



Department of
Job & Family
Services

Labor Market Information In Review: 2023 Annual Economic Report



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Executive Summary

Ohio's unemployment rate decreased in 2023. The year started at 3.8% and ended at 3.6%. County annual average unemployment rates ranged from 2.3% in Mercer County to 5.5% in Monroe County. All but one county saw a decline in its annual unemployment rate, and no county saw an increase in its unemployment rate.

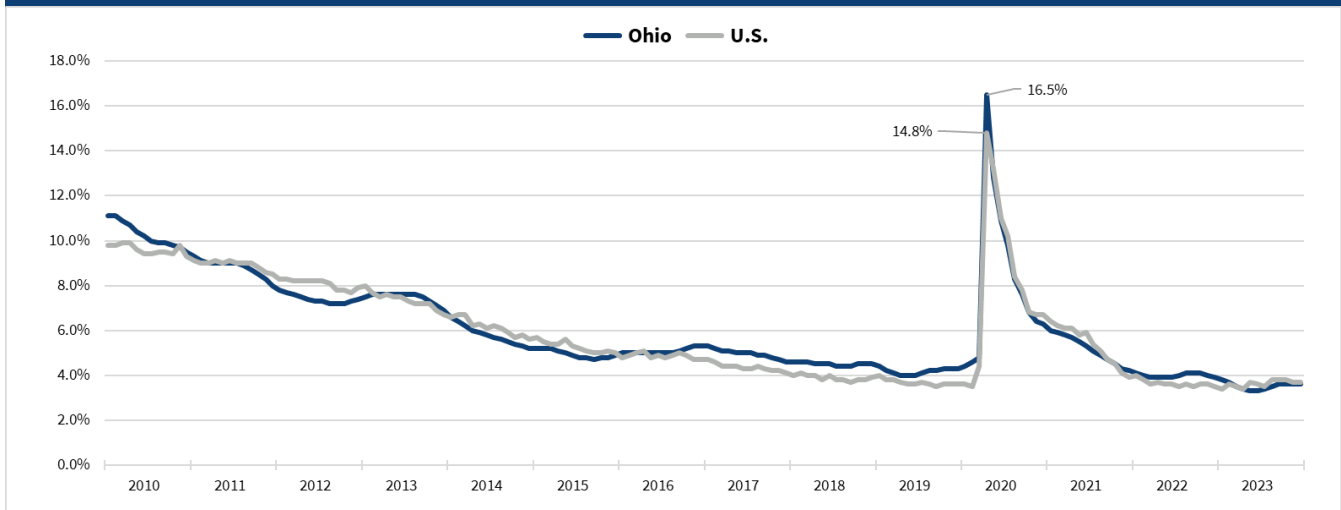
Monthly initial claims for unemployment benefits (not seasonally adjusted) ranged from 94,372 in July 2023 to 27,291 claims in October. Labor demand, as indicated by online job ads, decreased in 2023 over 2022 levels. January 2023 had the most online job ads for the year. Registered nurses were the most heavily advertised occupation in Ohio, as well as in each of the JobsOhio regions.

Ohio's annual average nonfarm employment for 2023 was 5,618,600, an increase of 83,900 jobs and 1.5% over 2022. Total private employment increased by 42,000 over 2023 to 4,862,900, a 0.9% increase.

The Labor Force and Unemployment Rates

The Ohio unemployment rate began 2023 at 3.8%, which was slightly above the U.S. rate of 3.4%. In March 2023, the Ohio and U.S. rates converged at 3.5%. In May 2023, Ohio's rate fell below the U.S. rate, with the Ohio measure dropping to 3.3% and the U.S. measure rising to 3.7%. While rates for both the U.S. and Ohio rose and fell throughout the year, the Ohio rate consistently remained lower than the U.S. rate through December, with the Ohio rate closing the year at 3.6%, and the U.S. rate closing at 3.7%.

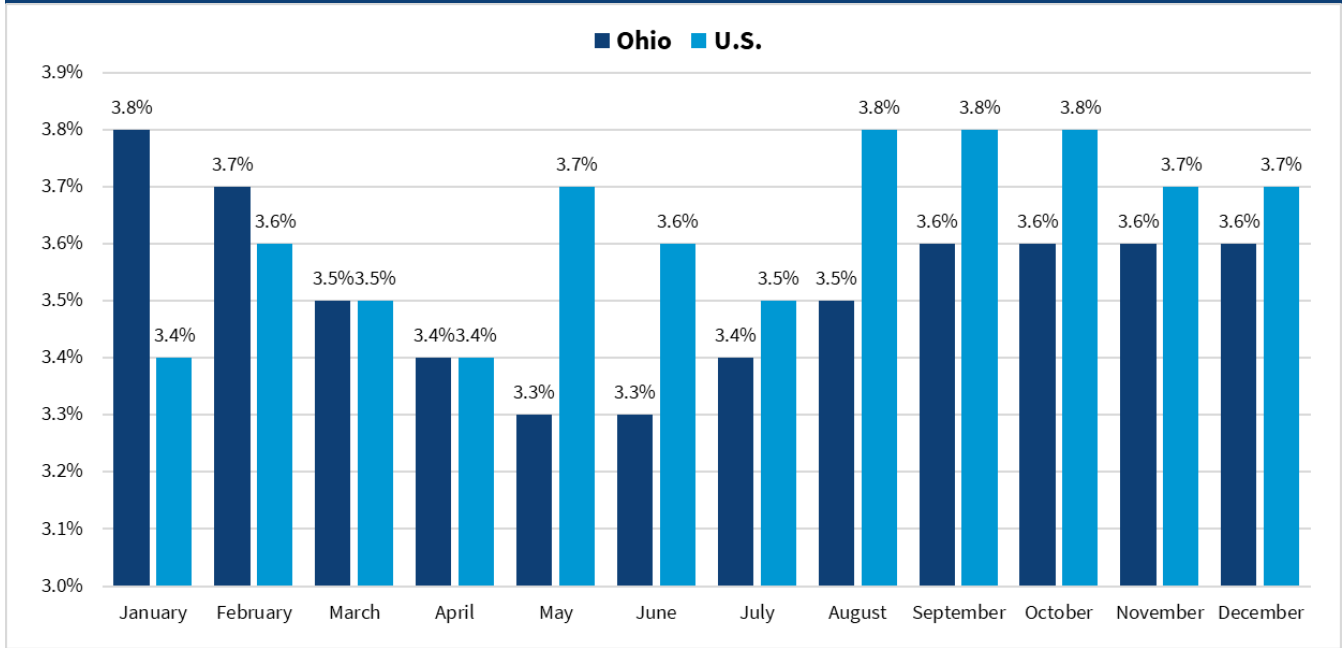
Figure 1. U.S. and Ohio Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates, 2010 – 2023



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

In 2023, Ohio’s annual average unemployment rate began the year at 3.8% and decreased until May 2023, when it fell to 3.3%. This rate was stable for Ohio until July 2023, when rates began to rise and fluctuate, ending the year at 3.6%. Beginning in January 2023, Ohio’s monthly unemployment rates were higher than the U.S. rates until March 2023, with the rates equalizing at 3.5%. Both rates remained equal in April 2023 at 3.4%. Beginning in May 2023, the Ohio rate fell below the U.S. unemployment rate and remained lower through December 2023.

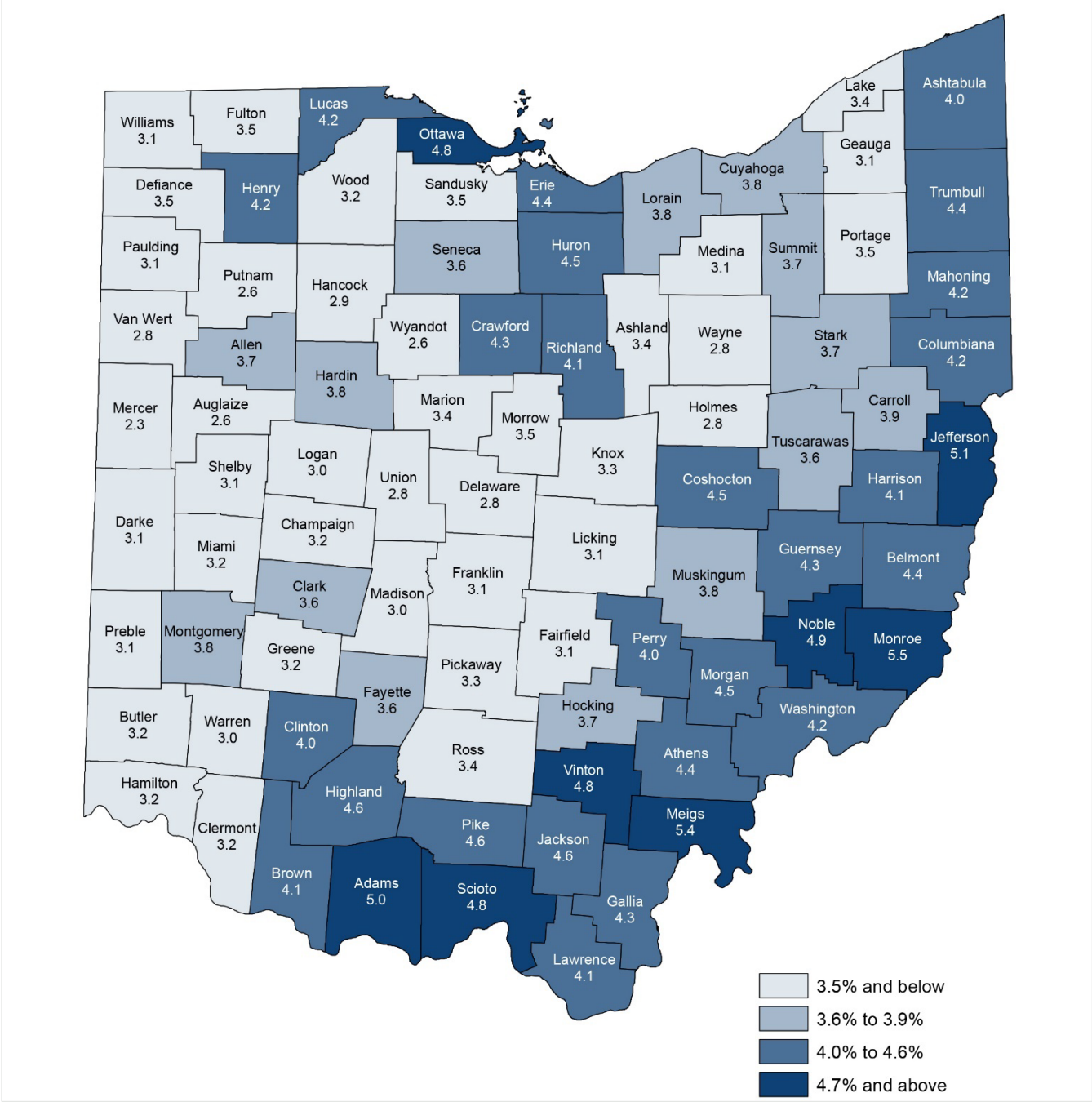
Figure 2. Ohio and U.S. Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates, 2023



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

All but one of Ohio's 88 counties saw a decrease in the average annual unemployment rate from 2022 to 2023. One county, Holmes, did not experience a decrease, but saw its unemployment rate remain steady from 2022 to 2023 at 2.8%. Forty-one counties had unemployment rates equal to or less than the state of Ohio's average annual unemployment rate of 3.5%. Nine counties had an unemployment rate equal to either the state rate of 3.5% or the national unemployment rate of 3.6%. Forty-three counties had unemployment rates above the national unemployment rate of 3.6%. County unemployment rates ranged from 2.3% to 5.5%. Mercer County had the lowest average unemployment rate at 2.3%. Monroe County had the highest average rate at 5.5%.

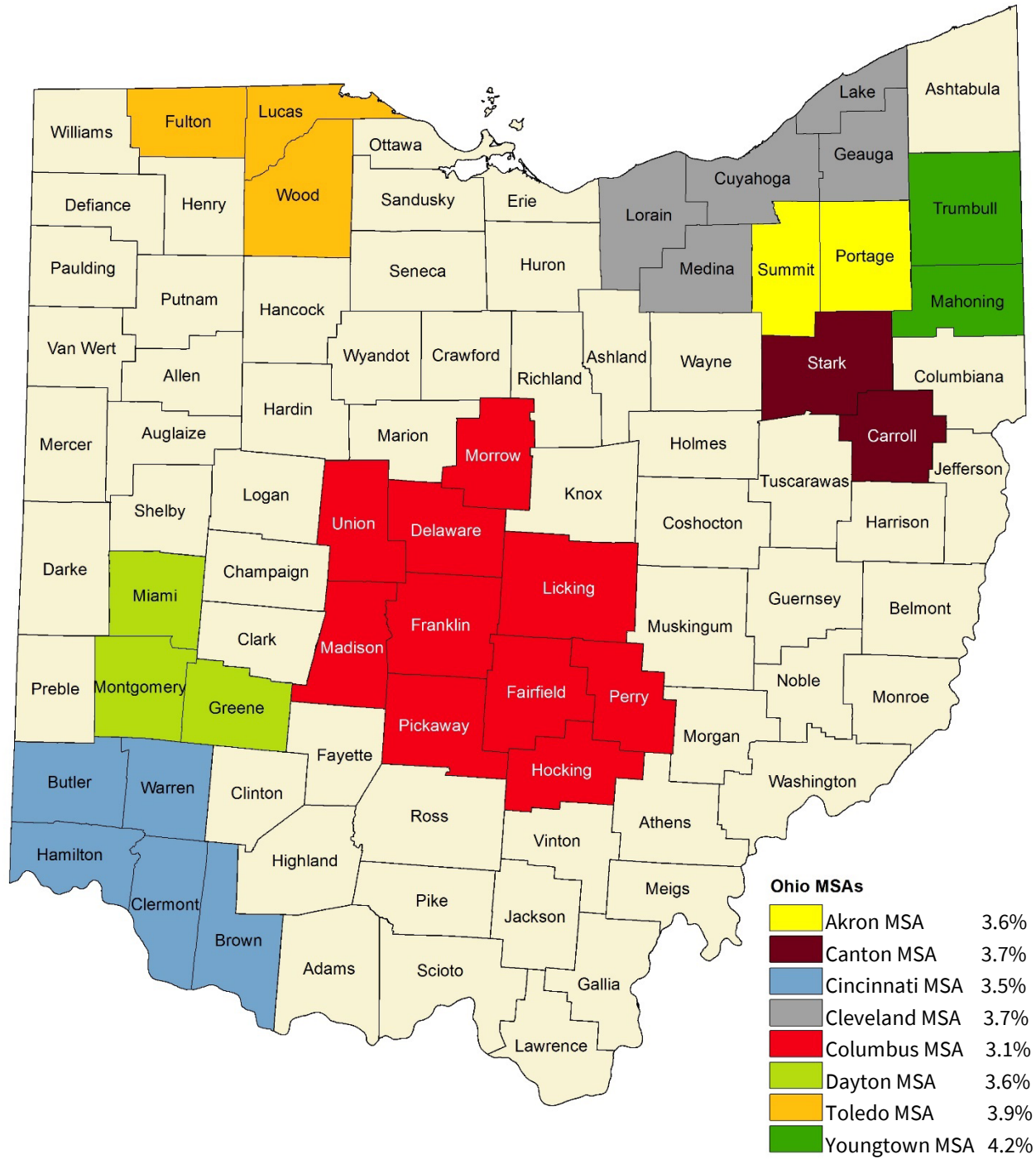
Figure 3. 2023 Annual Average Unemployment Rates by County



Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The major Ohio Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) had lower annual unemployment rates for 2023 than for 2022. Two MSAs had unemployment rates at or below the 2023 Ohio unemployment rate of 3.5%: Cincinnati and Columbus. The Canton, Cleveland, Toledo, and Youngstown MSAs had unemployment rates above the national rate of 3.6%. The Cleveland MSA saw the largest change in its average annual unemployment rate, with a 0.9 percentage point decrease from 4.6% in 2022 to 3.7% in 2023.

Figure 4. 2023 Annual Average Unemployment Rates by MSA

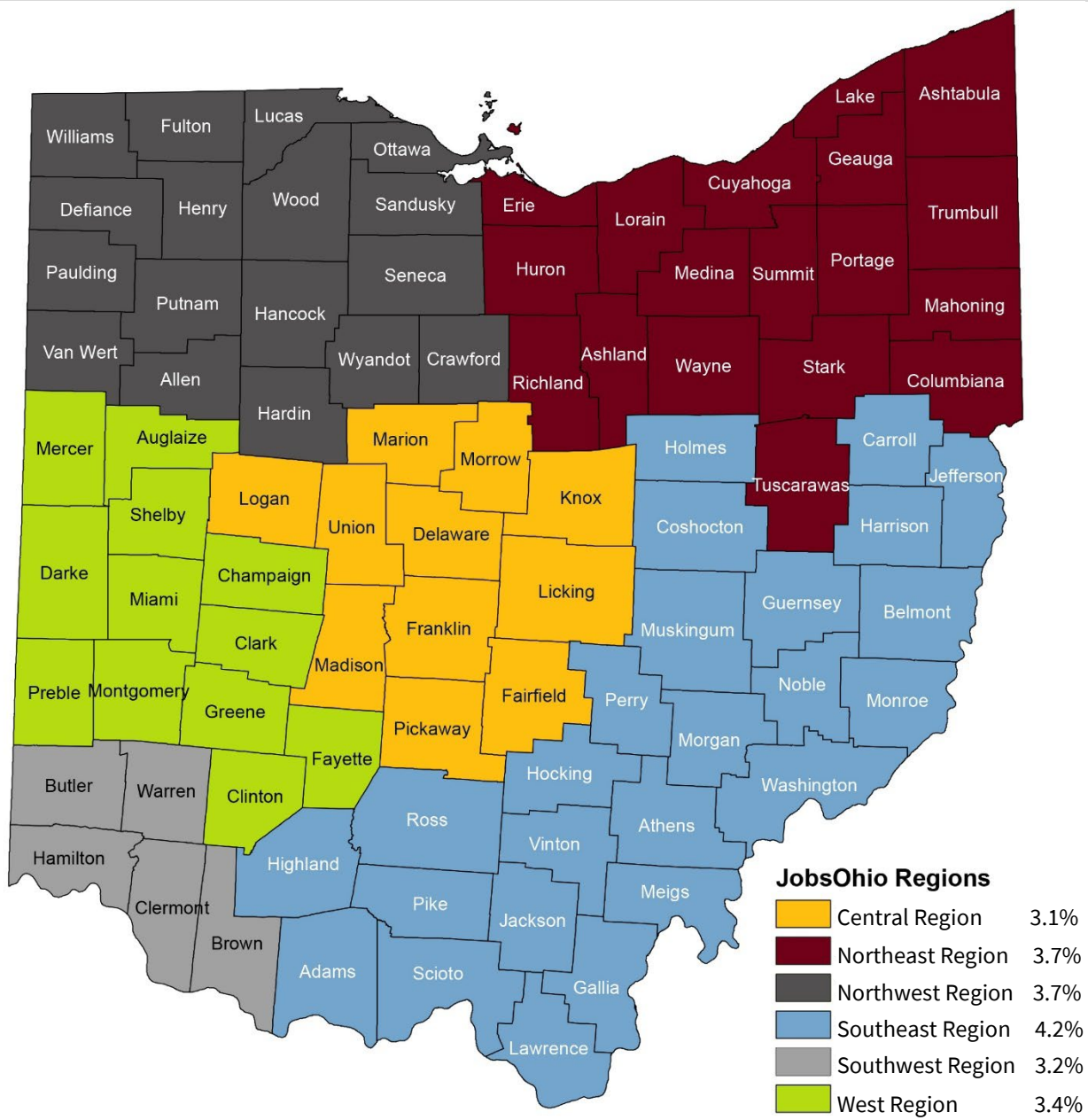


Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Ohio had six JobsOhio regions in 2023, each with unique strengths and resources. In 2023, all of the JobsOhio regions saw declines in their unemployment rates compared to 2022. The Southwest, Central, and West regions all had annual average unemployment rates beneath both the national unemployment rate of 3.6% and the state unemployment rate of 3.5%. The Northeast, Northwest, and the Southeast regions all had unemployment rates above the national unemployment rate of 3.6%. The Southeast region had the highest unemployment rate of all the regions at 4.2%. The Central region had the lowest unemployment rate at 3.1%

The Northeast region saw the largest drop in annual unemployment, from 4.4% in 2022 to 3.7% in 2023. The Central region saw the smallest decline, from 3.4% in 2022 to 3.1% in 2023.

