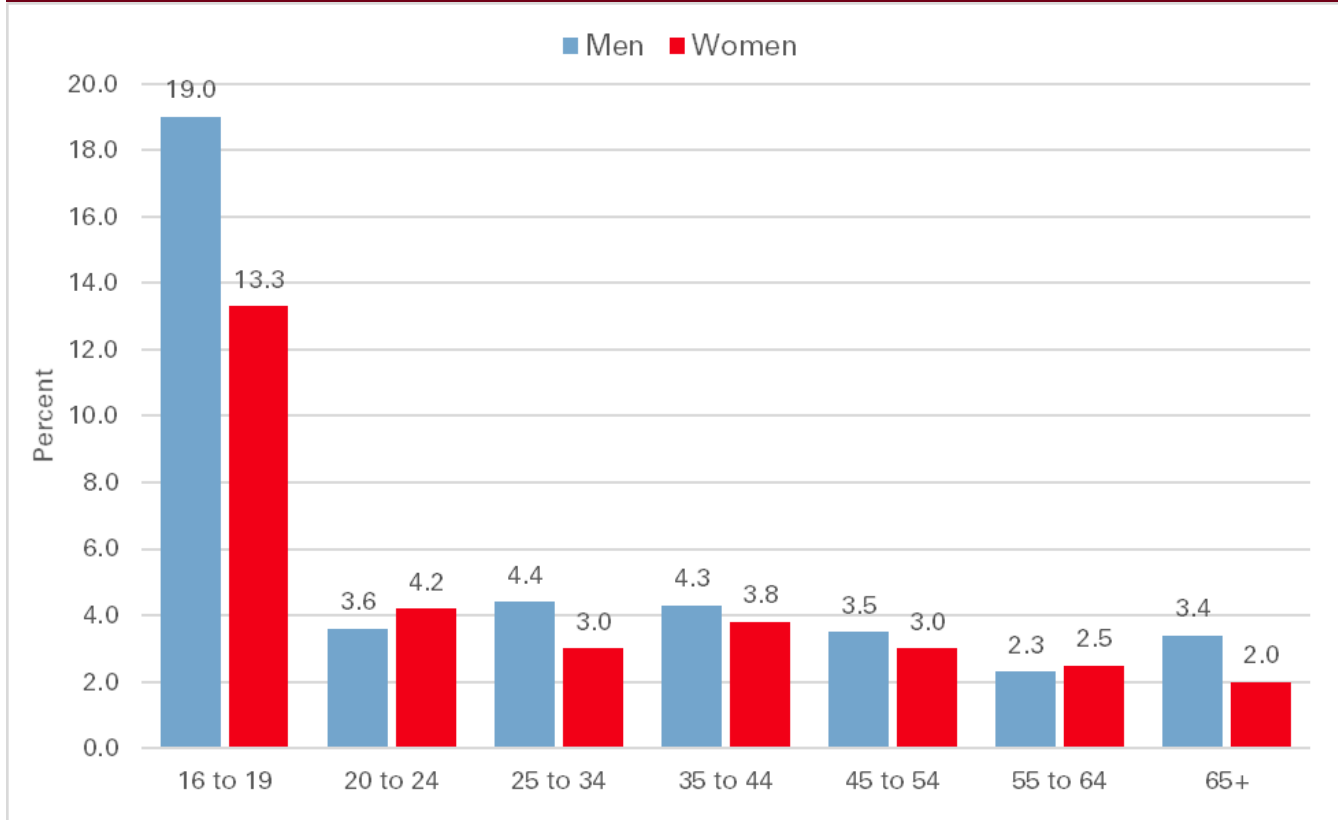


Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Annual unemployment rates were highest among the 16-to-19 age group and lowest among the 55-to-64 age group. Unemployment rates declined steadily with age, then increased exclusively for men 65 and older, possibly because of retirees returning to the workforce or working seasonal jobs.

Men outpaced women's unemployment rates between a range of .5 to 1.4 percentage points. With the exception of those ages 20-to-24 and those 55-to-64, annual unemployment rates were higher for men.

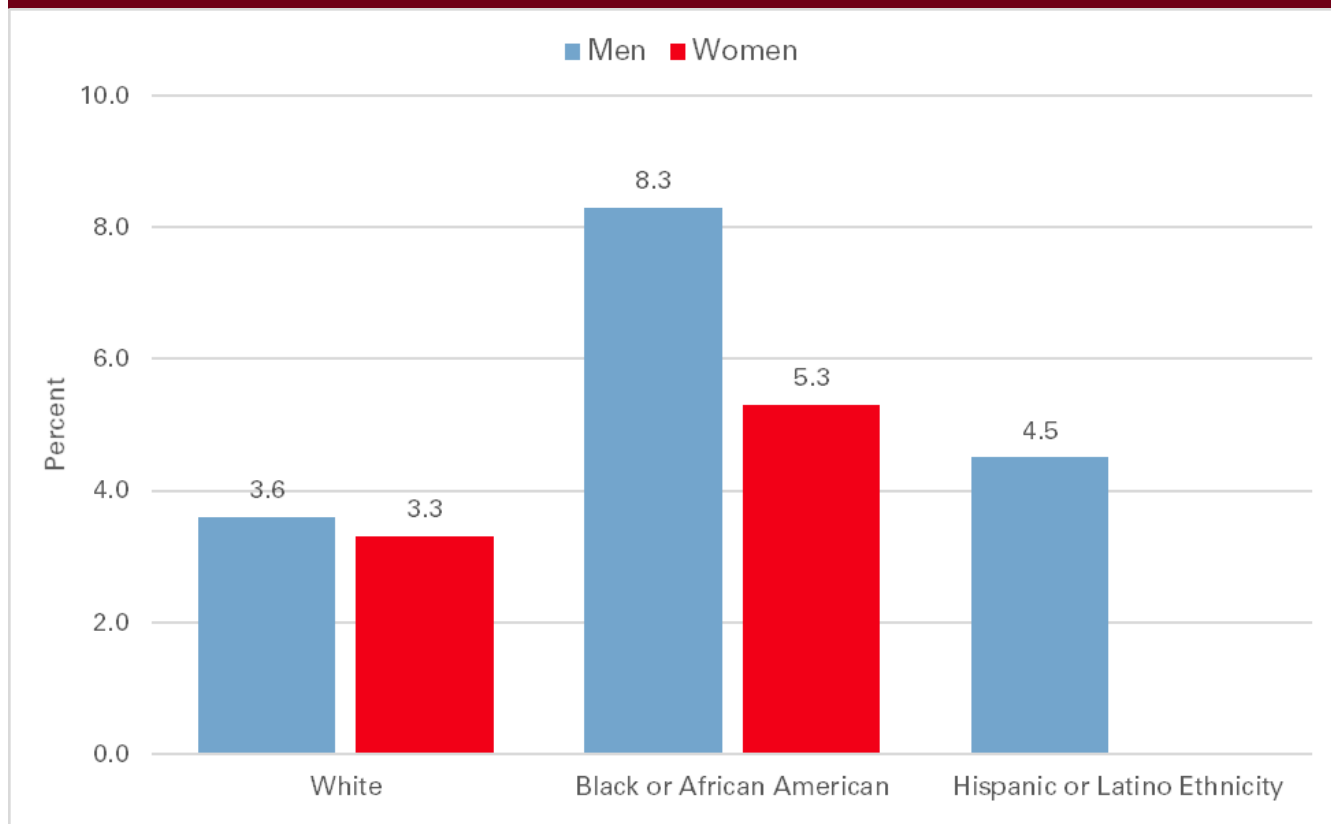
Figure 6. 2019 Preliminary Ohio Annual Average Unemployment Rates by Sex and Age



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Geographic Profile of Employment and Unemployment

Black or African-American men had the highest annual unemployment rate at 8.3%; white women had the lowest rate at 3.3%. In 2018, Hispanic or Latino men had the highest annual unemployment rate at 8.8%, but dramatically decreased by almost half to 4.5% in 2019.

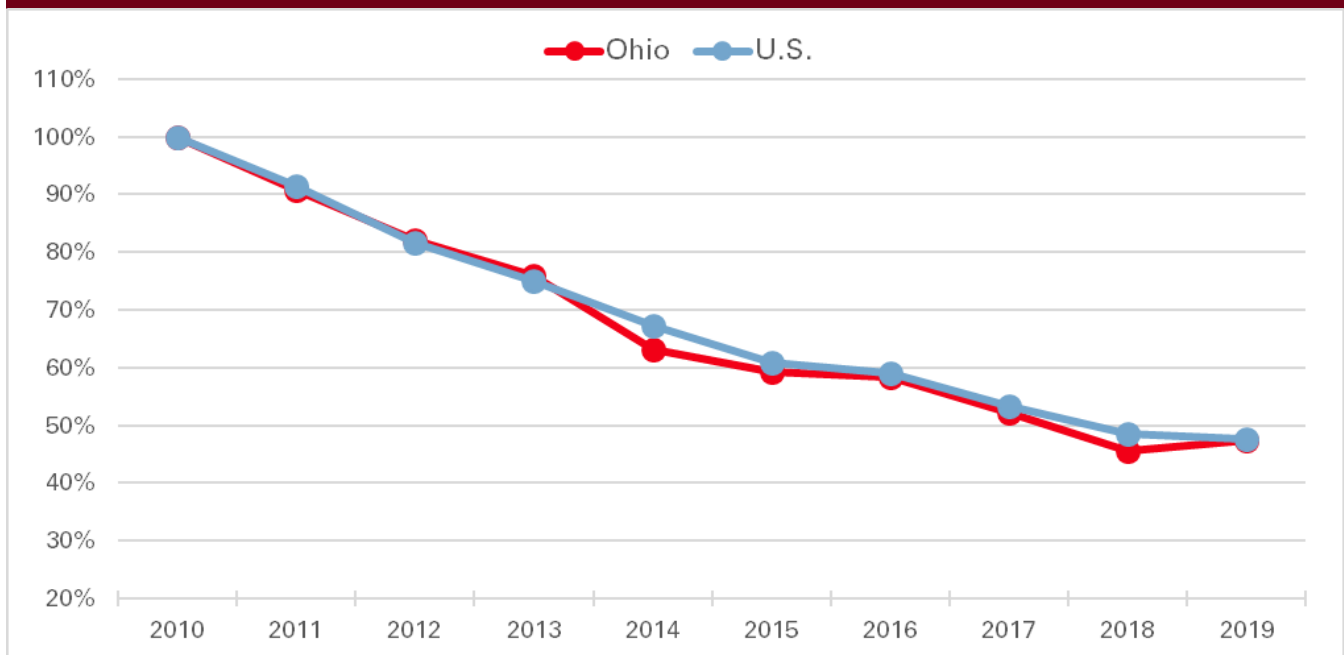
Figure 7. 2019 Preliminary Ohio Annual Average Unemployment Rates by Sex and Race/Ethnicity



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Geographic Profile of Employment and Unemployment

Not everyone who is unemployed is eligible for unemployment compensation.¹ However, tracking the number of initial unemployment insurance claims in a region can provide insight into the number of those affected by employer closings and layoffs. Figure 8 shows U.S. and Ohio initial unemployment claims as a percentage of 2010 levels.² Since 2010, Ohio and U.S. initial claims have fallen at about the same rate.

Figure 8. Change in U.S. and Ohio Annual Initial Claims for Unemployment Benefits (100% in 2010)



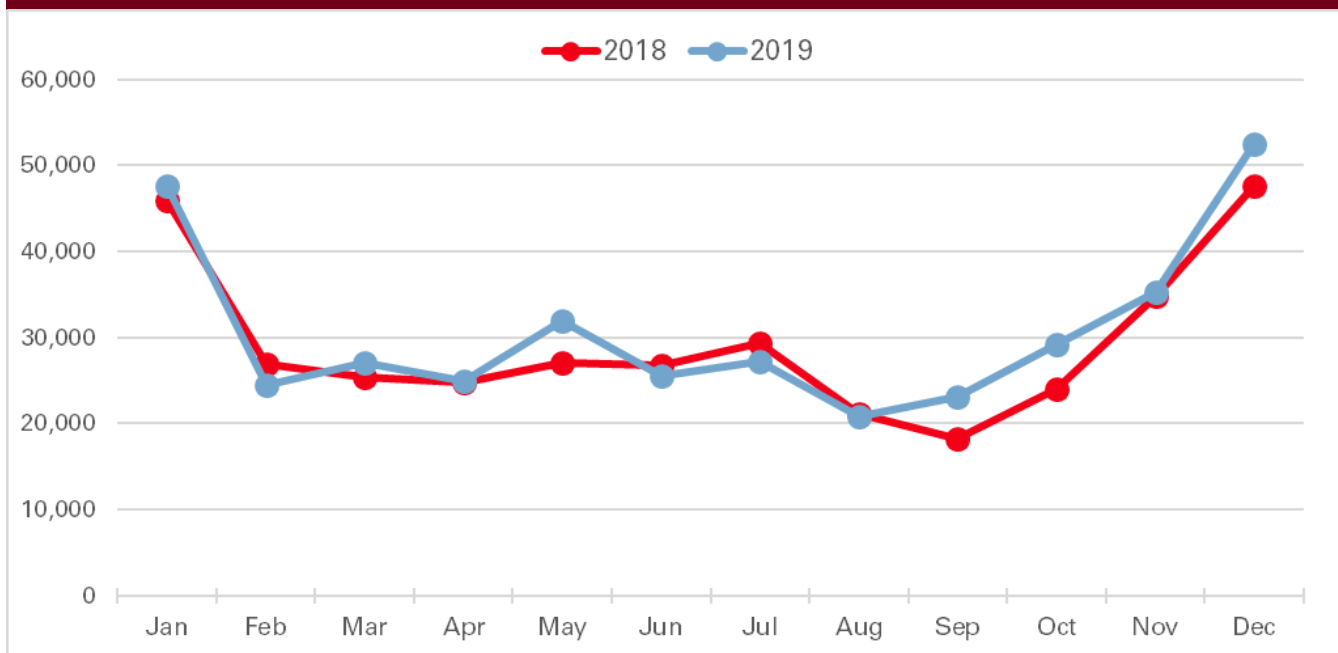
Source: U.S. Employment and Training Administration and the Office of Unemployment Insurance Operations

This figure shows the number of monthly claims for both years. These data are not seasonally adjusted and show typical seasonal fluctuations. The total number of initial unemployment claims in 2019 (369,594) was 4.9 percent higher than the number of initial claims in 2018 (352,240). Starting in September 2019 until the end of the year, there was consistently more initial claims filed each month than in 2018.

¹ See the [Worker's Guide to Unemployment Insurance](#) for eligibility requirements.

² The U.S. volume of initial claims is much higher than Ohio's volume, making them difficult to compare directly. Indexing puts the U.S. and Ohio data on the same scale.

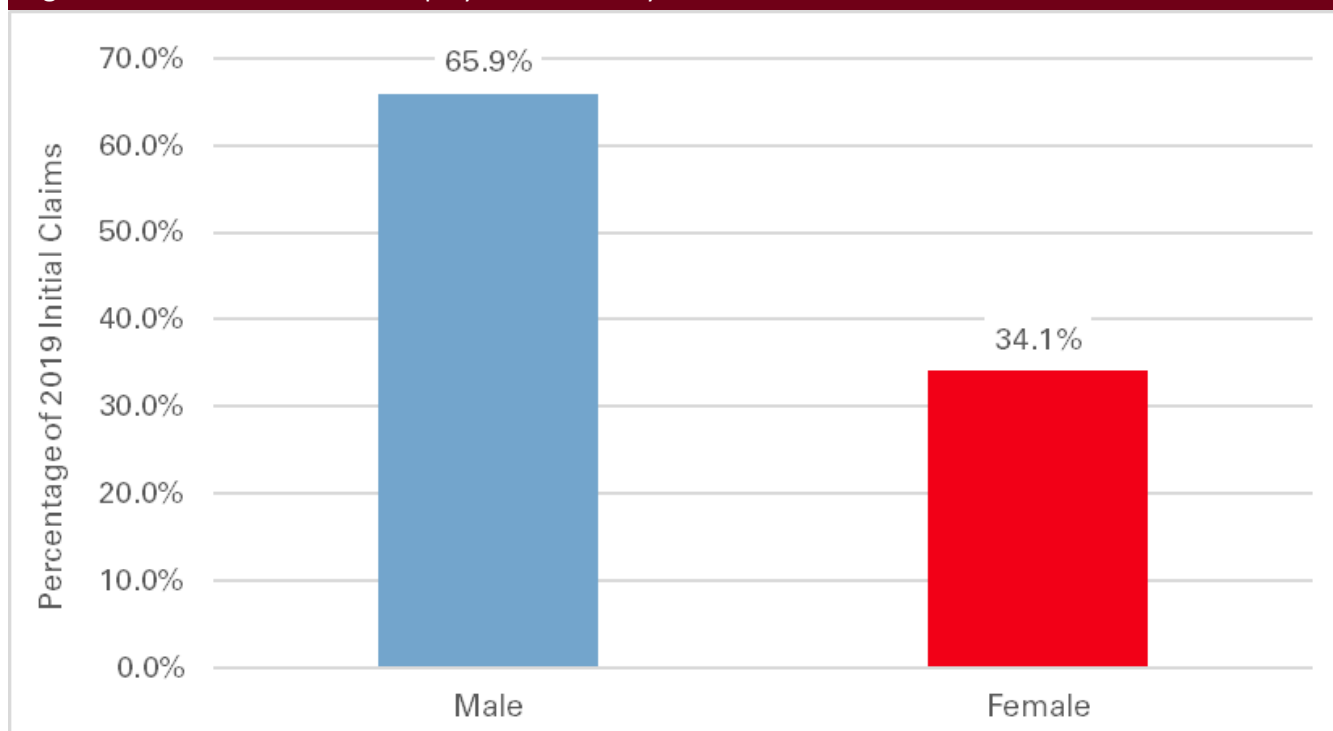
Figure 9. Ohio Monthly Initial Unemployment Claims, 2018 and 2019 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Ohio Office of Unemployment Insurance Operations

Men filed more than two-thirds of initial unemployment claims in 2019. The higher percentage of male unemployment claims may be attributed to claims filed in the construction and manufacturing industries, which traditionally have more male workers and accounted for more than 45% of the claims.

