# Economic Overview of Metropolitan Cleveland & Akron for

Educational Service Center NEO Business Advisory Council (Feb 3, 2023)

By James M Trutko

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### **Goal of Today's Presentation:**

### Discuss Long-Term Economic Trends & Post-Pandemic Economic Outlook

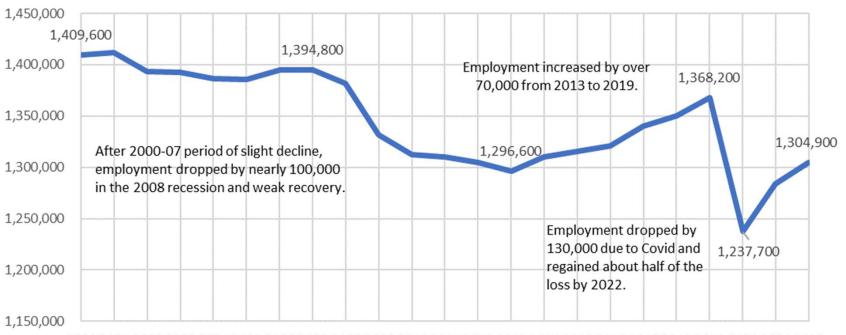
- Focus: Employment/unemployment, business establishments
- Timeframe: Examine 4 periods to add historical perspective
  - 2001-2007, 2008-2010 recession, 2010-19 recovery, 2020-22 Covid
  - What's "normal" vs what's "good/bad"
- Geography: Metropolitan Cleveland & Akron Economies
  - Metro Cleveland: Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina Counties
  - Metro Akron: Summit & Portage
- Data sources: 4 Bureau of Labor Statistics data series
  - Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, Current Population Statistics (Data as of 1/20/2023)
  - Some industry detail
- Projecting the Future

# Long-Term Cleveland & Akron Employment Trends (2001-22)

### After Period of Recession & Structural Losses, Metro Cle-Akron Employment Increased from 2013 to 2019. Covid Hit, Followed by Incomplete Recovery

#### Metro Cle-Akr Employment (2000-22)

4 Periods: 2000-07; 2007-13 Recession; 2013-19 Recovery; 2019-22 Pandemic

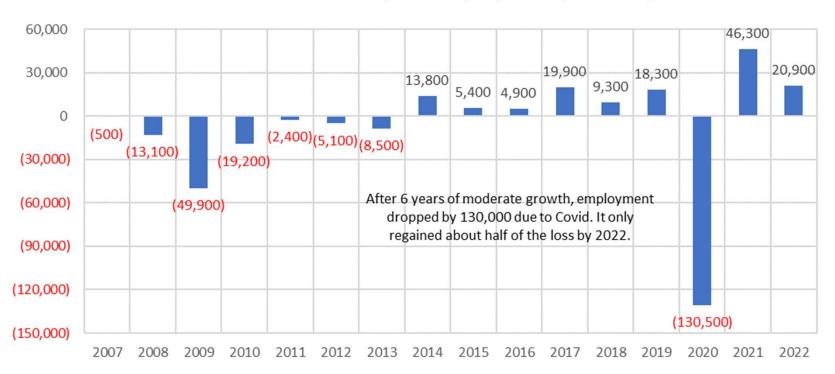


2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022

Source: BLS, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS). 2022 Prel.

### Annual Change in Employment is a Key Metric of Expanding Economy After 2013, Employment Growth Before Pandemic Was Modest But Consistent

#### Metro Cle-Akr Change in Employment (2007-22)

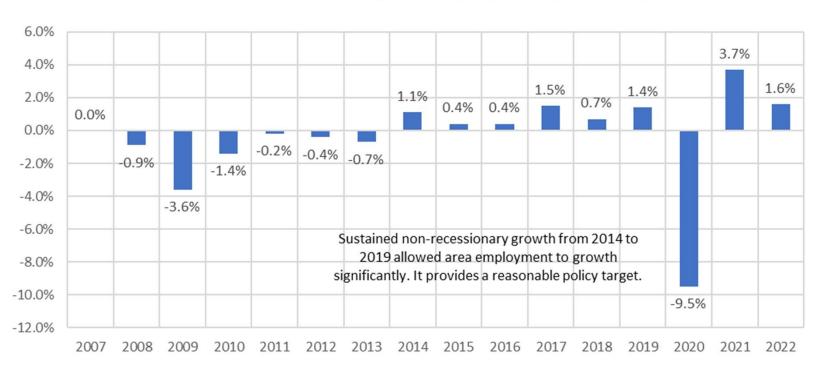


Source: BLS, LAUS

### Annual Non-Recessionary Employment Growth Rate of 0.75% to 1% is Good, Comparable Target for Policy Makers.

(0.75% to 1% Rate = 10,000 to 13,000 Metro Cle-Akron Employment Gain per Year)

#### Metro Cle-Akr % Change in Employment (2007-22)

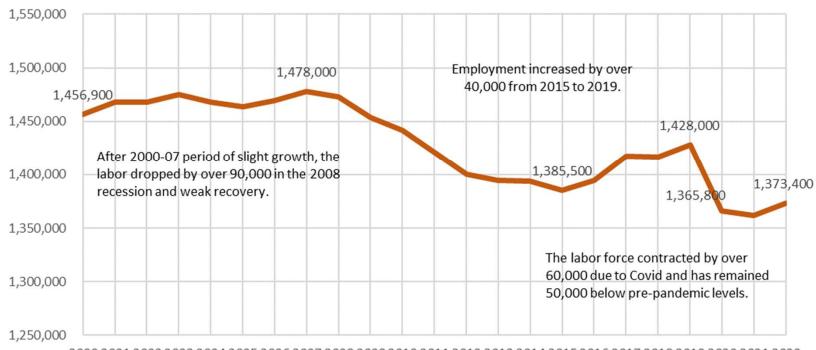


Souce: BLS, LAUS

# Cle-Akron Labor Force Shrunk By Over 70,000 (-5%) From 2001 to 2015. Pandemic Stopped 2016-19 Growth of Cle Labor Force

