

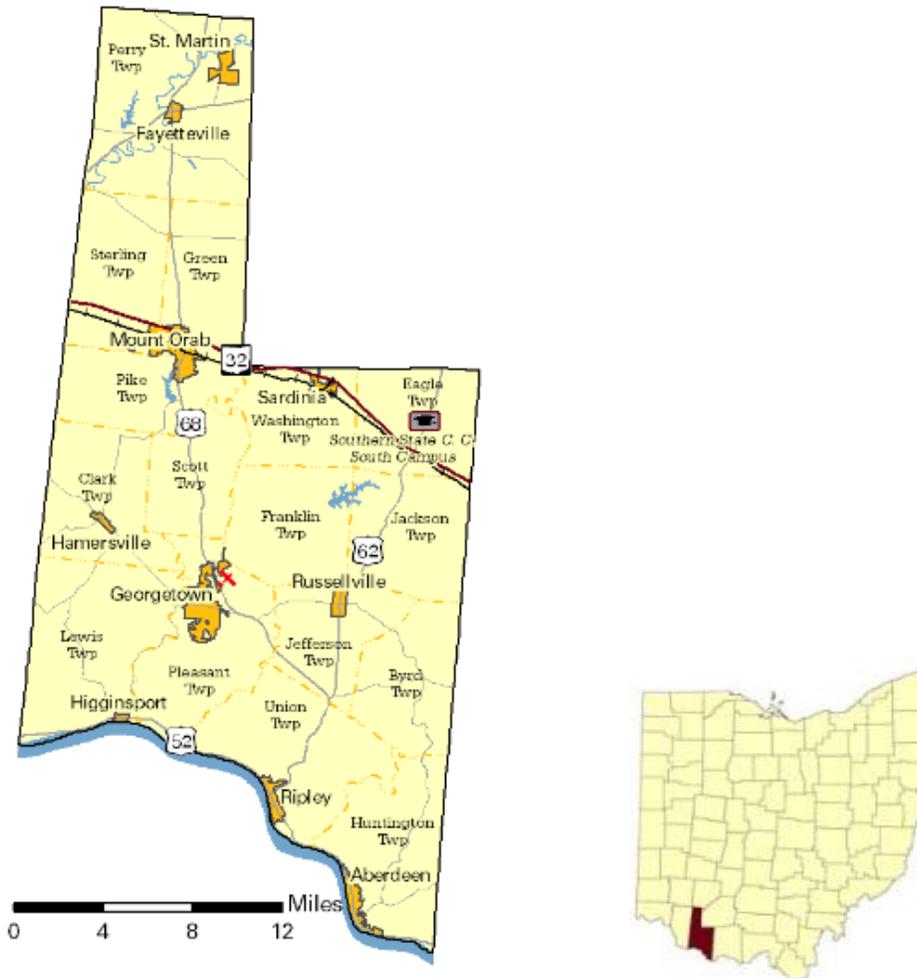
## Section

# 4

## COUNTY PROFILE

Brown County is located in southwest Ohio (Figure 4-1). As of the 2010 Census, the population is 44,846 which includes 10 villages, 2 private gated communities and 16 townships. Brown County is surrounded by Clermont County (OH), Adams County (OH), Clinton County (OH), Highland (OH), and bounded by the Ohio River on the south with Mason County (KY) and Bracken County (KY) across the river.

**Figure 4-1: Brown County Base Map**



*Data Source: Ohio Office of Policy, Research and Strategic Planning*

## 4.1 Topography

Brown County is 493 square miles bounded on the north by Clinton County, on the east by Highland and Adam’s County and to the south by the Ohio River. Northern Kentucky is on the other side of the Ohio River.

The topography of southwest Ohio is a product of years of glacial erosion. The last major glacial advance (Wisconsinian glacial episode) drastically altered the landscape, including the modern route of the Ohio River to the Mississippi River. The glaciers advancing from the northwest melted dropping deposits of sand and gravel, forming rivers, valleys, and the terrain of the Ohio River Valley.

