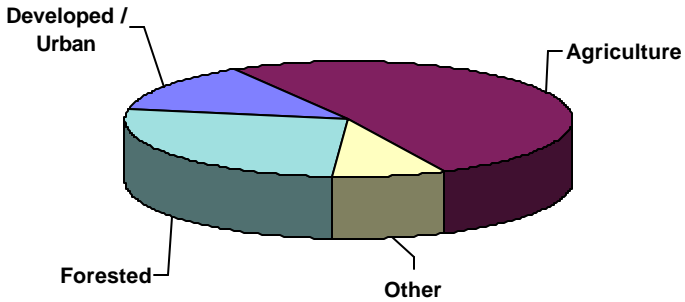


Land Use in Ohio Mostly Agricultural, but Trend Indicates Loss of Farmland Overall

Land Cover in Ohio, 1997



- Of Ohio's 26.4 million acres, approximately 13.6 million acres (52%) are agricultural, 7.1 million acres (27%) are forested, and 3.6 million acres (14%) are developed or urban areas. Other categories of land use may include open waters or wetlands, grasslands, or barren land (mines, quarries, or areas of sparse vegetative cover).
- Of Ohio's 13.6 million acres of agricultural land, approximately 2.0 million grow pasture and hay crops and 11.6 million grow row crops such as corn and soybeans.
- In 1940, total acres of wooded or forested land in Ohio comprised approximately 15% of the state. By 1997, total forested acreage had nearly doubled to 27% of the state.
- Ohio is among the most urban and fastest urbanizing states in the nation. In 1997, Ohio ranked seventh among all states in total acres of developed land and ranked among the top ten fastest urbanizing states between 1992 and 1997.
- Between 1982 and 1997, the percentage of urban land in Ohio increased from 10.5% to 13.7%. During the same period, the percentage of agricultural land decreased from 57.6% to 51.6%. With respect to the ratio of agricultural land to urban land, in 1982 there were approximately 5.47 acres of agricultural land to every one acre of urban land. By 1997 that ratio had decreased to 3.78 acres of agricultural land to every one acre of urban land.

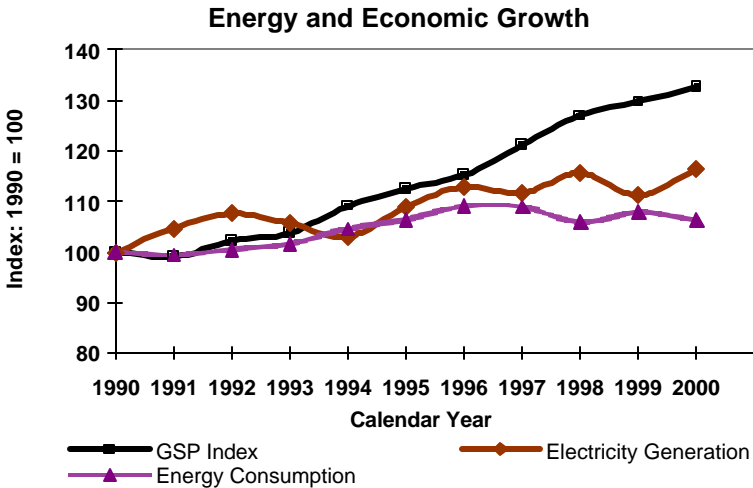
Ohio Parks: Second Most Visited in the Nation

Top Five Visited State Parks in Ohio in 2003

State Park	County	Visitors in 2003	Land Acres
Cleveland Lake Front	Cuyahoga	9,068,786	476
Alum Creek	Delaware	3,663,291	5,213
Hueston Woods	Preble and Butler	2,810,325	3,596
Headlands Beach	Lake	2,150,904	120
Hocking Hills	Hocking	2,067,494	2,331

- Among the 50 states, Ohio ranks second in the nation in terms of state park visitation, with 55 million guests per year. Ohio ranks sixth in the total number of state parks.
- Ohio is second in the nation in the number of recreational trails and ninth in terms of total park acreage.
- Currently, there are 74 state parks in 65 counties. Middle Bass Island became the 74th state park in March 2001.
- Ohio ranks seventh in terms of revenues generated from its state parks. Total revenues in 2003 were \$27,075,200, of which 37% were from camping fees.
- Ohio's state park system is one of only eight in the nation that does not charge an entrance fee.
- An online centralized reservation system for camping and state-operated cottages went live in the winter of FY 2004. From January 1, 2003 through the middle of August 2004, 88,058 reservations were made on the system.
- Ohio is ranked second in the nation in the number of state park resort lodges. Ohio's ninth and newest state park lodge is at Geneva State Park. This lodge is unique in that the \$16.7 million facility is situated on state-owned parkland but was constructed and will be managed entirely with local funds.
- In FY 2004, 589 acres of land on North Bass Island was purchased by the Department of Natural Resources for approximately \$17.4 million (federal and state funds). The land purchased includes 2.5 miles of undeveloped shoreline and 58 acres of natural coastal wetlands and unique geologic features.
- There are 5,818 state park volunteers. In 2003, these volunteers contributed approximately 325,000 service hours, which is an all-time record for the Volunteer-In-Parks program.

Economy Grows Faster than Energy Use



- Ohio's gross state product (GSP) increased by 32.6% from 1990 to 2000, while energy consumption increased by 6.3%.
- Ohio was 4th in the U.S. in both electricity and coal consumption in 2000 and was 7th in the nontransportation use of oil and in natural gas consumption. Ohio ranked 2nd (to Texas) in industrial retail electric sales.
- Ohio ranked 18th nationally in petroleum and natural gas prices in 2000, and 22nd in electricity prices in 2002 (Ohio's average revenue for all customer classes – a retail price proxy – was 6.66 cents per kilowatt hour, which was 7.6% below the national average).
- In 2003 oil and gas were produced in 44 of Ohio's 88 counties, but out-of-state sources met most of the state's consumption. Ohio production levels have remained generally steady since 2000, but in 2003 were at the lowest level in ten years.
- In 2002 90% of the electricity generated in Ohio was derived from coal (about one-third of which was Ohio-mined), compared to a U.S. average of 50%. At 7%, the second most-used electricity fuel source in Ohio was nuclear, compared to a U.S. average of 20%. Natural gas increased in use as a generation fuel in Ohio in 2002, mostly for peaking capacity.
- Between 1993 and 2003, 2000 was the peak year for proposals submitted to the Power Siting Board to construct large electric generating and transmission and natural gas transmission facilities in Ohio. More facilities were completed each year from 2001 to 2003 than the average number completed annually from 1993 to 2000.