

# Extension Area 13: Economic Overview

## Delaware, Morrow, and Knox Counties

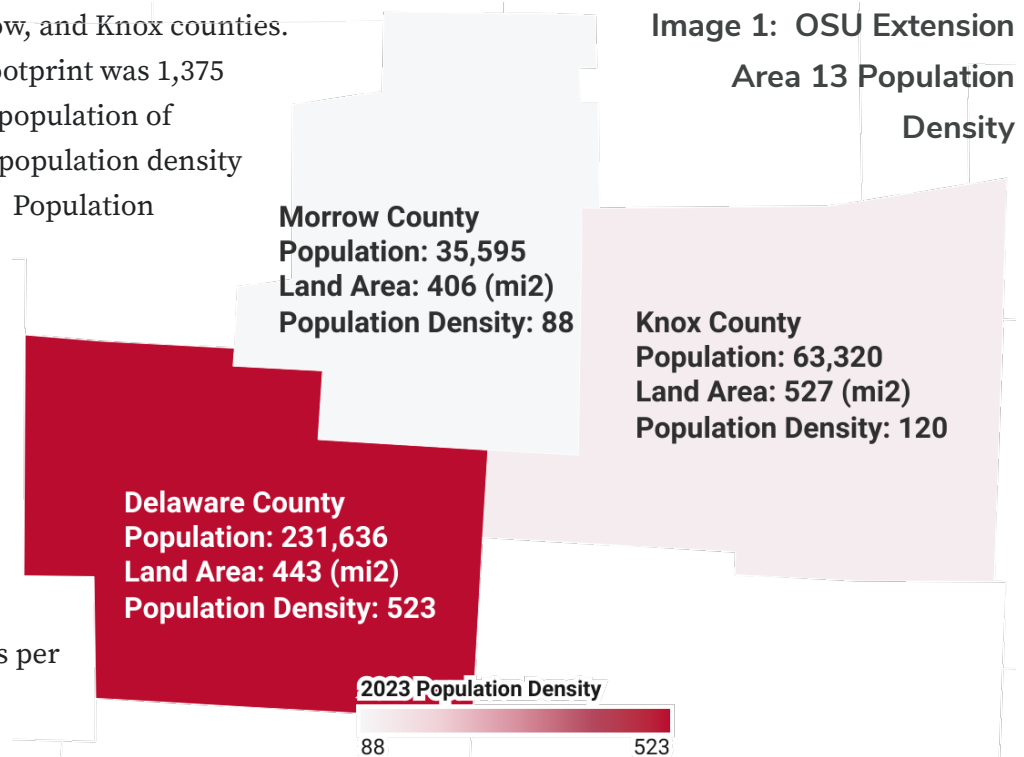
Report prepared January 2025 by Kenzie Johnston and Eric Romich, OSU Extension Community Development

Spring 2025 Edition

### Regional Overview

OSU Extension Area 13 is a three-county area in central Ohio, including Delaware, Morrow, and Knox counties.

In 2023, the combined Area 13 footprint was 1,375 square miles (mi<sup>2</sup>) supporting a population of 330,551 residents and an overall population density of 240 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 523, while Knox County was the second highest at 120, followed by Morrow County with 88 residents per square mile.



Overall, the combined population in Area 13 increased dramatically, growing by 60% from 207,947 in 2001 to a total population of 330,551 in 2023. While all three counties increased in population, Delaware County experienced the greatest amount population growth increasing by 93% from 119,752 in 2001 to 231,636 in 2023. During this period, Knox County also increased in population to a total of 63,320 in 2023, while Morrow County had experienced a boom in population to a total of 35,595 in 2023.

### Key Stats

**Total of 332 Industries**  
**Total Employment of 189,033**  
**Gross Domestic Product of \$21.4 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 13 by total output in 2023. There were no significant changes across top industries in Area 13 from 2022 to 2023. Management of companies and enterprises was the highest ranked industry with a total output of \$3.1 billion, up 13% from 2022 and supporting 11,367 jobs, an increase of 562 jobs, and an average employee compensation of \$164,442, which is up 12% from 2022.

