



Student Employment

Study on Collegiate Financial Wellness

Center for the Study of Student Life

September 2023



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the Study on Collegiate Financial Wellness (SCFW) is to gain a more thorough and accurate picture of the financial wellness of undergraduate students. The report compares students at The Ohio State University from the 2020 multi-institutional survey administered in February 2020 and the most recent Ohio State-only survey administered in March 2023.

The COVID-19 pandemic affected college students in numerous ways, in particular, many students were struggling financially. The 2020 SCFW was administered a few weeks before the national school closures due to the pandemic. The 2023 SCFW survey offers valuable insights into the financial wellness of Ohio State students three years after the beginning of the pandemic.

KEY FINDINGS

- Significantly fewer students report being employed in 2023 (**62.0%**) compared to 2020 (**66.4%**).
- Students report working fewer hours, on average, in 2023 compared to 2020.
- On average, 2020 students earned less per hour than 2023 students.
- In 2023, students working off-campus were had significantly higher hourly wages compared to students working on-campus.

METHODS

The SCFW was administered by the Center for the Study of Student Life (CSSL) to examine the financial attitudes, practices and knowledge of college students. This sample is comprised of 1,581 (58.3%) 2020 Ohio State students from the multi-institutional SCFW survey and 1,131 (41.7%) 2023 Ohio State students from the Ohio State only SCFW survey. See Appendix A for a summary of respondents' demographic characteristics. Statistical analyses were run using Chi-Square Test of Independence.

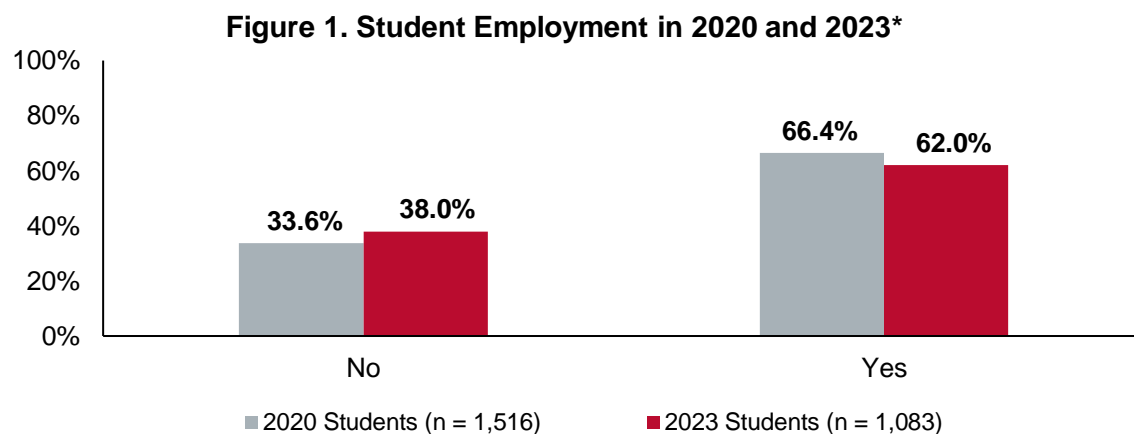
FINDINGS

Student Employment

Figure 1 shows student employment in 2020 and 2023. If students selected that they were employed, they answered follow-up questions about average hours worked per week, average hourly wages, and work location.



Are you currently employed?



Average Hours Worked Per Week

Table 1 displays how many hours per week students typically work, on average, during the academic year. Students report working fewer hours, on average, in 2023 compared to 2020.

Table 1. Average hours worked per week

Hours per week	2020 Students	2023 Students	Significance
1-10 hours	28.5%	33.3%	*
11-20 hours	38.9%	44.5%	*
21-30 hours	23.0%	12.7%	***
31-40 hours	6.5%	6.1%	-
40+ hours	3.2%	3.4%	-

Note. Sample size: 2020 Students $n = 1,005$; 2023 Students $n = 670$

Average Hourly Wages

Table 2 displays the percentage of students who indicated earning an average of less than \$7.25 an hour to \$15 or more an hour. Wages and tips from all jobs were included. On average, 2020 students earned less per hour than 2023 students.

