

Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages

Fourth Quarter 2025

Summary - Employment covered under the Ohio Unemployment Compensation Law totaled 5.49 million in the fourth quarter of 2025 – up 0.3 percent from one year ago. Ten industrial sectors experienced employment increases in the fourth quarter. Increases ranged from 3.8 percent in Construction to 0.2 percent in Administrative & Waste Services.

Nine industrial sectors experienced employment declines. Declines ranged from 2.1 percent in Wholesale Trade to 0.6 percent in Retail Trade and in Educational Services. State and Local Government employment increased 0.1 percent and Federal Government employment decreased 7.8 percent compared to the previous year.

The fourth quarter 2025 payroll of \$96.5 billion was an increase of 4.5 percent from its same calendar point in 2024. All nineteen industrial sectors experienced payroll increases in the fourth quarter. Increases ranged from 9.6 percent in Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting to 1.0 percent in Other Services, Except Public Administration. During this same period, State and Local Government wages increased 4.1 percent. Federal Government employees showed a 5.7 percent decrease in wages compared to the previous year.

Industrial Sector	Average Employment Fourth Quarter 2025	Wages (in thousands) Fourth Quarter 2025	Percent Change Fourth Quarter 2024 to Fourth Quarter 2025	
			Employment	Wages
Total Covered under Ohio UC Law	5,492,155	\$96,504,392	0.3	4.5
Private Sector	4,826,352	85,063,025	0.3	4.5
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	20,076	301,278	0.5	9.6
Mining	8,583	201,381	-1.4	2.2
Utilities	18,658	575,153	0.8	3.4
Construction	266,072	6,357,190	3.8	9.4
Manufacturing	672,324	13,907,690	-0.9	3.8
Wholesale Trade	234,729	5,976,307	-2.1	3.9
Retail Trade	546,848	5,466,399	-0.6	3.6
Transportation & Warehousing	264,160	4,324,051	1.0	4.3
Information	65,606	1,737,491	0.6	5.4
Finance and Insurance	229,653	6,384,167	-0.8	5.4
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	69,531	1,260,620	-0.7	5.0
Professional and Technical Services	286,896	8,143,061	-0.9	4.0
Management of Companies & Enterprises	152,688	4,742,893	3.2	2.8
Administrative & Waste Services	295,727	4,024,013	0.2	5.0
Educational Services	96,921	1,169,162	-0.6	1.6
Health Care & Social Assistance	876,985	14,444,754	1.7	5.1
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	82,420	1,150,057	1.3	5.2
Accommodation & Food Services	480,134	2,969,846	0.3	2.6
Other Services, Except Public Administration	158,342	1,927,513	-0.9	1.0
State and Local Government	665,803	11,441,367	0.1	4.1
Federal Government	78,815	1,840,265	-7.8	-5.7

