

# Extension Area 5: Economic Overview

## Cuyahoga County

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

Spring 2025 Edition

### Regional Overview

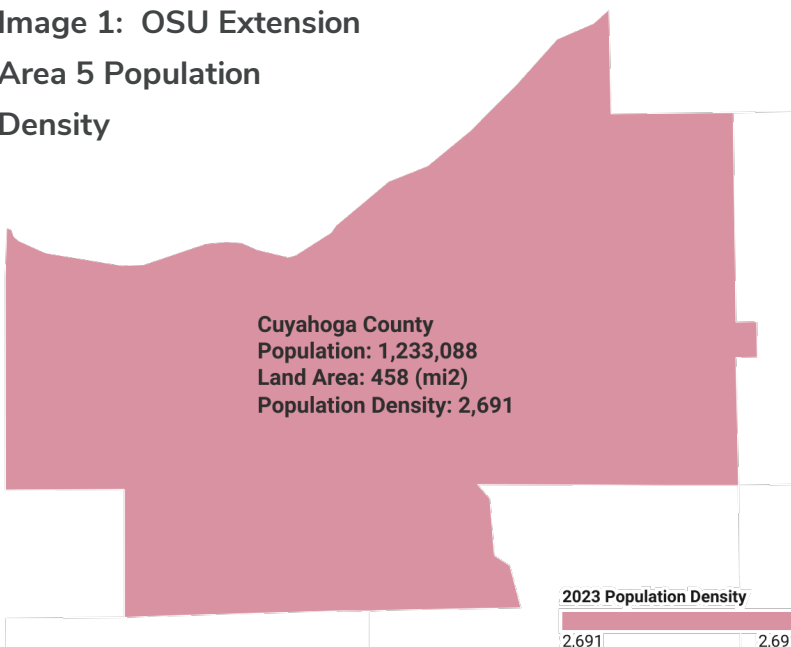
OSU Extension Area 5 is in the north-east part of the state encompassing all of Cuyahoga County. It is situated on the southern shore of Lake Erie, across the U.S.-Canada maritime border. The county seat and largest city is Cleveland. The county contains two townships and fifty-seven cities and villages. The county is bisected by the Cuyahoga River, after which it was named.

In 2023, the combined Area 5 footprint is 458 square miles (mi<sup>2</sup>) supporting a population of 1,233,088

residents and an overall population density of 2,691 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.

Cuyahoga County is the second largest county in Ohio and the 36th most populous county in the United States. Overall, the population in Area 5 has remained consistent decreasing by -10.8% from 1,382,520 in 2001 to a total population of 1,233,088 in 2023.

**Image 1: OSU Extension Area 5 Population Density**



### Key Stats

**Total of 437 Industries**  
**Total Employment of 972,383**  
**Gross Domestic Product \$128.1 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 5 by total output in 2023. The industry with the highest ranked total output in Area 5 was the hospitals industry with a total output of \$14.19 up from \$13.47 billion in 2022. This sector is supporting 62,962 jobs compared to 61,258 jobs the previous year and an average employee compensation of \$111,984 up from \$106,209 per year in 2022.

The second highest total output in Area 5 was the monetary authorities and depository credit

intermediation industry with a total output of \$11.97 billion, supporting 11,120 jobs, and an average employee compensation of \$157,609 per year.

Insurance carriers, except direct life was the third ranked industry with a total output of \$9.29 billion, supporting 15,537 jobs, and an average employee compensation of \$131,755.

Of the top 10 industries by total output, the sector with the most employees in the region was again the hospital industry with 62,962 employees.



**Table 1: Area 5 Top 10 Industries by Total Output**

Industry Description	Output	Total Employment	Average Employee Compensation
Hospitals	\$14,190 M	62,962	\$111,984
Monetary authorities and depository credit intermediation	\$11,970 M	11,120	\$157,609
Insurance carriers, except direct life	\$9,295 M	15,537	\$131,755
Other real estate	\$7,701 M	40,084	\$90,521
Management of companies and enterprises	\$7,074 M	25,827	\$168,789
Owner-occupied housing	\$6,751 M	N/A	N/A
Iron and steel mills and ferroalloy manufacturing	\$4,282 M	2,123	\$159,868
Insurance agencies, brokerages, and related activities	\$3,620 M	9,979	\$109,068
Legal services	\$3,373 M	12,475	\$131,058
Scientific research and development services	\$3,256 M	12,246	\$102,435

