

# Extension Area 21: Economic Overview

## Butler and Hamilton Counties

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

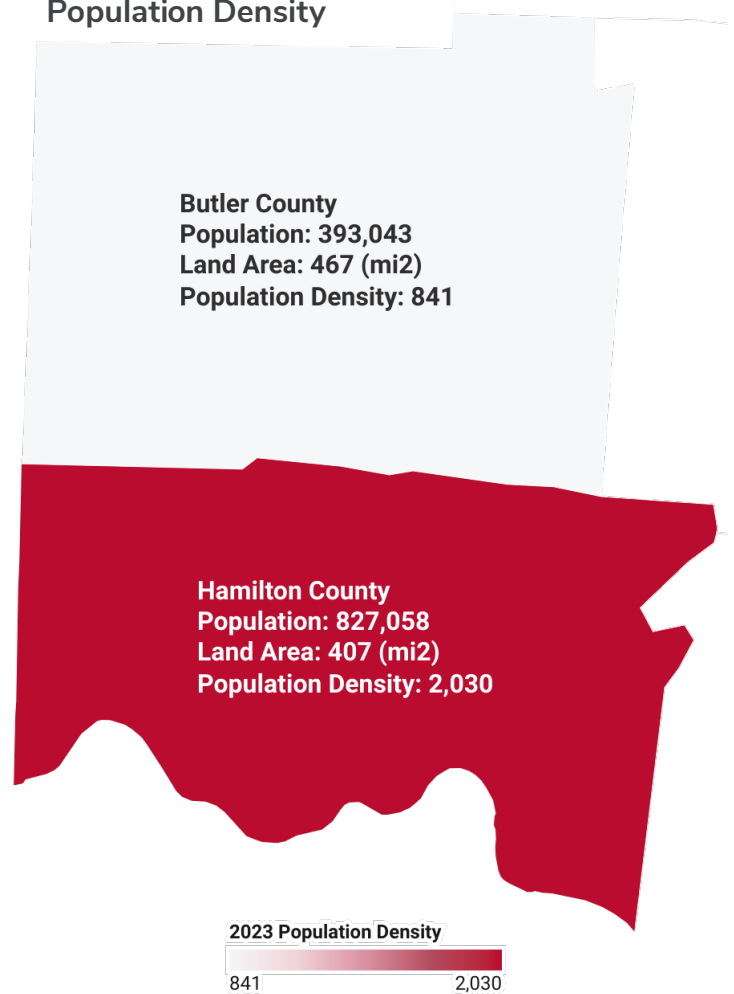
Spring 2025 Edition

### Regional Overview

OSU Extension Area 21 is a two-county area in the south-west part of the state, including Butler and Hamilton counties. In 2022, the combined Area 21 footprint is 875 square miles (mi<sup>2</sup>) supporting a population of 1,220,101 residents and an overall population density of 1,394 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, Hamilton County has the highest population density of 2,030 followed by Butler County with a population density of 841 residents per square mile.

Overall, the combined population in Area 21 has remained consistent increasing slightly by 3.6% from 1,177,014 in 2001 to a total population of 1,220,101 in 2023. However, there were some notable shifts in the population trends of individual counties between 2001 and 2023. Butler County experienced the greatest amount of growth as the population increased by 16.7% from 336,679 in 2001 to 393,043 in 2023. During this period, Hamilton County underwent a population decrease of -1.8% to a total of 827,058 in 2023.

Image 1: OSU Extension Area 21  
Population Density



#### Key Stats

**Total of 426 Industries**  
**Total Employment of 925,863**  
**Gross Domestic Product \$128.6 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 21 by total output in 2023. Monetary authorities and depository credit intermediation was the highest ranked industry with a total output of \$12.5 billion, supporting 14,366 jobs, and an average employee compensation of \$120,116. When comparing 2023 to 2022, the data shows the monetary authorities and depository credit intermediation industry experienced an increase of 7.5% in total output, jobs are up 6% in this sector adding 813 and the average employee compensation has increased nearly \$14,317, which is up 13.5%.

The second highest industry by total output was the hospitals industry with total output of \$8.8 billion, supporting 43,638 jobs, and an average employee compensation of \$93,183 per year. Of the top 10 industries by total output, the sector with the most employees in the region was again hospitals with 43,638 jobs in the area.

The industry with the third highest total output in Area 21 was insurance carriers, except direct life with a total output of \$8.6 billion, supporting 14,761 jobs, and an average employee compensation of \$121,165 per year.



