



PRESS RELEASE

NEW DATA SHOWS 15.8 PERCENT OF OHIOANS HAVE INCOMES AT OR BELOW THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL, OR NEARLY 1.8 MILLION PEOPLE

Ohio poverty rate higher than national rate, not statistically different from previous year

COLUMBUS, Ohio –Advocacy groups on Thursday called attention to the latest Census data that shows the economic recession hasn't ended for many working Ohioans, whose wages remain stagnant despite the rising cost of living.

Several statewide anti-poverty groups briefed the media on the U.S. Census Bureau's new American Community Survey poverty data, which found that 15.8 percent of Ohioans, or nearly 1.8 million people, live in households with incomes at or below the federal poverty level. For a household of three, the poverty threshold is about \$20,000 a year.

The rate of poverty in Ohio in 2014 was higher than the national rate of 15.5 percent, and was not statistically different from the previous year. It returns the state's poverty rate to 2010 levels, but remains significantly higher than pre-recession rates. Median household income in Ohio was also not statistically different from the previous year.

"The bottom line is: for Ohio to thrive, we have to ensure that all Ohioans can participate fully in our economy and we have to set all of Ohio's children up for life-long success no matter where they come from," said Col Owens, co-chair for Advocates for Ohio's Future.

The poverty rate for children was even higher than the overall population, at 22.9 percent of the 2.59 million Ohioans under age 18.

Additionally, some key demographic groups experienced increases in poverty, including an increase in poverty among African Americans in Ohio from 33.6 percent in 2013 to 34.7 percent in 2014. That's a sharp increase from 2008, when the poverty rate for African Americans in Ohio was 29.3 percent.

"The data continues to show the struggles of Ohio's families with rising costs and stagnant wages," said Phil Cole, executive director of the Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies. "We must ensure the rising tide of our economic recovery lifts the boats of the low-income households, too."

Cathy Johnston, advocacy director for the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio, agreed.

"In central Ohio, a family of three or four people would have to earn \$18.80 per hour at a full time job to afford the cost of a basic three-bedroom apartment," said Johnston. "And remember, Ohio's minimum wage is currently \$8.10. If you are eligible for federal housing assistance, you have only a one in four chance of receiving it. In other words, rents are too high and take home pay is too low."

Representatives from participating groups emphasized the need for policies that address poverty issues and include low- and middle-income households in the economic recovery. Kalitha Williams of Policy Matters Ohio called for strengthening state and federal Earned Income Tax Credits.

"The Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit are two of the most powerful tools to fight poverty for low-income workers," said Williams. "New data from the Census shows that these programs reduced the supplemental poverty rate by more than 3 percent, lifting roughly 10 million people, including more than 5 million children, out of poverty in 2014. Congress should make the federal EITC and child tax credit improvements of 2008 and 2009 permanent, and Ohio lawmakers should make our state EITC refundable. These are proven economic policies that help secure Ohio families."

New food insecurity data was also released last week, which showed a stark increase in food insecurity among Ohio households. Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director for the Ohio Association of Foodbanks, said rising food insecurity is a direct reflection of high poverty levels and stagnant household incomes.

"We simply cannot afford policies that leave more than one in six of our residents food insecure, and more than one in three eligible for help from foodbanks," said Hamler-Fugitt. "It is a serious crisis when working people, seniors, and children are being left behind."

To view more data, visit factfinder.census.gov.

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PRESS CONFERENCE: Anti-Poverty Groups Respond to New Ohio Poverty Data

**Philip E. Cole, Executive Director
Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies (OACAA)**

Good afternoon. I am Phil Cole, Executive Director of the Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies (OACAA). The Association represents Ohio's fifty community action agencies which cover all of Ohio's 88 counties. Last year we served over 800,000 individuals with a variety of programs designed to help them escape the evils of poverty.

As you know from the previous speakers, the national poverty rate reported today is over 15%. In late November, OACAA will be releasing an updated Self-Sufficiency Standard and I imagine we will be telling you that the real rate of poverty—the rate at which an individual or family can survive without outside public or private assistance—is higher than that.

You have heard this afternoon about the need for affordable housing, an expanded Earned Income Tax Credit, stronger food programs and the rest. We need to ask: Is this enough and is this all we can do?

In this nation, we did not always have big numbers of homeless people. We did not always have big numbers of people suffering from addiction to drugs and alcohol. In this nation, we did not always have stagnant wages, nor did we often have food pantries struggling for enough supply to meet demand.

