

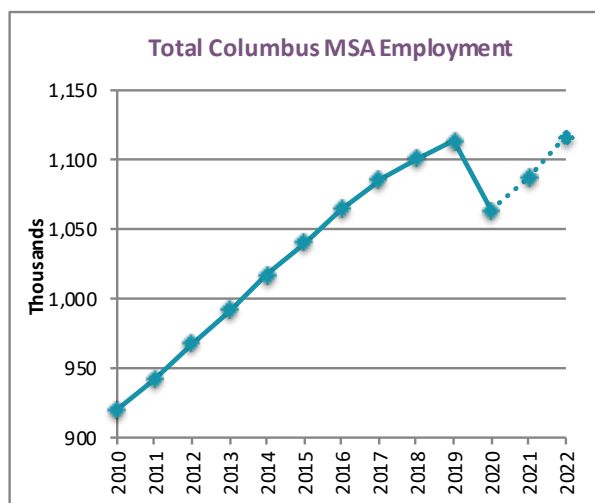
## Columbus Forecast: Strengthening Employment Growth

The employment recovery is likely to continue, and perhaps strengthen, in 2022. Predictions are that U.S. and Columbus MSA employment will return to pre-pandemic levels in 2022. The two key uncertainties are the course of the pandemic and the number of workers returning to the labor force.

As currently estimated, MSA employment grew 23,200 (2.2%) in 2021. This includes Regionomics adjustments to preliminary Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) employment estimates in many sectors.

U.S. employment increased 2.7% in 2021 and is expected by national forecasters to gain as much as 4% in 2022. This implicitly assumes labor force growth that may be overly optimistic, though.

Ohio employment increased 1.6% in 2021. Manufacturing, professional and technical services, education and healthcare, other services, and state government were notably weaker than the U.S. average.



### 2022 Regionomics® Columbus MSA Forecast

Sector	Percentage change, 2020-2021			MSA employment		MSA Change, 2021-22	
	MSA	Ohio	U.S.	2021	2022	Number	Pct.
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.2%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>1,087,100</b>	<b>1,117,200</b>	<b>30,100</b>	<b>2.8%</b>
Construction and mining	3.2%	2.0%	2.3%	45,300	46,800	1,500	3.3%
Manufacturing	2.5%	1.0%	1.7%	72,200	73,500	1,400	1.9%
Wholesale trade	1.7%	0.2%	1.1%	41,300	42,300	1,000	2.5%
Retail trade	2.8%	3.4%	3.3%	99,100	102,100	3,000	3.0%
Transportation and utilities	7.2%	5.0%	4.3%	84,000	87,300	3,300	4.0%
Information	(3.8%)	0.4%	1.7%	14,700	14,600	(200)	(1.1%)
Financial activities	1.1%	1.0%	1.3%	86,600	88,200	1,600	1.9%
Professional and business svcs.	1.8%	1.6%	3.6%	177,700	185,200	7,500	4.2%
Professional and tech. services	2.4%	(2.1%)	3.1%	68,200	71,700	3,600	5.2%
Management of companies	(2.9%)	(1.6%)	(3.4%)	37,200	37,400	200	0.6%
Admin. support and waste svcs.	3.7%	3.0%	4.1%	74,000	76,000	2,100	2.8%
Education and health services	1.0%	0.0%	1.4%	157,200	161,600	4,400	2.8%
Private educational services	9.0%	(2.0%)	2.3%	19,200	20,600	1,400	7.4%
Healthcare and social services	1.0%	0.3%	1.3%	139,400	141,000	1,600	1.2%
Leisure and hospitality	3.7%	7.0%	9.3%	90,900	93,600	2,800	3.0%
Other services	6.7%	0.9%	5.0%	40,300	41,900	1,600	3.9%
Government	0.8%	(1.1%)	(0.5%)	179,100	180,100	1,000	0.5%
Federal government	(2.3%)	(3.1%)	(1.6%)	14,500	14,600	200	1.2%
State government	(1.5%)	(4.2%)	(0.8%)	73,600	73,200	(500)	(0.6%)
Local government	2.5%	0.3%	(0.1%)	90,400	92,300	1,900	2.1%

Regionomics estimates of 2021 MSA employment in blue. Employment totals and changes rounded to the nearest hundred.

