

Cuyahoga County Employment Report:

Employment, Unemployment and Labor Force Trends (May 2026)

Cuyahoga Co. Employment Has Grown Since 2022, But Growth Stopped in Past 2 years.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

In May 2026, Cuyahoga County's employment was 599,400, about the same as 2024 and 2025. The labor force was 619,300 about 9,000 below the 2025 level. Unemployment was 19,900, the lowest level in several years. The unemployment rate was only 3.2%, also a very low rate historically.

WHY THIS MATTERS

The lack of employment growth over the past two years and the labor force contraction are worrisome signs for the local economy. The county labor force may be shrinking because the county is losing working-age population, has an older age structure with more retirements, or is not drawing in enough new workers to offset those exits, even though unemployment is low.

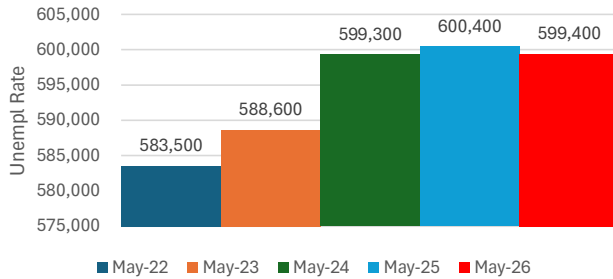
Note: Most recent date is preliminary. Oct. 2025 is estimate.

Cuyahoga Employment & Unemployment (May 2026)

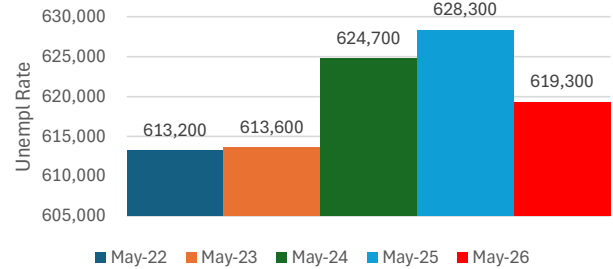
	Unempl%	Unempl	Empl	Labor Force
May-22	4.8%	29,700	583,500	613,200
May-23	4.1%	25,000	588,600	613,600
May-24	4.1%	25,500	599,300	624,700
May-25	4.4%	27,900	600,400	628,300
May-26	3.2%	19,900	599,400	619,300
Since May 22	-0.4%	(1,800)	16,900	15,100
Since May 23	0.3%	2,900	11,800	14,700
Since May 24	0.3%	2,400	1,100	3,600
Since May 24	-1.2%	(8,000)	(1,000)	(9,000)
Last Yr % Chg		9.4%	0.2%	0.6%

Source: BLS, LAUS. Note: Most recent month is preliminary.

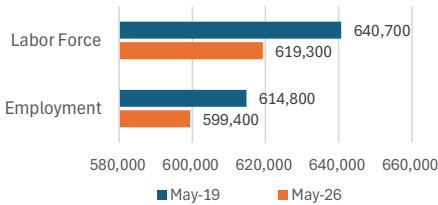
Employment - 599,400



Labor Force- 619,300

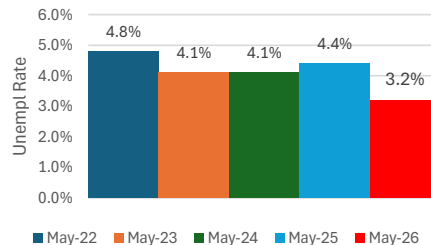


Employment & Labor Force:
May 2019 Vs May 2026

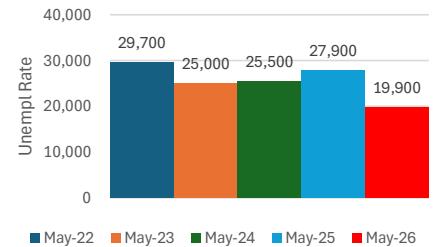


Source: BLS, LAUS. .

