

# Labor Market Information In Review: 2021 Annual Economic Report



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## Executive Summary

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Ohio's unemployment rate declined throughout 2021, from 6.0% in January 2021 to 4.5% in October, November, and December. Ohio's unemployment rate for the last three months of 2021 was the lowest since January 2020. Ohio's average unemployment rate was 5.1% for 2021, which was lower than the national annual rate of 5.3%.

Online jobs ads, an indicator of labor demand, increased in 2021. The number of job ads for 2021 was 116,000 more than in 2020. Four of the top 10 most heavily advertised jobs were on Ohio's "Top Jobs" list.

Ohio's annual average nonfarm employment was 5,373,200, an increase of 110,000 and 2.1% higher than in 2020. Private employment also increased in 2021, with 119,200 more jobs than in 2020. Ohio's 2021 average private employment was 4,622,300, an increase of 2.6%.

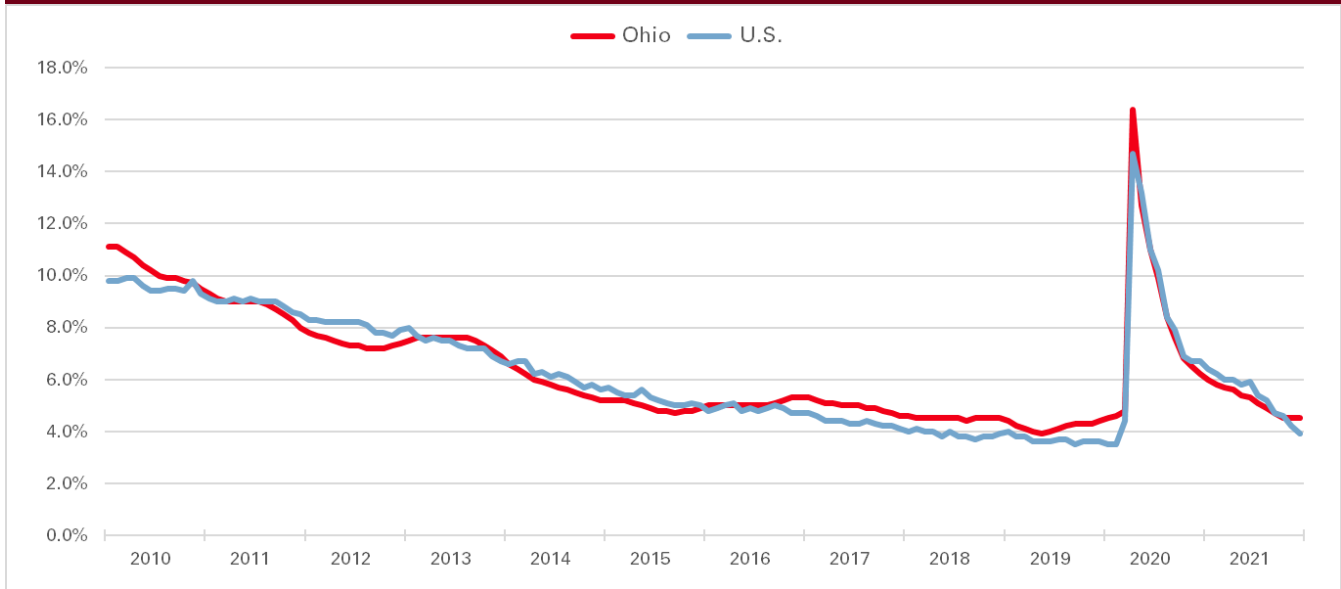
Goods-producing employment and private service-providing employment both increased in 2021. The leisure and hospitality sector saw the largest increase, gaining 38,700 jobs over 2020. Government employment had the steepest decline, losing more than 9,000 jobs over 2020. All the state's metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) saw increases in annual total nonfarm and total private employment from 2020 to 2021. The Columbus MSA saw the largest increases, gaining 3.9% for total private employment and 3.2% for total nonfarm employment.

# The Labor Force and Unemployment Rates

The U.S. and Ohio's unemployment rates peaked in April 2020 amid COVID-19. Both fell sharply soon afterward and continued to fall in 2021. As of December 2021, Ohio unemployment rates were at January 2020 levels and slightly above national unemployment rates.

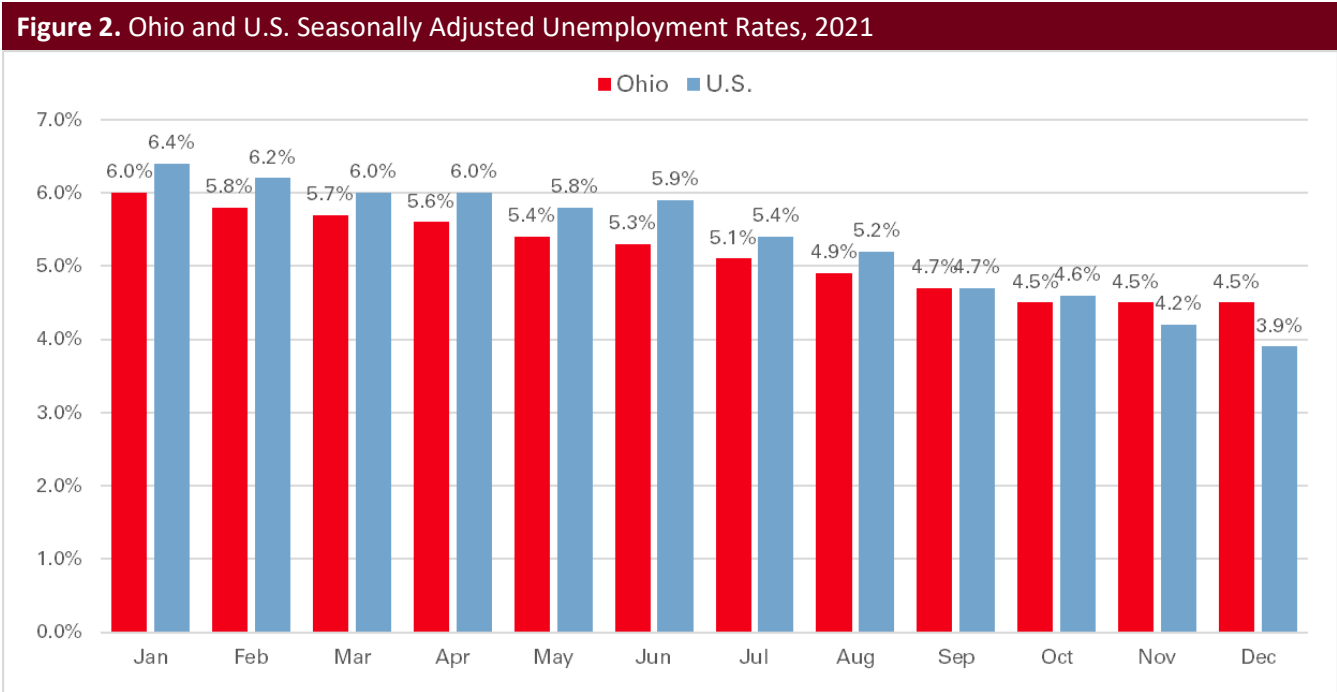
Historically, Ohio's unemployment rate has closely mimicked the U.S. unemployment rate. Between May 2016 and May 2020, Ohio's rate was higher than the U.S. rate.

**Figure 1. U.S. and Ohio Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates, 2010 – 2021**



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

In 2021, Ohio's annual average unemployment rate decreased 3.1 percentage points, from 8.2% to 5.1%. For much of 2021, Ohio's unemployment rate was lower than the U.S. rate.

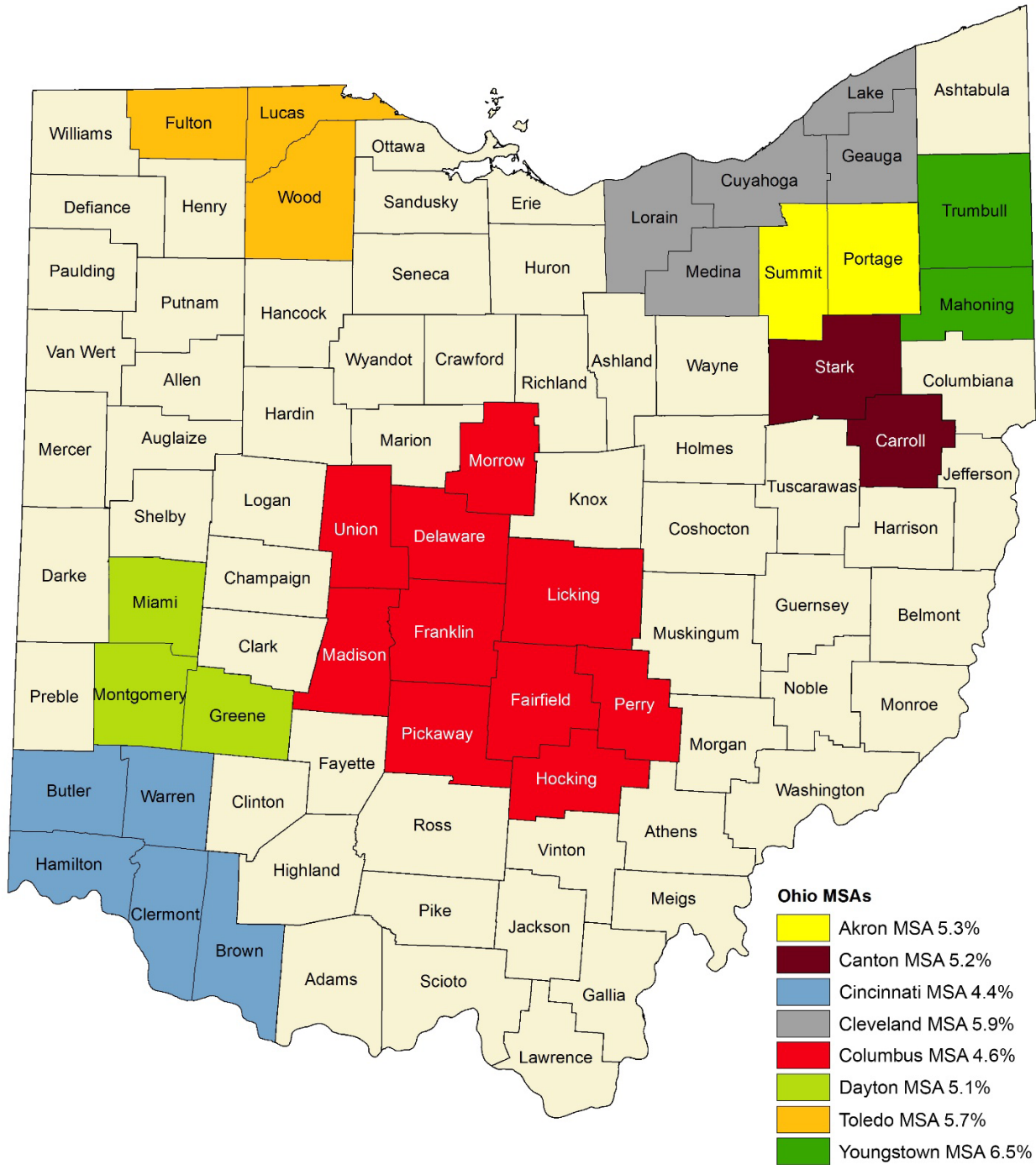


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics



The major Ohio MSAs had lower annual unemployment rates for 2021 than for 2020. Three MSAs had unemployment rates at or below the 2021 Ohio unemployment rate of 5.1%: Cincinnati, Columbus, and Dayton. The Cleveland, Toledo, and Youngstown MSAs had unemployment rates above the national rate of 5.3%. The Cleveland MSA saw the largest change in its average annual unemployment rate, with a 3.8 percentage point decrease from 9.7% in 2020 to 5.9% in 2021.

**Figure 4. 2021 Annual Average Unemployment Rates by MSA**

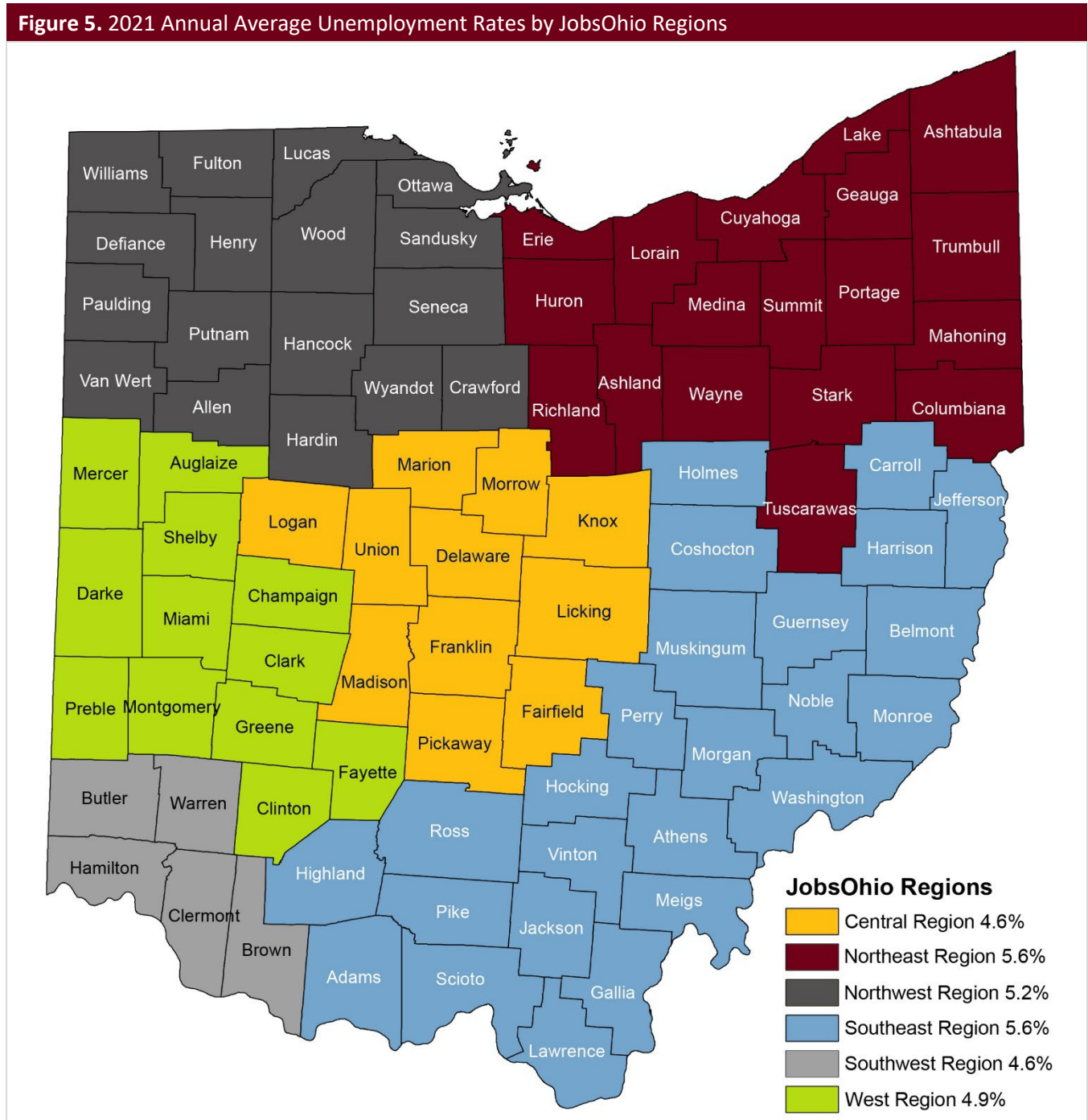


Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Ohio has six JobsOhio regions, each with unique strengths and resources. In 2021, the Northeast and Southeast regions had the highest annual unemployment rates at 5.6%; they were also the only regions above the national unemployment rate for 2021. The Northwest region had an annual unemployment rate of 5.2%, which was lower than the national annual rate for 2021 but higher than the Ohio annual rate. The other regions had unemployment rates lower than the statewide rate. The Central and Southwest regions had the lowest rates for 2021 at 4.6%.

The Southwest region saw the largest drop in annual unemployment, from 8.4% in 2020 to 4.6% in 2021. The Central region saw the smallest decline, from 7.1% in 2020 to 4.6% in 2021.

