

INCOME and EMPLOYMENT

Introduction & Overview: Income and Employment Indicators

Income provides a measure of an individual's or household's ability to attain the quality of life discussed in the other sections of the Community Indicators Database Report. Employment is, of course, the primary means of obtaining income. This section of the Community Indicators Database Report profiles both income and employment from the perspectives of individuals, families, and the community.

The first indicator in this section deals with the components of a basic family budget and the hardships faced by families with insufficient income to meet this budget. Other indicators profile household income and poverty in the community.

The employment indicators also examine the community's job and employment profile and the patterns of employment growth. Data on the community's workforce include labor force participation and unemployment.

Indicators of Quality of Life

The income and employment data can be used in research, program planning, and service delivery. Community Research Partners has found that the data are indicators of the quality of life in the community. The following suggests how the income and employment data pages relate to key quality of life areas:

Quality of Life Area	Income and Employment Data Pages
People have adequate incomes and financial resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basic family budgets• Household income• Poverty• Labor force participation• Unemployment
The community has strong economic growth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Employment profile• Household income• Location of employment growth

How We Are Doing in the Area of Income and Employment

The income and employment data indicators provide a picture of how we are doing as a community. The following are some areas in which we are making progress in Franklin County, as well as areas of concern.

Income and Employment: Areas of Progress	Income and Employment: Areas of Concern
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Economic growth—The central Ohio economy gained 138,100 new jobs between 1994 and May 2005.• Unemployment—Despite an increase in 2004, Franklin County had the lowest unemployment rate of any urban county in Ohio, and is below the state and national rates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basic family budget—An estimated 175,000 persons in Franklin County are in families with incomes insufficient to meet basic living costs.• Employment profile—55% of the jobs in the Franklin County in 2004 were in the traditionally lower paying retail and service sectors.• Racial disparities—Poverty rates and unemployment rates remain significantly higher for blacks than for whites in Central Ohio.

More Detail

CRP has recently released the Franklin County DataSource, a web-based geographic data application that provides some of the income and employment data found in this report, as well as some additional indicators at the census tract, ZIP code, and other smaller geographic levels. Access DataSource at www.datasourcecolumbus.org.

Basic Family Budgets

Basic Family Budgets for Columbus MSA Families, 1999

Household Type	Monthly Expenses (\$)							Monthly Total	Annual Total
	Housing	Food	Child Care	Transportation	Health Care	Other Necessities	Taxes		
1 parent, 1 child	553	230	358	170	179	243	160	\$1,893	\$22,717
1 parent, 2 children	553	351	692	170	189	280	228	\$2,463	\$29,567
1 parent, 3 children	702	489	1,027	170	199	323	390	\$3,300	\$39,592
2 parents, 1 child	553	388	358	240	194	292	272	\$2,297	\$27,546
2 parents, 2 children	553	510	692	240	204	329	277	\$2,805	\$33,655
2 parents, 3 children	702	647	1,027	240	214	372	435	\$3,637	\$43,644

Proportion of U.S. Families Above and Below 200% of Poverty Experiencing Hardships

Hardships	Below 200% of Poverty			Above 200% of Poverty
	Not Working	Working Part-Time	Working Full-Time	
Food Insecurity				
• Missed meals	21.7%	18.8%	14.6%	3.4%
• Worried about having enough food	47.3%	44.1%	36.0%	11.0%
Insufficient Health Care				
• Did not receive necessary medical care	13.2%	14.1%	11.3%	8.0%
• Emergency room is main source of care	6.7%	8.3%	6.8%	2.3%
• No health insurance coverage	22.3%	43.4%	35.4%	9.9%
Housing Problems				
• Evicted	1.4%	1.1%	0.9%	0.1%
• Utilities disconnected	3.5%	4.6%	3.9%	0.6%
• Telephone disconnected	9.8%	12.9%	8.5%	3.0%
• Doubling up with families or friends	2.4%	2.9%	1.9%	0.3%
Inadequate Child Care				
• Child under 13 cares for self	4.2%	4.7%	5.5%	6.8%
• Child not in after-school or enrichment activities	25.1%	21.6%	20.3%	8.5%

Analysis:

- The Economic Policy Institute found that 21.9% of all persons in families in Ohio in 1999 were in households with incomes below basic family budgets. If this percentage is applied to the 2000 Franklin County population, an estimated 175,000 persons in 57,800 families have incomes less than the basic family budget.
- Nationally, over two-and-a-half times as many families fall below basic family budget levels as fall below the poverty level. The Economic Policy Institute found that the rate of serious hardships experienced in families below 200% of poverty is virtually identical regardless of employment status.

