

Labor Market Information In Review: 2018 Annual Economic Report



Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....	2
The Labor Force and Unemployment Rates	3
Labor Demand - Online Job Ads.....	16
Industry Employment.....	24

Executive Summary

Ohio's economy continued to improve in 2018. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was close to flat throughout the year. The seasonally adjusted rate was 4.5 percent from January to March, then 4.6 percent for the rest of the year. Mercer County had the lowest annual unemployment rate at 2.8 percent, and Monroe County had the highest rate at 7.8 percent. The JobsOhio Central Region had the lowest annual unemployment rate among the regions at 3.8 percent; the Southeast Region had the highest annual rate at 5.7 percent. Statewide initial claims for unemployment compensation were 12.7 lower on average than in 2017.

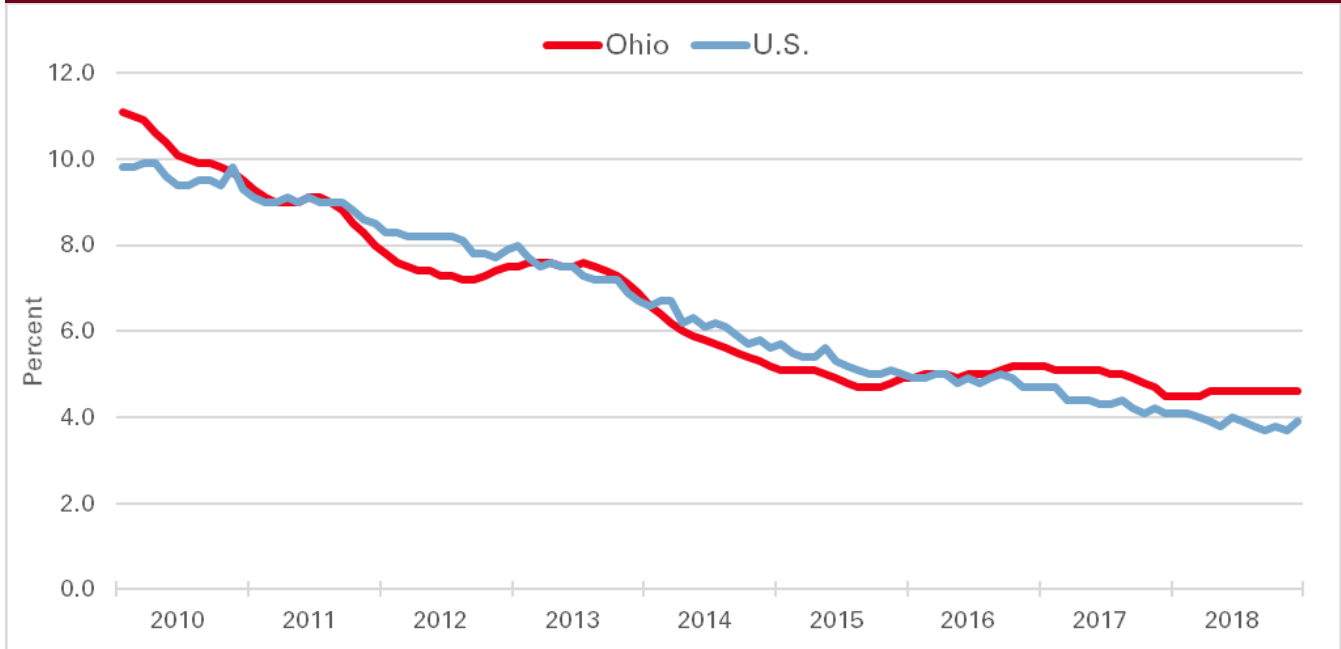
The volume of online job ads for 2018 was similar to 2017. The top advertised jobs were for registered nurses and first-line supervisors of retail sales workers.

Ohio added jobs in 2018. Annual total nonfarm employment grew by 34,100 jobs from 2017 to 2018, and annual total private employment grew by 35,200. Industry sector growth from 2017 to 2018 was led by manufacturing (+11,800). The increase was driven primarily by the durable goods subsector (+9,300). The educational and health services sector added 8,100 jobs, followed by leisure and hospitality with 4,400 added jobs. Other services (-1,300) and government employment (-1,000) both decreased. The retail trade subsector lost 6,800 jobs. The Cincinnati metropolitan statistical area (MSA) had the largest total private employment increase (+1.5 percent), followed by the Columbus (+1.4 percent) and Cleveland (+0.9 percent) MSAs.

The Labor Force and Unemployment Rates

The traditional indicator of the health of the labor force is the unemployment rate. Figure 1 shows the seasonally adjusted monthly unemployment rates from January 2010 through December 2018 for the U.S. and Ohio.

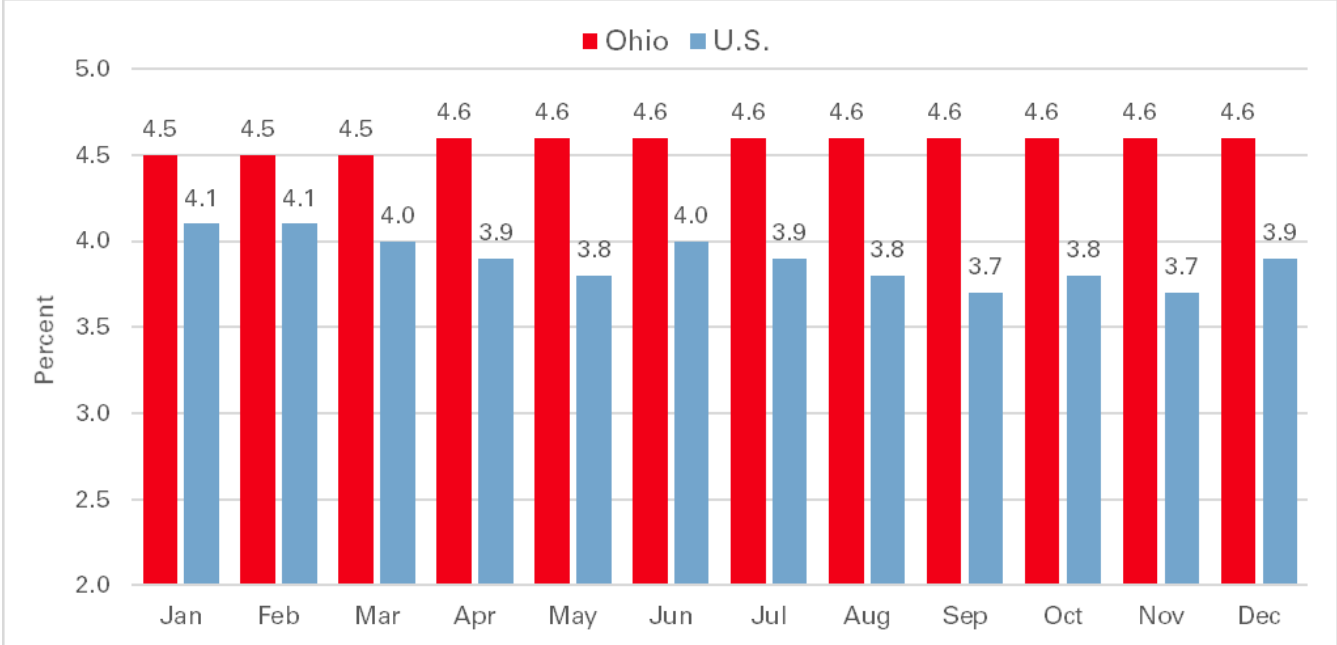
Figure 1. U.S. and Ohio Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates, 2010 – 2018



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

Ohio’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.5 percent from January through March 2018, and it increased to 4.6 percent for the remaining months of 2018. The annual average unemployment rate for 2018 was 4.6 percent, a 0.4 percent decrease from 2017. The average number of unemployed Ohioans decreased 24,000 over the year to 263,000; the average number of employed Ohioans increased 9,000 to 5,492,000.

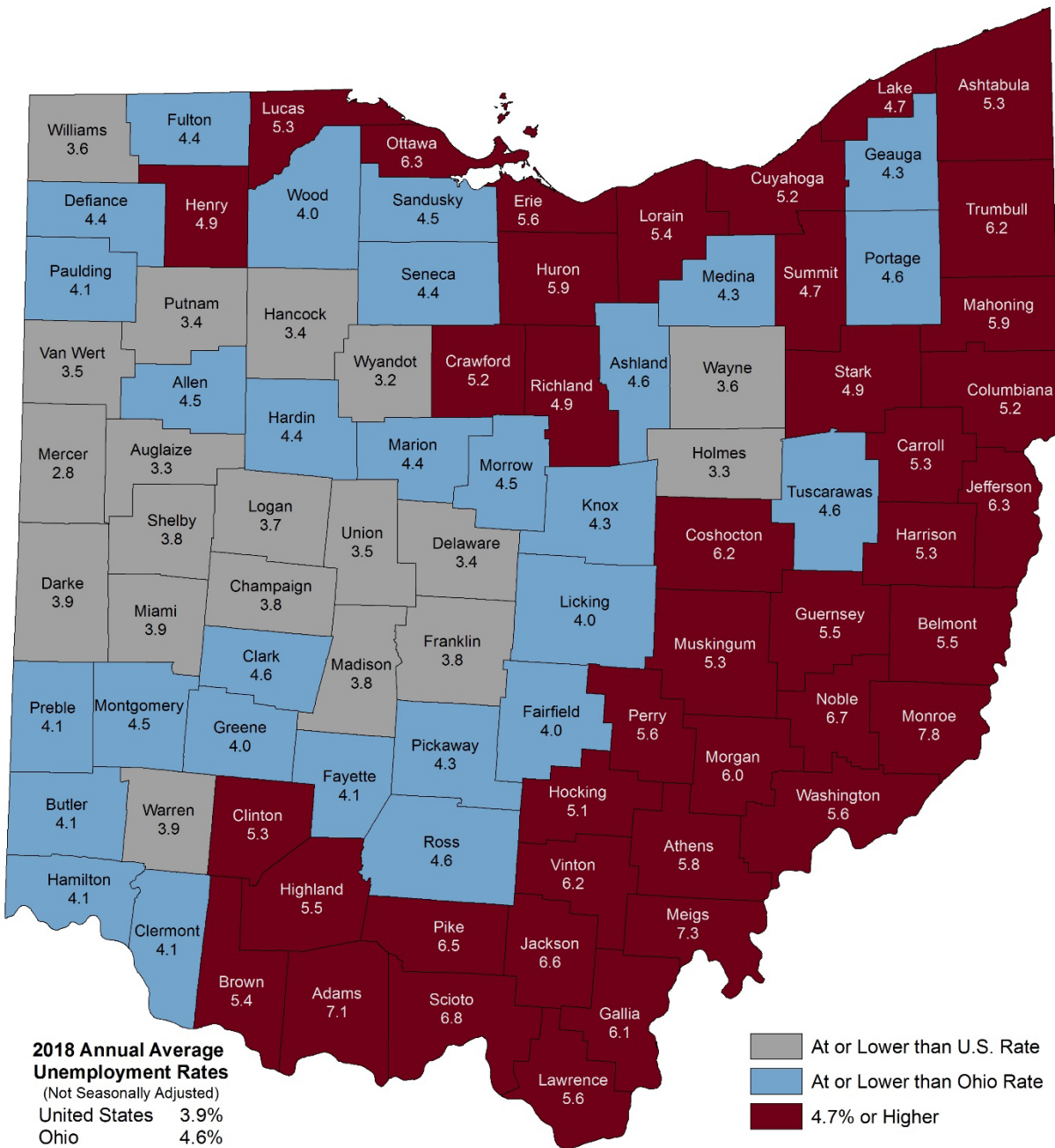
Figure 2. Ohio and U.S. Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates, 2018



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

Nineteen counties had annual unemployment rates that were equal to or below the national average rate of 3.9 percent. Twenty-eight counties were above the national average and less than or equal to the state average of 4.6 percent. The 41 remaining counties had annual rates above the state average. Mercer County had the lowest annual rate at 2.8 percent; Monroe County had the highest annual rate at 7.8 percent.

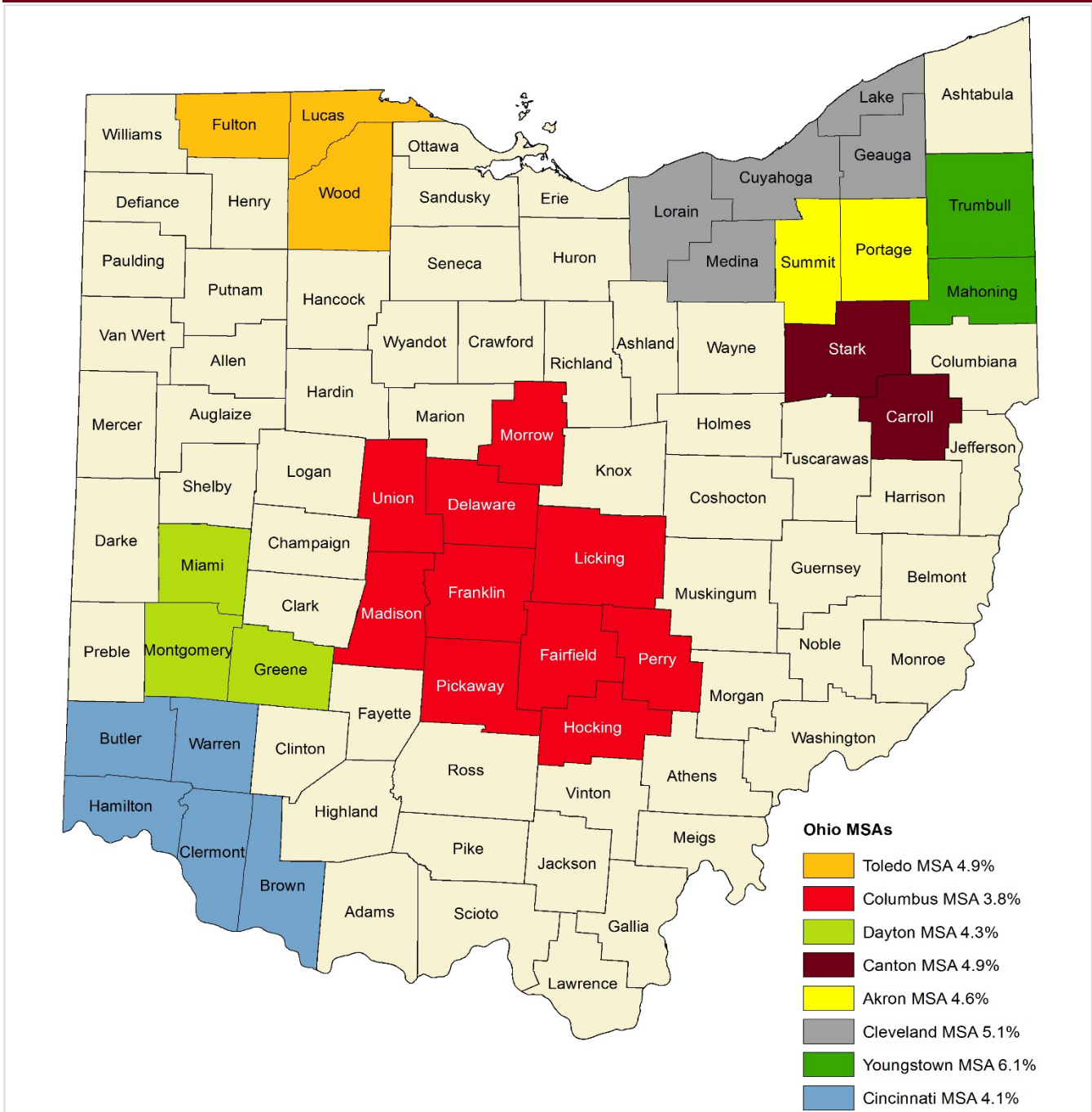
Figure 3. 2018 Annual Average Unemployment Rates by County



Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Ohio's eight largest metropolitan areas¹ account for about 77 percent of Ohio's labor force. Only the Cincinnati, Columbus, and Dayton metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) had annual unemployment rates below the Ohio annual rate of 4.6 percent. The Akron, Canton, Cleveland, Toledo, and Youngstown MSAs had annual unemployment rates above or equal to the Ohio annual rate. The Ohio counties in the Youngstown MSA had the highest annual unemployment rate at 6.1 percent. The Columbus MSA had the lowest annual unemployment rate in the state at 3.8 percent, below the U.S. annual rate of 3.9 percent.

Figure 4. 2018 Annual Average Unemployment Rates by MSA

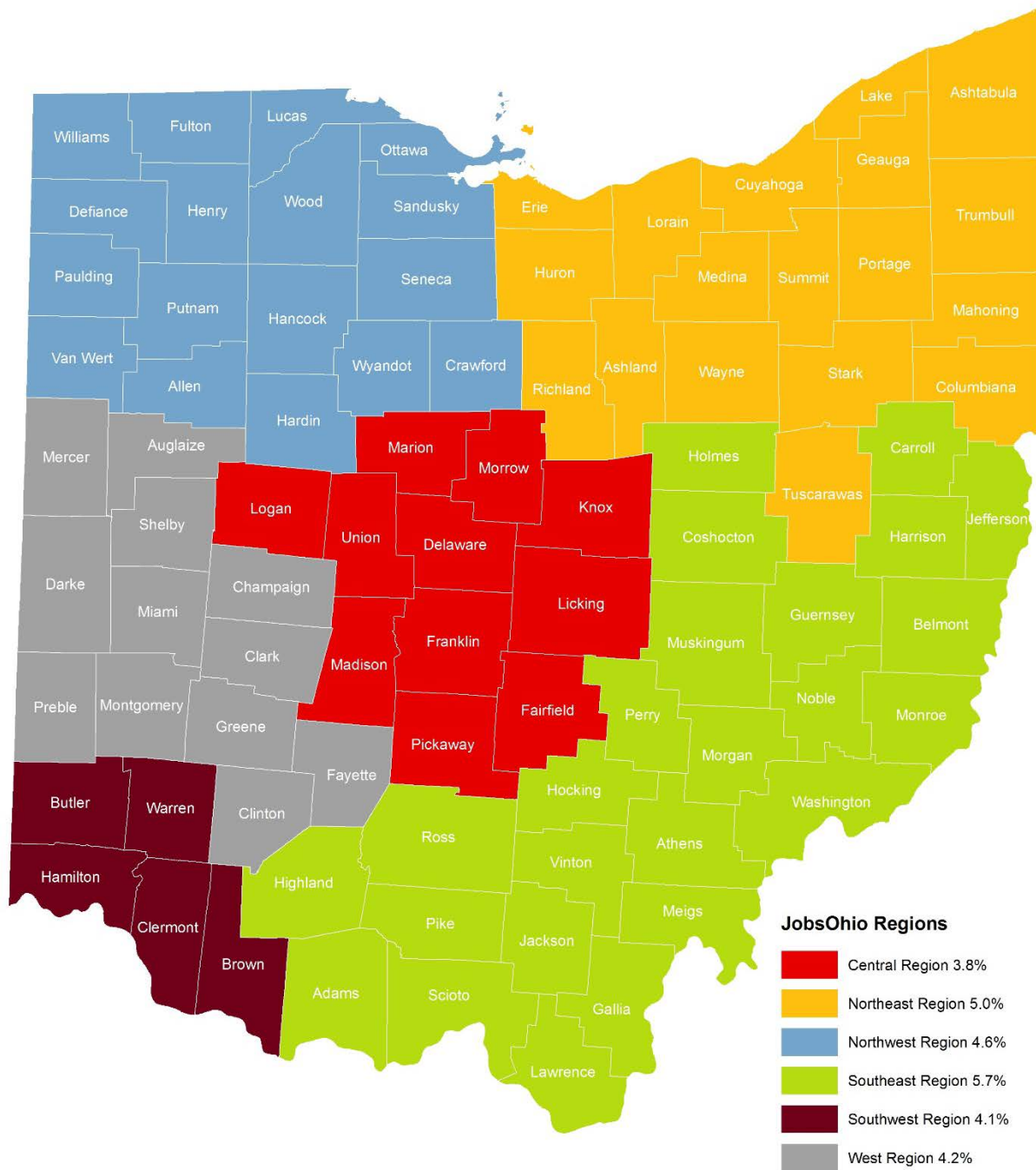


Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics

¹ For the Cincinnati and Youngstown MSAs, the unemployment rates shown are only for the Ohio counties in the MSAs.