**Figure 5. 2021 Annual Average Unemployment Rates by JobsOhio Regions**

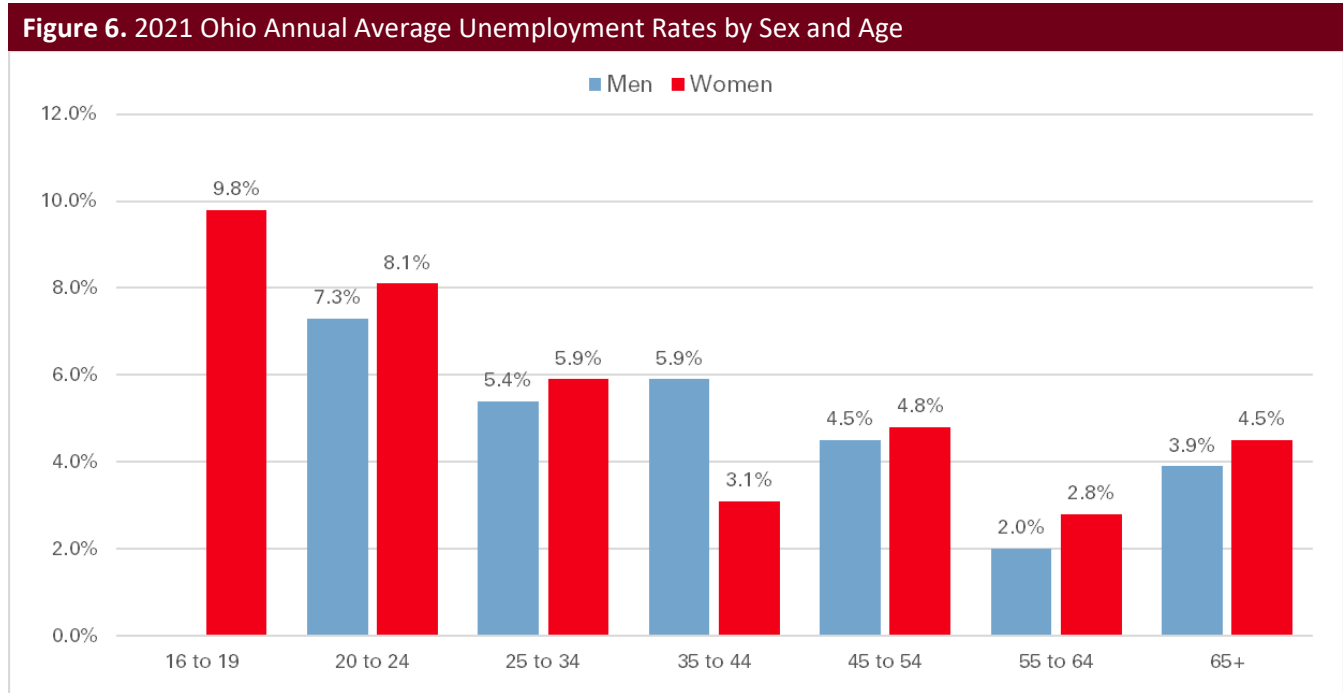


Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics



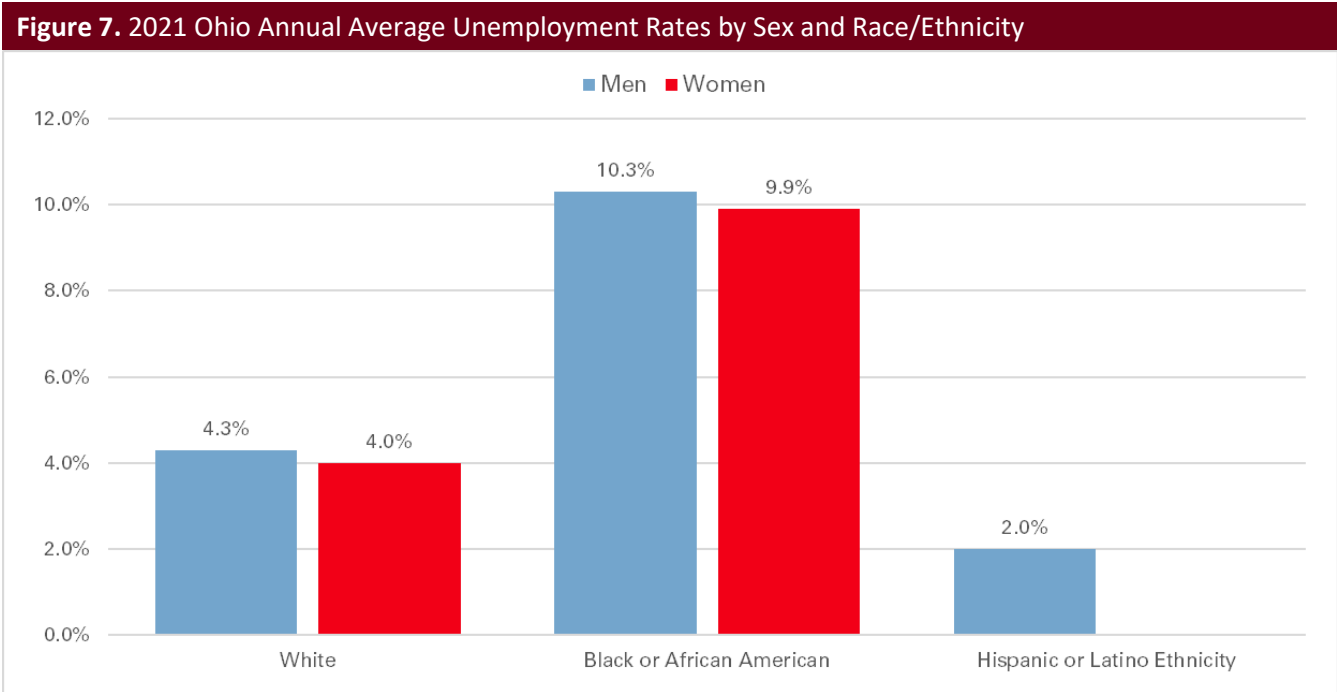
Ohio's 2021 unemployment rates were lower than for 2020 for all age groups. The highest unemployment rates were for younger workers. Only the female unemployment rate was available for the 16-to-19-year-old age group for this time period; this group had an unemployment rate of 9.8%. For the 20-to-24-year-old age group, the male unemployment rate was 7.3%, and the female unemployment rate was 8.1%. The lowest unemployment rates were experienced by individuals ages 55 to 64; the female unemployment rate was 2.8%, and the male unemployment rate was 2.0%. The unemployment rates for women were higher than the unemployment rates for men for all but one age group, those 35 to 44 years old.

The lowest unemployment rates were experienced by individuals ages 55 to 64; the female unemployment rate was 2.8%, and the male unemployment rate was 2.0%. The unemployment rates for women were higher than the unemployment rates for men for all but one age group, those 35 to 44 years old.



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

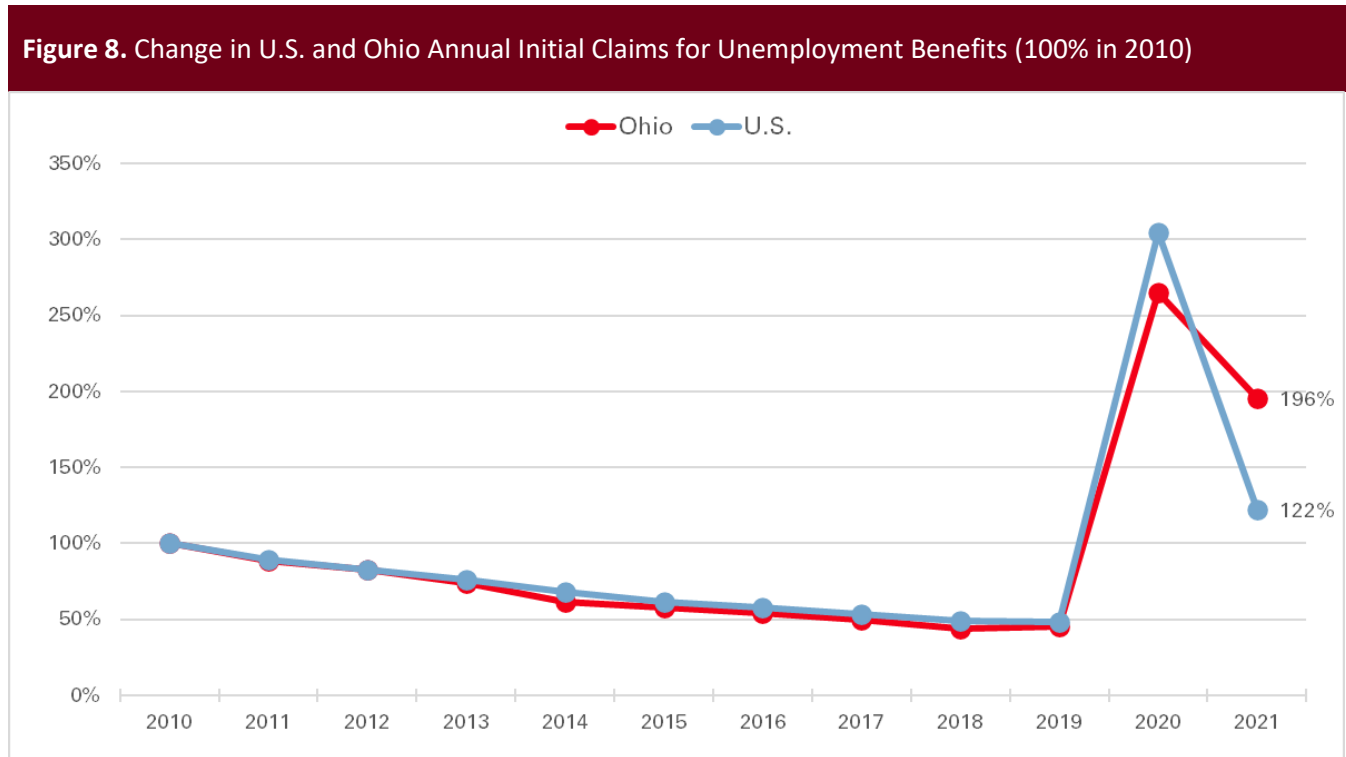
Black or African American men had the highest unemployment rate in 2021, at 10.3%. Hispanic or Latino men had the lowest unemployment rate, at 2.0%. Data for Hispanic/Latina women were not available.



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

The number of initial unemployment insurance claims filed in a given time period can provide insight into the number of people affected by layoffs and business closings.

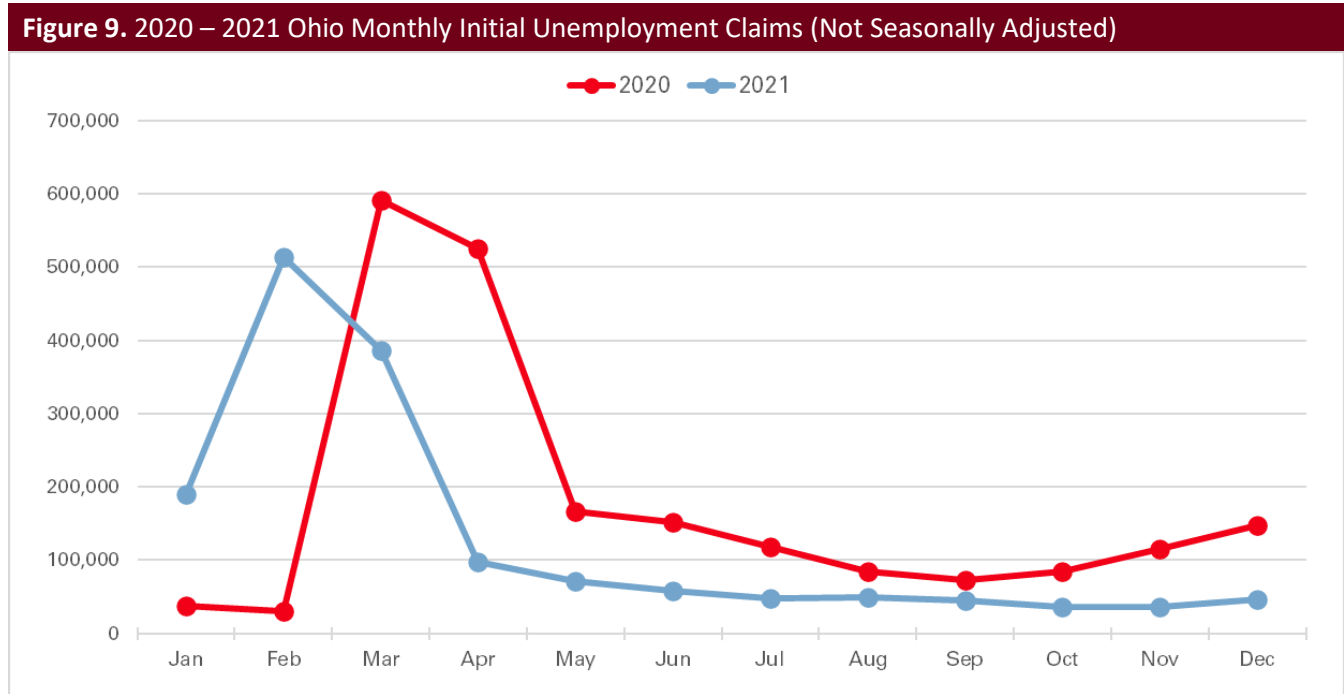
Figure 8 shows U.S. and Ohio initial unemployment claims filed annually since 2010 as a percentage of 2010 levels. From 2010 to 2019, Ohio and U.S. initial claims declined at the same rate. In 2020, initial claims increased in both Ohio and the U.S. In 2021, U.S. initial claims decreased but were still 122% of 2010 levels. Ohio initial claims also decreased but were 196% of 2010 levels.



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

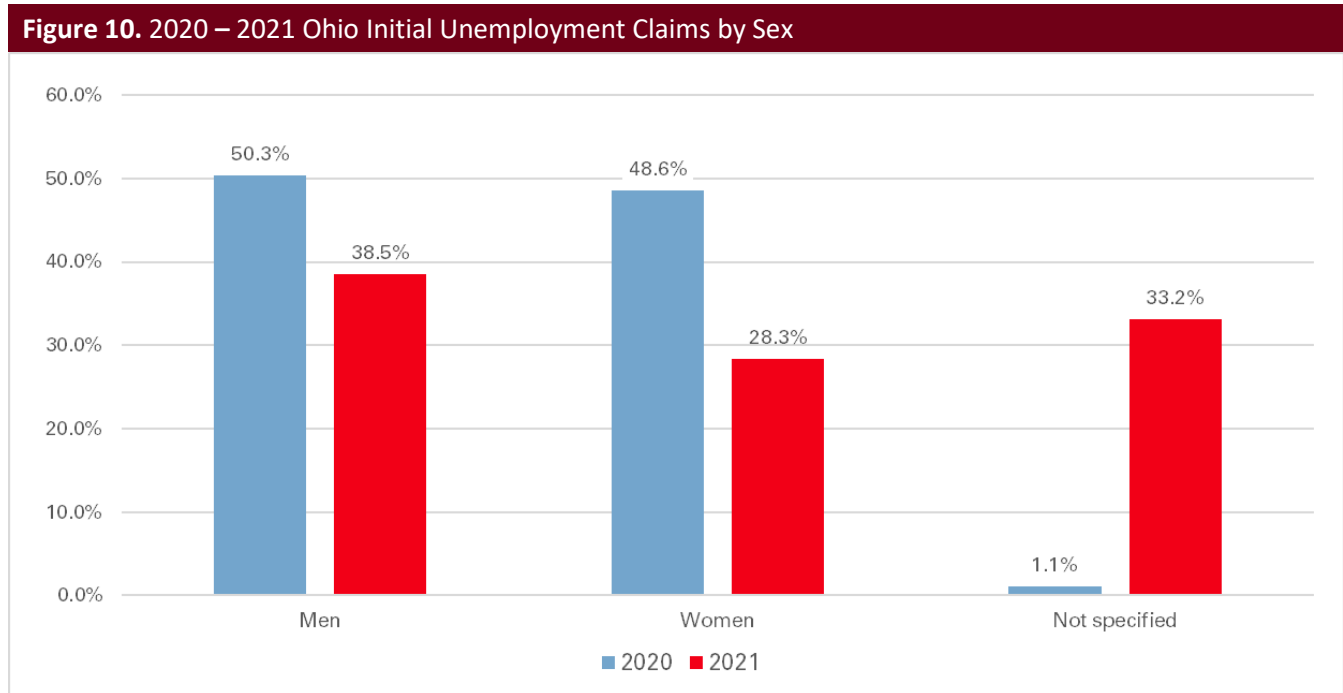
Figure 9 shows monthly initial claims for 2020 and 2021. These numbers are not seasonally adjusted and show typical seasonal fluctuations. The number of initial unemployment claims filed in 2021 was 1,578,956. This was a drop from 2,127,460 in 2020 but still more than four times the number of initial claims filed in 2019.

Monthly initial claims saw a spike in February 2021 (514,100 claims). Although this spike looked similar to the one in March 2020, the February 2021 spike was driven by a large number of fraudulent claims.