### About this Forecast and Regionomics®

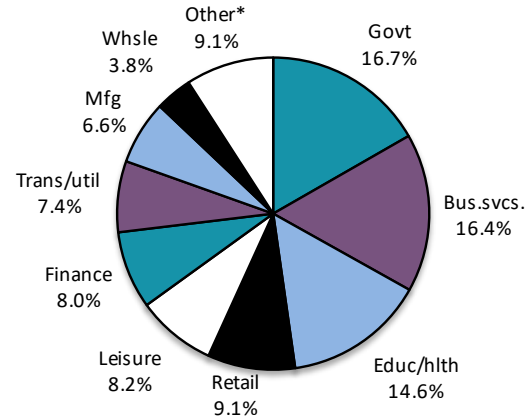
This is the 23rd annual Columbus MSA forecast by Bill LaFayette, Ph.D., founder and owner, Regionomics®.

Regionomics is a Columbus-based economic and workforce strategy firm focusing on community and regional economies, employment analysis and forecasting, fiscal analysis, and economic and workforce policy.

Dr. LaFayette has more than 25 years of experience in Central Ohio economic analysis and development. Before founding Regionomics in 2011, he spent 12 years as vice president of economic analysis at the Columbus Chamber and four years with Rickenbacker Port Authority. He previously served on the finance and real estate faculties of Ashland University and the University of North Texas.

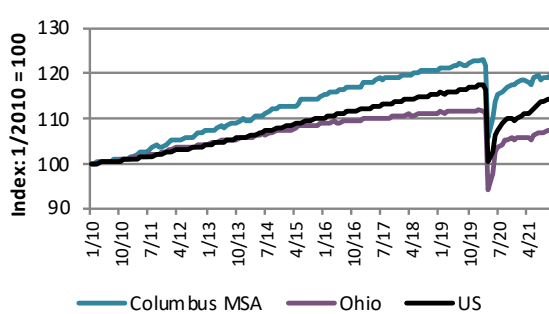
Please contact Regionomics at [info@regionomicsllc.com](mailto:info@regionomicsllc.com) or 614.654.2151. You can also follow Bill by liking the Regionomics LLC page on Facebook. Learn more about Regionomics at [regionomicsllc.com](http://regionomicsllc.com).

### Columbus MSA Employment Distribution



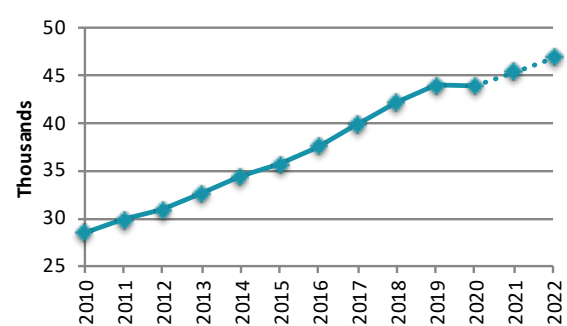
\*Other services, construction, and information.

### Cumulative Change, Jan. 2010 - Nov. 2021



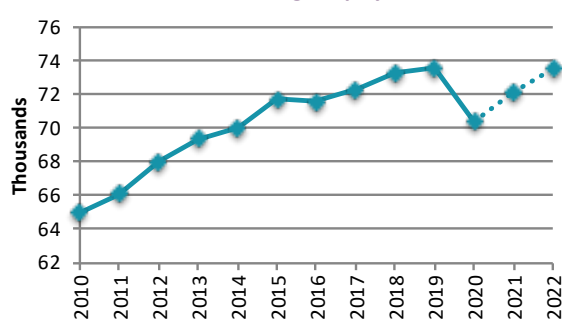
Based on BLS estimates as of November 2021, the Columbus MSA had recovered 79% of its spring 2020 employment loss, the U.S. had recovered 82%, and Ohio had recovered 74%.

### Construction & Mining Employment



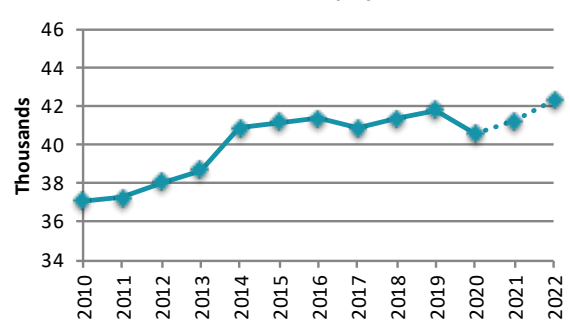
BLS estimates imply a 6.5% construction and mining employment increase in 2021 – likely an overstatement. The expected 3.3% gain in 2022 should be close to that assumed for 2021.

### Manufacturing Employment



The forecast expects a weaker-than-average gain in Columbus manufacturing employment as higher interest rates and inflation impact the region's durables-focused sector.