Of the JobsOhio regions, the Southeast region had the highest annual average unemployment rate at 5.7 percent, and the Central region had the lowest annual rate at 3.8 percent. JobsOhio is a private, nonprofit organization that promotes job creation and economic development for Ohio. The state has six geographic regions anchored by Ohio's major metropolitan areas, each with specific industry strengths and resources.

Figure 5. 2018 Annual Average Unemployment Rates by JobsOhio Regions

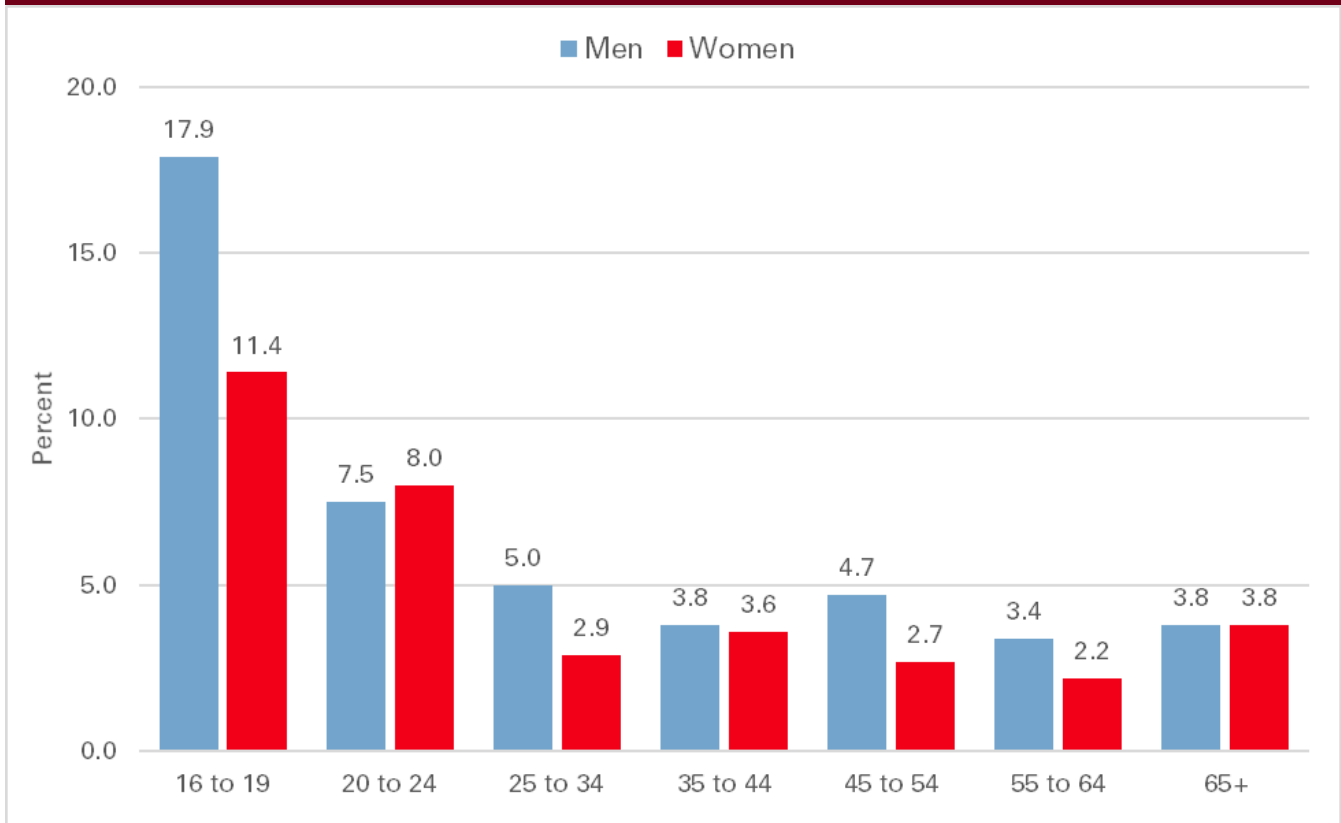


Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Some segments of the labor force are more likely to be unemployed than others. Annual unemployment rates² were highest among the 16-to-19 age group and lowest among the 55-to-64 age group. Unemployment rates declined steadily with age, then increased for those 65 and older, possibly because of retirees returning to the workforce or working seasonal jobs.

Unemployment rates were higher for men, except for those ages 20 to 24 and those 65 and older.

Figure 6. 2018 Preliminary Ohio Annual Average Unemployment Rates by Sex and Age

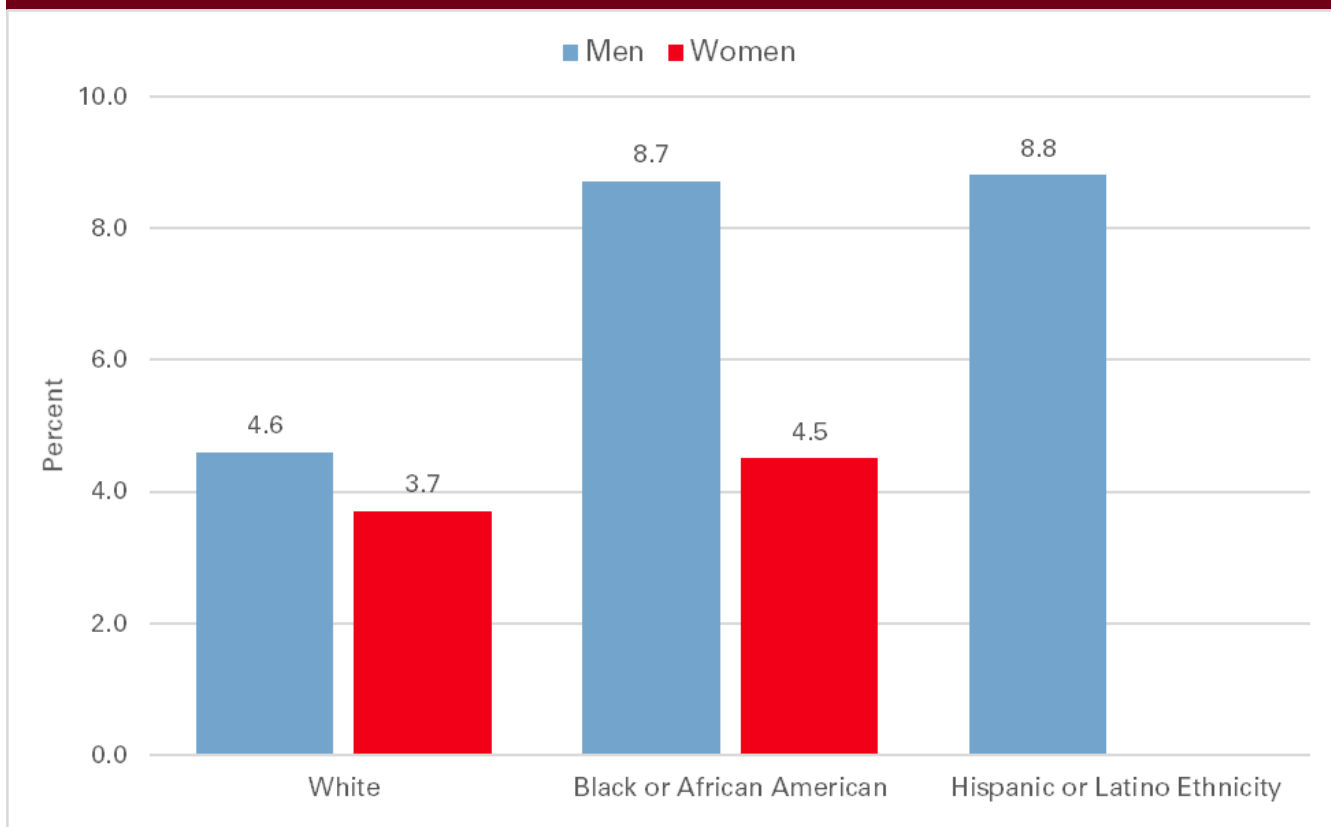


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Geographic Profile of Employment and Unemployment

² 2018 preliminary annual averages.

In 2018, Hispanic or Latino men had the highest annual unemployment rate at 8.8 percent; white women had the lowest rate at 3.7 percent.

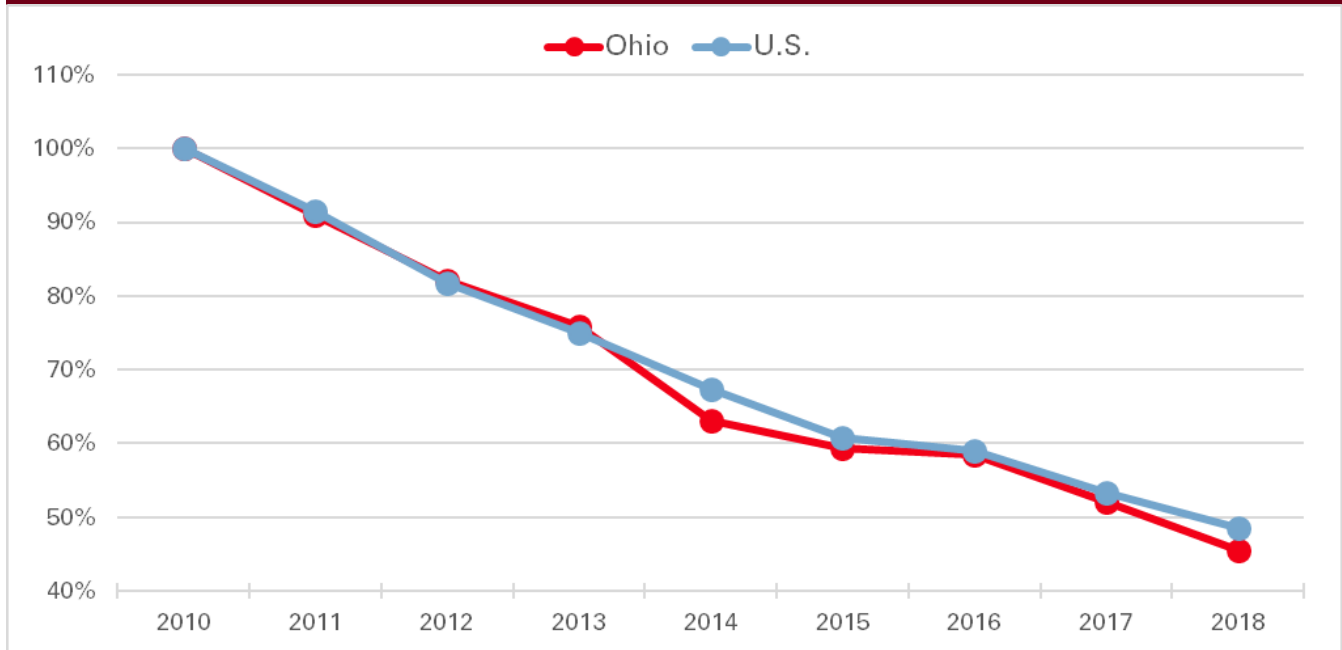
Figure 7. 2018 Preliminary Ohio Annual Average Unemployment Rates by Sex and Race/Ethnicity



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

Not everyone who is unemployed is eligible for unemployment compensation.³ However, tracking the number of initial unemployment insurance claims in a region can provide insight into the number of those affected by employer closings and layoffs. Figure 8 shows U.S. and Ohio initial unemployment claims as a percentage of 2010 levels.⁴ Since 2010, Ohio and U.S. initial claims have fallen at about the same rate.

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

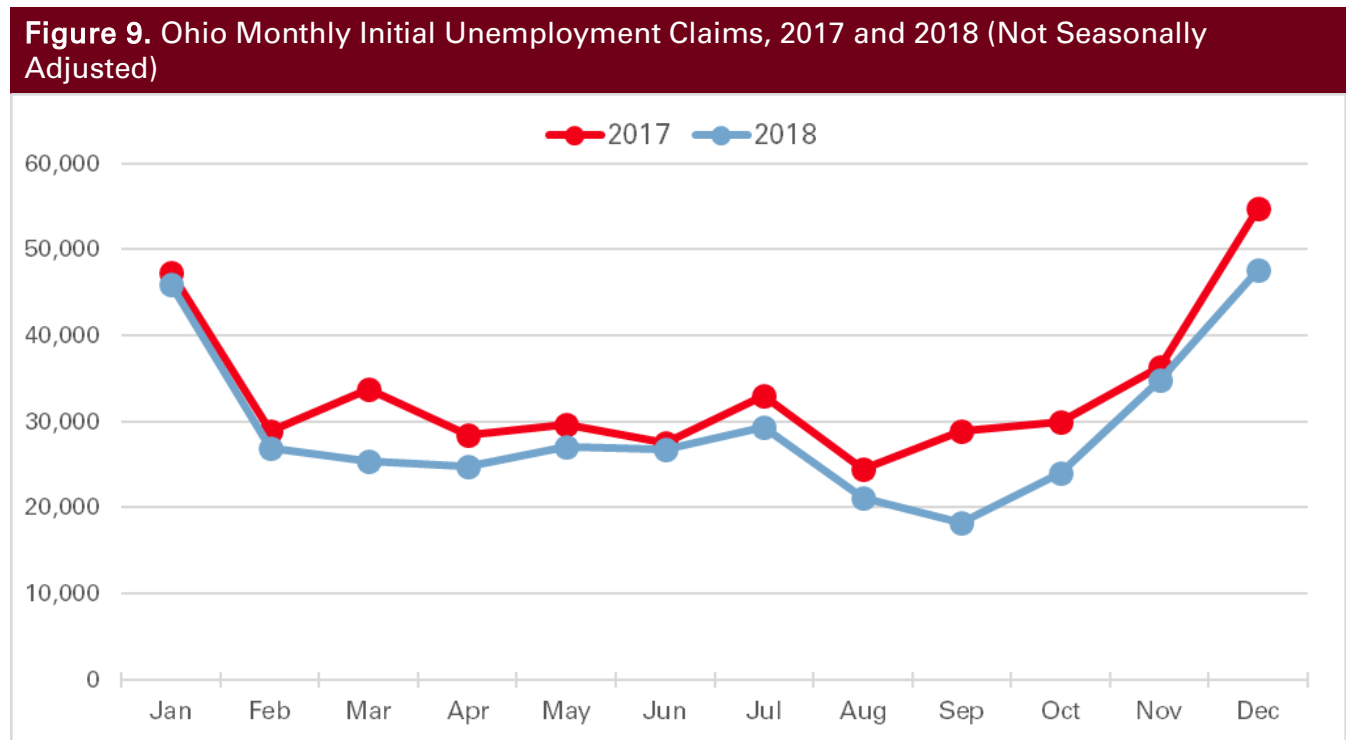


Source: U.S. Employment and Training Administration and the Ohio Office of Unemployment Insurance Operations

³ See the [Worker's Guide to Unemployment Insurance](#) for eligibility requirements.

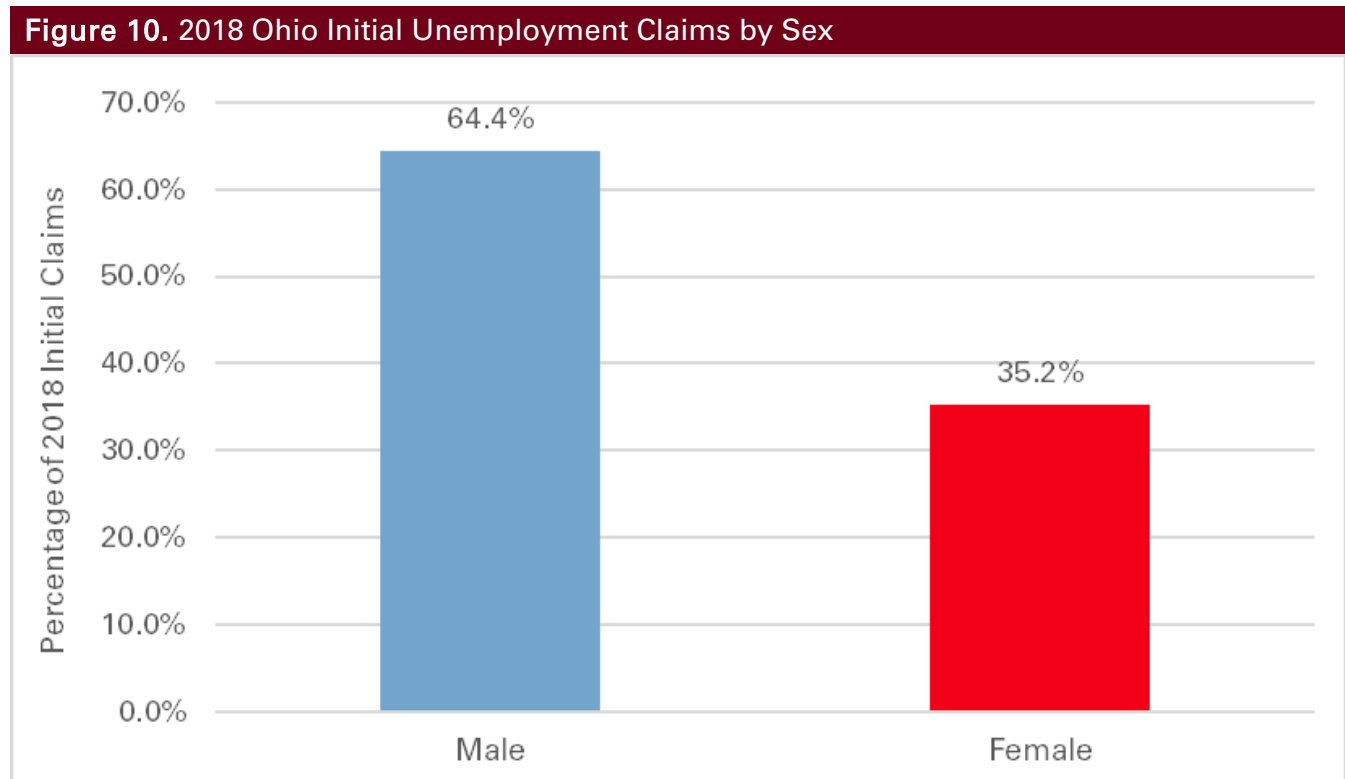
⁴ The U.S. volume of initial claims is much higher than Ohio's volume, making them difficult to compare directly. Indexing puts the U.S. and Ohio data on the same scale.

