

Land Use in Ohio Mostly Agricultural

Land Cover in Ohio, 1994



- Of Ohio's 28.8 million total acres, approximately 15.9 million acres (55%) are agricultural, 8.3 million acres (29%) are wooded, 3.0 million acres (11%) are open waters and wetlands (three-quarters of which is Lake Erie), and 1.4 million acres (5%) are developed or urban areas. Other categories of land use include 155,000 acres of grassland (both rural and urban) and 64,000 acres of barren land (primarily mines, quarries, and areas of sparse vegetative cover).
- Of Ohio's 15.9 million acres of agricultural land, approximately 5.7 million are comprised of pasture and hay crops and 10.1 million are comprised of row crops such as corn and soybeans.
- In 1940, total acres of wooded land in Ohio comprised approximately 15% of the state. By 1994, total wooded acreage had nearly doubled to 29% of the state.
- Between 1960 and 1990, Ohio's population grew by 13%. During the same period, Ohio's urban land area grew by 64%, meaning that the growth rate in urban land use expanded by almost five times the growth rate in population.
- Ohio's physical makeup runs from Appalachian Mountain foothills in the south to smooth glaciated plains in the north. It is a place of rolling hills, small towns, and sprawling cities. It is bounded on the north by Lake Erie and on the south and east by the Ohio River.

Ohio Parks: Second Most Visited in the Nation

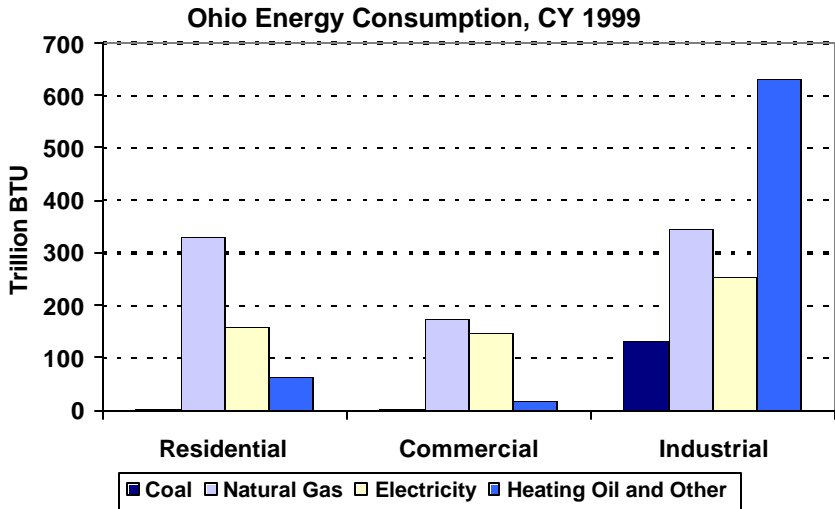
Top 5 Visited State Parks in Ohio in 2000

State Park	County	Visitors in 2000	Land Acres
Cleveland Lake Front	Cuyahoga	10,002,225	476
Alum Creek	Delaware	3,519,419	5,213
Hueston Woods	Preble and Butler	2,781,846	3,596
Salt Fork	Guernsey	2,451,600	17,229
Hocking Hills	Hocking	2,184,130	2,331