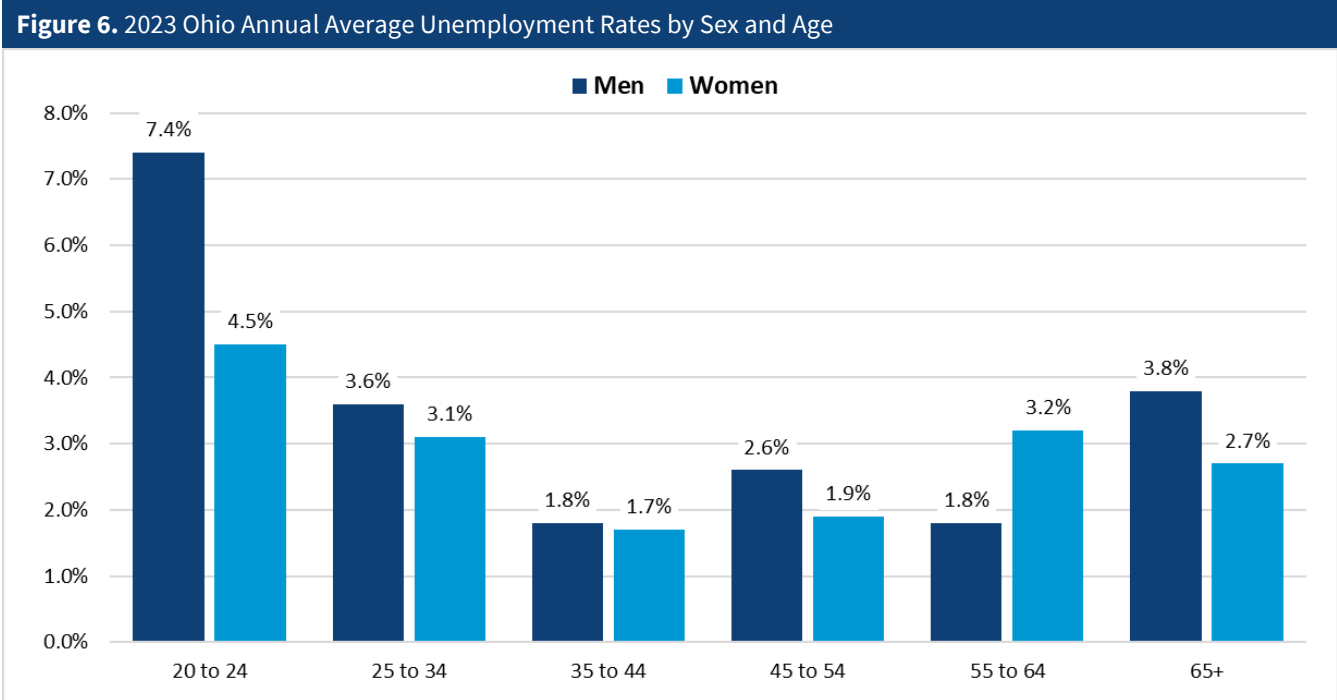
Figure 5. 2022 Annual Average Unemployment Rates by JobsOhio Regions



Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics

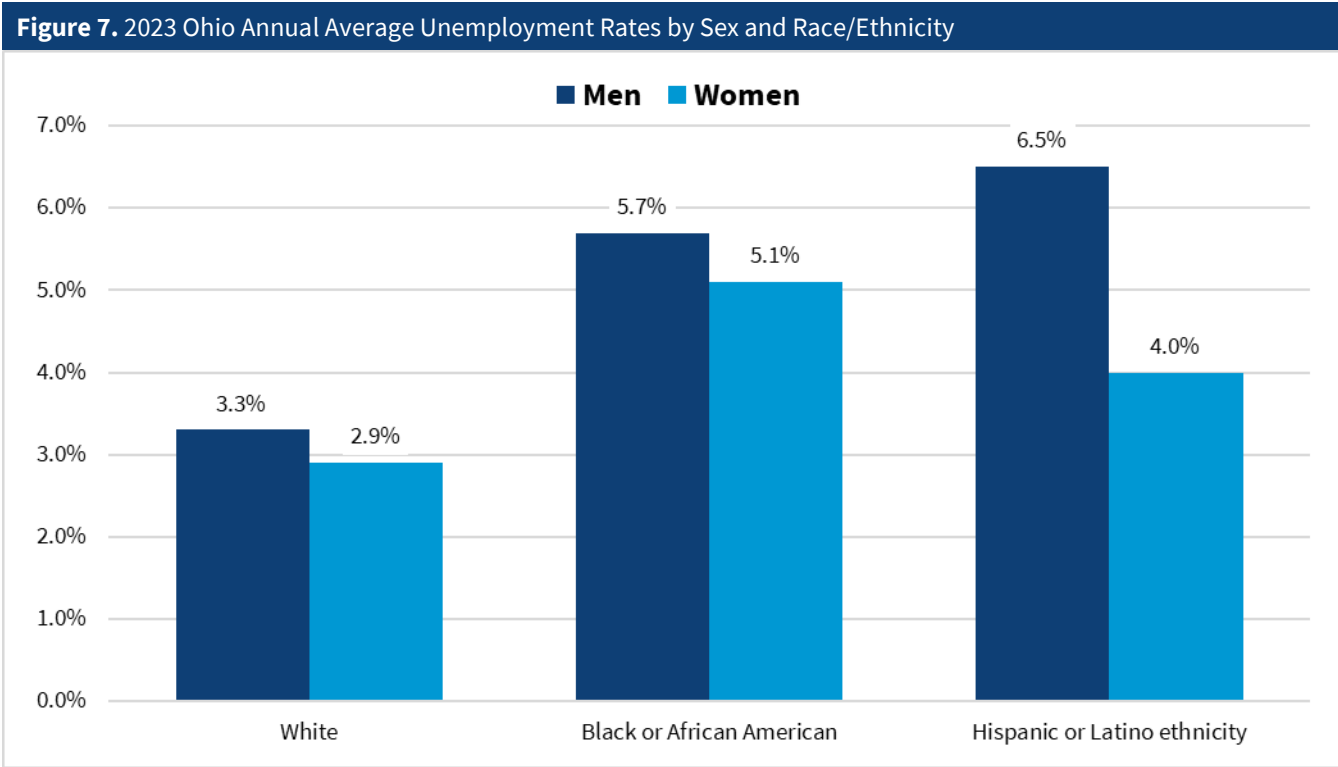
Ohio's 2023 unemployment rates were lower than in 2022 for all age groups. The highest 2023 unemployment rates were for younger workers. For the 20-to-24-year-old age group, the male unemployment rate was 7.4%, and the female unemployment rate was 4.5%.

The lowest unemployment rates were experienced by individuals ages 35 to 44; the female unemployment rate was 1.7%, and the male unemployment rate was 1.8%. The unemployment rates for women were lower than the unemployment rates for men for all but one age group, those 55 to 64 years old.



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

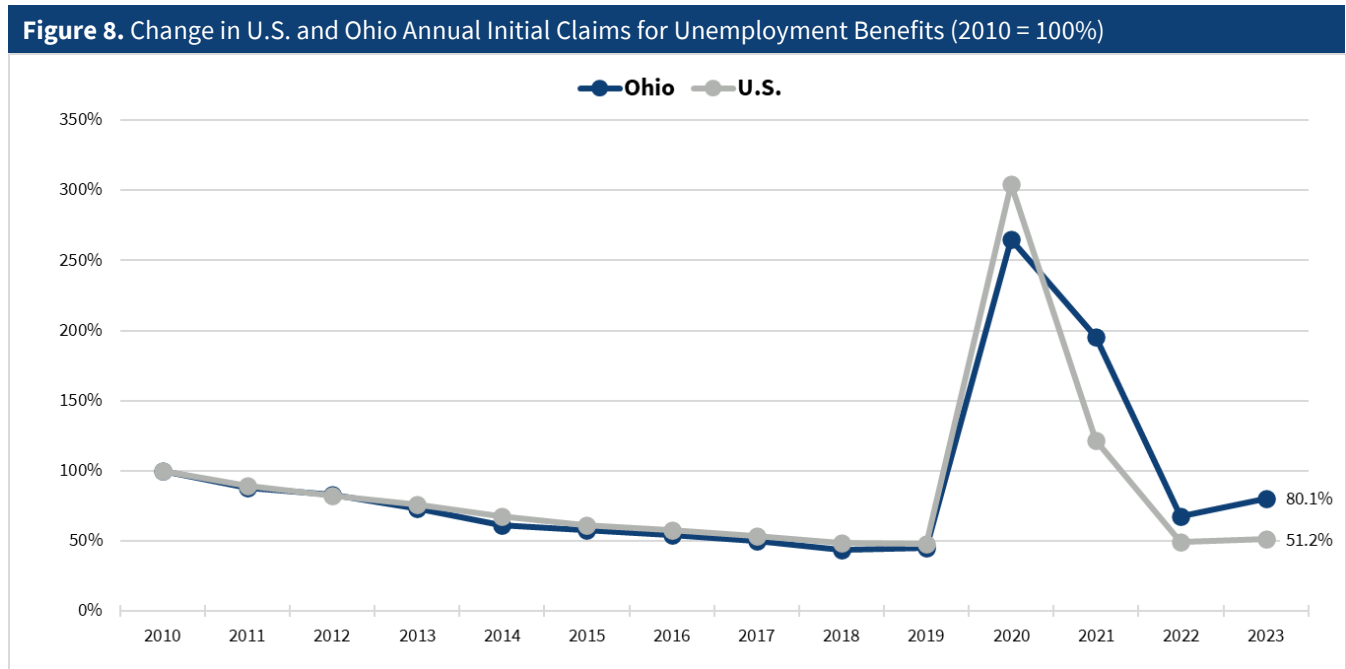
Hispanic or Latino men had the highest unemployment rate in 2023, at 6.5%. White women had the lowest unemployment rate, at 2.9%.



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

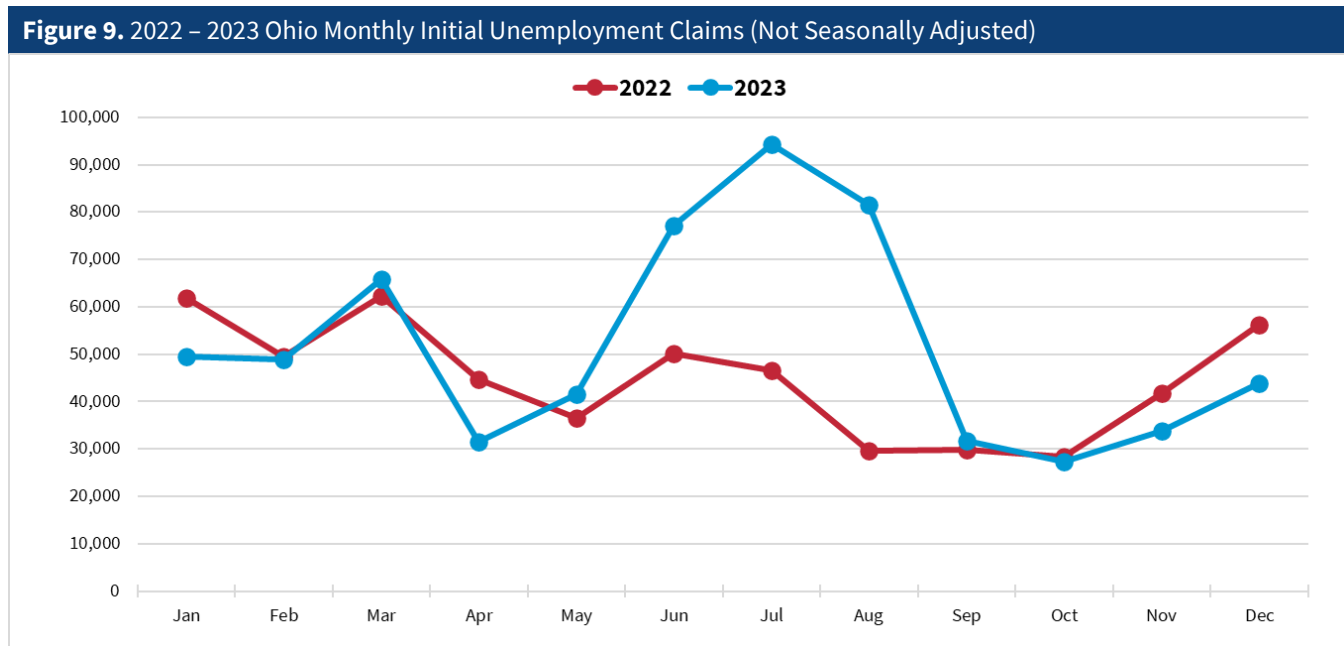
The number of initial unemployment insurance claims filed in a given time period can provide insight into the number of people affected by layoffs and business closings.

Figure 8 shows U.S. and Ohio initial unemployment claims filed annually since 2010 as a percentage of 2010 levels. From 2010 to 2019, Ohio and U.S. initial claims declined at the same rate. In 2020, initial claims increased in both Ohio and the U.S. In 2023, U.S. initial claims decreased to 51% of 2010 levels. Ohio initial claims also decreased to 80% of 2010 levels.



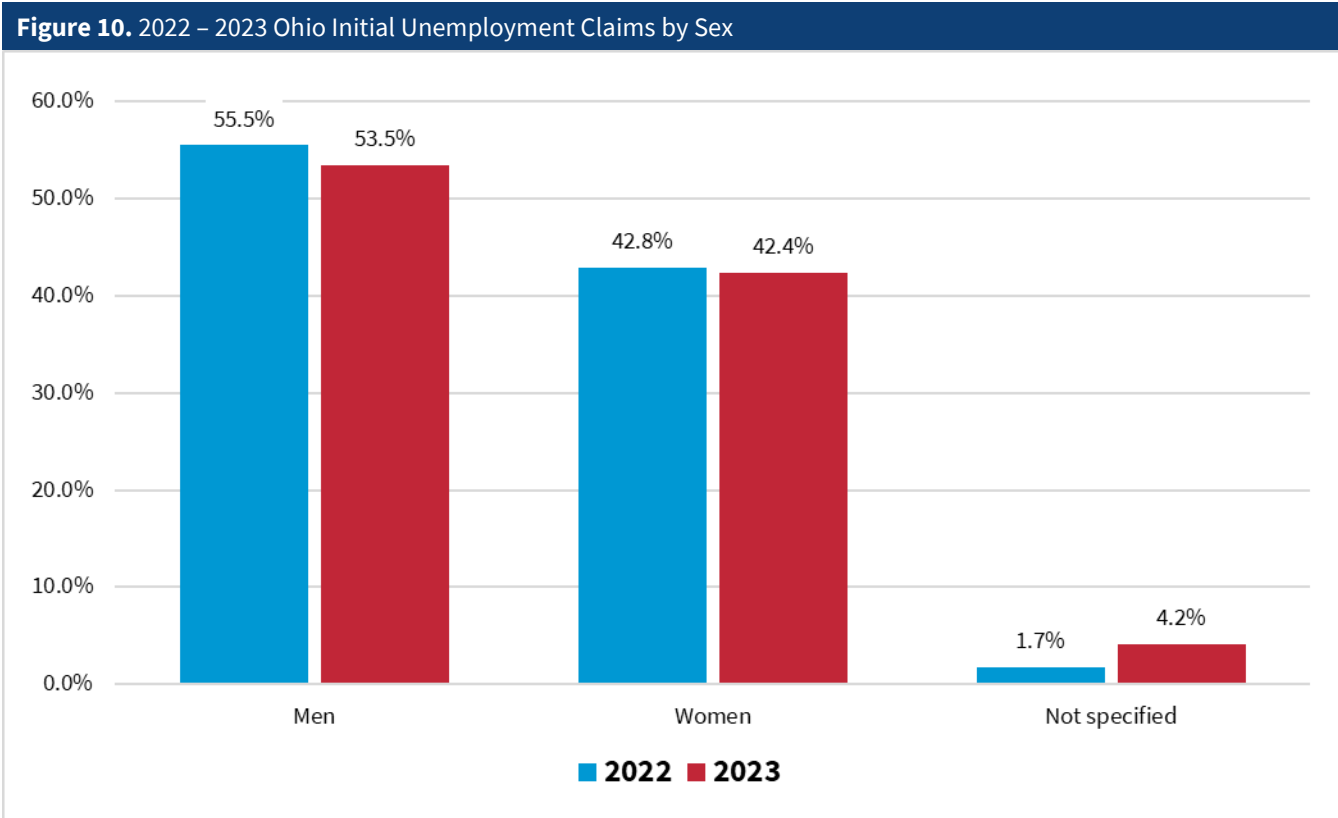
Source: U.S. Employment and Training Administration and the Office of Unemployment Insurance Operations

Figure 9 shows monthly initial claims for 2022 and 2023. These numbers are not seasonally adjusted and show typical seasonal fluctuations. The number of initial unemployment claims filed in 2023 was 627,121. This was an increase from 2022, when initial claims totalled 537,652.