The number of initial unemployment claims in 2018 (352,240) was 12.7 percent lower than the number of initial claims in 2017 (403,312). Figure 9 shows the number of monthly claims for both years. These data are not seasonally adjusted and show typical seasonal fluctuations.



Source: Ohio Office of Unemployment Insurance Operations

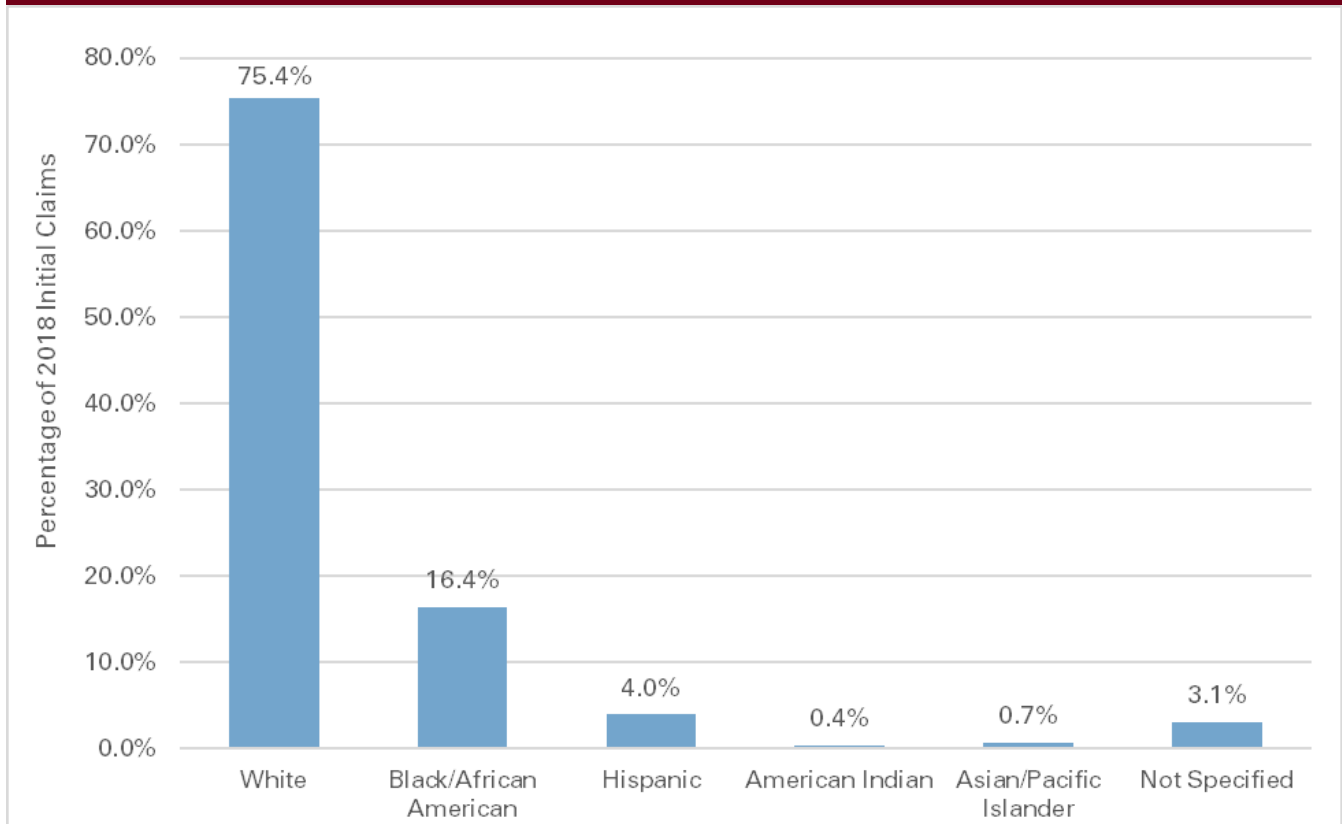
Men filed more than two-thirds of initial unemployment claims in 2018. The high percentage of male unemployment claims may have been because the construction and manufacturing industries, which have high percentages of male workers, accounted for more than 40 percent of claims.



Source: Ohio Office of Unemployment Insurance Operations

Individuals identifying as white filed more than three quarters of initial unemployment claims in 2018. Individuals identifying as black or African American filed about 16.4 percent of initial unemployment claims. Other racial and ethnic groups accounted for about 4 percent of claims, and 3.1 percent of claimants did not provide this information.

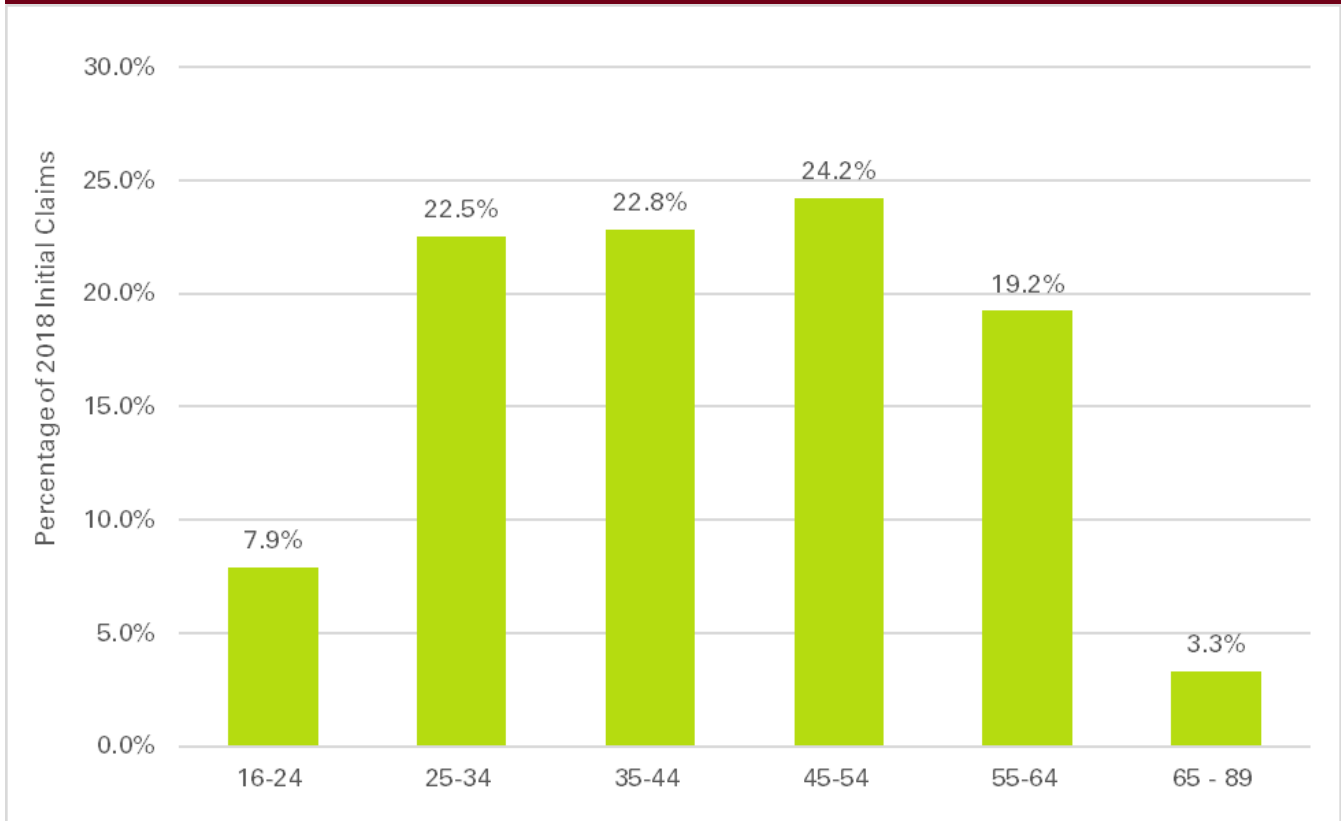
Figure 11. 2018 Ohio Initial Unemployment Claims by Race/Ethnicity



Source: Ohio Office of Unemployment Insurance Operations

Those in the prime working ages of 25 to 54 filed about 70 percent of initial unemployment claims in 2018. Those 45 to 54 accounted for nearly a quarter of initial claims. Those 65 and older accounted for only 3.3 percent of initial claims.

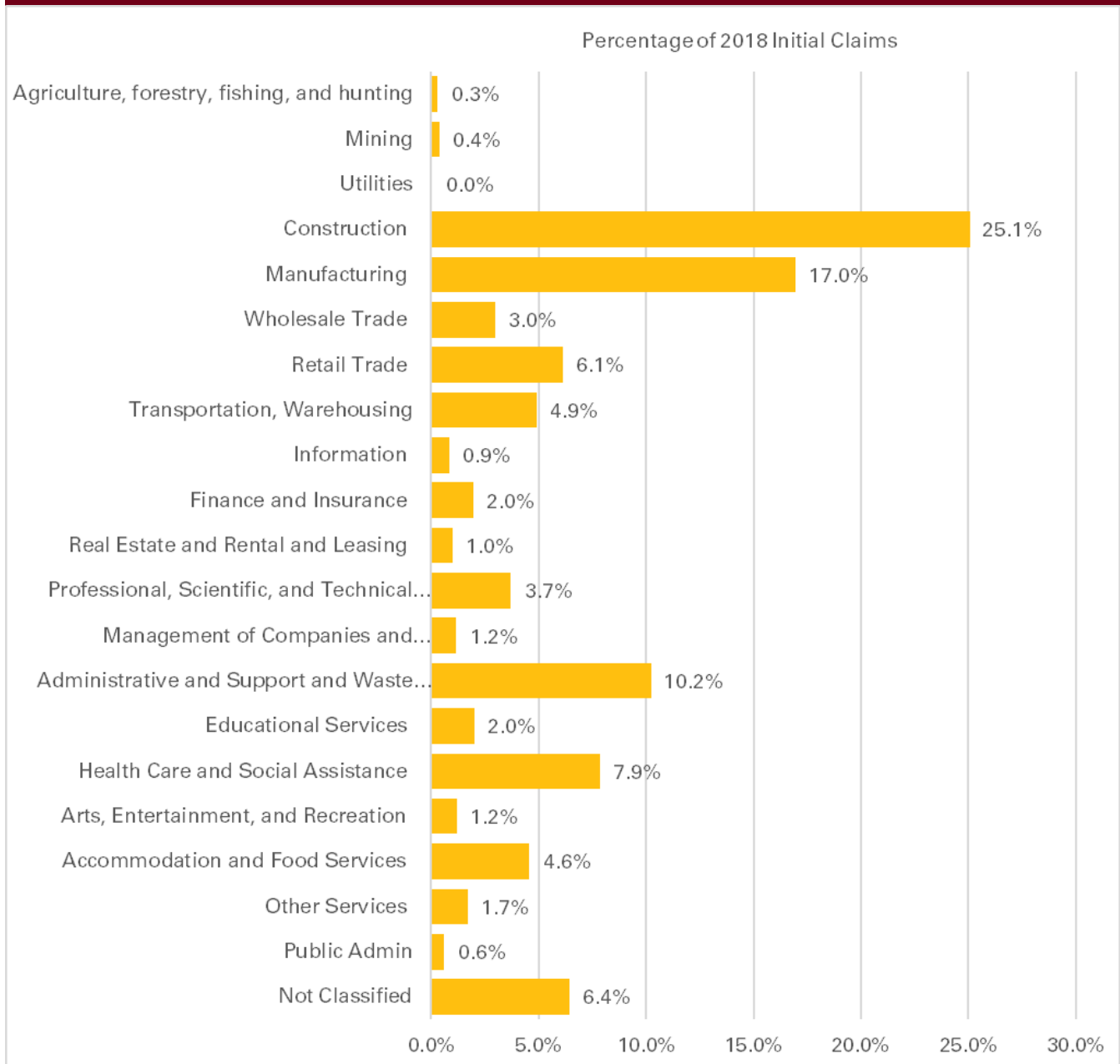
Figure 12. 2018 Ohio Initial Unemployment Claims by Age



Source: Ohio Office of Unemployment Insurance Operations

The construction and manufacturing sectors together accounted for more than 40 percent of initial claims. The third largest sector – administrative and support and waste management and remediation services – accounted for 10.2 percent of initial claims. This sector includes temporary help agencies.

Figure 13. 2018 Ohio Initial Unemployment Claims by Industry Sector

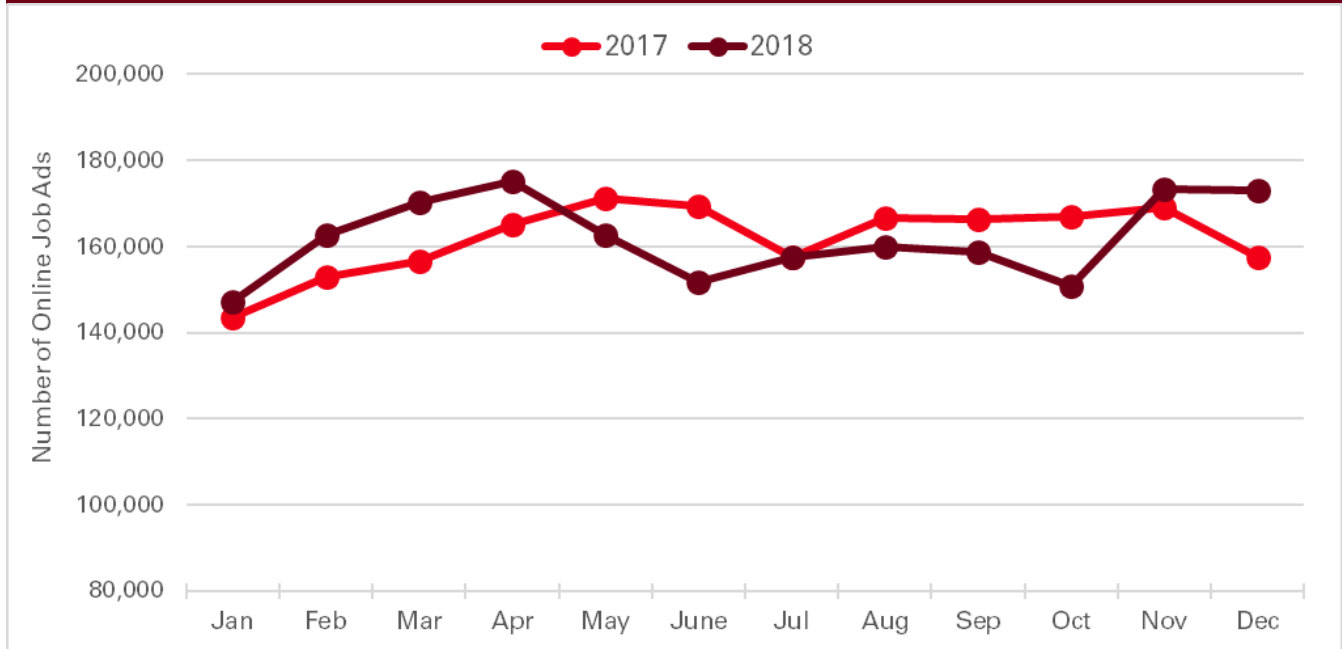


Source: Ohio Office of Unemployment Insurance Operations

Labor Demand – Online Job Ads

An indicator of labor demand is the number of job ads posted online. Figure 14 shows the monthly volume of online ads for Ohio in 2017 and 2018. On average, there was no difference in the volume of online job ads in 2018 compared to 2017, although individual months differed. Ad volume in June 2018 was 10.5 percent below June 2017; December 2018 was 9.7 percent above December 2017. The Conference Board – the global, not-for-profit independent research association that supplies this data – has noted that the number of online jobs ads has declined nationally. It does not believe this is indicative of broader labor market trends.

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

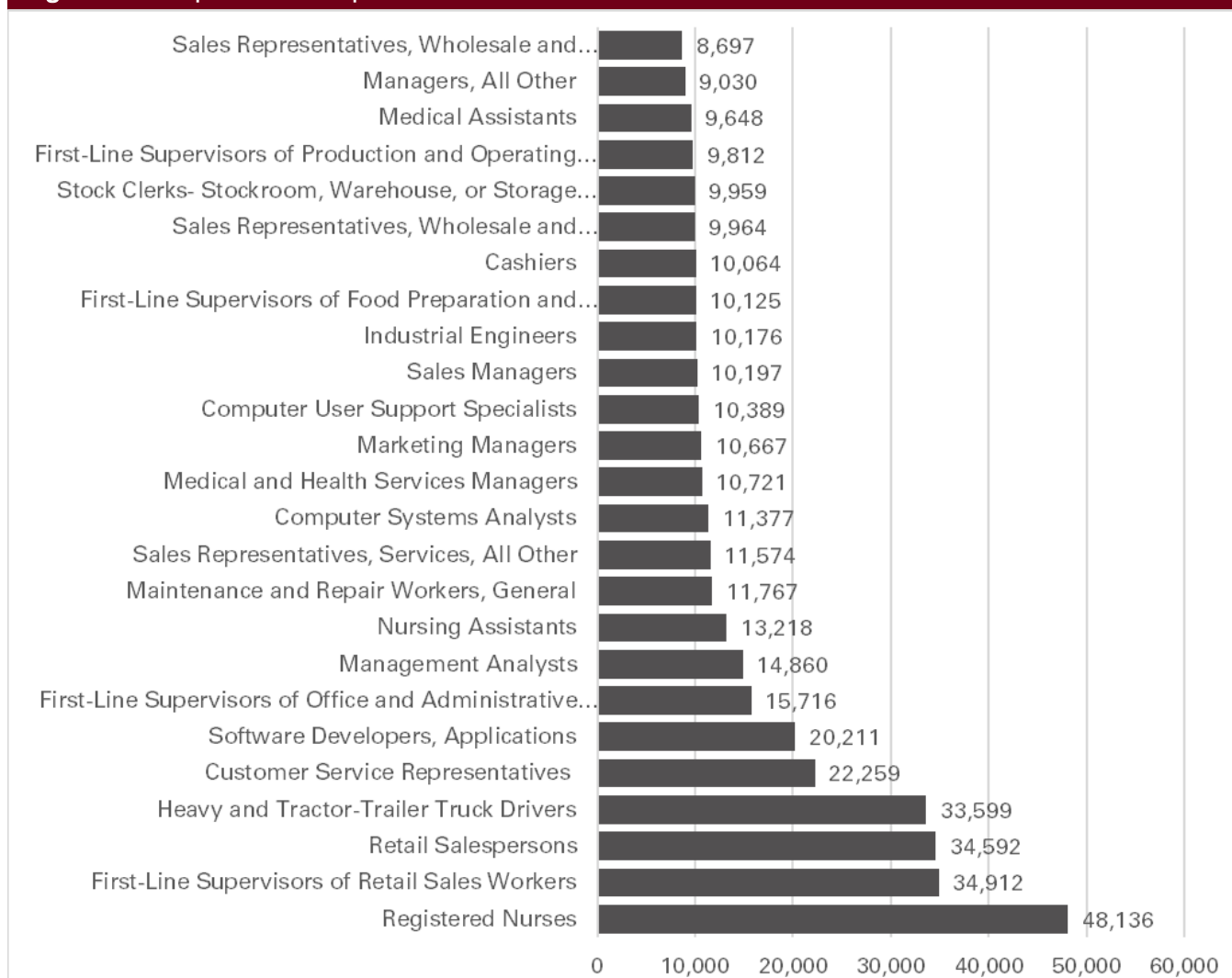


Source: Help Wanted OnLine, The Conference Board

Twenty-two of the 25 most heavily advertised occupations in Ohio are considered to be “in-demand occupations,” which means they pay well and have promising futures. The top 25 most heavily advertised occupations included five managerial and four supervisory occupations. There were five sales occupations, three healthcare occupations, and three computer occupations (which included some managerial and supervisory occupations).

