

# Extension Area 11: Economic Overview

## Darke, Mercer, Miami, Preble and Shelby Counties

Report prepared January 2025 by Kyle White and Eric Romich, OSU Extension Community Development

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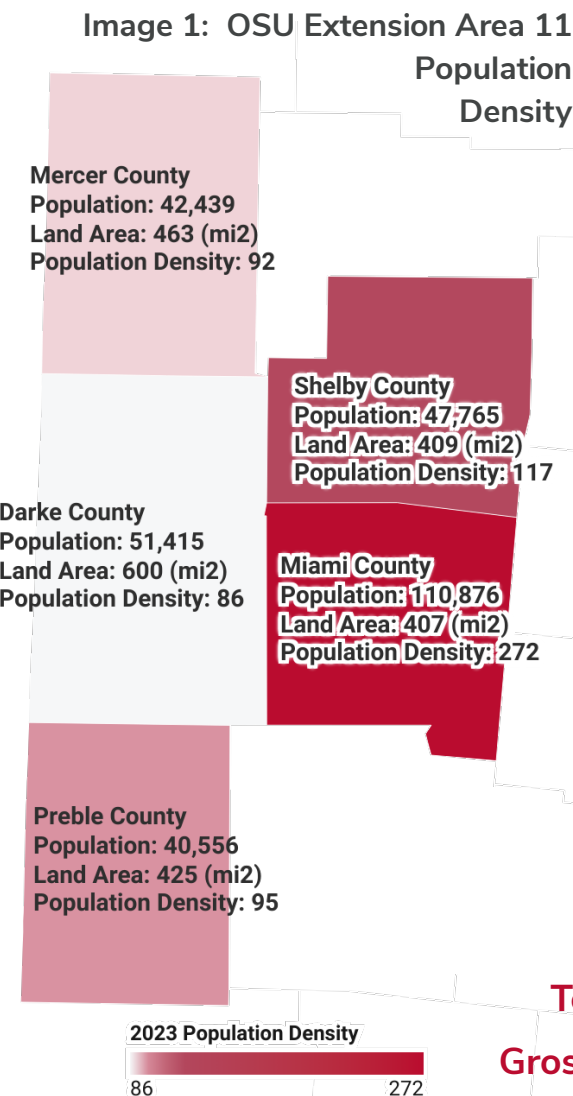
### Regional Overview

OSU Extension Area 11 is a five-county area in the far west part of the state, including Darke, Mercer, Miami, Preble, and Shelby counties. In 2023, the combined Area 11 footprint is 2,304 square miles (mi<sup>2</sup>) supporting a population of 293,051 residents and an overall population density of 127 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, Miami County has the highest population density of 272, followed by Shelby County with a population density of 117, while Darke, Mercer, and Preble counties ranged between 86 and 95 residents per square mile.

Overall, the combined population in Area 11 has increased slightly by 3%, from 284,031 in 2001 to a total population of 293,051 in 2023. However, there were some notable differences in the population trends of individual counties between 2001 and 2023. Miami County experienced the greatest amount of growth as the population increased by 11.6% from 99,351 in 2001 to 110,876 in 2023. In contrast, Mercer County grew by 3.8%, from 40,899 in 2001 to 42,439 in 2023. Darke and Preble Counties experienced a decrease in population of -3.1% and -4.6% respectively, while Shelby County's population reduced by only -9%. Darke's population was 53,078 in 2001, dropping to 51,415 in 2023. Preble County had a population of 42,520 in

2001, dropping to 40,556 in 2023. Shelby County's population dropped by 418 residents from 48,183 in 2001 to 47,765 in 2023.



### Key Stats

**Total of 335 Industries**

**Total Employment of 168,627**

**Gross Domestic Product \$17.5 B**

# 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 11 by total output in 2023. Owner-occupied dwellings came in first with total output at \$1.485 billion. The owner-occupied dwellings sector represents the wealth generated from home ownership. 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.

Truck transportation ranked second with total output of \$1.1 billion, reporting 4635 jobs with an average employee compensation of \$84,226.

