
Community Analysis



Overview

Union Local School District (ULSD) is located in Belmont County, Ohio and is 1 of 7 public school districts within the county. Belmont County was created in 1801 from Jefferson and Washington counties and contains 537.3 square miles of mostly farm land. In 2018, the population was 67,505 which has been declining since 1940. The peak growth period in population occurred in 1940 with 95,614 residents. ([Ohio Development Services Agency, Office of Research, 2018](#)) Smith Township, Belmont, Bethesda, and Union Township schools combined in 1959 to form the Union Local School District with Flushing joining in the late 1960's. Several years after, in 1998, Union Local Elementary and Middle schools consolidated. Centerville (Smith Township), Morristown (Union Township), Belmont, Bethesda, and Flushing combined to form the elementary and middle school. ([Union Local School District, 2019](#))

Belmont County is strategically located in the center of North Eastern Ohio and the County seat, St. Clairsville, is only 70 miles from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania an international hub for business and commerce. Belmont County's business community has very strong interaction with northern West Virginia and Western Pennsylvania. Business leaders and the office for Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) in Belmont County are providing significant assistance to companies that may desire to relocate in the county. The Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services also provides very strong resources for individuals seeking employment in Belmont County and surrounding areas.

The ULSD and Belmont County are located in the heart of the Marcellus and Utica Shale areas of Ohio and as a result, the energy industry is currently affecting the job market as oil and gas fields are developed. ([Barnesville, Ohio Chamber of Commerce, 2019](#)) Many of these jobs are currently short term and temporary with the service industry most affected at this time. However, when the energy production phase is in full production, many more permanent jobs are expected. These jobs will be directly and indirectly related to the exploration, production and distribution of energy for the entire country. ([Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth, 2019](#))

The Belmont County business community is well organized and is in the process of improving public utilities, business parks, transportation, highways and other services in preparation for the expansion of the energy sector industry in the county and region. Students attending the Union Local School District have a unique opportunity for not only college preparatory and placement but also career opportunities that are available with the assistance of the Ohio Job and Family Services Office. Additionally, the infrastructure exists within the county to partner with the CIC and the Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth (APEG) as well as state business development offices to provide career and technical training for the jobs that currently exist or will exist in the region in the near future. The ULSD Board of Education and administrative staff are committed to preparing district students for professional careers or college entrance with skills to find employment in jobs that will be available in the region.

Several regional companies have already shown interest in becoming business partners with the school district. ([Union Local School District, 2019](#)) As a result, the district is considering developing these business partnerships with the goal of developing course offerings for the middle school and high school/college and career prep that are supported by the local business partners.

Availability of Community Services

Belmont County residents are served by several area hospital systems including Barnesville Hospital, Harrison Community Hospital, Reynolds Memorial Hospital, and Wheeling Hospital in West Virginia. Several urgent care facilities also exist within the county. Sufficient capacity appears to exist to serve the community population. There are also emergency services and long term stay facilities within Belmont County and nearby in the Wheeling and Moundsville areas of West Virginia. Federal, state and local community services are available for job training and placement. However, in 2018, 1 in 4 residents in Belmont County were on Medicaid. (Gianangelis, 2018) Ohio Job and Family Services (OJFS) provide comprehensive programs for eligible residents needing public assistance, children services, workforce training and placement, and child support enforcement. Union Local School District students can participate in programs that will help with summer job placement. In the past 5 years, over 6,800 children have been provided clothing through the OJFS. (Gianangelis, 2018)

Ohio Means Jobs provide labor market information, resources for job training and retraining for laid off workers. The State of Ohio has excellent support systems in place for individuals seeking employment or training for re-employment. The Community Services Corporation is dedicated to the creation of jobs and to attracting, retaining and expanding business in Belmont County. All these federal, state and local services provide support for improving the lifestyle and economy for the area.

Sufficient fire, police and emergency services are available in the area. These services are coordinated to react to emergencies should any occur. ULSD has a developed emergency operations plan for the school district.

