



South Field Energy Power Plant (under construction) - Columbiana County

2020 CEDS ANNUAL UPDATE

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

OHIO MID-EASTERN GOVERNMENTS ASSOCIATION

OMEGA

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SECTION 1: ADJUSTMENT TO THE STRATEGY

As of January 1, 2020, Hannah Stillions has become the new EDA Program Manager, adopting the responsibilities of the CEDS and EDA reports.

As indicated in OMEGA's 2019 CEDS Annual Update, to present a true regional growth plan and demonstrate commitment to high-value linkages, OMEGA integrated the CEDS and the Comprehensive Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) into a single report entitled Regional Transportation and Development Plan, *Mapping a Route Forward to a Strong and Resilient Region, 2020 – 2045* for the purpose of internal planning. This integration provides our region with a one-stop document containing all the regional demographic, development, and transportation related information. Viewing potential projects and developments from a holistic stance will amplify the magnitude of the effects on the region and pave the way for future related developments. Alignment with transportation planning objectives will allow regional planners to develop sensible strategies to tackle complex challenges. OMEGA currently plans to submit the CEDS in 2022 as a stand-alone document for EDA submission and public access. However, OMEGA would like to discuss the integration of these two documents with EDA.

The following is a unified list of holistic goals OMEGA has adopted with the integration of the two plans. In bold are the pieces that are specific to economic development and not transportation related, however neither can be fully achieved without the other.

Goal 1: Preservation of Regional Assets

- **Facilitate communication between funding/regulatory agencies and political subdivisions**
- **Develop a prioritized list of infrastructure improvements based on current conditions/use**
- Advocate for the ability for local communities to enact Road Use Maintenance Agreements (RUMAs) for additional industrial uses
- Increase flexibility to implement weight restrictions on local roads
- **Provide current infrastructure condition data to locals via interactive web maps or ad hoc data requests**
- Support Transportation Performance Management Statewide Target for Pavement
- Support Transportation Performance Management Statewide Target for Bridge Condition

Goal 2: Increase Safety of Regional Infrastructure

- Encourage communities to plan for safe use by all users of the transportation network, to include motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, and Amish buggies
- Plan for wider travel lanes to accommodate slow-moving vehicles are frequent (e.g. Amish buggies, bicyclists, agricultural equipment)
- Support the development of interconnected active transportation networks
- **Develop a regional list of dangerous intersections and road segments, updated annually**
- **Work with communities to develop access management plans for new and existing corridors**
- Support Transportation Performance Management Statewide Target for Safety

Goal 3: Facilitate Economic & Community Development

- **Research and disseminate funding opportunities for communities; assist in applying for and administering funds, if requested**

- **Advocate for the expansion and improvement of rural broadband access, safe drinking water, and wastewater systems**
- **Advocate for the development of the regionally significant corridors (US 30 & Columbus-to- Pittsburgh Corridor)**
- **Support community efforts to revitalize, rehabilitate, or develop economic/recreational spaces**
- **Lead or assist in regional corridor planning**
- **Develop short-term plans for communities to implement new programs (e.g. Safe Routes to School, Park Improvement Plans, etc.)**
- **Support workforce development programs**
- **Support Transportation Performance Management Statewide Target for Travel Time Reliability**
- **Support Transportation Performance Management Statewide Target for Truck Travel Time Reliability**

Goal 4: Develop & Maintain Regional Resiliency

- **Incorporate green infrastructure into the planning phases of projects to reduce environmental impacts from development (e.g. bioswales for improved drainage, permeable pavements in parking areas, etc.)**
- **Assist local governments in the development of access plans during extreme weather events, in coordination with local EMA directors**
- **Support area or site development efforts to diversify regional economies**
- **Facilitate educational opportunities for communities to learn/implement new strategies to make their local area resilient economically and physically**
- **Identify high-risk areas for extreme weather impacts**

As a result of the coronavirus pandemic, the importance of resiliency in a region has become more apparent than ever, earning it the status of one of OMEGA's top four goals. The Regional Transportation and Development Plan contains an entire resiliency chapter dedicated to economic shocks and natural disasters. The importance of Emergency Management Agencies in the event of a natural disaster as well as hazard mitigation and recovery plans are referenced.

In addition, the development of a more diverse economy will result in resiliency and quicker recovery to economic shocks. The adage "don't put all your eggs in one basket" applies now more than ever, especially in a rapidly evolving, globalized economy. A diverse economy will create prosperity by creating flexibility and spurring innovation and the reliance on multiple industries rather than a single industry will allow the region to stand a chance against economic downturns.

Holmes County is a great example in the OMEGA region of how a multitude of small and diverse manufacturing businesses as well as an array of other businesses can increase the ability to recover quickly. As of September 2020, Holmes County's unemployment rate was down to 3.5%, only 0.2% more than their pre-pandemic rate in February 2020, while Ohio as a whole was at 8%. At the peak of the shutdowns (April 2020), unemployment rate for Holmes County was 6.5%, still significantly lower than the State's unemployment rate of 17.4%.

In 2017, OMEGA partnered with Kent State University at Tuscarawas to develop and conduct an online SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) survey of OMEGA CEDS Committee members, employees, executive board, members, and representative of affiliated organizations. The following list are additions/adjustments added to the SWOT analysis this year.

- **Strength: Recreational Opportunities:** With nine state parks and forests, there is an abundance of outdoor activities and events to attract tourists and keep locals enjoying the region. The scenic natural setting of the OMEGA region is both a strength that needs protected and an opportunity for growth.
- **Weakness: Aging Population:** With an aging population comes more roles for the younger generations to fill. This can be seen as an opportunity for young people looking for employment as they can train in still relevant trades that are not as popular in younger generations. However, an aging population also comes with an increased need for healthcare and transit services.
- **Weakness: Lack of Economic Diversity:** When one industry is hit, the whole region tends to suffer the consequences. While our mineral wealth is currently a strength and provides opportunities for growth, these are finite resources with limits to sustainable growth. Currently 'Energy' stands as the third largest industry employer in our region and many people are employed are within industry clusters that support the Energy industry ('Advanced Materials', 'Mining', and 'Fabricated and Primary Metal Product Manufacturing').
The loss of mining and mine supply chain jobs and replacing them with lower paying retail and non-profit healthcare jobs has reduced wages and benefits of many workers in OMEGA region and has likely contributed to the population decline in recent years.
- **Threat: Terrorism:** With the mineral wealth of our region also comes the threat of terrorism. While pipelines provide jobs and resources to the region, the hazard posed just by the nature of the commodity makes them vulnerable to terrorism. Damage to the pipeline infrastructure and the inevitable subsequent leach of hazardous materials into the surrounding earth poses a major threat to humans, the environment, and the economy.
- **Weakness: Limited Preparation for External Economic Shock:** The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 proved that our economy and small businesses were not prepared for such an event. It only took a couple of weeks before factories began rolling lay-offs and small businesses closed indefinitely; unable to make payroll, rent, and other bills, and unwilling to acquire more debt through disaster loan programs.

