

# Extension Area 19: Economic Overview

## Morgan, Muskingum, Perry, and Washington Counties

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

Fall 2023 Edition

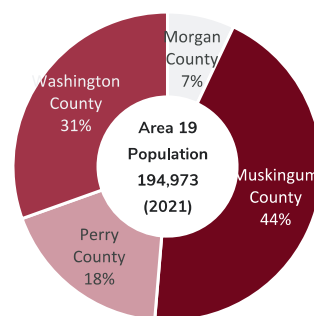
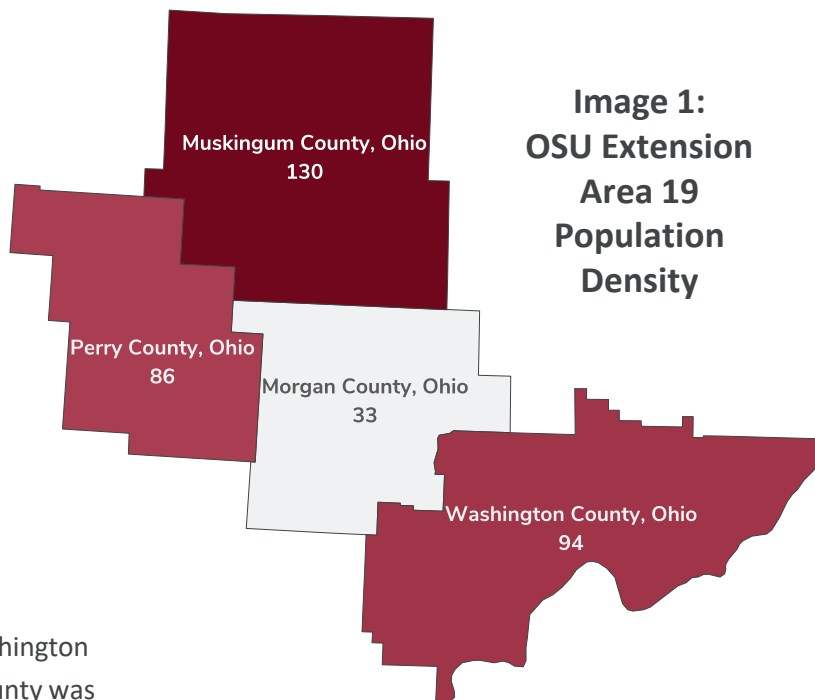
### Regional Overview

OSU Extension Area 19 is a four-county area in the west-central part of the state, including Morgan, Muskingum, Perry, and Washington counties. In 2021, the combined Area 19 footprint was 2,128 square miles (mi<sup>2</sup>) supporting a population of 194,973 residents and an overall population density of 92 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, Muskingum County had

the highest population density of 130, followed by Washington County with a population density of 94, while Perry County was 86, and Morgan County had the lowest population density of 33 residents per square mile.

Overall, the combined population in Area 19 decreased slightly between 2001 and 2021, dropping by -1% from a total population of 197,162 in 2001 to 194,973 in 2021. However, there were some notable shifts in the population trends of individual counties between 2001 and 2021. Perry County experienced the greatest amount of growth as the population increased by 3% from 34,380 in 2001 to 35,460 in 2021. During this period, Muskingum County underwent a population increase of 2% to a total of 86,408 in 2021. Meanwhile, Washington County had a population decrease of -6% to a total of 59,423 in 2021, while Morgan County had a -8% decline in population to 13,682 residents in 2021.

**Image 1:**  
OSU Extension  
Area 19  
Population  
Density



### Key Stats

**Total of 293 Industries**

**Total Employment of 88,576**

**Gross Domestic Product \$8.981 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 19 by total output in 2021. Plastics material and resin manufacturing remained the highest ranked industry with a total output of \$926 million, supporting 761 jobs, and an average employee compensation of \$174,801. However, when comparing 2020 to 2021 data, the plastics material and resin manufacturing industry experienced an -14% decline in total

output and a -12% reduction in total employment from 867 jobs in 2020 to 761 jobs in 2021.

Owner-occupied dwellings had the second greatest total output at \$756 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 19 was monetary authorities and depository credit intermediation with a total output of \$756 million in 2021, which was a 16% increase compared to 2020.

In addition, the monetary authorities and depository credit intermediation industry supported 1,256 jobs in 2021, with an average employee compensation of \$70,261 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 4,812 employees. The average annual income for these workers was \$65,258 per year.

