

STATE OF THE REGION CINNATI 2025

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A MESSAGE FROM BRENDON CULL

The State of the Region report is one of the most important tools we have to understand where we are as a community and where we're headed. Each year, the Chamber's Center for Research & Data provides the facts that ground our decisions, sharpen our priorities, and illuminate the opportunities and challenges that shape the Cincinnati region's future.

This year's report highlights important milestones for our region. In 2024, we added more than 20,000 new residents, the best year of population growth this decade, bringing our region's total population to over 2.3 million. The City of Cincinnati itself continues to grow, with nearly 315,000 residents, solidifying the core city's resurgence after decades of decline.

Economically, our region continues to maintain a position of enduring national importance. Cincinnati has the largest GDP among Ohio metros, driven by our diverse mix of industries—from aerospace to advanced manufacturing to health care. The addition of GE Aerospace to the Fortune 500 brings our regional total to eight Fortune 500 headquarters, the third-highest per capita among our peer metros. These companies, combined with our vibrant base of private and minority-owned businesses, anchor an economy that is both resilient and full of potential.

Thanks to the Center for Research and Data's Investor Circle for sustained support of the Center's efforts.

We also see signs of progress in reducing disparities. The racial income gap narrowed in the past year as median Black household income rose by nearly \$8,000, marking one of the most significant year-over-year improvements in recent years. At the same time, challenges remain: our share of prime working-age residents lags most peers, food insecurity affects too many households, and educational attainment is above the national average but below many peer regions.

The lesson of this year's State of the Region is clear: Cincinnati is growing, diversifying, and competing at a higher level, but we must stay focused on attracting and retaining talent, building inclusive prosperity, and ensuring that every resident has a stake in our region's success.

Thank you for being part of this work. Together, we can build on the strengths highlighted in this report to secure an even brighter future for our community.



BRENDON CULL

PRESIDENT & CEO
CINCINNATI REGIONAL CHAMBER





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First Financial Bank is proud to sponsor the Cincinnati Chamber Center for Research and Data's 2025 State of the Region report, providing Cincinnati businesses and communities with critical insights to help shape the future of our region.

First Financial exists to create opportunities for our clients and communities to thrive. We provide insights, strategies, and financial solutions to help individuals, families, and business owners pursue and achieve their dreams for a better future.

This commitment extends to the financial wellbeing of our region. Through the First Financial Foundation, we provide financial

resources to enhance and develop the communities we serve, with a specific focus on neighborhood development, workforce development and education, and culture and the arts. In 2024, we signed a 5-year, \$2.4 billion community benefits agreement with the National Community Reinvestment Coalition to provide lending for mortgages, small businesses, and community development, in addition to \$18 million in philanthropy and other investments throughout our five-state region. Additionally, First Financial Bank and our Foundation are proud to support important partnerships like the O.H.I.O. Fund, Cincinnati Business Excellerator, REDI Cincinnati, Catalytic Fund, 3CDC, LISC, MORTAR, CincyTech, and United Way of Greater Cincinnati.

The strength of a region is reflected in its ability to provide economic opportunities, stable employment and housing, quality healthcare and education, and an attainable vision for the future. This 2025 State of the Region report is an important step in achieving that vision and driving success for the people and businesses of this dynamic region.



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POPULATION INDICATORS

The Cincinnati region is experiencing its strongest period of growth in at least a decade. In 2024, the metro added more than 20,000 residents, our best year this decade, and surpassed 2.3 million people in total.

Hamilton County led with nearly 6,000 new residents. The City of Cincinnati has grown to almost 315,000 residents, an increase of almost 18,000 residents since 2010 and over 5,000 new residents since 2020. These data points underscore the renewed appeal of the urban core. Butler, Warren, and Boone Counties also added thousands of residents, reflecting the strong pull of our growing suburban and exurban communities.

Compared to peer metros, Cincinnati's growth remains steady but modest. Southern and western metros like Austin, Nashville, and Raleigh continue to add population at much faster rates, yet Cincinnati's balanced growth demonstrates resilience and stability. Long-term projections suggest we could approach 2.9 million people by 2050 under an optimistic scenario, with much of that growth concentrated in the urban core, Northern Kentucky, and Warren County. For leaders across the region, the challenge will be ensuring that new residents have access to affordable housing, good jobs, and strong connections to our largest activity centers.



TOTAL POPULATION BY PEER REGION

THE CINCINNATI REGION

The Cincinnati region is a 15-county metropolitan area that spans three states, 328 political jurisdictions, and 4,800 square miles. The region is the 30th largest metropolitan area in the country and is geographically diverse—ranging from the dense urban neighborhoods of Cincinnati, Covington, and Newport, to growing suburbs in the north and south, to the Appalachian Foothills of Clermont and Brown Counties to the east. With a growing list of Fortune 500 companies, three major league sports franchises, and one of the most vibrant arts scenes in the country, Cincinnati is poised to grow our population, our economy, and our cultural vibrancy.



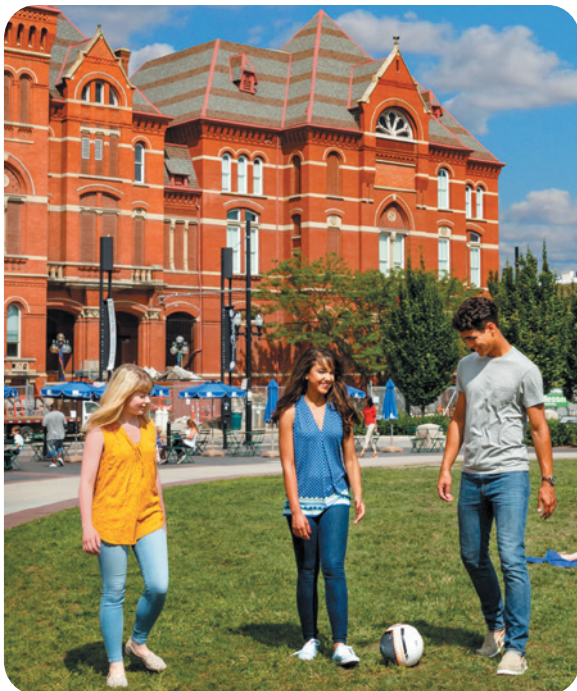
Region	Total Population (2024)
Atlanta, GA	6,411,149
Detroit, MI	4,400,578
Minneapolis, MN	3,757,952
Denver, CO	3,052,498
Baltimore, MD	2,883,370
Charlotte, NC	2,859,024
St. Louis, MO	2,811,927
Austin, TX	2,550,637
Pittsburgh, PA	2,422,725
Cincinnati, OH	2,302,815
Kansas City, MO	2,253,579
Columbus, OH	2,225,377
Cleveland, OH	2,174,833
Indianapolis, IN	2,171,877
Nashville, TN	2,150,553
Milwaukee, WI	1,574,452
Raleigh, NC	1,562,009
Louisville, KY	1,394,234
Dayton, OH	821,740
Lexington, KY	533,366

Source: US Census Bureau Population Estimates Program

COUNTY POPULATION ESTIMATES

Hamilton County is the most populous county in the region, home to more than one-third of the region's residents. It is followed by Butler, Warren, and Clermont Counties in Southwest Ohio. Northern Kentucky counties collectively make up almost one-fifth of the region's population.

Since 2020, Warren and Butler Counties have seen the most population growth, adding over 13,000 and 9,000 residents respectively. In Northern Kentucky, Boone County has added over 8,000 residents, or 6%—the largest percentage gain in the region. Hamilton County has seen the fourth highest increase in population, adding almost 7,000 new residents.



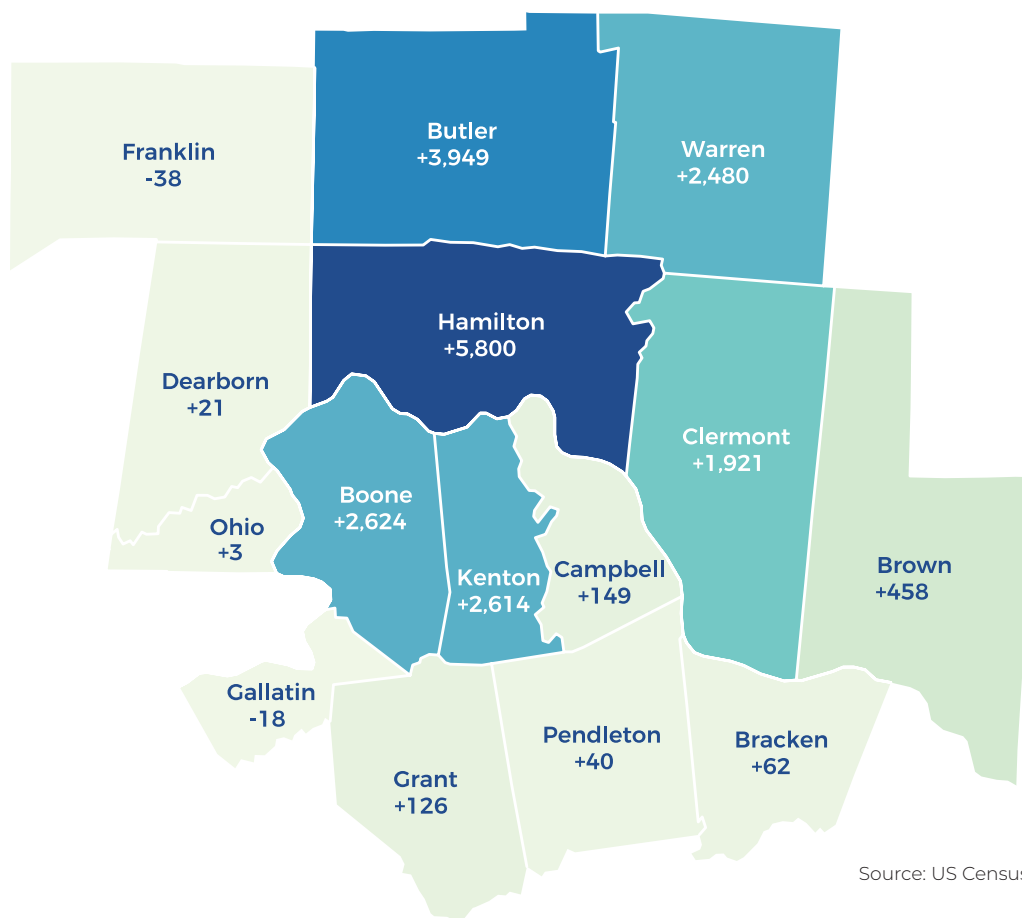
County	2020 Census	2024 Estimates	Absolute Change	Percent Change
Hamilton, OH	830,639	837,359	6,720	0.8%
Butler, OH	390,357	399,542	9,185	2.4%
Warren, OH	242,337	256,059	13,722	5.7%
Clermont, OH	208,601	214,123	5,522	2.6%
Kenton, KY	169,064	174,862	5,798	3.4%
Boone, KY	135,986	144,135	8,149	6.0%
Campbell, KY	93,076	94,008	932	1.0%
Dearborn, IN	50,679	51,435	756	1.5%
Brown, OH	43,676	44,292	616	1.4%
Grant, KY	24,941	25,722	781	3.1%
Franklin, IN	22,785	23,136	351	1.5%
Pendleton, KY	14,644	14,844	200	1.4%
Gallatin, KY	8,690	8,805	115	1.3%
Bracken, KY	8,400	8,497	97	1.2%
Ohio, IN	5,940	5,996	56	0.9%
	2,249,815	2,302,815	53,000	2.4%

Source: US Census Bureau

POPULATION GROWTH

Looking at the past year, from 2023 to 2024, Hamilton County led the way for population growth adding 5,800 new residents—the best year for the urban core county this decade. This was followed by Butler County, which added almost 4,000 new residents, and Boone County, which added just over 2,600.

-38 5,800



Source: US Census Bureau

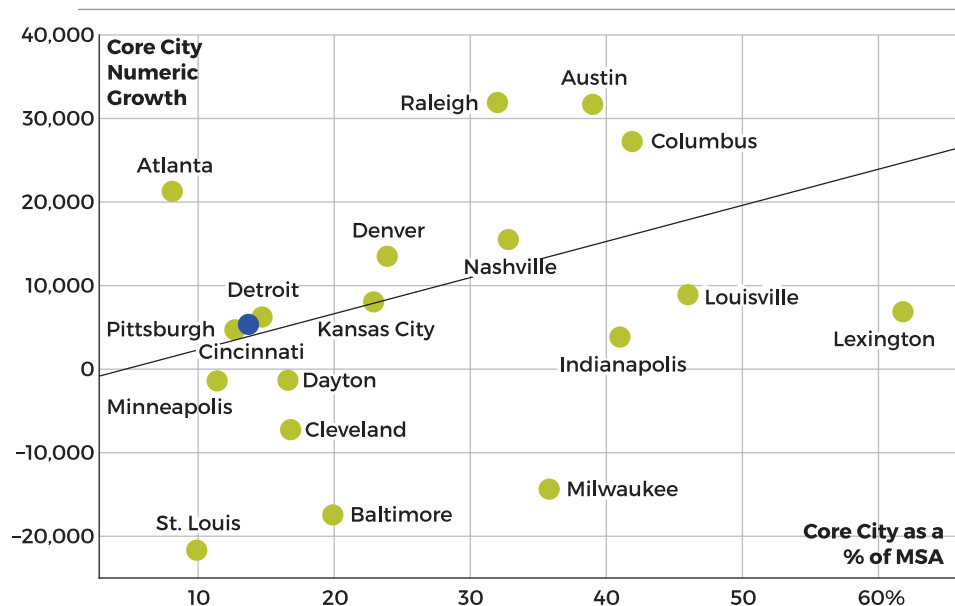


Overall, it was the best year for population growth in the region this decade—with over 20,000 new Cincinnatians added to our region's 2.3 million population.

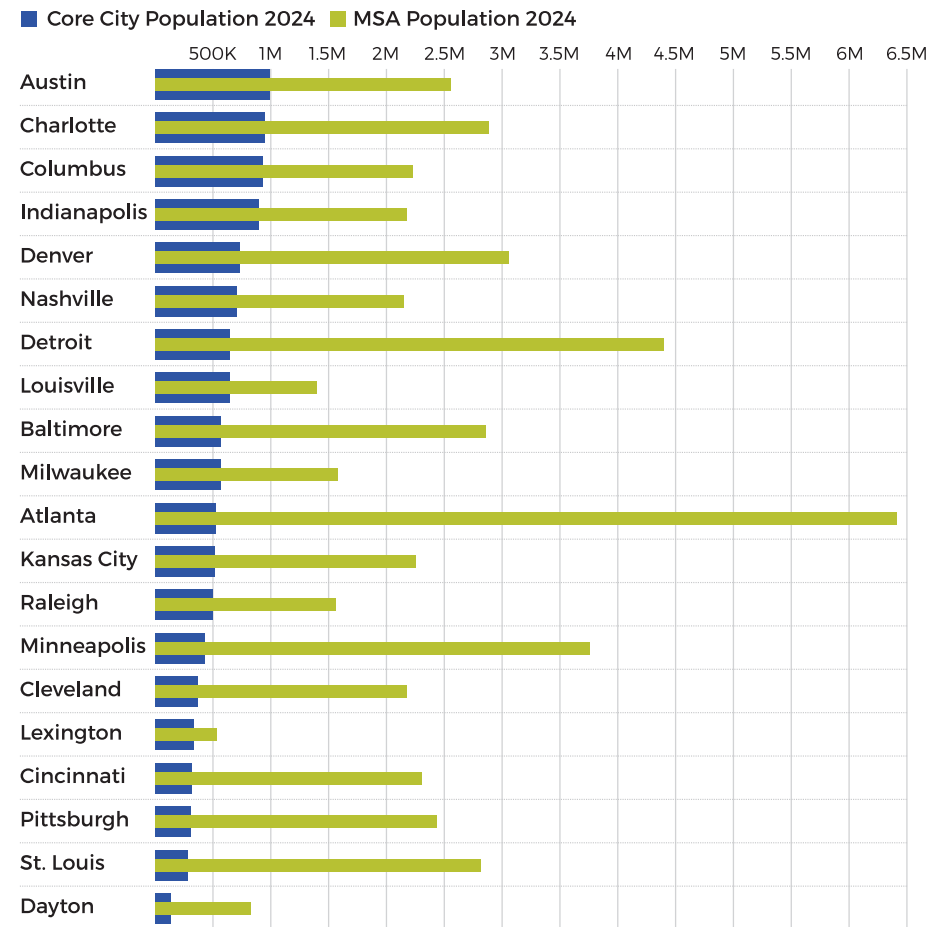
CORE CITY POPULATION AND GROWTH

After losing population for the entire second half of the 20th Century, the City of Cincinnati has been growing again. After falling to 296,943 residents by the 2010 Census, the 2024 population estimate puts our region's core city population at 314,915—an increase of 17,972 since 2010 and 5,354 since 2020. The core city growth since 2020 ranks 12th among our 20 peer metros for numeric growth, but ahead of many geographic peers like Pittsburgh, Indianapolis, Dayton, and Cleveland.

A notable aspect of our metro population distribution is that the City of Cincinnati makes up only about 14% of the region's population. This is compared to cities like Columbus and Charlotte, where the core city is much larger geographically and contains about 42% and 33% of their region's residents, respectively. On average, peer cities that make up a much larger percentage of their region's population have seen greater population growth in both numeric and percentage terms. In fact, the top 10 peers for numeric population growth make up about 34% of their region's population



on average, versus just 19% for the bottom 10 peers. This is illustrated by the scatterplot on this page, showing a positive trend line when comparing core city population and numeric growth. The complex nature of our local governance, with 328 jurisdictions each with their own rules and regulations, may be preventing the City of Cincinnati and the Cincinnati region from growing at a more robust pace.



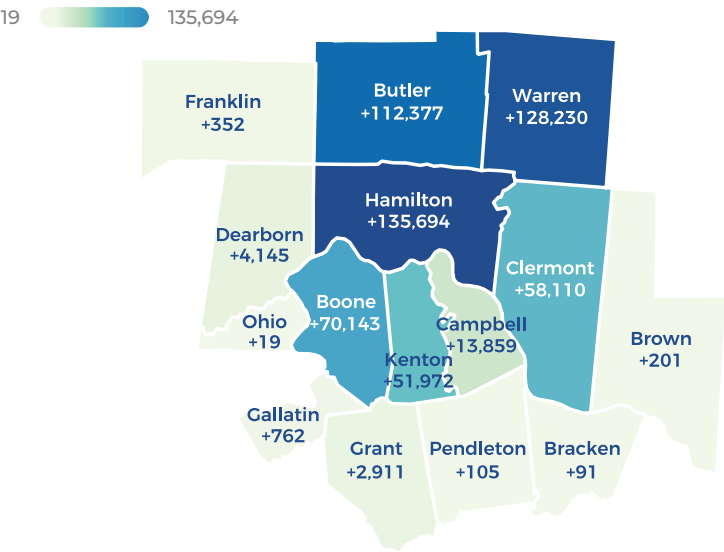
Source: US Census Bureau

REGIONAL POPULATION GROWTH & PROJECTIONS

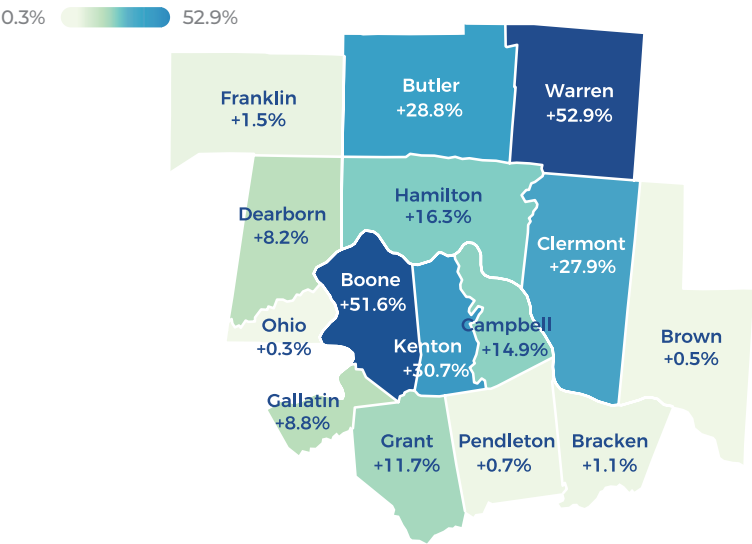
Once again this year, the CRD has produced three different population projections showing what the Cincinnati region might look like in 2050. The baseline growth scenario shows the region growing to roughly 2.5 million—about 19,000 fewer residents than last year's projections. Additional scenarios show anywhere

between a roughly 25,000 loss to a 579,000 gain by 2050. The optimistic scenario—one where the region adopts strong policies to encourage economic growth and a higher quality of life for residents—is illustrated by the maps below.

