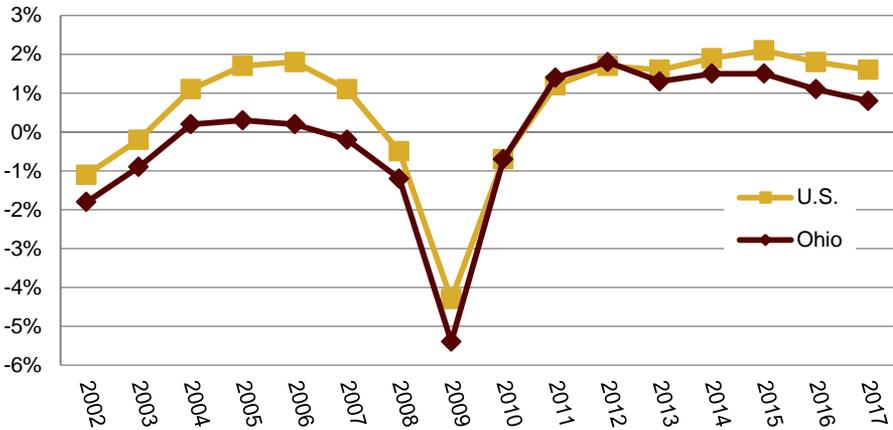# Ohio Employment Grows but Trails National Pace

Ohio and United States Employment Growth Rates
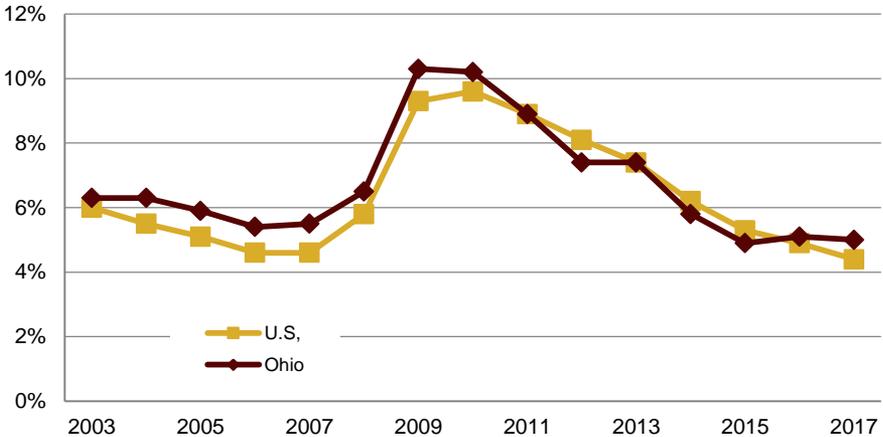

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

- The pace of employment growth in Ohio has trailed the national pace during the last 16 years, except for 2010, 2011, and 2012. From 2013 through 2017, Ohio nonfarm payroll employment grew at an average of 1.2% on an annual basis. During the same period, U.S. nonfarm payroll employment grew by 1.8% per year on average.

- Ohio's rate of job growth each year since 2011 was higher than any annual rate from 2002 through 2010.

- U.S. employment's pre-recession peak of 139.5 million people that occurred in November 2007 was regained in June 2014. By the end of 2017, employment rose to 148.5 million. Ohio's employment peaked at 5.7 million in December 1999, and has yet to regain that total, reaching 5.6 million in December 2017.

- Among neighboring states, employment growth from 2002 through 2017 was fastest in Kentucky, at 8.0%, followed by Indiana (6.8%), Pennsylvania (5.4%), and West Virginia (1.7%). Ohio employment grew by 1.5%. Michigan experienced a 2.6% employment decline over the period.

- Over the five years from 2012 to 2017, Ohio employment grew by 324,000 jobs (6.2%). Most of the employment growth was in education and health services (64,800), leisure and hospitality (59,200), and trade, transportation, and utilities (51,600). Employment grew by 35,200 in construction and 30,400 in manufacturing.

Ohio's Unemployment Rate Is Above National Rate

Ohio and United States Average Annual Unemployment Rates

- In 2017, Ohio's average unemployment rate was 5.0%, which was above the national average of 4.4%. Ohio's unemployment rate was higher than the national rate in 2016 as well, but was equal to or below the national rate from 2011 through 2015.

- The unemployment rate is measured as the number of the unemployed – people age 16 or over who do not currently have a job but are actively looking for one – as a percent of the labor force, which is made up of the employed and the unemployed.