Residents have several parks and recreation areas available. Barkcamp State Park, National Road Bikeway and the Underground Railroad Museum are located within the county while the Salt Fork State Park is a short drive from Morristown. Piedmont Reservoir is also located within a short drive from ULSD and the Belmont/Morristown community. ([Belmont County Ohio Recreation Department, 2019](#)) Belmont County borders the Ohio River that also provides excellent boating and water sport opportunities.

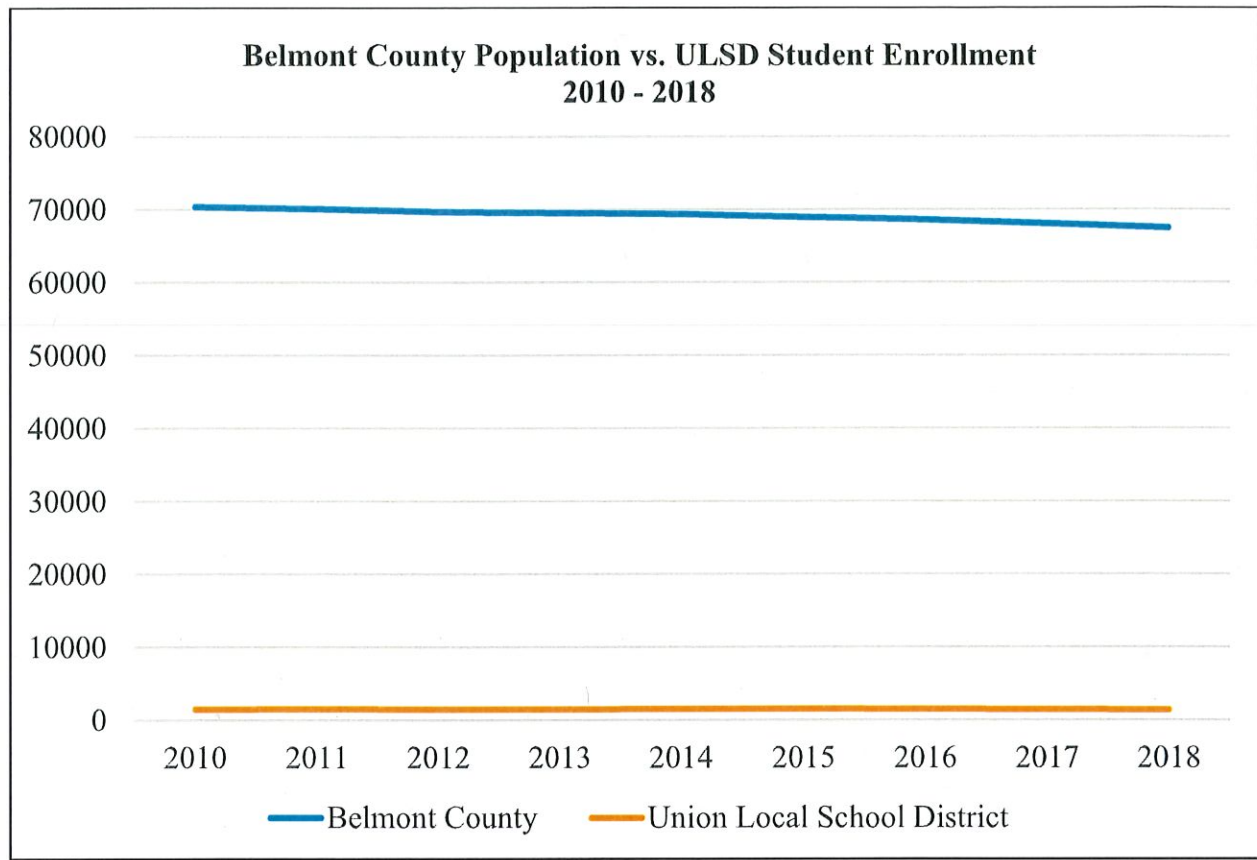


Population Characteristics and Density Patterns

Belmont County contains 16 townships and 7 public school districts. The caption area for the Union Local School District includes portions of Flushing, Goshen, Kirkwood, Richland, Smith, Union, Washington, Wayne and Wheeling.

