



Findlay · Hancock County
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FINDLAY·HANCOCK COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

April 2024

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN FOCUS

Retention & Expansion |

The Economic Development Benefits of Company Visits

Retention visits, a core practice in economic development, are strategic meetings between FHCED and local business leaders aimed at strengthening relationships, understanding business needs, and promoting continued growth within Findlay-Hancock County. These visits offer a range of economic development benefits, helping maintain a vibrant business environment and fostering a culture of support and collaboration.

Strengthening Business Relationships

By regularly visiting businesses, FHCED gains a deeper understanding of each company's operations, challenges, and long-term goals. This familiarity helps create trust and open communication, allowing our businesses to share their concerns and needs more freely.

Identifying and Addressing Business Needs

Retention visits provide an opportunity for FHCED to identify potential issues that businesses may be facing, such as workforce issues, infrastructure challenges, or regulatory hurdles. By addressing these issues proactively, FHCED can work to find solutions that help businesses grow and continue to thrive. This proactive approach can prevent businesses from relocating or downsizing, thereby safeguarding local jobs and economic stability.

Facilitating Business Expansion and Growth

During retention visits, FHCED discuss future growth plans with business leadership, offering guidance on resources and incentives available to support expansion. By encouraging and facilitating business growth, retention visits contribute to a more robust local economy, leading to increased employment opportunities and greater tax revenue.

Encouraging Collaboration and Networking

Retention visits also serve as a platform for fostering collaboration and networking. Moreover, retention visits offer valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities facing local businesses. By listening to the concerns of business owners and managers, economic development organizations gain a deeper understanding of the factors influencing our local economy. This information allows FHCED to tailor support services, such as workforce training programs, access to financing, or regulatory assistance, etc.

Retention visits also contribute to job retention and creation. By identifying potential risks or obstacles to business operations, FHCED can intervene early to mitigate challenges and help companies remain competitive.

Furthermore, the benefits of retention visits extend beyond individual businesses to the broader community. A thriving business ecosystem attracts talent, investment, and new opportunities, enhancing the overall quality of life for our residents. Strong local businesses also contribute to tax revenues, which can be reinvested into public services, infrastructure, and community development projects.

In conclusion, retention visits are a powerful tool for FHCED, offering a proactive approach to supporting local businesses and driving sustainable growth. By nurturing existing enterprises, fostering strong relationships, and addressing challenges, retention visits contribute to the long-term vitality and prosperity of Findlay-Hancock County.

Workforce |

TechCred is a workforce development program in Ohio that provides funding to help employers upskill their workers through technology-focused training and education. The program aims to equip Ohio's workforce with the necessary skills to meet the demands of modern industries, encouraging economic growth and competitiveness.

Through TechCred, businesses can apply for grants to cover the costs of training and credentialing their employees in various technology-related fields. This includes skills like cybersecurity, data analytics, coding, IT support, and more. The program is designed to be flexible, allowing employers to choose the training that best fits their needs, whether through traditional educational institutions, online courses, or industry-specific programs.

TechCred benefits both employers and employees. For employers, it helps create a more skilled workforce, driving innovation and productivity. For employees, it provides an opportunity to enhance their skills and improve career prospects, leading to better job security and growth opportunities.

Overall, TechCred is part of Ohio's broader effort to support workforce development, ensuring that the state's workers and businesses are equipped to thrive in an increasingly technology-driven economy.

Downtown |

The Downtown Findlay Renaissance: A Decade of Revitalization and Growth

Over the past decade, downtown Findlay, Ohio, has experienced a remarkable transformation, evolving from a traditional town center into a vibrant hub of culture, commerce, and community engagement. This renaissance has been driven by collaborative efforts among FHCED, local businesses, city officials, and community members, resulting in a thriving downtown.

A key factor in downtown Findlay's resurgence has been the commitment to preserving its historical charm when possible while embracing modern amenities and trends. The revitalization strategy has involved updating historic buildings, improving infrastructure, and creating inviting public spaces. These efforts have not only attracted new businesses but also encouraged existing ones to invest downtown.