Utilizing EDA's non-competitive funding to local Economic Development Districts, OMEGA is contracting a Regional Recovery Coordinator for 2021 to aid in the coronavirus pandemic recovery in the region as well as a consultant to perform a Broadband Feasibility Study due to the pandemic bringing the region's long-lasting broadband infrastructure problem to the forefront.

SECTION 2: REPORT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

The coronavirus pandemic has disrupted many things this year, from the economy to the methods in which work is done. During the beginning of the pandemic when many state and federal regulations were in place, OMEGA adopted a work from home practice as many workers worldwide were forced to do. To aid in the coronavirus recovery effort, OMEGA has been very active this year both implementing a new

RLF program with EDA funds to support businesses with recovery and assisting communities with EDA CARES Act applications.

OMEGA worked with the Zanesville-Muskingum County Port Authority (ZMCPA) to apply for almost \$3.5 million for the construction of a turn lane and a force main improvement project for the county's newest business park: The National Road Business Park. This will be the fourth business park in the county owned by the ZMCPA. The existing parks employ over 4,000 people in total and are home to three Fortune 500 companies (Kellogg's, Dollar General, and Halliburton). This addition and improvement to the National Road Business Park will provide easier access to the park while keeping traffic smooth as well as the proper infrastructure for prospective businesses. The resulting economic growth and job creation from this investment will substantially aid in Muskingum County's and the surrounding region's recovery from the economic impact of the coronavirus. As documented in our 2019 Annual CEDS update, the need for developable, marketable sites for business parks continues to be a high priority for the region.

The City of Steubenville and OMEGA collaborated on an application for almost \$1.5 million to fund their University Blvd District Sewer Upgrade Project in an effort to eliminate their sewer system's combined sewer overflows (CSO's) near the campus of Franciscan University. OMEGA's ARC Program Manager assisted the City with an ARC application earlier this year which resulted in a \$250,000 award for the project. This improvement will allow for future investments in the area as well as the creation of 25 full and part-time jobs and the retention of 135 jobs. This project will be transformative for Steubenville as well as Jefferson County as a whole in their recovery effort against the coronavirus by providing sufficient infrastructure for growth and diversification.

The Columbiana County Port Authority has identified the need to develop a 50-acre industrial park and is currently assessing potential locations. Once the site is selected, OMEGA will work with the Port Authority on procuring the resources needed to develop the park. The Port Authority, with OMEGA's assistance also applied to EDA under the CARES Act for Economic Recovery Coordination specific to Columbiana County which will be complementary and collaborative, but not duplicative of the regional economic recovery work being conducted by OMEGA. The Port Authority's work efforts will focus on more recovery efforts at the local level, whereas OMEGA will focus on the development of more regional recovery strategies for the entire 10-county district.

In late 2019, OMEGA submitted a brownfield coalition assessment grant through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that was denied funding. This application encompassed the entire region, excluding Belmont, Jefferson, and Muskingum Counties as well as the city of Salem, who are already covered under other assessment grants. OMEGA has recently collaborated with multiple experienced consultants, including Technical Assistance to Brownfields under Kansas State University and the U.S. EPA, on revising last year's application. If awarded, this would provide access to funding to assess brownfield sites and conduct activities necessary to determine what kind of contaminants are there and what may be necessary to clean them up, setting the base for future community and economic development.

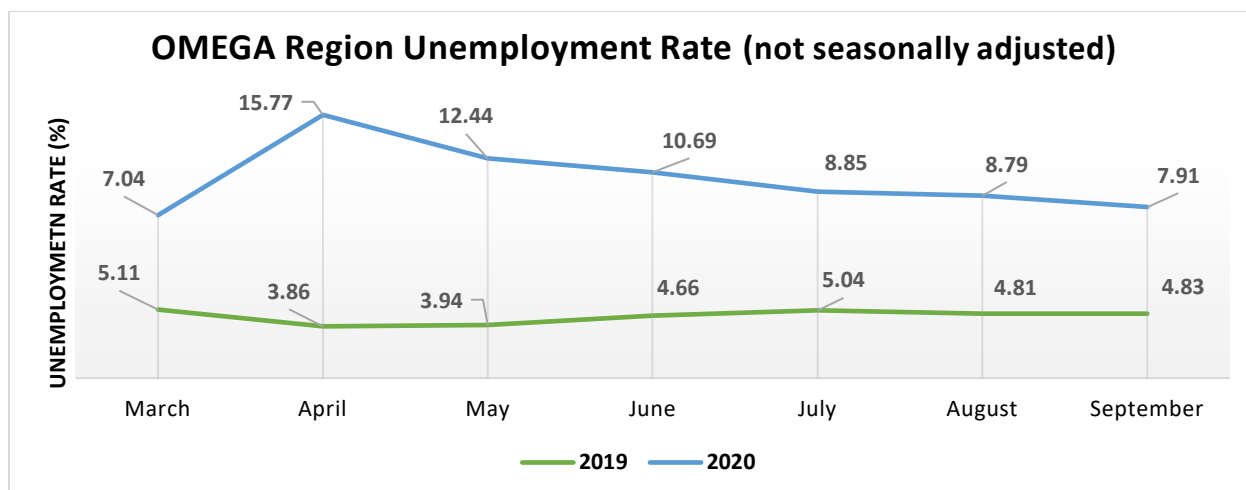
OMEGA views Opportunity Zones as another tool in the toolbox to be used with other development strategies, rather than as a singular tool. While Opportunity Zones are strong incentives for investment in the region, they work best in collaboration with other enticements such as tax abatements, sites being made shovel-ready, and other local incentives. OMEGA recently partnered with Ohio University and Buckeye Hills Regional Council on a grant application to EDA that is currently under review, to provide targeted technical assistance to communities for development of the Opportunity Zones as well as an

Economic Recovery Coordinator for Coshocton County to address the loss of the power plant. In addition, Coshocton County is the only county in the OMEGA region that does not have any Opportunity Zones.

As outlined in previous annual updates, The OMEGA region is extremely lacking when it comes to developable sites. The lack of sites leads businesses to go elsewhere and makes it more difficult to become a resilient, economically booming region. Abandoned mine land (AML) in the OMEGA region poses as a threat to both economic development and the safety of the region. Sites located on this land require extremely expensive remediation before being developed leading to a lack of competitiveness with other areas. Remediation of abandoned mine lands is also needed to transform vacant, unusable land into productive use leading to business development and job creation. Potential projects currently in the OMEGA region include undeveloped sites in the Jefferson County Industrial Park and D.O. Hall Business Center, both which are on top of underground abandoned mines that must be grouted before site development can take place above ground.

