

# Extension Area 20: Economic Overview

## Belmont, Guernsey, Monroe and Noble Counties

Report prepared March 2023 by Nancy Bowen, Associate Professor, OSU Extension Community Development

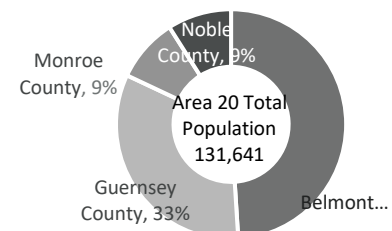
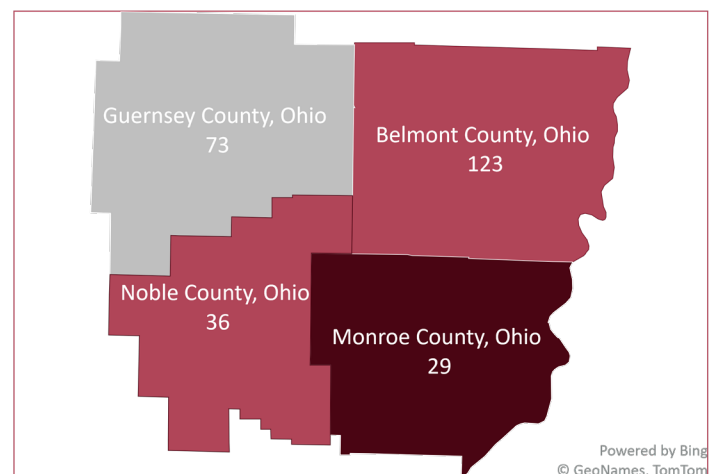
2023 Edition

## Regional Overview

OSU Extension Area 20 is a four-county area in the west-central part of the state, including Belmont, Guernsey, Monroe, and Noble counties. In 2021, the combined Area 20 footprint is 1,914 square miles (mi<sup>2</sup>) supporting a population of 131,641 residents and an overall population density of 70 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, Belmont County has the highest population density of 123, followed by Guernsey County with a population density of 75, while Noble and Monroe counties were 36 and 30 residents per square mile, respectively.

Overall, the combined population in Area 20 has remained fairly consistent, decreasing slightly by about 4% from 139,611 in 2001 to a total population of 133,959 in 2021. However, there were also shifts in the population trends of individual counties between 2001 and 2021. Noble County's population increased by 1% from 14,038 in 2001 to 14,176 in 2021, the only county out of the four to have grown during this two-decade period of time. Belmont and Guernsey counties underwent similar population decreases of 5.2% and 6.5% respectively, from 69,451 in 2001 to 65,849 in 2021 for Belmont, and from 40,959 in 2001 to 38,287 in 2021 for Guernsey. Monroe County experienced the greatest decrease in population with a loss of over 1,500 residents, dropping from 15,163 in 2001 to 13,329 in 2021, a negative percentage change of 12%.

Image 1: OSU Extension Area 20 Population Density



### Key Stats

Total of 269 Industries

Total Employment of 56,152

Gross Domestic Product \$6.26B

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 20 by total output in 2021. Of jobs-producing industries, oil and gas extraction ranked highest with a total output of \$1.23 billion, supporting 443 jobs, with an average employee compensation of just over \$120K. When comparing this industry in 2020 to 2019, the data shows that the oil and gas extraction industry decreased by 64% in total output, while the total

employment increased by 68 jobs during the same time period, possibly due to pandemic effects. The industry gained momentum in 2021.

The second highest jobs-producing industry by total output was the monetary authorities with depository credit intermediation industry with an output of \$329 million, supporting 611 jobs. This industry was not included in the top ten in 2019. The support activities for oil and gas operations industry, which was in the second position in 2019 with total employment of 1,565, dropped off the 2020 top 10 list altogether, but is back in 2021 as the fifth highest by output and employment with 824 jobs. These changes indicate major shifts within the regional economy during this pandemic year.