- Between 2003 and 2017, Ohio's unemployment rate peaked at 10.3% in 2009, before falling to 4.9% in 2015, the lowest rate since 2001. During the same time period, Ohio's labor force peaked at 5.99 million in 2007 before declining to 5.70 million in 2015, its lowest point since 1997. The labor force then edged up to 5.78 million in 2017.

- Ohio's 2017 unemployment rate of 5.0% was higher than its neighboring states except West Virginia (5.2%). Indiana had the lowest rate (3.6%), followed by Michigan (4.6%), Kentucky (4.9%), and Pennsylvania (4.9%).

- Unemployment rates vary among Ohio's counties. Generally in 2017, the counties with the highest rates of unemployment were on the eastern and southern edges of the state. In total, 56 of Ohio's 88 counties (64%) had unemployment rates within one percentage point of the annual statewide rate (about 4.0% to 6.0%). The highest rate among counties was 8.5% (Monroe) and the lowest rate was 3.1% (Mercer).

Ohio Employment by Sector Stabilizes

Ohio Nonfarm Employment by Sector (Number in Thousands)						
Sector	**2000**		**2010**		**2017**	
	Number	**Share**	**Number**	**Share**	**Number**	**Share**
Goods-Producing (Private)						
Mining/Natural Resources	12.9	0.2%	11.3	0.2%	11.4	0.2%
Construction	246.1	4.4%	168.8	3.4%	216.3	3.9%
Manufacturing	1,021.3	18.2%	620.8	12.3%	686.8	12.4%
Subtotal	*1,280.4*	*22.8%*	*800.9*	*15.9%*	*914.5*	*16.5%*
Service-Providing (Private)						
Trade (Retail & Wholesale)	919.0	16.3%	767.0	15.2%	810.7	14.7%
Transportation & Utilities	196.0	3.5%	180.4	3.6%	213.5	3.9%
Information	107.2	1.9%	77.6	1.5%	71.6	1.3%
Financial Activities	305.2	5.4%	276.7	5.5%	306.5	5.5%
Professional & Business	646.6	11.5%	627.4	12.5%	722.2	13.1%
Educational & Health	678.6	12.1%	839.1	16.7%	928.6	16.8%
Leisure and Hospitality	483.3	8.6%	475.3	9.4%	559.9	10.1%
Other Services	223.3	4.0%	206.0	4.1%	216.2	3.9%
Subtotal	*3,559.2*	*63.3%*	*3,449.4*	*68.5%*	*3,829.2*	*69.3%*
Government	785.1	14.0%	785.7	15.6%	782.2	14.2%
Total	**5,624.7**	**100%**	**5,036.0**	**100%**	**5,525.9**	**100%**

Sources: Ohio Labor Market Information; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

- Between 2000 and 2010, Ohio employment in private goods-producing industries decreased from 22.8% of Ohio employment to 15.9%, then edged up to 16.5% in 2017. Employment in private service-providing industries rose from 63.3% of employment in 2000 to 68.5% in 2010, then rose further to 69.3% in 2017. Employment in government fluctuated between 14% and 15% from 2000 to 2017, but peaked above 15% in 2010 and 2011.

- Employment in goods-producing industries fell by about 480,000 from 2000 to 2010, then grew almost 114,000 to 2017. Employment in manufacturing decreased by 400,000 in the earlier period, then grew by 66,000.

- Employment in the private service-providing sector decreased by 110,000 from 2000 to 2010, then grew by 380,000.

- Among private service industries, employment shares were stable or increased in both periods, with the notable exceptions of the trade sectors, retail and wholesale, and the information sector.

Manufacturing's Share of the Economy Is Larger in Ohio Than in Most Other States

Industry Shares of Gross Domestic Product in 2017
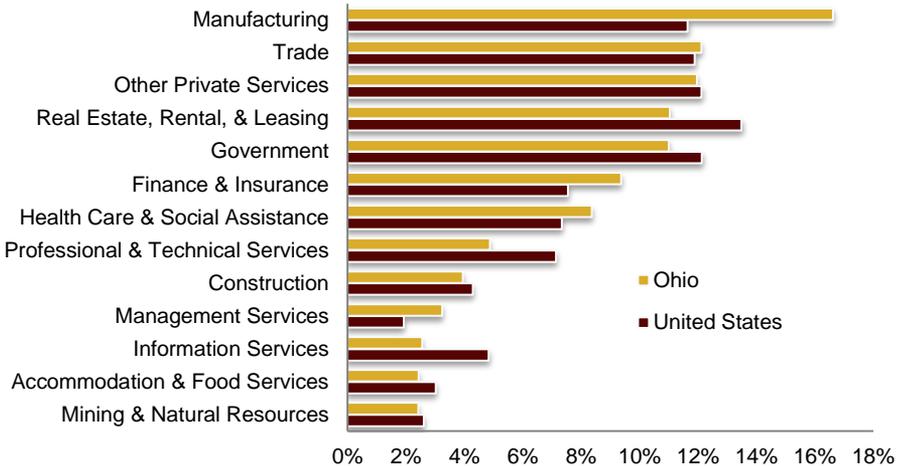
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