Source: Ohio Department of Natural Resources

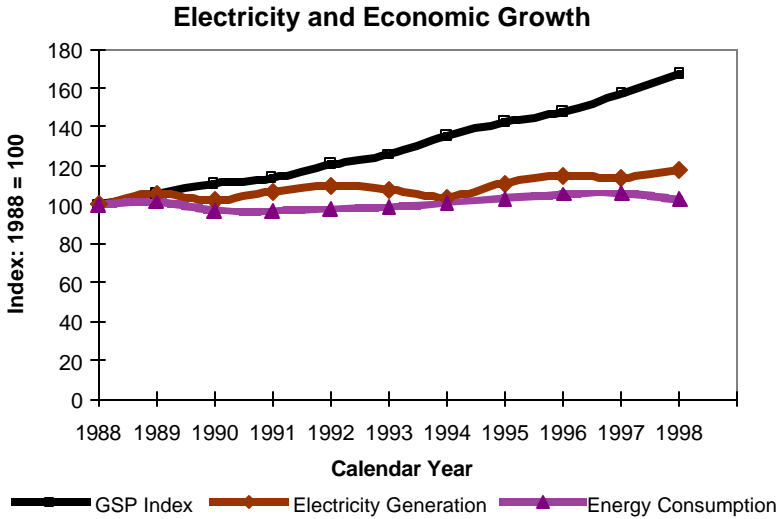
- Among the 50 states, Ohio ranks second in terms of state park visitation, with 60 million guests per year. Approximately 20% of visitors are nonresidents. According to the National Association of State Park Directors, California is first with approximately 76.6 million visitors.
- Ohio is fifth in the nation in total number of state parks and eighth in terms of total acreage.
- Currently, there are 74 state parks in 65 counties. Middle Bass Island became the 74th state park in March 2001.
- The state park system consists of 204,557 acres of land and water resources. Since 1992, the department has added 187.8 acres of park land.
- Ohio ranks seventh in revenues generated from its state parks. Total revenues in 2001 were \$26,284,668. New York was number one in terms of revenue generated.
- Ohio's state park system is one of only seven in the nation that does not charge an entrance fee.
- The state park system includes 2,558 buildings. Of these 82% are more than 20 years old and 62% are in fair or poor condition.
- The Ohio state park system was the first recipient of the National Gold Medal Award for excellence in 1997. The award is given out by the National Recreation and Park Association.
- There are 5,900 state park volunteers. These individuals contribute more than 300,000 hours of service annually.

Ohio's Energy Sources



- Ohio ranked third in the U.S. in coal consumption in calendar year 1999, fourth in electricity consumption, seventh in natural gas consumption, and eighth in oil consumption (excluding use in transportation).
- Ninety percent of the 22.5 million tons of coal both mined and distributed in Ohio in 1999 was used for electric generation.
- Roughly 30 natural gas delivery companies serve more than 3.5 million Ohio homes and businesses.
- Oil and gas have been found in 76 of Ohio's 88 counties, with more than 268,000 wells drilled, primarily in eastern Ohio. In 2001 there were roughly 63,000 active wells in the state.
- Ohio ranked 15th in 2000 in the U.S. in the amount of recoverable reserves of coal at reporting mines (336 million short tons).
- In 2001 Ohio ranked 18th in the U.S. in the amount of proven oil reserves (51 million barrels) and seventh in the number of crude oil wells drilled. Also in 2001 Ohio ranked 19th in the amount of proven natural gas reserves (1,180 billion cubic feet) and 14th in natural gas wells drilled.
- Ohio produced 3% of its total oil consumption in 1999, 13% of its natural gas consumption, 36% of its coal consumption, and 86% of its electricity consumption.

Electricity and Ohio's Economy



- More than 4.6 million homes and businesses receive electric service in Ohio, using 161 billion kilowatt hours of electricity in 2001.
- Eighty-five municipal utilities served about 6% of the state's electric market in 2001, and 24 rural electric cooperatives served an additional 6%. Eight investor-owned utilities served the remaining market but, since January 2001, have faced competition from new suppliers of electricity, chiefly in northern Ohio.
- Ohio's average retail electricity rate in 2002 was 6.5 cents per kilowatt hour, which was 4.1% below the national average and 20th highest in the U.S.
- Most of Ohio's electricity (98% in 1999) is generated in the state's 22 coal-burning plants (86%) and two nuclear facilities (12%), generally located near Lake Erie and the Ohio River.
- Ohio's coal-fired plants produced 24,000 megawatts of the state's total generation in 2001. Ninety percent of Ohio's coal baseload capacity is over 30 years old.
- Ohio has approved the construction of 25 new electric generation facilities, which will create 16,563 megawatts of power by 2007, primarily for peak-load use and fueled by natural gas.