

# Data Line Ohio

Prepared by the Office of Strategic Research



Volume 6, Number 11

November, 1998



If you have not, as yet, logged onto Ohio Department of Development's **Connect Ohio**, you are in for a surprise. This website has been online for just one year, and in that time, more than two million users from around the world have taken advantage of the easy-to-use service.

This website has something for everybody--Do you want to do business with an Ohio Company? The site will link you with the proper resource, and in many cases, transactions can be completed immediately electronically; Do you want to establish a link to your business' website? Just fill out the online form and a link will be set up; Are you looking for a job? **Connect Ohio** will put you in touch with a business or agency that can aid you in your search. You can learn about state programs, locate needed information and data, and peruse informative state publications. You are even invited to leave a message, such as comments on sports teams, requests for information, or perhaps some interesting tidbit on your travels around Ohio.

**Connect Ohio** was formed through a partnership of the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) and Ameritech. The idea was to create a single site where users from around the world could link to the Ohio business, service, or information needed to do business in the state. According to ODOD Director Joseph C. Robertson, "the program is an essential component of Ohio's overall plan to enhance the state's leadership position in the areas of economic development and technological innovation."

In the next century, it is expected that most world-wide business will be conducted via the Internet. With programs like this, Ohio will be ready to effectively compete in the global marketplace.

<http://www.connectohio.com>

George V. Voinovich, Governor  
State of Ohio

Joseph C. Robertson, Director  
Ohio Department of Development

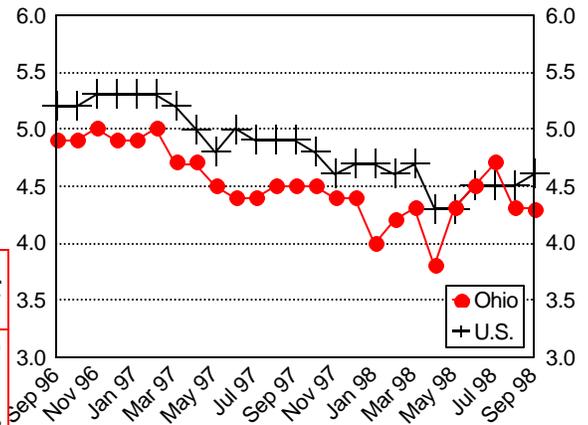
# Data Line Ohio

## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: September 1996 To September 1998

The September unemployment rate in Ohio remained at its August level of 4.3. The number of unemployed workers decreased 1.2 percent for the month, and is 3.9 percent lower than a year ago.

The U.S. unemployment rate for September rose from 4.5 recorded in August to 4.6. The number of unemployed workers has increased 1.0 percent since August, but has declined 5.5 percent since September 1997.

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION Monthly Data (000)	Ohio Sep 98	Ohio Aug 98	Ohio Sep 97	U.S. Sep 98	U.S. Aug 98	U.S. Sep 97
Civilian Labor Force	5,801	5,803	5,732	138,075	137,415	136,439
Employment	5,551	5,552	5,473	131,765	131,168	129,761
Unemployment	249	252	259	6,310	6,247	6,678
Unemployment Rate	4.3	4.3	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.9

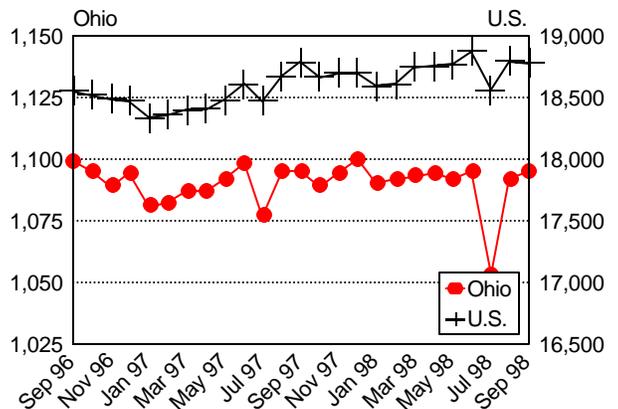


Seasonally adjusted.  
SOURCE: Ohio Bureau of Employment Services, LMI Division.

## MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT: September 1996 To September 1998

September employment in Ohio's manufacturing industry grew 0.3 percent for the month with 1,095,100 workers. This was no significant gain or loss for the year. Production workers in Ohio's manufacturing industries earned an average of \$694.34 per week in September, up \$20.11 from August. This was \$15.44 more than a year ago, a 2.3 percent increase over September 1997.