- Ohio's economy remains more concentrated in manufacturing than the nation as a whole. Output of factories accounted for 17% of Ohio's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2017, and 12% of the national economy.

- Other industry groups that comprise a greater share of Ohio's economy than nationwide include finance and insurance, management services, health care and social assistance, and to a lesser extent, trade.

- Manufacturing's larger share of Ohio's GDP reflects the state's historical specialization in the production of durable goods, particularly motor vehicles and parts, fabricated metal products, primary metals, electrical equipment and appliances, machinery, and nonmetallic mineral products, as well as nondurable goods including plastics and rubber products, and petroleum and coal products.

- Ten states derived higher shares of their GDP from manufacturing than Ohio in 2017: Indiana, Oregon, Louisiana, Michigan, North Carolina, Kentucky, Wisconsin, Iowa, Alabama, and South Carolina.

- Production of goods – in construction, natural resource industries, mining, and manufacturing – accounted for 23% of Ohio's GDP in 2017, higher than the comparable figure for the United States (19%). The service sector comprised the remaining 77% of the value of economic activity for Ohio and the remaining 81% for the nation.

Ohio Ranks 9th Nationally in the Value of Exports

Top Ten States in Exports				
2017 Rank	**State**	**2016 (in billions)**	**2017 (in billions)**	**% Change 2016-2017**
	U.S.	$1,451.0	$1,546.7	6.6%
1	Texas	$231.1	$264.1	14.3%
2	California	$163.5	$171.9	5.1%
3	Washington	$79.6	$77.0	-3.2%
4	New York	$76.7	$75.3	-1.9%
5	Illinois	$59.8	$64.9	8.6%
6	Michigan	$54.7	$59.8	9.3%
7	Louisiana	$48.4	$56.5	16.7%
8	Florida	$52.0	$55.0	5.7%
9	**Ohio**	**$49.3**	**$50.1**	**1.6%**
10	Pennsylvania	$36.5	$38.6	5.9%

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis; Ohio Development Services Agency

- In 2017, the value of Ohio's exports to foreign countries was $50.1 billion, 9th highest among the 50 states. Ohio's export value increased 1.6% from 2016 to 2017, while the U.S. average increased by 6.6%. Overall, Ohio accounted for 3.2% of total U.S. exports in 2017.

- Ohio's export value was 7.7% of the state's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2017, slightly lower than the U.S. average of 8.0%.

- On a per capita basis, Ohio's exports ranked 18th highest in 2017. Ohio's per capita export value of $4,294 in that year was 9.6% lower than the U.S. average of $4,749.

- In 2017, sales of Ohio exports exceeded $1 billion in each of nine markets: Canada, Mexico, China, the United Kingdom, Brazil, Japan, Germany, France, and South Korea. Canada was the largest market, purchasing $18.9 billion (37.7%) of Ohio's exports, followed by Mexico at $6.5 billion (13.0%). Ohio's largest overseas market was China, accounting for $3.9 billion (7.8%).

- Eleven of Ohio's production sectors exported over $1.0 billion each in 2017. Machinery was the largest at $9.0 billion, followed by vehicles/not railway ($7.6 billion), aircraft ($4.8 billion), electrical machinery ($3.4 billion), plastics ($3.0 billion), oil seed/grain ($1.8 billion), optical/medical instruments ($1.7 billion), iron/steel products ($1.4 billion), iron and steel (primary, $1.2 billion), perfumery and cosmetics ($1.1 billion), and rubber ($1.1 billion). Together, these 11 sectors accounted for 72.2% of Ohio's exports in 2017.

