

# Extension Area 13: Economic Overview

## Delaware, Morrow, and Knox Counties

Report prepared March 2023 by Eric Romich, Associate Professor, OSU Extension Community Development

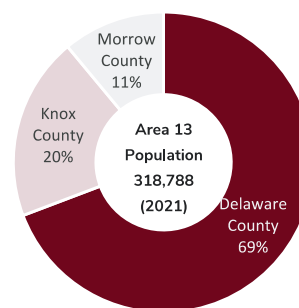
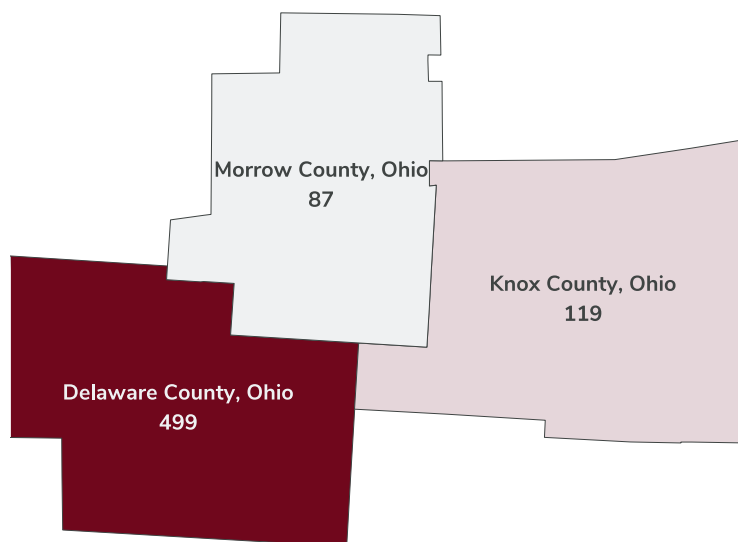
Fall 2023 Edition

### Regional Overview

OSU Extension Area 13 is a three-county area in central Ohio, including Delaware, Morrow, and Knox counties. In 2021, the combined Area 13 footprint was 1,375 square miles (mi<sup>2</sup>) supporting a population of 318,788 residents and an overall population density of 232 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, Delaware County had the highest population density of 498, while Knox County was the second highest at 119, followed by Morrow County with 86 residents per square mile.

Overall, the combined population in Area 13 increased dramatically, growing by 53% from 207,947 in 2001 to a total population of 318,788 in 2021. While all three counties increased in population, Delaware County experienced the greatest amount population growth increasing by 84% from 119,752 in 2001 to 220,740 in 2021. During this period, Knox County also increased in population by 13% to a total of 62,897 in 2021, while Morrow County had a population growth of 8% to a total of 35,151 in 2021.

**Image 1: OSU Extension Area 13 Population Density**



#### Key Stats

**Total of 325 Industries**

**Total Employment of 169,142**

**Gross Domestic Product \$17.567 B**

Data retrieved from IMPLAN (2021 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 13 by total output in 2021. Management of companies and enterprises was the highest ranked industry with a total output of \$2.796 billion, supporting 10,805 jobs, and an average employee compensation of \$146,578. When comparing 2020 to 2021, the data shows the management of companies and enterprises industry experienced a

7% increase in total output, while the employment remained steady, increasing by 18 jobs to a total of 10,805.

Owner-occupied dwellings had the second greatest total output at \$1.7 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.

The industry with the third highest total output in Area 13 was monetary authorities and depository credit intermediation which increased by 23% to a total output of \$1.3 billion, supporting 1,634 jobs, and an average employee compensation of \$102,412 per year.

The industry that experienced the greatest growth in total output was insurance carriers, which increased by 56% from \$479 million in 2020 to \$748 million in 2021. Of the top 10 industries by total output, the industry with the highest average employee compensation was Other financial investment activities with 3,249 employees earning an average annual income of \$194,113 per year.

Table 1: Area 13 Top 10 Industries by Total Output

Industry Description	Output	Total Employment	Average Employee Compensation
Management of companies and enterprises	\$2,796,982,510	10,805	\$146,578
Owner-occupied dwellings	\$1,747,190,921	N/A	N/A
Monetary authorities and depository credit intermediation	\$1,312,266,345	1,634	\$102,412
Other real estate	\$1,188,442,132	6,443	\$75,709
Insurance agencies, brokerages, and related activities	\$943,190,536	2,937	\$88,319
Insurance carriers, except direct life	\$748,659,953	1,129	\$110,195
Other financial investment activities	\$741,279,301	3,249	\$194,113
Limited-service restaurants	\$642,646,047	6,307	\$24,842
* Employment and payroll of local govt, education	\$630,517,824	6,869	\$79,903
Offices of physicians	\$475,343,771	3,163	\$123,720