**Table 1: Area 19 Top 10 Industries by Total Output**

| Industry Description                                      | Output        | Total Employment | Average Employee Compensation |
|---|---------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Plastics material and resin manufacturing                 | \$926,101,786 | 761              | \$174,801                     |
| Owner-occupied dwellings                                  | \$756,665,306 | N/A              | N/A                           |
| Monetary authorities and depository credit intermediation | \$717,741,268 | 1,200            | \$70,261                      |
| Hospitals   | \$637,442,376 | 3,513            | \$77,641                      |
| Oil and gas extraction                                    | \$635,992,263 | 422              | \$115,517                     |
| Offices of physicians                                     | \$535,332,343 | 3,075            | \$149,539                     |
| Iron and steel mills and ferroalloy manufacturing         | \$477,589,008 | 490              | \$91,486                      |
| Electric power transmission and distribution              | \$447,076,046 | 324              | \$156,424                     |
| Other real estate   | \$390,321,618 | 2,303            | \$49,980                      |
| * Employment and payroll of local govt, education         | \$360,710,505 | 4,812            | \$65,258                      |

# Area 19 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 19 annual employment trends between 2001 and 2021. As shown in the chart, Area 19 experienced a 12% decline in employment between 2001 and 2010, reaching a low of 87,306 jobs in 2010. However, Area 19 employment has since recovered as

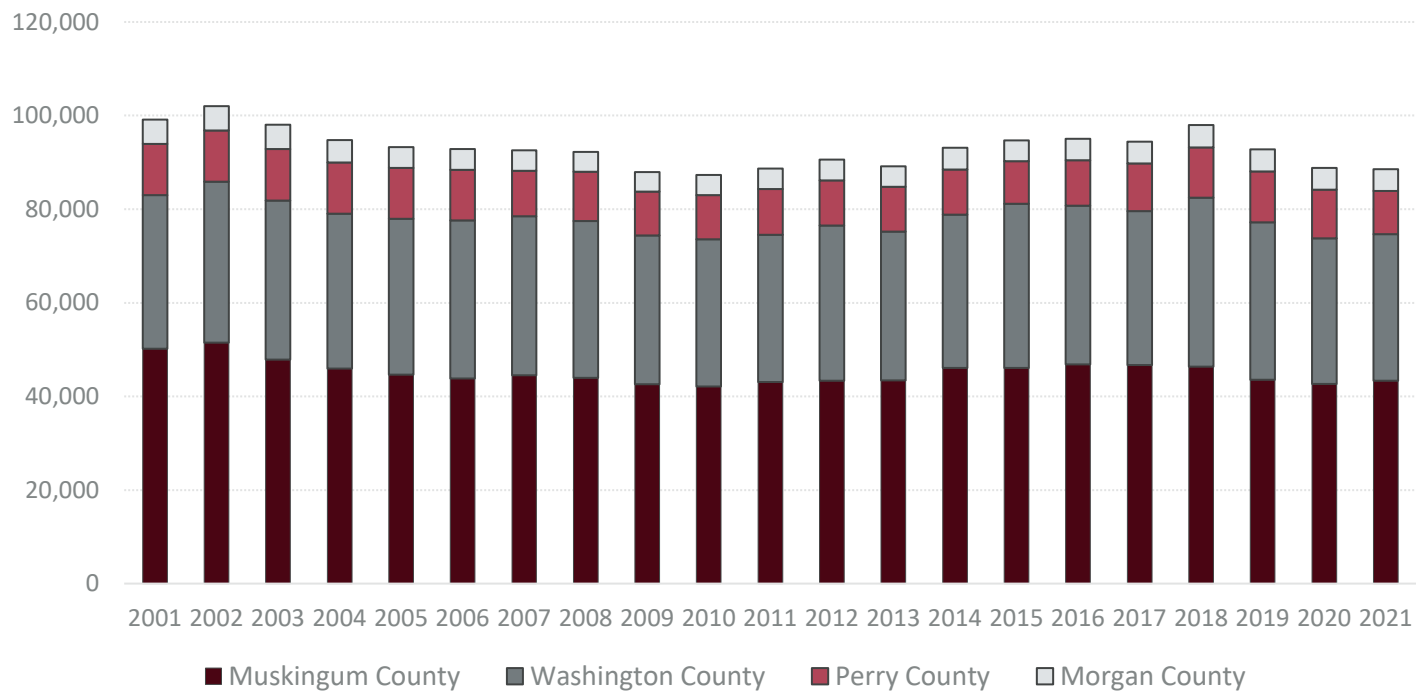
there was a 12% increase between 2010 and 2018 reaching a peak employment of 97,986 jobs in 2018. However, between 2018 and 2021 Area 19 employment decreased by 10%, losing 9,410 jobs, leaving an annual employment of 88,576 in 2021.

