

Ohio Workers' Compensation Benefits and Coverage, 2004

by Virginia P. Reno and Ishita Sengupta

Summary

This brief summarizes the most recent data on workers' compensation benefits and coverage for workers in Ohio and in the nation as a whole. It is based on the report *Workers' Compensation: Benefits, Coverage, and Costs, 2004*, issued by the National Academy of Social Insurance (NASI) in July 2006. That report is the ninth in a series on workers' compensation that provides the only comprehensive national data on these state-run programs. The full report is available on NASI's website, www.nasi.org.

In Ohio, total workers' compensation payments to injured workers and their medical care providers remained unchanged at \$2,442 million in 2004, the latest year for which comprehensive data are available. Both medical payments and cash payments did not change between 2003 and 2004. At the same time, total covered payroll for Ohio workers rose by 3.9 percent in 2004 (see Table 1).

As a result, when payments are shown relative to covered payroll for Ohio workers, total workers' compensation payments fell by five cents from \$1.35 to \$1.30, between 2003 and 2004 (see Figure 1).

The decrease occurred in payments for both medical care and cash benefits. Workers' compensation benefit payments to medical providers fell by two cents per \$100 of Ohio payroll, from \$0.63 to \$0.61 between 2003 and 2004 (see Figure 2). Wage replacement benefits paid directly to Ohio workers fell by three cents from \$0.72 to \$0.69 per \$100 of covered payroll between 2003 and 2004.

Over the last 15 years, Ohio payments per \$100 of payroll were higher than for the nation as a whole. While benefits in Ohio were \$1.30 per \$100 of state covered payroll in 2004, national benefits were \$1.13 per \$100 of national payroll.

Ohio saw some shifts in workers' compensation payments over the past 15 years. As a share of payroll:

- Ohio payments peaked in 1991 at \$2.03 per \$100 of payroll (see Figure 1).
- After 1991, Ohio payments per \$100 of payroll fell every year until 2000, when benefits reached their lowest point of \$1.20 per \$100 of payroll.

Table 1
Comparison of Workers' Compensation Benefits and Coverage
Ohio and the United States, 2004

	Total 2004	Percent Change 2003-2004
Ohio		
Covered workers (in thousands)	5,214	0.2
Covered wages (in billions)	\$188	3.9
Workers' compensation benefits paid (in millions)	\$2,442	0.0
Medical benefits	\$1,141	0.0
Cash benefits	\$1,301	0.0
United States		
Covered workers (in thousands)	125,863	0.9
Covered wages (in billions)	\$4,953	5.0
Workers' compensation benefits paid (in millions)	\$55,968	2.3
Medical benefits	\$26,099	2.3
Cash benefits	\$29,869	2.3

Figure 1.
Workers' Compensation Payments per \$100 of Payroll, 1989-2004
Ohio and the United States

