

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

New Claims for Unemployment Insurance Current Trends in Cleveland-Akron-Lorain-Elyria and Ohio Layoffs Continue to Soar Statewide in Ohio, Nearly Tripling Normal Levels

*By George Zeller
Economic Research Analyst
Week Ending June 20, 2009*

Summary

In new data for the week ending June 20, 2009, the level of new claims for unemployment continues to measure a currently rapid increase in the level of those new claims in both Ohio and in the Cleveland-Akron-Lorain-Elyria region. The record breaking summer level of new claims during the last week of July 2008 was only very slightly moderated in the data for August and September 2008. The level of new claims increased substantially again during the all weeks of October, November, and December 2008, as well as January, February, March, April, May, and June 2009. The newly updated new claims data for the week ending June 20 represent the twelfth week of the second quarter of 2009. The number of new unemployment claims continued to increase sharply during all weeks of May 2009 and the three weeks of June 2009. **In comparison with last year's data for June 2008, new unemployment claims remain an extremely high level that is by far the worst reading during the 2000s recession during the third week of June in six of the seven counties of Cleveland-Akron-Lorain-Elyria, with Lorain County being the only exception. The previous peak came in 2001. The current level of new unemployment claims is 91% higher than last year's 2008 level in the Cleveland-Akron-Lorain-Elyria region. Statewide in Ohio, the current level is 76% higher than the level in 2008. In all seven counties of Cleveland-Akron-Lorain-Elyria and statewide in Ohio the current level of new unemployment claims is substantially more than double a normal level that is present when the economy is growing.** Rapidly rising levels of new unemployment claims are inconsistent with current labor market growth in both Metropolitan Cleveland and the state of Ohio. Cuyahoga County's 2,094 weekly new claims for unemployment remain dramatically above the 1,000 per week rule of thumb that signals recession in the local labor market, and is 82% higher than last year's 2008 level of 1,153. The number of new unemployment claims exceeds 1999 levels in all seven counties of Cleveland-Akron-Lorain-Elyria and also is more than double last year's 2008 levels in *six of the seven counties* of Cleveland-Akron-Lorain-Elyria, with Portage County being the only exception. The third week of June 2009 resulted in by far the highest levels of new unemployment claims seen during the entire 2000s recession in Cleveland-Akron-Lorain-Elyria during that week. **For the eighteenth consecutive week, the level of new unemployment claims is currently more than double a normal level in all seven counties of Cleveland-Akron-Lorain-Elyria.** In Medina, Geauga, and Lorain Counties, the number of new unemployment claims is currently *more than three times* a normal level. Ohio's current statewide level of new unemployment claims is 171% above normal levels during periods of job growth,

and thus is *more than double and nearly triple* a normal level at this time of year. *Statewide in Ohio, and in six of the seven counties of Cleveland-Akron-Lorain-Elyria, the number of new claims during the second week of June 2009 was the highest level recorded during the entire 2000s recession at the beginning of June, greatly exceeding the very high levels experienced in 2001 at the worst previous velocity of the 2000s recession.* **The new data document that the end of the impact of the 2000s recession in Ohio's labor market has certainly not yet arrived, and that the regional labor force is deteriorating very rapidly in the short run within the Cleveland-Akron-Lorain-Elyria region. Statewide Ohio new claims for unemployment are currently 171% higher during the third week of June 2009 than they were during the second week of June in 1999 when the state's economy last generated job growth. The recent layoff levels are also at record levels during the 2000s recession in six of the seven counties of Cleveland-Akron-Lorain-Elyria, with Lorain County being a trivial exception because of very large local layoffs in 1991.** Such widespread and massive levels of job destruction clearly establish with absolute certainty that employment growth has not yet resumed in Ohio. To the contrary, the current statewide level of new unemployment claims is 95% higher during the first twelve weeks of the second quarter of 2009 than it was during the first twelve weeks of the second quarter last year in 2008. The data on new unemployment claims for the first twelve weeks of the second quarter of 2009 are dramatically unfavorable on a statewide basis. The Cuyahoga County and northeast Ohio figures also deteriorated noticeably in comparison to last year's highly discouraging data. Cuyahoga County's new claims increased by 82% since last year's high figure, and in Cleveland-Akron-Lorain-Elyria the current level of new claims is 91% above last year's very high level. Ohio's statewide level of new unemployment claims for the first twelve weeks of the second quarter of 2009 is also 76% higher than the state's four week moving average for the same weeks in 2008. **In another highly discouraging figure, the national USA four week moving average of new unemployment claims remained above a recession indication of 400,000 for the 47th consecutive week, a period exceeding two full quarters. The United States four week moving average of national unemployment claims rose above 500,000 for the 32nd consecutive week during the 2008-2009 national recession. It was also over 600,000 for the 21st consecutive week. That means that the United States labor force and economy are certainly now in a statistically measurable recession that is very deep, as the National Bureau of Economic Statistics declared 29 weeks ago.** The Ohio economy has exited the season of the year when layoffs are always at their highest level, but the current level of new unemployment claims unfortunately remains extremely high with an alarmingly rapid rate of increase.