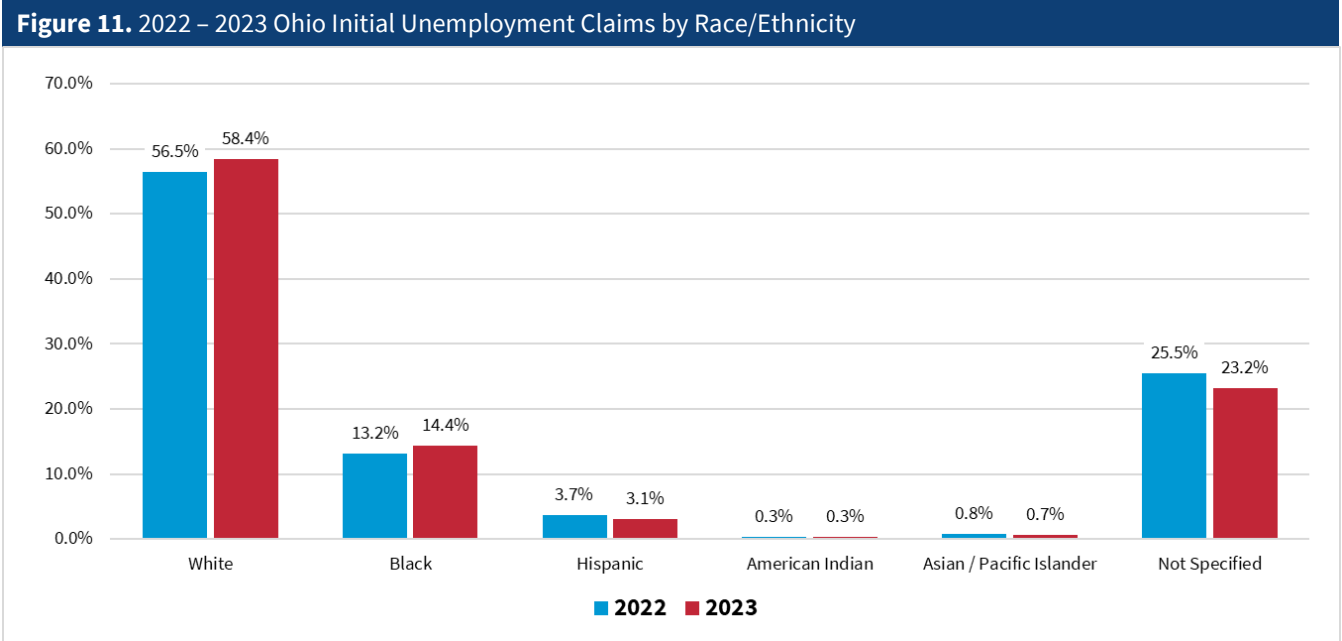
Source: Ohio Office of Unemployment Insurance Operations

In 2022 and 2023, men accounted for a higher percentage of initial claims than women. In 2023, 4.2% of initial claims included no gender information, compared to 1.7% in 2022.



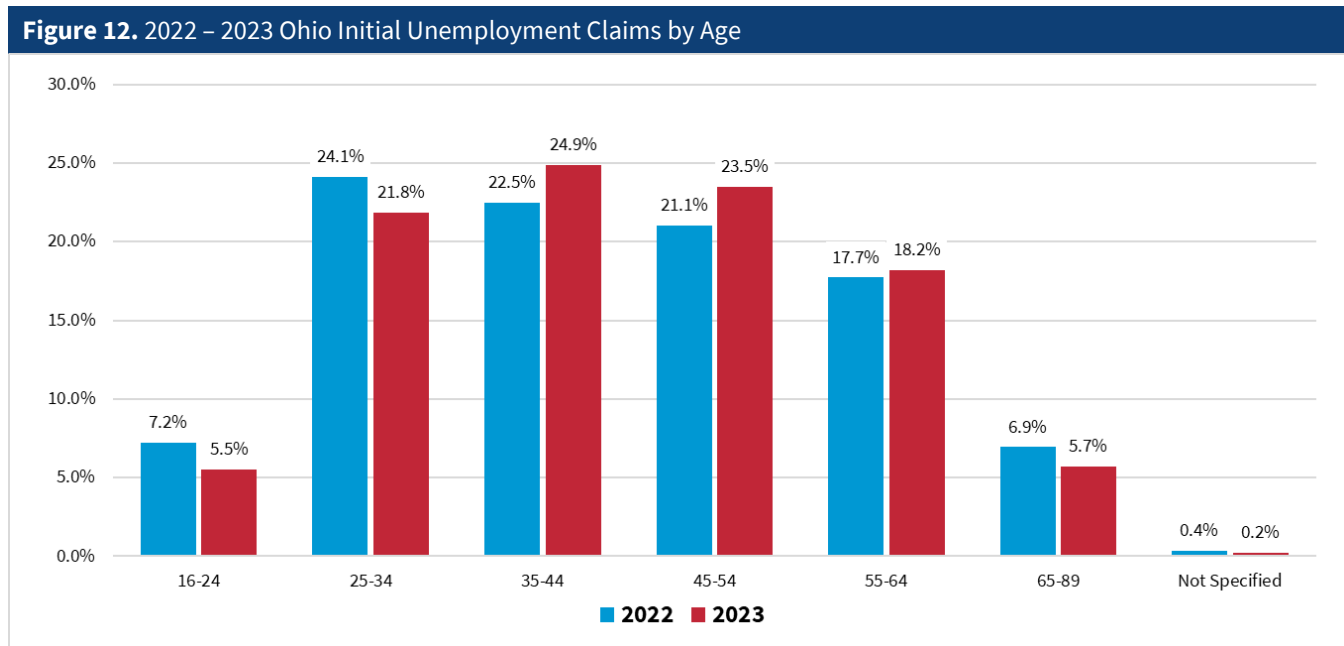
Source: Ohio Office of Unemployment Insurance Operations

Initial claims for 2023 followed a similar distribution by race and ethnicity. The percentage of initial claims lacking race or ethnicity information was 23.2% in 2023, compared to 25.5% in 2022 and 3.7% in 2020. Fraudulent claims were more likely to be missing race or ethnicity information.



Source: Ohio Office of Unemployment Insurance Operations

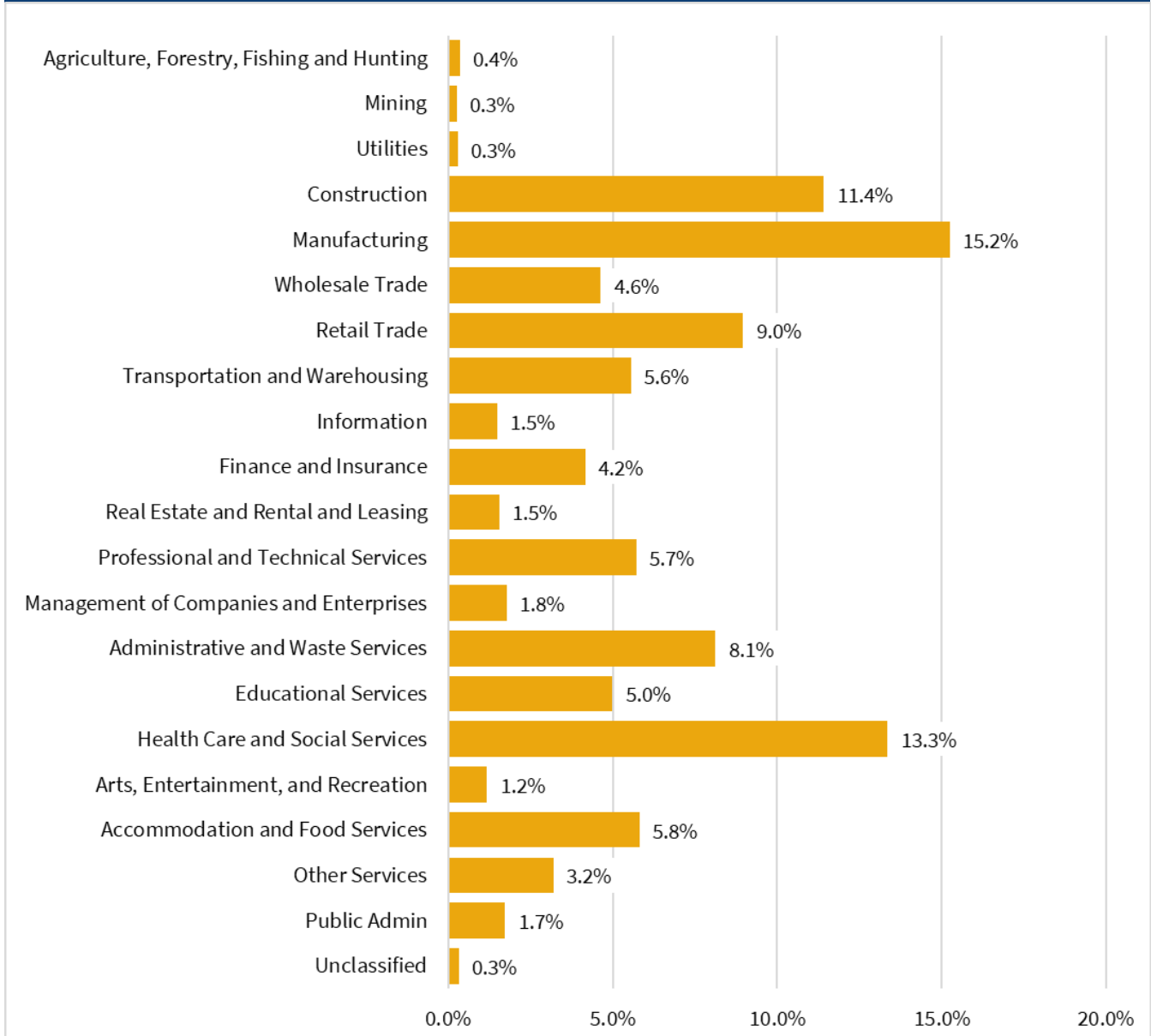
The proportion of initial claims filed by those 34 and younger declined from 2022 to 2023. At the same time, a higher proportion of initial claims was filed by those ages 45 to 64. In 2023, 0.2% of claims did not specify an age, compared to 0.4% in 2022.



Source: Ohio Office of Unemployment Insurance Operations

Among the initial claims that included the industry of most recent employment, manufacturing had the highest percentage of initial claims, followed by health care and social assistance and construction. Only 0.3% of initial claims did not include an industry of employment and were reported as unclassified. Fraudulent claims were more likely to be missing industry information.

Figure 13. Percentage of 2023 Ohio Initial Unemployment Claims by Industry Sector

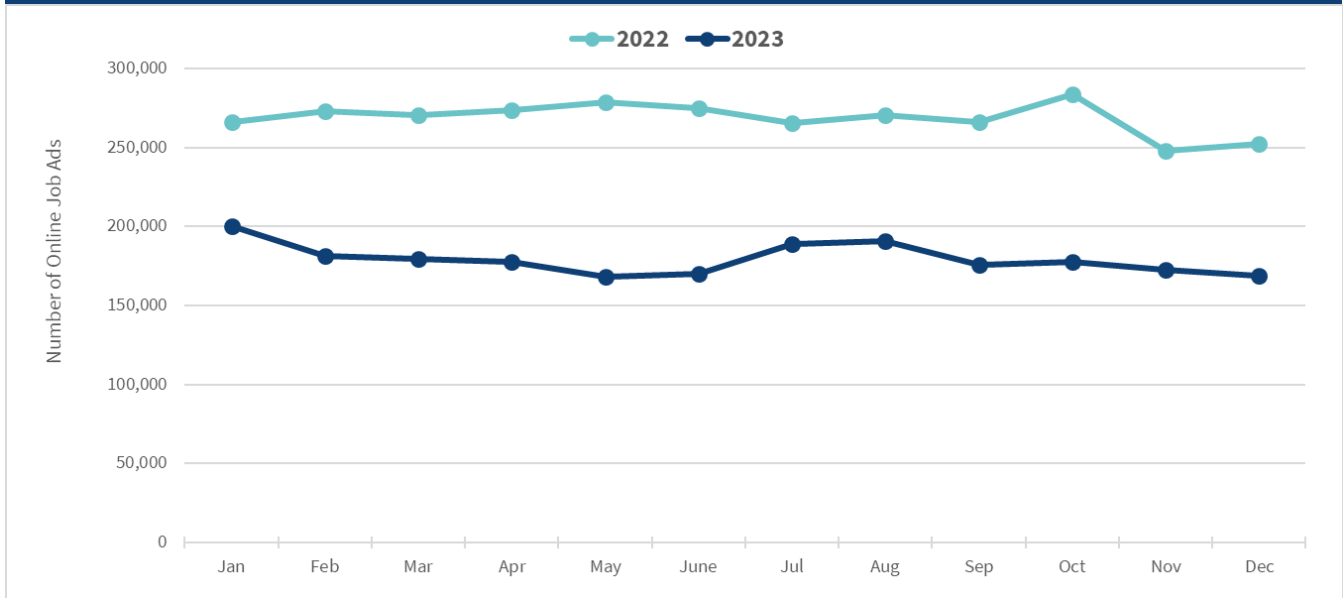


Source: Ohio Office of Unemployment Insurance Operations

Labor Demand – Online Job Ads

An indicator of labor demand is the number of job ads posted online. On average, 89,275 fewer job ads were posted monthly in 2023 than in 2022. May 2023 had the fewest online job ads, with 169,483. January had the most online job ads, with 200,544. Overall, the number of job postings decreased in 2023 to 2,154,909, which was 33.2% lower than in 2022.

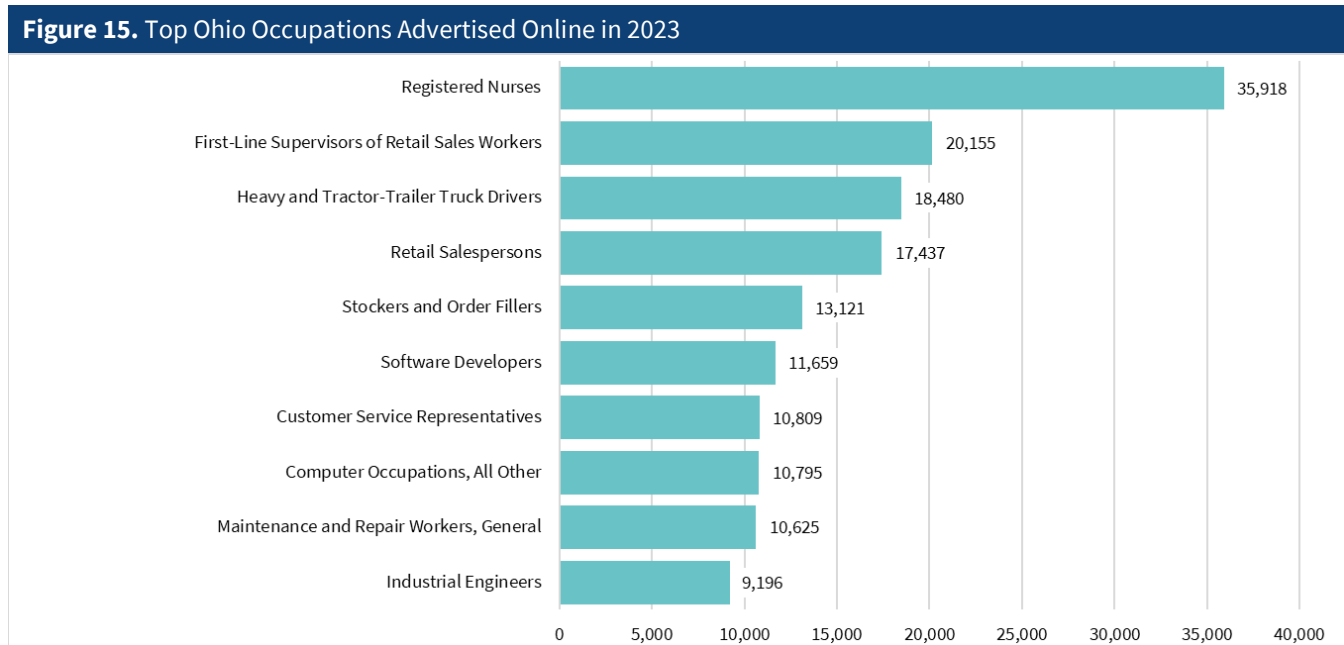
Figure 14. Ohio Online Job Ads by Month, Not Seasonally Adjusted, 2022-2023



Source: TalentNeuron Gartner™

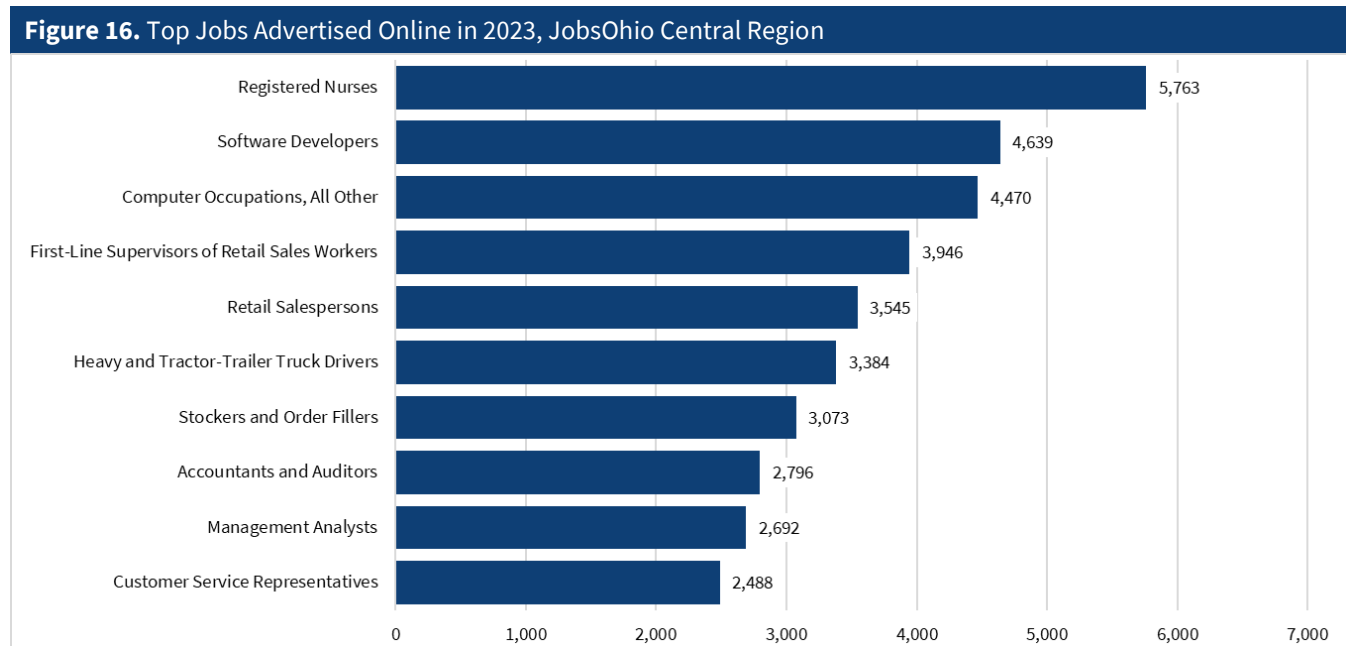
Ohio’s most heavily advertised occupation in 2023 was Registered Nurses, with more than 35,000 ads. The next most heavily advertised occupation was First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers.

