

Still working for too little

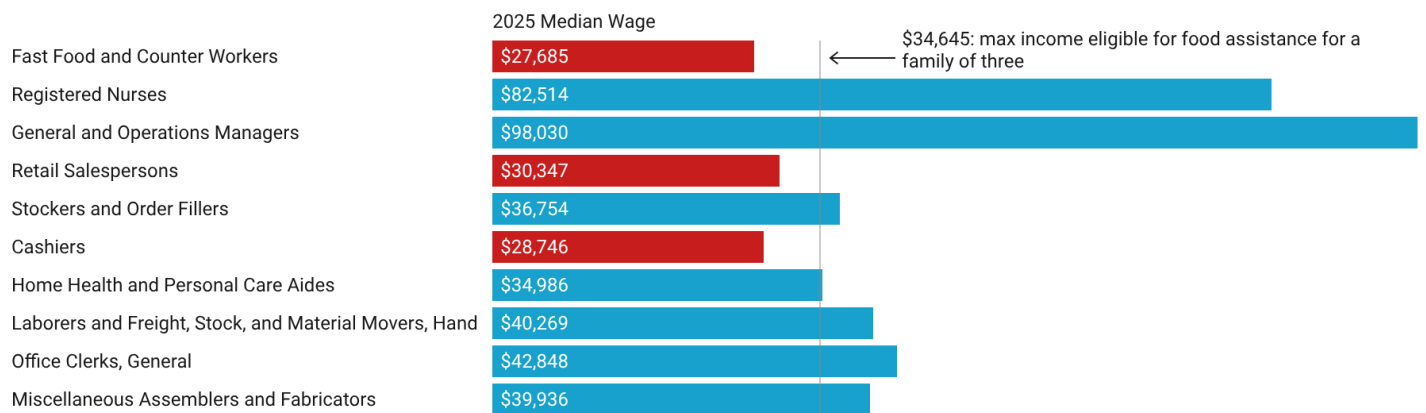
Dayton-Kettering-Beavercreak MSA



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: Nine of the 10 most common occupations in the Dayton MSA paid their median worker less than the cost of living for a family of three in the area (\$92,029). Three of those occupations pay their median worker even less. 28,330 jobs in Dayton pay their typical worker below the threshold for food assistance for a family of three; those occupations employ 7.1% of Dayton workers.

3 of Dayton 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 Dayton-Kettering-Beavercreak Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA),* ranked by number of jobs.

Dayton has fewer jobs across all occupations than in 2024

Compared to 2024, Dayton has 660 fewer jobs overall, with 100 fewer jobs across the top 10 occupations. While wages have increased nominally for most of the top occupations since 2024, nine 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.

* Dayton-Kettering-Beavercreak MSA contains Greene, Miami, and Montgomery counties with a population of 816,080.

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Dayton-Kettering-Beavercreek MSA



Dayton 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 | 11,860 | -1,790 | -15.1% | \$13.31 | \$27,685 | 104% | -4.7% |
| 2 | Registered Nurses | 11,640 | 480 | 4.1% | \$39.67 | \$82,514 | 310% | -1.3% |
| 3 | General and Operations Managers | 10,180 | 820 | 8.1% | \$47.13 | \$98,030 | 368% | -2.2% |
| 4 | Retail Salespersons | 9,170 | 280 | 3.1% | \$14.59 | \$30,347 | 114% | -3.0% |
| 5 | Stockers and Order Fillers | 8,770 | -620 | -7.1% | \$17.67 | \$36,754 | 138% | -4.1% |
| 6 | Cashiers | 7,300 | -590 | -8.1% | \$13.82 | \$28,746 | 108% | -2.1% |
| 7 | Home Health and Personal Care Aides | 7,070 | 1,140 | 16.1% | \$16.82 | \$34,986 | 131% | 6.6% |
| 8 | Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 6,510 | -580 | -8.9% | \$19.36 | \$40,269 | 151% | -1.5% |
| 9 | Office Clerks, General | 5,980 | 150 | 2.5% | \$20.60 | \$42,848 | 161% | -4.2% |
| 10 | Miscellaneous Assemblers and Fabricators | 5,770 | 610 | 10.6% | \$19.20 | \$39,936 | 150% | -2.4% |

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