

Those Who Can Leave, Do: Losing Our Best and Brightest

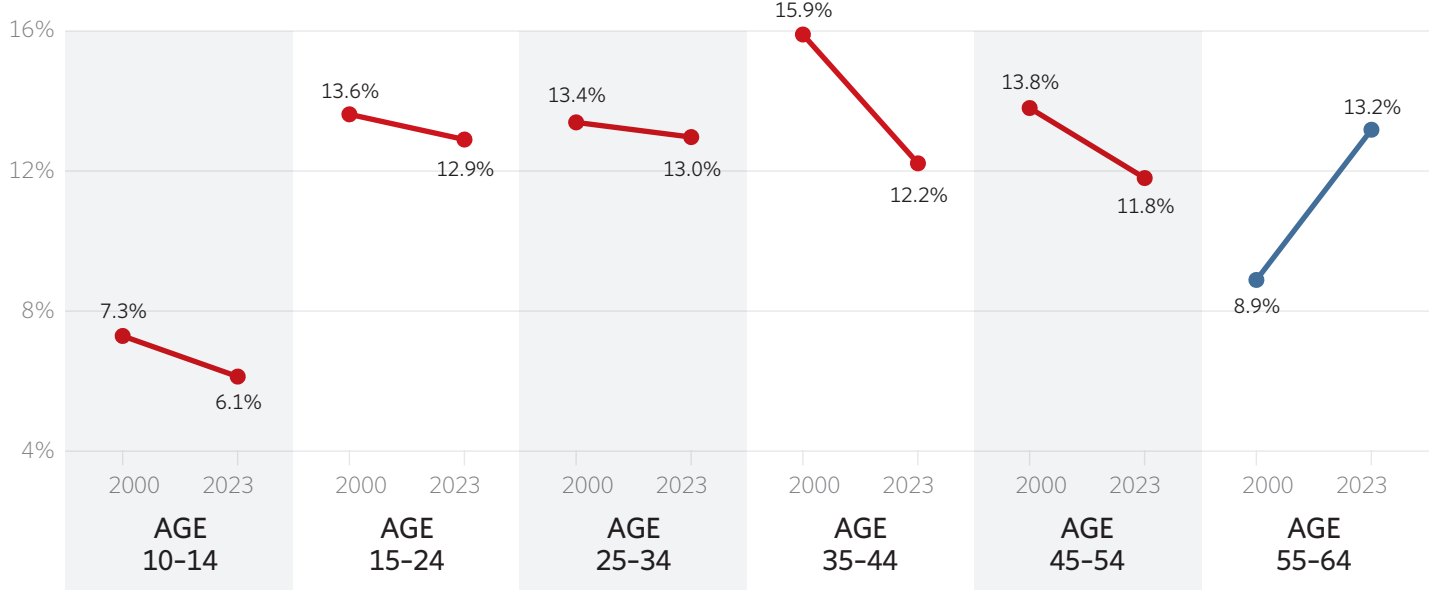
From 2000 to 2022, Ohio's population increased by just 441,472 people, or a measly 4 percent in 22 years. That is less than two-tenths of a percent per year. The main reason for that low growth is we are losing too many of our kids and their working parents. It appears that those who can move to greener pastures, do. Specifically, from 2000 to 2022, while gaining 545,688 older Ohioans aged 55 to 64, Ohio lost 658,743 Ohioans from ages 10 to 54. Thus, Ohio lost more key upcoming and working age residents

than it gained in total from 2000 to 2022.

This loss is one reason Ohio's employers can't find workers for their open jobs. Ohio's average age is above the national average, as our state is aging more rapidly than other states. Unless significant policy changes are implemented to fundamentally change Ohio's economic environment, we expect this trend to continue through 2050, with most of Ohio's counties outside of the Cincinnati and Columbus areas continuing to hollow out.

The Aging of Ohio, 2000-2023

SHARE OF TOTAL POPULATION BY AGE GROUP



POPULATION BY AGE GROUP

| AGE GROUP | 2000 | | 2010 | | 2023 | | CHANGES | | | |
|-----------|------------|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| | NUMBER | SHARE OF TOTAL | NUMBER | SHARE OF TOTAL | NUMBER | SHARE OF TOTAL | NUMBER, 2000-2010 | NUMBER, 2010-2023 | NUMBER, 2000-2023 | PCT. POINT CHANGE, 2000-2023 |
| 10-14 | 827,811 | 7.29% | 774,699 | 6.72% | 722,494 | 6.13% | -53,112 | -52,205 | -105,317 | -1.17% |
| 15-24 | 1,545,796 | 13.62% | 1,586,798 | 13.75% | 1,521,297 | 12.90% | +41,002 | -65,501 | -24,499 | -0.72% |
| 25-34 | 1,519,894 | 13.39% | 1,409,959 | 12.22% | 1,529,229 | 12.97% | -109,935 | +119,270 | +9,335 | -0.42% |
| 35-44 | 1,805,316 | 15.90% | 1,479,831 | 12.83% | 1,441,430 | 12.22% | -325,485 | -38,401 | -363,886 | -3.68% |
| 45-54 | 1,566,384 | 13.80% | 1,742,191 | 15.10% | 1,392,008 | 11.80% | +175,807 | -350,183 | -174,376 | -1.99% |
| 55-64 | 1,008,906 | 8.89% | 1,452,266 | 12.59% | 1,554,594 | 13.18% | +443,360 | +102,328 | +545,688 | +4.29% |
| Total | 11,353,140 | | 11,536,504 | | 11,794,612 | | +183,364 | +258,108 | +441,472 | |