Belmont County contains a land area of 537.3 square miles. There were 67,505 residents in Belmont County in 2018, however, the population of Belmont County has steadily declined but without drastic change over the past 10 years. Nevertheless, the county has declined from its peak number of residents in 1940 by 28,109 residents. Since 2010, the population has decreased annually .513% countywide which is 4.1% over the 8 year period. ([Ohio Development Services Agency, Office of Research, 2018](#)) The median age of the population is currently 44.1 years. The decline in population at the county and district level appears to be affected by out migration, a decrease in the child bearing age of the population and reduced birth rates. There are 8,800 PreK-12 students in Belmont County public schools. Union Local School District is the 2nd largest district with 1,451 students which represents 16.5% of the total Belmont County public school population. The student population in the caption area for ULSD has decreased proportionately with the other areas of the county. This decrease in population is also reflected in the student population of ULSD as well.





Sources: [Ohio Department of Education, Enrollment Data](#)
[Ohio Development Services Agency, Office of Research](#)

ULSD student population is also affected by Ohio's open enrollment policies. The district desires to create a 21st Century curriculum that will prepare students for job opportunities and life after graduation. Additionally, the district desires to set in place, with this long range planning process, increased academic offerings for current students and attract new students into the district if and when business development occurs in the near future.

The population density of Belmont County is 130 residents per sq. mile. The population of the county fell 4.1% between 2010 and 2018. The Belmont County population is expected to decline over the next 13 years by 1.03%. The per capita income of the Belmont County population in 2018 is \$25,093. This income is expected to grow by 3.4% between 2018 and 2023. The median household income is \$44,719 and this income is expected to grow by 3.3% between 2018 and 2023. ([Ohio Development Services Agency, Office of Research, 2018](#)) Should the energy sector expand as predicted, the income levels have the potential to increase dramatically during the construction on the Ethane Cracker Plant. Income should also rise beyond the projected level (with less intensity) once the plant is completed and in operation when and if other related businesses and industries locate in the area as predicted by APEG.

The census data that follows provides population projections by age and sex for Belmont County between 2010 and 2050. This model considers traditional employment opportunities but does not factor in the possibility of an expansion of business and industry that could be related to the proposed ethane cracker plant in the county.