About the Data:

Data Sources:

- ▲ Economic Policy Institute, *Hardships in America: The Real Story of Working Families*, 2001

Definitions:

- ▲ **Basic family budget:** The Economic Policy Institute defines the basic family budget as a realistic measure, individualized for communities nationwide and for type of family, of how much income it takes for a safe and decent standard of living. The national median basic family budget is about twice (200%) the poverty level.

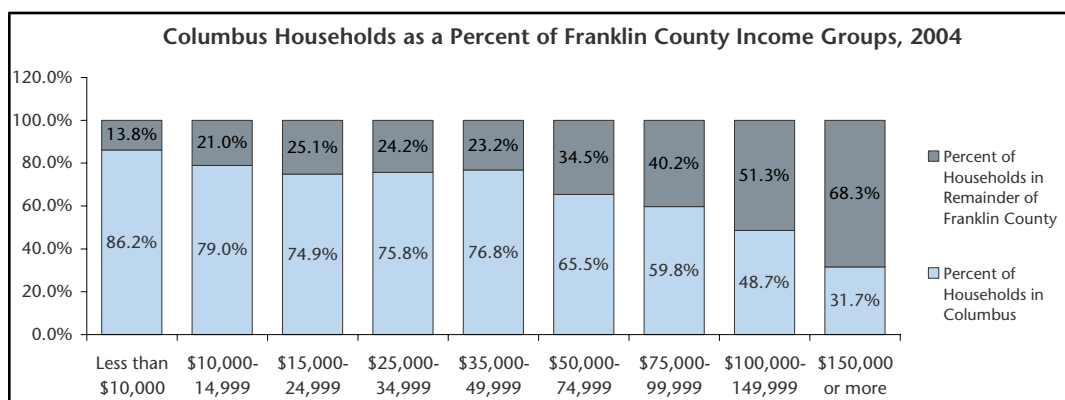
Explanations and Caveats:

- ▲ The Economic Policy Institute budgets focus only on after-tax income for six family types. The budgets assume that all adults work and that childcare is a necessity for all family types. Researchers conducted specific budget studies for various communities around the country. The report includes definitions and sources for each component of the budget.
- ▲ Hardships data are taken from two national surveys: the 1997 National Survey of American Families (NSAF) and the 1995 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP).

Household Income

Columbus and Franklin County Household Income, 2004

Income	Number of Franklin County Households	% of All Franklin County Households	Number of Columbus Households	% of All Columbus Households
Less than \$10,000	39,564	9.1%	34,100	11.5%
\$10,000-14,999	22,025	5.1%	17,393	5.8%
\$15,000-24,999	46,206	10.6%	34,609	11.6%
\$25,000-34,999	55,145	12.7%	41,793	14.0%
\$35,000-49,999	70,483	16.2%	54,166	18.2%
\$50,000-74,999	88,859	20.4%	58,163	19.6%
\$75,000-99,999	50,505	11.6%	30,192	10.1%
\$100,000-149,999	42,205	9.7%	20,534	6.9%
\$150,000 or more	20,684	4.7%	6,547	2.2%
Total	435,676	100.0%	297,497	100.0%



Analysis:

- According to the 2004 American Community Survey, 2004 median income for all Franklin County households was \$46,038; the figure for the state of Ohio was \$42,240.
- The 2004 American Community Survey shows median income for Franklin County family households was \$57,895 and for nonfamily households was \$31,613.
- The estimated 2004 HUD Median Family Income for a family of four in Columbus MSA is \$63,800. HUD low-income figures are defined as 80% of this median family income, or \$51,050, and very low income is 50% of median, or \$31,900.
- According to the 2004 American Community Survey, 82,712 or 19.0% of all households in Franklin County had income from Social Security; 65,681 (15.1%) households had retirement income; 9,975 (2.3%) had public assistance income (TANF and other general assistance); and 14,875 (3.4%) had Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

About the Data:

Data Sources:

- ◆ U.S. Census Bureau: American Community Survey, 2004 (income data for Columbus and Franklin County)
- ◆ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Estimated Median Family Incomes for FY 2004

Definitions:

- ◆ **Median Income:** The U.S. Census median income is the amount that divides the income distribution into two equal groups, half having income above that amount and half having income below that amount.
- ◆ **HUD Median Family Income:** A figure calculated annually by HUD for each metropolitan and non-metropolitan area in the U.S. that is used to establish income limits for HUD programs
- ◆ **Self-employment Income:** Income from own nonfarm or farm business, including proprietorships and partnerships

Explanations:

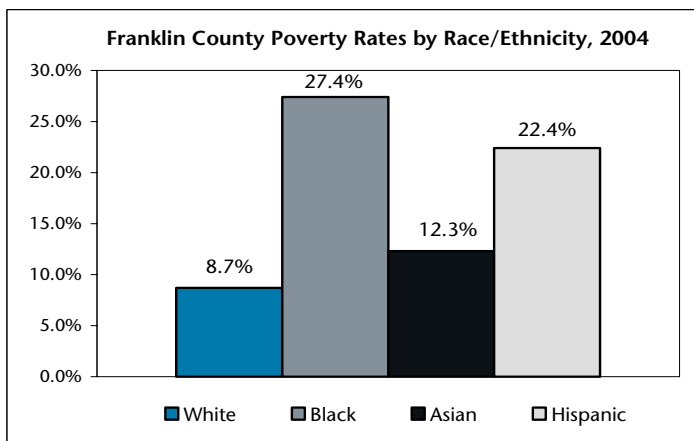
- ◆ The 2004 American Community Survey does not include the indicator of "other types of income."

Poverty

Number and Percent below Poverty by Age and Household Type Franklin County, 2000-2004

	2000		2002		2004	
	# Below Poverty	% Below Poverty	# Below Poverty	% Below Poverty	# Below Poverty	% Below Poverty
Individuals	127,385	12.2%	139,531	13.2%	136,155	12.8%
• Children (age 0-17)	43,956	17.1%	46,173	16.9%	46,031	17.1%
• Elderly (age 65+)	7,821	7.9%	8,903	8.9%	9,084	9.0%
Families	23,574	9.6%	25,559	9.9%	24,973	9.6%
• Families with Children < age 18	19,287	14.2%	20,394	14.4%	19,908	14.2%
• Families with Children < age 5 ⁽¹⁾	11,031	18.6%	11,159	20.5%	10,886	19.3%
• Female-Headed Households with Children < age 18	14,456	34.0%	14,898	33.8%	14,799	34.0%
• Female-Headed Households with Children < age 5 ⁽¹⁾	8,213	48.2%	8,206	50.8%	8,194	48.9%

⁽¹⁾Includes families with children under age 5 only, and those with children both under age 5 and 5-17



Analysis:

- The Franklin County poverty rate in 2004 was 12.8% compared to 13.0% in 1990.
- According to the 2004 American Community Survey, 136,155 persons were estimated to be living in poverty in Franklin County. Though the poverty rate has not changed substantially since 2000, the number of persons in poverty has increased by 6.9%.
- The percent of family households living in poverty in Franklin County remained unchanged between 2000 and 2004. The 2004 rate for families in poverty in Franklin County was lower than the rate for U.S. families (10.1%) and the Ohio family poverty rate (10.0%).

- Of the 24,973 Franklin County families estimated to have incomes below poverty level in 2004, 66.0% were headed by a female with no husband present.
- In 2004, there were an estimated 51,557 unrelated individuals age 15 years and over living in poverty. This group had a poverty rate of 20.9%.
- According to the 2004 American Community Survey, the black population was 19.9% of the total Franklin County population, but represented 42.1% of all persons in poverty. There were an estimated 57,349 black individuals and 67,311 white individuals living in poverty in Franklin County in 2004.

About the Data:

Data Sources:

- ◆ U.S. Census Bureau: American Community Survey, 2000, 2002, and 2004.

Definitions:

- ◆ **Living in poverty:** Having an income at or below the annual federal poverty guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- ◆ **Poverty rate:** The percent of population (for whom poverty status is determined) living in poverty. Poverty status is not determined for population living in group quarters like nursing homes, dormitories, correctional facilities, etc.