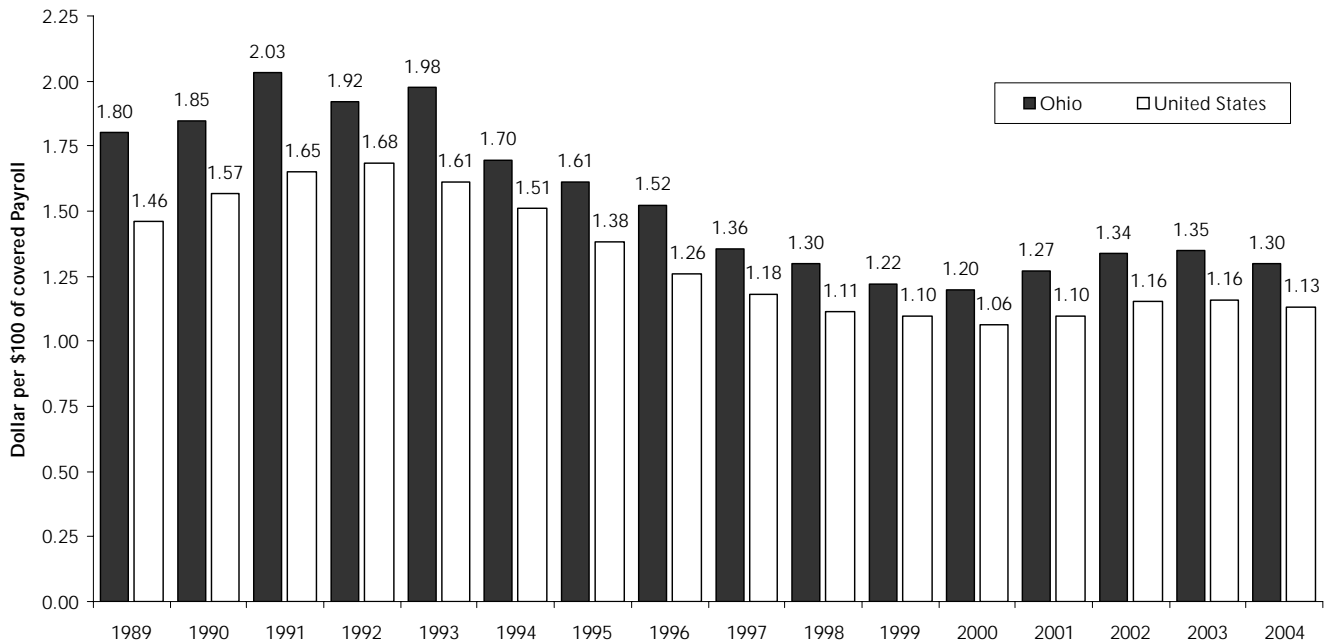
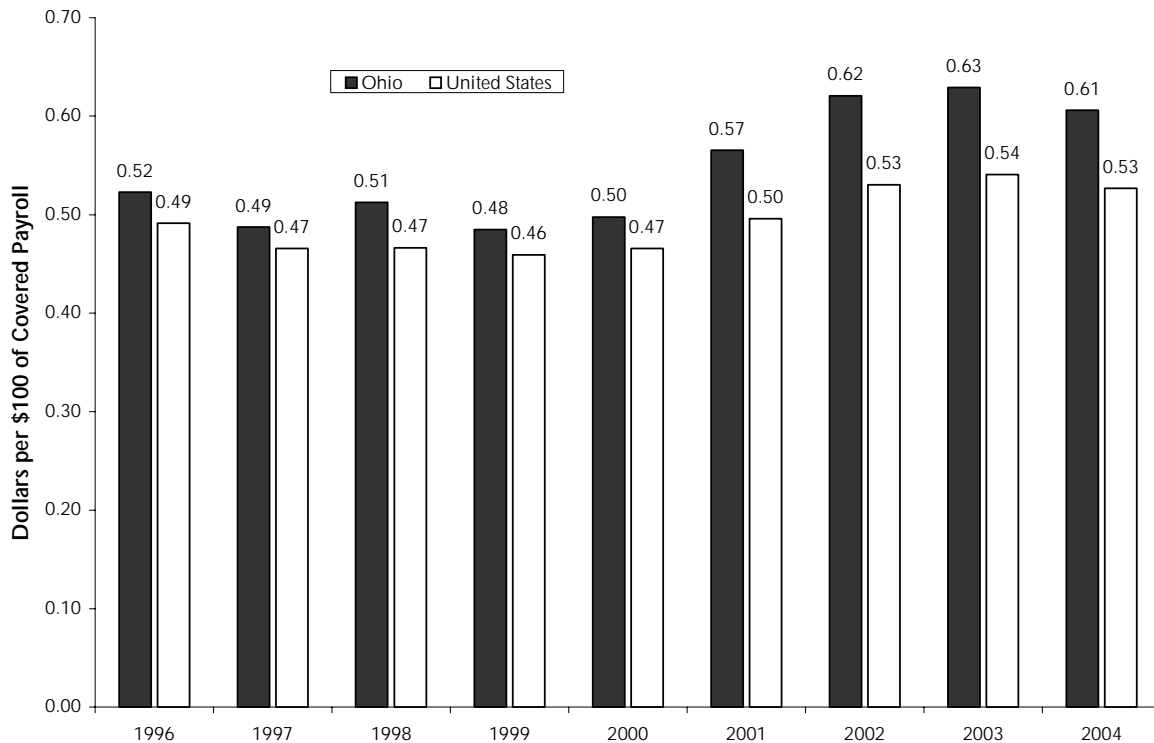


Figure 2.
Workers' Compensation Medical Payments per \$100 of Payroll, 1996-2004
Ohio and the United States



- Between 2000 and 2003 benefits rose by 13 cents per \$100 of payroll to \$1.35, but did not reach their prior peak;
- In 2004, benefits fell slightly as a share of payroll due to a decrease in payments for both medical care and cash benefits.

For the nation as a whole, benefits peaked as a share of payroll in 1992 at \$1.68 per \$100 of payroll and then fell every year until they reached a low of \$1.06 per \$100 of payroll in 2000. Since 2000, national benefits rose slightly but never returned to the peak level experienced in the early 1990s. Since 2000, national payments grew more slowly than in Ohio. As in Ohio, national benefits declined as a share of payroll in 2004.

Table 2 provides annual data on covered payroll and benefits paid to Ohio workers and their medical care providers in 1989 through 2004. To learn about the methods used to produce the estimates, see the NASI report *Workers' Compensation: Benefits, Coverage, and Costs, 2004*. Appendix A of the report explains the estimates of covered jobs and covered payroll. Appendixes C through G describe the estimates of total, medical, and cash benefits. Each annual report updates the data for the previous four years. Data for cash and medical benefits are available separately only since 1996. Estimates for 1993 and prior years come from the *Social Security Bulletin*.

Table 2.
Ohio Workers' Compensation Coverage and Benefits, 1989-2004
(in millions of dollars)

Year	Covered Payroll	Total Benefits	Medical Benefits	Cash Benefits
1989	100,872	1,816	-	-
1990	106,082	1,960	-	-
1991	108,047	2,195	-	-
1992	114,462	2,364	-	-
1993	118,935	2,353	-	-
1994	126,720	2,148	-	-
1995	134,144	2,162	-	-
1996	140,796	2,146	736	1,410
1997	150,027	2,036	731	1,305
1998	159,602	2,077	818	1,259
1999	167,351	2,039	812	1,227
2000	175,162	2,099	872	1,227
2001	176,803	2,248	999	1,249
2002	178,285	2,388	1,107	1,282
2003	181,304	2,442	1,141	1,302
2004	188,314	2,442	1,141	1,301



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National Academy of Social Insurance (NASI)
1776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 615
Washington, DC 20036-1904
(202) 452-8097 ■ (202) 452-8111 Fax
e-mail: nasi@nasi.org ■ web: www.nasi.org