

Cuyahoga County Employment Report:

Employment, Unemployment and Labor Force Trends (July 2026)

Cuyahoga Co. Employment Has Grown Since 2022, But 2026 Employment Weaker Than 2025.

WHAT'S HAPPENING: Employment & Labor Force Contraction Since Last Year.

In July 2026, Cuyahoga County's employment was 615,000, about 7,200 less than 2025. The labor force was 635,800 about 15,800 below the 2025 level. Unemployment was 20,700, the lowest level in several years, The unemployment rate was only 3.3%, also a very low rate historically.

WHY THIS MATTERS: Local Economic Development Plans Are Not Working.

The lack of employment growth over the past year 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. Persons may also find generous government benefits and leisure more appealing than working. These are unfavorable signs for the local economy, suggesting stagnation and a greater dependence on government policies.

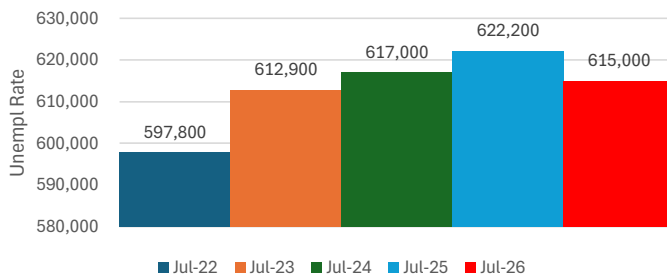
Note: Most recent date is preliminary. Oct. 2025 is estimate.

Cuyahoga Employment & Unemployment (July 2026)

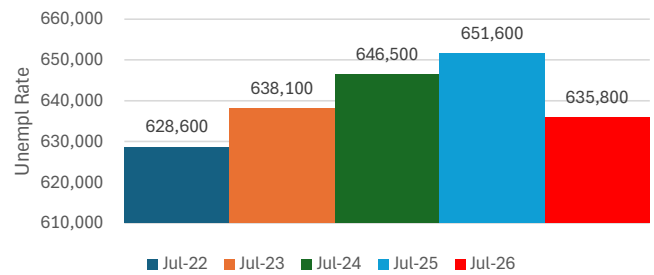
	Unempl %	Unempl	Empl	Labor Force
Jul-22	4.9%	30,900	597,800	628,600
Jul-23	4.0%	25,300	612,900	638,100
Jul-24	4.6%	29,500	617,000	646,500
Jul-25	4.5%	29,400	622,200	651,600
Jul-26	3.3%	20,700	615,000	635,800
Since July 22	-0.4%	(1,500)	24,400	23,000
Since July 23	0.5%	4,100	9,300	13,500
Since July 24	-0.1%	(100)	5,200	5,100
Since July 25	-1.2%	(8,700)	(7,200)	(15,800)
Last Yr % Chg		-0.3%	0.8%	0.8%

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

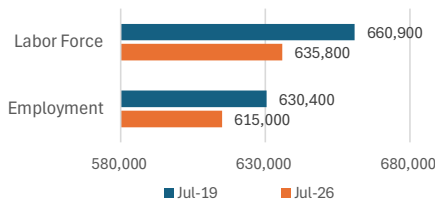
Employment - 615,000



Labor Force - 635,800

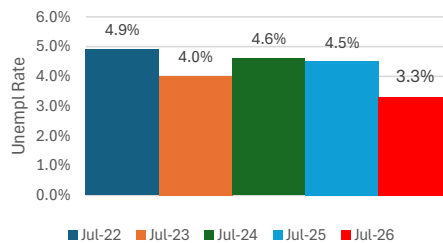


Employment & Labor Force:
July 2019 Vs July 2026

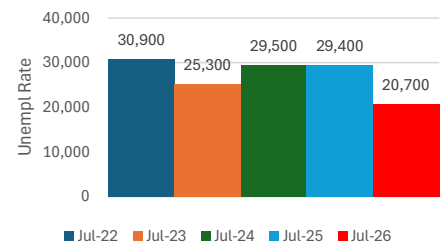


Source: BLS, LAUS. .

