



Department of
Job & Family
Services



Labor Market Information in Review

2024 Annual Economic Report



Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Executive Summary | 2 |
| The Labor Force and Unemployment Rates | 3 |
| Labor Demand – Online Job Ads | 16 |
| Industry Employment | 25 |

Executive Summary

Ohio's labor market in 2024 reflected both employment growth and shifting unemployment trends. The state's annual average nonfarm employment reached 5,650,400, an increase of 34,300 jobs, or 0.6%, from 2023. Total private employment rose by 22,800 jobs, or 0.5%, bringing the total to 4,860,800.

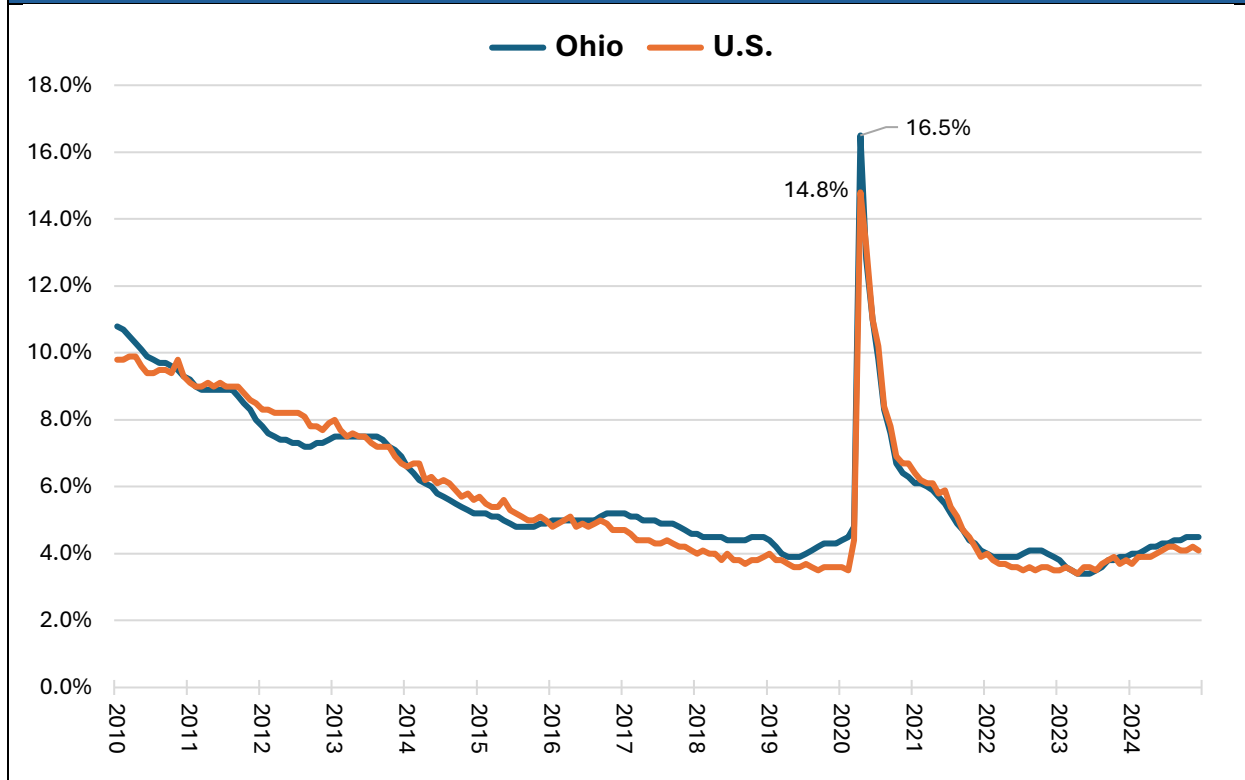
Throughout the year, labor demand was reflected in online job advertisements, which showed varied patterns compared to 2023. August recorded the highest volume of postings. Registered nurses remained the most advertised occupation across the state and in each of the JobsOhio regions.

Initial claims for unemployment benefits (not seasonally adjusted) ranged from 21,399 in March to 45,810 in December. The statewide unemployment rate increased from 4.0% in January to 4.5% in December. County-level annual average unemployment rates ranged from 3.2% in Holmes County to 6.8% in Meigs County, with all counties reporting increases over the year.

The Labor Force and Unemployment Rates

The U.S. and Ohio's unemployment rates peaked in April 2020 amid COVID-19. Both fell sharply soon afterward. At the beginning of 2024, the Ohio unemployment rate was 4.0%, which was above the U.S. rate of 3.7%. Throughout 2024, the Ohio unemployment rate was above the U.S. unemployment rate. The Ohio unemployment rate grew from 4.0% to 4.5%. The U.S. unemployment rate fluctuated throughout the year but ended in December 2024 at 4.1%, above its January rate of 3.7%.

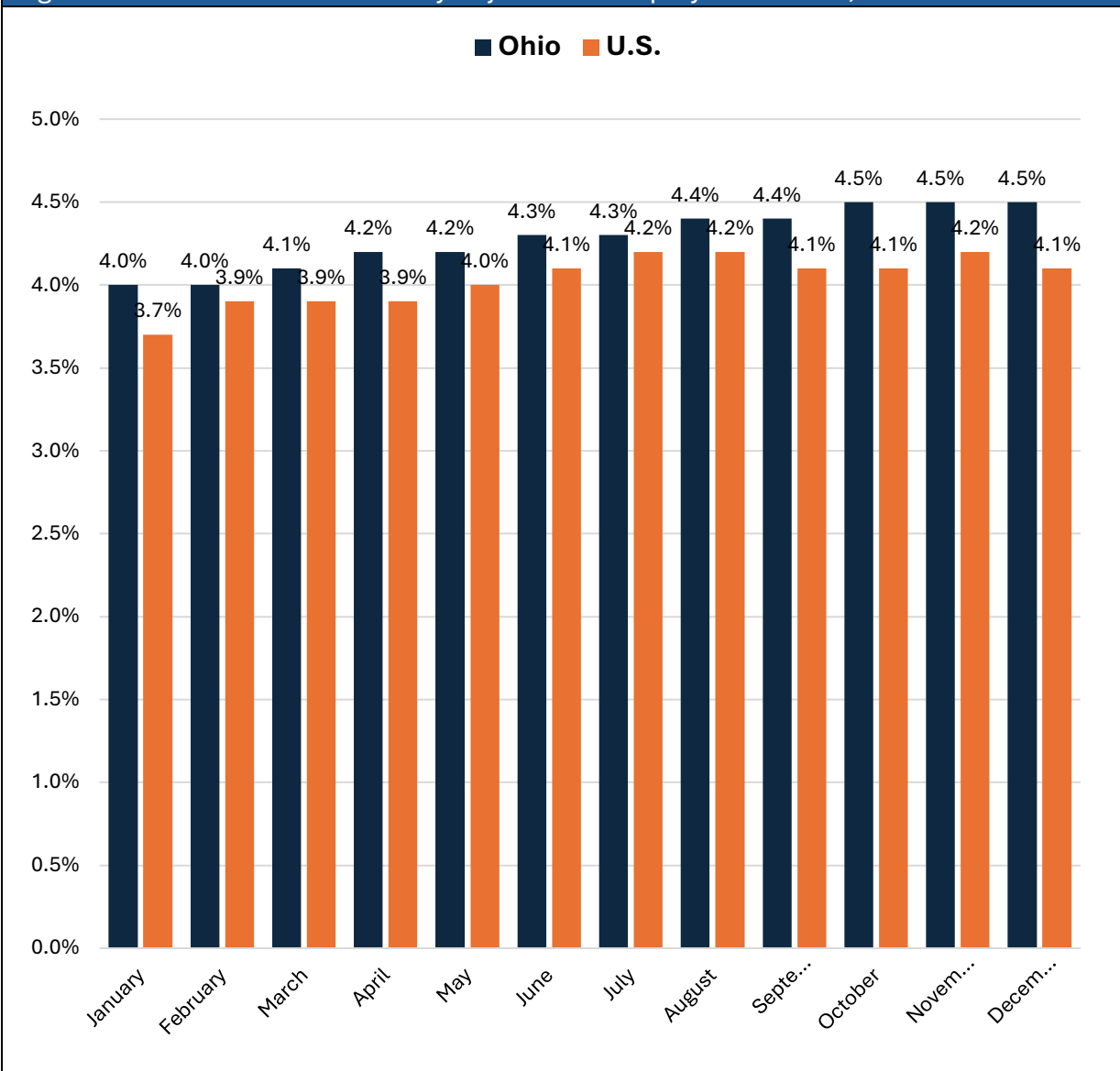
Figure 1. U.S. and Ohio Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates, 2010 – 2024



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

In 2024, Ohio's annual average unemployment rate began the year at 4.0% and increased, ending the year in December 2024 at 4.5%. The Ohio unemployment rate was above the U.S. unemployment rate for each month in 2024. The U.S. unemployment rate started the year at 3.7% and rose to 3.9% in February. The U.S. unemployment rate rose to 4.0% in May 2024. Starting in June, the U.S. unemployment rate rose to 4.1% and rose again to 4.2% in July. The U.S. unemployment rate fluctuated between 4.1% and the yearly high of 4.2% throughout the rest of the year; the rate ended at 4.1% in December 2024.

Figure 2. Ohio and U.S. Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates, 2024

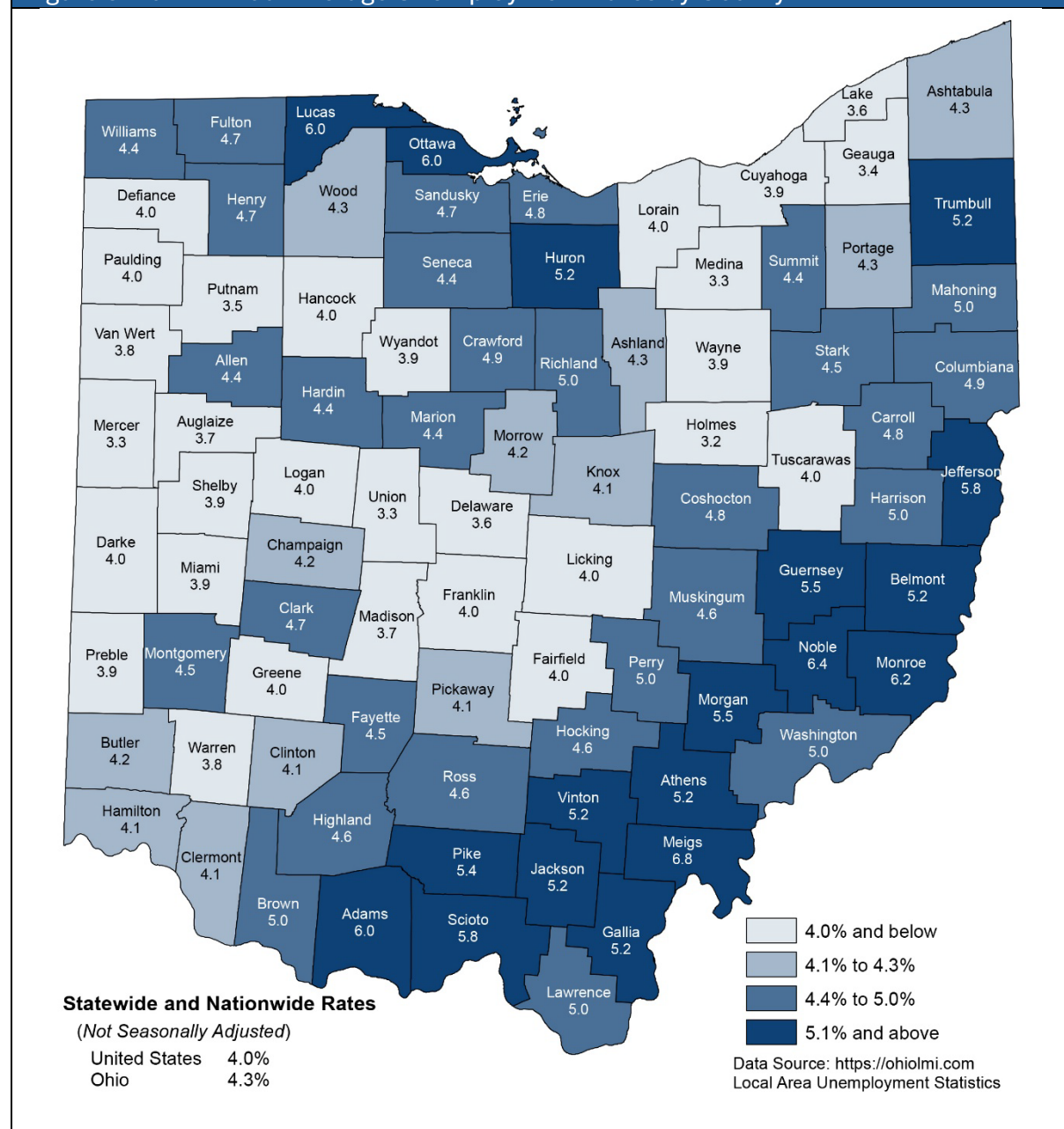


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

All of Ohio's 88 counties saw an increase in average annual unemployment rate from 2023 to 2024. Forty-one counties had unemployment rates equal to or less than the state's average annual unemployment rate of 4.3%. Eight counties had an unemployment rate lower than the state rate of 4.3% and greater than or equal to the national unemployment rate of 4.1%. Fifty-four counties had unemployment rates above the national unemployment rate of 4.1%.

County unemployment rates ranged from 3.2% to 6.8%. Holmes County had the lowest unemployment rate at 3.2%. Meigs County had the highest unemployment rate at 6.8%.

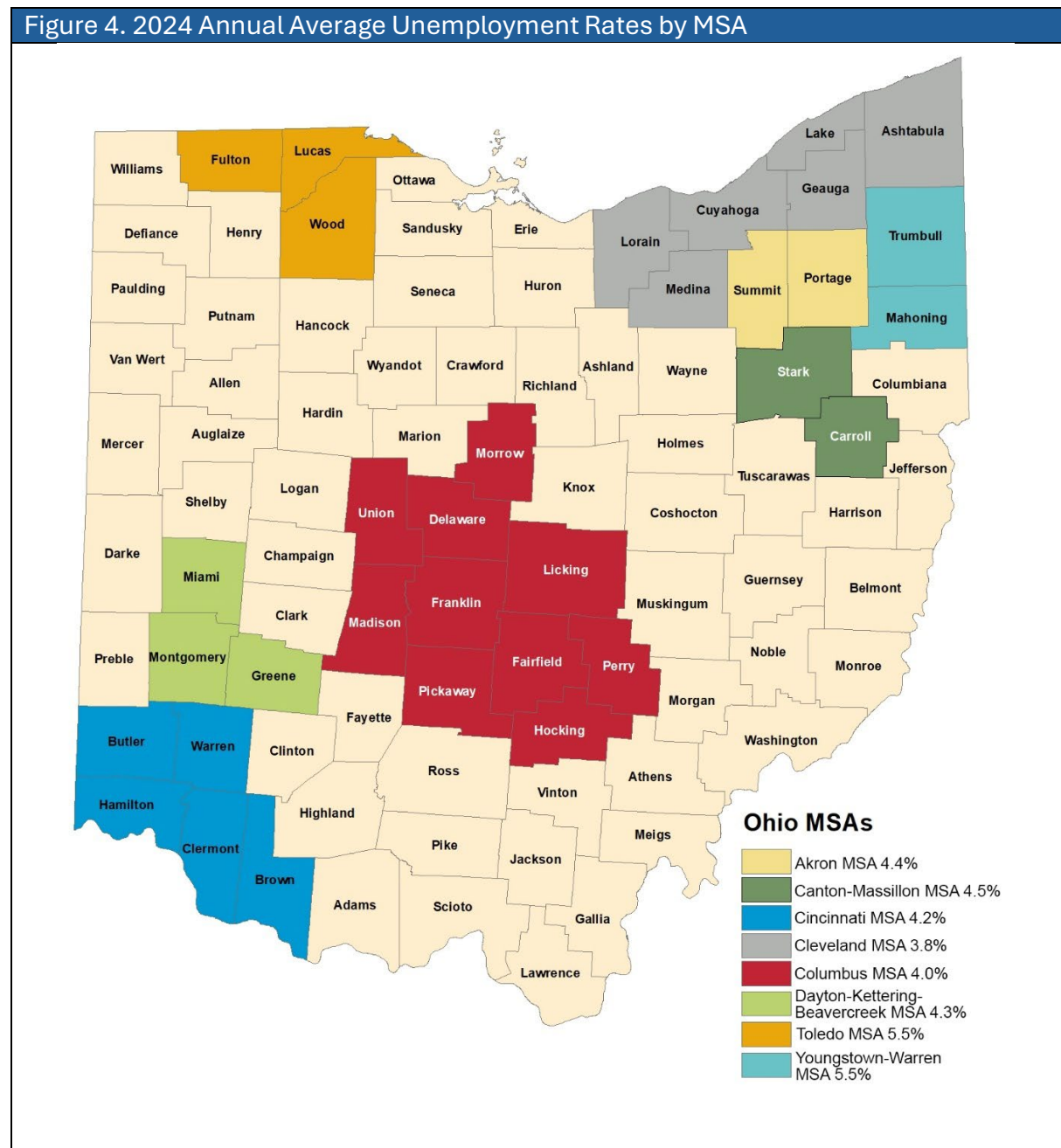
Figure 3. 2024 Annual Average Unemployment Rates by County



Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The major Ohio metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) had higher annual unemployment rates for 2024 than for 2023. Two MSAs had an unemployment rate below the 2024 U.S. unemployment rate of 4.1%: Cleveland and Columbus. One MSA had an unemployment rate between the U.S. unemployment rate and the Ohio unemployment rate of 4.3%: Cincinnati, with an unemployment rate of 4.2%. The Dayton MSA had an unemployment rate equal to that of the state at 4.3%. The Akron, Canton, Toledo, and Youngstown MSAs had unemployment rates above the Ohio rate of 4.3%. The Toledo MSA saw the largest change in its average annual unemployment rate, with a 0.9 percentage point increase from 3.9% in 2023 to 5.5% in 2024.