#### Metro Cle-Akr Labor Force (2000-22)

4 Periods: 2000-07; 2007-13 Recession; 2015-19 Recovery; 2019-22 Pandemic

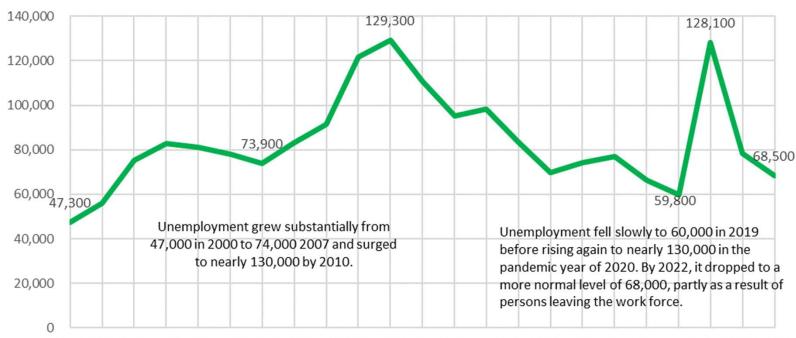


 $2000\ 2001\ 2002\ 2003\ 2004\ 2005\ 2006\ 2007\ 2008\ 2009\ 2010\ 2011\ 2012\ 2013\ 2014\ 2015\ 2016\ 2017\ 2018\ 2019\ 2020\ 2021\ 2022$ 

Source: BLS, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS). 2022 Prel.

# Cle-Akr Unemployment Averaged 68,500 in 2022, a Moderate Level Current Low Level Partially Reflects a Smaller Labor Force

### Metro Cle-Akr Unemployment (2000-22) 3 Periods: 2000-10; 2010-19 Recovery; 2019-22 Pandemic

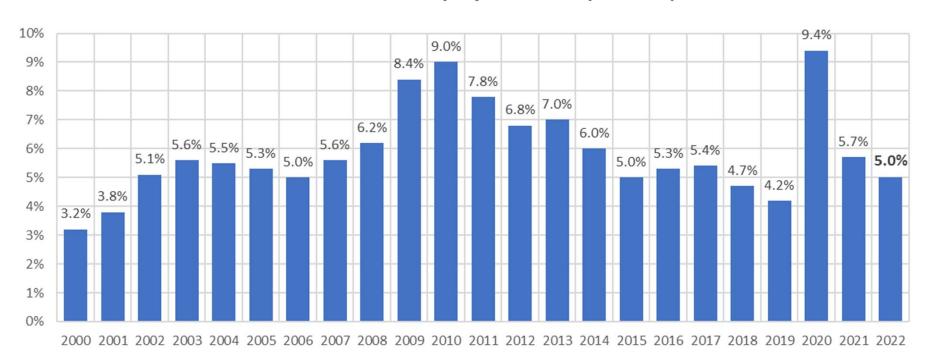


2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022

Source: BLS, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS). 2022 Prel.

### Cle-Akr Unemployment Averaged 5% in 2022, a Good Level However, Current Low Level is Based On a Smaller Labor Force

#### Metro Cle-Akr Unemployment Rate (2000-22)



Souce: BLS, LAUS

# Short-Term Employment Changes in Metro Cleveland & Akron: Pandemic & Recovery (2019-2022)

## Normal Cle Labor Force Dynamics Were Disrupted by Pandemic Labor Force Usually Grows As Employment Increases After Drop

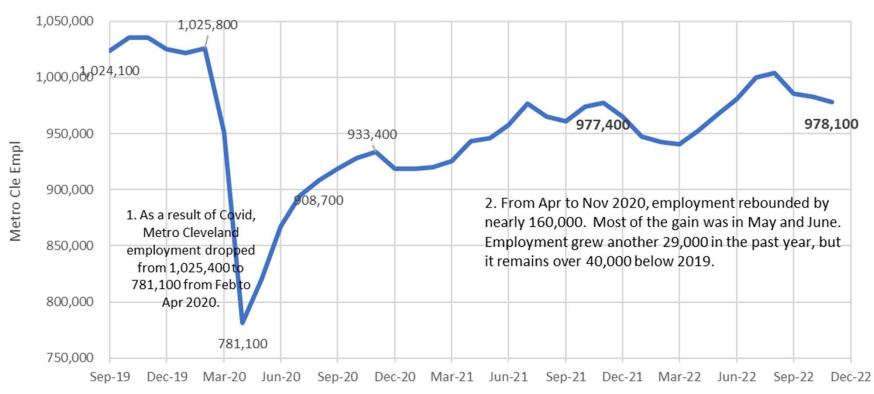
Interaction of Employment, Labor Force & Unemployment (2019-22)
Unemployment Dropped as Employment Increased, But No Rebound in Last Year



Source: BLS, LAUS

### Economy Recovered About Most of Pandemic-Induced Empl Drop, But Cle Recovery Has Stalled at 40,000 Below Pre-Covid Level

Covid Recovery: Metro Cleveland Employment (2019-2022)



Source: BLS, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS). Nov Prel.