Definitions

Trends in the number of new claims for unemployment insurance are among the earliest measures of current trends in the business cycle that are available. These statistical measures are released on a weekly basis, both for the United States as a whole and for all 88 counties within the state of Ohio. New unemployment claims represent first time applicants for unemployment compensation following a job loss. They are distinct from continuing claims for unemployment, who still are receiving unemployment benefits

following a job loss during a prior week. In this analysis the data are reported in two ways.

In the seven county Cleveland-Akron-Lorain-Elyria, regional Metropolitan Statistical Area the data are reported as a four week moving average of weekly new unemployment claims for all years between 1999 and 2009. In Ohio's 88 counties, the data are reported by quarter and also for a year to date total. The data compare data for the current quarter and year with data for comparable prior quarters and years within Ohio counties. The moving average and quarterly figures smooth out the normal high level of volatility that is visible in these figures from week to week.

The data for Cleveland-Akron-Lorain-Elyria are reported for each year between 1999 and 2009. During this period, Ohio's labor market was in recession during all years except 1999. Since 1999 represents a normal level of new unemployment claims during a period of growth in the business cycle, it is an important baseline for comparisons. Levels of new unemployment claims that exceed normal seasonal levels as represented in 1999 are indications that the local economy is experiencing job destruction through layoffs. Levels of new unemployment claims at or below 1999 levels are associated with low levels of job destruction that are evident during growth phases of the business cycle.

The data are a powerful indication of trends in the local business cycle. If the level of new claims for unemployment is comparable to 1999 levels, then it can be concluded that the local economy is generating job growth. If the level of new claims for unemployment substantially exceeds 1999 levels, then it can be concluded that the local economy is experiencing job losses. Since the data are released on a weekly basis, they are available in a much more timely fashion than other indicators of the local business cycle. Actual official measures of employment and earnings are normally subject to delays of one to six months prior to their release.

During the annual period between November and March that coincides with the winter season and major holidays, the number of new unemployment claims always exceeds 1,000 per week in Cuyahoga County. **There is always more destruction of jobs during the winter and holiday seasons than there is during other seasons of the year.** But, during the remainder of the year when layoffs are less common, a normal level of new unemployment claims falls below 1,000 each week in Cuyahoga County. Thus, the figure of 1,000 new unemployment claims in Cuyahoga County is a significant level that can be utilized as a "rule of thumb." When the level of new unemployment claims exceeds 1,000, there is evidence that the local labor market is shrinking. When the level of new unemployment claims in Cuyahoga County is substantially below 1,000 during a sustained period of weeks, then there is evidence that the local labor market is expanding, except during the winter period when more than 1,000 new claims per week are common in Cuyahoga County.

The National Bureau of Economic Research has determined that the United States economy was in recession between March 2001 and November 2001. Thus, at the national level the duration of the 2000s recession was quite brief. But, in the state of Ohio

sustained employment losses associated with the 2000s recession as early as July 2000. Those continual employment losses have continued through 2009. In Ohio's labor market the duration of the 2000s recession is now approaching nine years, as measured by continual declines in total employment within the state. The National Bureau of Economic Statistics has now declared that a new national United States recession began in December 2007. That national recession is extending and deepening Ohio's lengthy local recession in the state's labor market that has lasted for nearly nine years.

Employment losses in Ohio have been associated with payroll earnings losses for workers. They also caused declines in other measures of the business cycle, notably revenues generated by taxation streams at various levels of government. The Income Tax and the Sales Tax are particularly subject to trends in the business cycle. Therefore a determination of the point at which the impact of the 2000s recession finally ends in Ohio is an extremely important issue.