Owner-occupied dwellings had the second greatest total output at \$1.9 billion, up from \$1.7 billion in 2022. 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 20% to a total output of \$1.6 billion, supporting 2,059 jobs, and an average employee compensation of \$115,416 per year.

The fourth highest industry, other real estate, experienced \$1.5 billion in total output, employing 9,411 people with an average compensation of \$81,337. Of the top 10 industries by total output, the industry with the highest average employee compensation was other financial investment activities with 4,423 employees earning an average annual income of \$202,537 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	\$3,164 M	11,367	\$164,442
Owner-occupied housing	\$1,971 M	N/A	N/A
Monetary authorities and depository credit intermediation	\$1,637 M	2,059	\$115,416
Other real estate	\$1,533 M	9,411	\$81,337
Insurance carriers, except direct life	\$1,017 M	1,996	\$121,067
Other financial investment activities	\$847 M	4,423	\$202,537
Limited-service restaurants	\$747 M	6,865	\$27,770
* Employment and payroll of local govt, education	\$733 M	7,652	\$81,279
Scientific research and development services	\$657 M	2,686	\$100,567
Full-service restaurants	\$628 M	6,690	\$31,062

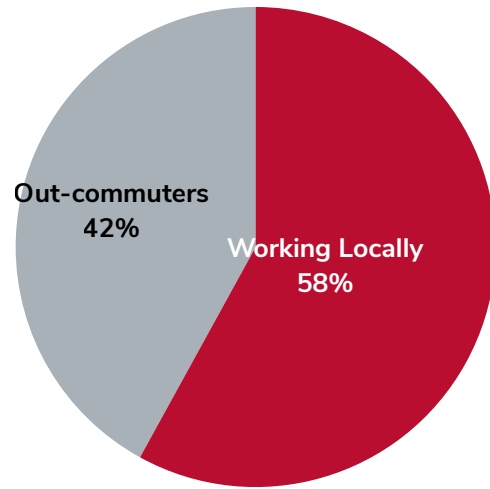
# Area 13 Annual Employment Trends

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).

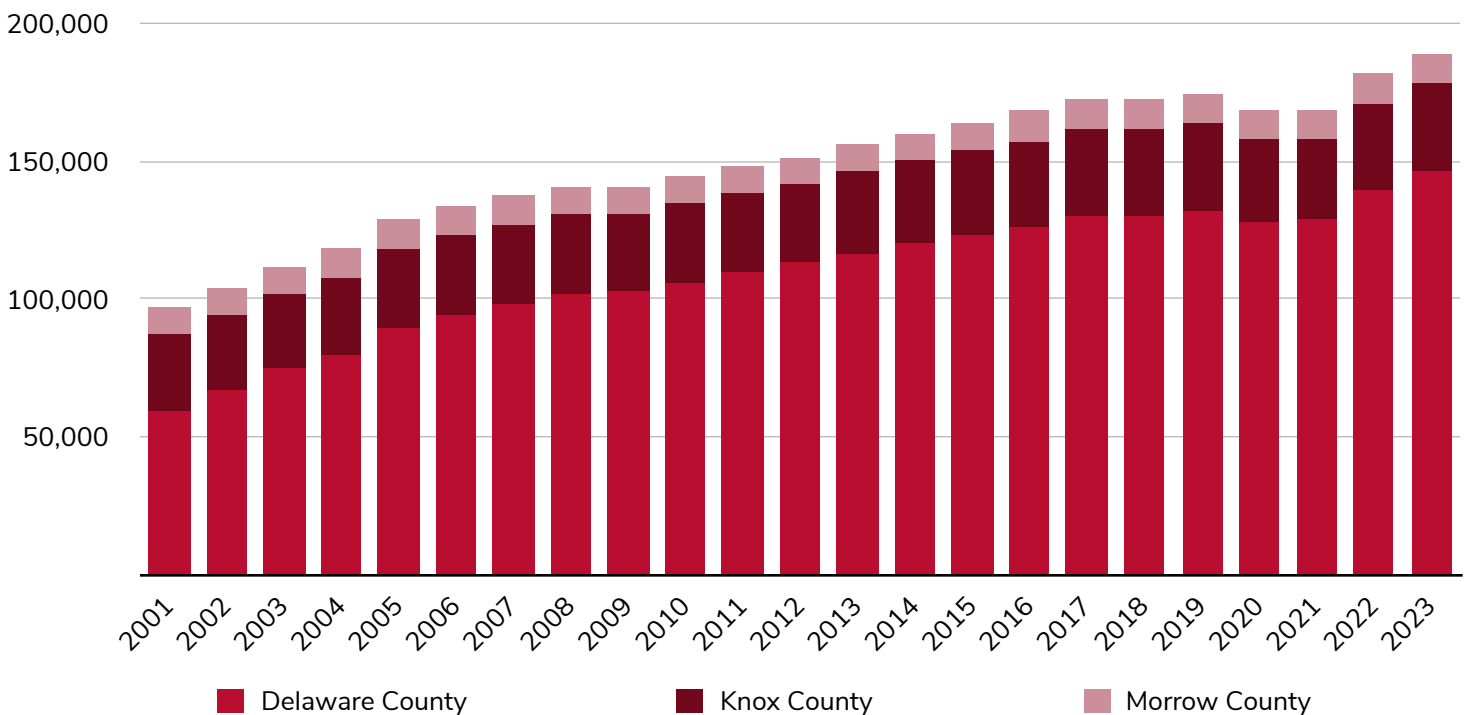
2001 to 31,754 in 2023, while during the same period (2001–2023) Morrow County experienced a 8% increase to 10,955 jobs in 2023.