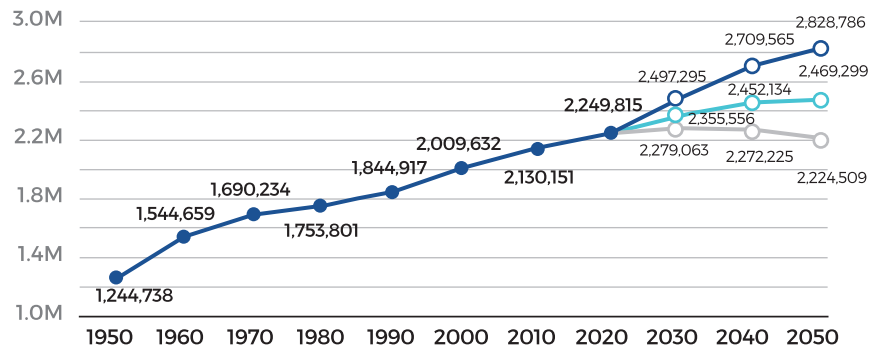
MAPPING OUR POTENTIAL: NUMERIC CHANGE



MAPPING OUR POTENTIAL: PERCENT CHANGE



REGIONAL GROWTH SCENARIOS



Source: CRD projections based on data from the US Census Bureau

Mapping the optimistic scenario by county shows that Hamilton County will lead the way for numeric population growth, with the highest percentage gains going to Warren and Boone Counties thanks to their strategic locations along major transportation corridors and relative abundance of open land.

PRIME WORKING AGE POPULATION

Prime working age population refers to the number of residents in an area between the ages of 25-54 and is an important factor in economic development, because it is the time of people's lives when they are most likely to be in the workforce. When it comes to prime working age population, the Cincinnati region ranks low among its peers at 38.0% of its population in this age range. Compared to the 2023 State of the Region report, the last time this variable was included, the region saw a decrease of 0.1 percentage points to its prime working age population—and still ranks fourth lowest among peers. Notably, the region's foreign-born population—a major source of growth—are much more likely to be in their prime working age than the native-born population.



Metro Area	Prime Working Age Population	Total Population (2024)	Percent of Population
Austin, TX	1,195,816	2,550,637	46.9%
Denver, CO	1,394,933	3,050,512	45.7%
Raleigh, NC	680,156	1,562,009	43.5%
Nashville, TN	901,912	2,151,715	41.9%
Charlotte, NC	1,202,339	2,883,370	41.7%
Atlanta, GA	2,668,336	6,409,047	41.6%
Columbus, OH	925,612	2,225,377	41.6%
Indianapolis, IN	881,470	2,173,288	40.6%
Minneapolis, MN	1,508,599	3,757,952	40.1%
Kansas City, MO	901,413	2,254,288	40.0%
Louisville, KY	551,981	1,396,762	39.5%
Baltimore, MD	1,128,637	2,859,024	39.5%
Milwaukee, WI	610,932	1,574,452	38.8%
Detroit, MI	1,704,950	4,400,578	38.7%
St. Louis, MO	1,083,978	2,809,527	38.6%
Lexington, KY	205,238	533,366	38.5%
Cincinnati, OH	876,976	2,304,804	38.0%
Cleveland, OH	813,254	2,171,877	37.4%
Dayton, OH	307,303	821,740	37.4%
Pittsburgh, PA	907,912	2,249,917	37.4%

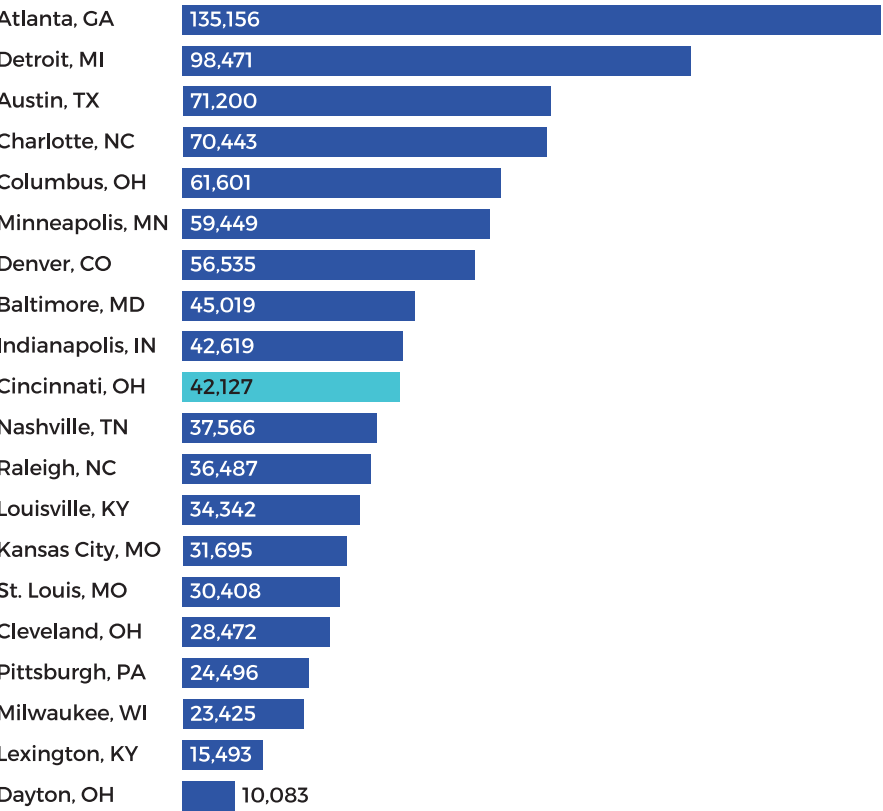
Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION

Despite driving population growth in the region, Cincinnati ranks in the middle of the pack for international migration since 2020. In total 42,127 people have moved to the region from abroad, placing us 10th among 20 peer metros, and right between Indianapolis and Nashville. The region still trails competitive peers like Columbus (61,601) and fast growing peers like Austin (71,200)—but outperforms close-by metros like Louisville, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Lexington, and Dayton.

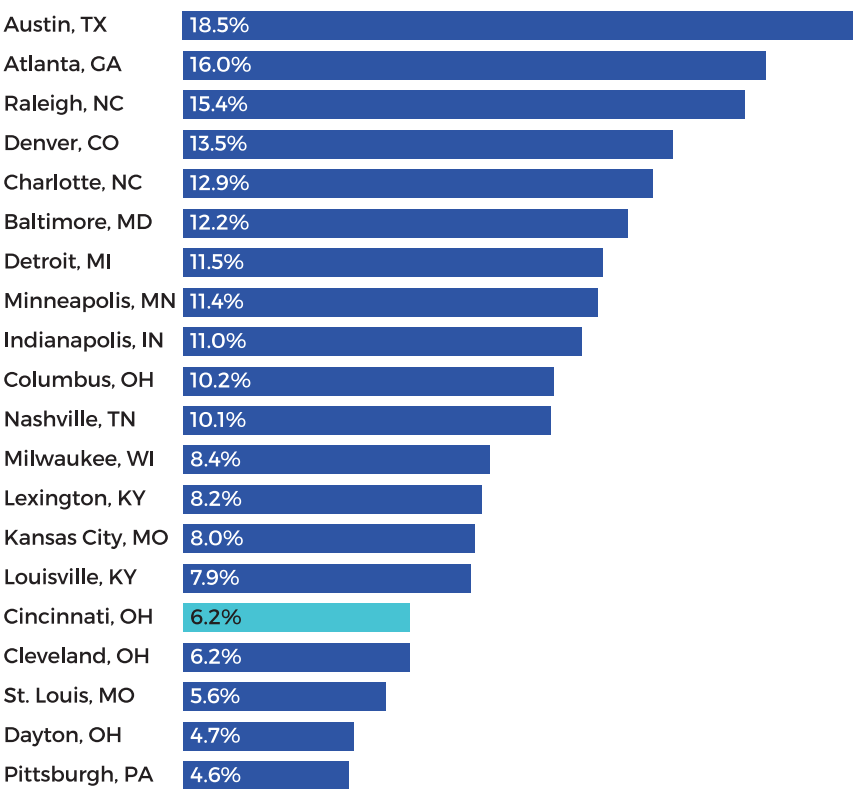
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION: PEER COMPARISON

April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2024



Despite our middle of the pack standing for recent international migration, the region still falls near the bottom of the rankings for total foreign-born population. At 6.2% of the region's population, Cincinnati ranks above peers like Cleveland, Dayton, and Pittsburgh—but our rate is less than half that of fast-growing metros like Charlotte, Denver, and Raleigh. As the United States population continues to age rapidly, the region's foreign-born population will be important to solving our workforce challenges in the year's to come.

PERCENT FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION: PEER COMPARISON





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ECONOMIC INDICATORS

The Cincinnati region remains an economic powerhouse in the Midwest, with a GDP larger than expected for a metro of our size and the strongest of Ohio's three major metros. Our industrial diversity continues to be a defining strength, from aerospace and consumer goods to health care and logistics. Exports per capita lead all peer metros, underscoring Cincinnati's role in global trade and advanced manufacturing.

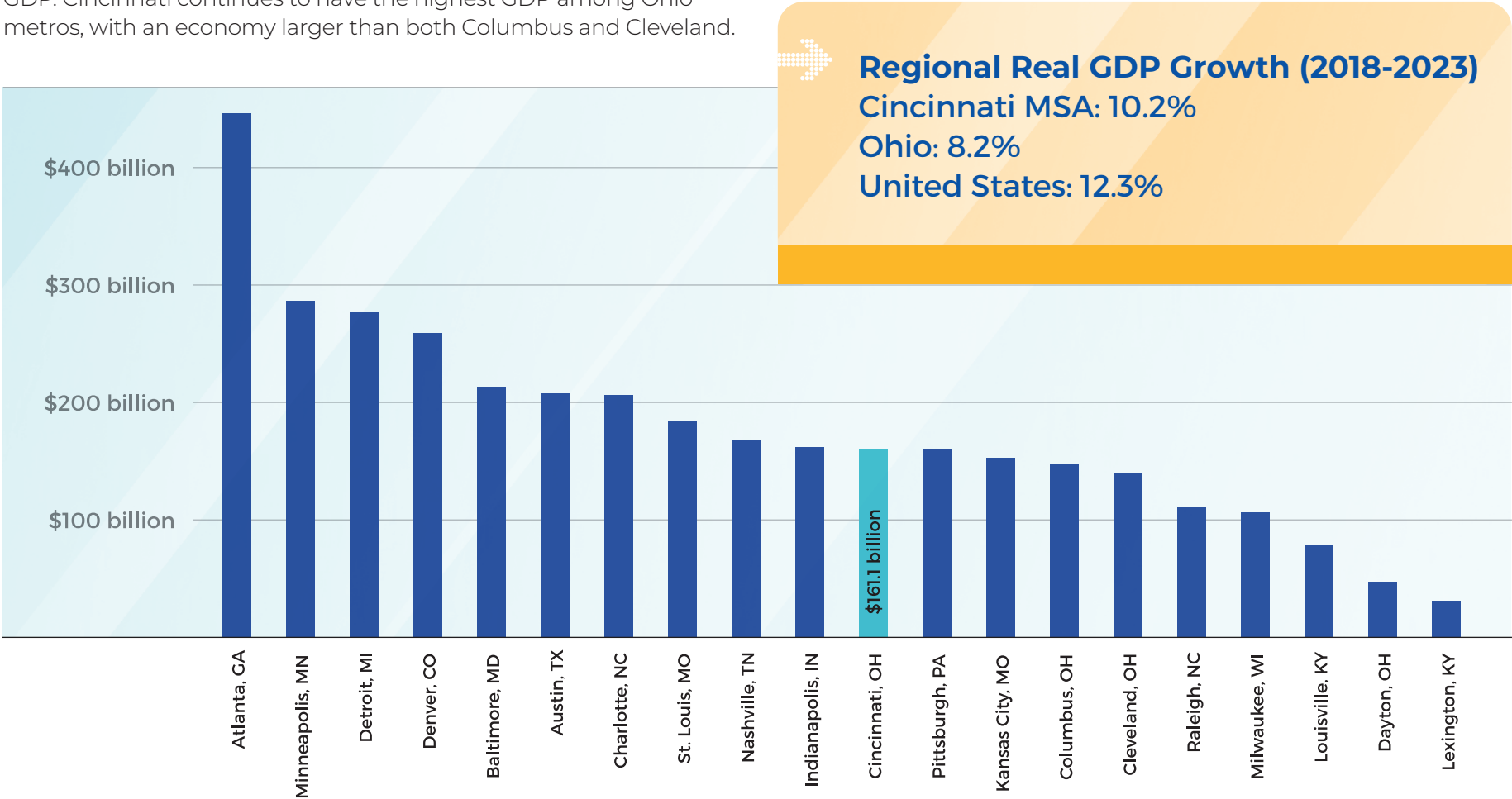
This year brought a major milestone: with the addition of GE Aerospace, Cincinnati now has eight Fortune 500 headquarters. That is more than both Columbus and Cleveland, and it is the third highest per capita among our 20 peer metros. It's also a number that has grown from five in 2023 and seven in 2024. Additionally, our economy continues to outpace the state, with five-year GDP growth about 24% higher than Ohio as a whole. Yet challenges persist. Regional GDP growth lagged national averages over the past year, and workforce shortages remain a headwind, constraining job growth. The Cincinnati region must continue to attract and retain young talent while building an economy that supports both legacy industries and emerging sectors.



REGIONAL REAL GDP

Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) refers to a region’s GDP adjusted for inflation so comparisons can be made over time. Cincinnati’s 2023 Real GDP of \$161.1 billion (in 2017 dollars) ranks 11th among peer metros. However, the region’s GDP is larger than expected based on its population. A center of the aerospace, consumer goods, and commercial banking industries—Cincinnati’s many corporate and regional managing offices contribute an outsize portion of regional GDP. Cincinnati continues to have the highest GDP among Ohio metros, with an economy larger than both Columbus and Cleveland.

Over the past five years, the Cincinnati region’s Real GDP growth has been about 24% higher than the rest of Ohio, but about 17% lower than the country as a whole. While GDP growth in the region is strong compared to many nearby metropolitan areas, it lags behind metros in the south and west.



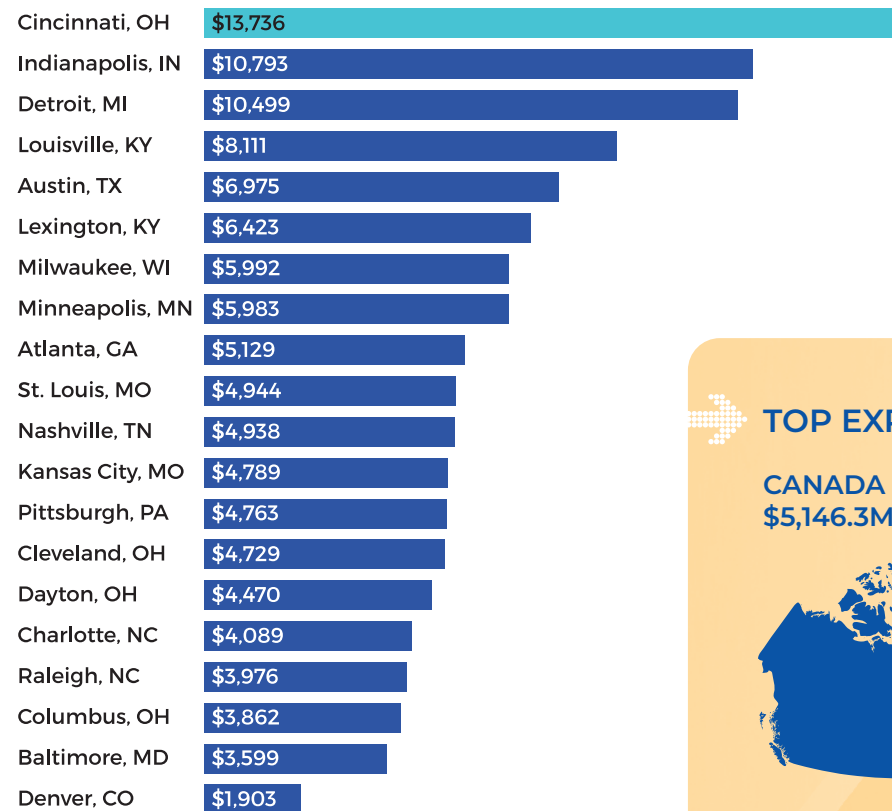
Source: US Bureau of Economic Analysis

EXPORTS

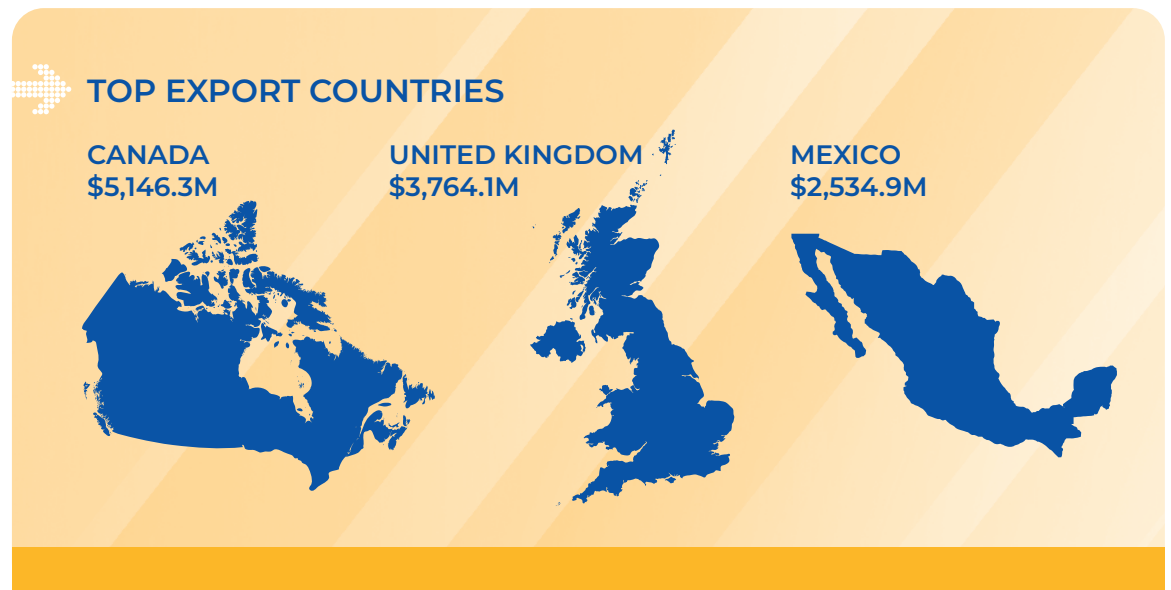
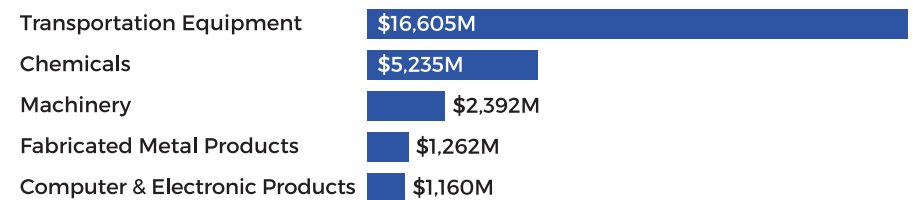
Among all the regional indicators that the Cincinnati Regional Chamber tracks, exports—and specifically exports per capita—might be the Cincinnati region's greatest strength. Cincinnati ranks first among all 20 peers in this regard, with transportation

equipment, chemicals, and machinery leading the way as the top exporting sectors. The region's top export partners include Canada, the United Kingdom, and Mexico.

