
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Career & Workplace

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Jun 15, 2026 **Updated** Jun 29, 2026 3:23pm EDT

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Columbus has the fastest job growth of any metropolitan area in the Midwest and ranks fourth nationally among large cities, according to a new analysis of federal data from the Columbus Partnership.

The metro region added 20,607 jobs in 2025 for a 1.9% growth rate – 10 times the national rate of 0.2%, according to Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages data from the [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#). The Columbus MSA covers 10 counties.

Among the 55 metros with a population of more than 1 million, only Raleigh, Austin and Las Vegas had faster growth in the 12 months that ended Dec. 31, 2025, according to data the Partnership economists pulled from BLS.

Wages grew by 6% over 2025 to a combined \$81 billion, also the fastest among large Midwest metros, according to the analysis.

"This is the kind of data that should make people stop and pay attention," Partnership CEO Jason Hall said in a press release. "Those numbers mean better career opportunity and momentum people can actually feel. Growth at this level is creating room for more people to build a future here, and that's exactly what is happening."

The quarterly census relies on unemployment insurance records encompassing about 95% of U.S. jobs, including the small businesses that make up the bulk of employers.

Industries contributing to employment growth were led by education, healthcare, finance, professional services and trade, transportation and utilities.

The momentum is expected to continue.

Large, out-of-state companies are establishing Central Ohio operations and bringing thousands of jobs, including [Anduril Industries in Pickaway County](#), [Amgen in New Albany](#) and – in a few years – [Intel Corp.](#) in New Albany. Homegrown businesses also are growing, such as Worthington-based Opoc.us, which [plans to double to 400 employees](#).

In keeping with employment growth, Columbus also is the only metro area statewide to consistently [outpace the national average for population growth](#) over the past five years, according to a Business Journals analysis of [U.S. Census Bureau](#) data.