As we know from other recessions, when a recession begins, Ohio falls into them more quickly, and when they end, Ohio comes out more slowly. It is the nature of Ohio's economy that this occurs. However, I believe that we are taking the right steps in Ohio. Governor Kasich has brought attention to the problems of poverty with Medicaid expansion, the passage and then expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit, he is doing more with workforce development, tax cuts for low-income workers, and other things. We salute him for that though more needs to be done.

While we need to solidify the safety net with the tools discussed today. We must challenge the problems of poverty, not just piecemeal but as a whole. We need to create real, long-term opportunities for people. Poverty is an enormous problem with multiple tentacles, and the longer we wait, the more those problems multiply—poor education leads to a less qualified workforce, hunger leads to difficulty in learning, drug addiction leads to multiple problems for individuals and families, and so forth.

When speaking about the promises of democracy, Martin Luther King spoke of “the fierce urgency of now” and that phrase applies to the need to solve poverty today. It is urgent that we deal with all of the problems now because if we do not they will only continue to multiply and grow.

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President John Kennedy reminded us that the problems created by us can be solved by us. And he was right, as long as we do not wait too long. Ohio must go for every dollar possible for SNAP. Ohio must continue to strengthen our workforce, deal with the lack of affordable housing, make the EITC refundable, multiply our addiction recovery services, and we must have a strong education system that teaches entrepreneurship and financial management.

If we take on all the issues of poverty now, it will take several years before we see the change. But, that does not mean we should not do it. It means only that continuing to delay puts the solution even farther off into the future.

The time to solve poverty is now. Let's work together and get it done.

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Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other. Community Action Agencies work to alleviate poverty and empower low-income families in their communities. The Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies represents 50 agencies around the state serving the needs of low-income people in all of Ohio's 88 counties. CAAs provide education and training, emergency services, and other assistance programs to over 800,000 Ohioans annually.



ARIZON

NEW MEXICO

OKLAHOMA

ARKANSAS

TENNESSEE

NORTH CAROLINA

SOUTH CAROLINA

CP03

COMPARATIVE ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

Supporting documentation on code lists, subject definitions, data accuracy, and statistical testing can be found on the American Community Survey website in the Data and Documentation section.

Sample size and data quality measures (including coverage rates, allocation rates, and response rates) can be found on the American Community Survey website in the Methodology section.

Although the American Community Survey (ACS) produces population, demographic and housing unit estimates, it is the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program that produces and disseminates the official estimates of the population for the nation, states, counties, cities and towns and estimates of housing units for states and counties.

An * indicates that the estimate is significantly different (at a 90% confidence level) than the estimate from the most current year. A "c" indicates the estimates for that year and the current year are both controlled; a statistical test is not appropriate.

Geographic areas are based on the geographic boundaries of the data year. Current year comparisons with past-year estimates are not re-tabulated to the current year's geographies; rather, the comparison is with the existing geography of each data year. Statistically significant change from prior years' estimates could be the result of changes in the geographic boundaries of an area and not necessarily the demographic, social, or economic characteristics. For more information on geographic changes, see: <http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/guidance.html>.

Subject	Ohio				
	2014 Estimate	2013 Estimate	2014 - 2013 Statistical Significance	2012 Estimate	2014 - 2012 Statistical Significance
EMPLOYMENT STATUS					
Population 16 years and over	9,262,560	9,226,076	*	9,196,303	*
In labor force	63.3%	63.2%		63.3%	
Civilian labor force	63.2%	63.1%		63.2%	
Employed	58.7%	58.0%	*	57.5%	*
Unemployed	4.5%	5.1%	*	5.7%	*
Armed Forces	0.1%	0.1%		0.1%	
Not in labor force	36.7%	36.8%		36.7%	
Civilian labor force	5,858,014	5,820,829	*	5,812,492	*
Percent Unemployed	7.2%	8.1%	*	9.1%	*
Females 16 years and over					
In labor force	58.9%	59.0%		58.9%	
Civilian labor force	58.9%	59.0%		58.9%	
Employed	54.9%	54.5%		53.9%	*
Own children under 6 years					
All parents in family in labor force	68.6%	69.1%		68.1%	
Own children 6 to 17 years					
All parents in family in labor force	73.4%	72.6%		72.5%	
COMMUTING TO WORK					
Workers 16 years and over	5,330,410	5,241,598	*	5,183,203	*
Car, truck, or van -- drove alone	83.6%	83.6%		83.3%	
Car, truck, or van -- carpooled	7.8%	7.8%		8.1%	*