Explanations and Caveats:

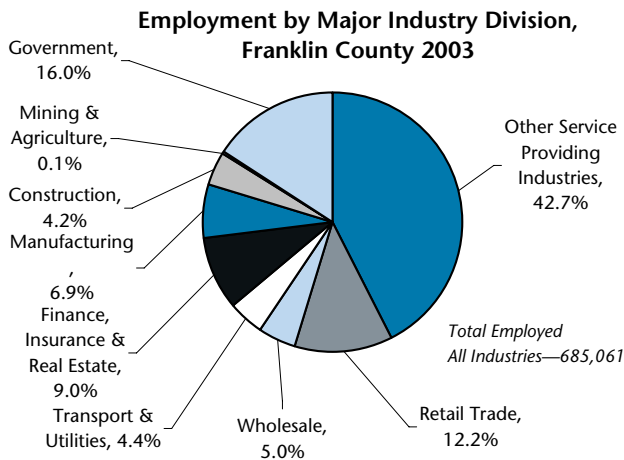
- ◆ **Poverty rate:** The Census Bureau uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is poor. If a family's total income is less than that family's threshold, then that family, and every individual in it, is considered poor. For example, the 2004 poverty threshold for a three-person family with one member under age 18 was \$15,205. If the total family income for 2004 was greater than this threshold, then the family and all members of the family were considered to be above the poverty level.

Employment Profile

Central Ohio's 20 Largest Employers, 2004

Employer Name	Total Full-Time Employees	Total Part-Time Employees
1. The State of Ohio	26,037	3,724
2. The Ohio State University	17,361	2,299
3. United States Government ⁽¹⁾	13,300 ⁽²⁾	1,537
- United States Postal Service	5,925	1,537
- Defense Supply Center, Columbus	2,284	INA
- Defense Finance and Accounting Service	2,072	0
4. JPMorgan Chase & Co. ⁽³⁾	12,130	INA
5. Nationwide	11,293	INA
6. Ohio Health	8,398	1,754
7. Columbus Public Schools	8,024	INA
8. City of Columbus	7,919	500
9. Limited Brands	7,200	3,500
10. Honda of America Manufacturing, Inc.	6,350	0
11. Franklin County	6,218	879
12. Wal-Mart Stores Inc.	6,100	1,255
13. Mount Carmel	5,558	1,793
14. Kroger Co.	4,502	4,715
15. Wendy's International, Inc.	4,500	INA
16. American Electric Power Company Inc.	3,900	20
17. Huntington Bancshares Inc.	3,500	415
18. SBC Yahoo	3,000	INA
19. Ross Products Division, Abbott Laboratories	2,800	INA
20. Children's Hospital	2,706	2,177

⁽¹⁾Total includes subset branches/divisions shown below. ⁽²⁾Estimate as of August 2004. ⁽³⁾Includes Bank One Corp. and Chase Finance.
 INA=Information not available, NA=not applicable



Analysis:

- The industry sectors represented by Central Ohio's largest employers—state government and federal government—showed only modest job growth between 2000 and 2003, adding a net total of 783 jobs in Franklin County. State government added 1,743 jobs and the federal government lost 960.
- Employment in the retail trade and other service-providing industry sectors together was 55% of all Franklin County employment. These are usually the lowest paying industrial sectors.
- The list of Central Ohio's largest employers is mostly unchanged from 2002. The 2002 list included the Catholic Diocese of Columbus, Bob Evans Farms, Inc., and Value City Department Stores. These were replaced on the 2004 list by SBC Yahoo, Ross Products, and Children's Hospital.

About the Data:

Data Source:

- ◆ *Business First*, Greater Columbus Largest Employers, December 2004
- ◆ Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Bureau of Labor Market Information, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, 2003 (employment by industry division and employment growth)

Definitions:

- ◆ **Total employed:** The number of persons employed part time or full time during a reporting period, including payroll workers, self-employed persons, unpaid workers in family enterprises, and domestics
- ◆ **Industry sectors:** The major divisions of employment within the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), a common industrial classification system designed to facilitate economic analysis between the U.S., Canada, and Mexico

