

Still working for too little in Mansfield

All working people — no matter their race, gender, or the kind of job they do — should be paid enough to care for their families. Labor market pressures forced many employers to increase pay during the pandemic. Federal stimulus stabilized people’s incomes. But in 2021, four of the Mansfield area’s 10 most common occupations paid so little that a worker with a family of three would need food aid to get by. These four occupations employ 5,080 people.

Wages up, but not enough: From 2019 to 2021, employers increased median pay for six of the 10 most common jobs in the Mansfield area. Changes ranged from registered nurses being paid \$3.41-per-hour less (-10.6%) to miscellaneous assemblers paid \$3.84-per-hour more (+26.3%). The substantial manufacturing pay growth and lower pay for RNs are atypical of the state and may reflect limited data for the small Mansfield metro area. Considering nearly two decades of wage suppression that predated COVID, average annual change in pay ranged from a 16-cent-per-hour pay cut for registered nurses to a pay boost of 12 cents for assemblers and fabricators over the whole span from 2000 to 2021.

Wages up since 2019, but working people are still underpaid in Mansfield

Pay growth recovered lost ground in most common Mansfield area jobs

Top 10 occupations 2021	2021 jobs	2021 hourly pay	Pay growth 2000-2019	Pay growth since 2019	Percent pay growth since 2019	Annualized pay growth 2000-2021	2021 pay as a share of poverty
Retail Salespersons	1,530	\$11.53	-\$0.44	\$0.18	1.6%	-\$0.01	109%
Cashiers	1,440	\$10.51	-\$0.40	\$0.38	3.7%	\$0.00	99%
Miscellaneous Assemblers & Fabricators	1,380	\$18.45	-\$1.23	\$3.84	26.3%	\$0.12	175%
Fast Food & Counter Workers	1,200	\$10.48	-\$1.49	\$0.70	7.2%	-\$0.04	99%
Customer Service Representatives	1,180	\$14.24	-\$0.71	-\$2.64	-15.6%	-\$0.16	135%
Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Handlers	1,110	\$14.48	\$0.79	-\$0.72	-4.7%	\$0.00	137%
Registered Nurses	1,020	\$28.93	\$0.15	-\$3.41	-10.6%	-\$0.16	274%
Stockers & Order Fillers	910	\$13.50	\$2.50	-\$1.90	-12.3%	\$0.03	128%
Secondary School Teachers, Except Special & Career/Technical Education	820	\$63,670*	-\$10,049*	\$8,736*	15.9%	-\$62.55	290%
Office Clerks, General	800	\$16.74	\$0.30	\$1.50	9.8%	\$0.09	159%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) Survey, May 2000, May 2019, and May 2021. Estimates, available at <https://www.bls.gov/oes/tables.htm>, accessed April 12, 2022. Largest detail occupations in Mansfield MSA by employment. Median annual earnings shown as a share of the poverty threshold for a family of three in 2021 (\$21,960). The gross monthly income threshold for food assistance is 130% of poverty (\$28,548) or less. All wages are adjusted for inflation using May 2021 dollars. *Teacher pay reported as annual, not hourly.

COVID disproportionately destroyed low-paying jobs

COVID-19 disproportionately destroyed the jobs of low-paid Ohioans who are, statewide, more likely to be Black and brown, or women.

Six of the 10 most common pre-COVID occupations lost jobs. As people scaled back dining out, employers laid off 460 fast food workers and 260 waiters and waitresses. More online shopping meant fewer retail salespeople and cashiers, and more stockers and order fillers. Unlike the state, Mansfield lost registered nurses, likely to better-paying areas.

Many common occupations in Mansfield lost jobs between 2019 and 2021						
Ten most common Mansfield MSA occupations by employment, 2019						
Top 10 occupations 2019 pre-COVID-19	2019 rank	2021 rank	2019 jobs	2021 jobs	Change in jobs	Percent change
Cashiers	1	2	1,890	1,440	-450	-24%
Retail Salespersons	2	1	1,750	1,530	-220	-13%
Fast Food & Counter Workers	3	4	1,660	1,200	-460	-28%
Registered Nurses	4	7	1,100	1,020	-80	-7%
Office Clerks, General	5	10	1,030	800	-230	-22%
Waiters & Waitresses	6	12	990	730	-260	-26%
Miscellaneous Assemblers & Fabricators	7	3	900	1,380	480	53%
Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Handlers	8	6	800	1,110	310	39%
Stockers & Order Fillers	9	8	740	910	170	23%
Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	10	13	700	710	10	1%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) Survey, May 2000, May 2019, and May 2021. Estimates, available at <https://www.bls.gov/oes/tables.htm>, accessed April 12, 2020. Largest detail occupations in Mansfield MSA by employment. Median annual earnings shown as a share of the poverty threshold for a family of three in 2021 (\$21,960). The gross monthly income threshold for food assistance is 130% of poverty (\$28,548) or less.