Cash Receipts from Ohio's Agricultural Commodities Totaled $8.3 Billion in 2016

Cash Receipts from Ohio's Agricultural Commodities in 2016		
Commodity	**Receipts ($ in Thousands)**	**% of Ohio Total Receipts**
Soybeans	$2,555,427	30.6%
Corn	$1,756,844	21.0%
Dairy Products	$924,840	11.1%
Hogs	$582,775	7.0%
Cattle and Calves	$560,523	6.7%
Top Five Subtotal	**$6,380,409**	**76.4%**
All Commodities	**$8,348,246**	**100.0%**

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

- Cash receipts from Ohio's five leading commodities totaled $6.4 billion in 2016, accounting for 76.4% of the state's total commodity cash receipts of approximately $8.3 billion in that year.

- Cash receipts from three of Ohio's five leading agricultural commodities ranked among the top ten in the nation in 2016. The highest ranking was for soybeans (6th), which has ranked in the top ten nationally for the past ten years. Overall, Ohio ranked 15th among all states in cash receipts from the sale of agricultural commodities.

- Between 2006 and 2016, Ohio's overall cash receipts from commodities increased by 53.7%, from $5.4 billion to $8.3 billion. This rate of increase was higher than the national average increase of 48.5% during the same period, but was the second lowest among the five states in the Cornbelt Production Region. Within this region, Ohio was behind Illinois (79.5%), Iowa (76.4%), and Indiana (67.7%), but ahead of Missouri (51.3%).

- Ohio's net farm income, or the return earned by farm operations, dropped by 63.1% between 2015 and 2016, from $1.2 billion to $422.6 million. National net farm income fell by 24.4% over this time, from $81.4 billion to $61.5 billion. Except for soybeans, cash receipts from Ohio's leading commodities all declined between 2015 and 2016. The largest decline in cash receipts was for corn, which fell by 11.5%.

- In 2016, Ohio had 74,500 total farms, 7th most in the nation, and approximately 14.0 million acres of farmland. The number of farms in Ohio represents 3.6% of the nearly 2.1 million farms nationwide.

Median Home Prices in Ohio's Eight Major Markets Continue to Climb, but the Gains Are Uneven

| Median Sales Price of Existing Single-Family Homes in Ohio Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Pre and Post-Recession					
MSA	**2005**	**2009**	**2017**	**% Change 2009-2017**	**% Change 2005-2017**
Akron	$120,500	$93,200	$135,100	45.0%	12.1%
Canton	$102,200	$86,200	$129,800	50.6%	27.0%
Cincinnati	$145,900	$125,800	$162,000	28.8%	11.0%
Cleveland	$138,900	$106,800	$140,400	31.5%	1.1%
Columbus	$152,000	$134,900	$189,900	40.8%	24.9%
Dayton	$119,700	$104,100	$138,700	33.2%	15.9%
Toledo	$117,300	$83,400	$119,700	43.5%	2.0%
Youngstown	$85,600	$66,500	$86,100	29.5%	0.6%
Midwest	**$168,300**	**$142,900**	**$196,200**	**37.3%**	**16.6%**
United States	**$219,000**	**$172,100**	**$248,800**	**44.6%**	**13.6%**

Source: National Association of Realtors

- In 2017, median home prices in all eight of Ohio's metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) were above their 2005 pre-recession levels, but the gains were uneven. The increases varied from 0.6% in Youngstown to 27.0% in Canton. Prices in five of Ohio's eight MSA areas increased at slower rates than both the Midwest region (16.6%) and the U.S. (13.6%) during this time.

- Median home prices in Ohio's eight MSAs have rebounded from their low ebb during the recession in 2009. Since then, values increased between 28.8% in Cincinnati and 50.6% in Canton. By comparison, median home prices increased 37.3% in the Midwest region, and 44.6% in the United States as a whole during this time.

- The median sales prices of existing single-family homes in Ohio's eight MSAs remained below the medians of both the United States and the Midwest region between 2009 and 2017. In 2017, the Columbus MSA had the highest median sales price in Ohio, at $189,900, while the Youngstown MSA had the lowest, at $86,100.

- The number of existing homes sold increased by 12.1% in the Midwest region, from 1.16 million in 2009 to 1.30 million in 2017.[1] The number of homes sold nationwide during this same period increased by 6.8%, from 5.16 million to 5.51 million.

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[1] Existing homes includes single-family homes, condominiums, and co-ops.