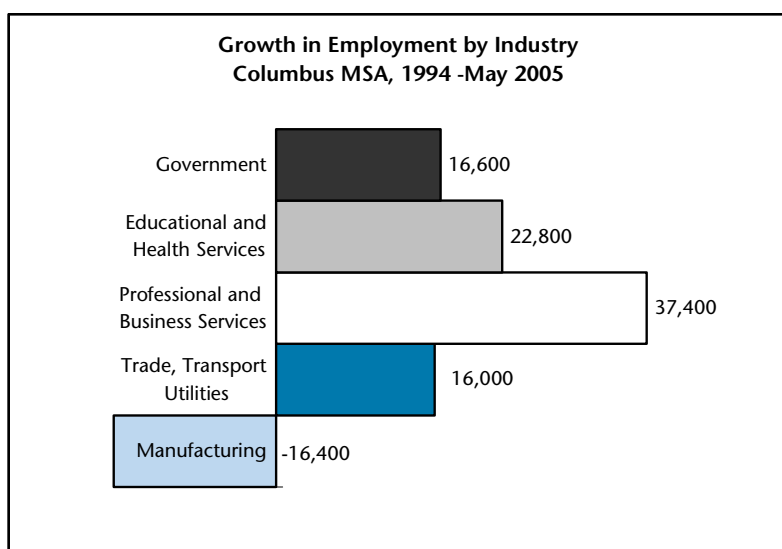
Explanations and Caveats:

- ◆ Employers on the list of the largest employers are ranked according to the number of full-time employees.

Employment Growth

Franklin County Industry Sectors by Number of New Jobs, 2000-2003

Industry Sector	Employment 2000	Employment 2003	New Jobs 2000-2003	% Change 2000-2003	2003 Average Weekly Earnings
Health care and social assistance	61,766	69,968	8,202	13.3%	\$717
Local government	47,603	51,150	3,547	7.5%	\$781
Accommodation and food services	52,923	56,418	3,495	6.6%	\$272
State government	44,626	46,369	1,743	3.9%	\$790
Management of companies and enterprises	13,091	14,737	1,646	12.6%	\$1,462
Transportation & warehousing	27,030	28,065	1,035	3.8%	\$711
Other services, except public administration	22,945	23,849	904	3.9%	\$546
Educational services	7,478	8,365	887	11.9%	\$554
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting	254	339	85	33.5%	\$509
Real estate rental & leasing	12,818	12,890	72	0.6%	\$623



Analysis:

- The Central Ohio economy gained 138,100 new jobs from 1994 to May 2005.
- Between 1994 and May 2005, the Columbus MSA lost 16,400 manufacturing jobs.
- The *Ohio Job Outlook 2010* notes that, on average, employment will grow faster in the professional and related occupations, construction and extraction, transportation and material moving and service occupations. Service and professional occupations, particularly in the fields of health, business, and education, dominate the list of occupations projected to gain the most employment or grow the fastest.

About the Data:

Data Source:

- ◆ Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Bureau of Labor Market Information, *Ohio Labor Market Review*, May 2005, Columbus MSA (employment growth)
- ◆ Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Bureau of Labor Market Information, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, 2003 (employment by industry sector and weekly earnings)
- ◆ Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, *Columbus MSA Job Outlook to 2010* (Columbus MSA job growth projections)

Definitions:

- ◆ **Total employed:** The number of persons employed part-time or full-time during a reporting period, including payroll workers, self-employed persons, unpaid workers in family enterprises and domestics.
- ◆ **Industry sectors:** The major divisions of employment within the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), a common industrial classification system designed to facilitate economic analysis between the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

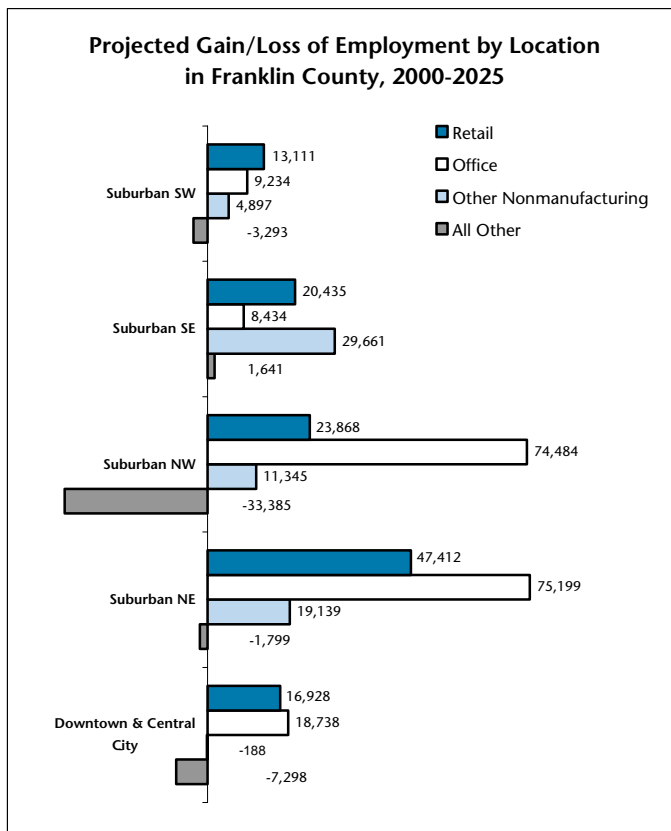
Explanations and Caveats:

- ◆ The Ohio Labor Market Review uses data from Current Employment Statistics, a federal-state program that collects detailed data on employment, hours, and earnings in goods-producing and service-producing industries through a monthly survey of 13,000 Ohio employers. Industry survey participation is voluntary; data for some industries may not be available due to insufficient sample size.

Location of Employment Growth

Central Ohio Employment Growth by Location, 1980-2025

	Employment 1980	Employment 1990	Employment 2000	% Growth 1990-2000	2025 Projection
Downtown & Central City	79,554	87,892	95,710	8.9%	126,890
Northwest Quadrant	19,559	55,026	110,674	101.1%	186,986
Northeast Quadrant	70,685	109,906	161,802	47.2%	301,753
Southwest Quadrant	30,172	37,924	52,137	37.5%	76,087
Southeast Quadrant	49,052	64,261	82,124	27.8%	142,297



Analysis:

- Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission reports that employment in the Columbus Downtown Central City area grew by 8.9% from 1990 to 2000 and is projected to experience a net increase of 31,180 jobs between 2000 and 2025.
- Outside the Downtown/Central City area, the greatest total employment growth between 1990 and 2000 occurred in the Suburban Northeast and Northwest quadrants. Combined, these quadrants are projected to gain 216,263 jobs between 2000 and 2025.
- The Brookings Institution classifies the Columbus MSA as a “Centralized Employment Metro,” with 19.8% of metro employment within 3 miles of the Central Business District (CBD) and 62.6% within 10 miles of the CBD.
- The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission 2025 Transportation Plan estimates that the number of vehicle trips in Central Ohio will increase by 39% from 2000 to 2025, and the number of vehicle hours driven by Central Ohio residents will increase by 116%.

About the Data:

Data Sources:

- ◆ Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, *2025 Transportation Plan* (employment growth by location and type; definitions of geography)
- ◆ The Brookings Institution Center on Urban & Metropolitan Policy, *Job Sprawl: Employment Location in U.S. Metropolitan Areas*, May 2001 (centralized employment)

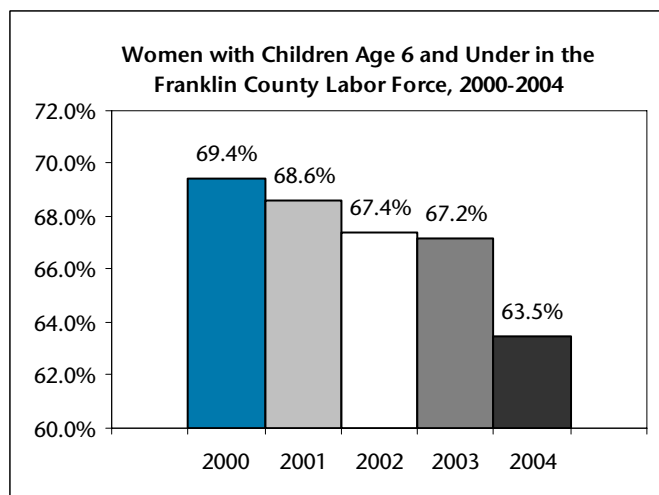
Definitions:

- ◆ **Central Ohio:** The geographic area subject to analysis in the *2025 Transportation Plan*. It includes Franklin County, Delaware County, and parts of northwest Fairfield County and southwest Licking County. Employment trends and projections are presented for the following areas:
 - Columbus Downtown/Central City
 - Suburban Northeast Quadrant: east of Olentangy River and north of I-70
 - Suburban Southeast Quadrant: east of Olentangy River and south of CSX Rail
 - Suburban Southwest Quadrant: west of Olentangy River and south of I-70
 - Suburban Northwest Quadrant: west of Olentangy River and north of CSX Rail