Seven of the 10 most heavily advertised occupations in Ohio were on Ohio’s “Top Jobs” list. First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers, Stockers and Order Fillers, and Retail Salespersons were not on the Top Jobs list.



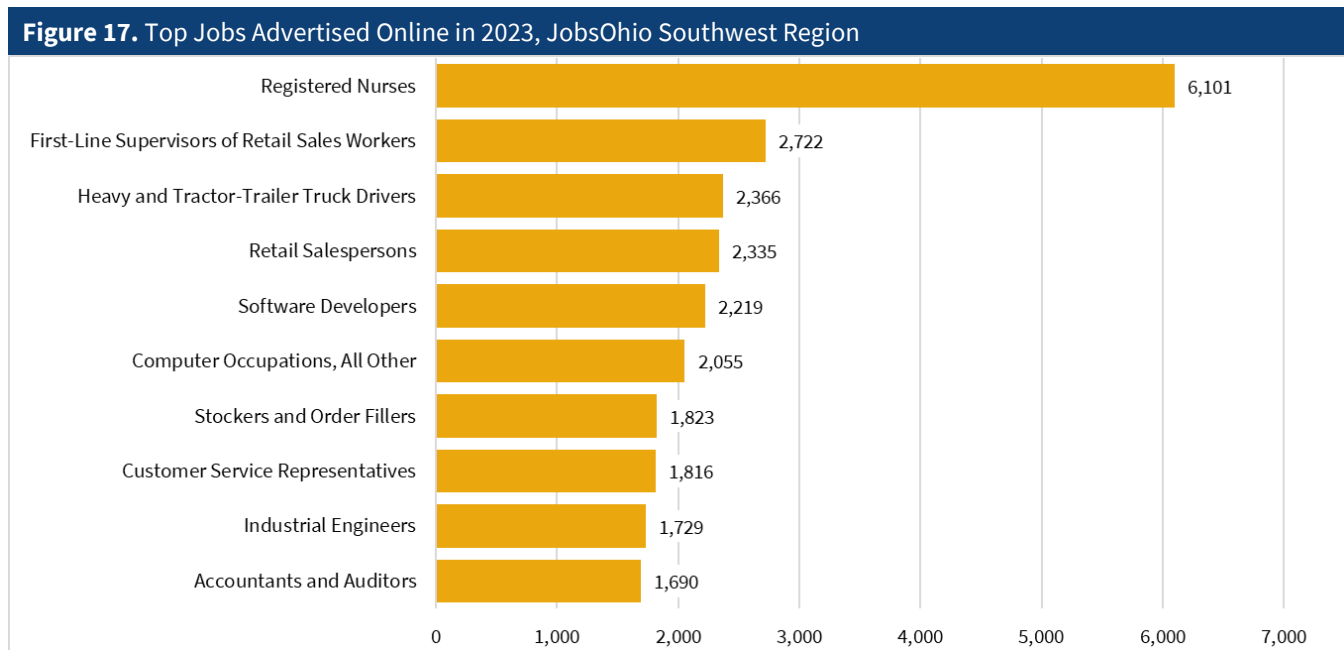
Source: TalentNeuron Gartner™

In the Central JobsOhio Region, the most heavily advertised occupation was Registered Nurses, followed by Software Developers and Computer Occupations, All other. Seven of the 10 most heavily advertised occupations were on Ohio’s Top Jobs list.



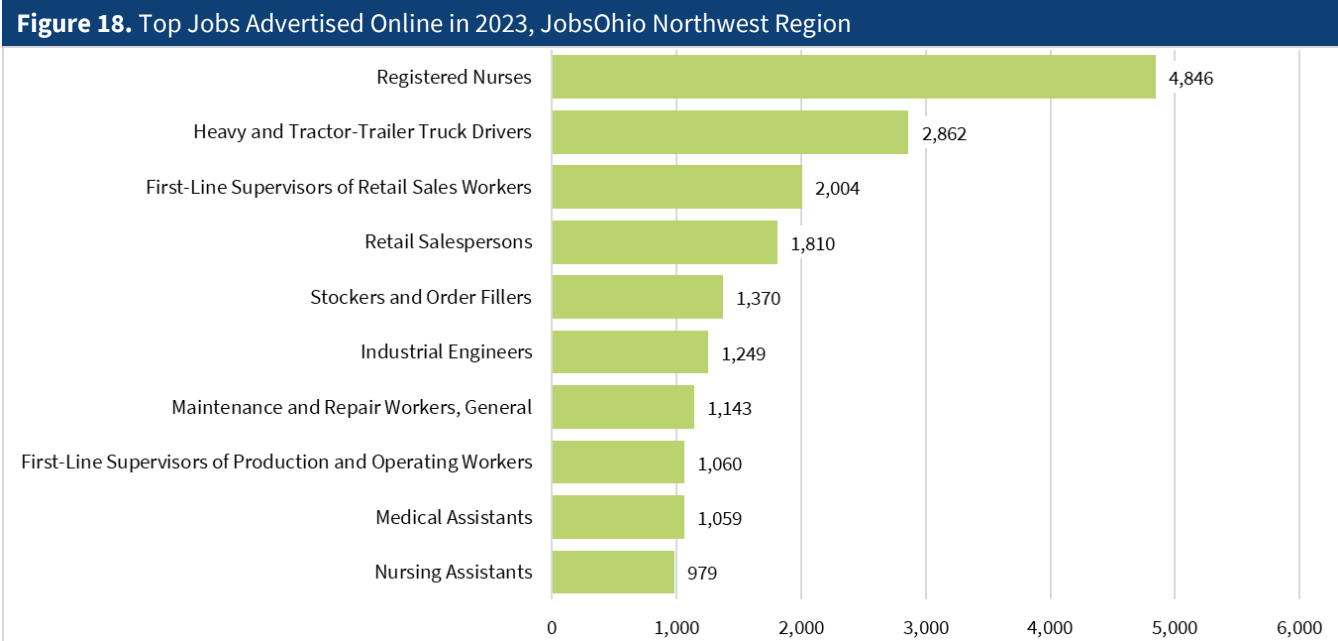
Source: TalentNeuron Gartner™

In the Southwest JobsOhio Region, Registered Nurses was the most heavily advertised occupation, followed by First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers. Seven of the 10 most heavily advertised occupations were on Ohio's Top Jobs list.



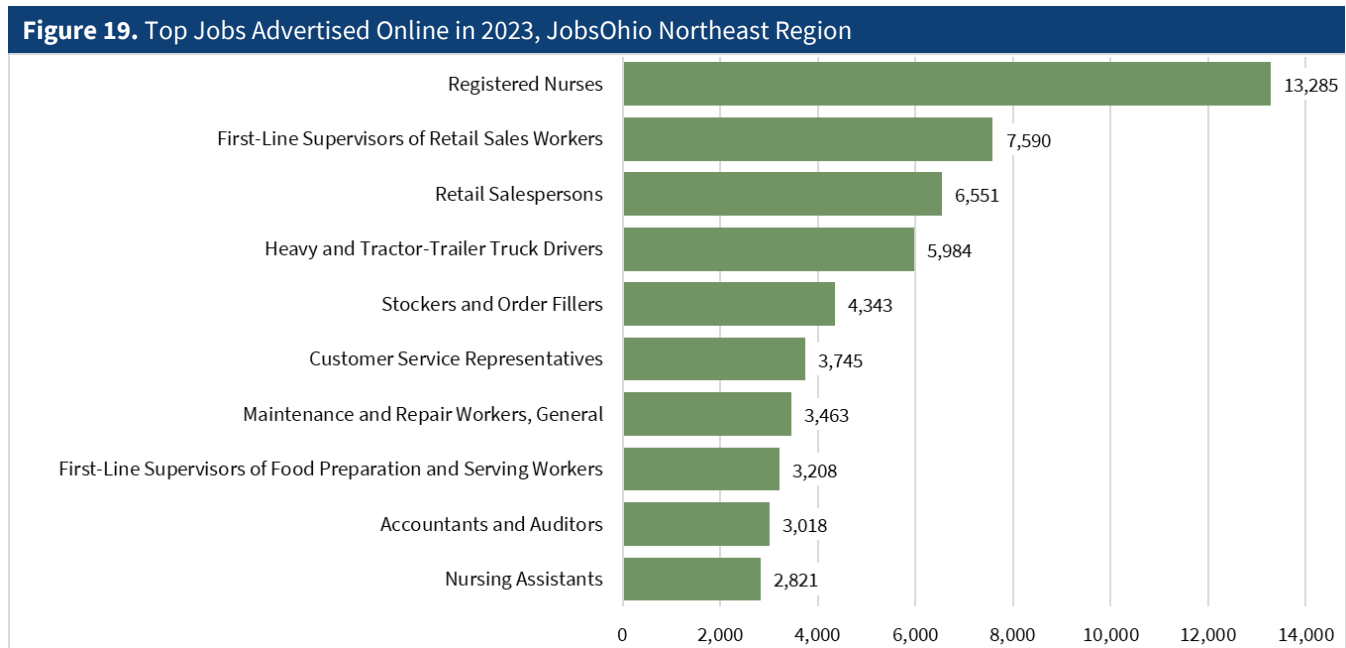
Source: TalentNeuron Gartner™

In the Northwest JobsOhio Region, the most heavily advertised occupation in 2023 was Registered Nurses, followed by Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers. Seven of the 10 most heavily advertised occupations were on Ohio’s Top Jobs list.



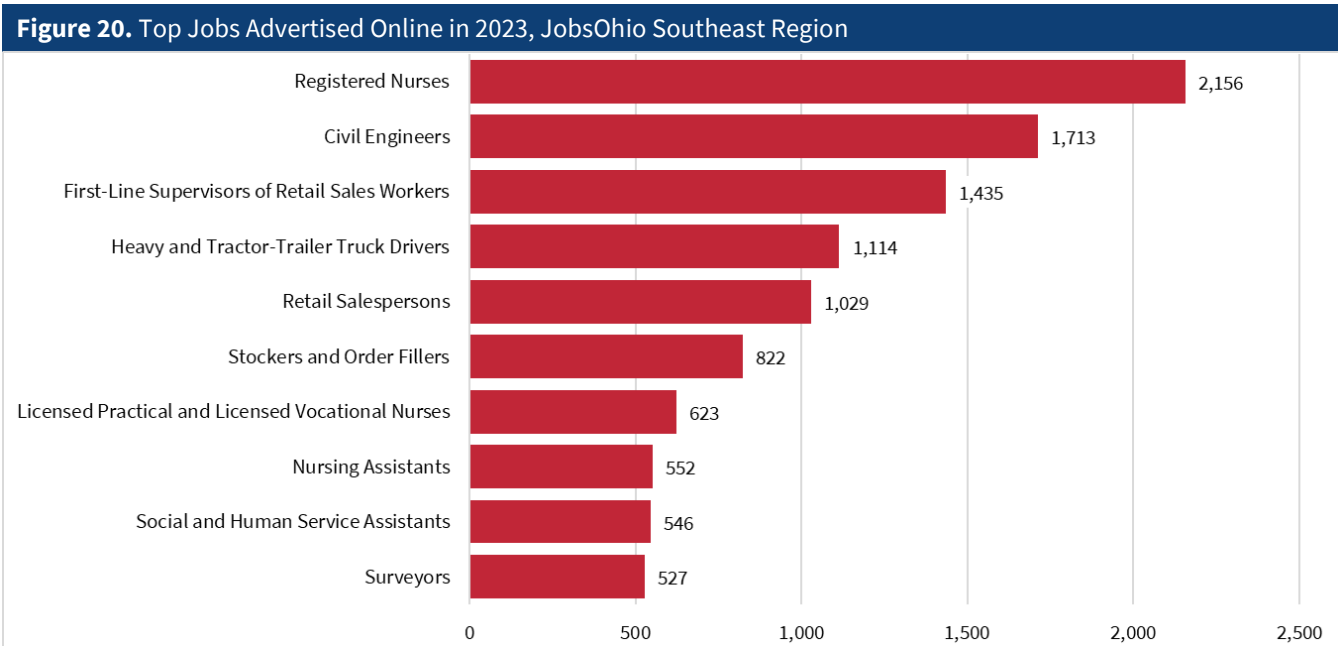
Source: TalentNeuron Gartner™

In the Northeast JobsOhio Region, the most heavily advertised occupation was Registered Nurses, with 13,285 ads. Two sales occupations First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers and Retail Salespersons, were next, followed by Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers. Six of the 10 most heavily advertised occupations were on Ohio’s Top Jobs list.



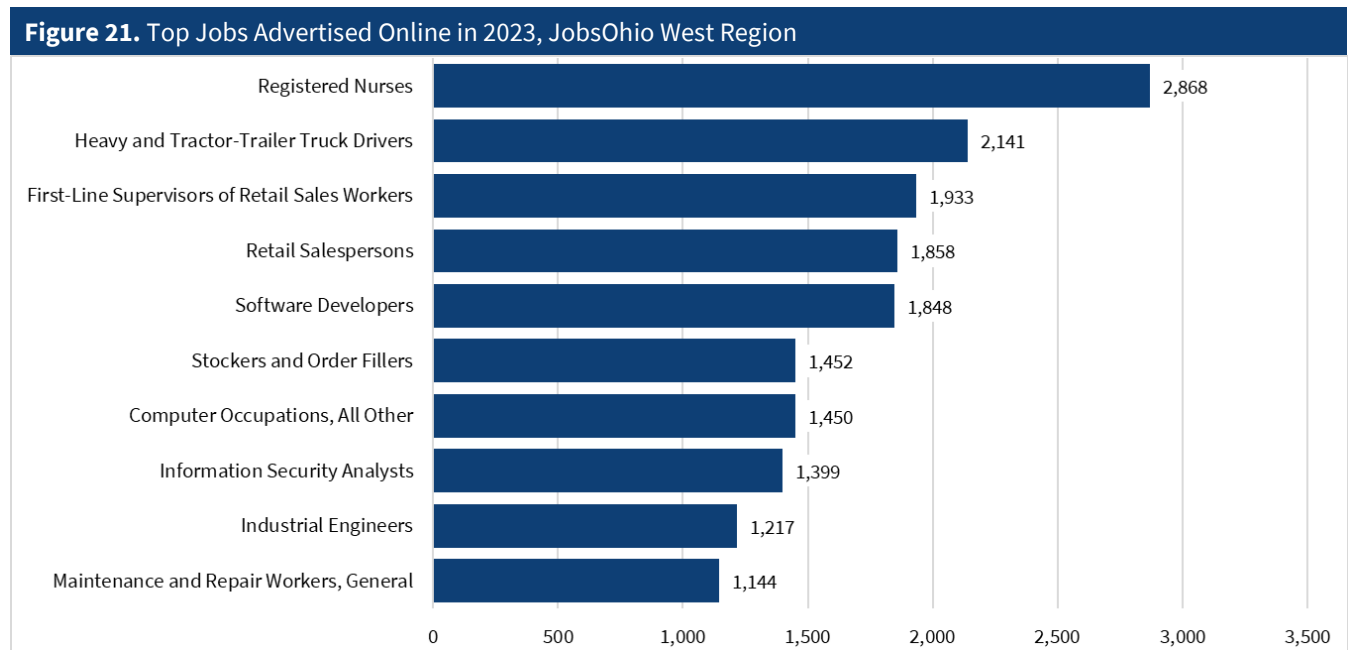
Source: TalentNeuron Gartner™

In the Southeast JobsOhio Region, the most advertised occupation was Registered Nurses, with 2,156 jobs, followed by Civil Engineers. First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers was third. Six of the 10 most heavily advertised jobs were on Ohio’s Top Jobs list.



Source: TalentNeuron Gartner™

In the West region, the most heavily advertised occupation was Registered Nurses, followed by Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers. Seven of the 10 most heavily advertised occupations were on Ohio's Top Jobs list.

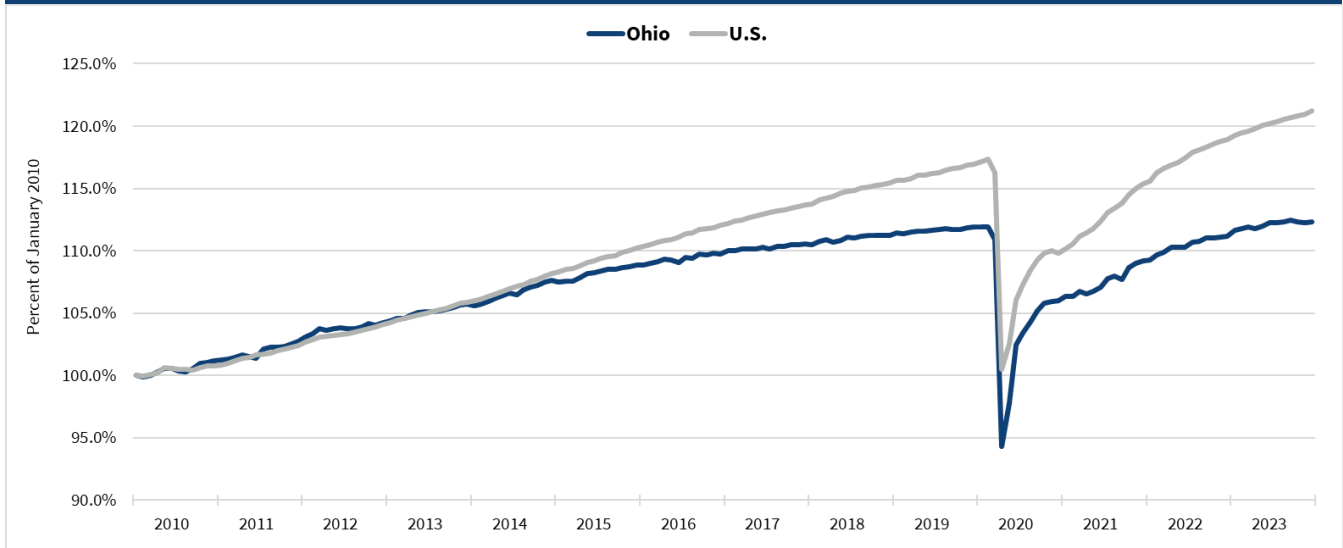


Source: TalentNeuron Gartner™

Industry Employment

In January 2023, U.S. total nonfarm employment was 119.2% of its January 2010 level. This was higher than at any point in 2022, and the percentage continued to increase throughout 2023. In December 2023, U.S. total nonfarm employment was 121.2% of its January 2010 level, its highest level in the period. In January 2023, Ohio total nonfarm employment was 111.6% of its January 2010 level, which was higher than at any point in 2022 and the highest level since February 2020. Throughout 2023, the Ohio total nonfarm employment continued a steady recovery. Ohio's employment fluctuated throughout the year, but still ended higher than its January 2023 level, at 112.3% of its January 2010 level.