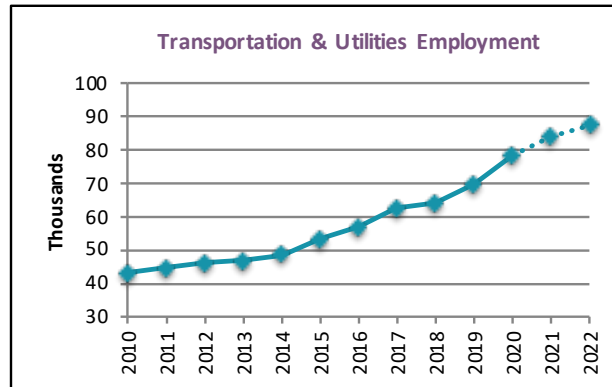
### Wholesale Trade Employment



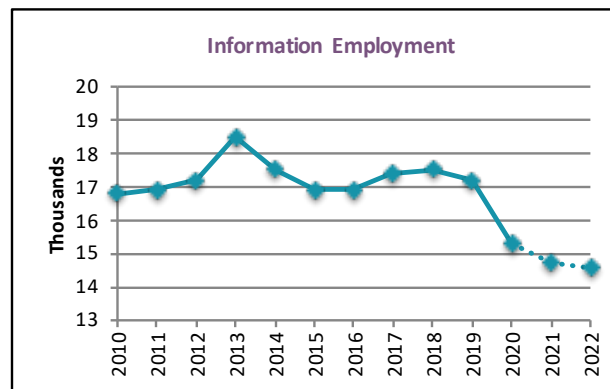
Wholesale employment growth appears to have been underestimated in the BLS totals, implying a 0.3% decline in 2021. The revision suggests growth in both 2021 and 2022.



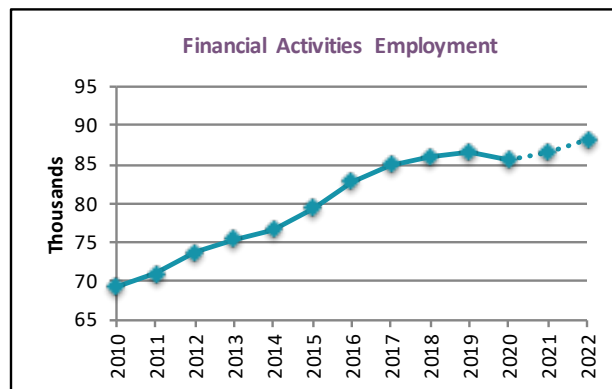
Retail employment underperformed throughout the expansion, but BLS seems to have underestimated 2021 employment. Regionomics revisions bring employment growth closer to – but still less than – the U.S. average.



The Columbus transportation sector has benefited greatly from the shift to online shopping. Growth will remain strong, but perhaps at a somewhat slower pace, in 2022.



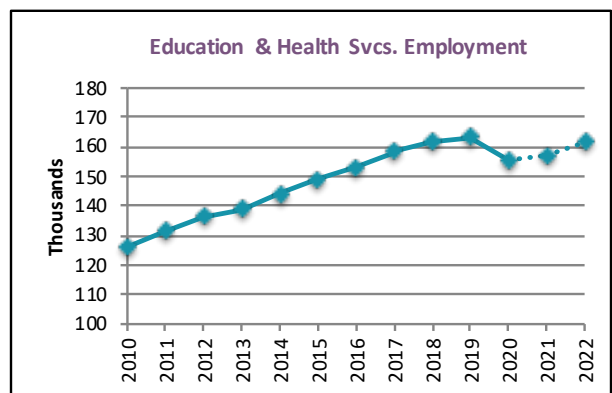
The information sector has long been vulnerable to advances in information technology, which have upended business plans in publishing and broadcasting. Employment declines may have continued in 2021, and possibly in 2022 as well.



Financial activities employment growth far outpaced the U.S. average throughout the expansion's early years, but slowed more recently. The 2021 estimate is higher than the BLS total, but implies growth slightly less than the U.S. average.



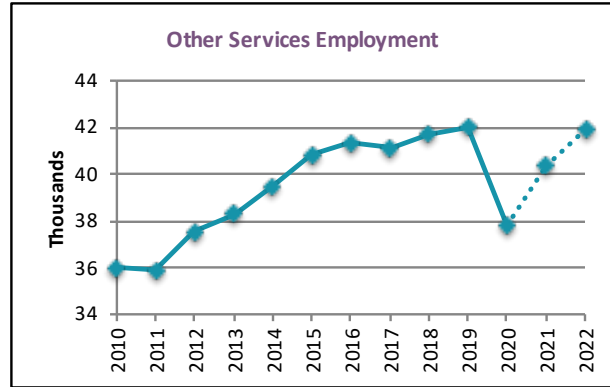
Business service employment growth in 2022 will be driven by strength in professional and technical services. Administrative services growth may weaken somewhat, partly as a result of worker supply challenges in temporary services.



