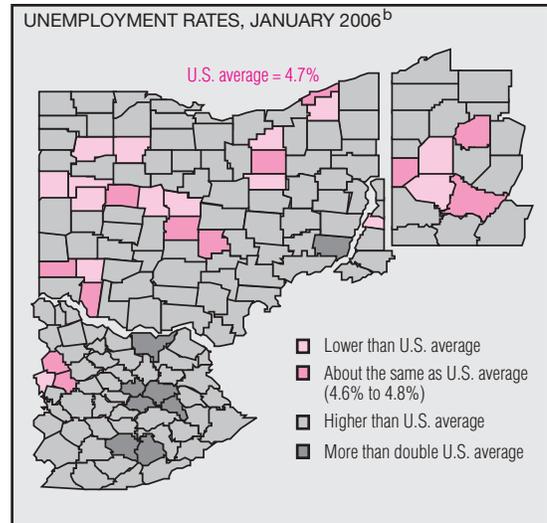


Fourth District Employment



Payroll Employment by Metropolitan Statistical Area

12-month percent change, February 2006

	Cleveland	Columbus	Cincinnati	Dayton	Toledo	Pittsburgh	Lexington	U.S.
Total nonfarm	-0.2	0.9	1.7	0.1	0.8	1.0	1.8	1.6
Goods-producing	-1.4	0.9	1.8	-0.4	-0.2	0.0	1.7	1.6
Manufacturing	-0.5	-0.6	1.5	-1.0	-0.4	-0.5	0.9	-0.3
Natural resources, mining, and construction	-5.1	4.2	2.5	2.2	0.8	1.0	4.3	5.4
Service-providing	0.0	0.9	1.6	0.3	1.0	1.1	1.8	1.6
Trade, transportation, and utilities	-2.0	0.2	-0.1	-1.3	0.0	0.5	3.6	0.9
Information	-2.1	0.0	-3.1	0.0	-2.5	-3.9	2.2	0.3
Financial activities	-1.1	0.3	2.3	-2.1	1.5	0.6	0.9	2.0
Professional and business services	2.2	2.0	3.3	1.7	2.2	0.3	2.4	2.8
Education and health services	1.3	2.0	2.5	1.7	2.9	2.0	1.0	2.5
Leisure and hospitality	2.4	1.6	4.5	2.8	2.3	6.3	4.8	2.0
Other services	-0.2	1.3	0.7	0.0	0.0	-0.2	-1.0	0.2
Government	-1.3	0.0	0.1	-1.2	-0.6	-0.7	-0.7	0.7
January unemployment rate (percent)	5.3	4.6	5.0	6.0	6.5	4.5	4.9	4.7

a. Shaded bars represent recessions.

b. Seasonally adjusted using the Census Bureau's X-11 procedure.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In January, the Fourth District's unemployment rate was 5.3%. This was lower than December 2005, but the comparison is muddled because the January estimate reflects an annual revision process that has not yet been incorporated into historical figures. The U.S. rate, which has been revised historically, rose from 4.7% in January to 4.8% in February.

Unemployment rates in Fourth District counties generally remained higher than the U.S. average in January. In fact, only 27 District counties

had unemployment rates that were below or about the same as that average, while 142 had rates that exceeded it. Eight counties had unemployment rates that were more than double the U.S. rate of 4.7%.

Some District metropolitan areas, like Cincinnati and Lexington, kept pace with national year-over-year employment growth; the rest had weaker growth than the U.S. Even so, Cleveland was the only major metropolitan area in the District that did not post an annual employment gain.

Although Columbus's employment growth lagged the nation's, it was positive in every industry except one: The manufacturing sector failed to add jobs over the year. Growth in service-providing industries across the District was strong. Specifically, professional and business services, education and health services, and the leisure and hospitality industries have all added employment in each of the District's major metropolitan areas since February 2005.