

Extension Area 24: Economic Overview

Athens, Gallia, Meigs, and Vinton Counties

Report prepared September 2022 by Eric Romich, Associate Professor, OSU Extension Community Development

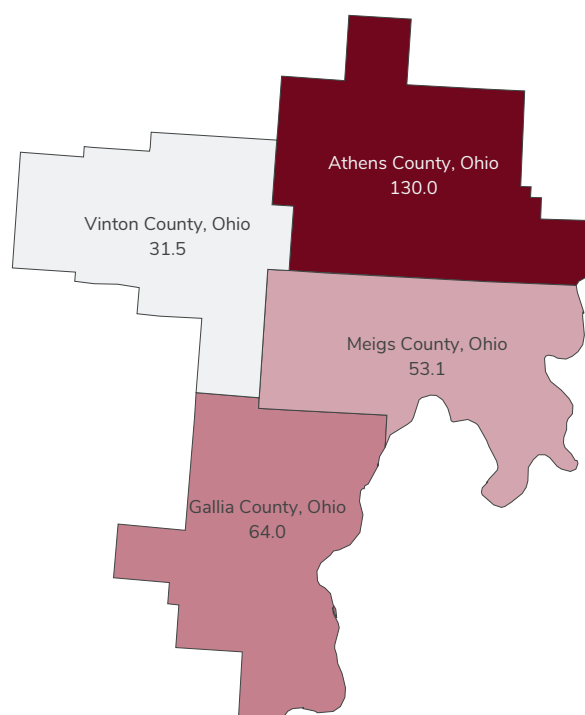
Fall 2022 Edition

Regional Overview

OSU Extension Area 24 is a four-county area in the southeastern part of the state, including Vinton, Athens, Meigs, and Gallia counties. In 2020, the combined Area 24 footprint was 1,819 square miles (mi²) supporting a population of 131,714 residents and an overall population density of 72.4 residents per square mile. Population density is a ratio of total population to total land area, simply described as a count of residents per square mile. As illustrated in Image 1, Athens County has the highest population density of 130, while Gallia County was the second highest at 64, followed by Meigs County at 53, and Vinton County with 31 residents per square mile.

Overall, the combined population in Area 24 has remained consistent increasing slightly by 2% from 129,555 in 2001 to a total population of 131,714 in 2020. However, there were some notable shifts in the population trends of individual counties between 2001 and 2020. Athens County was the only area 24 county to experience growth as the population increased by 6% from 62,235 in 2001 to 65,872 in 2020. During this period, Gallia County underwent the greatest population decline of -4% to a total of 29,980 residents in 2020. Between 2001 and 2020 there was a minor population decline of -1% in both Meigs and Vinton counties. In 2020, Meigs County had 22,813 residents, while Vinton County had 13,049.

Image 1: OSU Extension Area 24 Population Density



Key Stats

Population 131,714

Total of 255 Industries

Total Employment of 55,021

Gross Domestic Product \$4.24B

Data retrieved from IMPLAN
(2020 data)

Regional Industry Sector Overview

IMPLAN defines the total annual production value of each Industry or Commodity as Output. Total output represents the total production value of an industry including intermediate inputs, employee compensation, proprietor income, taxes on production and imports, and other property income.

Table 1 below ranks the top 10 industries in Area 24 by total output in 2020. Fossil fuel electric power generation was the highest ranked industry with a total output of \$571 million, supporting 404 jobs, and an average employee compensation of \$155,296. However, when

comparing 2020 to 2019, the data shows the fossil fuel electric power generation industry experienced an 8% decrease in total output and a reduction in total employment from 407 in 2019 to 404 jobs in 2020.

Owner-occupied dwellings had the second greatest total output at \$478 million. The owner-occupied dwellings sector represents the wealth generated from home ownership. Owning and maintaining a home is also a major area of spending and the owner-occupied dwellings sector captures that economic effect. However, there is no employment or labor income

generated in the owner-occupied dwellings sector, as the employment positions such as property managers and real estate agents is captured in the other real estate sector.

The industry with the third highest total output in Area 24 was employment and payroll of local govt, education with a total output of \$435 million, supporting 5,598 jobs, and an average employee compensation of \$67,680 per year. Of the top 10 industries by total output, the office of physicians' industry had the second highest average employee compensation of \$152,930 per year.

Table 1: Area 24 Top 10 Industries by Total Output

Industry Description	Output	Total Employment	Average Employee Compensation
Electric power generation - Fossil fuel	\$571,807,215	404	\$155,296
Owner-occupied dwellings	\$478,915,878	N/A	N/A
Employment and payroll of local govt, education	\$435,016,040	5,598	\$67,680
Monetary authorities and depository credit intermediation	\$310,434,386	649	\$65,516
Hospitals	\$310,342,384	2,056	\$54,445
Employment and payroll of state govt, education	\$241,937,067	3,121	\$68,159
Employment and payroll of local govt, other services	\$209,344,486	3,038	\$59,840
Limited-service restaurants	\$186,931,582	2,450	\$18,459
Offices of physicians	\$183,974,548	1,326	\$152,930
Other real estate	\$172,885,062	1,004	\$40,406

Area 24 Annual Employment Trends

The Total Employment figure reported by IMPLAN represents a full and part-time annual average including the self-employed, all federal, state, and local government employment and military employment (including overseas military).

