

# Extension Area 8: Economic Overview

## Hardin, Wyandot, Marion, Crawford, and Richland Counties

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

Fall 2022 Edition

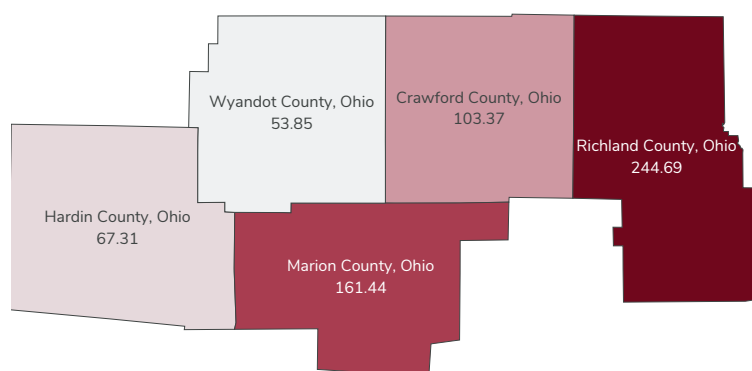
### Regional Overview

OSU Extension Area 8 is a five-county area in the north-central part of the state, including Hardin, Wyandot, Marion, Crawford, and Richland counties. In 2020, the combined Area 8 footprint was 2,179 square miles (mi<sup>2</sup>) supporting a population of 281,900 residents and an overall population density of 129 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, Richland County had the highest population density of 245, while Marion County was the second highest at 161, followed by Crawford County 103, Hardin County 67, and Wyandot County with 54 residents per square mile.

Overall, the combined population in Area 8 remained consistent yet it decreased slightly by -5% from 295,194 in 2001 to a total population of 281,900 in 2020. However, there were some notable shifts in the population trends of individual counties between 2001 and 2020. Crawford County experienced the greatest amount of loss as the population decreased by -11% from 46,594 in 2001 to 41,585 in 2020. During this period, Richland County also underwent a population decline of -5% to a total of 121,612 in 2020, while Wyandot County had a population decrease of -4% to a total of 21,840 in 2020. Between 2001 and 2020 there were minor shifts in the population for Marion County with 65,207 residents and Hardin County had 31,657 in 2020.

Image 1: OSU Extension Area 8 Population Density



#### Key Stats

Population 281,900

Total of 336 Industries

Total Employment of 135,474

Gross Domestic Product \$10.97B

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 8 by total output in 2020. Owner-occupied dwellings was the top raked industry by total output at \$1.046 billion. 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.

Iron and steel mills and ferroalloy manufacturing was the second highest ranked industry with a total output of \$626 million, supporting 598 jobs, and an average employee compensation of \$122,791. However, when comparing 2019 to 2020, the data shows the Iron

and steel mills and ferroalloy manufacturing industry experienced a 31% decrease in total output and a reduction in total employment of 110 jobs.

The industry with the second highest total output in Area 8 was hospitals with a total output of \$576 million, supporting 3,208 jobs, and an average employee compensation of \$79,400 per year. Of the top 10 industries by total output, the sector with the most employees in the region was employment and payroll of local government and education with 6,520 employees. The average annual income for these workers was \$69,537 per year.

Table 1: Area 8 Top 10 Industries by Total Output

Industry Description	Output	Total Employment	Average Employee Compensation
Owner-occupied dwellings	\$1,046,140,926	N/A	N/A
Iron and steel mills and ferroalloy manufacturing	\$626,422,892	598	\$122,791
Hospitals	\$576,372,268	3,208	\$79,400
Other real estate	\$574,634,396	3,639	\$47,586
Monetary authorities and depository credit intermediation	\$573,049,108	1,278	\$59,642
Employment and payroll of local govt, education	\$520,538,044	6,520	\$69,537
Other plastics product manufacturing	\$470,534,567	1,671	\$60,718
Paperboard container manufacturing	\$466,878,781	974	\$69,617
Other motor vehicle parts manufacturing	\$452,692,953	995	\$68,234
Household refrigerator and home freezer manufacturing	\$438,965,788	708	\$77,993

# Area 8 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 8 annual employment trends between 2001 and 2020. As shown in the chart, Area 8 experienced slight decline in employment between 2001 and 2007 when the U.S. housing market collapsed, stressing global financial markets and ultimately triggering the U.S.