The most heavily advertised occupation in Ohio in 2018 was registered nurses, with more than 48,000 ads over the year. This is a growing occupation with significant replacement needs, but the number of online ads exceeded the estimated number of annual openings for the occupation. This was true for several other occupations, as well. The high volume of ads for these occupations could indicate employer expansions, high worker turnover, lack of available workers, competition for skill sets, employers building resume databases, or a combination of these.

Figure 15. Top Ohio Occupations⁵ Advertised Online in 2018

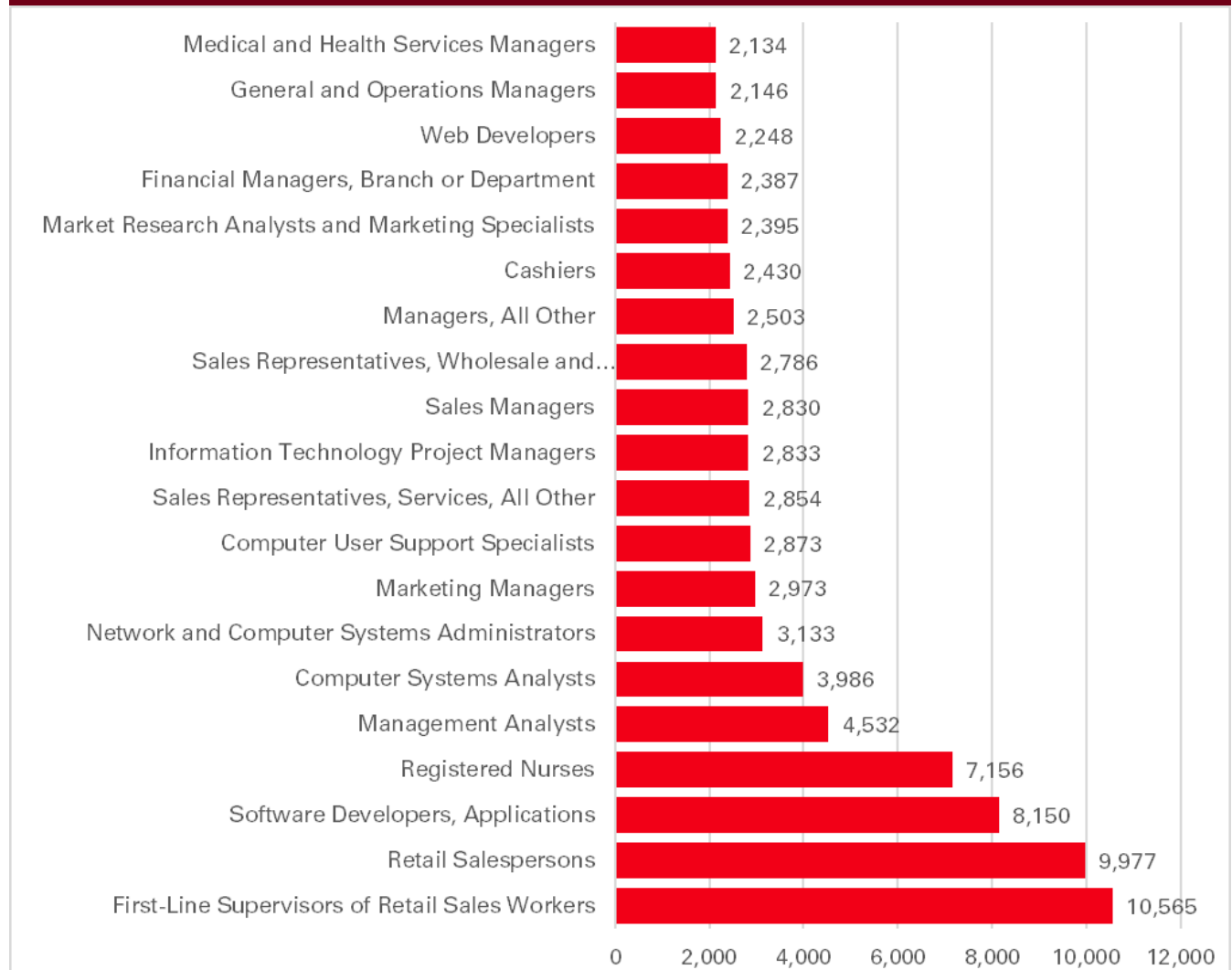


Source: Help Wanted OnLine, The Conference Board

⁵ Some of the top advertised occupations are in more than one grouping.

In the JobsOhio Central Region, the top 20 occupations advertised online included six managerial occupations and six computer occupations. The most heavily advertised occupation was first-line supervisors of retail sales workers.

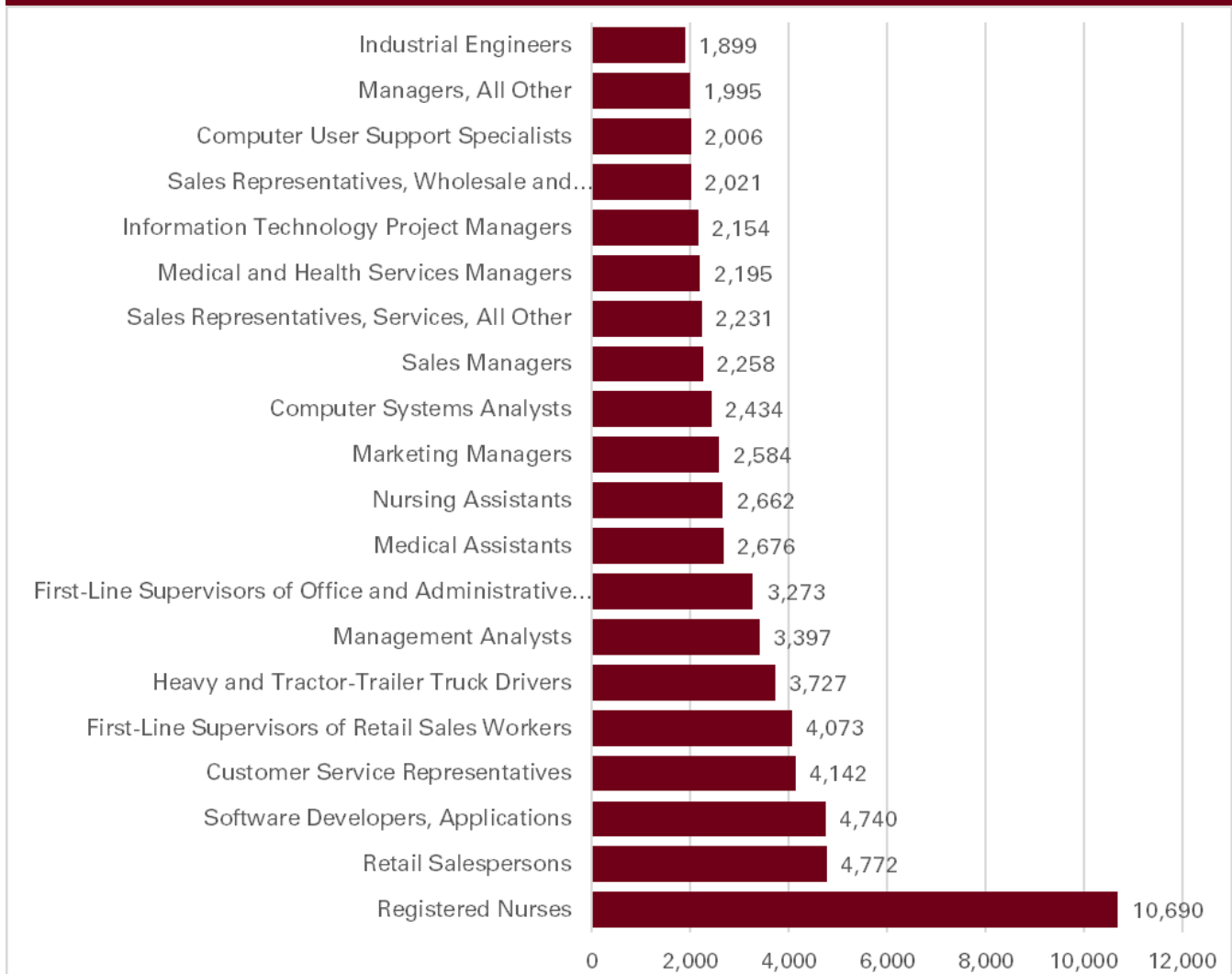
Figure 16. Top Jobs Advertised Online in 2018, JobsOhio Central Region



Source: Help Wanted OnLine, The Conference Board

In the JobsOhio Southwest Region, the most heavily advertised occupation was registered nurses. The 20 most heavily advertised occupations included four management occupations, four computer occupations, and three healthcare occupations.

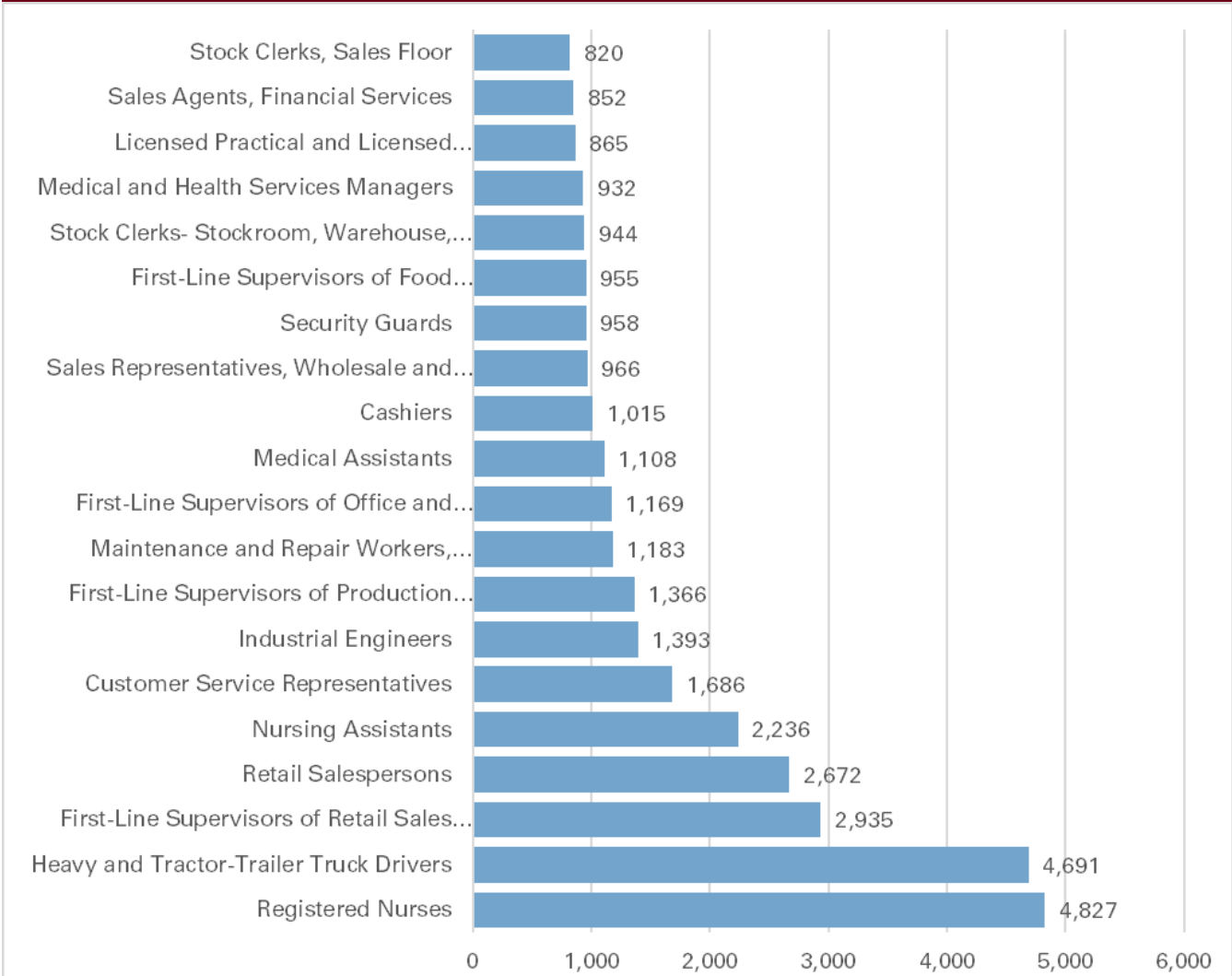
Figure 17. Top Jobs Advertised Online in 2018, JobsOhio Southwest Region



Source: Help Wanted OnLine, The Conference Board

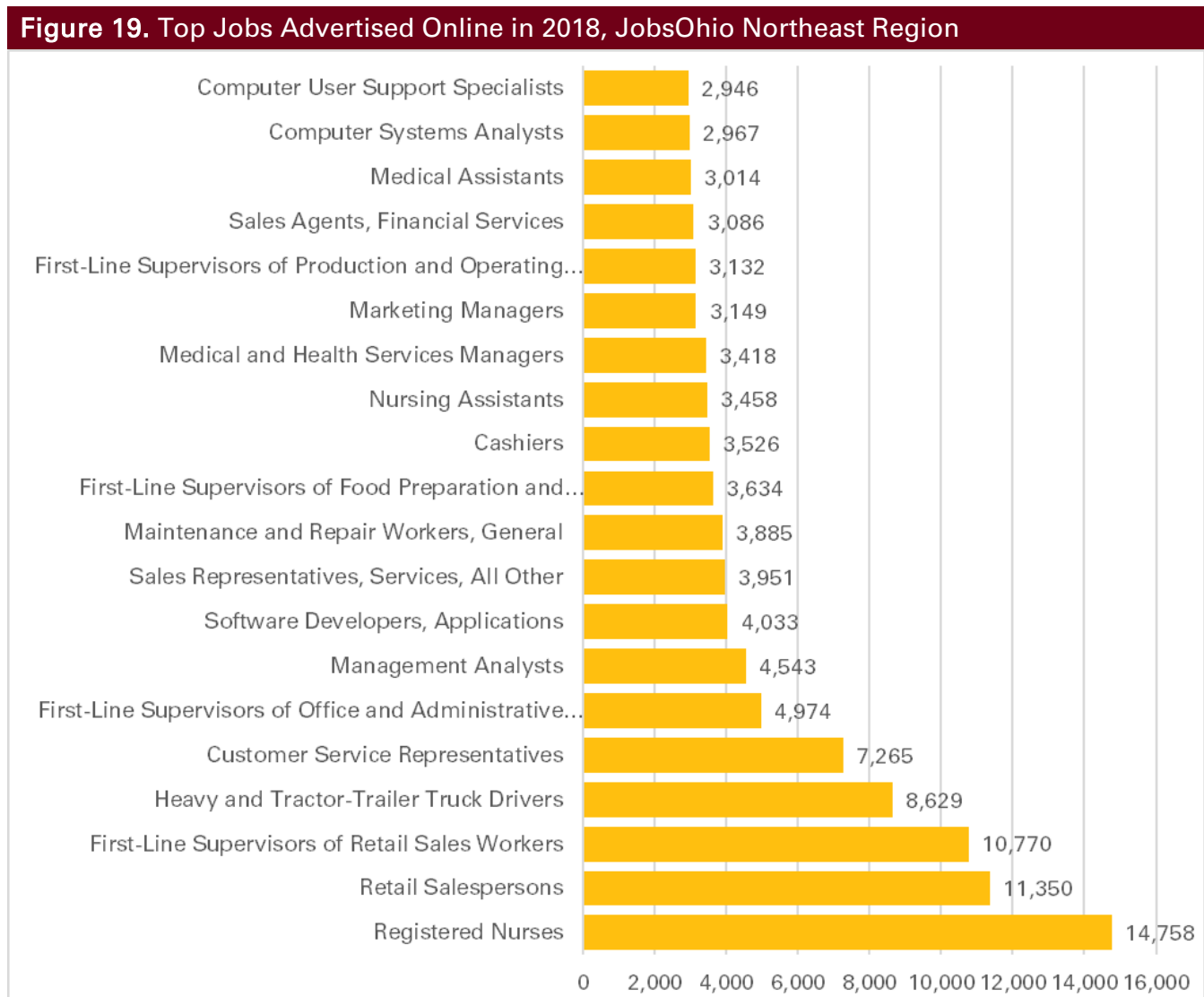
The most heavily advertised occupation in the JobsOhio Northwest Region was registered nurses, with heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers a close second. Four healthcare and four supervisory occupations were among the most heavily advertised jobs online.

