

Labor Market Matters

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The Stories Behind the Numbers

Have you used LMI to support your workforce planning or decision-making? We'd love to hear about it! Share your story with us at ContactLMI@jfs.ohio.gov, and we may spotlight it in a future newsletter to show how LMI is making a difference.

Updated Long-Term Projections



Ohio's newest long-term employment projections are officially out. Every two years, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' Bureau of Labor Market Information (LMI) updates these estimates. The freshly released 2024-2034 numbers offer a timely look at how industries and occupations are expected to shift in the years ahead.

These projections aren't guarantees. They're guides based on past trends and current economic patterns. They don't account for unexpected future events, and smaller industries and niche occupations may shift more than anticipated.

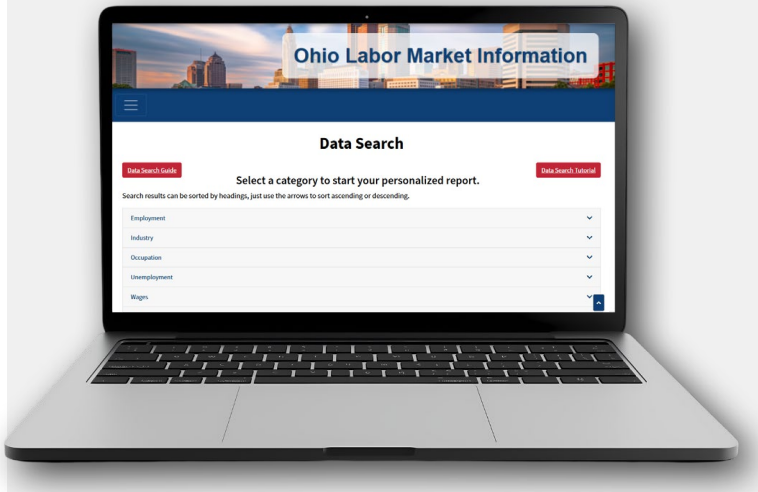
Still, the new projections are a valuable planning tool. Employers, educators, and job seekers can use them to spot possible emerging trends and better prepare for Ohio's future workforce opportunities.

Go to OhioLMI.com/DataSearch to explore the latest occupation and industry projections today!

Matt Damschroder, Director
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

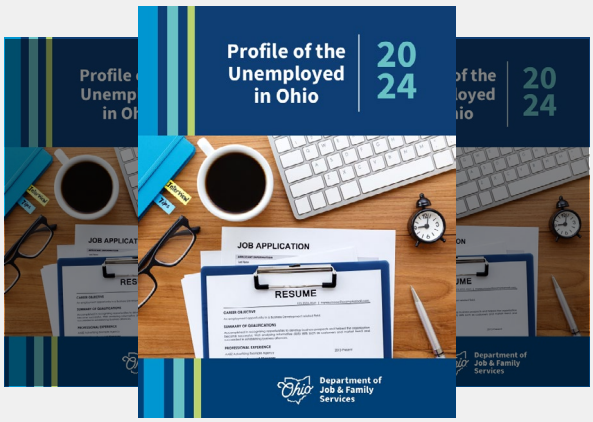
Get the Newest Data

Find Ohio's newest job market data — including employment, wages, occupations, and industry trends — using LMI's Data Search Tool.



Want to learn more about Labor Market Information?

Check out LMI's Publications page for a deeper understanding of Ohio's labor market and workforce trends. You'll find blogs, infographics, newsletters, reports, and more.



The Case Against Comparing OEWS Data Year-to-Year





Think of a 1965 Ford Mustang compared to a 2025 Mustang. Sure, they share the same name, but they're very different cars. The look, the features, the technology, almost everything has changed. You wouldn't line them up and try to compare them year by year to spot a trend. Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) work the same way.

Most datasets in Ohio's Data Search Tool include multiple years of information. However, OEWS is built to give a clear snapshot of jobs and wages right now—not to track changes over time.

To create those snapshots, OEWS uses three years of survey responses. This makes real year-to-year changes hard to see. The employers surveyed also change each year, so shifts in the numbers may reflect who responded rather than what's happening in the job market.

Job and industry categories can also change as definitions are updated. This means older and newer data don't always match. And the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics occasionally updates how it calculates OEWS results, adding another layer of change from one year to the next.

Because of all this, OEWS is best used as a point in time picture and not for tracking trends over multiple years.

Dashboard Spotlight: The Data Hub

Last year, our LMI team introduced the County Data Hub to make county-level information easier to access. Since then, we've kept improving it, and now you can discover even more. The Data Hub features both county and regional data, including metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) and JobsOhio regions, giving you a broader view of local trends.

You can find the Data Hub on OhioLMI.com under "Data Dashboards" or "Workforce Resources." Getting started is simple:

1. Visit OhioLMI.com/Home/DataHub
2. Choose your geography: County, MSA, or JobsOhio Region
3. Explore a report
4. Download your results



Data Request Spotlight: LMI Insights for Workforce Planning

A manufacturer recently asked the Ohio LMI team for labor market insights to help guide a potential relocation and expansion that would create more than 250 new jobs. The company makes specialized components for several industries and was looking to hire both advanced manufacturing talent and research and development staff.

The LMI team responded quickly. They put together two detailed spreadsheets: one that matched the company's job titles to likely occupational classifications, and another that provided current employment and wage data for both state and regional labor markets. They also identified additional relevant occupations to give a more complete view of the hiring landscape and included notes where data was limited due to statistical suppression.

The requester expressed enthusiastic appreciation for the fast and thorough support, sharing that the information will be an important resource for helping local manufacturers better understand hiring needs and wage trends.



Meet the Team: Janel Jones

Janel has been a researcher with Ohio LMI's Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program for 12 years. In her role, she works closely with Ohio employers and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics to collect quarterly employment and wage data, and she also develops training materials for the team. She says one of her favorite parts of the job is collaborating with her valued coworkers.

Before joining LMI, Janel worked as a grant writer for small police departments and spent nearly a decade as a quality program manager for a chemical company. She holds a bachelor's degree in criminology from The Ohio State University.

Janel grew up in Oak Harbor, Ohio, and moved to Columbus in 1992. She now lives in Blacklick with her fiancé, Jim. Together, they have a blended family of three daughters—Abbey, Emma, and Paige—a son, AJ, and two grandsons, Sawyer and Elijah. Janel loves spending time with her kids and grandkids and enjoys anything lake-related. On weekends, she can often be found treasure hunting in antique stores or searching for deals at estate sales. And when football season arrives, she's at home cheering on the Buckeyes!

