Department of Job & Family Services

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Mike DeWine, *Governor* Jim Tressel, *Lt. Governor* Matt Damschroder, *Director*

Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages

First Quarter 2026

Summary - Employment covered under the Ohio Unemployment Compensation Law totaled 5.37 million in the first quarter of 2026 – up 0.1 percent from one year ago. Nine industrial sectors experienced employment increases in the first quarter. Increases ranged from 3.5 percent in Construction to 0.1 percent in Real Estate and Rental and Leasing.

Ten industrial sectors experienced employment declines. Declines ranged from 1.9 percent in Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting to 0.1 percent in Finance and Insurance. State and Local Government employment increased 0.2 percent and Federal Government employment decreased 8.1 percent compared to the previous year.

The first quarter 2026 payroll of $98.1 billion was an increase of 4.1 percent from its same calendar point in 2025. Eighteen industrial sectors experienced payroll increases in the first quarter. Increases ranged from 16.2 percent in Utilities to 0.7 percent in Mining. During this same period, State and Local Government wages increased 3.2 percent. Federal Government employees showed a 1.2 percent increase in wages compared to the previous year.

Industrial Sector	Average Employment First Quarter 2026	Average Employment First Quarter 2025	Wages (in thousands) First Quarter 2026	Wages (in thousands) First Quarter 2025	Percent Change First Quarter 2025 to First Quarter 2026	
					Employment	Wages
Total Covered under Ohio UC Law	**5,370,174**	**5,364,615**	**$98,131,787**	**$94,271,994**	**0.1**	**4.1**
Private Sector	4,712,501	4,708,316	87,010,514	$83,499,156	0.1	4.2
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	18,004	18,361	224,457	222,073	-1.9	1.1
Mining	8,141	8,287	195,398	194,105	-1.8	0.7
Utilities	19,188	18,730	839,466	722,549	2.4	16.2
Construction	248,281	239,798	5,339,376	4,870,166	3.5	9.6
Manufacturing	668,435	676,365	14,356,483	13,850,598	-1.2	3.7
Wholesale Trade	230,806	233,932	6,118,281	5,819,272	-1.3	5.1
Retail Trade	526,917	531,843	5,130,312	5,167,799	-0.9	-0.7
Transportation & Warehousing	253,084	250,433	4,172,268	3,963,233	1.1	5.3
Information	64,950	65,644	1,916,725	1,900,918	-1.1	0.8
Finance and Insurance	230,137	230,405	8,661,767	8,134,229	-0.1	6.5
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	67,707	67,626	1,253,280	1,203,060	0.1	4.2
Professional and Technical Services	285,311	288,691	7,727,737	7,529,533	-1.2	2.6
Management of Companies & Enterprises	151,805	154,143	6,581,255	6,179,873	-1.5	6.5
Administrative & Waste Services	276,102	275,463	3,736,936	3,664,275	0.2	2.0
Educational Services	95,478	95,322	1,151,736	1,122,654	0.2	2.6
Health Care & Social Assistance	870,117	857,889	14,120,282	13,609,188	1.4	3.8
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	72,883	72,710	869,355	858,970	0.2	1.2
Accommodation & Food Services	468,835	465,727	2,780,535	2,685,937	0.7	3.5
Other Services, Except Public Administration	156,320	156,947	1,834,864	1,800,724	-0.4	1.9
State and Local Government	657,673	656,299	11,121,273	10,772,838	0.2	3.2
Federal Government	77,557	84,353	2,226,340	2,200,361	-8.1	1.2