Source: Ohio Office of Unemployment Insurance Operations

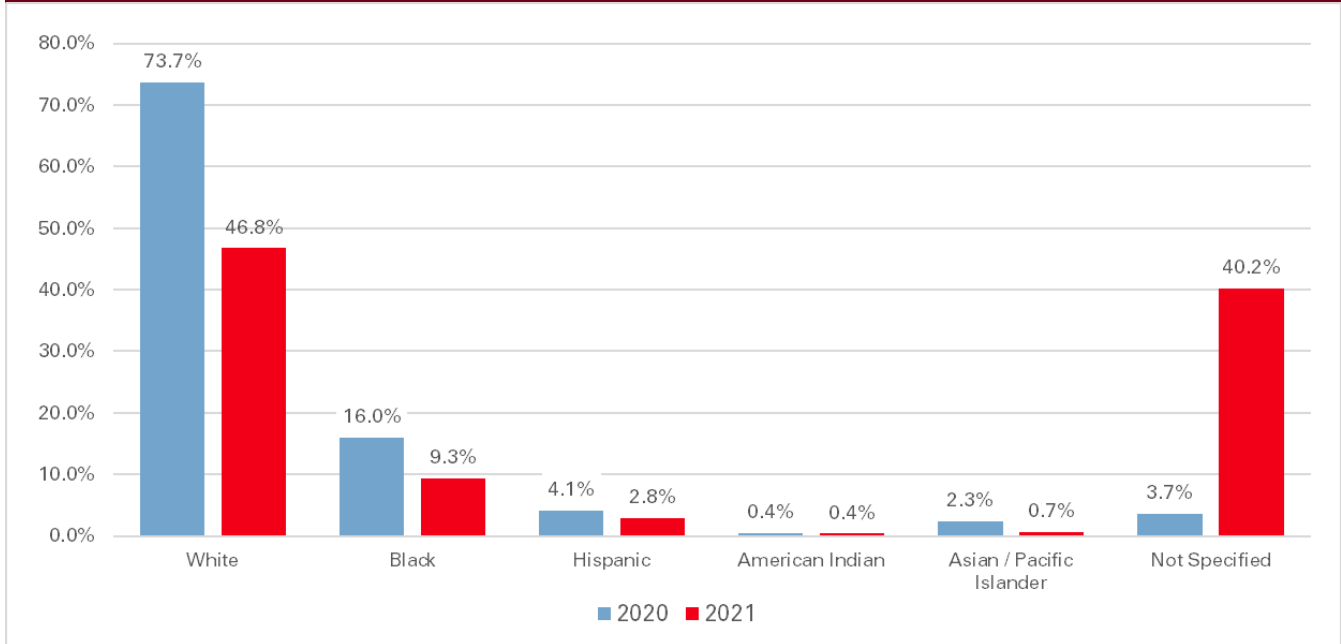
In 2020 and 2021, men accounted for a higher percentage of initial claims than did women. However, in 2021, 33.2% of initial claims included no gender information, compared to 1.1% in 2020. Fraudulent claims were far less likely to include gender information than legitimate claims.



Source: Ohio Office of Unemployment Insurance Operations

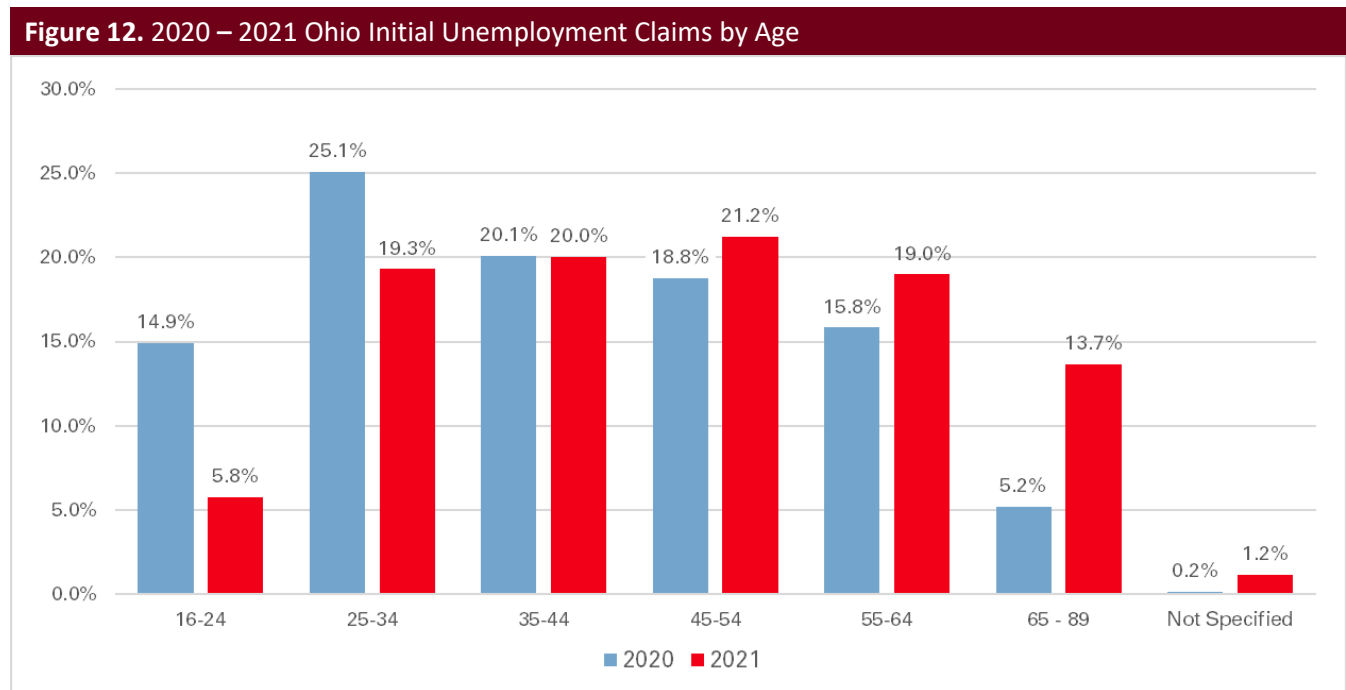
Among the initial claims for which demographic information was available, the 2021 distribution by race and ethnicity was similar to the 2020 distribution. The percentage of initial claims lacking race or ethnicity information was 40.2% in 2021, compared to 3.7% in 2020. Fraudulent claims were more likely to be missing race or ethnicity information.

**Figure 11. 2020 – 2021 Ohio Initial Unemployment Claims by Race/Ethnicity**



Source: Ohio Office of Unemployment Insurance Operations

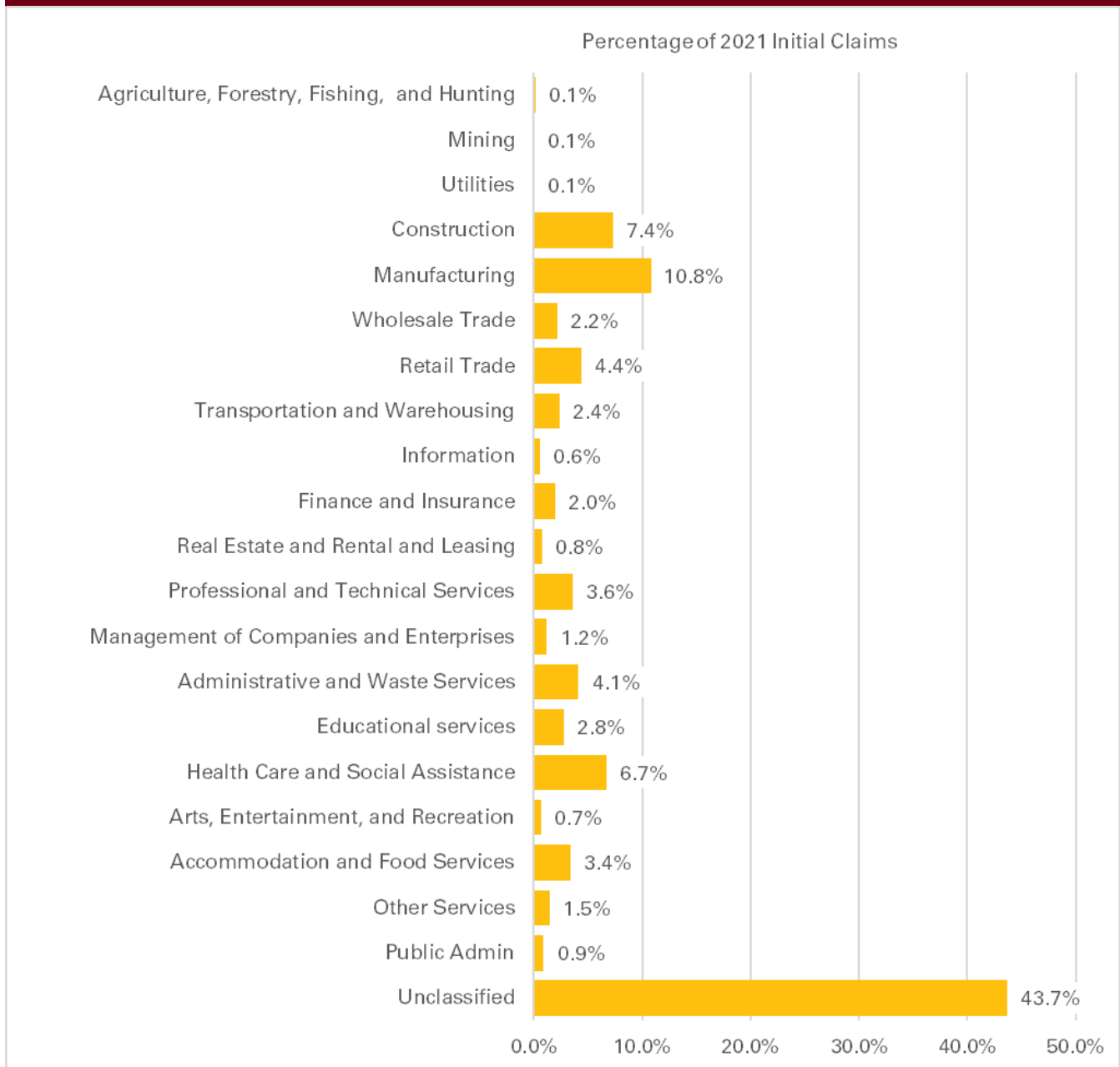
The proportion of initial claims filed by those 34 and younger declined from 2020 to 2021. At the same time, a higher proportion of initial claims was filed by those 45 and older. In 2021, 1.2% of claims did not specify an age, compared to 0.2% in 2020.



Source: Ohio Office of Unemployment Insurance Operations

Among the initial claims that included the industry of most recent employment, manufacturing had the highest percentage of initial claims, followed by construction and health care and social assistance. However, 43.7% of initial claims did not include an industry of employment and were reported as unclassified. Fraudulent claims were more likely to be missing industry information.

**Figure 13. 2021 Ohio Initial Unemployment Claims by Industry Sector**



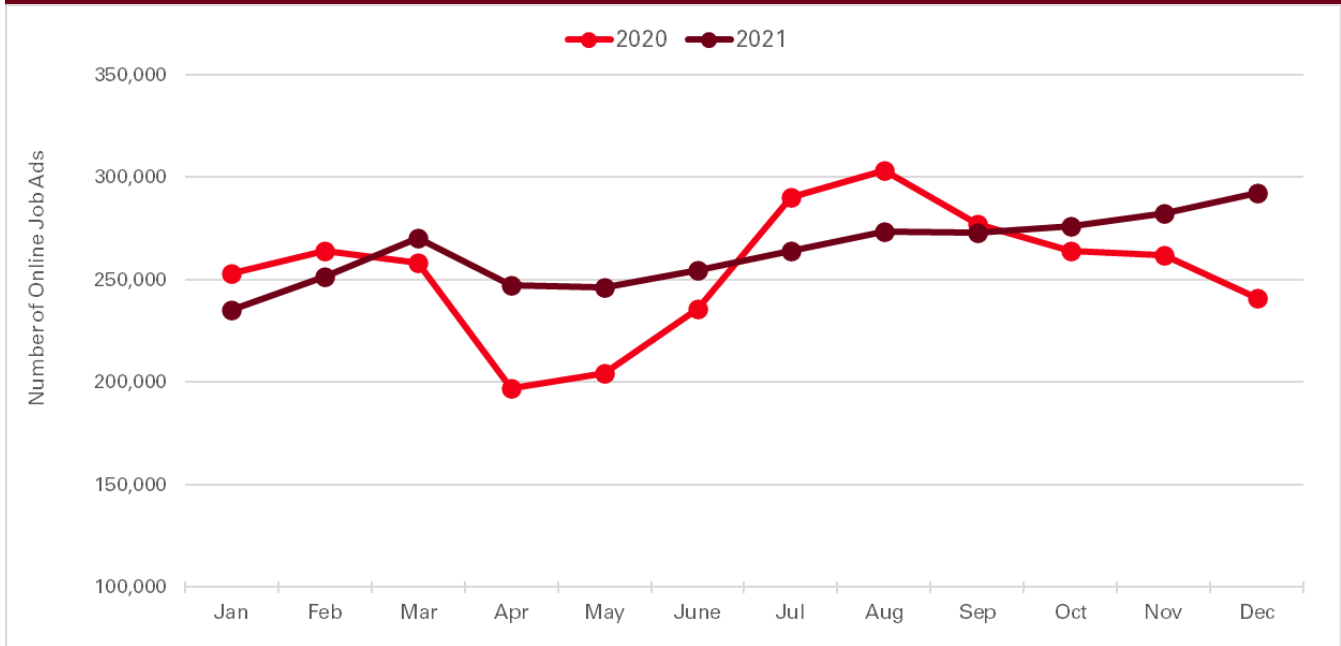
Source: Ohio Office of Unemployment Insurance Operations



## Labor Demand – Online Job Ads

An indicator of labor demand is the number of job ads posted online. On average, 9,720 more ads were posted monthly in 2021 than in 2020. January 2021 had the fewest online job ads, with 234,985. December had the most online job ads, with 292,530. Overall, the number of job postings increased in 2021 to 3,167,114, which was 3.8% higher than in 2020.

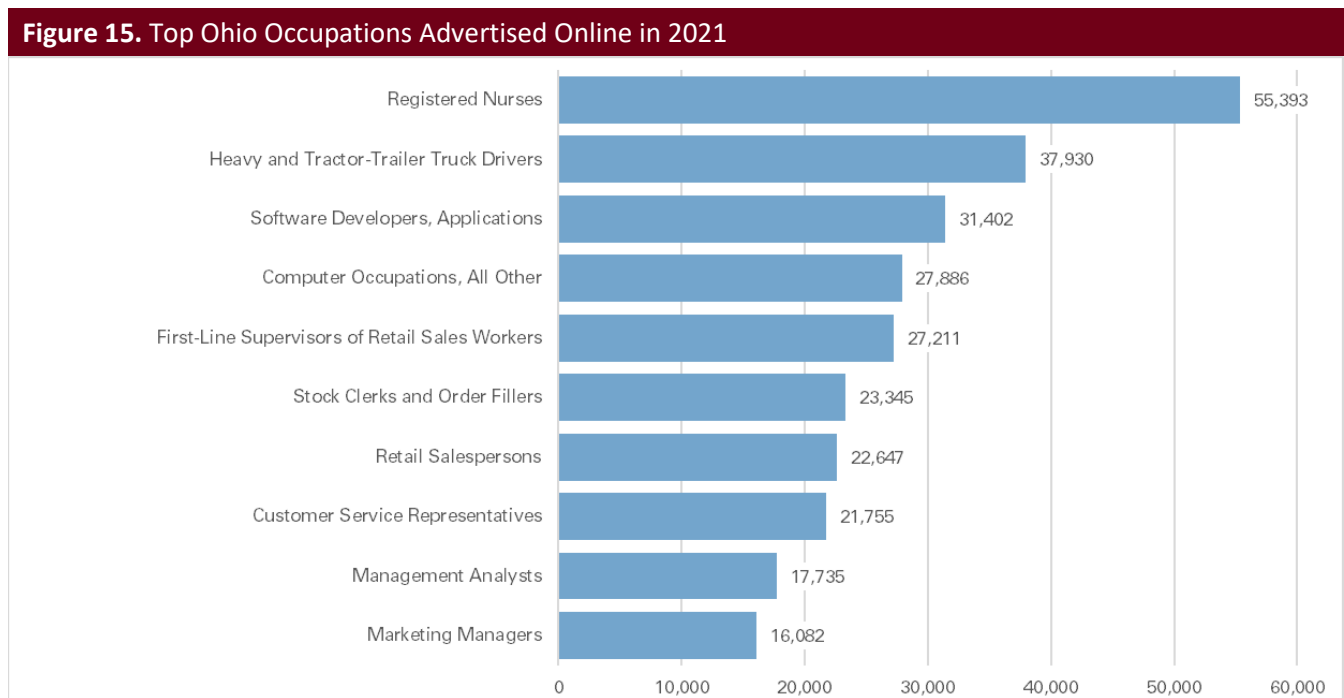
**Figure 14. Ohio Online Job Ads by Month, Not Seasonally Adjusted, 2020-2021**



Source: TalentNeuron Gartner™

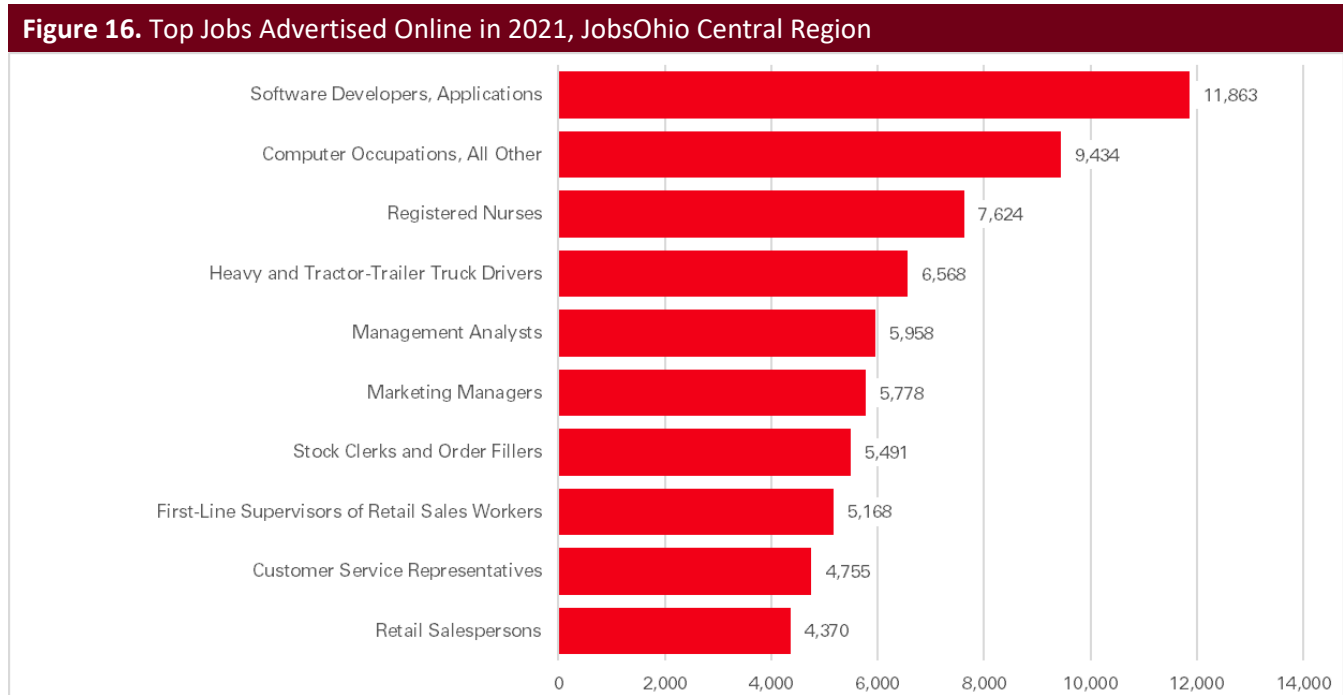
Ohio’s most heavily advertised occupation in 2021 was registered nurses, with more than 55,000 ads. The next most heavily advertised occupation was heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers.