The Data

During a brief period in mid-January 2008, the level of new unemployment claims finally returned to pre-recession 1999 levels on a general basis within Cleveland-Akron-Lorain-Elyria. This desirable situation was not sustained in subsequent 2008 months, and the level of new unemployment claims has consistently increased sharply since mid-January of 2008. The current level of new unemployment claims is higher than their 1999 level prior to the onset of the 2000s recession in all seven counties in Cleveland-Akron-Lorain Elyria, as they have been during all weeks since mid-January 2008. Another extremely large and alarming level of layoffs is evident for the new week ending June 20, 2009 on literally a statewide basis in Ohio. The high level of new claims in Ohio was *not* concentrated only in Cleveland-Akron-Lorain-Elyria or within Cuyahoga County alone. This indicates that the layoff situation worsened once again within both the Cleveland-Akron-Lorain-Elyria region and the entire state of Ohio during all weeks of August, September, October, November, and December 2008, as well as in January, February, March, April, May, and June 2009 and the last week of July 2008. The same pattern holds during the third week of June 2009. **Cuyahoga County had 2,094 new unemployment claims during the third week of June 2009.** The new level for the week ending June 20 is the highest level that nearly all regional counties and the state of Ohio experienced during the second week of June during the entire local 2000s Ohio labor market recession that now has been in place for more than eight years. Only Lorain County had a higher level of new unemployment claims in 2001. The current Cuyahoga County figure is now 140% higher than the normal level during a labor market expansion that is represented by 1999. That is more than double a normal level during periods of employment growth. Six of the seven counties within the Cleveland-Akron-Lorain-Elyria region also currently have more new unemployment claims than they had during the first week in June at any time during the lengthy local 2000s labor market recession in Ohio. **The current level is more than double a normal level in all seven counties of Cleveland-Akron-Lorain-Elyria for the eighteenth consecutive week. The current level of new unemployment claims is more than three times a normal level during periods of job growth in Medina, Geauga, and Lorain Counties.** Regionally in seven

counties, the number of new claims for unemployment is currently 171% higher than a normal level of new claims during the third week of June during periods of job growth. That regional figure remains extremely discouraging, since on a regional basis the figure is nearly triple a normal level. The extremely high level of suburban new unemployment claims documents that the continuing negative impact of the 2000s recession is not concentrated in Cuyahoga County alone. Cuyahoga County's current levels of new unemployment claims remain at a high level that establishes *with certainty* that Cuyahoga County lost employment during August, September, October, November, and December 2008, as well as during January, February, March, April, May, and June 2009.

This very high level of new unemployment claims remains a very serious concern within Cuyahoga County, particularly since this high level is still currently increasing by 82% in the new figures when compared to last year's 2008 data. Cuyahoga County's 2,094 new claims are currently higher than at any time during the third week of June during the entire 2000s recession in Ohio. *In six of the seven counties* of the Cleveland-Akron-Lorain-Elyria region, the number of new unemployment claims is currently higher than it has been at any time during the second week of June during the entire 2000s recession, including the very high levels experienced in 2001 except in Lorain County. Ohio's current weekly figure of 20,663 is also currently at the highest level seen during the third week of June during the entire 2000s recession. This indicates that the local labor market in Metropolitan Cleveland and the state of Ohio experienced additional deterioration during the third week of June 2009, following similar contraction during other January, February, March, April, May, and June weeks and during earlier 2008 months. It also indicates that the labor market is still contracting rapidly in Cuyahoga County, the Cleveland-Akron-Lorain-Elyria region, and the state of Ohio. The seven county regional level of new claims at 4,777 is a 91% increase over last year's 2008 level at 3,008. **Ohio's level of new unemployment claims, at 20,663 for the third week of June 2009, is currently 171% higher than it should be at this time of year during periods of job growth, meaning that it is currently nearly triple a normal level on a statewide basis.** The Ohio level also represents a 76% increase over last year's very high 2008 level at 11,746.

In national data on new unemployment claims for the week ending June 13, the United States Department of Labor release identified 14 USA states that registered a *decrease* of more than 1,000 new claims in comparison to the first week of June 2008. (This list runs one week behind real time, and thus is a measure of *last week's* new claims in the 50 states). Those states were Michigan, New York, North Carolina, Tennessee, **Ohio**, South Carolina, Kentucky, Indiana, Oregon, Washington, Mississippi, Texas, Arkansas, and Minnesota. Simultaneously, the Department of Labor release identified 5 states with an *increase* of more than 1,000 new claims in comparison with the prior week as defined by a comparison of the second week of June 2009 with the second week of June 2008. Those states included Florida, Pennsylvania, Missouri, California, and Arizona. ODJFS cited "Fewer layoffs in the manufacturing industry" as the explanation for the fact that Ohio was on the list of states with unemployment claim decreases two weeks ago.