## 4.2 Climate

Brown County has a continental climate with cold winters and warm summers. Winters are moderately cold with extensive cloudiness, average high temperatures around 40F, and average lows in the mid-20s. Summers are warm and humid with daytime temperatures averaging in the mid-80s, while evenings cool down into the 60s. The average annual precipitation is 40.14 inches, more than half of which (23.9) is snow. The average temperatures range from 28.9F in January to 75.3F in July. Severe weather is not uncommon in the region.

*Date Source: National Climatic Data Center*

## 4.3 Demographics

The 2010 U.S. Census reported that the Brown County population is 44,846. The majority of this population resides within the villages of the incorporated areas. The largest city is Georgetown housing 9.6% of the population. Table 4-1 lists the population distribution by jurisdiction.

**Table 4-1: Population by Jurisdiction**

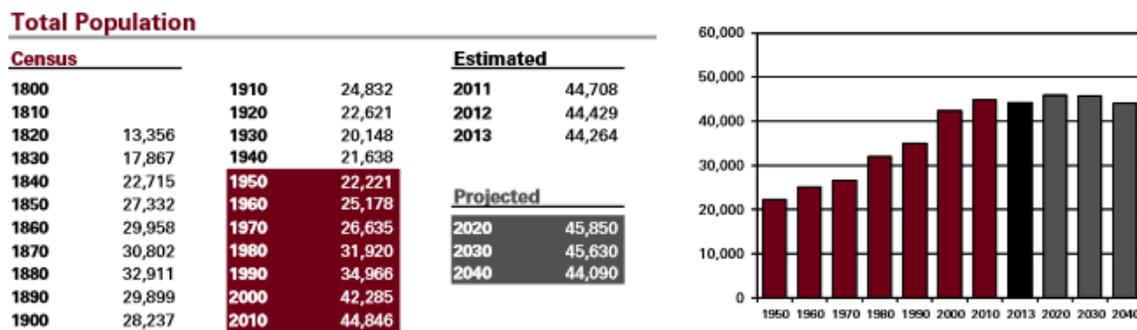
Jurisdiction Name	Type	2010 Population
Brown County	County	44,846
Aberdeen	Village	1,638
Fayetteville	Village	330
Georgetown	Village	4,331
Hamersville	Village	546
Higginsport	Village	251
Lake Lorelei	CDP (Gated Community)	1,170
Lake Waynoka	CDP (Gated Community)	1,173
Mt. Orab	Village	3,664
Ripley	Village	1,750
Russelville	Village	561
Sardinia	Village	980
St. Martin	Village	129

### 4.3.1 Population Trends

American Community Survey (2009-2013) estimates that Brown County is experiencing a slight population growth (+ 0.5%) since the 2010 Census. While the urban cores of Brown County is decreasing, there is a growth along major corridors linking Brown County to the greater area around Cincinnati.

A county profile analysis completed by the Ohio Office of Policy, Research and Strategic Planning projects that Brown County’s population will level out over the next 25 years, see Figure 4-2.

**Figure 4-2: Brown County Population Trends**



## 4.4 Economy

The American Community Survey, based on estimates between 2009 and 2013, reports that 81.7% of the workforce is in the private sector. The breakdown of the industrial employments sectors is listed in Table 4-2. Educational services, health care and social assistance account for majority of the workforce at 24.5%. The median income of households in Brown County in 2010 was \$44,341, while 13.5% of households had an annual income of less than \$15,000.

**Table 4-2: Industrial Employment by Sector**

Industrial Sector	% of County Workforce (2010)
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	24.5
Manufacturing	15.2
Retail Trade	11.7
Professional, scientific, management, and administrative	9.2
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food	8.9
Finance and insurance, real estate and leasing	6.5
Construction	5.2
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	4.8
Other services	4.5
Public administration	4.0

<b>Industrial Sector</b>	<b>% of County Workforce (2010)</b>
Wholesale Trade	2.8
Information	1.8
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting and mining	1.0

Source: <http://factfinder2.census.gov>

## 4.5 Industry

Brown County's major employers<sup>3</sup> and number of employees are depicted below in Table 4-3. Kroger is the county's largest employer at 389 persons.