PER CAPITA EXPORTS: PEER COMPARISON



TOP EXPORTS

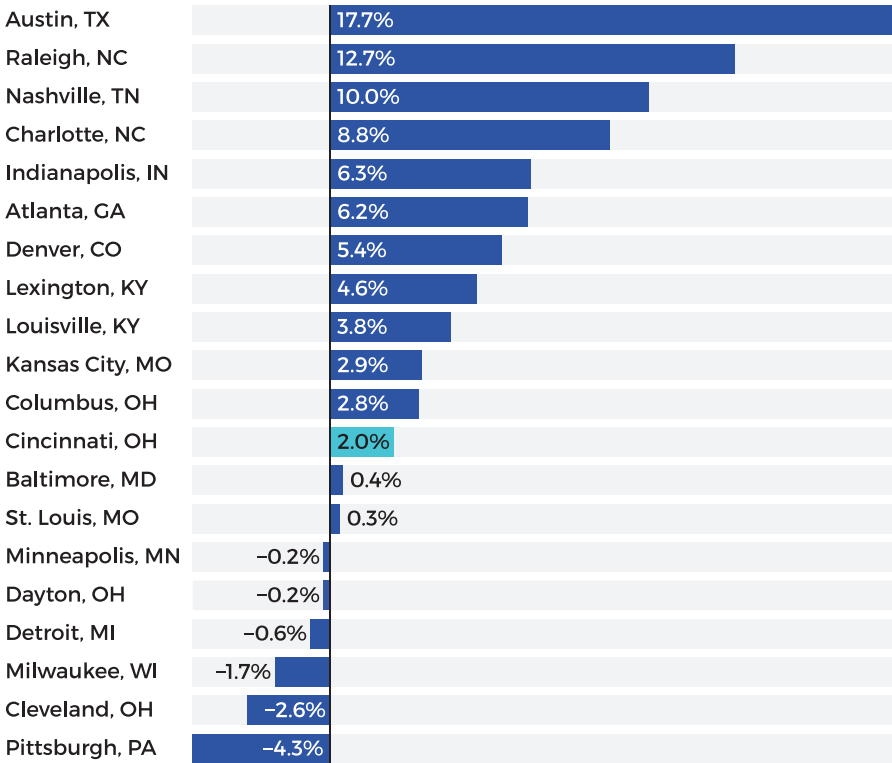


JOB GROWTH IN THE CINCINNATI REGION

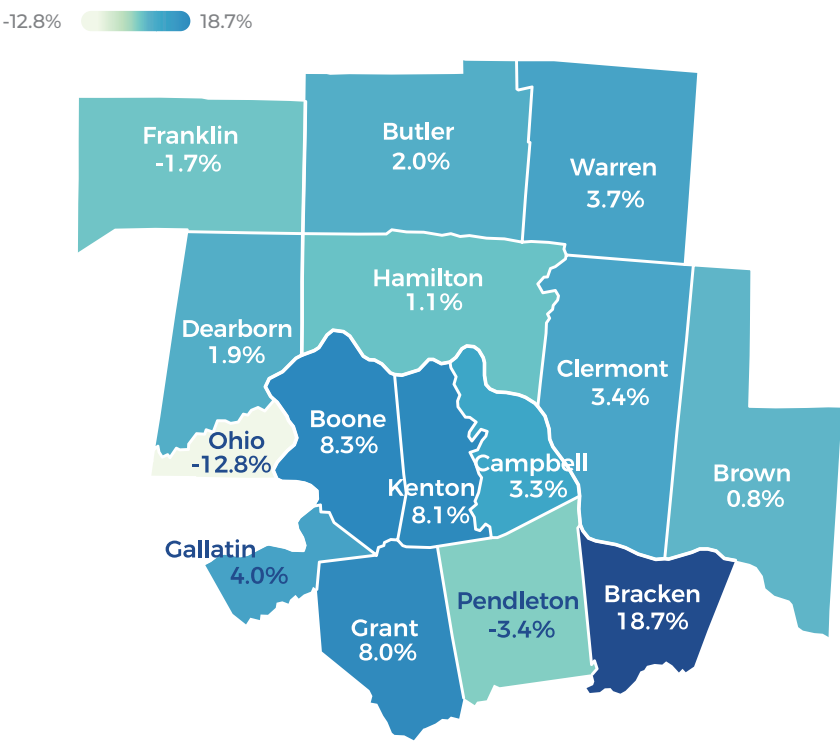
The Cincinnati region has seen 2% growth in employment since 2019, which is slightly lower than the 2.9% job growth seen from 2018 to 2023. While the region trails Columbus slightly, it outpaces other nearby metros like Dayton, Cleveland, and Pittsburgh.

Overall, the data indicate that job growth is constrained by a lack of workforce, and that the region will need to attract and retain more young people to move up the peer rankings.

FIVE-YEAR JOB GROWTH (2019-2024)



JOB GROWTH BY COUNTY (2019-2024)



Source: Lightcast

Northern Kentucky is leading the region in terms of percentage job growth over the past five years, with 8.3% and 8.1% growth in Boone and Kenton Counties respectively. Rural Northern Kentucky counties like Grant and Bracken saw even higher percentage job growth, though they have a much smaller employment base. Notably, Hamilton County saw a 1.1% increase from 2019 to 2024 compared to a -0.5% change for the period from 2018 to 2023.

EMPLOYMENT CENTERS

Downtown Cincinnati is the region's largest employment center with almost 78,000 employees, virtually unchanged from the year before. Florence is the largest employment center in Northern Kentucky, with over 53,000 jobs, and Mason leads the way for the northern suburbs. Notably, a limitation of utilizing zip code data is the difficulty in identifying employment hubs that encompass multiple zip codes.

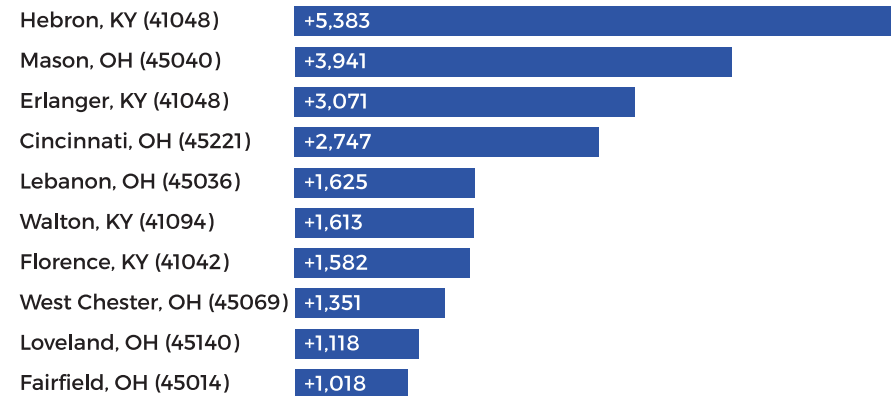
The fastest growing employment center is once again Hebron in Northern Kentucky, which added over 5,000 jobs between 2019 and 2024. It was followed by Mason, Ohio and Erlanger, Kentucky. Notably, zip code 45221 in Uptown Cincinnati continues to see the strongest employment growth in the City of Cincinnati itself—fueled by rapid growth at the University of Cincinnati and surrounding hospitals.

LARGEST EMPLOYMENT CENTERS BY ZIP CODE



Source: Lightcast

FASTEST GROWING EMPLOYMENT CENTERS BY ZIP CODE: PAST FIVE YEARS



Within the region, the Uptown area of Cincinnati has many jobs at the convergence of five zip codes. If these zip code totals were combined, Uptown would be the second largest employment center in the region.

UNEMPLOYMENT



Since the beginning of 2023, the national, state, and local unemployment rates have all risen slightly. Locally, the rate went from 3.7% in January 2023 to 4.8% in June 2025. While the local rate was slightly lower than the country as whole at the beginning of 2023, it is now slightly higher. Both the country and the Cincinnati region have consistently been lower than Ohio, which now sits at 5.1%



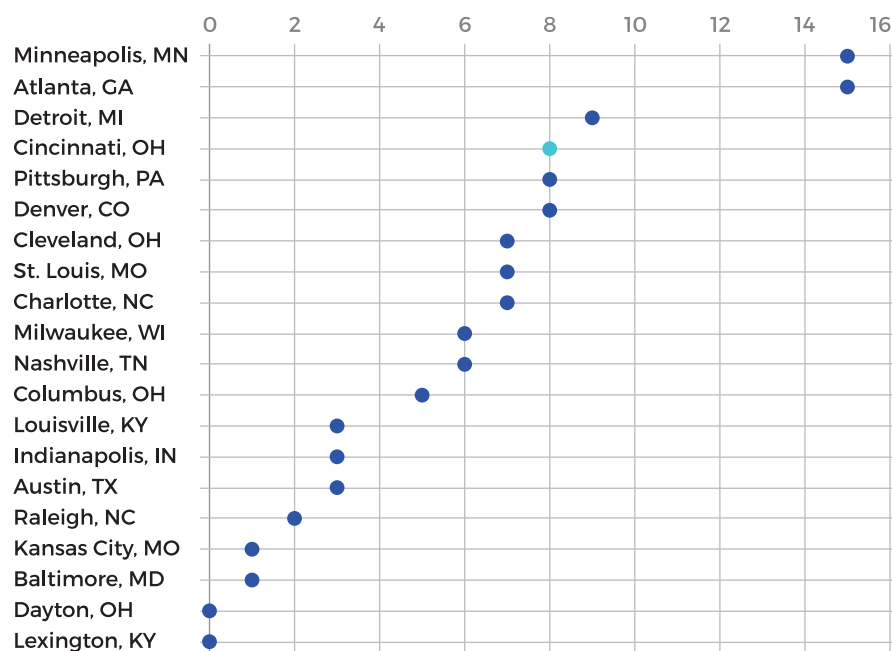
Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics (No Seasonal Adjustment)

FORTUNE 500 COMPANIES

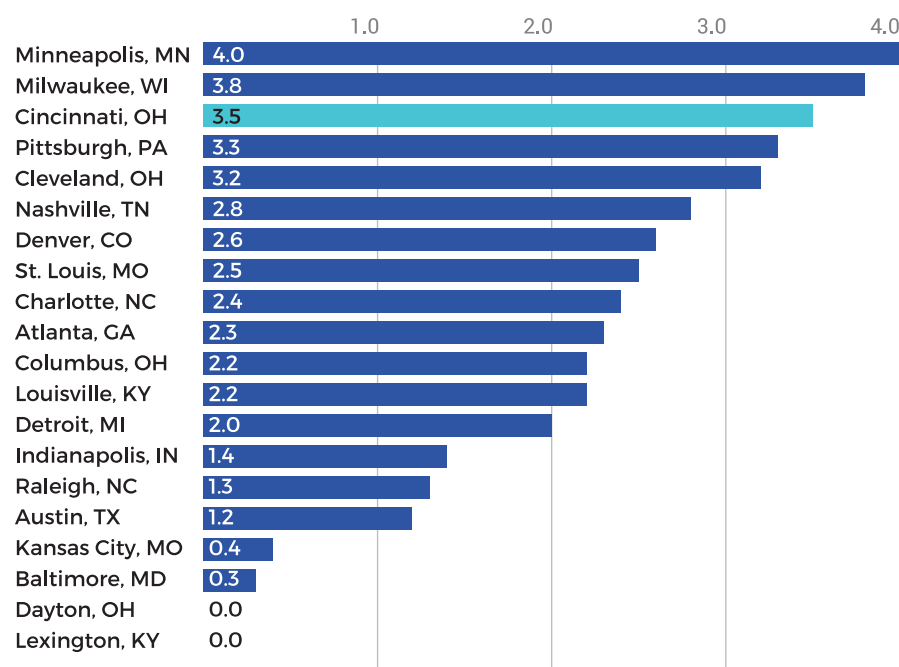
With the addition of GE Aerospace, the Cincinnati region notched eight companies in the 2025 edition of the Fortune 500. The past few years have been positive for Cincinnati's large public companies, as the Fortune 500 contingent has grown from five in 2023, to seven last year, to eight this year. Among peer metros, the Cincinnati region's ranking has moved from 14th in 2023 up to fourth today, representing the largest improvement on any indicator in this report over the past two years. Controlling for population, the region performs even better with 3.5 Fortune 500 companies per 1 million residents—good for third among the 20 peer metros.



FORTUNE 500 COMPANIES: PEER COMPARISON



FORTUNE 500 COMPANIES PER 1M POPULATION: PEER COMPARISON



Source: Fortune (2025)

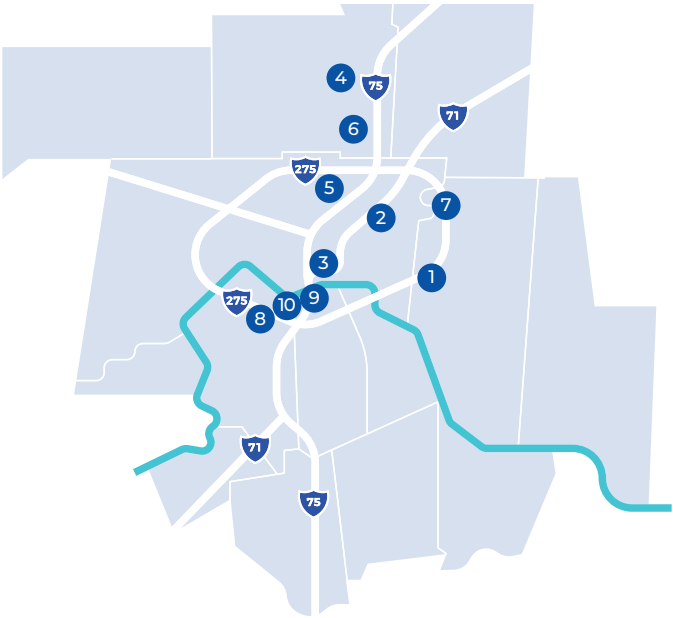
CINCINNATI REGION'S LARGEST EMPLOYERS AND PRIVATE COMPANIES

CINCINNATI REGION'S LARGEST EMPLOYERS

Rank	Company	Location	Total Local Employees
1	Cincinnati Children's Hospital	Corryville (Cincinnati)	19,568
2	TriHealth	Walnut Hills (Cincinnati)	12,831
3	University of Cincinnati	CUF (Cincinnati)	11,470
4	St. Elizabeth Healthcare	Edgewood	11,147
5	Procter & Gamble	Downtown Cincinnati	11,000
6	UC Health	Avondale (Cincinnati)	10,470
7	Mercy Health	Blue Ash	10,000
8	GE Aerospace	Evendale	9,000
9	Kroger	Downtown Cincinnati	9,000
10	Cincinnati Public Schools	Corryville (Cincinnati)	7,100

Source: Cincinnati Business Courier (2024)

For top employer and largest company datasets, the Center uses information from the Cincinnati Business Courier's surveys of local companies. It's possible some companies are missing because they didn't report data. Among companies reporting data, Cincinnati's largest employer is Cincinnati Children's Hospital, with nearly 20,000 employees in the region. Also among top employers are TriHealth, St. Elizabeth Healthcare, UC Health, and Mercy Health—reflecting the strong presence of the healthcare industry in our region.



CINCINNATI REGION'S LARGEST PRIVATE COMPANIES

Rank	Company	Location	2024 Revenue
1	Total Quality Logistics	Union Township	\$6.9 billion
2	Reladyne	Kenwood	\$4.24 billion
3	Core Specialty Insurance Holdings Inc.	Downtown Cincinnati	\$3.23 billion
4	Baker Construction Enterprises Inc.	Monroe	\$2.4 billion
5	Proampac	Springdale	\$2.39 billion
6	Performance Automotive Network	West Chester	\$2.32 billion
7	Jeff Wyler Automotive Family	Milford	\$2.23 billion
8	Bluestar	Hebron	\$2.19 billion
9	Promach Inc.	Covington	\$2.1 billion
10	Drees Homes	Fort Mitchell	\$1.71 billion

Source: Cincinnati Business Courier (2025)

While the region's top employers are clustered in and around the urban core, the largest women-owned and minority-owned businesses are more geographically dispersed. Only six are located in the City of Cincinnati itself, while Butler and Warren Counties are well-represented on the list. The largest minority-owned business, Hightowers Petroleum, is based in Middletown and saw \$297 million in revenue in 2024.

CINCINNATI REGION'S LARGEST WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES

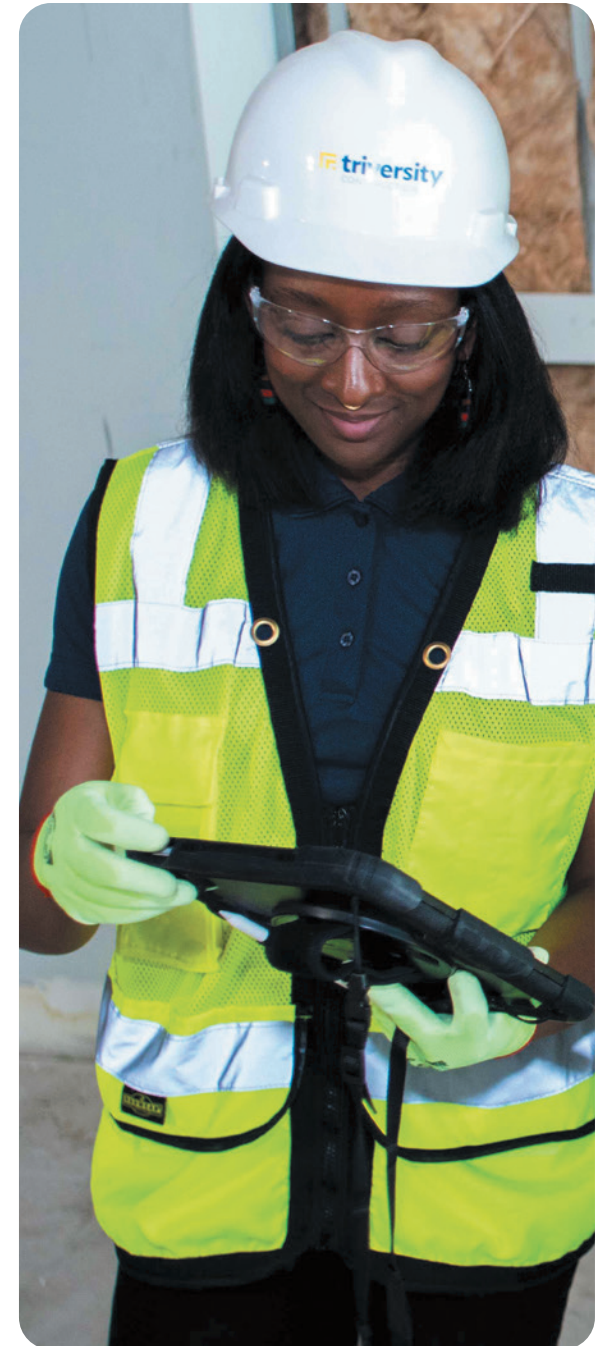
Rank	Name	Location	2024 Revenue (\$M)
1	Burke Inc.	West End	\$86
2	Kingsgate Logistics Inc.	West Chester	\$84
3	Dernier Electric Co.	Harrison	\$79
4	Stand Energy Corp.	Mt. Adams (Cincinnati)	\$77
5	Taylor Logistics Inc.	West Chester	\$70
6	R&R Resale Inc.	West Chester	\$44
7	James Hunt Construction Co. Inc.	Roselawn (Cincinnati)	\$39
8	Manning Contracting LLC	Fairfax	\$33
9	General Factory Supply	Winton Hills (Cincinnati)	\$32
10	Norwood Hardware and Supply Co.	Evendale	\$31

Source: Cincinnati Business Courier (2024)

CINCINNATI REGION'S LARGEST MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESSES

Rank	Name	Location	2024 Revenue (\$M)
1	Hightowers Petroleum Co.	Middletown	\$297
2	Triversity Construction	Walnut Hills (Cincinnati)	\$144
3	Trio Enterprises	Roselawn (Cincinnati)	\$101
4	RCF Group	West Chester	\$82
5	Benchmark Gensuite	Mason	\$59
6	Megen Construction Co..	Forest Park	\$42
7	DDX Transport	Wilder	\$30
8	Next Generation Fuel LLC	Middletown	\$15
9	Sure Mechanical LLC	South Cumminsville (Cincinnati)	\$13
10	Ogis Communication Group Inc.	Lincoln Heights	\$12

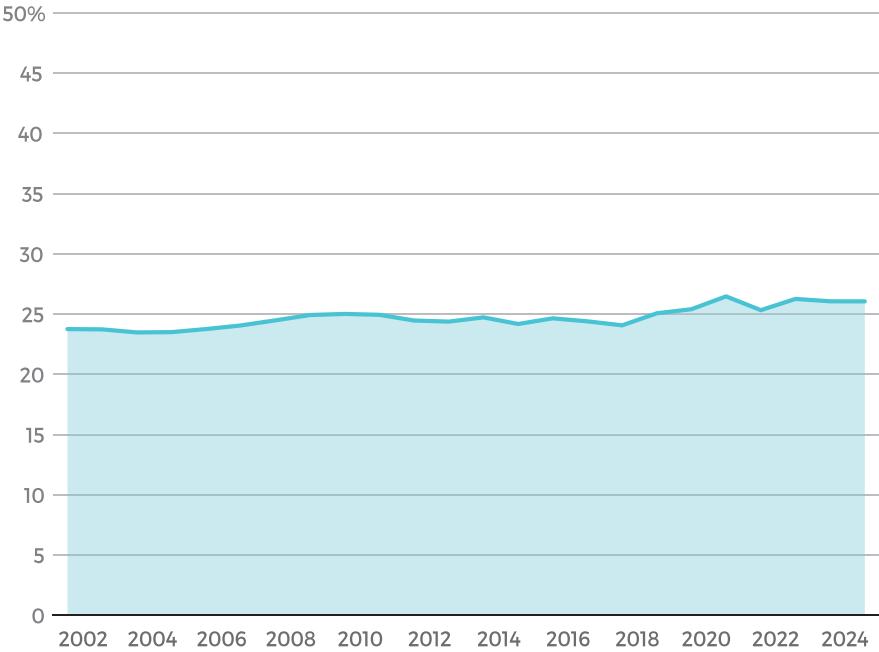
Source: Cincinnati Business Courier (2024)



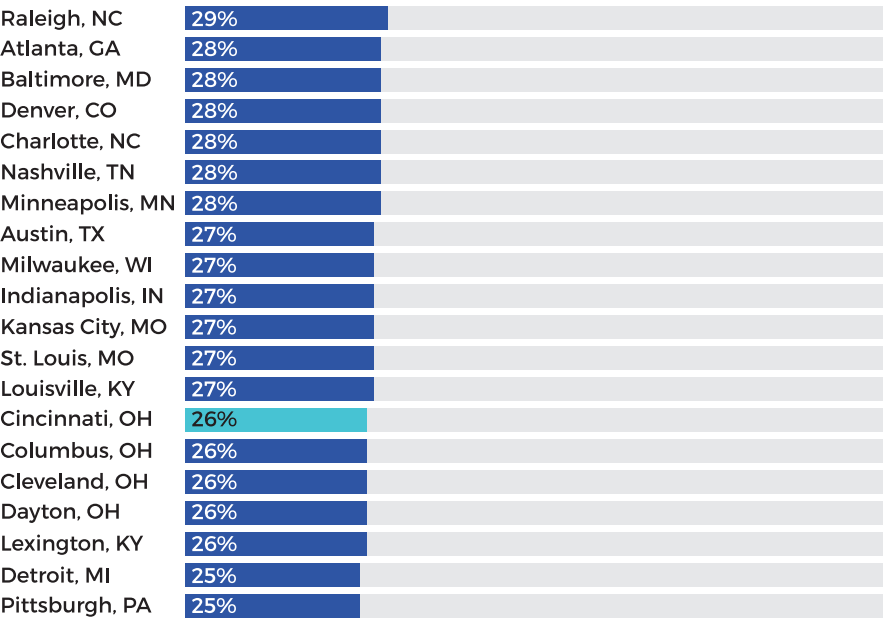
C-SUITE GENDER DIVERSITY

The Cincinnati region’s C-Suite positions are about 26% female. This puts Cincinnati 14th out of 20 peer metros. Charlotte and Raleigh lead among peers, pulling ahead of Baltimore, which led among peer regions last year. This indicator remains relatively flat since 2001, when about 24% of C-Suite positions were held by women.