New unemployment claims remain much higher than their pre-recession levels in 1999 in both Cleveland-Akron-Lorain-Elyria and in Ohio. In Cleveland-Akron-Lorain-Elyria, the current level of new unemployment claims is currently 164% higher than the 1999 pre-recession “growth” level, while the same figure is currently 172% higher than the pre-recession level in the state of Ohio. The current level of new unemployment claims is approaching triple a normal level in both Cleveland-Akron-Lorain-Elyria and in the state of Ohio. **It is therefore certain that a trough has not yet been established for the 2000s labor market recession in Cleveland-Akron-Lorain-Elyria or in the state of Ohio that has now had duration exceeding eight years. The data are consistent with a continuing rapid contraction in northeast Ohio's labor market through the third week of June 2009. The statewide Ohio labor market is also still contracting very sharply. The layoffs within Cleveland-Akron-Lorain-Elyria and the state of Ohio during were suffered at a pace that increased rapidly relative to last year in 2008 through mid-June 2009. Both the Cleveland-Akron-Lorain-Elyria and Ohio level of current layoffs remain at an alarmingly high level for the third week in June. That level is currently increasing in both the region and the state, even in comparison to last year's high 2008 levels. This is a clear indication that the national 2008-2009 recession is currently having a dramatically negative impact on the Ohio labor market.**

The national total of new unemployment claims in the United States was again extremely unfavorable during the third week of June 2009. The seasonally adjusted weekly national figure increased by 15,000 relative to the staggeringly large 612,000 figure for the first week of June last week, and it remained above the stunningly high and staggeringly unfavorable level of 600,000. This national one week figure is now 627,000. The increase would have been higher if it were not for the fact that last week's total was upwardly revised by 4,000. This figure is still dramatically above 400,000, the normal recession rule of thumb, for the 46th consecutive week. The new figure is once again above the very large 500,000 level for the 23rd consecutive week, and remains above the horribly high level of 600,000 for the twentieth consecutive week. The current 627,000 figure is unambiguously and ominously very deep into the recession range, since it exceeds 600,000, not just 400,000.

The more stable national four week moving average at 617,250 was an increase of 500 in comparison to last week's four week moving average of 616,750. Overall, the level of new unemployment claims in the United States during the second week of June 2009 was once again extremely and unambiguously unfavorable, with the four week moving average still over the 400,000 level by a very large amount. **The four week moving average gave a clear “recession” indication above 400,000 in the national labor market this week for the 47th consecutive week.** It is widely accepted that national new unemployment claims above 350,000 in a week are a signal of a weakening economy, while figures above 400,000 are a clear indication of a recession in the national labor market, particularly when that figure is sustained over a period of weeks. **Therefore, the national figure on new unemployment claims is unambiguously and certainly indicating a sharp current recession in the United States labor market, since the weekly figures have now exceeded 400,000 for more than three full**

quarters and since the current figure remains above an extremely high level of 600,000.

On a statewide basis in Ohio, the new unemployment claims figures remain alarmingly more pessimistic than they were in mid-January 2008. The four week moving average for weekly new claims in Ohio is currently 20,663, a level that remains 171% higher than the 7,637 that is normal during the third week of June during periods of economic growth and net job creation. All of the seven counties within the Cleveland-Akron-Lorain-Elyria region have current levels of unemployment claims that are more than double levels experienced during the same week in 1999, which was the last year when the local regional economy was experiencing job growth. Medina, Geauga, and Lorain Counties have current levels of new claims that are more than triple a normal level for periods of job growth during the third week of June. **All seven counties in Cleveland-Akron-Lorain-Elyria have current levels of new unemployment claims that are substantially more than double a normal level at this time of year.** The statewide four week moving average is 171% higher than its level during Ohio's last year of employment growth in 1999 and it is also 76% higher than it was during the same week last year in 2008. Similar patterns were evident during all prior weeks during February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, and December 2008 as well as January, February, March, April, May, and June 2009. The statewide figure measured substantial additional deterioration in the Ohio labor market during all weeks of 2009 thus far.

Ohio's increase in new unemployment claims accelerated during all four quarters of 2008. In 2008, those claims grew in comparison to the prior year by 6% in the first quarter, by 19% in the second quarter, by 47% during the third quarter, and by 56% during the fourth quarter. During the first quarter of 2009, new claims increased by 96% in comparison to the first quarter of 2008. With twelve weeks of the second quarter of 2009 now available, the state experienced a stunningly rapid 95% one year increase in new unemployment claims during the first twelve weeks of the second quarter of 2009, a rate nearly identical to the very fast rate of increase that Ohio experienced during the first quarter of 2009. The rate at which layoffs are increasing in Ohio has continued to accelerate very rapidly, and is currently virtually doubling last year's already very high levels. **Alarmingly, the rate of increase in new claims grew during each of the four quarters of 2008. The velocity at which new unemployment claims have increased was higher during the first quarter of 2009 than it was during all four earlier 2008 quarters. During the first eleven weeks of the second quarter of 2009, the rate of increase relative to the first eleven weeks in the second quarter of 2008 reached an increase of 95%.** That rate of increase remains higher than the rapid rate of increase during all 2008 quarters and which remains virtually the same as the rapid rate of increase seen during the first quarter of 2009. Growth in Ohio new claims was present during all weeks of May, June, July, August, September, October, November, and December 2008, as well as during January, February, March, April, and May 2009. That growth continued into the third week in June 2009. The continually high and accelerating growth rate for new unemployment claims in both Cuyahoga County and Ohio is severely troubling. The short period of tentative improvement that was suggested in data