This year we had a fantastic line up of speakers who presented at our Executive Board Meetings. Speakers from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and Ohio University came to discuss the Appalachian Drinking Water Initiative in February. Mike Jacoby, President of Ohio Southeast (OhioSE), JobsOhio's regional partner which serves eight of our ten counties gave an updated summary of OhioSE events and activities in May. In June, Dr. Michael Betz, Ohio State University Department of Human Sciences Professor, provided listeners with an in-depth look at the connection between substance abuse and economic conditions. In August, Ohio Secretary of State, Frank LaRose, gave attendees an update regarding the November election in the time of COVID-19 and all the safety precautions planned for the polls. Michelle May, Ohio Department of Transportation Highway Safety Program Manager gave a presentation regarding the impact of distracted driving on the region. At our final meeting of the year, Kristi Tanner, Senior Managing Director at JobsOhio gave a presentation on JobsOhio's "Ohio Forward" strategy in the coronavirus recovery effort.

While the entire nation is seeing dramatic economic effects due to the pandemic, the OMEGA region and Appalachia as a whole have seen an increase in unemployment and business closures due to the nature of the economy. Since the start of this reporting period, 18 companies in the OMEGA region have issued WARN notices, potentially affecting over 1,000 people, most due to the pandemic. TIMET, JSW Steel USA Ohio, Inc., and Gradall Industries, Inc. had the three largest layoffs during this reporting period. By far, the largest layoff as a result of the pandemic was on March 20, 2020 where 794 employees of Ventra Salem LLC in Columbiana County lost their jobs. With tourism being one of the most affected industries by the pandemic and the third largest employment sector in the OMEGA region, employing approximately 31,000 people, it is obvious why. Below is a graph demonstrating the vast difference between 2019 and 2020 unemployment rates in the OMEGA region. As shown in this graph, 2020 unemployment rates for the OMEGA region are still considerably higher than pre-COVID-19 rates.



Despite the effects of the pandemic, oil and natural gas extraction in the OMEGA region has almost remained on par so far this year with last year's production as shown in the tables below. Oil and natural gas production through the first two quarters of 2020 are 44% and 46% of 2019 production levels, respectively.

2019 Total Production						
County	Oil			Natural Gas		
	BBL	% of state total	%Δ from 2018	MCF	% of state total	%Δ from 2018
Belmont	717,607	2.88%	1730.12%	932,941,074	36.23%	-2.38%
Carroll	2,525,261	10.14%	-31.36%	98,526,219	3.83%	-17.52%
Columbiana	34,408	0.14%	-21.18%	40,816,717	1.58%	22.83%
Coshocton	339	0.00%	35.06%	30,420	0.00%	-6.23%
Guernsey	13,556,178	54.43%	39.05%	91,078,704	3.54%	26.65%
Harrison	6,481,336	26.02%	53.49%	215,577,438	8.37%	35.33%
Holmes	0	0.00%	-	0	0.00%	-
Jefferson	11	0.00%	-65.63%	533,605,775	20.72%	51.39%
Muskingum	815	0.00%	-26.51%	40,662	0.00%	-9.15%
Tuscarawas	30,361	0.12%	18.81%	427,703	0.02%	23.45%
OMEGA total	23,346,316	93.74%	31.45%	1,913,044,712	74.28%	13.03%
State total	24,906,277		25.88%	2,575,317,587		9.33%

2020 YTD Production (Q1 & Q2)				
County	Oil		Natural Gas	
	BBL	% of state total	MCF	% of state total
Belmont	411,224	3.71%	413,782,526	35.95%
Carroll	969,977	8.76%	41,508,152	3.61%
Columbiana	16,105	0.15%	19,513,234	1.70%
Coshocton	0	0.00%	14,449	0.00%
Guernsey	4,973,656	44.93%	38,257,912	3.32%
Harrison	3,897,464	35.21%	131,904,295	11.46%
Holmes	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Jefferson	0	0.00%	243,104,814	21.12%
Muskingum	259	0.00%	18,575	0.00%
Tuscarawas	8,755	0.08%	177,577	0.02%
OMEGA total	10,277,440	92.84%	888,281,534	77.17%
% of 2019 Total	44.02%		46.43%	
State total	11,069,513		1,151,030,219	

Although oil and gas production in 2020 is only slightly below that of 2019, two natural gas-fired power plants are currently under construction in the region. The Guernsey Power Station in Guernsey County is on track to be completed in about two years is projected to have a transformative effect on the area's economy, with at least half of the anticipated annual plant maintenance budget of \$20 million to be spent locally. During the construction period, the projected economic impact includes over 3,000 annual jobs, \$33.8 million in state and local tax revenue, \$450 million in associated labor income, \$952.8 in output, and \$586.2 million in gross state product. The plant will be comprised of three single-shaft combined-cycle generating units housed in three separate turbine buildings. Each unit will have a generating capacity of more than 600 megawatts (MW) totaling over 1,800 MW.

The South Field Energy (pictured on title page) is a 1,180 MW combined-cycle power plant under construction in Columbiana County. It is anticipated to start commercial operations in June 2021. Additionally, Harrison Energy Center, a 1,085 MW power plant planned to be built in the Harrison County Industrial Park is planning for construction to start this year.

Due to the pandemic, PTT Global Chemical America has postponed its final investment decision regarding the ethane-cracker plant planned for Dilles Bottom in Belmont County. One investor, Daelim Chemical USA, has backed out of the project. The timetable has been scrapped and a final decision will not be announced until the effects of the pandemic on the global economy are clear.

Running from Pennsylvania to Illinois, the Ohio River is an incredible resource for commerce in our region. So much so, that the value and tonnage of commodities and raw materials shipped on the Ohio River is higher than Lake Erie. The river flows south alongside three of the counties in the OMEGA region: Columbiana, Jefferson, and Belmont. The Wellsville Intermodal Facility along the river in Columbiana County is the last publicly owned deep-water port in Ohio, owned by the Port Authority. Additionally, a

site on the Ohio River is under consideration to expand trans-loading operation using a combination of CARES Act RLF and the OMEGA RLF for funding. The Ohio River is critical now more than ever due to the growing petrochemical and energy industries in the region; however, the locks, dams, and ports are all aging and require improvement to meet demand.

OMEGA is working with other regional agencies, and ODOT to designate the section of the Ohio River from the Ohio/Pennsylvania state line in Columbiana County to the border of Gallia and Meigs County in Ohio as the Mid-Ohio River Valley Statistical Port to enhance the data collection by the US Army Corps of Engineers. This new statistical port will allow for detailed data collection of cargo that originates, terminates, and passes through the region between the current Ports of Pittsburgh and Huntington Tri-State. This data will be crucial in advocating for infrastructure improvements along this stretch of the river and can also be used as an economic development tool by businesses and communities in the area.

SECTION 3: EVALUATION OF PROGRESS ON ACTION PLAN AND GOALS

Three tools that OMEGA utilizes to measure progress on their goals and action plan include the OMEGA Profile, the CEDS Scorecard, and the grant record.