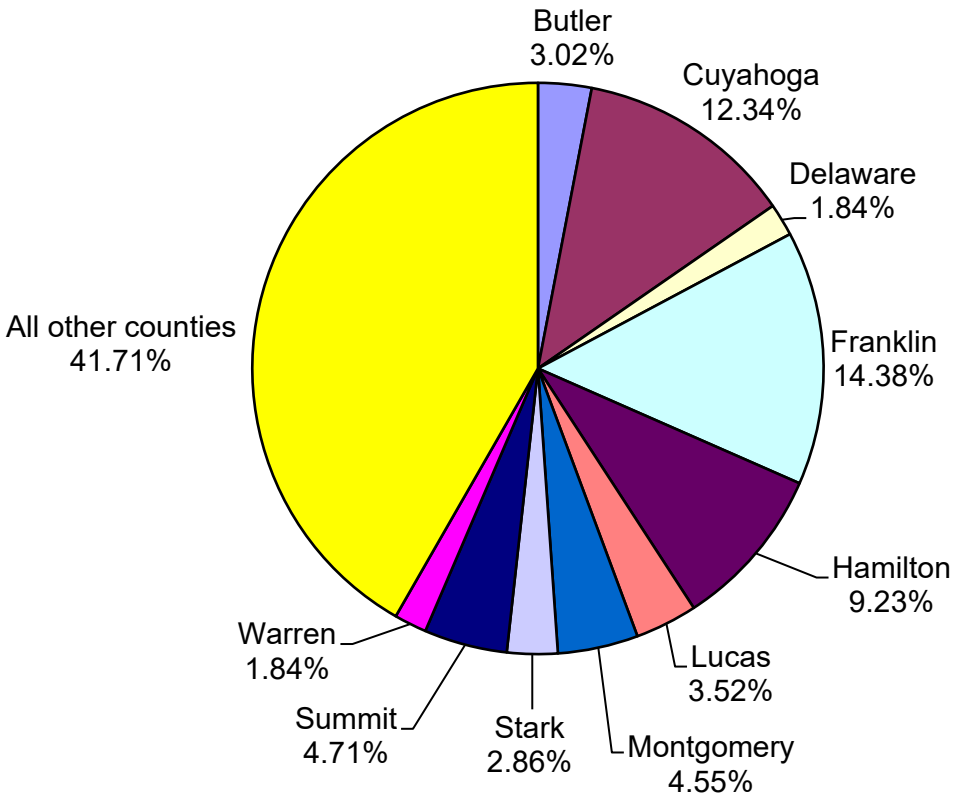
Four of Ohio's ten largest counties experienced employment increases from their first quarter 2025 levels. Increases ranged from 1.2 percent in Delaware County to 0.4 percent in Montgomery County. Employment decreases occurred in five of Ohio's largest counties, ranging from 1.1 percent in Summit County to 0.5 percent in Cuyahoga County. Employment in Warren County was essentially unchanged.

Nine of Ohio's largest counties experienced payroll increases since 2025. Payroll increases ranged from 13.3 percent in Delaware County to 2.3 percent in Montgomery County. Only one of Ohio's largest counties, Lucas County, had a payroll decrease (0.8 percent).

Industrial Sector	Average Employment First Quarter 2026	Average Employment First Quarter 2025	Wages (in thousands) First Quarter 2026	Wages (in thousands) First Quarter 2025	Percent Change First Quarter 2025 to First Quarter 2026	
					Employment	Wages
Total Covered under Ohio UC Law	**5,370,174**	**5,364,615**	**$98,131,787**	**$94,271,994**	**0.1**	**4.1**
Butler	162,282	161,415	2,962,419	2,893,764	0.5	2.4
Cuyahoga	662,750	665,848	13,928,442	13,365,900	-0.5	4.2
Delaware	99,023	97,804	2,364,189	2,086,439	1.2	13.3
Franklin	772,061	764,515	15,940,619	15,032,562	1.0	6.0
Hamilton	495,841	498,778	10,908,945	10,609,958	-0.6	2.8
Lucas	189,122	190,905	3,155,093	3,180,567	-0.9	-0.8
Montgomery	244,241	243,222	4,007,267	3,918,209	0.4	2.3
Stark	153,583	154,503	2,298,082	2,202,422	-0.6	4.3
Summit	252,704	255,607	4,492,668	4,347,212	-1.1	3.3
Warren	98,912	98,899	1,812,115	1,757,334	0.0	3.1
All other counties	2,239,655	2,233,119	36,261,948	34,877,627	0.3	4.0

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 First Quarter 2026 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 346,000 reporting units. Summary tabulations are published in preliminary form, for the first quarter of 2026, by industrial sector and county. They present average quarterly employment tabulations and first 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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