for mid-January 2008 has now been overwhelmed by many dozens of weeks of sizeable increases in the level of layoffs in February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, and December 2008, as well as during January, February, March, April, May, and June 2009. That has been true both in Cuyahoga County and in statewide Ohio data.

Even in comparison with a high level of new unemployment claims in early 2008, all 88 of Ohio's 88 Ohio counties suffered growth in their level of new unemployment claims during the first 25 weeks of 2009. **The large and still rising level of new claims for unemployment across Ohio indicates that Ohio definitely suffered contraction in its labor market from the 2000s recession during the first quarter of 2009 and the first twelve weeks of the second quarter of 2009 on literally a statewide basis.** It is troubling that the one year rate of increase during the first twelve weeks of the second quarter of 2009 is virtually identical to the soaring rate of increase during the first quarter of 2009, as it also sharply exceeds the steadily increasing rates of increase seen during previous 2008 quarters.

Nationally, the USA figure for the week ending June 20 was above 400,000 new unemployment claims for the 47th consecutive week. The four week moving average of new unemployment claims was 617,250 in the USA during the third week of June 2009. The 47 consecutive weeks with a recession level indication in the USA national figure on new claims for unemployment provide strong statistical evidence that the national United States labor market and economy are currently in a recession. National figures exceeding 400,000 are a cause for significant concern. There is a general consensus that national USA levels of new unemployment claims over 400,000 per week are clear indicators of a recession. When those levels are over 350,000 consistently, as they were for the entire months of February, March, April, May, June, and July 2008, a measurable statistical sign of weakness in the national economy emerges. The national figure in the four week moving average has exceeded a clear recession indication over 400,000 for 47 consecutive weeks in July, August, September, October, November, and December 2008 as well as January, February, March, April, May, and June 2009, a period of time now exceeding three full quarters. Consistent nationwide figures at that level leave no doubt that the United States economy is still within a deepening recession period of the national business cycle.

The United States lost jobs in June 2009. The June 2009 figure from the Current Employment statistics was the 19th consecutive month that the USA lost jobs, and was the first time since 2001 that the nation experienced nineteen consecutive months of job loss. During 2008, the United States lost jobs during all months of the year. The Current Employment Statistics also indicate that Ohio lost 286,000 jobs during the last twenty months of the national recession, including the recent large loss of 139,100 jobs during the first five months of 2009. The annual March revision to Ohio's CES job figures included large downward revisions to the job figures in large numbers of previously released months. Ohio's streak of sub-par job growth relative to the USA national average was restored by the downward revisions. Ohio has now gone an extremely alarming period of 159 consecutive months with its job growth below the USA national

average, a period exceeding all months during more than 13 consecutive years. All of these signs of measurable dramatic weakness in the Ohio economy are very troubling. The updated data on new unemployment claims for the week ending June 20, 2009 provide clear evidence that the negative impact of the 2000s recession is still accelerating in Ohio. There is still no measurable evidence this week that the 2000s recession has hit a trough and that job growth has resumed in the state of Ohio, or within the Cleveland-Akron-Lorain-Elyria region. Indeed, to the contrary, the new data document that the depth of the 2000s recession is currently worsening substantially across all of Ohio. During the first quarter of 2009, Ohio's level of new unemployment claims increased by a rapid 96% even in comparison to last year's very high level of layoffs in 2008. They continued to increase at an alarming and fractionally increasing rate of 95% during the first twelve weeks of the second quarter of 2009 in this week's new figure. **All 88 Ohio counties have seen an increase in their number of new unemployment claims during the first 25 weeks of 2009.** The currently weakening Ohio labor market is a phenomenon that is literally statewide in its geographic scope.

Acknowledgment

George Zeller thanks the Cuyahoga County Board of Commissioners for their important financial support that made this report possible.