Figure 4. 2024 Annual Average Unemployment Rates by MSA



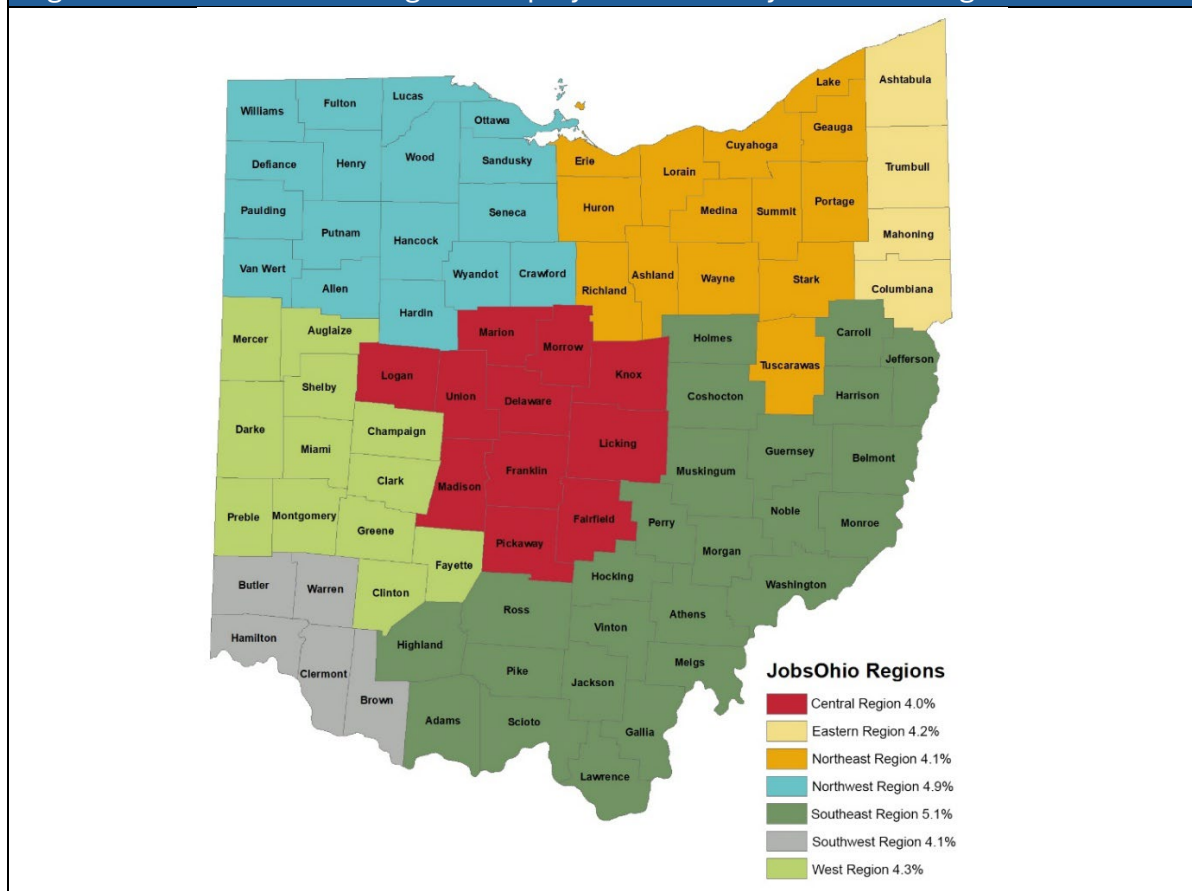
Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Ohio has seven JobsOhio regions, each with unique strengths and resources. In 2024, a new JobsOhio region was added in the Youngstown area, named Eastern Region. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Local Area Unemployment Statistics program recalculated the JobsOhio regions using the modern geographic definitions. The Eastern region had 267,400 employed, 279,200 in the labor force, 11,780 unemployed, and a 4.2% unemployment rate.

The six original JobsOhio regions saw increases in their unemployment rates in 2024 compared to 2023. The Central region had an annual average unemployment rate beneath both the national unemployment rate of 4.1% and the state unemployment rate of 4.3%. The West region had an unemployment rate equal to Ohio's rate of 4.3%. The Northeast and Southwest regions both had annual average unemployment rates under Ohio's rate (4.3%) and equal to the national rate (4.1%). The Northwest and Southeast regions each had unemployment rates above Ohio's rate (4.3%). The Southeast region had the highest unemployment rate of all the regions at 5.1%. The Central region had the lowest unemployment rate at 4.0%.

The Northwest region saw the largest increase in annual unemployment, from 3.7% in 2023 to 4.9% in 2024. The Northeast region saw the smallest increase, from 3.7% in 2023 to 4.1% in 2024.

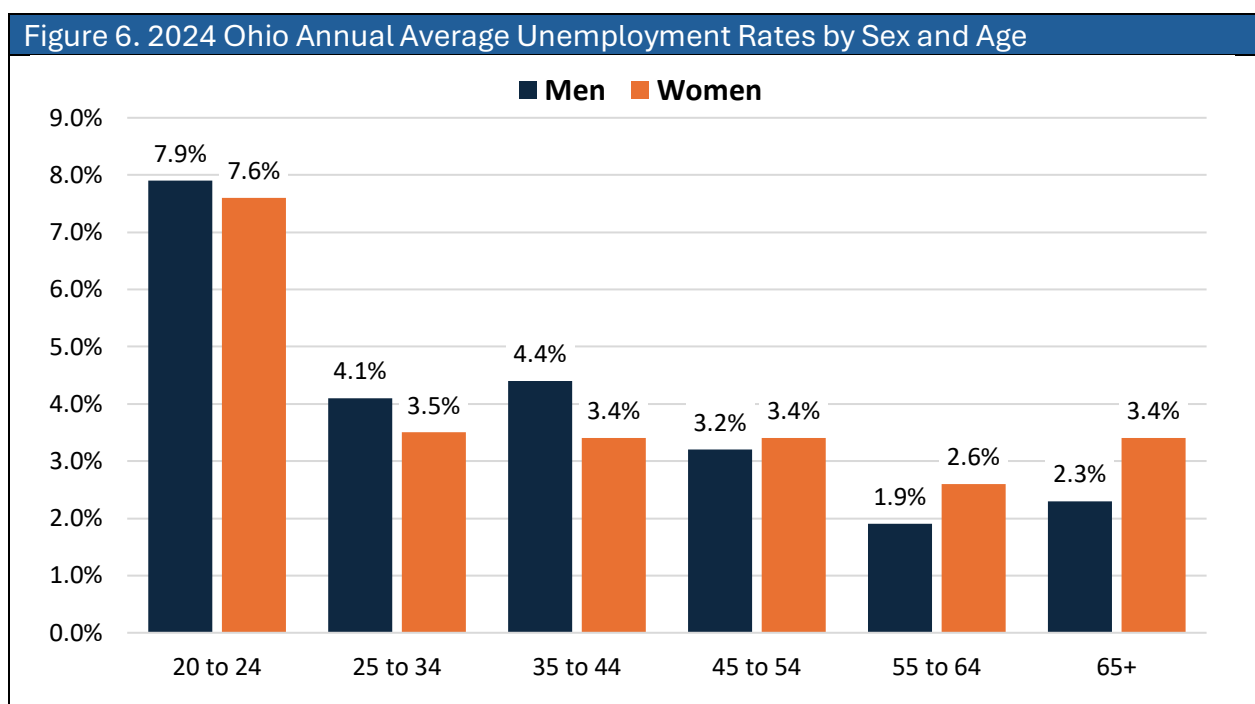
Figure 5. 2024 Annual Average Unemployment Rates by JobsOhio Regions



Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Ohio's 2024 unemployment rates were higher than in 2023 for all age groups. The highest unemployment rates were for younger workers. For the 20-to-24-year-old age group, the male unemployment rate was 7.9%, and the female unemployment rate was 7.6%.

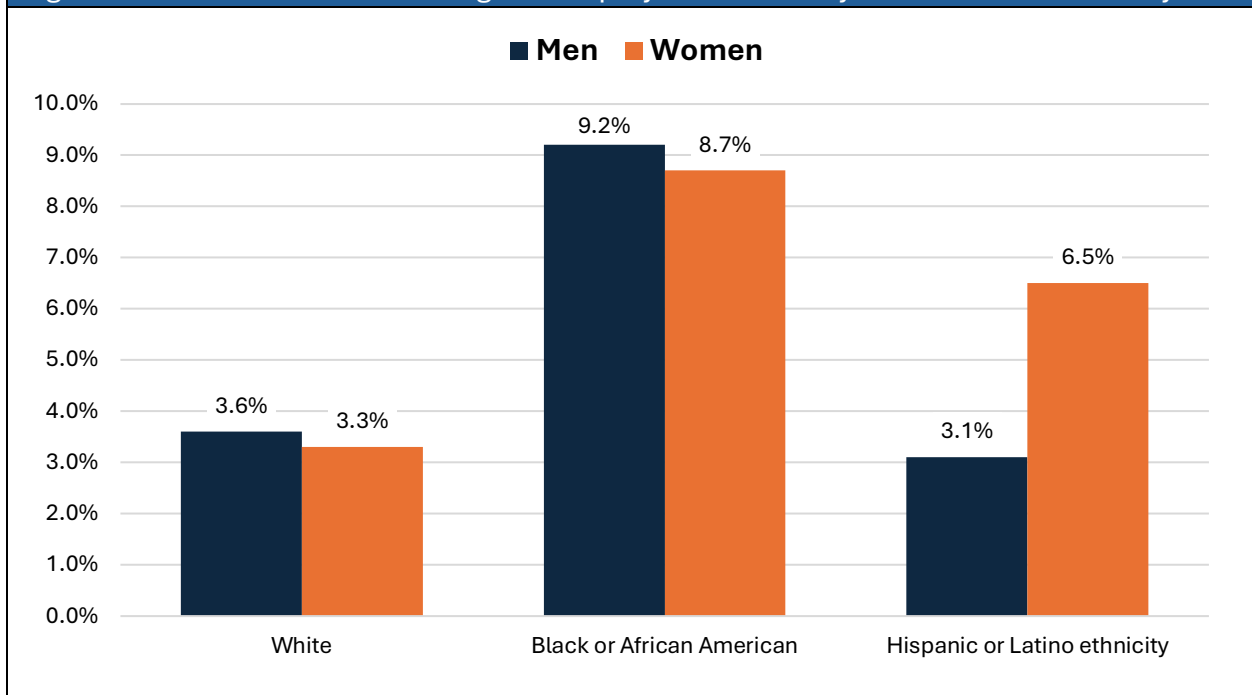
The lowest unemployment rates were experienced by individuals ages 55 to 64; the female unemployment rate was 2.6%, and the male unemployment rate was 1.9%. The unemployment rates for women were lower than the unemployment rates for men for the younger age groups: ages 20 to 24, 25 to 34, and 35 to 44. The unemployment rates for women were higher than men for the older age groups: 45 to 54, 55 to 64, and over 65.



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

Black or African American men had the highest unemployment rate in 2024, at 9.2%. Hispanic or Latino men had the lowest unemployment rate, at 3.1%.

Figure 7. 2024 Ohio Annual Average Unemployment Rates by Sex and Race/Ethnicity

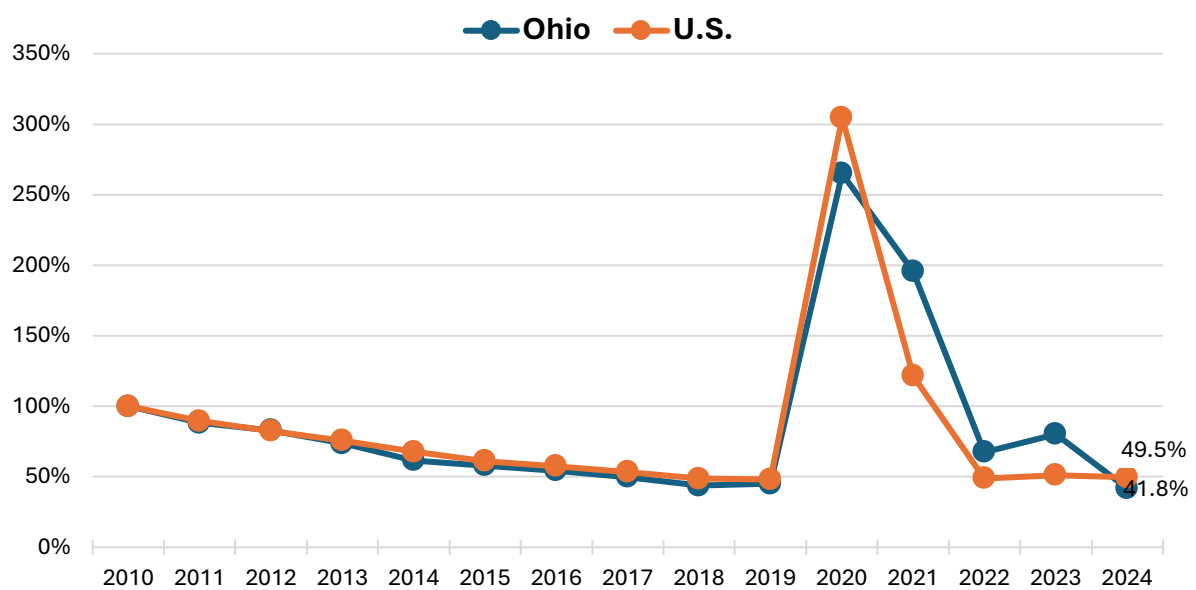


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Geographic Profile of Employment and Unemployment

The number of initial unemployment 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 2024, U.S. initial claims decreased to 49.5% of 2010 levels. Ohio initial claims also decreased to 41.8% of 2010 levels.

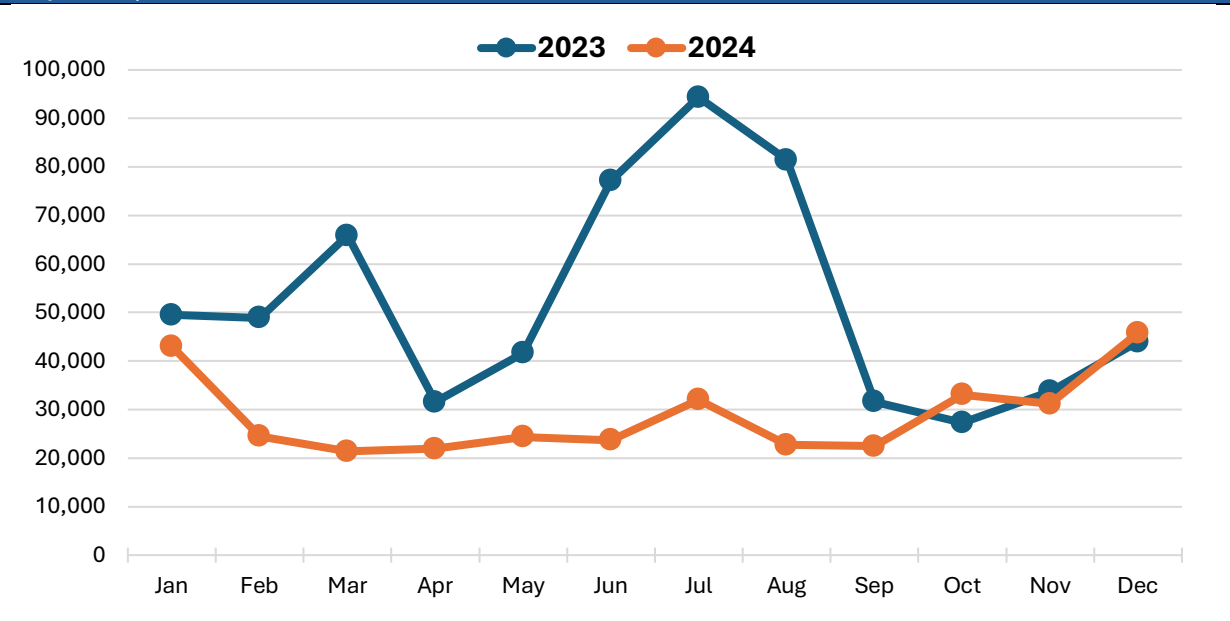
Figure 8. Change in U.S. and Ohio Annual Initial Claims for Unemployment Benefits (100% in 2010)



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

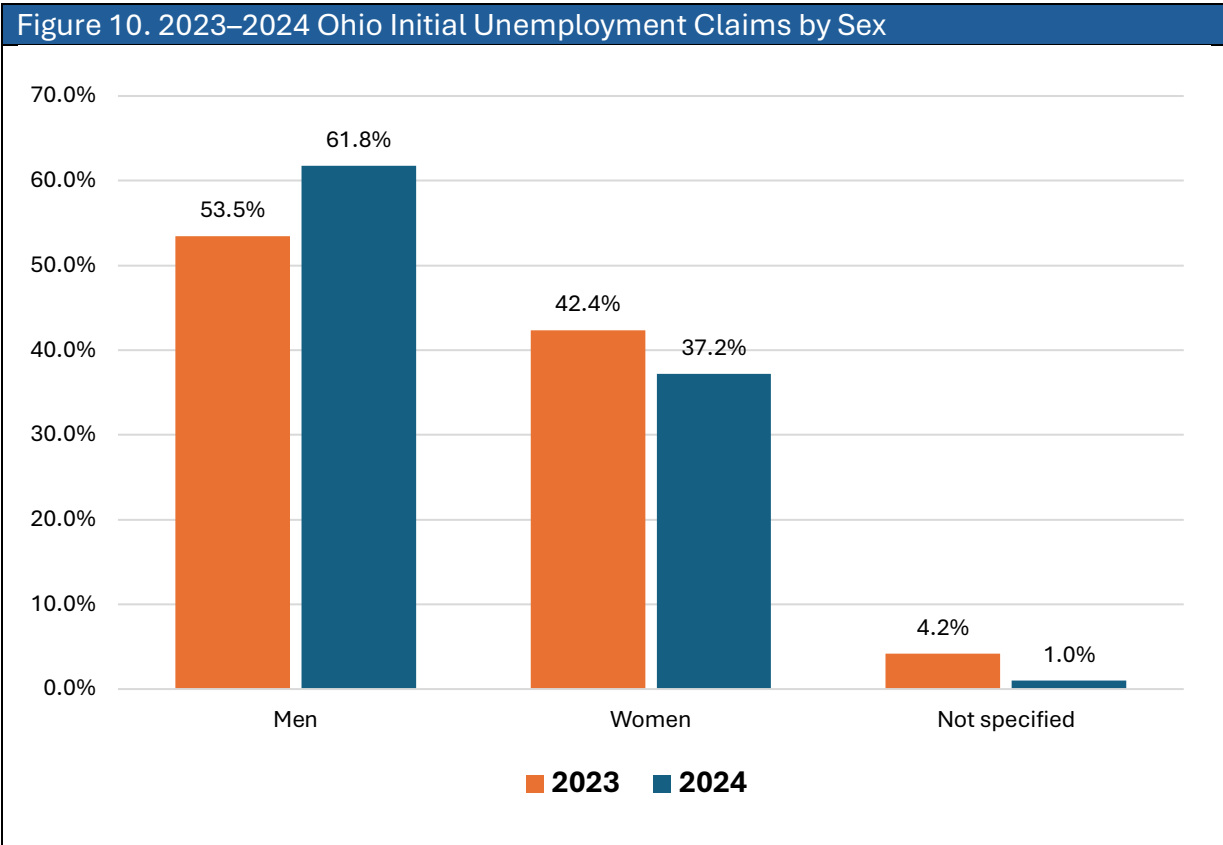
Figure 9 shows monthly initial claims for 2023 and 2024. These numbers are not seasonally adjusted and show typical seasonal fluctuations. The number of initial unemployment claims filed in 2024 was 346,123. This was a decrease from 2023, when initial claims totaled 627,121.