Unemployment Rate- 3.3%

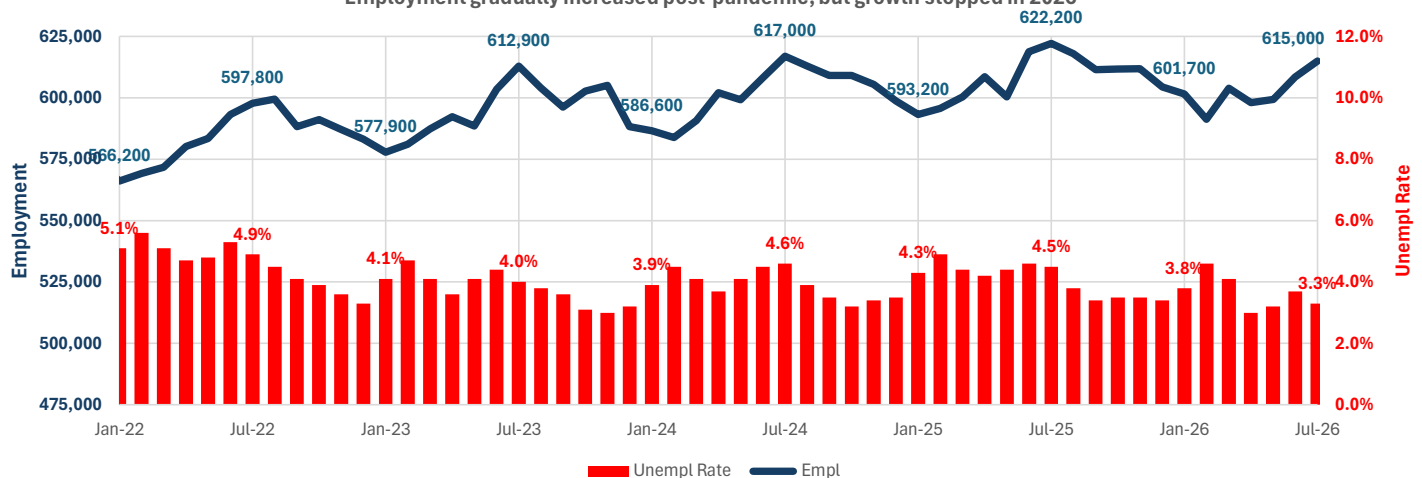


Unemployment - 20,700



Employment & Unemployment Rate - Post-Pandemic

Employment gradually increased post-pandemic, but growth stopped in 2026



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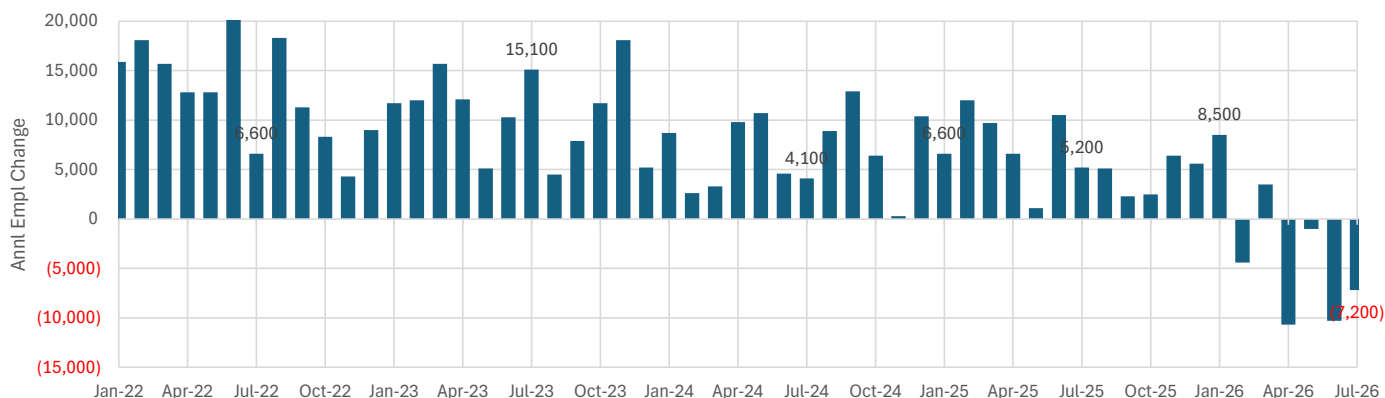
EMPLOYMENT

