

Extension Area 24: Economic Overview

Athens, Gallia, Meigs, and Vinton Counties

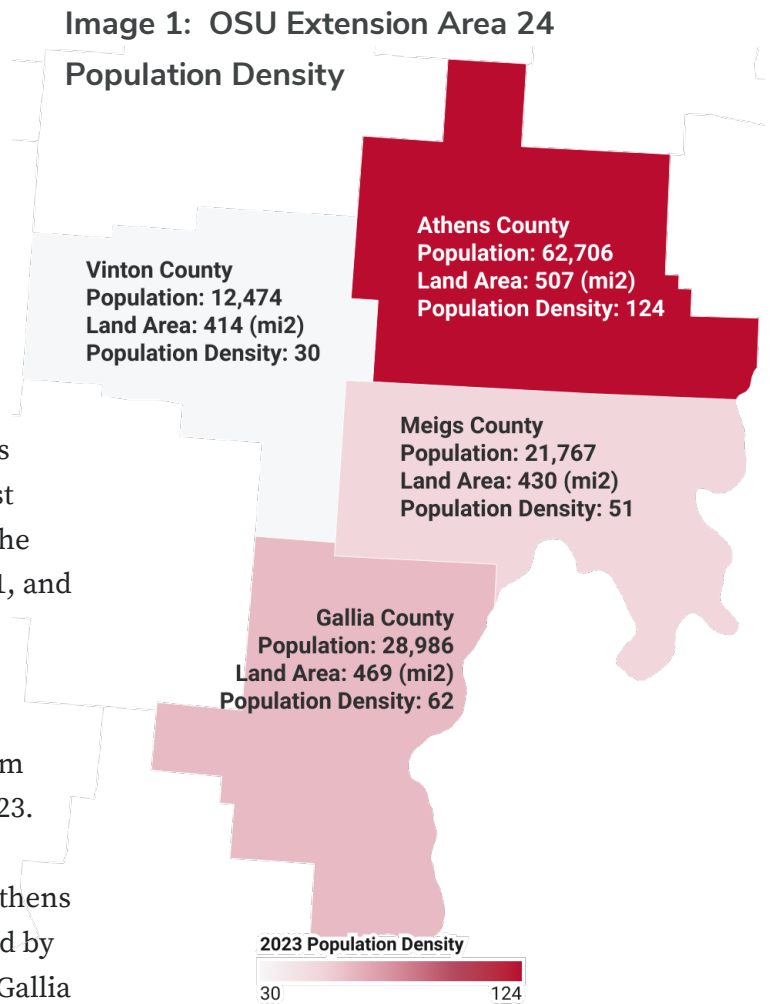
Report prepared January 2025 by Kenzie Johnston and Eric Romich, OSU Extension Community Development

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Regional Overview

OSU Extension Area 24 is a four-county area in the southeastern part of the state, including Vinton, Athens, Meigs, and Gallia counties. In 2023, the combined Area 24 footprint was 1,819 square miles (mi²) supporting a population of 125,933 residents and an overall population density of 69 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, Athens County has the highest population density of 124, while Gallia County was the second highest at 62, followed by Meigs County at 51, and Vinton County with 30 residents per square mile.

Overall, the combined population in Area 24 has remained consistent decreasing slightly by 2.7% from 129,555 in 2001 to a total population of 125,933 in 2023. However, there were some notable shifts in the population trends of individual counties. In 2023, Athens County had the largest population at 62,706, followed by Gallia County at 28,986. However, both Athens and Gallia County have experienced a slow decline in population. Between 2001 and 2023 the Athens County population declined by -5%, while Gallia County’s population declined by -7%. During this same period, there was a minor population decline of -4% in both Meigs County and Vinton counties. In 2023, Meigs County had 21,767 residents, while Vinton County had 12,474.



