

Extension Area 23: Economic Overview

Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, and Scioto Counties

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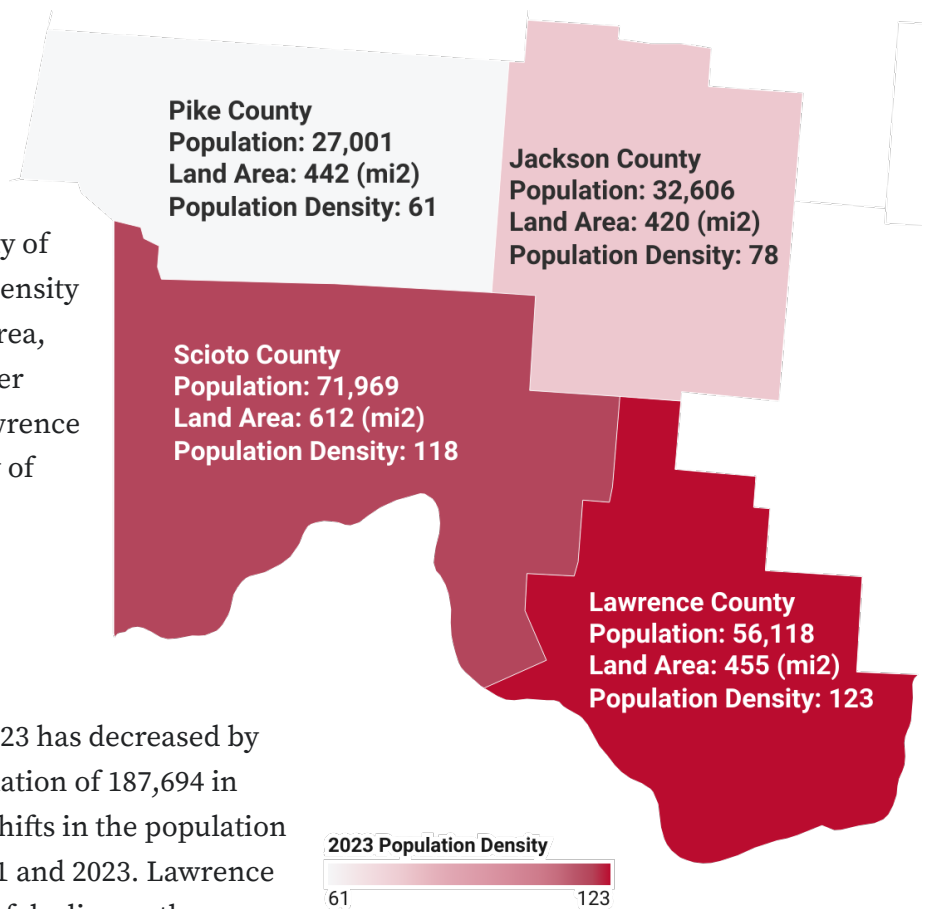
Spring 2025 Edition

Regional Overview

OSU Extension Area 23 is a four-county area in the southern part of the state, including Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, and Scioto counties. In 2023, the combined Area 23 footprint is 1,930 square miles (mi²) supporting a population of 187,694 residents and an overall population density of 97 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, Lawrence County has the highest population density of 123, followed by Scioto County with a population density of 118, while Pike and Jackson counties ranged between 61 to 78 residents per square mile.

Overall, the combined population in Area 23 has decreased by -6.6% from 200,953 in 2001 to a total population of 187,694 in 2023. However, there were some notable shifts in the population trends of individual counties between 2001 and 2023. Lawrence County experienced the greatest amount of decline as the population decreased by -9.5% from 62,009 in 2001 to 56,118 in 2023. During this period, Scioto County also underwent a population decrease of -8.2% to a total of 71,969 in 2023. Between 2001 and 2023 there were additional population reductions in Pike County (-3.0%) with 27,005 residents and Jackson County (-0.2%) with 32,586 residents in 2023.