The OMEGA Profile is a new feature that will be updated yearly in the fall. The profile provides an easy to process snapshot of the OMEGA region full of demographic and economic data for both our members and the public to use. The OMEGA Profile can be found at the end of this document, Attachment A.

As stated in the following grant record, OMEGA provided grant writing assistance to several communities resulting in almost \$2.8 million in funding for the region between October 2019 and September 2020.

OMEGA GRANT RECORD					
OCTOBER 1, 2019 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2020					
Applicant	Project	Funding Agency	Grant/Loan	Total Project Cost	Status
Adena	Blairmont Road (CR 6) Landslide Repair	OPWC	\$ 21,090	\$ 273,619	Not Approved
Berlin Twp (Holmes County)	Berlin Sidewalk Project	ODOT SRTS	\$ 373,778	\$ 373,778	Not Approved
Bethesda	Dump Truck and Utility Truck	USDA	\$ 168,000	\$ 168,000	Approved
Bowerston	SR 212 Water Line Relocation	OPWC	\$ 25,024	\$ 36,266	Approved
Byesville*	Recreational Trail	ODNR RTP	\$ 59,893	\$ 74,866	Approved
Cadiz	SR 9 Sidewalk Project	ODOT SRTS	\$ 400,000	\$ 521,865	Not Approved
Cambridge*	City Park Tennis Courts	ODNR NatureWorks	\$ 20,490	\$ 181,022	Approved
Center Twp (Carroll County)	Wood Road Repaving	ODOT Oil-Shale	\$ 108,336	\$ 108,336	Not Approved
Coshocton	Coshocton - West Lafayette Water Line	CDBG RPIG	\$ 750,000	\$ 7,421,500	Approved
Coshocton	Traffic Signal Upgrade	ODOT HSIP	\$ 500,000	\$ 1,974,754	Approved
East Liverpool	Officer laptops & Sanitizing Equipment	OCJ (Coronavirus Emergency)	\$ 31,253	\$ 31,253	Pending
East Liverpool	Officer Reinstatement	OCJ (Coronavirus Emergency)	\$ 168,391	\$ 168,391	Not Approved
East Palestine	Additional Personnel (COPS Hiring Grant)	Department of Justice	\$ 125,000	\$ 237,622	Not Approved
East Palestine*	Walking Trail Rehabilitation	ODNR RJT	\$ 112,000	\$ 142,000	Approved
Fox Twp (Carroll County)	Fire Truck Replacement	FEMA	\$ 333,333	\$ 350,000	Not Approved
Glenmont	Water Treatment Plant Improvements	OPWC	\$ 249,574	\$ 430,300	Approved
Harrison County	Harrisville Wastewater Treatment Plant	CDBG Critical Infrastructure	\$ 331,500	\$ 531,500	Not Approved
Harrison County	Scio Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements	CDBG Critical Infrastructure	\$ 489,100	\$ 543,530	Not Approved
Holmes County	Connecting Mohican Valley	USDOT BUILD	\$ 1,531,730	\$ 1,531,730	Not Approved
Killbuck Twp (Holmes County)	Township Signs	ODOT HSIP	\$ 18,477	\$ 18,477	Approved
Lore City	Lore City Paving Project	OPWC	\$ 88,905	\$ 120,142	Approved
Newcomerstown	Boat Ramp	ODNR Paddling Enhancement	\$ 75,000	\$ 151,000	Approved
Newcomerstown	Park Hill Water Storage Tank	OPWC	\$ 248,430	\$ 507,000	Approved
ODOT	US 250 Bridge Replacement in Harrison County	USDOT INFRA	\$ 8,448,162	\$ 14,397,801	Not Approved
OMEGA	Brownfields Coalition Assessment	US EPA	\$ 600,000	\$ 600,000	Not Approved
Salem	PPE & Disinfecting supplies	OCJ (Coronavirus Emergency)	\$ 10,613	\$ 10,613	Approved
Salem*	Waterworth Memorial Park Restrooms	ODNR NatureWorks	\$ 31,573	\$ 42,098	Approved
Tuscarawas Village*	Memorial Park Playground Equipment	ODNR NatureWorks	\$ 7,830	\$ 10,440	Approved
Uhrichsville	Additional Personnel (COPS Hiring Grant)	Department of Justice	\$ 125,000	\$ 254,650	Not Approved
Urban Mission	Fresh Start Workforce Development Program	ARC POWER	\$ 1,420,000	\$ 3,253,110	Not Approved
Wellsville	Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements	CDBG RPIG	\$ 420,375	\$ 840,750	Approved
The Wilds	Conservation & Ecotourism as Catalyst for Growth	ARC POWER	\$ 840,000	\$ 1,667,097	Not Approved
TOTAL			\$18,132,857	\$36,973,510	
TOTAL GRANTS/LOANS APPROVED					
					\$2,786,184
*Application prepared prior to October 1, 2019, but status known after October 1, 2019.					

The following Score Card is the evaluation system OMEGA has developed to determine if goals are being met and progress is being made. Over time, it will be evident if progress is being made if unemployment and poverty rates go down and if education attainment rates, Median Household Income, population, etc. increase.

CEDS Evaluation Framework

Indicators of Regional Progress

	Achieved	On Target	Missed	In Process
Reduce Regional Unemployment				✓
Increase Regional Income				✓
Reduce Regional Poverty				✓
Improve Regional Standard of Living				✓

OMEGA District Indicator Evaluation

	2018	2019
Unemployment Rate	5.22%	5.00%
Median Household Income	\$47,062	\$48,837
Poverty Rate (All Persons)	15.52%	14.80%
Population Changes	576,094	573,805
Education Attainment Rate (HS/Assoc/Bachelor & higher)	84.15%/8.82%/13.31%	85.81%/9.14%/14.18%
Affordable Housing (% of income as rent/ owner costs)	27.04%/19.16%	27.04%/19.16%
Change in Access & Demand for Social & Medical Services (Transfer payments(B)/% of residents insured)	\$5.86B/90.65%	\$5.86B/90.65%
Number of Manufacturing Facilities/Avg. Weekly Wage	1,023/*\$1004	1,023/*\$1004
<i>OMEGA Project Participation:</i>		
Number of Individuals Benefitting from a Project	137,642	198,740
Number of Jobs Created/Retained in the Region	279	453
Miles of Roadway Constructed or Improved	2.21	1.93
Linear Feet of Water or Sewer Line Installed or Improved	112,439	186,912
Leveraged Funds	\$20.65M	\$36M