Eight of the 10 most heavily advertised occupations in Ohio were on Ohio’s “Top Jobs” list. Only stock clerks and order fillers and retail salespersons were not on the Top Jobs list.



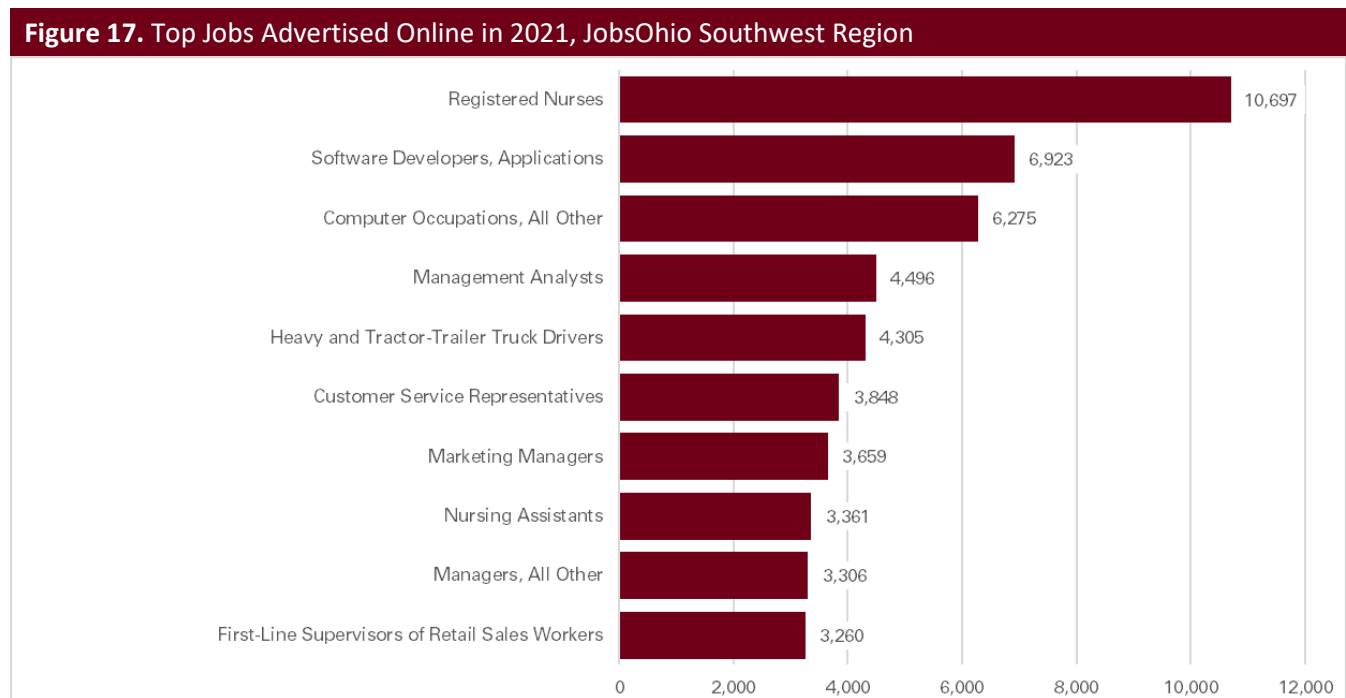
Source: TalentNeuron Gartner™

In the Central JobsOhio Region, the top two most heavily advertised occupations were software developers and other computer occupations, followed by registered nurses and then heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers. Eight of the 10 most heavily advertised occupations were on Ohio's Top Jobs list.



Source: TalentNeuron Gartner™

In the Southwest JobsOhio region, registered nurses was the most heavily advertised occupation, followed by two computer occupations. All of the 10 most heavily advertised occupations were on Ohio's Top Jobs list.



Source: TalentNeuron Gartner™

In the Northwest JobsOhio region, the most heavily advertised occupation in 2021 was registered nurses, followed by heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers. Nine of the 10 most heavily advertised occupations were on Ohio's Top Jobs list.

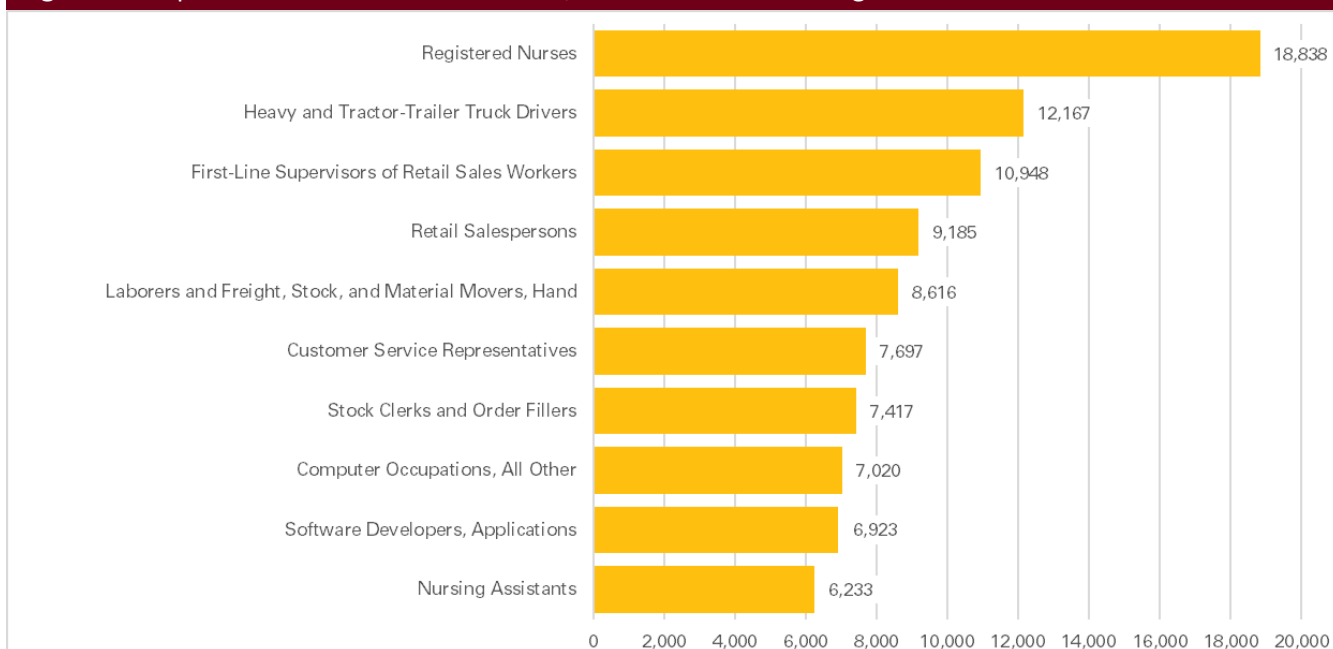
**Figure 18. Top Jobs Advertised Online in 2021, JobsOhio Northwest Region**



Source: TalentNeuron Gartner™

In the Northeast JobsOhio region, the most heavily advertised occupation was registered nurses, with 18,838 ads. Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers was next, followed by two sales-related occupations. Eight of the 10 most heavily advertised occupations were on Ohio's Top Jobs list.

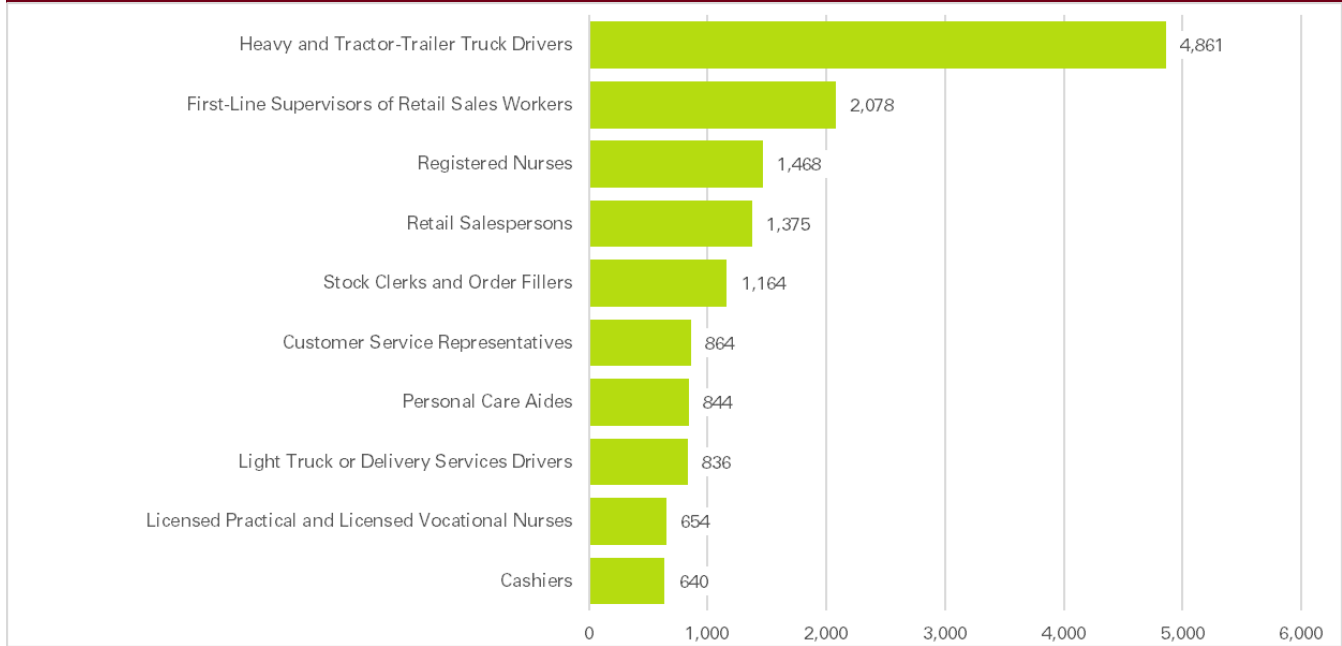
**Figure 19. Top Jobs Advertised Online in 2021, JobsOhio Northeast Region**



Source: TalentNeuron Gartner™

In the Southeast JobsOhio region, the most advertised occupation was heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers, with 4,861 jobs. This was more than twice as many as the next advertised occupation, first-line supervisors of retail sales workers. Registered nurses was third. Six of the 10 most heavily advertised jobs were on Ohio's Top Jobs list.

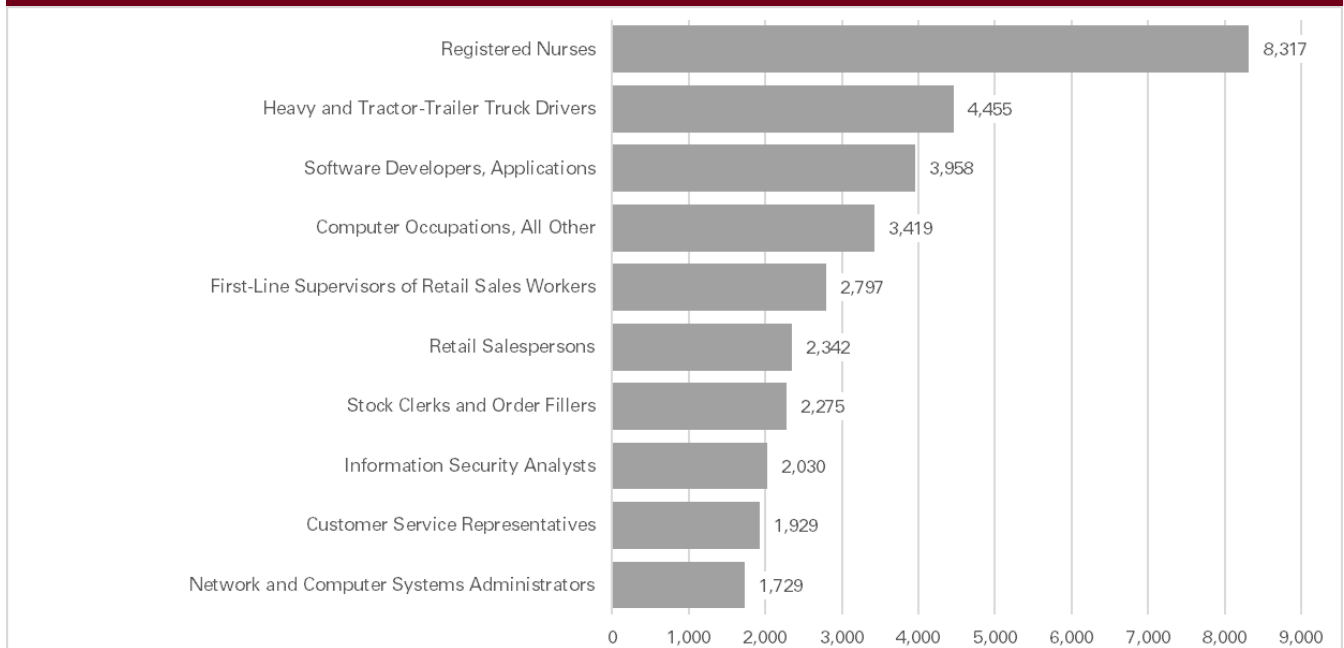
**Figure 20. Top Jobs Advertised Online in 2021, JobsOhio Southeast Region**



Source: TalentNeuron Gartner™

In the West region, the most heavily advertised occupation was registered nurses, followed by heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers. Eight of the 10 most heavily advertised occupations were on Ohio's Top Jobs list.

**Figure 21. Top Jobs Advertised Online in 2021, JobsOhio West Region**



Source: TalentNeuron Gartner™

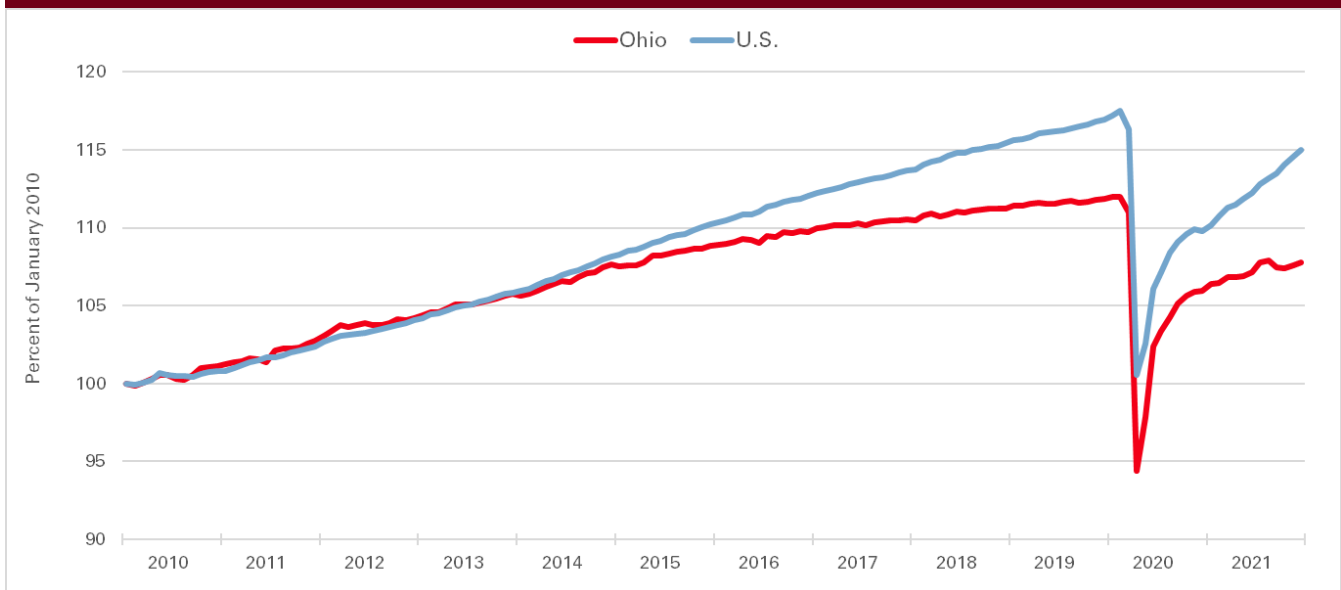


## Industry Employment

In January 2021, U.S. total nonfarm employment was 110.2% of its January 2010 level. This was down from the February 2020 peak of 117.5% but above the low of 100.6% in April 2020, at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. In January 2021 in Ohio, the total nonfarm employment was 106.4% of its January 2010 level, down from its peak of 112.0% in January and February 2020 and above its low of 94.4% in April 2020.