Motor vehicle gasoline engine and engine parts manufacturing ranked 3rd in total output with \$988 million, 1,398 jobs and an average employee compensation of \$103,605. This was followed by air conditioning, refrigeration and warm air heating equipment with \$951 million in output, 1,967 jobs and an average employee income of \$105,459. Filling out the top 5 is poultry and egg production with total output of \$818 million, 432 jobs and an average employee compensation of \$124,095.

The sector with the most employees in the region was employment and payroll of local government and education with 7,363 employees. The average employee compensation for these workers rose slightly to \$69,314 in 2023 from \$68,584 in 2022. The average compensation remains below the 2021 level of \$71,798 per year.



**Table 1: Area 11 Top 10 Industries by Total Output**

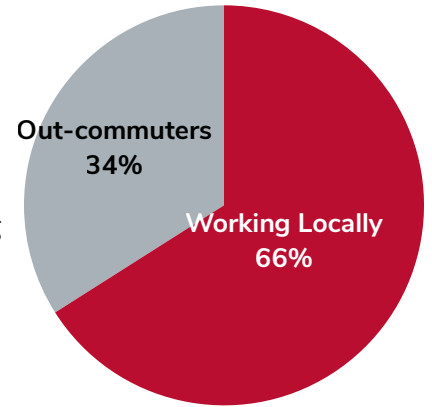
Industry Description	Output	Total Employment	Average Employee Compensation
Owner-occupied housing	\$1,485 M	N/A	N/A
Truck transportation	\$1,080 M	4,635	\$84,226
Motor gasoline engine & engine parts manufacturing	\$988 M	1,398	\$103,605
Air conditioning, refrigeration, & heating equipment Mfg.	\$951 M	1,967	\$105,459
Poultry & egg production	\$818 M	432	\$124,095
Monetary authorities & depository credit intermediation	\$779 M	1,347	\$74,603
Soybean & other oilseed processing	\$772 M	118	\$103,752
Other real estate	\$739 M	5,713	\$42,798
Wholesale - Other durable goods merchant wholesalers	\$648 M	2,020	\$85,448
Other animal food manufacturing	\$634 M	393	\$83,821

# Area 11 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 illustrates the ratio of location of work for county residents. Those who commute out of the county represent 34% of the employed population while 66% of those employed work within the five (5) county area.

Chart 2 provides a visual reference of the Area 11 annual employment trends between 2001 and 2023. As shown in the chart, Area 11 experienced a notable drop in employment between 2008 and 2011 when the U.S. Housing market collapsed leading to global stress on the financial markets and ultimately triggering the U.S. economy into a recession. Another notable decrease occurred between 2019 and 2021. Overall, employment in Area 11 has increased by 8% in the two decades between 2001 and 2023 or from 156,038 jobs in 2001 to 168,627 in 2023. It is expected that the decline of jobs in Area 11 between 2019, 2020 and 2021 was likely due to the COVID 19 pandemic. An upswing in employment

