

# Extension Area 24: Economic Overview

## Athens, Gallia, Meigs, and Vinton Counties

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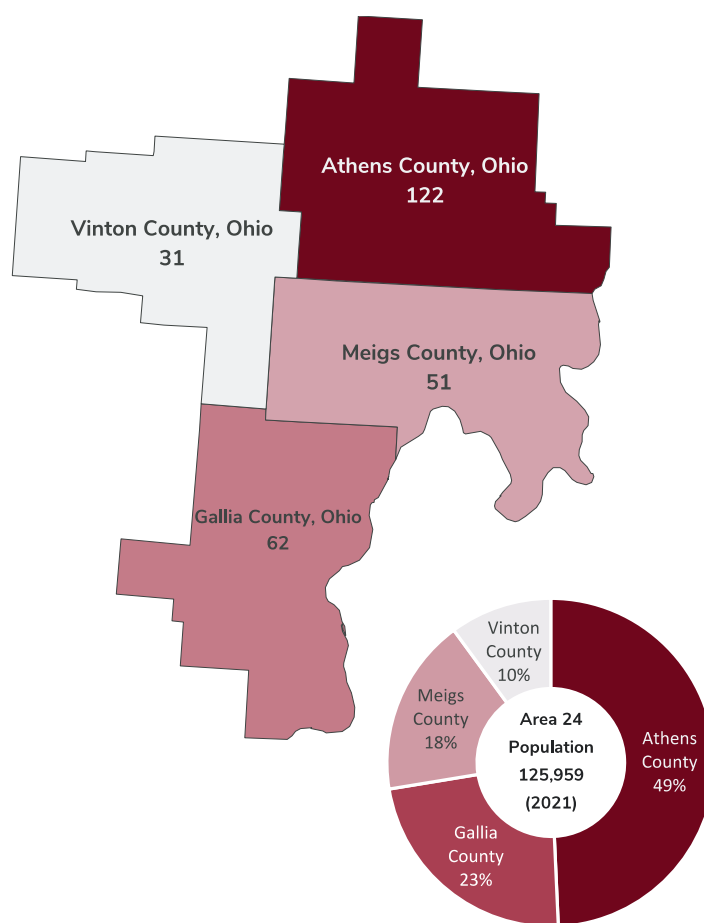
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### Regional Overview

OSU Extension Area 24 is a four-county area in the southeastern part of the state, including Vinton, Athens, Meigs, and Gallia counties. In 2021, the combined Area 24 footprint was 1,819 square miles (mi<sup>2</sup>) supporting a population of 125,959 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 122, while Gallia County was the second highest at 62, followed by Meigs County at 51, and Vinton County with 31 residents per square mile.

Overall, the combined population in Area 24 has remained consistent decreasing slightly by 3% from 129,555 in 2001 to a total population of 125,959 in 2021. However, there were some notable shifts in the population trends of individual counties between 2001 and 2021. Athens County had the largest 2021 population at 62,056, followed by Gallia County at 29,158. However, both Athens and Gallia County experienced a -6% population decline in between 2001 and 2021. During this period, there was a minor population decline of -4% in both Meigs County and a -3% decline in Vinton counties. In 2021, Meigs County had 22,049 residents, while Vinton County had 12,696.

**Image 1: OSU Extension Area 24  
Population Density**



#### Key Stats

**Total of 260 Industries**

**Total Employment of 53,756**

**Gross Domestic Product \$4.589 B**

Data retrieved from IMPLAN (2021 data)

# 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 2021. Fossil fuel electric power generation was the highest ranked industry with a total output of \$603 million, supporting 401 jobs, and an average employee compensation of \$168,954. When comparing 2020 to 2021, the data shows the fossil fuel electric power generation industry experienced a 6% increase in total output and a minor reduction in

total of less than -1% (0.83). Owner-occupied dwellings had the second greatest total output at \$476 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 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 \$424 million, supporting 5,690 jobs, and an average employee compensation of \$64,907 per year. The electric power transmission and distribution industry experienced the greatest year to year growth as total output increased by 22% from \$149 million in 2020 to \$182 million in 2021 and total employment increased by 23% from 115 jobs in 2020 to 141 jobs in 2021. Of the top 10 industries by total output, the office of physicians' industry had the second highest average employee compensation of \$158,285 per year.