Throughout 2021, both Ohio and U.S. total nonfarm employment continued a steady recovery. Ohio's December 2021 level was 107.8% of its January 2010 level; the national December 2021 level was 115.0% of its January 2010 level.

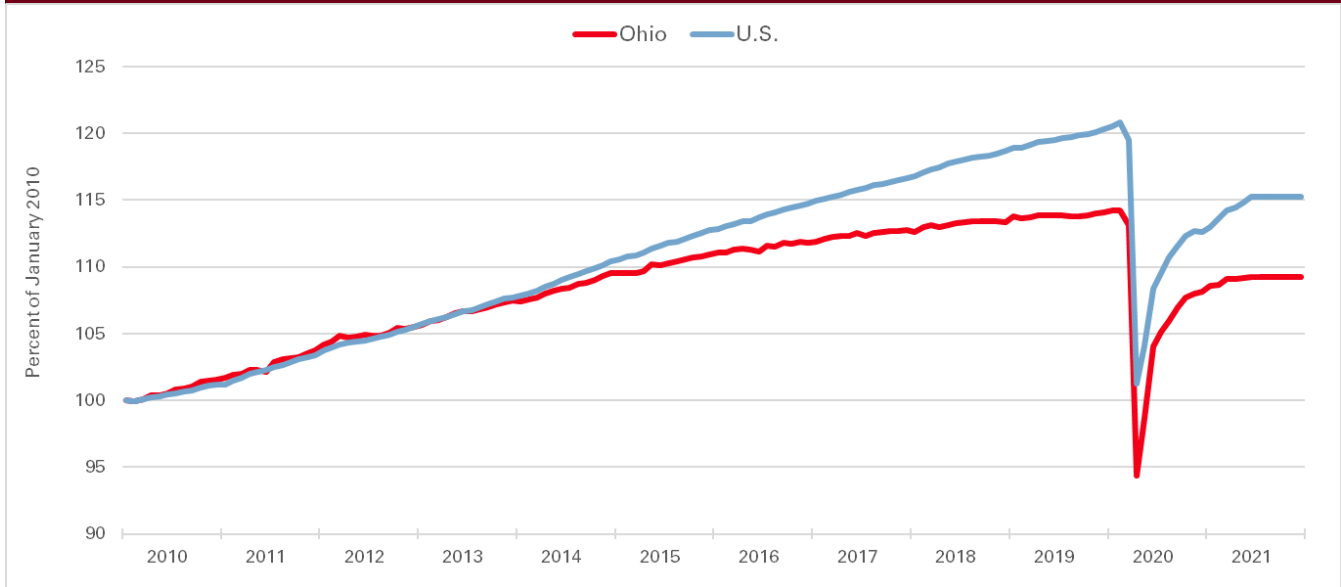
**Figure 22. U.S. and Ohio Seasonally Adjusted Total Nonfarm Employment, January 2010 – December 2021**



Source: Current Employment Statistics

In January 2021, Ohio and U.S. total private employment were at 108.6% and 113.0% of the January 2010 levels, respectively. By December 2021, Ohio's total private employment was at 109.2% of its January 2010 employment, and U.S. total private employment was at 115.3% of its January 2010 employment.

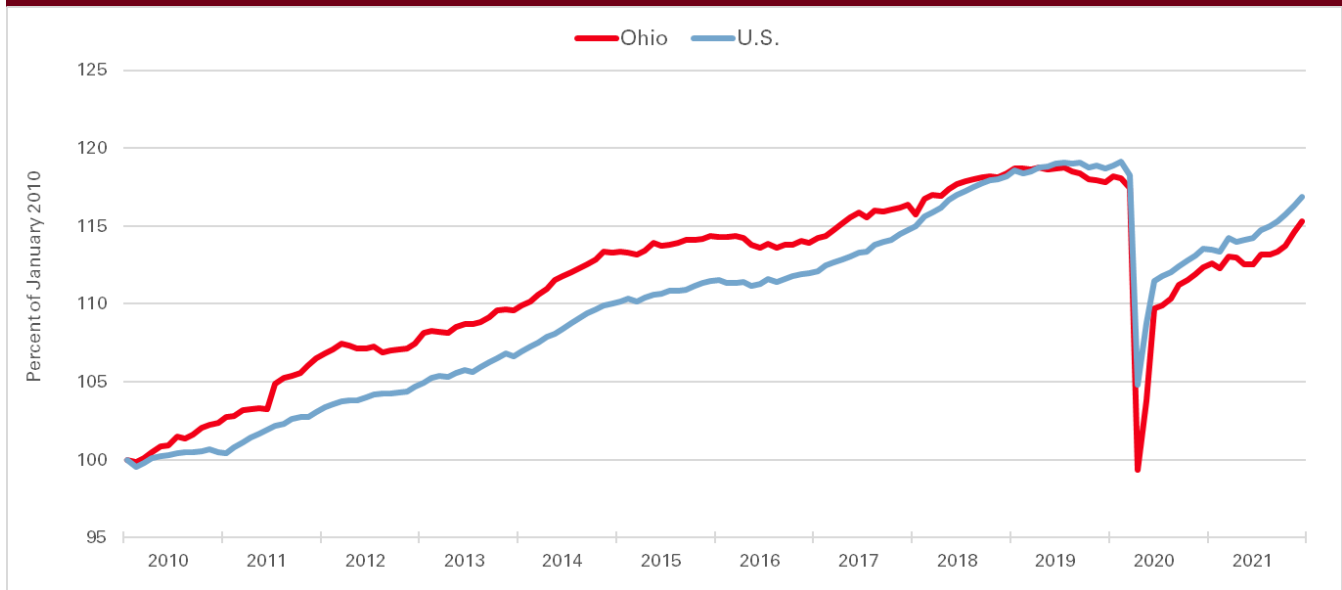
**Figure 23.** U.S. and Ohio Seasonally Adjusted Total Private Employment, January 2010 – December 2021



Source: Current Employment Statistics

In January 2021, the U.S. goods-producing industry sectors were at 113.5% of their January 2010 employment. They increased to 116.9% by December 2021. In January 2021 in Ohio, the state's goods-producing industries were at 112.6% of their January 2010 employment. They increased to 115.3% by December 2021. The goods-producing industry sectors are construction, manufacturing, and mining and logging.

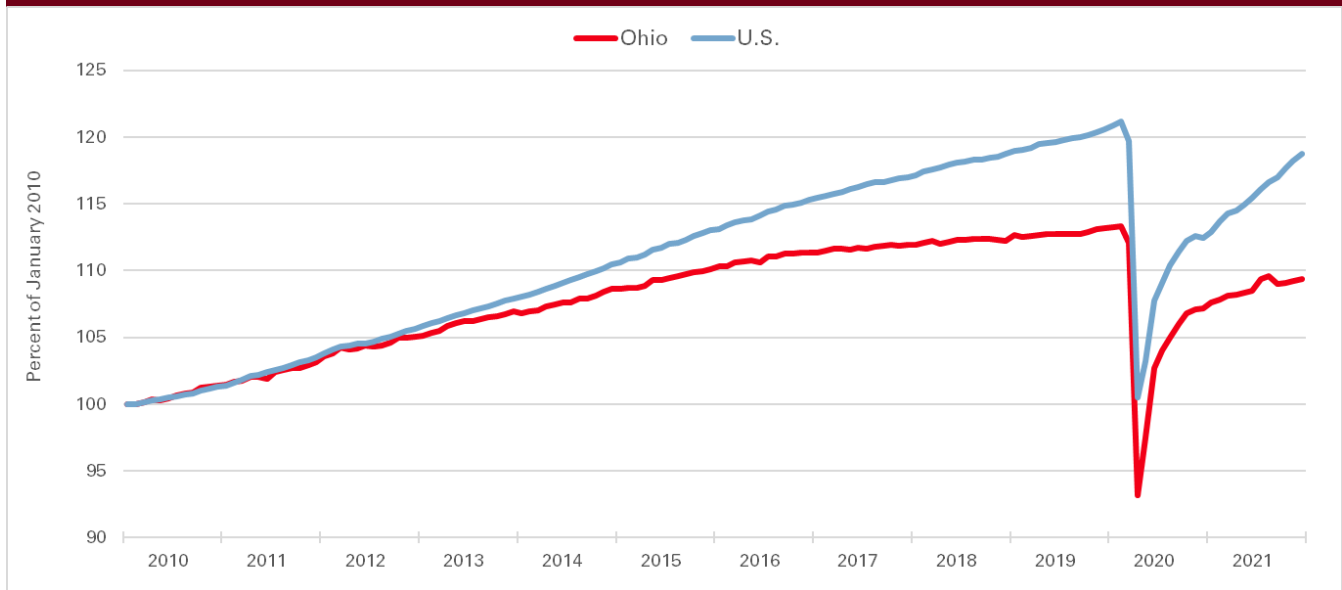
**Figure 24.** U.S. and Ohio Seasonally Adjusted Goods-Producing Industry Employment, January 2010 – December 2021



Source: Current Employment Statistics

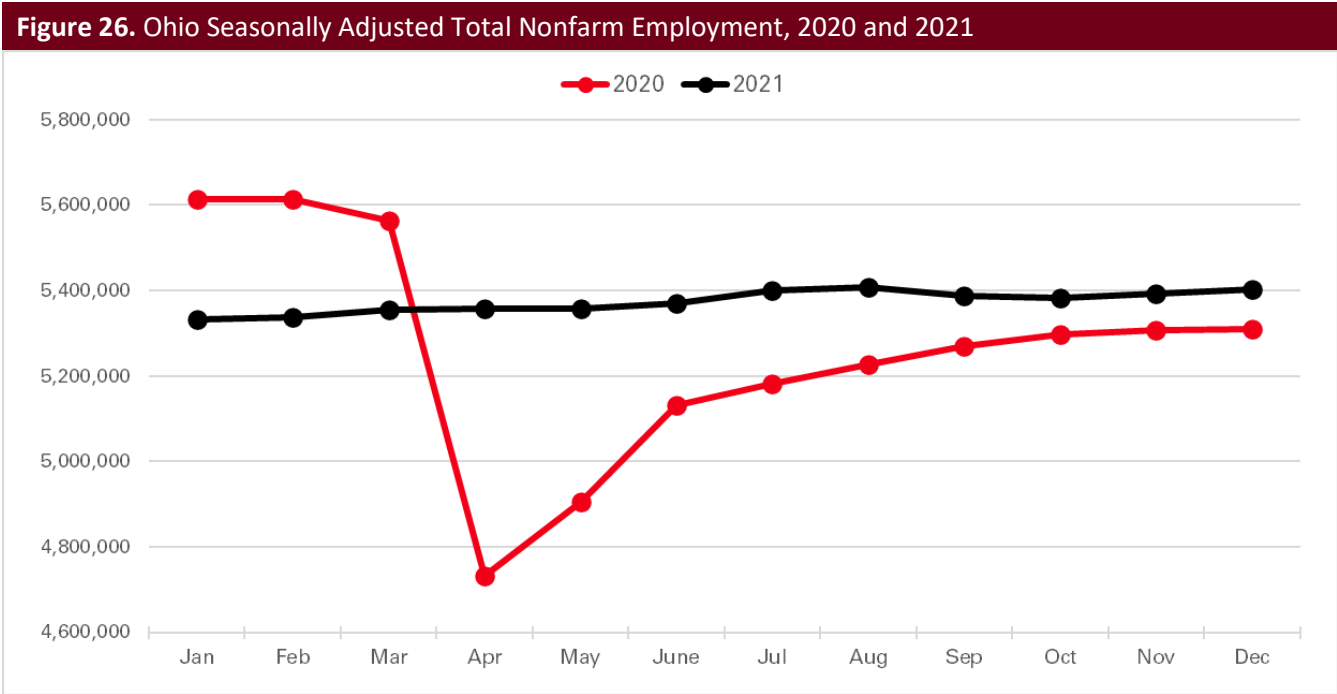
In January 2021, the U.S. private service-producing industries were at 112.9% of their January 2010 employment. They increased to 118.8% by December. In January 2021 in Ohio, the state's private service-producing industries were at 107.6% of their January 2010 employment. They increased to 109.3% by December 2021. The private service-producing industries include all non-government industries that do not produce goods.

**Figure 25. U.S. and Ohio Seasonally Adjusted Private Service-Providing Industry Employment, January 2010 – December 2021**



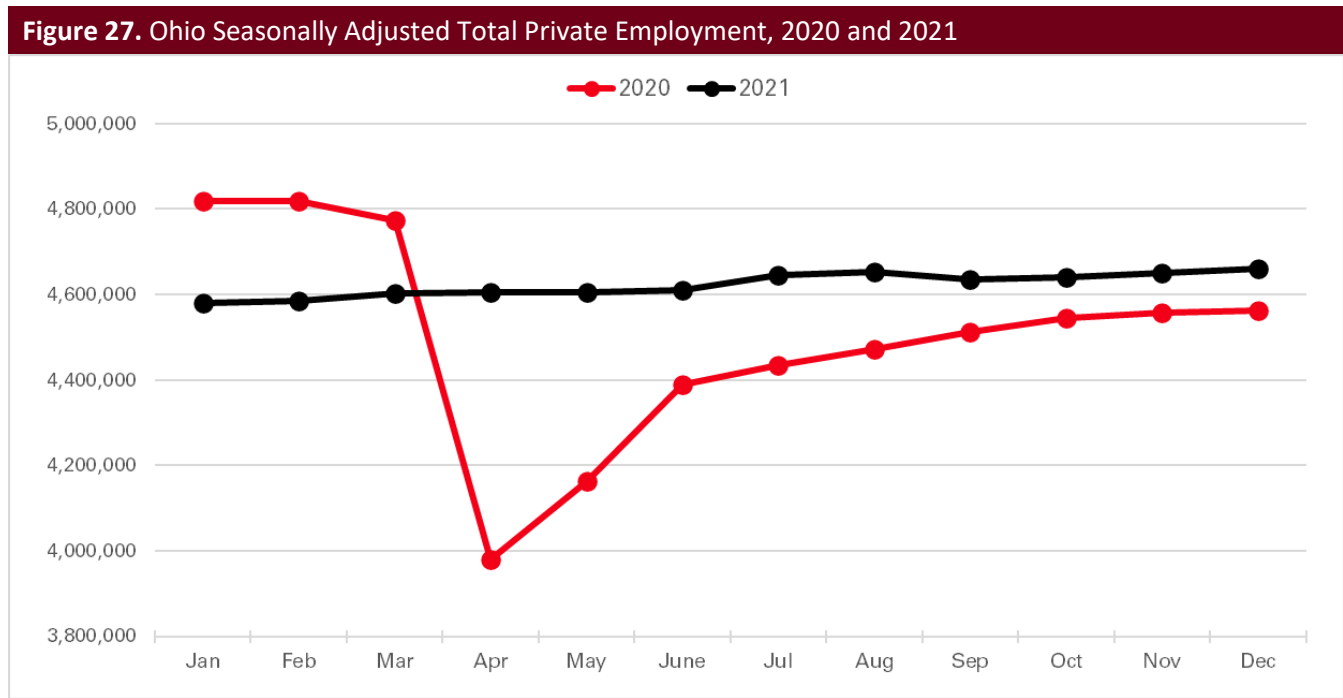
Source: Current Employment Statistics

Figure 26 shows seasonally adjusted monthly total nonfarm employment for 2020 and 2021. Ohio's annual average nonfarm employment for 2021 was 5,373,200, an increase of 110,000 over 2020.