Key Stats

Total of 246 Industries
Total Employment of 57,069
Gross Domestic Product \$5.4 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 24 by total output in 2023. Fossil fuel electric power generation was the highest ranked industry with a total output of \$774 million, supporting 402 jobs, and an average employee compensation of \$169,869. This is an increase of 12.8% in total output, and a 7% increase in jobs.

Owner-occupied housing had the second greatest total output at \$567 million. 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 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 24 was employment and payroll of local govt, education with a total output of \$458 million, supporting 6,514 jobs, and an average employee compensation of \$60,714 per year. This sector is also responsible for providing employment to the most jobs at 6,514.



Table 1: Area 24 Top 10 Industries by Total Output

Industry Description	Output	Total Employment	Average Employee Compensation
Electric power generation - Fossil fuel	\$747 M	402	\$169,869
Owner-occupied housing	\$567 M	N/A	N/A
Employment and payroll of state govt, education	\$459 M	6,514	\$60,714
Monetary authorities and depository credit intermediation	\$427 M	703	\$75,558
Hospitals	\$368 M	2,213	\$61,645
Electric power transmission and distribution	\$300 M	190	\$151,856
Employment and payroll of local govt, education	\$275 M	3,690	\$63,210
Limited-service restaurants	\$244 M	2,447	\$21,702
Scientific research and development services	\$230 M	1,061	\$65,842
Offices of physicians	\$210 M	1,178	\$167,713

Area 24 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 24 annual employment trends between 2001 and 2023. As shown in the chart, Area 24 experienced consistent year-to-year employment. There was a moderate growth of 3.5% between 2001 and 2018 as employment increased from 56,606 to a peak of 58,596. Since 2018 annual employment in Area 24 has decreased by -3% losing -1,703 jobs, leaving an annual employment of 56,894 in 2022. Jobs are up across the state though, including in Area 24 with 57,069, an increase of 3% over the last year.

When considering the long-term (2001 to 2023) employment trends by county, Athens County was the only county that experienced employment

growth, as their total employment increased by 13% from 28,212 in 2001 to 31,892 in 2023.

Meigs County total employment declined by -18%, from 7,560 jobs in 2001 to 6,197 in 2023. During the same period (2001–2023) Vinton County experienced a -15% decline in total employment from 4,225 to 3,600, while Gallia County employment decreased -7% from 16,609 to 15,378.

