[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Pp-semi-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-semi-indef) [Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef) [Template:Use mdy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_mdy_dates) [Template:Infobox U.S. state](/wiki/Template:Infobox_U.S._state) [Template:Infobox U.S. state symbols](/wiki/Template:Infobox_U.S._state_symbols)

**Ohio** [Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en) is a state in the [Great Lakes region of the United States](/wiki/Great_Lakes_region). Ohio is the [34th largest by area](/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_and_territories_by_area), the [7th most populous](/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_and_territories_by_population), and the [10th most densely populated](/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_and_territories_by_population_density) of the [50 United States](/wiki/List_of_states_and_territories_of_the_United_States). The state's capital and [largest city](/wiki/List_of_cities_in_Ohio) is [Columbus](/wiki/Columbus,_Ohio).

The state takes its name from the [Ohio River](/wiki/Ohio_River). The name originated from the [Iroquois](/wiki/Iroquois_language) word *ohi-yo’*, meaning "great river" or "large creek."[[1]](#cite_note-1)[[2]](#cite_note-2)[[3]](#cite_note-3) Partitioned from the [Northwest Territory](/wiki/Northwest_Territory), the state was admitted to the Union as the 17th state (and the first under the [Northwest Ordinance](/wiki/Northwest_Ordinance)) on March 1, 1803.[[4]](#cite_note-4)[[5]](#cite_note-5) Ohio is historically known as the "Buckeye State" after its [Ohio buckeye trees](/wiki/Aesculus_glabra), and Ohioans are also known as "Buckeyes."[[6]](#cite_note-6) The government of Ohio is composed of the executive branch, led by the [Governor](/wiki/List_of_Governors_of_Ohio); the legislative branch, which comprises the [Ohio General Assembly](/wiki/Ohio_General_Assembly); and the judicial branch, which is led by the state [Supreme Court](/wiki/Supreme_Court_of_Ohio). Ohio occupies 16 seats in the [United States House of Representatives](/wiki/United_States_House_of_Representatives).[[7]](#cite_note-7) Ohio is known for its status as both a [swing state](/wiki/Swing_state)[[8]](#cite_note-8) and a [bellwether](/wiki/Bellwether)[[8]](#cite_note-8) in national elections. Six [Presidents](/wiki/Presidents_of_the_United_States) of the [United States](/wiki/United_States) have been elected who had Ohio [as their home state](/wiki/List_of_Presidents_of_the_United_States_by_home_state).

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## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) Ohio's geographic location has proven to be an asset for economic growth and expansion. Because Ohio links the Northeast to the Midwest, much cargo and business traffic passes through its borders along its well-developed highways. Ohio has the nation's 10th largest highway network, and is within a one-day drive of 50% of North America's population and 70% of North America's manufacturing capacity.[[9]](#cite_note-9) To the north, [Lake Erie](/wiki/Lake_Erie) gives Ohio [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of coastline,[[10]](#cite_note-10) which allows for numerous cargo ports. Ohio's southern border is defined by the [Ohio River](/wiki/Ohio_River) (with the border being at the 1793 low-water mark on the north side of the river), and much of the northern border is defined by Lake Erie. Ohio's neighbors are [Pennsylvania](/wiki/Pennsylvania) to the east, [Michigan](/wiki/Michigan) to the northwest, [Ontario](/wiki/Ontario) Canada, to the north, [Indiana](/wiki/Indiana) to the west, [Kentucky](/wiki/Kentucky) on the south, and [West Virginia](/wiki/West_Virginia) on the southeast. Ohio's borders were defined by [metes and bounds](/wiki/Metes_and_bounds) in the [Enabling Act of 1802](/wiki/Enabling_Act_of_1802) as follows: [Template:Quote](/wiki/Template:Quote)

[right|thumb|The Ohio coast of](/wiki/File:DSCN4516_portconneautflag_e.jpg) [Lake Erie](/wiki/Lake_Erie). Ohio is bounded by the Ohio River, but nearly all of the river itself belongs to Kentucky and West Virginia. In 1980, the [U.S. Supreme Court](/wiki/U.S._Supreme_Court) held that, based on the wording of the cessation of territory by [Virginia](/wiki/Virginia) (which at that time included what is now Kentucky and West Virginia), the boundary between Ohio and Kentucky (and, by implication, West Virginia) is the northern low-water mark of the river as it existed in 1792.[[11]](#cite_note-11) Ohio has only that portion of the river between the river's 1792 low-water mark and the present high-water mark.

The border with Michigan has also changed, as a result of the [Toledo War](/wiki/Toledo_War), to angle slightly northeast to the north shore of the mouth of the Maumee River.

Much of Ohio features glaciated plains, with an exceptionally flat area in the northwest being known as the [Great Black Swamp](/wiki/Great_Black_Swamp). This glaciated region in the northwest and central state is bordered to the east and southeast first by a belt known as the [glaciated Allegheny Plateau](/wiki/Glaciated_Allegheny_Plateau), and then by another belt known as the [unglaciated Allegheny Plateau](/wiki/Unglaciated_Allegheny_Plateau). Most of Ohio is of low relief, but the unglaciated Allegheny Plateau [features rugged hills and forests](/wiki/Appalachian_Ohio). [thumb|left|Physical geography of Ohio.](/wiki/File:Geographic_regions_ohio.svg)

The rugged southeastern quadrant of Ohio, stretching in an outward bow-like arc along the Ohio River from the West [Virginia Panhandle](/wiki/Northern_Panhandle_of_West_Virginia) to the outskirts of Cincinnati, forms a distinct [socio-economic](/wiki/Socioeconomics) unit. Geologically similar to parts of West Virginia and southwestern Pennsylvania, this area's coal mining legacy, dependence on small pockets of old manufacturing establishments, and distinctive regional dialect set this section off from the rest of the state. In 1965 the [United States Congress](/wiki/United_States_Congress) passed the Appalachian Regional Development Act, at attempt to "address the persistent poverty and growing economic despair of the Appalachian Region."[[12]](#cite_note-12) This act defines 29 Ohio counties as part of Appalachia.[[13]](#cite_note-13) While 1/3 of Ohio's land mass is part of the federally defined Appalachian region, only 12.8% of Ohioans live there (1.476 million people.)[[14]](#cite_note-14)[thumb|215px|right|Map of Ohio.](/wiki/File:Map_of_Ohio_NA.png) Significant [rivers](/wiki/List_of_rivers_of_Ohio) within the state include the [Cuyahoga River](/wiki/Cuyahoga_River), [Great Miami River](/wiki/Great_Miami_River), [Maumee River](/wiki/Maumee_River), [Muskingum River](/wiki/Muskingum_River), and [Scioto River](/wiki/Scioto_River). The rivers in the northern part of the state drain into the northern Atlantic Ocean via [Lake Erie](/wiki/Lake_Erie) and the [St. Lawrence River](/wiki/St._Lawrence_River), and the rivers in the southern part of the state drain into the [Gulf of Mexico](/wiki/Gulf_of_Mexico) via the [Ohio River](/wiki/Ohio_River) and then the [Mississippi](/wiki/Mississippi_River).

The worst weather disaster in Ohio history occurred along the Great Miami River in 1913. Known as the [Great Dayton Flood](/wiki/Great_Dayton_Flood), the entire [Miami River](/wiki/Great_Miami_River) watershed flooded, including the downtown business district of [Dayton](/wiki/Dayton,_Ohio). As a result, the [Miami Conservancy District](/wiki/Miami_Conservancy_District) was created as the first major flood plain engineering project in Ohio and the United States.[[15]](#cite_note-15) [Grand Lake St. Marys](/wiki/Grand_Lake_St._Marys) in the west central part of the state was constructed as a supply of water for [canals](/wiki/Canal) in the canal-building era of 1820–1850. For many years this body of water, over [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), was the largest artificial lake in the world. It should be noted that [Ohio's canal-building projects](/wiki/Category:Canals_in_Ohio) were not the economic fiasco that similar efforts were in other states. Some cities, such as Dayton, owe their industrial emergence to location on canals, and as late as 1910 interior canals carried much of the bulk freight of the state.

### Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[thumb|300px|Ohio map of Köppen climate classification.](/wiki/File:Ohio_map_of_Köppen_climate_classification.svg) The climate of Ohio is a [humid continental climate](/wiki/Humid_continental_climate) ([Köppen climate classification](/wiki/Köppen_climate_classification) *Dfa*) throughout most of the state except in the extreme southern counties of Ohio's [Bluegrass region](/wiki/Bluegrass_region) section which are located on the northern periphery of the [humid subtropical climate](/wiki/Humid_subtropical_climate) and [Upland South](/wiki/Upland_South) region of the United States. Summers are typically hot and humid throughout the state, while winters generally range from cool to cold. Precipitation in Ohio is moderate year-round. Severe weather is not uncommon in the state, although there are typically fewer [tornado](/wiki/Tornado) reports in Ohio than in states located in what is known as the [Tornado Alley](/wiki/Tornado_Alley). Severe [lake effect snowstorms](/wiki/Lake_effect_snow) are also not uncommon on the southeast shore of [Lake Erie](/wiki/Lake_Erie), which is located in an area designated as the [Snowbelt](/wiki/Snowbelt).

Although predominantly not in a subtropical climate, some warmer-climate flora and fauna does reach well into Ohio. For instance, a number of trees with more southern ranges, such as the [blackjack oak](/wiki/Blackjack_oak), *Quercus marilandica*, are found at their northernmost in Ohio just north of the Ohio River. Also evidencing this climatic transition from a [subtropical](/wiki/Subtropical) to [continental climate](/wiki/Continental_climate), several plants such as the Southern magnolia *(*[*Magnolia grandiflora*](/wiki/Magnolia_grandiflora)*)*, [Albizia julibrissin](/wiki/Albizia_julibrissin) (mimosa), [Crape Myrtle](/wiki/Crape_Myrtle), and even the occasional [Needle Palm](/wiki/Needle_Palm) are hardy landscape materials regularly used as street, yard, and garden plantings in the [Bluegrass region](/wiki/Bluegrass_region) of Ohio; but these same plants will simply not thrive in much of the rest of the State. This interesting change may be observed while traveling through Ohio on [Interstate 75](/wiki/Interstate_75) from [Cincinnati](/wiki/Cincinnati) to [Toledo](/wiki/Toledo,_Ohio); the observant traveler of this diverse state may even catch a glimpse of Cincinnati's [common wall lizard](/wiki/Common_wall_lizard), one of the few examples of permanent "subtropical" fauna in Ohio.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Average daily maximum and minimum temperatures for selected cities in Ohio[[16]](#cite_note-16) | | | | |
| **Location** | **July (°F)** | **July (°C)** | **January (°F)** | **January (°C)** |
| [Columbus](/wiki/Columbus,_Ohio) | 85/65 | 29/18 | 36/22 | 2/–5 |
| [Cleveland](/wiki/Cleveland) | 82/64 | 28/18 | 34/21 | 1/–5 |
| [Cincinnati](/wiki/Cincinnati) | 86/61 | 30/19 | 38/23 | 3/–5 |
| [Toledo](/wiki/Toledo,_Ohio) | 84/62 | 29/17 | 32/18 | 0/–7 |
| [Akron](/wiki/Akron,_Ohio) | 82/62 | 28/16 | 33/19 | 0/–7 |
| [Dayton](/wiki/Dayton,_Ohio) | 87/67 | 31/19 | 36/22 | 2/–5 |
| [Canton](/wiki/Canton,_Ohio) | 82/62 | 28/16 | 33/19 | 1/–7 |

#### Records[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

The highest recorded temperature was [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), near [Gallipolis](/wiki/Gallipolis,_Ohio) on July 21, 1934.[[17]](#cite_note-17)The lowest recorded temperature was [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), at [Milligan](/wiki/Milligan,_Ohio) on February 10, 1899,[[18]](#cite_note-18) during the [Great Blizzard of 1899](/wiki/Great_Blizzard_of_1899).[[19]](#cite_note-19)

### Earthquakes[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

Although few have registered as noticeable to the average resident, more than 30 earthquakes occurred in Ohio between 2002 and 2007, and more than 200 quakes with a [magnitude](/wiki/Richter_magnitude_scale) of 2.0 or higher have occurred since 1776.[[20]](#cite_note-20) The most substantial known earthquake in Ohio history was the [Anna](/wiki/Anna,_Ohio) (Shelby County) earthquake,[[21]](#cite_note-21) which occurred on March 9, 1937. It was centered in western Ohio, and had a magnitude of 5.4, and was of [intensity](/wiki/Mercalli_intensity_scale) VIII.[[22]](#cite_note-22) Other significant earthquakes in Ohio include:[[23]](#cite_note-23) one of magnitude 4.8 near [Lima](/wiki/Lima,_Ohio) on September 19, 1884;[[24]](#cite_note-24) one of magnitude 4.2 near [Portsmouth](/wiki/Portsmouth,_Ohio) on May 17, 1901;[[25]](#cite_note-25) and one of 5.0 in [LeRoy Township in Lake County](/wiki/LeRoy_Township,_Lake_County,_Ohio) on January 31, 1986, which continued to trigger 13 aftershocks of magnitude 0.5 to 2.4 for two months.[[26]](#cite_note-26)[[27]](#cite_note-27) The most recent earthquake in Ohio of any appreciable magnitude occurred on December 31, 2011, at 3:05pm [EST](/wiki/Eastern_Time_Zone). It had a magnitude of 4.0, and its epicenter was located approximately 4 kilometres northwest of [Youngstown](/wiki/Youngstown,_Ohio) ([Template:Coord](/wiki/Template:Coord)), near the [Trumbull](/wiki/Trumbull_County,_Ohio)/[Mahoning](/wiki/Mahoning_County,_Ohio) county border.[[28]](#cite_note-28) The Ohio Seismic Network (OhioSeis), a group of seismograph stations at several colleges, universities, and other institutions, and coordinated by the Division of Geological Survey of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources,[[29]](#cite_note-29) maintains an extensive catalog of Ohio earthquakes from 1776 to the present day, as well as earthquakes located in other states whose effects were felt in Ohio.[[30]](#cite_note-30)

## Major cities[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [Template:Largest cities](/wiki/Template:Largest_cities)

[Columbus](/wiki/Columbus,_Ohio) (home of [The Ohio State University](/wiki/The_Ohio_State_University), [Franklin University](/wiki/Franklin_University), [Capital University](/wiki/Capital_University), and [Ohio Dominican University](/wiki/Ohio_Dominican_University)) is the capital of Ohio, near the geographic center of the state.

Other Ohio cities functioning as centers of [United States metropolitan areas](/wiki/United_States_metropolitan_area) include:

* [Akron](/wiki/Akron,_Ohio) (home of [University of Akron](/wiki/University_of_Akron) and [Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company](/wiki/Goodyear_Tire_and_Rubber_Company))
* [Canton](/wiki/Canton,_Ohio) (home of [Pro Football Hall of Fame](/wiki/Pro_Football_Hall_of_Fame), [Malone University](/wiki/Malone_University), and [The Timken Company](/wiki/The_Timken_Company))
* [Cincinnati](/wiki/Cincinnati) (home of [University of Cincinnati](/wiki/University_of_Cincinnati), [Xavier University](/wiki/Xavier_University), [Cincinnati Museum Center](/wiki/Cincinnati_Museum_Center), [Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra](/wiki/Cincinnati_Symphony_Orchestra), [Procter & Gamble](/wiki/Procter_&_Gamble), [Kroger](/wiki/Kroger), [Macy's Inc.](/wiki/Macy's_Inc.), and [Fifth Third Bank](/wiki/Fifth_Third_Bank))
* [Cleveland](/wiki/Cleveland) (home of [Cleveland State University](/wiki/Cleveland_State_University), [Playhouse Square Center](/wiki/Playhouse_Square_Center), [The Cleveland Museum of Art](/wiki/The_Cleveland_Museum_of_Art), [The Cleveland Orchestra](/wiki/The_Cleveland_Orchestra), [Case Western Reserve University](/wiki/Case_Western_Reserve_University), [The Cleveland Clinic](/wiki/The_Cleveland_Clinic), [Rock and Roll Hall of Fame](/wiki/Rock_and_Roll_Hall_of_Fame), [Forest City Enterprises](/wiki/Forest_City_Enterprises), and [University Hospitals](/wiki/University_Hospitals))
* [Dayton](/wiki/Dayton,_Ohio) (home of [University of Dayton](/wiki/University_of_Dayton), [Dayton Ballet](/wiki/Dayton_Ballet), [Wright State University](/wiki/Wright_State_University), [Premier Health Partners](/wiki/Premier_Health_Partners), and [National Museum of the United States Air Force](/wiki/National_Museum_of_the_United_States_Air_Force))
* [Lima](/wiki/Lima,_Ohio) (home of [University of Northwestern Ohio](/wiki/University_of_Northwestern_Ohio))
* [Mansfield](/wiki/Mansfield,_Ohio) (home of [North Central State College](/wiki/North_Central_State_College) and [Mansfield Motorsports Park](/wiki/Mansfield_Motorsports_Park))
* [Sandusky](/wiki/Sandusky,_Ohio) (home of [Cedar Point](/wiki/Cedar_Point), and [Kalahari Resort and Convention Center](/wiki/Kalahari_Resort_and_Convention_Center))
* [Springfield](/wiki/Springfield,_Ohio) (home of [Wittenberg University](/wiki/Wittenberg_University))
* [Steubenville](/wiki/Weirton-Steubenville_Metropolitan_Statistical_Area) (home of [Franciscan University of Steubenville](/wiki/Franciscan_University_of_Steubenville))
* [Toledo](/wiki/Toledo,_Ohio) (home of [The University of Toledo](/wiki/The_University_of_Toledo), [The Toledo Museum of Art](/wiki/The_Toledo_Museum_of_Art), [Owens Corning](/wiki/Owens_Corning), and [Owens-Illinois](/wiki/Owens-Illinois))
* [Youngstown](/wiki/Youngstown,_Ohio) (home of [Youngstown State University](/wiki/Youngstown_State_University) and [Butler Institute of American Art](/wiki/Butler_Institute_of_American_Art)).

Note: The Cincinnati metropolitan area extends into Kentucky and Indiana, the Steubenville metropolitan area extends into West Virginia, and the Youngstown metropolitan area extends into Pennsylvania.

Ohio cities that function as centers of [United States micropolitan areas](/wiki/United_States_micropolitan_area) include:

* [Ashland](/wiki/Ashland,_Ohio) (home of [Ashland University](/wiki/Ashland_University))
* [Ashtabula](/wiki/Ashtabula,_Ohio)
* [Athens](/wiki/Athens,_Ohio) (home of [Ohio University](/wiki/Ohio_University))
* [Bellefontaine](/wiki/Bellefontaine,_Ohio)
* [Bucyrus](/wiki/Bucyrus,_Ohio)
* [Cambridge](/wiki/Cambridge,_Ohio)
* [Celina](/wiki/Celina,_Ohio)
* [Chillicothe](/wiki/Chillicothe,_Ohio) (home of [Ohio University-Chillicothe](/wiki/Ohio_University-Chillicothe))
* [Coshocton](/wiki/Coshocton,_Ohio)
* [Defiance](/wiki/Defiance,_Ohio) (home of [Defiance College](/wiki/Defiance_College))
* [Findlay](/wiki/Findlay,_Ohio) (home of [The University of Findlay](/wiki/The_University_of_Findlay))
* [Fremont](/wiki/Fremont,_Ohio)
* [Greenville](/wiki/Greenville,_Ohio)
* [Marion](/wiki/Marion,_Ohio) (home of [Marion Popcorn Festival](/wiki/Marion_Popcorn_Festival))
* [Mount Vernon](/wiki/Mount_Vernon,_Ohio) (home of [Mount Vernon Nazarene University](/wiki/Mount_Vernon_Nazarene_University))
* [New Philadelphia](/wiki/New_Philadelphia,_Ohio)-[Dover](/wiki/Dover,_Ohio)
* [Norwalk](/wiki/Norwalk,_Ohio) (home of the [NHRA](/wiki/NHRA) venue [Summit Motorsports Park](/wiki/Summit_Racing_Equipment_Motorsports_Park), headquarters of the [International Hot Rod Association](/wiki/International_Hot_Rod_Association), and pioneer automobile company [Fisher Body](/wiki/Fisher_Body))
* [Oxford](/wiki/Oxford,_Ohio) (home of [Miami University](/wiki/Miami_University))
* [Portsmouth](/wiki/Portsmouth,_Ohio) (home of [Shawnee State University](/wiki/Shawnee_State_University))
* [Salem](/wiki/Salem,_Ohio)
* [Sidney](/wiki/Sidney,_Ohio)
* [Tiffin](/wiki/Tiffin,_Ohio) (home of [Heidelberg College](/wiki/Heidelberg_College) and [Tiffin University](/wiki/Tiffin_University))
* [Urbana](/wiki/Urbana,_Ohio) (home of [Urbana University](/wiki/Urbana_University))
* [Van Wert](/wiki/Van_Wert,_Ohio)
* [Wapakoneta](/wiki/Wapakoneta,_Ohio) (birthplace of [Apollo 11](/wiki/Apollo_11) [astronaut](/wiki/Astronaut) [Neil Armstrong](/wiki/Neil_Armstrong))
* [Washington Court House](/wiki/Washington_Court_House,_Ohio)
* [Wilmington](/wiki/Wilmington,_Ohio) (home of [Wilmington College](/wiki/Wilmington_College_(Ohio)))
* [Wooster](/wiki/Wooster,_Ohio) (home of [The College of Wooster](/wiki/The_College_of_Wooster))
* [Zanesville](/wiki/Zanesville,_Ohio) (home of [Zane State College](/wiki/Zane_State_College)).