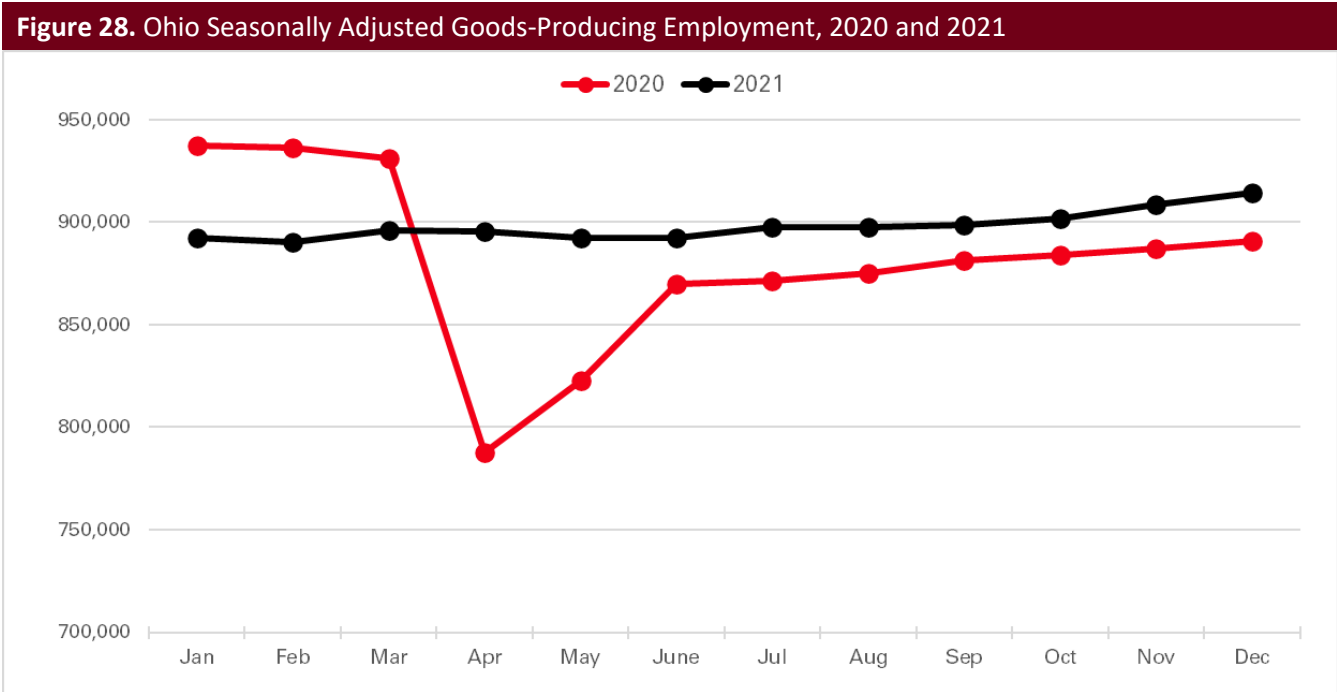
Source: Current Employment Statistics

Ohio's annual average private employment for 2021 was 4,622,900, an increase of 120,200 over 2020.



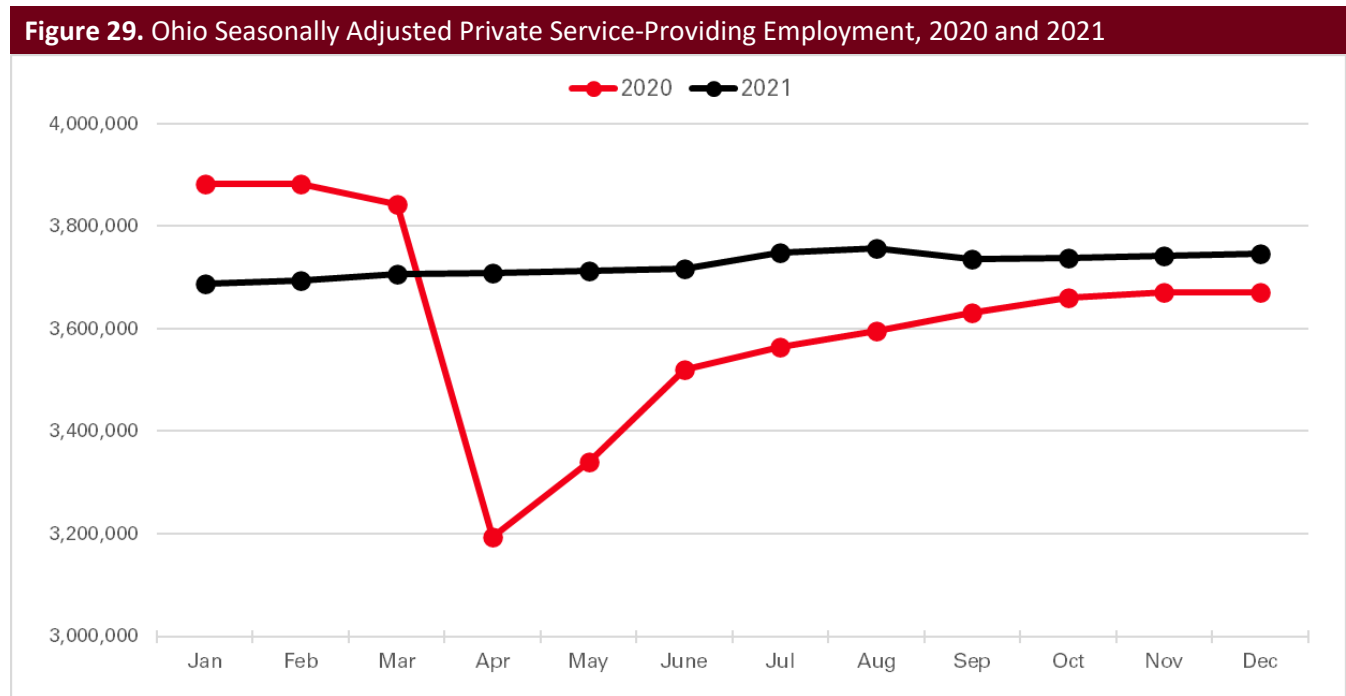
Source: Current Employment Statistics

Figure 28 shows seasonally adjusted goods-producing employment for 2020 and 2021. Ohio's annual average goods-producing industry sector employment was 898,100, an increase of 16,800 over 2020.



Source: Current Employment Statistics

Ohio's annual average seasonally adjusted private service-providing employment was 3,724,800 in 2021, an increase of 103,400 over 2020.

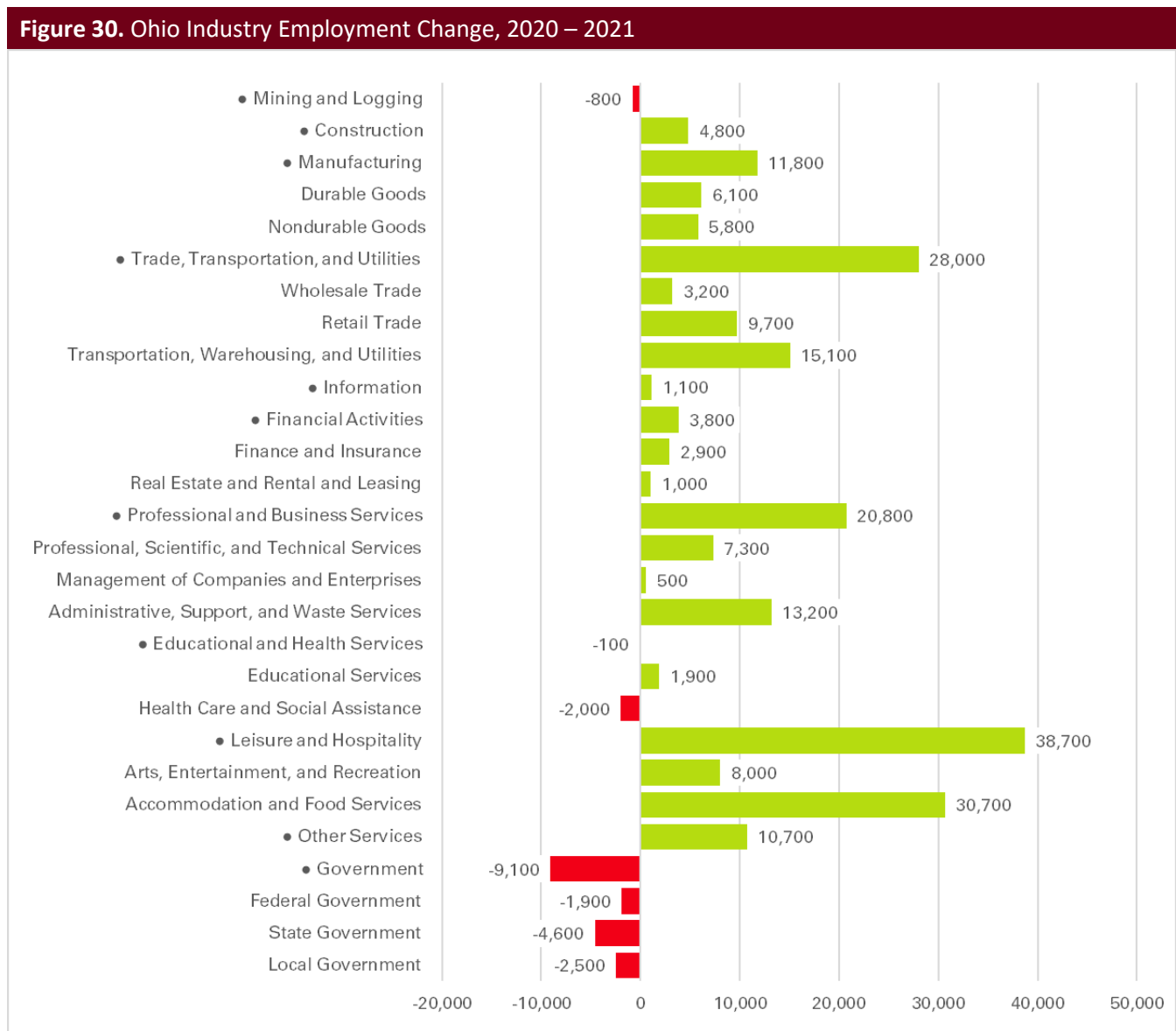


Source: Current Employment Statistics



Figure 30 shows the annual average employment change from 2020 to 2021. Industry sectors are marked with bullets. Subsectors are listed without bullets under their parent sectors. Not all sectors have subsectors.<sup>1</sup>

Among the sectors, government employment saw the steepest decline between 2020 and 2021, losing 9,100 jobs. The leisure and hospitality sector saw the greatest gain, increasing 38,700 from 2020 to 2021.

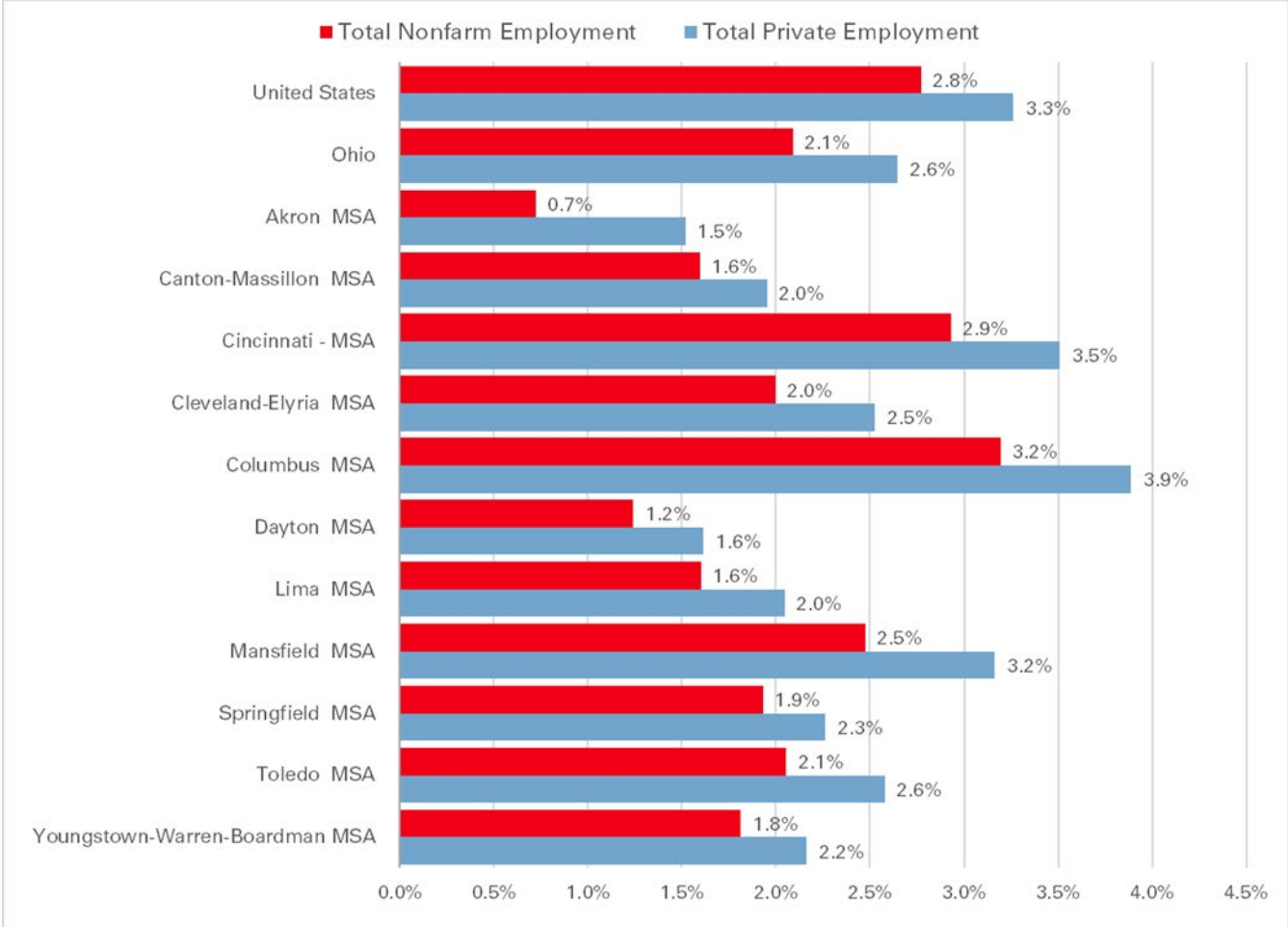


Source: Current Employment Statistics

<sup>1</sup> Durable and nondurable goods are combinations of related subsectors.

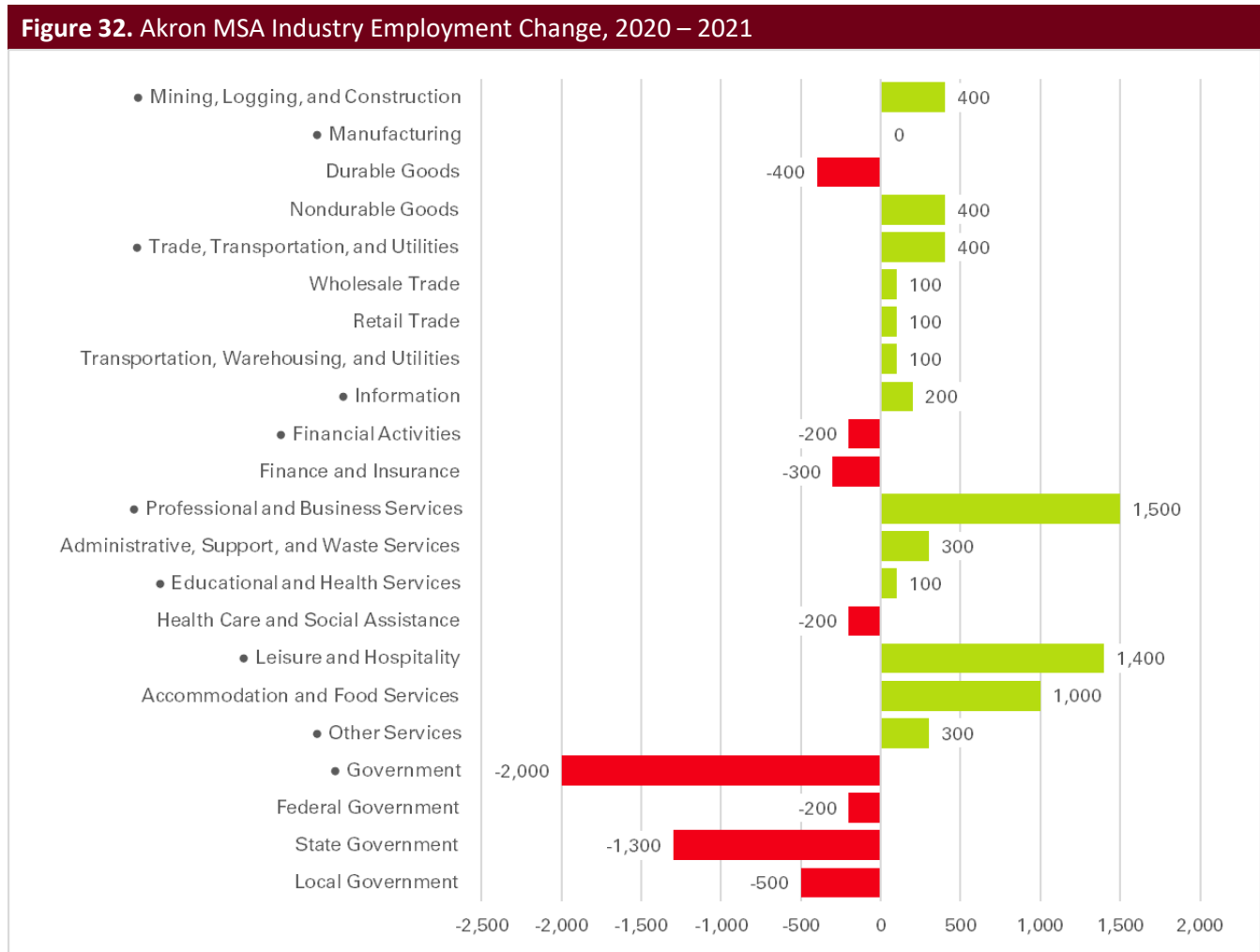
Figure 31 shows the percentage change from 2020 to 2021 in annual average total nonfarm and total private employment for the U.S., Ohio, and Ohio’s 11 metropolitan statistical areas. Some metropolitan areas include counties outside Ohio. All areas saw increases in total nonfarm and total private employment from 2020 to 2021. Ohio’s total nonfarm and total private employment increased 2.1% and 2.6%, respectively. Among the Ohio MSAs, the Columbus MSA had the largest increases, with 3.9% for total private employment and 3.2% for total nonfarm employment.