**Table 4-3: Major Employers**

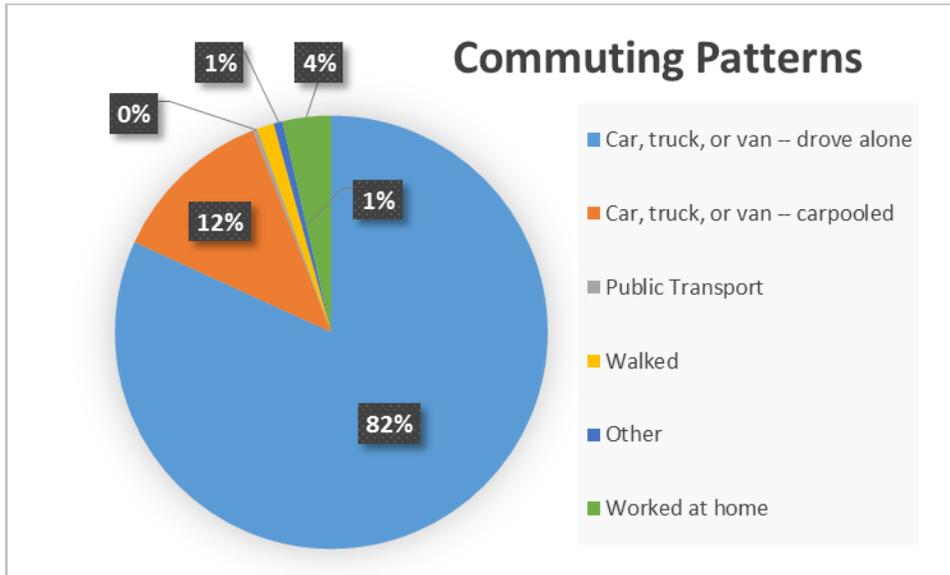
<b>Company Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Number of Employees</b>
Kroger	Mt Orab	389
Brown County Government	Brown County	300
Western Brown Local Schools	Mt Orab	300
Ohio Valley Manor Nursing Home	Ripley	250
Ohio Veterans Home	Georgetown	200
Stanley Black & Decker, Inc/Mac Tools	Georgetown	140
Villa Nursing Home	Georgetown	80
Locust Ridge Nursing Home	Williamsburg	80

## 4.6 Commuter Patterns

According to the 2013 American Community Survey estimates, Brown County has a civilian workforce of 20,804. There are 18,235 employed persons, meaning an unemployment rate of 12.3%. The mean travel time to work is just over 35 minutes. Many residents commute to Clermont and Hamilton County (Greater Cincinnati) for work. State Route 32, the Appalachian Highway, has enhanced Brown County's accessibility to I-275, I-75 and I-71 (major interstates surrounding Cincinnati). The county is also served by U.S. Routes 50, 52, 62 and 68. These thoroughfares provide easy access to Northern Kentucky, the Greater Cincinnati area, Clermont and Clinton Counties. Figure 4-3 depicts the commuting patterns of Brown County residents.

<sup>3</sup> Ohio Office of Policy, Research, and Strategic Planning, Ohio County Profiles (Brown County)