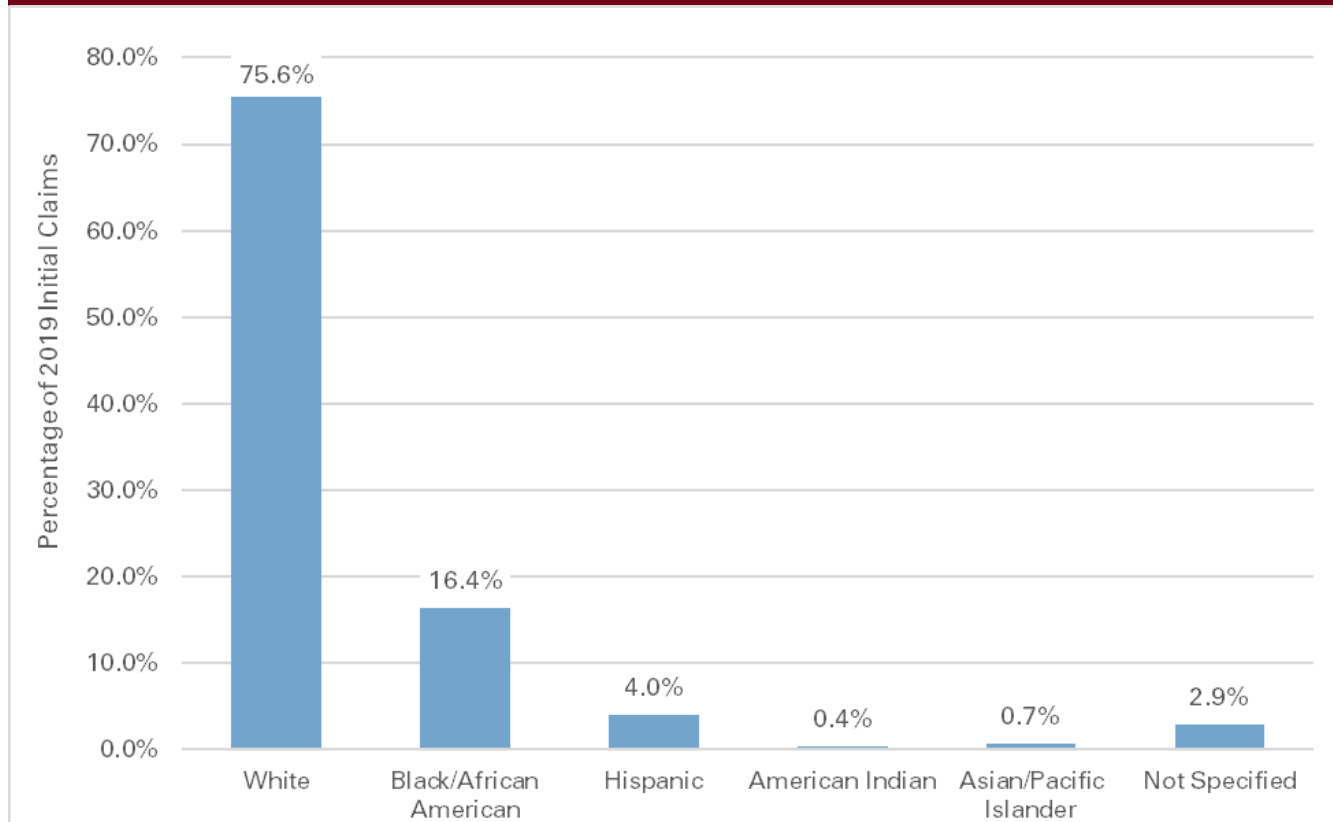
Figure 10. 2019 Ohio Initial Unemployment Claims by Sex



Source: Ohio Office of Unemployment Insurance Operations

The unemployment claims by race/ethnicity were relatively static from 2018 to 2019. Individuals identifying as white, again, filed more than three quarters of initial unemployment claims in 2019. Consistent with last year, individuals identifying as Black or African American filed 16.4% and other racial and ethnic groups accounted for about 4% of initial unemployment claims. About 3.1% of claimants did not provide information identifying their race or ethnicity.

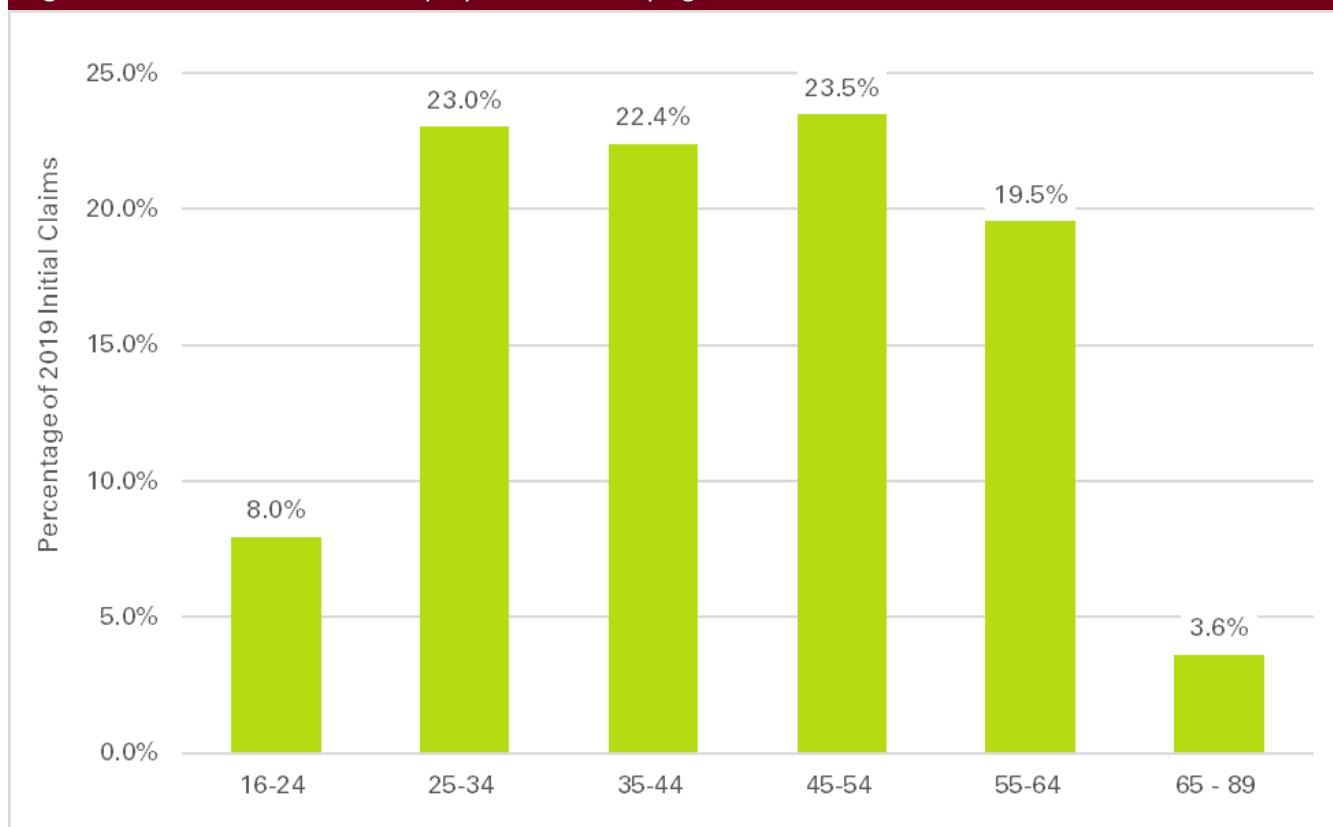
Figure 11. 2019 Ohio Initial Unemployment Claims by Race/Ethnicity



Source: Ohio Office of Unemployment Insurance Operations

Those in the prime working ages of 25 to 54 filed about 88.4% of initial unemployment claims in 2019. Within that span of ages, initial unemployment claims were relatively evenly distributed ranging from 19.5% to 23.5%. Claimants 16 to 24 and 65 and older were outliers, accounting for 8% and 3.6% of initial claims, respectively.

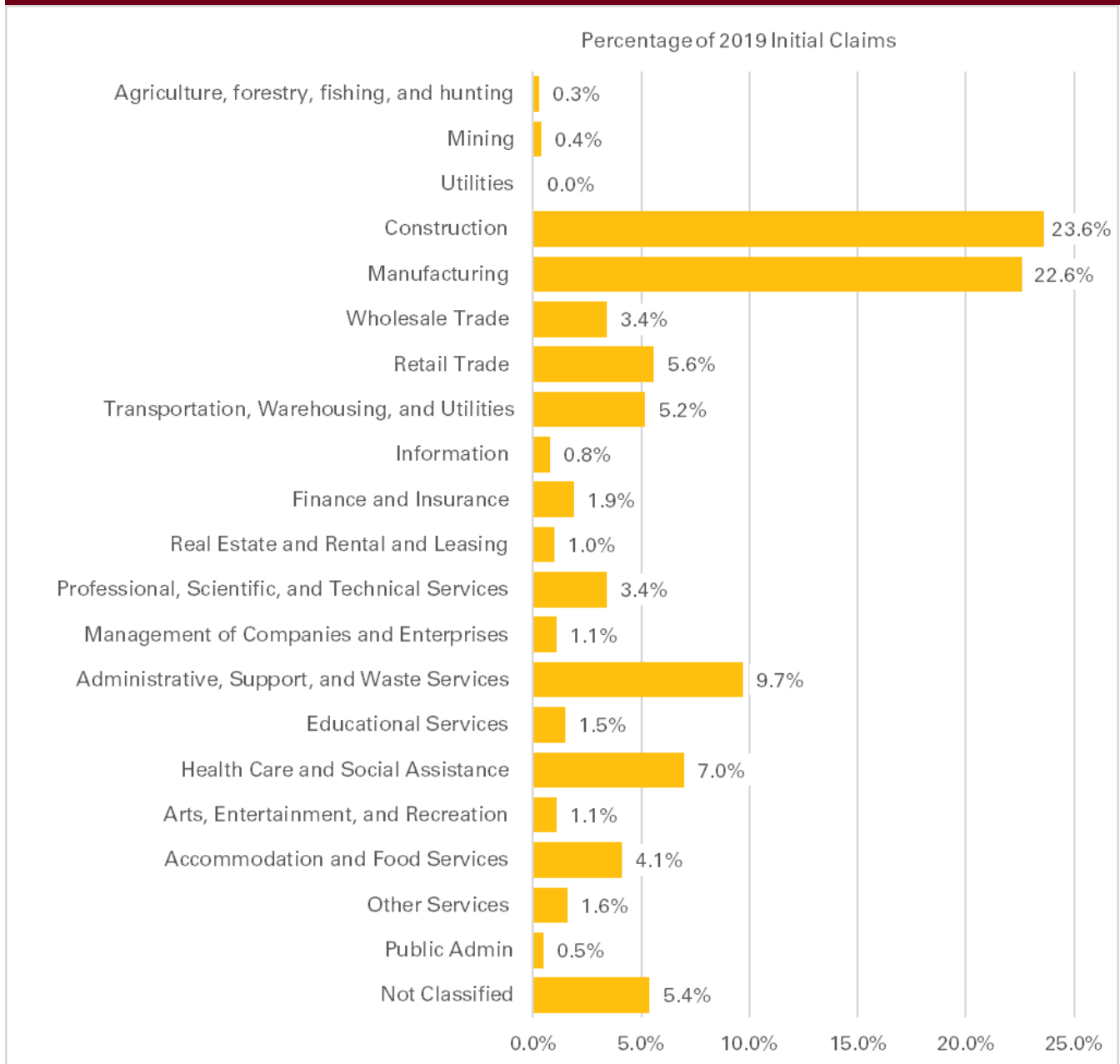
Figure 12. 2019 Ohio Initial Unemployment Claims by Age



Source: Ohio Office of Unemployment Insurance Operations

The construction and manufacturing sectors together accounted for more than 45% of initial claims. The third largest sector – administrative and support and waste management and remediation services – accounted for 9.7% of initial claims. This sector includes temporary help agencies.

Figure 13. 2019 Ohio Initial Unemployment Claims by Industry Sector

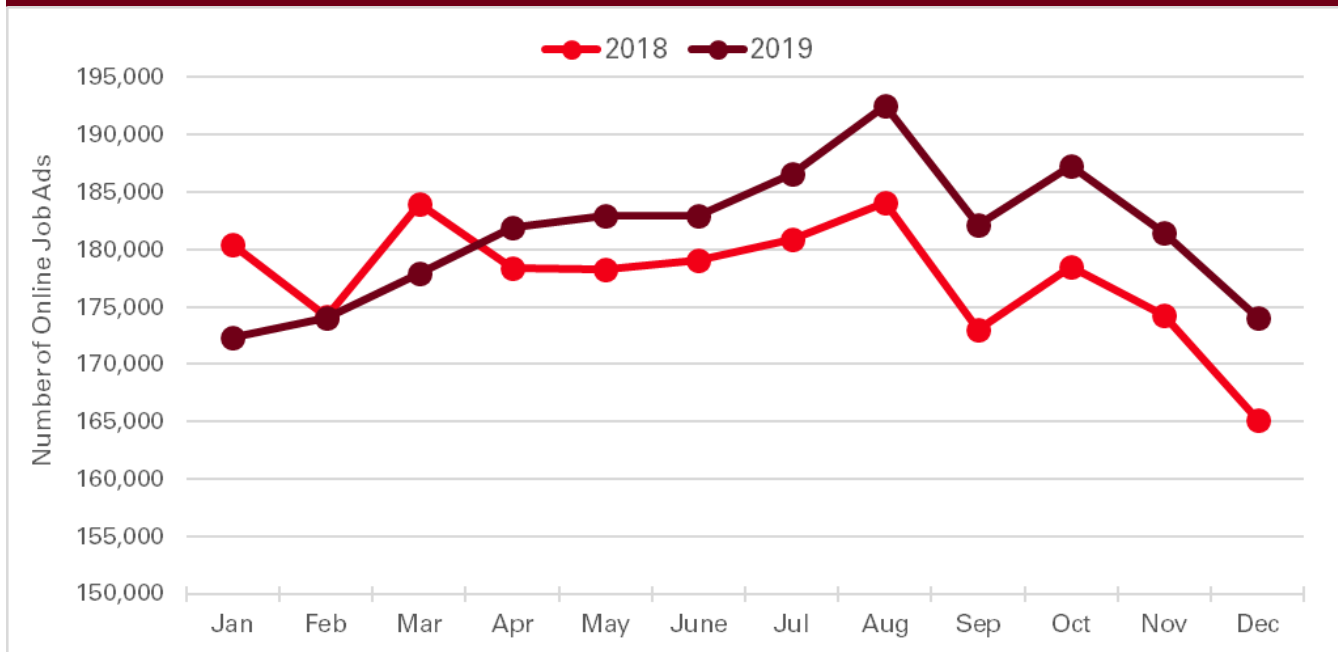


Source: Ohio Office of Unemployment Insurance Operations

Labor Demand – Online Job Ads

An indicator of labor demand is the number of job ads posted online. Figure 14 shows the monthly volume of online ads for Ohio in 2018 and 2019. The average difference in volume of online job ads in 2018 compared to 2019 was 3,854 job ads. Ad volume in January 2019 was 4.5% below January 2018. By December 2019 online job ad volume was 5.4% above December 2018.