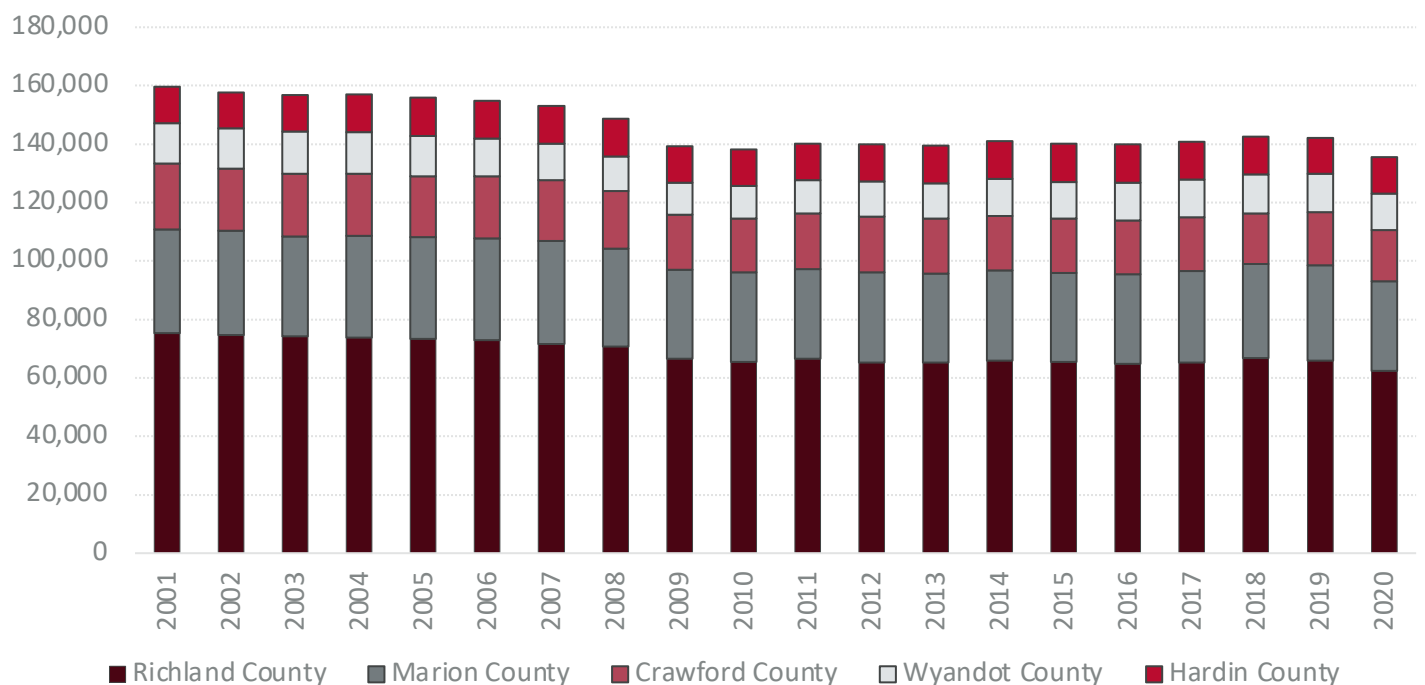
economy into a period of recession. Between 2010 and 2019 the annual employment in Area 8 increased slightly by 3% from 138,259 in 2010 to 142,230 in 2019. However, between 2019 and 2020 Area 8 experienced a -5% year to year job loss, losing 6,756 jobs, leaving an annual employment of 135,474 in 2020.

When considering the long-term employment trends of individual counties from 2001 to 2020, all 5 counties experienced a decline in total employment. Crawford County saw the greatest decline in total employment of -22%, decreasing from 22,515 in 2001 to 17,644 in 2020.