**Figure 4-3: Brown County Commuting Patterns**



## 4.7 Major Lakes, Rivers, and Watersheds

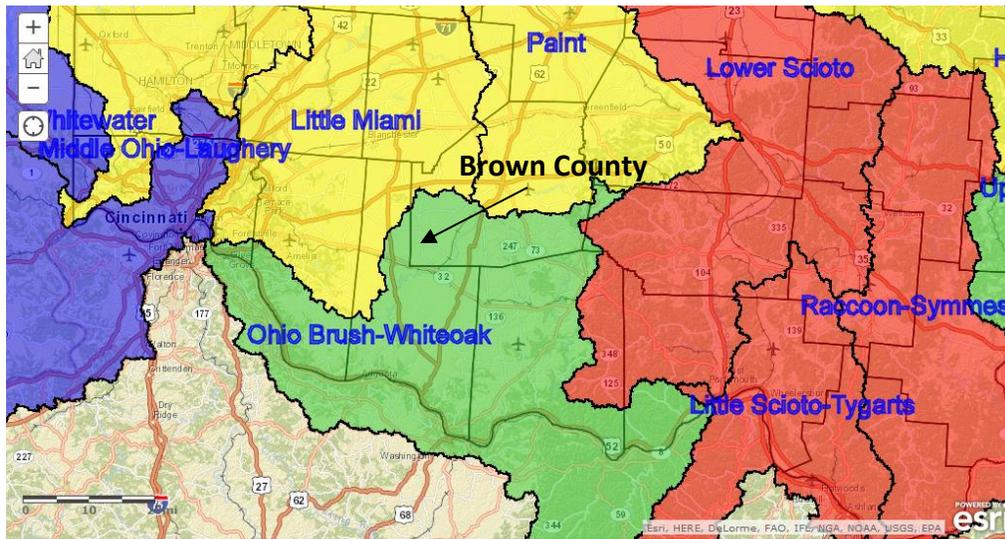
Brown County is bounded on the south by the Ohio River and Kentucky. Major lakes include: Lake Waynoka and Lake Lorelei. Both of these lakes are part of the two gated communities in Brown County.

The Ohio Watershed Network is a group of partners and programs who focus on watershed management in conjunction with local watershed coordinators. The Network identifies watershed groups for the purpose of organization and management. Brown County is part of four watershed groups: East Fork Watershed Collaborative, Greenacres Water Quality Project, Little Miami River Partnership, and the White Oak Creek Watershed Group.

In 2011, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, FEMA and OEMA prioritized Ohio HUC 8 watersheds. This was part of a FEMA-led initiative to target high-priority watersheds for the Risk MAP program. This program is geared to identify areas that need improved risk identification through mapping, assessment and planning. Brown County is part of two of the HUC 8 watersheds: Little Miami and Ohio Brush-Whiteoak, see Figure 4-4. The Little Miami Watershed is a “Medium” priority for the state of Ohio, and had its first Discovery Meeting as part of the Risk MAP process on May 4, 2011.

Brown County is part of four watershed groups: East Fork Watershed Collaborative, Greenacres Water Quality Project, Little Miami River Partnership, and the White Oak Creek Watershed Group. Check out The Ohio State University’s website at <http://ohiowatersheds.osu.edu/groups>.

**Figure 4-4: Prioritization of Ohio Watersheds for FEMA’s Risk MAP Program.**



**Ohio Watershed Sequencing**



Source: ESRI Online Map Gallery, FEMA Risk MAP

## 4.8 Land Use and Future Development

Brown County is mixed land use including cropland (45.41%), forest (35.97%), and urban (3.03%) areas (Ohio Office of Policy, Research and Strategic Planning). Brown County experienced a growth in residential properties and new development primarily along major thoroughfares connecting Brown County to the greater Cincinnati area. Brown County recognizes this growth as an opportunity to further economic growth. To encourage large retailers and other companies, the Brown County Department of Economic Development keeps an updated list of large parcels of land (100+ acres) available with specific specs on their website

### 4.8.2 Zoning and Land Use

Incorporated areas of Brown County are subject to local zoning ordinances and enforcement. Unincorporated areas of Brown County are subject to zoning regulations adopted by the Brown County Board of Commissioners and are enforced by the Brown County Zoning Department.

Most new development occurring in Brown County is along S.R. 32, the Appalachian Highway. Brown County implemented Subdivision Standards to provide guidelines for new construction and development.