Figure 14. Ohio Online Job Ads by Month, Not Seasonally Adjusted



Source: Help Wanted OnLine, The Conference Board

Twenty of the 25 most heavily advertised occupations in Ohio are considered to be “in-demand occupations,” which means they pay well and are projected to add more jobs. The top 25 most heavily advertised occupations included three managerial and four supervisory occupations. There were five sales occupations, and three both of healthcare and computer occupations (which included some supervisory occupations).

Ohio’s most heavily advertised occupation in 2019 was registered nurses, with more than 49,000 ads over the year. The other healthcare occupations including nursing and medical assistants consistently appeared in the most heavily advertised ads for at least four of the six JobsOhio regions.

Figure 15. Top Ohio Occupations Advertised Online in 2019



Source: Help Wanted OnLine, The Conference Board

In the JobsOhio Central Region, the top 21 occupations advertised online included five sales occupations and six computer occupations. The most heavily advertised occupation was software developers.

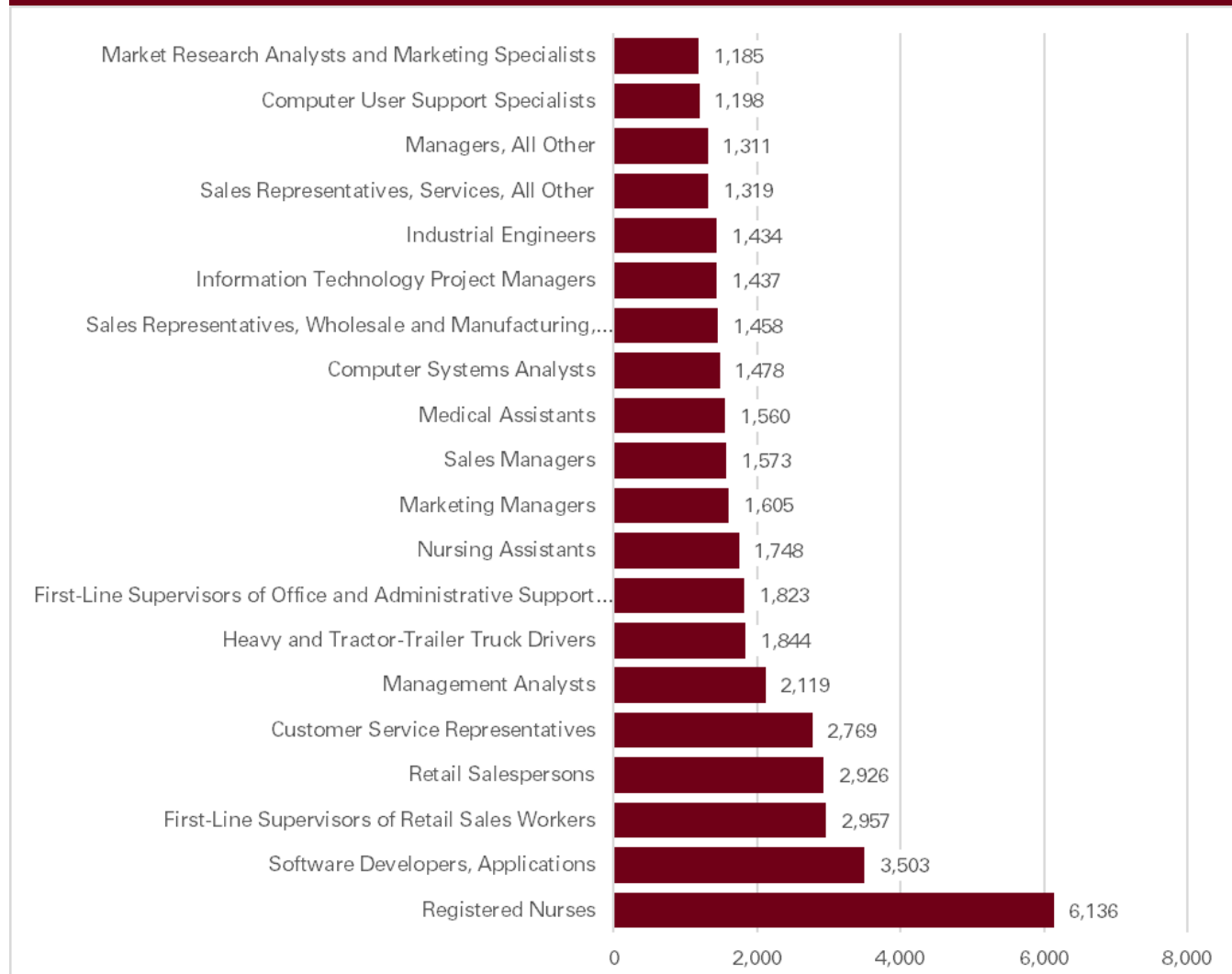
Figure 16. Top Jobs Advertised Online in 2019, JobsOhio Central Region



Source: Help Wanted OnLine, The Conference Board

The 20 most heavily advertised occupations in the JobsOhio Southwest Region included four each of computer occupations and sales occupations. The most heavily advertised occupation was registered nurses, and software developers was the second-most advertised occupation.

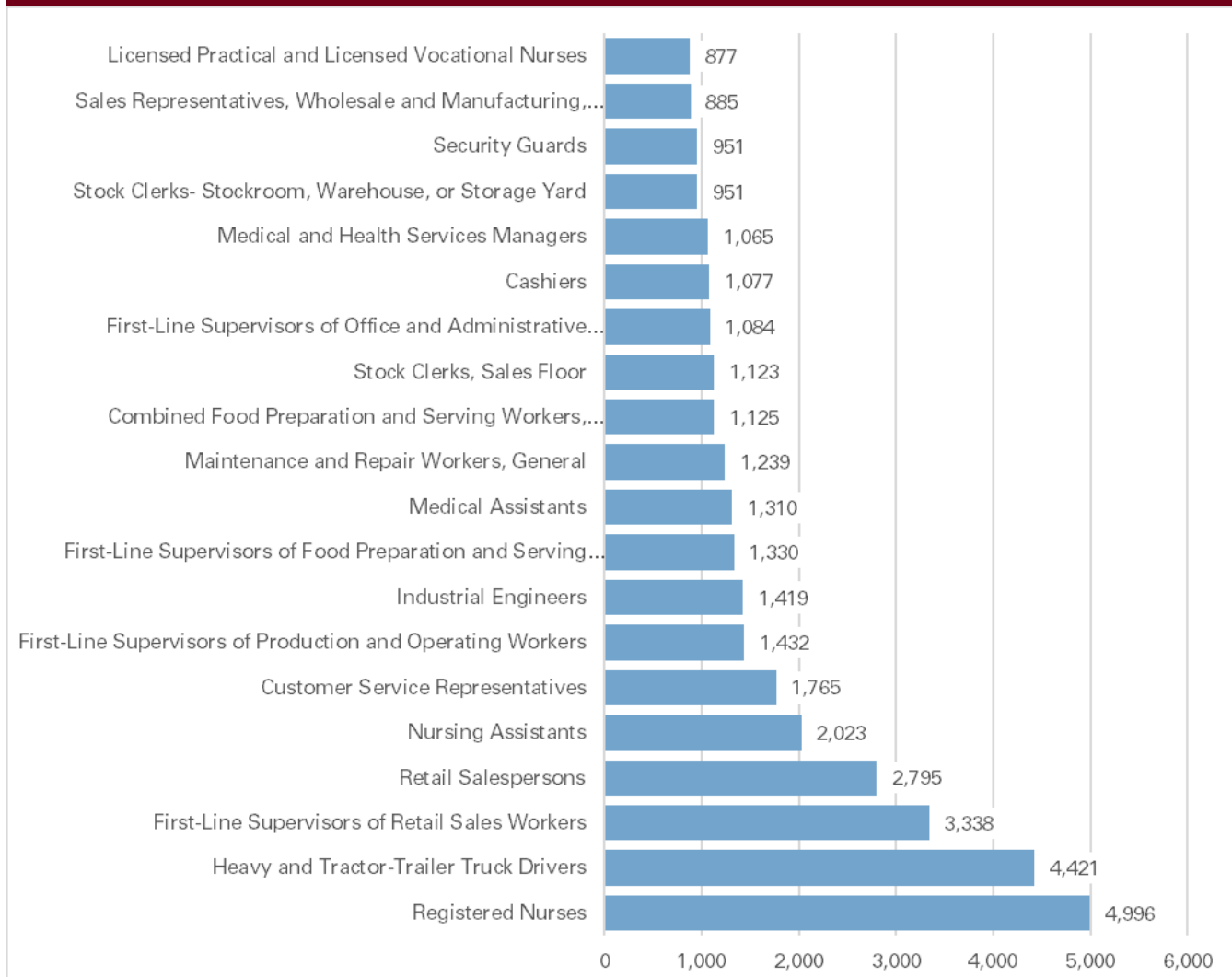
Figure 17. Top Jobs Advertised Online in 2019, JobsOhio Southwest Region



Source: Help Wanted OnLine, The Conference Board

The most heavily advertised occupation in the JobsOhio Northwest Region was registered nurses, with heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers a close second. Four each of healthcare and supervisory occupations were among the most heavily advertised jobs online.

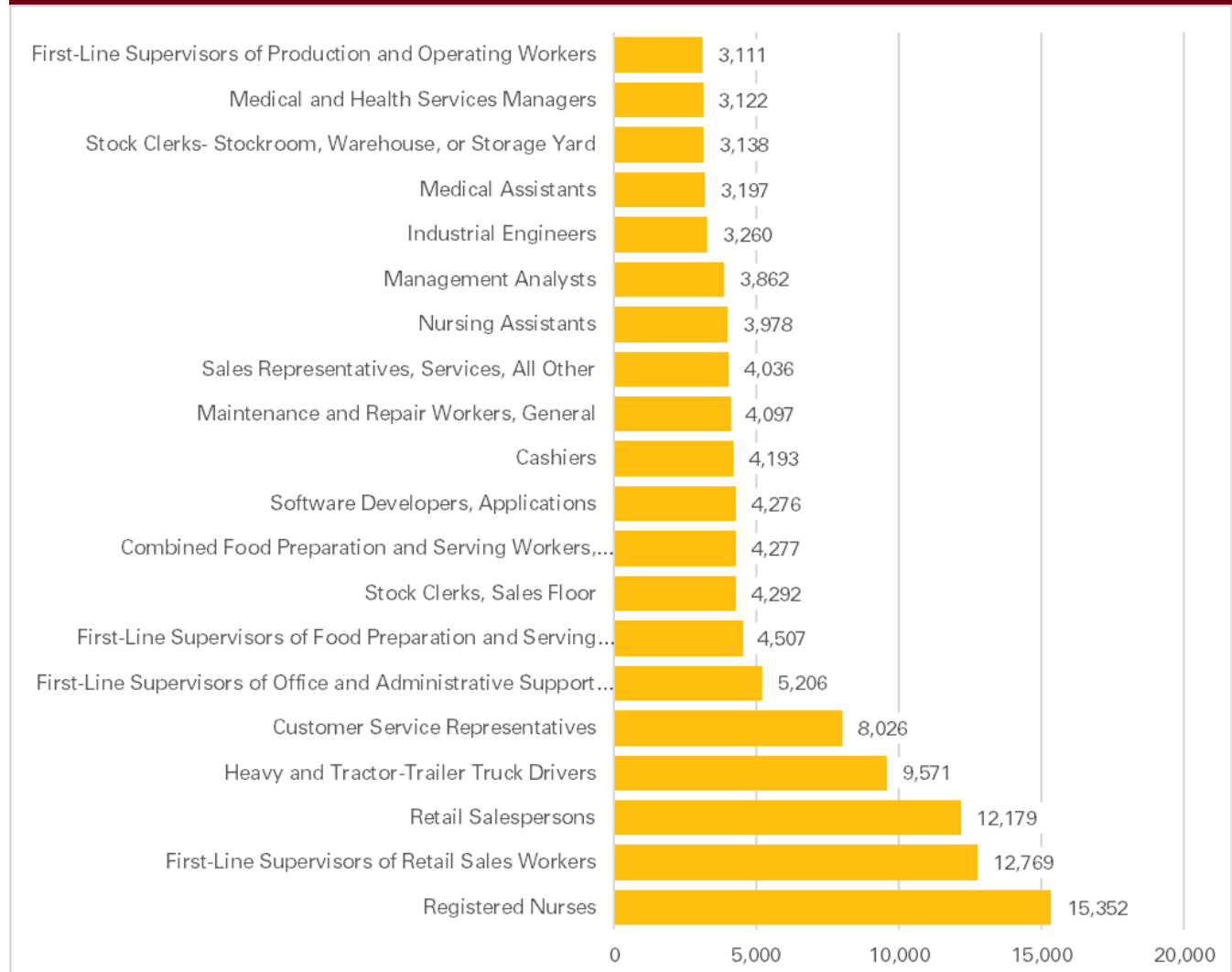
Figure 18. Top Jobs Advertised Online in 2019, JobsOhio Northwest Region



Source: Help Wanted OnLine, The Conference Board

The most heavily advertised occupation in the JobsOhio Northeast Region was registered nurses. Registered nurses, nursing assistants and medical assistants comprised more than a third of the top jobs advertised online. Among the remaining most heavily advertised jobs online were four each of sales occupations and supervisory occupations.

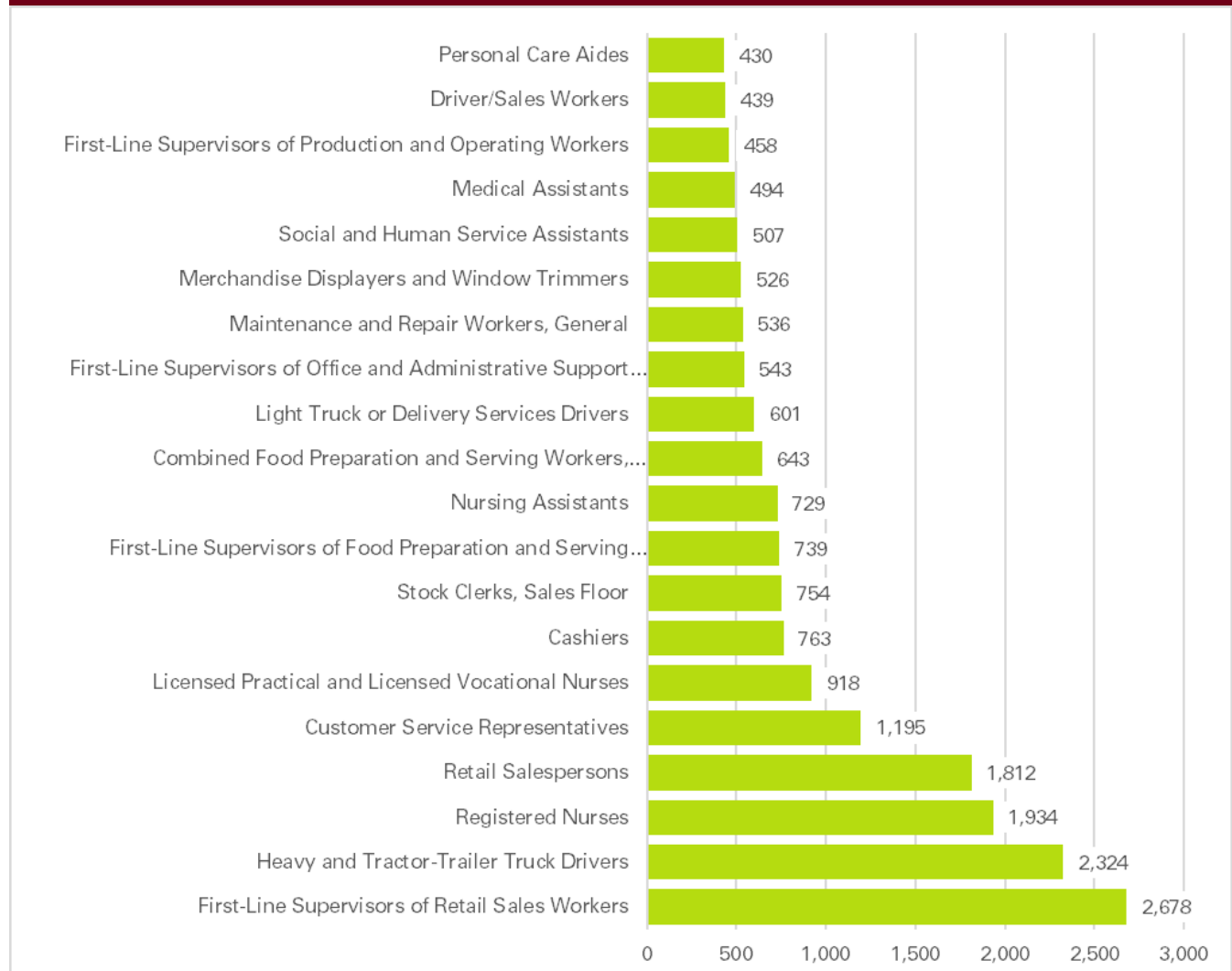
Figure 19. Top Jobs Advertised Online in 2019, JobsOhio Northeast Region



Source: Help Wanted OnLine, The Conference Board

In the JobsOhio Southeast Region, top online job ads were for first-line supervisors of retail sales workers and heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers. The top 20 advertised occupations included four healthcare support occupations, three office and administrative support occupations, and three sales occupations.

