

Data Line Ohio



Prepared by the Office of Strategic Research

Volume 6, Number 2

February, 1998

OHIO'S IRON & STEEL INDUSTRY

Ohio leads the nation with almost \$6.7 billion of value added in producing iron and steel goods--nearly 17 percent of the U.S. total. A new report compiled by the Office of Strategic Research notes that in 1995, 289 iron and steel industry establishments in Ohio employed over 60,000 people. This amounted to 11.2 percent of the U.S. industry's establishments and 16.4 percent of its work force.

Ohio is home to four Fortune 1,000 companies with iron and steel industry plants in the state: AK Steel, LTV Corp., Timken, and Worthington Industries. An additional ten Fortune U.S. 1,000 or global 500 companies have iron and steel industry operations in the state.

Foreign investment is an important part of Ohio's iron and steel industry. According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, 13 of the industry's 234 establishments in Ohio had at least 10 percent foreign-based ownership in 1992. These establishments employed nearly 11,000 workers.

Ohio was the number one state in both parts of the iron and steel industry: the production of blast furnace and basic steel products(\$5.5 billion), and iron and steel foundry output (\$1.2 billion). Our state has consistently ranked second among the states in raw steel production for the latest 12 years of data. Throughout the fluctuations of the business cycle, one-sixth of U.S. raw steel production has come from blast furnaces and steel mills in Ohio.

THE OHIO IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY report may be purchased for \$25.00, prepaid, from the Office of Strategic Research, Ohio Department of Development, P.O. Box 1001, Columbus, OH 43216-1001, 614-466-2115, E-Mail: osr@odod.ohio.gov.

ESTABLISHMENTS & EMPLOYMENT IN THE IRON & STEEL INDUSTRY, 1995

	Ohio Establishments	Ohio Employment	Ohio Employ per Estab	U.S. Establishments	U.S. Employment	U.S. Employ per Estab
TOTAL COVERED EMPLOYMENT	266,046	5,118,700	19.2	7,039,064	115,479,580	16.4
Iron & Steel Industry	289	60,708	210.1	2,573	370,331	143.9
..Blast Furnace & Basic Steel Prdts	171	40,857	238.9	1,536	240,110	156.3
..Blast Furnaces & Steel Mills	71	28,988	408.3	651	171,185	263.0
..Electrometallurgical Prdts	5	1,083	216.6	52	5,647	108.6
..Steel Wire & Related Prdts	14	1,198	85.6	283	19,195	67.8
..Cold Finishing of Steel Shapes	38	5,002	131.6	237	16,883	71.2
..Steel Pipe & Tubes	43	4,586	106.7	313	27,200	86.9
Iron & Steel Foundries	118	19,851	168.2	1,037	130,221	125.6
..Gray & Ductile Iron Foundries	68	14,160	208.2	614	83,310	135.7
..Malleable Iron Foundries	4	370	92.5	23	4,337	188.6
..Steel Investment Foundries	12	733	61.1	134	15,514	115.8
..Steel Foundries, n.e.c.	34	4,588	134.9	266	27,060	101.7

George V. Voinovich, Governor
State of Ohio

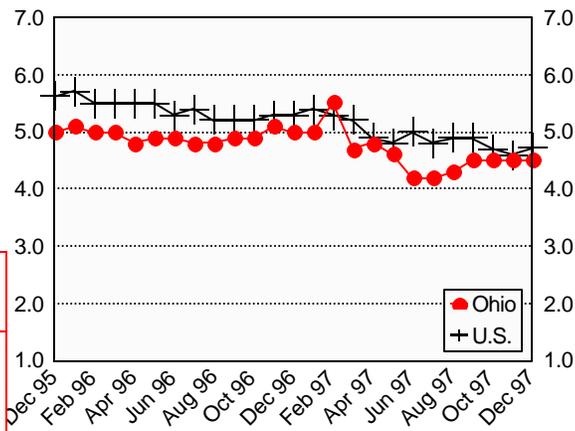
Joseph C. Robertson, Director
Ohio Department of Development

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UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: December 1995 To December 1997

The December unemployment rate in Ohio remained at its November level of 4.5. The number of unemployed workers declined 1.2 percent for the month, and is 9.2 percent lower than a year ago.

The U.S. unemployment rate rose slightly to 4.7 in December from 4.6 in November. Unemployment has risen 1.6 percent over the past month, but has declined 10.7 percent since December 1996.



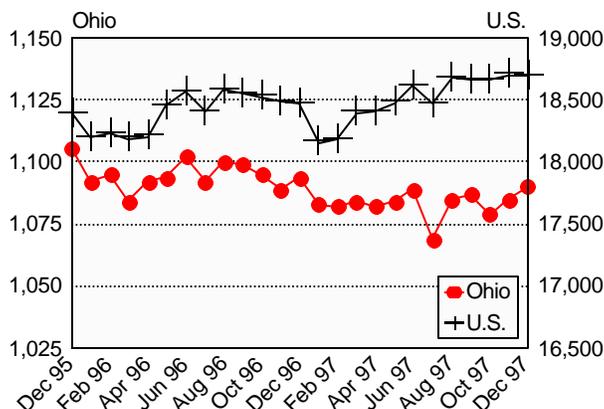
Seasonally adjusted.
SOURCE: Ohio Bureau of Employment Services, LMI Division.