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

### Native Americans[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

Archeological evidence suggests that the Ohio Valley was inhabited by [nomadic people](/wiki/Nomad) as early as 13,000 BC.[[31]](#cite_note-31) These early nomads disappeared from Ohio by 1,000 BC, "but their [material culture](/wiki/Archaeological_culture) provided a base for those who followed them".[[31]](#cite_note-31) Between 1,000 and 800 BC, the sedentary [Adena culture](/wiki/Adena_culture) emerged. As Ohio historian George W. Knepper notes, this sophisticated culture was "so named because evidences of their culture were excavated in 1902 on the grounds of Adena, [Thomas Worthington's](/wiki/Thomas_Worthington_(governor)) estate located near [Chillicothe](/wiki/Chillicothe,_Ohio)".[[32]](#cite_note-32) The Adena were able to establish "semi-permanent" villages because they domesticated plants, which included [squash](/wiki/Squash_(plant)), [sunflowers](/wiki/Sunflowers), and perhaps [corn](/wiki/Maize). Cultivation of these in addition to hunting and gathering supported more settled, complex villages.[[32]](#cite_note-32) The most spectacular remnant of the Adena culture is the [Great Serpent Mound](/wiki/Great_Serpent_Mound), located in [Adams County, Ohio](/wiki/Adams_County,_Ohio).[[32]](#cite_note-32) [thumb|210px|](/wiki/File:5NationsExpansion.jpg)[Iroquois](/wiki/Iroquois) conquests during the [Beaver Wars](/wiki/Beaver_Wars) (mid-1600s), which largely depopulated the upper and mid-[Ohio River](/wiki/Ohio_River) valley.[[33]](#cite_note-33) Around 100 BC, the Adena were joined in Ohio Country by the [Hopewell](/wiki/Hopewell_tradition) people, who were named for the farm owned by Captain M. C. Hopewell, where evidence of their unique culture was discovered.[[34]](#cite_note-34) Like the Adena, the Hopewell people participated in a mound-building culture. Their complex, large and technologically sophisticated [earthworks](/wiki/Earthworks_(archaeology)) can be found in modern-day [Marietta](/wiki/Marietta,_Ohio), [Newark](/wiki/Newark,_Ohio), and [Circleville](/wiki/Circleville,_Ohio).[[34]](#cite_note-34) The Hopewell, however, disappeared from the Ohio Valley in about 600 AD. Little is known about the people who replaced them.[[35]](#cite_note-35) Researchers have identified two additional, distinct prehistoric cultures: the [Fort Ancient](/wiki/Fort_Ancient) people and the Whittlesey Focus people.[[35]](#cite_note-35) Both cultures apparently disappeared in the 17th century, perhaps decimated by infectious diseases spread in epidemics from early European contact. The Native Americans had no immunity to common European diseases. Some scholars believe that the Fort Ancient people "were ancestors of the historic Shawnee people, or that, at the very least, the historic Shawnees absorbed remnants of these older peoples."[[35]](#cite_note-35) American Indians in the Ohio Valley were greatly affected by the aggressive tactics of the [Iroquois Confederation](/wiki/Iroquois_Confederation), based in central and western New York.[[36]](#cite_note-36) After the so-called [Beaver Wars](/wiki/Beaver_Wars) in the mid-17th century, the Iroquois claimed much of the Ohio country as hunting and, more importantly, beaver-trapping ground. After the devastation of epidemics and war in the mid-17th century, which largely emptied the Ohio country of indigenous people by the mid-to-late 17th century, the land gradually became repopulated by the mostly [Algonquian](/wiki/Algonquian_languages)-speaking descendants of its ancient inhabitants, that is, descendants of the Adena, Hopewell, and [Mississippian cultures](/wiki/Mississippian_culture). Many of these Ohio-country nations were multi-ethnic (sometimes multi-linguistic) societies born out of the earlier devastation brought about by disease, war, and subsequent social instability. They subsisted on agriculture ([corn](/wiki/Maize), sunflowers, [beans](/wiki/Bean), etc.) supplemented by seasonal hunts. By the 18th century, they were part of a larger global economy brought about by European entry into the [fur trade](/wiki/Fur_trade).[[37]](#cite_note-37) The indigenous nations to inhabit Ohio in the historical period included the [Miamis](/wiki/Miamis) (a large confederation); [Wyandots](/wiki/Wyandots) (made up of refugees, especially from the fractured [Huron](/wiki/Wyandot_people) confederacy); [Delawares](/wiki/Delawares) (pushed west from their historic homeland in [New Jersey](/wiki/New_Jersey)); [Shawnees](/wiki/Shawnees) (also pushed west, although they may have been descended from the Fort Ancient people of Ohio); [Ottawas](/wiki/Ottawa_(tribe)) (more commonly associated with the upper [Great Lakes](/wiki/Great_Lakes) region); [Mingos](/wiki/Mingo) (like the Wyandot, a group recently formed of refugees from Iroquois); and [Eries](/wiki/Eries) (gradually absorbed into the new, multi-ethnic "republics," namely the Wyandot).[[38]](#cite_note-38) [Ohio country](/wiki/Ohio_country) was also the site of Indian massacres, such as the [Yellow Creek Massacre](/wiki/Chief_Logan#Yellow_Creek_Massacre), [Gnadenhutten](/wiki/Gnadenhutten_massacre) and [Pontiac's Rebellion school massacre](/wiki/Pontiac's_Rebellion_school_massacre).[[39]](#cite_note-39)

### Colonial and Revolutionary eras[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

During the 18th century, the [French](/wiki/French_colonisation_of_the_Americas) set up a system of [trading posts](/wiki/Trading_post) to control the fur trade in the region. In 1754, France and [Great Britain](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Great_Britain) fought a war that was known in North America as the [French and Indian War](/wiki/French_and_Indian_War) and in Europe as the [Seven Years' War](/wiki/Seven_Years'_War). As a result of the [Treaty of Paris](/wiki/Treaty_of_Paris_(1763)), the French ceded control of Ohio and the remainder of the [Old Northwest](/wiki/Old_Northwest) to Great Britain.

[Pontiac's Rebellion](/wiki/Pontiac's_Rebellion) in the 1760s, however, posed a challenge to British military control.[[40]](#cite_note-40) This came to an end with the colonists' victory in the [American Revolution](/wiki/American_Revolution). In the [Treaty of Paris](/wiki/Treaty_of_Paris_(1783)) in 1783, Britain ceded all claims to Ohio country to the United States.

### Northwest Territory: 1787–1803[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[thumb|Plaque commemorating the](/wiki/File:DSCN3504_ohiocompany_e.JPG) [Northwest Ordinance](/wiki/Northwest_Ordinance) outside [Federal Hall](/wiki/Federal_Hall) in lower [Manhattan](/wiki/Manhattan) The United States created the [Northwest Territory](/wiki/Northwest_Territory) under the [Northwest Ordinance](/wiki/Northwest_Ordinance) of 1787.[[41]](#cite_note-41) Slavery was not permitted in the new territory. Settlement began with the founding of [Marietta](/wiki/Marietta,_Ohio) by the [Ohio Company of Associates](/wiki/Ohio_Company_of_Associates), which had been formed by a group of American Revolutionary War veterans. Following the Ohio Company, the [Miami Company](/wiki/Miami_Purchase) (also referred to as the "[Symmes Purchase](/wiki/Symmes_Purchase)") claimed the southwestern section, and the [Connecticut Land Company](/wiki/Connecticut_Land_Company) surveyed and settled the [Connecticut Western Reserve](/wiki/Connecticut_Western_Reserve) in present-day [Northeast Ohio](/wiki/Northeast_Ohio).

The old Northwest Territory originally included areas previously known as [Ohio Country](/wiki/Ohio_Country) and [Illinois Country](/wiki/Illinois_Country). As Ohio prepared for statehood, the [Indiana Territory](/wiki/Indiana_Territory) was created, reducing the Northwest Territory to approximately the size of present-day Ohio plus the eastern half of the [Lower Peninsula of Michigan](/wiki/Lower_Peninsula_of_Michigan) and the eastern tip of the [Upper Peninsula](/wiki/Upper_Peninsula_of_Michigan).

Under the [Northwest Ordinance](/wiki/Northwest_Ordinance), areas of the territory could be defined and admitted as states once their population reached 60,000. Although Ohio's population numbered only 45,000 in December 1801, [Congress](/wiki/United_States_Congress) determined that the population was growing rapidly and Ohio could begin the path to statehood. The assumption was that it would exceed 60,000 residents by the time it was admitted as a state. Furthermore, in regards to the [Leni Lenape](/wiki/Leni_Lenape) Native Americans living in the region, Congress decided that 10,000 acres on the [Muskingum River](/wiki/Muskingum_River) in the present state of Ohio would "be set apart and the property thereof be vested in the [Moravian Brethren](/wiki/Moravian_Brethren) . . . or a society of the said Brethren for civilizing the Indians and promoting Christianity."[[42]](#cite_note-42)

### Statehood: 1803–present[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[thumb|right|220px|](/wiki/File:James_Abram_Garfield,_photo_portrait_seated.jpg)[James A. Garfield](/wiki/James_A._Garfield), President of [United States](/wiki/United_States) from Ohio On February 19, 1803, US President [Thomas Jefferson](/wiki/Thomas_Jefferson) signed an act of Congress that approved Ohio's boundaries and constitution.[[43]](#cite_note-43) However, Congress had never passed a resolution formally admitting Ohio as the 17th state. The current custom of Congress declaring an official date of statehood did not begin until 1812, with [Louisiana's](/wiki/Louisiana) admission as the 18th state. Although no formal resolution of admission was required, when the oversight was discovered in 1953, Ohio congressman [George H. Bender](/wiki/George_H._Bender) introduced a bill in Congress to admit Ohio to the Union retroactive to March 1, 1803, the date on which the [Ohio General Assembly](/wiki/Ohio_General_Assembly) first convened.<ref name=Blue/> At a special session at the old state capital in [Chillicothe](/wiki/Chillicothe,_Ohio), the Ohio state legislature approved a new petition for statehood that was delivered to Washington, D.C. on horseback. On August 7, 1953 (the year of Ohio's 150th anniversary), [President Eisenhower](/wiki/Dwight_D._Eisenhower) signed a congressional [joint resolution](/wiki/Joint_resolution) that officially declared March 1, 1803 the date of Ohio's admittance into the Union.<ref name=Blue>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref>[[44]](#cite_note-44)[[45]](#cite_note-45) Ohio has had three capital cities: Chillicothe, [Zanesville](/wiki/Zanesville), and [Columbus](/wiki/Columbus,_Ohio). Chillicothe was the capital from 1803 to 1810. The capital was then moved to [Zanesville](/wiki/Zanesville) for two years, as part of a state legislative compromise, in order to get a bill passed. The capital was then moved back to Chillicothe, which was the capital from 1812 to 1816. Finally, the capital was moved to Columbus, in order to have it near the geographic center of the state, where it would be more accessible to most citizens.