Chart 1 provides a visual reference of the Area 24 annual employment trends between 2001 and 2020. As shown in the chart, Area 24 experienced consistent year to year employment. There was a moderate growth of 3.5% between 2001 and 2018 as employment increased from

56,606 to a peak of 58,596. Since 2018 annual employment in Area 24 has decreased by 6% losing 3,575 jobs, leaving an annual employment of 55,021 in 2020.

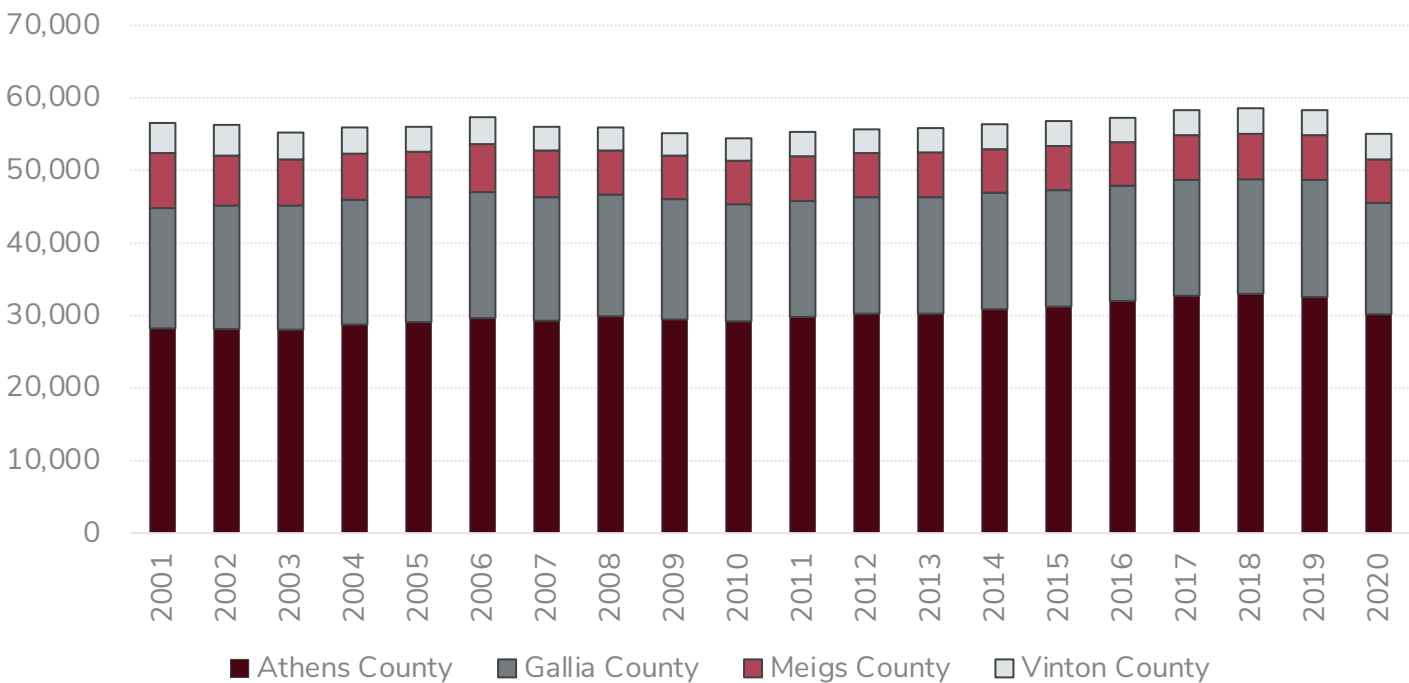
When considering the long-term employment trends by county, Athens County was the only county that experienced employment growth, as their total employment increased by 7% from 28,212 in 2001 to 30,143 in 2020.

Meigs County total employment declined by -20%, from 7,560 jobs in 2001 to 6,024 in 2020.

During the same period (2001–2020) Vinton County experienced a -17% decline in total employment from 4,225 to 3,486, while Gallia County employment decreased 7% from 16,609 to 15,368.