Population Projections by Age and Sex, 2015 to 2050
BELMONT COUNTY

| 2010 Census Count | | | | 2015 | | | 2020 | | |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| AGE | TOTAL | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL | MALE | FEMALE |
| 0-4 | 3,575 | 1,811 | 1,764 | 3,570 | 1,750 | 1,820 | 3,690 | 1,810 | 1,890 |
| 5-9 | 3,690 | 1,941 | 1,749 | 3,610 | 1,830 | 1,780 | 3,560 | 1,740 | 1,820 |
| 10-14 | 3,916 | 1,993 | 1,923 | 3,740 | 1,970 | 1,770 | 3,640 | 1,850 | 1,790 |
| 15-19 | 4,368 | 2,338 | 2,030 | 4,000 | 2,100 | 1,900 | 3,940 | 2,150 | 1,800 |
| 20-24 | 4,170 | 2,434 | 1,736 | 4,810 | 2,860 | 1,950 | 4,660 | 2,770 | 1,890 |
| 25-29 | 4,225 | 2,399 | 1,826 | 4,170 | 2,430 | 1,750 | 4,850 | 2,870 | 1,980 |
| 30-34 | 3,972 | 2,190 | 1,782 | 4,140 | 2,310 | 1,830 | 4,000 | 2,270 | 1,730 |
| 35-39 | 4,324 | 2,366 | 1,958 | 3,840 | 2,050 | 1,790 | 3,920 | 2,110 | 1,810 |
| 40-44 | 4,414 | 2,290 | 2,124 | 4,280 | 2,320 | 1,960 | 3,730 | 1,970 | 1,760 |
| 45-49 | 5,177 | 2,598 | 2,579 | 4,320 | 2,210 | 2,110 | 4,110 | 2,190 | 1,920 |
| 50-54 | 5,880 | 2,931 | 2,949 | 5,050 | 2,500 | 2,560 | 4,150 | 2,070 | 2,080 |
| 55-59 | 5,519 | 2,735 | 2,784 | 5,630 | 2,770 | 2,870 | 4,780 | 2,310 | 2,470 |
| 60-64 | 4,751 | 2,375 | 2,376 | 5,130 | 2,480 | 2,650 | 5,190 | 2,480 | 2,710 |
| 65-69 | 3,286 | 1,567 | 1,719 | 4,350 | 2,110 | 2,240 | 4,660 | 2,190 | 2,470 |
| 70-74 | 2,882 | 1,246 | 1,636 | 2,790 | 1,270 | 1,520 | 3,640 | 1,680 | 1,950 |
| 75-79 | 2,234 | 950 | 1,284 | 2,320 | 920 | 1,390 | 2,210 | 920 | 1,290 |
| 80-84 | 2,029 | 745 | 1,284 | 1,620 | 650 | 970 | 1,700 | 640 | 1,060 |
| 85+ | 1,988 | 583 | 1,405 | 2,370 | 760 | 1,610 | 2,450 | 850 | 1,590 |
| TOTAL | 70,400 | 35,492 | 34,908 | 69,760 | 35,290 | 34,460 | 68,880 | 34,870 | 34,010 |
| 2025 | | | | 2030 | | | 2035 | | |
| AGE | TOTAL | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL | MALE | FEMALE |
| 0-4 | 3,870 | 1,890 | 1,980 | 3,820 | 1,870 | 1,950 | 3,850 | 1,880 | 1,970 |
| 5-9 | 3,730 | 1,820 | 1,910 | 3,860 | 1,890 | 1,970 | 3,850 | 1,880 | 1,970 |
| 10-14 | 3,630 | 1,780 | 1,850 | 3,770 | 1,850 | 1,920 | 3,930 | 1,930 | 2,000 |
| 15-19 | 3,780 | 2,000 | 1,790 | 3,860 | 1,990 | 1,880 | 3,970 | 2,040 | 1,930 |
| 20-24 | 4,500 | 2,790 | 1,710 | 4,530 | 2,780 | 1,750 | 4,530 | 2,750 | 1,790 |
| 25-29 | 4,650 | 2,750 | 1,900 | 4,510 | 2,770 | 1,740 | 4,490 | 2,730 | 1,760 |
| 30-34 | 4,720 | 2,730 | 1,980 | 4,440 | 2,560 | 1,880 | 4,340 | 2,600 | 1,740 |
| 35-39 | 3,830 | 2,100 | 1,730 | 4,460 | 2,500 | 1,960 | 4,220 | 2,340 | 1,880 |