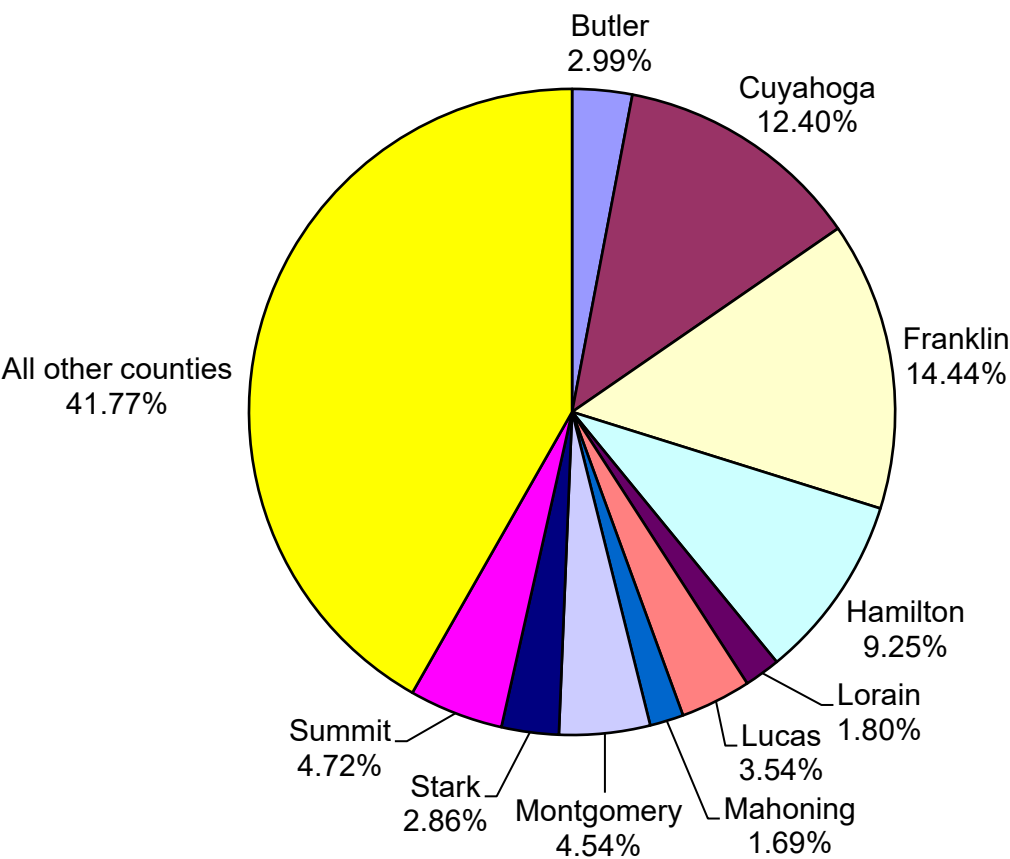
Four of Ohio’s ten largest counties experienced employment increases from their fourth quarter 2024 levels. Increases ranged from 2.2 percent in Franklin County to 0.3 percent in Lucas County. Six of Ohio’s ten largest counties experienced employment decreases. The decreases ranged from 1.7 percent in Cuyahoga County to 0.3 percent in Hamilton County.

All ten of Ohio’s largest counties experienced payroll increases since 2024. Payroll increases ranged from 6.7 percent in Lorain County to 1.7 percent in Cuyahoga County.

Industrial Sector	Average Employment Fourth Quarter 2025	Wages (in thousands) Fourth Quarter 2025	Percent Change Fourth Quarter 2024 to Fourth Quarter 2025	
			Employment	Wages
Total Covered under Ohio UC Law	5,492,155	\$96,504,392	0.3	4.5
Butler	164,346	2,806,972	-0.6	4.4
Cuyahoga	680,762	13,522,651	-1.7	1.7
Franklin	793,128	15,394,270	2.2	5.6
Hamilton	508,230	10,223,042	-0.3	3.7
Lorain	98,911	1,487,595	1.3	6.7
Lucas	194,373	3,259,357	0.3	5.3
Mahoning	92,636	1,304,470	-0.8	3.5
Montgomery	249,565	4,099,815	1.3	5.4
Stark	157,232	2,351,180	-1.3	5.3
Summit	259,049	4,395,861	-0.4	4.5
All other counties	2,293,923	37,659,179	0.5	4.9

The chart that follows represents the percentage of Ohio covered employment in each of the ten largest counties and all other counties combined. Ten of Ohio’s 88 counties account for nearly 60 percent of the state’s covered employment.

Percentage of Fourth Quarter 2025 Employment - Ten Largest Counties



Comparability with Other Data. This quarterly data may not compare with the monthly data published in the *Labor Market Review*. Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages data are tabulated from reports of employment covered by Ohio Unemployment Compensation Law. The monthly data presented in the *Labor Market Review* are from a sample survey of employers and represent estimates of total employment in the nonagricultural wage and salary sectors.

Further Data. These data were compiled from quarterly reports for over 349,000 reporting units. Summary tabulations are published in preliminary form, for the fourth quarter of 2025, by industrial sector and county. They present average quarterly employment tabulations and fourth quarter payroll figures for each county in Ohio. Data for earlier periods or years and definitions of covered employment and payroll concepts are available upon request.

Additional Information. For additional information, contact the Bureau of Labor Market Information, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, 30 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43266-0423, (614) 752-9494 or visit our website at <https://ohiolmi.com/>.

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