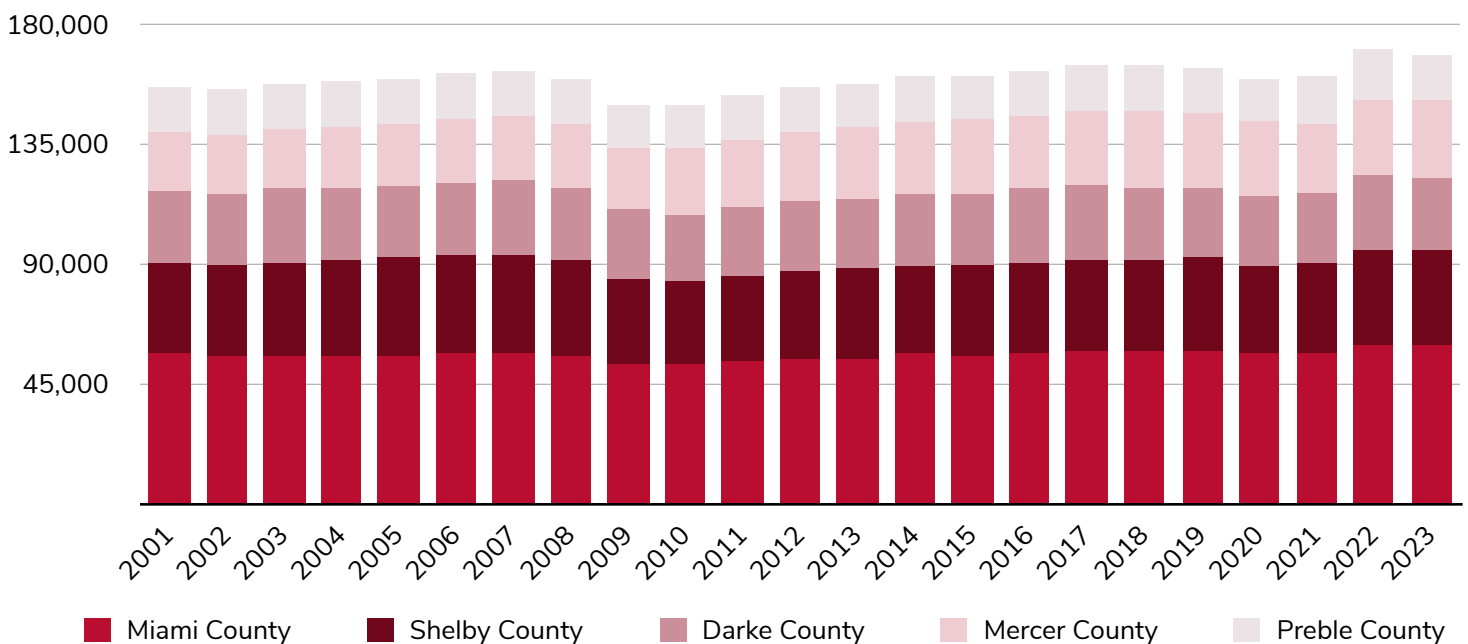
Chart 1: Area 11 Location of Workforce



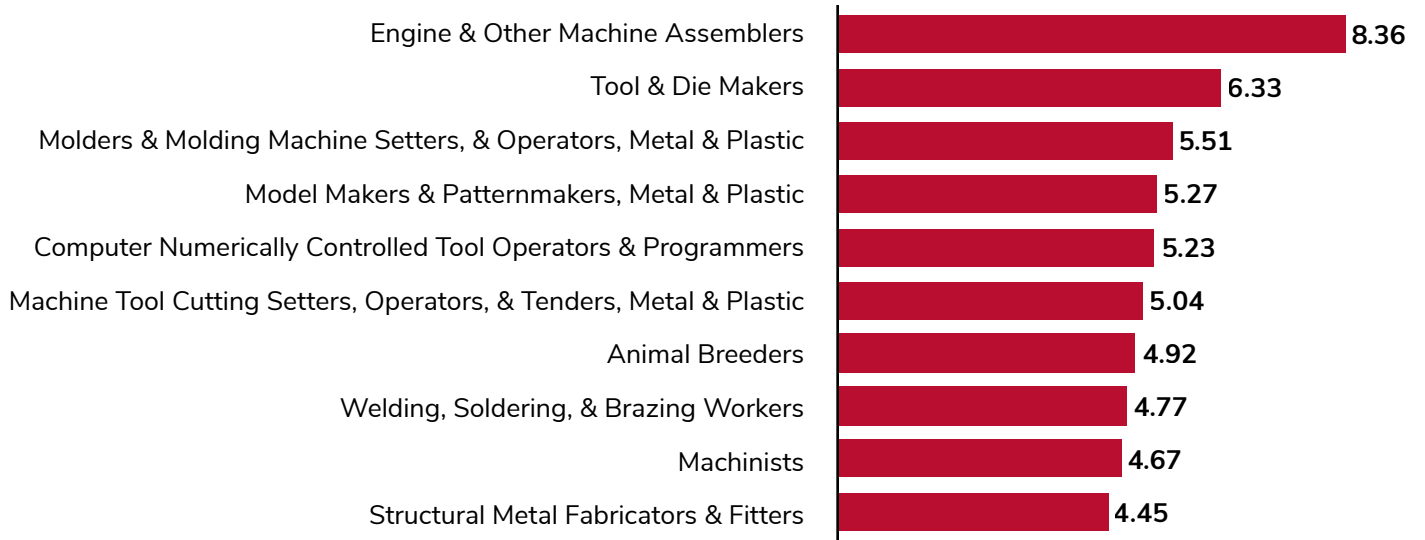
occurred in 2021, adding a total of 10,757 jobs with employment reaching 170,055 in 2022. This upswing was slightly reversed in 2023 as total employment reduced by 1,428 jobs with a jobs total in 2023 of 168,627.