Figure 18. Top Jobs Advertised Online in 2018, JobsOhio Northwest Region



Source: Help Wanted OnLine, The Conference Board

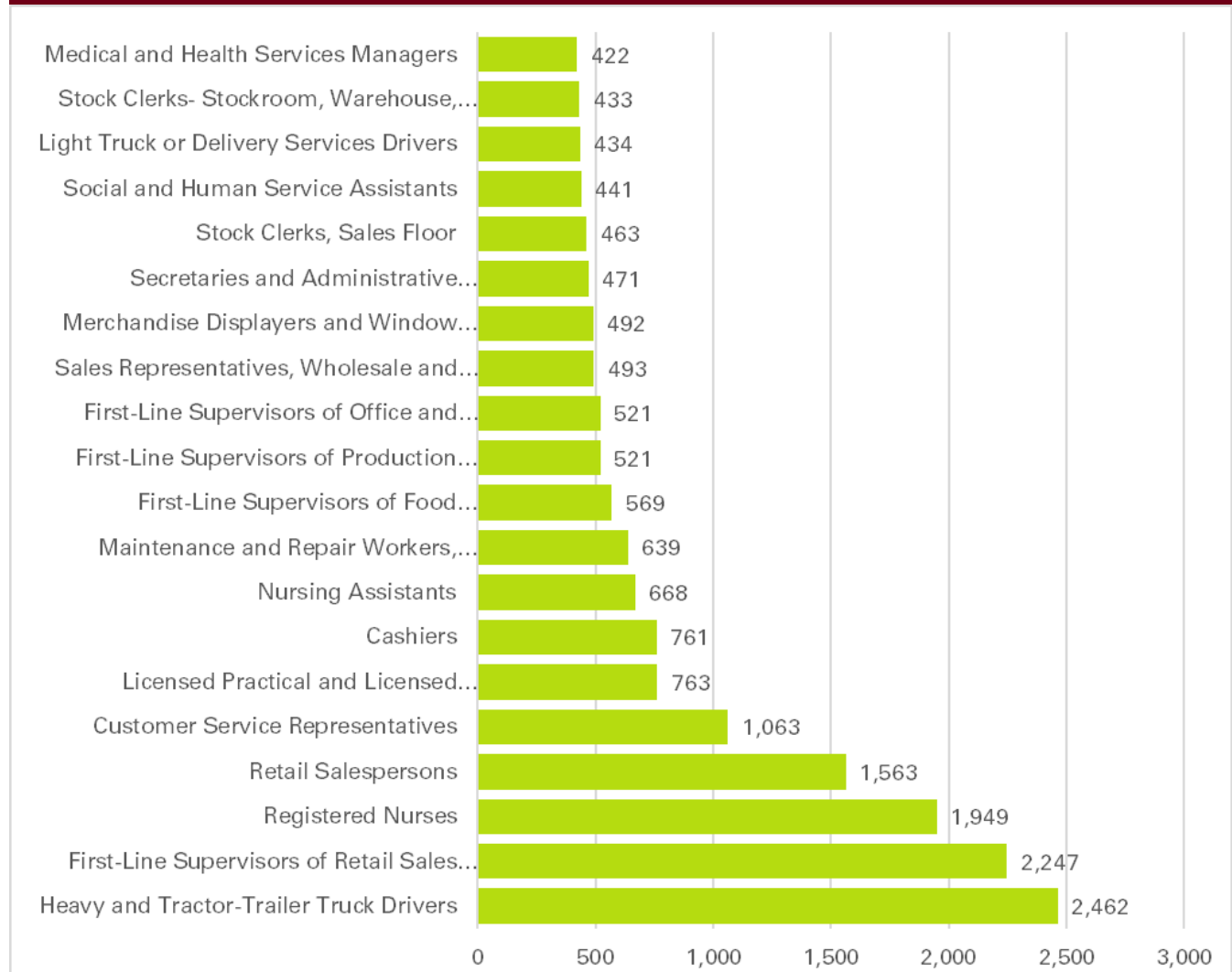
In the JobsOhio Northeast Region, the most heavily advertised occupation was registered nurses. The top 20 advertised occupations included four supervisory occupations, two management occupations, and three healthcare occupations.



Source: Help Wanted OnLine, The Conference Board

In the JobsOhio Southeast Region, top online job ads were for heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers and first-line supervisors of retail sales workers. The top 20 advertised occupations included five office and administrative support occupations, four sales occupations, and three healthcare occupations.

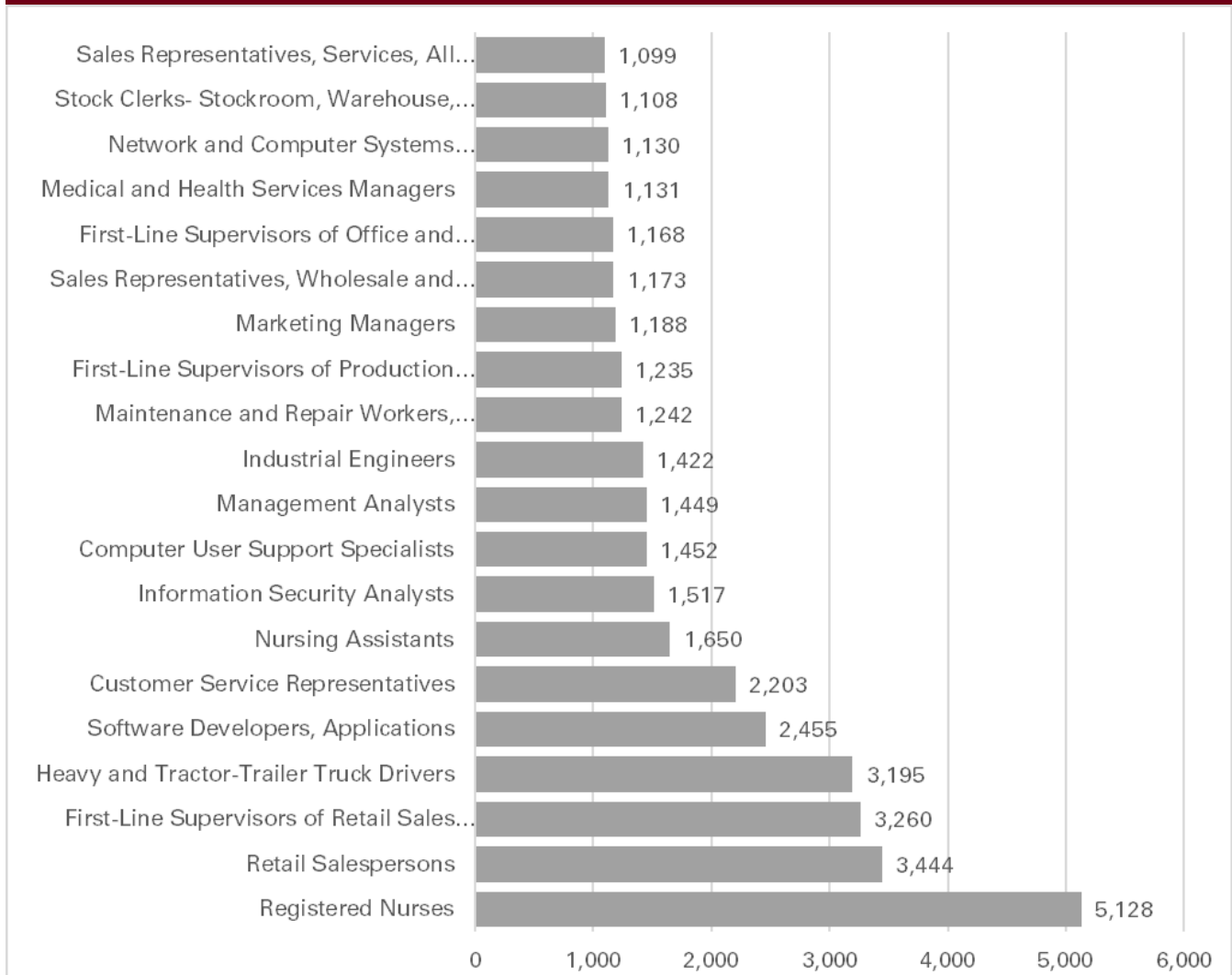
Figure 20. Top Jobs Advertised Online in 2018, JobsOhio Southeast Region



Source: Help Wanted OnLine, The Conference Board

In the JobsOhio West Region, the most heavily advertised occupation was registered nurses, followed by retail salespersons and first-line supervisors of retail sales workers. The top 20 advertised occupations included four computer occupations, three supervisory occupations, three sales occupations, and two each of healthcare and management occupations.

Figure 21. Top Jobs Advertised Online in 2018, JobsOhio West Region

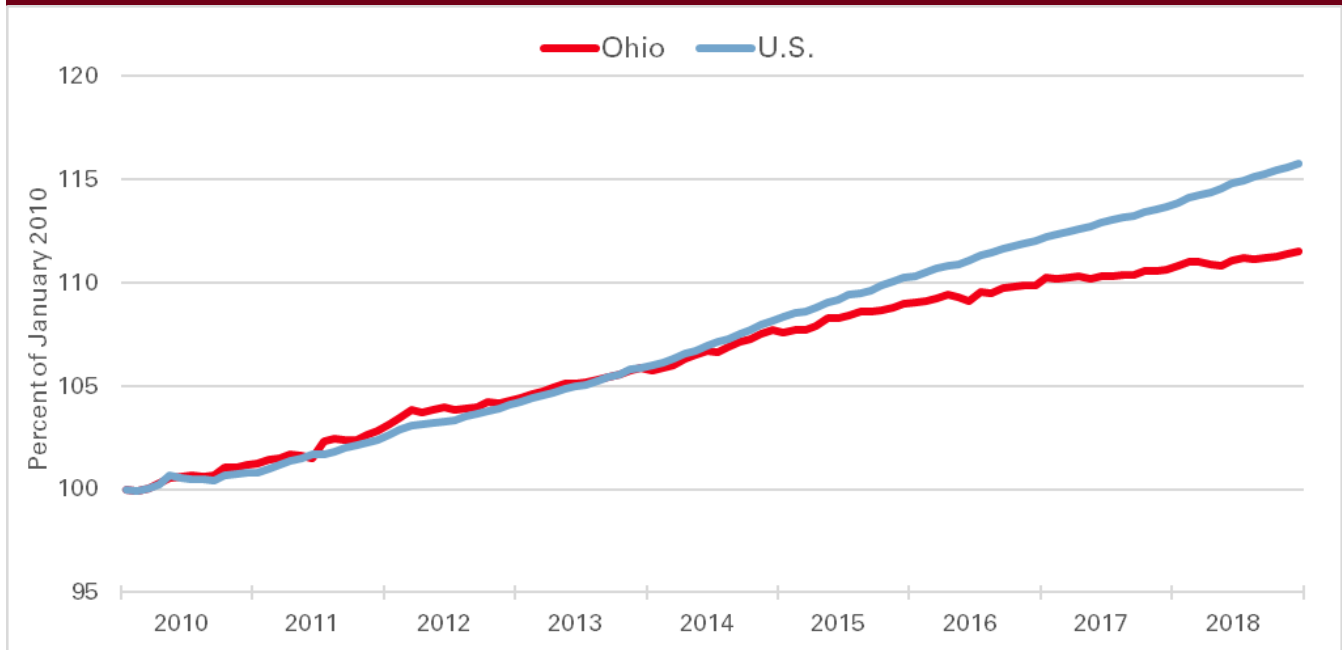


Source: Help Wanted OnLine, The Conference Board

Industry Employment

Figure 22 shows seasonally adjusted U.S. and Ohio total nonfarm employment growth since 2010, with January 2010 indexed to 100 percent. U.S. total nonfarm employment grew 15.8 percent over the period; Ohio total nonfarm employment grew 11.5 percent.

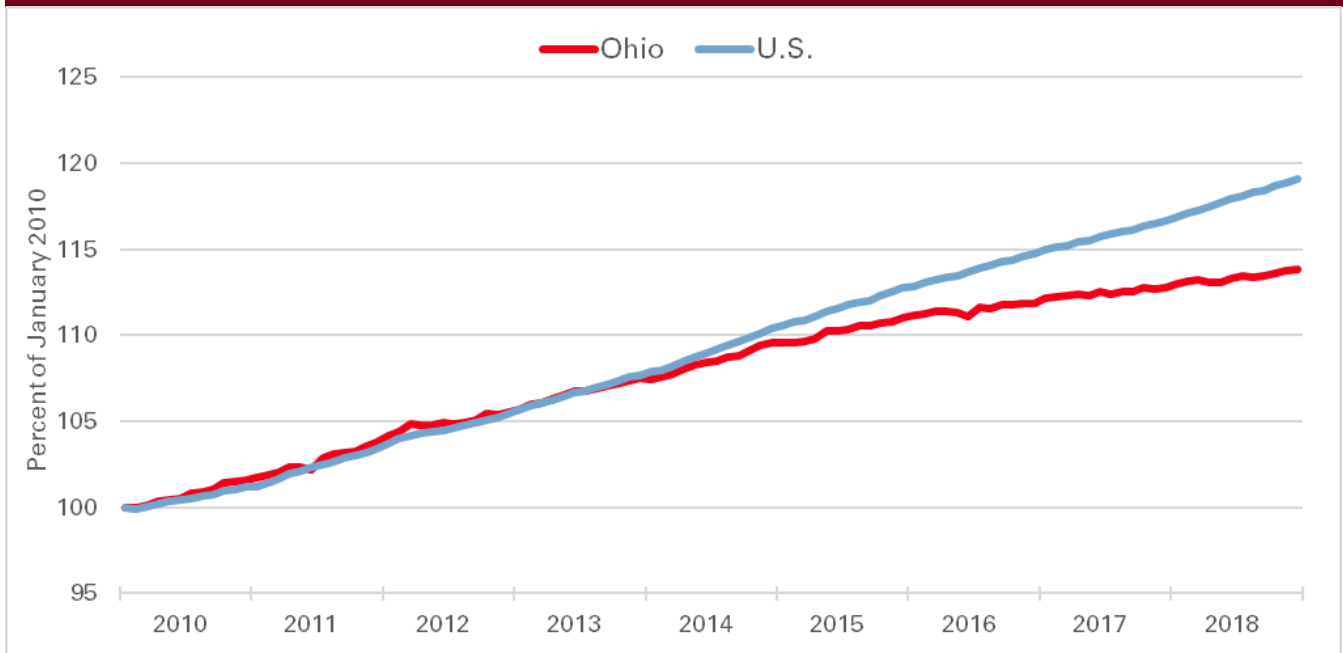
Figure 22. U.S. and Ohio Seasonally Adjusted Total Nonfarm Employment, January 2010 – December 2018



Source: Current Employment Statistics

Figure 23 shows seasonally adjusted U.S. and Ohio total private employment growth since 2010, with January 2010 indexed to 100 percent. U.S. total private employment grew 19.1 percent over the period; Ohio total nonfarm employment grew 13.9 percent.

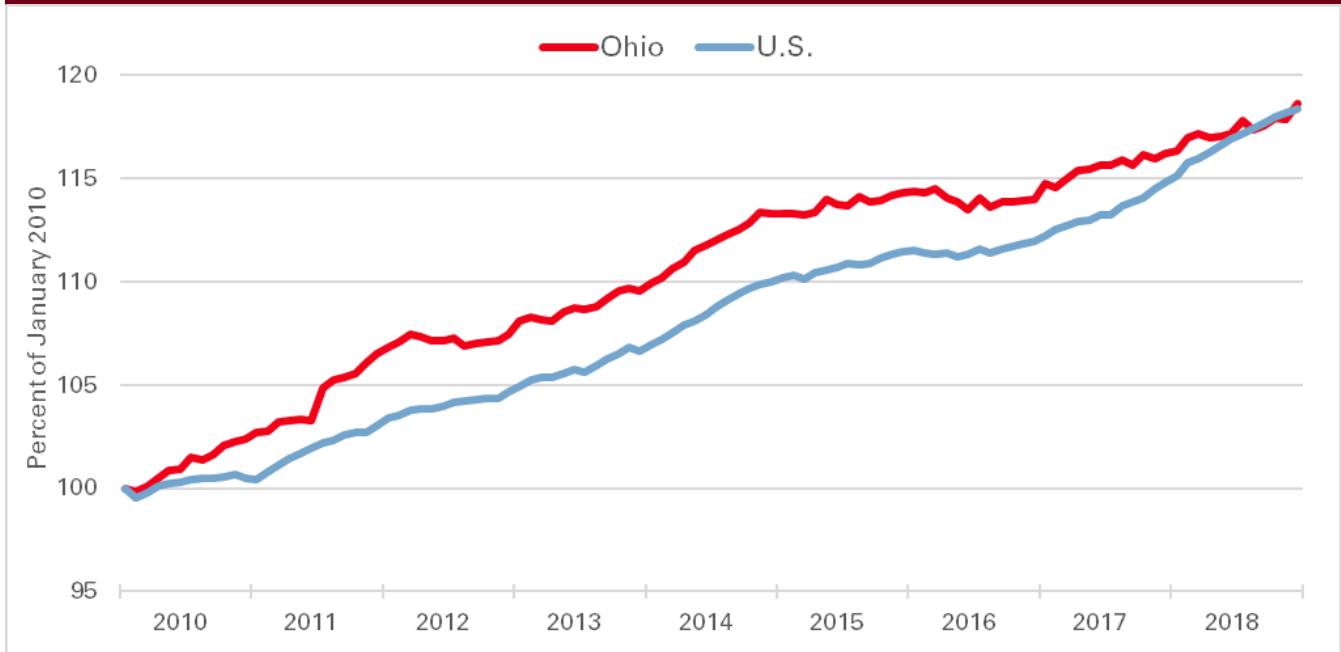
Figure 23. U.S. and Ohio Seasonally Adjusted Total Private Employment, January 2010 – December 2018



Source: Current Employment Statistics

Ohio outpaced the U.S. in goods-producing industry employment until late 2018. The goods-producing industries are construction, manufacturing, and mining and logging. In December 2018, seasonally adjusted employment in Ohio’s goods-producing industries was 18.6 percent above the January 2010 level; employment in the U.S. goods-producing industries was 18.4 percent above January 2010.