***“Year-to-year,  
Area 8 total  
employment is  
down 6,756  
Jobs in 2020”***

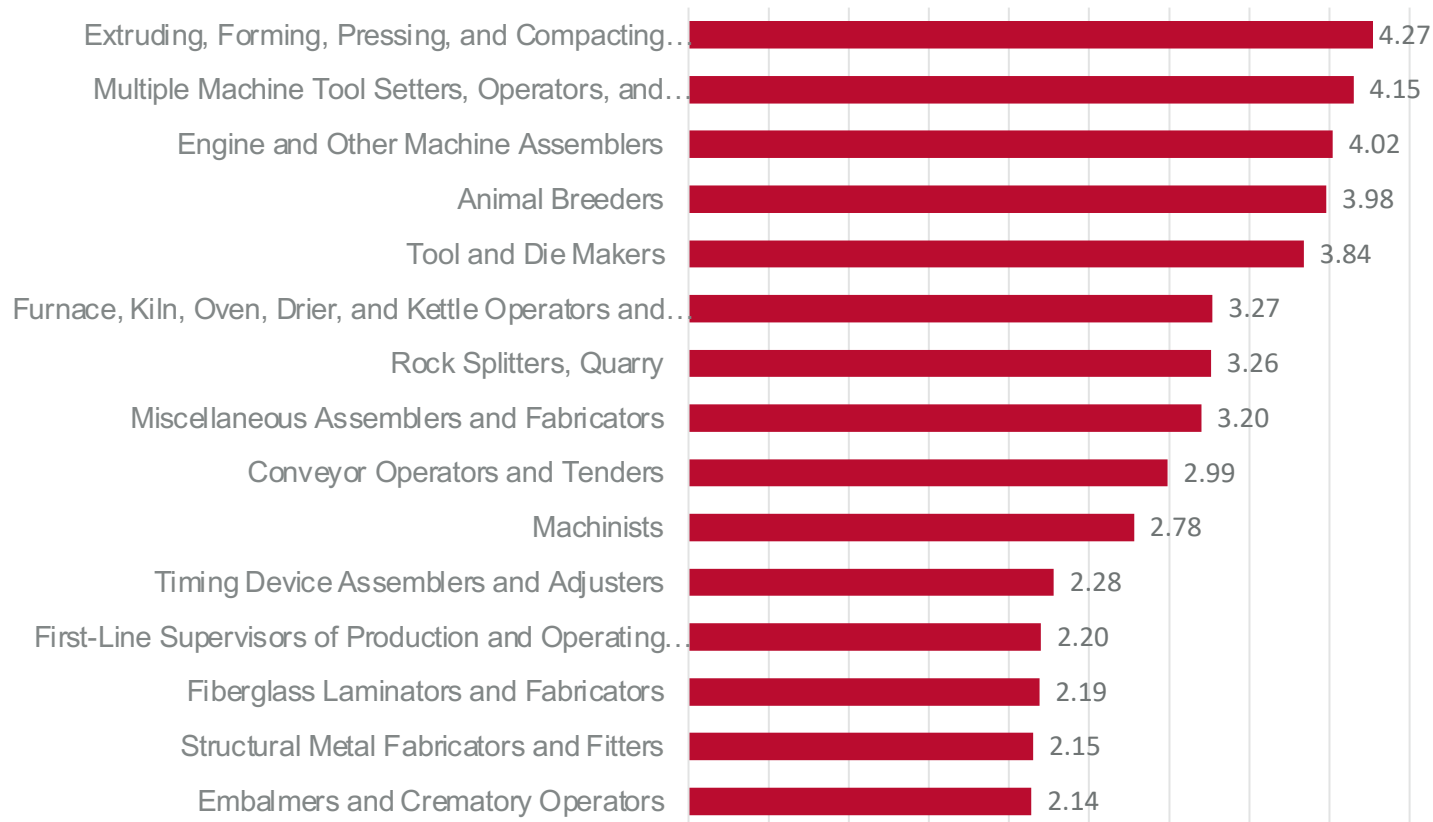
Similarly, Richland County total employment decreased by -17%, from 75,291 jobs in 2001 to 62,474 in 2020. Marion County total employment declined by 14% and Wyandot County total employment fell 10%, while Hardin County employment remained basically the same declining by less than 1%.

**Chart 1: Area 8 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 8 demonstrating a significant concentration of workers relative to the nation. In 2020, the top occupation by LQ in Area 8 was extruding, forming, pressing, and compacting machine setters, operators, and tenders, with an LQ of 4.27. This suggests the region has more than four times the number of workers in that industry compared to the national average. The second highest occupation by LQ in Area 8 was multiple machine tool setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic at 4.15, followed by engine and other machine assemblers with an LQ of 4.02, and animal breeders at 3.98.