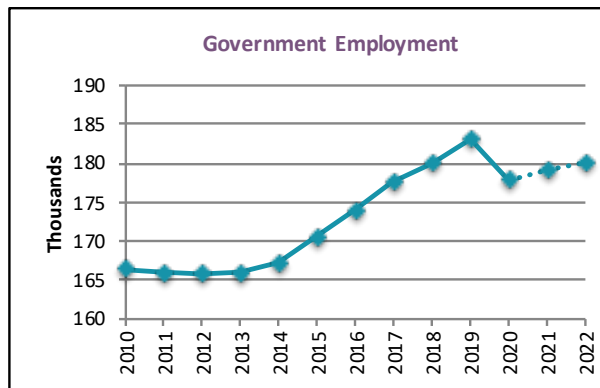
Only private education is included in this sector, so it is 88% healthcare. Both of these two segments should grow in 2022, despite the ongoing challenge of the pandemic.



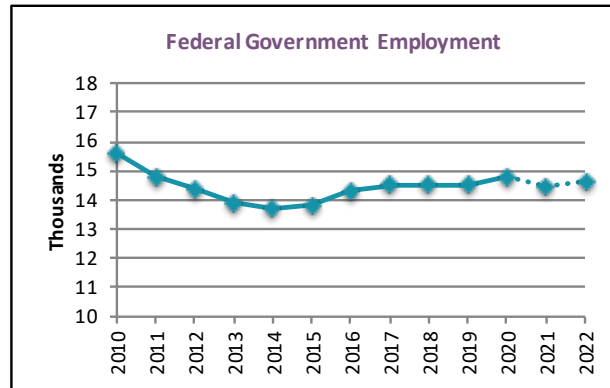
Both the onset of the pandemic and the current Great Resignation have impacted leisure more than any other sector. Patrons are returning to shows and restaurants, but job openings are many and competition for workers is fierce.



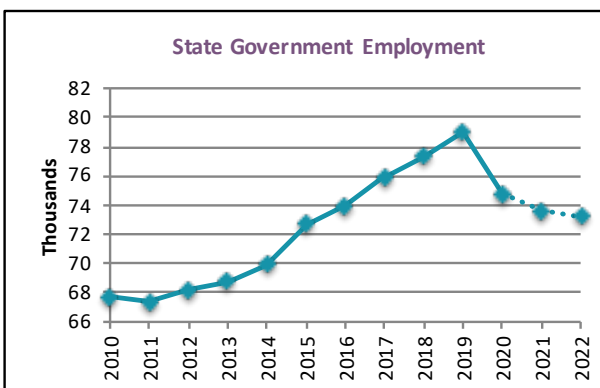
Other services, including personal services such as beauty and nail salons, suffered a 30% two-month loss in 2020 but bounced back strongly in 2021. The recovery should continue in 2022.



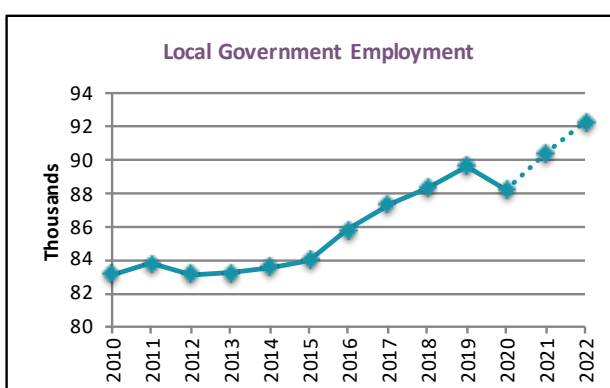
Government employment increased 0.8% in 2021, driven entirely by growth in local government jobs. However, federal employment was lower only because of the temporary census jobs that inflated 2020 employment.



The 1.6% federal job loss in 2021 was due solely to the loss of temporary jobs supporting the 2020 census. Ongoing federal job counts, mostly at the Defense Supply Center, have been trending upward. A gain is expected in 2022.



The 4.2% statewide loss of state jobs in 2021 impacted MSA employment, although to a lesser extent. Local declines were driven by the 4.6% loss in state education, although other state jobs fell 1%. Losses will continue in 2022.



Local government employment increased in 2021, although probably not the 4.3% gain implied by the BLS estimates. Public education provides 56% of these jobs. Both these and non-education jobs contributed to the 2021 gain.