One of the most significant outcomes of this renaissance is the resurgence of small businesses, including boutique shops, cafes, restaurants, and service businesses. This growth has brought a fresh energy to downtown Findlay, attracting both residents and visitors. Downtown on any given day is now filled with people exploring local shops, enjoying live music, and participating in community events.

Community events and cultural activities have played a pivotal role in the downtown revival. Annual festivals, farmers markets, food trucks and live music have become staple attractions, fostering a sense of community and drawing visitors from across the region. These events not only boost local businesses but also strengthen the social fabric of Findlay, making downtown a lively and welcoming destination.

The renaissance in downtown Findlay over the past 10 years is a testament to what can be achieved through collaboration and a shared vision. By combining historical updates with innovative development, stakeholders have created a downtown that honors its past while embracing the future. As Findlay continues to grow and evolve, the downtown resurgence serves as an inspiring example of how revitalization can transform a community.

Small Business |

JobsOhio's Inclusion Grant Program is a funding initiative designed to promote economic inclusion and support the growth of small businesses in Ohio, particularly those owned by minorities, women and veterans. The program aims to drive equitable economic development by providing financial assistance to businesses that might otherwise struggle to access traditional funding sources.

The Inclusion Grant Program offers direct financial support to eligible small businesses to aid in their growth and development. This funding can be used for various business-related expenses, such as equipment purchases, facility renovations, workforce training, or technology upgrades. The program's goal is to help businesses improve their operations, increase employment opportunities, and enhance economic activity in underserved areas.

To qualify for the Inclusion Grant Program, businesses must meet specific criteria related to ownership, location, and size. The application process involves providing details about the business, its goals, and how the grant will be used to promote growth and inclusion.

Overall, the JobsOhio Inclusion Grant Program serves as a valuable resource for small businesses seeking to overcome barriers to growth and contribute to Ohio's diverse and inclusive economy. Through this program, JobsOhio seeks to foster a more equitable business environment and stimulate broader economic development across the state.

Findlay Auto Dealer Partner Recognition |

Findlay's automotive dealers play a helpful role in supporting FHCED by providing us with courtesy vehicles on a rotating basis. This generous initiative helps us provide business windshield tours, site visits, and business-related events, allowing us to focus on promoting Findlay-Hancock County as an attractive location for business and industry.

The courtesy vehicle program enables FHCED to engage with potential investors and strengthen existing business relationships. Dealer support contributes to the smooth functioning of FHCED's initiatives, leading to greater business growth, job creation, and sustained community development.

The partnership between Findlay participating automotive dealers and FHCED highlights the collaborative spirit that drives Findlay's success. It also underscores the dealers' commitment to the Findlay-Hancock community and sets an example of how business contributions can create a positive cycle of growth and investment.

Thank you!

Talor Kia, Reineke Honda, Taylor Hyundai, LaRiche Chevrolet-Cadillac, Great Lakes Toyota, Reineke Ford



More manufacturing workers are likely to be needed for higher skill roles |

Source: Deloitte Research Center for Energy & Industrials

A significant number of manufacturing jobs requiring higher skills are expected to be in demand in the coming years. According to data from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), many of the manufacturing roles that are projected to grow rapidly through 2032 are in line with the skills that have been most sought after over the past five years. As manufacturing processes and products become increasingly sophisticated and companies use more data from smart devices, the need for skilled workers is likely to grow.

One of the fastest-growing segments is industrial machinery maintenance, which had over 270,000 workers in 2022 and is expected to increase by up to 16% by 2032. Mechanical and industrial engineers, totaling nearly 370,000 in 2022, are anticipated to grow by about 11% during the same period. Meanwhile, software and web developers, computer and information systems managers, and computer and information analysts, who together comprised almost 243,000 workers in manufacturing in 2022, could collectively grow by nearly 13% by 2032. Statisticians and data scientists, though currently a small portion of the manufacturing workforce (around 7,500), are projected to grow by nearly 30% by 2032.