Figure 9. 2023–2024 Ohio Monthly Initial Unemployment Claims (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Ohio Office of Unemployment Insurance Operations

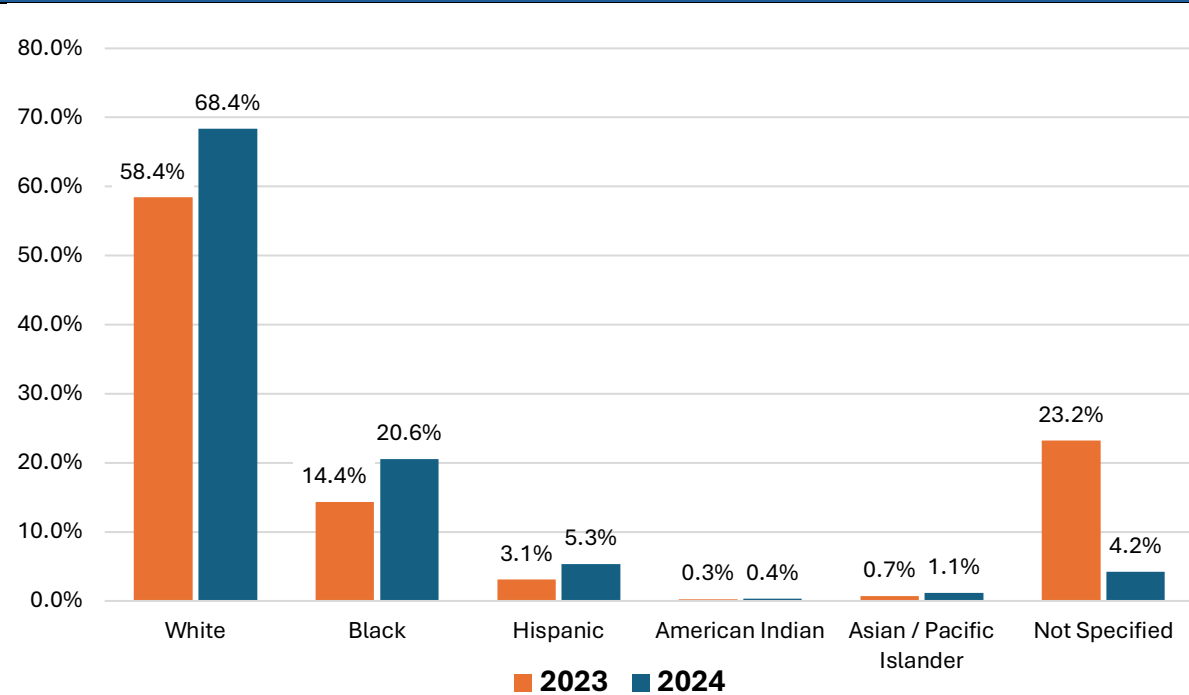
In 2023 and 2024, men accounted for a higher percentage of initial claims than women. In 2024, 0.99% of initial claims included no gender information, compared to 4.17% in 2023.



Source: Ohio Office of Unemployment Insurance Operations

Initial claims followed a similar distribution by race and ethnicity in 2023 and 2024. The percentage of initial claims lacking race or ethnicity information was 4.2% in 2024, compared to 23.2% in 2023. Fraudulent claims were more likely to be missing race or ethnicity information.

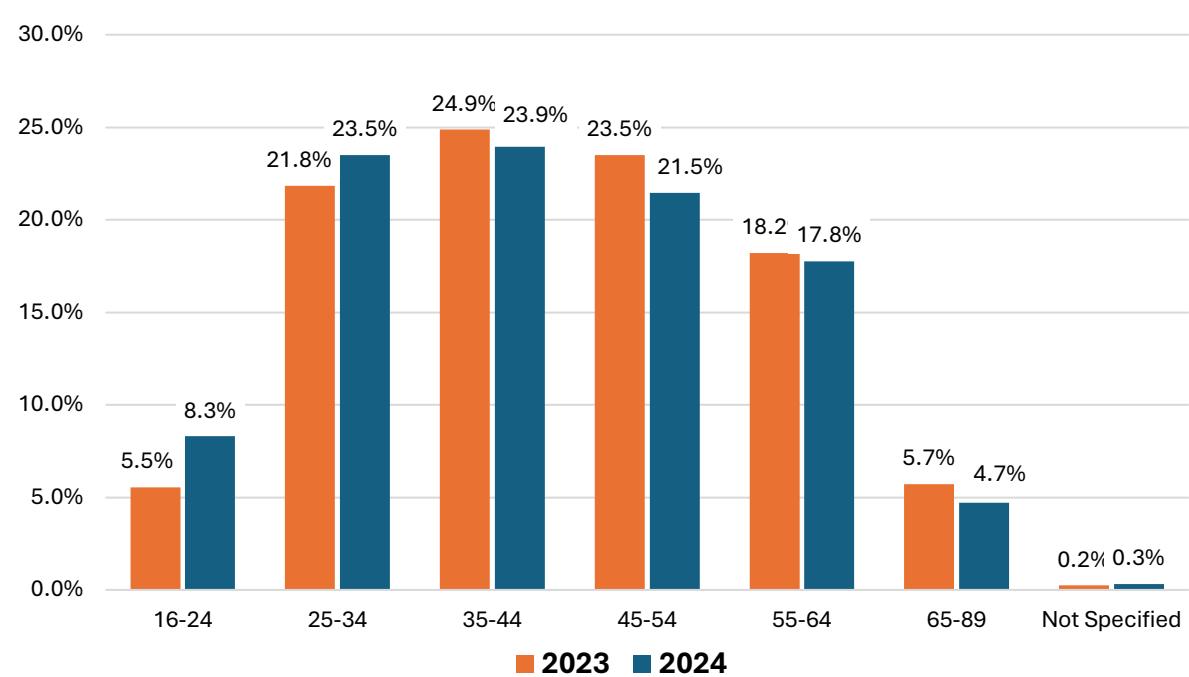
Figure 11. 2023–2024 Ohio Initial Unemployment Claims by Race/Ethnicity



Source: Ohio Office of Unemployment Insurance Operations

The proportion of initial claims filed by those 34 and younger increased from 2023 to 2024. At the same time, a smaller proportion of initial claims was filed by all age groups over 35. The largest decrease was for those ages 45 to 54. In 2024, 0.33% of claims did not specify an age, compared to 0.24% in 2023.

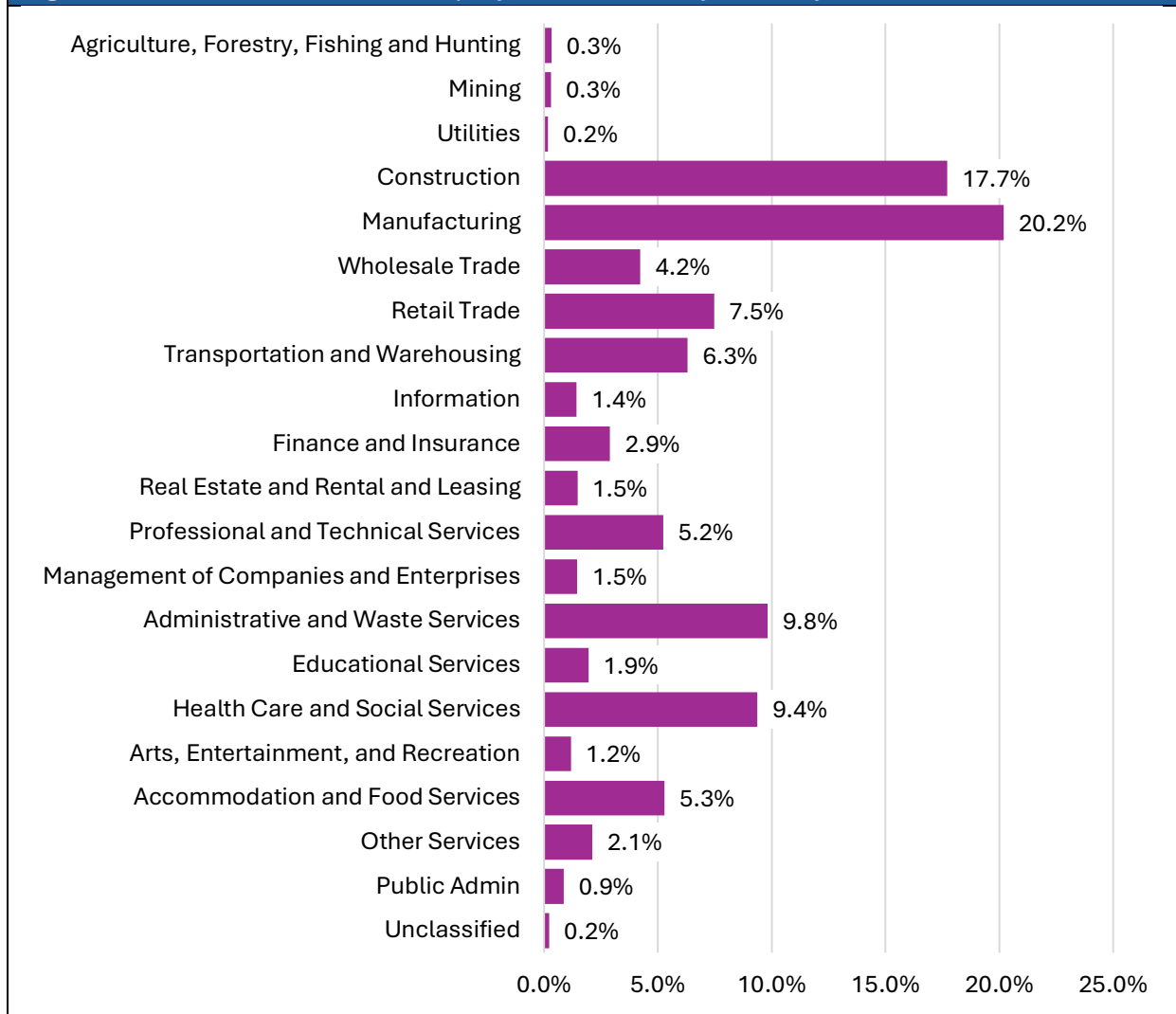
Figure 12. 2023–2024 Ohio Initial Unemployment Claims by Age



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 construction, and then administrative and waste services. Only 0.2% 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. 2024 Ohio Initial Unemployment Claims by Industry Sector

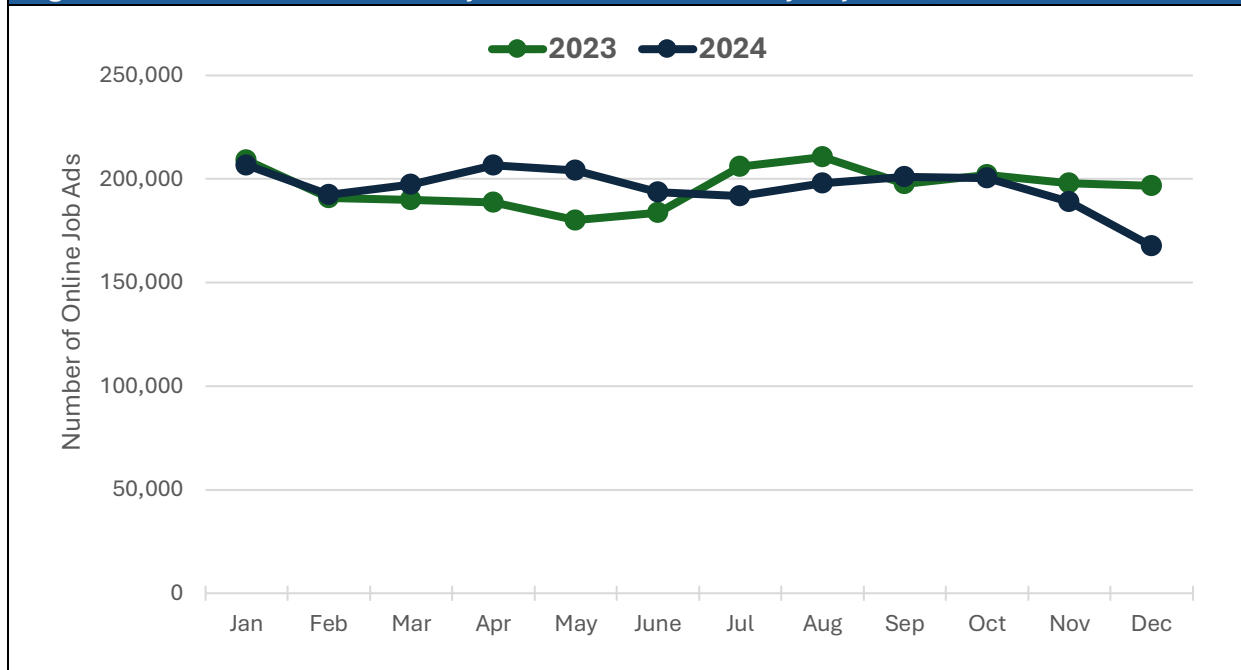


Source: Ohio Office of Unemployment Insurance Operations

Labor Demand – Online Job Ads

The number of job ads posted online is an indicator of labor demand. On average, 420 fewer job ads were posted monthly in 2024 than in 2023. January 2024 had the most online job ads, with 206,714. December had the fewest online job ads, with 167,568. Overall, the number of job postings decreased slightly in 2024 to 2,350,179, which was 0.2% lower than in 2023.

Figure 14. Ohio Online Job Ads by Month, Not Seasonally Adjusted, 2023–2024



Source: TalentNeuron™

Ohio's most heavily advertised occupation in 2024 was registered nurses, with 56,733 ads. The next most heavily advertised occupation was heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers, with 29,716 ads.

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.

Figure 15. Top Ohio Occupations Advertised Online in 2024



Source: TalentNeuron™

In the Central JobsOhio 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.

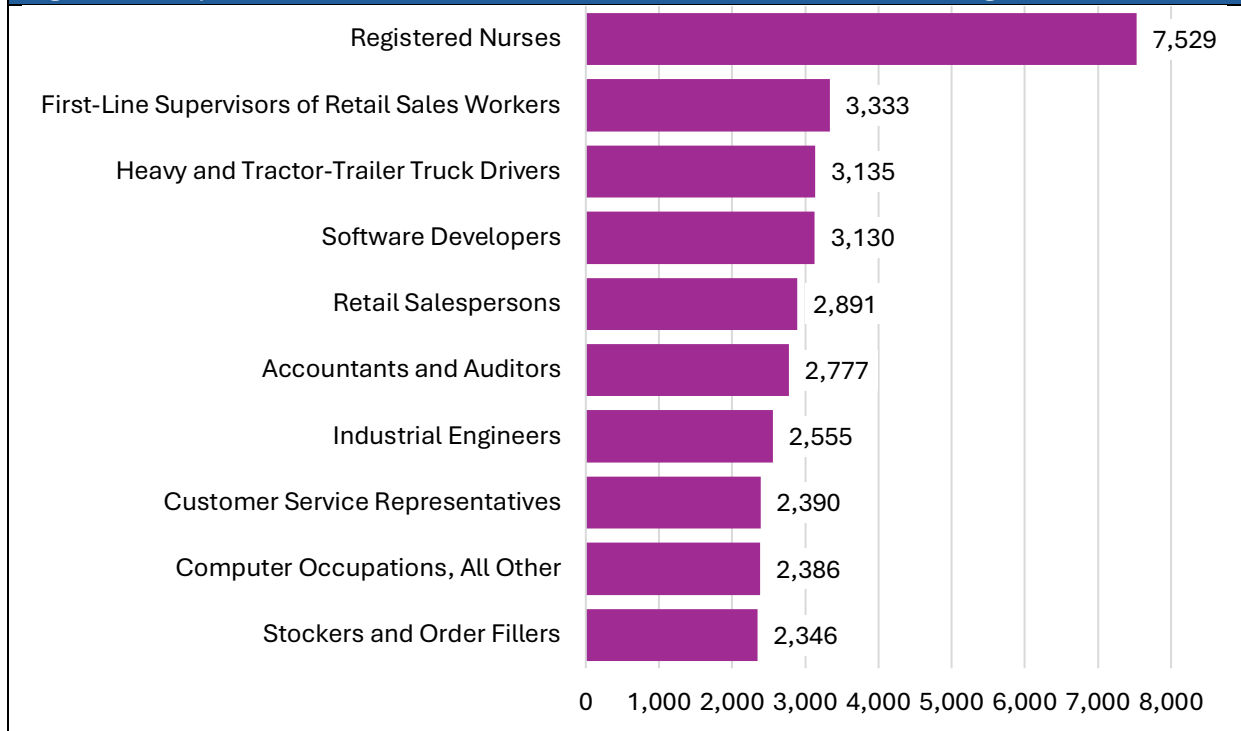
Figure 16. Top Jobs Advertised Online in 2024, JobsOhio Central Region



Source: TalentNeuron™

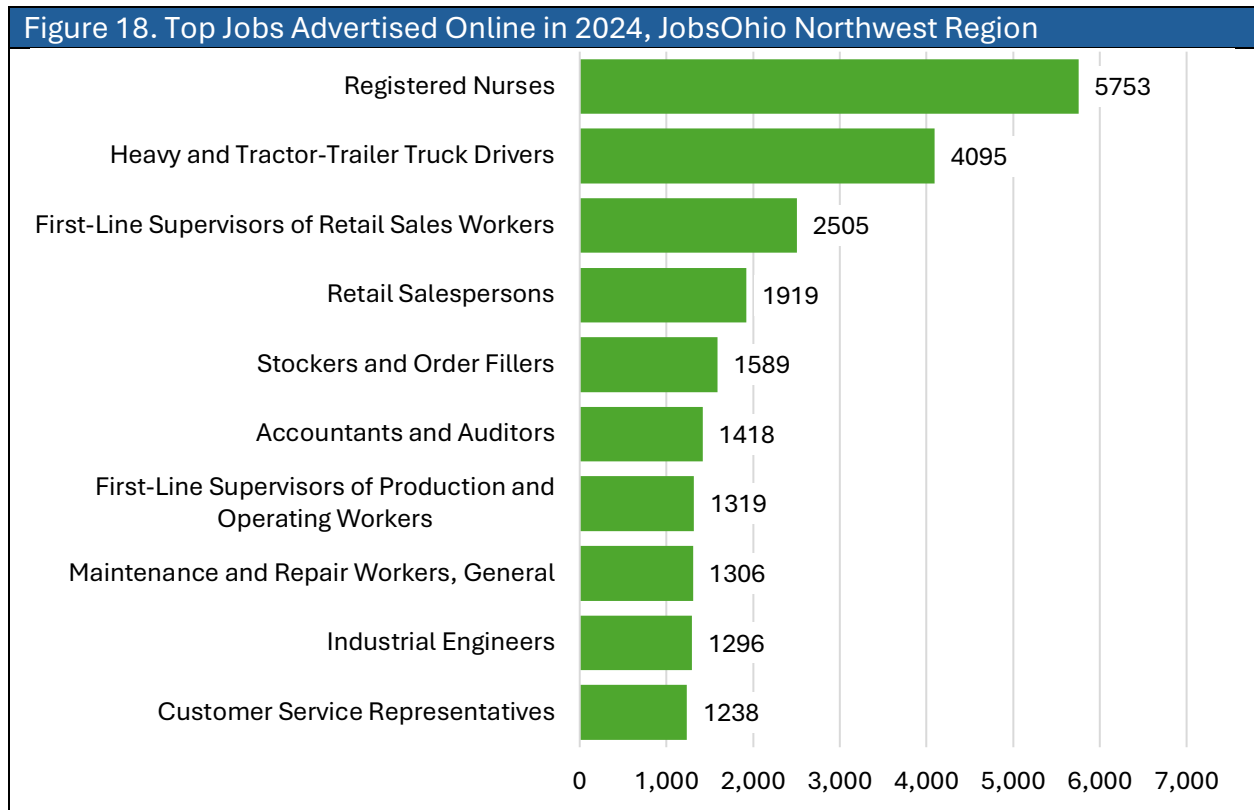
In the Southwest JobsOhio region, registered nurses was the most heavily advertised occupation, followed by first-line supervisors of retail sales workers. Seven of the 10 most heavily advertised occupations were on Ohio's Top Jobs list.