When considering the long-term employment trends by county, Mercer County saw the greatest growth in total employment of 31.1%, increasing from 21,615 in 2001 to 28,348 in 2023. Preble County's total employment increased by 3.5 % between 2001-2023 from 16,918 to 17,515 while Darke, Miami and Shelby County's employment rose by 2%, 6% and 4% respectively. Darke County grew from 27,338 jobs in 2001 to 27,850 in 2023, Miami County from 56,191 jobs to 59,442 and Shelby County from 33,975 jobs to 35,471 in 2023. Most of region's growth occurred between 2020-2022.

Chart 2: Area 11 Annual Employment



**Chart 3: Area 11 Top 10 Occupations by Location Quotient**

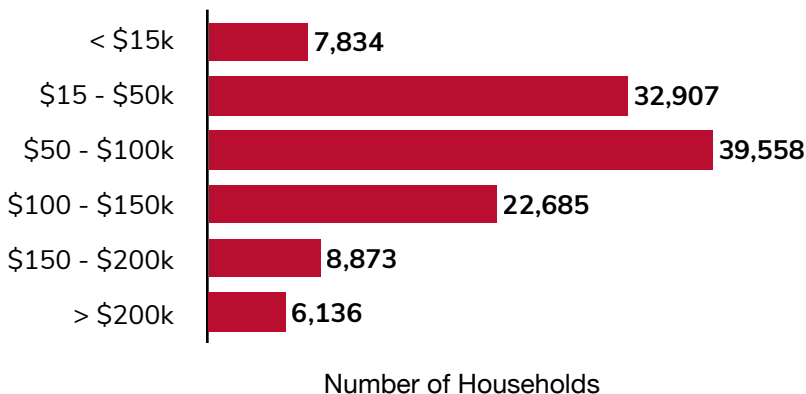


## Occupations by Location Quotient

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 3 lists the top 10 occupations with the highest LQ in Area 11 demonstrating a significant concentration of workers relative to the nation. In 2023, the top occupation by LQ in Area 11 was engine and other machine assemblers with an LQ of 8.36. This suggests the region has almost 8.4 times the number of engine and other machine assemblers compared to the national average. The second highest occupation by LQ in Area 11 tool and die workers with an LQ of 6.33, followed by molders and molding machine setters with an LQ of 5.51, model makers and pattern makers with an LQ of 5.27 and computer numerically controlled tool operators and programmers with an LQ of 5.23.

**Chart 4: Area 11 Households Income**



## Household Income

Illustrated in Chart 4 is the distribution of household income in Area 1. The majority of households earn over \$50,000 / year (65.5%), 6.6% earn under \$15k and the remaining balance of 27.9% earn between \$15k and \$50k.