C-SUITE GENDER DIVERSITY OVER TIME



PEER COMPARISON

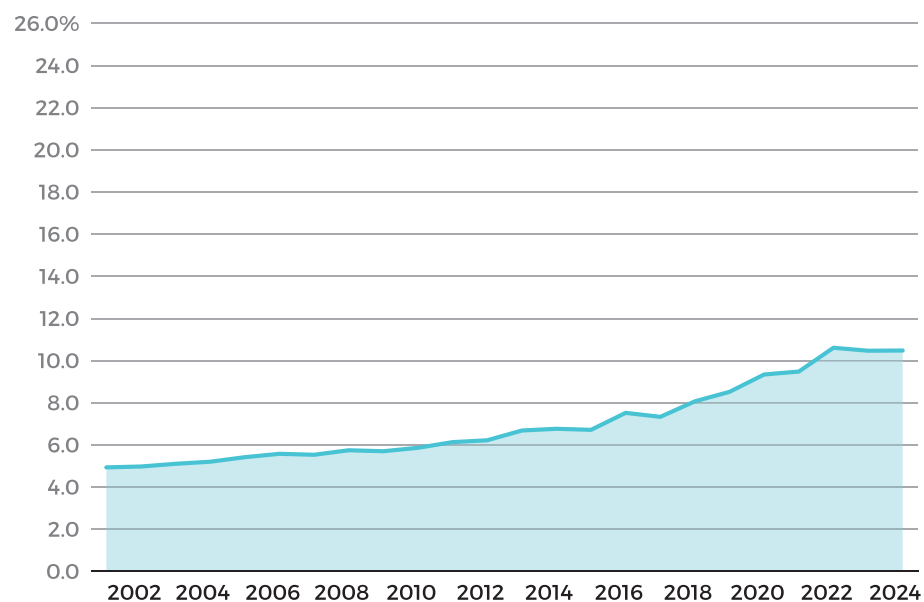


Source: Lightcast (2024)

C-SUITE RACIAL DIVERSITY

While gender diversity in executive leadership has not seen significant growth since 2001, racial diversity in c-suite positions has more than doubled in the same time period. Despite this growth, Cincinnati remains far behind peers like Austin and Atlanta, and ranks 18th out of 20 peer metros.

C-SUITE RACIAL DIVERSITY OVER TIME



Source: Lightcast (2024)

OVERALL DIVERSITY: CINCINNATI REGION

Race/Ethnicity	City of Cincinnati	Cincinnati Metro Area	United States
White	48.7%	75.7%	59.8%
Black	37.1%	11.6%	12.1%
Multiracial	9.2%	7.1%	13.2%
Hispanic/Latino (any race)	6.8%	5.0%	20.0%
Asian	2.4%	3.2%	6.3%
Other	2.5%	2.2%	8.6%

US Census Bureau (2024)

PEER COMPARISON

Austin, TX	33%
Atlanta, GA	29%
Baltimore, MD	26%
Denver, CO	21%
Raleigh, NC	21%
Charlotte, NC	19%
Detroit, MI	15%
Milwaukee, WI	13%
Nashville, TN	13%
Columbus, OH	13%
Indianapolis, IN	13%
Kansas City, MO	13%
Minneapolis, MN	12%
Cleveland, OH	12%
St. Louis, MO	12%
Louisville, KY	11%
Dayton, OH	11%
Cincinnati, OH	10%
Lexington, KY	10%
Pittsburgh, PA	9%

Source: Lightcast (2024)



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COMMUNITY & HEALTH INDICATORS

Progress across community and health indicators is steady but uneven. Median household income in the Cincinnati region rose to \$81,489, nearly matching the national median and improving our peer ranking to 11th among peers. Yet wide disparities persist within the region, with incomes ranging from over \$111,000 in Warren County to under \$60,000 in Bracken County. The racial income gap also remains stubbornly large, widening slightly to more than \$36,000 despite gains in Black household income. These differences point to the continued challenge in ensuring that rising prosperity is broadly shared.

Educational and health outcomes reflect progress, though gains remain uneven. The share of adults with a bachelor's degree or higher rose to 37.1%, placing the region above the national average but still behind most peer metros. This increase builds on the region's continued strength in degree completions, even as many colleges and universities across the country face enrollment challenges. At the same time, child poverty has declined over the past two years but remains elevated at 14.9%, with significant variation across counties. Health outcomes tell a similar story. Hamilton County's infant mortality rate and declining life expectancy place the region in the middle of peer rankings, signaling important challenges that persist despite some areas of improvement. Taken together, these indicators show incremental gains but underscore the urgency of closing persistent economic, educational, and health disparities to build a stronger and more inclusive future for all residents.



INCOME

The median household income in the Cincinnati region is \$81,489 per year, up from about \$75,000 in last year's State of the Region report. This ranks Cincinnati 11th out of 20 peer metros, an improvement from 13th place in last year's report, surpassing both Columbus and Indianapolis. The figure is also nearly identical to the national median of \$81,604.

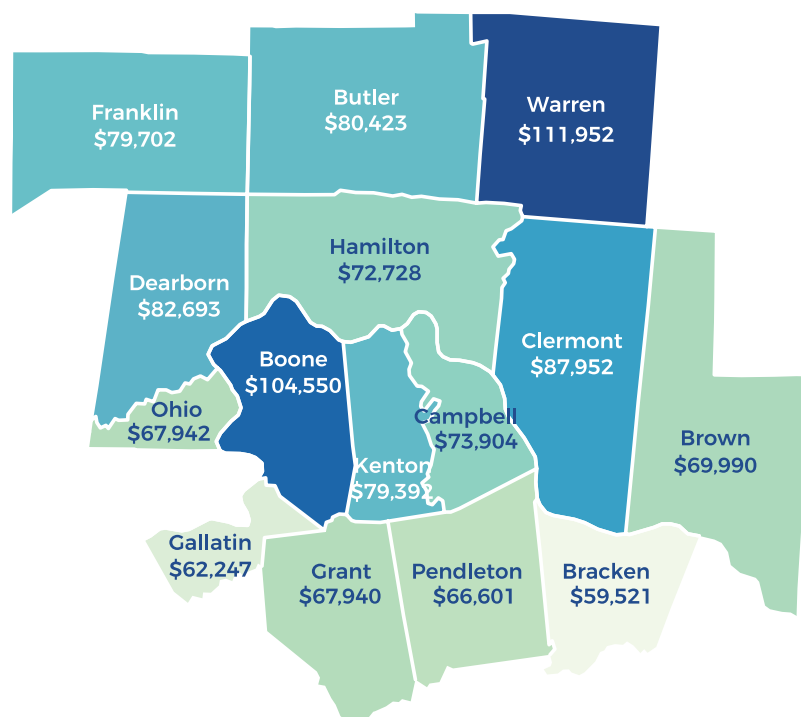
At the county level, income disparities remain significant. Warren County reports a median household income of \$111,952, making it

the third wealthiest county in Ohio. In contrast, Bracken County has a median of \$59,521—a gap of approximately \$52,000 within the region.

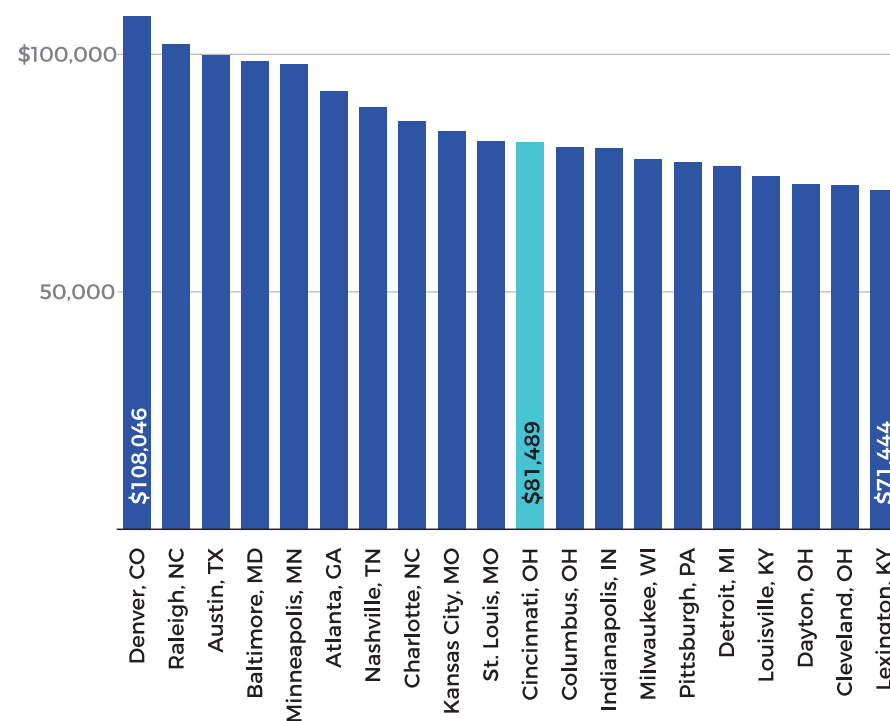
Several counties experienced notable increases over the past year. Boone County saw the largest jump, rising \$14,619 (16.3%), making it the second wealthiest county in Kentucky. Pendleton County and Clermont County also recorded double-digit percentage gains, while Hamilton County rose by \$5,850 (8.7%).

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME BY COUNTY

\$59,521  \$111,952

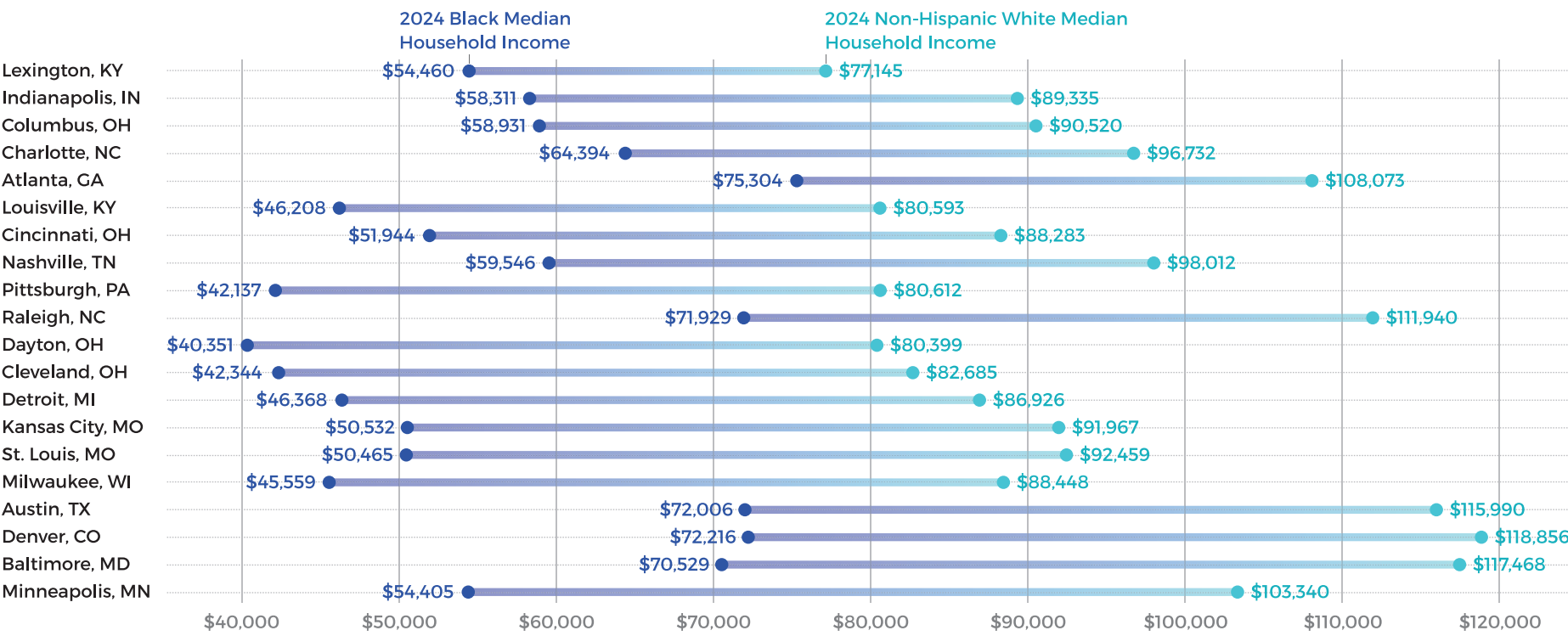


MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: PEER COMPARISON

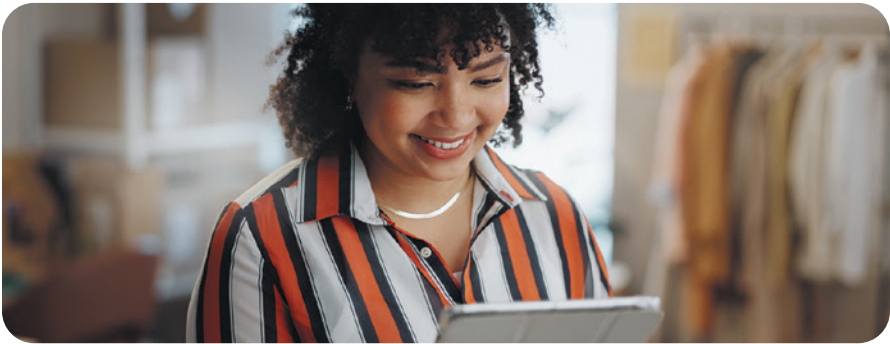


Source: US Census Bureau

RACIAL INCOME GAP BY PEER REGION



Source: US Census Bureau



RACIAL INCOME GAP

Based on the 2024 American Community Survey data, the median Black household in Cincinnati has an income of \$51,944 and the median white household has a median income of \$88,283—with a racial income gap of \$36,339. The Black median household income went up by \$3,479 since last year’s State of the Region report, yet the total racial income gap increased by \$2,121.

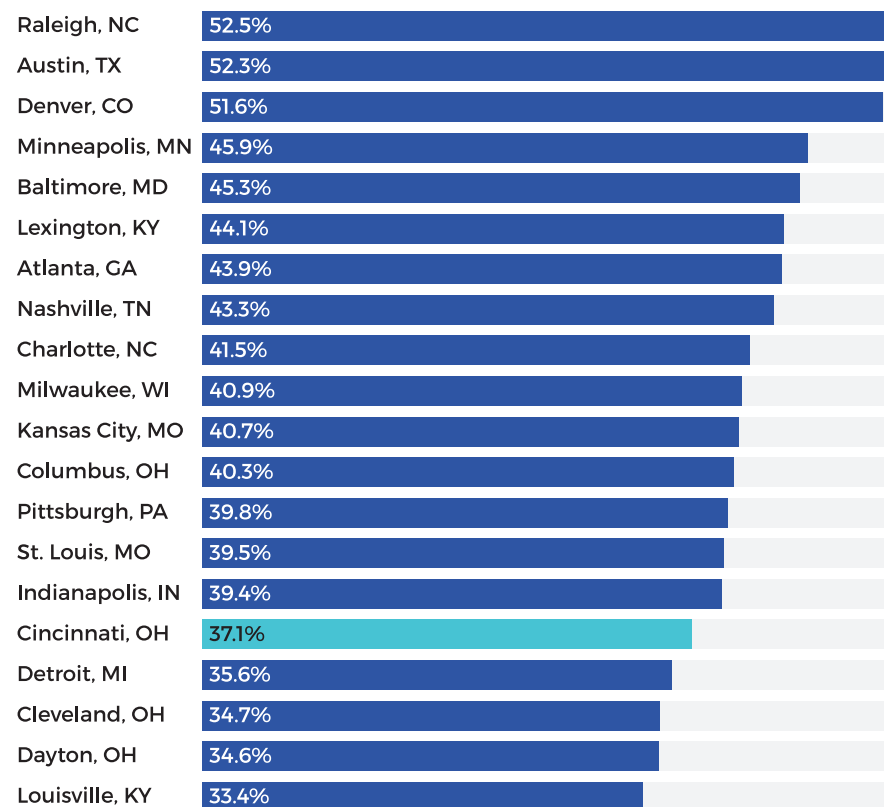
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



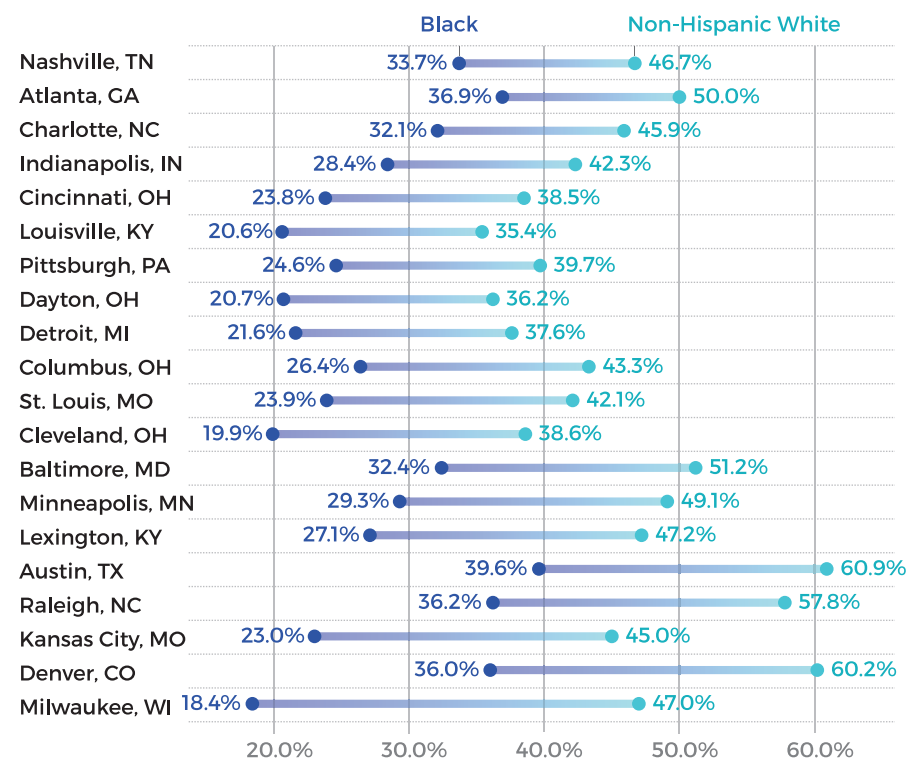
The percentage of Cincinnati region residents 25 years and older with a bachelor's degree or higher increased from 36.9% in the 2024 State of the Region report to 37.1%. Despite this increase, the region ranks low among its peers. However, the region still outpaces the United States as a whole—which sits at 36.8%. Also of note, the City of Cincinnati is more highly educated than the region, state, or country—with a rate of 42.4%.



EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT RATE, BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER: PEER COMPARISON



RACIAL EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT GAP: PEER COMPARISON



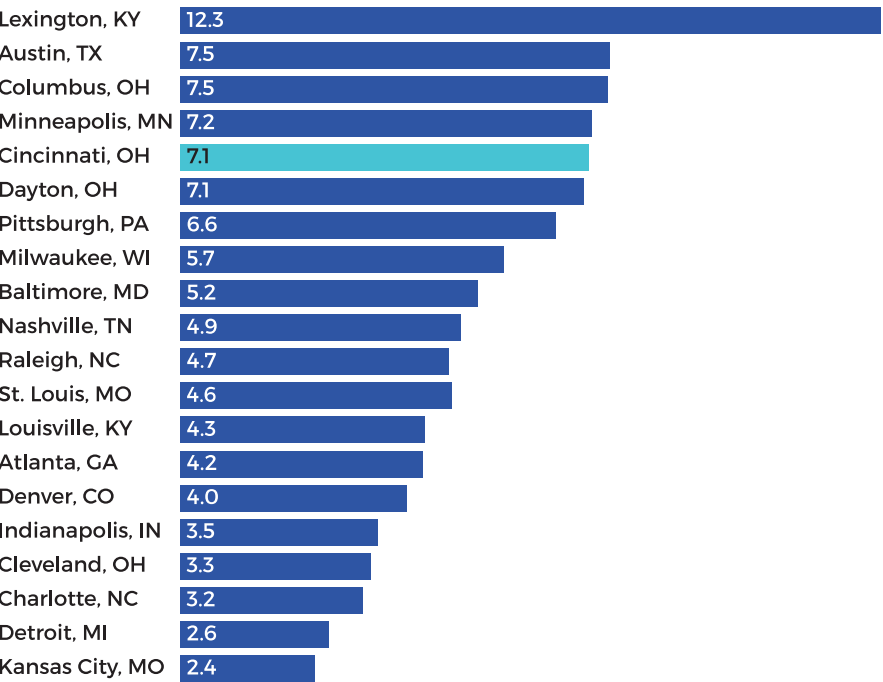
Source: US Census Bureau

DEGREE COMPLETIONS

Over the past decade, many universities and colleges across the country are struggling with lower enrollment and fewer degrees awarded. However, the Cincinnati region bucks this trend. With strong institutions like Xavier University, Northern Kentucky University, and the University of Cincinnati—which set record enrollment with almost 54,000 students in Fall 2025—the region

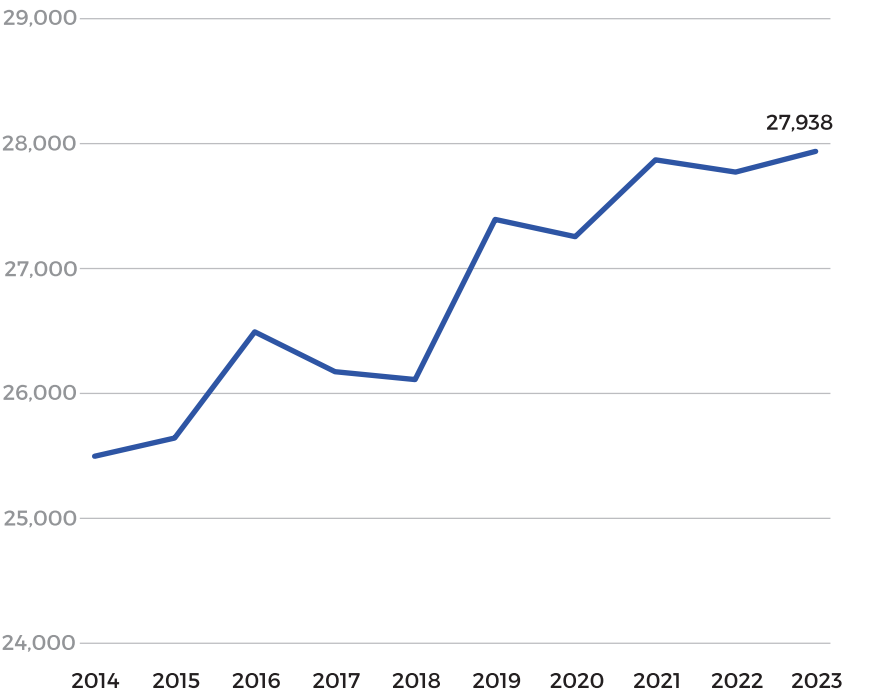
excels in awarding degrees. Total annual degrees awarded have grown consistently since 2014 and are at 27,938. Looking at only bachelor's degrees, the region ranks well among peers when controlling for population. Coming in fifth with 7.1 completions per 1,000 population, the Cincinnati region ranks behind only Lexington, Austin, Columbus, and Minneapolis in this measure.

BACHELOR'S DEGREE COMPLETIONS PER 1,000 POPULATION: PEER COMPARISON



Source: Lightcast

ALL DEGREE COMPLETIONS | CINCINNATI REGION



Source: Lightcast



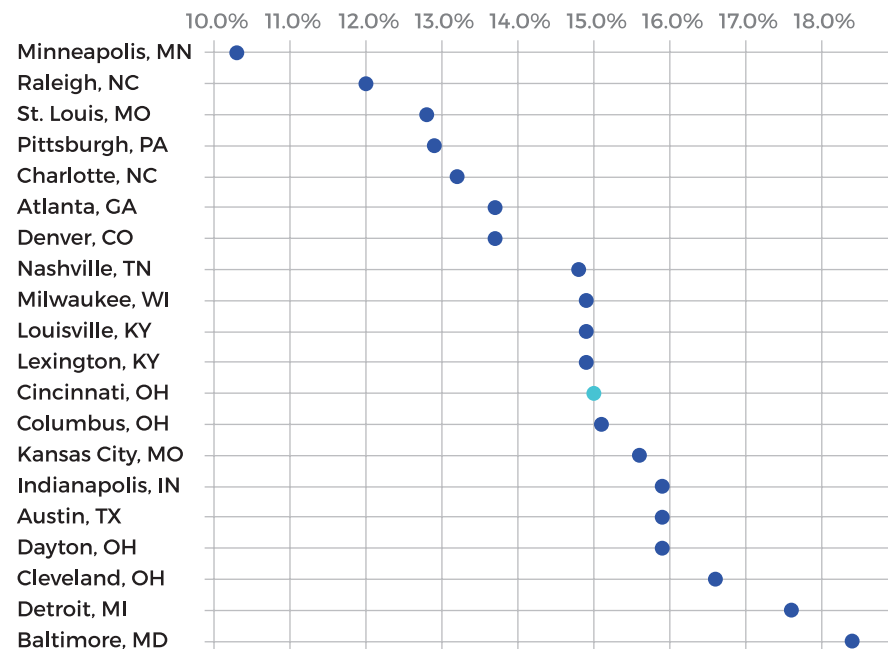
FOOD INSECURITY

Food insecurity, the household-level condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food, affects all the Cincinnati region's peer metros to some extent. While Minneapolis performs the best here, at just over 10%, Baltimore has a food insecurity rate over 18%. The Cincinnati region ranks 12th at 15%. For this peer comparison, the core county rate is utilized for each metro area.

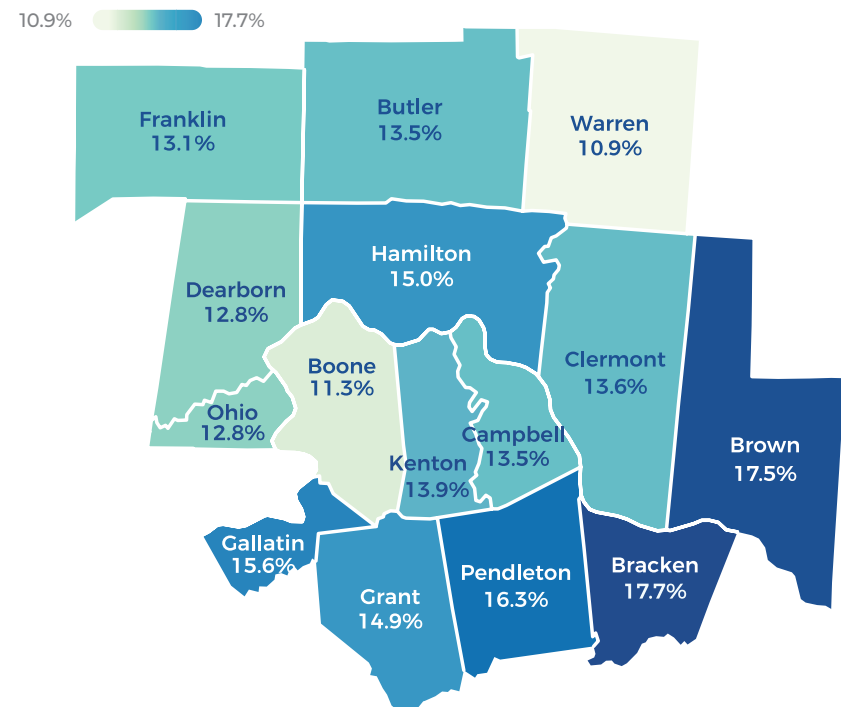
Within the Cincinnati region, Warren County fares the best, with a rate below 11%, while many of our most rural counties have much higher rates.



FOOD INSECURITY: PEER COMPARISON



FOOD INSECURITY BY COUNTY



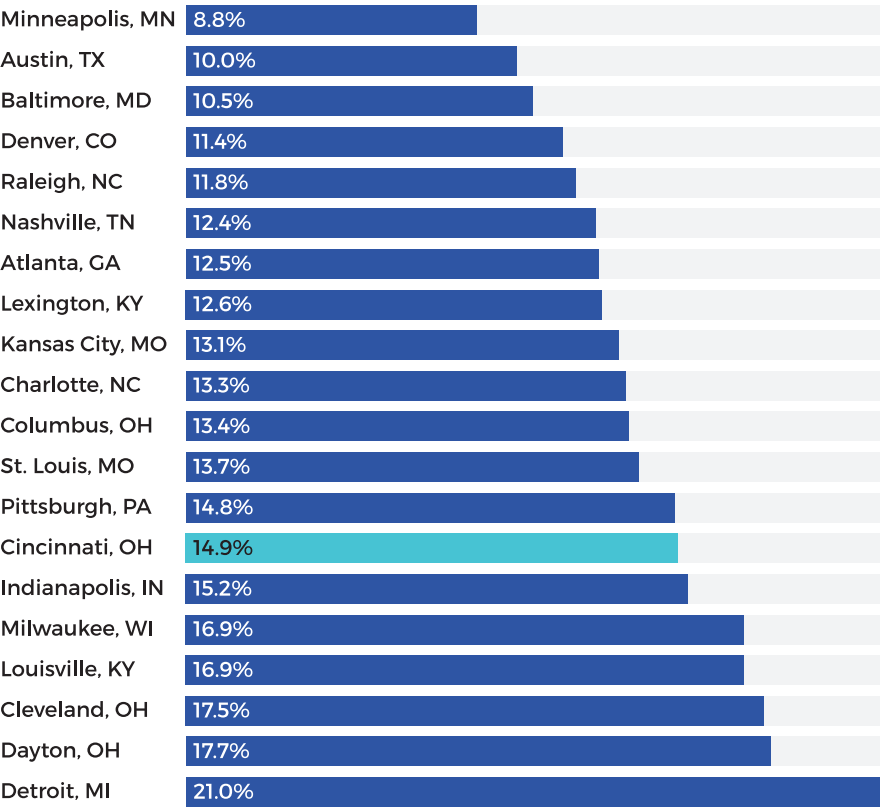
Source: Feeding America (2023)

CHILD POVERTY RATE

The child poverty rate in the Cincinnati region is 14.9%, an increase from 13.6% in last year's State of the Region report, but still down from 15.9% two years ago. Among peers, the region ranks just behind Pittsburgh at 14th out of 20. There are wide disparities within the region, as counties like Warren, Clermont, Dearborn, and Kenton come in at single digits percentages—while Bracken County has a rate of 32.9%.

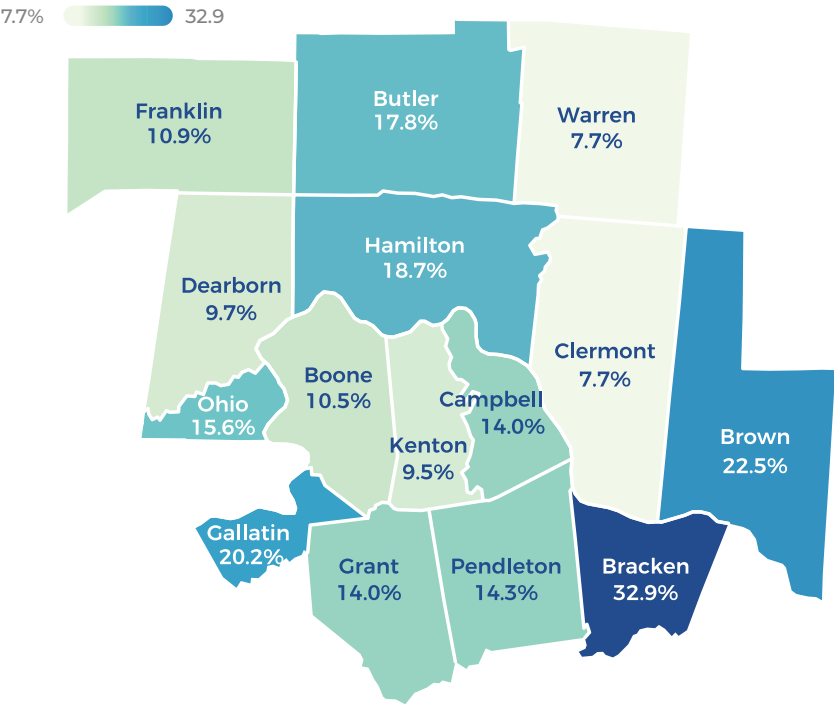


CHILD POVERTY: PEER COMPARISON



Source: US Census Bureau

CHILD POVERTY BY COUNTY

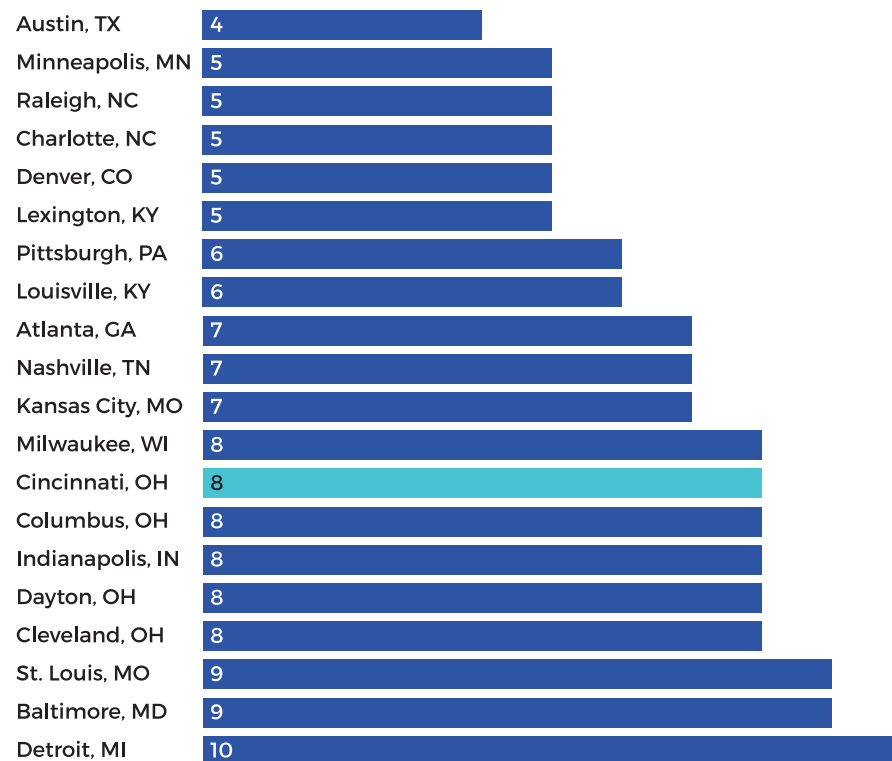


In our county breakdown of this indicator, for counties in the region with populations of 65,000 or more, we use ACS 1-Year Estimates. However, due to sample size issues, the more rural counties in the region rely on ACS 5-Year Estimate data.

INFANT MORTALITY (PER 1K BIRTHS)

For infant mortality, Cincinnati's core county of Hamilton County, ties for 12th among peer regions with eight infant deaths per 1,000 live births. While wealthy regions like Austin and Minneapolis have lower infant mortality rates, Cincinnati's rate is consistent with nearby regions like Columbus, Cleveland, and Indianapolis.

INFANT MORTALITY: PEER COMPARISON



Source: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, Core County

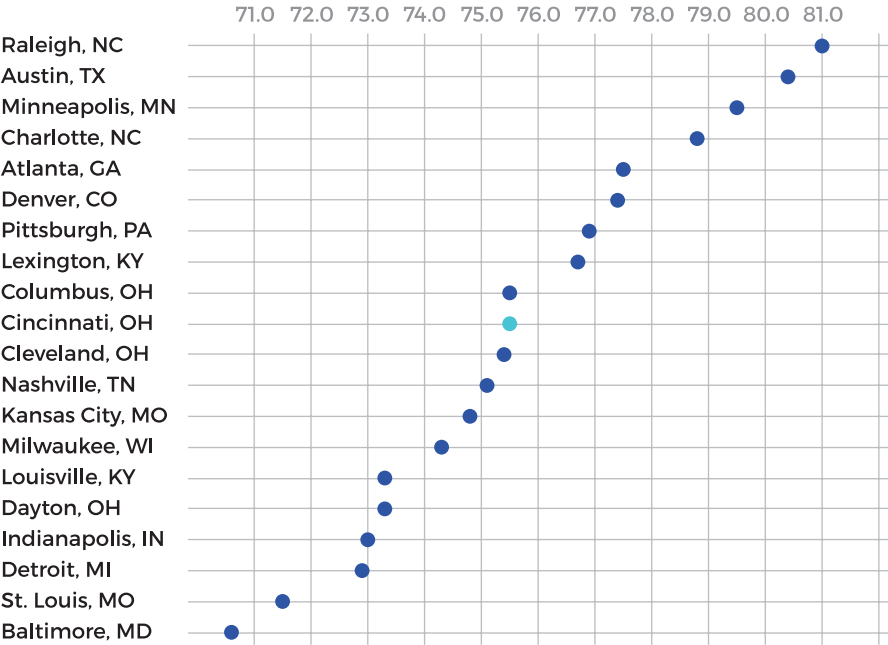


LIFE EXPECTANCY

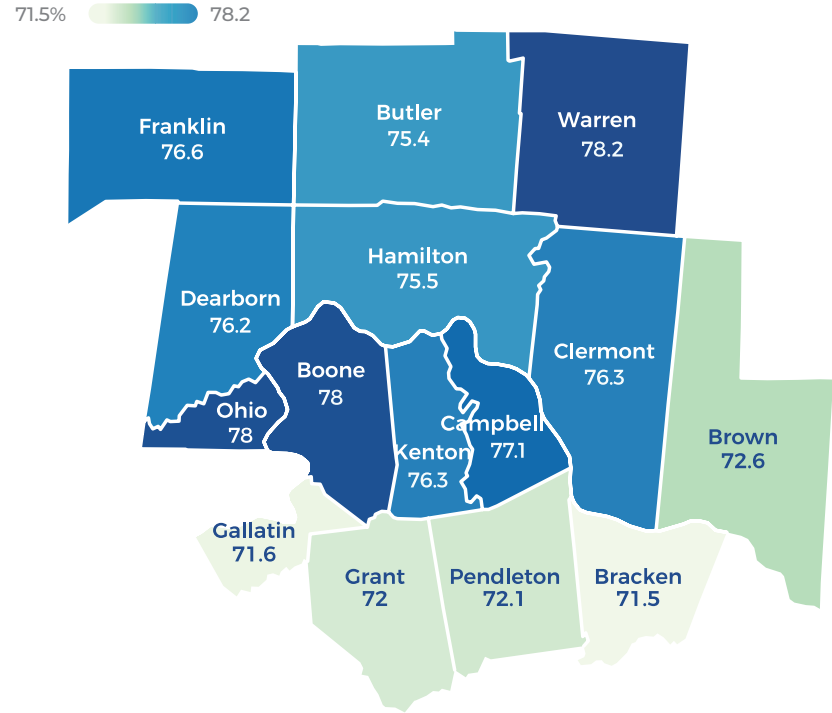
Cincinnati's core county of Hamilton County has a life expectancy at birth of 75.5, which ranks 10th among peer metros. Cincinnati moved up slightly compared to last year's State of the Region report, as Kansas City fell down the list. However, life expectancy

in Hamilton County decreased from 75.8, a 0.3 year decline. Within the region's other counties, the wealthiest counties and jurisdictions have the highest life expectancy rates, demonstrating the correlation between income and health.

LIFE EXPECTANCY: PEER COMPARISON



LIFE EXPECTANCY BY COUNTY



Source: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, Core County (2025)

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HOUSING & TRANSPORTATION

Housing and transportation remain defining challenges for our region's competitiveness, even as we make focused investments to improve them. Median home values and rental costs continue to rise, stretching household budgets and limiting affordability, particularly in Hamilton County and smaller rural counties with lower incomes. Severe housing cost burden is an issue, with many families spending more than 50% of their income on housing. This affordability crisis is coupled with uneven housing supply growth, especially in urban neighborhoods where demand is strongest. While peers like Austin, Texas have seen great success in implementing housing and zooming reforms—as evidenced by their 2.4% drop in rents over the past year—the Cincinnati region saw a 4.5% increase.