While traditional production jobs will still be crucial, roles with higher skill requirements, such as semiconductor-processing technicians, machinists, first-line supervisors, welders, and electronics and electromechanical assemblers, are expected to see the fastest growth in the production sector. Additionally, there could be gains in material-moving occupations, including laborers and material movers, as well as industrial truck and tractor operators. However, there's a potential educational gap in preparing workers for these higher-skill roles.

Data from the National Center for Education Statistics reveals that while the number of bachelor's degrees in all fields has increased from 2011 to 2022, the growth in associate degrees, which are typically designed for skilled trades, has remained flat. Certificate programs, which can serve as foundational training for skilled trades, have seen moderate growth, with a significant increase from 2021 to 2022, eventually exceeding the number of associate degrees awarded.

Economic Development Takes Flight: the future of Advanced Air Mobility |

As the birthplace of aviation, Ohio has always been at the forefront of aeronautical innovation. Today, the state continues to lead the charge with its commitment to Advanced Air Mobility (AAM), a groundbreaking sector poised to revolutionize transportation. AAM encompasses a wide range of air-based solutions, from drones and eVTOL (electric Vertical Take-Off and Landing) aircraft to unmanned cargo transport, designed to provide efficient and environmentally friendly transportation options. In Ohio, industry stakeholders including JobsOhio, academic institutions, and government agencies are working together to position the state as a hub for this emerging field. FHCED is currently exploring business opportunities in this dynamic sector.

Ohio's Strong Aviation Heritage

Ohio's rich aviation history lays a solid foundation for its leadership in AAM. From the Wright brothers' pioneering flights in Dayton to the state's robust aerospace industry, Ohio has long been synonymous with innovation. The presence of major aerospace and defense contractors, coupled with research institutions like NASA Glenn Research Center and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, ensures that the state remains at the cutting edge of aeronautical advancements.

Collaborative Ecosystem

A key component of Ohio's success in AAM is the collaborative ecosystem that brings together industry leaders, academic researchers, and public sector agencies. Initiatives like FlyOhio, launched by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), aim to integrate AAM into the state's transportation infrastructure. This collaborative approach encourages cross-sector partnerships, supporting the development, testing, and deployment of advanced aerial technologies.

Innovative Applications and Use Cases

Ohio's commitment to AAM extends to exploring a variety of innovative applications. The state is investing in research to develop drone delivery systems, aerial urban transport, and unmanned cargo flights. These applications hold the potential to revolutionize industries like healthcare, logistics, and emergency response, offering faster, more efficient solutions while reducing carbon emissions.

For instance, Ohio's trials with drone technology have demonstrated the potential to transform medical deliveries, reducing transportation times for critical supplies like organs and blood products. Additionally, advanced aerial vehicles could alleviate traffic congestion in urban areas, providing a quicker alternative to traditional road-based transportation.

A Bright Future Ahead

With Ohio's unique blend of historical significance, robust infrastructure, and a collaborative ecosystem, the state is poised to play a leading role in the future of Advanced Air Mobility. The ongoing investment in research, technology, and cross-sector partnerships ensures that Ohio will continue to push the boundaries of what's possible, making the dream of advanced air transport a reality.

JASCO Gala |

Silver Sponsor: Findlay-Hancock County Economic Development

On April 25, 2024, the Japan-America Society of Central Ohio (JASCO) hosted its annual gala in Columbus, bringing together a vibrant mix of community leaders, business professionals, and cultural enthusiasts to celebrate the strong ties between Japan and Ohio. The event, held at the Columbus COSI.

The formal program kicked off with a welcome from the JASCO executive director Seth Josolowitz, who emphasized the importance of fostering cross-cultural understanding and collaboration. Special guests included Consul General Shindo, representatives from local Japanese businesses, and leaders from educational institutions. Throughout the evening, speakers shared their insights into the growing economic and cultural partnerships between Japan and Ohio.

The JASCO Gala 2024 was a resounding success, reinforcing the strong bonds between Japan and Ohio and inspiring continued collaboration.