# Area 5 Annual Employment Trends

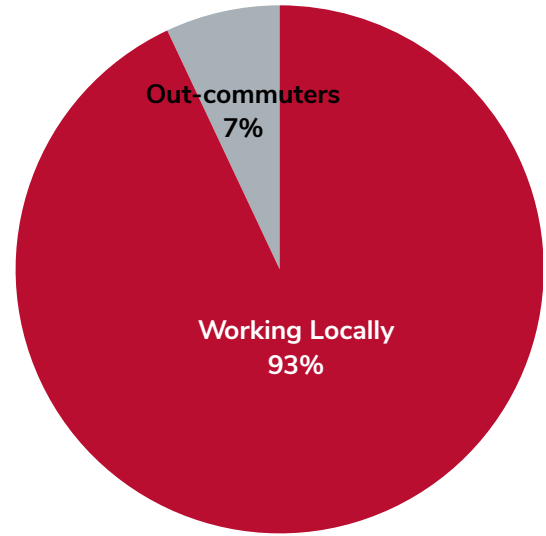
The Total Employment figure reported by IMPLAN represents a full and part-time annual average including the self-employed, all federal, state, and local government employment and military employment (including overseas military).

Chart 1 provides a visual reference of the Area 5 annual employment trends between 2001 and 2023. As shown in the chart, Area 5 experienced uneven 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.

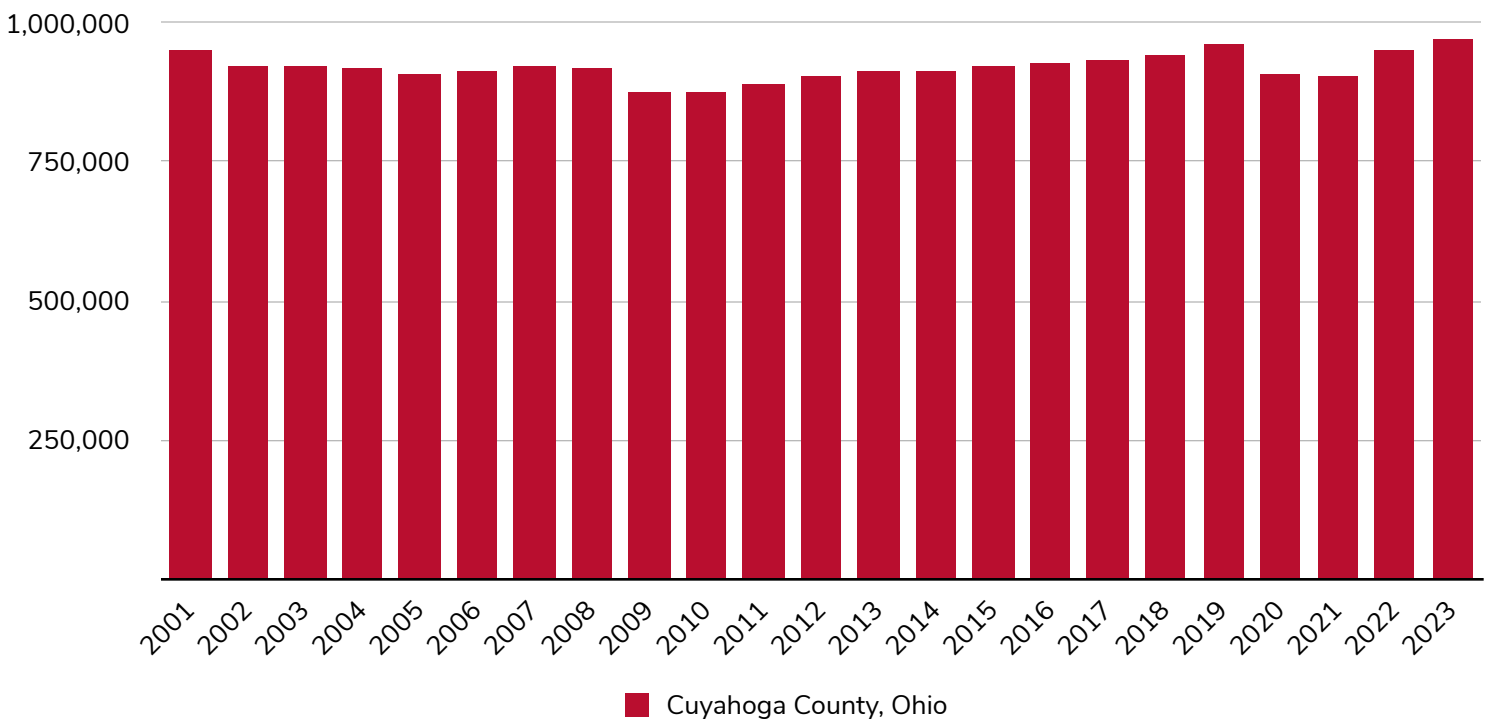
Since 2011 annual employment in Area 5 increased by 6.8% reaching a peak employment of 960,503 jobs in 2019. However, between 2021 and 2022 Area 5 experienced the greatest year to year job creation, gaining 46,870 jobs, leaving an annual employment

of 949,090 in 2022. Employment has drastically exceeded that mark in 2023, bringing in a new total of 972,383 jobs, which is an increase of 2%.