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION Monthly Data (000)	Ohio Dec 97	Ohio Nov 97	Ohio Dec 96	U.S. Dec 97	U.S. Nov 97	U.S. Dec 96
Civilian Labor Force	5,781	5,777	5,672	137,169	136,864	135,060
Employment	5,523	5,517	5,389	130,777	130,575	127,899
Unemployment	257	260	283	6,392	6,289	7,161
Unemployment Rate	4.5	4.5	5.0	4.7	4.6	5.3

MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT: December 1995 To December 1997

December employment in Ohio's manufacturing industry grew 0.5 percent for the month with 1,090,000 workers. This was a decrease of 0.4 percent for the year. Production workers in Ohio's manufacturing industries earned an average of \$701.12 per week in December, up \$13.58 from November. This was \$39.28 more than a year ago, a 5.9 percent increase over December 1996.

The December manufacturing employment in the U.S. showed no significant change for the month with 18,701,000 employees. This was a 1.3 percent increase for the year. Average weekly earnings for production workers rose \$10.99 to \$580.13 in December 1997. These earnings amounted to a 3.7 percent increase of \$20.73 over December 1996.



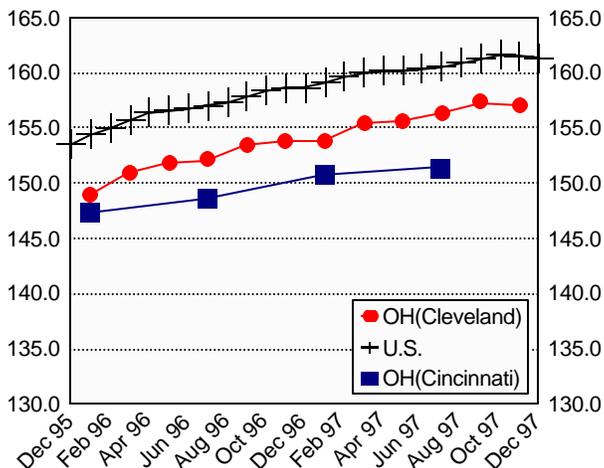
Employment in thousands. Not seasonally adjusted.
SOURCES: Ohio Bureau of Employment Services, LMI Division; U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: December 1995 To December 1997

The December U.S. average city consumer price index for urban wage earners (CPI-U) declined 0.1 percent to 161.3 from 161.5 in November. This was a 1.7 percent increase over December 1996.

The Cleveland urban wage earners consumer price index for November was 157.1. This was a decrease of 0.1 percent from two months ago, and a 2.1 percent increase over a year ago.

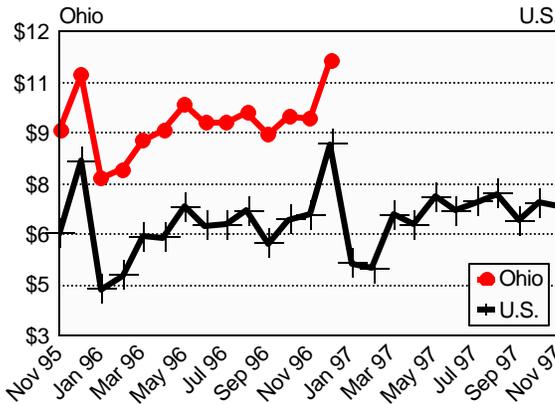
For the first half of 1997, Cincinnati's CPI-U showed a 0.5 percent increase over the second half of 1996 with 151.4. This was 1.9 percent higher than the first half of 1996.



Index for all urban consumers (CPI-U), 1982-84=100.
U.S. updated monthly; Cleveland, Bi-monthly; Cincinnati, Semi-annually.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

CPI-U Annual % Change	92-93	93-94	94-95	95-96
U.S. Average City	3.0%	2.6%	2.8%	3.0%
OH (Cleveland)	2.6%	2.9%	2.4%	2.8%
OH (Cincinnati)	2.8%	3.3%	2.7%	2.3%

ESTIMATED RETAIL SALES: November 1995 To November 1997



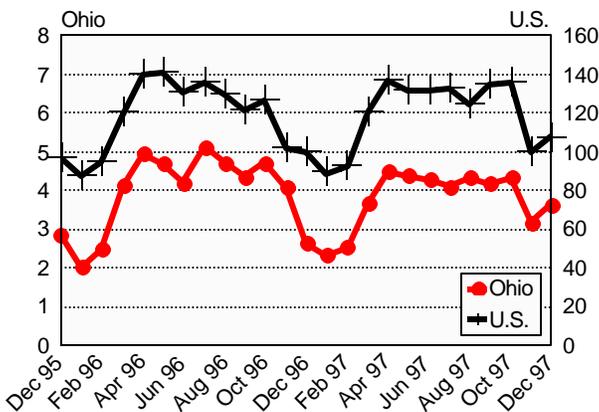
Due to budget constraints, the U.S. Bureau of the Census has discontinued publication of its monthly retail trade data for states. For the time being, Data Line Ohio will continue the Estimated Retail Sales section, displaying Ohio's sales through December, 1996, and updating the U.S. figures as they are released.