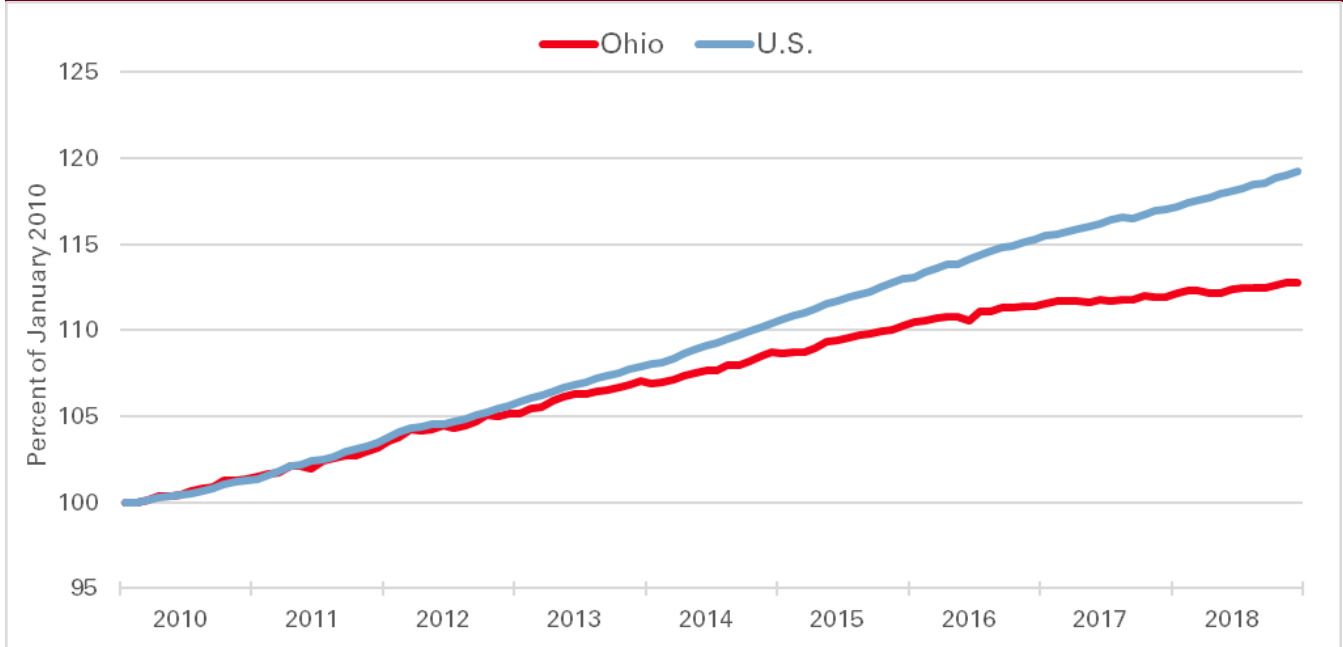
Figure 24. U.S. and Ohio Seasonally Adjusted Goods-Producing Industry Employment, January 2010 – December 2018



Source: Current Employment Statistics

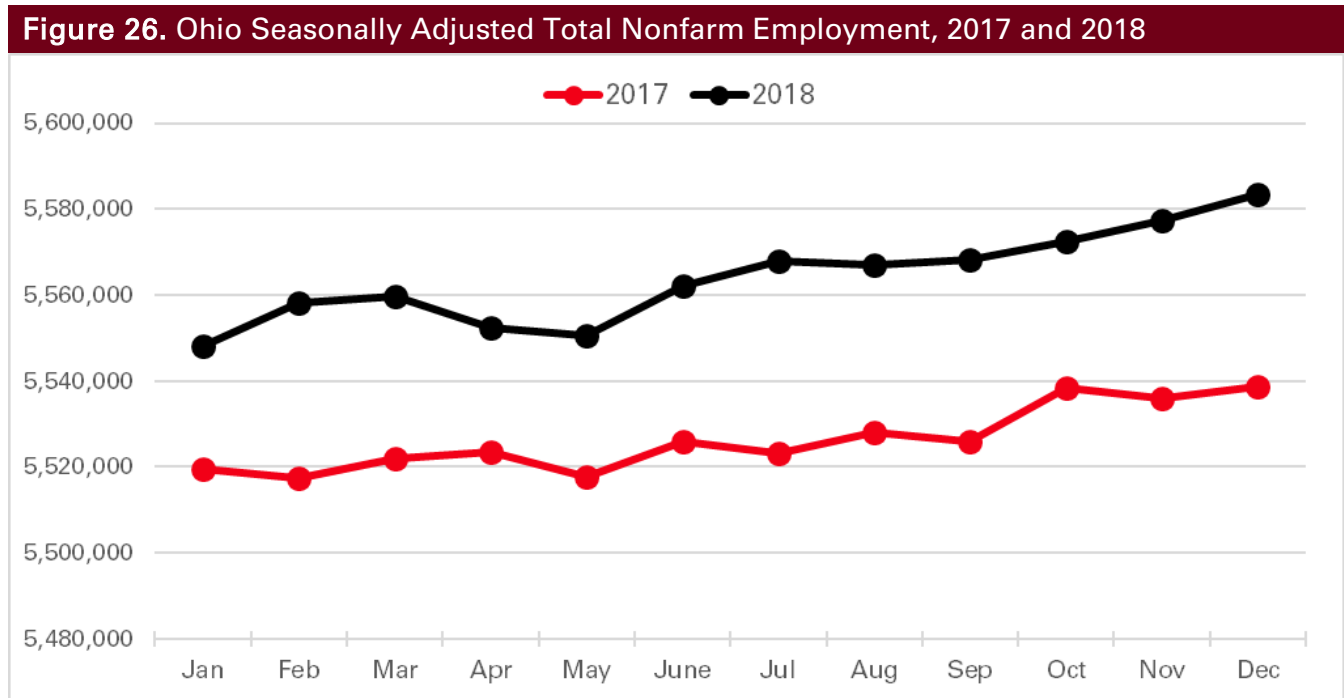
The private service-providing industries include all non-government industries that do not produce goods. These industries account for almost 70 percent of Ohio's total nonfarm employment. Figure 25 shows seasonally adjusted U.S. and Ohio private service-providing industry employment from 2010 through 2018. U.S. private service-providing employment increased 19.2 percent over the period; Ohio private service-providing employment increased 12.8 percent.

Figure 25. U.S. and Ohio Seasonally Adjusted Private Service-Providing Industry Employment, January 2010 – December 2018



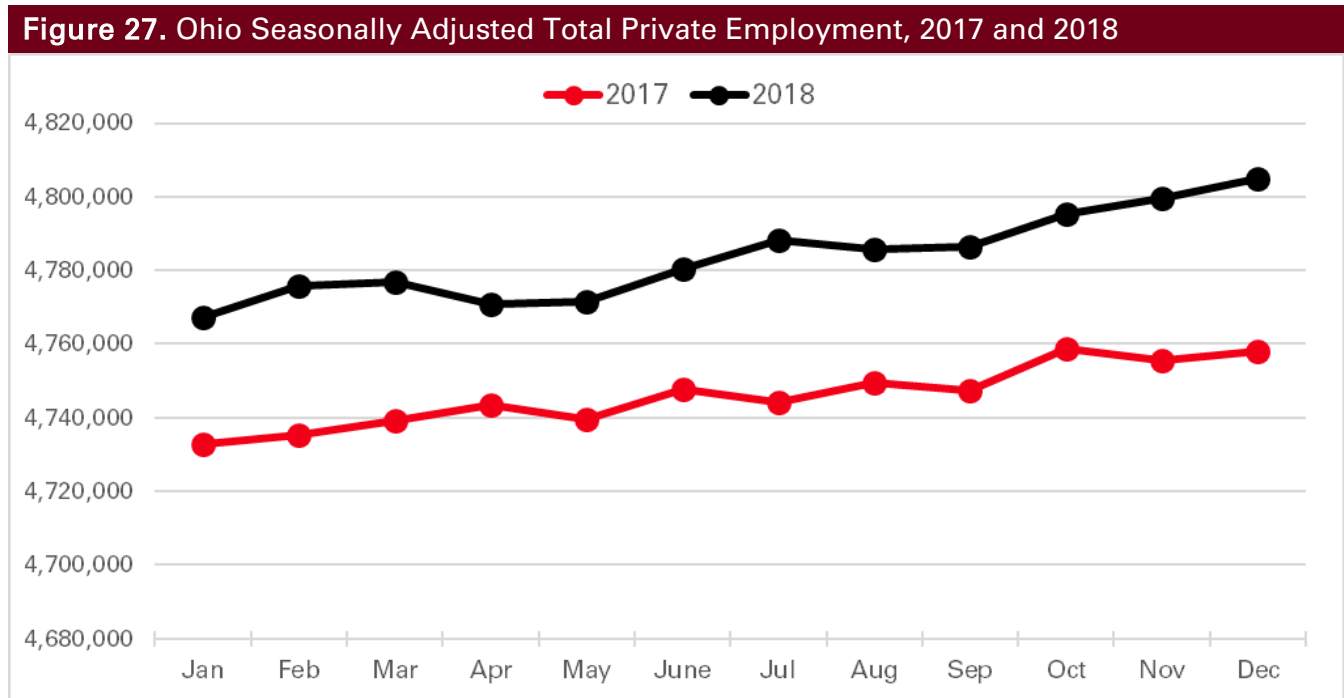
Source: Current Employment Statistics

Ohio's annual average total nonfarm employment for 2018 was 5,559,900, an increase of 34,100 over 2017. Figure 26 shows seasonally adjusted monthly total nonfarm employment for 2017 and 2018.



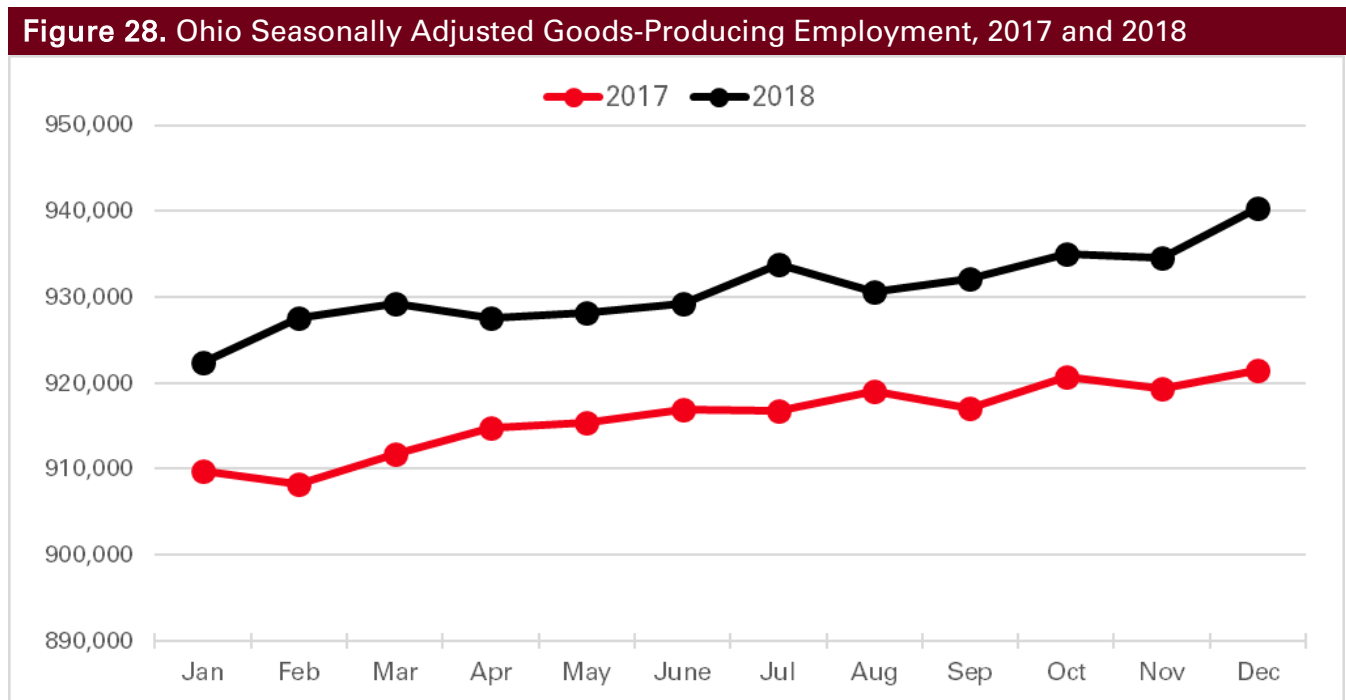
Source: Current Employment Statistics

Ohio's annual average total private employment for 2018 was 4,780,800, an increase of 35,200 over 2017. Figure 27 shows seasonally adjusted monthly total private employment for 2017 and 2018.



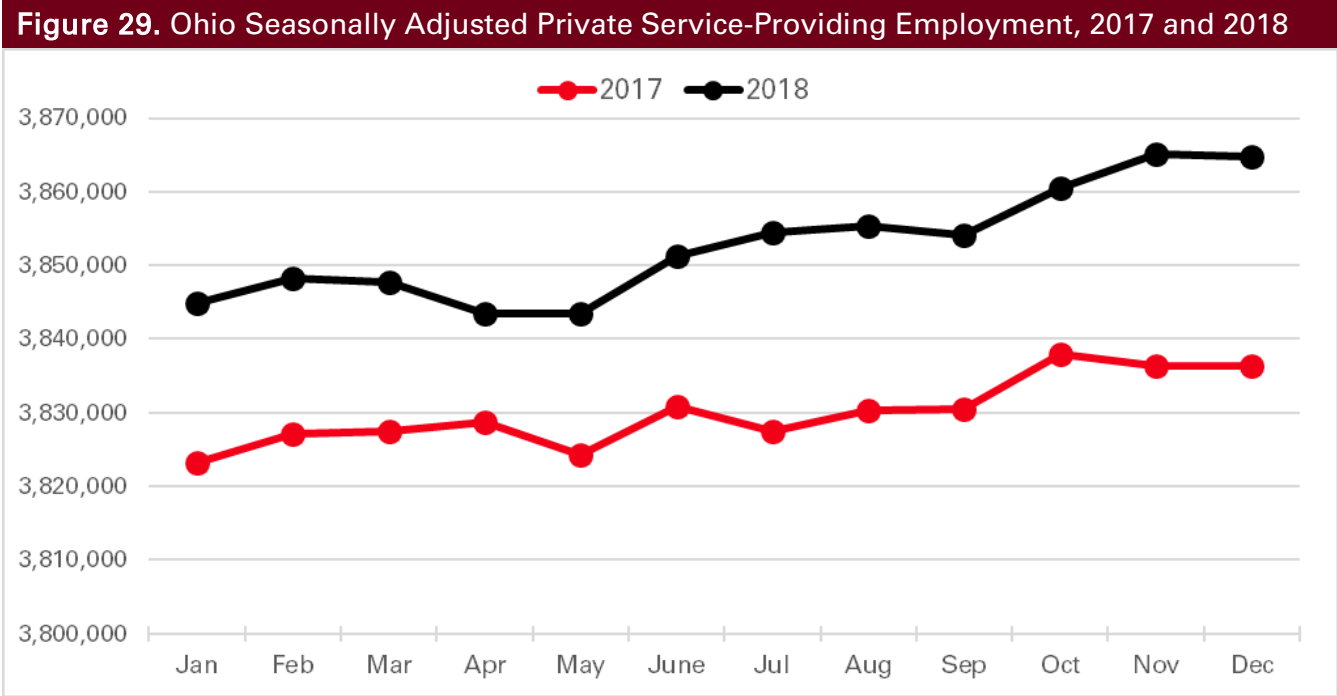
Source: Current Employment Statistics

Ohio's annual average total goods-producing employment for 2018 was 930,400, an increase of 14,800 over 2017. Figure 28 shows seasonally adjusted goods-producing employment for 2017 and 2018.



Source: Current Employment Statistics

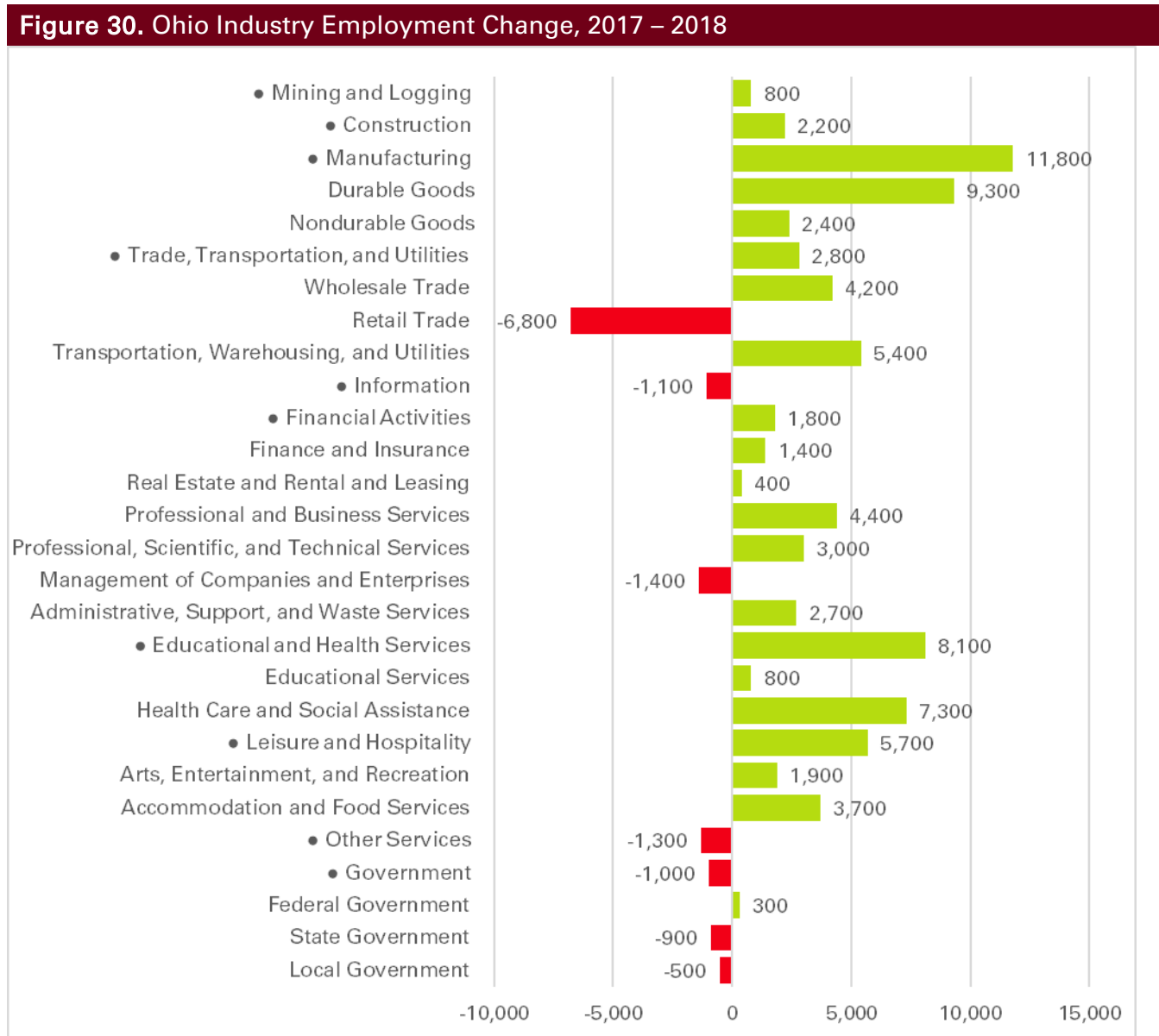
Ohio's annual average private service-providing employment for 2018 was 3,850,400, an increase of 20,400 over 2017. Figure 29 shows seasonally adjusted private service-providing employment for 2017 and 2018.