Cuyahoga Employment- 2022-2026 Employment was slightly weaker in 2026 than 2025.

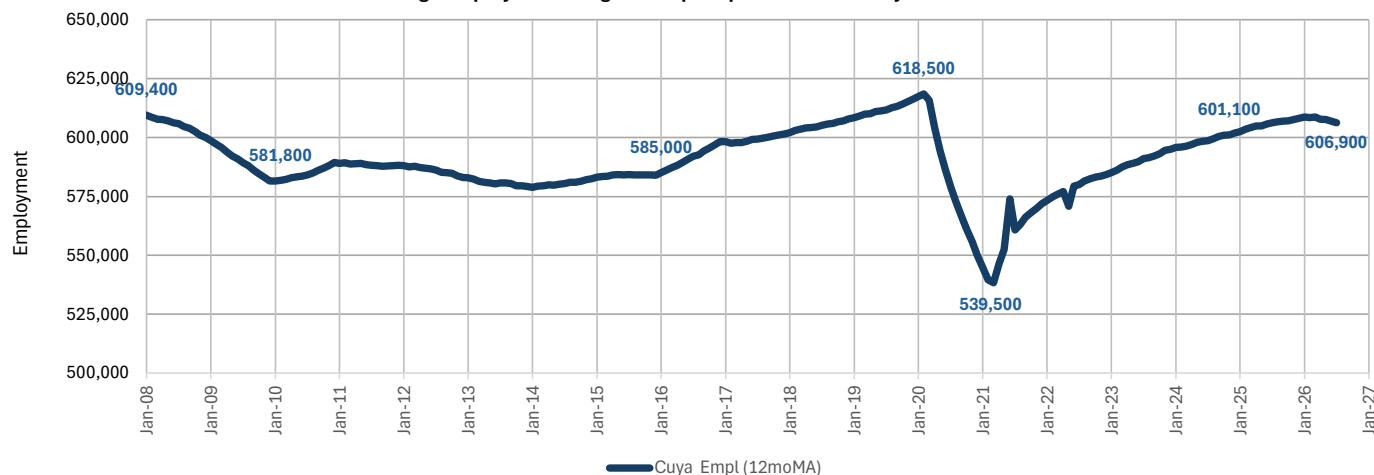


Source: BLS, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS). Most recent month is preliminary.

Cuyahoga Annual Employment Change-2022-2026 Year-over-year employment growth has been weaker in 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.