| 40-44 | 3,870 | 2,060 | 1,810 | 3,720 | 2,010 | 1,710 | 4,380 | 2,430 | 1,960 |
| 45-49 | 3,630 | 1,880 | 1,750 | 3,700 | 1,920 | 1,780 | 3,600 | 1,900 | 1,700 |
| 50-54 | 4,000 | 2,090 | 1,910 | 3,480 | 1,750 | 1,730 | 3,580 | 1,810 | 1,770 |
| 55-59 | 3,960 | 1,930 | 2,030 | 3,760 | 1,910 | 1,850 | 3,290 | 1,610 | 1,690 |
| 60-64 | 4,430 | 2,090 | 2,350 | 3,630 | 1,720 | 1,910 | 3,470 | 1,720 | 1,760 |
| 65-69 | 4,750 | 2,210 | 2,550 | 4,040 | 1,840 | 2,200 | 3,340 | 1,530 | 1,810 |
| 70-74 | 3,940 | 1,760 | 2,170 | 3,990 | 1,760 | 2,230 | 3,420 | 1,490 | 1,930 |
| 75-79 | 2,900 | 1,240 | 1,660 | 3,120 | 1,280 | 1,840 | 3,190 | 1,300 | 1,890 |
| 80-84 | 1,620 | 640 | 990 | 2,130 | 860 | 1,260 | 2,280 | 890 | 1,390 |
| 85+ | 2,470 | 860 | 1,610 | 2,510 | 900 | 1,620 | 2,770 | 1,020 | 1,760 |
| TOTAL | 68,270 | 34,610 | 33,660 | 67,330 | 34,150 | 33,180 | 66,530 | 33,840 | 32,690 |
| 2040 | | | | 2045 | | | 2050 | | |
| AGE | TOTAL | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL | MALE | FEMALE |
| 0-4 | 3,940 | 1,920 | 2,020 | 3,900 | 1,900 | 2,000 | 3,990 | 1,940 | 2,050 |
| 5-9 | 3,920 | 1,920 | 1,990 | 3,900 | 1,910 | 1,990 | 3,860 | 1,890 | 1,970 |
| 10-14 | 3,990 | 1,950 | 2,040 | 4,070 | 1,990 | 2,080 | 3,950 | 1,930 | 2,020 |
| 15-19 | 4,220 | 2,180 | 2,040 | 4,300 | 2,220 | 2,080 | 4,240 | 2,190 | 2,050 |
| 20-24 | 4,520 | 2,760 | 1,760 | 4,570 | 2,790 | 1,780 | 4,680 | 2,860 | 1,820 |
| 25-29 | 4,300 | 2,590 | 1,710 | 4,480 | 2,700 | 1,780 | 4,600 | 2,770 | 1,830 |
| 30-34 | 4,340 | 2,570 | 1,780 | 4,360 | 2,580 | 1,780 | 4,520 | 2,680 | 1,840 |
| 35-39 | 4,180 | 2,420 | 1,760 | 4,080 | 2,360 | 1,720 | 4,090 | 2,370 | 1,720 |
| 40-44 | 4,180 | 2,290 | 1,890 | 4,210 | 2,310 | 1,900 | 4,120 | 2,260 | 1,860 |
| 45-49 | 4,300 | 2,330 | 1,970 | 4,190 | 2,270 | 1,920 | 4,230 | 2,290 | 1,940 |
| 50-54 | 3,530 | 1,840 | 1,690 | 3,580 | 1,870 | 1,710 | 3,490 | 1,820 | 1,670 |
| 55-59 | 3,440 | 1,700 | 1,750 | 3,500 | 1,730 | 1,770 | 3,540 | 1,750 | 1,790 |
| 60-64 | 3,080 | 1,460 | 1,620 | 3,190 | 1,510 | 1,680 | 3,240 | 1,540 | 1,700 |
| 65-69 | 3,240 | 1,560 | 1,680 | 3,090 | 1,490 | 1,600 | 3,220 | 1,550 | 1,670 |
| 70-74 | 2,850 | 1,250 | 1,600 | 2,640 | 1,160 | 1,480 | 2,550 | 1,120 | 1,430 |
| 75-79 | 2,800 | 1,120 | 1,670 | 2,450 | 980 | 1,470 | 2,280 | 910 | 1,370 |
| 80-84 | 2,380 | 930 | 1,460 | 2,310 | 900 | 1,410 | 1,970 | 770 | 1,200 |
| 85+ | 2,930 | 1,050 | 1,880 | 3,240 | 1,160 | 2,080 | 3,380 | 1,210 | 2,170 |
| TOTAL | 66,140 | 33,840 | 32,310 | 66,060 | 33,830 | 32,230 | 65,950 | 33,850 | 32,100 |