Chart 1 provides a visual reference of the Area 13 annual employment trends between 2001 and 2023. As shown in the chart, Area 13 experienced significant growth as total employment has increased 95% from 97,039 in 2001 to 189,033 in 2023. When considering the long-term employment trends by county, Delaware County saw the greatest growth as total employment more than doubled between 2001 and 2023. Specifically, Delaware County experienced a 145% increase in jobs from 59,710 in 2001 to 146,323 in 2023. While not as dramatic, Knox County total employment also increased, growing by 17%, from 27,194 jobs in

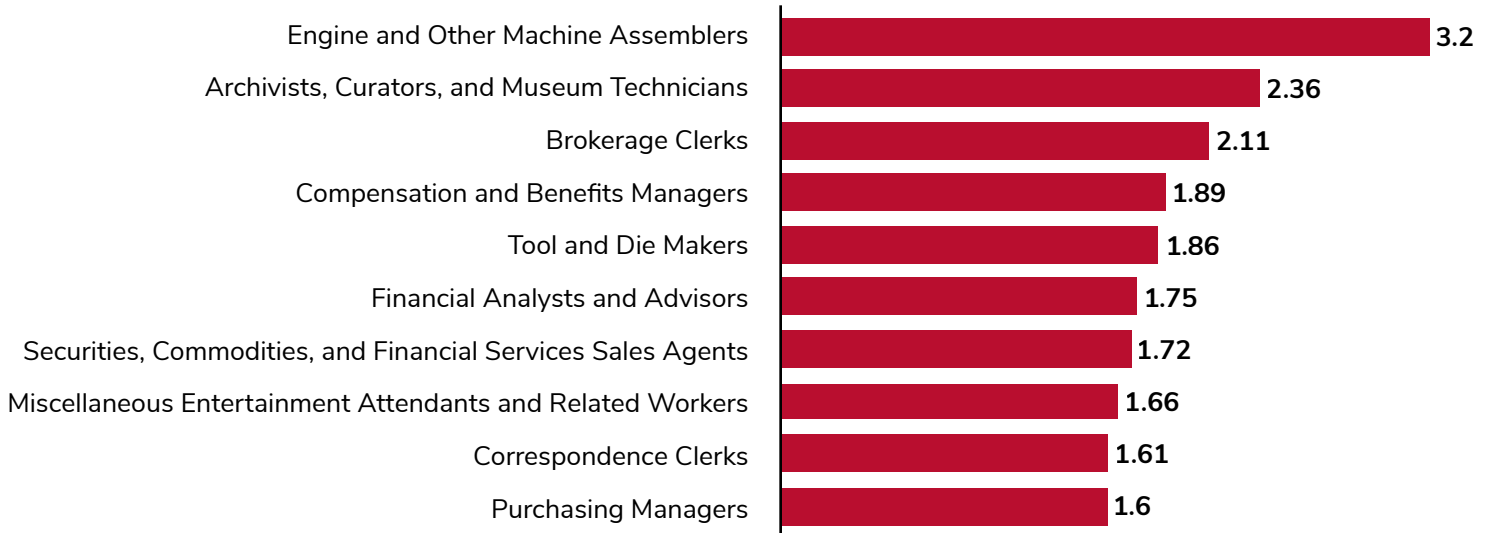
**Chart 1: Area 13 Location of Workforce**