74,616

Population (2023)

47,554

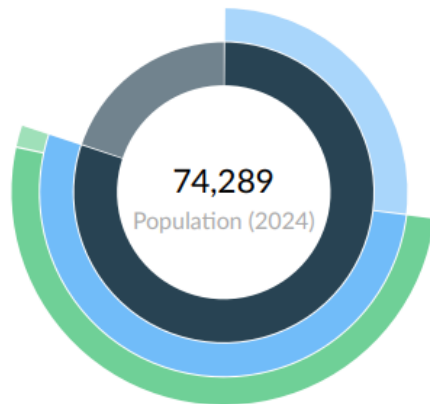
Total Regional Employment

\$60.8K

Median Household Income (2021)

	Population (2024)	Labor Force (Jan 2024)	Jobs (2023)	Cost of Living	GRP	Imports	Exports
Region	74,289	39,528	47,554	102.5	\$7.34B	\$8.15B	\$10.65B
State	11,824,672	5,737,904	5,989,979	92.4	\$797.22B	\$633.93B	\$789.52B

Jan 2024 Labor Force Breakdown



	Population
● 16+ Civilian Non-Institutionalized Population	59,479
● Not in Labor Force (16+)	19,951
● Labor Force	39,528
● Employed	38,249
● Unemployed	1,279
● Under 16, Military, and institutionalized Population	14,811

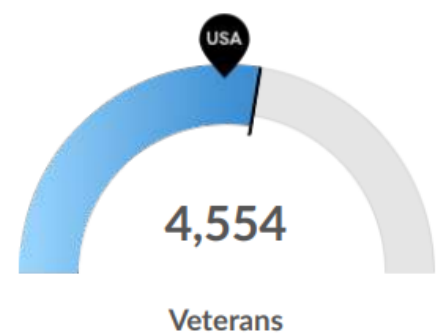
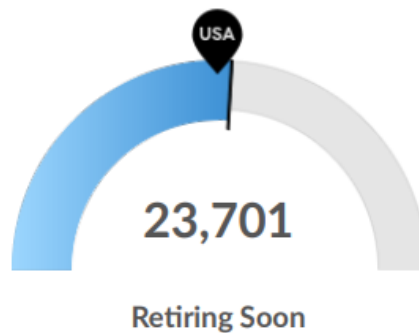
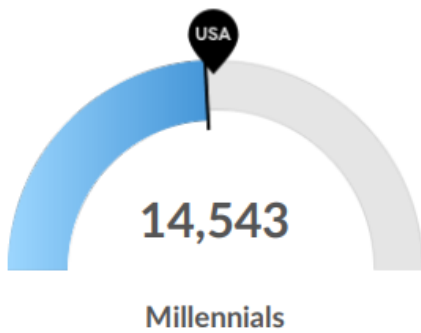
Educational Attainment

Concerning educational attainment, **18.1% of Hancock County, OH residents possess a Bachelor's Degree** (3.0% below the national average), and **9.0% hold an Associate's Degree** (0.1% above the national average).