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

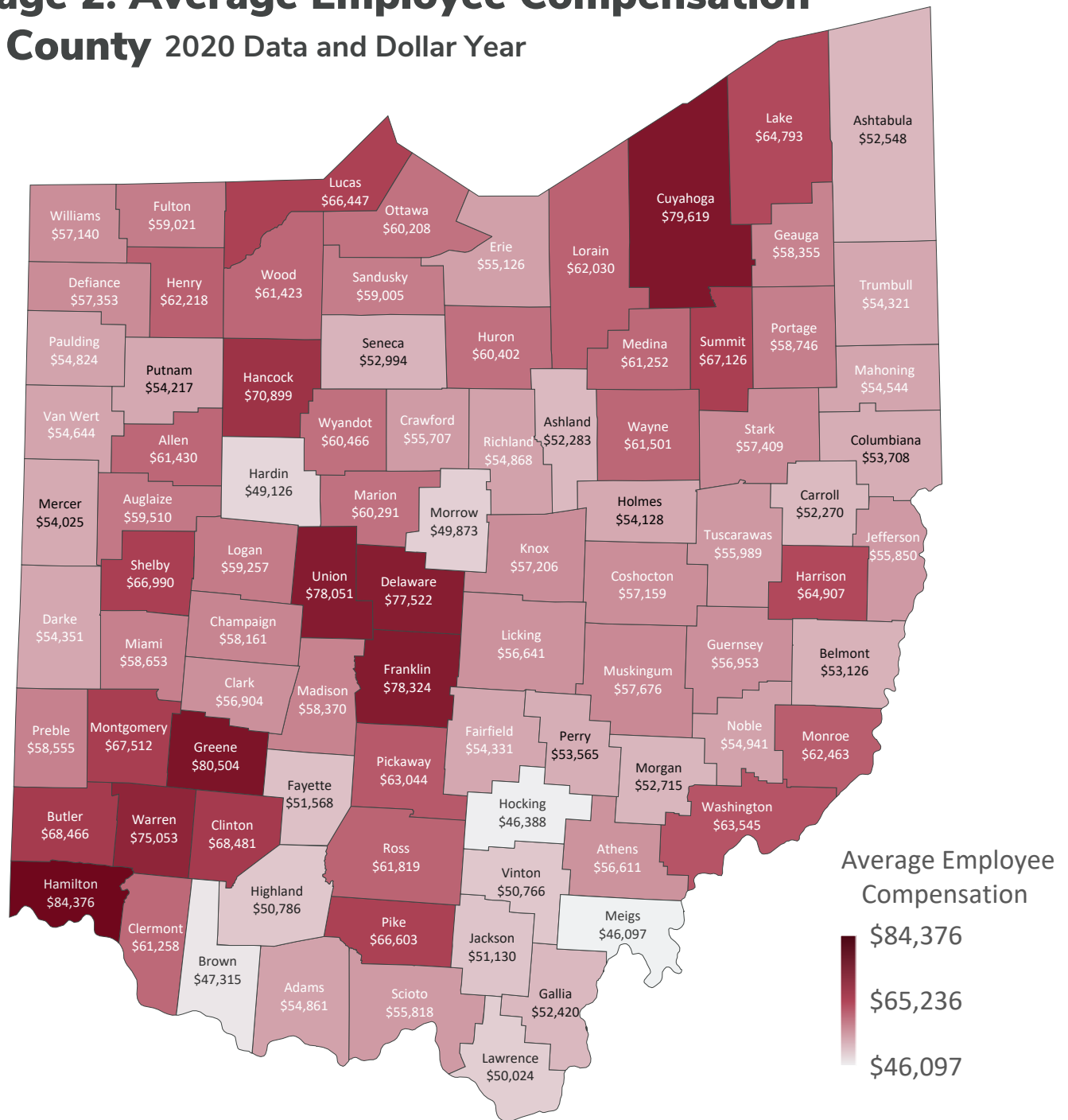


Image 2 illustrates the average employee compensation by county for 2020. Employee Compensation is the total payroll cost of an employee including wages and salaries, all benefits, and payroll taxes. The average employee compensation is calculated as Employee Compensation divided by wage and salary Employment.

Of the counties in Area 8, Wyandot County had the highest average employee compensation of \$60,466, ranking 29<sup>th</sup> highest in Ohio. The next highest average employee compensation in Area 8 was Marion County at \$60,291, followed by Crawford County \$55,707, Richland County \$54,868, and Hardin County \$49,126.



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