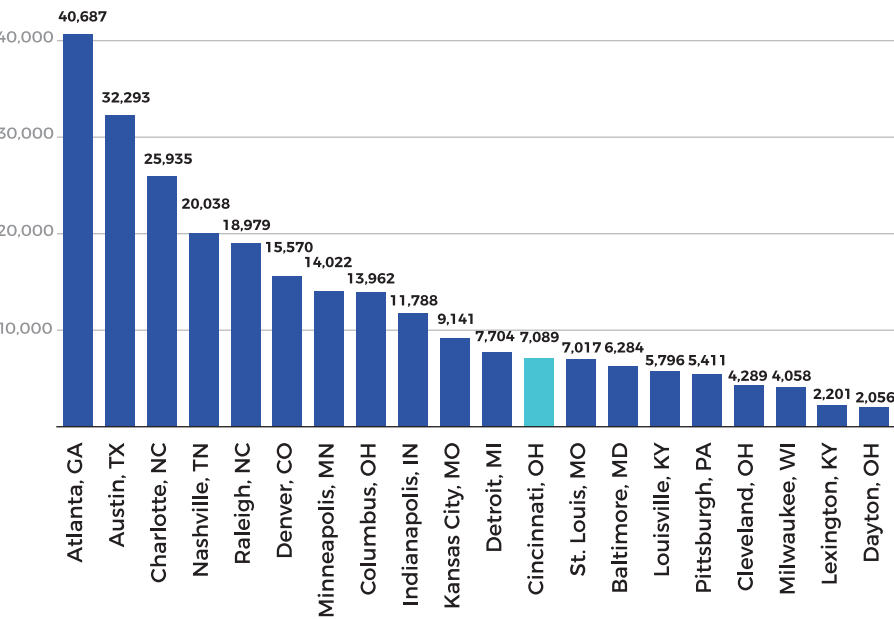
Transportation patterns show both progress and pressure points. Metro ridership is 17% higher than in January 2023 and TANK ridership is up 7% over the same period. The Brent Spence Companion Bridge project is also set to break ground soon. But continued success will hinge on successfully implementing projects like Metro's two new Bus Rapid Transit routes, which will follow the Hamilton Avenue and Reading Road corridors and strengthen connections between outlying neighborhoods and job centers in Uptown and Downtown. As the region grows, expanding housing options and improving transportation connectivity will be critical to sustaining momentum and ensuring every community can benefit.



RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS

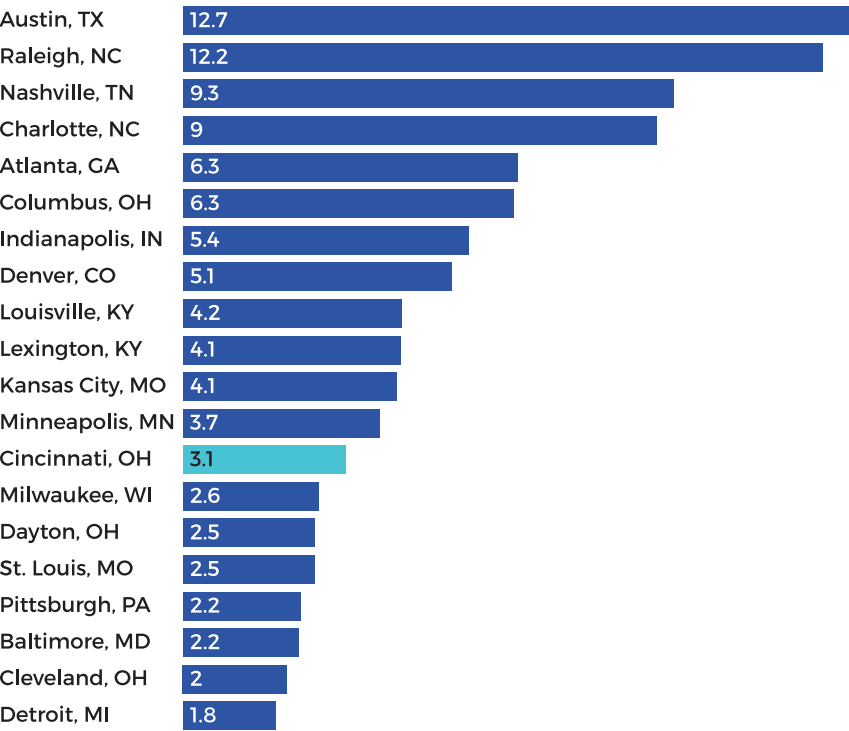
In 2024 and 2025, municipalities throughout the Cincinnati region have taken steps to make it easier to build housing—including the City of Cincinnati. For 2024, the region permitted 7,089 new housing units, up from 6,187 in 2023—representing an approximately 14% increase year-over-year. As a result, the region moved up the peer metro list, passing St. Louis, Baltimore, Louisville, and Pittsburgh to rank 12th out of 20 peer metros. However, the Cincinnati region still ranks far behind fast-growing metro areas like Atlanta, Austin, and Charlotte, and permitted about half as many units as the Columbus region.

TOTAL PERMITS: PEER COMPARISON



Source: US Department of Housing and Urban Development (2024)

BUILDING PERMITS PER 1K POPULATION

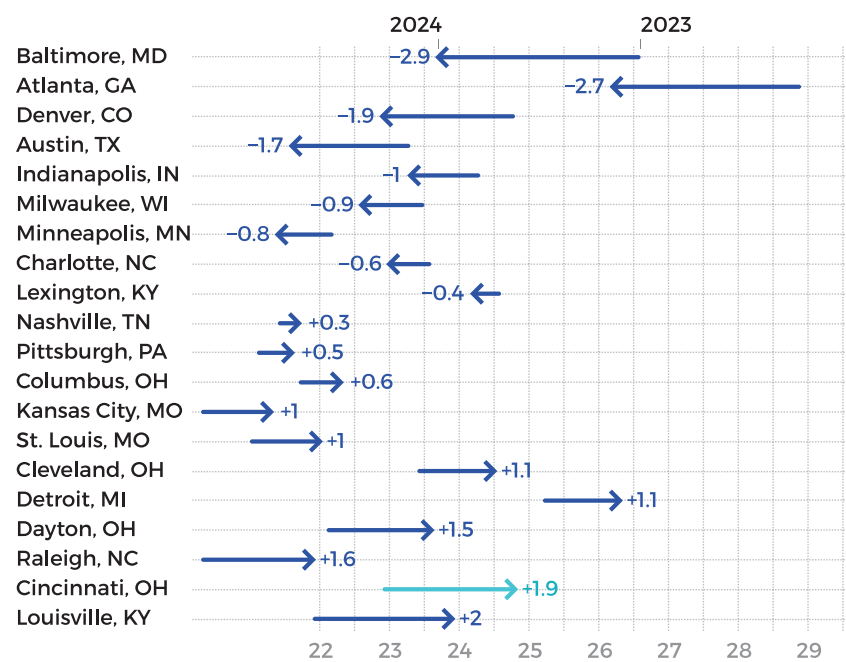


The 7,089 housing units permitted in the Cincinnati region in 2024 represents 3.1 housing units per 1,000 population—up from 2.7 the year before. This places the region 13th among peer metros. While the Cincinnati region is in the bottom among peers for this measure, it is one of only seven regions that increased its housing units permitted per 1,000 population over the year before.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

Severe housing cost burden refers to the percentage of renters who spend 50% or more of their income on housing, reflecting the affordability of housing relative to income within the region. Cincinnati ranks 18th out of 20 peer metros, with the 3rd highest percentage of renters devoting a majority of their income to housing. This reflects our growing affordability problem. In fact, Cincinnati saw the second largest increase among peers, behind only Louisville, rising from 22.9% to 24.8%. This came at a time when nine peer metros saw decreases in this figure, including regions like Atlanta and Austin which are seeing much more housing construction.

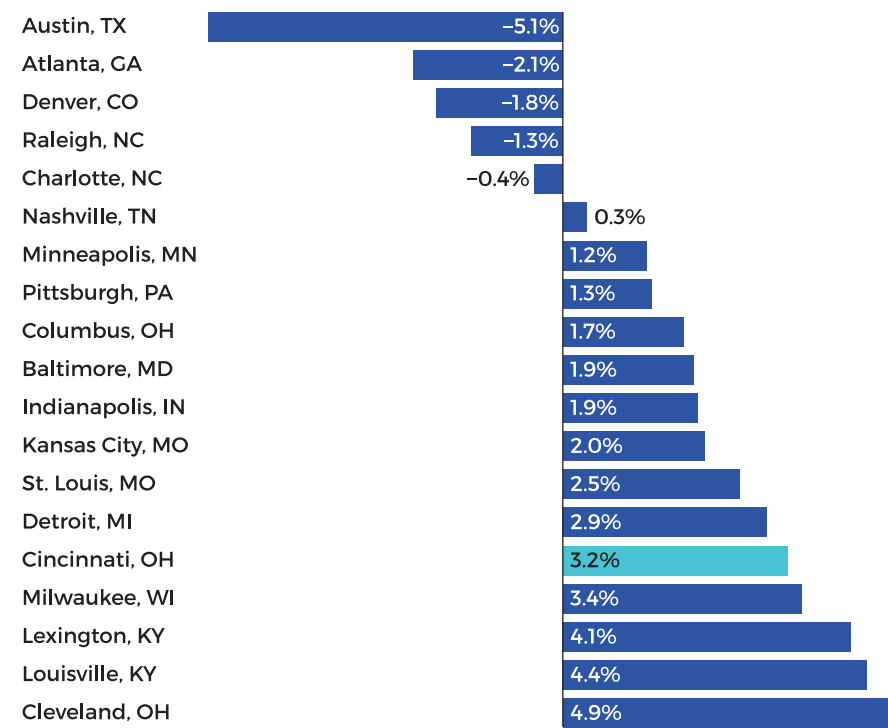
CHANGE IN SEVERE HOUSING COST BURDEN: PEER COMPARISON



Source: US Census Bureau

When it comes to home values, as measured by the Zillow Home Value Index (ZHVI), the region saw a 3.2% increase between May 2024 and May 2025—with the typical value rising from about \$292,000 to about \$301,000. Fast-growing peers like Austin and Atlanta also saw home values fall over the last year, while other regions that have struggled to build new housing like Cleveland and Milwaukee saw home values rise even faster than Cincinnati.

HOME VALUE CHANGE PAST YEAR: PEER COMPARISON



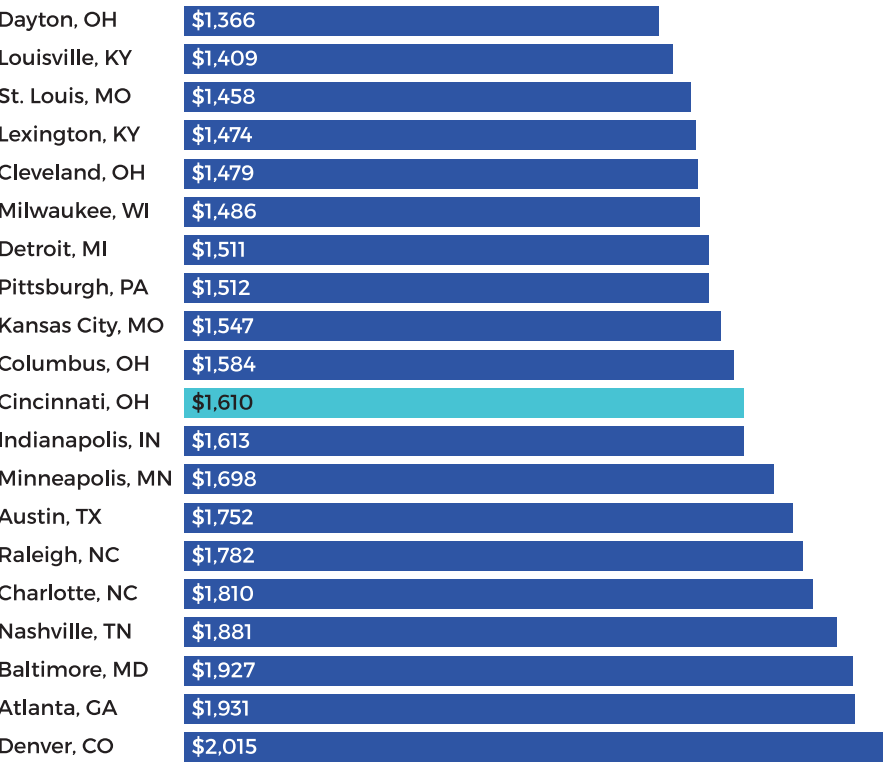
Source: Zillow

RENT

Typical monthly rent, as measured by the Zillow Observed Rent Index (ZORI), stood at \$1,610 in the Cincinnati region as of May 2025. This is 11th among the 20 peer regions, in line with Columbus and Indianapolis, but much higher than other geographic peers like Dayton, Louisville, and Cleveland. Between May 2024 and May 2025, the region saw rents increase by 4.5%, the seventh highest increase

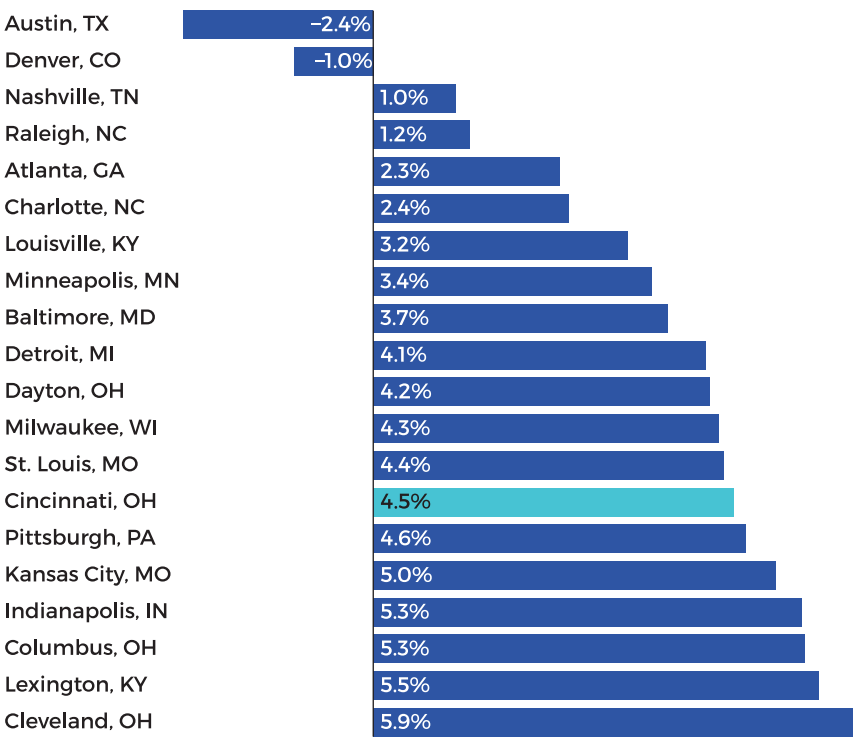
among peer regions. Notably, Austin and Denver, with their high housing production, saw rents decrease. For Austin, this represents the second straight year of rent decreases. Other fast-growing metros like Nashville, Raleigh, Atlanta, and Charlotte saw relatively modest rent increases compared to Cincinnati.

TYPICAL MONTHLY RENT (2025)



Source: Zillow

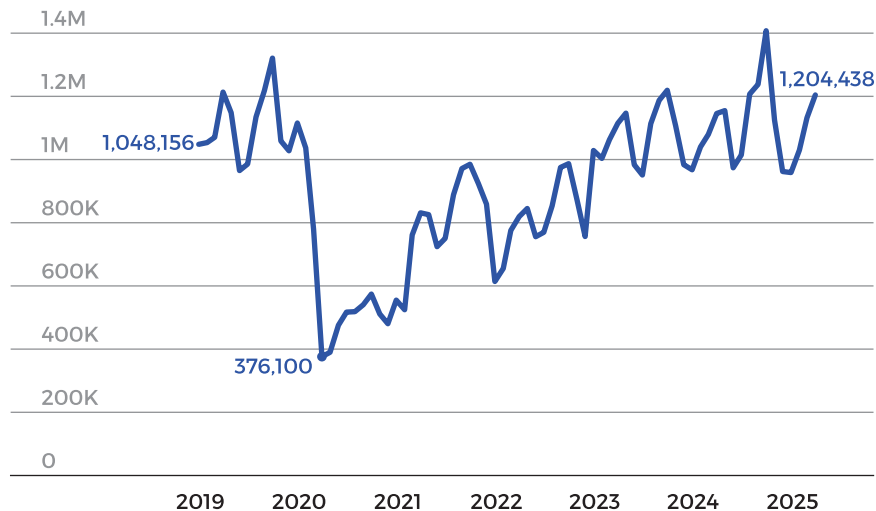
TYPICAL MONTHLY RENT CHANGE - PAST YEAR



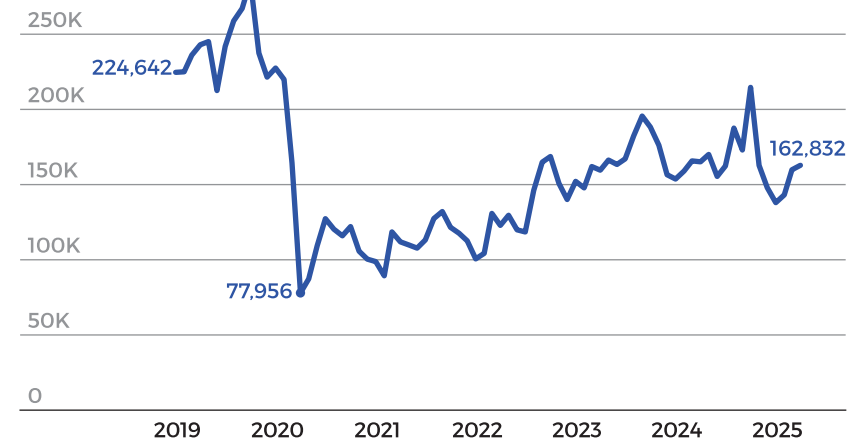
BUS RIDERSHIP

Metro fixed-route bus ridership has continued to grow steadily over the past few years. The number of unlinked passenger trips in April 2025 were about 8% higher than in April 2023, and about 17% higher than in January 2023. Ridership is now more than triple the COVID-19 pandemic low. Future investments in the system, including the addition of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridors and continued implementation of the Reinventing Metro plan, should help propel ridership even higher in the coming years.

METRO RIDERSHIP



TANK RIDERSHIP



Source: Federal Transit Administration



MOBILITY IN THE URBAN CORE

Cincinnati's urban core has multimodal transportation options, which have grown in ridership over the past few years. Both streetcar and bikeshare ridership have grown since 2021, and partial year data show strong ridership continuing in 2025.