**Figure 31. Change in Annual Average Total Nonfarm and Total Private Employment, 2020 – 2021**



Source: Current Employment Statistics

In the Akron MSA, the total nonfarm employment was 320,7000 in 2021, an increase of 2,300 jobs. Akron’s total private employment in 2021 was 280,900, an increase of 4,200 jobs over 2020. Akron’s government employment sector saw the largest decline in 2021, a loss of 2,000 jobs. Professional and business services saw the largest employment increase, gaining 1,500 jobs over the year. This was followed closely by the leisure and hospitality sector, which gained 1,400 jobs.



Source: Current Employment Statistics

In the Canton-Massillon MSA, total nonfarm employment increased by 2,600 to 165,700 jobs in 2021. Total private employment was 146,300, an increase of 2,800 jobs. The education and health services sector lost the most jobs, a decline of 600. The professional and business services and leisure and hospitality sectors both gained 1,000 jobs each over the year.

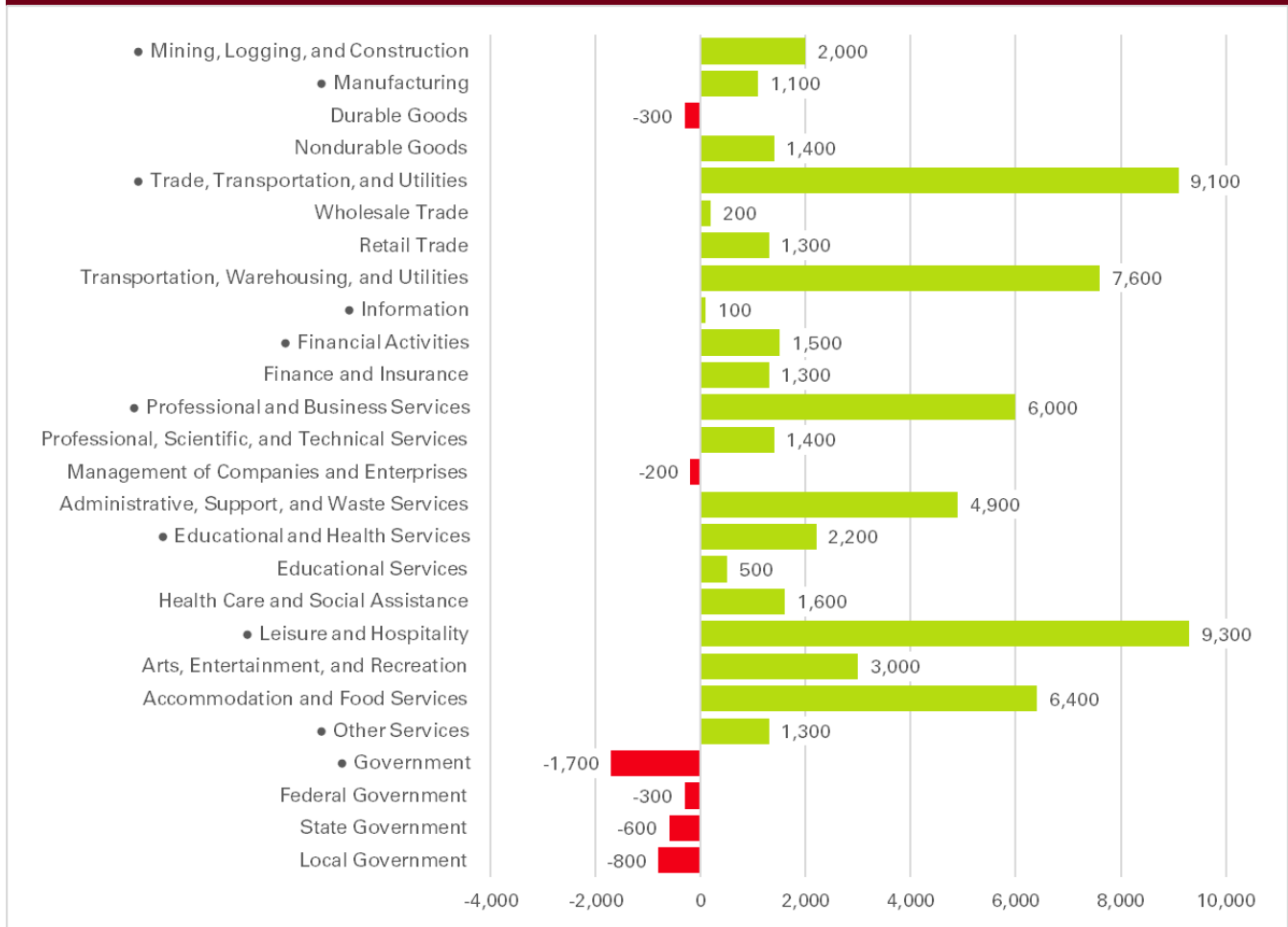
**Figure 33. Canton-Massillon MSA Industry Employment Change, 2020 – 2021**



Source: Current Employment Statistics

In the Cincinnati MSA, total nonfarm employment rose by 31,000 jobs to 1,088,800 in 2021. The total private employment for the Cincinnati MSA grew by 32,600 to 962,200. The government sector had the biggest loss, decreasing by 1,700 jobs. The largest increases were in the leisure and hospitality sector, which gained 9,300 jobs, and the trade, transportation, and utilities sector, which gained 9,100 jobs.

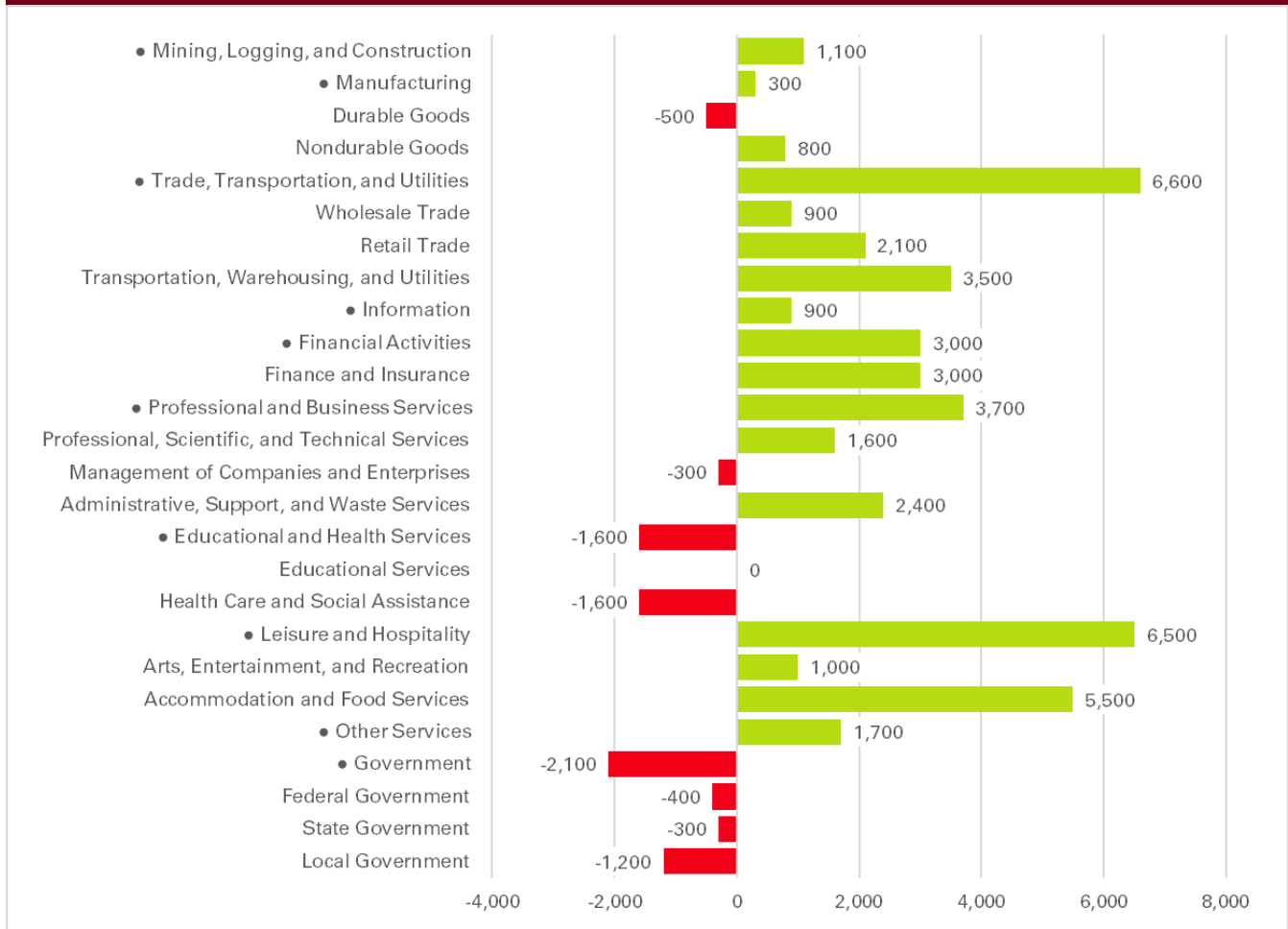
**Figure 34. Cincinnati MSA Industry Employment Change, 2020 – 2021**



Source: Current Employment Statistics

In the Cleveland-Elyria MSA, total nonfarm employment for grew by 20,100 to 1,026,900 jobs in 2021. Total private employment was 962,200, an increase of 2,210 jobs. The government sector saw the greatest loss, with a decrease of 2,100 jobs. The trade, transportation, and utilities sector grew by 6,600 jobs, closely followed by the leisure and hospitality sector, which gained 6,500 jobs.

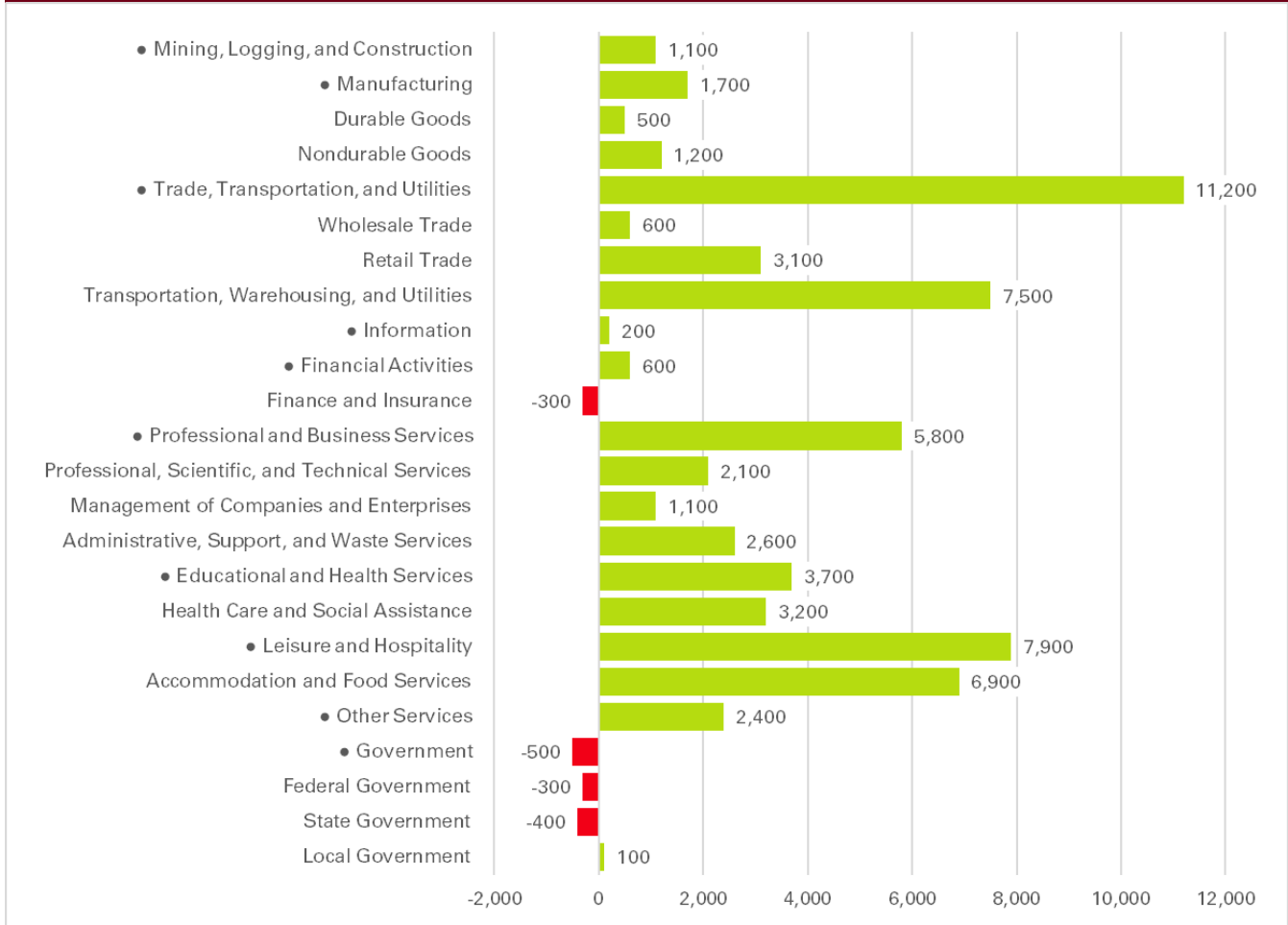
**Figure 35. Cleveland-Elyria MSA Industry Employment Change, 2020 – 2021**



Source: Current Employment Statistics

In the Columbus MSA, total nonfarm employment was 1,098,400 in 2021, an increase of 34,000. Total private employment increased by 34,500 to 921,700 jobs. The government sector lost the most jobs, 500. The trade, transportation, and utilities sector gained the most, a total of 11,200 jobs. The leisure and hospitality sector gained 7,900 jobs.