Unemployment Rate- 3.2%

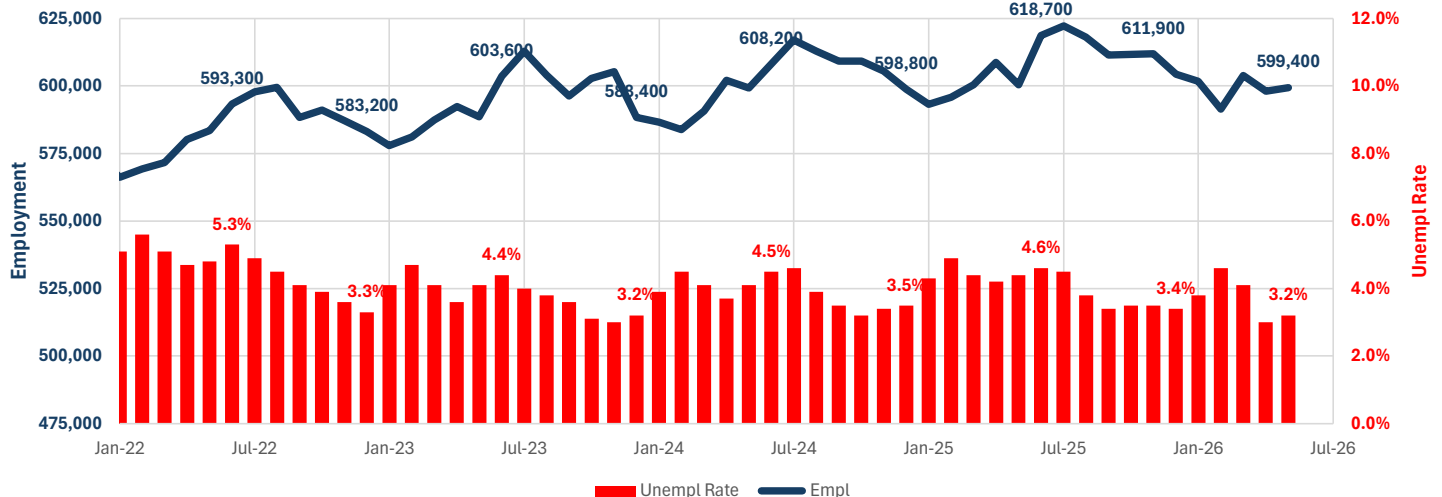


Unemployment - 19,900



Employment & Unemployment Rate - Post-Pandemic

Employment gradually increased post-pandemic, but growth is modest

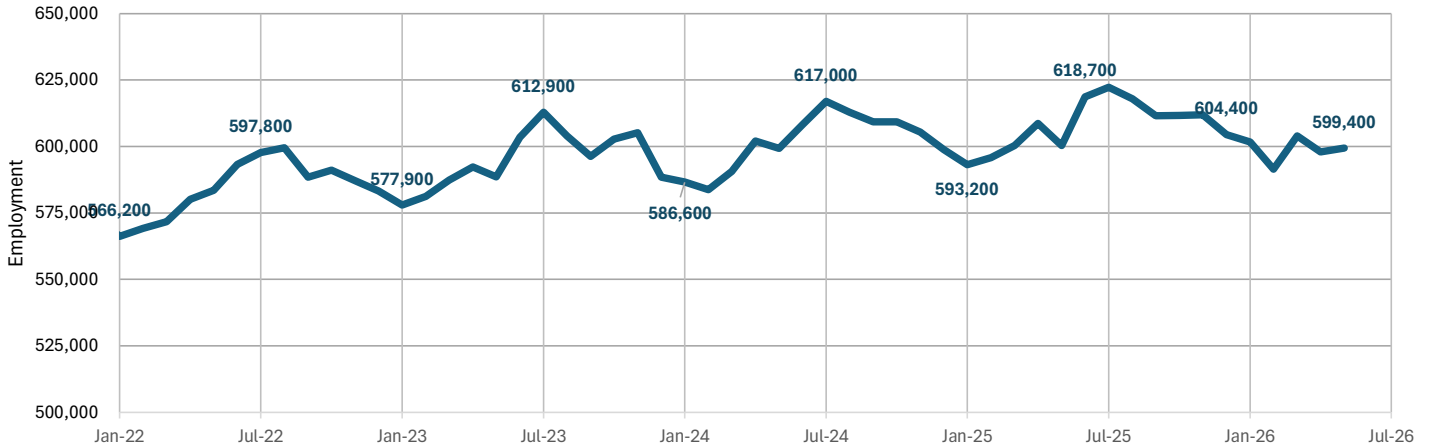


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EMPLOYMENT

Cuyahoga Employment- 2022-2025

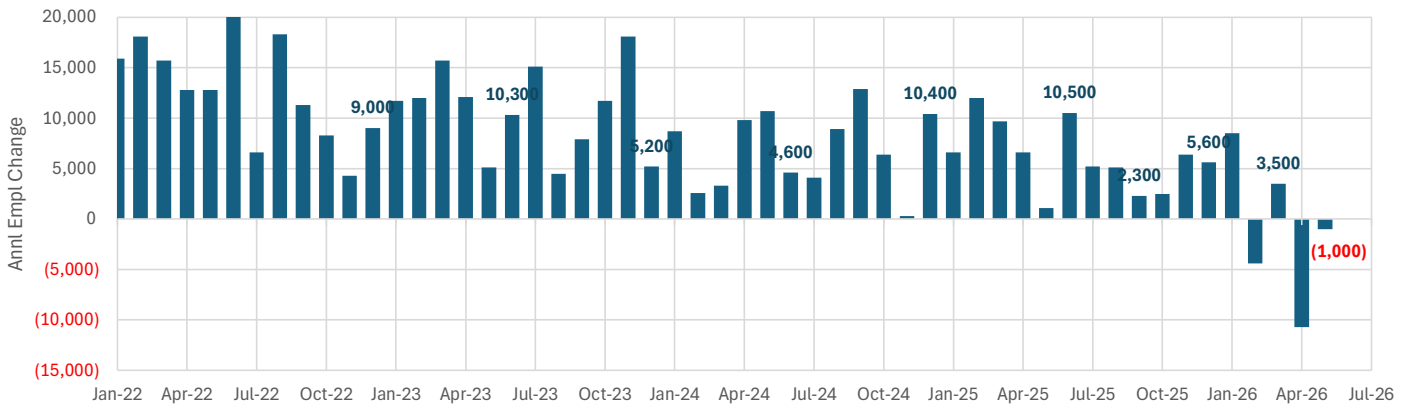
Employment strengthened in 2025 despite a slow start and some weak months.