Image 1: OSU Extension Area 23
Population Density



Key Stats

- Total of 259 Industries**
- Total Employment of 80,485**
- Gross Domestic Product \$7.8 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 23 by total output in 2023. The industry with the highest total output in Area 23 was waste management and remediation services with a total output of \$893 million, supporting 2,335 jobs and an average employee compensation of \$117,279 per year. When comparing 2023 to 2022, the data shows the waste management and remediation services industry experienced a 7.8% increase in total output.

The industry with the second highest total output in Area 23 was owner-occupied dwellings with a total output of \$802 million. 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 are captured in the other real estate sector.

The industry with the third highest total output in Area 23 was frozen specialties manufacturing with a total output of \$623 million, supporting 1,657 jobs, and an average employee compensation of \$56,307.

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 5,296 employees. The average annual income for these workers was \$68,511 per year.



Table 1: Area 23 Top 10 Industries by Total Output

Industry Description	Output	Total Employment	Average Employee Compensation
Waste management and remediation services	\$893 M	2,335	\$117,279
Owner-occupied housing	\$802 M	N/A	N/A
Frozen specialties manufacturing	\$623 M	1,657	\$56,307
Hospitals	\$486 M	2,436	\$90,082
Monetary authorities and depository credit intermediation	\$431 M	810	\$64,167
* Employment and payroll of local govt, education	\$428 M	5,296	\$68,511
Limited-service restaurants	\$366 M	3,621	\$22,791
Outpatient care centers	\$311 M	2,292	\$67,822
Major household appliance manufacturing	\$257 M	401	\$82,256
Truck transportation	\$238 M	1,086	\$74,964

Area 23 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 2 provides a visual reference of the Area 23 annual employment trends between 2001 and 2023. As shown in the chart, Area 23 experienced modest growth between 2001 and 2007 when the U.S. housing market collapsed, stressing global financial markets, and ultimately triggering the U.S. economy into a period of recession. Since 2001 annual employment in Area 23 increased by 1.3% reaching a peak employment of 80,999 jobs in 2006. Between 2022 and 2023 Area 23 experienced a year-to-year job increase, gaining 825 jobs for a total employment of 80, 485. As noted in Chart 1, in 2023 65% of the workforce was local, while 35% were out-commuters

When considering the long-term employment trends by county, Pike County saw the greatest decline in total employment of -1.4%, decreasing from 14,168 in 2001 to 13,971 in 2023. As noted in Chart 1, in 2023 65 % of the workforce was local, while 35% were out-commuters. During the same period (2001–2023), Scioto (-0.7%) and Jackson (-0.6%) counties also experienced a slight decline in total employment. Lawrence County was the only county in Area 23 to see an increase in total employment since 2001 (8.2%) with 19,794 in jobs 2023.