# Akron Empl Dropped Over 50,000 Due to Pandemic, Recovered About 40,000, But Stalled Out 10,000 Below Pre-Pandemic Levels

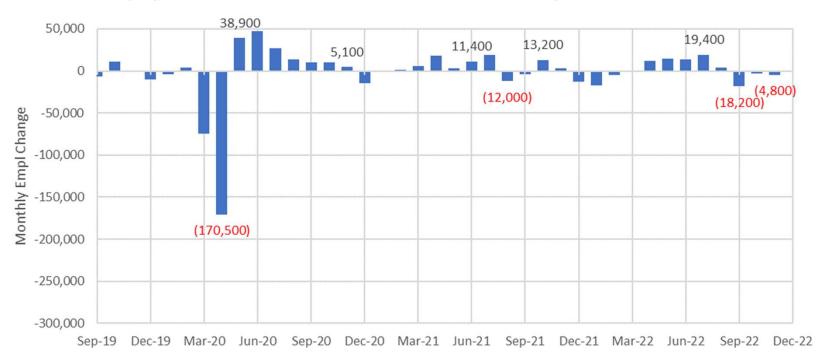
#### Covid Recovery: Metro Akron Employment (2019-2022)



Source: BLS, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS). Nov Prel.

# Monthly Change in Cle Employment Shows Sharp Pandemic Contraction, Rebound & Inconsistent Growth During Recovery

Covid Recovery: Metro Cle Employment Monthly Change (2019-22)
Employment Rebounded After First Shutdown, Followed By Inconsistent Growth



Source: BLS, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) Nov. prel.

### Major Pandemic-Caused Large Drop in Cle Labor Force Persists

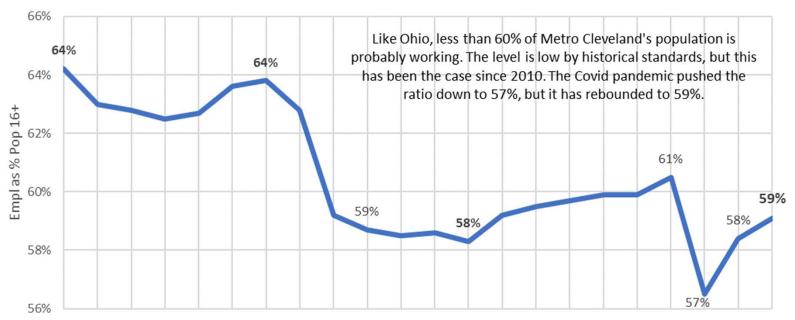
### Covid Recovery: Metro Cleveland Labor Force (2019-2022) Labor Force Remains 60,000 (-6%) Below Pre-Pandemic Level



Source: BLS, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) Nov. prel.

# Ohio (& Metro Cle-Akron) Shared Nation's Trend Toward a Smaller Share of the Population Working (Drop of 5%)

#### Ohio Employment as % of Population 16 & Over Social & Cultural Factors Have Resulted in Smaller Working Population

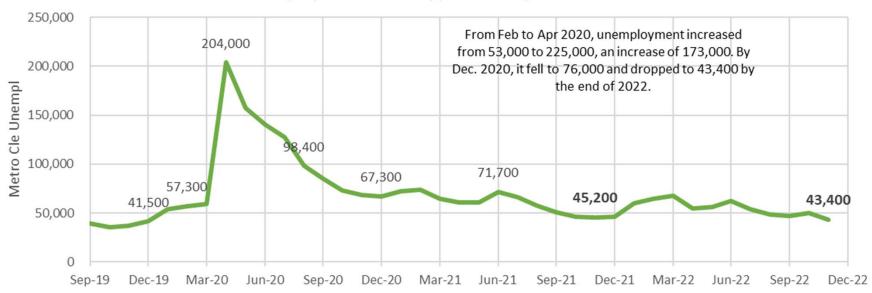


2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022

Source: BLS, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) Nov. prel.

# Cle Unemployment Remains at Low Level With Weak Employment Growth & Labor Force Participation

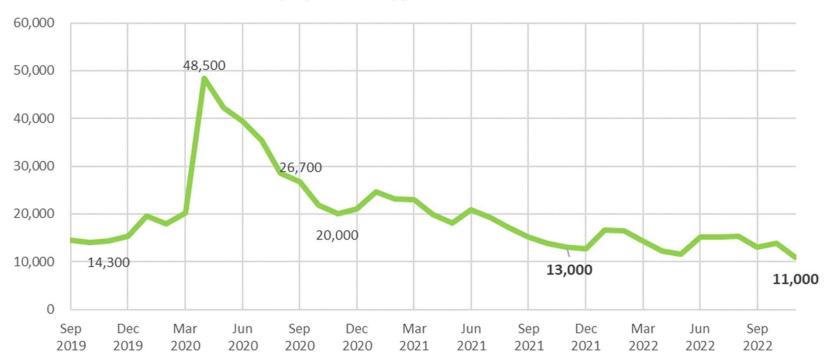
Covid Recovery: Metro Cleveland Unemployment (2019-2022)
Unemployment Has Dropped to Low/Normal Levels



Source: BLS, Local Area Employment Statistics (LAUS) Nov. Prel.

# Akron Unemployment Remains at Low Level With Weak Employment Growth & Labor Force Participation

Covid Recovery: Metro Akron Unemployment (2019-22)
Unemployment Dropped to Low Level in 2022



Source: BLS, LAUS. Nov 2022 is prel.