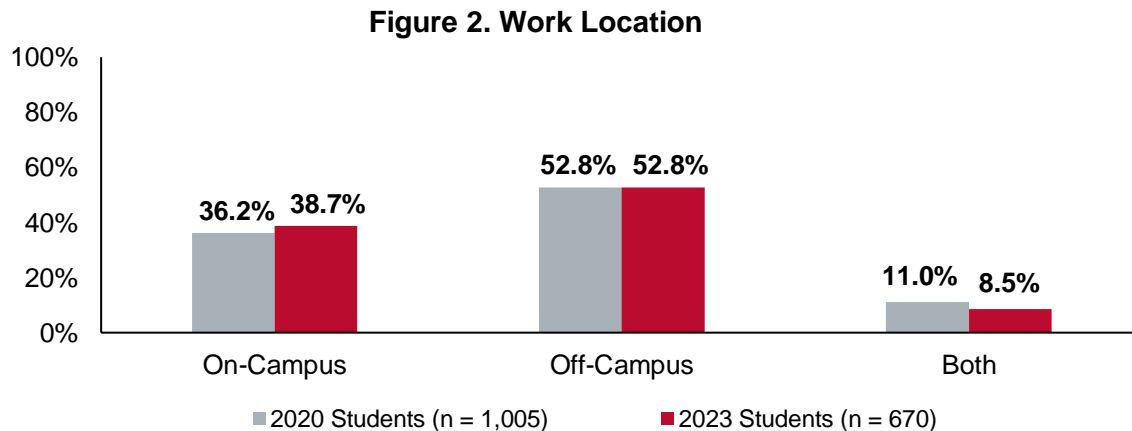
Table 2. Average earnings per hour (includes wages and tips from all jobs)

Earnings	2020 Students	2023 Students	Significance
Less than or equal to \$7.25	2.5%	1.5%	-
\$7.26-\$9.99	33.7%	4.0%	***
\$10-\$11.99	33.6%	23.3%	***
\$12-\$14.99	17.7%	34.6%	***
\$15+	12.4%	36.6%	***

Note. Sample size: 2020 Students $n = 1,005$; 2023 Students $n = 670$

Work Location

Students were asked if they worked on-campus, off-campus, or both on-campus and off-campus. As shown by Figure 2, the majority of 2020 and 2023 students worked at an off-campus location. There were no significant differences in work location between 2020 and 2023 students.



2023 Hourly Wage By Work Location

Table 3 displays the data for only 2023 students on hourly wage by work location. As shown by Figure 1, off-campus students in 2023 were significantly more likely to have an hourly wage of \$15 or more compared to on-campus students in 2023.

Table 3. 2023 Hourly wage by work location

Earnings	On-Campus	Off-Campus	Statistically Significant
Less than or equal to \$7.25	-	-	-
\$7.26-\$9.99	5.8%	2.8%	-
\$10-\$11.99	42.5%	8.5%	***
\$12-\$14.99	40.5%	29.7%	**
\$15+	9.7%	57.3%	***

Note. Sample size: On-Campus $n = 259$; Off-Campus $n = 354$. Due to small sample sizes, earning less than or equal to \$7.25 per hour is not included in this table.

CONCLUSION

This report provides valuable information for understanding Ohio State students' employment from 2020 (pre-pandemic) to 2023 (three years post-pandemic). Compared to students in 2020, students in 2023 are less likely to report being employed. Additionally, Ohio State students in 2020 worked more hours per week and had lower wages than students in 2023. There were no significant differences in work location between 2020 and 2023 students. Finally, for 2023 students, those who worked on-campus earned significantly less than those who worked off campus.



Appendix A: Participant Demographics

	2020 Students		2023 Students	
	<i>n</i>	Percent	<i>n</i>	Percent
Race/Ethnicity				
Asian Pacific Islander Desi American	144	9.5%	84	7.8%
Black and/or African American	97	6.4%	86	7.9%
Hispanic or Latinx	40	2.6%	104	9.6%
White and/or European American	1,109	73.3%	768	70.9%
Another identity not listed	20	1.3%	41	3.8%
Prefer not to answer	104	6.9%	0	0.0%
Total	1,514		1,083	
Gender Identity				
Man	547	36.2%	334	30.8%
Women	942	62.3%	706	65.2%
Another identity not listed	16	1.1%	43	4.0%
Prefer not to answer	7	0.5%	0	0.0%
Total	1,512		1,083	
Undergraduate Year				
First-Year	521	34.4%	506	46.7%
Second-Year	352	23.2%	163	15.1%
Third-Year	309	20.4%	197	18.2%
Fourth-Year	253	16.7%	149	13.8%
Fifth-Year or beyond	80	5.3%	68	6.3%
Total	1,515		1,083	
Generation Status				
First-Generation	608	40.3%	342	31.6%
Continuing-Generation	900	59.7%	741	68.4%
Total	1,508		1,083	

Note. The sum of responses may exceed the overall *n* because participants could select more than one option.