Chart 1: Area 23 Location of Workforce

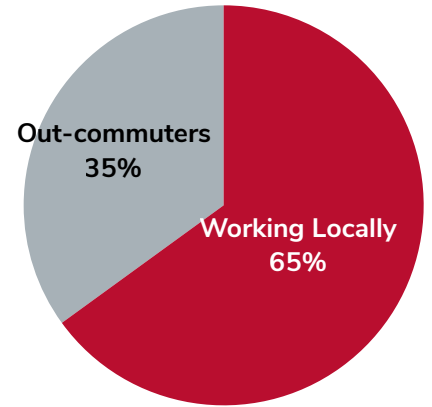


Chart 2: Area 23 Annual Employment

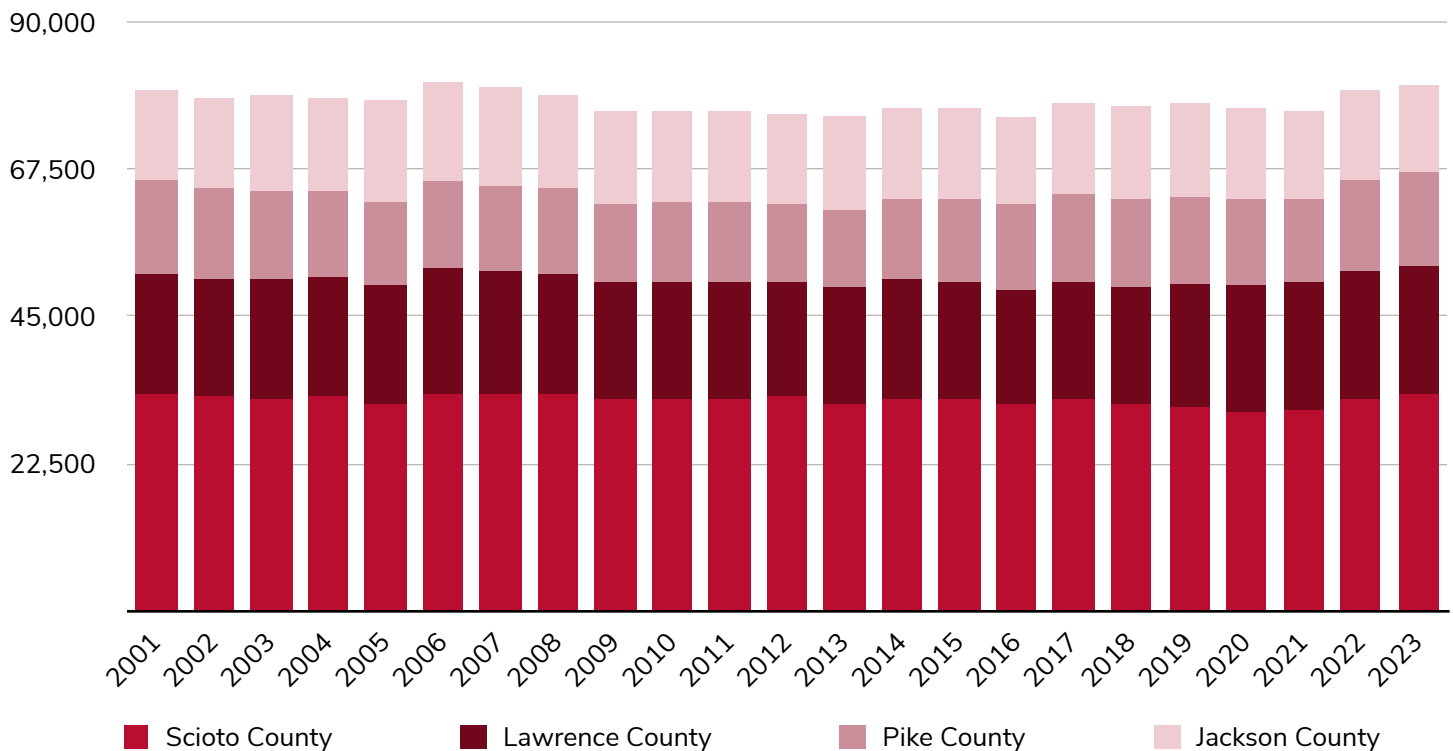
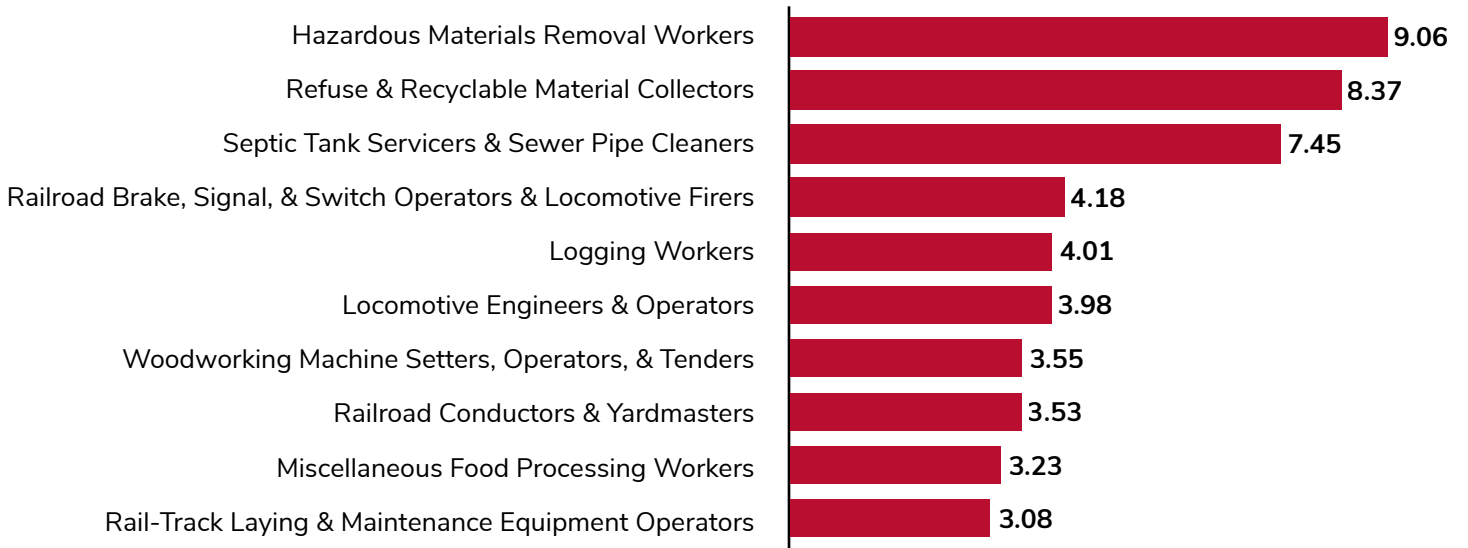


