The Cincinnati Metropolitan Area

Cincinnati was undoubtedly hurt by the last recession, but it was affected less than the U.S. or Ohio, at least where employment is concerned. Throughout the recovery, Cincinnati’s employment fell more slowly than the rest of the U.S. and for fewer weeks. Moreover, since the last business cycle peak in March 2001, the city has added about 1% to its nonfarm employment (roughly the same rate as the U.S. average). Ohio, in contrast, suffered a 3% loss.

Much of Cincinnati’s recent employment growth has occurred in goods-producing rather than service-providing industries. Goods-producing employment grew 2.0% during the year, compared to a 0.7% gain in service-providing employment. Among the big gainers were natural resources, mining, and construction; professional and business services; and education and health services. The leisure and hospitality industry, however, declined over the year.

Cincinnati’s industrial mix of employment differs markedly from the nation’s in several ways: The share of its employment occupied in natural resources and mining is nearly triple that of the U.S. It also has a significantly smaller share of employment in the construction and information industries.

As for demographics, Cincinnati and Ohio have similar shares of minority residents. However, Cincinnati has a smaller percentage of residents 65 and older, and a larger percentage with a bachelor’s degree.