Table 1: Area 24 Top 10 Industries by Total Output

Industry Description	Output	Total Employment	Average Employee Compensation
Electric power generation - Fossil fuel	\$603,288,739	401	\$168,954
Owner-occupied dwellings	\$476,350,644	N/A	N/A
* Employment and payroll of local govt, education	\$424,303,771	5,690	\$64,907
Hospitals	\$343,632,561	2,233	\$54,977
Monetary authorities and depository credit intermediation	\$343,569,247	602	\$65,728
Limited-service restaurants	\$228,120,709	2,474	\$20,010
* Employment and payroll of local govt, other services	\$200,776,794	2,765	\$63,045
Electric power transmission and distribution	\$182,380,950	141	\$128,681
Offices of physicians	\$179,336,995	1,225	\$158,285
Other real estate	\$170,923,984	936	\$47,924

# 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 2021. 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 8% losing 4,840 jobs, leaving an annual employment of 53,756 in 2021.

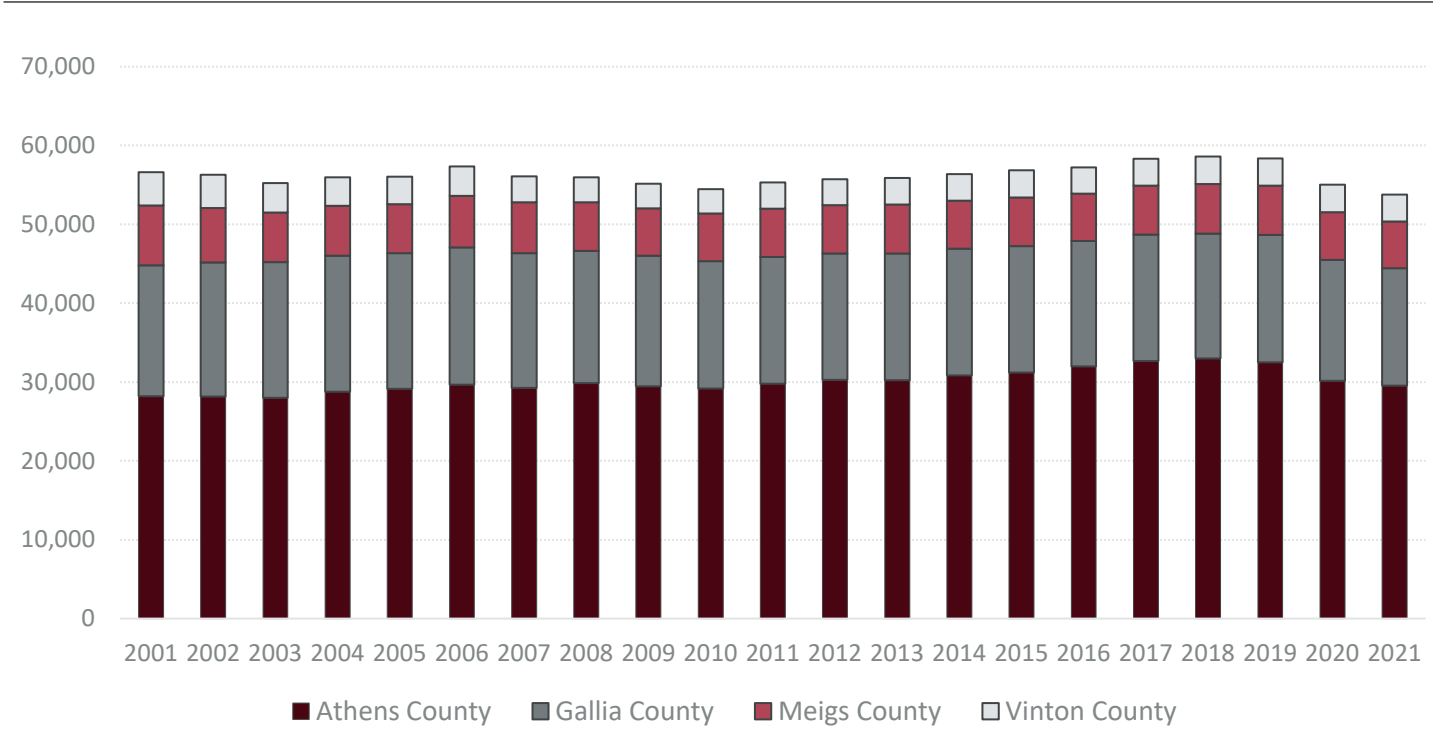
When considering the long-term employment trends by county, Athens County was the only county that experienced employment growth, as their total employment increased by 5% from 28,212 in 2001 to 29,535 in 2021.

Meigs County total employment declined by -22%, from 7,560 jobs in 2001 to 5,912 in 2021.

During the same period (2001–2021) Vinton County experienced a -20% decline in total employment from 4,225 to 3,396, while Gallia County employment decreased 10% from 16,609 to 14,913.