Owner-occupied dwellings is not a job-producing industry but was second highest by total output in 2021 at \$529 million, increasing output from 2019 and 2020. 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. During the pandemic, home-owners stayed home, spending more time and money to making improvements. 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.

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

Industry	Output	Total Employment	Average Employee Compensation
Oil and gas extraction	\$1,236,603,992	443	\$119,749
Owner-occupied dwellings	\$529,167,852	N/A	N/A
Monetary authorities and depository credit intermed. i	\$329,592,036	611	\$61,873
Truck transportation	\$305,370,266	1,462	\$76,733
Support activities for oil and gas operations	\$292,878,409	824	\$95,727
Electric power transmission and distribution	\$268,052,139	199	\$142,665
Limited-service restaurants	\$226,836,768	2,497	\$19,586
Hospitals	\$215,709,271	1,342	\$61,544
Employment and payroll of local govt, education	\$214,548,003	2,653	\$70,399
Nitrogenous fertilizer manufacturing	\$193,827,483	150	\$129,868

# Area 20 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 20 annual employment trends between 2001 and 2021. As shown in the chart, Area 20 experienced a total decrease of 3,691 jobs or a percentage loss about -6% during this period of time. The greatest loss of employment took place between 2008 and 2012 when the U.S. housing market

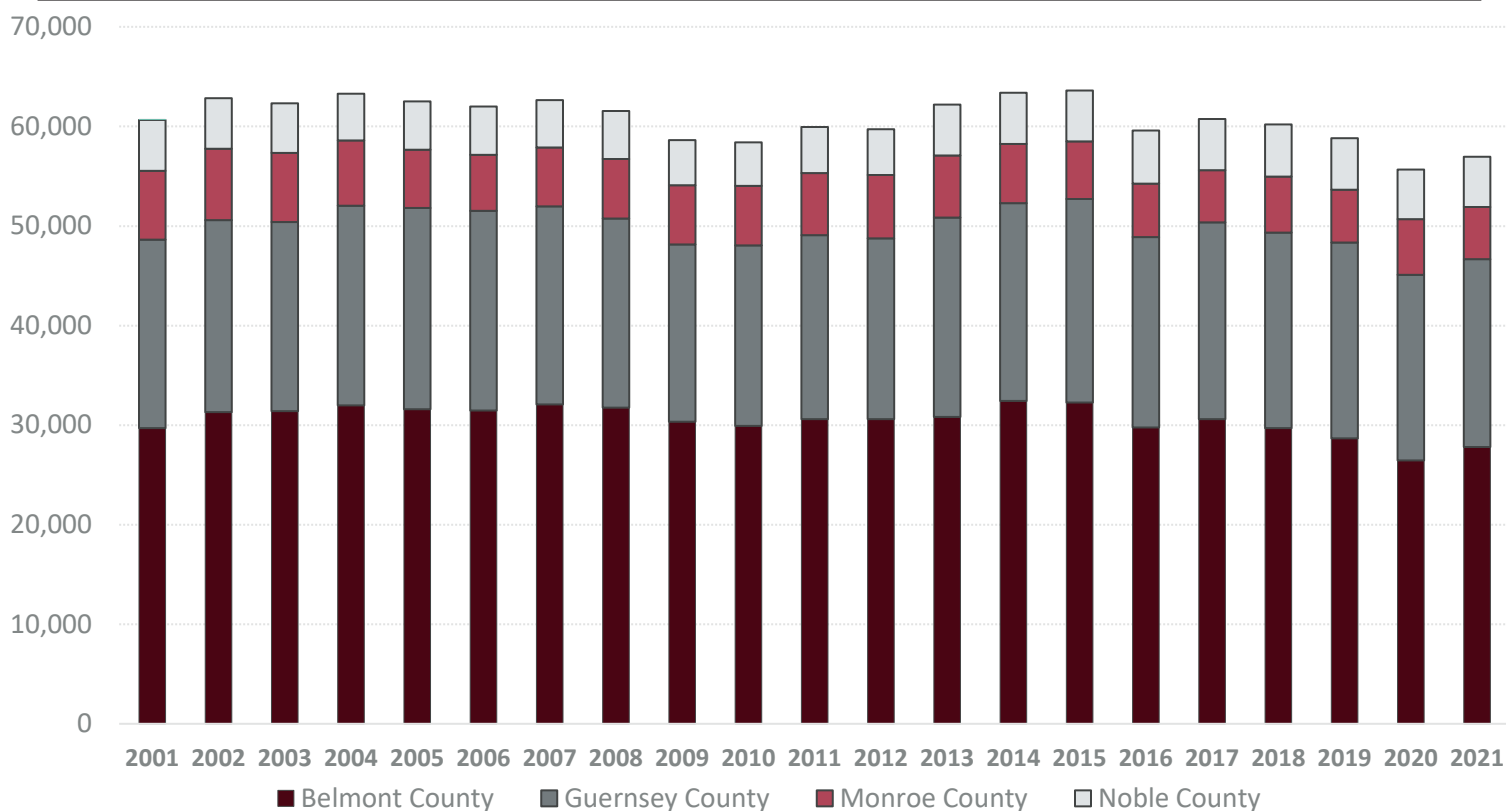
collapsed, stressing global financial markets, and ultimately triggering the U.S. economy into a period of recession. Employment regained momentum in 2013, rebounding by about 2,500 jobs. It then peaked in 2015 at 63,624 before dropping yet again for the next five consecutive years, reaching a low of 55,670 in 2020, most likely due to the pandemic. Jobs then bounced back again in 2021, at 56,962.