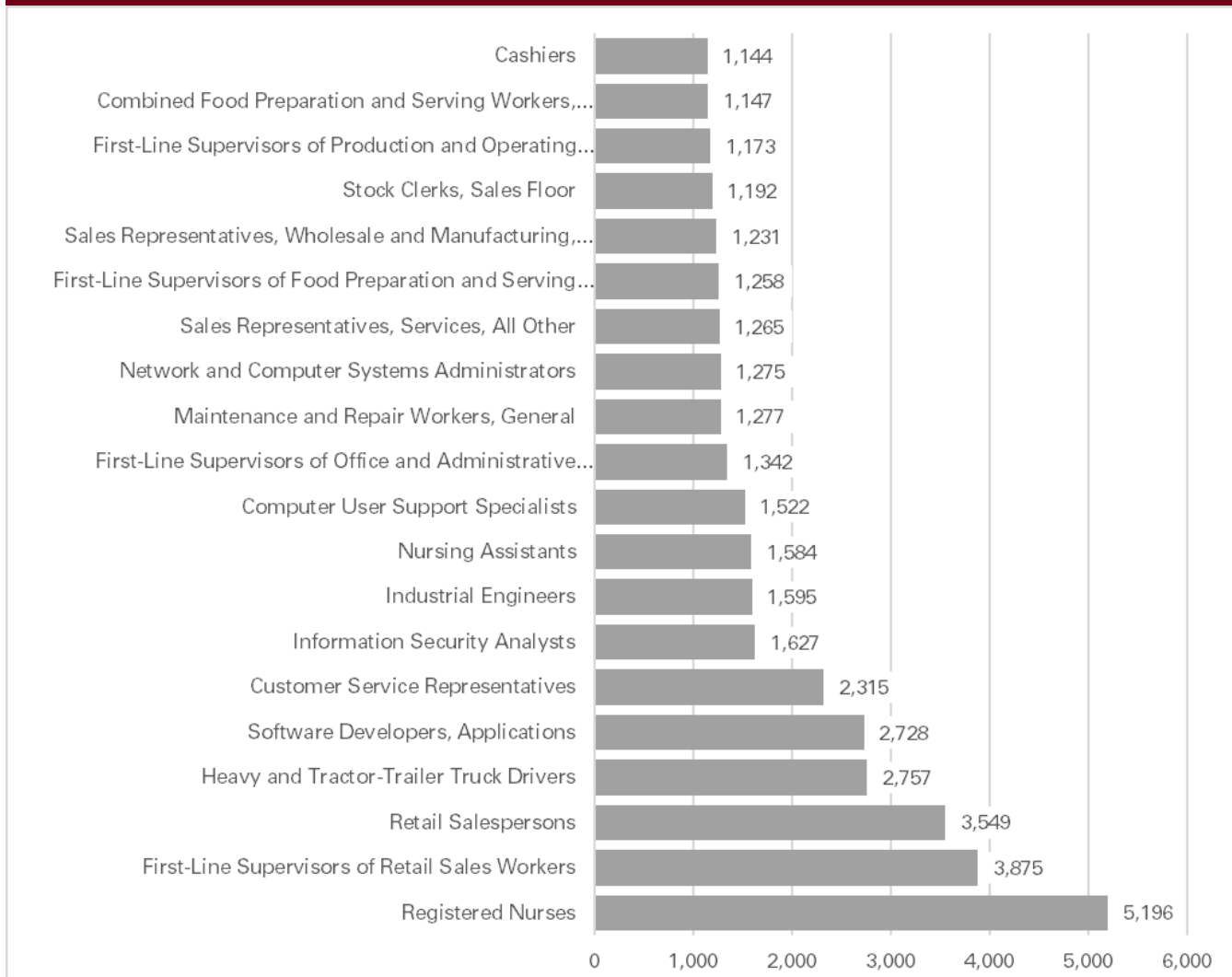
Figure 20. Top Jobs Advertised Online in 2019, JobsOhio Southeast Region



Source: Help Wanted OnLine, The Conference Board

The top 20 advertised occupations in the JobsOhio West Region, included four computer occupations, four supervisory occupations, and three sales occupations. The most heavily advertised occupation was registered nurses, followed by first-line supervisors of retail sales workers and retail salespersons.

Figure 21. Top Jobs Advertised Online in 2019, JobsOhio West Region

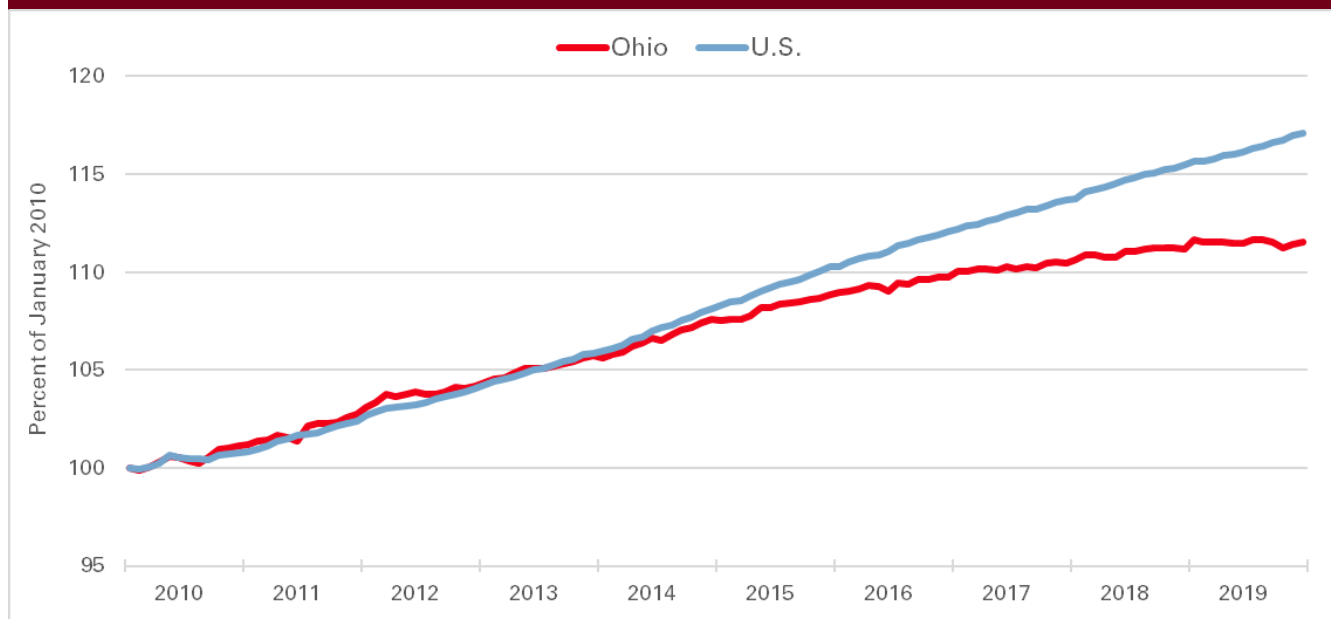


Source: Help Wanted OnLine, The Conference Board

Industry Employment

This figure shows seasonally adjusted Ohio and U.S. total nonfarm employment growth since January 2010, indexed to 100%. U.S. total nonfarm employment grew 17.1% over the period; Ohio total nonfarm employment grew 11.6%.

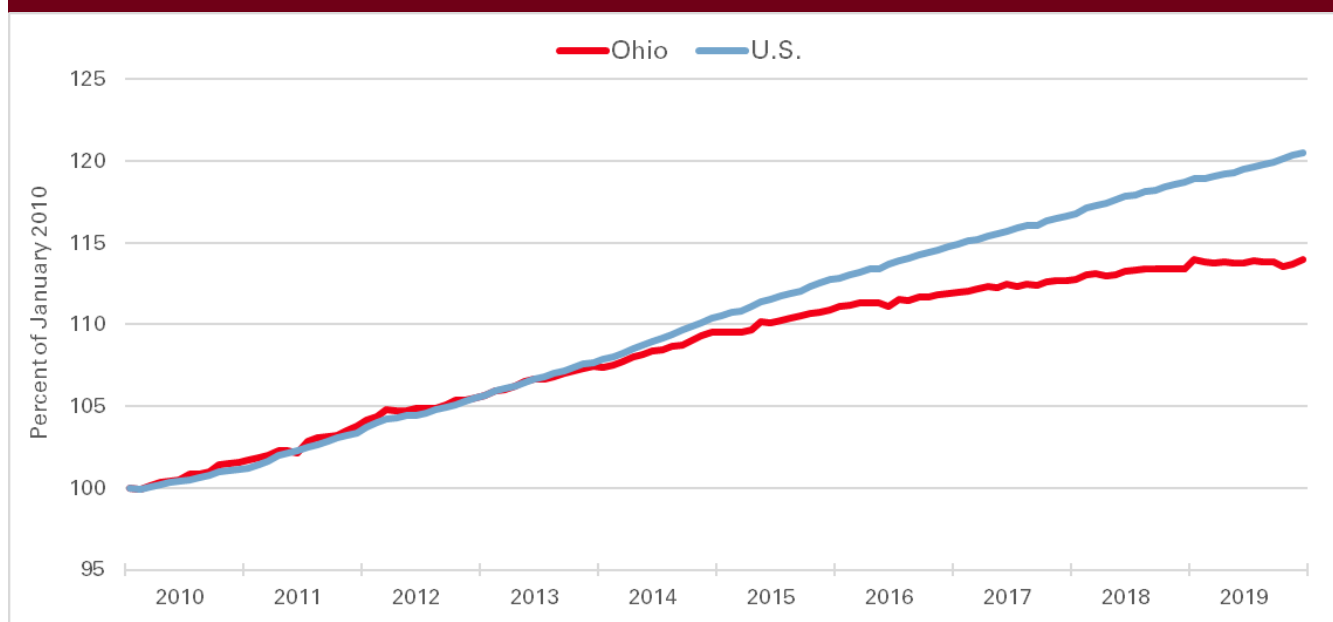
Figure 22. U.S. and Ohio Seasonally Adjusted Total Nonfarm Employment, January 2010 – December 2019



Source: Current Employment Statistics

Figure 23 shows U.S. and Ohio seasonally adjusted total private employment growth since January 2010, indexed to 100%. U.S. total private employment grew 20.5% over the period, while Ohio grew 14%.

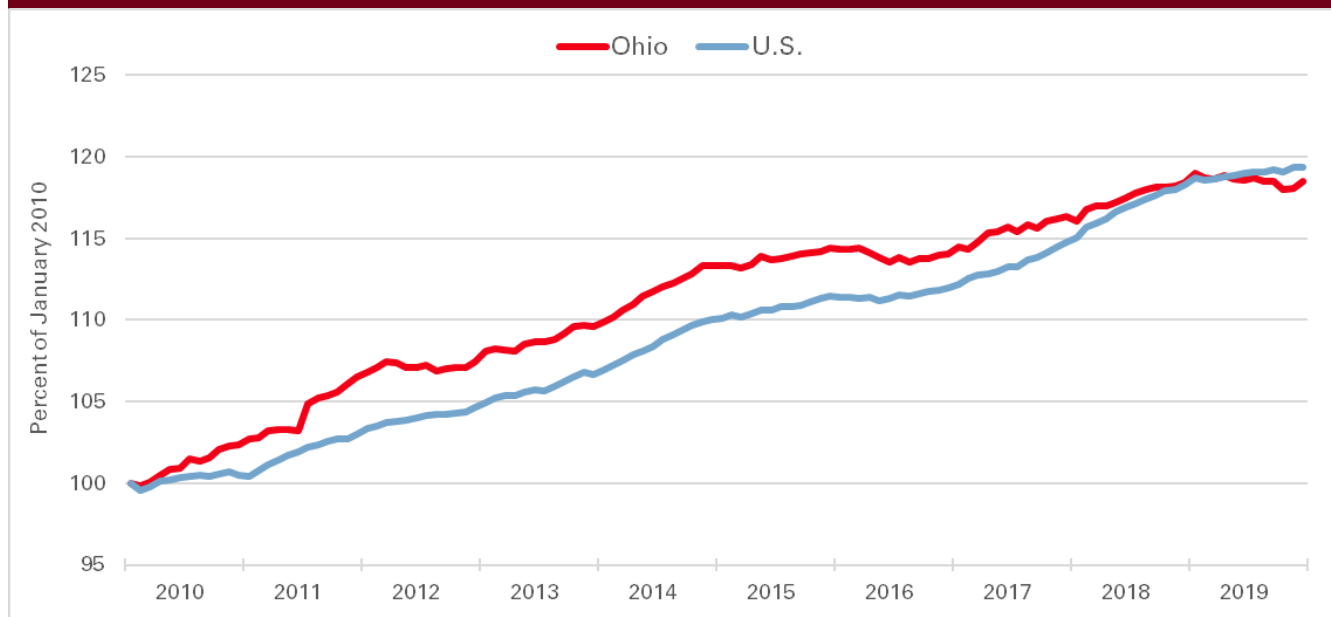
Figure 23. U.S. and Ohio Seasonally Adjusted Total Private Employment, January 2010 – December 2019



Source: Current Employment Statistics

Ohio's percentage growth in goods-producing industry employment consistently exceeded the nation's until May 2019. The goods producing industry sectors are construction, manufacturing, and mining and logging. In December 2019, seasonally adjusted employment in Ohio's goods-producing industries was 18.5% above the January 2010 level; employment in the U.S. goods-producing industries was 19.4% above January 2010.

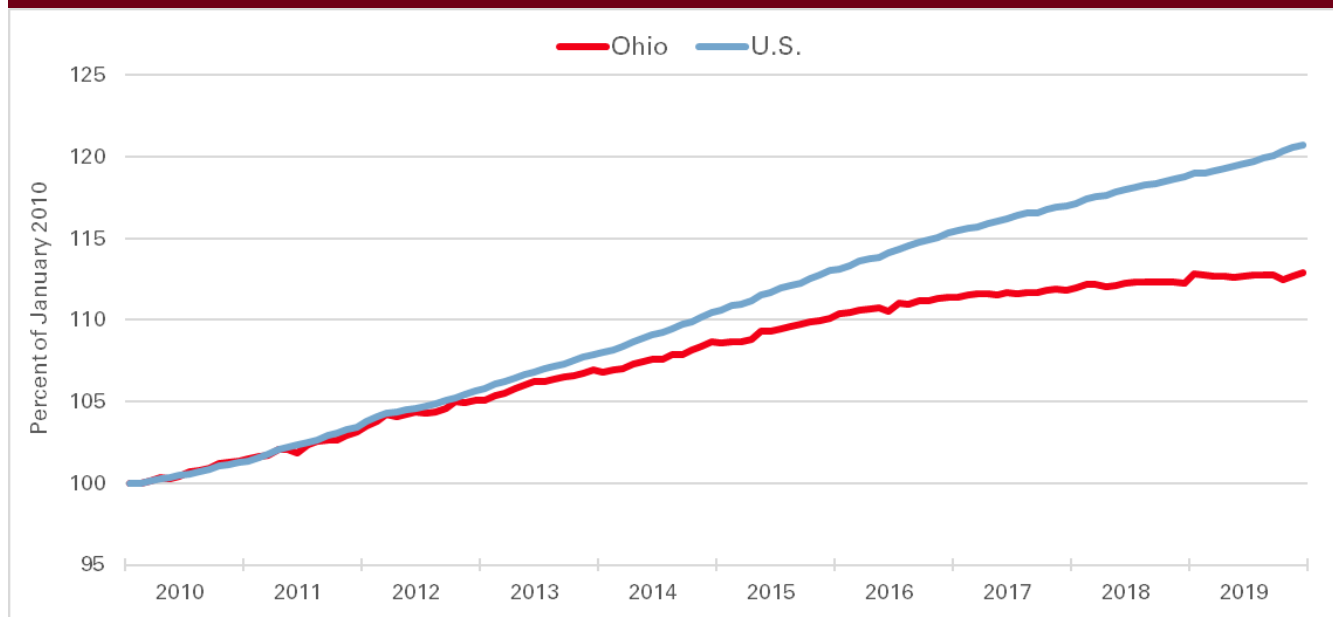
Figure 24. U.S. and Ohio Seasonally Adjusted Goods-Producing Industry Employment, January 2010 – December 2019



Source: Current Employment Statistics

The private service-providing industries include all non-government industries that do not produce goods. From January 2010 to December 2019, these industries accounted for almost 70% of Ohio's total nonfarm employment. Figure 25 shows seasonally adjusted U.S. and Ohio private service-providing industry employment from 2010 through 2019. U.S. private service-providing employment increased 20.8% over the period; Ohio private service-providing employment increased 12.9%.