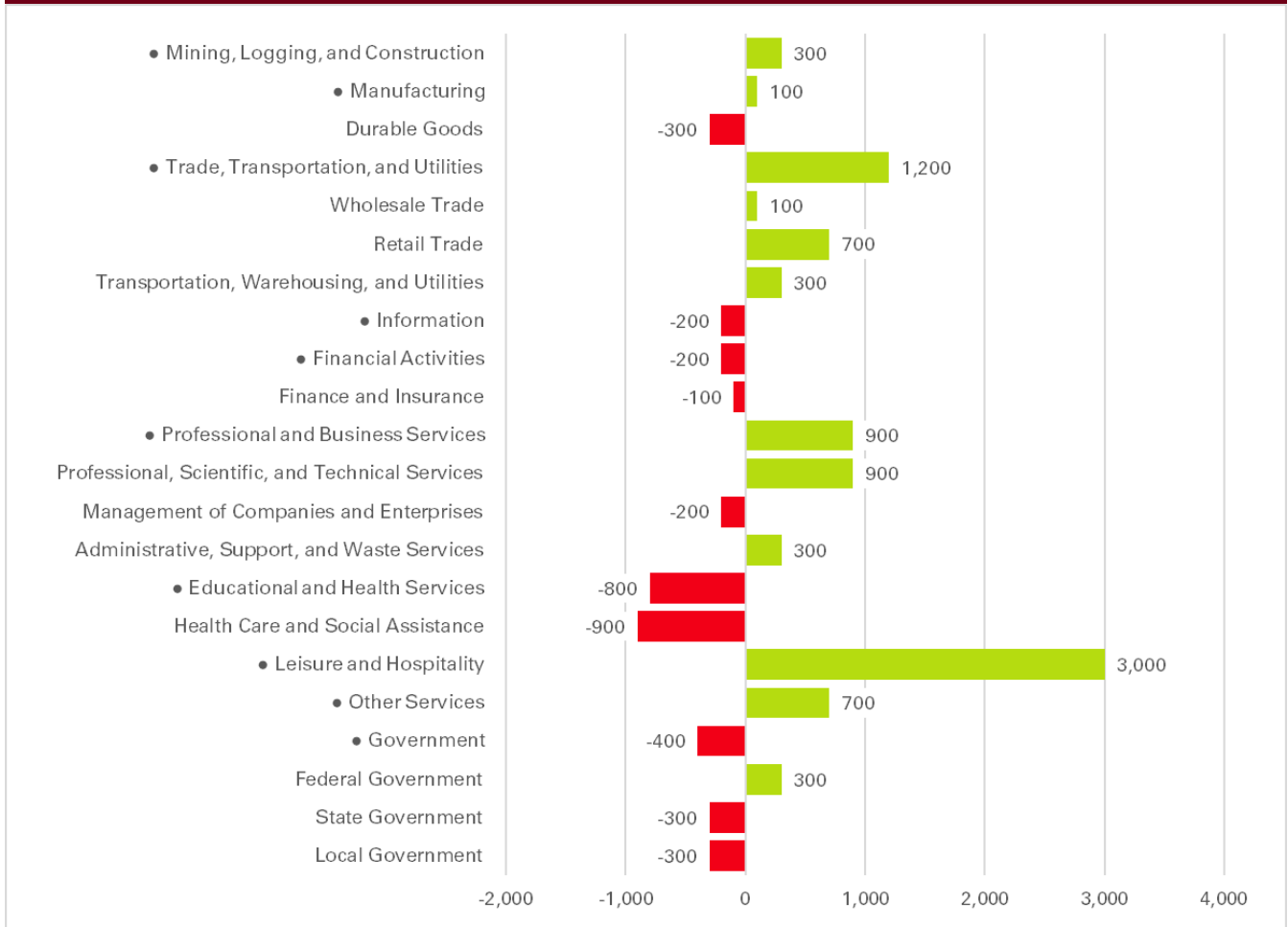
**Figure 36. Columbus MSA Industry Employment Change, 2020 – 2021**



Source: Current Employment Statistics

In the Dayton MSA, total nonfarm employment increased by 4,600 jobs in 2021, rising to 374,800. Total private employment was 314,500, an increase of 5,000 jobs. Health care and social assistance saw the most job losses, 900 jobs. Leisure and hospitality saw the most gains, an increase of 3,000 jobs.

**Figure 37. Dayton MSA Industry Employment Change, 2020 – 2021**



Source: Current Employment Statistics



In the Lima MSA, annual total nonfarm employment was 50,700 in 2021, an increase of 800 over 2020. Annual total private employment was 44,900, an increase of 900. The manufacturing and government sectors saw the largest decreases, each losing 100 jobs. The professional and business services sector saw the largest gain, with an increase of 500 jobs.

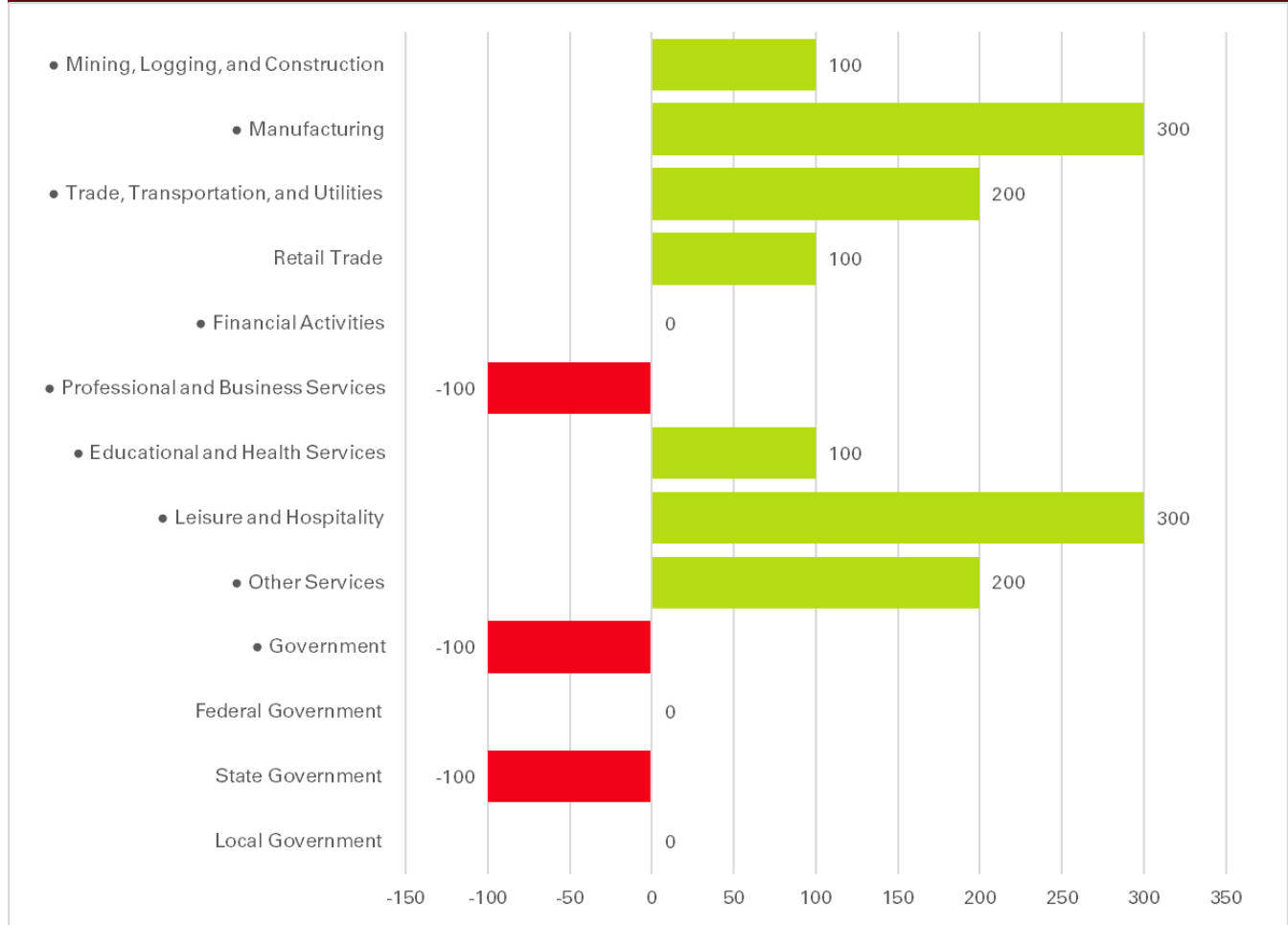
**Figure 38. Lima MSA Industry Employment Change, 2020 – 2021**



Source: Current Employment Statistics

In the Mansfield MSA, total nonfarm employment was 49,700 in 2021, an increase of 1,200 jobs. Total private employment was 42,400, an increase of 1,300 jobs. The largest employment losses were in the professional and business services sector and the government sector, both losing 100 jobs. Manufacturing and the leisure and hospitality sector saw the largest increases, both up by 300.

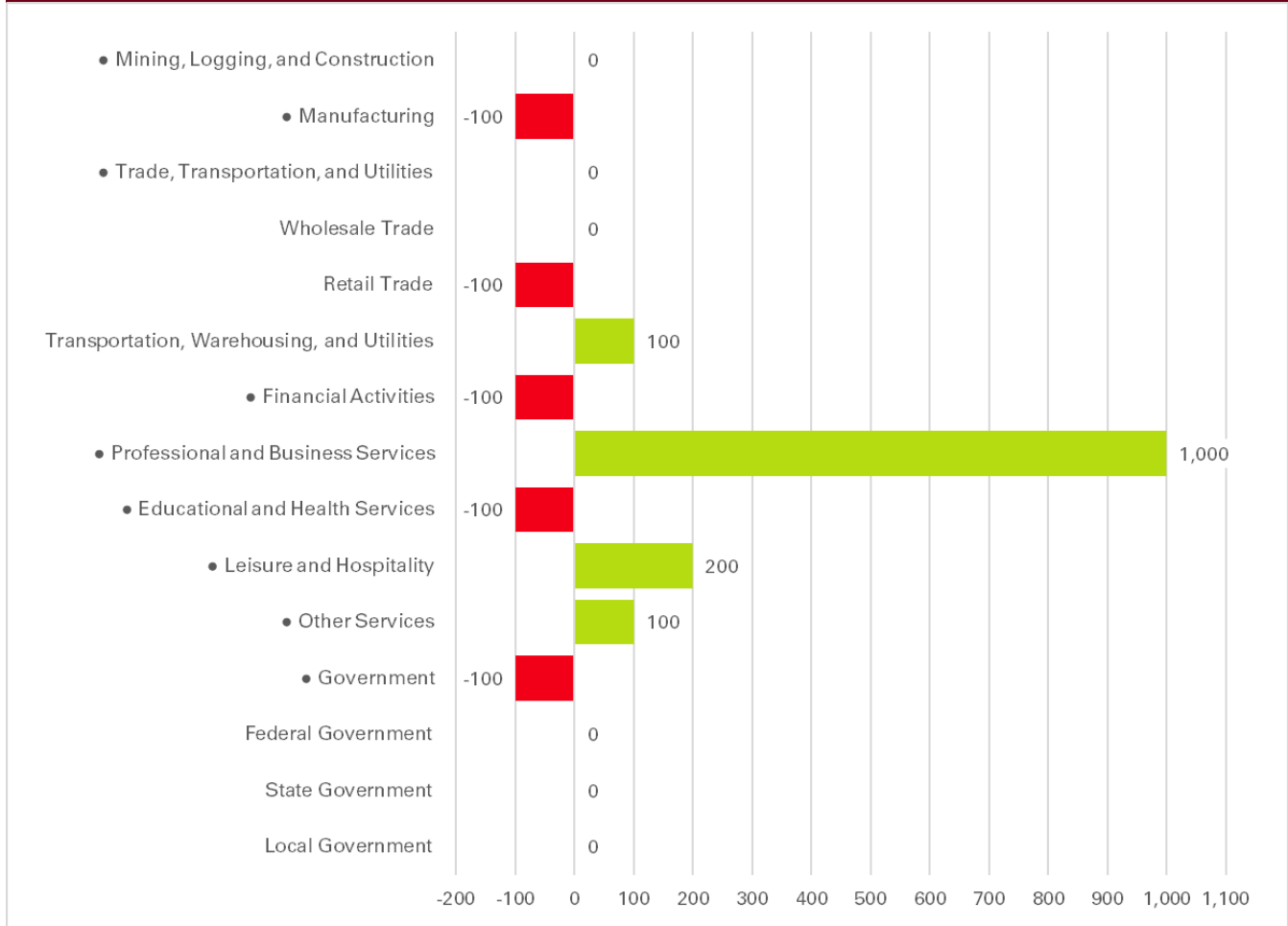
**Figure 39. Mansfield MSA Industry Employment Change, 2020 – 2021**



Source: Current Employment Statistics

The Springfield MSA had a total nonfarm employment of 47,500 in 2021, an increase of 900 jobs. Total private employment was 40,700, also an increase of 900 jobs. Several industry sectors each lost 100 jobs: manufacturing, financial activities, educational and health services, and government. The retail trade industry also lost 100 jobs. Professional and business services saw the highest gains, with an increase of 1,000 jobs.

**Figure 40. Springfield MSA Industry Employment Change, 2020 – 2021**



Source: Current Employment Statistics

In the Toledo MSA, annual total nonfarm employment was 293,000 in 2021, an increase of 5,900 jobs. Total private employment was 250,700, an increase of 6,300 jobs. The government sector saw the largest decline, with a loss of 400 jobs. Manufacturing saw the most gains, with 1,900 jobs added. This was followed by leisure and hospitality, which gained 1,600 jobs.

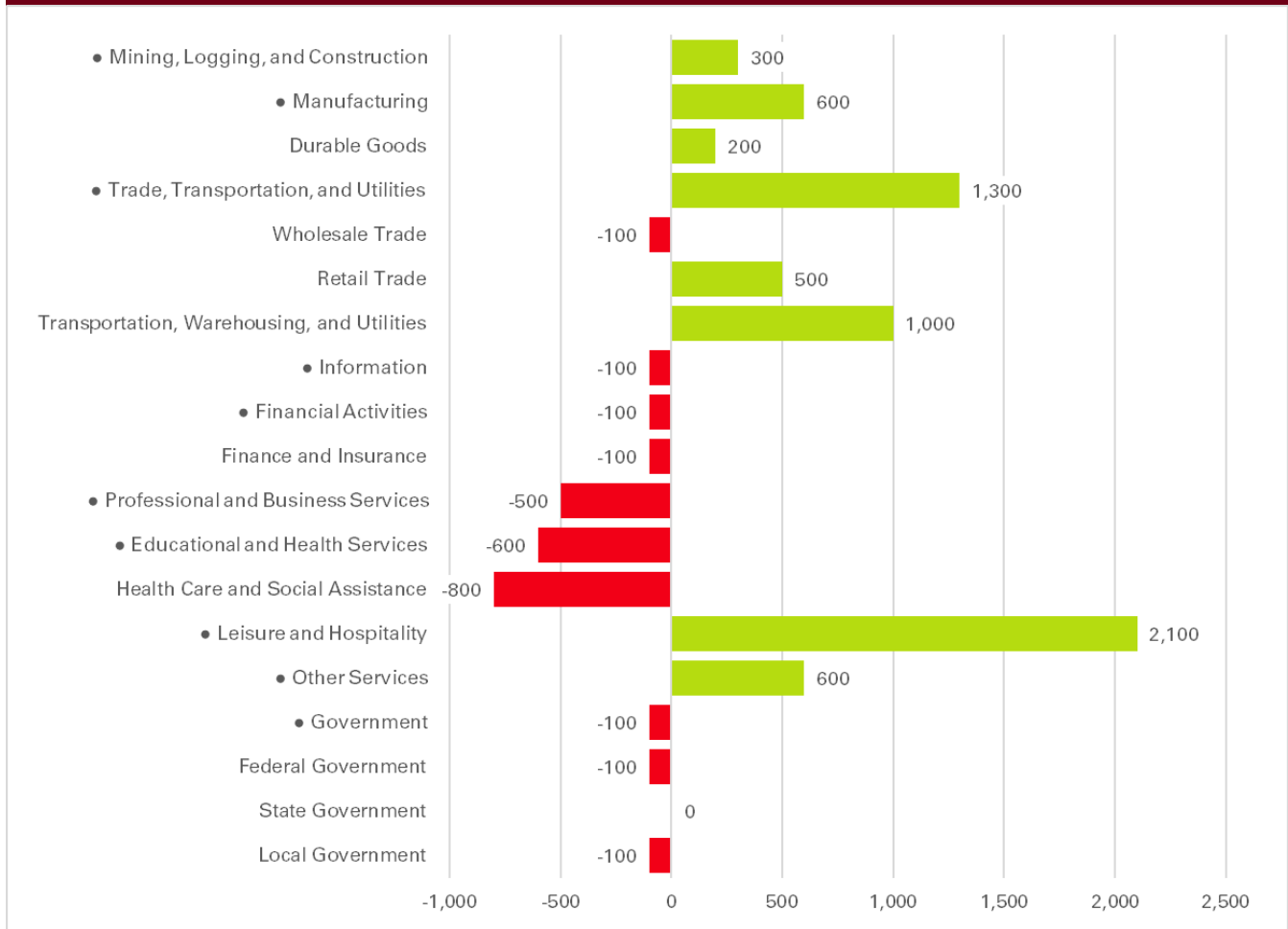
**Figure 41. Toledo MSA Industry Employment Change, 2020 – 2021**



Source: Current Employment Statistics

In the Youngstown-Warren-Boardman MSA, annual total nonfarm employment was 202,100 in 2021, an increase of 3,600 jobs. Total private employment was 174,600, an increase of 3,700 jobs. The greatest loss was in health care and social assistance, which lost 800 jobs. Leisure and hospitality saw the largest increase, with a gain of 2,100 jobs.

**Figure 42. Youngstown-Warren-Boardman MSA Industry Employment Change, 2020 – 2021**



Source: Current Employment Statistics

## Summary

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Ohio's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped throughout 2021, from 6.0% in January to 4.5% in December. The annual unemployment rate declined in all counties. Forty-six counties had annual unemployment rates below the state annual rate of 5.1%, and 36 counties had annual unemployment rates above the national average of 5.3%.

The number of monthly online job ads in 2021 was mostly above 2020 levels. The three most heavily advertised occupations were registered nurses, heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers, and applications/software developers.

Ohio's 2021 annual average total nonfarm employment was 110,000 higher than in 2020, and employment increased through the year. Total private employment also was higher than in 2020 and increased throughout the year. Among industry sectors, leisure and hospitality had the largest increase in employment over 2020, with 38,700 jobs added. Trade, transportation, and utilities had the second largest increase, with 28,000 jobs added over the year.

## **Bureau of Labor Market Information Business Principles for Workforce Development**

- Partner with the workforce and economic development community.
- Develop and deploy new information solution tools and systems for the workforce and economic development community.
- Provide products and services that are customer- and demand-driven.
- 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 Byron Archer. For further information, visit [OhioLMI.com](http://OhioLMI.com) or call the Ohio Bureau of Labor Market Information at **(614) 752-9494**.

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