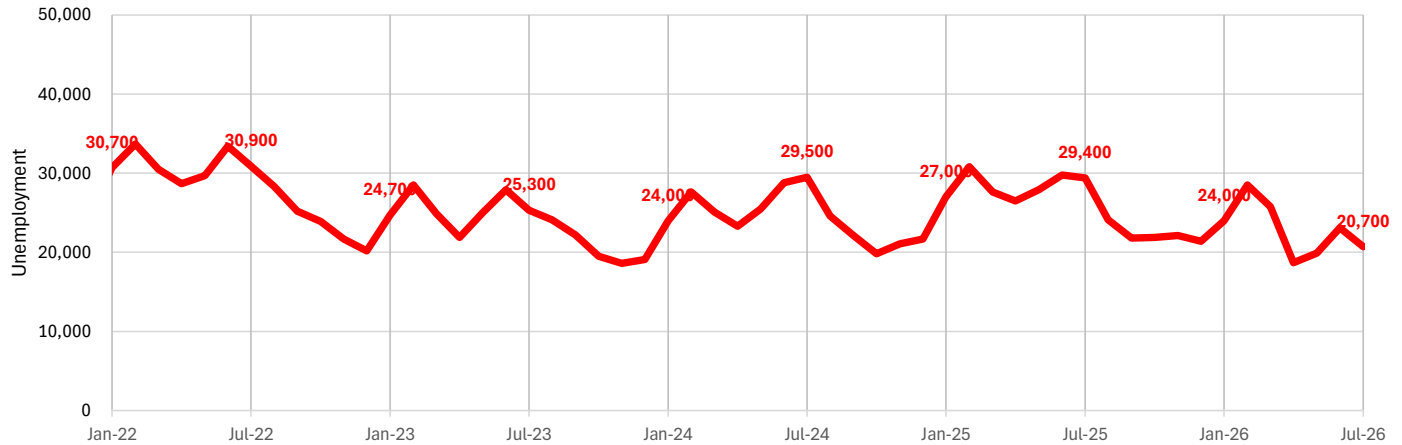
Source: BLS, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS). Most recent month is preliminary.

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UNEMPLOYMENT

Cuyahoga Unemployment- 2022-2026

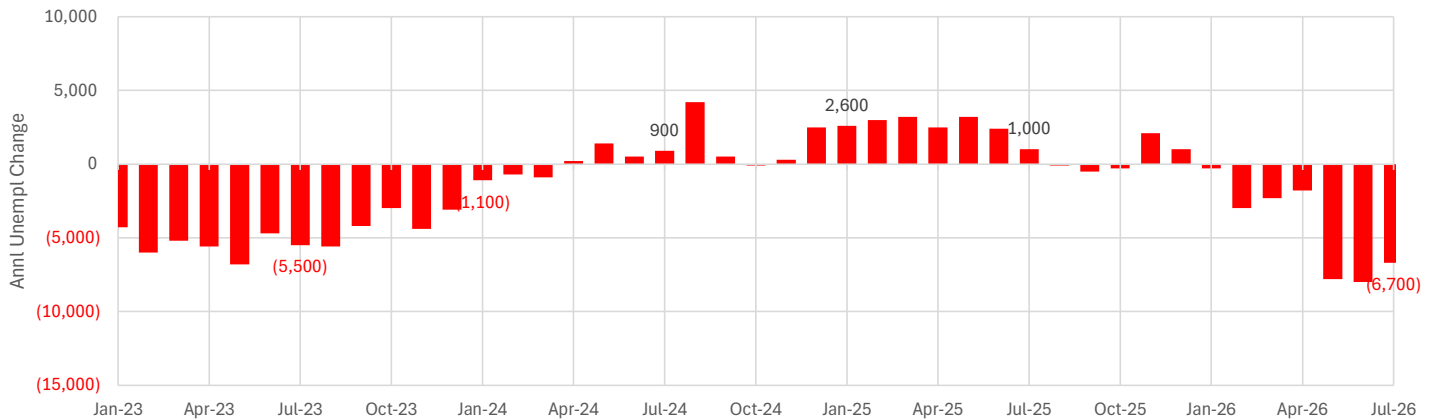
Unemployment has followed seasonal patterns & been in 20,000-30,000 range.



Source: BLS, LAUS.

