

Extension Area 16: Economic Overview

Clinton, Fayette, Pickaway, and Ross Counties

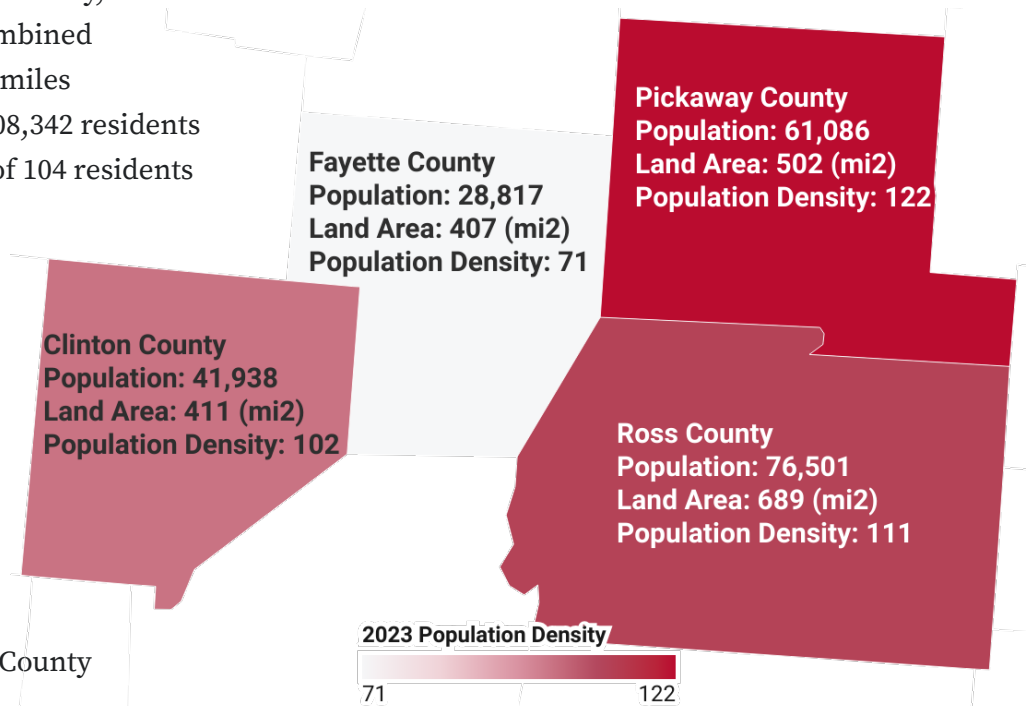
Report prepared January 2025 by Kenzie Johnston and Eric Romich, OSU Extension Community Development

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Regional Overview

OSU Extension Area 16 is a four-county area in southcentral Ohio, including Clinton, Fayette, Pickaway, and Ross counties. In 2023, the combined Area 16 footprint was 2,008 square miles (mi²) supporting a population of 208,342 residents and an overall population density of 104 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, Pickaway County had the highest population density of 122, while Ross County was the second highest at 111, followed by Clinton County at 102, and Fayette County with 71 residents per square mile.

Image 1: OSU Extension Area 16 Population Density



Overall, the combined population in Area 16 increased slightly between 2001 and 2023, growing by 6% from a total population of 196,275 to 208,342 in 2023. While all four counties increased in population, Pickaway County experienced the greatest amount population growth increasing by 15% from 52,986 in 2001 to 61,086 in 2023. During this period, Ross County also increased in population by 3% to a total of 76,501 in 2023, while Clinton County had growth of 2% to 41,938 and Fayette County population increased by 2% to a total of 28,817.

Key Stats

Total of 273 Industries
Total Employment of 103,173
Gross Domestic Product \$11.2 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 16 by total output in 2023. Heavy-duty truck manufacturing was the highest ranked industry with a total output of \$1.2 billion, supporting 1,291 jobs, and an average employee compensation of \$99,090. However, when comparing 2022 to 2023, the data shows the heavy-duty truck manufacturing industry experienced a slight decrease in total output.

Owner-occupied housing had the second greatest total output at \$1 billion. The owner-occupied housing sector represents the wealth generated

from home ownership. Owning and maintaining a home is also a major area of spending and the owner-occupied housing 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 16 was paper mills with a total output of \$789 million, supporting 971 jobs, and an average employee compensation of \$105,869 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 5,073 employees. The average annual income for these workers was \$72,096 per year.