## US Population "Not in Workforce" Has Increased Substantially 94% of Persons "Not in Workforce" Do Not Want Job Now

Key Points About Population Not in Workforce

- 61% are 55 yrs & older
- 41% are men, a relatively high number.
- 94% don't want a job now.
- Many want a job but haven't recently searched for a job.
- Issue: Will growth of non-working burden social services?

	increased sub	of persons not in I estantially during t recovery, and has	the 2008-2010	05.6	99.7	
100		increase.	92.0	95.6		50%
78.7 80						40%
2	4.0%		37.1%	36.9%	37.8%	
60	4.0%					309
40						20%

Characteristics of Persons Not in Labor Force								
	Total not in the labor force	Total not in the labor force	Want a job	Do not want a job now	% Do not want a job now			
Total	99,686,000	100%	5,639,000	94,047,000	94%			
16 to 24 years	16,864,000	17%	1,573,000	15,292,000	91%			
25 to 54 years	22,325,000	22%	2,460,000	19,865,000	89%			
55 years and over	60,497,000	61%	1,606,000	58,891,000	97%			
Men	41,197,000	41%	2,691,000	38,506,000	94%			
Women	58,490,000	59%	2,948,000	55,541,000	95%			
No	Not in IT has Word a lab							

Not in LF but Want a Job					
Want a job	5,639,000	100%			
Want a job- Did not search for work in prev year	3,500,000	62%			
Want a job- Searched for work in prev yr, but not in past 4 wks	2,139,000	38%			
Want a job but not available to work now	656,000	12%			
Available for work but discouraged over job prospects	407,000	7%			
Available for work but family, school or health reasons	443,000	8%			
Available for work but have other reasons	633,000	11%			

Source: BLS, CPS

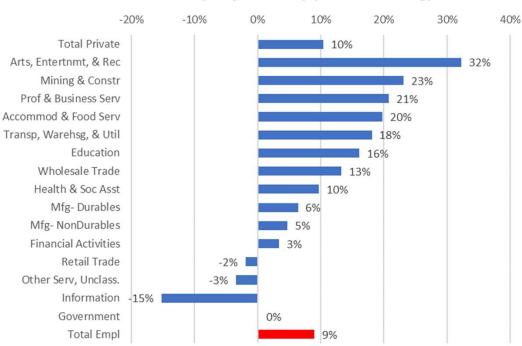
### **Impact of Pandemic on Industry Employment**

### Pre-Pandemic: Overall Cle Employment Grew By 9% From 2010 to 2019 Cle Entertainment, Construction & Professional/Business Services Grew Over 20%

#### Metro Cle Employment % Change By Industry (2010-19)

Metro Cle Employment % Change by Industry (2010-19)						
	2010	2019	2010-19	2010-19 %		
Total Private	852,400	941,300	88,900	10%		
Arts, Entertnmt, & Rec	13,000	17,200	4,200	32%		
Mining & Constr	31,600	38,900	7,300	23%		
Prof & Business Serv	133,700	161,500	27,800	21%		
Accommod & Food Serv	73,800	88,400	14,600	20%		
Transp, Warehsg, & Util	29,300	34,600	5,300	18%		
Education	31,700	36,800	5,100	16%		
Wholesale Trade	46,500	52,700	6,200	13%		
Health & Soc Asst	154,500	169,500	15,000	10%		
Mfg- Durables	82,500	87,800	5,300	6%		
Mfg- NonDurables	34,000	35,600	1,600	5%		
Financial Activities	64,600	66,800	2,200	3%		
Retail Trade	100,200	98,300	(1,900)	-2%		
Other Serv, Unclass.	41,300	39,900	(1,400)	-3%		
Information	15,800	13,400	(2,400)	-15%		
Government	138,500	138,600	100	0%		
Total Empl	990,900	1,079,900	89,000	9%		

#### Metro Cle Empl By Industry (2010-19 %Chg)



Source: BLS, Current Employment Statistics

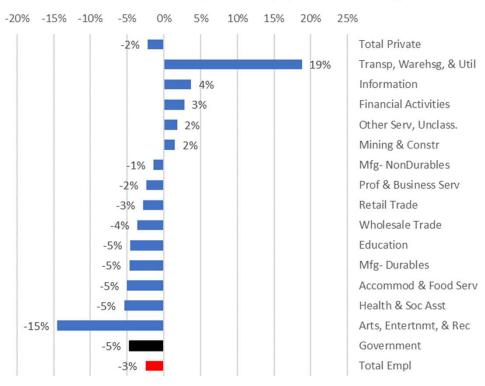
### Pandemic Impact: Severe Contraction of Cle Entertainment Employment & Many Other Industries, Big Gains in Transp & Warehousing

#### Metro Cle Employment % Change By Industry (2019-22)

Wietro Cle Employment 76 Change by moustry (2013-22)						
	2019	2022	2019-22	2019-21 %		
Total Private	941,300	920,700	(20,600)	-2%		
Transp, Warehsg, & Util	34,600	41,100	6,500	19%		
Information	13,400	13,900	500	4%		
Financial Activities	66,800	68,700	1,900	3%		
Other Serv, Unclass.	39,900	40,600	700	2%		
Mining & Constr	38,900	39,500	600	2%		
Mfg- NonDurables	35,600	35,100	(500)	-1%		
Prof & Business Serv	161,500	157,700	(3,800)	-2%		
Retail Trade	98,300	95,500	(2,800)	-3%		
Wholesale Trade	52,700	50,800	(1,900)	-4%		
Education	36,800	35,100	(1,700)	-5%		
Mfg- Durables	87,800	83,700	(4,100)	-5%		
Accommod & Food Serv	88,400	84,000	(4,400)	-5%		
Health & Soc Asst	169,500	160,400	(9,100)	-5%		
Arts, Entertnmt, & Rec	17,200	14,700	(2,500)	-15%		
Government	138,600	132,100	(6,500)	-5%		
Total Empl	1,079,900	1,052,800	(27,100)	-3%		

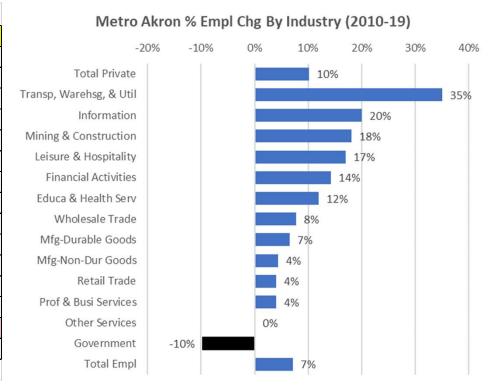
Source: BLS, Current Employment Statistics (CES). 2022 is estimate.