Although many Native Americans had migrated west to evade American encroachment, others remained settled in the state, sometimes assimilating in part. In 1830 under President [Andrew Jackson](/wiki/Andrew_Jackson), the US government forced [Indian Removal](/wiki/Indian_Removal) of most tribes to the [Indian Territory](/wiki/Indian_Territory) west of the Mississippi River.

In 1835, Ohio fought with [Michigan](/wiki/Michigan) in the [Toledo War](/wiki/Toledo_War), a mostly bloodless boundary war over the Toledo Strip. Congress intervened, making Michigan's admittance as a state conditional on ending the conflict. In exchange for giving up its claim to the Toledo Strip, Michigan was given the western two-thirds of the [Upper Peninsula](/wiki/Upper_Peninsula_of_Michigan), in addition to the eastern third that was already considered part of the state.

[left|thumb|Ohio state welcome sign, in an older (1990s) style](/wiki/File:Ohio.JPG) [thumb|left|Newer state sign, (](/wiki/File:Ohio_schild.jpg)[US 52](/wiki/U.S._Route_52_in_Ohio)) Ohio's central position and its population gave it an important place during the [Civil War](/wiki/American_Civil_War). The Ohio River was a vital artery for troop and supply movements, as were Ohio's railroads. Ohio contributed more soldiers per-capita than any other state in the Union. In 1862, the state's morale was badly shaken in the aftermath of the [battle of Shiloh](/wiki/Battle_of_Shiloh), a costly victory in which Ohio forces suffered 2,000 casualties.[[46]](#cite_note-46) Later that year, when [Confederate](/wiki/Confederate_States_Army) troops under the leadership of [Stonewall Jackson](/wiki/Stonewall_Jackson) threatened Washington, D.C., Ohio governor [David Tod](/wiki/David_Tod) still could recruit 5,000 volunteers to provide three months of service.[[47]](#cite_note-47) Almost 35,000 Ohioans died in the conflict, and thirty thousand were physically wounded.[[48]](#cite_note-48) By the end of the Civil War, the Union's top three generals–[Ulysses S. Grant](/wiki/Ulysses_S._Grant), [William Tecumseh Sherman](/wiki/William_T._Sherman), and [Philip Sheridan](/wiki/Philip_Sheridan)–were all from Ohio.[[49]](#cite_note-49)[[50]](#cite_note-50) In 1912 a Constitutional Convention was held with [Charles B. Galbreath](/wiki/Charles_B._Galbreath) as secretary. The result reflected the concerns of the [Progressive Era](/wiki/Progressive_Era). It introduced the initiative and the referendum. In addition, it allowed the General Assembly to put questions on the ballot for the people to ratify laws and [constitutional amendments](/wiki/Constitutional_amendment) originating in the Legislature. Under the Jeffersonian principle that laws should be reviewed once a generation, the constitution provided for a recurring question to appear on Ohio's general election ballots every 20 years. The question asks whether a new convention is required. Although the question has appeared in 1932, 1952, 1972, and 1992, it has never been approved. Instead constitutional amendments have been proposed by petition to the legislature hundreds of times and adopted in a majority of cases.

Eight US Presidents hailed from Ohio at the time of their elections, giving rise to its nickname "Mother of Presidents", a sobriquet it shares with [Virginia](/wiki/Virginia). It is also termed "Modern Mother of Presidents,"[[51]](#cite_note-51) in contrast to Virginia's status as the origin of presidents earlier in American history. Seven Presidents were born in Ohio, making it second to Virginia's eight. Virginia-born [William Henry Harrison](/wiki/William_Henry_Harrison) lived most of his life in Ohio and is also buried there. Harrison conducted his political career while living on the family compound, founded by his father-in-law, [John Cleves Symmes](/wiki/John_Cleves_Symmes), in [North Bend, Ohio](/wiki/North_Bend,_Ohio). The seven presidents born in Ohio were [Ulysses S. Grant](/wiki/Ulysses_S._Grant), [Rutherford B. Hayes](/wiki/Rutherford_B._Hayes), [James A. Garfield](/wiki/James_A._Garfield), [Benjamin Harrison](/wiki/Benjamin_Harrison) (grandson of William Henry Harrison), [William McKinley](/wiki/William_McKinley), [William Howard Taft](/wiki/William_Howard_Taft) and [Warren G. Harding](/wiki/Warren_G._Harding).

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[Template:US Census population](/wiki/Template:US_Census_population)

### Population[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

From just over 45,000 residents in 1800, Ohio's population grew at rates of over 10% per decade (except for the 1940 census) until the [1970 census](/wiki/1970_United_States_Census), which recorded just over 10.65 million Ohioans.[[52]](#cite_note-52) Growth then slowed for the next four decades.[[53]](#cite_note-53) The [United States Census Bureau](/wiki/United_States_Census_Bureau) estimates that the population of Ohio was 11,613,423 on July 1, 2015, a 0.67% increase since the [2010 United States Census](/wiki/2010_United_States_Census).[[54]](#cite_note-54) Ohio's population growth lags that of the entire United States, and [Caucasians](/wiki/Caucasian_race) are found in a greater density than the United States average. [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), Ohio's [center of population](/wiki/Center_of_population) is located in [Morrow County](/wiki/Morrow_County,_Ohio),[[55]](#cite_note-55) in the [county seat](/wiki/County_seat) of [Mount Gilead](/wiki/Mount_Gilead,_Ohio).[[56]](#cite_note-56) This is approximately [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) south and west of Ohio's population center in 1990.[[55]](#cite_note-55)[thumb|Graph of Ohio's population growth from 1800–2000.](/wiki/File:Population_Growth_Ohio.png) As of 2011, 27.6% of Ohio's children under the age of 1 belonged to minority groups.[[57]](#cite_note-57) 6.2% of Ohio's population is under 5 years of age, 23.7 percent under 18 years of age, and 14.1 percent were 65 or older. Females made up approximately 51.2 percent of the population.

### Racial and ancestry groups[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

According to the 2010 [United States census](/wiki/United_States_census), the racial composition of Ohio was the following:[[58]](#cite_note-58)[[59]](#cite_note-59)

* [White American](/wiki/White_American): 82.7% ([Non-Hispanic Whites](/wiki/Non-Hispanic_Whites): 81.1%)
* [Black or African American](/wiki/Black_American): 12.2%
* [Native American](/wiki/Native_Americans_in_the_United_States): 0.2%
* [Asian](/wiki/Asian_American): 1.7% (0.6% Indian, 0.4% Chinese, 0.1% Filipino, 0.1% Korean, 0.1% Vietnamese, 0.1% Japanese)
* [Pacific Islander](/wiki/Pacific_Islander_American): 0.03%
* [Two or more races](/wiki/Multiracial_American): 2.1%
* Some other race: 1.1%
* [Hispanic or Latinos](/wiki/Hispanic_or_Latino_Americans) (of any race) make up 3.1% (1.5% Mexican, 0.8% Puerto Rican, 0.1% Guatemalan, 0.1% Cuban)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ohio Racial Breakdown of Population** | | | |
| **Racial composition** | **1990**[**[60]**](#cite_note-60) | **2000**[**[61]**](#cite_note-61) | **2010**[**[62]**](#cite_note-62) |
| [White](/wiki/White_American) | 87.8% | 85.0% | 82.7% |
| [African American](/wiki/African_American) | 10.6% | 11.5% | 12.2% |
| [Asian](/wiki/Asian_American) | 0.8% | 1.2% | 1.7% |
| [Native](/wiki/Native_Americans_in_the_United_States) | 0.2% | 0.2% | 0.2% |
| [Native Hawaiian](/wiki/Native_Hawaiian) and  [other Pacific Islander](/wiki/Pacific_Islander) || - || - || - |  |  |  |
| [Other race](/wiki/Race_and_ethnicity_in_the_United_States_Census) | 0.5% | 0.8% | 1.1% |
| [Two or more races](/wiki/Multiracial_American) | - | 1.4% | 2.1% |