Table 1: Area 16 Top 10 Industries by Total Output

Industry Description	Output	Total Employment	Average Employee Compensation
Heavy duty truck manufacturing	\$1,209 M	1,291	\$99,090
Owner-occupied housing	\$1,001 M	N/A	N/A
Paper mills	\$790 M	971	\$105,869
Air transportation	\$681 M	1,261	\$183,003
Hospitals	\$578 M	2,809	\$94,781
Other motor vehicle parts manufacturing	\$572 M	1,111	\$77,229
Monetary authorities and depository credit intermediation	\$486 M	855	\$70,515
Warehousing and storage	\$457 M	4,431	\$66,493
Limited-service restaurants	\$442 M	4,117	\$23,884
Employment and payroll of local govt, education	\$431 M	5,073	\$72,096

Area 16 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 16 annual employment trends between 2001 and 2023. As shown in the chart, Area 16 experienced consistent growth between 2001 and 2008 when the U.S. housing market collapsed, stressing global financial markets and ultimately triggering the U.S. economy into a period of recession. Since 2010 annual employment in Area 16 increased by 13% reaching a total employment of 103,173 jobs in 2023.

When considering the long-term employment trends by county, Ross County saw the greatest growth in total employment of 10%, increasing from 35,449 in 2001 to 38,850 in 2023.

Pickaway County experienced an 8% increase in employment from 2001 to 2023 with 24,484 jobs while Clinton County underwent the greatest decline of -19% from 31,182 jobs in 2001 to 25,270 jobs in 2023. Fayette County has experienced just a 2% increase during the same time jumping from 14,286 jobs to 14,567 jobs.