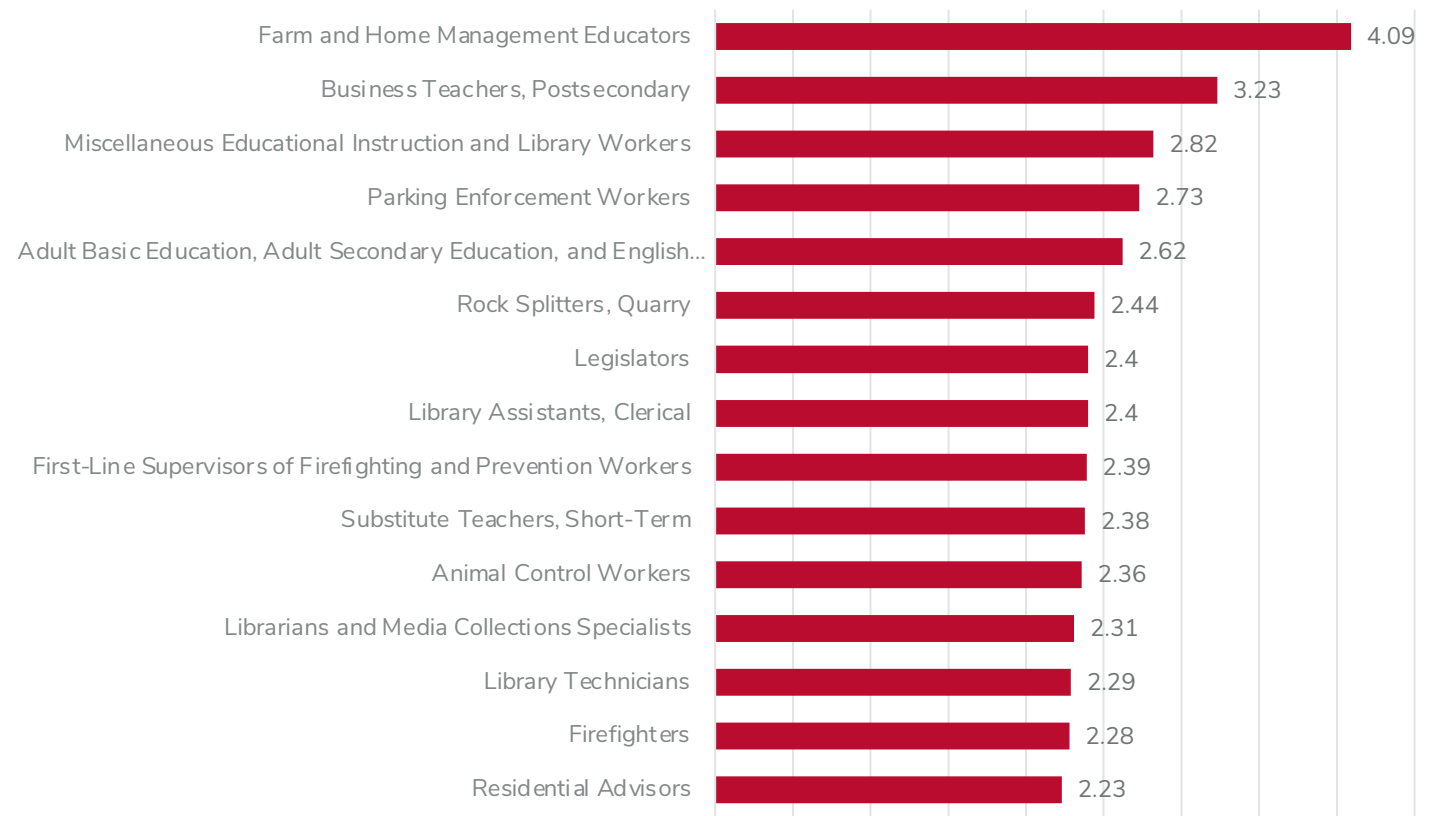
“Year-to-year, Area 24 total employment is down 3,322 Jobs from 2019 to 2020”

Chart 1: Area 24 Annual Employment



Top 15 Occupations by Location Quotient

Chart 2: Occupation Location Quotient



A location quotient (LQ) is a metric that compares the relative concentration of a local regions workers in a specific industry sector to the concentration of workers nationally in the same sector. An LQ equal to 1 signifies that the local share is equal to the national share, while an LQ greater than 1 means the local share is greater than the national share and is typically an exporter or perhaps has a specialization in that sector. Where there is an occupational concentration, there also tends to be higher core competencies relative to other areas, creating a competitive advantage. In addition, training and education opportunities associated with the occupation are often readily available to meet hiring demands.

Illustrated above, Chart 2 lists the top 15 occupations with the highest LQ in Area 24 demonstrating a significant concentration of workers relative to the nation. In 2020, the top occupation by LQ in Area 24 was farm and home management educators, with an LQ of 4.09. This suggests the region has more than 4 times the number of farm and home management educator workers compared to the national average. The second highest occupation by LQ in Area 24 was postsecondary business teachers at 3.23, followed by miscellaneous educational instruction and library workers with an LQ of 2.82, and parking enforcement workers at 2.73.

