

Trutko for Cuyahoga Council

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Cuyahoga County's 2022-26 Workforce Surge

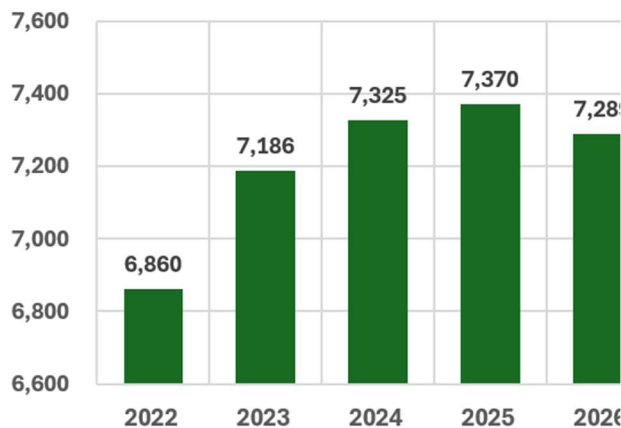
By James M. Trutko

County Workforce Under Ronayne Grew By 429 (6%) From 2022 to 2026

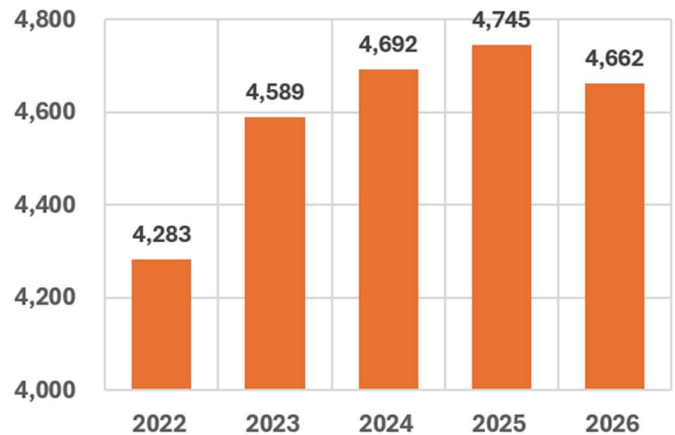
A significant factor in the county's 2026 budget problems was the fast growth in the county workforce under Chief Executive Ronayne, especially in the County Executive Agencies. From a base of 6,860 employees under the previous administration in 2022, Ronayne grew employment to a peak of 7,370 in 2025, This was an increase of 510 employees and 90% were in the County Executive Agencies. The explosive growth tapered off in 2026 as a hiring freeze and retirements shrunk the total workforce to 7,289 in 2026. About 88% (379) of the net gain of 429 employees were in the County Executive Agencies. If the additional 429 employees had an average salary of \$60,000 with the county's generous benefit package of 30%, the employment surge added about \$34 million to the county budget and the ongoing deficits.

Summary - Cuyahoga County Workforce (2022-2026)						
Department	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2022-26 Chg
County Executive Agencies	4,283	4,589	4,692	4,745	4,662	379
Elected Officials	1,565	1,558	1,614	1,624	1,623	58
Boards and Commissions	1,012	1,039	1,019	1,001	1,004	(8)
Total County Workforce	6,860	7,186	7,325	7,370	7,289	429
% County Executive Agencies	62%	64%	64%	64%	64%	88%
Source: OMB, 2026Q1 Budget Biennial						

Cuyahoga Co Workforce



Cuyahoga Executive Agencies Workforce



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What Departments of the County's Workforce Grew the Fastest?

About 80% (343) of the 429-person workforce growth occurred at Health and Human Services, the Sheriff and the Juvenile Court. The growth was a factor in the 2026 budget problems since the three areas were major contributors to the county's large deficits.

Cuyahoga Workforce Change (2022-26)						
Area/Dept	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2022-26 Chg
HHS Cuyahoga Job & Family Services	700	762	821	865	852	152
Sheriff & Public Safety	1,145	1,240	1,247	1,243	1,243	98
Juvenile Court	475	481	509	525	524	49
Public Works	582	601	622	638	627	45
HHS Children & Family Services	633	691	708	694	674	41
County Prosecutor	421	415	436	432	448	27
HHS Admin & Other	75	88	99	101	98	23
County Executive	17	32	29	32	32	15
Public Defender	151	154	162	155	164	13
Board of Elections	89	99	97	102	100	11
Human Resources	54	54	55	66	64	10
Medical Examiner	107	105	114	115	115	8
Information Technology	102	106	113	113	109	7
Legal	99	100	111	108	100	1
Development	26	28	27	27	26	0
Fiscal Office	337	369	346	341	336	(1)
County Council	22	22	22	21	20	(2)
HHS Senior & Adult Services	154	162	167	163	152	(2)
OtherBds & Commissions	149	150	142	146	143	(6)
ADAMHS Board	53	49	48	46	45	(8)
Common Pleas, Domestic, Probate	647	640	647	646	631	(16)
Board of Developmental Disabilities	570	587	570	552	552	(18)
HHS Cuyahoga Support Enforcement Agency	252	251	233	239	234	(18)
Total County Workforce	6,860	7,186	7,325	7,370	7,289	429