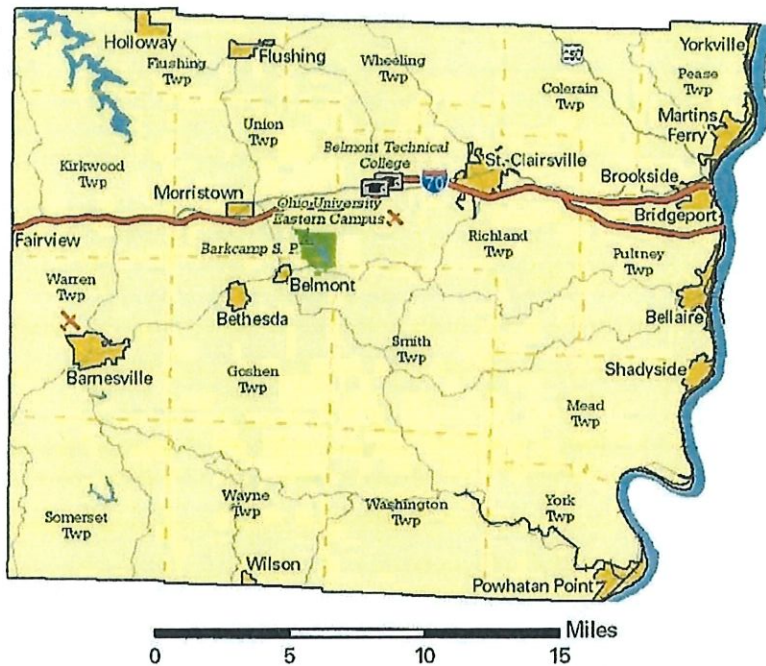
Ohio County Profiles

Prepared by the Office of Research

Ohio

Belmont County

Established: Proclamation - September 7, 1801
2018 Population: 67,505
Land Area: 537.3 square miles
County Seat: St. Clairsville City
Named for: French: "Beautiful Mountain"



Taxes

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Taxable value of real property | \$1,448,447,610 |
| Residential | \$791,861,730 |
| Agriculture | \$138,260,480 |
| Industrial | \$25,222,950 |
| Commercial | \$234,305,610 |
| Mineral | \$258,796,840 |
| Ohio income tax liability | \$31,230,558 |
| Average per return | \$1,071.74 |

Land Use/Land Cover

| | Percent |
|---|---------|
| Developed, Lower Intensity | 7.98% |
| Developed, Higher Intensity | 1.16% |
| Barren (strip mines, gravel pits, etc.) | 0.49% |
| Forest | 58.49% |
| Shrub/Scrub and Grasslands | 2.49% |
| Pasture/Hay | 27.91% |
| Cultivated Crops | 0.07% |
| Wetlands | 0.37% |
| Open Water | 1.05% |

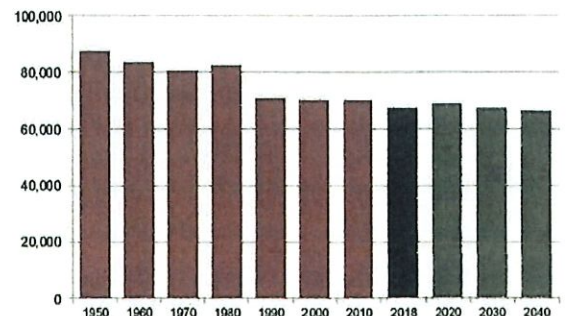
Largest Places

| | Est. 2018 | Census 2010 |
|----------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Richland twp UB | 9,490 | 9,789 |
| Martins Ferry city | 6,596 | 6,915 |
| St. Clairsville city | 5,012 | 5,184 |
| Pultney twp UB | 4,280 | 4,478 |
| Pease twp UB | 4,261 | 4,467 |
| Colerain twp | 4,088 | 4,276 |
| Bellaire vlg | 4,064 | 4,278 |
| Barnesville vlg | 4,039 | 4,193 |
| Shadyside vlg | 3,572 | 3,785 |
| Mead twp UB | 2,170 | 2,221 |

UB: Unincorporated balance.