When considering the long-term employment trends by county, Monroe County saw the greatest in percentage decrease in employment of over 24% from 6,905 in 2001 to 5,059 in 2021.

*“From 2001 to 2021, Area 20 total employment is down 3,691 Jobs”*

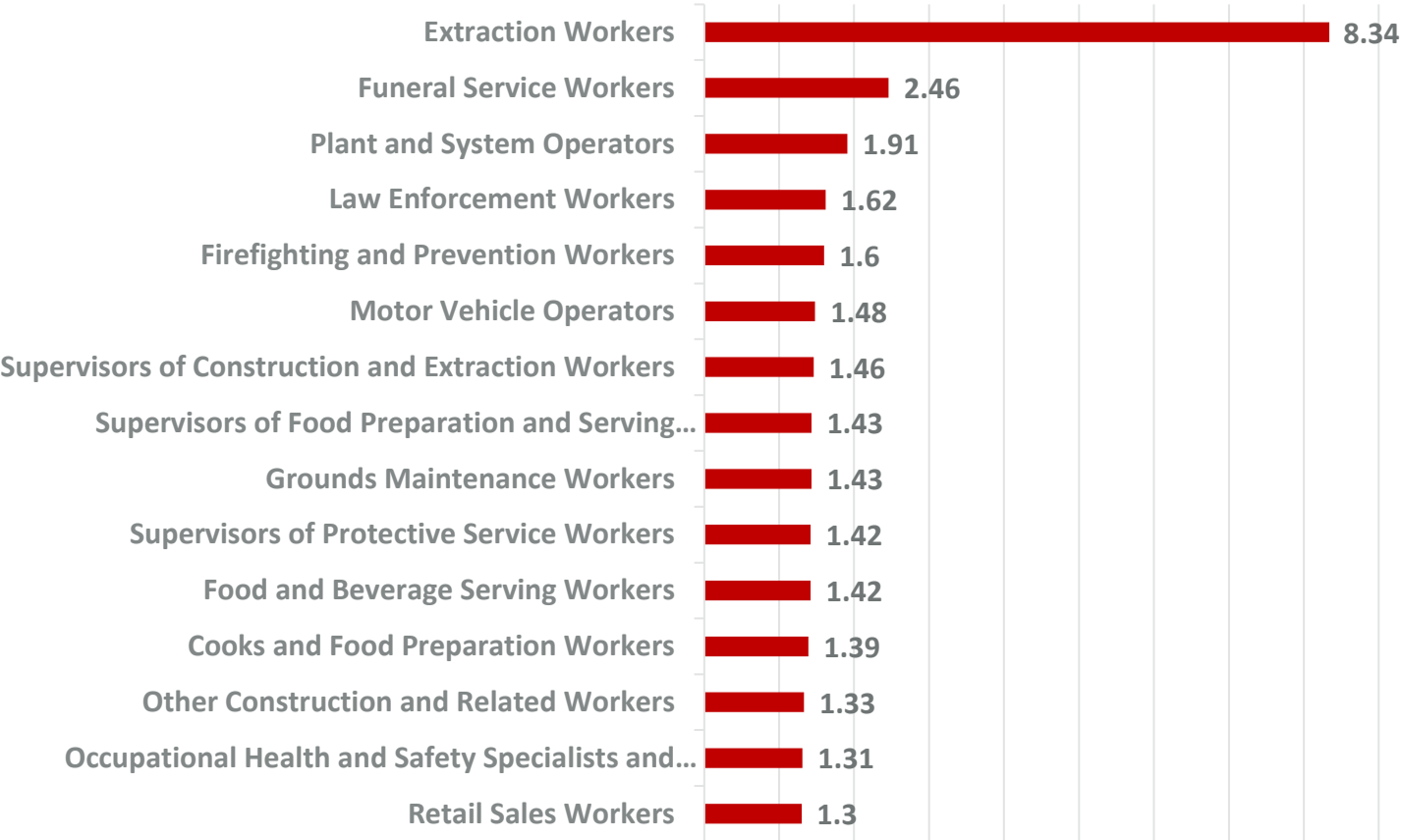
During the same period (2001–2021), Guernsey and Noble counties experienced the least percentage loss in employment of -0.5% and -0.8% respectively. Belmont County, representing the largest number of jobs within the region, declined by over 6% or from 29,697 to 27,811. None of the four counties added jobs during the time period between 2001-2021.

**Chart 1: Area 20 Annual Employment**



# Top 15 Occupations by Location Quotient

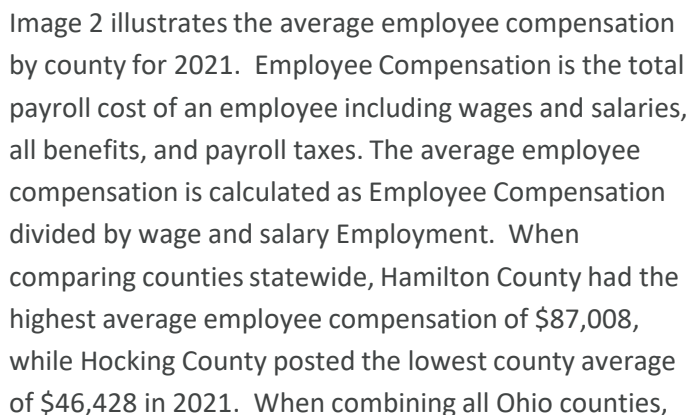
Chart 2: Occupation Location Quotient



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 20 demonstrating a significant concentration of workers relative to the nation. In 2021, the top occupation by LQ in Area 20 was extraction workers, with an LQ of 8.34. This suggests the region has more than eight times the number of extraction workers compared to the national average. The second highest occupation by LQ in Area 20 was funeral service workers at 2.46 followed by plant and system operators with an LQ of 1.91, law enforcement workers at 1.62, and firefighting and prevention workers at 1.6.

## 2021 Data and Dollar Year



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 8, Marion County had the highest average employee compensation of \$62,674, ranking 29<sup>th</sup> highest in Ohio. The next highest average employee compensation in Area 8 was Wyandot County at \$61,713, followed by Crawford County \$58,668, Richland County \$57,071, and Hardin County \$51,777.



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