Source: BLS, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS). Most recent month is preliminary.

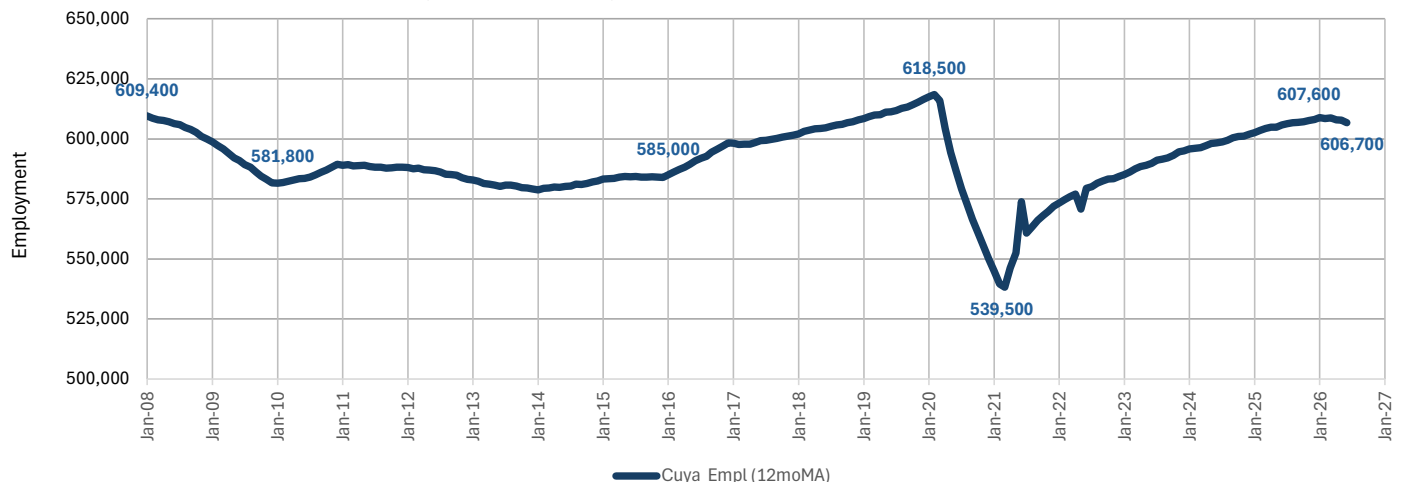
Cuyahoga Annual Employment Change-2023-2026

Year-over-year employment growth has been inconsistent in 2024 & 2026.



Cuyahoga Employment Long-Term Trend- 2008-2026 (12 mo. M.A.)

Annual average employment has grown in post-pandemic recovery but is still below 2019.