Ohio Housing Costs Are Below the National Average

Median Monthly Housing Costs, 2012-2016
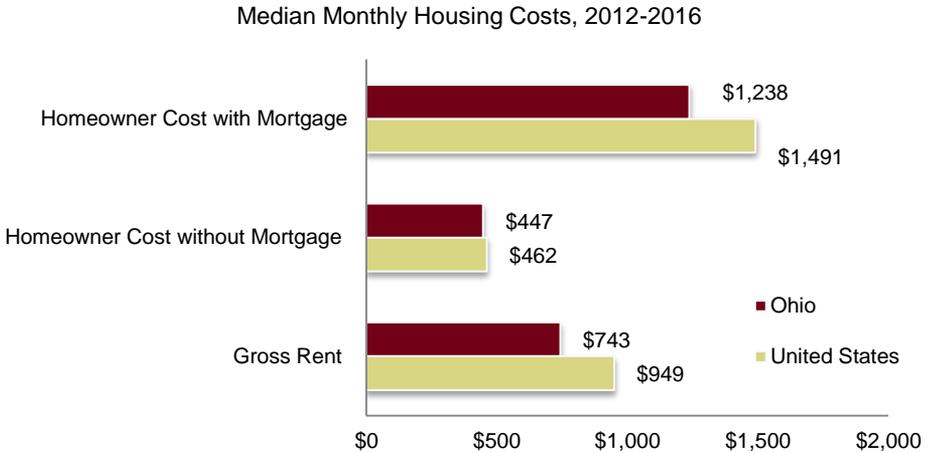
Source: U.S. Census, 2012-2016 American Community Survey

- American Community Survey estimates for the 2012-2016 period show that median monthly housing costs (including utilities, fuel costs, insurance, real estate taxes, and home fees) in Ohio were below the national median in three categories: (1) homeowner cost with mortgage, (2) homeowner cost without a mortgage, and (3) gross rent.

- Ohio's median monthly housing costs according to these three measures were third highest among the five surrounding states. Housing costs were higher in Pennsylvania and Michigan but lower in Indiana, Kentucky, and West Virginia.

- For the 2012-2016 period, the median value of an owner-occupied house in Ohio was $131,900; the U.S. median value was $184,700. Ohio's median home values ranged from $85,200 in Crawford County to $267,600 in Delaware County.

- Ohio's homeownership rate of 66.0% surpassed the U.S. homeownership rate of 63.9% during the 2012-2016 period. Homeownership rates were the highest in Geauga County at 85.4% and the lowest in Franklin County at 53.3%.

- Between 2007-2011 and 2012-2016, median gross rent in Ohio increased 3.4% and the number of renter households increased 9.7%. The 2012-2016 median rent in Ohio ranged from $558 in Monroe County to $969 in Delaware County. The median gross rent as a share of household income was 29.0% in Ohio during this time.

Ohio's Transportation Infrastructure Is One of the Largest and Most Used in Nation

Ohio Transportation Statistics			
Measurement	**Ohio Statistic**	**Ohio Ranking**	**50-State Average**
Infrastructure			
Total area of state (square miles)	44,826	34th	75,934
Area of state that is water (%)	8.8%	15th	8.3%
Bridges	27,345	2nd	12,248
Centerline road miles	122,974	7th	82,772
Freight railroad miles	5,288	5th	2,770
Inland waterway miles	440	21st	759
Public transit vehicles (urban and rural)	3,024	12th	2,664
Annual Usage			
Motor vehicle registrations	10,686,057	6th	5,369,240
Licensed drivers per 1,000 in driving age population	856	39th	929
Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) (millions)	118,608	6th	63,416
VMT per person	10,212	30th	10,491
Public transit passenger trips (urban and rural)	115,093,894	14th	202,181,348
Airport enplanements	9,641,985	24th	15,254,782
Commercial Activity – Freight originating in the state (in 1,000 tons)			
Truck freight	454,525	5th	232,267
Rail freight	45,152	12th	36,704
Waterborne freight	4,376	18th	18,039
Air freight	147	13th	106

Sources: U.S. Geological Survey; Federal Highway Administration; Association of American Railroads and Federal Railroad Administration; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; American Public Transportation Association and Federal Transit Administration; Federal Aviation Administration; FHWA and Bureau of Transportation Statistics – Freight Analysis Framework

- Although Ohio's land mass of 44,826 square miles ranks 34th in the nation, the state's transportation infrastructure is one of the largest and most used.

- Ohio's interstate, state route, and local road network consists of approximately 123,000 centerline road miles (7th highest among states) and almost 27,400 bridges (2nd among states).

- Ohio's freight transportation network includes five interstates, 13 intermodal rail terminals, 11 ports, four major airports, and three multimodal facilities.