When considering the long-term employment trends by county, all four counties experienced a reduction in employment. Muskingum County saw the greatest employment decline of -14%, falling from 50,235 in 2001 to 43,361 in 2021. Similarly,

*“Since 2018, the Area 19 total employment has declined by 9,410 jobs”*

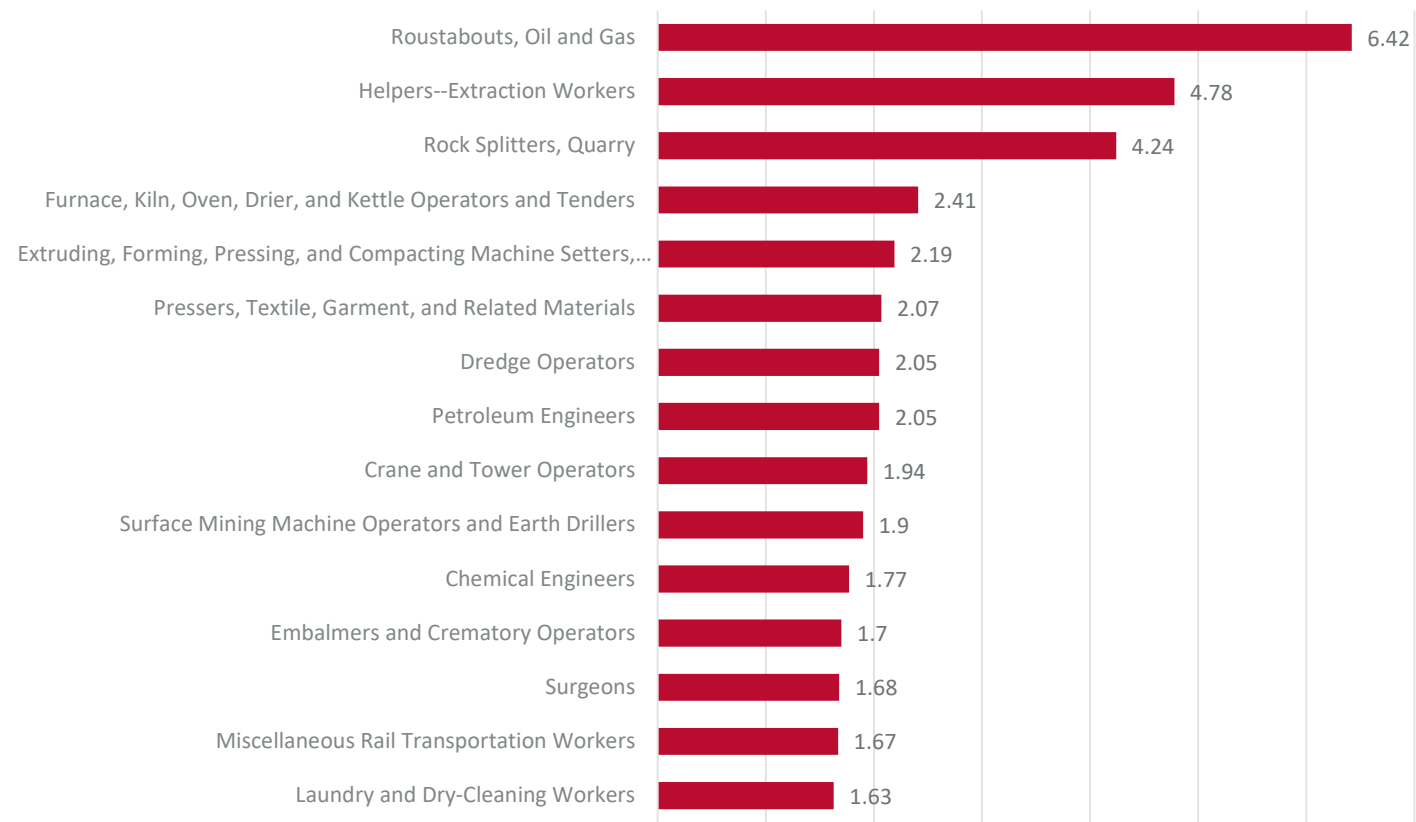
during the same period (2001–2021) Morgan County employment declined by -10% to 4,648 jobs in 2021, while Washington County jobs declined by -4% to 31,288 in 2021, and Perry County jobs fell by -15% to 9,279 in 2021.

Chart 1: Area 19 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 19 demonstrating a significant concentration of workers relative to the nation. In 2021, the top occupation by LQ in Area 19 was oil and gas roustabouts, with an LQ of 6.42. This suggests the region has more than 7 times the number of oil and gas roustabout workers compared to the national average. The second highest occupation by LQ in Area 19 was extraction worker helpers at 4.78, followed by quarry rock splitters with an LQ of 4.24, and furnace, kiln, oven, dryer, and kettle operators at 2.41.





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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