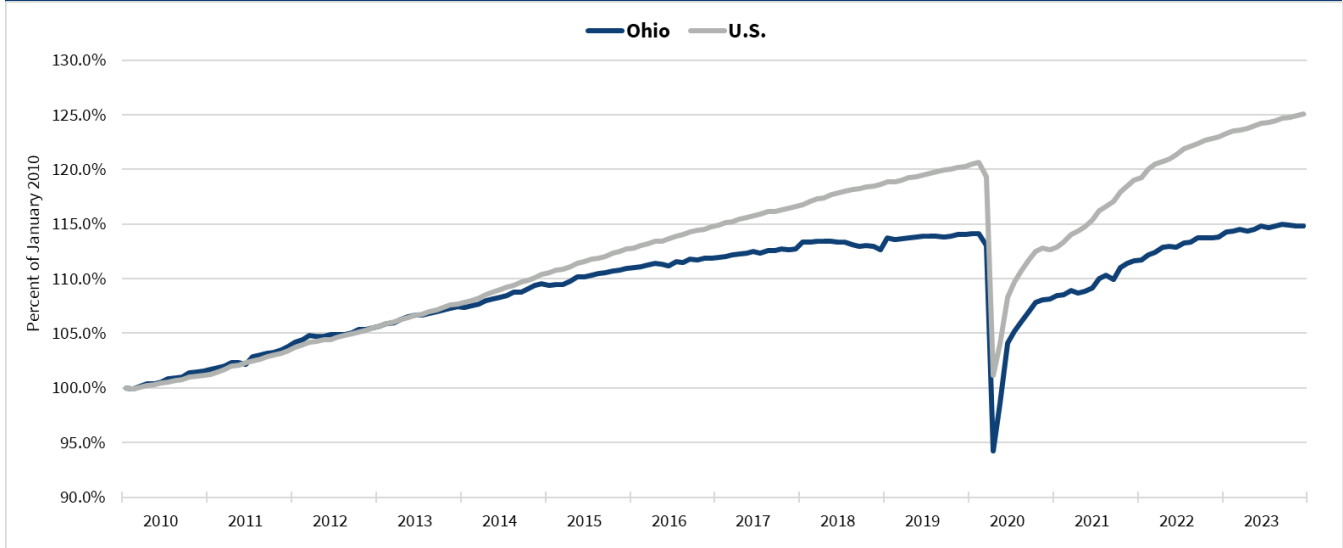
Figure 22. U.S. and Ohio Seasonally Adjusted Total Nonfarm Employment, January 2010 – December 2023



Source: Current Employment Statistics

In January 2023, Ohio and U.S. total private employment were at 114.3% and 123.3% of the January 2010 levels, respectively. By December 2023, Ohio's total private employment was at 114.9% of its January 2010 employment, and U.S. total private employment was at 125.1% of its January 2010 employment.

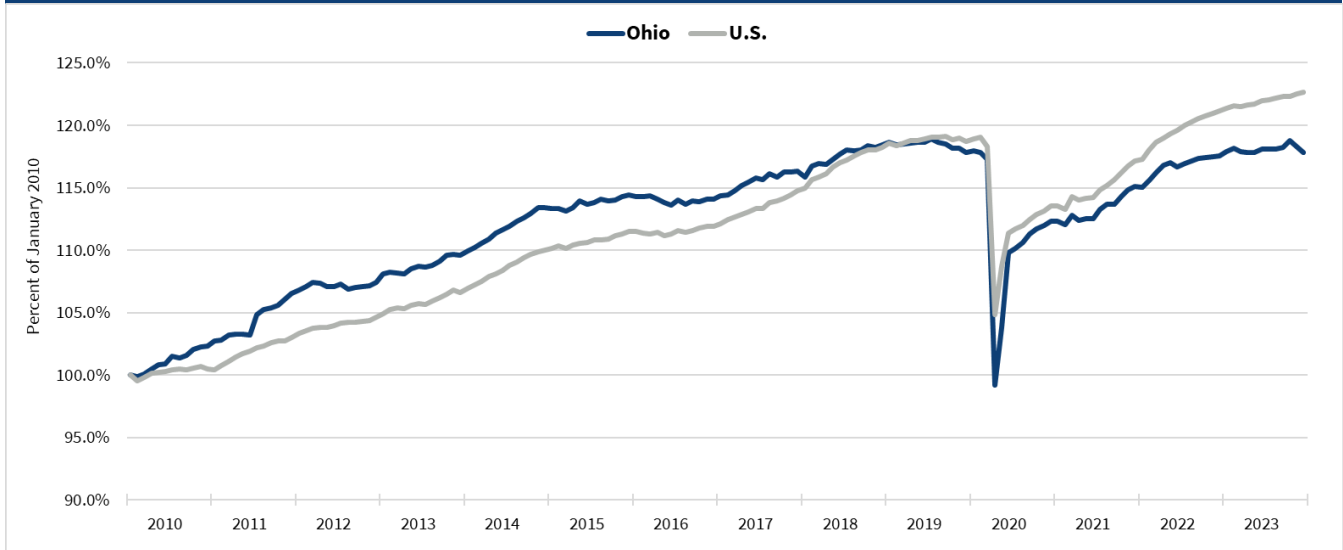
Figure 23. U.S. and Ohio Seasonally Adjusted Total Private Employment, January 2010 – December 2023



Source: Current Employment Statistics

In January 2023, the U.S. goods-producing industry sectors were at 121.4% of their January 2010 employment. They increased to 122.7% by December 2023. In January 2023, Ohio's goods-producing industries were at 117.9% of their January 2010 employment. The employment decreased slightly to 117.8% by December 2023. The goods-producing industry sectors are construction, manufacturing, and mining and logging.

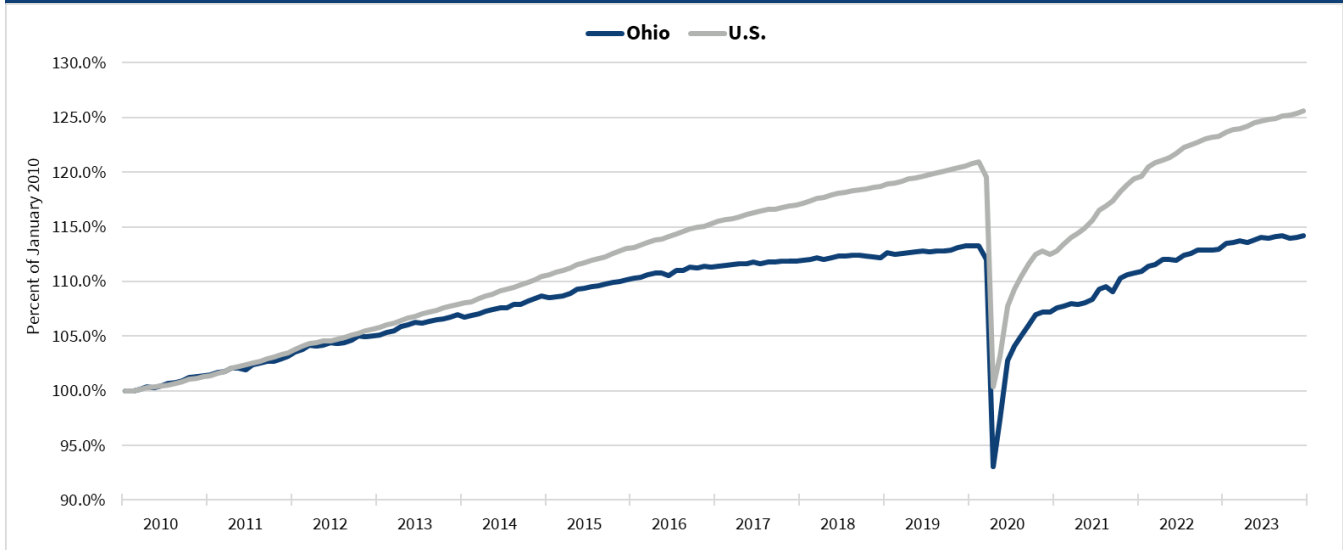
Figure 24. U.S. and Ohio Seasonally Adjusted Goods-Producing Industry Employment, January 2010 – December 2023



Source: Current Employment Statistics

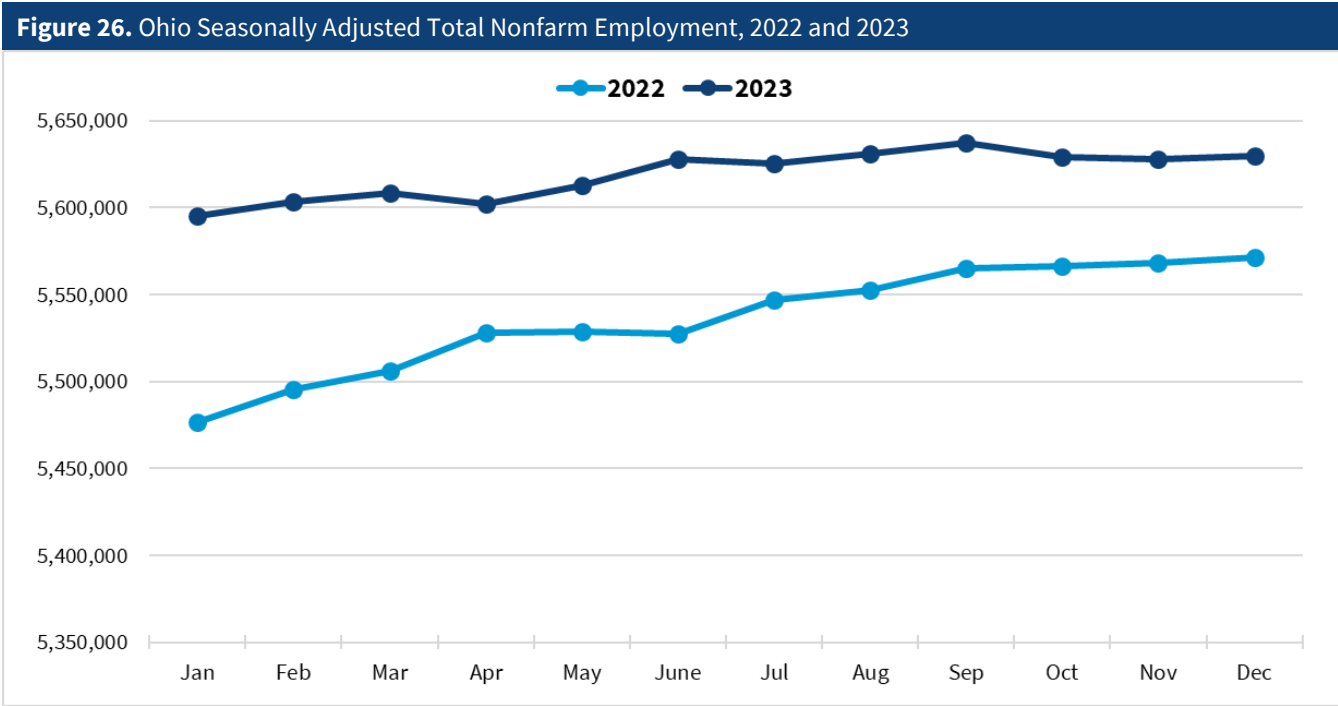
In January 2023, the U.S. private service-producing industries were at 123.7% of their January 2010 employment. They increased to 125.6% by December. In January 2023, Ohio's private service-producing industries were at 113.5% of their January 2010 employment. They increased to 114.2% by December 2023. The private service-producing industries include all non-government industries that do not produce goods.

Figure 25. U.S. and Ohio Seasonally Adjusted Private Service-Providing Industry Employment, January 2010 – December 2023



Source: Current Employment Statistics

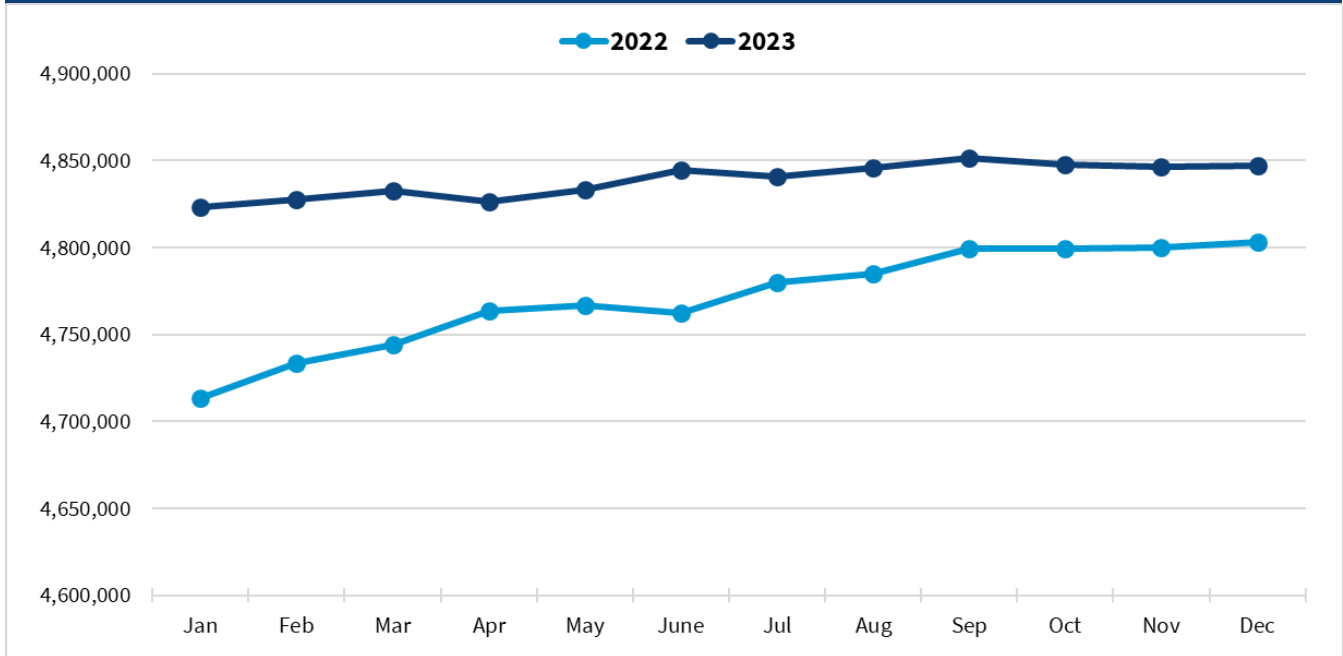
Figure 26 shows seasonally adjusted monthly total nonfarm employment for 2022 and 2023. Ohio’s annual average nonfarm employment for 2023 was 5,618,600, an increase of 83,900 over 2022.



Source: Current Employment Statistics

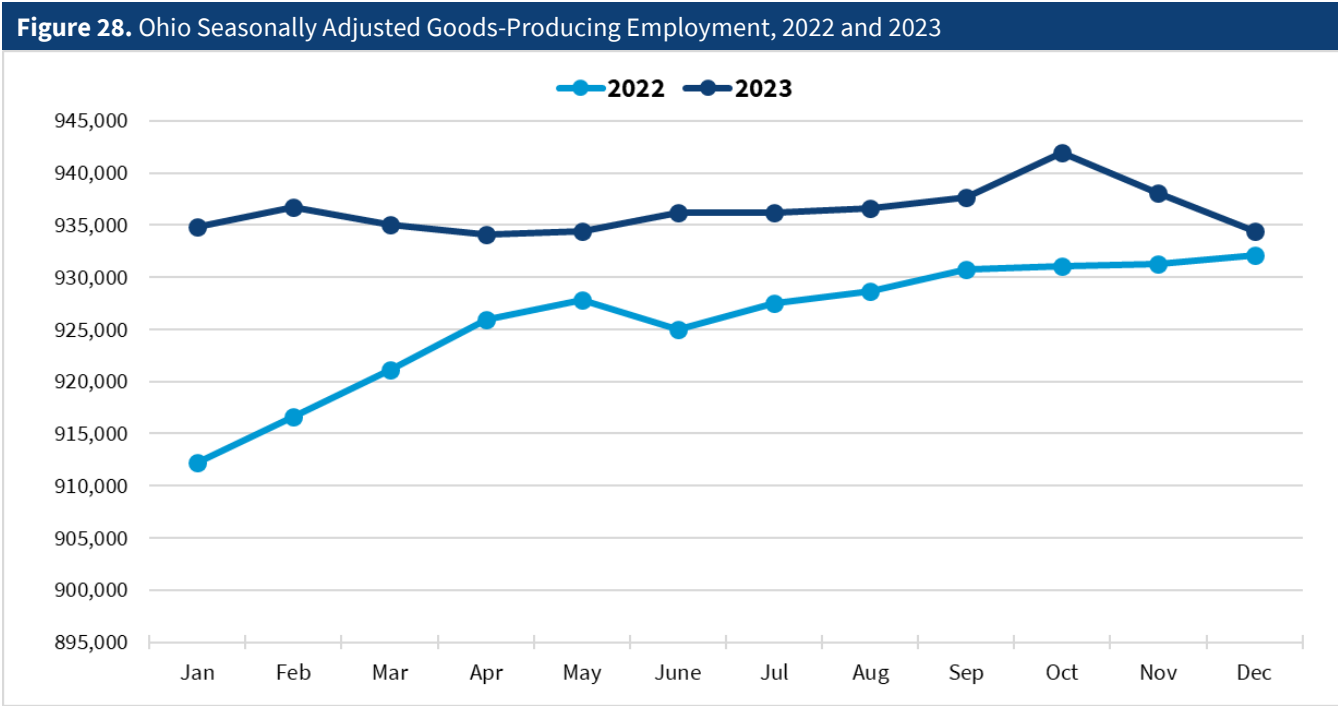
Ohio's annual average private employment for 2023 was 4,838,500, an increase of 68,700 over 2022.

