

Working for less: Most common Mansfield jobs pay too little, 2019

Too many jobs in Mansfield pay too little and many pay less as a share of poverty than they did nearly two decades ago. New data released by the U.S. Department of Labor show that four of the Mansfield area’s 10 most common jobs pay the typical worker too little to feed a family of three without food assistance (earnings under 130 percent of poverty, about \$27,000 typically qualify). Of the 10 most common jobs, all but three pay a typical worker less than \$35,000, for full-time year round work, and four pay less than \$25,000.

This data confirms that job quality matters to family stability. During this budget cycle, policymakers should not restrict access to food and health insurance when so many jobs offer neither. The challenge is not requiring people to work, as most already do. Rather, the true challenge is getting employers—many of which are major international corporations with vast profits—to pay a fair wage with benefits and set a schedule that provides stability.

Working for Less

Most common occupations in the Mansfield metropolitan area, by employment, 2018

Top 10 occupations 2018	Total Employment	Median Hourly Wage	Median Annual Salary	Median annual earnings as a share of poverty
Cashiers	1,810	\$9.34	\$19,420	93%
Retail Salespersons	1,810	\$10.38	\$21,580	104%
Food Prep & Serving Workers, including Fast Food	1,160	\$9.26	\$19,260	93%
Waiters and Waitresses	1,150	\$9.13	\$18,980	91%
Registered Nurses	1,070	\$29.22	\$60,780	292%
Office Clerks, General	990	\$13.90	\$28,910	139%
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other, Including Team Assemblers	850	\$13.21	\$27,470	132%
Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators, Metal and Plastic	800	\$18.11	\$37,680	181%
Stock Clerks and Order Fillers	790	\$13.93	\$28,970	139%
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	770	\$14.78	\$30,730	148%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Survey, May 2018 estimates, available at <https://www.bls.gov/oes/tables.htm>, accessed April 13, 2019. 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 2018 (\$20,780). The gross monthly income threshold for food assistance is generally 130 percent of poverty.

Many of Ohio’s most common jobs now simply pay too little to eliminate need. That is also true in Mansfield. In 2000, five of the 10 most common occupations paid so little that a family of three was left dependent on food assistance to get by. That grew over much of the recovery, but earnings improved in 2018 as machine operators and assemblers increased in number. Some occupations continue to pay less as a share of poverty in 2018 than they did a decade and a half ago.

Some improvement, but many stuck in low wage work					
Mansfield occupations, employment and median annual wage: 2000, 2017, and 2018					
Top 10 occupations 2000	Earnings as share of poverty	Top 10 occupations 2017	Earnings as share of poverty	Top 10 occupations 2018	Earnings as share of poverty
Assemblers, Fabricators	148%	Food Prep & Serving Workers, including Fast Food	93%	Cashiers	93%
Cashiers	99%	Retail Salespersons	105%	Retail Salespersons	104%
Retail Salespersons	110%	Cashiers	97%	Food Prep & Serving Workers, including Fast Food	93%
Registered Nurses	301%	Registered Nurses	288%	Waiters and Waitresses	91%
Helpers-Production Workers	136%	Assemblers, Fabricators	121%	Registered Nurses	292%
Food Prep & Serving Workers, including Fast Food	105%	Waiters & Waitresses	92%	Office Clerks, General	139%
Secretaries, Except Legal Medical	142%	Office Clerks	136%	Assemblers and Fabricators	132%
Cutting, Punching and Press Machine Workers	162%	Stock Clerks & Order Fillers	122%	Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators, Metal and Plastic	181%
Stock Clerks & Order Fillers	121%	Janitors & Cleaners, except Maids & Housekeeping	120%	Stock Clerks and Order Fillers	139%
Waiters & Waitresses	92%	Secondary School Teachers	268%	Secretaries, Except Legal, Medical	148%

Source: BLS, OES Survey, 2000, 2017 Mansfield MSA estimates and May 2018 estimates, accessed 4/13/19 at <https://www.bls.gov/oes/tables.htm>. Largest detail occupations in Mansfield MSA by employment. Median annual earnings shown as share of poverty threshold for a family of three in 2000 (\$14,150), 2017 (\$20,420), and 2018 (20,780). The gross monthly income threshold for food assistance is generally 130 percent of poverty.

Mansfield on average had 52,800 jobs last year. That’s 4,900 fewer jobs than in 2007, when the last recession began. Mansfield is still struggling for a solid recovery, but occupations related to manufacturing are a growing share of the area’s labor force, lifting earnings. Policy Matters Ohio has set out 10 policy priorities that help working people by raising wages, extending overtime protections, providing paid leave, preserving public jobs and more new data show that such policies are essential in Mansfield where jobs still make it hard to get by.