

DEFEND AMERICA
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NEW REPORT • OHIO • AUGUST 2026

The Buckeye State *Affordability* Crisis

Trump and Republicans ignore rising costs and a deepening affordability crisis after ripping away the help Ohio families depend on.

REPORT · OHIO · AUGUST 2026

The Buckeye State Affordability Crisis

Trump and Republicans ignore rising costs and a deepening affordability crisis after ripping away help — while Ohioans lose health care, food assistance, jobs, and ground on every household bill.

A year and a half into Donald Trump's second term in the White House, it is clearer than ever that his destructive policies are wreaking havoc on working Americans' economic security, including in Ohio. Trump's approval rating in Ohio, a state he won by double digits in 2024, is deep in the red — and for good reason.

Instead of addressing the affordability crisis, Trump has threatened thousands of jobs, jeopardized Ohio energy investments and businesses, and ripped away affordable health care and food aid from working families across the state. His war with Iran has spiked fuel prices and ratcheted up costs for farmers and manufacturers. Now, inflation and the cost of living are the top concerns for most Ohio residents. A majority of Ohioans (55%) believe the economy has gotten worse over the past year, and consumer confidence fell to its lowest level since 2014 earlier this year, worse than at any point during the COVID-19 pandemic. Households are feeling the squeeze everywhere: nearly half of Ohio renters are cost-burdened, electricity bills are rising by nearly \$200 a year, and gas prices surged more than 80% between January and early May. Meanwhile, Trump and Republicans have ripped away the help families depend on. More than 340,000 Ohioans stand to lose their health care, over 100,000 Buckeyes have already lost food assistance, and the state now leads the nation in ACA coverage losses after roughly 225,000 residents dropped or lost coverage when Trump and the GOP ripped away tax credits.

Trump has presided over nearly 41,000 job losses in Ohio in 2025, the 8th-most in the country, alongside a 70% jump in layoffs over the prior year. He has threatened or killed more than \$1.2 billion in Ohio energy investments and put over 7,000 jobs at risk, while slashing food aid and pushing 36 Ohio hospitals, wards, and clinics toward closure. Throughout his second term, the President and Republicans in Congress have worked in lock-step to reward their rich and powerful friends at the expense of everyone else. They are obliterating the economic security of millions across the country, and working families are the ones paying the price.

— BY THE NUMBERS

What Trump's Agenda Has Cost Ohio

A year and a half of trade wars, health care cuts, food aid cuts, and a war with Iran – measured in Buckeye State dollars, jobs, and coverage.

340,000+

Ohioans who **stand to lose their health care** under the Trump-GOP Big, Ugly Bill.

[Signal Ohio](#)

225,000

Ohio residents who have **already dropped or lost ACA coverage** – a 40% decline in one year.

[Ohio Statehouse News Bureau](#)

100,000+

Buckeyes who have **already lost access to food aid** since the Trump-GOP cuts passed.

[CBPP](#)

41,000

Ohio jobs lost in 2025 – the 8th-highest total in the country, with layoffs up 70%.

[Visual Capitalist](#)

137%

Average **premium increase** facing the 500,000+ Buckeyes who buy ACA coverage on their own.

[Center for American Progress](#)

80%

Surge in Ohio gas prices between January and early May, thanks to Trump's war with Iran.

[YCharts](#)

\$1.2 billion

In **Ohio energy investments threatened or killed** after Trump cancelled or delayed 13 energy-related projects – putting **over 7,000 jobs** at risk.

[Climate Power](#)

\$6.5 billion

The **cost of Trump's tariffs to Ohioans**. Ohio importers paid the **sixth-highest tariff bill in the country** in 2025.

[CNBC](#)

SECTION 01

Cost of Living Is Ohioans' Top Concern

Ohio residents are facing high prices due to Trump's economic policies. A majority (55%) of Ohioans **believe the economy has gotten worse** in the last year. Most voters identified the economy as their most important issue, with inflation close behind. **Nearly two-thirds** of Americans say Trump has not gone far enough in trying to reduce the price of everyday goods, and a majority say that Trump's policies have worsened economic conditions. In January, **consumer confidence** fell to its lowest level **since 2014** – even worse than at any point during the COVID-19 pandemic.

SECTION 02

Trump and Republicans Ripped Away the Help Ohio Families Depend On

Trump's budget cuts are ripping away vital assistance for health care, food, and more from hundreds of thousands of Buckeyes.

Ohio Tops the Nation in ACA Enrollment Decline After GOP Health Care Cuts.

Thanks to Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress, the **500,000+ Buckeyes** who bought health insurance on their own through the ACA and received tax credits went into this year facing an **average premium increase of 137%**, at least doubling on average. Compared to last spring, around 225,000 **Ohio residents have already dropped or lost ACA coverage** since Trump and the GOP ripped away tax credits, **resulting in a massive, 40% decline in effectuated enrollment** over the course of just one year. Ohio now leads the nation in ACA enrollment decline following the passage of the GOP health care cuts.

Buckeyes Are Losing Food Assistance.

Trump and Republicans in Congress cut \$187 billion in food assistance, which helps give about 1.4 million Buckeyes access to food. These cuts leave **an estimated 98,000 Ohio families at risk of losing their food aid** and will leave Ohio without \$1 billion in annual federal funds – a 30%

reduction. Already, **over 100,000 Buckeyes** have lost access to food aid since the passage of Trump-GOP cuts, amounting to a **roughly 8% cut in enrollment** in just one year. Ultimately, the cuts are estimated to lead to **hundreds of premature deaths** in the state as residents lose access to food aid.