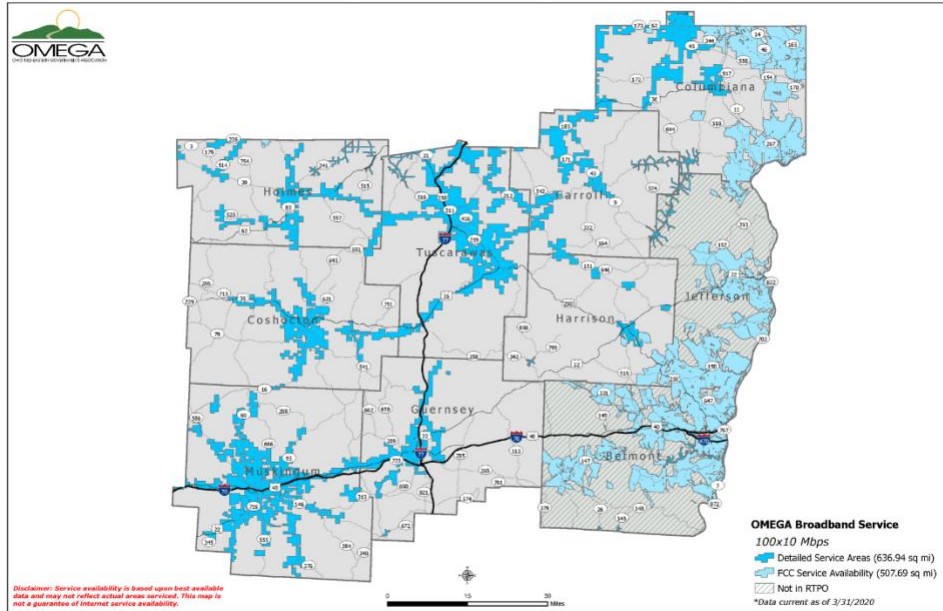
**Excludes Belmont County; average weekly wage information not available for Belmont County*

SECTION 4: SCHEDULE OF GOALS FOR THE NEXT YEAR (2021)

In the upcoming year, OMEGA will continue to be busy with the coronavirus recovery effort, the administering of the EDA CARES Act non-competitive grant, and other economic development activities as usual. OMEGA will continue to provide communities with grant writing assistance for a variety of programs including EDA programs as well as provide programmatic outreach for the Abandoned Mine Land (AML) and Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) programs. AML poses as a serious threat in the OMEGA region to both safety and economic development. OMEGA will assist communities with procuring funding assistance for the remediation of AML so that site development costs are competitive with other regions.

OMEGA will continue to administer the RLF to support private, for-profit small businesses throughout the region. Through the OMEGA RLF program, businesses may be eligible for a fixed rate, low-interest loan to assist in the startup, purchase, or expansion of a business. Additionally, OMEGA will continue to administer the CARES Act RLF program. Two loans have been approved by the loan committee, with closing planned to occur in the first quarter of 2021, one from the CARES Act RLF. Kurz-Kasch Inc. is a plastic fabrication company in Newcomerstown, OH to assist in the financing of machinery/equipment for a new product line for Samsung. Recently, Kurz-Kasch was awarded a four-year contract with Samsung which requires the acquisition of new manufacturing equipment, tools, and workstations. The applicant has met the requirements necessary to submit an eligible application under the EDA CARES Act RLF guidelines. The other loan approved by the loan committee is the Holy Moley Brewing Company, a nano brewery specializing in craft beers and wines. Equipment for this project will be partially financed through OMEGA's USDA RBEG RLF program.

Access to safe drinking water, public wastewater systems, reliable high-speed affordable broadband, and reliable transportation systems are needed to promote business development and expansion. Without these basic utilities, businesses are more likely to search elsewhere for developable sites, where these basic utilities are in place. As the rest of the country continues to expand broadband and public infrastructure access, the OMEGA region lags, putting our youth's education, health, and future in jeopardy of being behind. During times such as the coronavirus pandemic in 2020 leading into 2021, when schools were shut down and students were required to do their schoolwork from home, many students in the region lacked access to reliable broadband directly impacting their ability to receive a quality education. Lack of access to reliable broadband also prevents many small businesses from competing in today's global economy or from even staying in operation during the pandemic, and prevented many workers from being able to work from home.



OMEGA is utilizing the EDA CARES Act non-competitive funding to retain a consultant to conduct a Broadband Feasibility Study for the OMEGA region. The purpose of this study is to develop short-term and long-term strategies for broadband expansion throughout the region. In 2019, OMEGA adopted a broadband policy to demonstrate commitment to infrastructure expansion in support of economic and community development, education, and quality of life in the region. The Broadband Feasibility Study will be consistent with the goals of the newly adopted policy. The goals include:

- Improve the accuracy and veracity of broadband mapping by drilling down to the actual service locations
- Advance the region's economic development through Internet-enabled education, healthcare, transportation, and workforce development
- Leave no one behind by extending broadband to all households and businesses, delivering robust communication services
- Use fiber to connect local government facilities in Appalachia in order to increase efficiency of management and delivery of municipal services

The CARES Act non-competitive funding is also being used to retain a consultant who will serve as an Economic Recovery Coordinator. The Economic Recovery Coordinator will provide targeted technical assistance to local governments and economic development professionals. This technical assistance will be focused on activities that will lead to economic recovery from the pandemic. OMEGA will continue to assist local communities with funding for their public infrastructure needs, including water, wastewater, broadband, stormwater and drainage, downtown and neighborhood revitalization, access roads, and economic development, including workforce development, facilitation of entrepreneurship, and other activities leading to job retention and creation. These community and economic development activities will provide the framework necessary to facilitate higher Median Household Incomes especially in comparison to state and national incomes, lower poverty rates, higher educational attainment levels, and lower transfer payments in the region.

OMEGA will be working with Belmont County Sewer and Water District on a resilient infrastructure project. Their sewer system is currently at capacity and with the construction of the Pennsylvania Shell Ethylene Cracker Plant approximately 75 miles away as well as the potential and soon to be announced ethane cracker plant expected in Belmont County, the area is hoping to expand their infrastructure capacity to downstream businesses looking to develop in the county.

The Tuscarawas County Economic Development Corporation (TCEDC) and OMEGA, among other partners, are planning for the development of a 25,000-square-foot Advanced Manufacturing/Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) Innovation Center of Excellence inside the existing Tuscarawas Regional Technology Park to serve the regional manufacturing industry and its employees. The Center will provide hands-on and distance-learning IIoT-based trainings and programs led by industry leader MAGNET (Manufacturing Advocacy and Growth Network), in a state-of-the-art research and education facility that accelerates capacity and growth goals for the industry and improves quality of life for employees, their families and communities. OMEGA will assist in the attainment of additional funding for the project.

OMEGA and Coshocton Port Authority are working towards creating the Coshocton Collaborative, a co-working and makers space that will also rehabilitate the currently vacant and historic Pastime Theater Building in the heart of downtown Coshocton. The closure of the American Electric Power (AEP) Plant in Conesville as well as the ongoing pandemic have adversely affected the already struggling county. Using average unemployment rates between 2013-2019, Coshocton County has had the second highest unemployment rates in the OMEGA region. This project will provide the foundation for a more diversified, sustainable, and resilient economy leading to higher wages, lower unemployment, and lower poverty rates for the county and the region as a whole.

