



Department of
Job & Family
Services

Labor Market Information



Labor Market Matters

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Understanding Seasonally Adjusted Data



Seasonally adjusted employment data is modified to remove the effects of regular, predictable patterns that occur throughout the year—such as holidays, school calendars, weather changes, or agricultural cycles. This adjustment helps reveal the actual

trends in employment and unemployment from one month to the next.

For instance, retail employment typically rises in November and December due to holiday shopping. Construction employment often declines in winter and increases during the summer because of weather conditions. Seasonal adjustments smooth out these expected changes. Without them, monthly comparisons could be misleading, making it harder to identify real shifts in the labor market and potentially causing confusion when interpreting the data.

Most monthly employment and unemployment figures reported in the media are seasonally adjusted. This makes them more useful for tracking trends over time. In contrast, annual average employment estimates are based on data that has not been seasonally adjusted. This is because seasonal fluxes tend to offset one another over the course of a year. For annual estimates, not-seasonally-adjusted data provides a more accurate reflection of actual employment levels and allows for consistent comparisons across multiple years.

Matt Damschroder, Director
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Ohio's Job Outlook 2022-2032

The Bureau of Labor Market Information (LMI) has updated its report on Ohio's job trends, with employment predictions for the next 10 years. These forecasts, which come out every two years, help with career planning, education and training, policymaking, and business decisions.

One important use of these projections is identifying **Ohio's Top Jobs**. These are careers that offer good pay, strong growth, and plenty of job openings. This information helps state agencies connect people with opportunities through [OhioMeansJobs.com](https://ohiojobs.com).

The [Ohio Job Outlook](#) report includes details on population and labor force trends, industry employment forecasts, and predictions for specific occupations.



Check out the report to see what Ohio's job market could look like in the future!

Data Request Spotlight

Question:

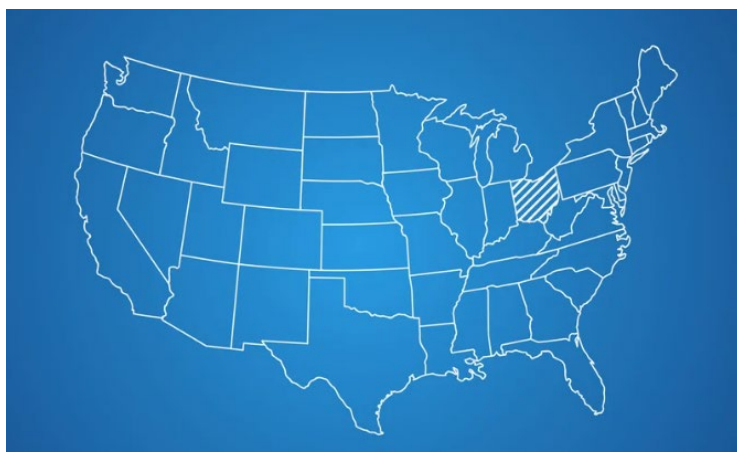
It looks like Mercer County, Pennsylvania, is no longer included in the Youngstown, Ohio, metropolitan statistical area (MSA) employment projections. Can you confirm if this is correct and explain why the county was removed?

Answer:

Yes, that's correct. Mercer County is no longer part of the Youngstown MSA. This is because the U.S. Office of Management and Budget updated the MSA definitions after the 2020 Census. The new definitions were published in 2023 (OMB Bulletin 23-01). The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics incorporated them into its data series in 2025.

Ohio's employment projections are based on data from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages and the Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics program, both of which include only Ohio data. As a result, Pennsylvania counties such as Mercer are not included in Ohio's projections.

You can view maps showing the updated MSA boundaries for Ohio here: <https://ohiolmi.com/Home/Maps>





Meet the Team: Derek Ault

Derek supervises the Local Area Unemployment Statistics and Current Employment Statistics programs for Ohio LMI. Originally from Medina, he moved to Columbus in 2017 after receiving a master's degree in public health from Kent State University. Initially, he worked as a research analyst for the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. In 2019, he joined the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to manage the performance reporting for several workforce programs. In 2024, he transitioned to LMI. In his free time, he enjoys staying active by playing pickleball and volleyball.

Dashboard Spotlight: Ohio's Employment Status

The [Employment Status Dashboard](#) on [OhioLMI.com](#) is an interactive tool that helps users explore labor market data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (Table S2301). It highlights employment trends across key demographic groups, including:

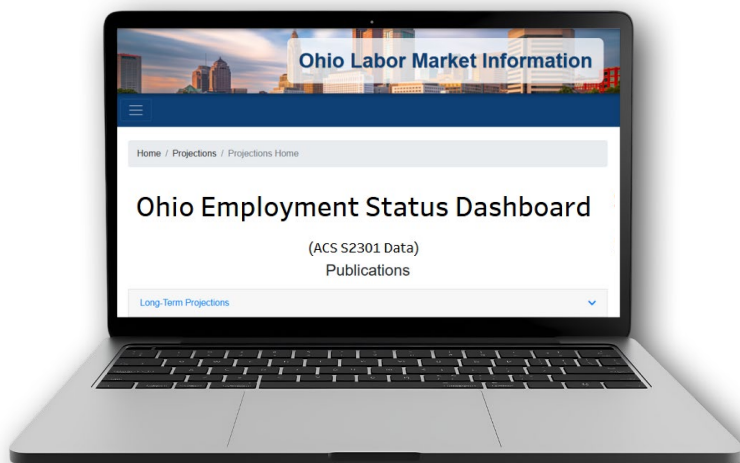
- Race/Ethnicity
- Age
- Sex
- Poverty/Disability Status
- Education Level
- Total Populations

Users can view data for important labor market measures such as unemployment rates, labor force participation rates, and employment-to-population ratios.

This dashboard is especially helpful for workforce planners, educators, policy makers, and community organizations that want to better understand how different groups are participating in Ohio's workforce—and where disparities may exist.

The dashboard is simple to use. Just choose the data you want to explore and select the type of graph you'd like to view. Want to dive deeper? In the bottom-right corner of the main menu, you'll find "Narrative Profiles County Reports." Click there to access detailed summaries for each Ohio county. Just select a county from the interactive map.

For a quick overview of how the dashboard works, click the [About the Dashboard](#) button to watch a brief video.



Labor Market Matters

We Want to Hear from You!

Are there specific labor market topics you'd like us to cover in future notifications? Let us know! Send your suggestions to ContactLMI@jfs.ohio.gov.



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Don't Miss Out — Join an LMI Learning Lab!

These quick, free webinars are your chance to explore Ohio labor market data and ask questions in real time. View upcoming sessions at ohiolmi.com/LocalData/Lab.

Let's talk data — we'd love to have you!