Chart 1: Area 24 Location of Workforce

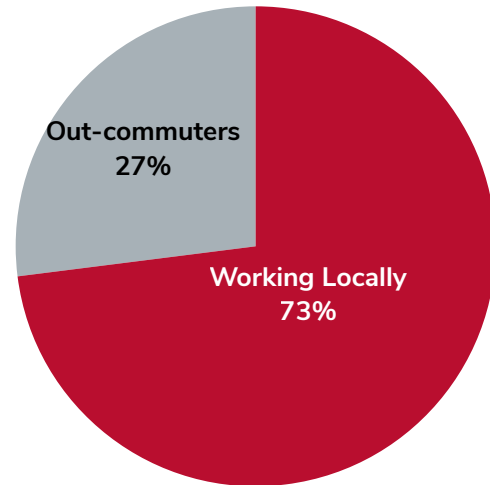


Chart 2: Area 24 Annual Employment

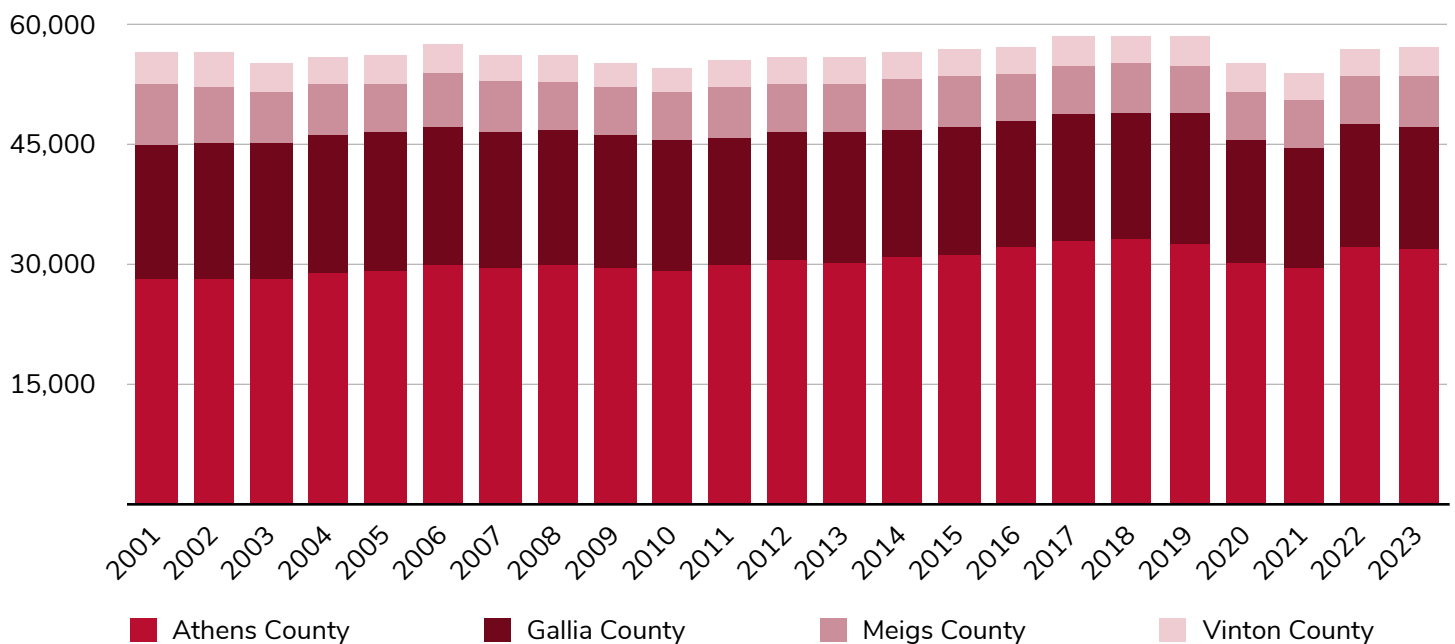
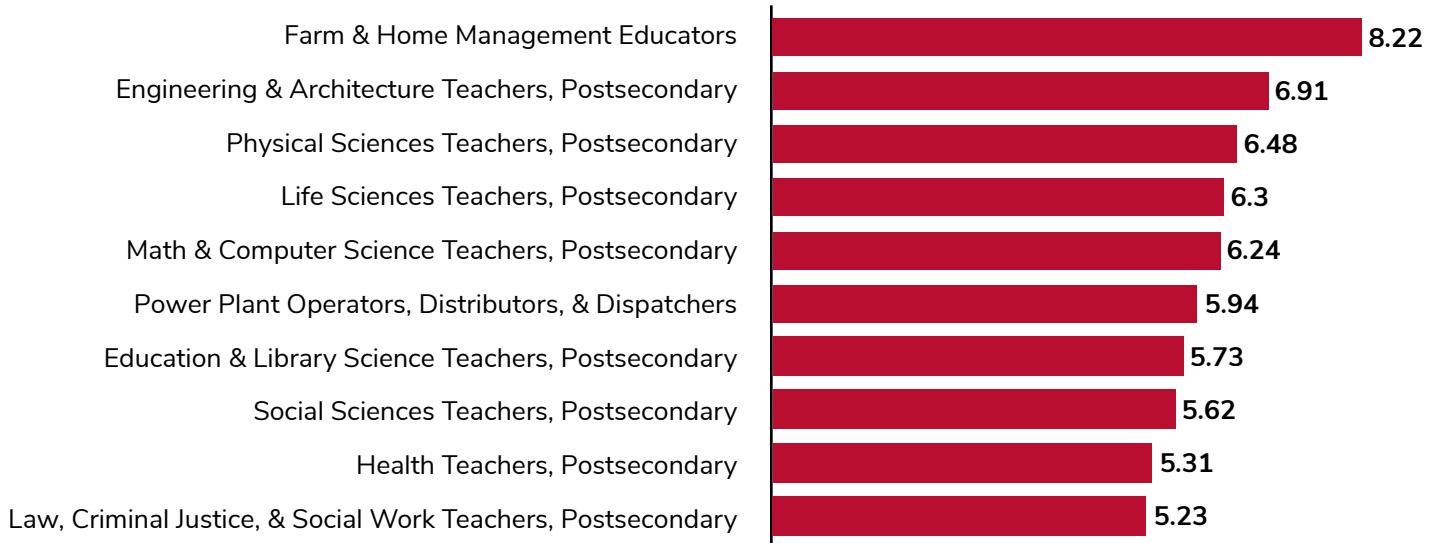


