

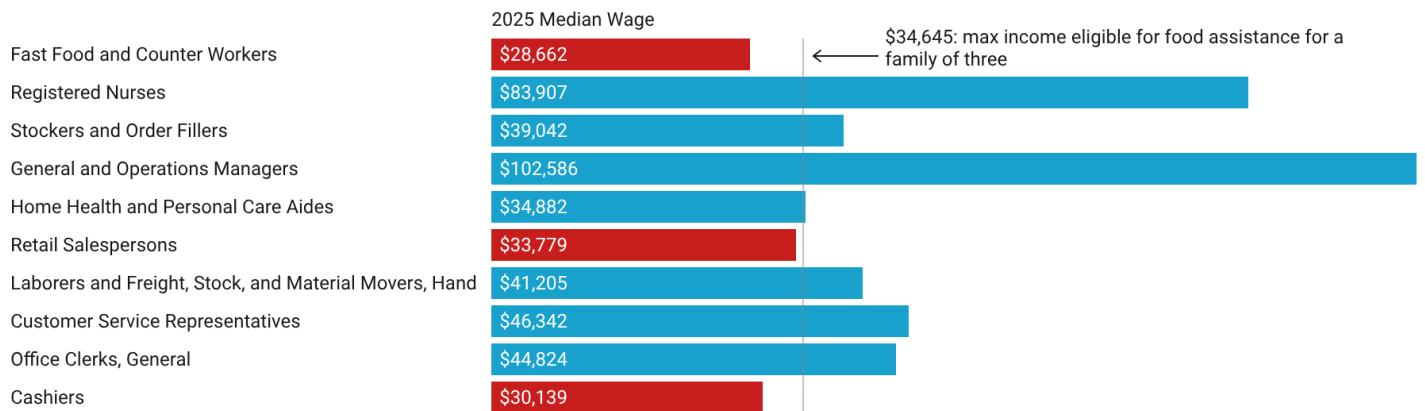
Still working for too little Columbus MSA



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 Columbus MSA paid their median worker less than the cost of living for a family of three in the area (\$102,943). Three of those occupations pay their median worker even less. 76,230 jobs in Columbus pay their typical worker below the threshold for food assistance for a family of three; those occupations employ 6.4% of Columbus workers.

3 of Columbus 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 Columbus Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA),* ranked by number of jobs.

Columbus has more jobs across all occupations than in 2024

Compared to 2024, Columbus has 20,430 more jobs overall, with 5,940 more 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.

* Columbus MSA contains Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Hocking, Licking, Madison, Morrow, Perry, Pickaway, and Union counties with a population of 2,175,788.

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Columbus jobs down in 4 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 Fast Food and Counter Workers	31,590	-680	-2.2%	\$13.78	\$28,662	108%	-4.0%
2 Registered Nurses	30,510	3,720	12.2%	\$40.34	\$83,907	315%	-1.5%
3 Stockers and Order Fillers	30,130	-1,500	-5.0%	\$18.77	\$39,042	146%	-2.0%
4 General and Operations Managers	29,070	1,140	3.9%	\$49.32	\$102,586	385%	-0.4%
5 Home Health and Personal Care Aides	27,580	2,040	7.4%	\$16.77	\$34,882	131%	8.3%
6 Retail Salespersons	26,850	1,070	4.0%	\$16.24	\$33,779	127%	4.8%
7 Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	25,800	1,410	5.5%	\$19.81	\$41,205	155%	-0.7%
8 Customer Service Representatives	18,550	-3,550	-19.1%	\$22.28	\$46,342	174%	-1.9%
9 Office Clerks, General	18,110	3,800	21.0%	\$21.55	\$44,824	168%	-3.9%
10 Cashiers	17,790	-1,510	-8.5%	\$14.49	\$30,139	113%	-0.4%

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