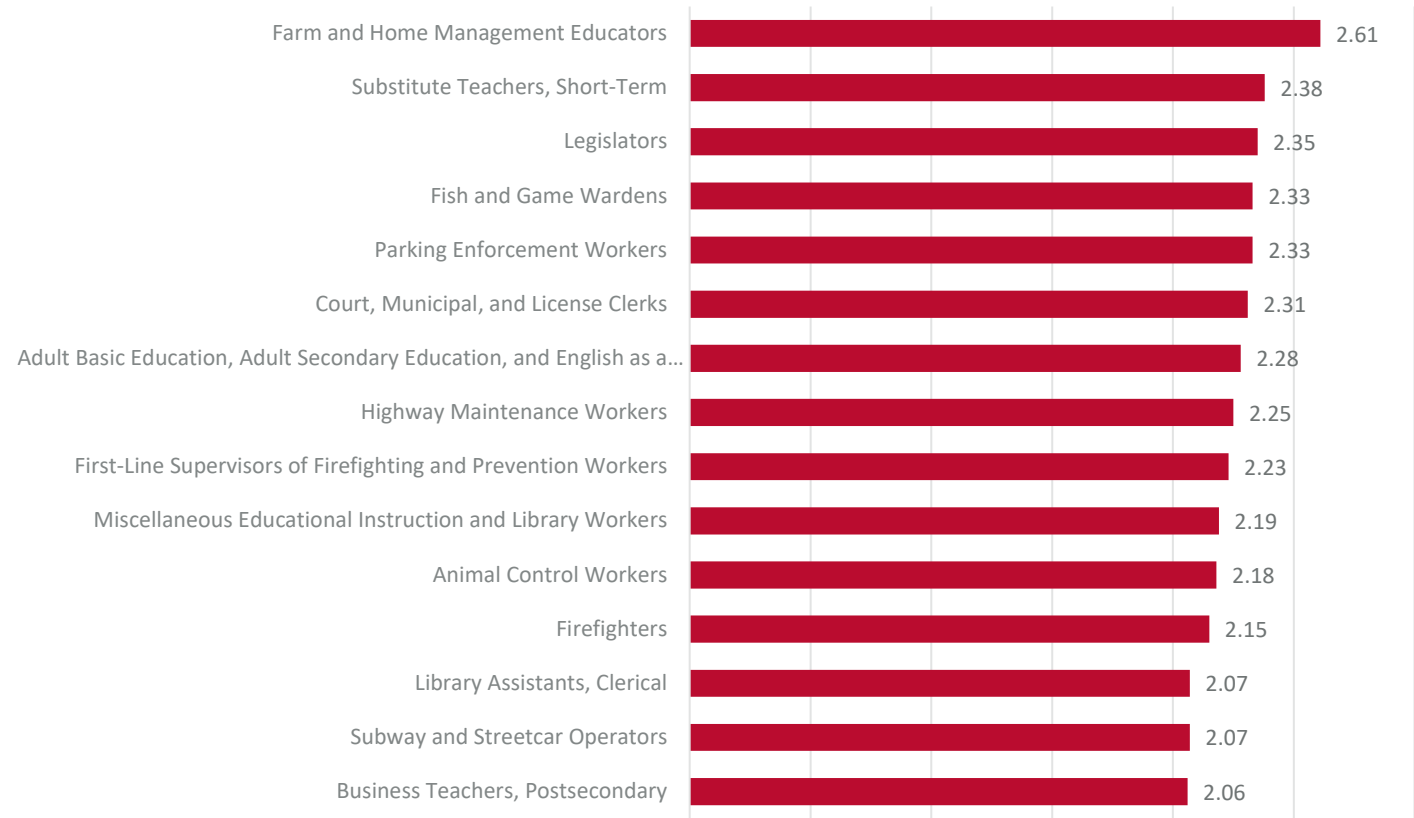
*“Since 2018, the Area 24 total employment has declined by 4,840 jobs”*

Chart 1: Area 24 Annual Employment



# Top 15 Occupations by Location Quotient

Chart 2: Occupation 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 15 occupations with the highest LQ in Area 24 demonstrating a significant concentration of workers relative to the nation. In 2021, the top occupation by LQ in Area 24 was farm and home management educators, with an LQ of 2.61. This suggests the region has more than two 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 short term substitute teachers at 2.38, followed by legislators with an LQ of 2.35, and fish and game wardens at 2.33.