Figure 17. Top Jobs Advertised Online in 2024, JobsOhio Southwest Region



Source: TalentNeuron™

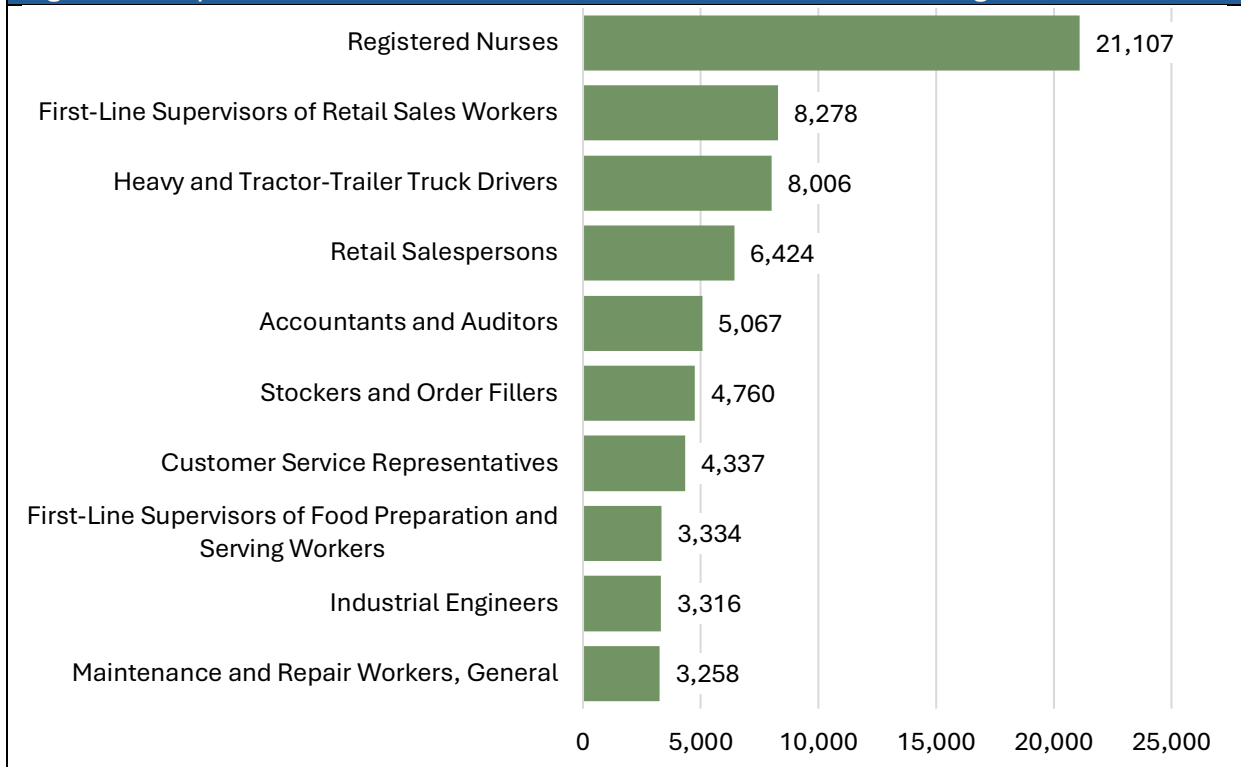
In the Northwest JobsOhio region, the most heavily advertised occupation in 2024 was registered nurses, followed by heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers. Seven of the 10 most heavily advertised occupations were on Ohio's Top Jobs list.



Source: TalentNeuron™

In the Northeast JobsOhio region, the most heavily advertised occupation was registered nurses, with 21,107 ads. First-line supervisors of retail sales workers 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.

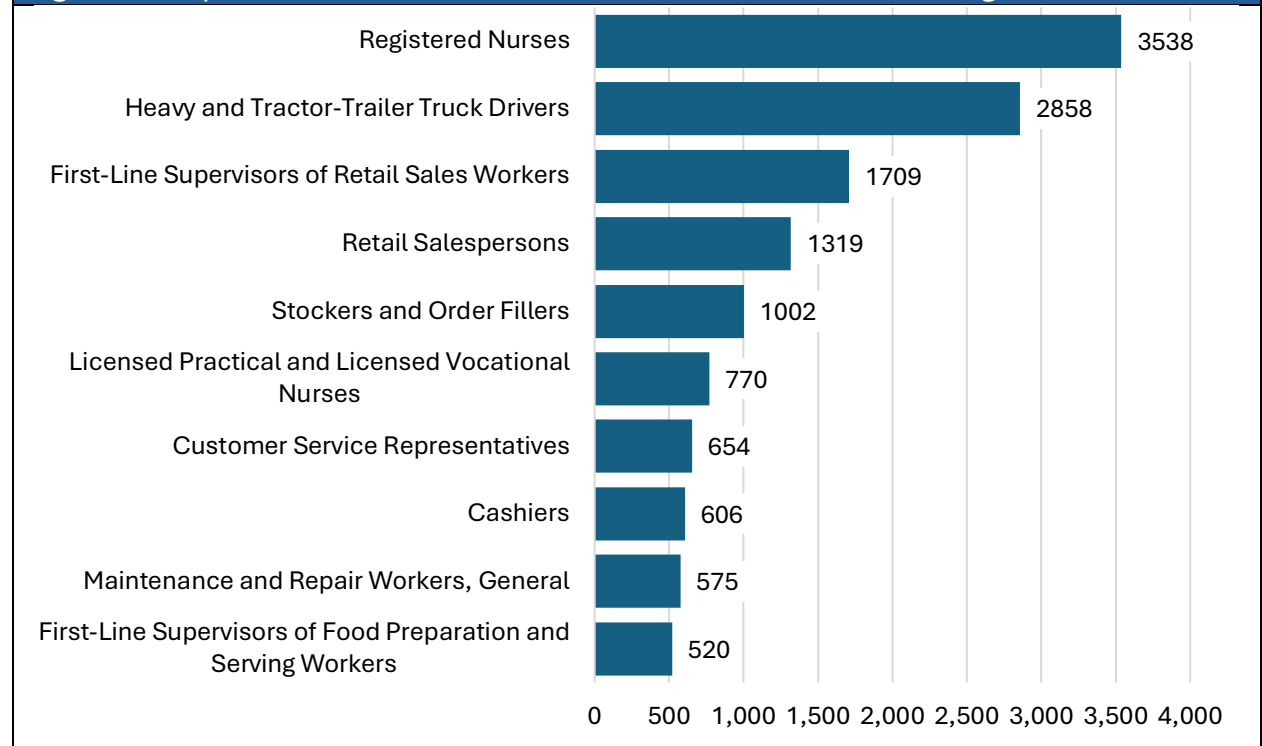
Figure 19. Top Jobs Advertised Online in 2024, JobsOhio Northeast Region



Source: TalentNeuron™

In the Southeast JobsOhio region, the most advertised occupation was registered nurses with 3,538 jobs, followed by heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers. First-line supervisors of retail sales workers was third. Five of the 10 most heavily advertised jobs were on Ohio's Top Jobs list.

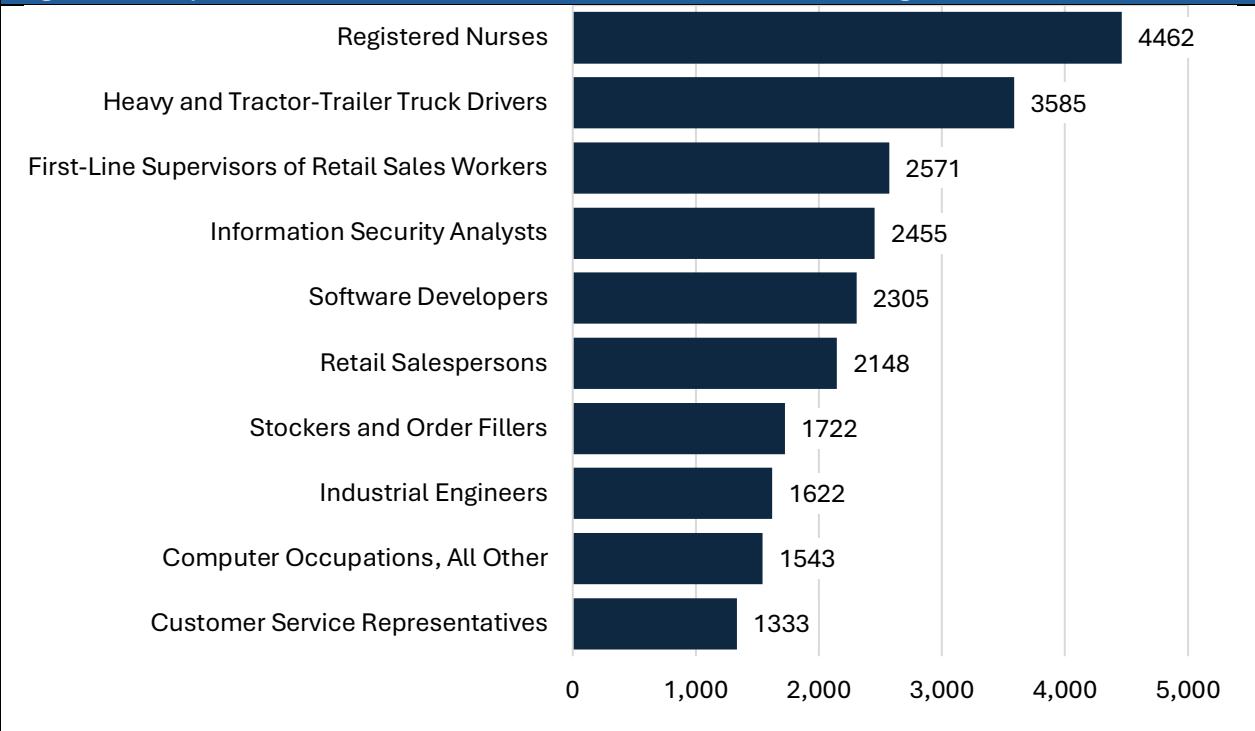
Figure 20. Top Jobs Advertised Online in 2024, JobsOhio Southeast Region



Source: TalentNeuron™

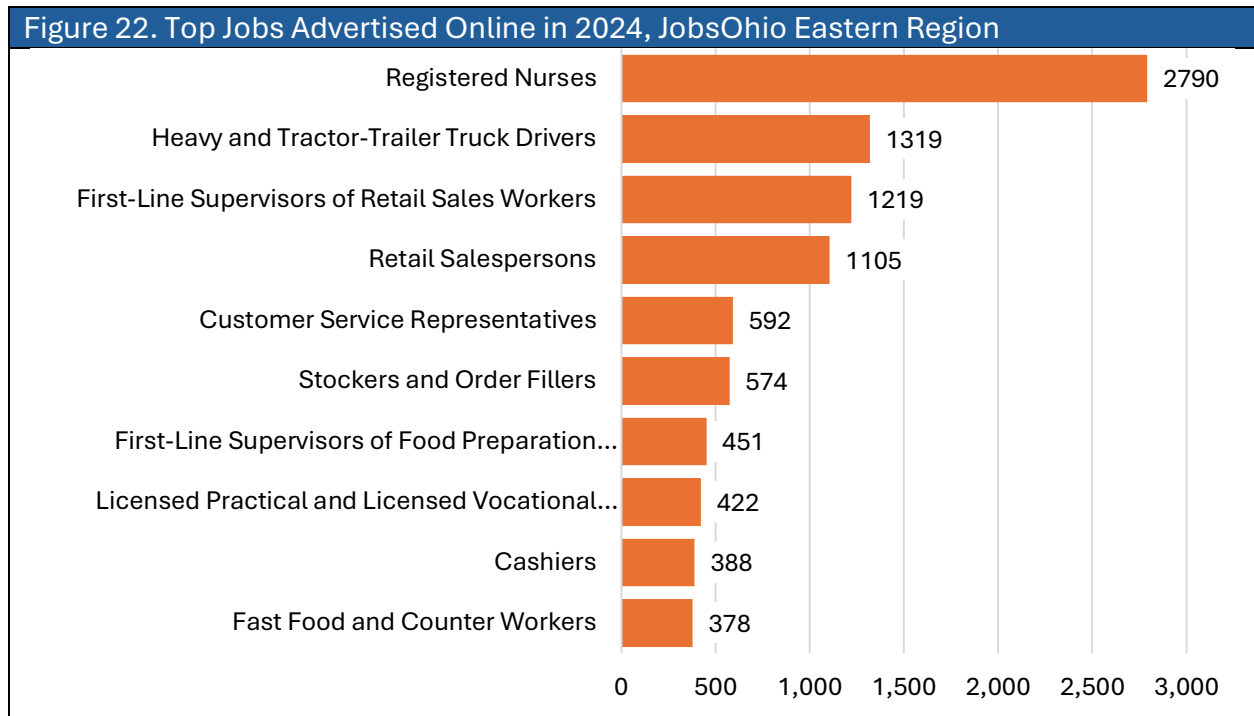
In the West region, the most heavily advertised occupation was registered nurses, followed by heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers. Six of the 10 most heavily advertised occupations were on Ohio's Top Jobs list.

Figure 21. Top Jobs Advertised Online in 2024, JobsOhio West Region



Source: TalentNeuron™

In the Eastern region, the most heavily advertised occupation was registered nurses, followed by heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers. Four of the 10 most heavily advertised occupations were on Ohio's Top Jobs list.



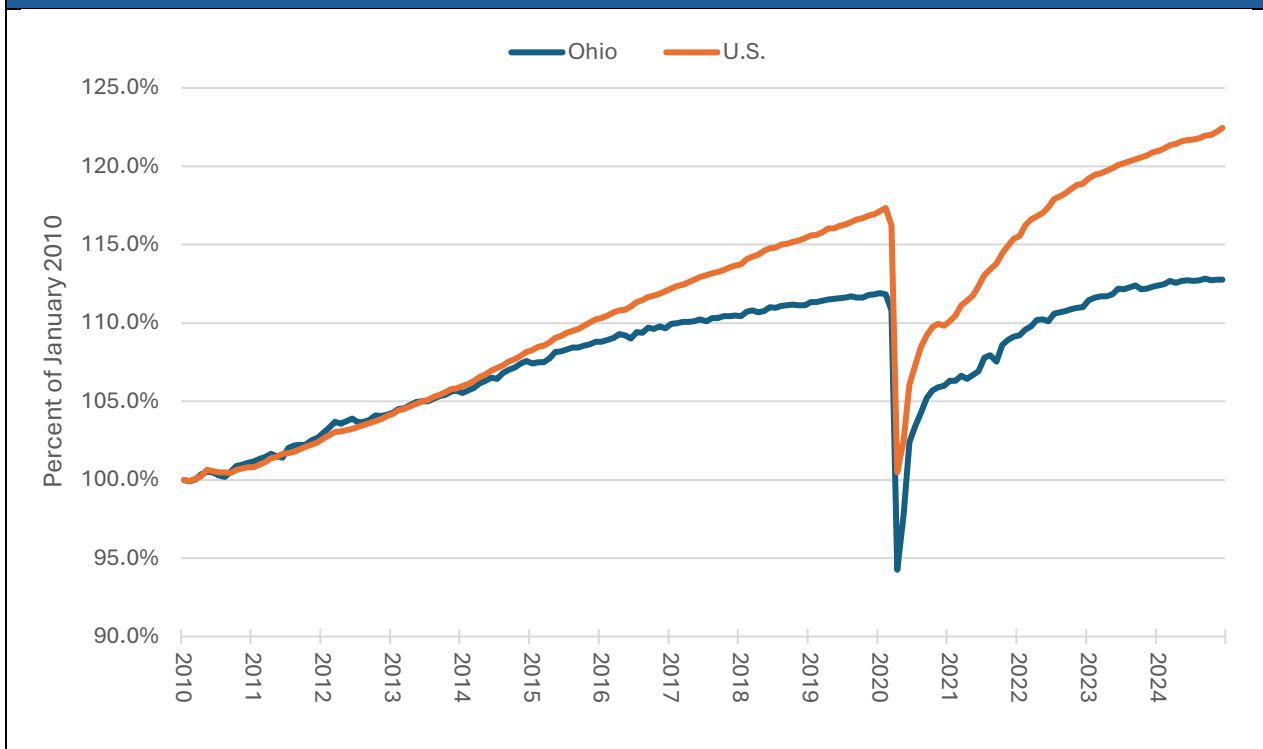
Source: TalentNeuron™

Industry Employment

In January 2024, U.S. total nonfarm employment was 121.2% of its January 2010 level. This was higher than at any point in 2023, and the percentage continued to increase throughout 2024. In December of 2024, U.S. total nonfarm employment was 122.4% of its January 2010 level, its highest level in the period. In January 2024 in Ohio, the total nonfarm employment was 112.4% of its January 2010 level.

Throughout 2024, the U.S. total nonfarm employment continued a steady recovery. Ohio's employment fluctuated throughout the year, and still ended up higher than its January 2024 level, at 112.8% of its January 2010 level.