Chart 3: Area 23 Top 10 Occupations by Location Quotient

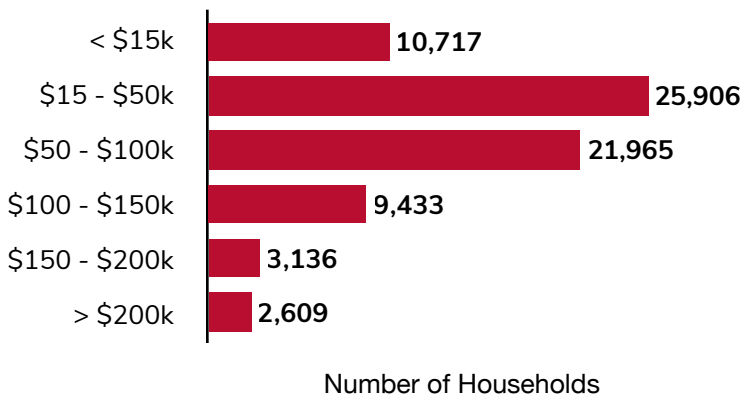


Occupations by Location Quotient

A location quotient (LQ) is a metric that compares the relative concentration of a local region’s 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 23 demonstrating a significant concentration of workers relative to the nation. In 2023, the top occupation by LQ in Area 23 was hazardous materials removal workers with an LQ of 9.06. This suggests the region has more than nine times the number of hazardous materials removal workers compared to the national average. The second highest occupation by LQ in Area 23 was refuse and recyclable material collectors at 8.37, followed by septic tank servicers and sewer pipe cleaners with an LQ of 7.45, and railroad break, signal, and switch operators and locomotive firers at 4.18.

Chart 4: Area 23 Households Income



Household Income

Area 23, had 73,767 households in 2023. Illustrated in Chart 4, the majority of the 73,767 households had a household income of \$15k-\$50k (30%) or \$50k-\$100k (35%). In 2023, there were 2,609 households (4%) with an income of over \$200k and 10,717 households (15%) with an income of less than \$15k per year.

