Labor Market Information In Review: 2020 Annual Economic Report



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Executive Summary

Ohio's 2020 Annual Economic Report reflects the dramatic impacts of the international pandemic on employment trends. From January to March 2020, Ohio's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate ranged from a low 4.5% to 4.9%. The April rate soared to 16.4% as a result of temporary business closings. As businesses began reopening, the rate dramatically declined. It was 5.6% in October and remained at that level through December 2020. Ohio's average monthly unemployment rate for 2020 was 8.1%, equal to the national annual average rate.

Because of the national pandemic, more than 2.1 million initial claims for unemployment benefits were filed in Ohio in 2020, compared to approximately 360,000 in 2019. There were shifts in the demographics of unemployment claimants in 2020, as well. In 2019, 33.9% of initial unemployment claims were filed by women; that increased to 48.6% in 2020. The percentage of claimants 24 and younger increased from 8.0% in 2019 to 14.9% in 2020.

Except for April and May, there were more online job ads in 2020 than in 2019, with an average of almost 57,000 more ads per month. Eighteen of the 25 most heavily advertised jobs were on Ohio's "Top Jobs" list.

The pandemic-related temporary business closings caused declines in total nonfarm and total private employment. Ohio's average total nonfarm employment was 5,253,900 in 2020, a decrease of 340,700 (-6.1%) from 2019. Average total private employment was 4,494,700 in 2020, a decrease of 308,600 (-6.4%) from 2019. The leisure and hospitality industry was hit hardest by the temporary closings, with a loss of 104,900 jobs from 2019 to 2020. Manufacturing lost 47,900 jobs, and educational and health services lost 44,100 jobs. The transportation, warehousing, and utilities subsector added 10,800 jobs over the year.

Among Ohio's metropolitan areas, the Youngtown-Warren-Boardman area had the largest proportional employment losses, with an 8.2% decline in annual average total nonfarm employment and an 8.5% decline in total private employment from 2019 to 2020. The Columbus metropolitan area had the smallest proportional losses, with a 4.5% decline an annual average total nonfarm employment and a 4.8% decline in total private employment from 2019 to 2020.

The Labor Force and Unemployment Rates

A traditional indicator of the labor force's health is the unemployment rate. The unemployment rates of both Ohio and the U.S. dramatically increased in response to the coronavirus pandemic and temporarily business shutdowns, beginning in March 2020.

Figure 1 shows the seasonally adjusted monthly unemployment rates from January 2010 through December 2020 for the U.S. and Ohio. The U.S. and Ohio unemployment rates peaked in April 2020. The peak unemployment rates for Ohio and the U.S. were 16.4% and 14.8%, respectively. Both the Ohio and U.S. unemployment rates increased by more than 300% from March to April in 2020.

Since the first quarter of 2016, the U.S. unemployment rate has often been lower than Ohio's. During the height of the pandemic, the U.S. unemployment rate exceeded Ohio's. Both rates have been declining since the peak in April 2020. By December 2020, Ohio's unemployment rate had decreased by 65.9%, and the U.S. rate had decreased by 54.7%. The unemployment rates for the fourth quarter of 2020 show a leveling off for both the United States and Ohio.



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

From April through November 2020, Ohio's unemployment rate declined faster (65.9%) than the U.S. rate (54.7%). The U.S. unemployment rate was higher than Ohio's in November and December by 1.1 percentage points.

The annual average unemployment rate for Ohio in 2020 was 8.1%, a 3.9 percentage point increase from 2019. The annual average number of unemployed Ohioans increased 225,569 over the year to 468,802; the annual average number of employed Ohioans decreased 313,532 to 5,285,484.



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

Each county in Ohio saw an increase in their annual average unemployment rates from 2019 to 2020. Forty-nine counties had annual unemployment rates equal to or below the state and national average rate of 8.1%. Thirty-nine counties were above 8.1%.

In 2020, county average unemployment rates ranged from 3.9% to 10.6%. Holmes County had the lowest annual rate at 3.9%. Monroe County had the highest annual rate at 10.6%.



Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Ohio's eight largest metropolitan areas account for about 76% of Ohio's labor force.¹ In 2020, the Akron, Cincinnati, Columbus, and Dayton metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) had annual unemployment rates below the Ohio annual rate of 8.1%. The Canton, Cleveland, 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 10.2%. The Cincinnati and Columbus MSAs had the lowest annual unemployment rates in the state at 7.0%.



Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics

¹ This includes only the Ohio counties for the Cincinnati and Youngtown MSAs.

Ohio has six JobsOhio regions with distinct industry strengths and resources. In 2020, the Northeast region had the highest annual average unemployment rate at 9.0%, a 4.7 percentage point increase from 2019. The lowest annual average unemployment rate was in Central Ohio at 7.0%, a 3.4 percentage point increase from 2019. The Northwest JobsOhio region's annual average unemployment rate more than doubled from 2019 (4.2%) to 2020 (8.6%).



Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Annual unemployment rates were highest among the 20-to-24 age group and lowest among the 55-to-64 age group. Unemployment rates declined steadily with age, then increased for men and women 65 and older.

The unemployment rate for men in the 20-to-24 age group peaked at 17.5%, while women in the same group had an unemploymenr rate of 14.4%. Men's unemployment rates were higher for those 20 to 54; women's were higher for those 55 and older. The unemployment rate for men 16 to 19 was unavailable.



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

Black or African-American men had the highest annual unemployment rate at 18.4%, which was an increase of more than 10 percentage points from 2019. White women had the lowest rate at 7.0%, but this was more than twice 2019's rate of 3.3%. Hispanic or Latino men had an annual unemployment rate of 13.2%, which was an increase from 4.5% in 2019. The unemployment rate for Hispanic/Latina women was unavailable.



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

Not everyone who is unemployed is eligible for unemployment compensation.² The number of initial unemployment insurance claims can provide insight into the number affected by employer closings and layoffs.

Figure 8 shows U.S. and Ohio initial unemployment claims as a percentage of 2010 levels.³ From 2010 through 2020, Ohio and U.S. initial claims declined at the same rate. In 2020, U.S. and Ohio initial unemployment claims increased to 305.1% and 264.9% of the 2010 levels, respectively.



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

² See the <u>Worker's Guide to Unemployment Insurance</u> for eligibility requirements.

³ 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 shows monthly initial claims for 2019 and 2020. These data are not seasonally adjusted and show typical seasonal fluctuations. The number of initial unemployment claims in 2020 (2,154,656) was almost six times more than in 2019 (364,603). The largest difference in initial claims between 2019 and 2020 occurred in March. In March 2019, there were 27,130 initial claims; in March 2020 there were 591,723 initial claims, a more than 2,000% increase over 2019.



Source: Ohio Office of Unemployment Insurance Operations

Between 2019 and 2020 there was a shift in the distribution of initial claims for unemployment compensation.⁴ In 2019, two-thirds of initial claims were from men, but in 2020 about half of initial claims were from men. In 2019, the manufacturing and construction industries had the most initial claims.



* "Not specified" are not included.

Source: Ohio Office of Unemployment Insurance Operations

⁴ This is under regular Ohio law and does not include claims from the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program.

The race and ethnicity of those filing initial unemployment claims remained relatively static from 2019 to 2020. There was a small drop in the percentage of initial claims filed by white individuals from 2019 to 2020 and an increase in initial claims filed by Asians and Pacific Islanders.



* "Not specified" are not included.

Source: Ohio Office of Unemployment Insurance Operations

The proportion of initial unemployment claims filed by 16- to 24-year-olds increased from 8.0% in 2019 to 14.9% in 2020. There was a 2.1 percentage point increase for the 25-34 age group. More individuals ages 65 and older filed initial claims in 2020, as well.



Source: Ohio Office of Unemployment Insurance Operations

To streamline unemployment claims processing during temporary business closures, a special mass-layoff code was used in place of the industry code on many applications. As a result, limited information is available about initial claims filed by industry in 2020. In 2019, the "unclassified" category accounted for only 5.4% of initial claims. In 2020, that category accounted for 40.6% of initial claims. In particular, the accommodation and food services sector appears underrepresented when compared to industry employment data.





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 job ads for Ohio in 2019 and 2020. On average, 56,674 more ads were posted each month during 2020 than 2019. Ad volume in April 2020, the month after the initial temporary business closings, was 7.8% below April 2019. By December 2020, online job ad volume was 98.5% above December 2019.