Labor Force Participation

Franklin County Civilian Labor Force by Age and Gender, 2004

	Number in Civilian Labor Force	Civilian Labor Force Participation Rate
Males 16-24 years	40,106	66.3%
Males 25-44 years	158,536	88.6%
Males 45-64 years	93,969	81.2%
Males 65-69 years	4,422	37.4%
Males 70 years and over	4,502	15.4%
Females 16-24 years	39,668	67.3%
Females 25-44 years	135,924	77.2%
Females 45-64 years	91,591	71.4%
Females 65-69 years	3,961	27.2%
Females 70 years and over	3,440	7.6%
Total Franklin County Civilian Labor Force	576,119	70.3%
Ohio Civilian Labor Force	5,739,578	66.0%



Analysis:

- In 2004, the labor force participation rate for persons living in Franklin County was 76.2% male and 64.9% female.
- The number of women with young children in the Franklin County workforce fluctuated from 2000 to 2004. In 2004 there were 36,832 women with children under age 6 in the Franklin County labor force, compared with 37,234 in 2002 and 41,801 in 2000.
- In 2004, 1,693 persons (0.2%) in Franklin County age 16 and over were in the Armed Forces and not counted as part of the civilian labor force.

About the Data:

Data Source:

- ◆ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004

Definitions:

- ◆ **Civilian labor force:** Civilians 16 years of age and over who are employed or are unemployed and seeking work. It excludes military personnel, persons in institutions, those studying or keeping house full time, persons who are retired or unable to work, and volunteer workers.
- ◆ **Labor force participation rate:** The percentage of all persons in a population group who are currently in the labor force.

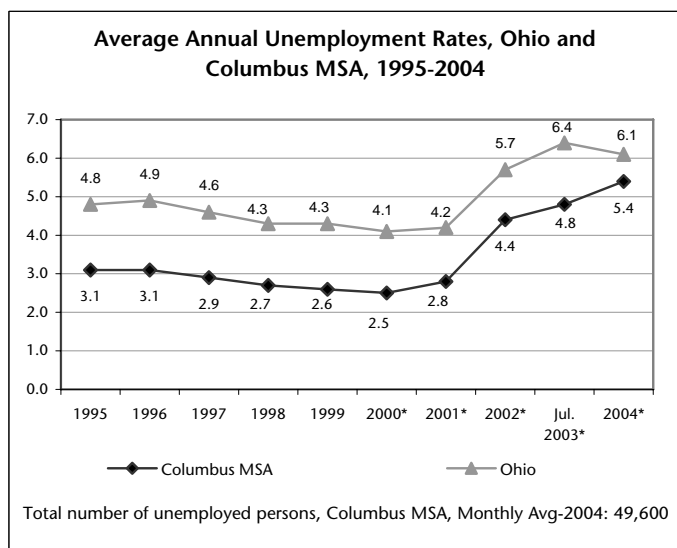
Explanations:

- ◆ The rapid labor force participation of women with young children increases women's overall labor force participation rate. This improves the standard of living for families and helps close the gender gap in the labor force.

Unemployment

Estimated Annual Average Unemployment Rate by Race and Gender, Columbus MSA 1995-2002

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
All Males	4.0	3.8	2.9	4.4	3.2	2.7	3.8	4.9
All Females	3.7	4.0	4.2	3.2	3.5	3.6	3.1	5.9
All Blacks	11.9	7.4	5.7	7.7	5.6	5.7	5.1	13.4
All Whites	2.6	3.3	3.3	3.1	2.8	2.6	3.2	3.6



*Data for 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003 are currently being revised by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) due to significant and complex changes being made as part of the annual revision process. The changes include introduction of new metropolitan areas definitions, introduction of new estimation methodology, and introduction of Census 2000 data. The data presented for 2004 are considered preliminary and are subject to minor changes.

Analysis:

- In 2004, the Columbus MSA had the second lowest unemployment rate of any metropolitan area in Ohio. The 2004 estimated Franklin County unemployment rate (5.4%) is lower than the other major urban counties in Ohio.
- Unemployment has increased in the nation, state, and central Ohio compared to 2001. Average annual estimates indicate that the Columbus MSA unemployment rate increased from 2.8% in 2001 to 5.4% in 2004. This compares with a U.S. rate of 5.5% and an Ohio rate of 6.1%.
- Significant racial disparity is evident in local, state and national unemployment rates, with the rate for blacks 3.7 times the rate for whites in the Columbus MSA in 2002. Black females had the highest unemployment in the Columbus MSA (14.1%) compared to white females (3.8%). The rate for white males was 3.4%, and the rate for black males was 12.7%.
- Nationally, white males had the unemployment rate of 5.6% in 2002, compared with black males at 11.6%. The rate for white females was 4.8%, and the rate for black females was 10.2%. The national unemployment rate for all Hispanics was 7.5% in 2002.