The September manufacturing employment in the U.S. dropped 0.1 percent for the month with 18,773,000 employees. This was a 0.1 percent decrease for the year. Average weekly earnings for production workers rose \$1.87 to \$562.74 in September 1998. These earnings amounted to a 0.3 percent increase of \$1.79 over September 1997.



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: September 1996 To September 1998

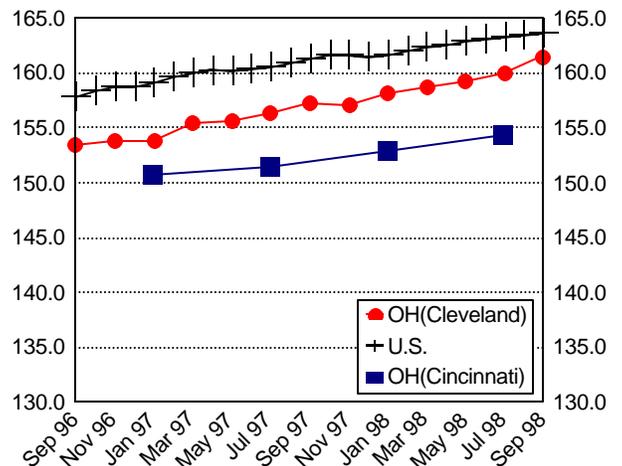
The September U.S. average city consumer price index for urban wage earners (CPI-U) rose 0.1 percent to 163.6 from 163.4 in August. This was a 1.5 percent increase over September 1997.

The Cleveland urban wage earners consumer price index for September was 161.5. This was an increase of 1.0 percent from two months ago, and a 2.7 percent increase over a year ago.

For the first half of 1998, Cincinnati's CPI-U showed a 1.0 percent increase over the second half of 1997 with 154.4. This was 2.0 percent higher than the first half of 1997.

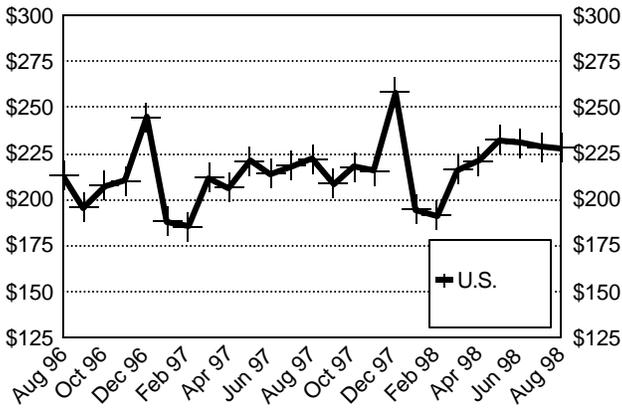
The "market basket of goods and services" has been updated as of January 1998 to better reflect current consumer buying habits. See [Data Line Ohio, March 1998, Page 4](#).

CPI-U Annual % Change	93-94	94-95	95-96	96-97
U.S. Average City	2.6%	2.8%	3.0%	2.3%
OH (Cleveland)	2.9%	2.4%	2.8%	2.7%
OH (Cincinnati)	3.3%	2.7%	2.3%	1.7%



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.

## ESTIMATED RETAIL SALES: August 1996 To August 1998

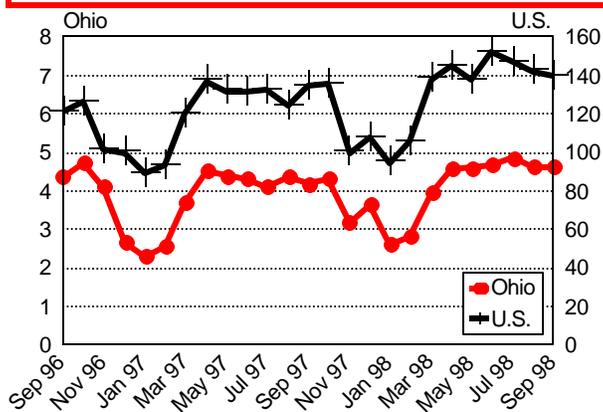


August retail sales for the U.S. have decreased 0.5 percent since July with \$227,551 million. This was 2.5 percent more than a year ago. Sales in durable goods have declined 2.6 percent since July, but have increased 3.1 percent since August 1997. Nondurable goods sales increased 1.1 percent for the month, and rose 2.2 percent for the year.