Source: TalentNeuron Gartner™

Eighteen of the 25 most heavily advertised occupations in Ohio are considered "Top Jobs." Ohio Top Jobs include in-demand occupations that pay well, that are expected to need workers, and that are in critical career clusters that support Ohio's health and well being. The top 25 most heavily advertised occupations included six sales and related occupations and four office and administrative support occupations. There were three healthcare practitioners and technical occupations.

Ohio's most heavily advertised occupation in 2020 was heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers, with more than 87,000 ads over the year. The next most heavily advertised occupation was registered nurses. Other heavily advertised healthcare occupations in 2020 where medical assistants, nursing assistants, licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses, and physicians and surgeons.



Source: TalentNeuron Gartner™

In the JobsOhio Central Region, the top 20 occupations advertised online included five each of sales and related occupations and computer occupations. The most heavily advertised occupation was heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers.



Source: TalentNeuron Gartner™

The 20 most heavily advertised occupations in the JobsOhio Southwest Region included five sales occupations and three each of the transportation and moving occupations and office and administrative support occupations.

The most heavily advertised occupation was registered nurses in 2020 and heavy and tractortrailer truck drivers were second.

Figure 17. Top Jobs Advertised Online in 2020, JobsOhio Southwest Region



Source: TalentNeuron Gartner™

The most heavily advertised occupation in the JobsOhio Northwest Region was heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers, with registered nurses a distant second. Four sales and related occupations, along with three transportation and material-moving occupations, were among the most heavily advertised jobs online.



Source: TalentNeuron Gartner™

The most heavily advertised occupation in the JobsOhio Northeast Region was registered nurses. Among the remaining most heavily advertised jobs online were five each of sales occupations and four transportation and material-moving occupations.



Source: TalentNeuron Gartner™

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



Source: TalentNeuron Gartner™

The top 21 advertised occupations in the JobsOhio West Region included five computer occupations, four sales occupations, and three each of office and administrative support occupations and transportation and material-moving occupations. The most advertised occupation was heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers, followed by registered nurses and software developers.

Figure 21. Top Jobs Advertised Online in 2020, JobsOhio West Region



Source: TalentNeuron Gartner™

Industry Employment

This figure shows seasonally adjusted Ohio and U.S. total nonfarm employment growth since January 2010. In February 2020, U.S. total nonfarm employment was 117.5% of its January 2010 value, and Ohio total nonfarm employment was 111.9% of January 2010. Pandemic-related temporary business closings led to large declines in employment. In April 2020, U.S. total nonfarm employment had dropped to about 100.3% of its January 2010 level, and Ohio employment was at 94.2%. By December 2020, employment had partially recovered. U.S. total nonfarm employment was 109.8% of where it was in January 2010, and Ohio's total nonfarm employment was 105.3% of its January 2010 level.



Source: Current Employment Statistics

Figure 23 shows U.S. and Ohio seasonally adjusted total private employment growth since January 2010. In February 2020, U.S. and Ohio total private employment were at 120.9% and 114.1% of their January 2010 levels. Those levels dropped to 101.0% and 94.1%, respectively, in April 2020. In December 2020, U.S. total private employment was 112.8% of the January 2010 level. Ohio total private employment was 107.5% of January 2010 employment.



Source: Current Employment Statistics

The goods-producing industry sectors are construction, manufacturing, and mining and logging. In February 2020, employment in Ohio's good-producing industries was 18.1% above the January 2010 level. Business closings led to large declines in employment. In April 2020, employment in Ohio's goods-producing industries was 0.6% below the January 2010 level. In December 2020, seasonally adjusted employment in Ohio's goods-producing industries was 12.1% above the January 2010 level.



Source: Current Employment Statistics

The private service-providing industries include all non-government industries that do not produce goods. Figure 25 shows seasonally adjusted U.S. and Ohio private service-providing industry employment from 2010 through 2020. In April 2020, U.S. and Ohio total private employment were at 100.2% and 92.8% of their January 2010 levels. By July, U.S. and Ohio total private employment increased to 109.6% and 104.3%, respectively. In December 2020, seasonally adjusted employment in Ohio's private service-providing industries was 6.4% above the January 2010 level.



Figure 25. U.S. and Ohio Seasonally Adjusted Private Service-Providing Industry

Source: Current Employment Statistics

Figure 26 shows seasonally adjusted monthly total nonfarm employment for 2019 and 2020. Ohio's annual average total nonfarm employment for 2020 was 5,253,900, a decrease of 340,700 from 2019. In December 2020, seaonally adjusted total nonfarm employment was 5,277,800, a decrease of 323,700 from December 2019.