#### Metro Cle Empl By Industry (2019-22 %Chg)



### Pre-Pandemic: Overall Akron Employment Grew By 7% From 2010 to 2019 Entertainment, Construction & Professional/Business Services Grew Over 20%

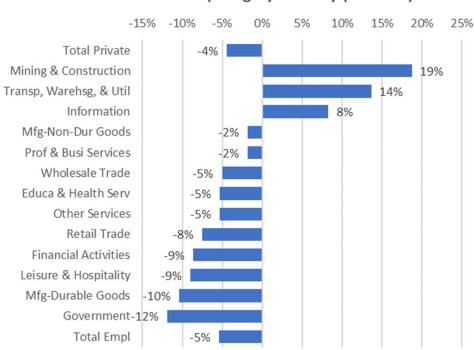
Metro Akron Employment % Change By Industry (2010-19)							
	2010	2019	2010-19	2010-19 %			
Total Private	268,400	295,900	27,500	10%			
Transp, Warehsg, & Util	9,700	13,100	3,400	35%			
Information	4,000	4,800	800	20%			
Mining & Construction	11,300	15,000	3,700	18%			
Leisure & Hospitality	29,400	34,400	5,000	17%			
Financial Activities	13,300	15,200	1,900	14%			
Educa & Health Serv	50,200	56,200	6,000	12%			
Wholesale Trade	16,800	18,100	1,300	8%			
Mfg-Durable Goods	21,600	23,000	1,400	7%			
Mfg-Non-Dur Goods	16,000	16,700	700	4%			
Retail Trade	34,700	36,100	1,400	4%			
Prof & Busi Services	48,100	50,000	1,900	4%			
Other Services	13,300	13,300	0	0%			
Government	49,200	44,400	(4,800)	-10%			
Total Empl	317,600	340,300	22,700	7%			
Source: BLS, Current Employme	nt Statistics (C	ES).					



### Significant Negative Pandemic Impact on Many Industries in Akron, But Big Gains in Construction, Transp & Warehousing

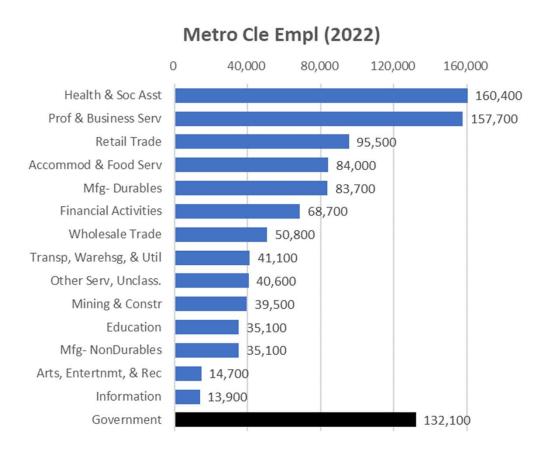
Metro Akron Employment % Change By Industry (2019-22)							
	2019	2022	2019-22	2019-22 %			
Total Private	295,900	282,800	(13,100)	-4%			
Mining & Construction	15,000	15,000	0	19%			
Transp, Warehsg, & Util	13,100	14,900	1,800	14%			
Information	4,800	5,200	400	8%			
Mfg-Non-Dur Goods	16,700	16,400	(300)	-2%			
Prof & Busi Services	50,000	49,100	(900)	-2%			
Wholesale Trade	18,100	17,200	(900)	-5%			
Educa & Health Serv	56,200	53,200	(3,000)	-5%			
Other Services	13,300	12,600	(700)	-5%			
Retail Trade	36,100	33,400	(2,700)	-8%			
Financial Activities	15,200	13,900	(1,300)	-9%			
Leisure & Hospitality	34,400	31,300	(3,100)	-9%			
Mfg-Durable Goods	23,000	20,600	(2,400)	-10%			
Government	44,400	39,100	(5,300)	-12%			
<b>Total Empl</b> 340,300 321,900 (18,400)							
Source: BLS, Current Employme	nt Statistics (C	ES). 2022 is est	imate.				