Resiliency is fundamental for the continued growth and success of the OMEGA region. OMEGA will work with communities to incorporate resiliency in economic, community, and transportation planning projects. To mitigate adverse impacts, OMEGA will help communities plan for and/or mitigate economic downturns, extreme weather events, and other external factors that may impact the region.

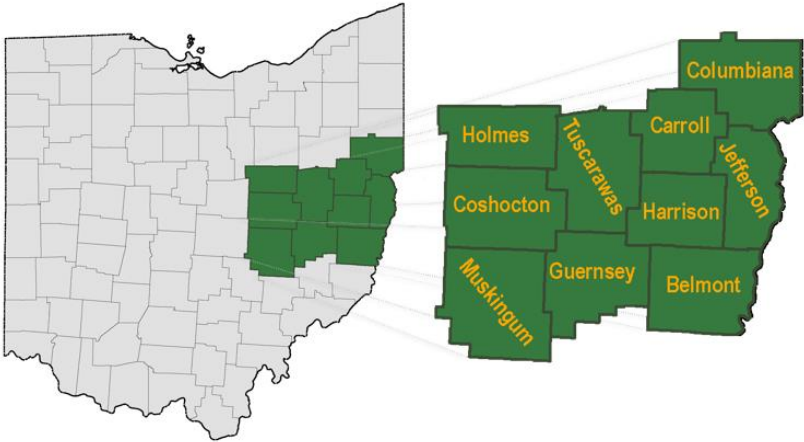
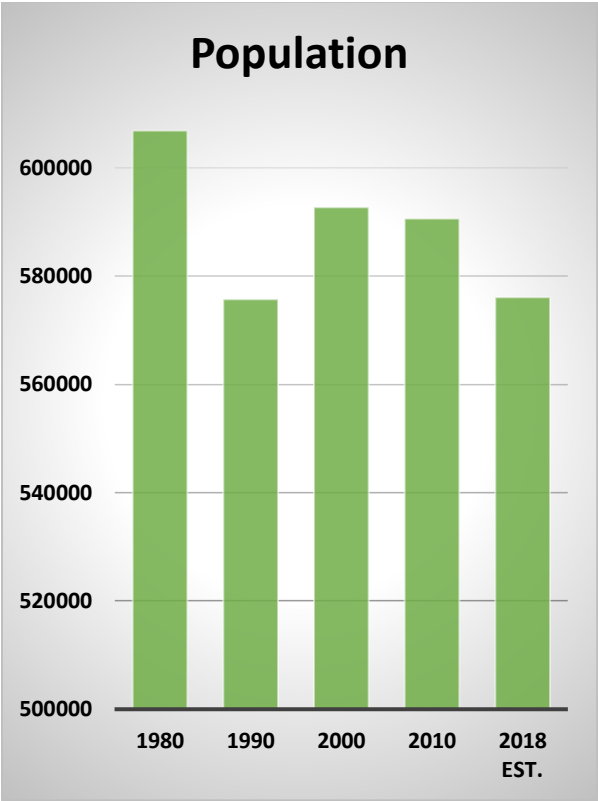
OMEGA will be utilizing two approaches in the resiliency effort this year. Steady state approaches to economic resilience focus on the long-term planning efforts designed to avoid or mitigate major disruptions to the economy. These approaches may include aligning regional plans with other planning efforts, such as hazard mitigation plans. Efforts to grow and diversify the region's economic and employment base will help ensure timely recovery to both economic and natural disasters. Responsive approaches to economic resiliency focus on short or immediate planning efforts designed to initiate recovery from a major disruption. To prepare the region for extreme weather events and the effects of climate change, the OMEGA Regional Transportation Planning Organization, in conjunction with other planning partners must conduct assessments to understand the vulnerability of regional transportation systems to the impacts of climate change and extreme weather.

OMEGA plans to conduct quarterly (March, June, September, and December) meetings with the CEDS committee to discuss the development of future CEDS. The CEDS Scorecard and the OMEGA Profile will be updated annually and finalized in October 2021. Ongoing updates include an Energy and Petrochemical update and a Real GDP update. OMEGA's Grant Record will be updated semi-annually, in April and October.

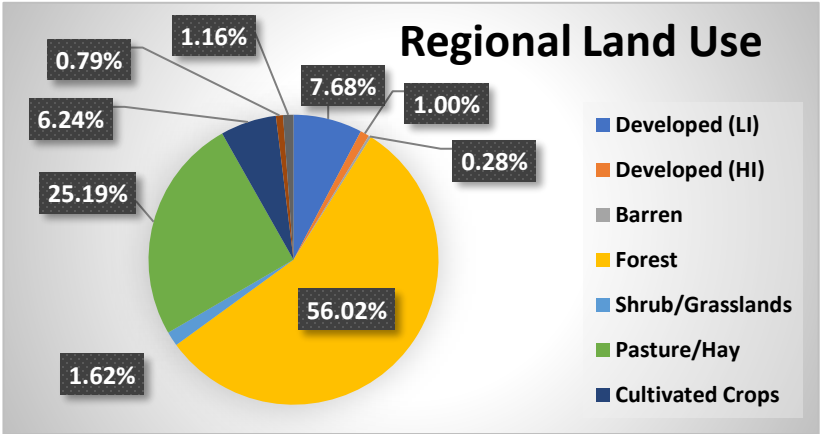
OMEGA will continue to participate in planning the State of the Region conference put on in collaboration with The Voinovich School at Ohio University, Buckeye Hills Regional Council, Eastgate Regional Council of Governments, and Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission. This event will take place Spring 2021 in a virtual format. OMEGA will conduct seven Executive Board meetings in 2021, (2/16, 3/16, 5/18, 6/15, 8/17, 9/21, and 12/7). Each of these meetings will include a speaker who will discuss relevant issues related to economic and community development as well as other topics of interest to our members. In the past, speakers have included officials from OMEGA's partner organizations such JobsOhio, OhioSE, the Governor's Office of Appalachia, etc. as well as the Ohio Secretary of State, and professors at Ohio universities. These meetings will be held virtually for the foreseeable future.

OMEGA will adapt to EDA's new requirements under the Government Performance and Results Act when submitting upcoming Specific Award Conditions.