Source: Current Employment Statistics

Ohio's annual average total private employment for 2020 was 4,494,700, a decrease of 308,600 from 2019. Figure 27 shows seasonally adjusted monthly total private employment for 2019 and 2020. Total private employment in December 2020 was 275,700 lower than December 2019.



Source: Current Employment Statistics

Figure 28 shows seasonally adjusted goods-producing employment for 2019 and 2020. Ohio's annual average total goods-producing employment for 2020 was 881,200, a decrease of 58,100 from 2019. December 2020 seasonally adjusted employment was 47,100 less than December 2019.



Source: Current Employment Statistics

Figure 29 shows seasonally adjusted private service-providing employment for 2019 and 2020. Ohio's annual average private service-providing employment for 2020 was 3,613,500, a decrease of 250,500 from 2019. December 2020 seasonally adjusted service-providing employment was 3,646,000, a decline of 228,600 from December 2019.



Source: Current Employment Statistics

Figure 30 shows the annual average employment change from 2019 to 2020. Industry sectors are marked with bullets. Subsectors are listed without bullets under their parent sectors. Not all sectors have subsectors.⁵

Among the sectors, the most significant employment decline occurred in leisure and hospitality, with 104,900 jobs lost. This sector was strongly affected by the temporary pandemic closings.

The largest employment increase in 2020 was in the transportation, warehousing, and utilities subsector, with 10,800 added jobs.



Source: Current Employment Statistics

⁵ Durable and nondurable goods are combinations of related subsectors.

Figure 31 shows the percentage change from 2019 to 2020 in annual average total nonfarm and total private employment for the U.S., Ohio, and Ohio's 11 metropolitan statistical areas. Some metropolitan areas include counties outside Ohio. Data from those counties are also included.

All metropolitan statistical areas saw declines in total nonfarm and total private employment from 2019 to 2020. The Youngstown-Warren-Boardman MSA had the largest declines: -8.2% for total nonfarm employment and

-8.5% for total private employment. The Columbus MSA had the smallest declines in total nonfarm and total private employment: -4.5% and -4.8%, respectively.



Source: Current Employment Statistics

In the Akron MSA, 2020 average annual total nonfarm employment was 319,100, and average annual total private employment was 277,500. From 2019 to 2020, average annual total nonfarm employment decreased by 21,500 jobs (-6.3%), and average total private employment decreased by 18,700 jobs (-6.3%). Leisure and hospitality lost 6,400 jobs over the year. Transportation, warehousing, and utilities added 1,400 jobs. The federal government added 100 jobs.



Source: Current Employment Statistics

In the Canton-Massillon MSA in 2020, average annual total nonfarm employment was 162,500, and average annual total private employment was 143,000. From 2019 to 2020, average annual total nonfarm employment decreased by 10,700 jobs (-6.2%) and average annual total private employment decreased by 10,100 jobs (-6.6%).

Leisure and hospitality lost 2,400 jobs over the year. Wholesale trade and federal government added 300 and 100 jobs respectively.



Source: Current Employment Statistics

In 2020, the Cincinnati MSA average annual total nonfarm employment was 1,054,700, and average annual total private employment was 927,000. From 2019 to 2020, average annual total nonfarm employment decreased by 65,100 jobs (5.8%), and average total private employment decreased by 60,400 jobs (6.1%). The leisure and hospitality sector lost 26,200 jobs over the year. The transportation, warehousing, and utilities subsector added 1,500 jobs.



Source: Current Employment Statistics

Average annual total nonfarm employment in the Cleveland-Elyria MSA was 1,004,500 in 2020. Average annual total private employment was 872,700. From 2019 to 2020, average annual total nonfarm employment decreased by 75,500 jobs (-7.0%), and average total private employment decreased by 68,600 jobs (-7.3%). The leisure and hospitality sector lost 23,000 jobs while transportation, warehousing, and utilities added 1,000 jobs.



Source: Current Employment Statistics

Average annual total nonfarm employment in the Columbus MSA was 1,063,900 in 2020. Average annual total private employment was 886,100. From 2019 to 2020, average annual total nonfarm employment decreased by 50,000 jobs (-4.5%), and average total private employment decreased by 44,800 jobs (-4.8%). The leisure and hospitality sector lost 21,500 jobs while the transportation, warehousing and utilities subsector added 8,600 jobs.