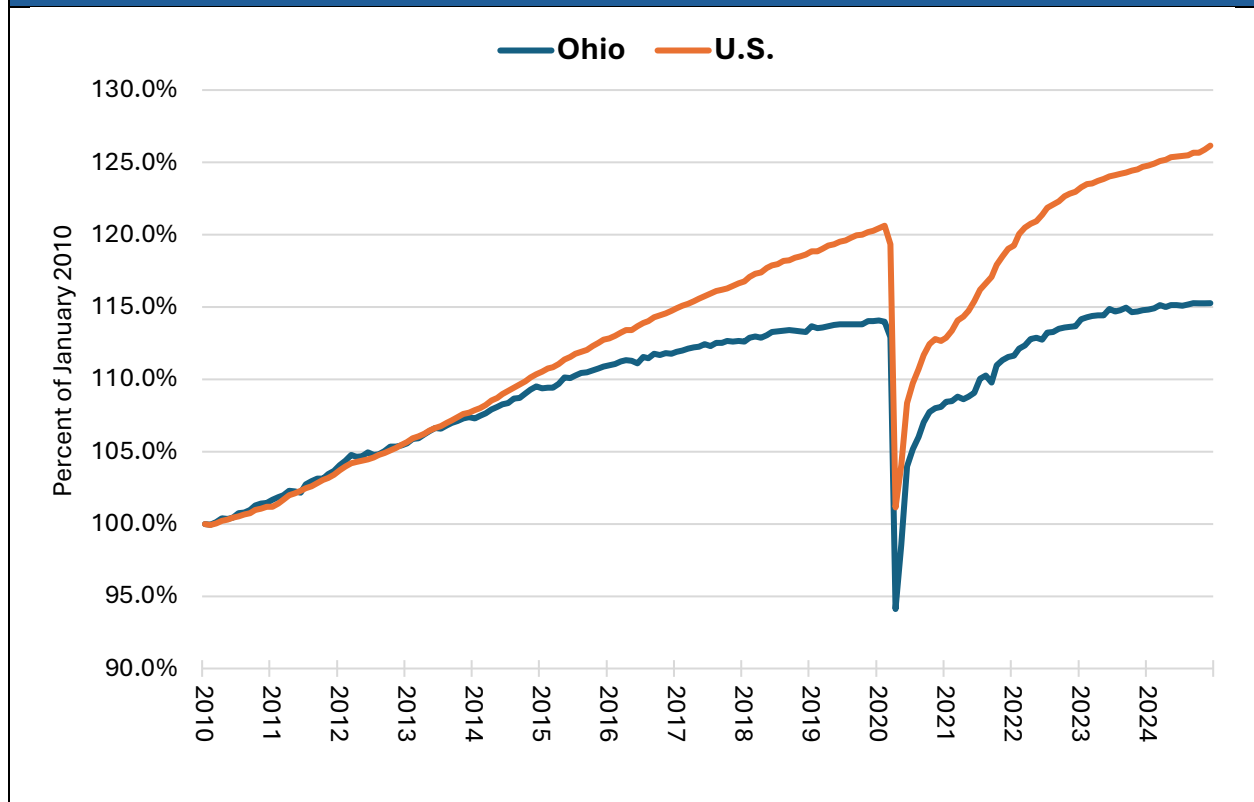
Figure 23. U.S. and Ohio Seasonally Adjusted Total Nonfarm Employment, January 2010 – December 2024



Source: Current Employment Statistics

In January 2024, Ohio and U.S. total private employment were at 114.8% and 124.8% of the January 2010 levels, respectively. By December 2024, Ohio's total private employment was at 115.3% of its January 2010 employment, and U.S. total private employment was at 126.2%. Both Ohio and U.S. total private employment ended the year with the highest levels for the period.

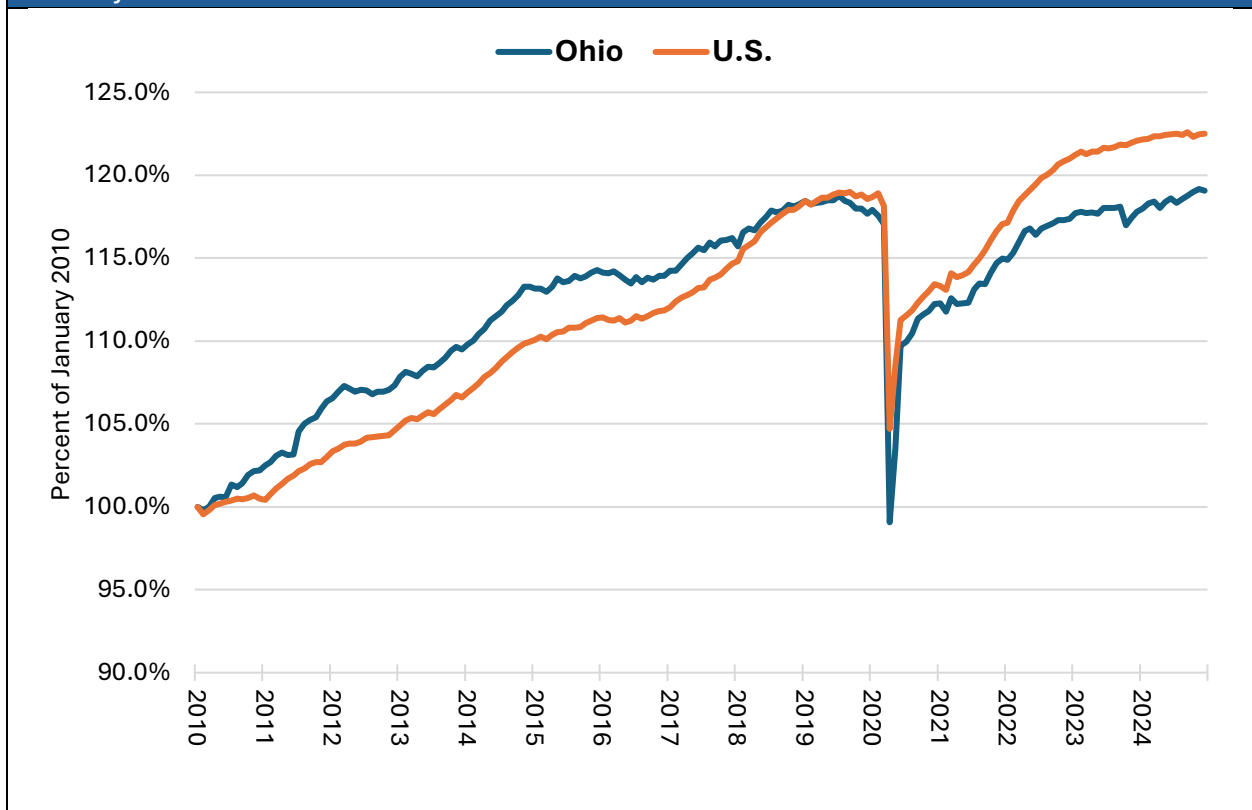
Figure 24. U.S. and Ohio Seasonally Adjusted Total Private Employment, January 2010 – December 2024



Source: Current Employment Statistics

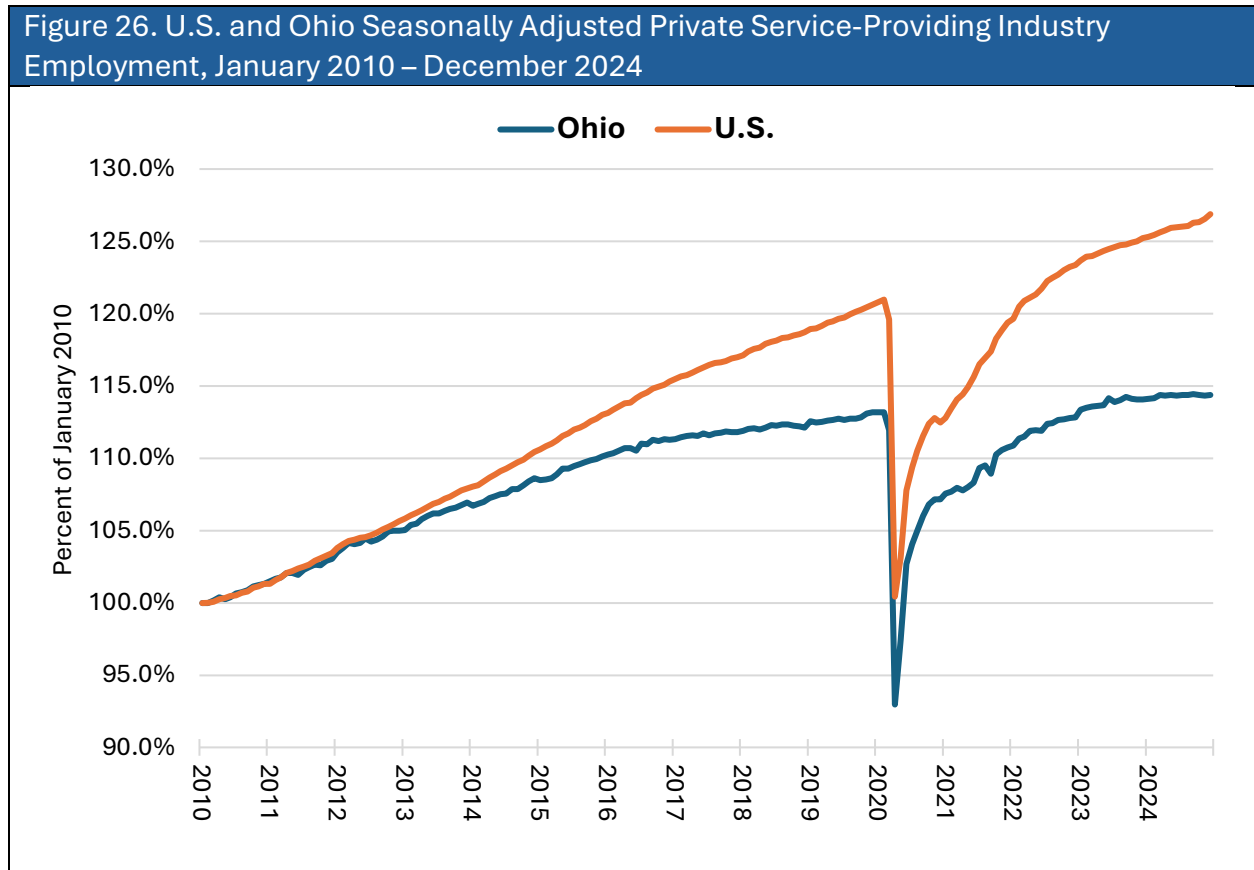
In January 2024, the U.S. goods-producing industry sectors were at 122.1% of their January 2010 employment. They increased to 122.5% by December 2024. In January 2024 in Ohio, the state's goods-producing industries were at 118.0% of their January 2010 employment. By December 2024, they had increased slightly to 119.1%. The goods-producing industry sectors are construction, manufacturing, and mining and logging.

Figure 25. U.S. and Ohio Seasonally Adjusted Goods-Producing Industry Employment, January 2010 – December 2024



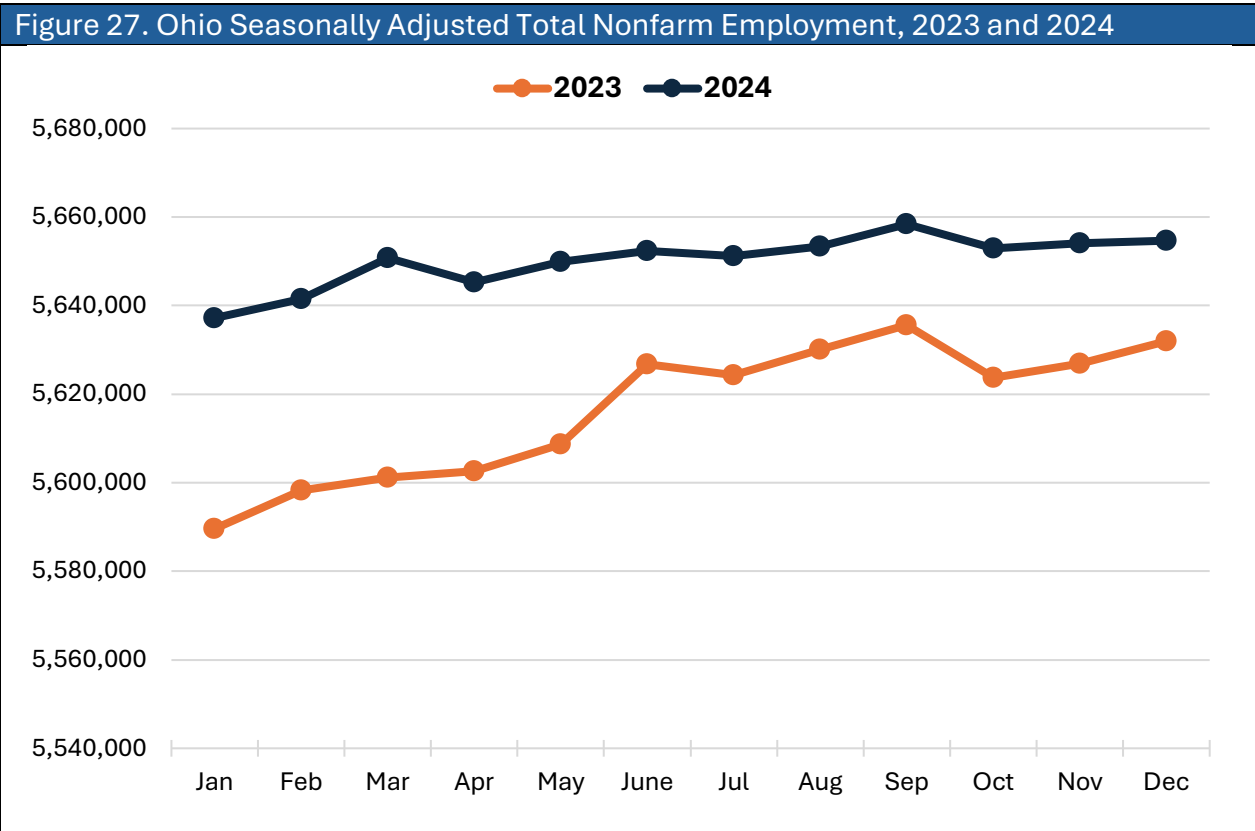
Source: Current Employment Statistics

In January 2024, the U.S. private service-producing industries were at 125.3% of their January 2010 employment. They increased to 126.9% by December. In January 2024 in Ohio, the state's private service-producing industries were at 114.1% of their January 2010 employment. They increased to 114.4% by December 2024. The private service-producing industries include all non-government industries that do not produce goods.



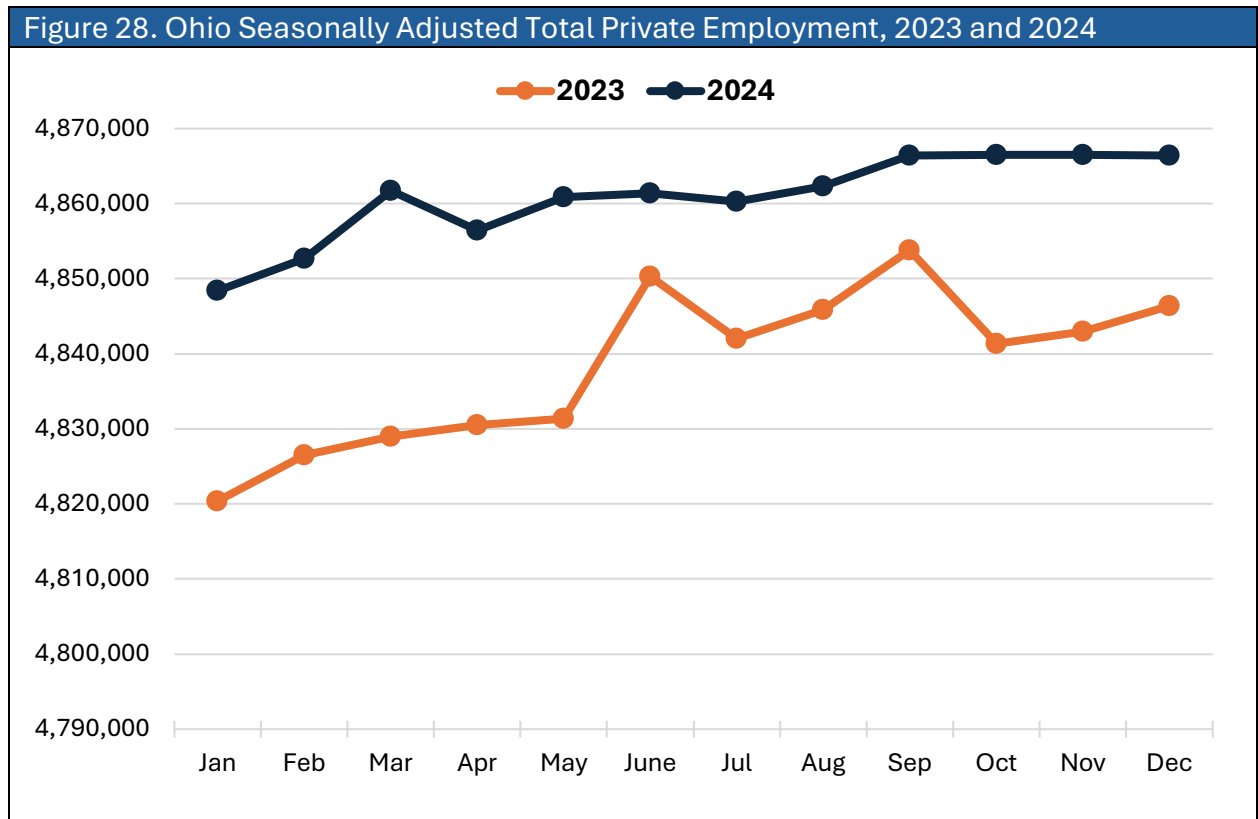
Source: Current Employment Statistics

Figure 27 shows seasonally adjusted monthly total nonfarm employment for 2023 and 2024. Ohio's annual average nonfarm employment for 2024 was 5,650,400, an increase of 34,300 over 2023.



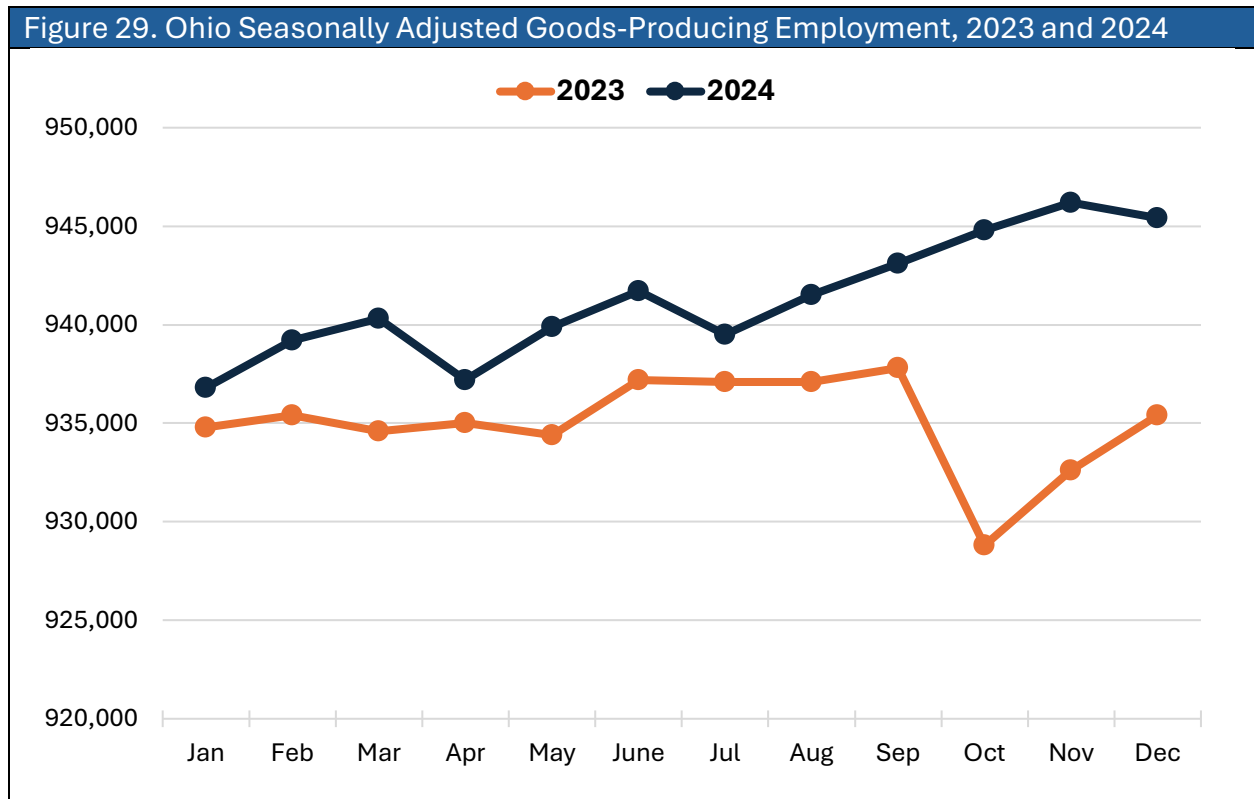
Source: Current Employment Statistics

Ohio's annual average private employment for 2024 was 4,860,800, an increase of 22,800 over 2023.