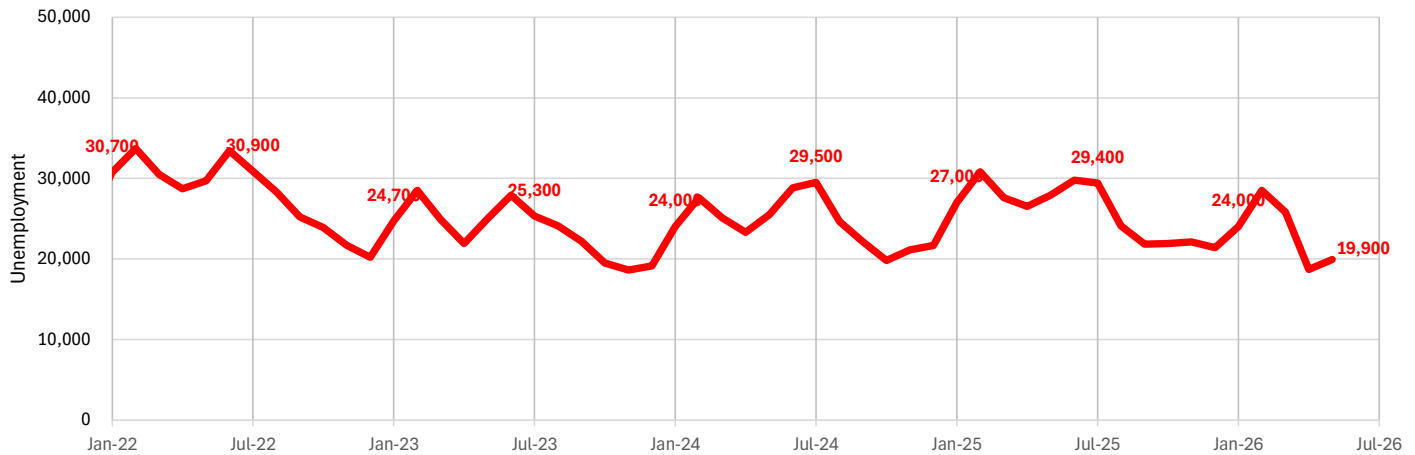
Source: BLS, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS). Most recent month is prel.

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UNEMPLOYMENT

Cuyahoga Unemployment- 2022-2026

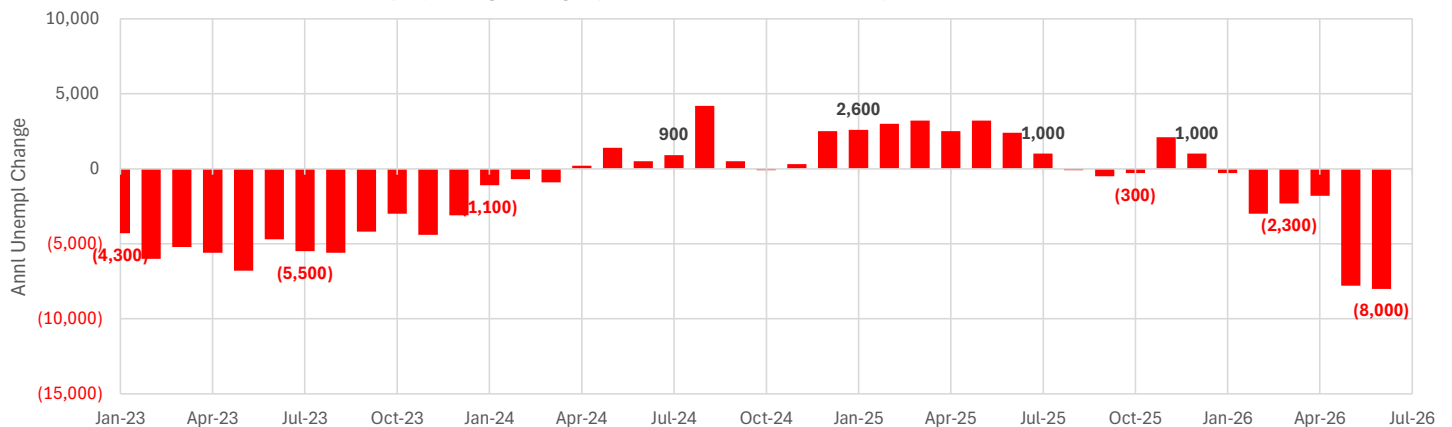
Unemployment has followed seasonal patterns & remained in 20,000-30,000 range.



Source: BLS, LAUS.