November retail sales for the U.S. have declined 0.6 percent since October with \$214,383 million. This was 2.0 percent more than a year ago. Sales in durable goods have decreased 6.1 percent since October, but have increased 2.0 percent since November 1996. Nondurable goods sales grew 3.2 percent for the month, and rose 2.0 percent for the year.

Sales in billions of dollars. Figures are unadjusted.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

NOTE: Figures for the U.S. have been revised, 4/97.

RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION: December 1995 To December 1997

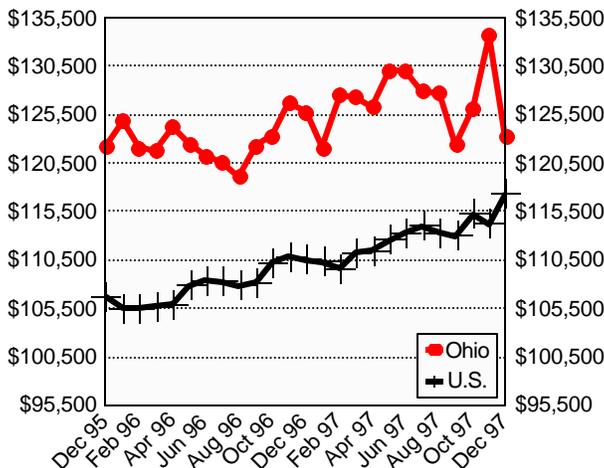


The construction of new, privately-owned housing units in Ohio increased 14.4 percent between November 1997 and December 1997, and has increased 37.2 percent since December 1996. Permits were issued for 3,633 units within 2,882 buildings. Of those buildings authorized, 2,674 were single family dwellings, and 56 contained five or more units each.

The number of units authorized in the U.S., 107,642, was 7.9 percent more than the November 1997 figure, and 7.7 percent more than in December 1996. Permits were issued for 77,177 buildings, 72,711 were single-unit buildings, and 2,083 contained five or more units.

Number of units in thousands.
Percent of imputed data is greater than 25 percent.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

AVERAGE CONSTRUCTION COSTS: December 1995 To December 1997



The December 1997 average valuation per single-family dwelling in Ohio was \$123,196. This was 7.9 percent lower than last month, and 2.1 percent less than in December 1996. The total value of all permit-authorized residential construction in Ohio was \$374,291,000.

In the U.S., the average construction valuation per single-family building was \$117,209, 2.6 percent higher than the November 1997 figure, and 6.0 percent more than a year ago. The total U.S. residential construction valuation for December 1997 was \$10,331,971,000.

One-unit residential buildings only.
Percent of imputed data is greater than 25 percent.
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.



Notes and New Products

CENSUS 2000

Three sites have been chosen to serve as the final testing ground for the one event that will touch every person residing in the U.S.--Census 2000. The people of Sacramento, California; eleven counties in the Columbia, South Carolina area; and the Menominee Reservation in Wisconsin will participate in the **1998 Census 2000 Dress Rehearsal**. The residents of these areas will help define and shape a census that is faster, less costly, and more accurate.

The U.S. Census Bureau has been working closely with state, local, and tribal governments, community organizations, and others to conduct a wide range of Census activities. The Rehearsal will provide a Census-like environment for a thorough testing of procedures planned for use in the 2000 Census. New procedures being tested include a more user-friendly form; the digital capture of forms; and sampling and statistical estimation techniques.

The 1998 Dress Rehearsal communities will work with the Census Bureau as exclusive partners in the final evaluation of Census 2000.

For more information on plans for Census 2000, contact the Census Bureau at their Internet web site, <http://www.census.gov/>, or call 301-457-2000.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY OHIO

Ohio will celebrate its 194th birthday on March 1st. Already, plans are in the making for an exciting Bicentennial celebration in the year 2003. A Bicentennial Commission has been appointed, and every Ohio community will be invited to highlight its own special contributions to our state. If you would like to share your ideas with the planners of the statewide birthday party, write to the Ohio Bicentennial Commission, Statehouse Room 021 North, Columbus, OH 43215; call toll-free at 1-888-OHIO-200 (644-6200); or e-mail: bicentennial@winslo.state.oh.us.

This report should be cited as follows: Data Line Ohio, Volume 6, Number 2, prepared and distributed by the Office of Strategic Research, Ohio Department of Development, Columbus, Ohio, February, 1998. Annette Burgess, Editor. Data Line Ohio is available on a subscription basis for \$20.00 a year. To order, contact the Office of Strategic Research at 614-466-2115 or E-Mail osr@odod.ohio.gov. Visit our Data Line Ohio web site at <http://www.odod.ohio.gov/osr/dataline.htm>.

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