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

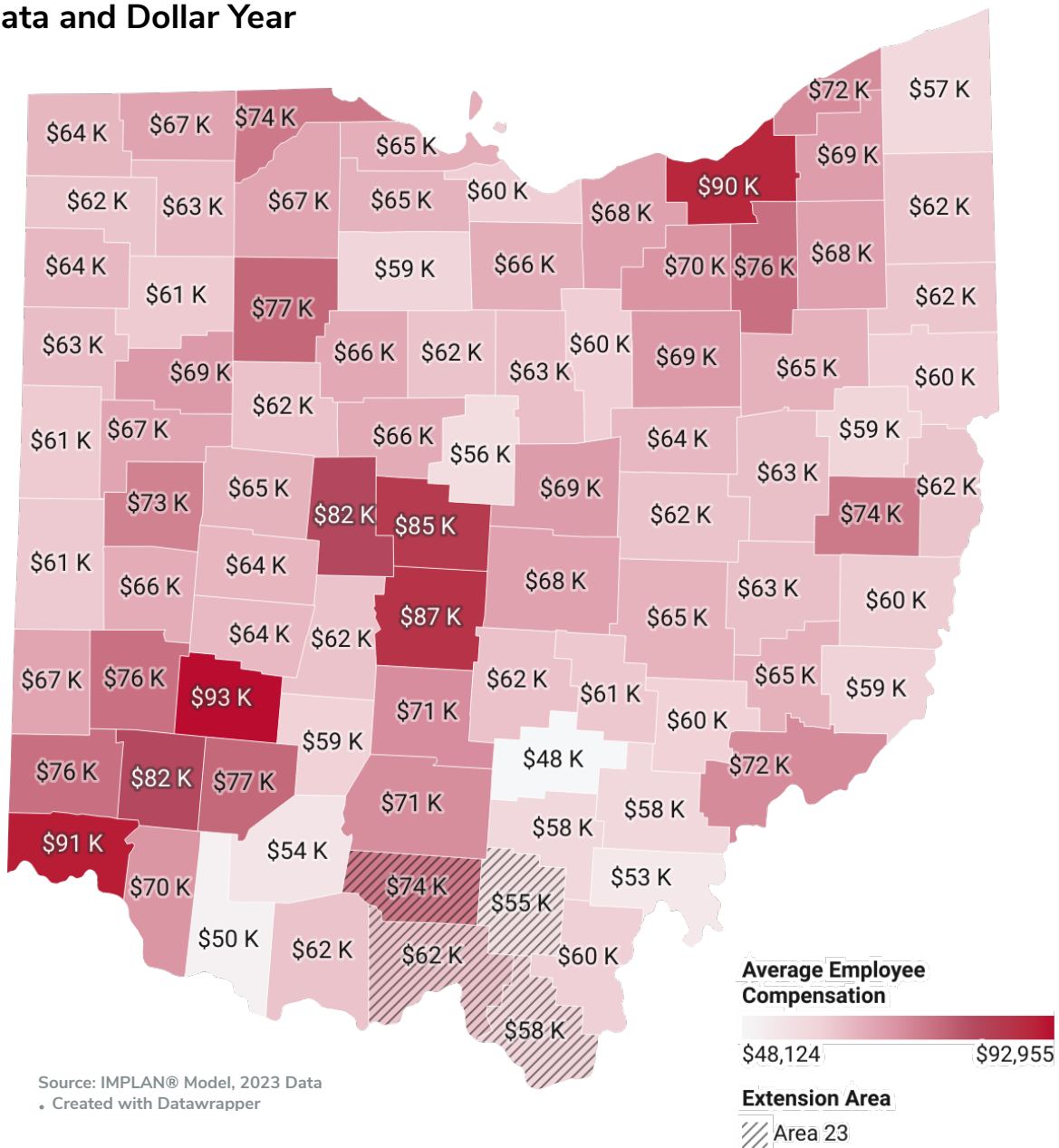


Image 2 illustrates the average employee compensation by county for 2022. Employee Compensation is the total payroll cost of an employee including wages and salaries, all benefits, and payroll taxes. The average employee compensation is calculated as Employee Compensation divided by wage and salary Employment. 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 4.1% increase compared to 2022.

Of the counties in Area 23, Pike County had the highest average employee compensation of \$74,196, ranking 15th highest in Ohio. The next highest average employee compensation in Area 23 was Scioto County at \$61,927, followed by Lawrence County \$58,262, and Jackson County \$55,372.



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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