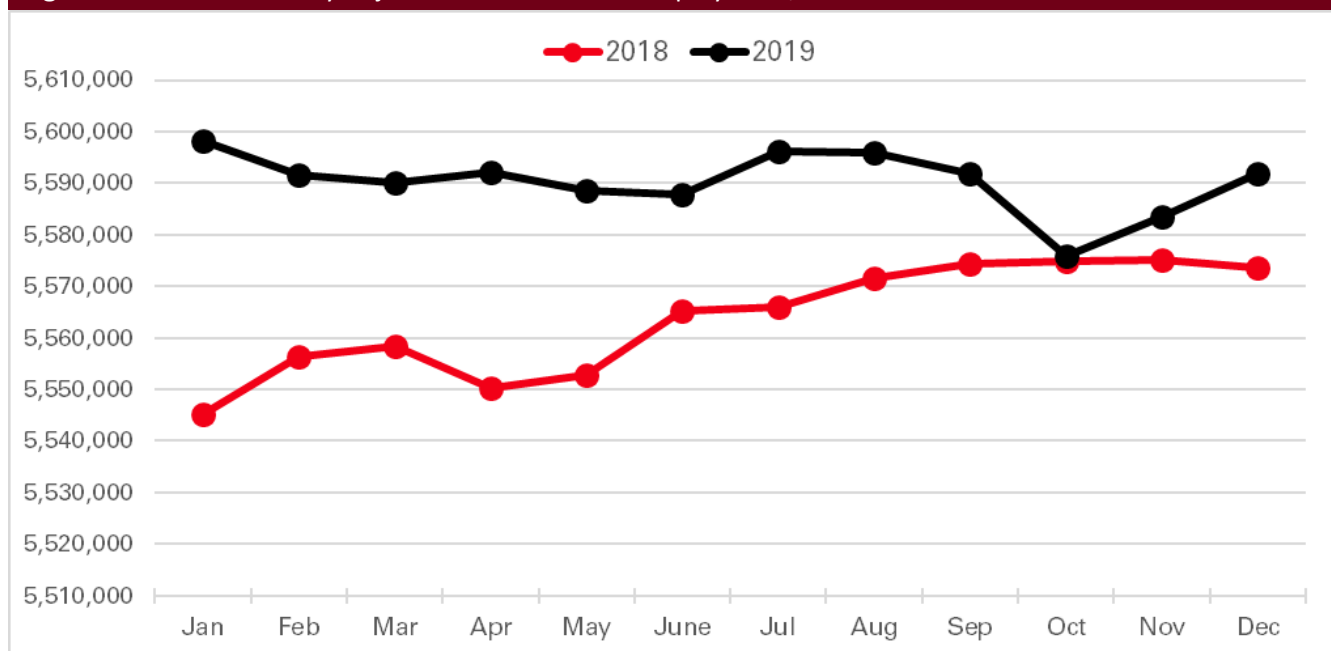
Figure 25. U.S. and Ohio Seasonally Adjusted Private Service-Providing Industry Employment, January 2010 – December 2019



Source: Current Employment Statistics

Ohio's annual average total nonfarm employment for 2019 was 5,586,800, an increase of 23,600 over 2018. Figure 26 shows seasonally adjusted monthly total nonfarm employment for 2018 and 2019. Although employment was higher during 2019, the year-long trend was a slight decline from January to December.

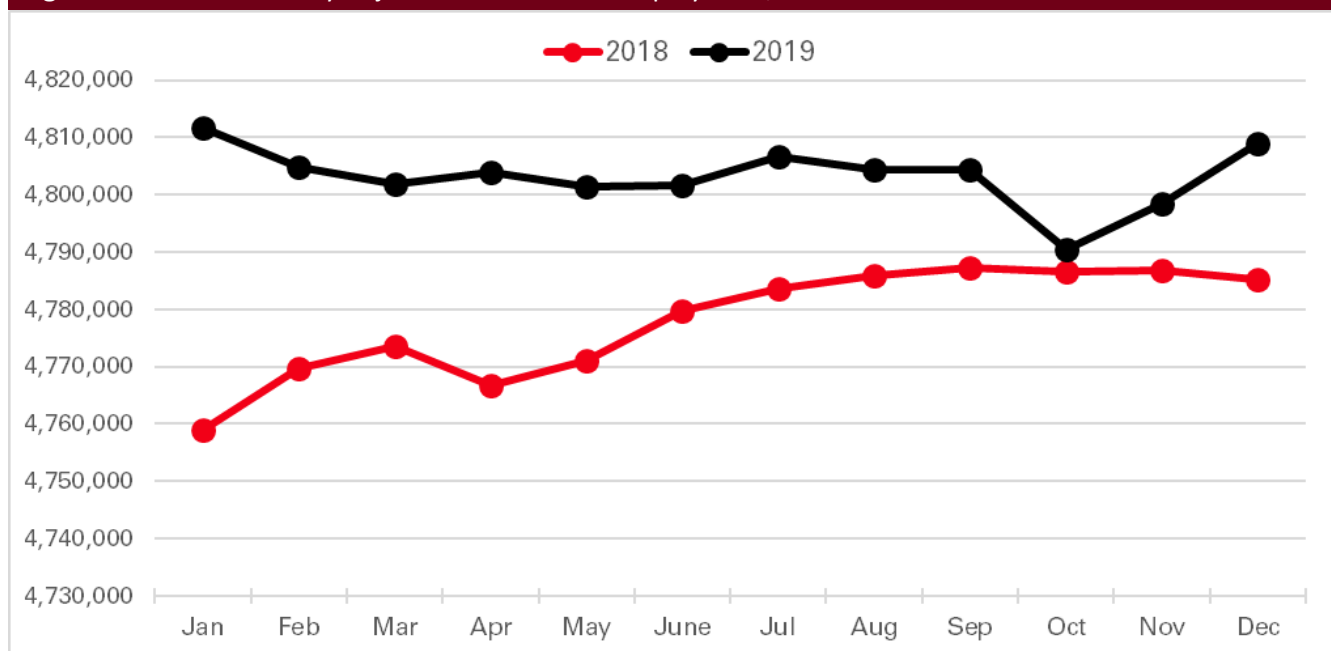
Figure 26. Ohio Seasonally Adjusted Total Nonfarm Employment, 2018 and 2019



Source: Current Employment Statistics

Ohio's annual average total private employment for 2019 was approximately 4,800,800, an increase of 23,400 over 2018. Figure 27 shows seasonally adjusted monthly total private employment for 2018 and 2019. Total private employment in December 2019 was 2,600 lower than January 2019.

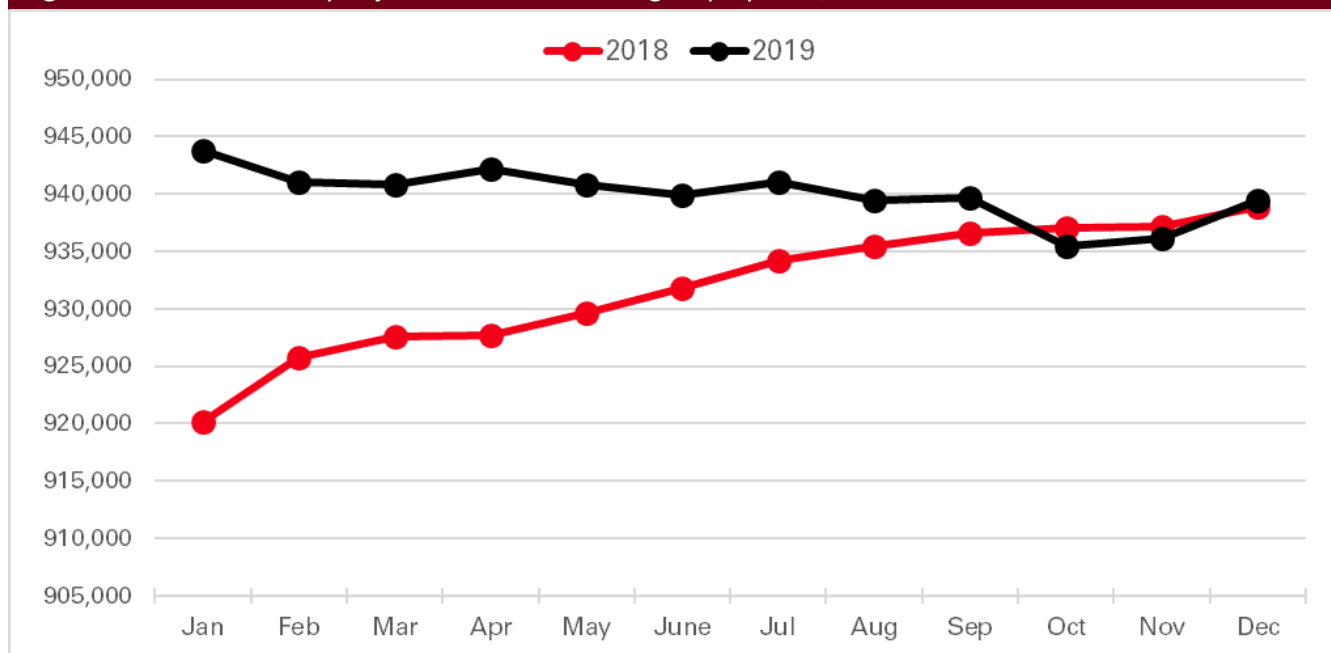
Figure 27. Ohio Seasonally Adjusted Total Private Employment, 2018 and 2019



Source: Current Employment Statistics

Although Ohio's annual average total goods-producing employment for 2019 was about 939,300, an increase of 7,500 over 2018, employment decreased for most of the year. In 2019, October and November employment rates fell below 2018 levels. December 2019 employment was 4,300 less than January 2019 employment. Figure 28 shows seasonally adjusted goods-producing employment for 2018 and 2019.

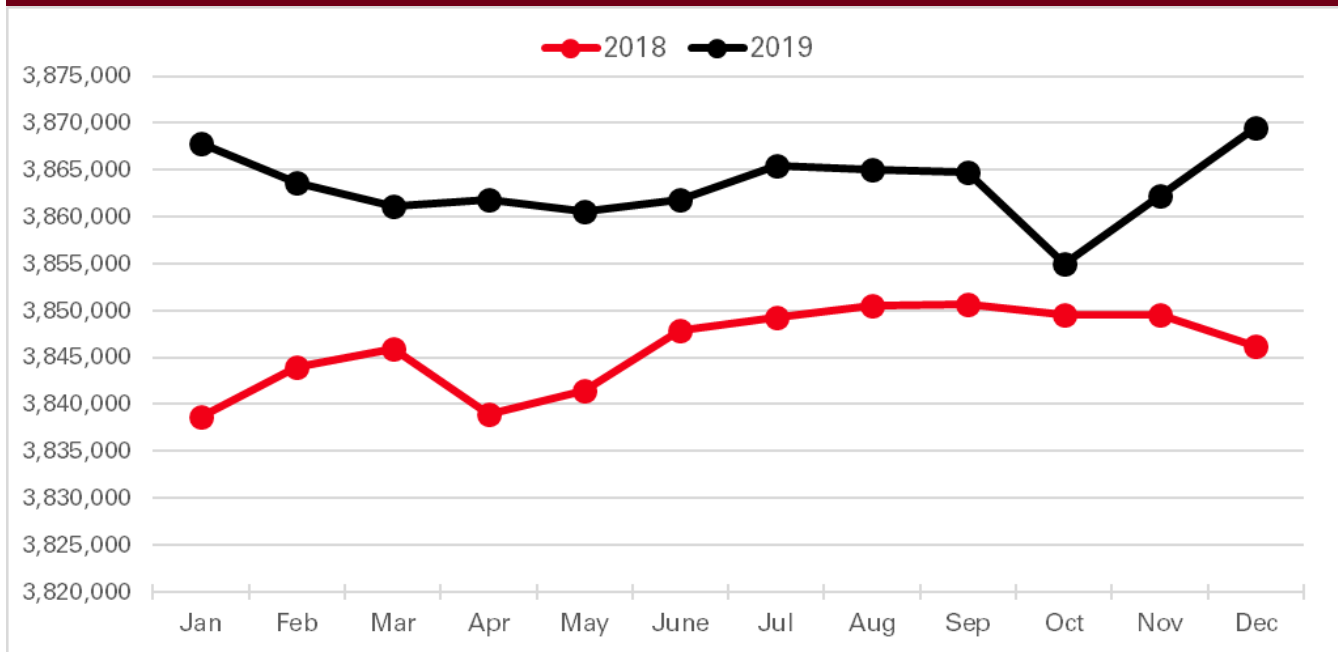
Figure 28. Ohio Seasonally Adjusted Goods-Producing Employment, 2018 and 2019



Source: Current Employment Statistics

Ohio's annual average private service-providing employment for 2019 was 3,861,500, an increase of 15,900 over 2018. December 2019 employment was 1,700 more than January 2019 employment. Figure 29 shows seasonally adjusted private service-providing employment for 2018 and 2019.

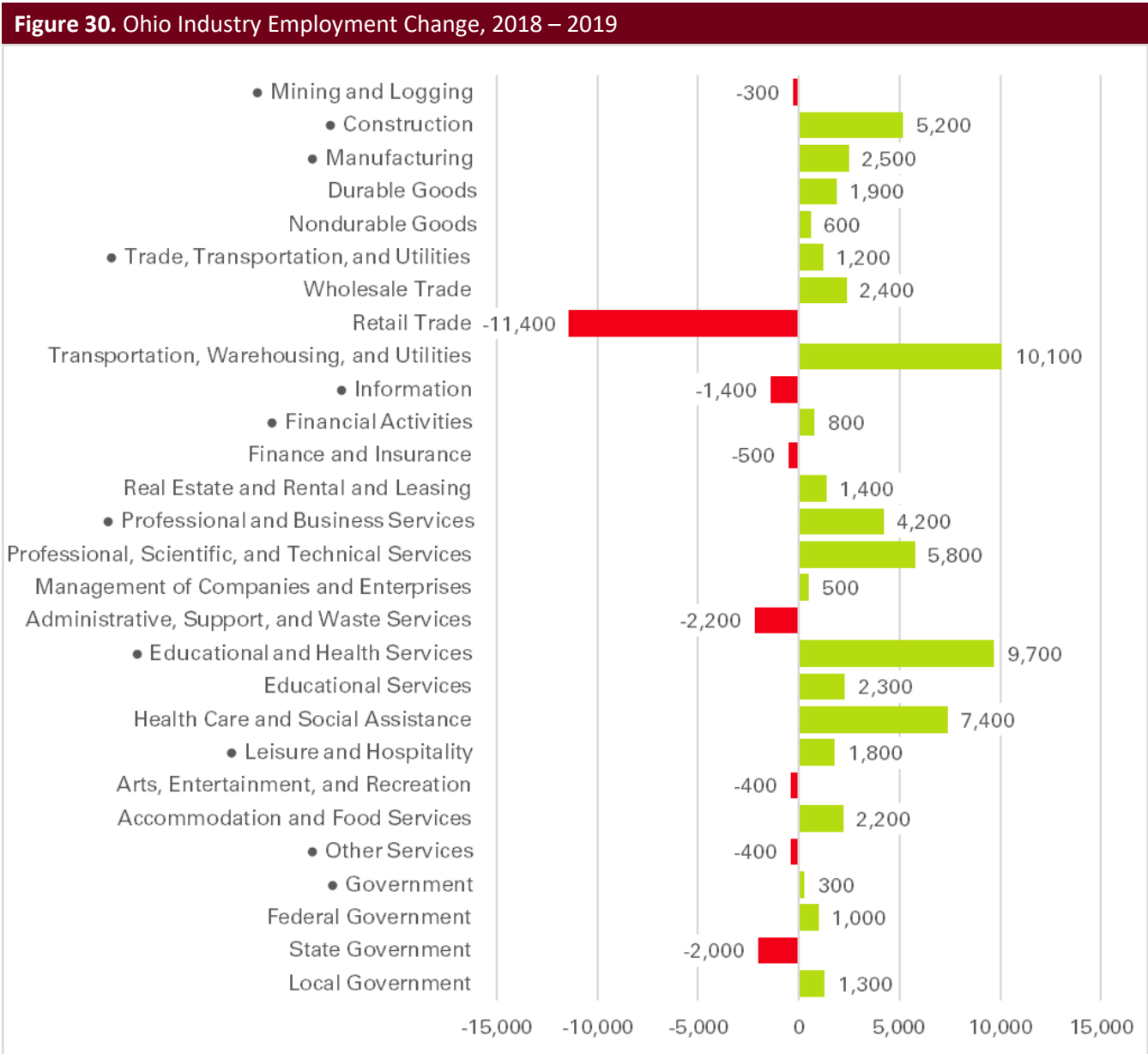
Figure 29. Ohio Seasonally Adjusted Private Service-Providing Employment, 2018 and 2019



Source: Current Employment Statistics

Figure 30 shows the annual average employment change from 2018 to 2019. Industry sectors are marked with bullets, in some cases with subsectors listed below them. Not all sectors have subsectors.³

Among the sectors, the most significant employment change was a loss of 11,400 jobs in retail trade. The largest employment gain was in transportation, warehousing, and utilities, with 10,100 jobs. The educational and health services sector had the second largest increase, with 9,700 jobs.