#### Metro Akron % Empl Chg By Industry (2019-22)



# 920,000 Metro Cle Employment in Private Industry (2022): Healthcare & Prof/Business Services Total 1/3 of Private Employment

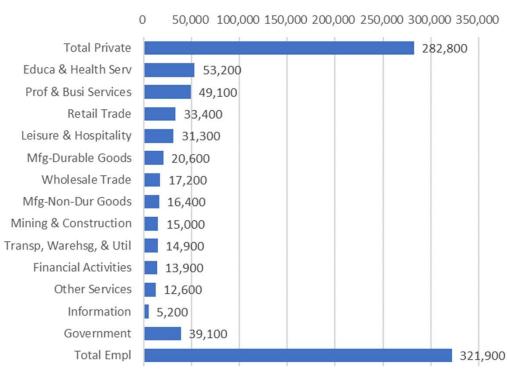
Metro Cle Employment (2022)						
	2022	% of 2022 Private	% of 2022 Total			
Total Private	920,700	100%	88%			
Health & Soc Asst	160,400	17%	15%			
Prof & Business Serv	157,700	17%	15%			
Retail Trade	95,500	10%	9%			
Accommod & Food Serv	84,000	9%	8%			
Mfg- Durables	83,700	9%	8%			
Financial Activities	68,700	8%	7%			
Wholesale Trade	50,800	6%	5%			
Transp, Warehsg, & Util	41,100	5%	4%			
Other Serv, Unclass.	40,600	4%	4%			
Mining & Constr	39,500	4%	4%			
Education	35,100	4%	3%			
Mfg- NonDurables	35,100	4%	3%			
Arts, Entertnmt, & Rec	14,700	2%	1%			
Information	13,900	2%	1%			
Government	132,100		13%			
Total Empl	1,052,800		100%			
Source: BLS, Current Employme	nt Statistics (CES)	). 2022 is estimat	te.			



### 283,000 Metro Akr Employment in Private Industry (2022): Educa/Health Serv & Prof/Business Services are Largest Sectors

Metro Akron Employment (2022)					
	2022	% of 2022	% of 2022		
	2022	Private	Total		
Total Private	282,800	100%	88%		
Educa & Health Serv	53,200	19%	17%		
Prof & Busi Services	49,100	17%	15%		
Retail Trade	33,400	12%	10%		
Leisure & Hospitality	31,300	11%	10%		
Mfg-Durable Goods	20,600	7%	6%		
Wholesale Trade	17,200	6%	5%		
Mfg-Non-Dur Goods	16,400	6%	5%		
Mining & Construction	15,000	5%	5%		
Transp, Warehsg, & Util	14,900	5%	5%		
Financial Activities	13,900	5%	4%		
Other Services	12,600	5%	4%		
Information	5,200	2%	2%		
Government	39,100		12%		
Total Empl	321,900		100%		
Source: BLS, Current Employme	nt Statistics (C	ES). 2022 is est	imate.		

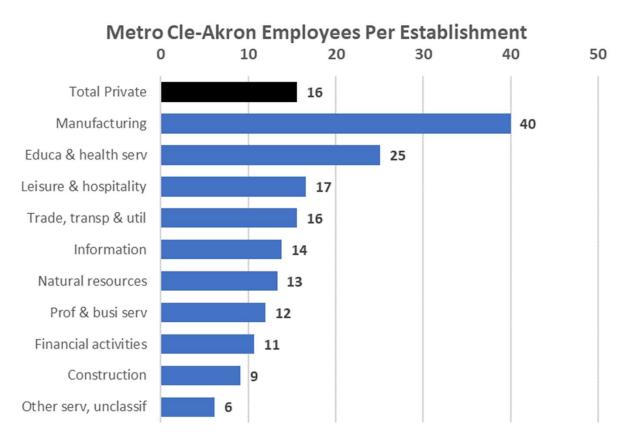
#### Metro Akron Employment (2022)



### **Business Establishment Trends**

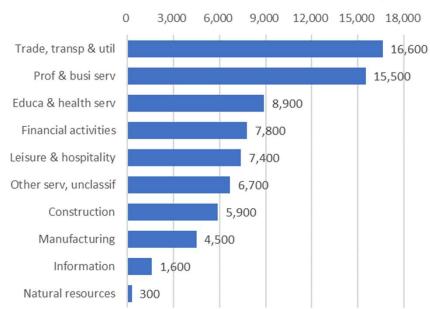
### **Shifting Gears: Looking At Business Establishments**

- Business establishments are individual business locations (offices, retail locations, plants & warehouses).
- Data source is BLS, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.
  - Actual data on employment, number of establishments and wages.
  - Published data lags by six months so full impact of pandemic on establishments is not yet known.
  - Using 2022 annual estimates.
- Establishment openings & closings significantly affect employment opportunities, economic development strategies.



### Share of Private Establishments & Employment Varied By Industry



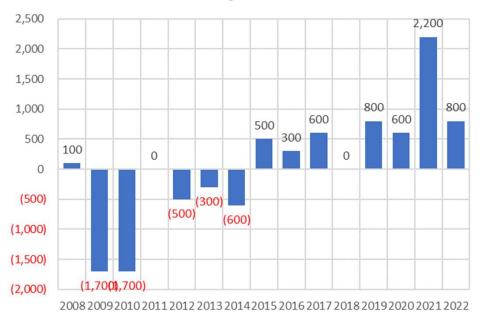


Metro Cleveland-Akron Establishments & Employment By Industry (2022)						
Industry	2022 CI-Ak	2022 Cl-Ak	% of Priv	% of Priv	Empl/Esta	
muustry	Estab	Empl	Estab	Empl	b	
Total Private	75,200	1,175,300	100%	100%	15.6	
Trade, transp & util	16,600	259,700	22%	22%	15.6	
Prof & busi serv	15,500	186,000	21%	16%	12.0	
Educa & health serv	8,900	223,000	12%	19%	25.1	
Financial activities	7,800	83,400	10%	7%	10.7	
Leisure & hospitality	7,400	123,000	10%	11%	16.6	
Other serv, unclassif	6,700	40,900	9%	4%	6.1	
Construction	5,900	53,500	8%	5%	9.1	
Manufacturing	4,500	179,800	6%	15%	40.0	
Information	1,600	22,000	2%	2%	13.8	
Natural resources	300	4,000	0%	0%	13.3	
Government	2,700	177,200			65.6	
Source: BLS, QCEW, 2022 P	rel.					