Source: Current Employment Statistics

Average annual total nonfarm employment in the Dayton MSA was 370,500 in 2020. Average annual total private employment was 310,000. From 2019 to 2020, average annual total nonfarm employment decreased by 21,400 jobs (-5.5%), and average total private employment decreased by 19,700 jobs (-6.0%). Leisure and hospitality had the greatest decline over the year, with 6,600 jobs lost. The federal government had the largest gain with 700 jobs.



Source: Current Employment Statistics

Average annual total nonfarm employment in the Lima MSA was 50,100 in 2020. Average annual total private employment was 44,200. From 2019 to 2020, average annual total nonfarm employment decreased by 2,900 jobs (-5.5%), and average total private employment decreased by 2,700 jobs (-5.8%). The educational and health services sector declined by 900 jobs. The administrative, support, and waste management services subsector, which includes temp agencies, had the largest gain with 200 jobs.



Source: Current Employment Statistics

Average annual total nonfarm employment in the Mansfield MSA was 48,500 in 2020. Average annual total private employment was 41,200. From 2019 to 2020, average annual total nonfarm employment decreased by 3,600 jobs (-6.9%), and average total private employment decreased by 3,300 jobs (-7.4%). The manufacturing sector decreased by 900 jobs. State and federal government neither lost nor gained jobs over the year, and no industries had an increase in employment.



Source: Current Employment Statistics

Average annual total nonfarm employment in the Springfield MSA was 46,400 in 2020. Average annual total private employment was 39,600. From 2019 to 2020, average annual total nonfarm employment decreased by 3,400 jobs (-6.8%) and average total private employment decreased by 3,100 jobs (-7.3%). Several sectors and subsectors had no gains or losses. The manufacturing sector lost 900 jobs while the professional and business services increased by 100 jobs over the year.



Source: Current Employment Statistics

Average annual total nonfarm employment in the Toledo MSA was 286,700 in 2020. Average annual total private employment was 244,000. From 2019 to 2020, average annual total nonfarm employment decreased by 24,700 jobs (-7.9%), and average total private employment decreased by 22,100 jobs (-8.3%). The leisure and hospitality sector lost 6,300 jobs while the federal government added 100 jobs.



Source: Current Employment Statistics

Average annual total nonfarm employment in the Youngstown-Warren-Boardman MSA was 198,900 in 2020. Average annual total private employment was 171,400. From 2019 to 2020, average annual total nonfarm employment decreased by 17,800 jobs (-8.2%), and average total private employment decreased by 16,000



-4,500 -4,000 -3,500 -3,000 -2,500 -2,000 -1,500 -1,000

(-8.5%) over the year. The leisure and hospitality sector lost 3,900 jobs while federal government added 100 jobs over the year.

Source: Current Employment Statistics

-500

0

500

Summary

The international pandemic dramatically impacted employment in both Ohio and the nation in 2020. The temporary business closings in March led to a sharp decline in employment and sharp rise in unemployment in April. Although employment in Ohio began to increase and unemployment began to decline in May, neither returned to their pre-pandemic levels by December. The state saw a 6.1% decrease in total nonfarm employment from 2019 to 2020.

The leisure and hospitality sector experienced the largest decline. Statewide, this sector lost an average of almost 105,000 jobs from 2019 to 2020. Most other sectors saw losses, as well. Only two had employment increases. Transportation, warehousing, and utilities saw an increase of 10,800 over the year. This increase was largely driven by online shopping and home delivery. Federal government increased 2,100; much of this increase was Census-related.

Among the metropolitan areas, the Youngstown metropolitan area had the largest proportional decrease in total nonfarm employment over the year, with an 8.2% decline from 2019 to 2020. The Columbus metropolitan area fared the best among the metropolitan areas, with a 4.5% decline in total nonfarm employment from 2019 to 2020.



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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 Byron Archer. For further information, visit <u>http://OhioLMI.com</u> or call the Ohio Bureau of Labor Market Information at **1-888-296-7541** option 6, or **(614) 752-9494**.

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This workforce product was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The product was created by the recipient and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership. This product is copyrighted by the institution that created it. Internal use by an organization and/or personal use by an individual for non-commercial purposes is permissible. All other uses require the prior authorization of the copyright owner.