Total Population

| Census | | | | Estimated | |
|--------|--------|------|--------|-----------|--------|
| 1800 | | 1910 | 76,856 | 2013 | 69,559 |
| 1810 | 11,097 | 1920 | 93,193 | 2014 | 69,359 |
| 1820 | 20,329 | 1930 | 94,719 | 2015 | 68,957 |
| 1830 | 28,627 | 1940 | 95,614 | 2016 | 68,584 |
| 1840 | 30,901 | 1950 | 87,740 | 2017 | 67,956 |
| 1850 | 34,600 | 1960 | 83,864 | 2018 | 67,505 |
| 1860 | 36,398 | 1970 | 80,917 | Projected | |
| 1870 | 39,714 | 1980 | 82,569 | | |
| 1880 | 49,638 | 1990 | 71,074 | | |
| 1890 | 57,413 | 2000 | 70,226 | | |
| 1900 | 60,875 | 2010 | 70,400 | 2020 | 68,880 |
| | | | | 2030 | 67,330 |
| | | | | 2040 | 66,140 |



| Population by Race | Number | Percent |
|-------------------------------|--------|---------|
| ACS Total Population | 68,889 | 100.0% |
| White | 64,350 | 93.4% |
| African-American | 2,862 | 4.2% |
| Native American | 183 | 0.3% |
| Asian | 273 | 0.4% |
| Pacific Islander | 0 | 0.0% |
| Other | 282 | 0.4% |
| Two or More Races | 939 | 1.4% |
| Hispanic (may be of any race) | 610 | 0.9% |
| Total Minority | 4,842 | 7.0% |

| Educational Attainment | Number | Percent |
|---------------------------|--------|---------|
| Persons 25 years and over | 50,566 | 100.0% |
| No high school diploma | 4,877 | 9.6% |
| High school graduate | 21,315 | 42.2% |
| Some college, no degree | 10,620 | 21.0% |
| Associate degree | 5,599 | 11.1% |
| Bachelor's degree | 5,104 | 10.1% |
| Master's degree or higher | 3,051 | 6.0% |

| Family Type by Employment Status | Number | Percent |
|---|--------|---------|
| Total Families | 17,501 | 100.0% |
| Married couple, husband and wife in labor force | 5,911 | 33.8% |
| Married couple, husband in labor force, wife not | 2,963 | 16.9% |
| Married couple, wife in labor force, husband not | 1,175 | 6.7% |
| Married couple, husband and wife not in labor force | 3,016 | 17.2% |
| Male householder, in labor force | 1,063 | 6.1% |
| Male householder, not in labor force | 404 | 2.3% |
| Female householder, in labor force | 1,861 | 10.6% |
| Female householder, not in labor force | 1,108 | 6.3% |

| Household Income | Number | Percent |
|-------------------------|----------|---------|
| Total Households | 26,910 | 100.0% |
| Less than \$10,000 | 1,926 | 7.2% |
| \$10,000 to \$19,999 | 3,654 | 13.6% |
| \$20,000 to \$29,999 | 3,277 | 12.2% |
| \$30,000 to \$39,999 | 2,992 | 11.1% |
| \$40,000 to \$49,999 | 2,511 | 9.3% |
| \$50,000 to \$59,999 | 2,053 | 7.6% |
| \$60,000 to \$74,999 | 2,565 | 9.5% |
| \$75,000 to \$99,999 | 3,331 | 12.4% |
| \$100,000 to \$149,999 | 3,302 | 12.3% |
| \$150,000 to \$199,999 | 648 | 2.4% |
| \$200,000 or more | 651 | 2.4% |
| Median household income | \$46,484 | |

Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

| Population by Age | Number | Percent |
|----------------------|--------|---------|
| ACS Total Population | 68,889 | 100.0% |
| Under 5 years | 3,449 | 5.0% |
| 5 to 17 years | 9,768 | 14.2% |
| 18 to 24 years | 5,106 | 7.4% |
| 25 to 44 years | 16,832 | 24.4% |
| 45 to 64 years | 20,494 | 29.7% |
| 65 years and more | 13,240 | 19.2% |
| Median Age | 44.2 | |