Data Tables

**New Claims for Unemployment Insurance
 By Residence of Unemployed Worker
 Cleveland-Akron-Lorain-Elyria CMSA and State of Ohio
 Third Week of June 1999-2009
 Four Week Moving Average through Week Ending June 20, 2009
 Source: George Zeller and ODJFS**

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>% INCR 2000-2009</u>	<u>% INCR 1999-2009</u>
Cuyahoga	873	938	1,349	1,524	1,580	1,236	1,343	1,101	1,039	1,153	2,094	123.2%	139.8%
Lorain	261	254	988	396	475	317	348	321	358	362	798	214.5%	205.5%
Medina	83	81	173	127	168	116	158	114	136	133	308	280.2%	270.0%
Lake	133	133	200	249	254	194	182	168	180	188	387	190.4%	190.4%
Geauga	30	65	49	51	57	47	48	43	39	49	103	58.5%	246.2%
Summit	334	372	596	556	566	485	454	413	418	466	813	118.4%	143.8%
Portage	96	250	206	134	144	107	124	123	115	152	274	9.7%	185.4%
Ashtabula	207	166	221	120	136	89	86	84	80	115	188	13.1%	-9.1%
7 Counties													
Cle-Akr-Lor	1,810	2,093	3,560	3,036	3,244	2,500	2,657	2,283	2,285	2,502	4,777	128.2%	163.9%
8 Counties Old													
Cle-Akr-Lor	2,017	2,260	3,781	3,155	3,379	2,590	2,743	2,366	2,365	2,617	4,965	119.7%	146.2%
88 Counties													
State of Ohio	7,617	13,090	12,683	12,404	13,562	10,909	10,657	9,194	9,514	11,746	20,663	57.9%	171.3%

NOTE: Ashtabula County is No Longer in the Cleveland MSA, given the results of the 2000 Census. Thus, the Cleveland-Akron-Lorain-Elyria CMSA is now a seven county area.

Weekly New Claims for Unemployment Insurance, By Residence of Worker
Ohio Counties: Two Quarters of 2009; Excludes Out of State
Through Week ending 6/20/09; Sorted by Fastest 2008-2009 YTD % Increase
Source: George Zeller and ODJFS