**Table 1: Area 21 Top 10 Industries by Total Output**

Industry Description	Output	Total Employment	Average Employee Compensation
Monetary authorities and depository credit intermediation	\$12,536 M	14,366	\$120,116
Hospitals	\$8,872 M	43,638.69	\$93,183.05
Insurance carriers, except direct life	\$8,687 M	14,761	\$121,165
Management of companies and enterprises	\$8,258 M	30,069	\$164,615
Aircraft engine and engine parts manufacturing	\$7,041 M	10,021	\$175,723
Owner-occupied housing	\$6,679 M	N/A	N/A
Other real estate	\$6,637 M	32,638	\$90,022
Soap and other detergent manufacturing	\$6,069 M	2,779	\$354,990
Scientific research and development services	\$4,180 M	14,981	\$117,537
Wholesale - Other durable goods merchant wholesalers	\$3,428 M	10,148	\$93,905

# Area 21 Annual Employment Trends

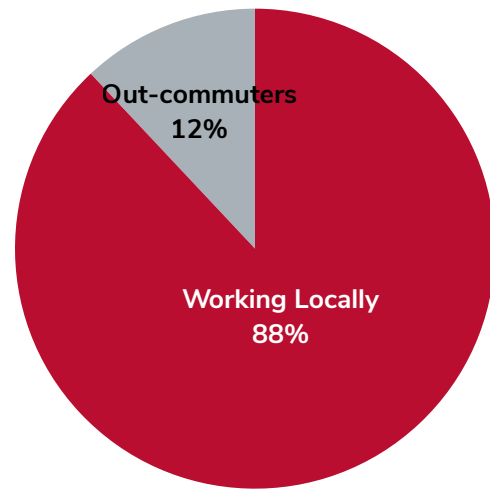
The Total Employment figure reported by IMPLAN represents a full and part-time annual average including the self-employed, all federal, state, and local government employment and military employment (including overseas military).

Chart 1 provides a visual reference of the Area 21 annual employment trends between 2001 and 2023. As shown in the chart, Area 21 experienced consistent growth between 2002 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 2011 annual employment in Area 21 increased by 11.9% reaching a peak employment of 893,967 jobs in 2022. However, between 2021 and 2022 Area 21 experienced positive year to year job growth, gaining 51,794 jobs, leaving an annual employment of 893,967 in 2022. Calendar year 2023 is the year that heavily surpassed those numbers though, as

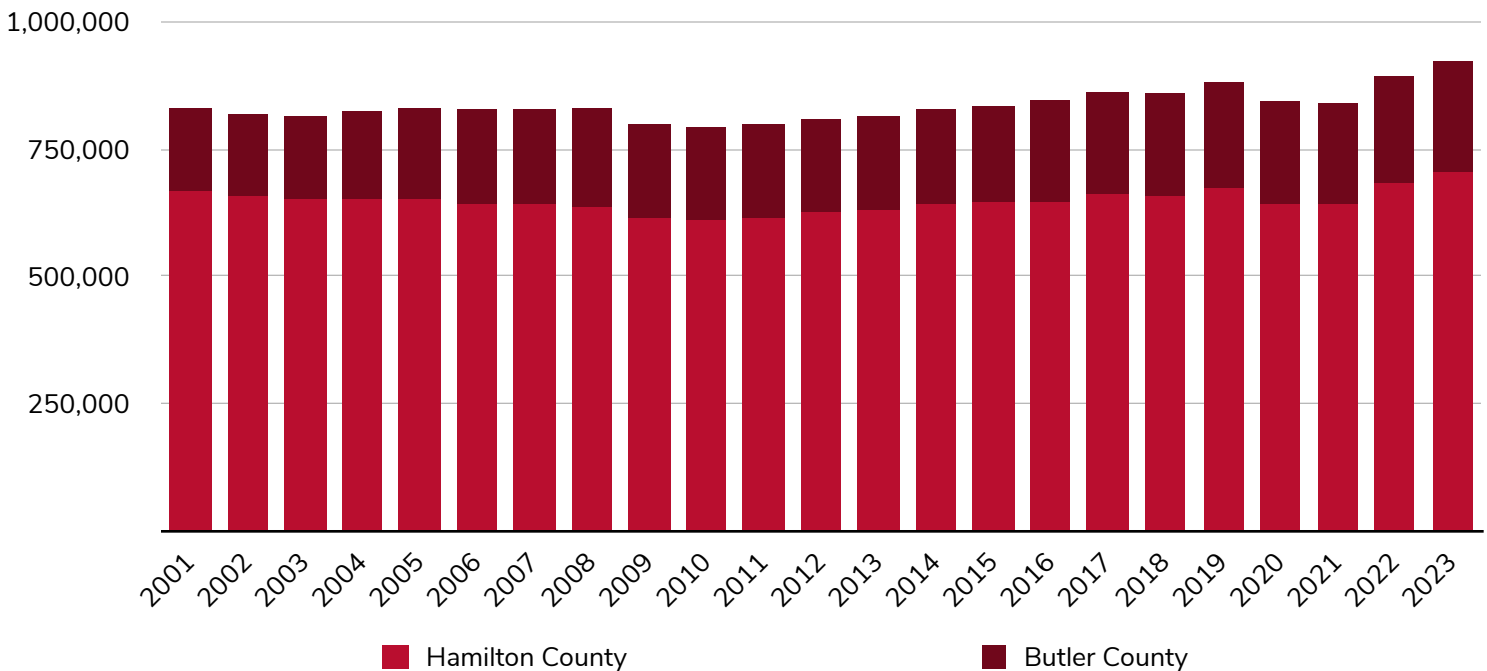
there are now 925,863 jobs in the area. This is an increase of nearly 35%.

