

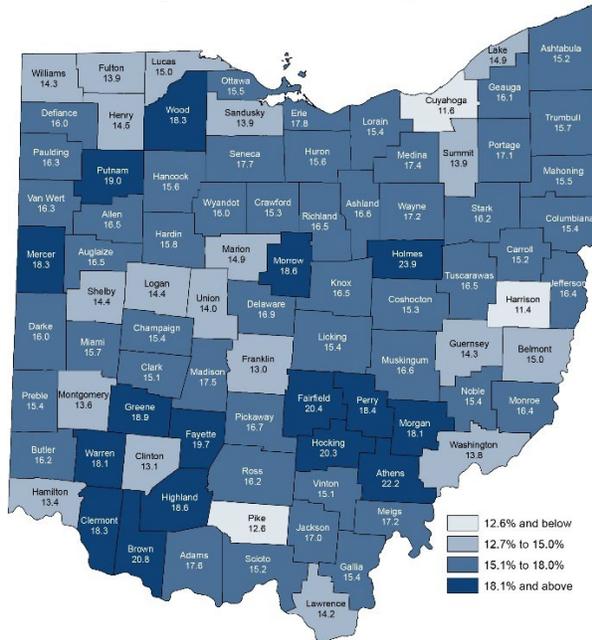


Ohio's Young Adult Workforce

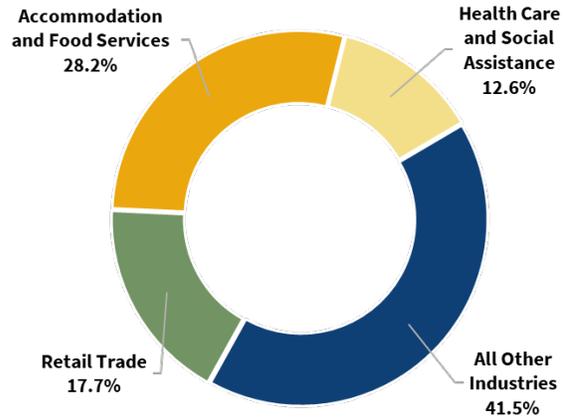
March 5, 2026

Getting work experience early in life helps people build a strong foundation for future employment. Early employment helps young workers develop important skills, positive work habits, and valuable professional connections. These experiences can support long-term career growth and financial stability. Ohio has about 700,000 young workers who are 14 to 24 years old. They make up 14.6% of the state's total workforce.

Young Adult Workers Ages 14-24



Workers Ages 14-24 by Industry



700K Total Ohio workers age 14-24

14.6% Percent of Ohio workers age 14-24

Three industries play a major role in employing young Ohioans: (1) accommodation and food services, (1) retail trade, and (3) health care and social assistance. The map shows the percentage of workers who are 14 to 24 years old in each county based on where they are employed. Overall, counties with a higher concentration of jobs in these industries have a larger share of young adult workers.



In Ohio, many young adults begin their careers in industries such as retail, food service, and health care. These jobs typically don't require a college degree and offer valuable opportunities to gain experience and build essential skills. Common entry-level positions include cashiers, fast food workers, and home health aides. As young workers gain experience or additional training, they can advance to mid-level roles like retail supervisors, chefs, or registered nurses—positions that come with higher pay and greater responsibility.

The table below highlights examples of common jobs for young workers and outlines potential career paths within these industries.

COMMON OCCUPATIONS BY INDUSTRY		
Industry	Occupations	Potential Earnings ¹
Retail Trade	Entry-Level Positions	
	Retail Salespersons	\$27,410-\$36,210
	Cashiers	\$25,920-\$30,980
	Mid-Level Positions	
	Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	\$34,960-\$55,280
Pharmacy Technicians	\$35,630-\$46,540	
Accommodation and Food Services	Entry-Level Positions	
	Fast Food and Counter Workers	\$26,430-\$29,800
	Waiters and Waitresses	\$27,700-\$46,720
	Mid-Level Positions	
	Chefs and Head Cooks	\$43,830-\$72,880
Food Service Managers	\$47,280-\$75,100	
Health Care and Social Assistance	Entry-Level Positions	
	Food Servers	\$27,620-\$34,750
	Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	\$28,110-\$34,400
	Mid-Level Positions	
	Home Health and Personal Care Aides	\$28,570-\$35,300
Registered Nurses	\$77,420-\$97,440	

¹ The 25th and 75th percentiles from the Occupational and Employment Wage Statistics (OEWS) survey were used to approximate a potential earnings salary range.

Technical Note: The data in this report are from the Quarterly Workforce Indicators annual data for 2024, the OEWS survey May 2022 panel, and the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2023 one-year estimates.