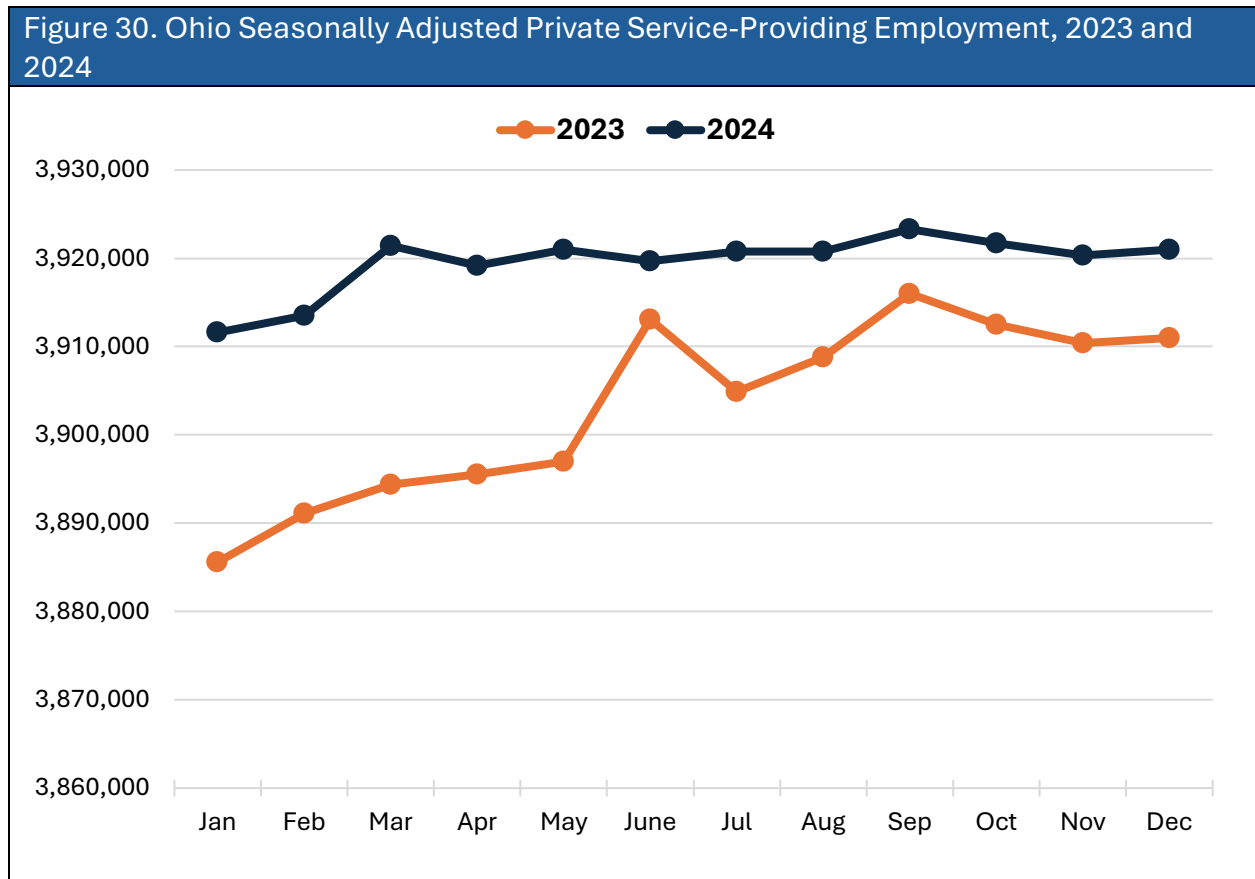
Source: Current Employment Statistics

Figure 29 shows seasonally adjusted goods-producing employment for 2023 and 2024. Ohio's annual average goods-producing industry sector employment was 941,300, an increase of 6,300 over 2023.



Source: Current Employment Statistics

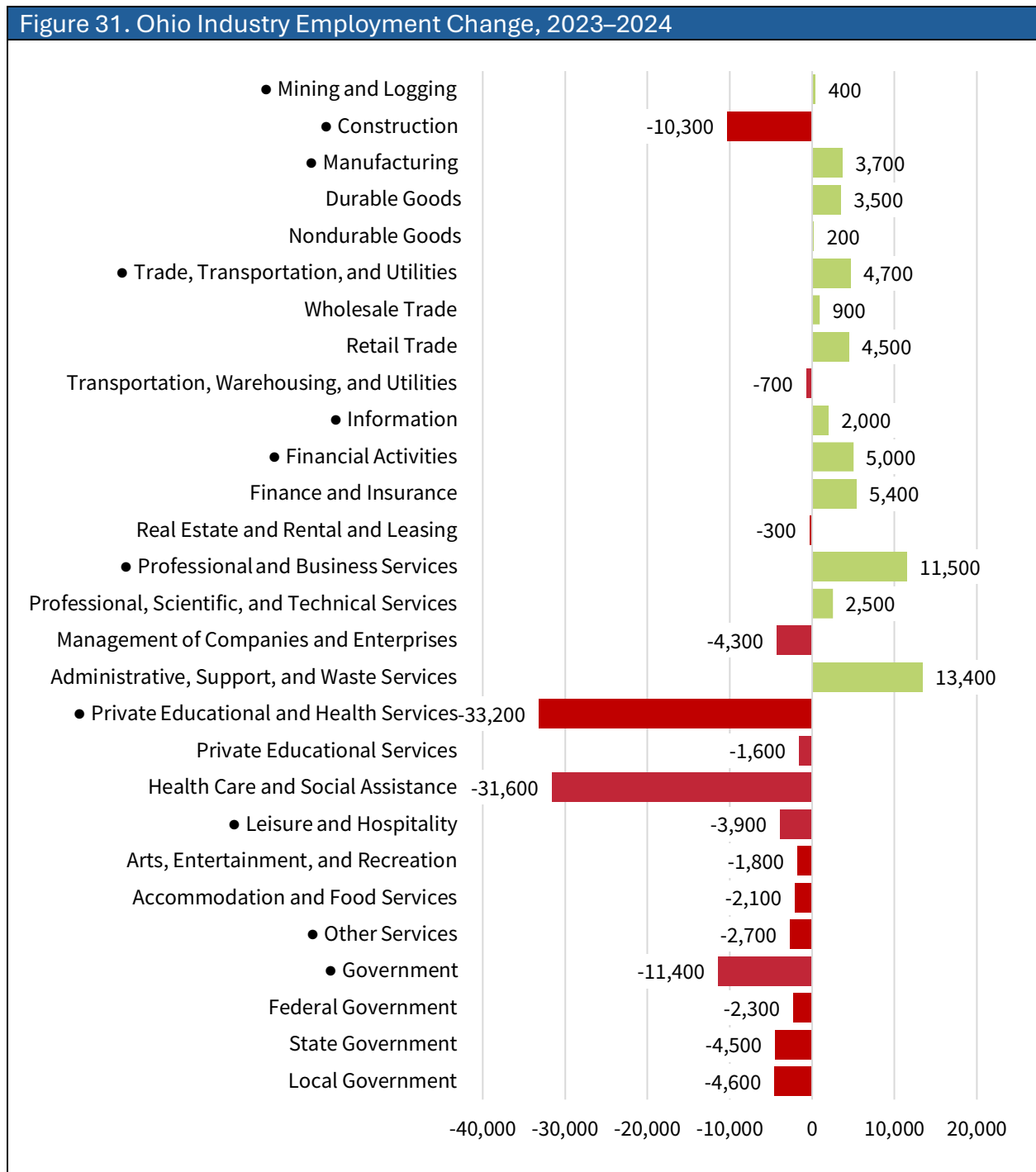
Ohio's annual average seasonally adjusted private service-providing employment was 3,919,500 in 2024, an increase of 16,600 over 2023.



Source: Current Employment Statistics

Figure 31 shows the annual average employment change from 2023 to 2024. Industry sectors are marked with bullet points. Subsectors are listed without bullet points under their parent sectors. Not all sectors have subsectors.

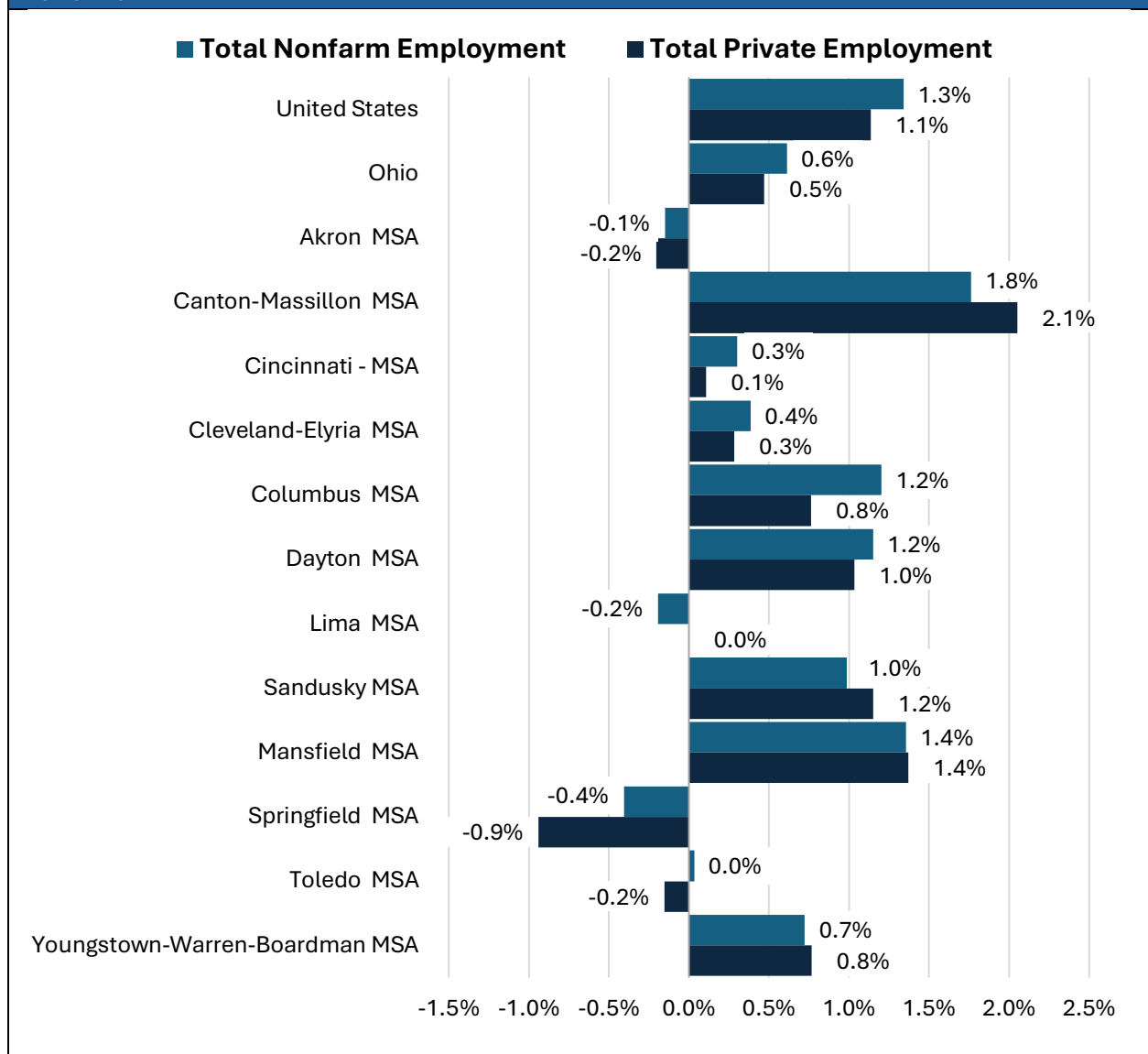
Among the sectors, the private education and health sector employment saw the steepest decline between 2023 and 2024, losing 33,200 jobs. The professional and business services sector saw the greatest gain, increasing 11,500 from 2023 to 2024.



Source: Current Employment Statistics

Figure 32 shows the percentage change from 2023 to 2024 in annual average total nonfarm and total private employment for the U.S., Ohio, and Ohio's 11 MSAs. Some metropolitan areas include counties outside Ohio. Three MSAs saw a loss in total nonfarm employment: Akron MSA, Lima MSA and Springfield MSA. The Springfield MSA saw the greatest loss in total nonfarm employment at -0.4% and a loss of -0.9% in its total private employment, which was also the greatest loss in total private employment. The Akron MSA and Toledo MSA also saw losses in the percent change in total private employment between 2023 to 2024. Ohio's total nonfarm and total private employment increased 0.6% and 0.5%, respectively. Among the Ohio MSAs, the Canton MSA had the largest increases, with 2.1% for total private employment and 1.8% for total nonfarm employment.

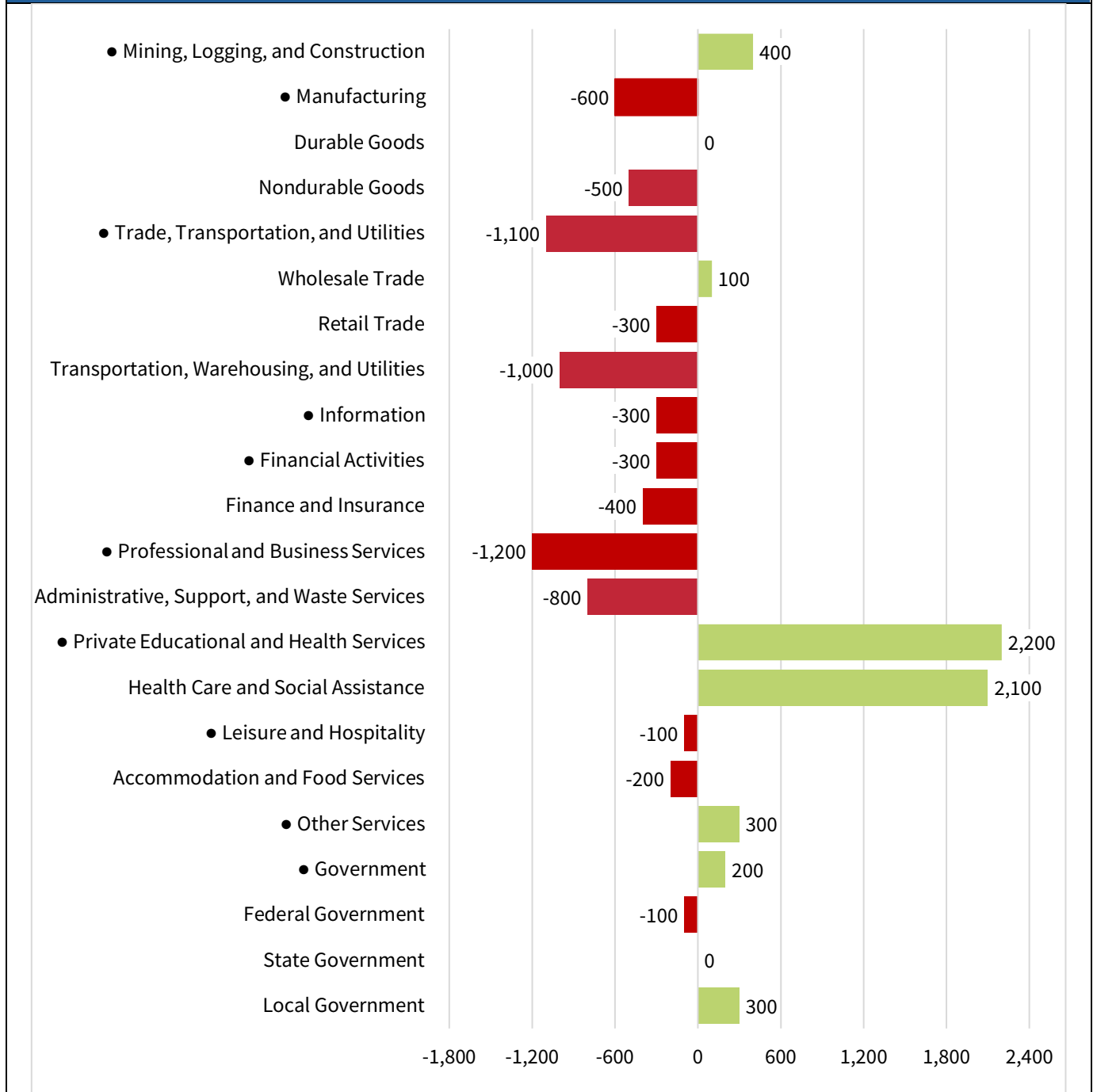
Figure 32. Change in Annual Average Total Nonfarm and Total Private Employment, 2023–2024



Source: Current Employment Statistics

In the Akron MSA, the total nonfarm employment was 338,700 in 2024, a decrease of 500 jobs. Akron's total private employment had 1,500 fewer jobs in 2024 than in 2023. Akron's professional and business services sector saw the largest decline in 2024, a loss of 1,200 jobs. This was followed closely by the trade, transportation, and utilities sector, which lost 1,100 jobs. The private education and health services sector saw the largest employment increase, gaining 2,200 jobs over the year.