Chart 3: Area 24 Top 10 Occupations by Location Quotient

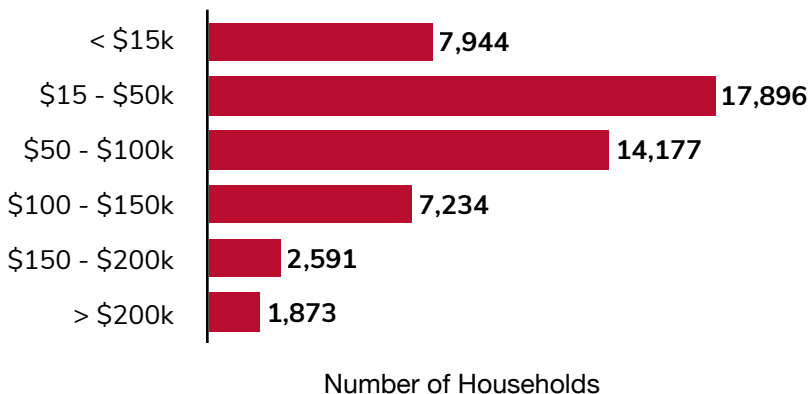


Occupations by Location Quotient

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 24 demonstrating a significant concentration of workers relative to the nation. In 2023, the top occupation by LQ in Area 24 was farm and home management educators, with an LQ of 8.22. This suggests the region has more than eight times the number of farm and home management educator workers compared to the national average. The second highest occupation by LQ in Area 24 was engineering and architecture teachers at 6.91, followed by physical science teachers at 6.48 and life sciences teachers with an LQ of 6.3.

Chart 4: Area 24 Households Income



Household Income

Area 24 has 7,944 households earning an annual income of less than \$15,000 per year. There are 17,896 households earning between \$15,000-\$50,000, while 1,873 households earn more than \$200,000.