In 2010, there were 469,700 foreign-born residents in Ohio, corresponding to 4.1% of the total population. Of these, 229,049 (2.0%) were naturalized [US citizens](/wiki/US_Citizenship) and 240,699 (2.1%) were not.[[63]](#cite_note-63) The largest groups were:[[64]](#cite_note-64) [Mexico](/wiki/Mexico) (54,166), [India](/wiki/India) (50,256), [China](/wiki/China) (34,901), [Germany](/wiki/Germany) (19,219), [Philippines](/wiki/Philippines) (16,410), [United Kingdom](/wiki/United_Kingdom) (15,917), [Canada](/wiki/Canada) (14,223), [Russia](/wiki/Russia) (11,763), [South Korea](/wiki/South_Korea) (11,307), and [Ukraine](/wiki/Ukraine) (10,681). Though, predominantly white, Ohio has large black populations in all major metropolitan areas throughout the state, Ohio has a significant Hispanic population made up of Mexicans in Toledo and Columbus, and Puerto Ricans in Cleveland and Columbus, and also has a significant and diverse Asian population in Columbus.

The largest ancestry groups (which the Census defines as not including racial terms) in the state are:[[63]](#cite_note-63)[[65]](#cite_note-65)

* 26.5% [German](/wiki/German_American)
* 14.1% [Irish](/wiki/Irish_American)
* 9.0% [English](/wiki/English_American)
* 6.4% [Italian](/wiki/Italian_American)
* 3.8% [Polish](/wiki/Polish_American)
* 2.5% [French](/wiki/French_American)
* 1.9% [Scottish](/wiki/Scottish_American)
* 1.7% [Hungarian](/wiki/Hungarian_Ohioans)
* 1.6% [Dutch](/wiki/Dutch_American)
* 1.5% [Mexican](/wiki/Mexican_American)
* 1.2% [Slovak](/wiki/Slovak_American),
* 1.1% [Welsh](/wiki/Welsh_American)
* 1.1% [Scotch-Irish](/wiki/Scotch-Irish_American)

Ancestries claimed by less than 1% of the population include [Sub-Saharan African](/wiki/Sub-Saharan_African), [Puerto Rican](/wiki/Puerto_Ricans_in_the_United_States), [Swiss](/wiki/Swiss_American), [Swedish](/wiki/Swedish_American), [Arab](/wiki/Arab_American), [Greek](/wiki/Greek_American), [Norwegian](/wiki/Norwegian_American), [Romanian](/wiki/Romanian_American), [Austrian](/wiki/Austrian_American), [Lithuanian](/wiki/Lithuanian_American), [Finnish](/wiki/Finnish_American), [West Indian](/wiki/West_Indian_American), [Portuguese](/wiki/Portuguese_American) and [Slovene](/wiki/Slovene_American). [thumb|Ohio population density map.](/wiki/File:Ohio_population_map.png)

### Languages[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

About 6.7% of the population age 5 years and over reported speaking a language other than English, with 2.2% of the population speaking Spanish, 2.6% speaking other Indo-European languages, 1.1% speaking Asian and Austronesian languages, and 0.8% speaking other languages.[[63]](#cite_note-63) Numerically: 10,100,586 spoke [English](/wiki/American_English), 239,229 [Spanish](/wiki/Spanish_language_in_the_United_States), 55,970 [German](/wiki/German_language_in_the_United_States), 38,990 [Chinese](/wiki/Chinese_language_in_the_United_States), 33,125 [Arabic](/wiki/Arabic_language), and 32,019 [French](/wiki/French_in_the_United_States). In addition 59,881 spoke a [Slavic language](/wiki/Slavic_language) and 42,673 spoke another [West Germanic language](/wiki/West_Germanic_languages) according to the 2010 Census.[[66]](#cite_note-66) Ohio also had the nation's largest population of [Slovene speakers](/wiki/Slovene_language), second largest of [Slovak speakers](/wiki/Slovak_language), second largest of [Pennsylvania Dutch (German) speakers](/wiki/Pennsylvania_German_language), and the third largest of [Serbian speakers](/wiki/Serbian_language).[[67]](#cite_note-67)

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

[thumb|170px|right|](/wiki/File:Amish_-_On_the_way_to_school_by_Gadjoboy-crop.jpg) [Amish](/wiki/Amish) children on the way to school.

According to a [Pew Forum](/wiki/Pew_Forum) poll, as of 2008, 76% of Ohioans identified as Christian.[[68]](#cite_note-68) Specifically, 26% of Ohio's population identified as [Evangelical Protestant](/wiki/Evangelicalism), 22% as [Mainline Protestant](/wiki/Mainline_(Protestant)), and 21% as Roman Catholic.[[68]](#cite_note-68) 17% of the population is unaffiliated with any religious body.[[68]](#cite_note-68) 1.3% (148,380) were [Jewish](/wiki/History_of_the_Jews_in_Ohio).[[69]](#cite_note-69) There are also small minorities of [Jehovah's Witnesses](/wiki/Jehovah's_Witnesses) (1%), [Muslims](/wiki/Islam) (1%), [Hindus](/wiki/Hinduism) (<0.5%), [Buddhists](/wiki/Buddhism) (<0.5%), [Mormons](/wiki/Mormonism) (<0.5%), and other faiths (1-1.5%).[[68]](#cite_note-68) According to the [Association of Religion Data Archives](/wiki/Association_of_Religion_Data_Archives) (ARDA), in 2010 the largest denominations by adherents were the [Roman Catholic Church](/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Church) with 1,992,567; the [United Methodist Church](/wiki/United_Methodist_Church) with 496,232; the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](/wiki/Evangelical_Lutheran_Church_in_America) with 223,253, the [Southern Baptist Convention](/wiki/Southern_Baptist_Convention) with 171,000, the Christian Churches and Churches of Christ with 141,311, the [United Church of Christ](/wiki/United_Church_of_Christ) with 118,000, and the [Presbyterian Church (USA)](/wiki/Presbyterian_Church_(USA)) with 110,000.[[70]](#cite_note-70) With about 70,000 people in 2015 Ohio had the [largest Amish population of all states of the US](/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_by_Amish_population).[[71]](#cite_note-71) According to the same data, a majority of Ohioans, 55%, feel that religion is "very important," 30% say that it is "somewhat important," and 15% responded that religion is "not too important/not important at all."[[68]](#cite_note-68) 36% of Ohioans indicate that they attend religious services at least once weekly, 35% attend occasionally, and 27% seldom or never participate in religious services.[[68]](#cite_note-68)

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|right|250px|Cincinnati's Procter & Gamble is one of Ohio's largest companies in terms of revenue.](/wiki/File:Cincinnati-procter-and-gamble-headquarters.jpg)