# Area 13 Annual Employment Trends

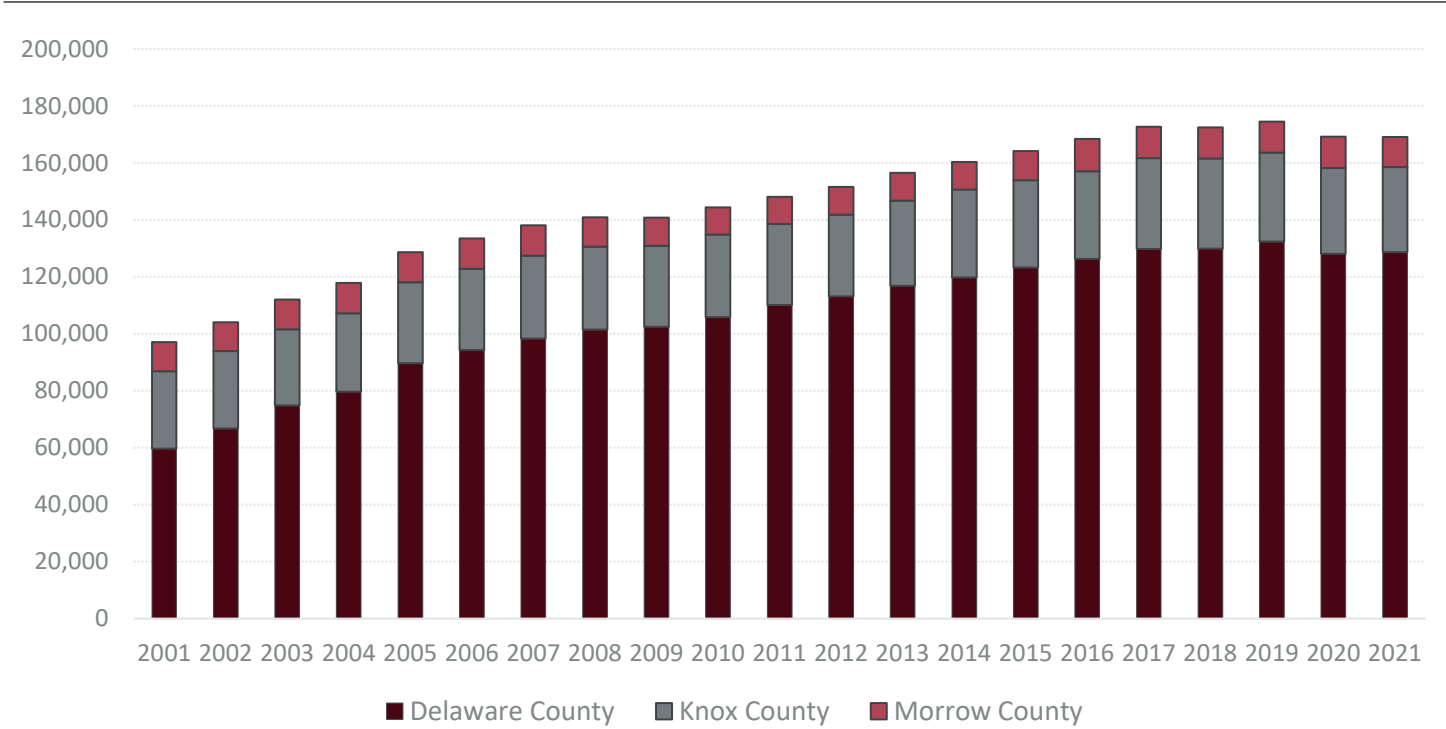
The Total Employment figure reported by IMPLAN represents a full and part-time annual average including the self-employed, all federal, state, and local government employment and military employment (including overseas military).

Chart 1 provides a visual reference of the Area 13 annual employment trends between 2001 and 2021. As shown in the chart, Area 13 experienced significant growth as total employment has increased 74% from 97,039 in 2001 to 169,142 in 2021. When considering the long-term employment trends by county,

Delaware County saw the greatest growth as total employment more than doubled between 2001 and 2021. Specifically, Delaware County experienced a 116%, increase in jobs from 59,710 in 2001 to 128,693 in 2021. While not as dramatic, Knox County total employment also increased, growing by 10%, from 27,194 jobs in 2001 to 29,788 in 2021, while during the same period (2001–2021) Morrow County experienced an 5% increase to 10,661 jobs in 2021.