STREETCAR MONTHLY RIDERSHIP

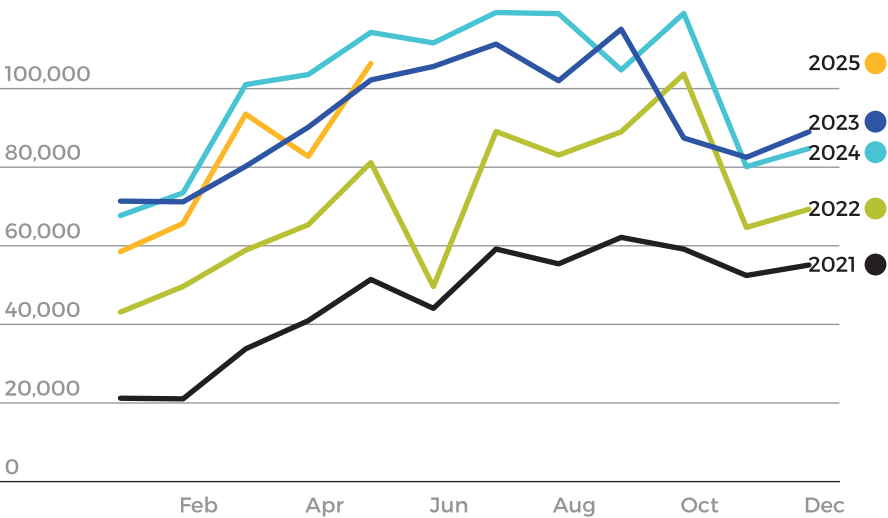
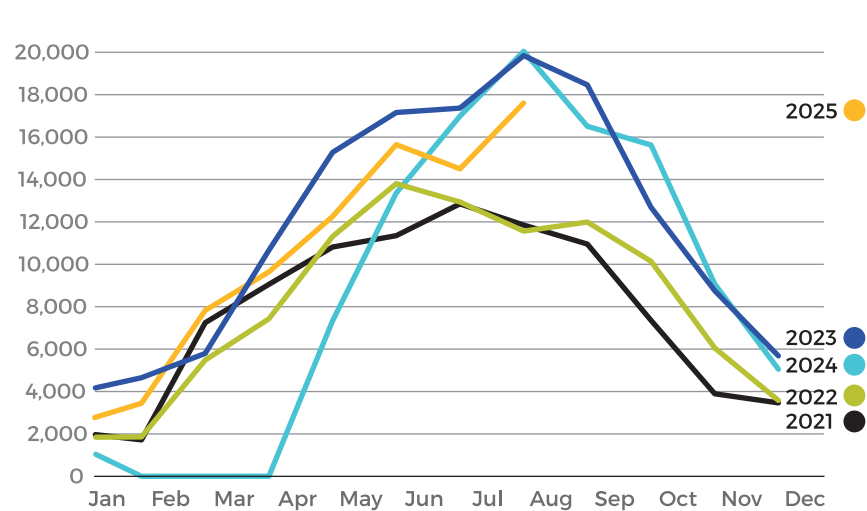


Photo Credit: Madeleine Hordinski

RED BIKE MONTHLY RIDERSHIP



Source: Red Bike
Note: System was paused from mid-January 2024 to May 15th 2024

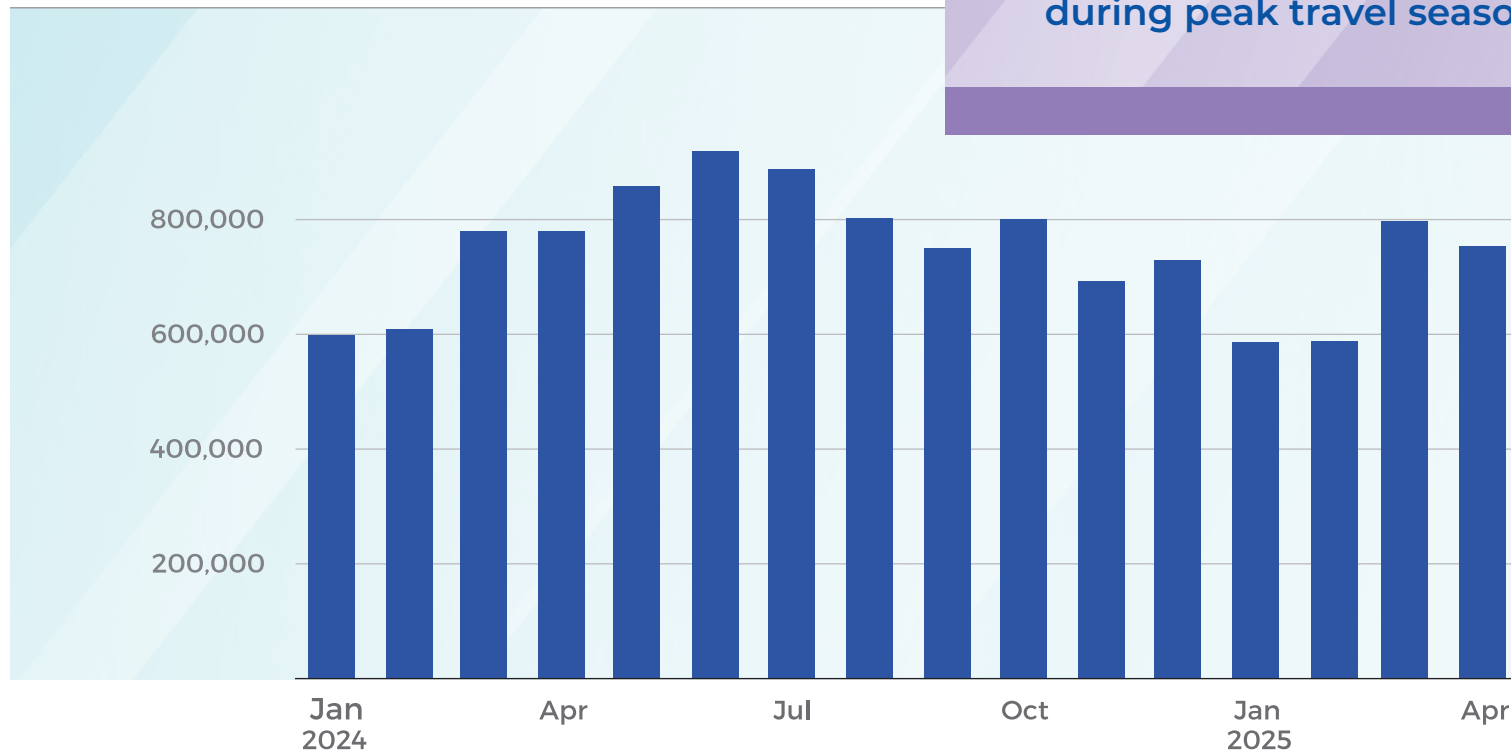


The most popular bikeshare stations include Walnut & Court, Fountain Square, the Public Library, City Hall, and Findlay Market.

AIRPORT TRAVEL

As of April 2025, total passenger counts at the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport (CVG) were down slightly (about 3%) compared to the same month the year before, but passenger counts remain strong with April's figure being 187% higher than total passengers in January 2021. CVG is also the sixth largest cargo airport in North America, and offers 55+ nonstop destinations, the most of any airport in surrounding regions. Nearly 70% of travelers who fly out of CVG get to their destination on a non-stop flight, and international options are growing—with Air Canada adding a flight to Montreal in May 2025.

MONTHLY PASSENGERS



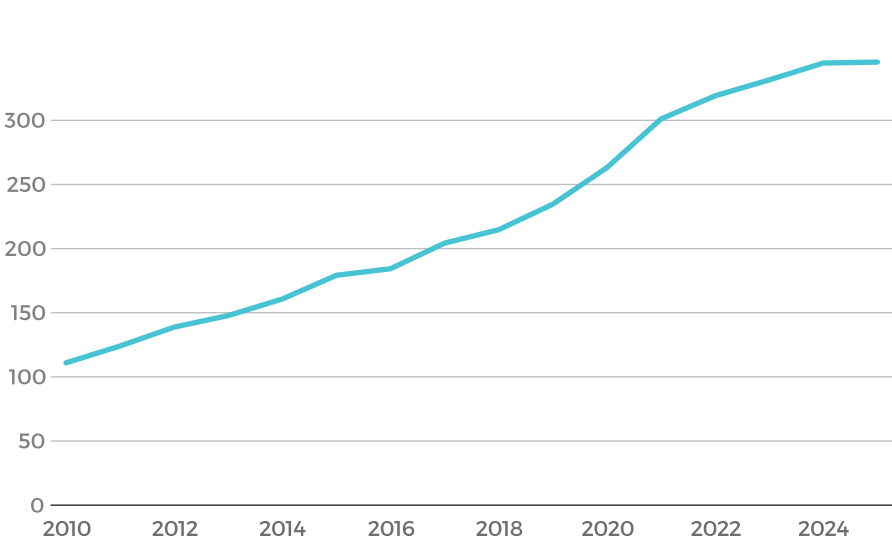
Source: CVG Airport



The Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport saw 9.2 million passengers in 2024, with over 900,000 during peak travel season in June.

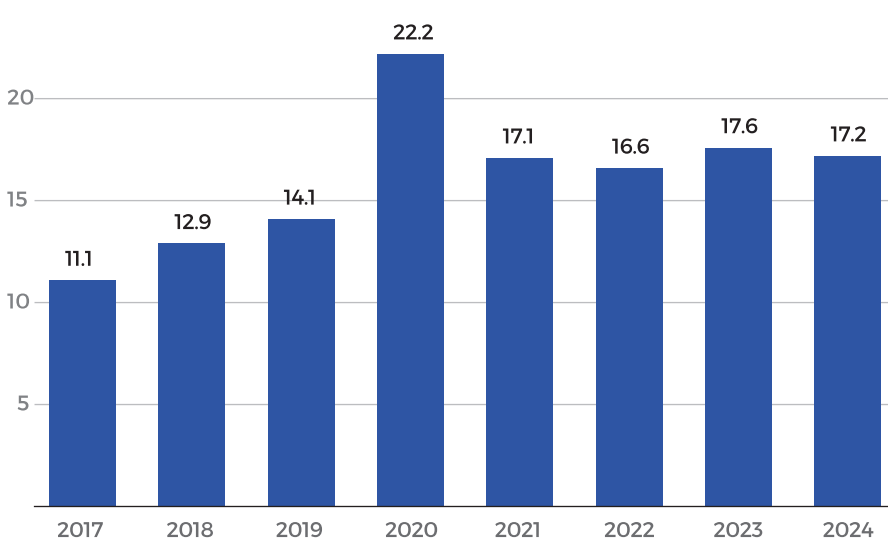
TRAILS

CUMULATIVE TRAIL AND BIKE LANE MILES



Source: Tristate Trails

ANNUAL TRAIL MILES TRAVELED (IN MILLIONS)



Tri-State Trails serves nine counties within the Cincinnati region. They track cumulative trail and bike lane miles, as well as annual trail miles traveled within their service area. Since 2017 the total trail miles traveled increased from 11.1 million to 17.2 million. Total miles traveled peaked during the COVID-19 pandemic, as people were looking for ways to get out of the house and be active, but the overall trend between 2017 and 2023 indicates a roughly 55% increase over the period. As progress on construction of the CROWN—a 34-mile urban trail loop linking Cincinnati’s regional trails, neighborhoods, and parks—continues, the expanded connectivity will make walking and biking more accessible, encouraging growth in total trail miles traveled.



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INDUSTRY

The Cincinnati region's industry mix continues to demonstrate both resilience and transformation. Advanced manufacturing, logistics, and health care remain pillars of our economy. Transportation and Warehousing and Health Care and Social Assistance are the two fastest growing industries, and projections show this will continue for the rest of the decade and beyond.

Strong enrollment growth at educational institutions like the University of Cincinnati and Cincinnati State means that employment at colleges, universities, and professional schools will continue to see strong growth—becoming the fastest growing industry in our region on in percentage terms. At the same time, our aging population means there will be great need for jobs at hospitals, elderly care facilities, and other healthcare providers.

In terms of employment concentration, flavoring syrup and concentrate manufacturing has risen to the top, with a 176% increase in location quotient since 2014. The region's second most concentrated industry in terms of employment, scheduled freight air transportation, has seen even larger growth—an astounding 6,314% since 2014. This illustrates the importance of the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport (CVG) and surrounding area in ensuring continued economic growth and resiliency for the region.



JOBS BY SECTOR

The largest industry in the Cincinnati region is Healthcare and Social Assistance, with 165,690 jobs and 6% growth over the past five years. This industry contributed \$16.2 billion to the Cincinnati economy in 2024 and generated \$347 million in local, state, and federal taxes. Healthcare practitioners make up 38% of occupations in this industry and these jobs are expected to increase by 7% by 2034. General Medical and Surgical Hospitals is the largest subsector in the region, with 52,772 jobs.



The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is the standard used by federal statistical agencies in classifying business establishments. NAICS is a 2 through 6-digit hierarchical classification system, offering five levels of detail. Each digit in the code is part of a series of progressively narrower categories, with the first two digits representing the broad economic, and the full six-digit code representing the most detailed industry level.

LARGEST NUMBER OF JOBS PER INDUSTRY (6-DIGIT NAICS)



LARGEST NUMBER OF JOBS PER INDUSTRY (2-DIGIT NAICS)



JOB GAINS, 2-DIGIT NAICS (2014-2024)

Over the past ten years, the Transportation and Warehousing industry has grown significantly, adding over 26,000 new jobs, and emerging as a leading industry in the Cincinnati region. Transportation and Warehousing is followed by Healthcare and Social assistance, which continues to be a strong industry in the region, due in part to the regional presence of leading organizations in the healthcare and education sectors.

NAICS	Sector	2014 - 2024 Change
48	Transportation and Warehousing	26,080
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	18,618
72	Accommodation and Food Services	13,830
31	Manufacturing	11,257
23	Construction	11,106

PERCENTAGE JOB GAINS, 2-DIGIT NAICS (2014-2024)

When it comes to percentage change, Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, & Hunting follow Transportation and Warehousing for job growth. While the percentage gain in this industry is large, the absolute number of these jobs in the region is still small. Following this sector are Real Estate and Rental and Leasing, as well as Construction, reflecting the resurgence of growth in the urban core over the last decade plus.

NAICS	Description	2014 - 2024 % Change
48	Transportation and Warehousing	72%
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	55%
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	26%
23	Construction	23%
72	Accommodation and Food Services	15%

JOB GAINS, 6-DIGIT NAICS (2014-2024)

As mentioned before, Transportation and Warehousing and Health Care and Social Assistance have experienced significant growth in total jobs over the past ten years in the Cincinnati region. When looking at industries at a more specific level, the General Warehousing and Storage subsector of Transportation and Warehousing has seen the most absolute growth of any subsector in the region--followed by General Medical and Surgical Hospitals.

NAICS	Description	2014 - 2024 Change
493110	General Warehousing and Storage	13,504
622110	General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	6,161
722513	Limited-Service Restaurants	4,842
492110	Couriers and Express Delivery Services	4,647
902612	Colleges, Universities, and Professional Schools (State Government)	4,407

Source: Lightcast

JOB PROJECTIONS BY INDUSTRY
(2-DIGIT)

Looking forward, Health Care and Social Assistance is projected to overtake Transportation and Warehousing in absolute growth, but both will likely continue to top the charts and lead employment growth in the region. The growth in health care focused jobs can be partly attributed to the region's aging population.

NAICS	Description	2024 - 2034 Change
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	11,809
48	Transportation and Warehousing	7,702
72	Accommodation and Food Services	4,671
31	Manufacturing	3,128
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	2,469

JOB PROJECTIONS BY INDUSTRY
(6-DIGIT)

At the 6-digit, more specific industry level, it is projected that Colleges, Universities, and Professional Schools (State Government) will grow by nearly 5,000 jobs by 2034. This sector is followed in projected growth by General Warehousing and Storage, and General Medical and Surgical Hospitals. The growth in university employment can be attributed in large part to the rapid enrollment growth at the University of Cincinnati, at a time when many universities are struggling with enrollment.

NAICS	Description	2024 - 2034 Change
902612	Colleges, Universities, and Professional Schools (State Government)	4,704
493110	General Warehousing and Storage	4,061
622110	General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	3,350
624120	Services for the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities	1,730
492110	Couriers and Express Delivery Services	1,462

Source: Lightcast



INDUSTRY LOCATION QUOTIENT

Location Quotients (LQ) refer to the measure of a region's industrial specialization in comparison to the country as a whole. For example, an LQ of 1.0 indicates that the region is equally as specialized in an industry as the rest of the country. An LQ below 1.0 indicates that the region is less specialized, and above 1.0

indicates a region is more specialized than the rest of the country. In the Cincinnati region, the most specialized industry is Flavoring Syrup and Concentrate Manufacturing, with an LQ of 31.67, and having grown by 175.5% in the past ten years.

INDUSTRY LOCATION QUOTIENT

Rank	NAICS	Description	Location Quotient (2024)
1	311930	Flavoring Syrup and Concentrate Manufacturing	31.67
2	481112	Scheduled Freight Air Transportation	19.98
3	336412	Aircraft Engine and Engine Parts Manufacturing	17.84
4	325611	Soap and Other Detergent Manufacturing	16.58
5	325130	Synthetic Dye and Pigment Manufacturing	10.53
6	903619	All Other Schools and Educational Support Services (Local Government)	9.59
7	339995	Burial Casket Manufacturing	9.22
8	325910	Printing Ink Manufacturing	9.02
9	312113	Ice Manufacturing	8.96
10	336330	Motor Vehicle Steering and Suspension Components (except Spring) Manufacturing	7.43

INDUSTRY LOCATION QUOTIENT INCREASES

Rank	NAICS	Description	2014 LQ	2024 LQ	Change in LQ	Percent Change in LQ
1	311930	Flavoring Syrup and Concentrate Manufacturing	11.49	31.67	20.17	175.5%
2	481112	Scheduled Freight Air Transportation	0.31	19.98	19.67	6314.1%
3	325611	Soap and Other Detergent Manufacturing	8.83	16.58	7.75	87.8%
4	712190	Nature Parks and Other Similar Institutions	1.46	7.35	5.89	404.2%
5	324199	All Other Petroleum and Coal Products Manufacturing	0.00	5.28	5.28	
6	325520	Adhesive Manufacturing	0.85	4.78	3.93	463.0%
7	327213	Glass Container Manufacturing	2.22	5.94	3.71	166.9%
8	324191	Petroleum Lubricating Oil and Grease Manufacturing	2.29	6.00	3.71	162.1%
9	312113	Ice Manufacturing	5.46	8.96	3.50	64.1%
10	335139	Electric Lamp Bulb and Other Lighting Equipment	1.01	4.32	3.31	328.8%

TOP OCCUPATIONS

JOB GAINS BY OCCUPATION

Over the past ten years, General and Operations Managers are the fastest growing occupation in the region, adding 17,861 positions—or about 136% growth. This is a role in a wide-range of industries that often serve as a link between top executives and department managers or supervisors, and the median annual wage for these roles in the region is high (\$99,403). Registered Nurses, another relatively highly paid role, come in fourth for total growth—adding almost 6,000 workers.

Source: Lightcast

Description	2014 - 2024 Change	2014 - 2024 % Change	Median Annual Earnings
General and Operations Managers	17,861	135.9%	\$99,403
Stockers and Order Fillers	11,859	75.1%	\$37,205
Fast Food and Counter Workers	6,478	24.5%	\$28,828
Registered Nurses	5,910	26.1%	\$84,337
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	4,575	35.4%	\$57,437

JOB POSTINGS BY OCCUPATION

Once again, Registered Nurses are the most sought-after occupation by hiring managers in the Cincinnati region, with over 13,000 unique job postings in the past year. This mirrors national trends, where federal estimates project the nursing shortage to peak in 2027 and continue until at least 2035—when supply of nurses might finally meet demand. Retail Salespersons and Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers are also in-demand occupations.

Source: Lightcast

Occupation	Unique Job Postings (July 2024 - June 2025)
Registered Nurses	13,857
Retail Salespersons	7,515
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	6,306
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	4,954
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	4,932



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INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT: CONSTRUCTION

The construction industry is this year's spotlight because of its outsized role in shaping regional growth. Over 62,000 Cincinnatians work in construction, earning wages that exceed the region's median household income. The sector contributes more to gross regional product than industries such as hotels, office administration, marketing services, and even more than our fastest growing industry of transportation and warehousing—demonstrating its immense and far-reaching economic impact.

Construction also plays a foundational role in supporting all other industries. From expanding hospitals in Uptown to new warehouses in Northern Kentucky, to downtown redevelopment and suburban housing, construction is essential to accommodating population and job growth. With historic levels of public and private investment flowing into the region—including federal infrastructure dollars and business expansion—the demand for skilled workers in construction will only rise. Ensuring we have the workforce to meet that demand is one of the most important opportunities facing our region.



CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT REGIONAL OVERVIEW



Expected Jobs, Salary, and Job Postings refer to the national average for a region Cincinnati's size.

REGIONAL JOBS

62,494

REGIONAL
AVERAGE SALARY

\$85,455

REGIONAL JOB
POSTINGS

540

EXPECTED
REGIONAL JOBS

69,362

EXPECTED REGIONAL
AVERAGE SALARY

\$86,324

EXPECTED
REGIONAL JOB
POSTINGS

485

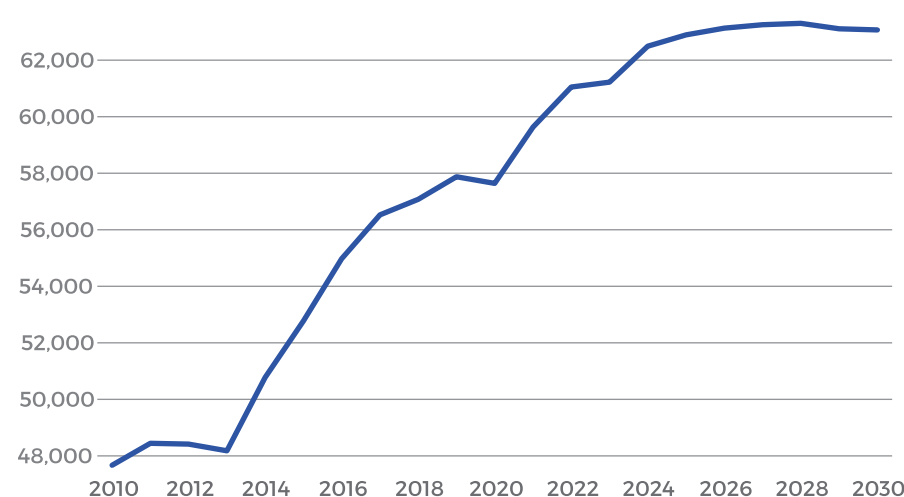
Source: Lightcast

CONSTRUCTION JOBS

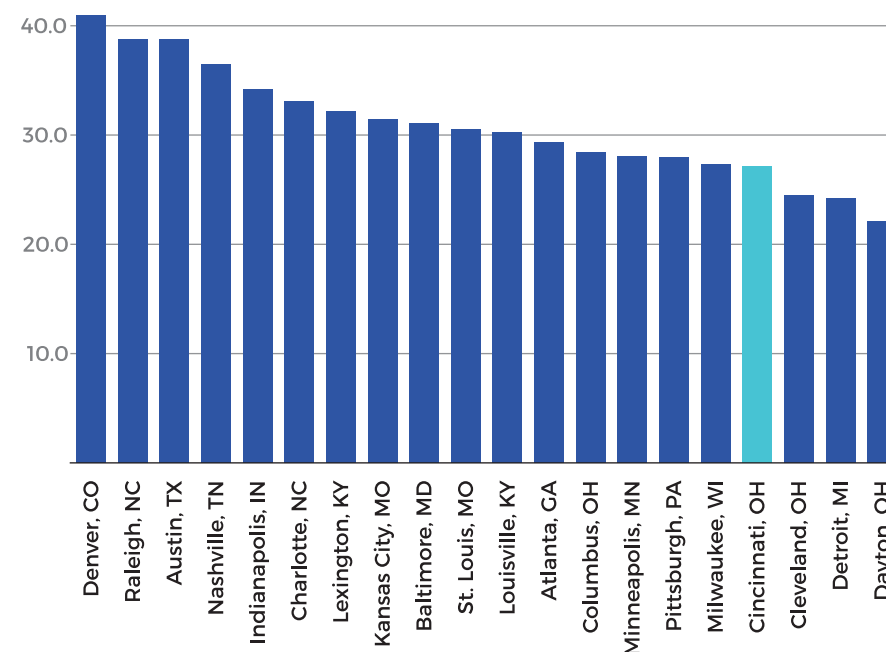
The Cincinnati region performs well when it comes to construction jobs. With an average \$85,455 salary for construction jobs, in line with the expected regional average, and more job postings than expected for a region of our size, Cincinnati provides promising opportunity for a career in the construction

industry. While the region has fewer construction jobs than many of our faster growing peers, construction jobs have been steadily rising in the past ten years. While some industries saw sharp dips during the pandemic, construction jobs remained relatively unaffected, with a much smaller drop in total jobs in 2020.