Chart 1: Area 16 Location of Workforce

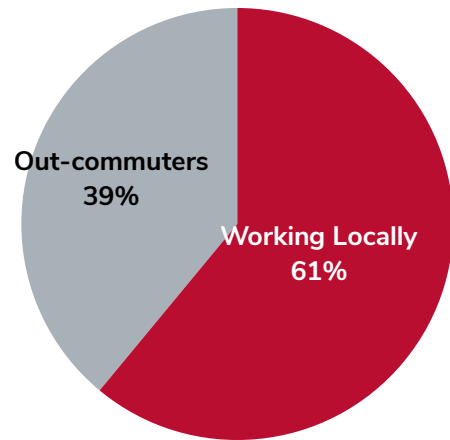


Chart 2: Area 16 Annual Employment

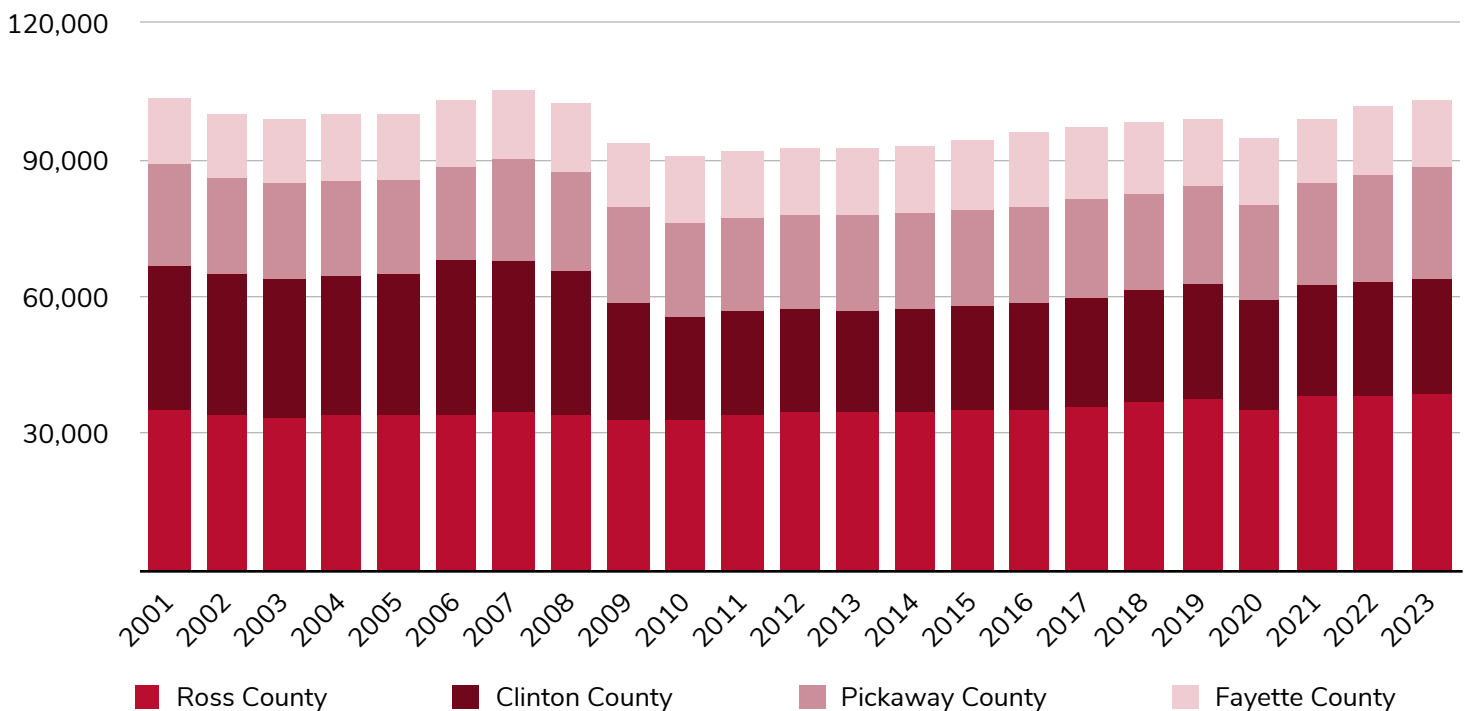
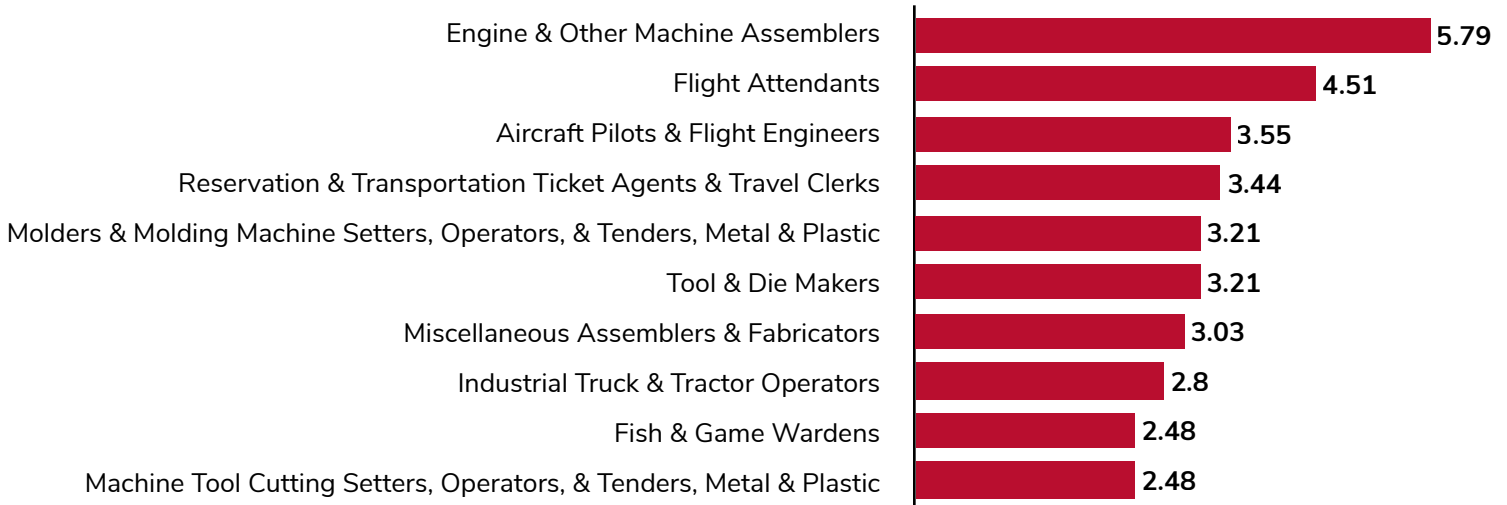


Chart 3: Area 16 Top 10 Occupations by Location Quotient

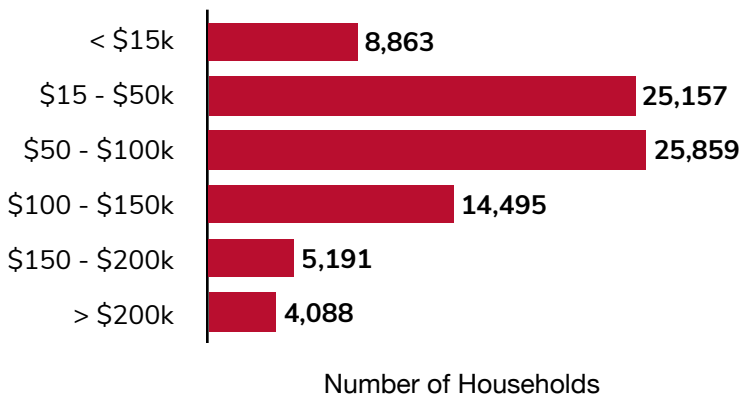


Occupations by Location Quotient

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 16 demonstrating a significant concentration of workers relative to the nation. In 2023, the top occupation by LQ in Area 16 was engine and other machine assemblers, with an LQ of 5.79. This suggests the region has more than five times the number of engine and other machine assembler workers compared to the national average. The second highest occupation by LQ in Area 16 was flight attendants at 4.51, followed by aircraft pilots and flight engineers with an LQ of 3.55, reservation and transportation ticket agents and travel clerks came in at 3.44.

Chart 4: Area 16 Households Income



Household Income

In Area 16, there are 8,863 households with an income of less than \$15,000 per year. 25,859 households earn an income between \$50,000-\$100,000 per year. There are 4,088 households with an income greater than \$200,000 per year.



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.

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