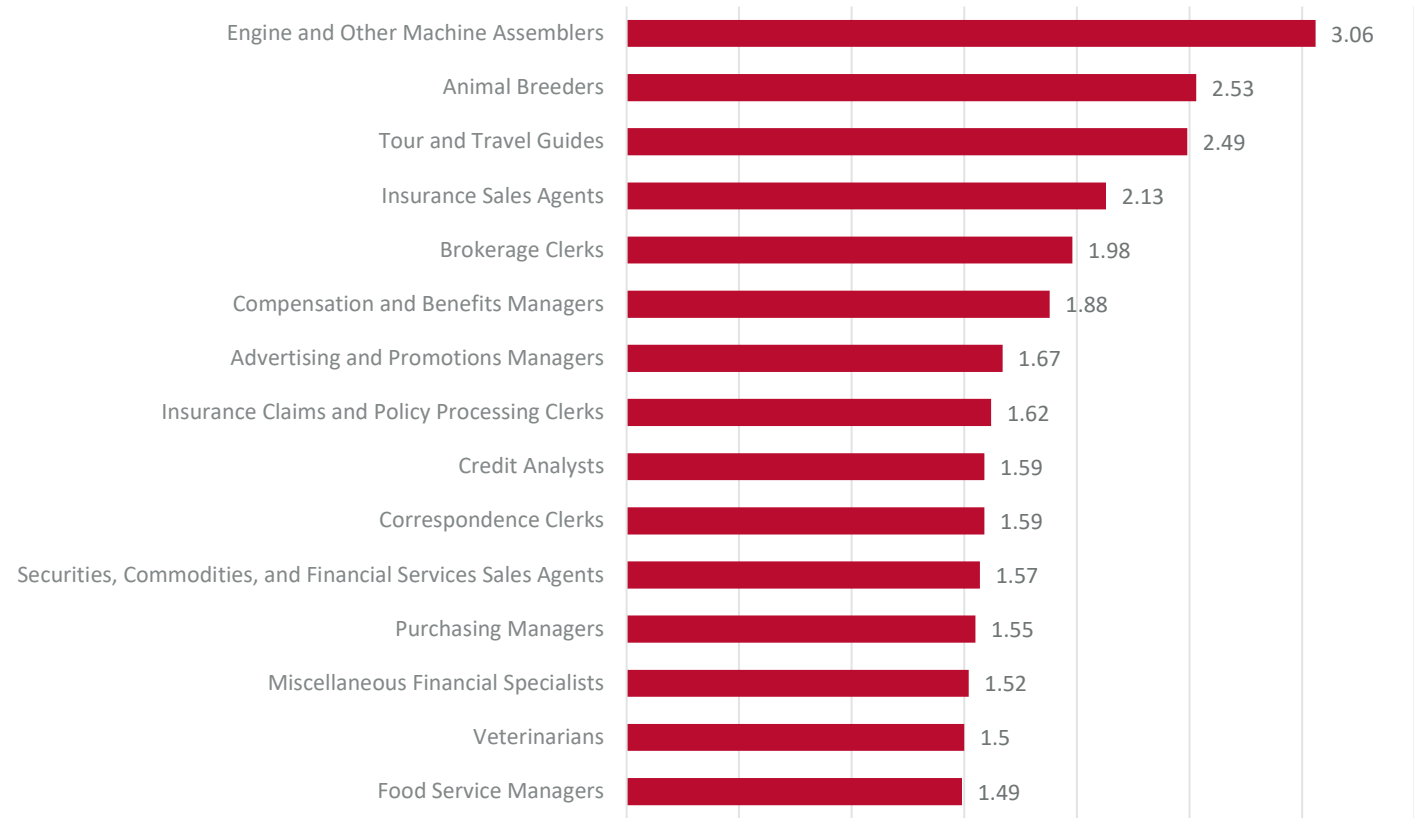
*“Since 2018, the Area 13 total employment has declined by 3,316 jobs”*

Chart 1: Area 13 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 13 demonstrating a significant concentration of workers relative to the nation. In 2021, the top occupation by LQ in Area 13 was engine and other machine assemblers, with an LQ of 3.06. This suggests the region has more than three times the number of engine and other machine assembler workers compared to the national average. The second highest occupation by LQ in Area 13 was animal breeders at 2.53, followed by tour and travel guides with an LQ of 2.49, and insurance sales agents at 2.13.