Subject	Ohio				
	2014 Estimate	2013 Estimate	2014 - 2013 Statistical Significance	2012 Estimate	2014 - 2012 Statistical Significance
Public transportation (excluding taxicab)	1.7%	1.7%		1.6%	*
Walked	2.2%	2.2%		2.4%	*
Other means	1.1%	1.2%		1.2%	*
Worked at home	3.6%	3.5%		3.4%	*
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	23.2	23.2		23.2	
OCCUPATION					
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	5,437,533	5,347,801	*	5,285,177	*
Management, business, science, and arts occupations	35.6%	34.9%	*	34.0%	*
Service occupations	17.3%	17.9%	*	18.0%	*
Sales and office occupations	23.6%	23.7%		24.5%	*
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	7.7%	7.7%		7.8%	
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	15.8%	15.8%		15.8%	
INDUSTRY					
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	5,437,533	5,347,801	*	5,285,177	*
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	1.0%	1.2%	*	1.1%	
Construction	5.3%	5.0%	*	5.2%	
Manufacturing	15.5%	15.6%		15.4%	
Wholesale trade	2.8%	2.7%		2.7%	
Retail trade	11.7%	11.7%		11.6%	
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	4.6%	4.7%		4.8%	
Information	1.8%	1.8%		1.6%	*
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	6.1%	6.4%	*	6.4%	*
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	9.7%	9.1%	*	9.4%	
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	24.1%	24.4%		24.1%	
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	9.3%	9.3%		9.0%	*
Other services, except public administration	4.3%	4.4%		4.6%	*
Public administration	3.7%	3.8%		4.0%	*
CLASS OF WORKER					
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	5,437,533	5,347,801	*	5,285,177	*
Private wage and salary workers	83.0%	82.7%		81.9%	*
Government workers	12.0%	12.4%	*	12.8%	*
Self-employed in own not incorporated business workers	4.8%	4.8%		5.1%	*
Unpaid family workers	0.2%	0.1%	*	0.1%	
INCOME AND BENEFITS (IN 2014 INFLATION-ADJUSTED DOLLARS)					
Total households	4,593,172	4,564,745	*	4,554,672	*
Less than \$10,000	8.2%	8.3%		8.3%	
\$10,000 to \$14,999	5.6%	5.6%		5.9%	*
\$15,000 to \$24,999	11.6%	11.7%		11.8%	
\$25,000 to \$34,999	10.8%	11.0%		10.9%	
\$35,000 to \$49,999	14.3%	14.4%		14.5%	
\$50,000 to \$74,999	18.5%	18.3%		18.6%	
\$75,000 to \$99,999	11.8%	11.8%		11.9%	
\$100,000 to \$149,999	11.7%	11.7%		11.2%	*
\$150,000 to \$199,999	4.0%	3.8%		3.6%	*
\$200,000 or more	3.4%	3.4%		3.2%	*
Median household income (dollars)	49,308	48,807		48,161	*
Mean household income (dollars)	66,252	66,195		64,729	*

