Regional Conditions

Over time, an economy not only grows, but also experiences sectoral reallocations. These reallocations affect both employment in specific industries and the national and regional mix of occupations.

Commerce Department projections show that by the year 2005, the U.S. will have 19% more jobs than it did in 1993, which translates into an average annual growth rate of about 1.5%. In contrast, the anticipated increase for Ohio between 1994 and 2005 is only 13%, a growth rate of 1.1% per year. Furthermore, of the 10 U.S. metropolitan areas expected to have the weakest employment growth, four are in Ohio. Only Cincinnati and Columbus are at or above the anticipated U.S. growth rate.

Although it is difficult to understand the causes of the difference between Ohio's and the nation's expected performance, some insight can be gained by examining which industries and occupations are changing, and what role these changes will play in determining whether Ohio will look more or less like the U.S. in the year 2005.

Currently, industry employment patterns in Ohio are similar to those of the U.S. as a whole, with a few noteworthy differences. In 1994, the manufacturing sector accounted for 19.1% of Ohio's total employment, compared with 14.4% nationally. Service's share of employment, however, was only slightly lower in Ohio, 23.7% versus 24.2%. Furthermore,
only 1.8% of Ohio's workforce is employed in agriculture, while the national rate is about 2.9%.

Over the next decade, Ohio is expected to see employment declines in agriculture, mining, and manufacturing. The largest gain (32.7%) is expected in the service sector. No other expanding industry will grow nearly as fast.

The expected change in occupations tells a similar story—that the U.S. and Ohio share some similarities but also have some glaring differences. Some of the largest differences again reflect the importance of manufacturing in Ohio. More than 10% of U.S. employment is in the managerial professions, versus only about 7% in Ohio, with both expecting slight gains over the next decade. By contrast, about 17% of Ohio workers fall into the operators, fabricators, and laborers category, compared to less than 14% nationwide, with both expecting declines in the next 10 years.

In the U.S., the fastest-growing occupations are personal care aides and home health aides. Ohio's fastest-growing job category is systems analysts, followed closely by personal care aides and computer engineers.

On the national scene, analysts foresee drastic reductions in several areas. The largest expected declines—roughly 70%—will affect telephone operators and installers, and billing, posting, and calculating machine operators. Manufacturing machine operators will also face substantial cutbacks, as will typists and word processors.

Although it is probable that Ohio's share of manufacturing employment will still be above the U.S. average in 2005, the state is slowly reducing its reliance on this sector as jobs in the service industries and technical occupations expand.