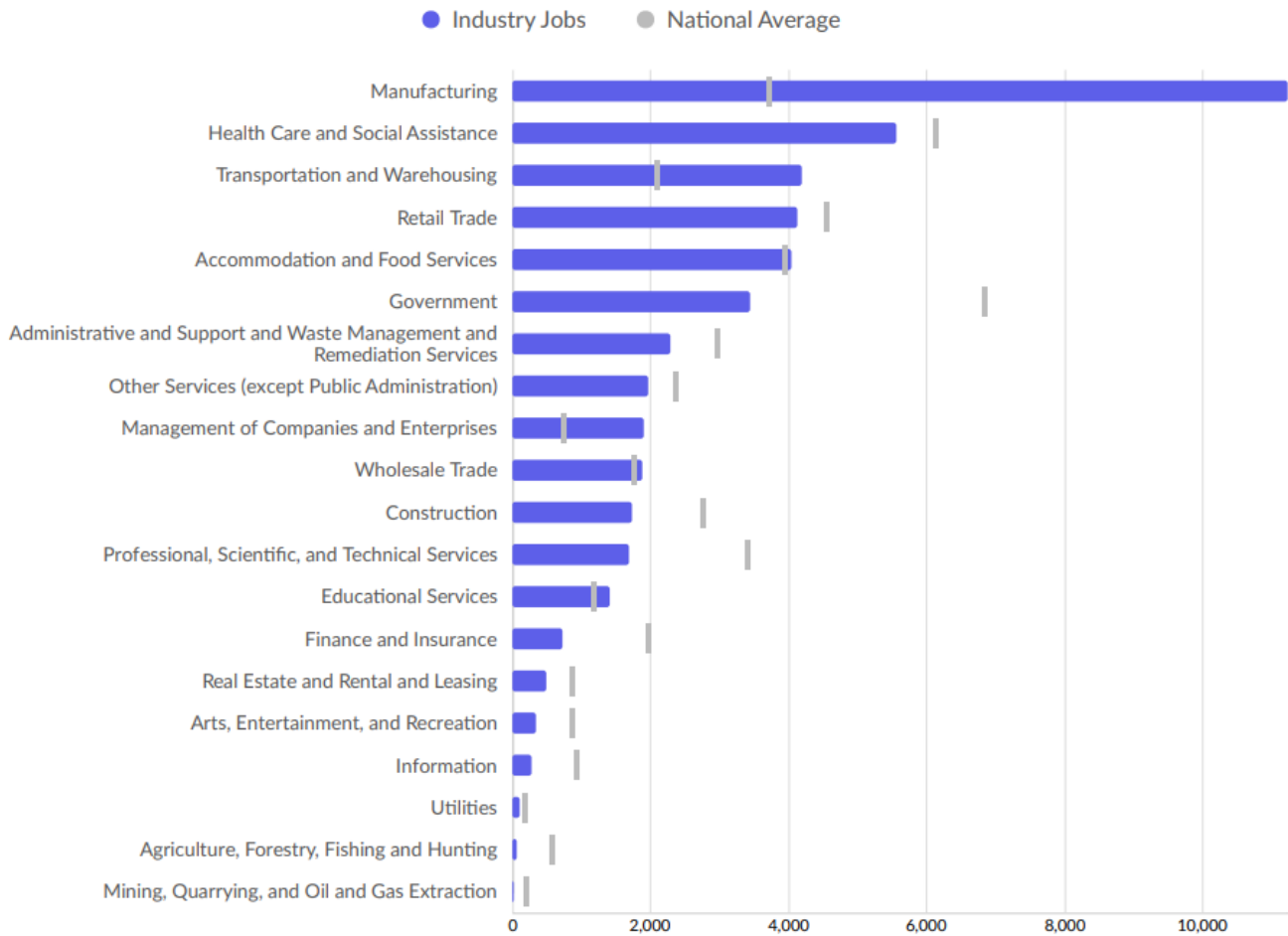
	% of Population	Population
Less Than 9th Grade	1.0%	512
9th Grade to 12th Grade	5.0%	2,573
High School Diploma	35.4%	18,224
Some College	20.7%	10,621
Associate's Degree	9.0%	4,618
Bachelor's Degree	18.1%	9,322
Graduate Degree and Higher	10.8%	5,551