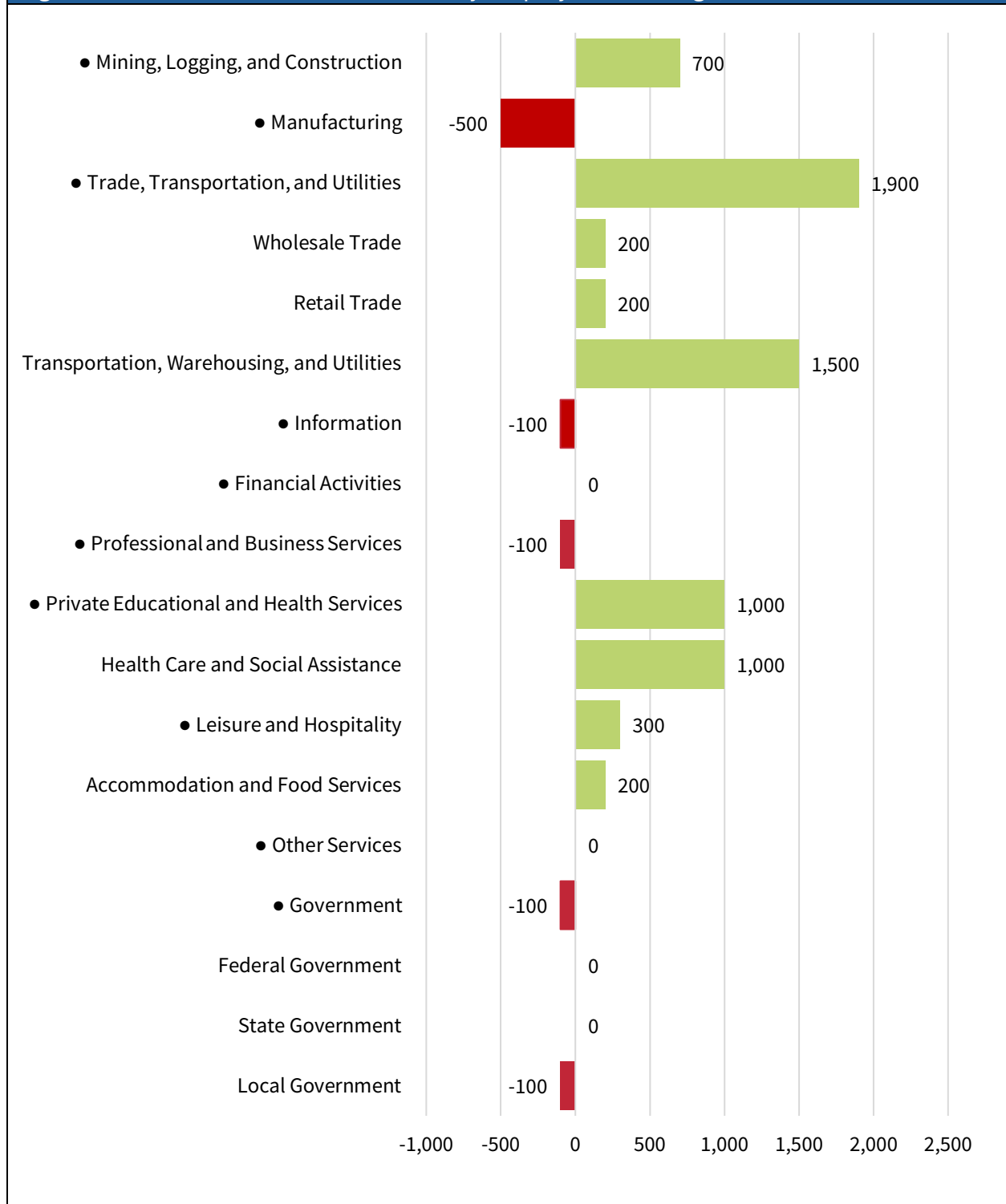
Figure 33. Akron MSA Industry Employment Change, 2023–2024



Source: Current Employment Statistics

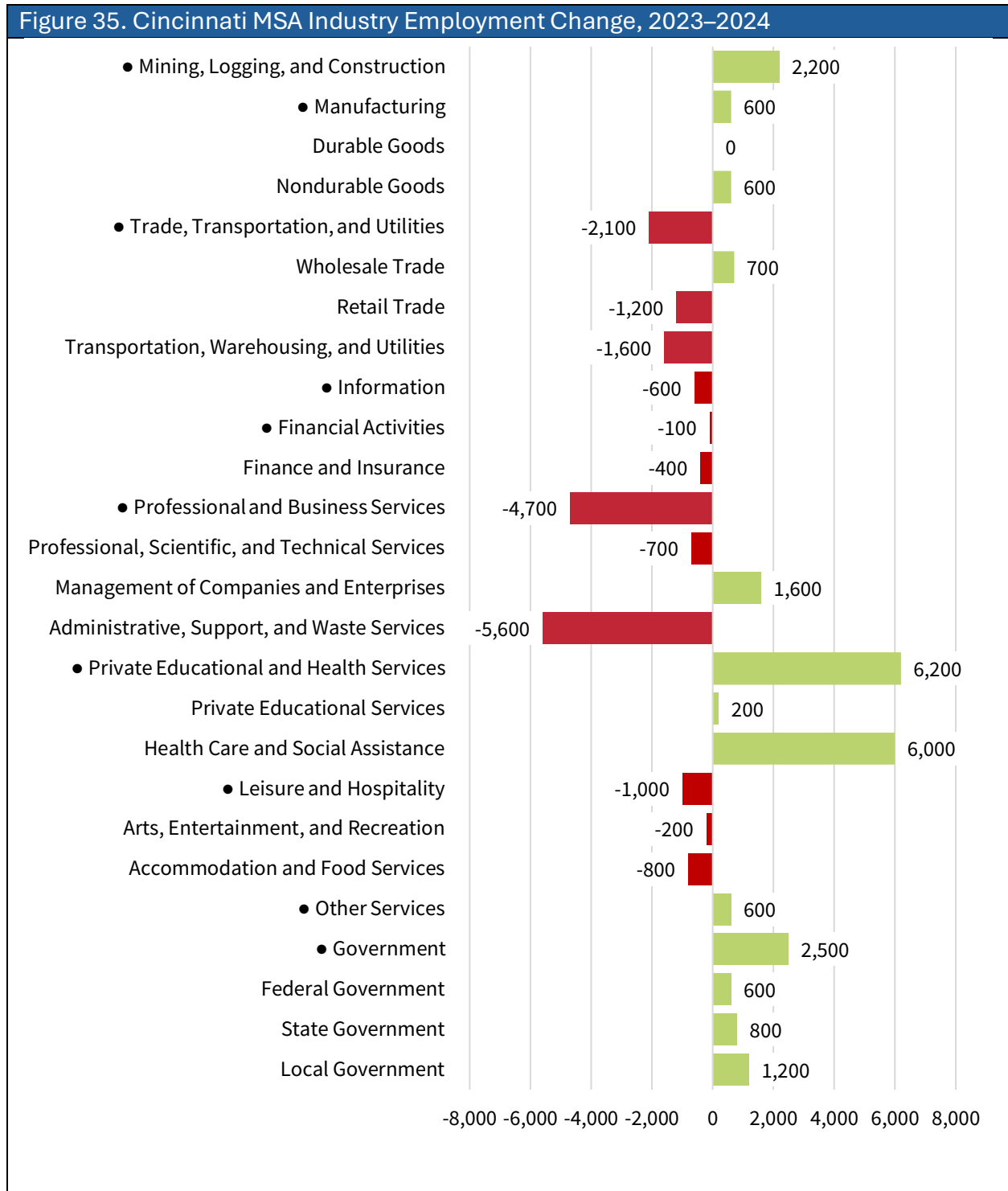
In the Canton-Massillon MSA, total nonfarm employment increased by 3,100 to 173,300 jobs in 2024. Total private employment was 154,200, an increase of 3,200 jobs. The manufacturing sector lost the most jobs, a decline of 500. The transportation, warehousing, and utilities sector gained 1,900 jobs over the year.

Figure 34. Canton-Massillon MSA Industry Employment Change, 2023–2024



Source: Current Employment Statistics

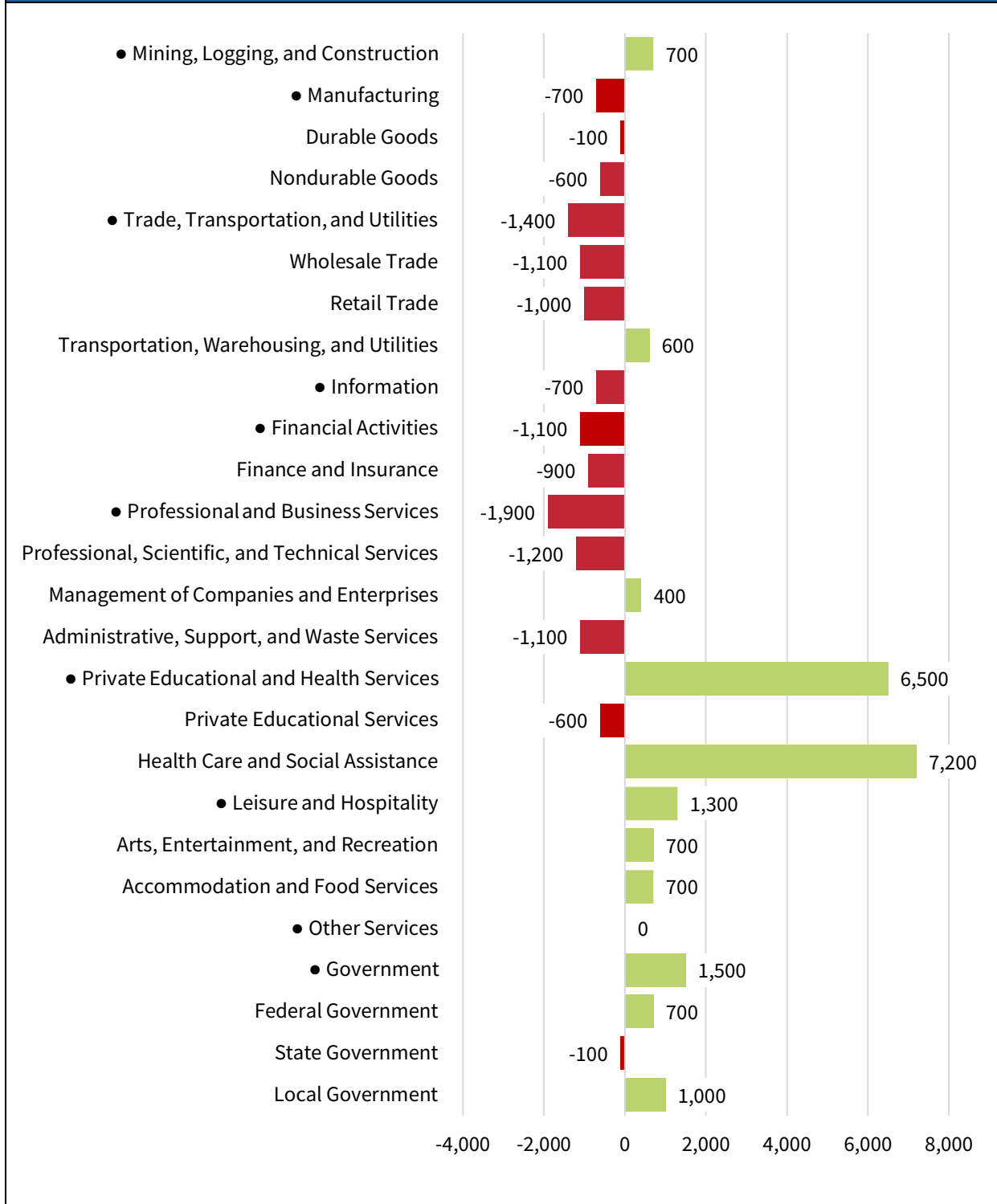
In the Cincinnati MSA, total nonfarm employment rose by 3,600 jobs to 1,160,300 in 2024. Total private employment for the Cincinnati MSA grew by 1,100 jobs to 1,026,200. The professional and business services sector had the biggest loss, decreasing by 4,700 jobs. The largest increase was in the private education and health services sector, which gained 6,200 jobs.



Source: Current Employment Statistics

In the Cleveland-Elyria MSA, total nonfarm employment grew by 4,200 to 1,093,900 jobs in 2024. Total private employment was 955,600, an increase of 2,700 jobs. The professional and business services sector saw the greatest loss, with a decrease of 1,900 jobs. The private education and health services sector grew by 6,500 jobs.

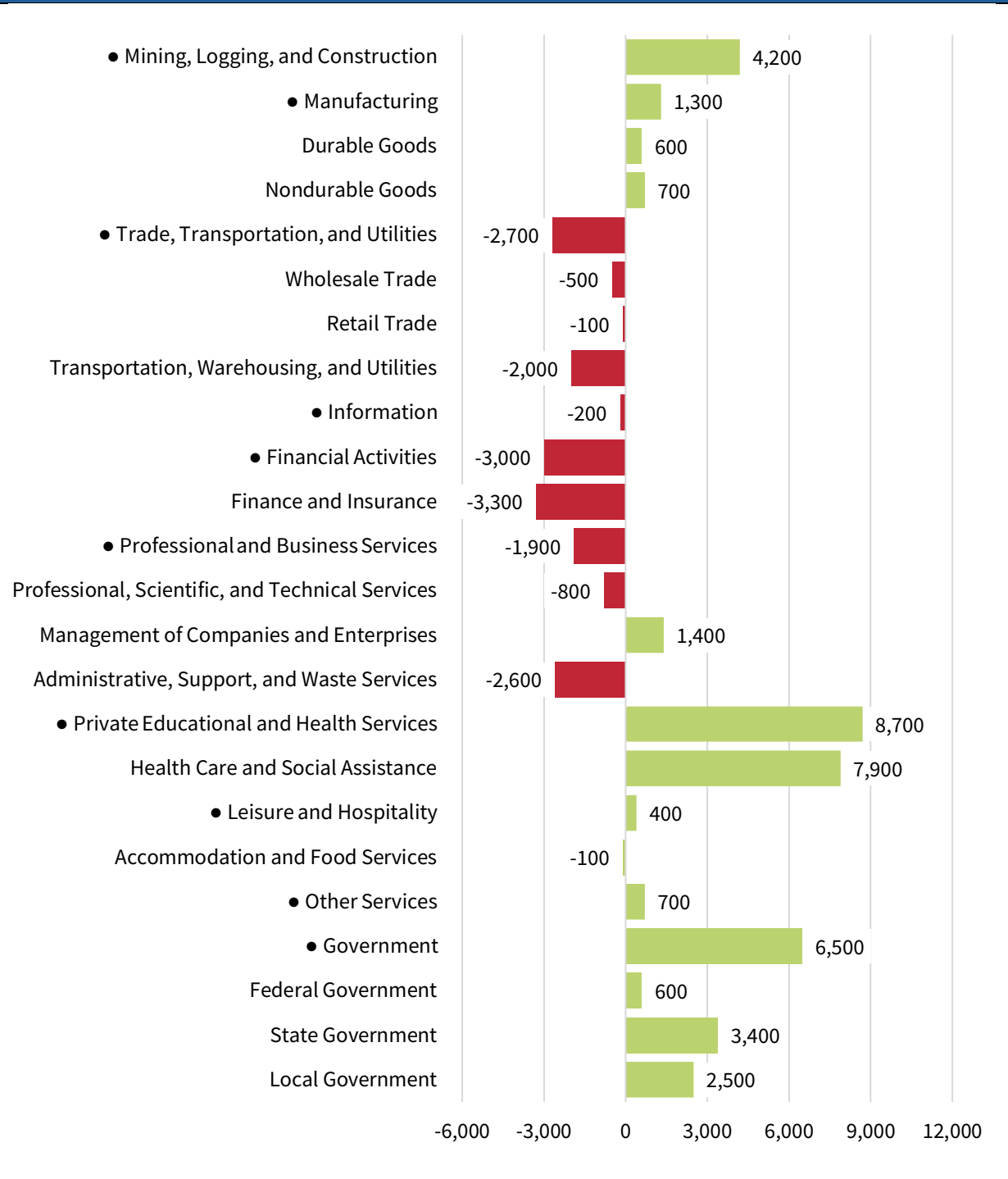
Figure 36. Cleveland-Elyria MSA Industry Employment Change, 2023–2024



Source: Current Employment Statistics

In the Columbus MSA, total nonfarm employment was 1,169,200 in 2024, an increase of 14,000 jobs. Total private employment increased by 7,500 to 977,300 jobs. The financial activities sector lost the most jobs, 3,000. This was followed closely by the transportation, warehousing and utilities sector, which lost 2,700 jobs. The private education and health services sector gained the most, a total of 8,700 jobs.

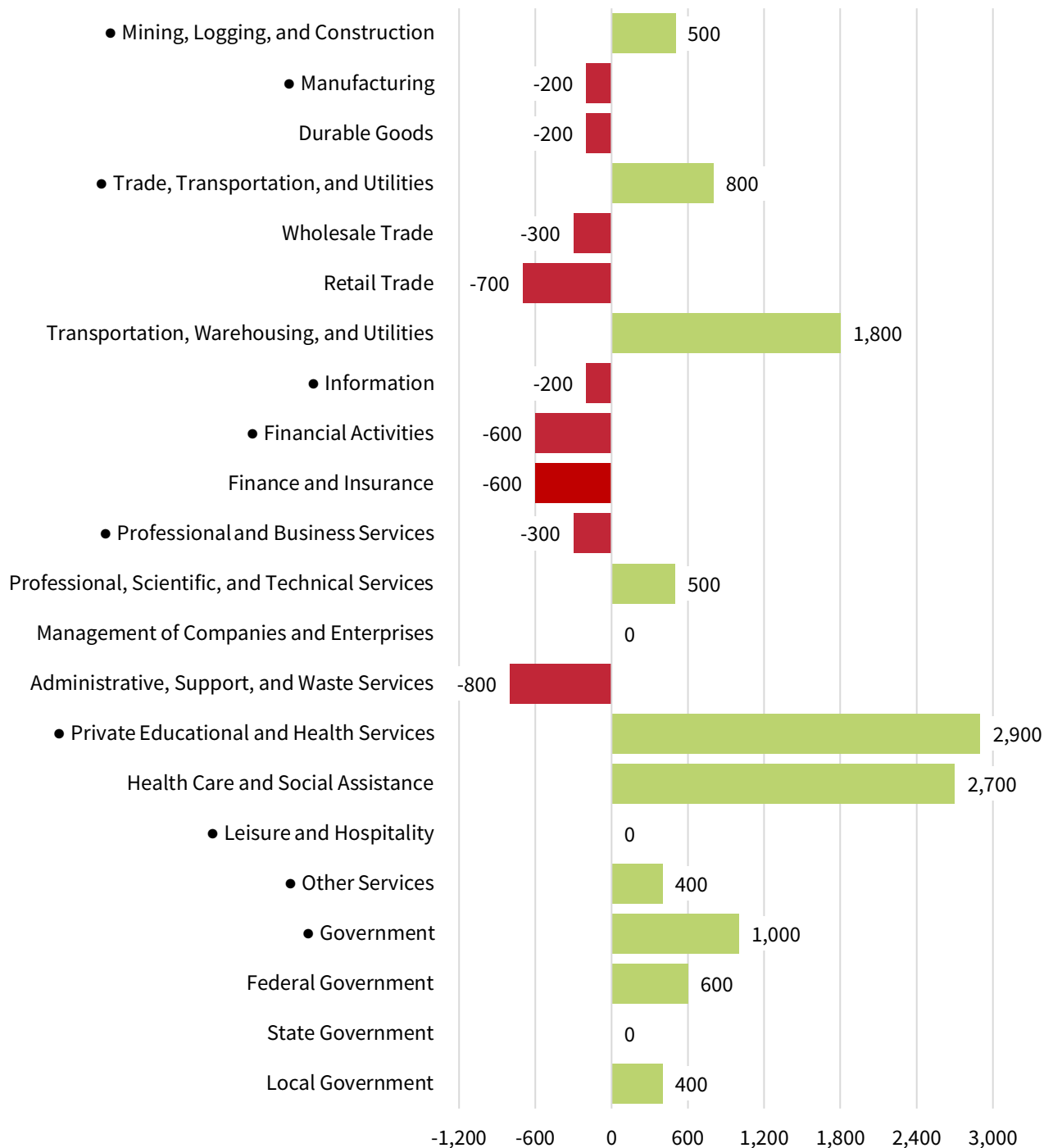
Figure 37. Columbus MSA Industry Employment Change, 2023–2024



Source: Current Employment Statistics

In the Dayton MSA, total nonfarm employment increased by 4,500 jobs in 2024, rising to 395,400. Total private employment was 332,500, an increase of 3,400 jobs. The financial activities sector saw the most job losses, 600 jobs. Private education and health services saw the most gains, an increase of 2,900 jobs.