## Image 2: Average Employee Compensation by County 2023 Data and Dollar Year

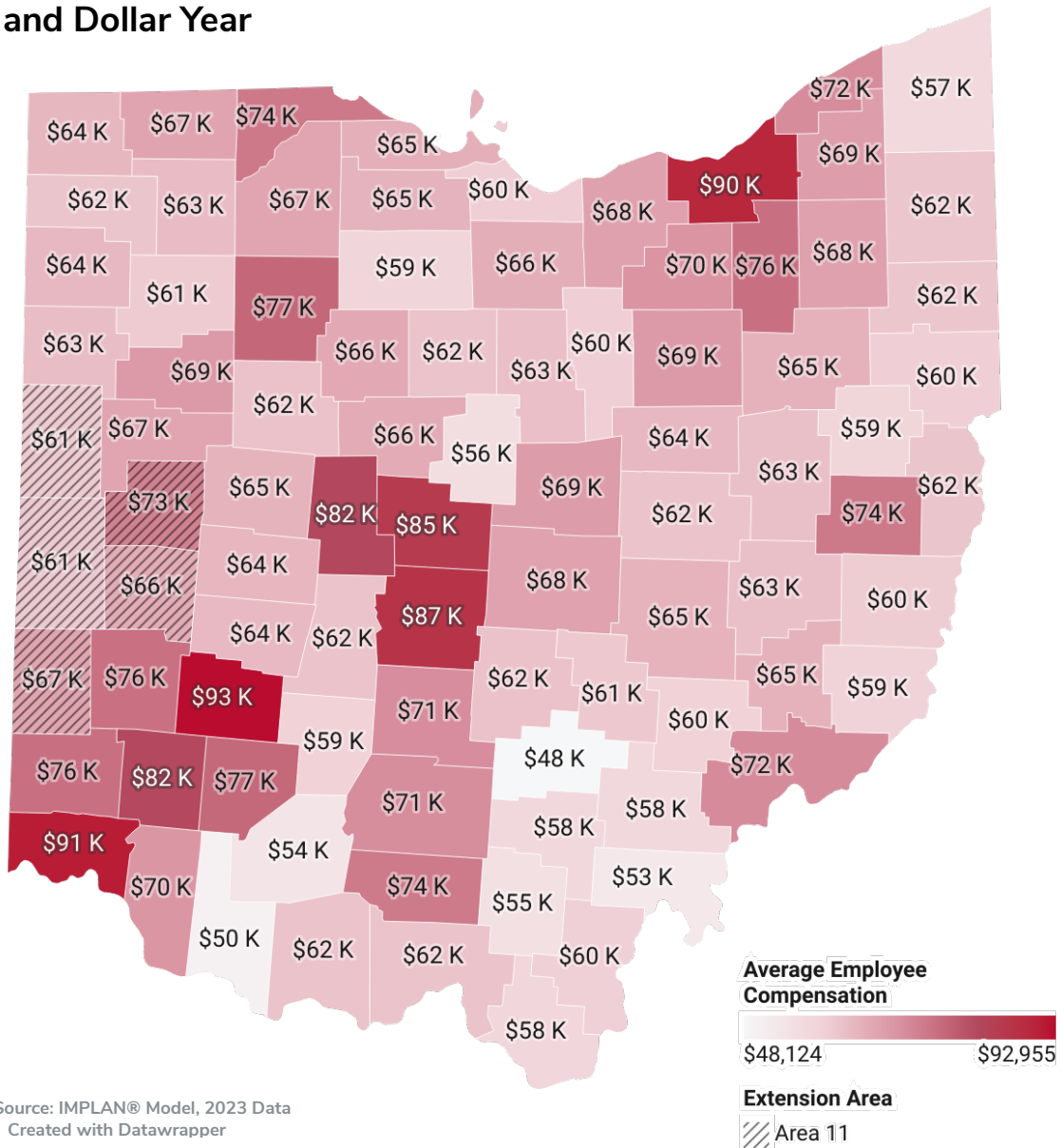


Image 2 illustrates the average employee compensation by county for 2023. Employee Compensation is the total payroll cost of an employee including wages and salaries, all benefits, and payroll taxes. The average employee compensation is calculated as Employee Compensation divided by wage and salary Employment. When comparing counties statewide, Greene County had the highest average employee compensation of \$92,955, while Hocking County posted the lowest county average of \$48,124 in 2023. When combining all Ohio counties, the statewide average employee compensation in 2023 was

\$66,126 per worker which was a 4% increase compared to 2022. Of the counties in Area 11, Shelby County had the highest average employee compensation of \$73,036, ranking 16th highest in Ohio. Preble County ranked 32nd with an average compensation of \$67,241. The rankings of the remaining counties by average employee compensation is as follows: Miami County, 36th with an average compensation of \$66,007; Darke County ranked 66th with an average compensation of \$60,818; Mercer County ranked 67th with an average compensation of \$60,775.



### Modeling Data Source

IMPLAN® model, 2023 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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