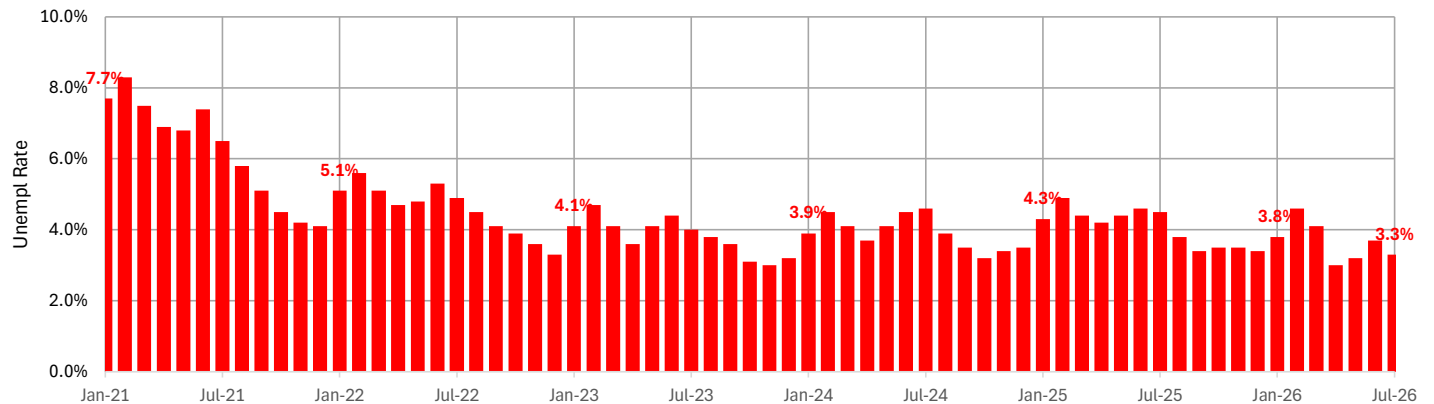
Cuyahoga Annual Unemployment Change-2023-2026

Unemployment grew slightly in 2025, but decreased in 2026.



Cuyahoga Monthly Unemployment Rate- 2022-2026

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



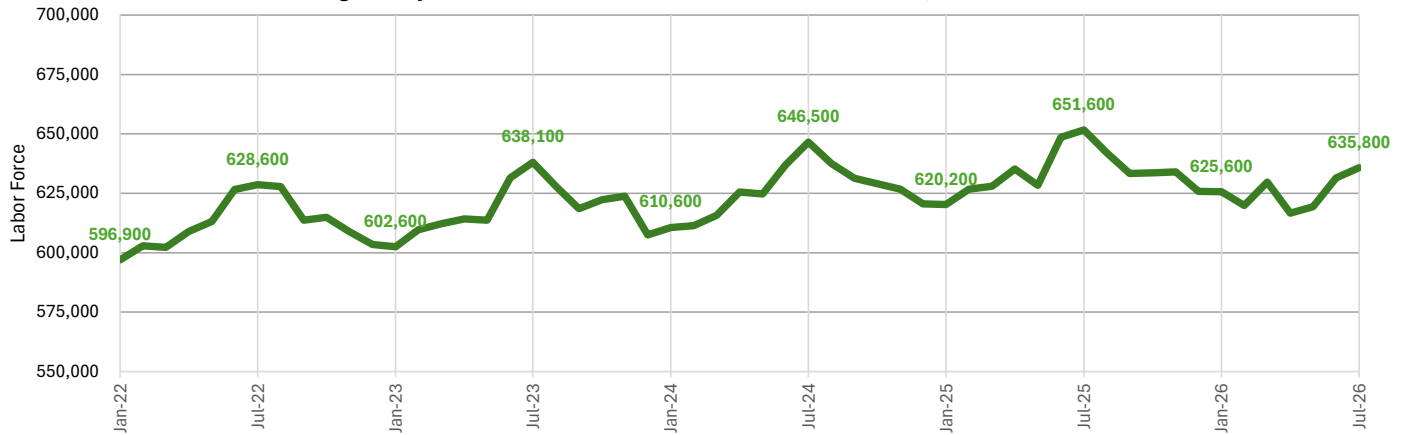
Source: BLS, LAUS.