Population Characteristics

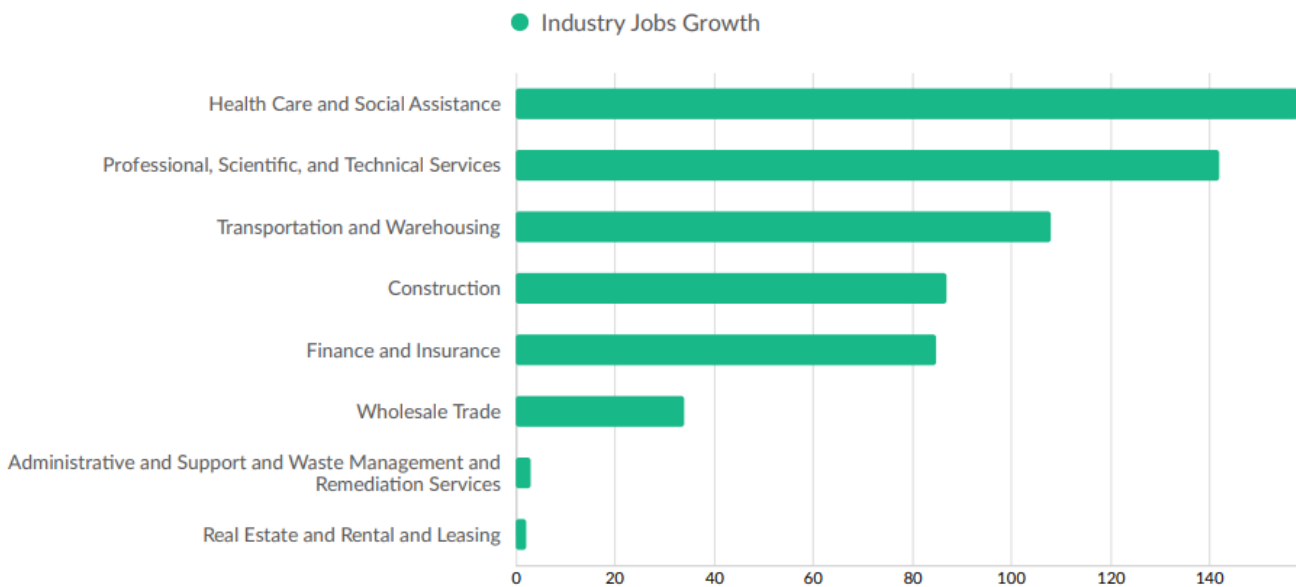


Industry Characteristics

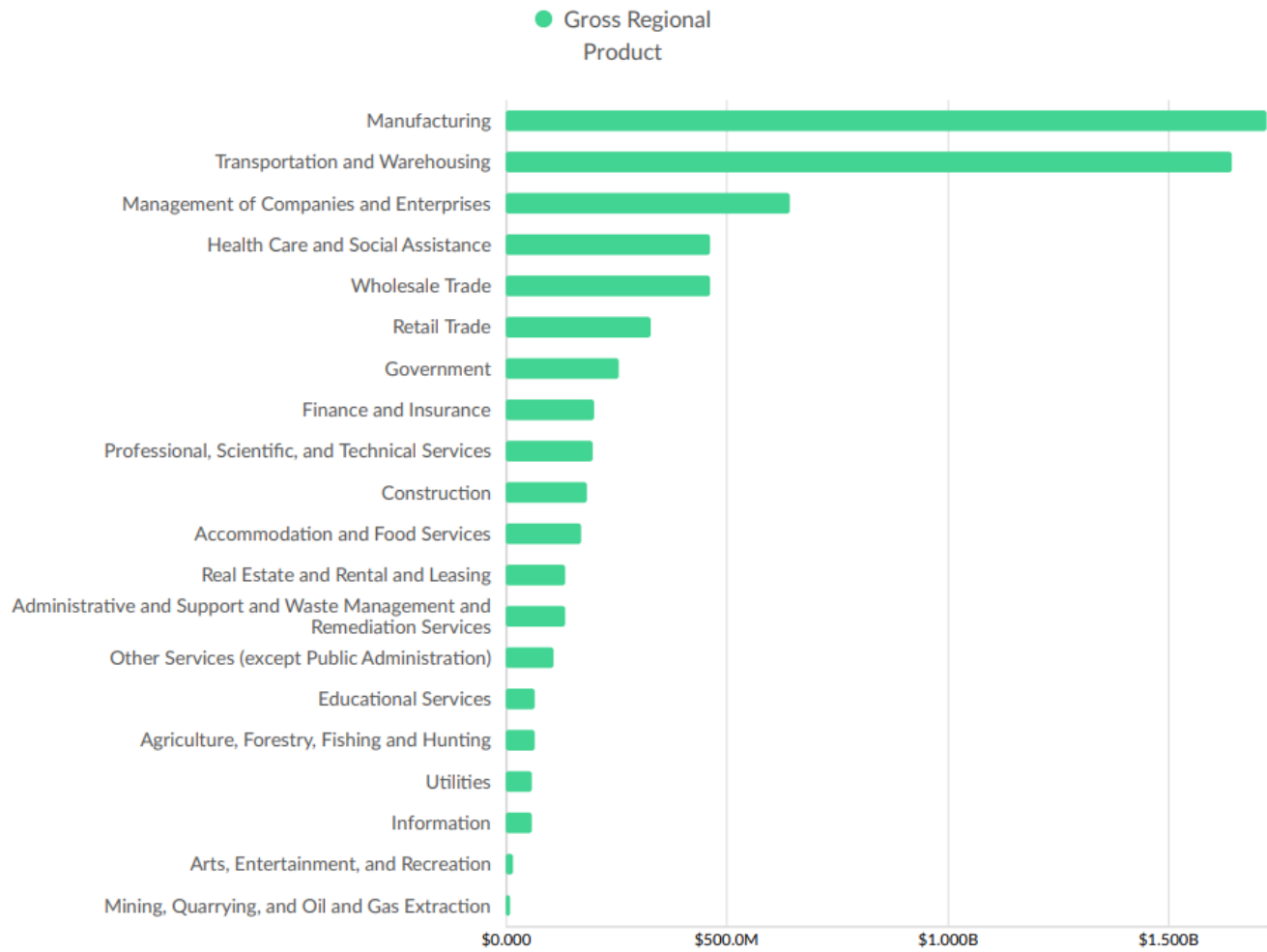
Largest Industries



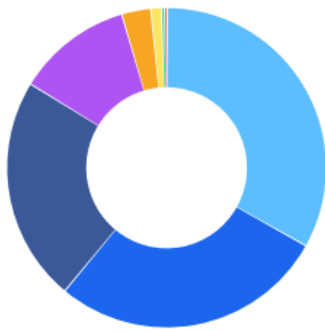
Top Growing Industries



Top Industry GRP



