

Working for less: Most common Springfield jobs pay too little*

Too many jobs in Springfield 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 six of the Springfield 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 typically qualify). At a time when state and federal policymakers are determined to erect new barriers to food assistance and health care these new data show that 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 their workers a fair wage with benefits and set a schedule that provides some measure of job security.

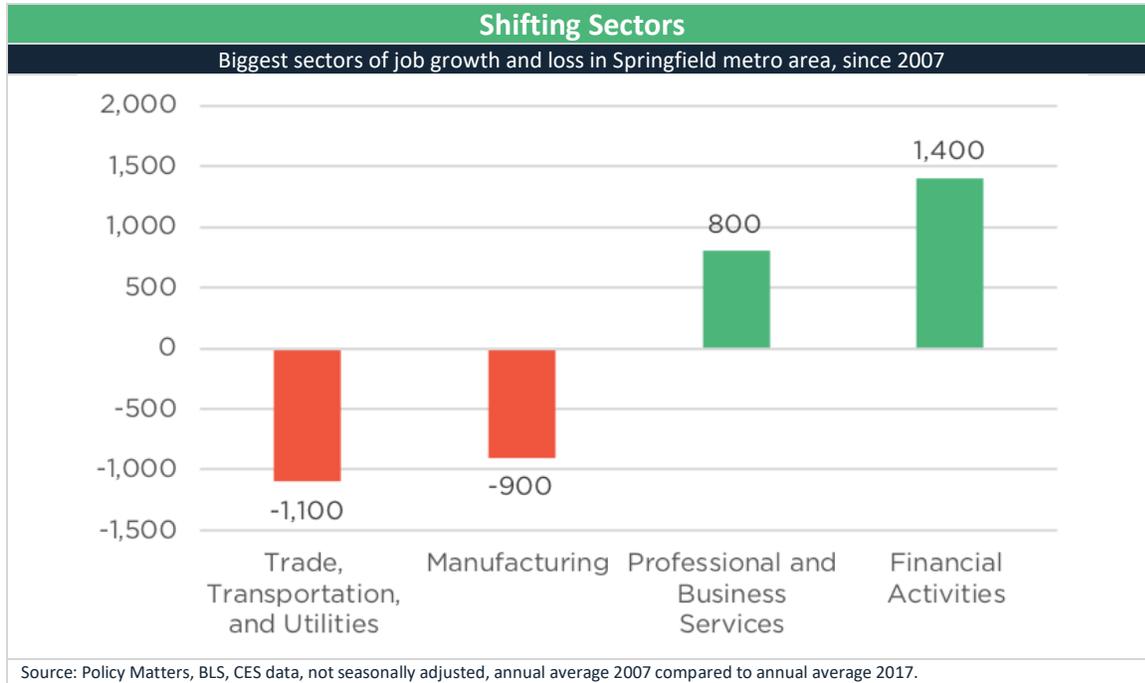
Working for Less				
Most common occupations in the Springfield metropolitan area, by employment, 2017				
Top 10 occupations 2017	Total Employment	Median Hourly Wage	Median Annual Salary	Median annual earnings as a share of poverty
Cashiers-	1,850	\$9.21	\$19,160	94%
Food Prep & Serving Workers, including Fast Food+	1,620	\$9.35	\$19,450	95%
Laborers and Freight, Stock, Material Movers-	1,550	\$12.40	\$25,800	126%
Retail Salesperson+	1,120	\$10.84	\$22,540	110%
Heavy and Tractor Trailer Truck Drivers+	1,090	\$21.94	\$45,640	224%
Registered Nurses-	1,080	\$24.46	\$50,880	249%
Assemblers and Fabricators, including Team Assemblers+	1,030	\$17.28	\$35,940	176%
Office Clerks-	990	\$13.22	\$27,490	135%
Nursing Assistants-	870	\$12.25	\$25,470	125%
Waiters and Waitresses+	870	\$9.35	\$19,440	95%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Survey, May 2017 estimates, available at <https://www.bls.gov/oes/tables.htm>, accessed April 13, 2018. Largest detail occupations in Springfield MSA by employment. Median annual earnings shown as a share of the poverty threshold for a family of three in 2017 (\$20,420). The gross monthly income threshold for food assistance is generally 130 percent of poverty. Red text highlights the occupations paying a typical wage below this threshold. (-) indicates a median wage lower than the state median for that occupation. (+) indicates a median wage higher than the state’s for that occupation.

Policymakers should not restrict access to food and health insurance when so many jobs offer neither. Some occupations paid less as a share of poverty in 2017 than they did a decade and a half ago when Springfield was part of the Dayton MSA. The new rules of Ohio’s labor market are so tilted in favor of corporate employers that many in Springfield will not be able to work their way to self-sufficiency.

* By Hannah Halbert, with research assistance from Isaac Miller

Springfield on average had 50,200 jobs last year. That’s 2,600 fewer jobs than in 2007, when the last recession began. Springfield is still struggling for a solid recovery. Not only that: many of the jobs that have grown over recent years do not offer the same income or stability as those lost. Trade Transportation and Utility workers took the biggest hit. Growing sectors, like finance jobs, may require additional education and specialized skills for entry level work.



with additional skill requirements, job quality has been eroded. Tax policy has sent big cuts to the wealthiest, shrinking funding to support education, infrastructure, and healthcare—investments that help working people and their kids get ahead.

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. These new data show that such policies are essential in Springfield where jobs still make it hard to get by.