In 2010, Ohio was ranked No. 2 in the country for best business climate by Site Selection magazine, based on a business-activity database.[[72]](#cite_note-72) The state has also won three consecutive Governor's Cup awards from the magazine, based on business growth and developments.[[73]](#cite_note-73) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), Ohio's gross domestic product (GDP) was $478 billion.[[74]](#cite_note-74)[[75]](#cite_note-75) This ranks Ohio's economy as the seventh-largest of all fifty states and the [District of Columbia](/wiki/District_of_Columbia).[[75]](#cite_note-75) The Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council ranked the state No. 10 for best business-friendly tax systems in their Business Tax Index 2009, including a top corporate tax and capital gains rate that were both ranked No. 6 at 1.9%.<ref name=SMEC>["Business Tax Index 2009"](http://www.sbecouncil.org/uploads/BusinessTaxIndex2009Final.pdf), SMALL BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP COUNCIL. Retrieved December 2, 2009.</ref> Ohio was ranked No. 11 by the council for best friendly-policy states according to their Small Business Survival Index 2009.[[76]](#cite_note-76) The Directorship's Boardroom Guide ranked the state No. 13 overall for best business climate, including No. 7 for best litigation climate.[[77]](#cite_note-77) Forbes ranked the state No. 8 for best regulatory environment in 2009.[[78]](#cite_note-78) Ohio has 5 of the top 115 colleges in the nation, according to [U.S. News and World Report's](/wiki/U.S._News_and_World_Report) 2010 rankings,[[79]](#cite_note-79) and was ranked No. 8 by the same magazine in 2008 for best high schools.[[80]](#cite_note-80) Ohio's [unemployment rate](/wiki/Unemployment_rate) stands at 5.2% as of April 2015,<ref name=perkins/> down from 10.7% in May 2010.[[81]](#cite_note-81)[[82]](#cite_note-82) The state still lacks 45,000 jobs compared to the pre[recession](/wiki/Great_Recession_in_the_United_States) numbers of 2007.<ref name=perkins>Olivera Perkins (May 22, 2015) [Ohio's unemployment rate up to 5.2 percent: 5 things you need to know](http://www.cleveland.com/business/index.ssf/2015/05/ohios_unemployment_rate_up_to.html) Cleveland.com.</ref> The labor force participation as of April 2015 is 63%, slightly above the national average.<ref name=perkins/> Ohio's per capita income stands at $34,874.[[75]](#cite_note-75)[[83]](#cite_note-83) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), Ohio's [median household income](/wiki/Median_household_income) is $46,645,[[84]](#cite_note-84) and 13.1% of the population is below the poverty line,[[85]](#cite_note-85) slightly above the national rate of 13%.[[85]](#cite_note-85) The [manufacturing](/wiki/Manufacturing) and [financial activities](/wiki/Financial_industry) sectors each compose 18.3% of Ohio's GDP, making them Ohio's largest industries by percentage of GDP.[[75]](#cite_note-75) Ohio has the largest bioscience sector in the Midwest, and is a national leader in the "green" economy. Ohio is the largest producer in the country of plastics, rubber, fabricated metals, electrical equipment, and appliances.[[86]](#cite_note-86) 5,212,000 Ohioans are currently employed by wage or salary.[[75]](#cite_note-75) By employment, Ohio's largest sector is trade/transportation/utilities, which employs 1,010,000 Ohioans, or 19.4% of Ohio's workforce, while the [health care](/wiki/Health_care_industry) and education sector employs 825,000 Ohioans (15.8%).[[75]](#cite_note-75) Government employs 787,000 Ohioans (15.1%), manufacturing employs 669,000 Ohioans (12.9%), and professional and technical services employs 638,000 Ohioans (12.2%).[[75]](#cite_note-75) Ohio's manufacturing sector is the third-largest of all fifty United States states in terms of gross domestic product.[[75]](#cite_note-75) Fifty-nine of the United States' top 1,000 publicly traded companies (by revenue in 2008) are headquartered in Ohio, including [Procter & Gamble](/wiki/Procter_&_Gamble), [Goodyear Tire & Rubber](/wiki/Goodyear_Tire_&_Rubber), [AK Steel](/wiki/AK_Steel), [Timken](/wiki/Timken_Company), [Abercrombie & Fitch](/wiki/Abercrombie_&_Fitch), and [Wendy's](/wiki/Wendy's).[[87]](#cite_note-87) Ohio is also one of 41 states with its own lottery,[[88]](#cite_note-88) the [Ohio Lottery](/wiki/Ohio_Lottery).[[89]](#cite_note-89) The Ohio Lottery has contributed over $15.5 billion to public education in its 34-year history.[[90]](#cite_note-90)

## Transportation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

### Ground travel[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

Many major east-west transportation corridors go through Ohio. One of those pioneer routes, known in the early 20th century as "Main Market Route 3", was chosen in 1913 to become part of the historic [Lincoln Highway](/wiki/Lincoln_Highway) which was the first road across America, connecting New York City to San Francisco. In Ohio, the Lincoln Highway linked many towns and cities together, including [Canton](/wiki/Canton,_Ohio), [Mansfield](/wiki/Mansfield,_Ohio), [Wooster](/wiki/Wooster,_Ohio), [Lima](/wiki/Lima,_Ohio), and [Van Wert](/wiki/Van_Wert,_Ohio). The arrival of the Lincoln Highway to Ohio was a major influence on the development of the state. Upon the advent of the federal numbered highway system in 1926, the Lincoln Highway through Ohio became [U.S. Route 30](/wiki/U.S._Route_30_(Ohio)).

Ohio also is home to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of the Historic [National Road](/wiki/National_Road), now [U.S. Route 40](/wiki/U.S._Route_40_in_Ohio).

Ohio has a highly developed network of roads and interstate highways. Major east-west through routes include the [Ohio Turnpike](/wiki/Ohio_Turnpike) ([I-80](/wiki/Interstate_80_(Ohio))/[I-90](/wiki/Interstate_90_(Ohio))) in the north, [I-76](/wiki/Interstate_76_(Ohio)) through [Akron](/wiki/Akron,_Ohio) to [Pennsylvania](/wiki/Pennsylvania), [I-70](/wiki/Interstate_70_(Ohio)) through [Columbus](/wiki/Columbus,_Ohio) and [Dayton](/wiki/Dayton,_Ohio), and the [Appalachian Highway](/wiki/Appalachian_Highway_(Ohio)) ([State Route 32](/wiki/State_Route_32_(Ohio))) running from [West Virginia](/wiki/West_Virginia) to [Cincinnati](/wiki/Cincinnati). Major north-south routes include [I-75](/wiki/Interstate_75_(Ohio)) in the west through [Toledo](/wiki/Toledo,_Ohio), Dayton, and Cincinnati, [I-71](/wiki/Interstate_71_(Ohio)) through the middle of the state from [Cleveland](/wiki/Cleveland) through Columbus and Cincinnati into [Kentucky](/wiki/Kentucky), and [I-77](/wiki/Interstate_77_(Ohio)) in the eastern part of the state from Cleveland through Akron, [Canton](/wiki/Canton,_Ohio), [New Philadelphia](/wiki/New_Philadelphia,_Ohio) and [Marietta](/wiki/Marietta,_Ohio) down into West Virginia. Interstate 75 between Cincinnati and Dayton is one of the heaviest traveled sections of interstate in Ohio.

Ohio also has a highly developed network of signed state bicycle routes. Many of them follow [rail trails](/wiki/Rail_trail), with conversion ongoing. The [Ohio to Erie Trail](/wiki/Ohio_to_Erie_Trail) (route 1) connects Cincinnati, Columbus, and Cleveland. [U.S. Bicycle Route 50](/wiki/U.S._Bicycle_Route_50) traverses Ohio from [Steubenville](/wiki/Steubenville,_Ohio) to the Indiana state line outside [Richmond](/wiki/Richmond,_Indiana).[[91]](#cite_note-91)

### Air travel[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) Ohio has 5 international airports, 4 commercial and 2 military. The 5 international includes [Cleveland Hopkins International Airport](/wiki/Cleveland_Hopkins_International_Airport), [Port Columbus International Airport](/wiki/Port_Columbus_International_Airport), and [Dayton International Airport](/wiki/Dayton_International_Airport), Ohio's third largest airport. [Akron Fulton International Airport](/wiki/Akron_Fulton_International_Airport) handles cargo and for private use. [Rickenbacker International Airport](/wiki/Rickenbacker_International_Airport) is one of two military airfields which is also home to the 7th largest FedEx building in America. [Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) The other military airfield is [Wright Patterson Air Force Base](/wiki/Wright_Patterson_Air_Force_Base) which is one of the largest Air Force bases in the United States. Other major airports are located in [Toledo](/wiki/Toledo_Express_Airport) and [Akron](/wiki/Akron-Canton_Airport).

[Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport](/wiki/Cincinnati/Northern_Kentucky_International_Airport) is in [Hebron, Kentucky](/wiki/Hebron,_Kentucky) and therefore is not listed above.

### Transportation lists[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

* [List of Ohio state highways](/wiki/List_of_Ohio_state_highways)
* [List of Ohio train stations](/wiki/List_of_Ohio_train_stations)
* [List of Ohio railroads](/wiki/List_of_Ohio_railroads)
* [List of Ohio rivers](/wiki/List_of_Ohio_rivers)
* [Historic Ohio Canals](/wiki/Historic_Ohio_Canals)

## Law and government[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|right|250px|The](/wiki/File:Ohio_Statehouse_columbus.jpg) [Ohio State Capitol](/wiki/Ohio_State_Capitol) located in [Columbus, Ohio](/wiki/Columbus,_Ohio). The state government of Ohio consists of the executive,[[92]](#cite_note-92) judicial,[[93]](#cite_note-93) and legislative[[94]](#cite_note-94) branches.