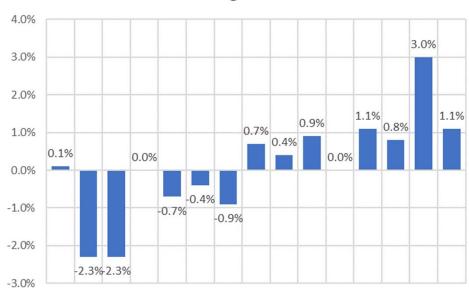
# While Employment Fell During Pandemic & Didn't Fully Recover, Number of Business Establishments Continued to Grew Rapidly

Annual Business Growth Rate Has Been About 1% Per Year, Even During Pandemic

#### Metro Cle-Akr Annl Chg in Private Establishments



#### Metro Cle-Akr Annl %Chg in Private Establishments



2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022

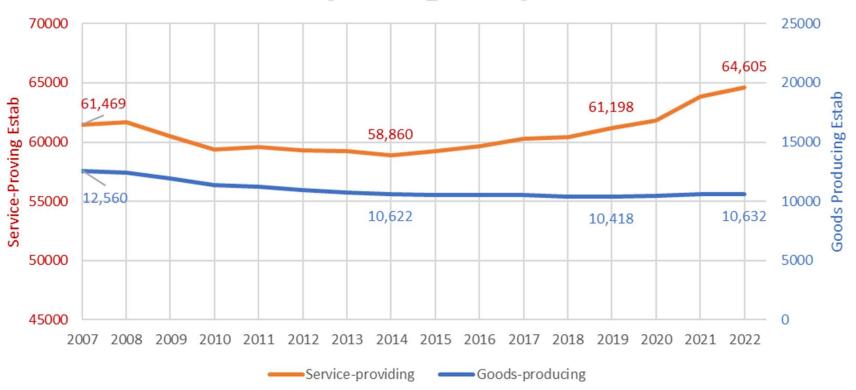
# Growth of Business Establishments Isn't Strongly Linked to Growth of Employment

Metro Cle-Akron Annual % Chg: Estab Vs Empl



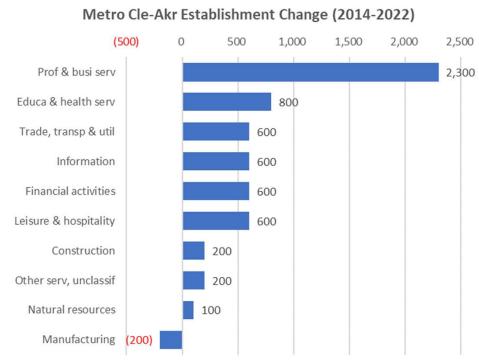
#### All Establishment Growth in Metro Cleveland Has Been in Service-Providers.

#### Service-Providing Vs Goods\_Producing Establishments



### Most Service Industries Had Good Establishment Growth Rates Since 2014, But Prof & Busi Serv Had the Largest Increase

Metro Cle-Akr Estab Change By Industry (2014-2022)							
Industry	2014 Cl-Ak	2022 Cl-Ak	14 to 22	%14 to 22			
Total Private	69,500	75,200	5,700	8%			
Prof & busi serv	13,200	15,500	2,300	17%			
Educa & health serv	8,100	8,900	800	10%			
Trade, transp & util	16,000	16,600	600	4%			
Information	1,000	1,600	600	60%			
Financial activities	7,200	7,800	600	8%			
Leisure & hospitality	6,800	7,400	600	9%			
Construction	5,700	5,900	200	4%			
Other serv, unclassif	6,500	6,700	200	3%			
Natural resources	200	300	100	50%			
Manufacturing	4,700	4,500	(200)	-4%			
Government	2,700	2,700	0	0%			
Source: BLS, QCEW, 2022 P	rel.						



### **Projecting Cleveland & Akron's Future Employment**

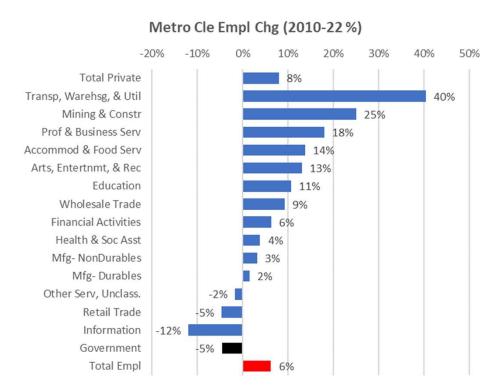
# Major Uncertainties Continue to Make Forecasting Difficult Future Business Climate Will Be Different, But How is Unknown

- High Inflation & Likely Recession
  - Impact on Housing Market & Construction
- Government policies
  - Climate change & Energy Restrictions
  - Huge Government Debt, Spending & Taxation
  - Health & safety measures
- New Social Habits & Technology- What will last?
  - Example: Zoom, Order Pick-up & Delivery, Work At Home
- Labor Force Changes- How Many Workers Will Come Back?
  - Mix of Early Retirement, New Lifestyle Desires, Entrepreneurial Impulses
  - Government Labor regulation (min. wage, independent contractor)
- Asymmetric Impact of Pandemic on Different Industries
  - Damage to more rapidly growing industries (like leisure/hospitality)
  - Different impact on national business chains vs local businesses

## What's Best Bet for Metro Cle Industry Specific Growth Forecast? 2010-22 Industry Pre-Pandemic Growth Rate & Size as Best Indicator

<u>Assumption</u> is Resumption of Decade-Long Trend BUT: Adjust View By Factoring in Recession, View on Social Habits/Technology, Labor Force Changes, Inflation, Government Policy