Figure 27. Ohio Seasonally Adjusted Total Private Employment, 2022 and 2023



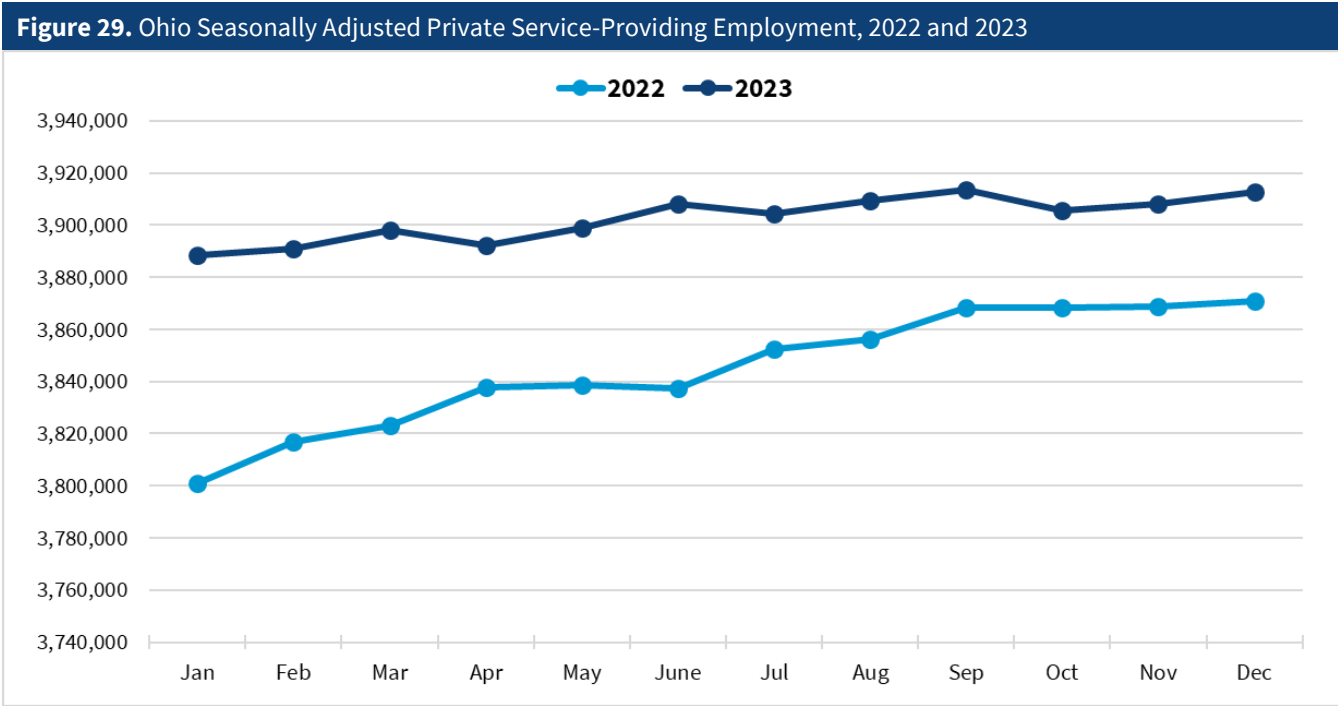
Source: Current Employment Statistics

Figure 28 shows seasonally adjusted goods-producing employment for 2022 and 2023. Ohio’s annual average goods-producing industry sector employment in 2023 was 935,800, an increase of 10,300 over 2022.



Source: Current Employment Statistics

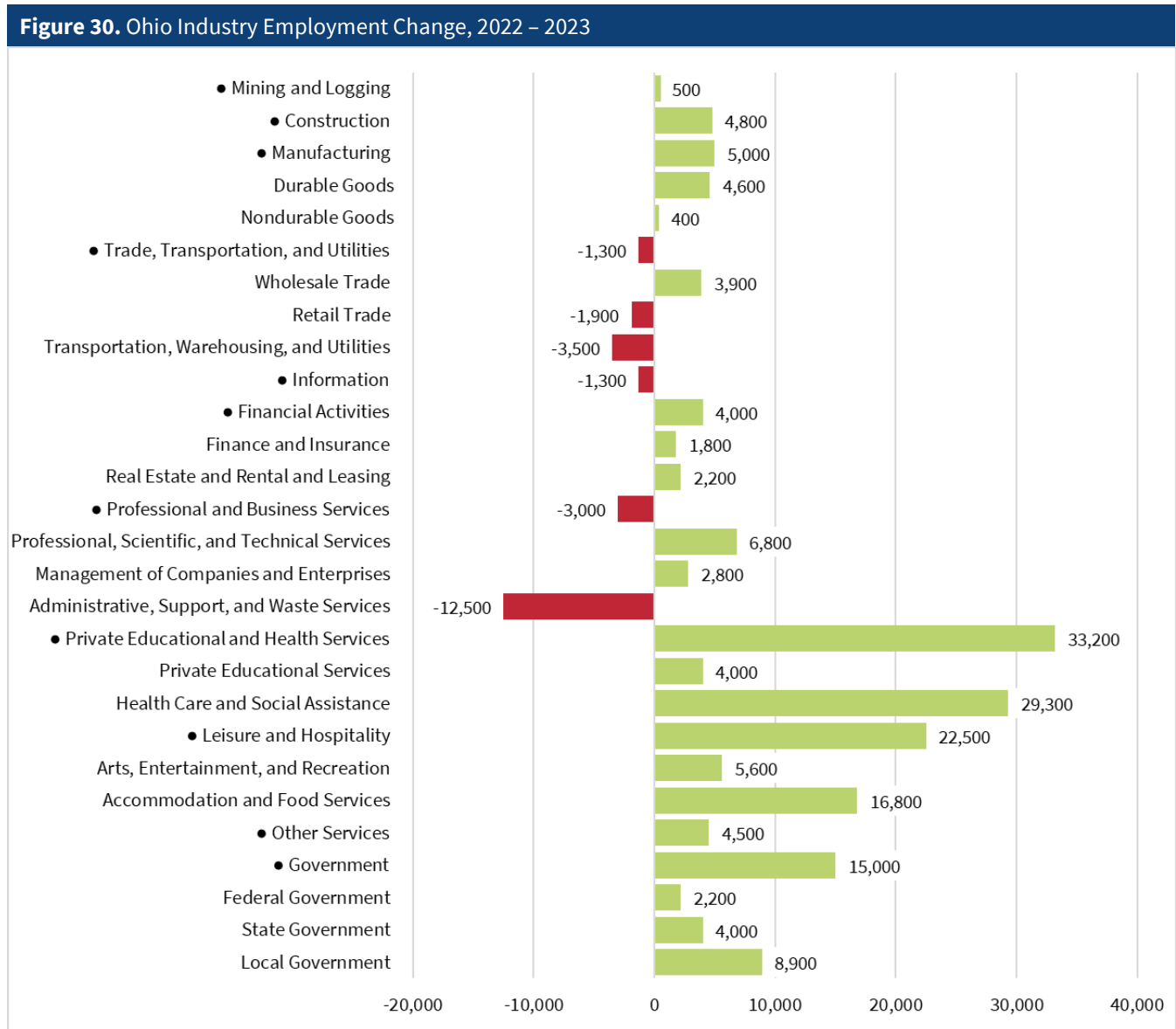
Ohio's annual average seasonally adjusted private service-providing employment was 3,902,800 in 2023, an increase of 58,500 over 2022.



Source: Current Employment Statistics

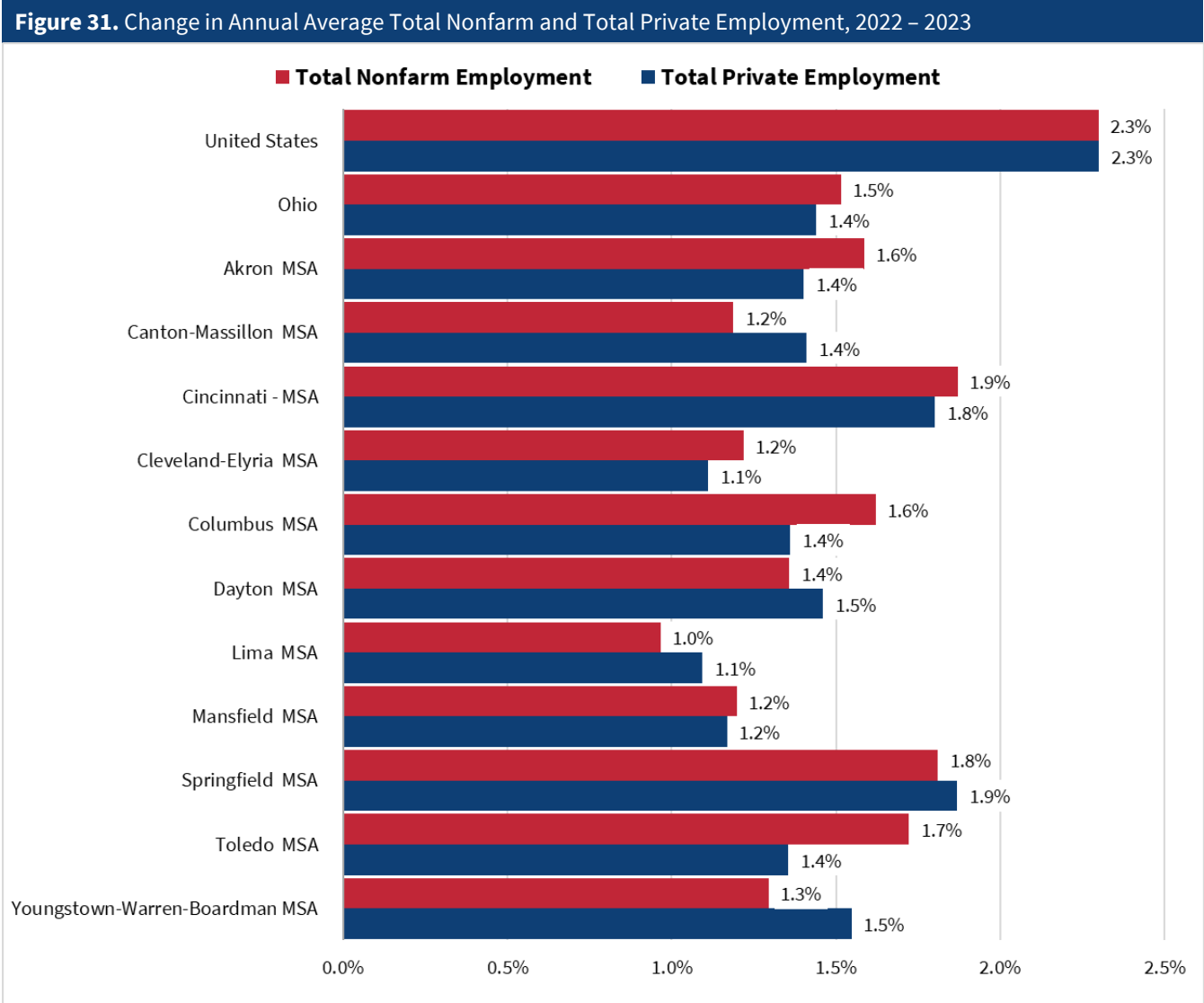
Figure 30 shows the annual average employment change from 2022 to 2023. Industry sectors are marked with bullets. Subsectors are listed without bullets under their parent sectors. Not all sectors have subsectors.

Among the sectors, administrative, support, and waste services employment saw the steepest decline between 2022 and 2023, losing 12,500 jobs. The private educational and health sector saw the greatest gain, increasing 33,200 from 2022 to 2023.



Source: Current Employment Statistics

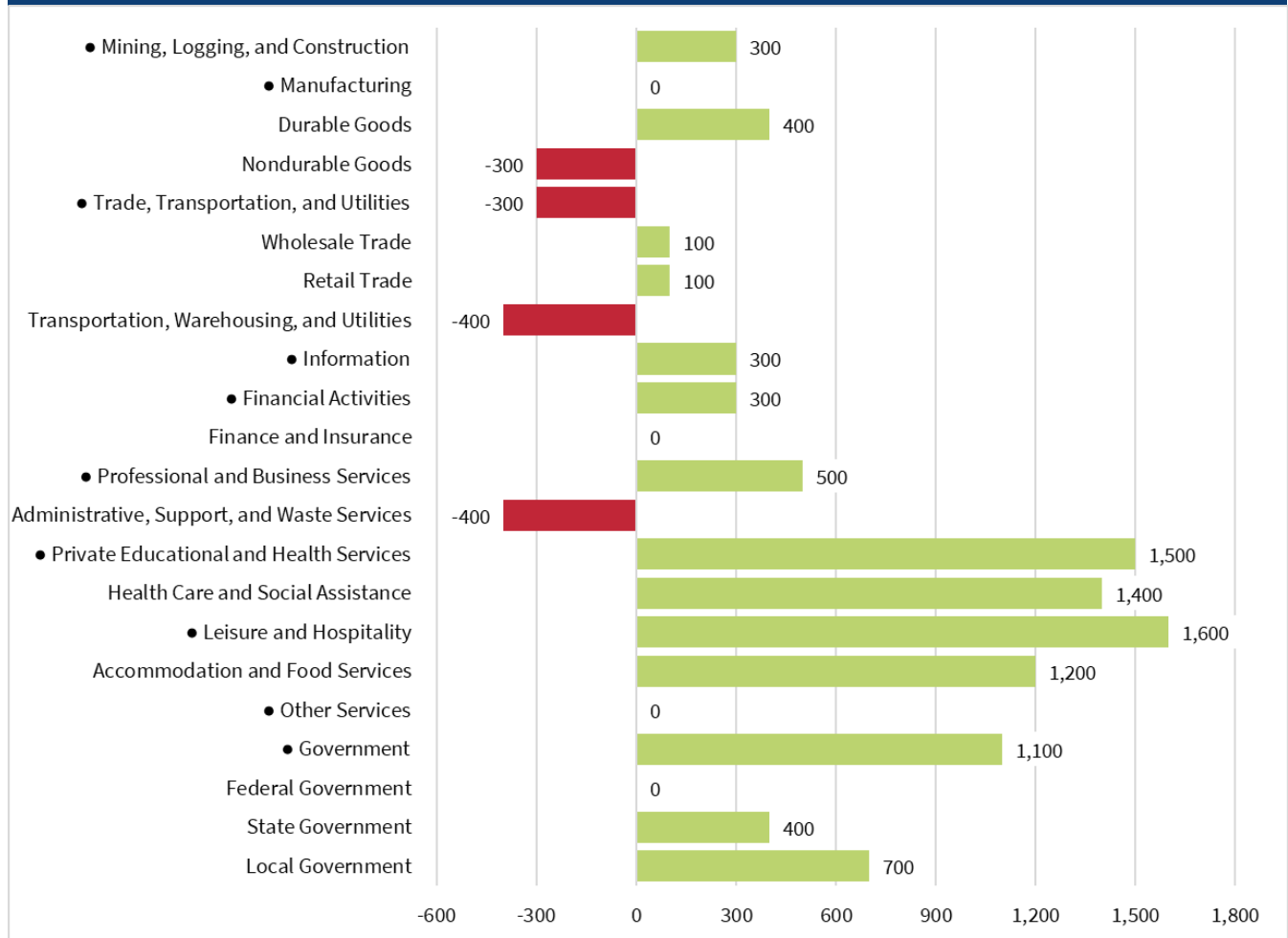
Figure 31 shows the percentage change from 2022 to 2023 in annual average total nonfarm and total private employment for the U.S., Ohio, and Ohio’s 11 metropolitan statistical areas. Some metropolitan areas include counties outside Ohio. Ohio’s total nonfarm and total private employment increased 1.5% and 1.4%, respectively. Among the Ohio MSAs, the Springfield MSA had the largest increases, with 1.9% for total private employment and 1.8% for total nonfarm employment.



Source: Current Employment Statistics

In the Akron MSA, the total nonfarm employment was 339,400 in 2023, an increase of 5,300 jobs. Akron’s total private employment in 2021 was 296,600, an increase of 4,100 jobs over 2022. Akron’s administrative, support, and waste services sector and transportation, warehousing, and utilities sector both saw the largest decline in 2023, a loss of 400 jobs in each sector. Leisure and hospitality saw the largest employment increase, gaining 1,600 jobs over the year. This was followed closely by the private education and health services sector, which gained 1,500 jobs.

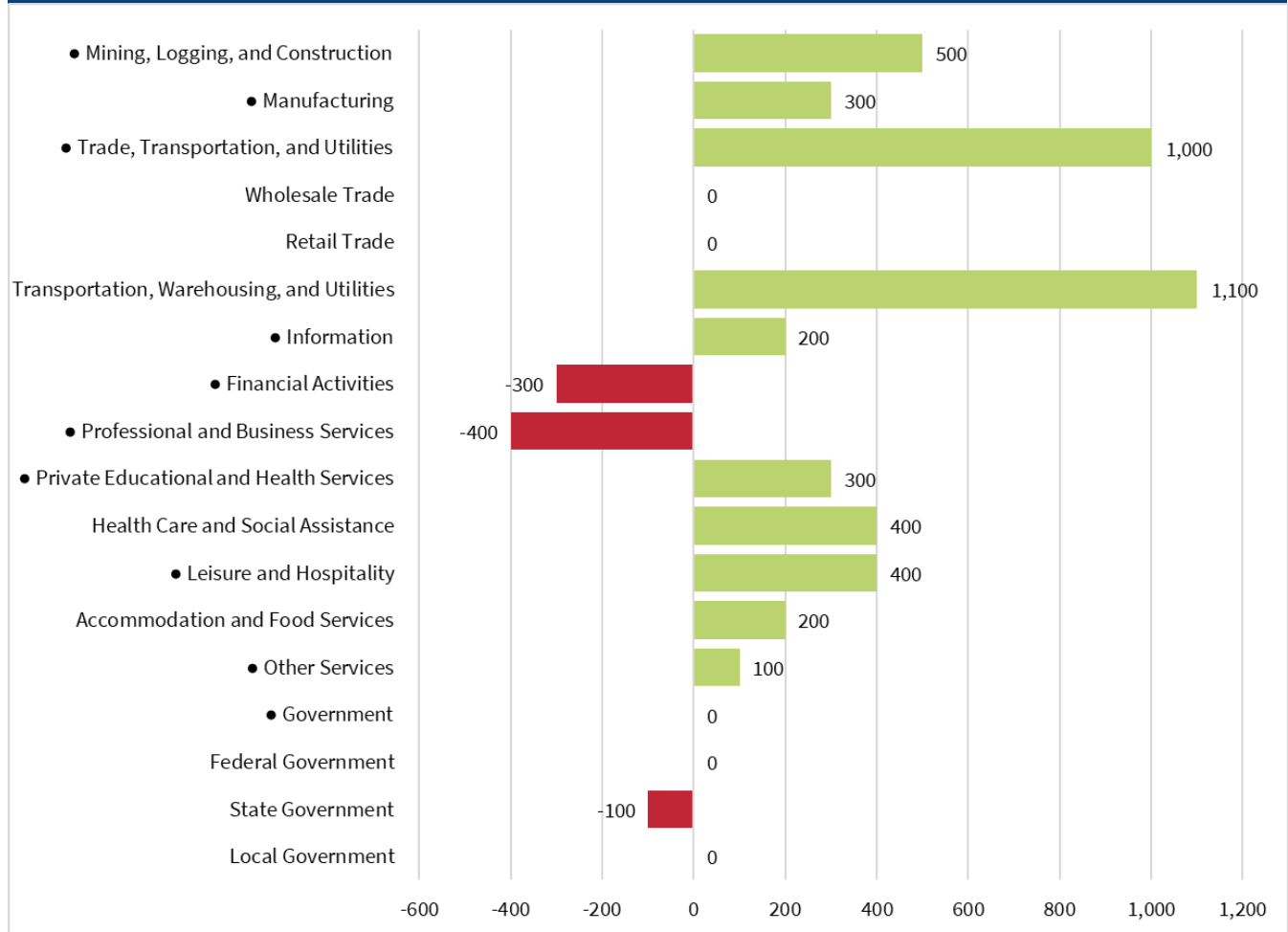
Figure 32. Akron MSA Industry Employment Change, 2022 – 2023



Source: Current Employment Statistics

In the Canton-Massillon MSA, total nonfarm employment increased by 2,000 to 170,400 jobs in 2023. Total private employment was 151,100, an increase of 2,100 jobs. The professional and business services sector lost the most jobs, a decline of 400. The transportation, warehousing, and utilities sector gained 1,100 jobs each over the year.