**Chart 2: Area 13 Annual Employment**



**Chart 3: Area 13 Top 10 Occupations by Location Quotient**

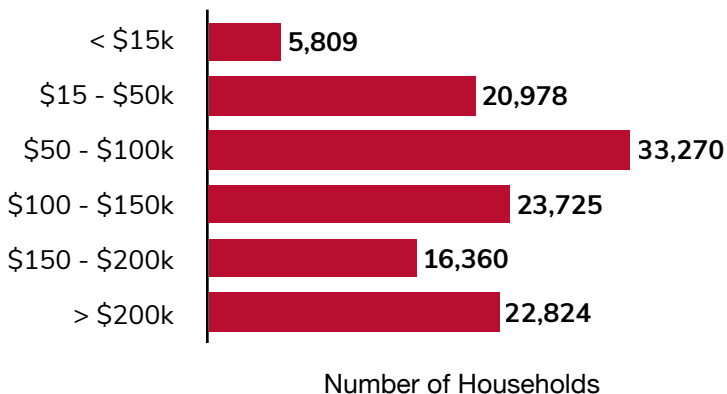


## Occupations by Location Quotient

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 2 lists the top 10 occupations with the highest LQ in Area 13 demonstrating a significant concentration of workers relative to the nation. In 2023, the top occupation by LQ in Area 13 was engine and other machine assemblers with an LQ of 3.2. This suggests the region has nearly 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 archivists, curators, and museum technicians at 2.36, followed by brokerage clerks with an LQ of 2.11, and compensation and benefits managers with 1.89.

**Chart 4: Area 13 Households Income**



## Household Income

Area 13 shows the largest of their population with a household income falling between \$50,000 - \$100,000 with 33,270 households falling into this range. There are 5,809 households that earn less than \$15,000 per year and 22,824 households that earn more than \$200,000.