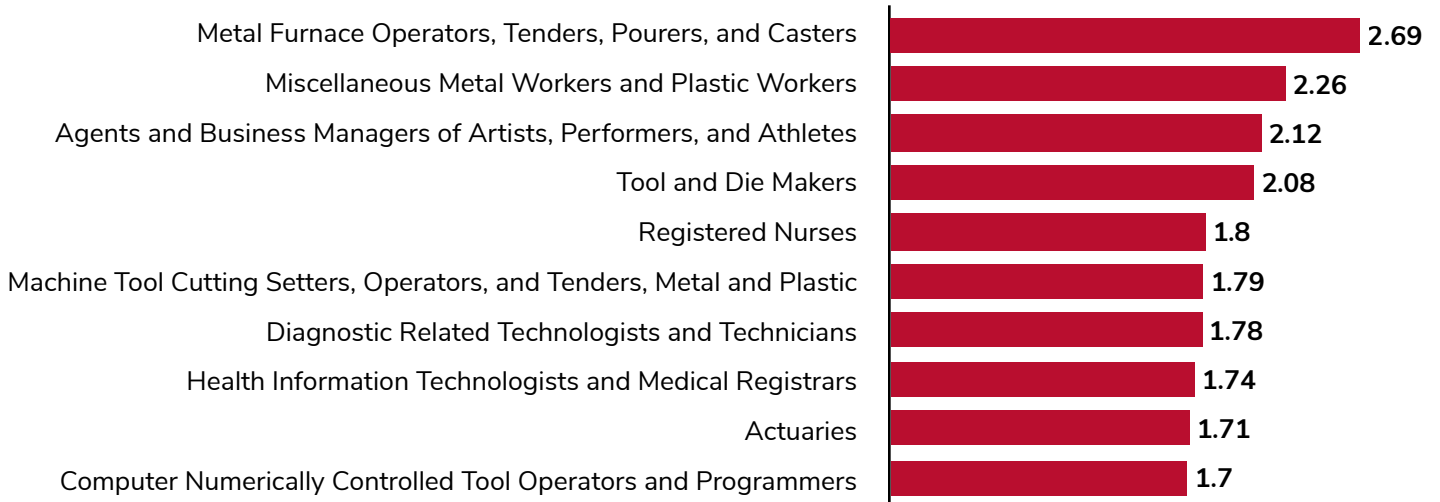
**Chart 1: Area 5 Location of Workforce**



**Chart 2: Area 5 Annual Employment**



**Chart 3: Area 5 Top 10 Occupations by Location Quotient**

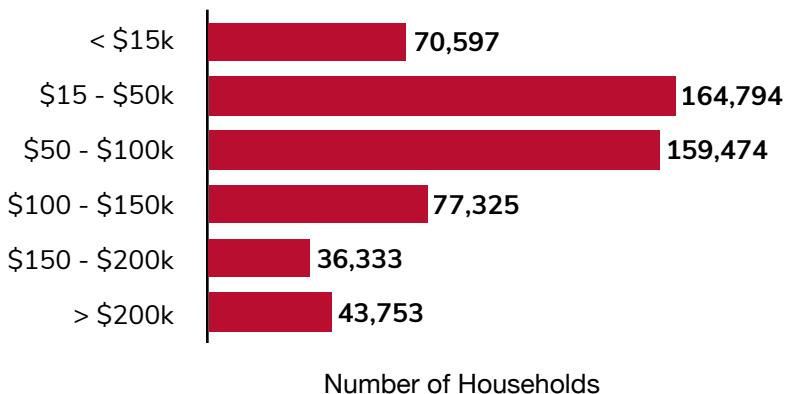


## Occupations by Location Quotient

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 5 demonstrating a significant concentration of workers relative to the nation. In 2023, the top occupation by LQ in Area 5 was metal furnace operators, tenders, pourers, and casters with an LQ of 2.69. This suggests the region has nearly twice the number of workers compared to the national average. The second highest occupation by LQ in Area 5 was miscellaneous metal workers and plastic workers with an LQ of 2.26, followed by agents and business managers of artists with an LQ of 2.12, and tool and die makers at 2.08.