When considering the long-term employment trends by county, Butler County saw the greatest growth in total employment of 37.2%, increasing from 162,995 in 2001 to 223,680 in 2023. Hamilton County total employment increased by 5%, from 667,030 jobs in 2001 to 702,183 in 2023.

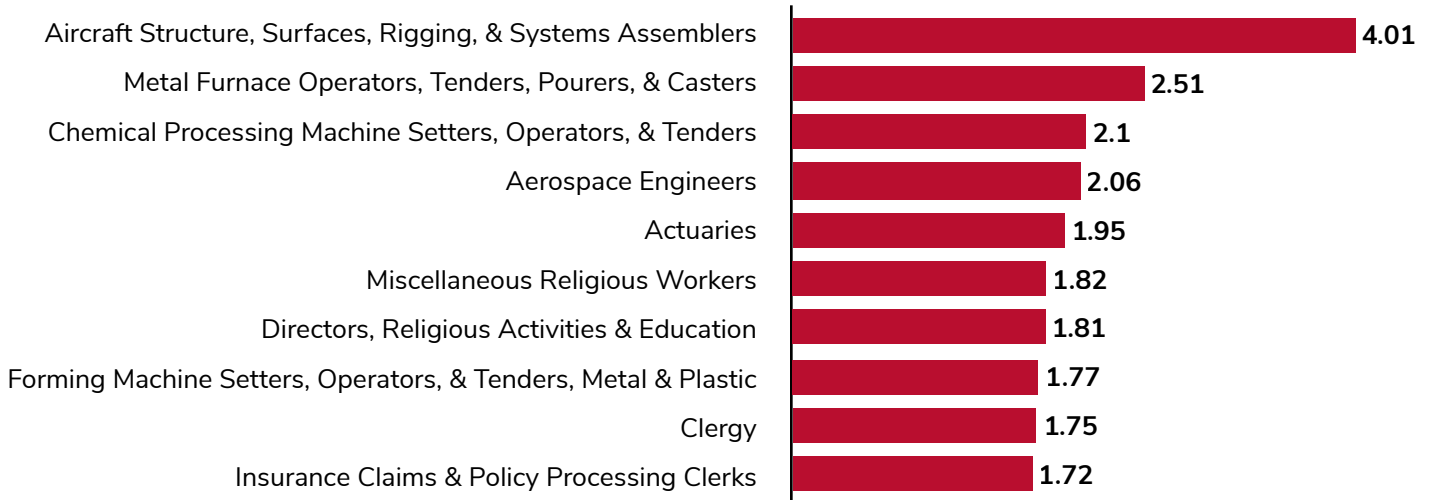
**Chart 1: Area 21 Location of Workforce**



**Chart 2: Area 21 Annual Employment**



**Chart 3: Area 21 Top 10 Occupations by Location Quotient**

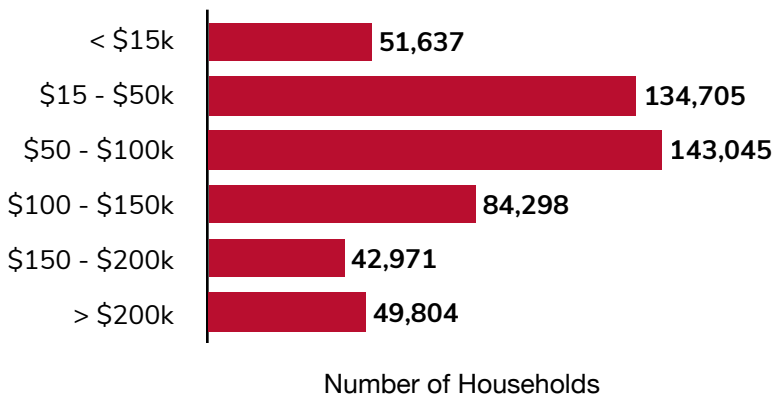


## Occupations by Location Quotient

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 21 demonstrating a significant concentration of workers relative to the nation. In 2023, the top occupation by LQ in Area 21 was aircraft structure, surfaces, rigging, and systems assemblers, with an LQ of 4.01. This suggests the region has nearly four times the number of aircraft assemblers compared to the national average. The second highest occupation by LQ in Area 21 was metal furnace operators, tenders, pourers and caster workers at 2.51, followed by chemical processing machine setters, operators, and tenders with an LQ of 2.1, aerospace engineers with an LQ 2.06, and actuaries with an LQ of 1.95.

**Chart 4: Area 21 Households Income**



## Household Income

In Area 21, much of the population earns a household income falling between the range of \$50,000 - \$100,000 with 143,045 households. There are 134,705 households earning an income between \$15,000 - \$50,000. 51,637 households earn less than \$15,000 per year, while 49,804 households earn more than \$200,000.





### 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)

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