About the Data:

Data Sources:

- Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Bureau of Labor Market Information (monthly county unemployment estimates; Ohio and Columbus MSA annual unemployment rates)
- U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (U.S. and MSA unemployment rates by race and gender)

Definitions:

- Unemployed persons: Persons 16 and over who have no employment, are available for work, except for temporary illness, and have made specific efforts to find employment sometime during the previous 4-week period. Persons waiting to be recalled to a job from which they had been laid off are not classified as unemployed.
- Unemployment rate:** The number unemployed as a percentage of the labor force

Explanations and Caveats:

- Official unemployment data reflects only those persons who are in the labor force and actively looking for work. The universe of persons who are not employed also includes those who are unable to work because of a disability and those "discouraged workers" who have stopped looking for work.
- Unemployment data presented in this section are not seasonally adjusted.
- ODJFS Columbus MSA unemployment rates by race and gender are estimates and should not be compared with unemployment data from the ODJFS Labor Force Statistics.

Income and Employment Links

The following is a representative list of sources of information on the topics covered in the income and employment section of the Community Indicators Database report. The list includes resources that were used in the preparation of the report, as well as others that may be of interest to those seeking data on income and employment. Data sources identified in the Population Links/General Links section may also include information on income and employment.

This is not intended to be a complete list, and CRP welcomes information about additional income and employment resources. Inclusion on this list does not imply that CRP endorses an organization or has verified the accuracy of its information.

▲ National Sources

U.S. Department of Labor

<http://www.dol.gov/>

U.S. DOL is a national clearinghouse for labor-related information including legal issues, data and statistics, publications, news releases, and links to state and local sites.

Bureau of Labor Statistics

<http://www.bls.gov>

The Bureau of Labor Statistics is the principal fact-finding agency for the U.S. Department of Labor in the broad field of labor economics and statistics. National, state, and local data and statistics on labor market, employment, and trends are available.

The Urban Institute

<http://www.urban.org>

The Urban Institute is a nonpartisan economic and social policy research organization. The site provides information and links to data and statistics, publications, research, and news releases on the working poor, social security, and welfare to work.

The Brookings Institution

<http://www.brook.edu/>

The Brookings Institution analyzes emerging public policy problems in books, reports, and articles available to policymakers, experts, and the general public. The website highlights the research and public education activities, including economic studies, urban and metropolitan policy, and social and economic dynamics.

Employment Policies Institute

<http://www.epionline.org/>

Employment Policies Institute is a nonprofit research organization that studies public policy issues on employment growth, with a focus on issues that affect entry-level employment. Information available at this site includes publications, data, and statistics related to minimum wage, living wage, low-wage workers, youth unemployment, and welfare reform.

Economic Policy Institute

<http://epinet.org/>

The Economic Policy Institute is a nonprofit research organization that conducts original research on economic issues, and makes policy recommendations based on its findings. A focus of EPI research is the living standards of working people. The website makes its findings available to the general public, the media, and policymakers.

Income and Employment Links

▲ State Sources

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Labor Market Information

<http://www.lmi.state.oh.us>

The Labor Market Information site is a source for reports and data about employment levels, unemployment rates, wages and earnings, employment projections, jobs, training resources, and careers. Data are available at the state, MSA, and county levels.

▲ Local Sources

Columbus Department of Development

<http://td.ci.columbus.oh.us/>

This site provides information on housing and community services, economic development, and building and development in the Columbus MSA. Details on regional, county, city, and neighborhood level programs, as well as links to other City of Columbus divisions, are available.

Greater Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce

<http://www.columbus-chamber.org/>

This site provides a local snapshot of the local business environment as well as programs available to members. Information on economic development projects, such as small business assistance and workforce development, is also available.

DataSource

<http://www.datasourcecolumbus.org>

This online data system provides access to data on individual and family income, poverty statistics, and other information. Data can be sorted and mapped by different geographical areas in Franklin County. (Username and password required)