Source: Current Employment Statistics

Figure 30 shows the annual average employment change from 2017 to 2018. Industry sectors are marked with bullets, in some cases with subsectors listed below them. Not all sectors have subsectors.⁶

Among the sectors, the largest employment gain was in manufacturing, with 11,800 jobs. Manufacturing gains was driven by gains in both the durable (9,300) and nondurable (2,400) goods subsectors. The educational and health services sector had the second largest increase, with 8,100 jobs.

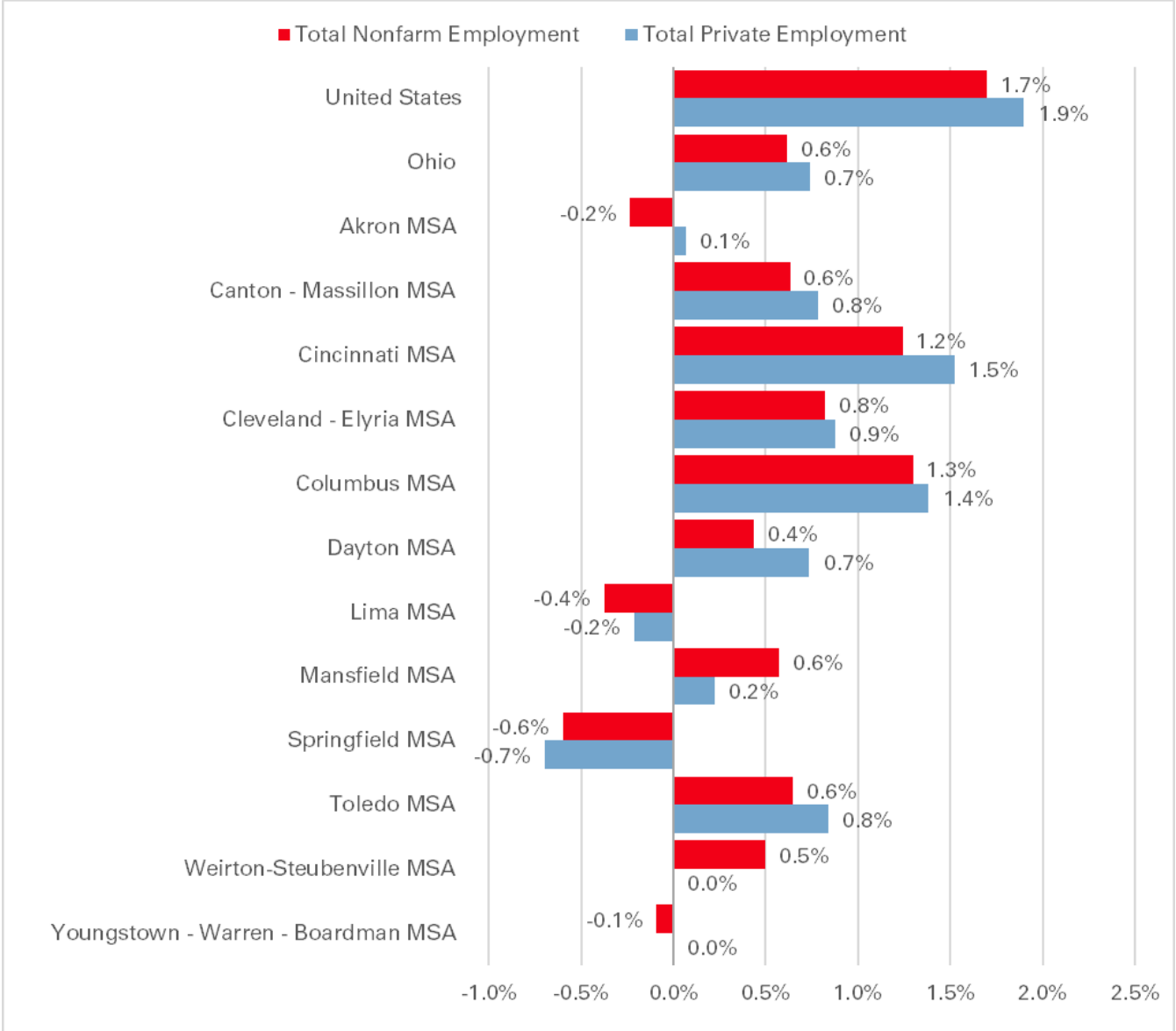


Source: Current Employment Statistics

⁶ Durable and nondurable goods are combinations of related subsectors.

Figure 31 shows the percentage change from 2017 to 2018 in annual average total nonfarm and total private employment. Total private employment accounts for about 85 percent of total nonfarm employment nationally; differences between the two are due to changes in government employment. Ohio's 12 metropolitan statistical areas account for more than 85 percent of the state's employment. Some metro areas include counties outside Ohio; data from those counties are included in figure 31. The Columbus MSA had the highest rate of growth over the year for total nonfarm employment at 1.3 percent; the Cincinnati MSA had the highest rate of growth for total private employment at 1.5 percent.

Figure 31. Change in Annual Average Total Nonfarm and Total Private Employment from 2017 to 2018



Source: Current Employment Statistics

In the Akron MSA in 2018, average annual total nonfarm employment was 340,100, and average annual total private employment was 295,400. From 2017 to 2018, average annual total nonfarm employment decreased by 800 jobs (-0.2 percent), and average total private employment increased by 200 jobs (0.1 percent). The goods-producing sectors added 100 jobs (0.2 percent). The professional and business services sector lost 1,900 jobs, while government lost 1,000 jobs.

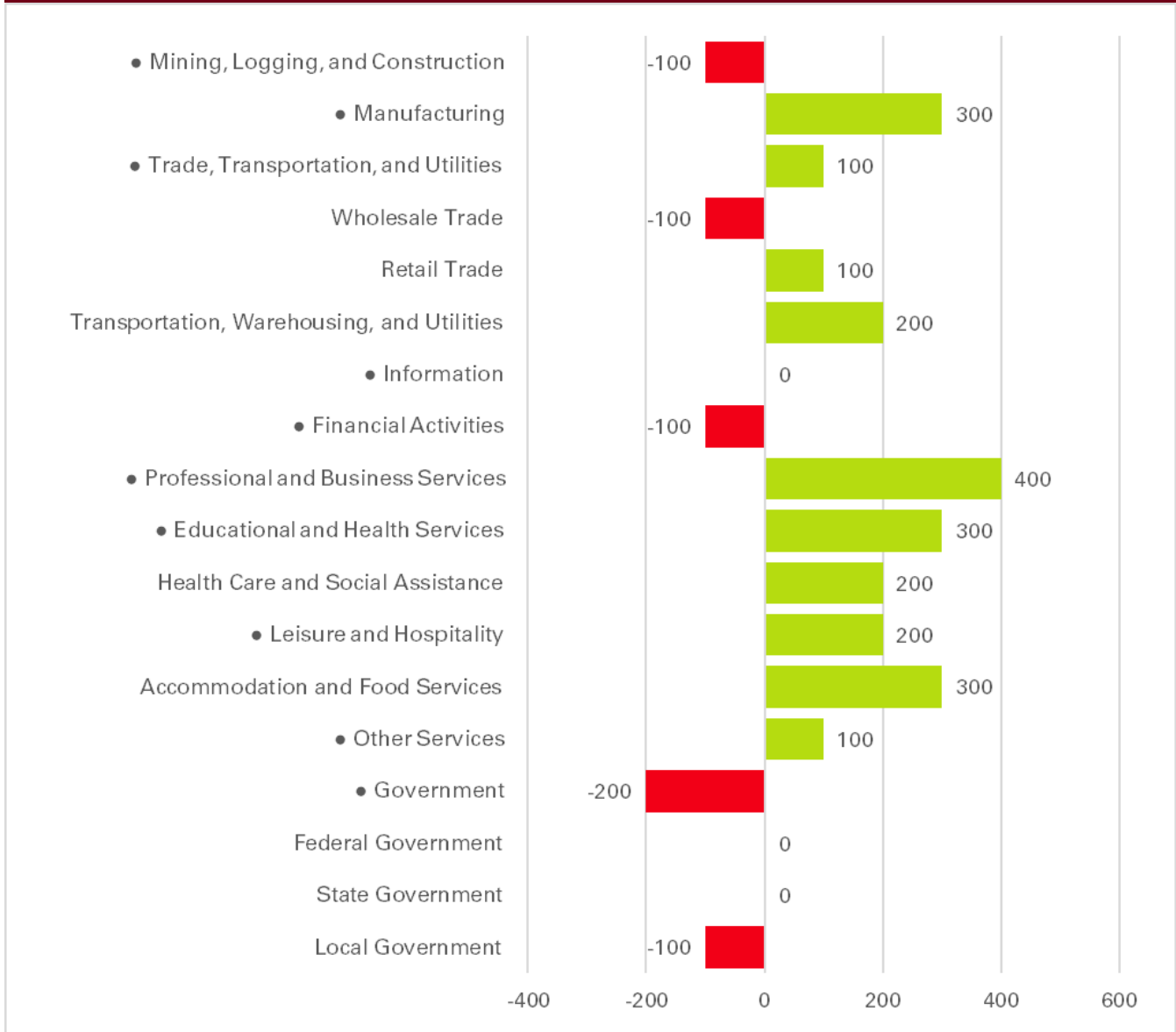
Figure 32. Akron MSA Industry Employment Change, 2017 – 2018



Source: Current Employment Statistics

In the Canton-Massillon MSA in 2018, average annual total nonfarm employment was 174,800, and average annual total private employment was 154,600. From 2017 to 2018, average annual total nonfarm employment increased by 1,100 jobs (0.6 percent), and average annual total private employment increased by 1,200 jobs (0.8 percent). The professional and business services sector added 400 jobs, while the manufacturing sector and educational and health services sector each added 300 jobs.

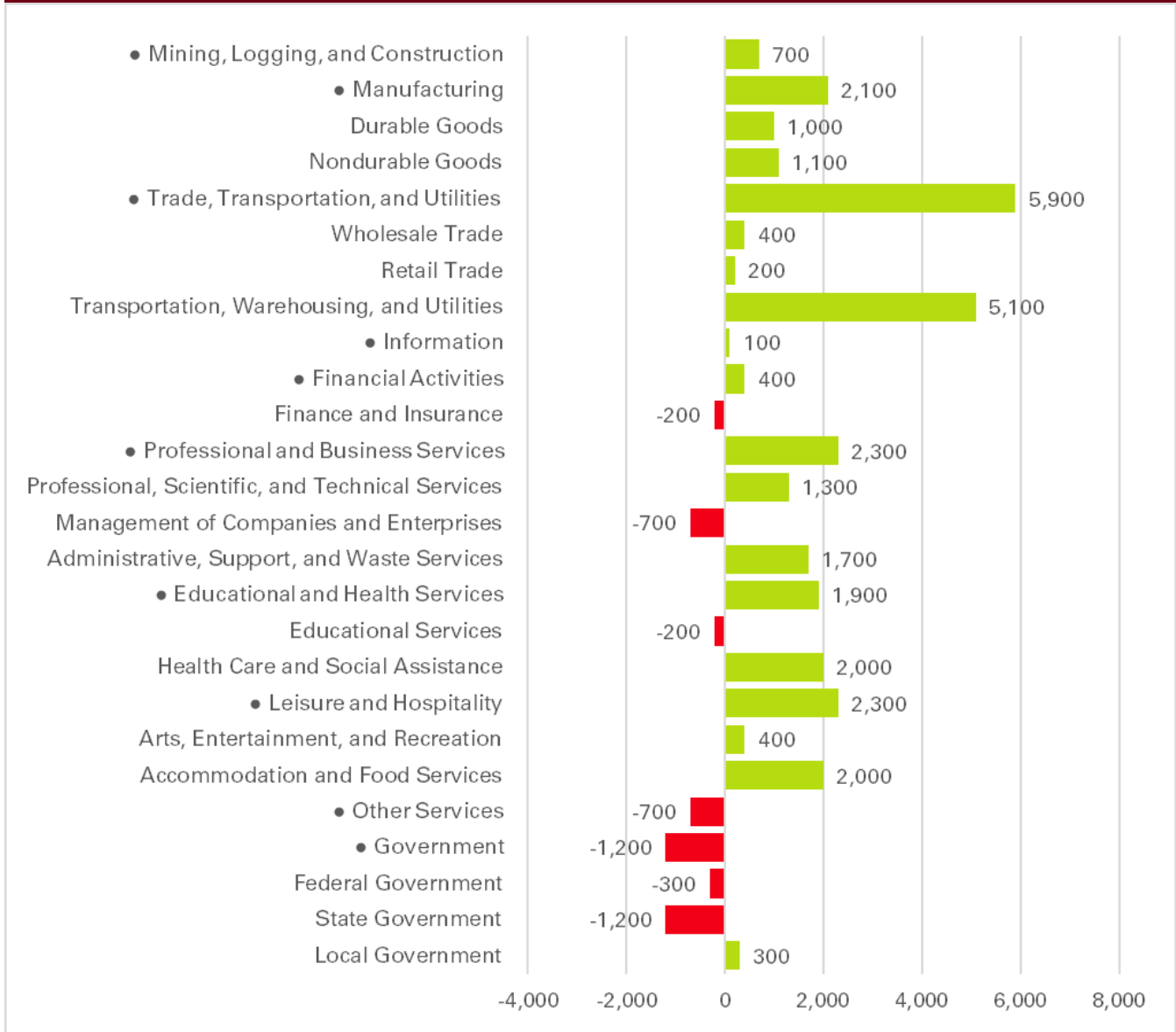
Figure 33. Canton-Massillon MSA Industry Employment Change, 2017 – 2018



Source: Current Employment Statistics

In 2018, the Cincinnati MSA average annual total nonfarm employment was 1,108,400, and average annual total private employment was 978,900. From 2017 to 2018, average annual total nonfarm employment increased by 13,600 jobs (1.2 percent), and average total private employment increased by 14,700 jobs (1.5 percent). The trade, transportation, and utilities sector added 5,100 jobs; the professional and business services and the leisure and hospitality sectors each added 2,300 jobs.

Figure 34. Cincinnati MSA Industry Employment Change, 2017 – 2018



Source: Current Employment Statistics

Average annual total nonfarm employment in the Cleveland-Elyria MSA was 1,067,400 in 2018. Average annual total private employment was 930,200. From 2017 to 2018, average annual total nonfarm employment increased by 8,700 jobs (0.8 percent), and average total private employment increased by 8,100 jobs (0.9 percent). The professional and business services sector added 2,200 jobs, and the manufacturing sector added 2,100 jobs.

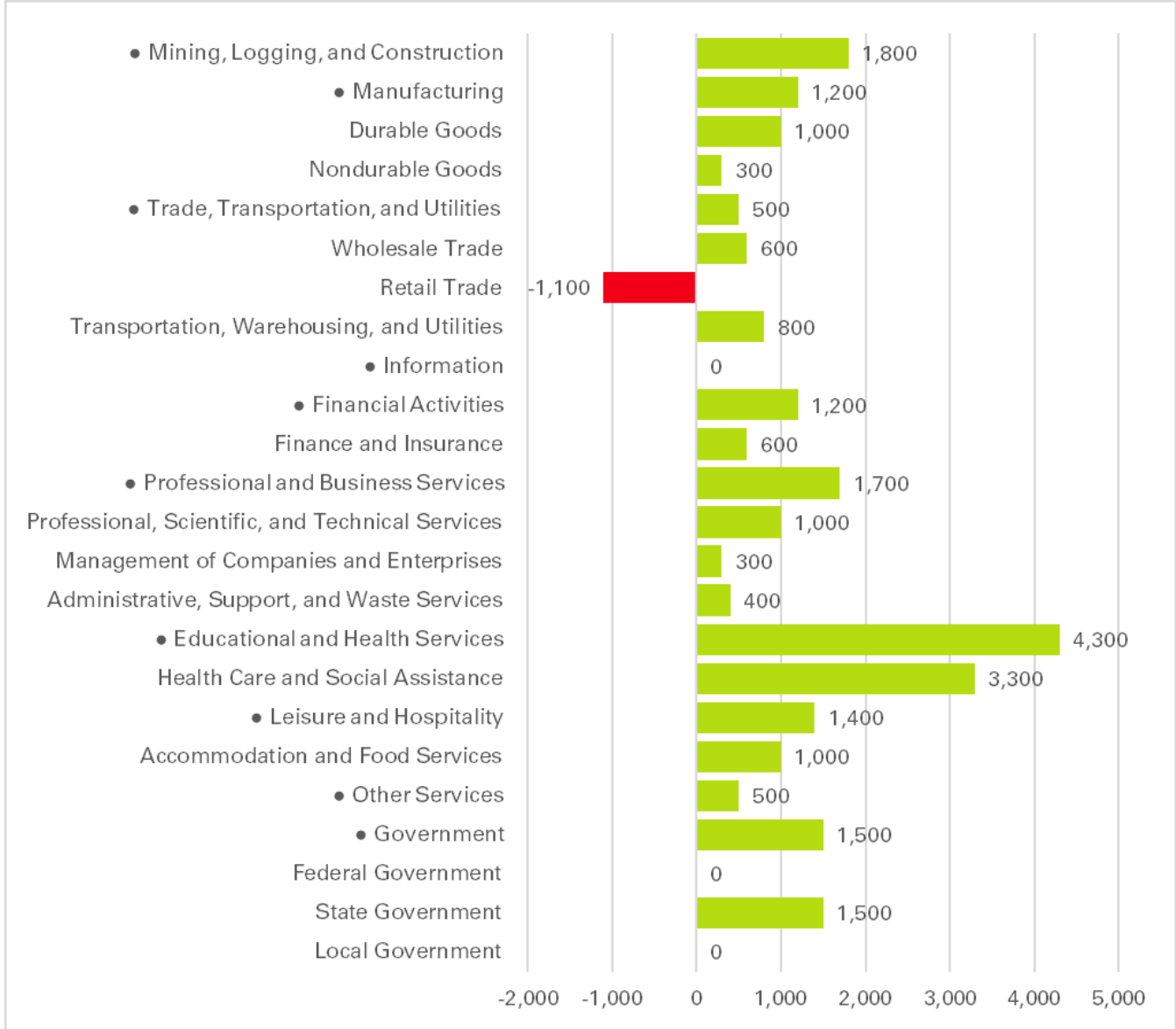
Figure 35. Cleveland-Elyria MSA Industry Employment Change, 2017 – 2018



Source: Current Employment Statistics

Average annual total nonfarm employment in the Columbus MSA was 1,099,500 in 2018. Average annual total private employment was 923,200. From 2017 to 2018, average annual total nonfarm employment increased by 14,100 jobs (1.3 percent), and average total private employment increased by 12,600 jobs (1.4 percent). The educational and health services sector added 4,300 jobs; mining, logging, and construction added 1,800 jobs.