### Executive branch[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

The executive branch is headed by the [Governor of Ohio](/wiki/List_of_Governors_of_Ohio).[[92]](#cite_note-92) The current governor is [John Kasich](/wiki/John_Kasich),[[95]](#cite_note-95) a [Republican](/wiki/Republican_Party_(United_States)) elected in 2010. A [lieutenant governor](/wiki/Lieutenant_Governor_of_Ohio) succeeds the governor in the event of any removal from office,[[96]](#cite_note-96) and performs any duties assigned by the governor.[[97]](#cite_note-97) The current lieutenant governor is [Mary Taylor](/wiki/Mary_Taylor_(Ohio_politician)). The other elected constitutional offices in the executive branch are the [secretary of state](/wiki/Ohio_Secretary_of_State) ([Jon A. Husted](/wiki/Jon_A._Husted)), [auditor](/wiki/Ohio_State_Auditor) ([Dave Yost](/wiki/Dave_Yost_(Ohio_politician))), [treasurer](/wiki/Ohio_State_Treasurer) ([Josh Mandel](/wiki/Josh_Mandel_(politician))), and [attorney general](/wiki/Ohio_Attorney_General) ([Mike DeWine](/wiki/Mike_DeWine)).[[92]](#cite_note-92)

### Judicial branch[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

There are three levels of the Ohio state [judiciary](/wiki/Judiciary). The lowest level is the court of common pleas: each county maintains its own constitutionally mandated court of common pleas, which maintain jurisdiction over "all justiciable matters."[[98]](#cite_note-98) The intermediate-level court system is the district court system.[[99]](#cite_note-99) Twelve courts of appeals exist, each retaining jurisdiction over appeals from common pleas, municipal, and county courts in a set geographical area.[[98]](#cite_note-98) A case heard in this system is decided by a three-judge panel, and each judge is elected.[[98]](#cite_note-98) The highest-ranking court, the [Ohio Supreme Court](/wiki/Ohio_Supreme_Court), is Ohio's "court of last resort."[[100]](#cite_note-100) A seven-justice panel composes the court, which, by its own [discretion](/wiki/Certiorari#State_courts), hears appeals from the courts of appeals, and retains original jurisdiction over limited matters.[[101]](#cite_note-101)

### Legislative branch[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

The [Ohio General Assembly](/wiki/Ohio_General_Assembly) is a [bicameral](/wiki/Bicameral) legislature consisting of the [Senate](/wiki/Ohio_Senate) and [House of Representatives](/wiki/Ohio_House_of_Representatives).[[102]](#cite_note-102) The Senate is composed of 33 districts, each of which is represented by one senator. Each senator represents approximately 330,000 [constituents](/wiki/Electoral_district).[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) The House of Representatives is composed of 99 members.[[103]](#cite_note-103)

### National politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Presidential elections results**[[104]](#cite_note-104) | | |
| **Year** | [**Republican**](/wiki/Republican_Party_(United_States)) | [**Democratic**](/wiki/Democratic_Party_(United_States)) |
| [2012](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_2012) | 47.60% *2,661,437* | **50.58%** *2,827,709* |
| [2008](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_2008) | 46.80% *2,677,820* | **51.38%** *2,940,044* |
| [2004](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_2004) | **50.81%** *2,859,768* | 48.71% *2,741,167* |
| [2000](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_2000) | **49.97%** *2,351,209* | 46.46% *2,186,190* |
| [1996](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_1996) | 41.02% *1,859,883* | **47.38%** *2,148,222* |
| [1992](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_1992) | 38.35% *1,894,310* | **40.18%** *1,984,942* |
| [1988](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_1988) | **55.00%** *2,416,549* | 44.15% *1,939,629* |
| [1984](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_1984) | **58.90%** *2,678,560* | 40.14% *1,825,440* |
| [1980](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_1980) | **51.51%** *2,206,545* | 40.91% *1,752,414* |
| [1976](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_1976) | 48.65% *2,000,505* | **48.92%** *2,011,621* |
| [1972](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_1972) | **59.63%** *2,441,827* | 38.07% *1,558,889* |
| [1968](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_1968) | **45.23%** *1,791,014* | 42.95% *1,700,586* |
| [1964](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_1964) | 37.06% *1,470,865* | **62.94%** *2,498,331* |
| [1960](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_1960) | **53.28%** *2,217,611* | 46.72% *1,944,248* |

Ohio, nicknamed the "Mother of Presidents," has sent seven of its native sons ([Ulysses S. Grant](/wiki/Ulysses_S._Grant), [Rutherford B. Hayes](/wiki/Rutherford_B._Hayes), [James A. Garfield](/wiki/James_A._Garfield), [Benjamin Harrison](/wiki/Benjamin_Harrison), [William McKinley](/wiki/William_McKinley), [William Howard Taft](/wiki/William_Howard_Taft), and [Warren G. Harding](/wiki/Warren_G._Harding)) to the [White House](/wiki/President_of_the_United_States).[[105]](#cite_note-105) All seven were [Republicans](/wiki/History_of_the_United_States_Republican_Party). [Virginia](/wiki/Virginia) native [William Henry Harrison](/wiki/William_Henry_Harrison), a [Whig](/wiki/Whig_Party_(United_States)), resided in Ohio.[[105]](#cite_note-105) Historian R. Douglas Hurt asserts that not since Virginia 'had a state made such a mark on national political affairs.'[[106]](#cite_note-106) [*The Economist*](/wiki/The_Economist) notes that "This slice of the mid-west contains a bit of everything American — part north-eastern and part southern, part urban and part rural, part hardscrabble poverty and part booming suburb,"[[107]](#cite_note-107) Ohio is the only state that has voted for the winning Presidential candidate in each election since [1964](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_1964), and in 33 of the 37 held since the [Civil War](/wiki/American_Civil_War). No Republican has ever won the presidency without winning Ohio.

[Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), Ohio's voter demographic leans towards the [Democratic Party](/wiki/Democratic_Party_(United_States)).[[108]](#cite_note-108) An estimated 2,408,178 Ohioans are registered to vote as Democrats, while 1,471,465 Ohioans are registered to vote as [Republicans](/wiki/Republican_Party_(United_States)).[[108]](#cite_note-108)[Template:Dead link](/wiki/Template:Dead_link) These are changes from 2004 of 72% and 32%, respectively, and Democrats have registered over 1,000,000 new Ohioans since 2004.[[108]](#cite_note-108)[Template:Dead link](/wiki/Template:Dead_link) [Unaffiliated voters](/wiki/Independent_(voter)) have an [attrition](/wiki/Wikt:attrition) of 15% since 2004, losing an estimated 718,000 of their kind.[[108]](#cite_note-108)[Template:Dead link](/wiki/Template:Dead_link) The total now rests at 4,057,518 Ohioans.[[108]](#cite_note-108)[Template:Dead link](/wiki/Template:Dead_link) In total, there are 7,937,161 Ohioans registered to vote.[[108]](#cite_note-108)[Template:Dead link](/wiki/Template:Dead_link) In the [United States presidential election of 2008](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election_in_Ohio,_2008), then-[Senator](/wiki/United_States_Senate) [Barack Obama](/wiki/Barack_Obama) of [Illinois](/wiki/Illinois) won 51.50% of Ohio's [popular vote](/wiki/Popular_vote), 4.59 percentage points more than his nearest rival, Senator [John McCain](/wiki/John_McCain) of [Arizona](/wiki/Arizona) (with 46.91% of the popular vote).[[109]](#cite_note-109) However, Obama won only 22 of Ohio's [88 counties](/wiki/List_of_counties_in_Ohio).[[110]](#cite_note-110) Since 2010, the Republicans have largely controlled Ohio state politics, including a super-majority in the state's House, a majority in the state Senate, the Governorship, etc.[[111]](#cite_note-111)