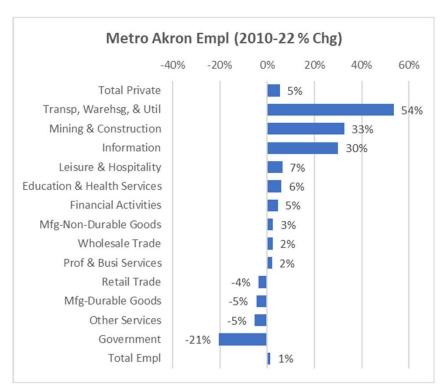
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Financial Activities	64,600	68,700	4,100	6%			
Health & Soc Asst	154,500	160,400	5,900	4%			
Mfg- NonDurables	34,000	35,100	1,100	3%			
Mfg- Durables	82,500	83,700	1,200	2%			
Other Serv, Unclass.	41,300	40,600	(700)	-2%			
Retail Trade	100,200	95,500	(4,700)	-5%			
Information	15,800	13,900	(1,900)	-12%			
Government	138,500	132,100	(6,400)	-5%			
Total Empl	990,900	1,052,800	61,900	6%			
Source: BLS, Current Employmen	nt Statistics (CES)	). 2022 is estimat	e.				



# What's Best Bet for Metro Akron Industry Specific Growth Forecast? 2010-22 Industry Pre-Pandemic Growth Rate & Size as Best Indicator

<u>Implicit Assumption</u> is Resumption of Decade-Long Trend BUT: Adjust View By Factoring in Recession, View on Social Habits/Technology, Labor Force Changes, Inflation, Government Policy

Metro Akron Employment % Change By Industry (2010-22)									
	2010	2022	2010-22	2010-22 %					
Total Private	268,400	282,800	14,400	5%					
Transp, Warehsg, & Util	9,700	14,900	5,200	54%					
Mining & Construction	11,300	15,000	3,700	33%					
Information	4,000	5,200	1,200	30%					
Leisure & Hospitality	29,400	31,300	1,900	7%					
Education & Health Servi	50,200	53,200	3,000	6%					
Financial Activities	13,300	13,900	600	5%					
Mfg-Non-Durable Goods	16,000	16,400	400	3%					
Wholesale Trade	16,800	17,200	400	2%					
Prof & Busi Services	48,100	49,100	1,000	2%					
Retail Trade	34,700	33,400	(1,300)	-4%					
Mfg-Durable Goods	21,600	20,600	(1,000)	-5%					
Other Services	13,300	12,600	(700)	-5%					
Government	49,200	39,100	(10,100)	-21%					
Total Empl	317,600	321,900	4,300	1%					
Source: BLS, Current Employment Statistics (CES). 2022 is estimate.									



### What Might Recession Look Like For Cle-Akron Economy? Approach: Develop Scenarios Based on 2008-10 Severe Recession

Metro Cle-Akron Recession Scenarios								
	Metro Cle- Akr Unempl %	Metro Cle- Akr Unempl	Metro Cle- Akr Empl	Metro Cle- Akr LF	Metro Cle- Akr Unempl Chg	Metro Cle- Akr Empl Chg		
2008-10 Severe Recession								
2007	5.6%	83,100	1,394,800	1,478,000	9,200	(500)		
2008	6.2%	91,400	1,381,700	1,473,100	8,300	(13,100)		
2009	8.4%	121,800	1,331,800	1,453,600	30,400	(49,900)		
2010	9.0%	129,300	1,312,600	1,441,900	7,500	(19,200)		
2007-10 Chg	3.4%	46,200	(82,200)	(36,100)				
2023-25 Strong Recession								
2022	5.0%	68,500	1,304,900	1,373,400	(9,700)	20,900		
2023	5.6%	76,700	1,293,300	1,370,000	8,200	(11,600)		
2024	7.0%	95,200	1,264,800	1,360,000	18,500	(28,500)		
2025	8.0%	108,000	1,242,000	1,350,000	12,800	(22,800)		
2022-25 Chg	3.0%	39,500	(62,900)	(23,400)				
2023-25 Mild Recession								
2022	5.0%	68,500	1,304,900	1,373,400	(9,700)	20,900		
2023	5.5%	75,400	1,294,600	1,370,000	6,900	(10,300)		
2024	6.0%	81,600	1,278,400	1,360,000	6,200	(16,200)		
2025	6.5%	87,800	1,262,200	1,350,000	6,200	(16,200)		
2022-25 Chg	1.5%	19,300	(42,700)	(23,400)				

### **Summary of Key Points**

- 2001-07 era of structural change & 2008-10 recession led to large employment losses.
- Weak employment recovery until 2013; gradual improvement from 2014 to 2019.
- Pandemic employment impact (2020-2022):
  - Sharp drop in Mar-Apr 2020; Rebound of 2/3's in balance of 2020.
  - Recovery slowed in 2021 with inconsistent employment growth.
  - Severe impact on Leisure/Hospitality industry.
  - Unemployment rate is low due primarily to smaller labor force.
  - Large drop in labor force persists.
  - Labor force changes due to early retirement, technology, lifestyle changes, entrepreneurship.
- Business Establishments: Consistent, gradual increase since 2014.
  - Strong growth in number of establishments even during pandemic.
  - Growth strongest in service-providing industries, especially Prof/Busi Services.
- Many economic uncertainties limit ability to forecast with confidence
  - Best choice is probably decade-long 2010-22 employment change by industry
  - Factor in recession, high inflation, life-style & technology changes

### **Questions?**

### **Economic Overview of Metropolitan Cleveland & Akron**

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