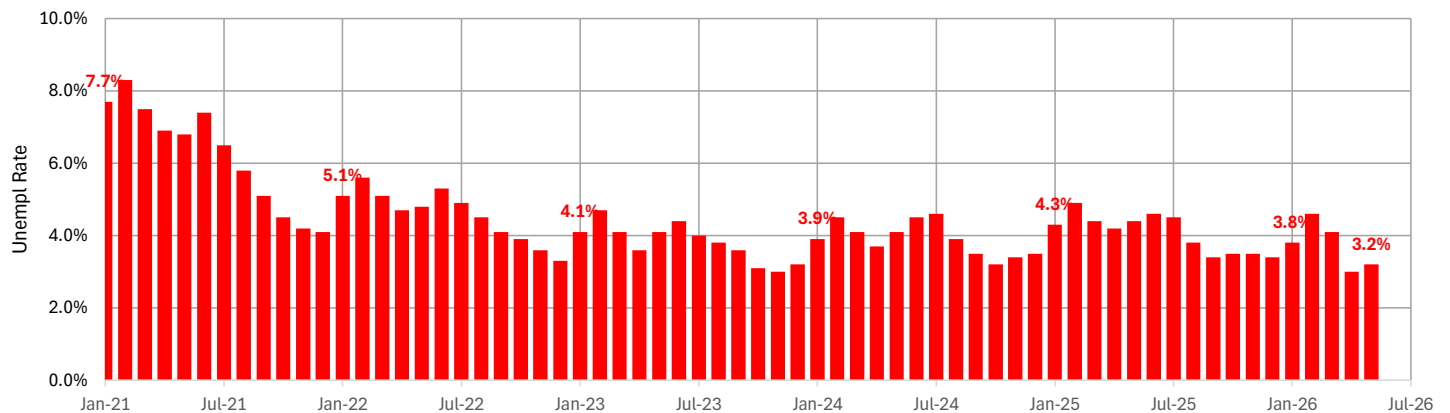
Cuyahoga Annual Unemployment Change-2023-2026

Unemployment grew slightly in 2025 & 2026 after several years of Covid rebound.



Cuyahoga Monthly Unemployment Rate- 2022-2026

Unemployment rate had seasonal spikes but remained under 4% annually.



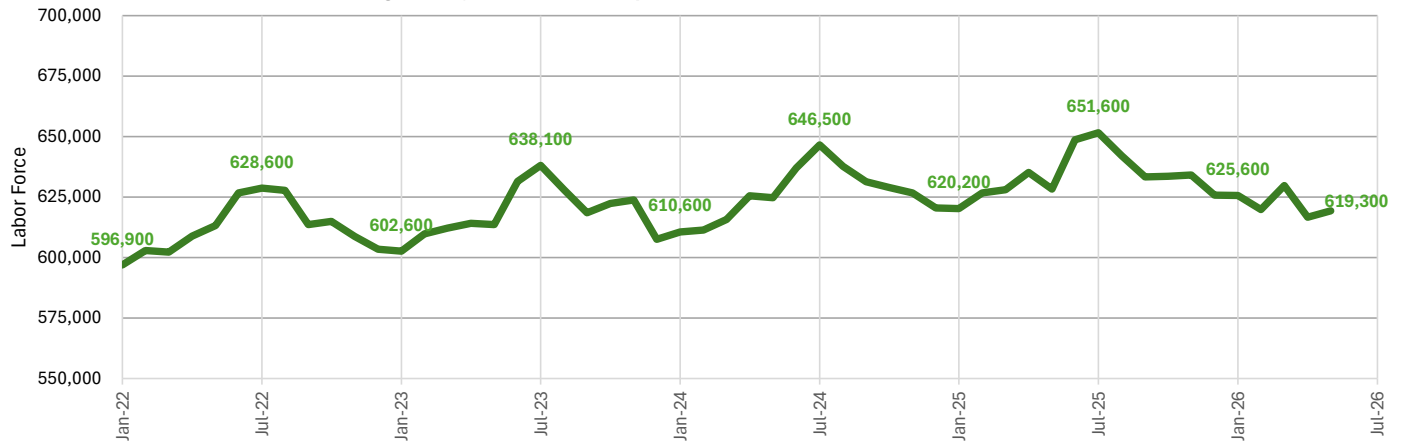
Source: BLS, LAUS.