## Image 2: Average Employee Compensation by County

2021 Data and Dollar Year

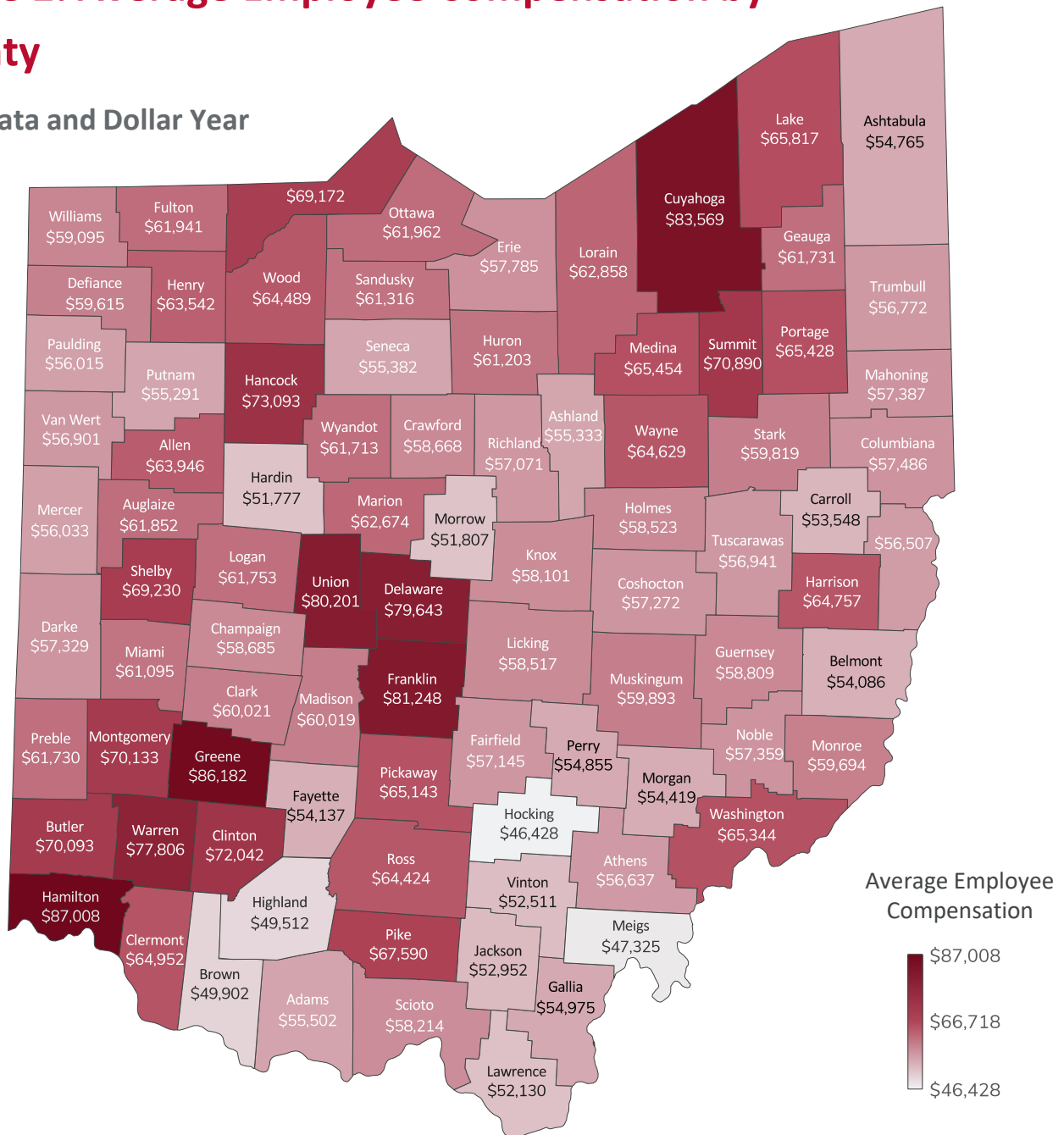


Image 2 illustrates the average employee compensation by county for 2021. Employee Compensation is the total payroll cost of an employee including wages and salaries, all benefits, and payroll taxes. The average employee compensation is calculated as Employee Compensation divided by wage and salary Employment. When comparing counties statewide, Hamilton County had the highest average employee compensation of \$87,008, while Hocking County posted the lowest county average of \$46,428 in 2021. When combining all Ohio counties,

the statewide average employee compensation in 2021 was \$60,659 per worker, which was a 4% increase compared to 2020. Of the counties in Area 24, Athens County had the highest average employee compensation of \$56,637, ranking 65<sup>th</sup> highest in Ohio. The next highest average employee compensation in Area 24 was Gallia County at \$54,975, followed by Vinton County \$52,511, and Meigs County with an average annual employee compensation of \$47,325.



IMPLAN® model, 2021 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)



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