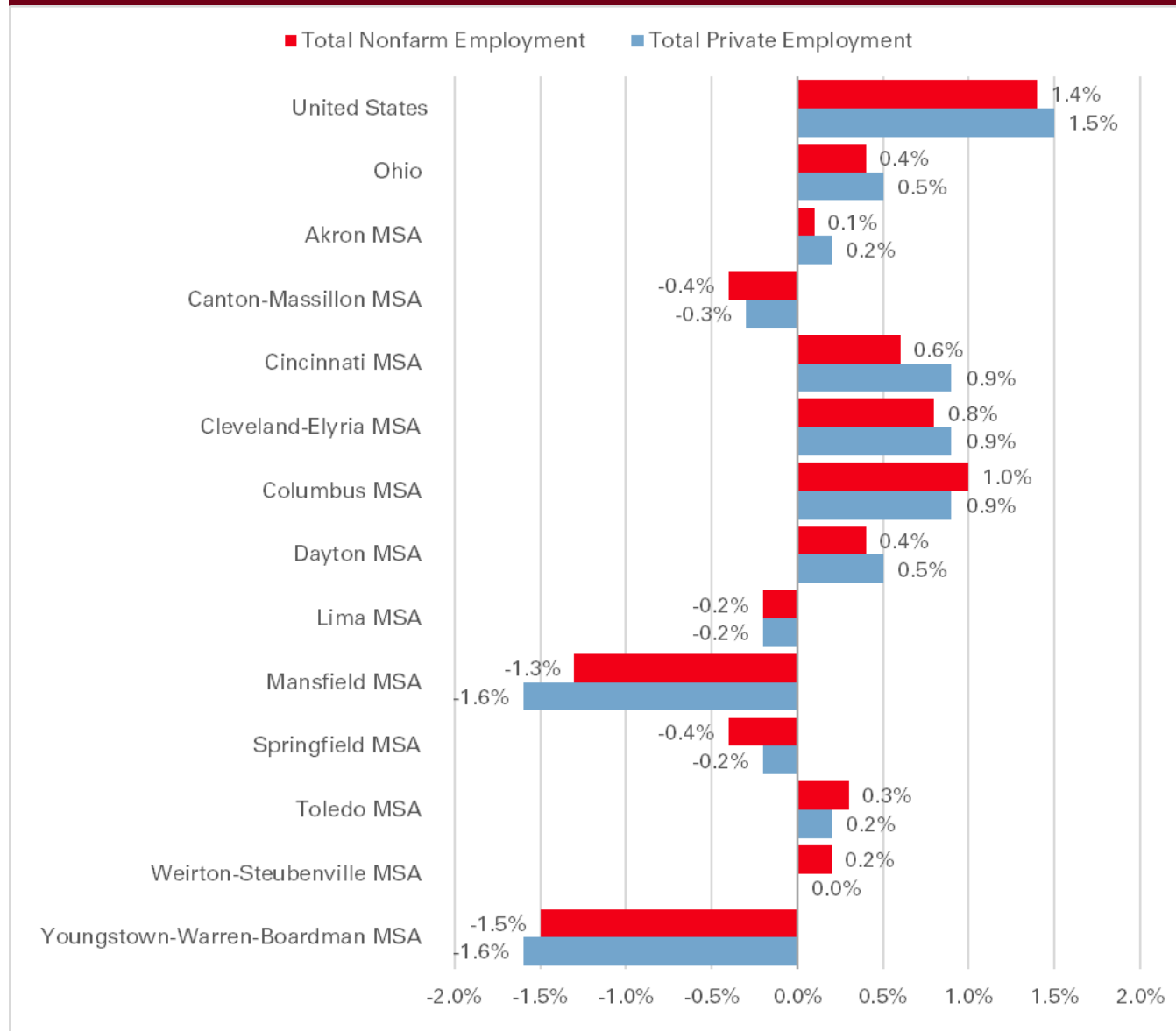
Source: Current Employment Statistics

Figure 31 shows the percentage change from 2018 to 2019 in annual average total nonfarm and total private employment. Some metro areas include counties outside Ohio; data from those counties are also included.

³ Durable and nondurable goods are combinations of related subsectors.

Ohio's 12 metropolitan statistical areas account for more than 85% of the state's employment. The Columbus MSA had the highest rate of growth over the year for total nonfarm employment at 1% percent; the Cincinnati, Cleveland and Columbus MSAs had the highest rate of growth for total private employment at 0.9%. The Youngstown and Mansfield MSAs had the largest decreases over the year for total private employment at 1.6%.

Figure 31. Change in Annual Average Total Nonfarm and Total Private Employment from 2018 to 2019

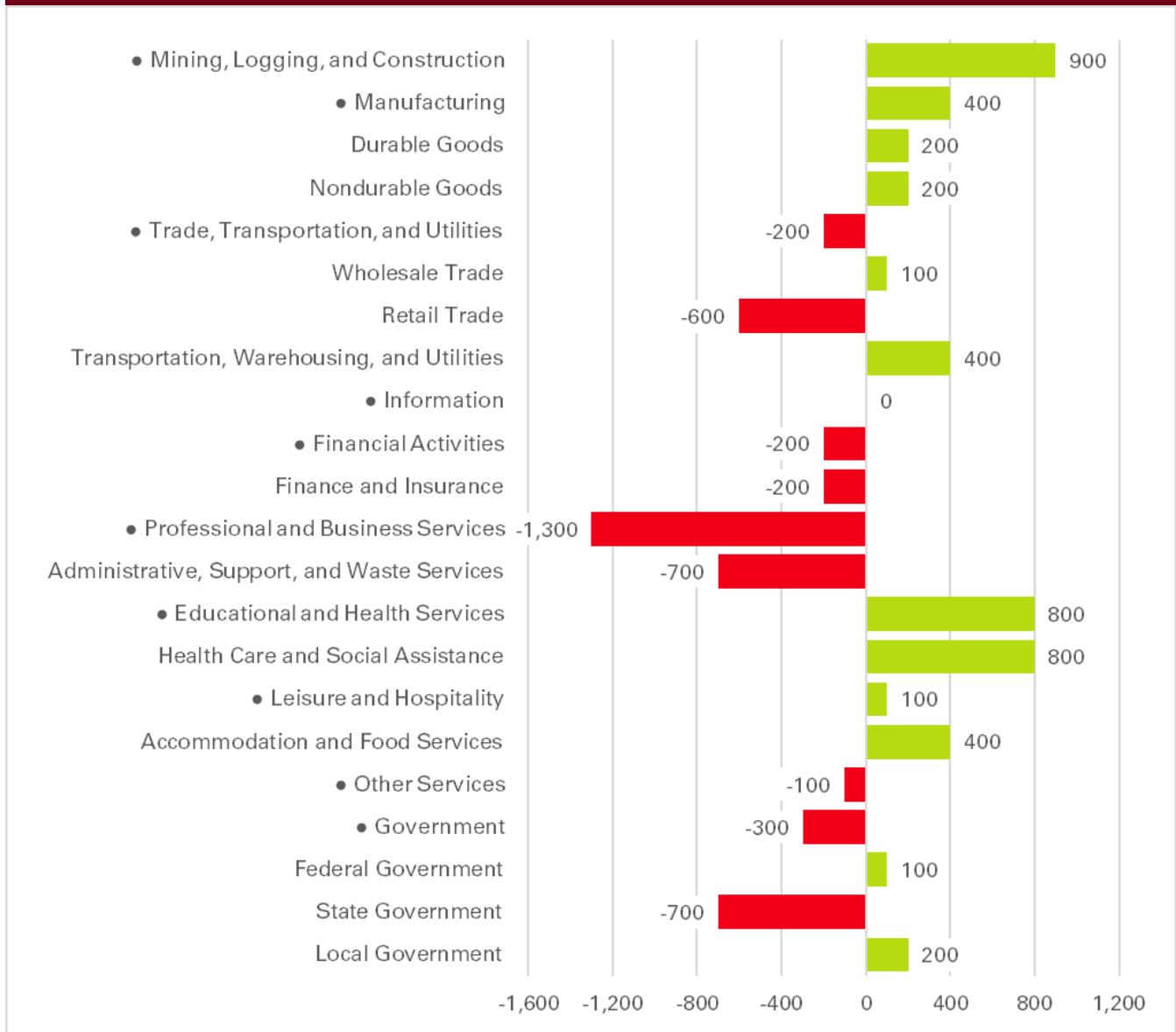


Source: Current Employment Statistics

In the Akron MSA, 2019 average annual total nonfarm employment was 340,100, and average annual total private employment was 295,700. From 2018 to 2019, average annual total nonfarm employment increased by

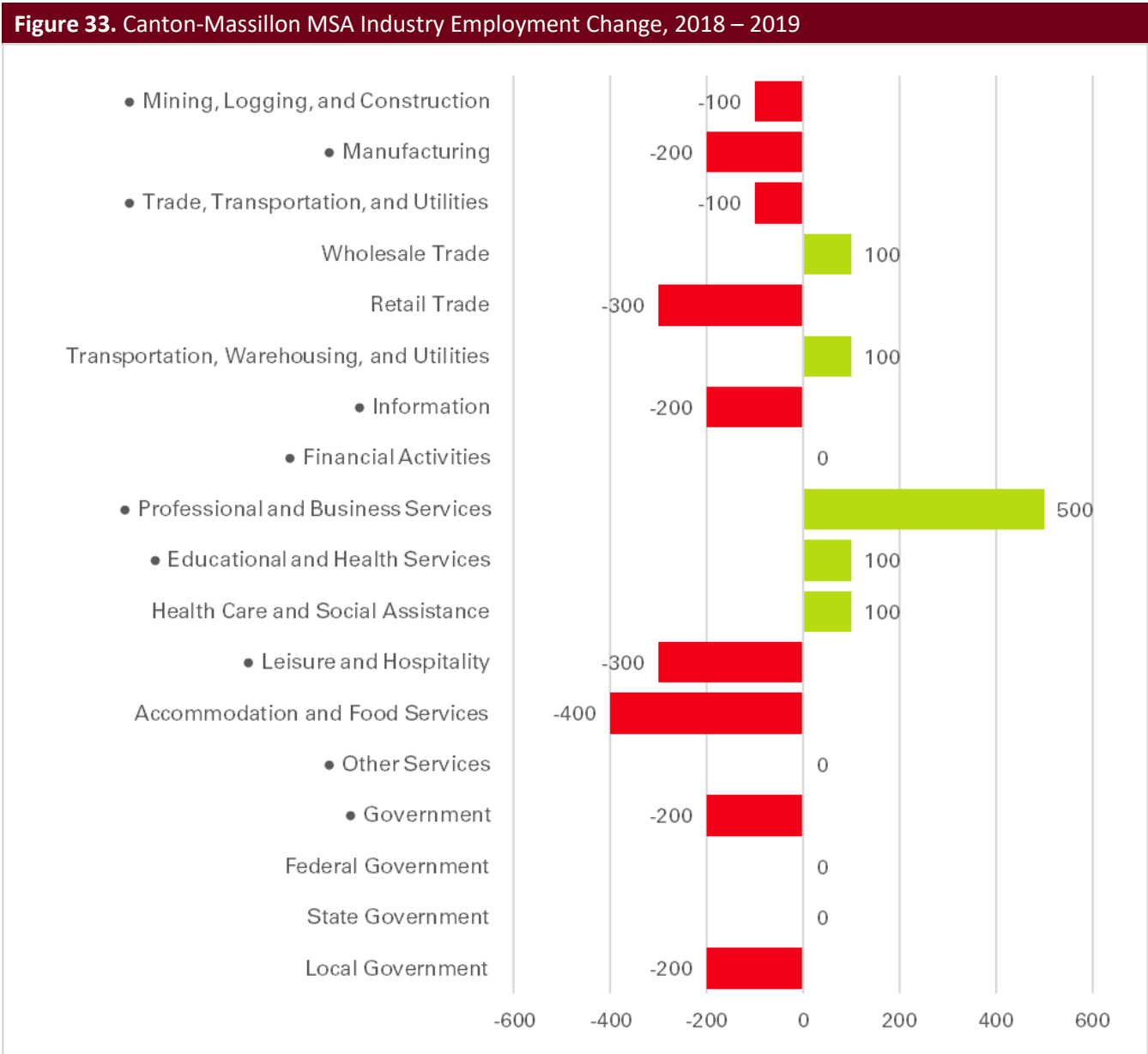
200 jobs (0.1%), also average total private employment increased by 600 jobs (0.2%). The professional and business services sector lost 1,300 jobs, while mining, logging, and construction sector gained 900 jobs.

Figure 32. Akron MSA Industry Employment Change, 2018 – 2019



Source: Current Employment Statistics

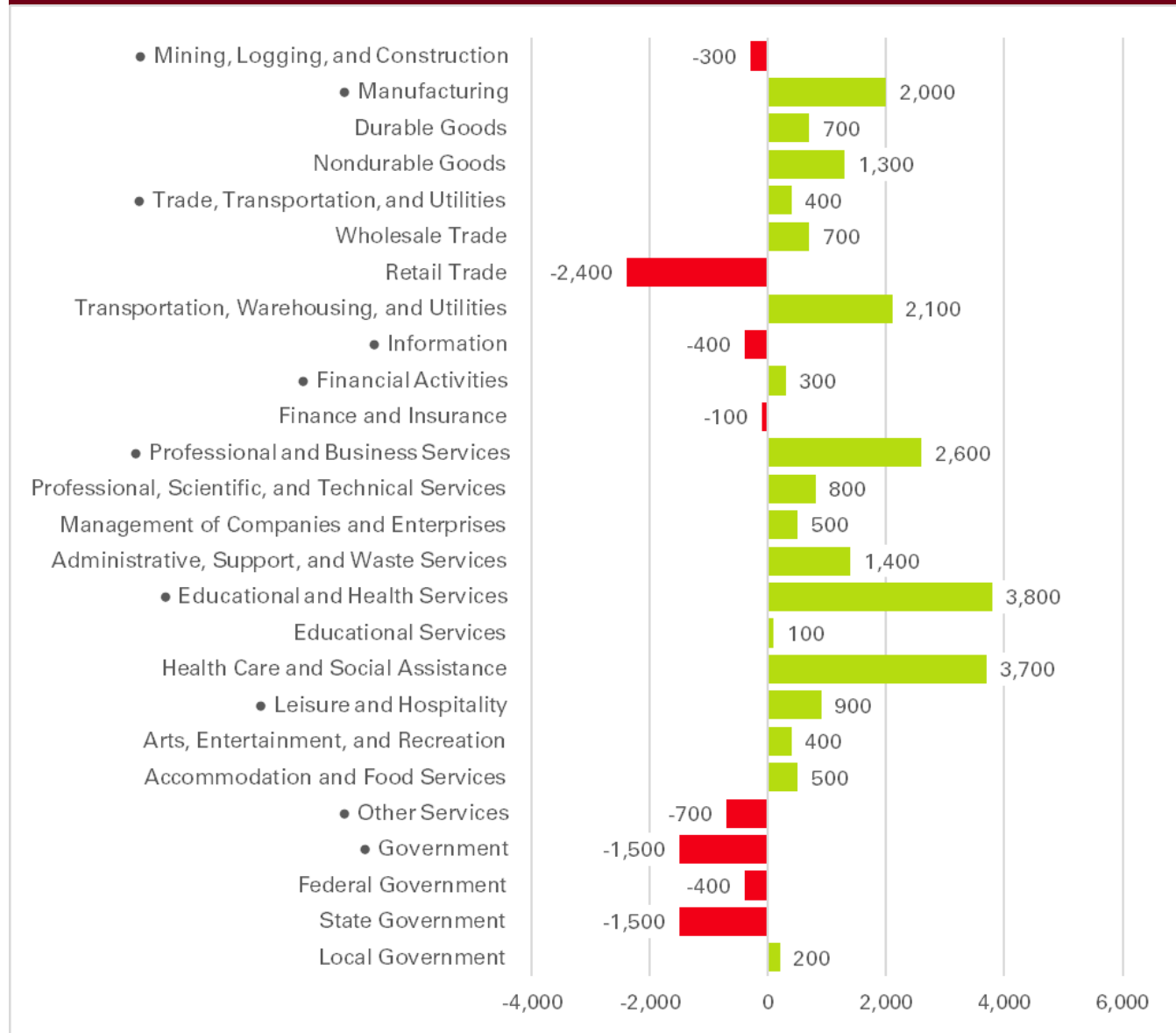
In the Canton-Massillon MSA in 2019, average annual total nonfarm employment was 173,100, and average annual total private employment was 153,200. From 2018 to 2019, average annual total nonfarm employment decreased by 700 jobs (0.4%), and average annual total private employment also decreased by 400 jobs (0.3%). The professional and business services sector added 500 jobs, while accommodation and food services subsector lost 400 jobs.