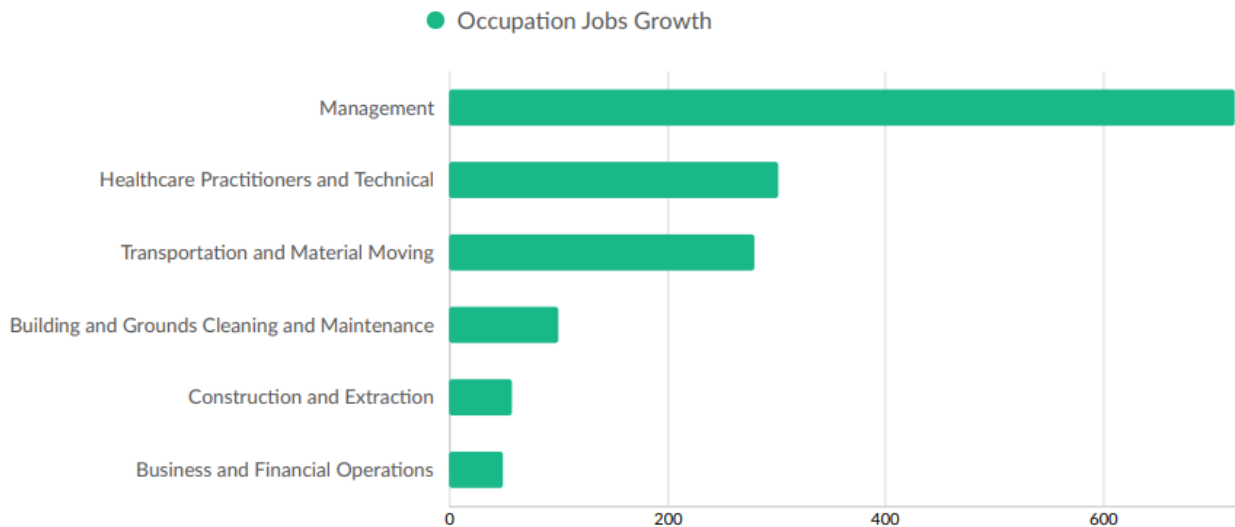
Business Size



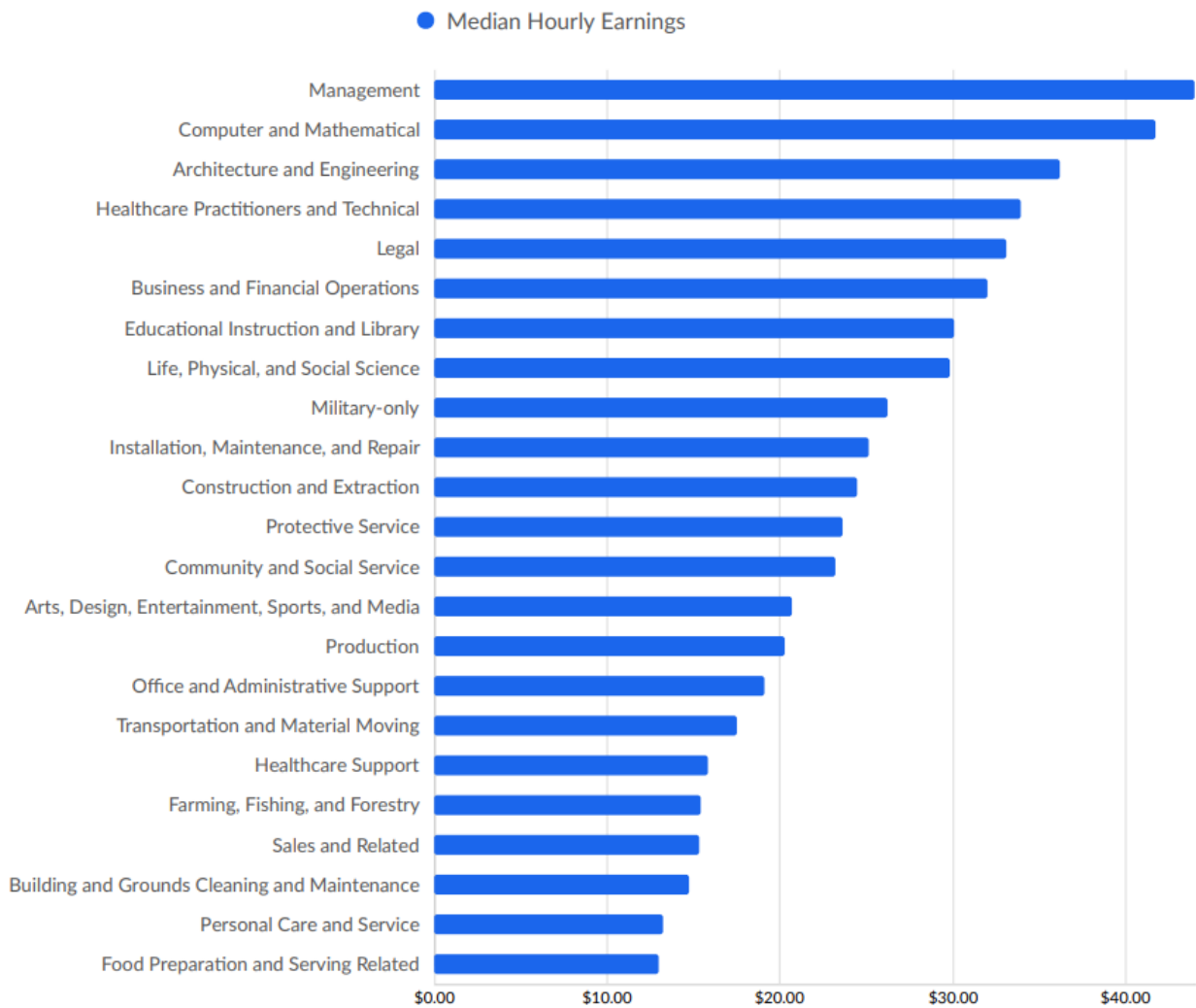
	Percentage	Business Count
1 to 4 employees	33.1%	896
5 to 9 employees	27.9%	756
10 to 19 employees	22.8%	617
20 to 49 employees	11.7%	317
50 to 99 employees	3.0%	80
100 to 249 employees	1.1%	29
250 to 499 employees	0.3%	9
500+ employees	0.3%	7

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Top Growing Occupations



Top Occupation Earnings



In-Demand Skills