Figure 36. Columbus MSA Industry Employment Change, 2017 – 2018



Source: Current Employment Statistics

Average annual total nonfarm employment in the Dayton MSA was 390,000 in 2018. Average annual total private employment was 328,100. From 2017 to 2018, average annual total nonfarm employment increased by 1,700 jobs (0.4 percent), and average total private employment increased by 2,400 jobs (0.7 percent). The professional and business services sector had the largest gain at 1,200, followed by manufacturing with 1,000 jobs added.

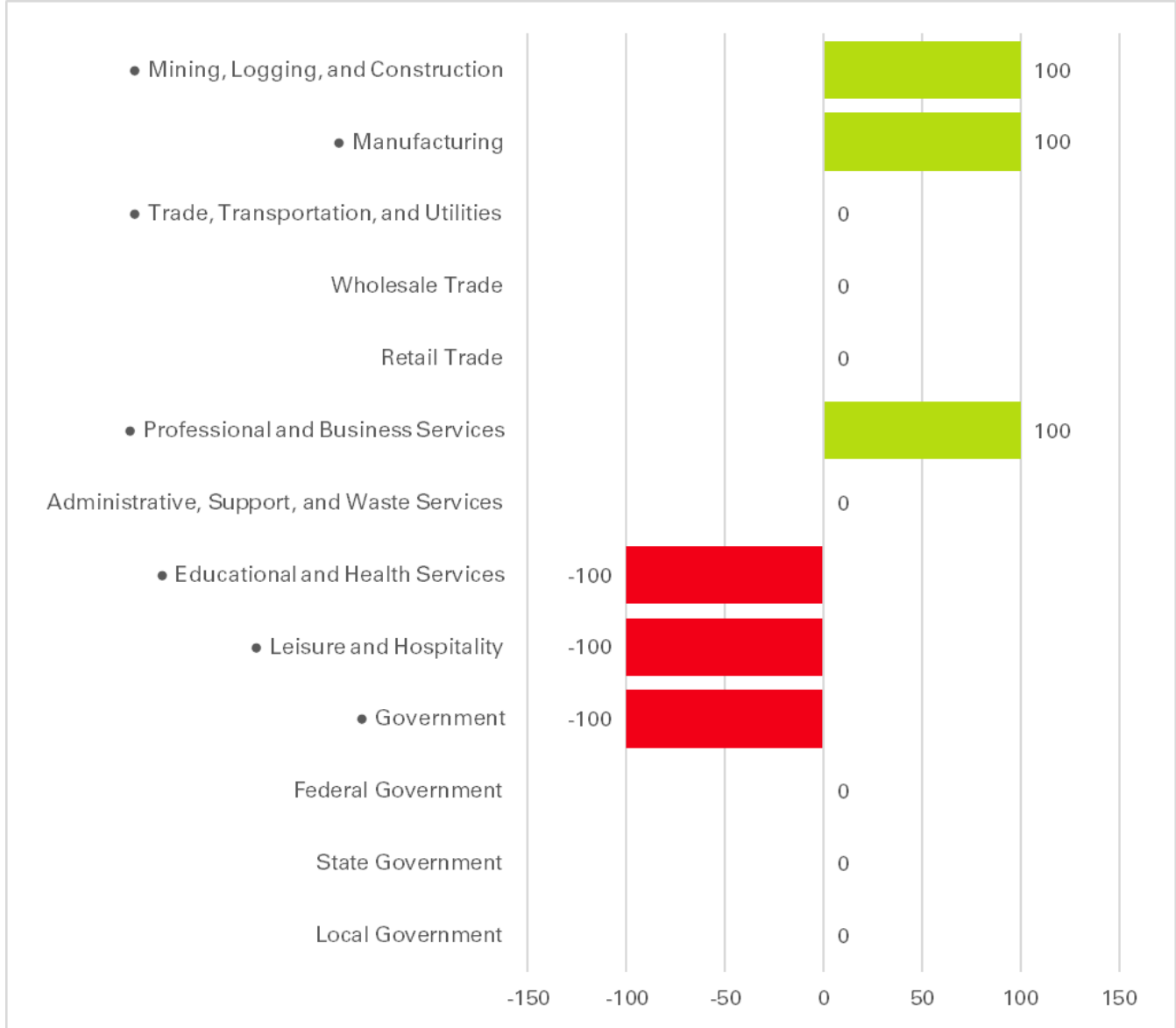
Figure 37. Dayton MSA Industry Employment Change, 2017 – 2018



Source: Current Employment Statistics

Average annual total nonfarm employment in the Lima MSA was 53,100 in 2018. Average annual total private employment was 47,100. From 2017 to 2018, average annual total nonfarm employment decreased by 200 jobs (-0.4 percent), and average total private employment decreased by 100 jobs (-0.2 percent). Three sectors added 100 jobs each, and another three sectors lost 100 jobs each.

Figure 38. Lima MSA Industry Employment Change, 2017 – 2018



Source: Current Employment Statistics

Average annual total nonfarm employment in the Mansfield MSA was 52,800 in 2018. Average annual total private employment was 45,100. From 2017 to 2018, average annual total nonfarm employment increased by 300 jobs (0.6 percent), and average total private employment increased by 100 jobs (0.2 percent). The educational and health services sector added 300 jobs, while manufacturing and trade, transportation and utilities each added 200 jobs.

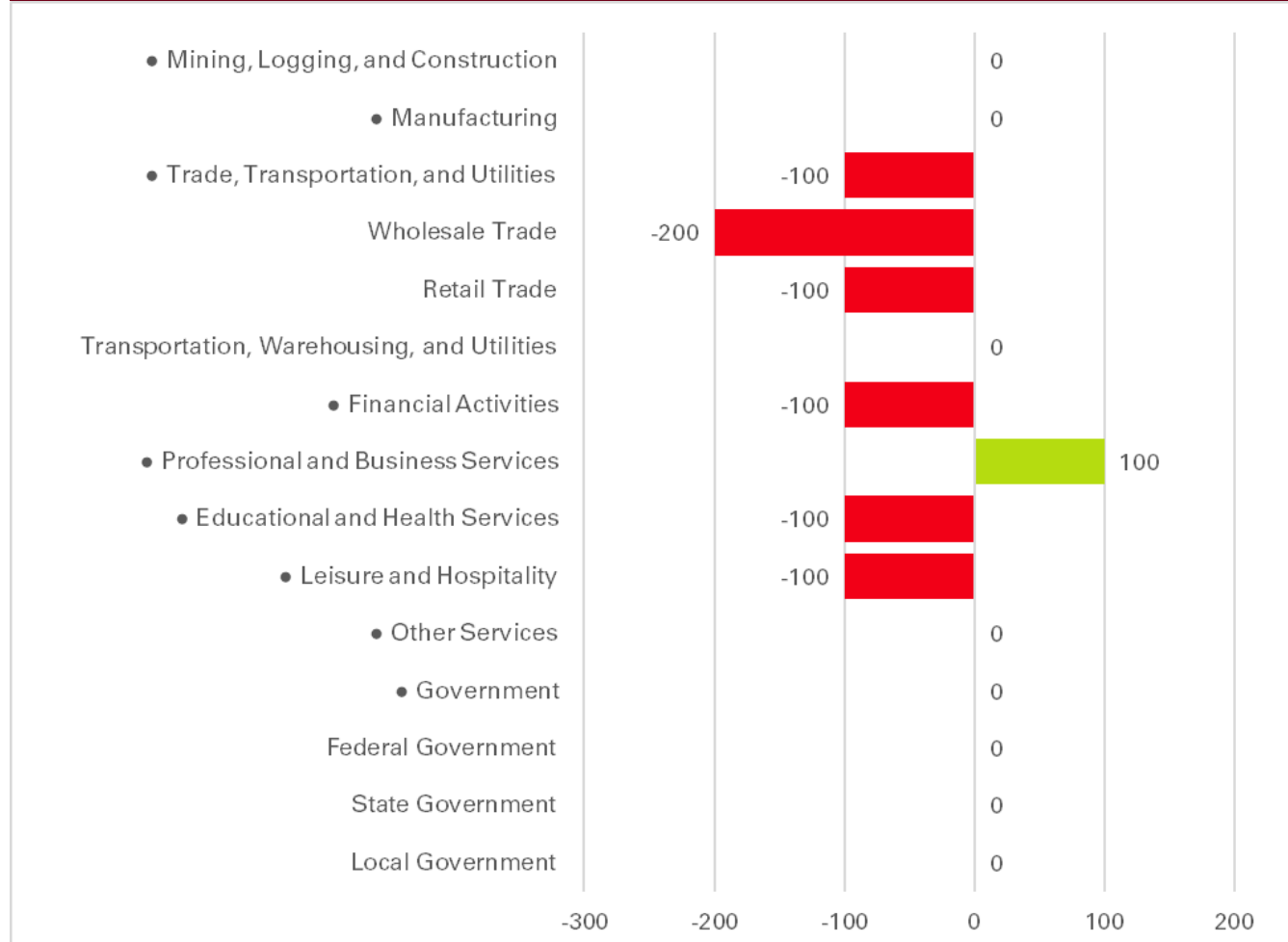
Figure 39. Mansfield MSA Industry Employment Change, 2017 – 2018



Source: Current Employment Statistics

Average annual total nonfarm employment in the Springfield MSA was 50,000 in 2018. Average annual total private employment was 42,800. From 2017 to 2018, average annual total nonfarm employment decreased by 300 jobs (-0.6 percent), and average total private employment decreased by 300 jobs (-0.7 percent). The professional and business services sector added 100 jobs. The financial activities, educational and health services, leisure and hospitality, and trade, transportation, and utilities sectors each lost 100 jobs over the year.

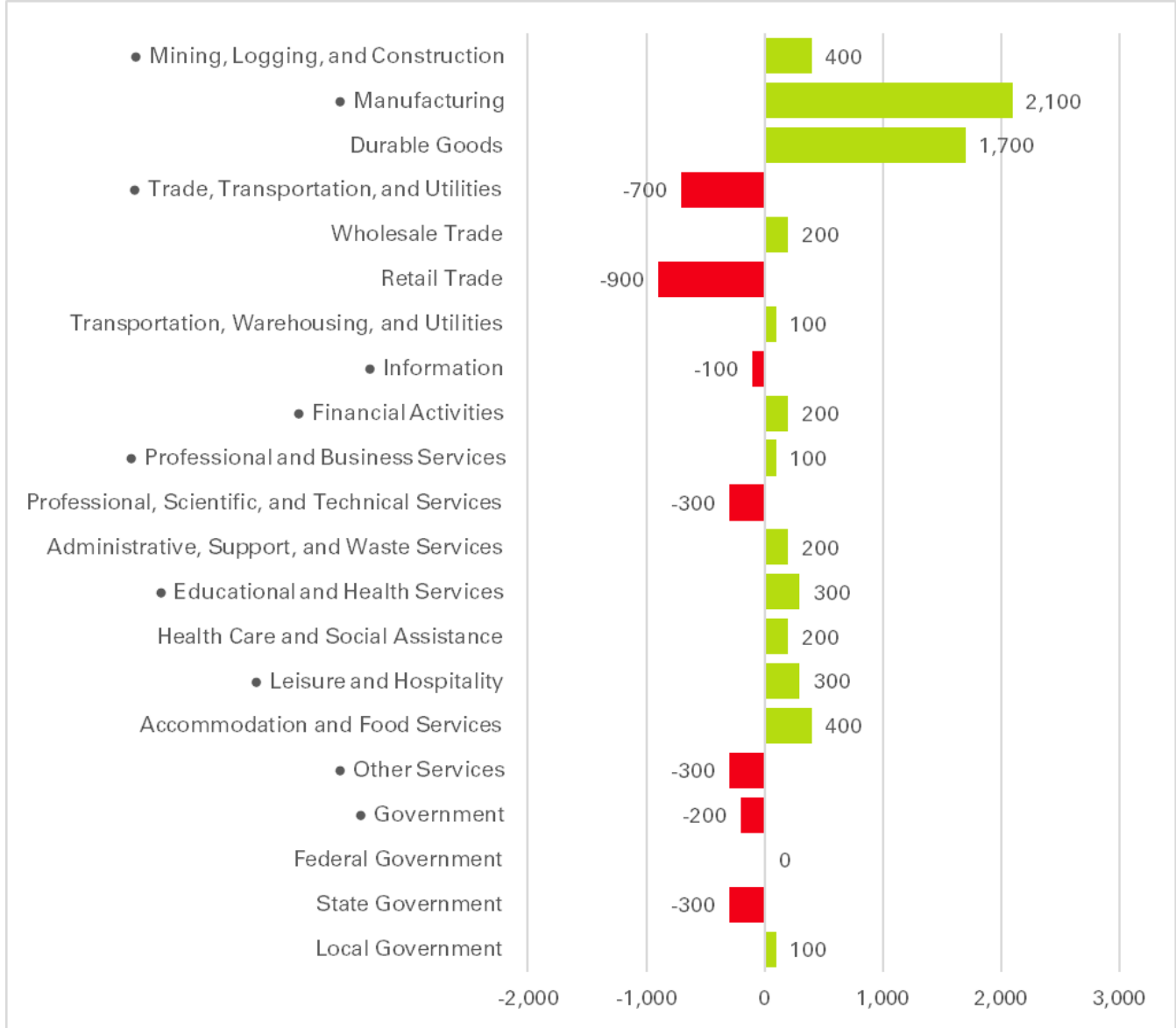
Figure 40. Springfield MSA Industry Employment Change, 2017 – 2018



Source: Current Employment Statistics

Average annual total nonfarm employment in the Toledo MSA was 309,800 in 2018. Average annual total private employment was 264,800. From 2017 to 2018, average annual total nonfarm employment increased by 2,000 jobs (0.6 percent), and average total private employment increased by 2,200 jobs (0.8 percent). The manufacturing sector added 2,100 jobs; trade, transportation and utilities lost 700 jobs.

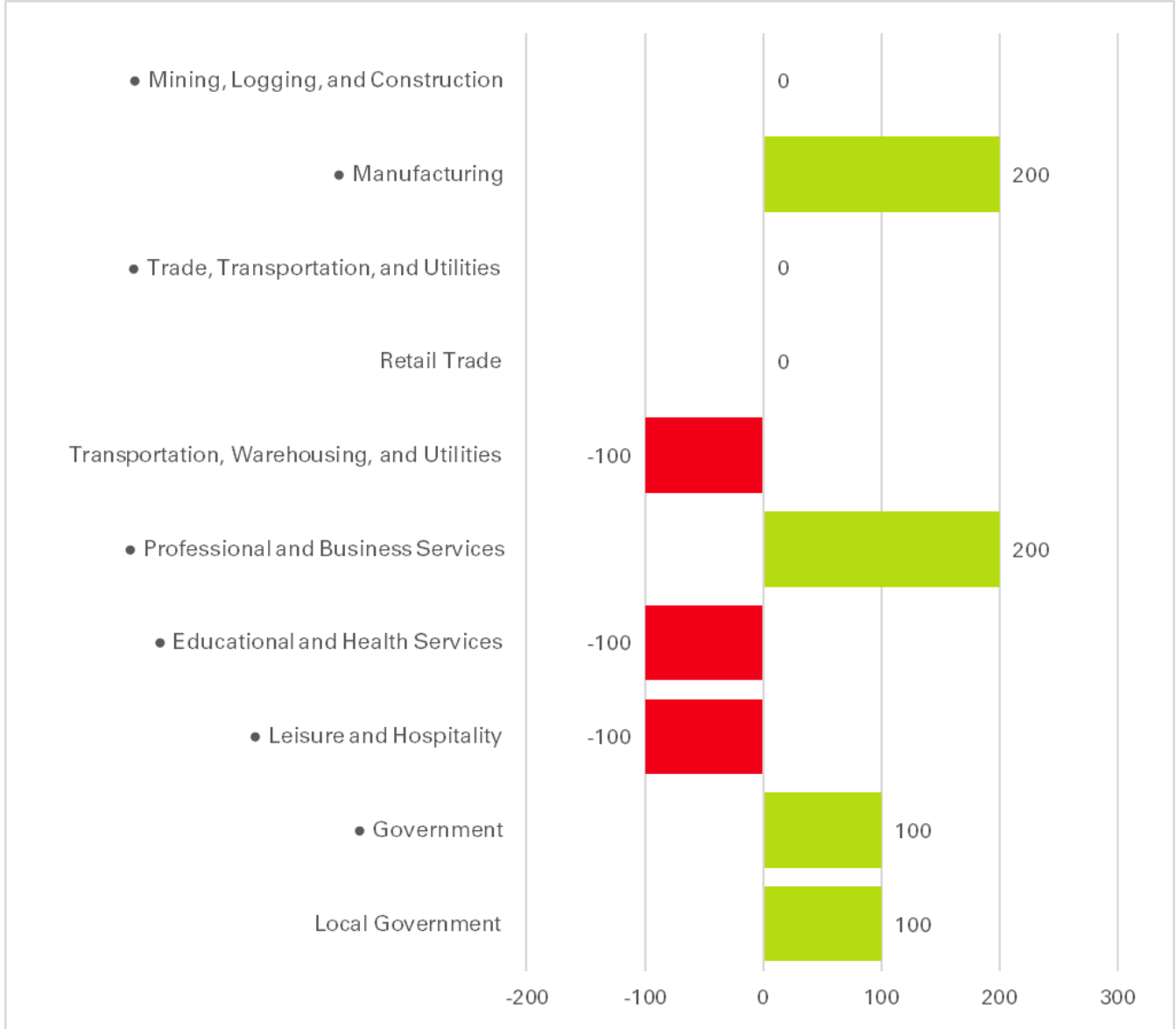
Figure 41. Toledo MSA Industry Employment Change, 2017 – 2018



Source: Current Employment Statistics

Average annual total nonfarm employment in the Weirton-Steubenville MSA was 40,300 in 2018. Average annual total private employment was 34,000. From 2017 to 2018, average annual total nonfarm employment increased by 200 jobs (0.5 percent), and average total private employment was unchanged over the year. The manufacturing and professional and business services sectors each added 200 jobs over the year.

Figure 42. Weirton-Steubenville MSA Industry Employment Change, 2017 – 2018



Source: Current Employment Statistics

Average annual total nonfarm employment in the Youngstown-Warren-Boardman MSA was 219,700 in 2018. Average annual total private employment was 190,300. From 2017 to 2018, average annual total nonfarm employment decreased by 200 jobs (-0.1 percent), and average total private employment remained unchanged throughout the year. The leisure and hospitality sector added 400 jobs over the year. Healthcare and social assistance added 300 jobs. The trade, transportation, and utilities sector lost 400 jobs. Manufacturing lost 200 jobs. The trade, transportation, and utilities sector lost 400 jobs.

Figure 43. Youngstown-Warren-Boardman MSA Industry Employment Change, 2017 – 2018



Source: Current Employment Statistics

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
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- 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 Bureau Chief Coretta Pettway. For further information, visit OhioLMI.com or call the Ohio Bureau of Labor Market Information at **1-888-296-7541** option 6, or **(614) 752-9494**.

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