Source: Current Employment Statistics

In 2019, the Cincinnati MSA average annual total nonfarm employment was 1,115,100, and average annual total private employment was 986,200. From 2018 to 2019, average annual total nonfarm employment increased by 7,200 jobs (0.6%), and average total private employment increased by 8,700 jobs (0.9%). The educational and health services sector added 3,800 jobs, while the retail trade sector lost 2,400 jobs.

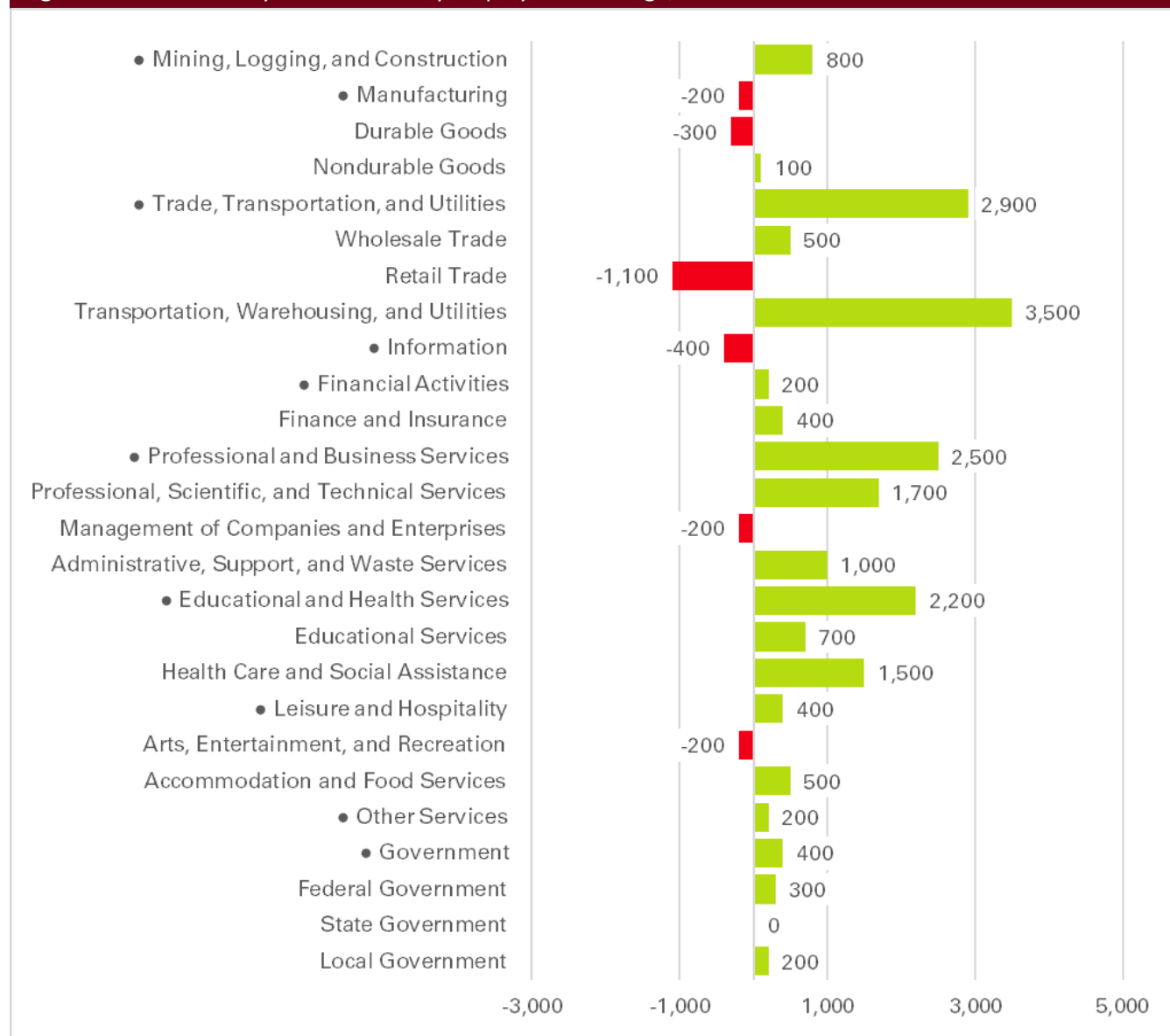
Figure 34. Cincinnati MSA Industry Employment Change, 2018 – 2019



Source: Current Employment Statistics

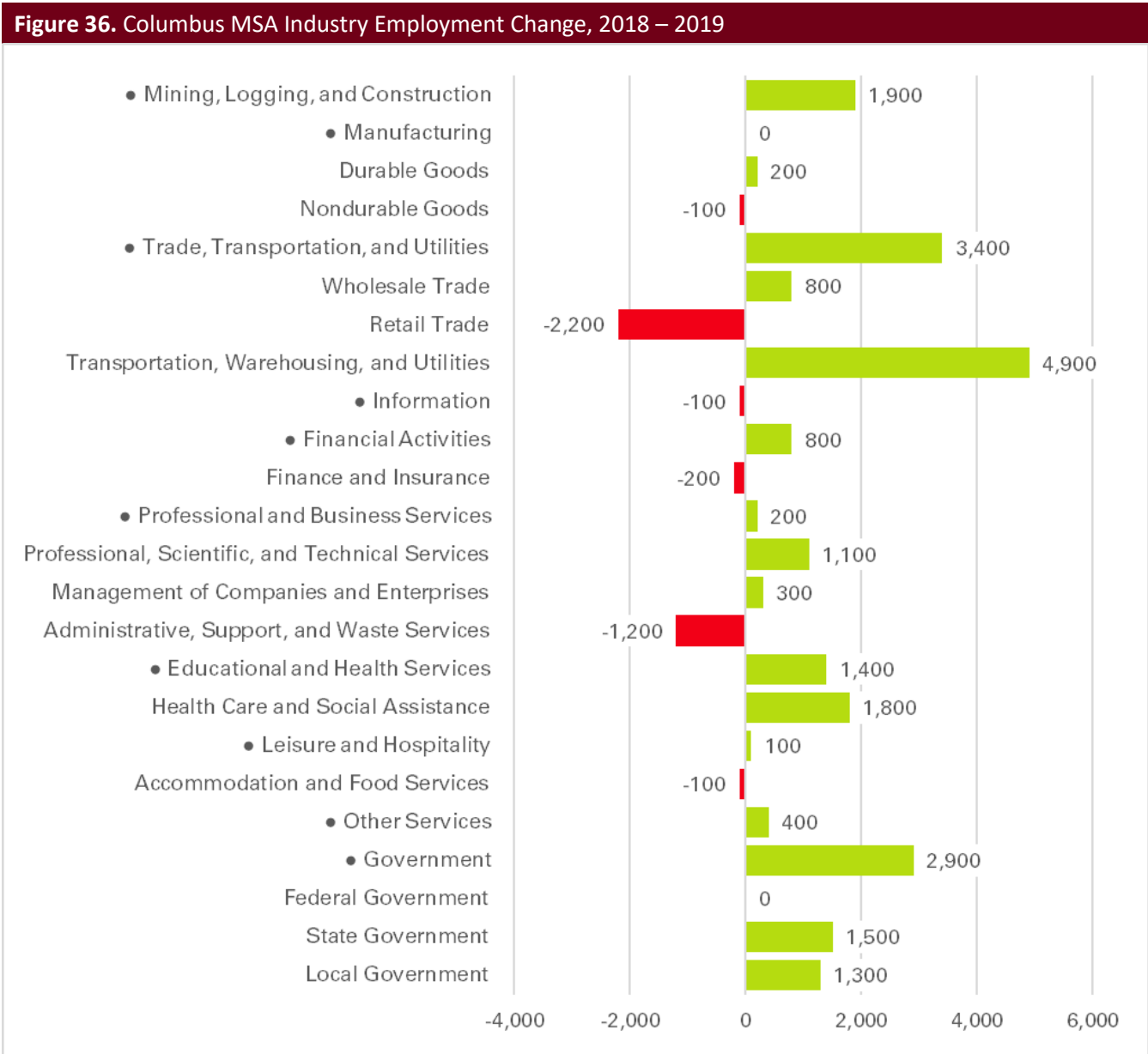
Average annual total nonfarm employment in the Cleveland-Elyria MSA was 1,079,200 in 2019. Average annual total private employment was 941,200. From 2018 to 2019, average annual total nonfarm employment increased by 9,000 jobs (0.8%), and average total private employment increased by 8,600 jobs (0.9%). The transportation, warehousing, and utilities sector added 3,500 jobs; and the retail trade subsector lost 1,100 jobs.

Figure 35. Cleveland-Elyria MSA Industry Employment Change, 2018 – 2019



Source: Current Employment Statistics

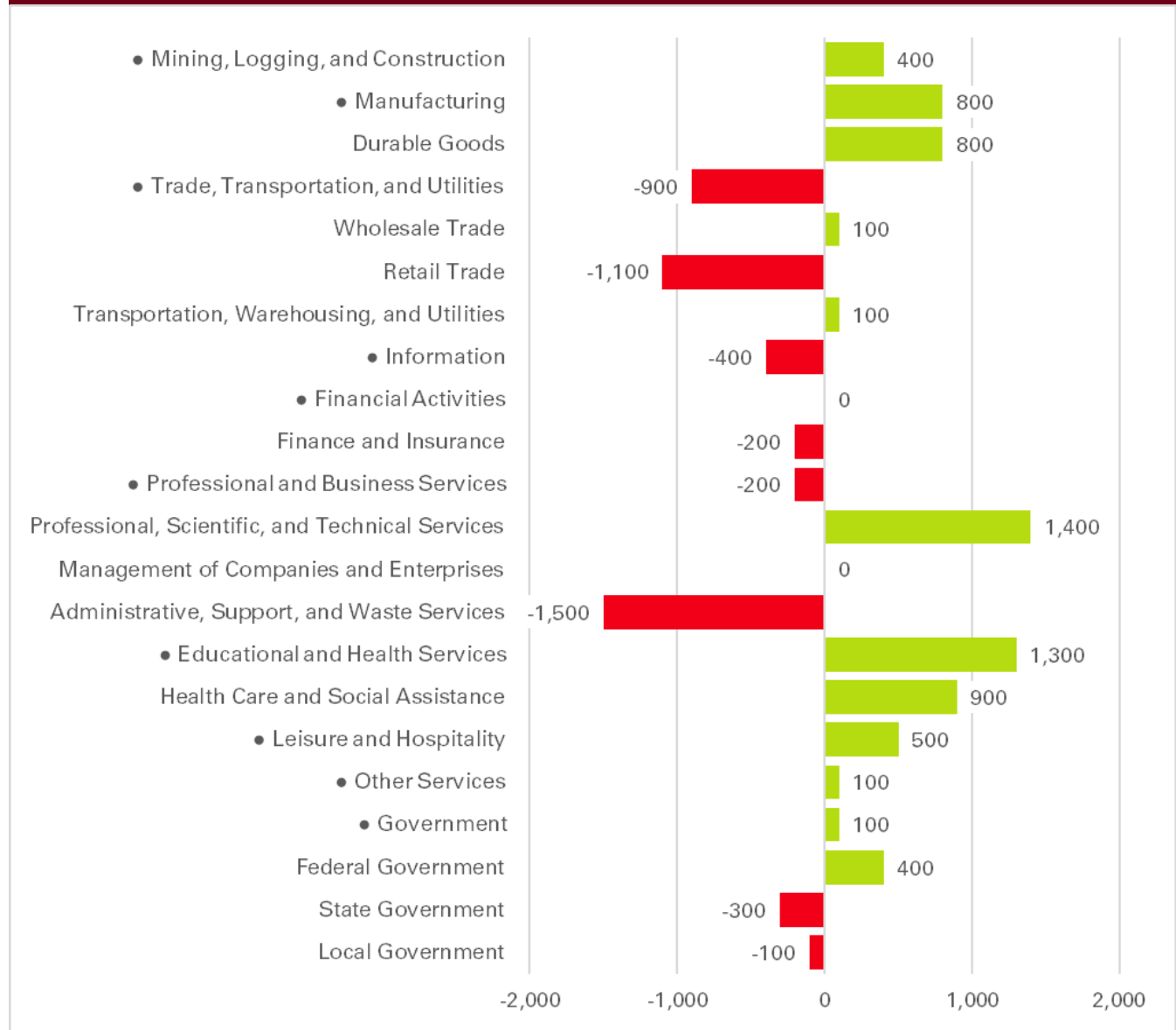
Average annual total nonfarm employment in the Columbus MSA was 1,111,300 in 2019. Average annual total private employment was 928,400. From 2018 to 2019, average annual total nonfarm employment increased by 10,900 jobs (1%), and average total private employment increased by 8,000 jobs (0.9%). The transportation, warehousing, and utilities subsector added 4,900 jobs; while the retail trade subsector lost 2,200 jobs.



Source: Current Employment Statistics

Average annual total nonfarm employment in the Dayton MSA was 391,900 in 2019. Average annual total private employment was 329,800. From 2018 to 2019, average annual total nonfarm employment increased by 1,700 jobs (0.4%), and average total private employment increased by 1,600 jobs (0.5%). The professional, scientific, and technical services sector had the largest gain at 1,400, while the administrative, support and waste services subsector had the greatest decline with 1,500 jobs lost.