**Due to budget constraints, the U.S. Bureau of the Census has discontinued publication of its monthly retail trade data for states.**

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

## RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION: September 1996 To September 1998

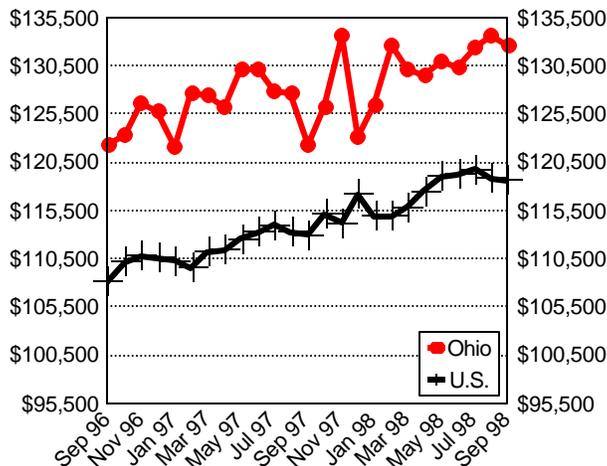


The construction of new, privately-owned housing units in Ohio increased 0.4 percent between August 1998 and September 1998, and has increased 10.5 percent since September 1997. Permits were issued for 4,619 units within 3,547 buildings. Of those buildings authorized, 3,229 were single family dwellings, and 65 contained five or more units each.

The number of units authorized in the U.S. for September 1998 was 140,245, a decrease of 1.3 percent from the August 1998 figure. This was 4.2 percent more than in September 1997. Permits were issued for 106,675 buildings, 102,063 were single-unit buildings, and 2,231 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: September 1996 To September 1998



The September 1998 average valuation per single-family dwelling in Ohio was \$132,692. This was 0.6 percent lower than last month, but 8.4 percent more than in September 1997. The total value of all permit-authorized residential construction in Ohio was \$500,989,000.

In the U.S., the average construction valuation per single-family building was \$118,603, 0.2 percent lower than the August 1998 figure, but 5.0 percent more than a year ago. The total U.S. residential construction valuation for September 1998 was \$14,371,529,000.

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



### Measuring 50 Years of Economic Change

If you have ever watched the news or listened to the radio, one may hear the broadcaster make various statistical statements with regard to median household income, per capita income, or poverty. Curious individuals may ask some questions pertaining to this data. For example, where did this data come from? Who may access this data? What is the purpose of this data? The Census Bureau's recently published chart book, **Measuring 50 Years of Economic Change**, can give answers to the aforementioned questions. Formulated using the March Current Population Survey, this chart book provides detailed tables and colorful charts allowing for effective research analysis. Its articulate layout permits analysts and researchers to utilize the annual income data and earning estimates data to gauge the economic well-being of Americans, aid businesses in creating marketing strategies, and assess the impact of changing demographic patterns. Additionally, the chart book may answer such questions as: How does income vary across racial and ethnic groups? Does a gender gap still exist? What does family composition have to do with income?

The Census Bureau makes this chart book available through their website at: <http://www.census.gov> by selecting "Subjects A to Z" and choosing **Current Population Report, P60-203**.

### CENSUS 2000 UPDATE

The **Census 2000 short form** will be the shortest form in 180 years. Five subjects have been moved to the long form. They include: marital status, units in structure, number of rooms, value of homes, and monthly rent. To promote participation, the questions asked represent the best balance between a community's needs and the Census Bureau's commitment to reduce the time and effort it takes to fill out the form. Every question asked on the short and the long form is required by law to manage or evaluate federal programs or is needed to meet federal case law requirements.

Further information about the forms may be found at the Census Bureau's website, <http://www.census.gov>, or call the Detroit Regional Census Center at 248-967-9524.

This report should be cited as follows: Data Line Ohio, Volume 6, Number 11, prepared and distributed by the Office of Strategic Research, Ohio Department of Development, Columbus, Ohio, November, 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](mailto:osr@odod.ohio.gov). Visit our Data Line Ohio web site at <http://www.odod.ohio.gov/osr/dataline.htm>.

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