**Chart 4: Area 5 Households Income**



## Household Income

According to Chart 4, there are roughly 43,753 households with an income of over \$200,000. Much of the Area 5 population falls in the household income range of \$15,000 - \$50,000 with 164,794 households falling within that range. There are 70,597 households that have an income of less than \$15,000 per year.

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

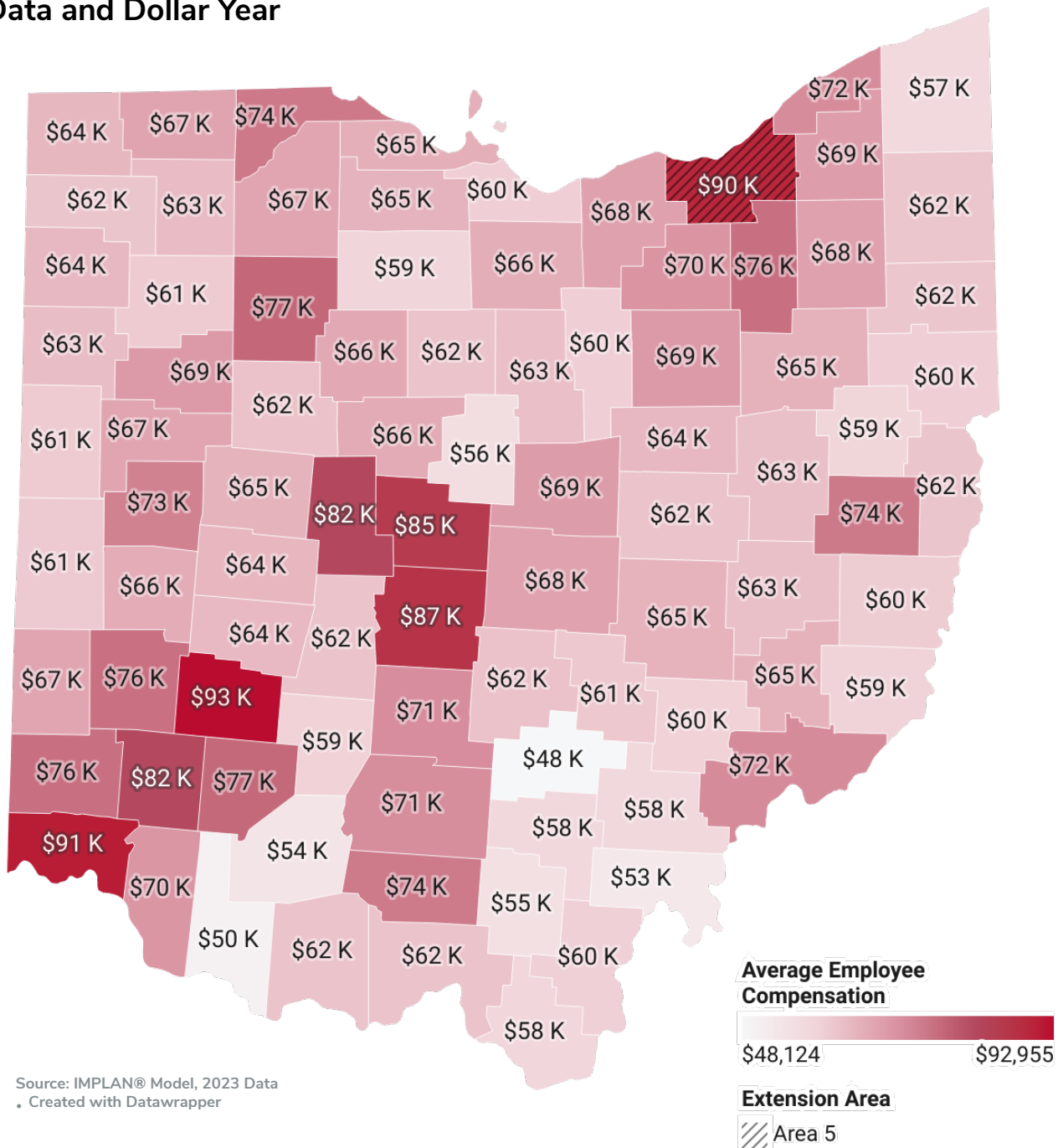


Image 2 illustrates the average employee compensation by county for 2023. Employee Compensation is the total payroll cost of an employee including wages and salaries, all benefits, and payroll taxes. The average employee compensation is calculated as Employee Compensation divided by wage and salary Employment. 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. Cuyahoga County in Area 5 had an average employee compensation of \$89,668.



### 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).