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

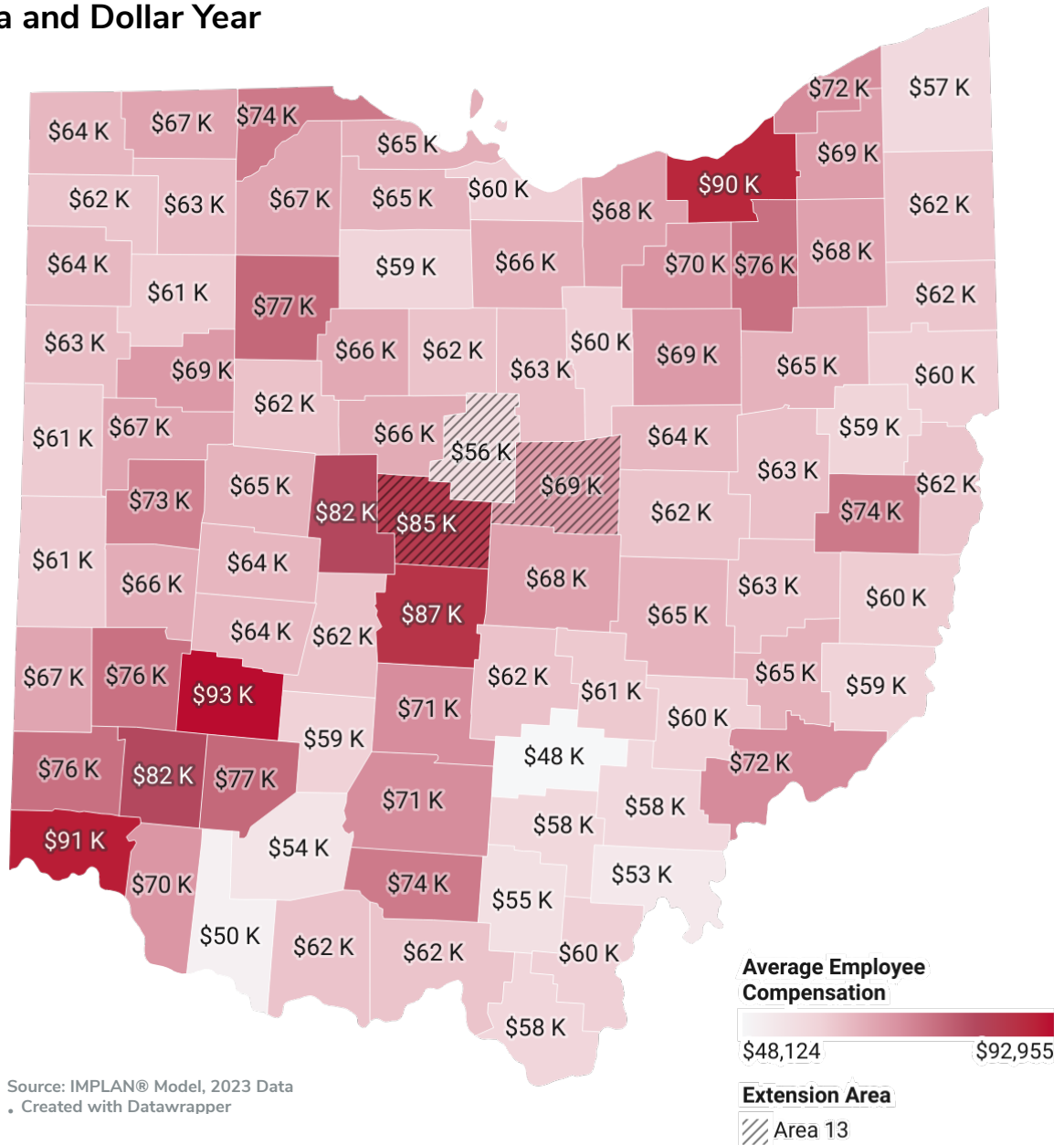


Image 2 illustrates the average employee compensation by county for 2023. Employee Compensation is the total payroll cost of an employee including wages and salaries, all benefits, and payroll taxes. The average employee compensation is calculated as Employee Compensation divided by wage and salary Employment. When comparing counties statewide, Hamilton County had the highest average employee compensation of \$92,955, while Brown 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. Of the counties in Area 13, Delaware County had the highest average employee compensation of \$85,329, ranking 6th highest in Ohio. The next highest average employee compensation in Area 13 was Knox County at \$68,828, followed by Morrow County with an average employee compensation of \$56,006 in 2022.



### 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).

### OSU Extension IMPLAN Team

Eric Romich, Professor, OSU Extension, Field Specialist. Email: [romich.2@osu.edu](mailto:romich.2@osu.edu)

Nancy Bowen-Ellzey, Associate Professor, OSU Extension, Field Specialist. Email: [bowen-ellzey.1@osu.edu](mailto:bowen-ellzey.1@osu.edu)

Joe Lucente, Associate Professor, OSU Extension, Community Development and Ohio Sea Grant College Program. Email: [lucente.6@osu.edu](mailto:lucente.6@osu.edu)

Amanda Osborne, Extension Educator, OSU Extension Community Development, Cuyahoga County. Email: [osborne.414@osu.edu](mailto:osborne.414@osu.edu)

Kenzie Johnston, Extension Educator, OSU Extension Community Development, Delaware County. Email: [johnston.589@osu.edu](mailto:johnston.589@osu.edu)

Kyle White, Extension Educator, OSU Extension Community Development, Medina County. Email: [white.2811@osu.edu](mailto:white.2811@osu.edu)

Jerold Thomas, Extension Educator, OSU Extension Community Development. Email: [thomas.69@osu.edu](mailto:thomas.69@osu.edu)

### OSU Extension Community Development Mission:

We help communities enhance their well-being and create social, economic and environmental conditions in which they can thrive.

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information, visit [cfaesdiversity.osu.edu](http://cfaesdiversity.osu.edu). For an accessible format of this publication, visit [cfaes.osu.edu/accessibility](http://cfaes.osu.edu/accessibility).