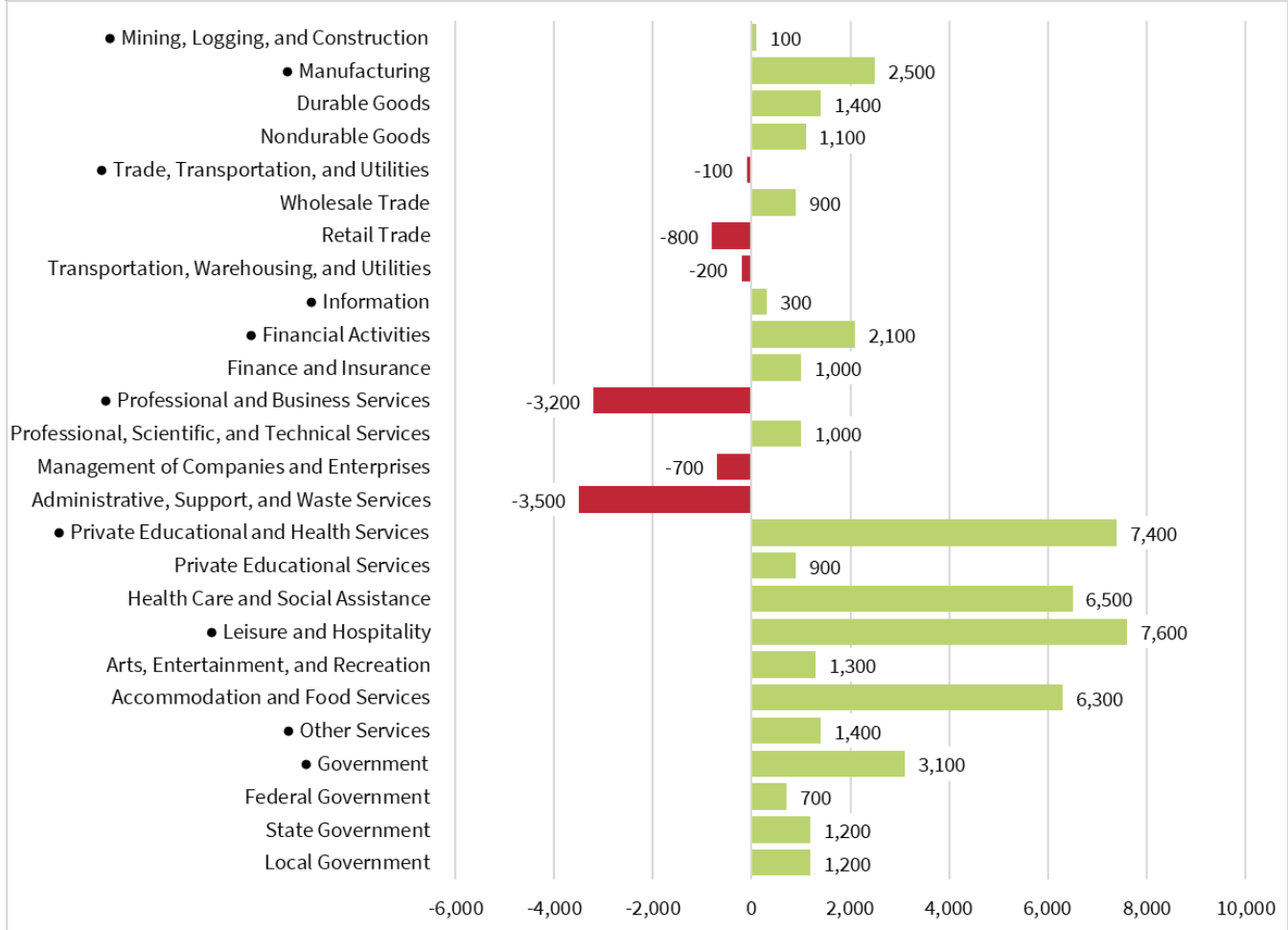
Figure 33. Canton-Massillon MSA Industry Employment Change, 2022 – 2023



Source: Current Employment Statistics

In the Cincinnati MSA, total nonfarm employment rose by 21,200 jobs to 1,153,900 in 2023. The total private employment for the Cincinnati MSA grew by 18,100 jobs to 1,022,90. The administrative, support, and waste services sector had the biggest loss, decreasing by 3,500 jobs. The largest increases were in the leisure and hospitality sector, which gained 7,600 jobs, and private educational and health services sector, which gained 7,400 jobs.

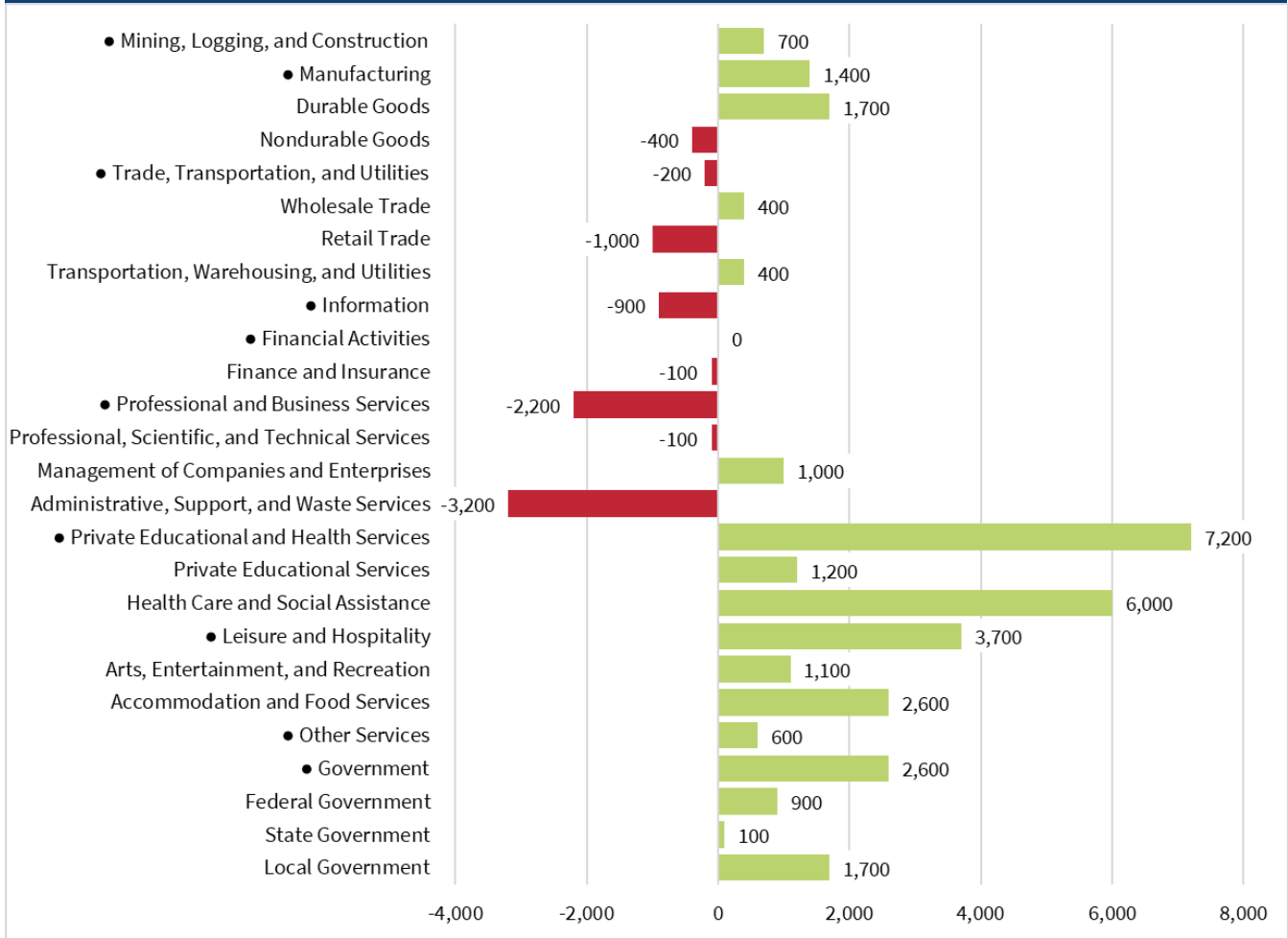
Figure 34. Cincinnati MSA Industry Employment Change, 2022 – 2023



Source: Current Employment Statistics

In the Cleveland-Elyria MSA, total nonfarm employment grew by 12,800 to 1,062,300 jobs in 2023. Total private employment was 929,100, an increase of 10,200 jobs. The administrative, support, and waste services sector saw the greatest loss, with a decrease of 3,200 jobs. The private educational and health services sector grew by 7,200 jobs.

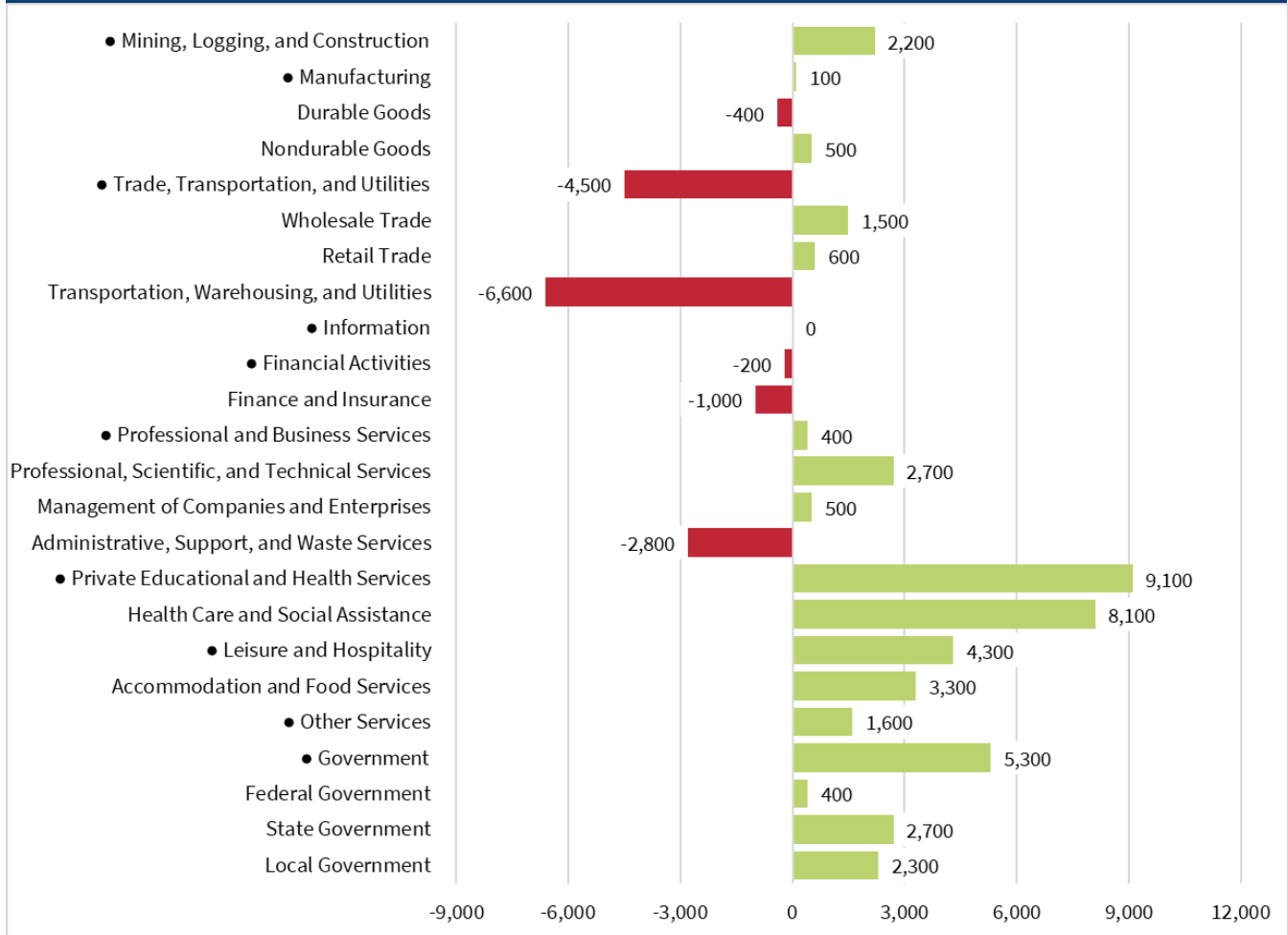
Figure 35. Cleveland-Elyria MSA Industry Employment Change, 2022 – 2023



Source: Current Employment Statistics

In the Columbus MSA, total nonfarm employment was 1,154,000 in 2023, an increase of 18,400 jobs. Total private employment increased by 13,000 to 968,100 jobs. The transportation, warehousing, and utilities sector lost the most jobs, 6,600. The private educational and health services sector gained the most, a total of 9,100 jobs.

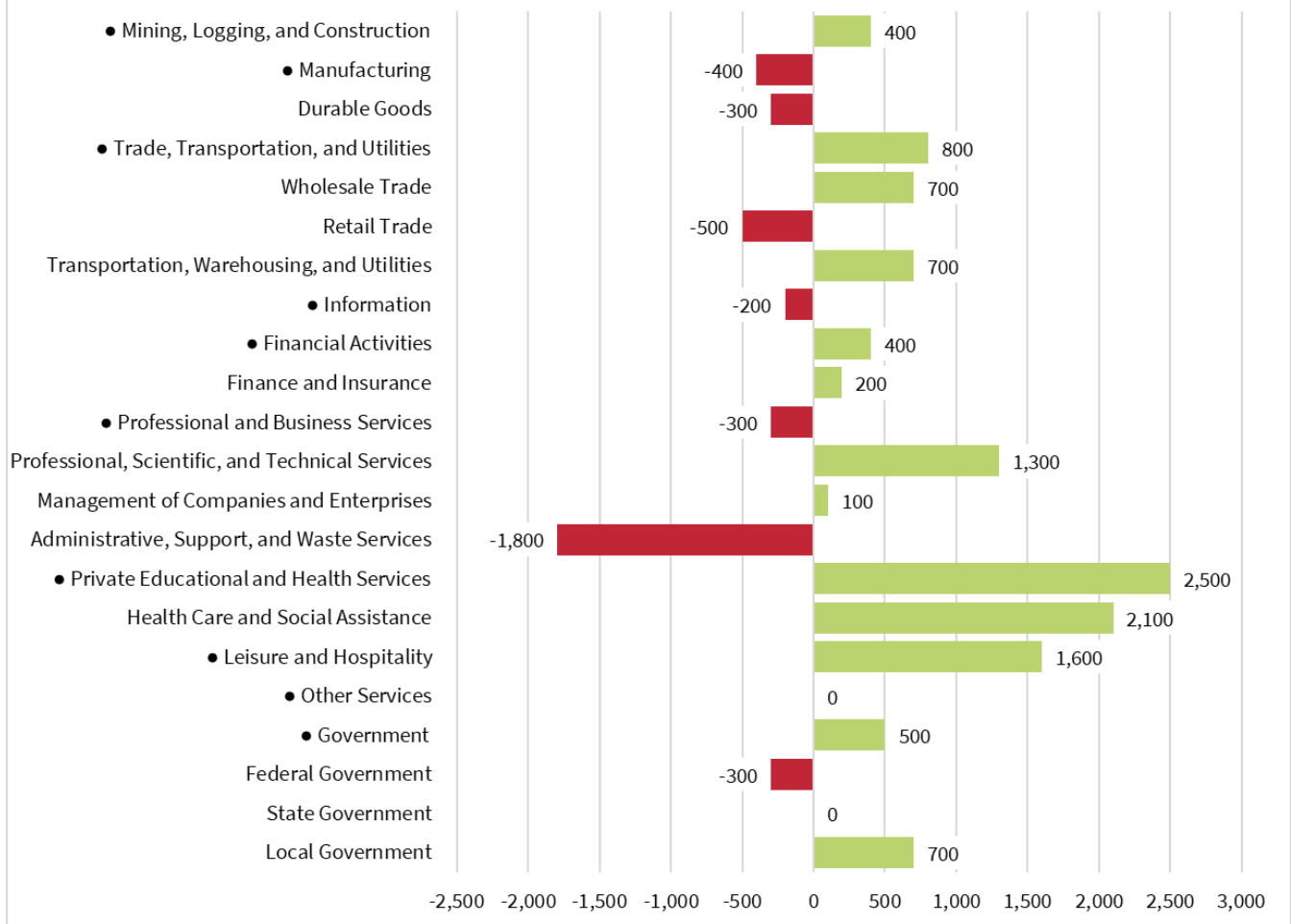
Figure 36. Columbus MSA Industry Employment Change, 2022 – 2023



Source: Current Employment Statistics

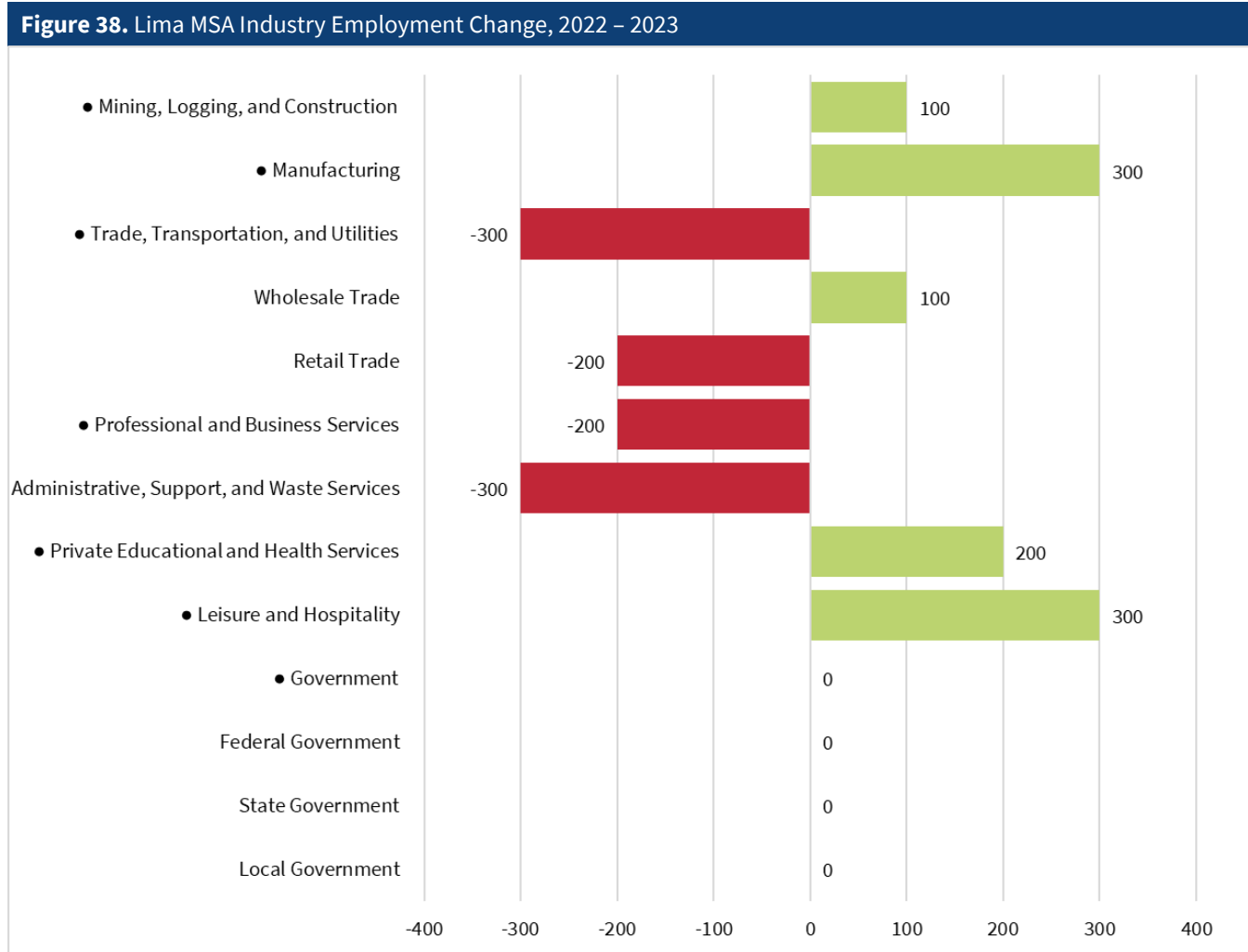
In the Dayton MSA, total nonfarm employment increased by 5,200 jobs in 2023, rising to 387,900. Total private employment was 326,700, an increase of 4,700 jobs. The administrative, support, and waste services sector saw the most job losses, 1,800 jobs. Private educational and health services saw the most gains, an increase of 2,500 jobs.