Cuyahoga County Employment Report: Employment, Unemployment and Labor Force Trends (May 2026)

LABOR FORCE

Cuyahoga Labor Force 2022-2026

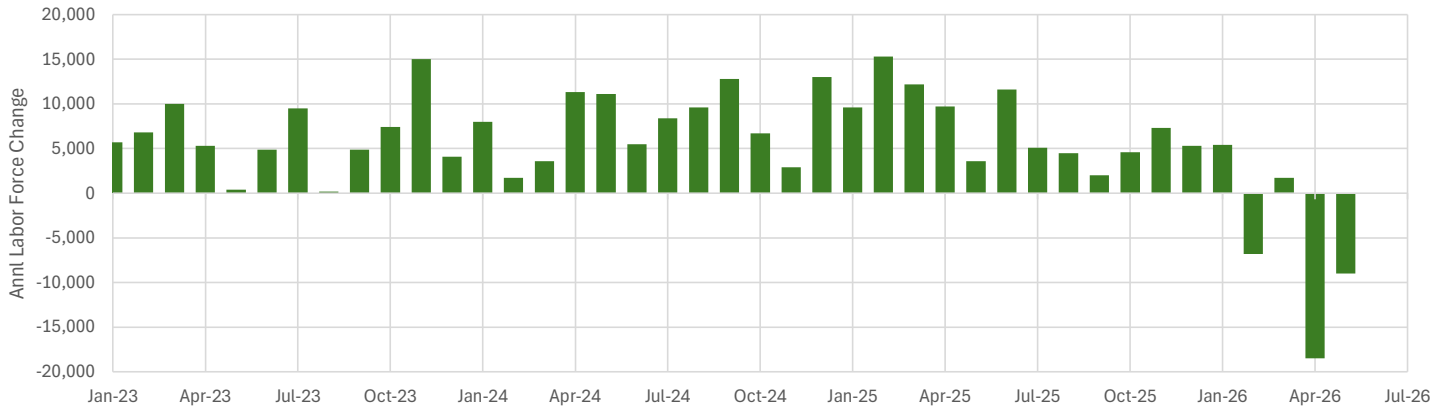
Labor force has gradually increased since pandemic with normal seasonal fluctuations.



Source: BLS, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS). Most recent month is prel. Sep. 2020 is est.

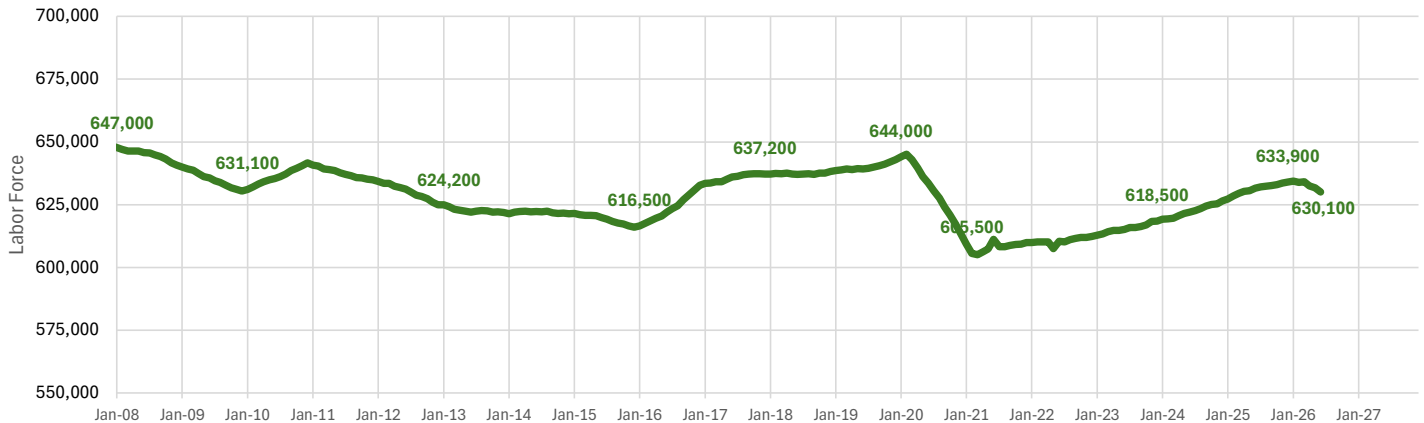
Cuyahoga Year-over-Year Labor Force Change-2023-2026

Labor Force has been positive for several years, but contracted in 2026..



Cuyahoga Labor Force Long-Term Trend: 2008-2026

Labor Force Rebounded After Covid But Has Decreased By over 15 Years



Source: BLS, LAUS

— Cuya Labor Force (12moMA)