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LABOR FORCE

Cuyahoga Labor Force 2022-2026

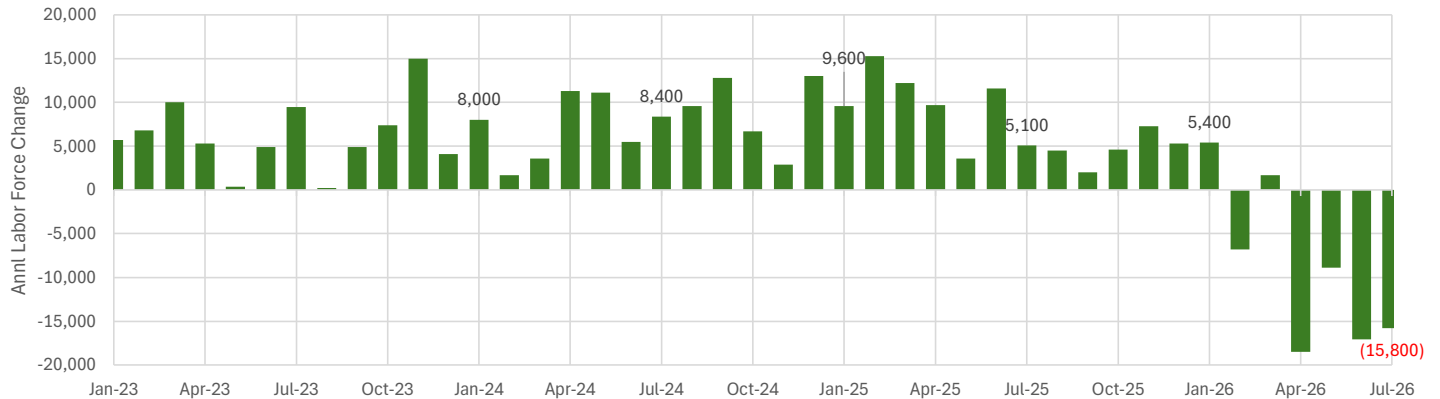
Labor force gradually increased until mid-2025 with seasonal fluctuations, but fell in 2026.



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

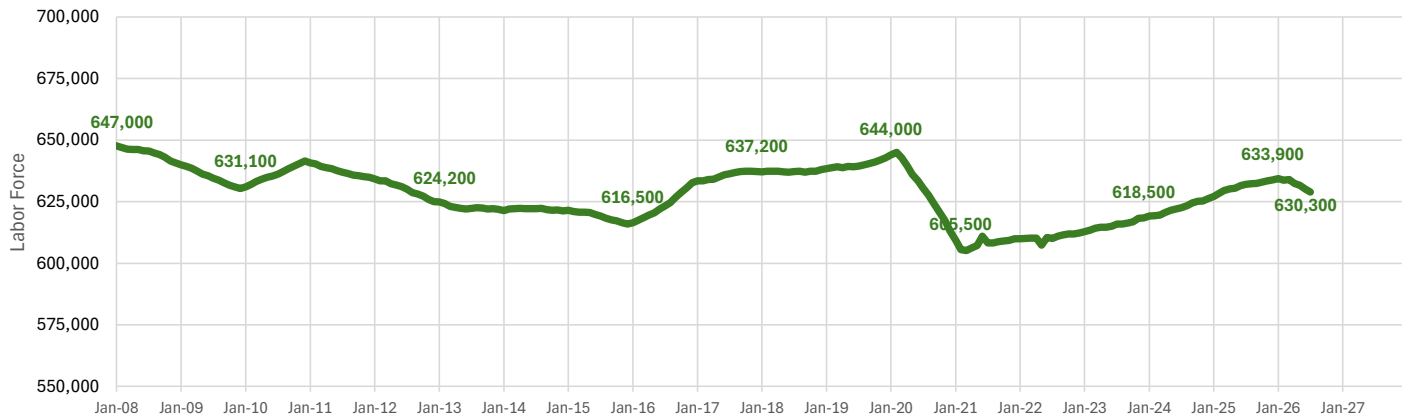
Cuyahoga Year-over-Year Labor Force Change-2023-2026

Labor Force has been positive for several years, but contracted sharply 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)