Figure 37. Dayton MSA Industry Employment Change, 2022 – 2023



Source: Current Employment Statistics

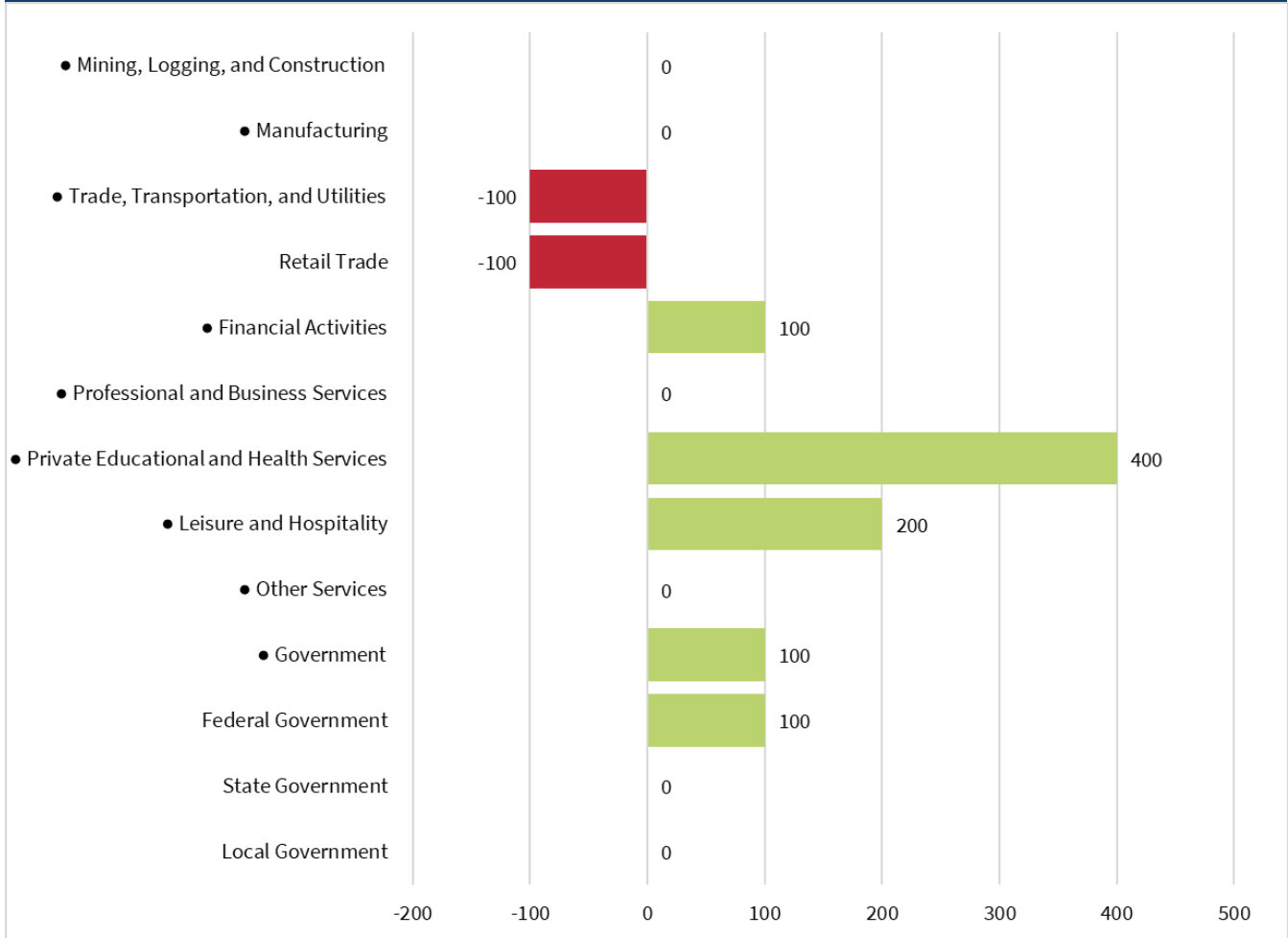
In the Lima MSA, annual total nonfarm employment was 52,200 in 2023, an increase of 500 over 2022. Annual total private employment was 46,246,200, an increase of 500. The trade, transportation, and utilities sector and administrative, support, and waste services sector saw the largest decreases, each losing 300 jobs. The manufacturing and leisure and hospitality sectors saw the largest gain, with an increase of 300 jobs.



Source: Current Employment Statistics

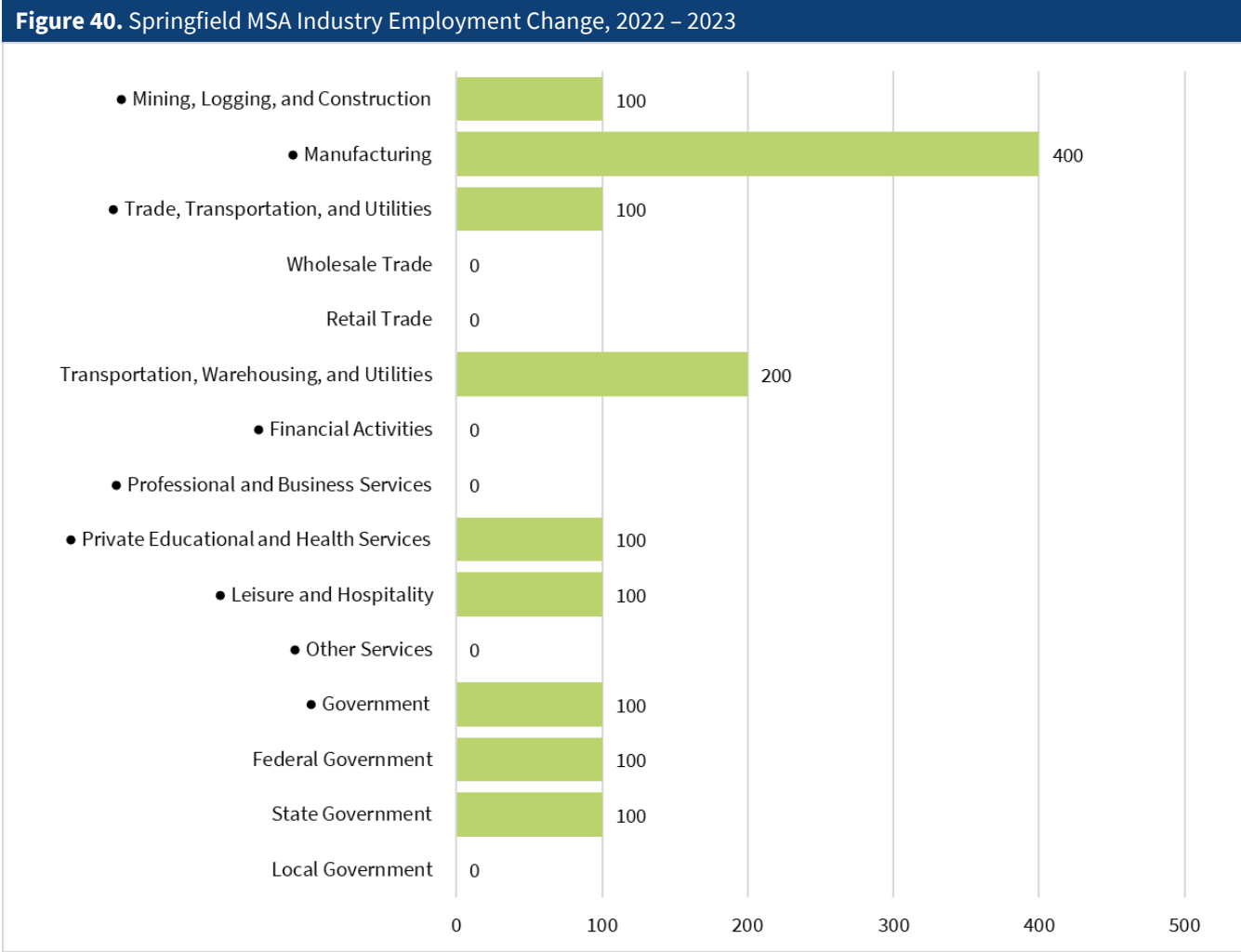
In the Mansfield MSA, total nonfarm employment was 50,700 in 2023, an increase of 600 jobs. Total private employment was 43,300, an increase of 500 jobs. The largest employment losses were in the trade, transportation, and utilities sector and the retail trade sector, both losing 100 jobs. The private educational and health services sector saw the largest increase at 400 jobs.

Figure 39. Mansfield MSA Industry Employment Change, 2022 – 2023



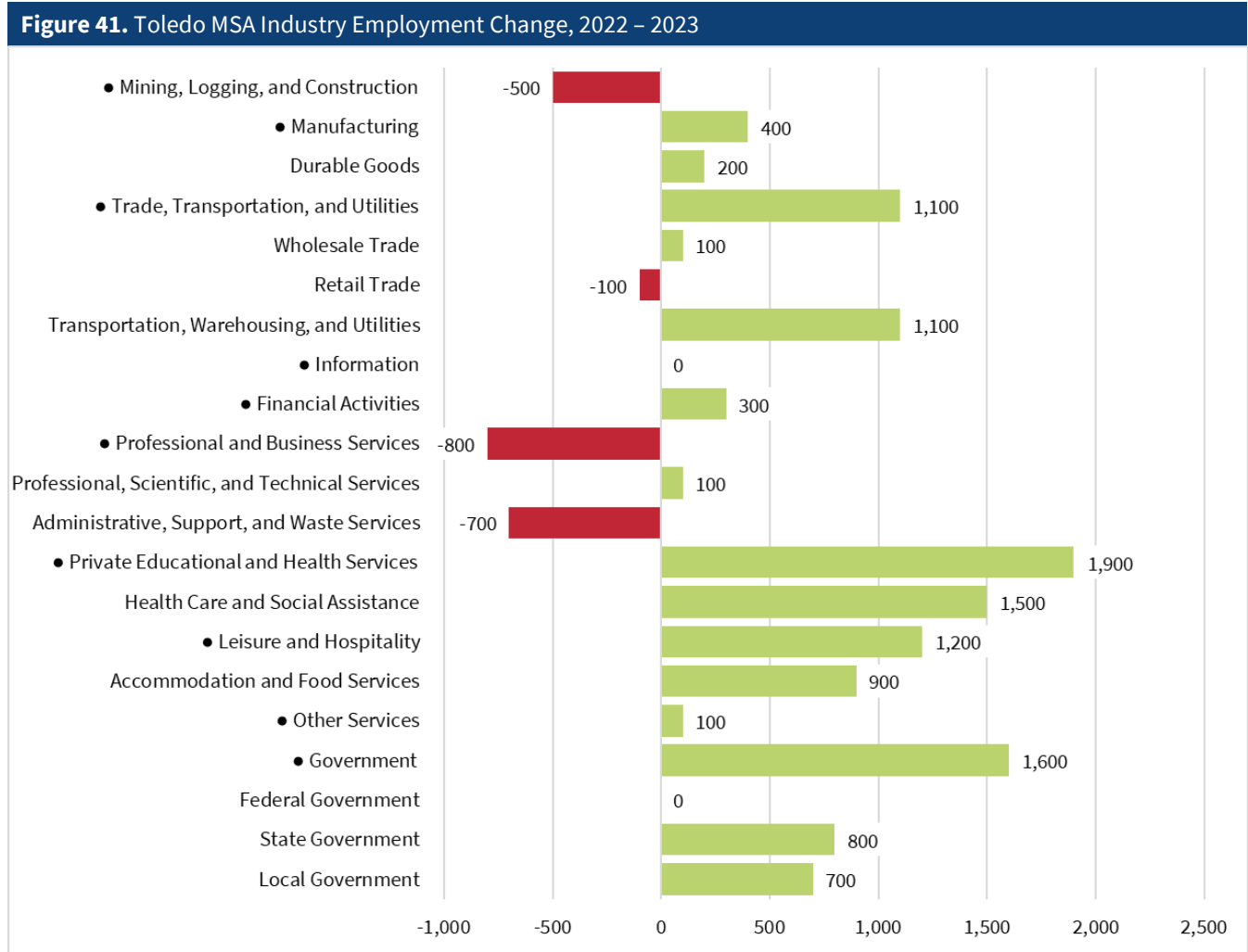
Source: Current Employment Statistics

The Springfield MSA had a total nonfarm employment of 50,600 in 2023, an increase of 900 jobs. Total private employment was 43,600, also an increase of 800 jobs. No disclosed industries lost jobs between 2022 and 2023, although several industry sectors did not gain any jobs over the period and maintained 2022 employment levels. Those industries include wholesale and retail trade, financial activities, professional and business services, and other services. Manufacturing gained the most jobs, 400 jobs, over the period.



Source: Current Employment Statistics

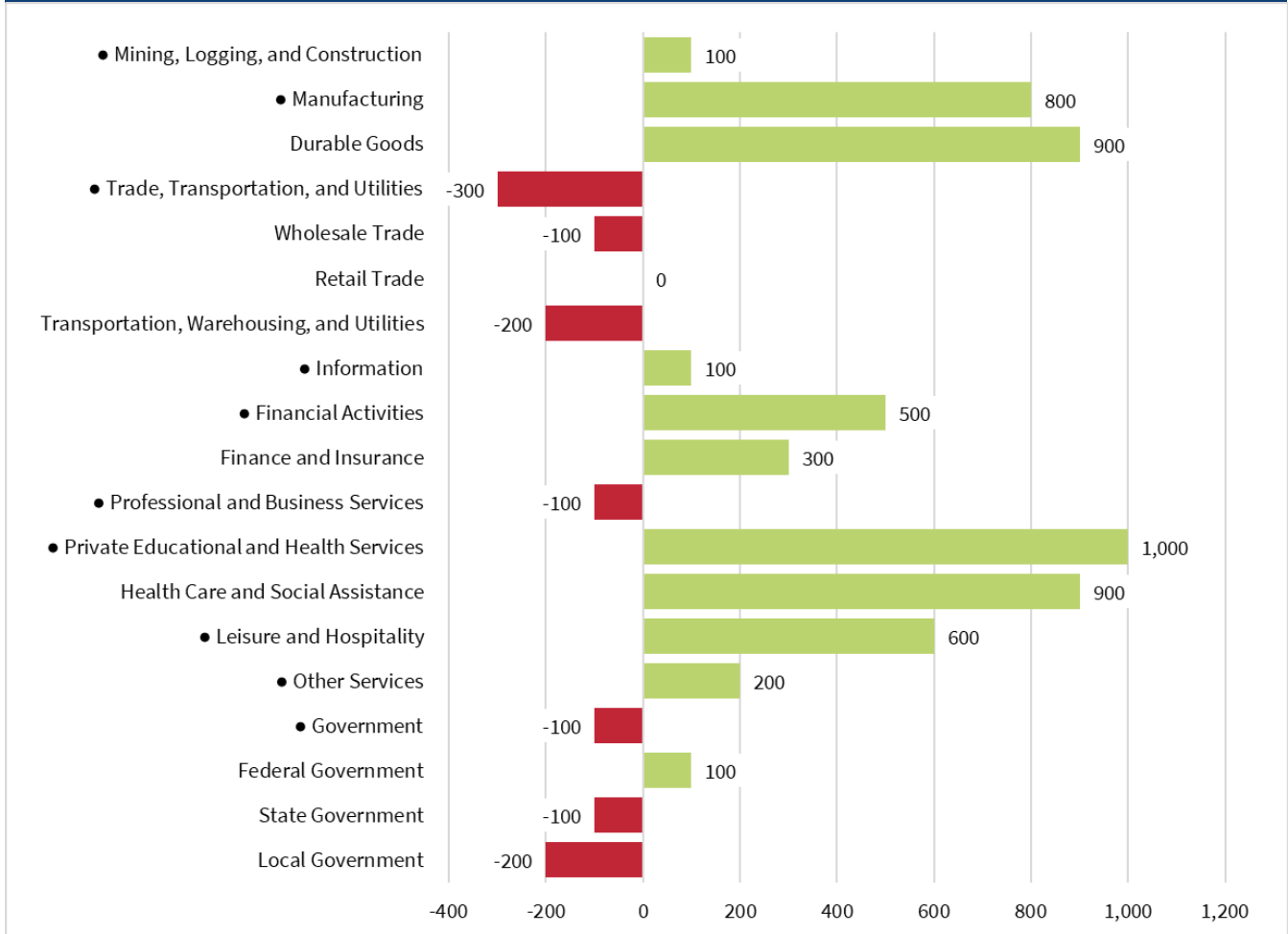
In the Toledo MSA, annual total nonfarm employment was 307,100 in 2023, an increase of 5,200 jobs. Total private employment was 261,800, an increase of 3,500 jobs. The professional and business services sector saw the largest decline, with a loss of 800 jobs. Private educational and health services saw the most gains, with 1,900 jobs added. This was followed by government, which gained 1,600 jobs.



Source: Current Employment Statistics

In the Youngstown-Warren-Boardman MSA, annual total nonfarm employment was 211,100 in 2023, an increase of 2,700 jobs. Total private employment was 183,800, an increase of 2,800 jobs. The greatest loss was in trade, transportation, and utilities, which lost 300 jobs. Private educational and health services saw the largest increase, with a gain of 1,000 jobs.

Figure 42. Youngstown-Warren-Boardman MSA Industry Employment Change, 2022 – 2023



Source: Current Employment Statistics

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