Attachment A:
OMEGA Profile

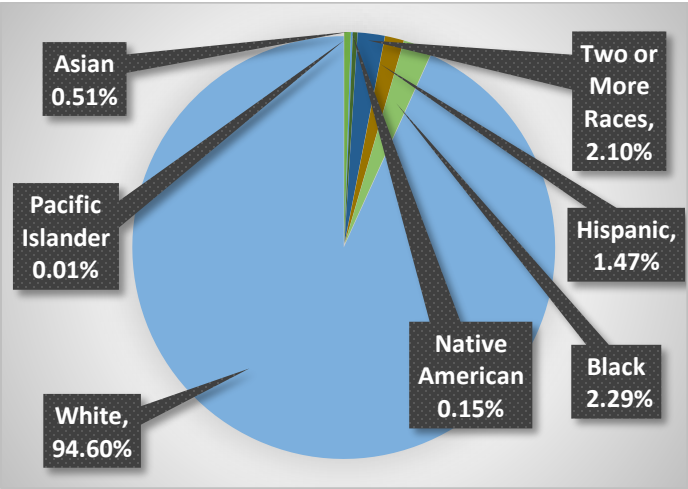


Largest Places		
	2018 (estimated)	2010 Census
Zanesville (Muskingum)	25,364	25,487
Steubenville (Jefferson)	17,864	18,659
New Philadelphia (Tuscarawas)	17,417	17,288
Dover (Tuscarawas)	12,755	12,826
Salem (Columbiana)	11,715	12,299

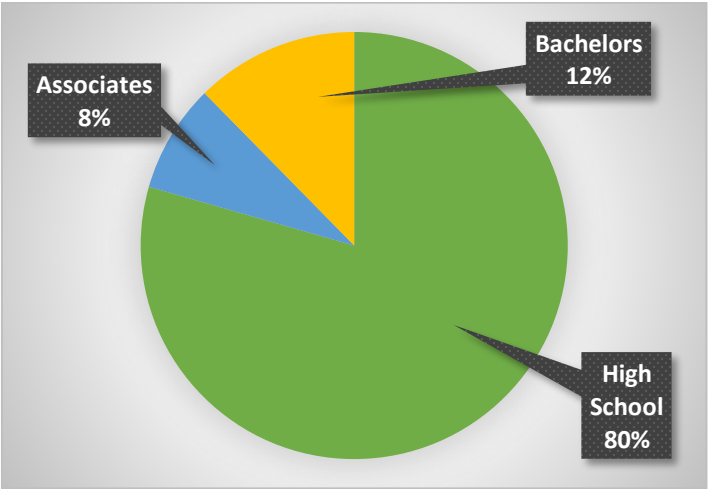


Population...

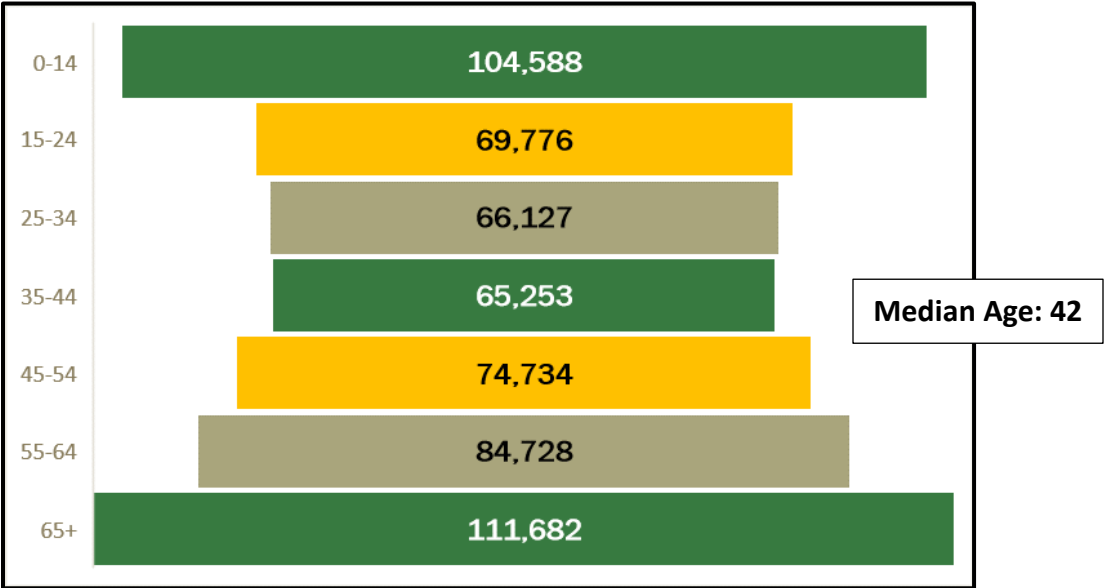
by Race



by Education Level



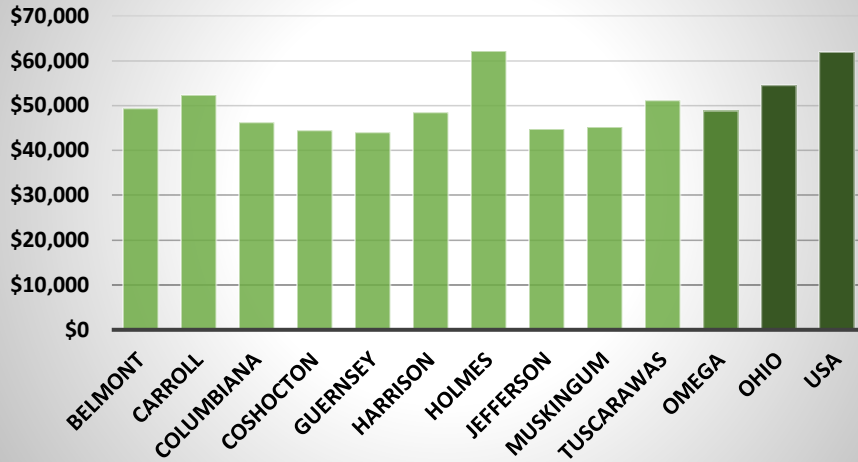
by Age



Rising Manufacturing Scholars – Kent State Tuscarawas

Finance

Medium Household Income



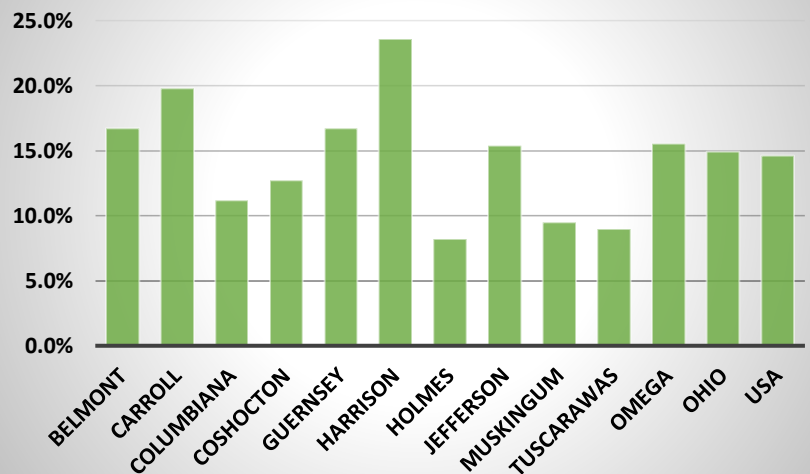
Guernsey Power Station –
Guernsey County