#	COUNTY	LARGEST CITY	1Q	1Q	1Q	12 WK	12 WK	12 WK	YTD	YTD	YTD
			SUM	SUM	08-09	2Q	2Q	2Q			
			2008	2009	% INCR	2008	2009	% INCR	2008	2009	% INCR
			<u>SUM</u>	<u>SUM</u>	<u>% INCR</u>	<u>SUM</u>	<u>SUM</u>	<u>% INCR</u>	<u>SUM</u>	<u>SUM</u>	<u>% INCR</u>
1	Mercer	Celina	446	1,523	241.5%	291	1,365	369.1%	737	2,888	291.9%
2	Putnam	Ottawa	632	2,688	325.3%	614	2,013	227.9%	1,246	4,701	277.3%
3	Auglaize	Saint Marys	796	2,452	208.0%	567	1,812	219.6%	1,363	4,264	212.8%
4	Van Wert	Van Wert	342	1,658	384.8%	499	931	86.6%	841	2,589	207.8%
5	Trumbull	Warren	3,795	13,805	263.8%	3,301	7,193	117.9%	7,096	20,998	195.9%
6	Ross	Chillicothe	1,218	3,021	148.0%	739	2,526	241.8%	1,957	5,547	183.4%
7	Tuscarawas	New Phila.	2,023	4,544	124.6%	1,075	4,167	287.6%	3,098	8,711	181.2%
8	Mahoning	Youngstown	4,056	12,925	218.7%	3,157	6,547	107.4%	7,213	19,472	170.0%
9	Clinton	Wilmington	575	1,691	194.1%	427	1,005	135.4%	1,002	2,696	169.1%
10	Hardin	Kenton	382	1,308	242.4%	351	663	88.9%	733	1,971	168.9%
11	Fayette	Washington CH	476	1,209	154.0%	293	846	188.7%	769	2,055	167.2%
12	Brown	Georgetown	657	1,874	185.2%	522	1,269	143.1%	1,179	3,143	166.6%
13	Logan	Bellefontaine	658	2,005	204.7%	527	1,150	118.2%	1,185	3,155	166.2%
14	Wayne	Wooster	1,312	3,593	173.9%	972	2,385	145.4%	2,284	5,978	161.7%
15	Crawford	Bucyrus	910	2,791	206.7%	1,151	2,521	119.0%	2,061	5,312	157.7%
16	Williams	Bryan	761	2,217	191.3%	933	2,105	125.6%	1,694	4,322	155.1%
17	Shelby	Sidney	945	2,549	169.7%	683	1,599	134.1%	1,628	4,148	154.8%
18	Highland	Hillsboro	708	1,808	155.4%	437	1,088	149.0%	1,145	2,896	152.9%
19	Seneca	Tiffin	1,283	3,150	145.5%	996	2,569	157.9%	2,279	5,719	150.9%
20	Columbiana	East Liverpool	1,644	4,144	152.1%	1,234	3,074	149.1%	2,878	7,218	150.8%
21	Carroll	Carrolton	713	1,361	90.9%	456	1,524	234.2%	1,169	2,885	146.8%
22	Stark	Canton	6,582	13,750	108.9%	4,666	13,785	195.4%	11,248	27,535	144.8%
23	Holmes	Millersburg	325	795	144.6%	206	483	134.5%	531	1,278	140.7%
24	Paulding	Paulding	391	1,220	212.0%	484	879	81.6%	875	2,099	139.9%
25	Hancock	Findlay	964	2,744	184.6%	929	1,782	91.8%	1,893	4,526	139.1%
26	Wyandot	Upper Sandusky	438	1,094	149.8%	313	631	101.6%	751	1,725	129.7%
27	Jefferson	Steubenville	873	1,814	107.8%	736	1,834	149.2%	1,609	3,648	126.7%
28	Lorain	Lorain	6,863	16,891	146.1%	5,254	10,566	101.1%	12,117	27,457	126.6%
29	Miami	Piqua	1,621	3,679	127.0%	1,152	2,470	114.4%	2,773	6,149	121.7%
30	Union	Marysville	416	1,005	141.6%	334	650	94.6%	750	1,655	120.7%
31	Harrison	Cadiz	257	516	100.8%	171	412	140.9%	428	928	116.8%
32	Sandusky	Fremont	1,627	3,320	104.1%	1,052	2,328	121.3%	2,679	5,648	110.8%
33	Erie	Sandusky	2,069	5,000	141.7%	1,576	2,673	69.6%	3,645	7,673	110.5%
34	Lake	Mentor	2,955	5,989	102.7%	2,207	4,860	120.2%	5,162	10,849	110.2%
35	Allen	Lima	1,885	4,430	135.0%	1,519	2,712	78.5%	3,404	7,142	109.8%
36	Madison	London	380	905	138.2%	296	508	71.6%	676	1,413	109.0%
37	Pike	Waverly	523	963	84.1%	323	790	144.6%	846	1,753	107.2%
38	Richland	Mansfield	2,460	5,565	126.2%	2,114	3,888	83.9%	4,574	9,453	106.7%
39	Ashtabula	Ashtabula	1,870	3,740	100.0%	1,247	2,684	115.2%	3,117	6,424	106.1%
40	Ashland	Ashland	921	2,008	118.0%	745	1,407	88.9%	1,666	3,415	105.0%
41	Medina	Brunswick	2,516	4,977	97.8%	1,755	3,771	114.9%	4,271	8,748	104.8%
42	Geauga	Chardon	945	1,767	87.0%	595	1,387	133.1%	1,540	3,154	104.8%
43	Darke	Greenville	928	1,913	106.1%	589	1,187	101.5%	1,517	3,100	104.4%
44	Vinton	McArthur	214	387	80.8%	188	431	129.3%	402	818	103.5%
45	Pickaway	Circleville	768	1,352	76.0%	425	1,065	150.6%	1,193	2,417	102.6%
46	Clark	Springfield	1,855	3,995	115.4%	1,330	2,453	84.4%	3,185	6,448	102.4%
47	Clermont	Milford	2,564	5,252	104.8%	1,993	3,915	96.4%	4,557	9,167	101.2%
48	Butler	Hamilton	4,268	8,542	100.1%	3,514	6,947	97.7%	7,782	15,489	99.0%
49	Champaign	Urbana	644	1,355	110.4%	493	877	77.9%	1,137	2,232	96.3%
50	Warren	Mason	2,359	4,590	94.6%	1,678	3,279	95.4%	4,037	7,869	94.9%

