

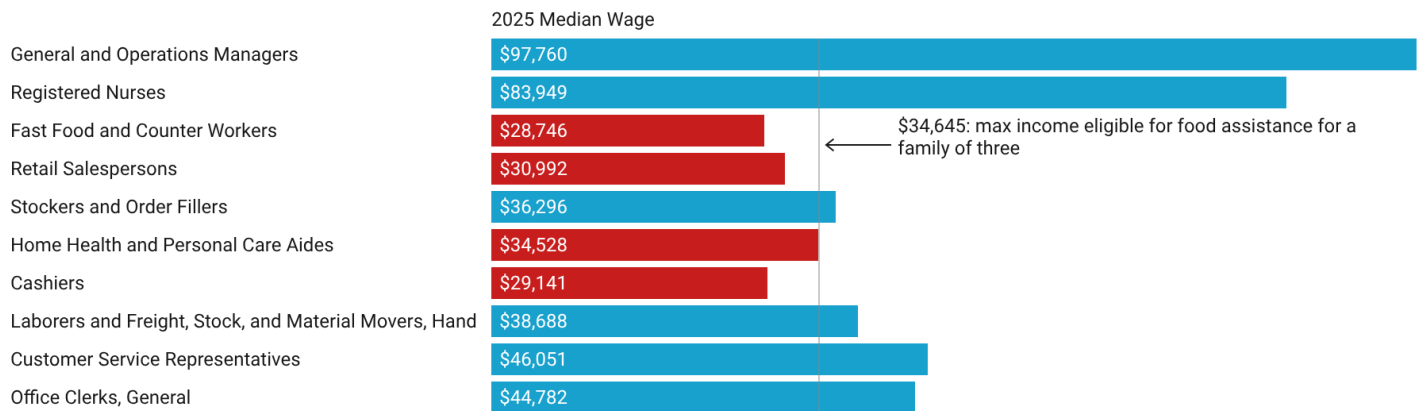
# Still working for too little Cleveland MSA



Every employer should pay every employee at least enough to cover the basics. In Ohio, too many employers get away with paying a lot less: All of the 10 most common occupations in the Cleveland MSA paid their median worker less than the cost of living for a family of three in the area (\$98,287). Four of those occupations pay their median worker even less. 90,780 jobs in Cleveland pay their typical worker below the threshold for food assistance for a family of three; those occupations employ 8.1% of Cleveland workers.

## 4 of Cleveland top 10 occupations make too little

In order of number of jobs in the MSA



*Largest detail occupations in MSA by employment. Red bar indicates annual income below 130% of poverty for a family of three in 2025, (\$34,645), the threshold for food assistance.*

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics; May 2025 • Created with Datawrapper

*A more comprehensive table with the occupational estimates and wage statistics is available at the bottom of this document.*

This report covers the 10 most common jobs in the Cleveland Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA),\* ranked by number of jobs.

## Cleveland has fewer jobs across all occupations than in 2024

Compared to 2024, Cleveland has 5,650 fewer jobs overall, with 690 fewer jobs across the top 10 occupations. While wages have increased nominally for most of the top occupations since 2024, eight of those occupations saw wage decreases relative to the poverty line.

## To ensure Ohio's economy works for everyone, policymakers should:

- [Raising the wage floor](#) with an indexed minimum wage of at least \$15 per hour.
- Supporting working people by [strengthening union protections](#).
- Shoring up the state budget by returning to a progressive income tax, where the wealthiest Ohioans and corporations pay their fair share.
- Fully funding the public goods that are the bedrock of shared economic prosperity, like education, childcare, health care, and a strong unemployment system.

\* Cleveland MSA contains Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina counties with a population of 2,171,526.

# Still working for too little Cleveland MSA



## Cleveland jobs down in 3 out of 10 most common occupations

Changes in jobs and pay among jobs with greatest employment from 2024 to 2025

Top 10 occupations 2025	2025 jobs	Change since 2024	Percent change since 2024	2025 median hourly pay	2025 median annual pay	2025 pay as % of poverty level	Percent change in pay since 2024
1 General and Operations Managers	29,510	160	0.5%	\$47.00	\$97,760	367%	-2.6%
2 Registered Nurses	28,240	140	0.5%	\$40.36	\$83,949	315%	-0.8%
3 Fast Food and Counter Workers	28,010	160	0.6%	\$13.82	\$28,746	108%	-1.4%
4 Retail Salespersons	24,650	1,930	7.8%	\$14.90	\$30,992	116%	-1.9%
5 Stockers and Order Fillers	22,660	420	1.9%	\$17.45	\$36,296	136%	-5.0%
6 Home Health and Personal Care Aides	19,400	1,090	5.6%	\$16.60	\$34,528	130%	7.9%
7 Cashiers	18,720	-1,820	-9.7%	\$14.01	\$29,141	109%	-2.6%
8 Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	17,090	-870	-5.1%	\$18.60	\$38,688	145%	-3.7%
9 Customer Service Representatives	15,900	120	0.8%	\$22.14	\$46,051	173%	1.5%
10 Office Clerks, General	15,700	-2,020	-12.9%	\$21.53	\$44,782	168%	-1.7%

Largest detail occupations in Ohio by employment. Median annual pay shown as a share of the poverty threshold for a family of three in 2025 (\$26,650). Red text indicates annual income below 130% of poverty for a family of three in 2025, (\$34,645), the threshold for food assistance. Orange text marks a decrease in jobs or wages. Percent change in pay since 2024 is given as a change in pay as a share of the poverty level for the year in which it was reported.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) Survey, May 2024 and May 2025. • Created with Datawrapper