— *Ohio Health Care Costs Are Up Thanks to Trump & Republicans.*

The Trump-GOP Big, Ugly Bill cut over \$1 trillion from Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Now, more than **340,000 Ohioans** stand to lose their health care. **Ohio hospitals are estimated to lose over \$1 billion a year due to Medicaid cuts alone.** Already, 36 Ohio hospitals, wards, and clinics are closing, have announced cuts, or are at risk of closure since the passage of the Trump-GOP bill. Trump also promised to lower drug prices, but instead he padded drug company profits and raised drug costs for thousands of seniors. Worse still, his 'TrumpRx' initiative is little more than a storefront that **doesn't save Ohioans a penny**, offering brand-name drugs that Ohio patients could get for cheaper through their insurance or as generics. Even other drug discount hubs like GoodRx offer some lower brand-name prices and cheaper generic drugs.

— SECTION 03

Ohio Small Businesses Are Suffering

The state is home to **over 1.1 million small businesses**. Ohio small businesses have been disproportionately hurt by Trump's policies. Last year, two-thirds (65%) of Ohioans said they did not think small businesses stood to benefit from Trump's tariffs. In fact, **Ohio importers paid the sixth-highest tariff bill in 2025**, with the cost of Trump's tariffs running Buckeyes around \$6.5 billion.

— *GOP Health Care Cuts Hurt Ohio Small Businesses.*

The Trump-GOP plan to rip away ACA tax credits is hitting Ohio's small businesses especially hard. **Nearly 100,000 small business owners** in the state rely on the ACA for coverage — nearly 1 in 6 ACA enrollees in Ohio.

SECTION 04

Trump Is Tanking Manufacturing and Hurting Ohio Farmers

— *Trump Is Tanking Manufacturing – Ohio's Top Industry.*

In Trump's first year, [manufacturing jobs have declined](#) nationwide. Ohio's manufacturing sector is a top economic driver in the state, supporting [over 680,000](#) jobs and generating [nearly \\$140 billion](#) in state GDP – nearly a fifth of the state's economic output. The manufacturing industry has been devastated by tariff uncertainty and federal funding cuts. A survey of Ohio manufacturing executives [found](#) that **one-third reported tariffs were impacting their sales**. Of those, **a majority reported declining sales, averaging losses of 16%**.

— *Trump Is Hurting Ohio Farmers.*

Trump's disastrous agenda has **devastated Ohio agriculture**, a massive industry [employing 1 in 8 Ohioans](#). The Buckeye State experienced a **staggering [74.4% decline in exports to China and \\$76.2 million in lost soybean sales](#)**. Ohio farmers have been [caught in the middle](#) of trade wars, [undermined](#) by Trump's \$40 billion Argentina bailout, and had their labor force [gutted](#) by Trump's massive deportation scheme. Thanks to Trump's war with Iran, input costs rose sharply [right as planting season began](#). Fertilizer prices are still [through the roof](#) and [high diesel prices](#) impact everything from transportation to tractor use.

SECTION 05

Housing, Energy, and Gas Costs Are Squeezing Ohio Households

— *The Buckeye State Housing Crunch.*

Regional housing costs are [rising faster than both overall inflation and wages](#) over the past year. [Nearly half](#) of Ohio renters and nearly 20% of Ohio homeowners are **cost-burdened**. Ohio homeowners also [pay](#) the 8th-highest property taxes in the country.

— Ohio Energy Costs Are Skyrocketing.

Since Trump took office last January, household electric bills have increased by 18% nationwide. In the Ohio area, utilities and fuel costs have increased faster than regional inflation. Climate Power estimates that electricity bills in Ohio are **rising by around \$183 annually**. Electricity costs are slated to remain high after the region's electrical grid operator hit its price ceiling on electricity at its annual capacity auction in July.

— Ohio Gas Prices Surged 80% Thanks to Trump's War With Iran.

“
...below \$2.30 a gallon in most states,
and in some places \$1.99 a gallon.

— DONALD TRUMP · STATE OF THE UNION, JANUARY 2026

In his State of the Union at the start of the year, Trump bragged about gasoline prices falling below \$2.30 a gallon. But thanks to his war with Iran, gas prices in Ohio jumped over \$4 a gallon, increasing over 80% between January and early May. Cincinnati saw some of the largest gas price increases in the country.

— SECTION 06

Job Losses and Lost Investment in Ohio

Trump has **threatened or killed over \$1.2 billion in Ohio energy investments** after cancelling or delaying 13 energy-related projects — leading to **over 7,000 jobs threatened or lost**. The Cincinnati area alone has lost hundreds of jobs since Trump took office. **Ohio saw nearly 41,000 job losses** in 2025 — the 8th-highest in the country — and experienced a **70% increase** in layoffs compared to 2024. Some examples include:

1,300
JOBS EV battery manufacturer **Ultium Cells** announcing layoffs impacting 1,300 workers at its Lordstown plant.

1,200
JOBS **First Brands Group** closing four Ohio facilities, killing more than 1,200 jobs.

256 **American Signature** [filing for bankruptcy](#), shuttering its Columbus headquarters,
JOBS and laying off 256 Ohio employees.

228 Global supplier and manufacturer **Cooper Standard Automotive** [closing](#) its New
JOBS Lexington manufacturing facility, killing 228 jobs.

230 Machining business **Eagle Machining** [closing](#) its Fayette manufacturing facility,
JOBS laying off over 230 workers.

212 Ohio biotech company **AmplifyBio** [shutting down](#) in April, killing 212 jobs.
JOBS

DEFEND AMERICA ACTION · AUGUST 2026

Ohio families are paying the price for someone else's tax cut.

Defend America Action is a 501(c)(4) advocacy organization dedicated to standing up for the working families, farmers, and communities Donald Trump's policies are leaving behind.

This report draws exclusively on publicly reported sources. Every link in this PDF is clickable and leads to the original reporting.