#	COUNTY	LARGEST CITY	1Q	1Q	1Q	12 WK	12 WK	2Q	YTD	YTD	YTD
			SUM	SUM	08-09	2Q	2Q	08-09			
			2008	2009	% INCR	SUM	SUM	% INCR	SUM	SUM	% INCR
			CLAIMS	CLAIMS		2008	2009	CLAIMS	2008	2009	CLAIMS
51	Portage	Kent	2,859	5,488	92.0%	1,862	3,645	95.8%	4,721	9,133	93.5%
52	Defiance	Defiance	1,073	3,131	191.8%	1,581	1,966	24.4%	2,654	5,097	92.0%
53	Jackson	Jackson	617	844	36.8%	578	1,399	142.0%	1,195	2,243	87.7%
54	Wood	Bowling Green	2,547	4,496	76.5%	1,623	3,328	105.1%	4,170	7,824	87.6%
55	Delaware	Delaware	1,177	2,184	85.6%	881	1,677	90.4%	2,058	3,861	87.6%
56	Licking	Newark	2,217	4,049	82.6%	1,607	3,033	88.7%	3,824	7,082	85.2%
57	Cuyahoga	Cleveland	17,169	30,986	80.5%	14,163	25,897	82.8%	31,332	56,883	81.5%
58	Hamilton	Cincinnati	8,278	14,956	80.7%	6,838	12,329	80.3%	15,116	27,285	80.5%
59	Summit	Akron	7,754	13,685	76.5%	5,678	10,399	83.1%	13,432	24,084	79.3%
60	Huron	Norwalk	1,989	4,048	103.5%	1,702	2,534	48.9%	3,691	6,582	78.3%
61	Ottawa	Port Clinton	1,182	1,882	59.2%	613	1,318	115.0%	1,795	3,200	78.3%
62	Belmont	Martins Ferry	866	1,435	65.7%	512	1,016	98.4%	1,378	2,451	77.9%
63	Gallia	Gallipolis	394	663	68.3%	307	566	84.4%	701	1,229	75.3%
64	Adams	West Union	538	938	74.3%	389	684	75.8%	927	1,622	75.0%
65	Fairfield	Lancaster	1,671	2,798	67.4%	1,245	2,300	84.7%	2,916	5,098	74.8%
66	Knox	Mount Vernon	777	1,286	65.5%	626	1,152	84.0%	1,403	2,438	73.8%
67	Preble	Eaton	814	1,314	61.4%	438	854	95.0%	1,252	2,168	73.2%
68	Scioto	Portsmouth	1,041	1,809	73.8%	867	1,450	67.2%	1,908	3,259	70.8%
69	Henry	Napoleon	959	1,904	98.5%	869	1,215	39.8%	1,828	3,119	70.6%
70	Washington	Marietta	819	1,376	68.0%	585	1,016	73.7%	1,404	2,392	70.4%
71	Marion	Marion	861	1,666	93.5%	717	1,012	41.1%	1,578	2,678	69.7%
72	Franklin	Columbus	11,907	20,884	75.4%	9,989	16,253	62.7%	21,896	37,137	69.6%
73	Coshocton	Coshocton	1,048	2,094	99.8%	1,112	1,498	34.7%	2,160	3,592	66.3%
74	Morrow	Mount Gilead	610	1,003	64.4%	417	695	66.7%	1,027	1,698	65.3%
75	Perry	New Lexington	789	1,327	68.2%	609	909	49.3%	1,398	2,236	59.9%
76	Greene	Beavercreek	1,972	3,068	55.6%	1,279	2,099	64.1%	3,251	5,167	58.9%
77	Fulton	Wauseon	1,437	2,169	50.9%	1,019	1,689	65.8%	2,456	3,858	57.1%
78	Hocking	Logan	550	802	45.8%	357	611	71.1%	907	1,413	55.8%
79	Lawrence	Ironton	457	666	45.7%	411	610	48.4%	868	1,276	47.0%
80	Meigs	Middleport	463	625	35.0%	336	526	56.5%	799	1,151	44.1%
81	Lucas	Toledo	14,084	16,613	18.0%	7,538	14,246	89.0%	21,622	30,859	42.7%
82	Morgan	McConnelsville	348	442	27.0%	248	379	52.8%	596	821	37.8%
83	Montgomery	Dayton	11,552	14,837	28.4%	6,851	10,377	51.5%	18,403	25,214	37.0%
84	Noble	Caldwell	311	394	26.7%	182	275	51.1%	493	669	35.7%
85	Muskingum	Zanesville	2,000	2,896	44.8%	1,857	1,765	-5.0%	3,857	4,661	20.8%
86	Monroe	Woodsfield	201	220	9.5%	129	175	35.7%	330	395	19.7%
87	Athens	Athens	647	684	5.7%	387	466	20.4%	1,034	1,150	11.2%
88	Guernsey	Cambridge	1,096	1,103	0.6%	658	791	20.2%	1,754	1,894	8.0%
OHIO			179,887	352,639	96.0%	134,169	261,160	94.7%	314,056	613,799	95.4%