Figure 37. Dayton MSA Industry Employment Change, 2018 – 2019



Source: Current Employment Statistics

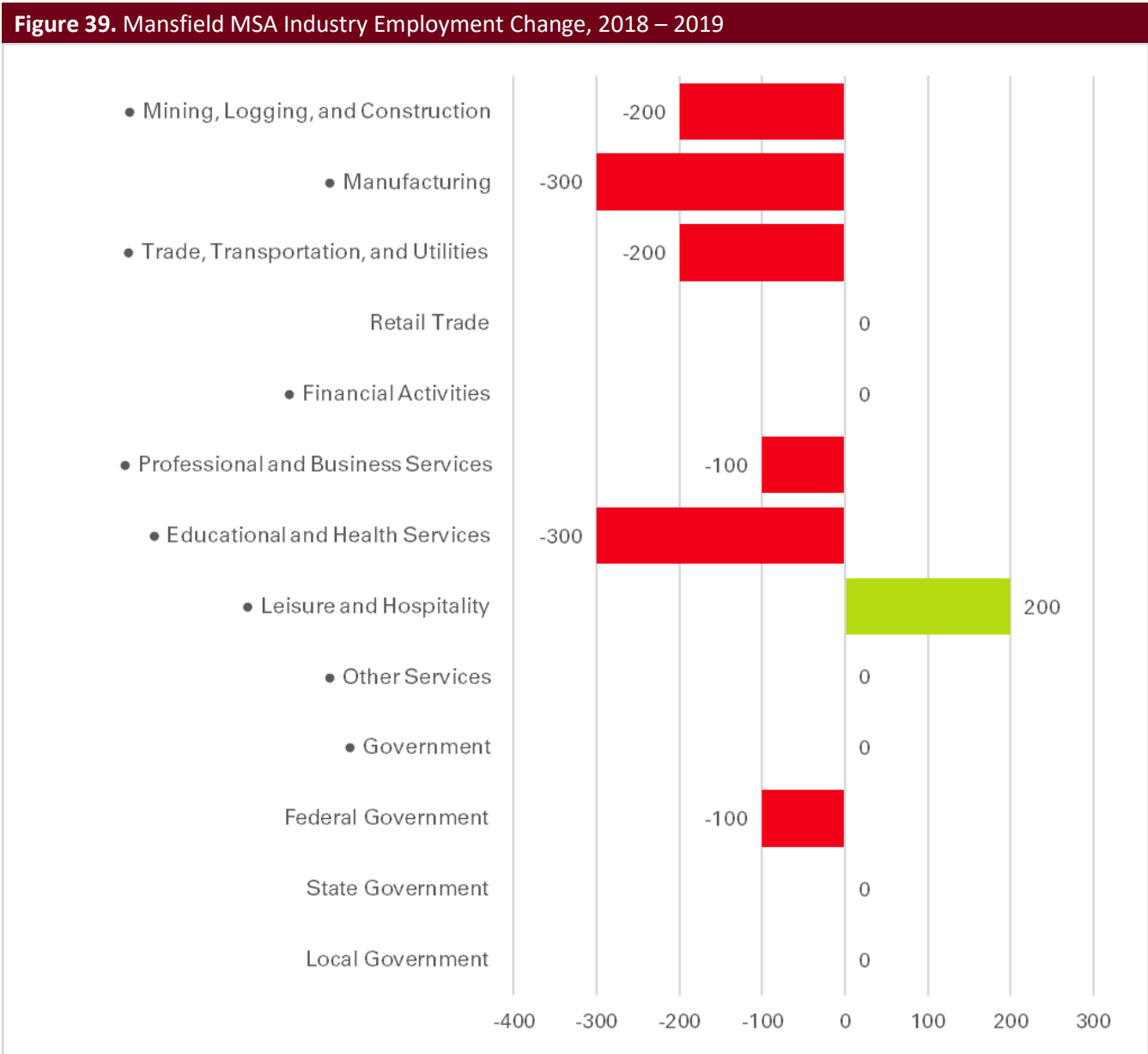
Average annual total nonfarm employment in the Lima MSA was 52,900 in 2019. Average annual total private employment was 46,900. From 2018 to 2019, average annual total nonfarm employment decreased by 100 jobs (-0.2%), and average total private employment decreased by 100 jobs (-0.2%). The professional and business services sector had the largest gain at 400 jobs, while the educational and health services sector decreased by 300 jobs.

Figure 38. Lima MSA Industry Employment Change, 2018 – 2019



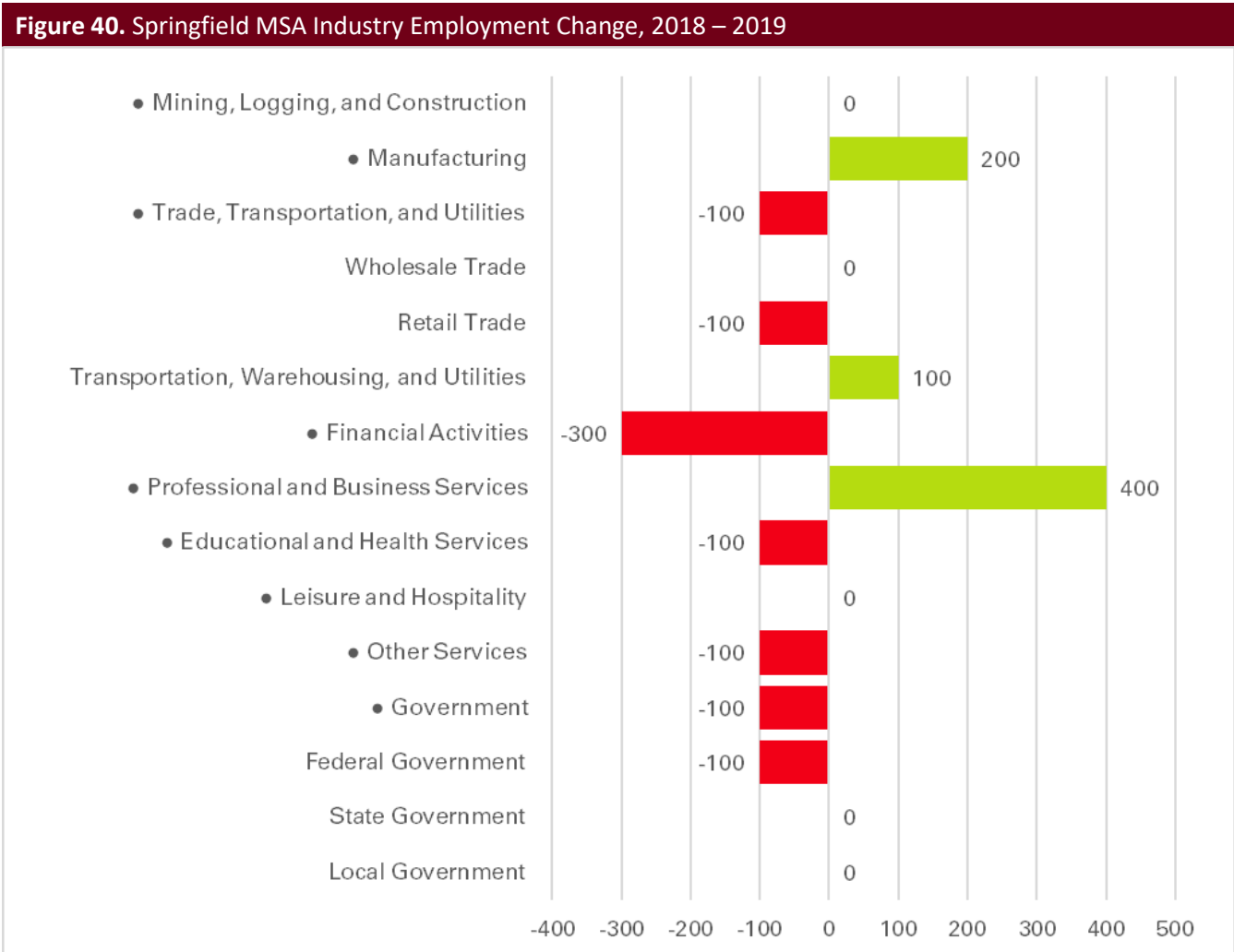
Source: Current Employment Statistics

Average annual total nonfarm employment in the Mansfield MSA was 52,000 in 2019. Average annual total private employment was 44,300. From 2018 to 2019, average annual total nonfarm employment decreased by 700 jobs (1.3%), and average total private employment decreased by 700 jobs (1.6%). The only industry with increased employment was the leisure and hospitality sector, adding 200 jobs.



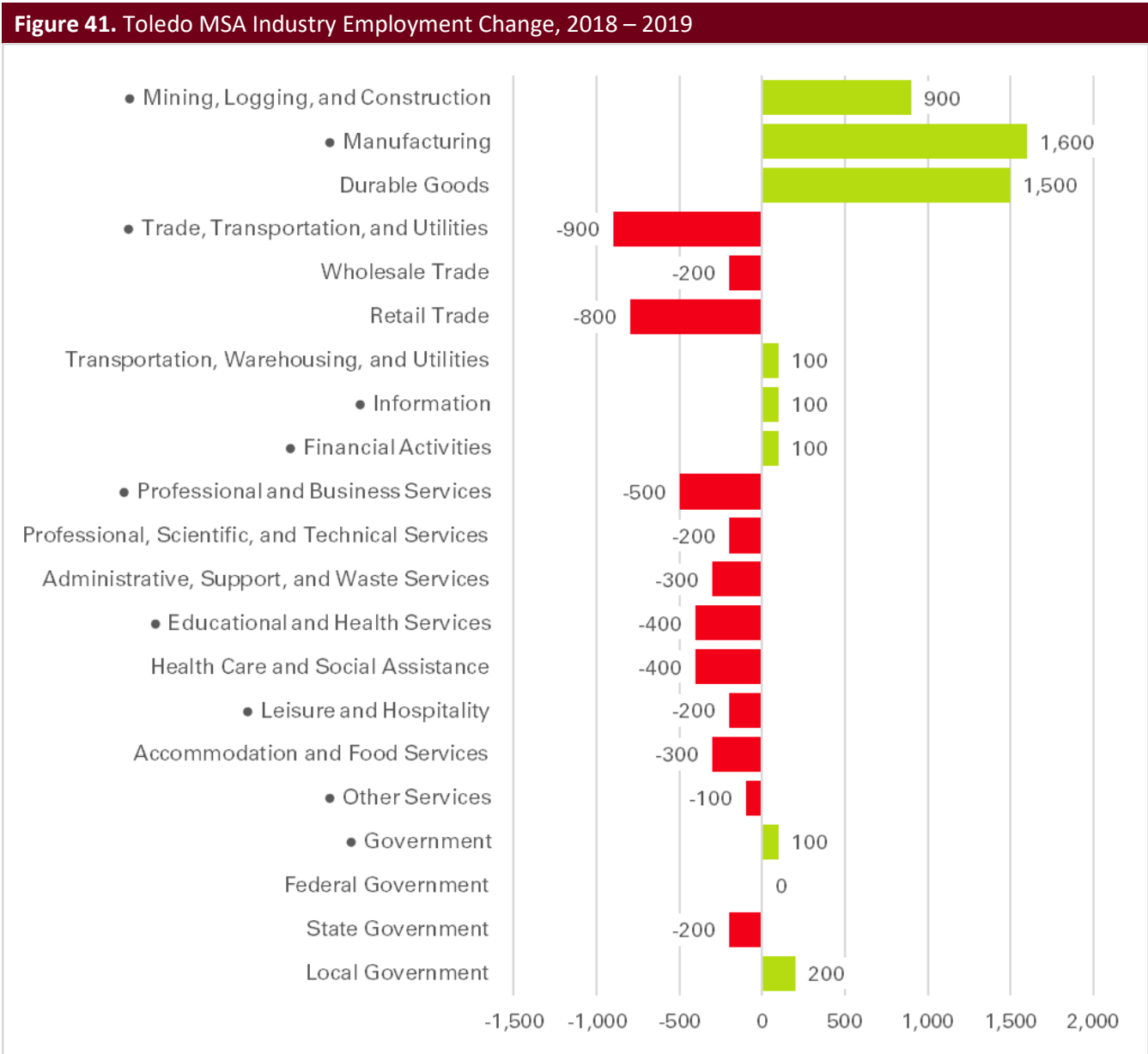
Source: Current Employment Statistics

Average annual total nonfarm employment in the Springfield MSA was 49,700 in 2019. Average annual total private employment was 42,600. From 2018 to 2019, average annual total nonfarm employment decreased by 200 jobs (-0.4%), and average total private employment decreased by 100 jobs (-0.2%). The professional and business services sector added 400 jobs, while the financial activities sector lost 300 jobs over the year.



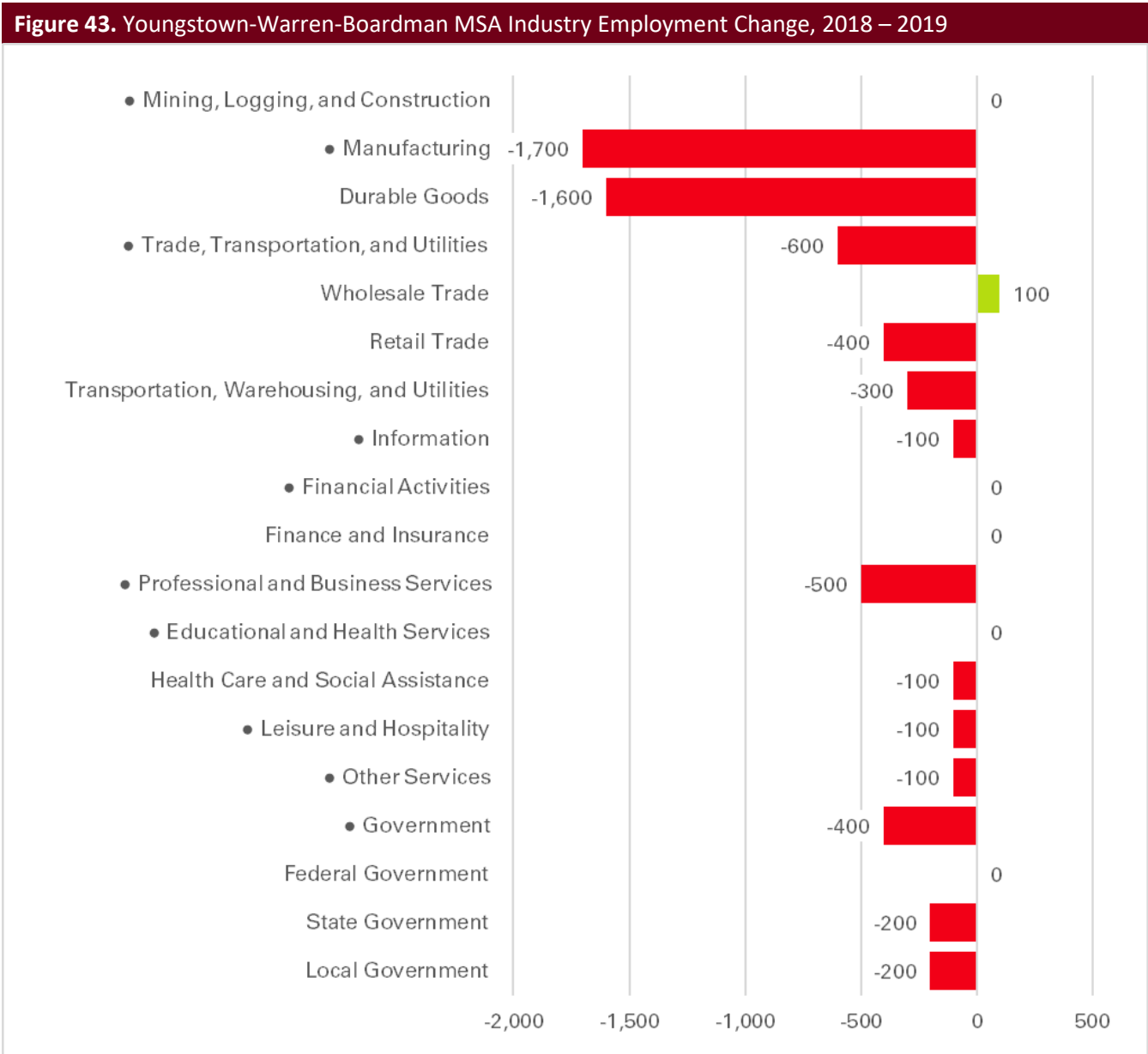
Source: Current Employment Statistics

Average annual total nonfarm employment in the Toledo MSA was 310,900 in 2019. Average annual total private employment was 265,700. From 2018 to 2019, average annual total nonfarm employment increased by 800 jobs (0.3%), and average total private employment increased by 600 jobs (0.2%). The manufacturing sector added 1,600 jobs; trade, transportation and utilities sector lost 900 jobs.



Source: Current Employment Statistics

Average annual total nonfarm employment in the Youngstown-Warren-Boardman MSA was 216,500 in 2019. Average annual total private employment was 187,400. From 2018 to 2019, average annual total nonfarm employment decreased by 3,400 jobs (-1.5%), and average total private employment decreased by 3,000 jobs (-1.6%). The wholesale trade subsector was the only industry with increased employment over the year adding 100 jobs, while the manufacturing sector lost 1,700 jobs.



Source: Current Employment Statistics

Summary

Ohio's economy improved slightly in 2019. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined only slightly through 2019, starting at 4.3% in January and staying at 4.1% from September to December. The Columbus MSA had the lowest annual unemployment rate among the metro areas at 3.6%, and the Ohio counties in the Youngstown MSA had the highest rate at 5.7%.

Initial claims for unemployment compensation were 4.9% higher on average than in 2018. The most heavily advertised jobs were registered nurses, heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers ,and first-line supervisors of retail sales workers.

Annual total nonfarm employment grew 23,600 jobs over 2018, and annual total private employment grew 23,400 jobs. The Cincinnati, Cleveland-Elyria, and Columbus metros tied for the largest total private employment increase (+0.9%). The educational and health services sector led with annual job gains of 9,700. The retail trade subsector lost 11,400 jobs.

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- Partner with the workforce and economic development community.
- Develop and deploy new information solution tools and systems for the workforce and economic development community.
- Provide products and services that are customer- and demand-driven.
- Be known as an important and reliable source for information solutions that support workforce development goals and outcomes.

Acknowledgments: The Workforce Research Section produced this report under the direction of Bureau Chief Coretta Pettway. For further information, visit OhioLMI.com or call the Ohio Bureau of Labor Market Information at **1-888-296-7541** option 6, or **(614) 752-9494**.

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