Total Transfer Payments	\$5,491,756,000
Payments to Individuals	\$5,362,521,000
Retirement & Disability	\$1,949,539,000
Medical Payments	\$2,565,714,000
Income Maintenance	\$448,234,000
Unemployment	\$114,162,000
Veterans Benefits	\$132,818,000
Federal Education & Training Assistance	\$100,220,000
Other	\$51,834,000

Taxes

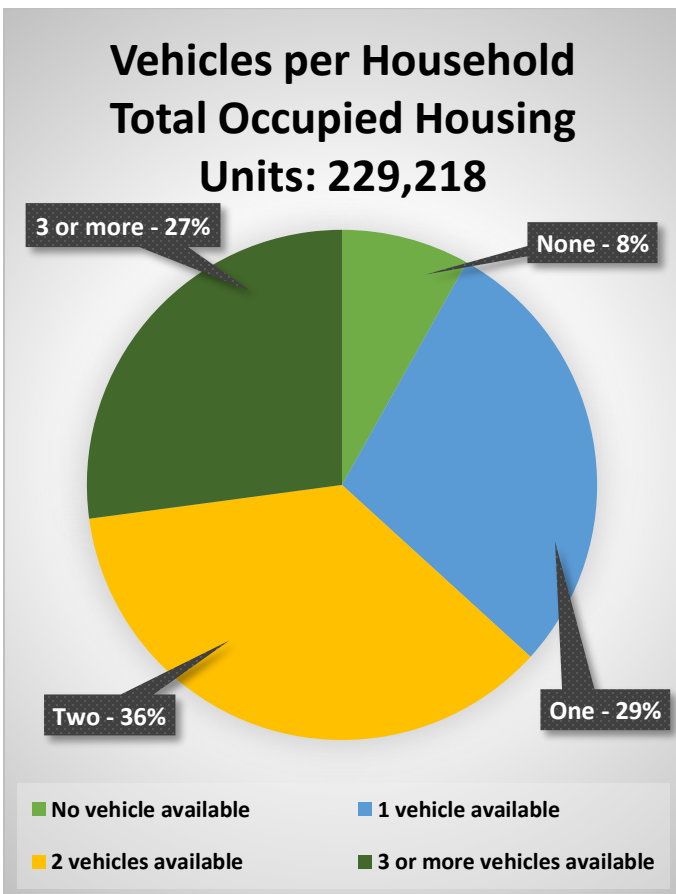
Taxable Value of Real Property	\$10,045,532,458.00
Residential	\$6,438,708,710.00
Agriculture	\$1,666,759,070.00
Industrial	\$432,621,700.00
Commercial	\$1,414,265,290.00
Mineral	\$754,623,840.00
Ohio Income Tax Liability	\$231,021,605.00
Average per return	\$905.61

Families Below Poverty Level



Housing & Transportation

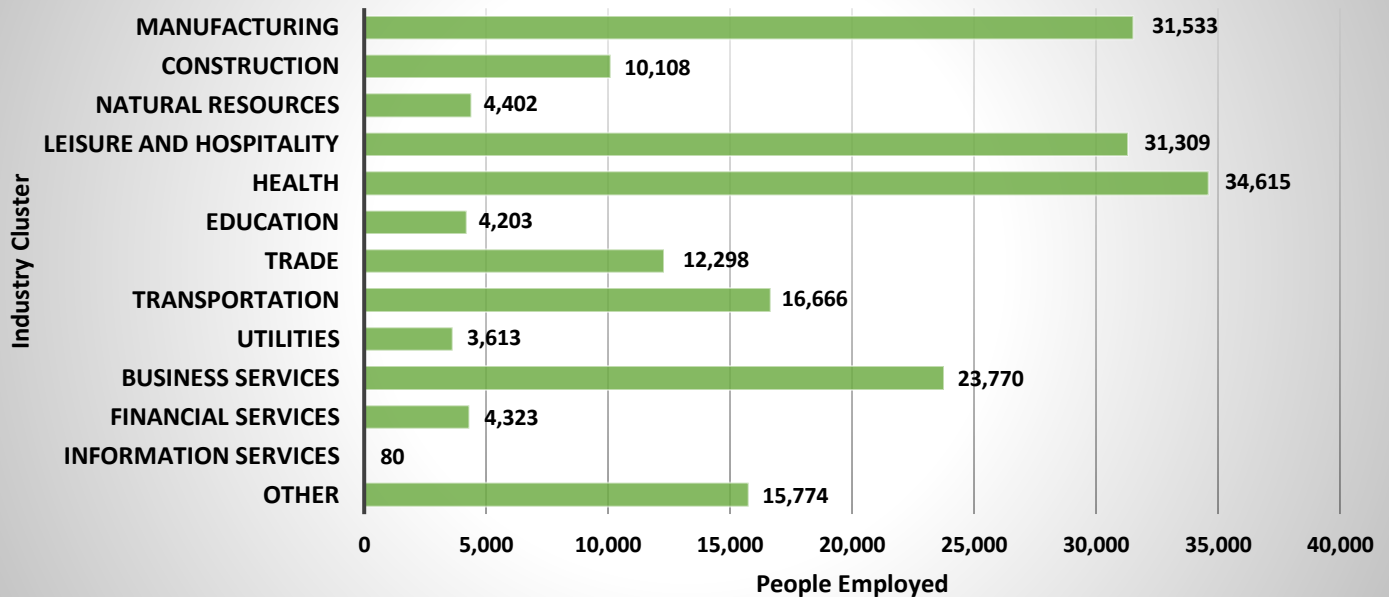
Median Gross Rent	\$616
Median Monthly Owners Cost	\$1,012
Median Home Value	\$109,750
Total Housing Units	260,941
Owner – Occupied	162,399 – 72.2% of occupied units
Renter – Occupied	62,621 – 27.8% of occupied units
Vacant Units	33,921 – 13% of total units



Average Travel Time to Work	24.4 minutes
Registered Motor Vehicles	712,887
Passenger Cars	408,872
Noncommercial trucks	135,926
Total license revenue	\$20,724,993.01
Permissive Tax Revenue	\$4,872,575.00
Interstate Highway Miles	147.9
Turnpike Miles	0
U.S. Highway Miles	345.98
State Highway Miles	1,694.25
County, Township, and Municipal Road Miles	11,067.48
General Aviation	10

Industry & Etc.

Employment by Private Industry Cluster



March 2020

Labor Force (not seasonally adjusted)	Unemployment Rate
260,780	6.8



Wellsville Port – Columbiana County

Educational Resources

Public Schools	310
Private Schools	33
Charter Schools	5
4-year Universities	2
Regional Campuses	7
2-year Public Colleges/Satellites	6
Public Library Facilities	81
State Parks, Forests, Nature Preserves, etc.	92

Healthcare

Registered Hospitals	26
Number of beds	3,177
Physicians	677
Per capita	1.2 doctors for every 1000 people
Licensed Nursing Homes	105
Number of beds	8,477
Adults w/ Health Insurance (Age 18 - 64)	89.0%
Children w/ Health Insurance (Age <19)	92.1%