CONSTRUCTION JOBS OVER TIME (2010-2030)



CONSTRUCTION JOBS PER 1,000 RESIDENTS: PEER COMPARISON



Source: Lightcast

CONSTRUCTION WORKFORCE BY OCCUPATION

Construction Laborers, Carpenters, and Electricians are the largest occupations in the construction industry, together making up over 25% of all construction industry jobs. Notably, many of the top construction occupations were identified in the CRD's recent Green Workforce Landscape Analysis as some of the top

occupations projected to grow as a result of the implementation of the Green Cincinnati Plan. Also of note, these tend to be highly paid jobs, with low barriers to entry.

CINCINNATI REGION CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY BY OCCUPATION (2-DIGIT NAICS)

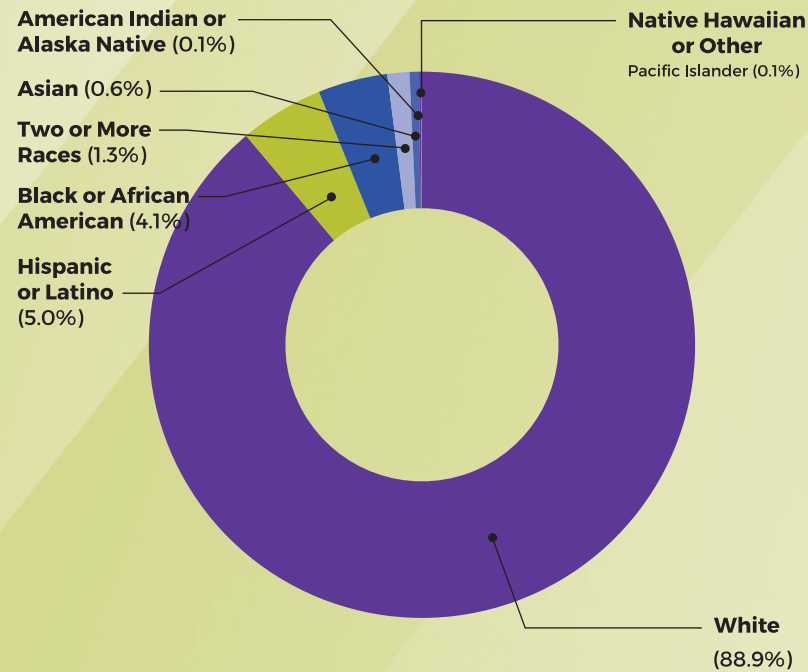
SOC	Description	Employed in Industry (2024)	% of Total Jobs in Industry (2024)
47-2061	Construction Laborers	7,317	11.7%
47-2031	Carpenters	5,480	8.8%
47-2111	Electricians	4,541	7.3%
47-1011	First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers	4,142	6.6%
11-9021	Construction Managers	3,440	5.5%
47-2152	Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	3,204	5.1%
49-9021	Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics, and Installers	2,597	4.2%
11-1021	General and Operations Managers	2,217	3.5%
47-2073	Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators	1,844	3.0%
47-2141	Painters, Construction and Maintenance	1,738	2.8%

TOP SUBSECTORS BY TOTAL JOBS

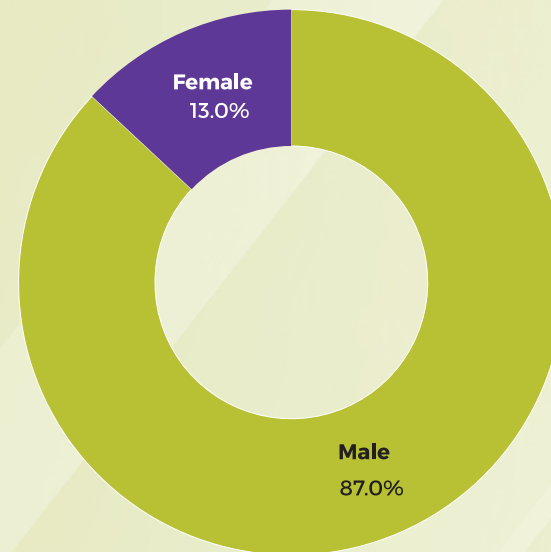
NAICS	Description	2024 Jobs	Percent of Industry
238220	Plumbing, Heating, and Air-Conditioning Contractors	11,063	17.7%
238210	Electrical Contractors and Other Wiring Installation Contractors	7,194	11.5%
236220	Commercial and Institutional Building Construction	4,919	7.9%
236118	Residential Remodelers	4,830	7.7%
238910	Site Preparation Contractors	3,844	6.2%
238990	All Other Specialty Trade Contractors	3,701	5.9%
238110	Poured Concrete Foundation and Structure Contractors	3,047	4.9%
238350	Finish Carpentry Contractors	2,010	3.2%
237310	Highway, Street, and Bridge	1,863	3.0%

CONSTRUCTION WORKFORCE DEMOGRAPHICS

CINCINNATI REGION CONSTRUCTION WORKFORCE BY RACE/ETHNICITY



CINCINNATI REGION CONSTRUCTION WORKFORCE BY GENDER



CONSTRUCTION JOB POSTINGS

Several of the top companies for construction job postings in the Cincinnati metro area reflect the breadth of the industry—from large national contractors to specialized service providers. EMCOR Group and ABM Industries rank high because they manage a wide range of facilities and building systems, requiring constant staffing for electrical, mechanical, and maintenance roles. Hobby Lobby Stores appears on the list due to its ongoing new store construction and remodeling work. Local and regional firms like Messer Construction Company and Fischer Homes represent

traditional builders, with Messer focused on large commercial and institutional projects and Fischer on residential development. Others, such as Johnson Controls, specialize in building systems, automation, and service contracts, which generate steady hiring demand. Meanwhile, West Shore Home and Great Day Improvements highlight strong demand in home remodeling and renovation. Together, these postings reflect both the growth of new construction in the region and the continuous need for operations, maintenance, and home improvement services.



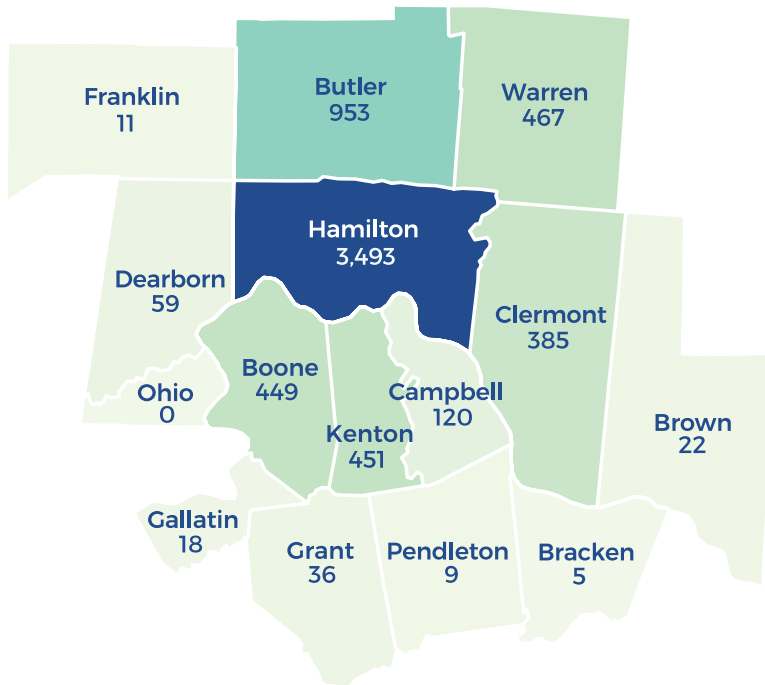
TOP JOB POSTINGS BY EMPLOYER

Company	Unique Postings (Jun 2024 - May 2025)
EMCOR Group	165
ABM Industries	135
Hobby Lobby Stores	118
C&F Services	111
Messer Construction	108
Fischer Homes	101
Johnson Controls	91
Hills Properties	83
Great Day Improvements	76
West Shore Home	76



CONSTRUCTION JOB POSTINGS BY COUNTY

0 3,493



While the region's population is concentrated in Hamilton County, construction industry job postings are even more heavily concentrated there, signifying the strength of the industry in our urban core and first-ring suburbs. However, many construction workers hired by these firms are doing work in the Southwest Ohio suburbs and Northern Kentucky as well.



CONSTRUCTION JOB POSTINGS BY OCCUPATION

Between June 2024 and May 2025, the Cincinnati metro area saw the highest number of construction-related job postings for Construction Managers (331), highlighting strong demand for leadership roles overseeing projects. Other top postings included Project Management Specialists (250) and General Maintenance and Repair Workers (232), reflecting the need for both organizational expertise and hands-on upkeep across

facilities. Technical trades are also in demand, with Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers (195) ranking high. Overall, the data reflects a balanced mix of management, technical trades, sales, and labor positions—suggesting that growth in Cincinnati’s construction sector is not just about building projects, but also about maintaining facilities, managing costs, and moving materials through the supply chain.



Job Postings by Occupation (SOC)	Unique Postings (Jun 2024 - May 2025)
Construction Managers	331
Project Management Specialists	250
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	232
Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	195
Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products	178
Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Technical and Scientific Products	150
Cost Estimators	145
Sales Representatives of Services, Except Advertising, Insurance, Financial Services, and Travel	142
Roofers	136
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	136

CONSTRUCTION JOB POSTINGS BY SKILLS

In Cincinnati's construction job market, the most in-demand skills are communication (37% of postings), customer service (28%), and management (22%). Customer service, sales, and leadership align fairly well with worker profiles, but communication stands out as a major gap (37% of postings vs. only 5% of profiles). Most skills are stable relative to the market, while problem solving, Microsoft Office, and lifting ability are growing. The data highlights strong employer demand for both interpersonal and practical skills, alongside persistent shortages in areas like communication and problem solving.

Skills	Postings	% of Total Postings	% of Total Profiles	Skill Growth Relative to Market
Communication	2,416	37%	5.0%	Lagging
Customer Service	1,798	28%	17.0%	Stable
Management	1,427	22%	12.0%	Stable
Sales	1,309	20%	15.0%	Stable
Detail Oriented	1,274	20%	1.0%	Stable
Operations	1,175	18%	7.0%	Stable
Leadership	1,053	16%	10.0%	Stable
Problem Solving	801	12%	2.0%	Growing
Lifting Ability	766	12%	0.0%	Growing
Microsoft Office	753	12%	10.0%	Growing



SUBSECTOR SPOTLIGHT: COMMERCIAL & INSTITUTIONAL BUILDING CONSTRUCTION



Commercial & Institutional Building Construction plays a major role in the Cincinnati region's economy, employing 4,919 workers with an average salary of \$106,366—well above the regional average. The subsector contributes \$735.3 million in Gross Regional Product (GRP), a measure of the total value of goods and services produced locally. Together, these figures highlight the industry's strong economic impact and the high-skill, high-wage opportunities it provides.

REGIONAL JOBS

4,919

TOTAL GRP
\$735.3 M

REGIONAL
AVERAGE SALARY

\$106,366

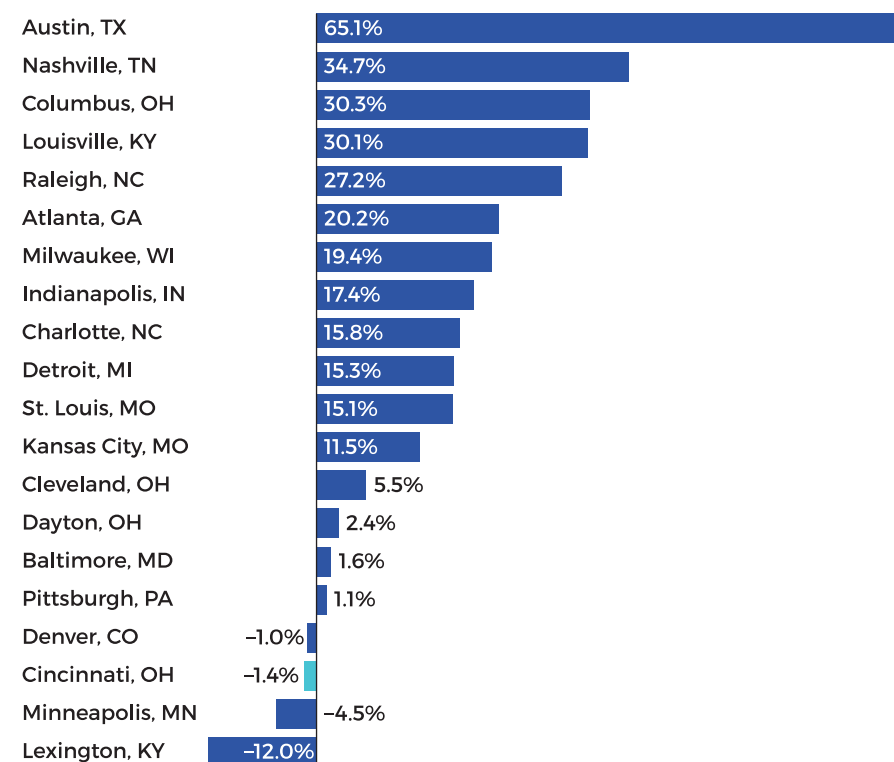


COMMERCIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL BUILDING CONSTRUCTION SUBSECTOR

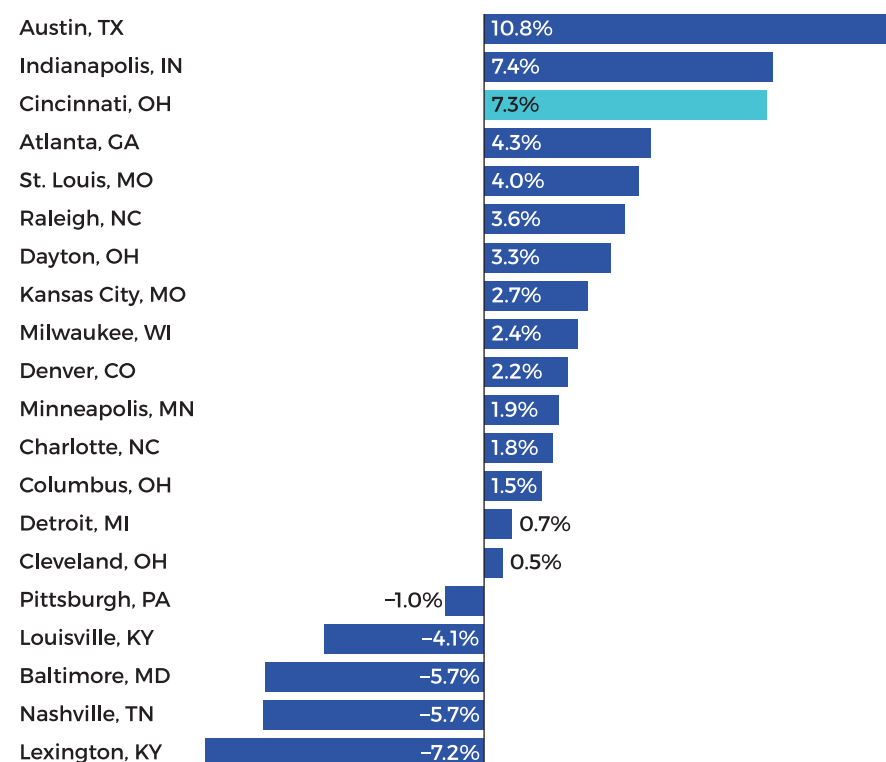
Within the construction sector, the subsector Commercial and Institutional Building Construction has been growing. Despite a lack of growth in the past five years, Cincinnati's commercial and institutional building construction subsector has grown rapidly in the past year. Most of the regions in our peer set that are fast-growing as a whole are fast-growing in this sector, indicating

that housing growth is key for regional and economic growth. The Cincinnati region has nearly 5,000 jobs, and these jobs pay a higher salary than the median household income for this region. Furthermore, the total Gross Regional Product (GRP) in this subsector is larger than industry sectors such as office administrative services, hotels and motels, and marketing consulting services.

JOB GROWTH (2019-2024): PEER COMPARISON



JOB GROWTH (2023-2024): PEER COMPARISON



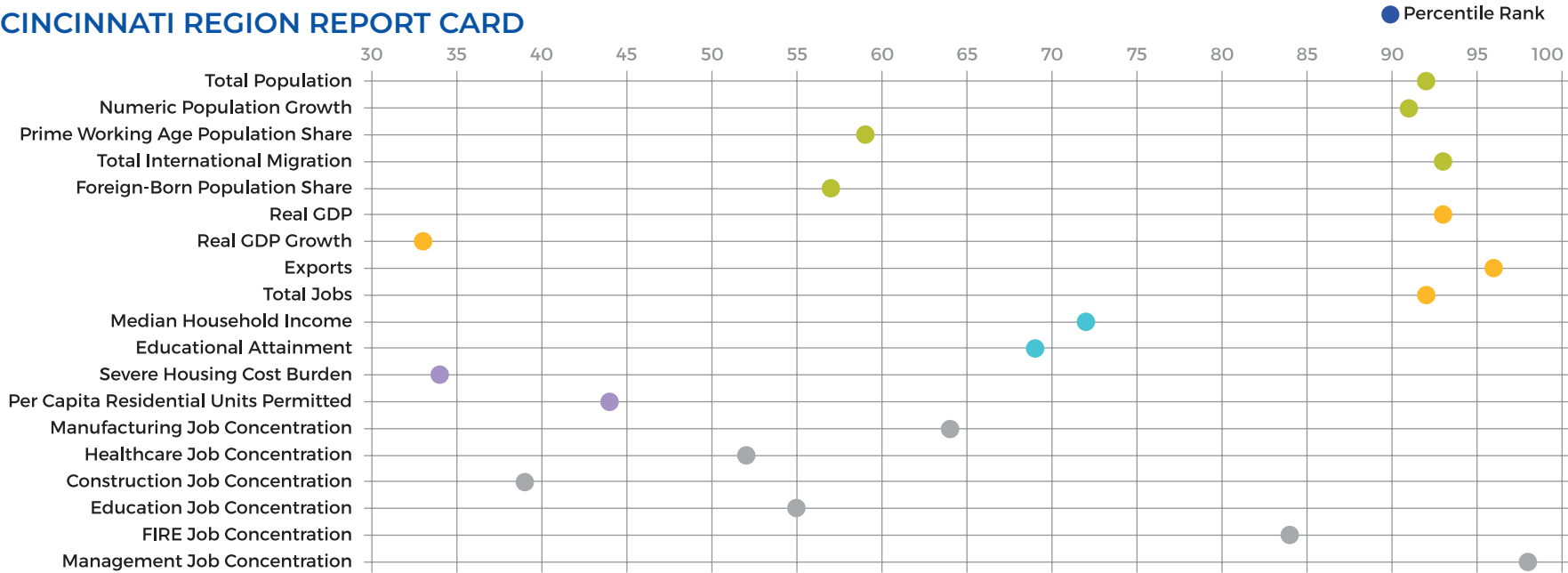
LOOKING FORWARD

For three years, the Center for Research & Data has compared Cincinnati to peer metros to guide priorities and track progress. This year we expanded the analysis to include all 393 U.S. metros. This national lens complements peer comparisons and highlights where Cincinnati’s strengths and weaknesses stand out.

Cincinnati shows clear advantages in population size and growth, overall economic scale, exports, and concentrations of corporate management and finance jobs. These are durable assets that

position the region competitively. But gaps remain. The economy is large but slow-growing, with weak housing and construction indicators pointing to supply and affordability challenges. The share of prime working-age residents and overall educational attainment are respectable but not top-tier, underscoring the need for stronger workforce and talent strategies.

Future State of the Region reports will track Cincinnati’s standing across all metros, creating a clearer scoreboard for progress on priorities like faster economic growth, expanded housing supply, and a stronger prime-age workforce.



Brandon Rudd

BRANDON RUDD
DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR RESEARCH & DATA,
CINCINNATI REGIONAL CHAMBER

For additional reports from the
Center for Research and Data:
data.cincinnatichamber.com

CONTACT US

PHONE :

(513) 579-3100

LEARN MORE:

shordinski@cincinnatichamber.com

ADDRESS:

3 E 4th St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

AUTHORS:

BRANDON RUDD | SABINA HORDINSKI

GRAPHIC DESIGN:

STANARD DESIGN | SIMON SHAKESPEARE

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

TRACEY BRACHLE | BRENDON CULL | AMY FITZGIBBONS
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