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

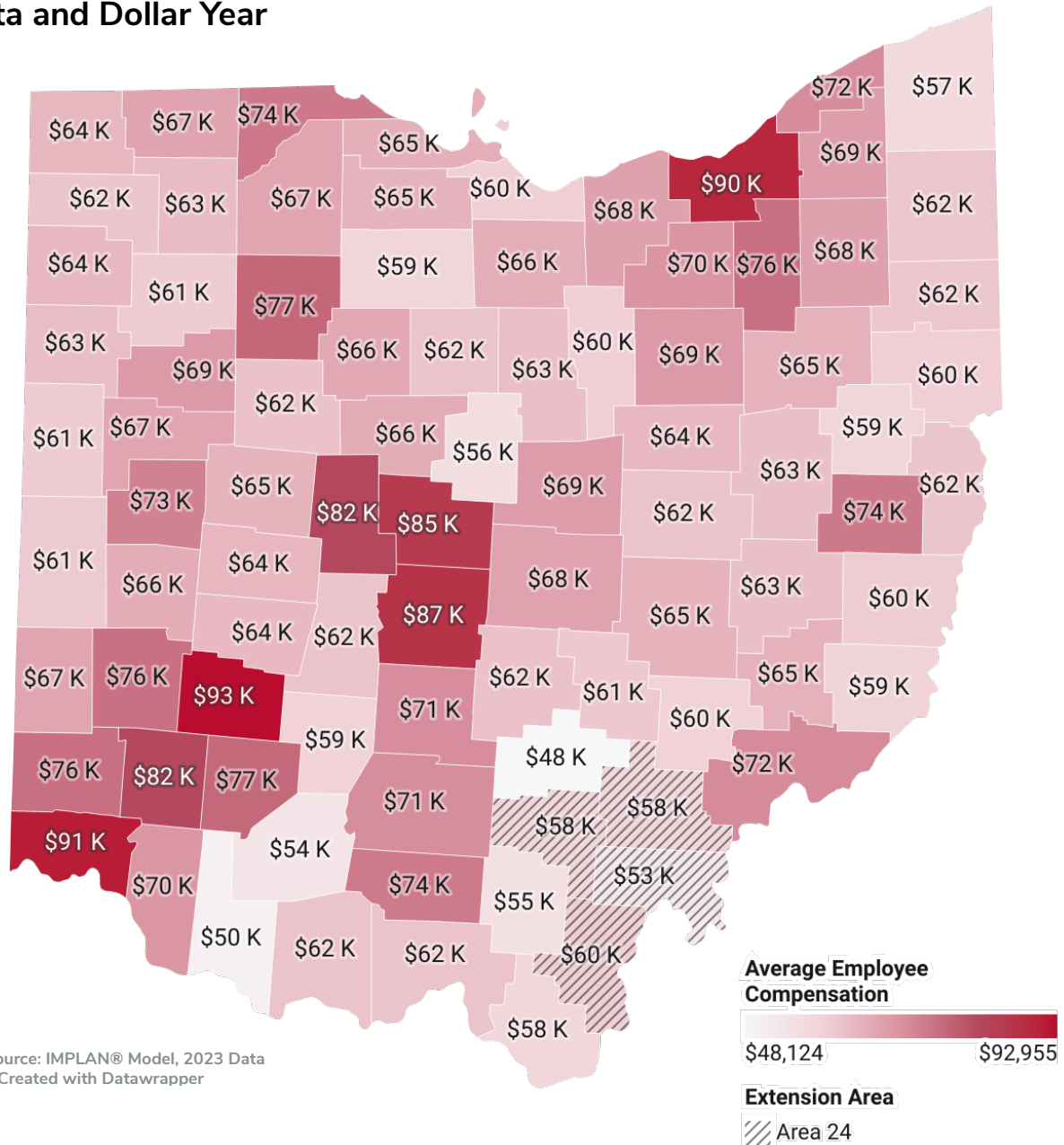


Image 2 illustrates the average employee compensation by county for 2023. Employee Compensation is the total payroll cost of an employee including wages and salaries, all benefits, and payroll taxes. The average employee compensation is calculated as Employee Compensation divided by wage and salary Employment. 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, which was a 5% increase compared to 2022. Of the counties in Area 24, Athens County had the highest average employee compensation of \$57,735. The next highest average employee compensation in Area 24 was Gallia County at \$59,801, followed by Vinton County \$57,835, and Meigs County with an average annual employee compensation of \$52,667.



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.

OSU Extension IMPLAN Team

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

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

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

Amanda Osborne, Extension Educator, OSU Extension Community Development, Cuyahoga County. Email: osborne.414@osu.edu

Kenzie Johnston, Extension Educator, OSU Extension Community Development, Delaware County. Email: johnston.589@osu.edu

Kyle White, Extension Educator, OSU Extension Community Development, Medina County. Email: white.2811@osu.edu

Jerold Thomas, Extension Educator, OSU Extension Community Development. Email: thomas.69@osu.edu

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