Figure 38. Dayton MSA Industry Employment Change, 2023–2024



Source: Current Employment Statistics

In the Lima MSA, annual total nonfarm employment was 51,900 in 2024, an increase of 100 over 2023. Annual total private employment was 46,000, unchanged from 2023. The professional and business services and administrative and support and waste management and remediation services sector saw the largest decreases, each losing 500 jobs. The manufacturing and leisure and hospitality sectors saw the largest gains, with an increase of 200 jobs.

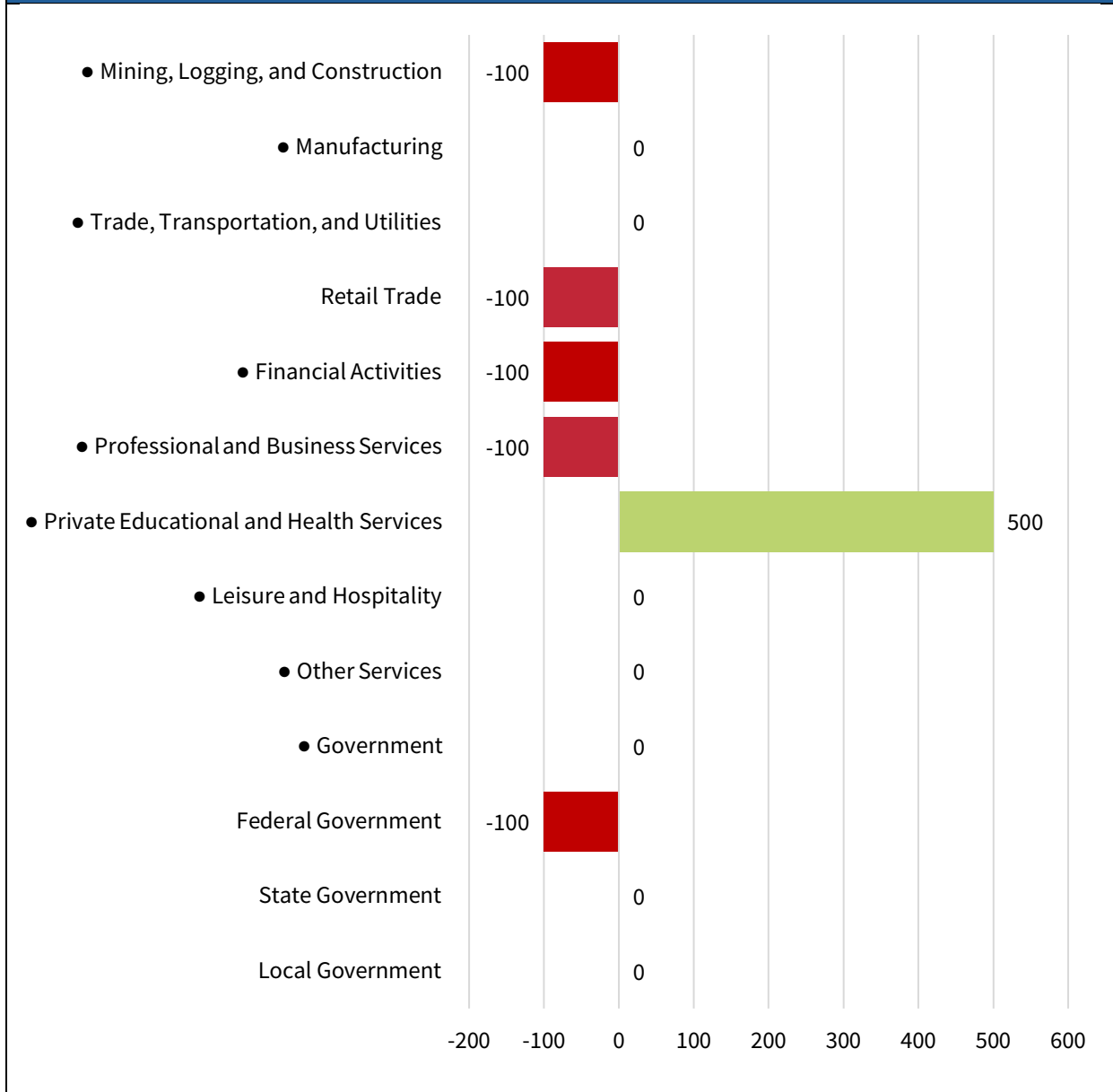
Figure 39. Lima MSA Industry Employment Change, 2023–2024



Source: Current Employment Statistics

In the Mansfield MSA, total nonfarm employment was 51,200 in 2024, an increase of 500 jobs. Total private employment was 43,900, an increase of 500 jobs. The largest employment losses were in the mining, logging and construction sector; financial services sector; and the professional and business services sector. Each lost 100 jobs. The private educational and health services sector saw the largest increase, at 500 jobs.

Figure 40. Mansfield MSA Industry Employment Change, 2023–2024



Source: Current Employment Statistics

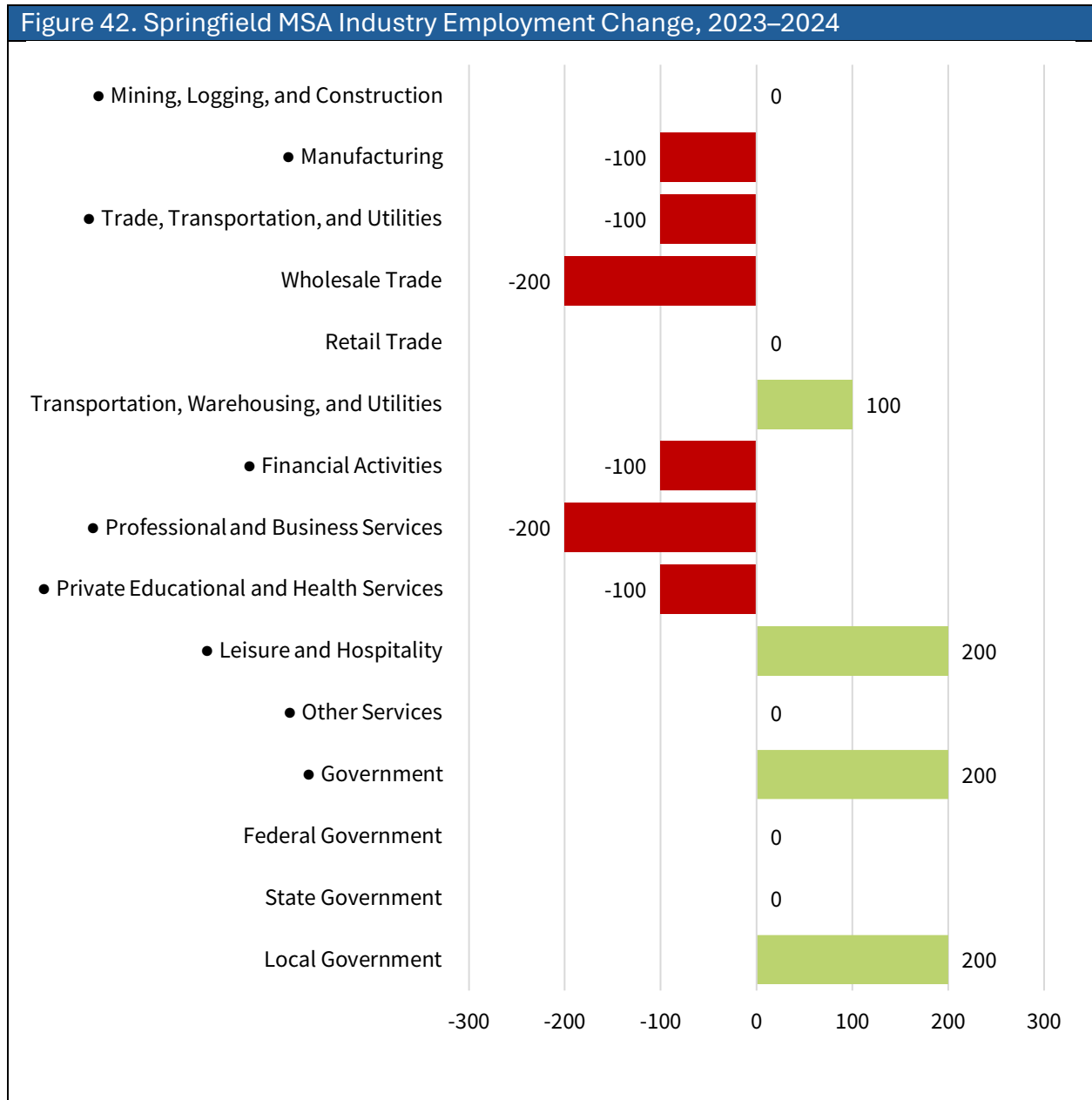
In the Sandusky MSA, total nonfarm employment was 52,300 in 2024, an increase of 700 jobs. Total private employment was 44,400, an increase of 600 jobs. The other services sector saw the largest employment losses, at 100 jobs. The private educational and health services sector and the government sectors saw the largest increases, at 200 jobs each.

Figure 41. Sandusky MSA Industry Employment Change, 2023–2024



Source: Current Employment Statistics

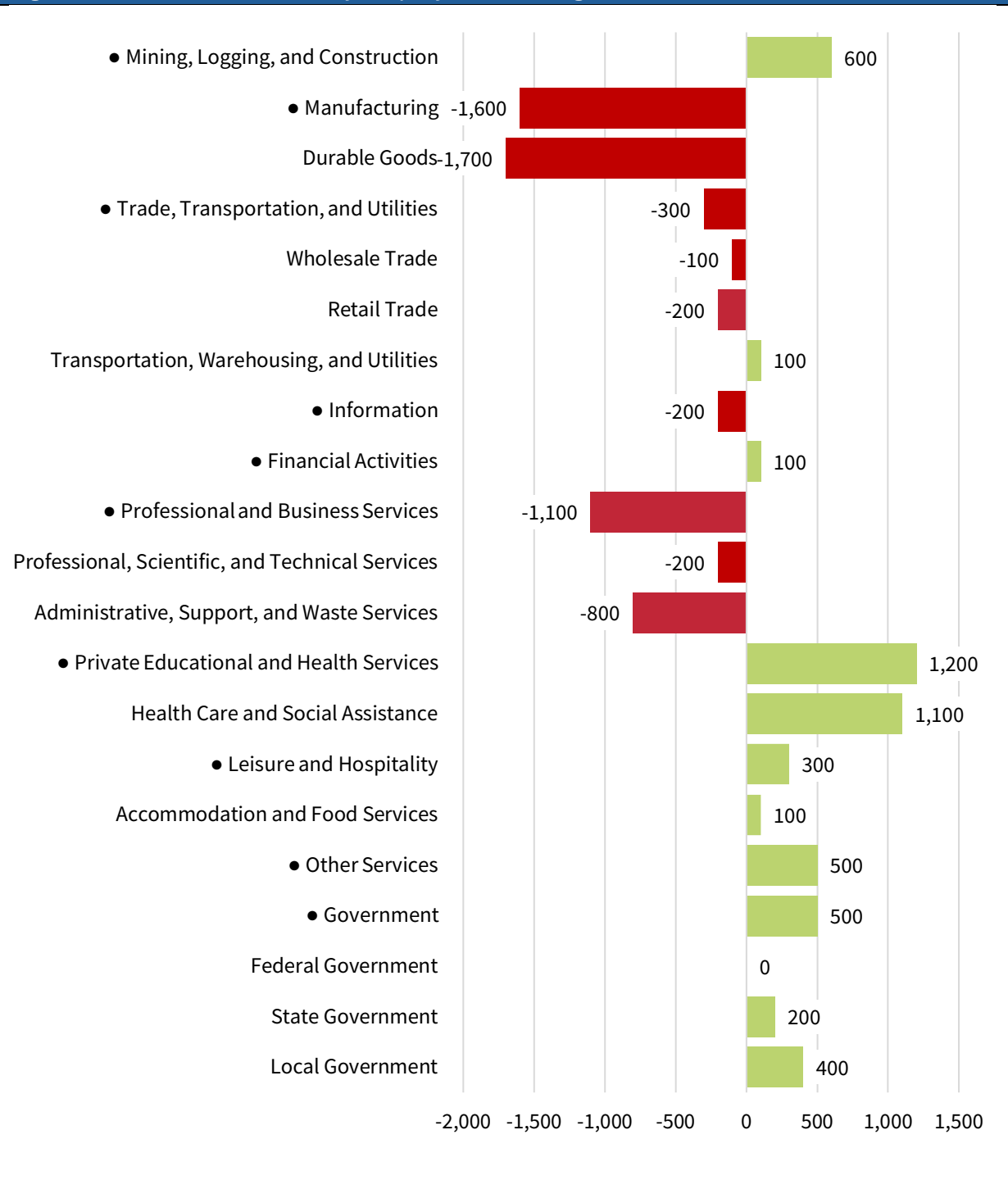
In the Springfield MSA, total nonfarm employment was 49,200 in 2024, an increase of 800 jobs. Total private employment was 42,100, a decrease of 400 jobs. The professional and business services sector saw the largest decrease in employment, with a loss of 200 jobs. The leisure and hospitality sector and the government sector both gained the most jobs, 400 jobs each, over the period.



Source: Current Employment Statistics

In the Toledo MSA, annual total nonfarm employment was 304,800 in 2024, an increase of 100 jobs. Total private employment was 260,400, a decrease of 400 jobs. The manufacturing sector saw the largest decline, with a loss of 1,600 jobs. Private education and health services saw the most gains, with 1,200 jobs added. This was followed by the mining, logging, and construction sector, which gained 600 jobs.

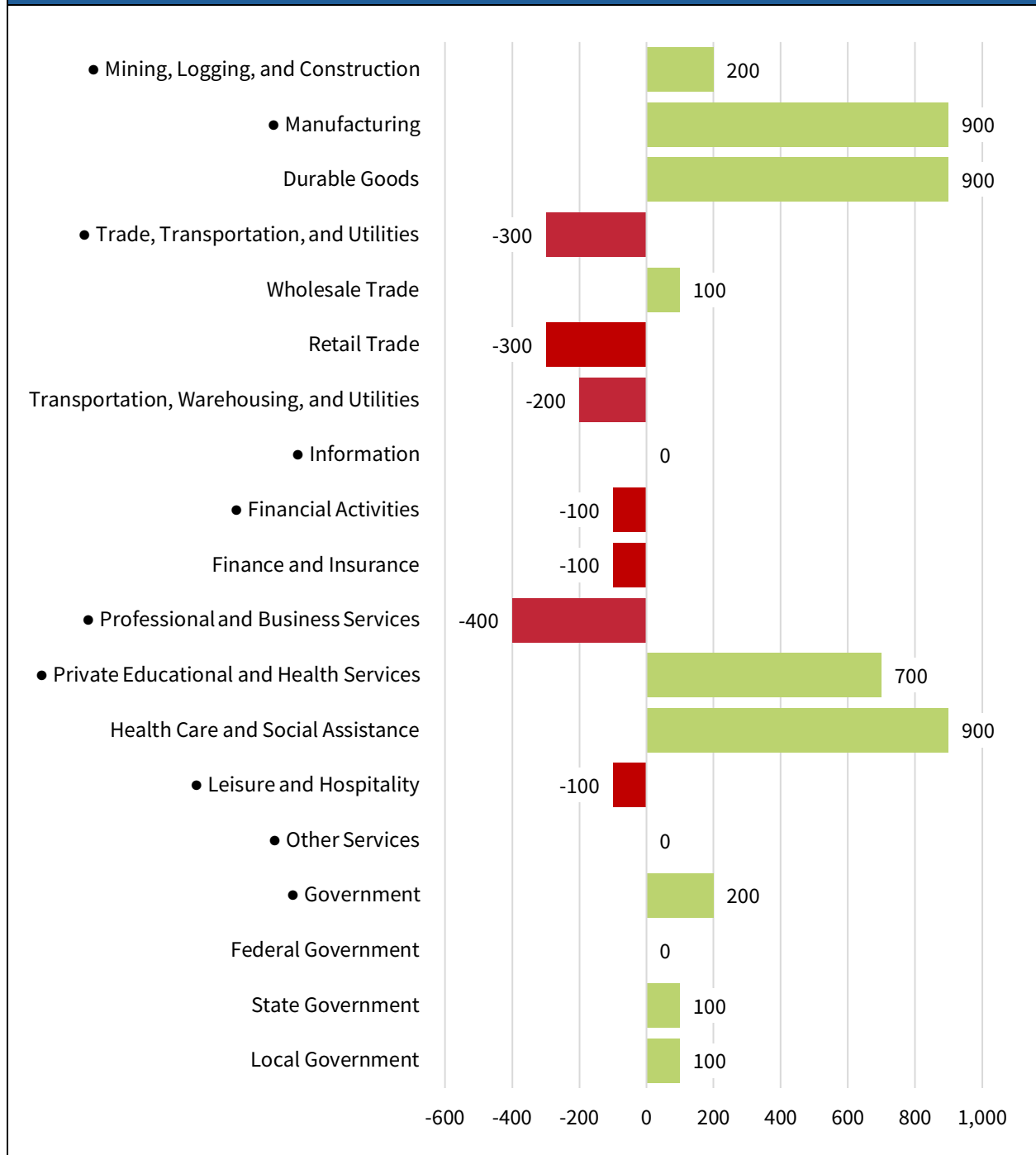
Figure 43. Toledo MSA Industry Employment Change, 2023–2024



Source: Current Employment Statistics

In the Youngstown-Warren-Boardman MSA, annual total nonfarm employment was 167,200 in 2024, an increase of 1,200 jobs. Total private employment was 144,500, an increase of 1,100 jobs. The greatest loss was in professional and business services, which lost 400 jobs. Manufacturing saw the largest increase, with a gain of 900 jobs.

Figure 44. Youngstown-Warren-Boardman MSA Industry Employment Change, 2023–2024



Source: Current Employment Statistics

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
Office of Workforce Development
P.O. Box 182105
30 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215



OhioMeansJobs.com®

Bureau of Labor Market Information Business Principles for Workforce Development

- 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 Labor Market Information Bureau Chief, Nick Wallace. To view other publications, access data or provide feedback, visit ohiolmi.com or contact the Ohio Bureau of Labor Market Information at (614) 752-9494 or ContactLMI@jfs.ohio.gov.

Mike DeWine, Governor
Jim Tressel, Lt. Governor
State of Ohio
Ohio.gov

Matt Damschroder, Director
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
jfs.ohio.gov

Office of Workforce Development
jfs.ohio.gov/owd

Bureau of Labor Market Information
ohiolmi.com

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
A proud partner of the American Job Center network.