Subject	Ohio				
	2014 Estimate	2013 Estimate	2014 - 2013 Statistical Significance	2012 Estimate	2014 - 2012 Statistical Significance
With earnings	75.5%	75.7%		75.3%	
Mean earnings (dollars)	68,662	68,421		67,046	*
With Social Security	31.1%	30.5%	*	30.4%	*
Mean Social Security income (dollars)	17,279	17,132	*	16,985	*
With retirement income	21.1%	20.7%	*	21.4%	*
Mean retirement income (dollars)	22,481	22,028		22,037	
With Supplemental Security Income	5.9%	5.8%		5.7%	
Mean Supplemental Security Income (dollars)	9,370	9,191		9,154	*
With cash public assistance income	3.1%	3.2%		3.3%	*
Mean cash public assistance income (dollars)	2,644	2,993	*	3,216	*
With Food Stamp/SNAP benefits in the past 12 months	14.9%	15.4%	*	15.7%	*
Families	2,923,523	2,923,404		2,913,312	
Less than \$10,000	5.3%	5.2%		5.5%	
\$10,000 to \$14,999	3.2%	3.4%		3.4%	*
\$15,000 to \$24,999	7.7%	8.0%		8.1%	*
\$25,000 to \$34,999	8.8%	9.2%	*	8.8%	
\$35,000 to \$49,999	13.7%	13.9%		14.1%	
\$50,000 to \$74,999	20.6%	20.1%		20.6%	
\$75,000 to \$99,999	14.7%	14.5%		15.0%	
\$100,000 to \$149,999	15.7%	15.5%		15.1%	*
\$150,000 to \$199,999	5.4%	5.3%		5.0%	*
\$200,000 or more	4.8%	4.8%		4.5%	*
Median family income (dollars)	62,300	61,865		61,674	
Mean family income (dollars)	79,702	79,667		77,957	*
Per capita income (dollars)	26,937	26,785		26,237	*
Nonfamily households	1,669,649	1,641,341	*	1,641,360	*
Median nonfamily income (dollars)	28,786	29,058		28,196	
Mean nonfamily income (dollars)	40,081	39,805		39,105	*
Median earnings for workers (dollars)	30,134	29,487	*	29,238	*
Median earnings for male full-time, year-round workers (dollars)	47,737	47,776		47,479	
Median earnings for female full-time, year-round workers (dollars)	37,140	36,923		36,686	*
HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE					
Civilian noninstitutionalized population	11,420,809	11,398,298	*	11,371,766	*
With health insurance coverage	91.6%	89.0%	*	88.5%	*
With private health insurance	69.0%	68.6%	*	68.7%	
With public coverage	34.9%	32.4%	*	32.4%	*
No health insurance coverage	8.4%	11.0%	*	11.5%	*
Civilian noninstitutionalized population under 18 years	2,631,481	2,644,952	*	2,656,700	*
No health insurance coverage	4.8%	5.3%	*	5.3%	*
Civilian noninstitutionalized population 18 to 64 years	7,061,137	7,072,114	*	7,076,483	*
In labor force:	5,467,860	5,445,206		5,445,540	
Employed:	5,082,469	5,012,634	*	4,960,477	*
With health insurance coverage	90.0%	86.9%	*	86.5%	*
With private health insurance	82.3%	81.3%	*	81.1%	*
With public coverage	9.9%	7.7%	*	7.4%	*
No health insurance coverage	10.0%	13.1%	*	13.5%	*
Unemployed:	385,391	432,572	*	485,063	*
With health insurance coverage	70.9%	61.6%	*	59.9%	*

Subject	Ohio				
	2014 Estimate	2013 Estimate	2014 - 2013 Statistical Significance	2012 Estimate	2014 - 2012 Statistical Significance
With private health insurance	35.6%	36.1%		34.1%	
With public coverage	38.0%	27.7%	*	28.3%	*
No health insurance coverage	29.1%	38.4%	*	40.1%	*
Not in labor force:	1,593,277	1,626,908	*	1,630,943	*
With health insurance coverage	87.4%	82.4%	*	82.2%	*
With private health insurance	51.5%	51.1%		52.5%	*
With public coverage	41.9%	37.1%	*	36.5%	*
No health insurance coverage	12.6%	17.6%	*	17.8%	*
PERCENTAGE OF FAMILIES AND PEOPLE WHOSE INCOME IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS IS BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL					
All families	11.6%	11.6%		12.0%	
With related children under 18 years	19.5%	19.8%		20.4%	*
With related children under 5 years only	21.8%	22.4%		24.1%	*
Married couple families	4.5%	4.8%		4.8%	
With related children under 18 years	6.6%	7.3%	*	7.5%	*
With related children under 5 years only	5.5%	6.2%		7.6%	*
Families with female householder, no husband present	34.7%	33.8%		35.9%	
With related children under 18 years	45.4%	44.7%		47.2%	
With related children under 5 years only	54.0%	54.5%		58.7%	*
All people	15.8%	16.0%		16.3%	*
Under 18 years	22.9%	22.7%		23.8%	
Related children under 18 years	22.5%	22.4%		23.4%	
Related children under 5 years	26.9%	26.7%		28.6%	*
Related children 5 to 17 years	21.0%	20.9%		21.5%	
18 years and over	13.7%	13.9%		14.0%	
18 to 64 years	15.1%	15.3%		15.4%	
65 years and over	8.1%	8.4%		8.0%	
People in families	12.9%	12.9%		13.4%	*
Unrelated individuals 15 years and over	27.4%	28.2%	*	27.7%	