Image 2: Average Employee Compensation by County 2020 Data and Dollar Year

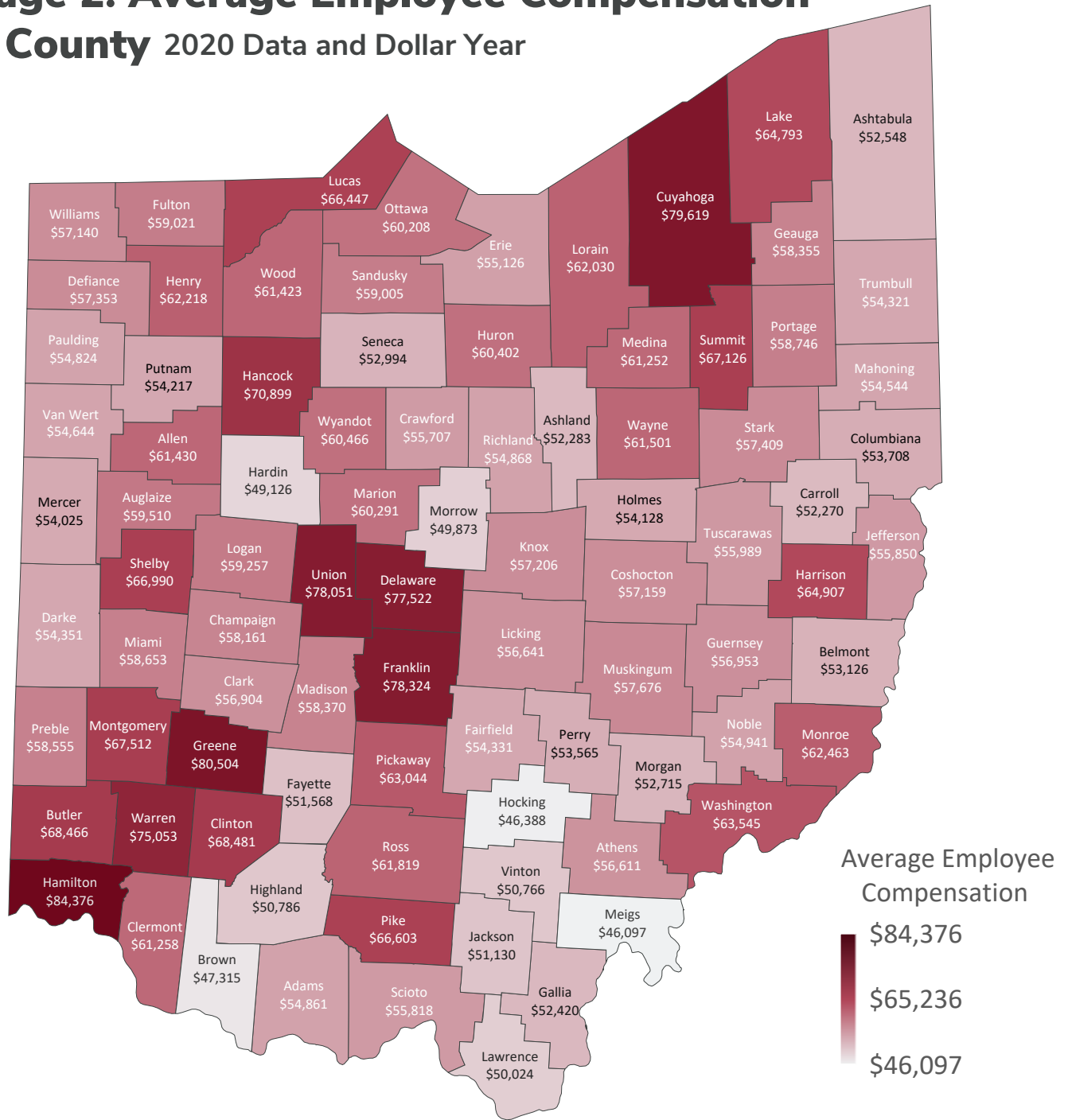


Image 2 illustrates the average employee compensation by county for 2020. Employee Compensation is the total payroll cost of an employee including wages and salaries, all benefits, and payroll taxes. The average employee compensation is calculated as Employee Compensation divided by wage and salary Employment.

Of the counties in Area 24, Athens County had the highest average employee compensation of \$56,611, ranking 52 among all Ohio counties. The next highest average employee compensation in Area 24 was Gallia County (\$52,420), followed by Vinton County (\$50,766), and Meigs County (\$46,097).



IMPLAN® model, 2020 Data, using inputs provided by the user and IMPLAN Group LLC, IMPLAN System (data and software), 16905 Northcross Dr., Suite 120, Huntersville, NC 28078
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