## Image 2: Average Employee Compensation by County

2021 Data and Dollar Year

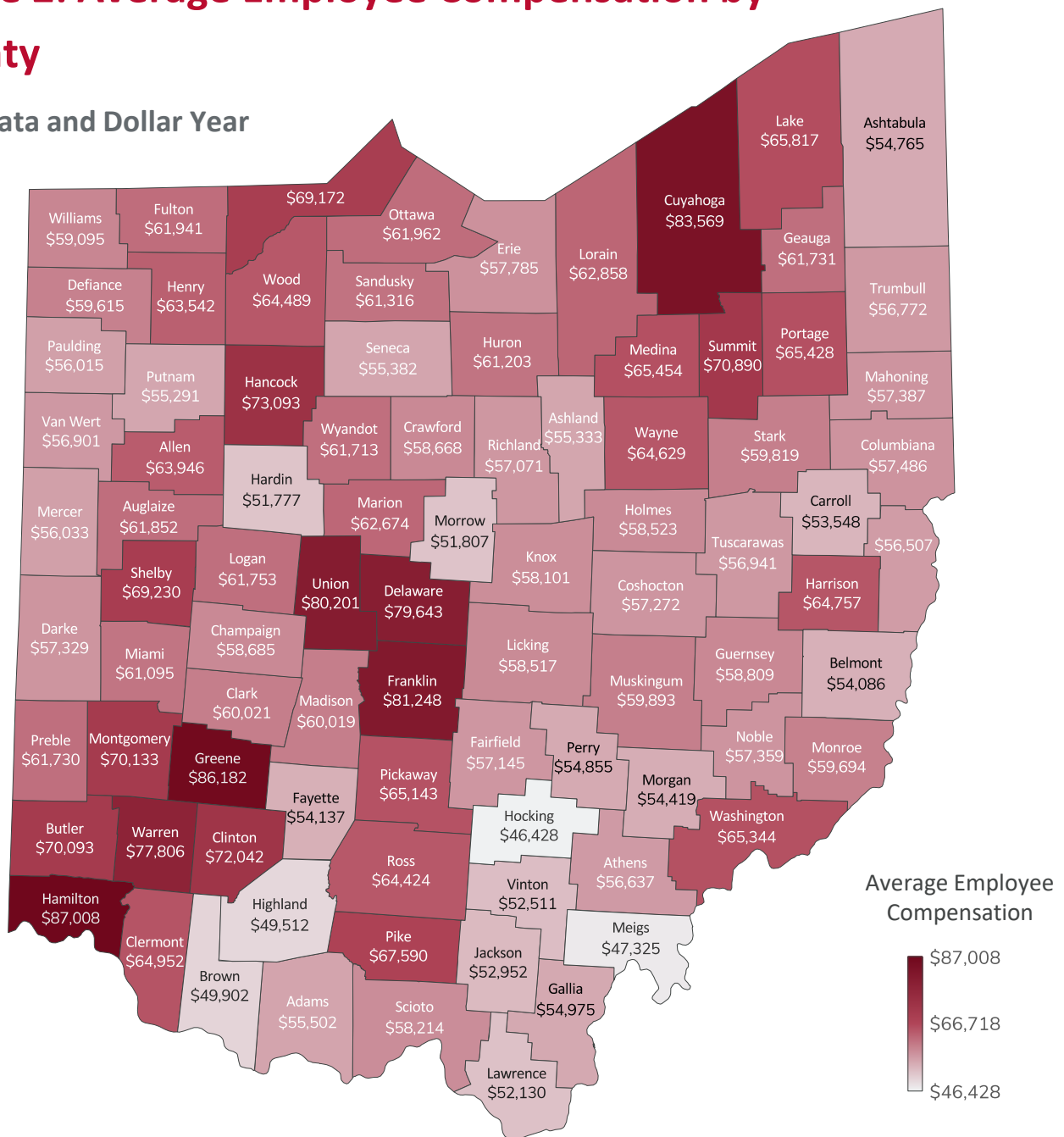


Image 2 illustrates the average employee compensation by county for 2021. Employee Compensation is the total payroll cost of an employee including wages and salaries, all benefits, and payroll taxes. The average employee compensation is calculated as Employee Compensation divided by wage and salary Employment. When comparing counties statewide, Hamilton County had the highest average employee compensation of \$87,008, while Hocking County posted the lowest county average of \$46,428 in 2021. When combining all Ohio counties,

the statewide average employee compensation in 2021 was \$60,659 per worker, which was a 4% increase compared to 2020. Of the counties in Area 13, Delaware County had the highest average employee compensation of \$79,643, ranking 6<sup>th</sup> highest in Ohio. The next highest average employee compensation in Area 13 was Knox County at \$58,101, followed by Morrow County with an average employee compensation of \$51,807 in 2021.



IMPLAN® model, 2021 Data, using inputs provided by the user and IMPLAN Group LLC, IMPLAN System (data and software), 16905 Northcross Dr., Suite 120, Huntersville, NC 28078 [www.IMPLAN.com](http://www.IMPLAN.com)



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