| Family Type by Presence of Own Children Under 18 | Number | Percent |
|---|--------|---------|
| Total Families | 17,576 | 100.0% |
| Married-couple families with own children | 4,283 | 24.4% |
| Male householder, no wife present, with own children | 757 | 4.3% |
| Female householder, no husband present, with own children | 1,538 | 8.8% |
| Families with no own children | 10,997 | 62.6% |

| Poverty Status of Families By Family Type by Presence Of Related Children | Number | Percent |
|---|--------|---------|
| Total Families | 17,575 | 100.0% |
| Family income above poverty level | 15,915 | 90.6% |
| Family income below poverty level | 1,660 | 9.4% |
| Married couple, with related children | 246 | 14.8% |
| Male householder, no wife present, with related children | 209 | 12.6% |
| Female householder, no husband present, with related children | 806 | 48.6% |
| Families with no related children | 399 | 24.0% |

| Ratio of Income To Poverty Level | Number | Percent |
|--|--------|---------|
| Population for whom poverty status is determined | 64,843 | 100.0% |
| Below 50% of poverty level | 3,849 | 5.9% |
| 50% to 99% of poverty level | 5,304 | 8.2% |
| 100% to 124% of poverty level | 3,196 | 4.9% |
| 125% to 149% of poverty level | 2,640 | 4.1% |
| 150% to 184% of poverty level | 4,968 | 7.7% |
| 185% to 199% of poverty level | 1,715 | 2.6% |
| 200% of poverty level or more | 43,171 | 66.6% |

| Geographical Mobility | Number | Percent |
|----------------------------------|--------|---------|
| Population aged 1 year and older | 68,447 | 100.0% |
| Same house as previous year | 61,331 | 89.6% |
| Different house, same county | 3,443 | 5.0% |
| Different county, same state | 2,106 | 3.1% |
| Different state | 1,503 | 2.2% |
| Abroad | 64 | 0.1% |

Ohio County Profiles

Belmont County

Travel Time To Work

| | Number | Percent |
|---------------------------|--------|---------|
| Workers 16 years and over | 28,149 | 100.0% |
| Less than 15 minutes | 8,987 | 31.9% |
| 15 to 29 minutes | 11,320 | 40.2% |
| 30 to 44 minutes | 4,044 | 14.4% |
| 45 to 59 minutes | 2,042 | 7.3% |
| 60 minutes or more | 1,756 | 6.2% |

Mean travel time 23.2 minutes

Housing Units

| | Number | Percent |
|------------------------|--------|---------|
| Total housing units | 32,287 | 100.0% |
| Occupied housing units | 26,910 | 83.3% |
| Owner occupied | 20,414 | 75.9% |
| Renter occupied | 6,496 | 24.1% |
| Vacant housing units | 5,377 | 16.7% |

Year Structure Built

| | Number | Percent |
|-----------------------|--------|---------|
| Total housing units | 32,287 | 100.0% |
| Built 2014 or later | 116 | 0.4% |
| Built 2010 to 2013 | 398 | 1.2% |
| Built 2000 to 2009 | 2,038 | 6.3% |
| Built 1990 to 1999 | 2,874 | 8.9% |
| Built 1980 to 1989 | 2,330 | 7.2% |
| Built 1970 to 1979 | 5,009 | 15.5% |
| Built 1960 to 1969 | 3,080 | 9.5% |
| Built 1950 to 1959 | 3,647 | 11.3% |
| Built 1940 to 1949 | 2,530 | 7.8% |
| Built 1939 or earlier | 10,265 | 31.8% |

Median year built 1959

Value for Specified Owner-Occupied Housing Units

| | Number | Percent |
|--|--------|---------|
| Specified owner-occupied housing units | 20,414 | 100.0% |
| Less than \$20,000 | 995 | 4.9% |
| \$20,000 to \$39,999 | 1,507 | 7.4% |
| \$40,000 to \$59,999 | 2,349 | 11.5% |
| \$60,000 to \$79,999 | 3,145 | 15.4% |
| \$80,000 to \$99,999 | 2,792 | 13.7% |
| \$100,000 to \$124,999 | 2,522 | 12.4% |
| \$125,000 to \$149,999 | 1,281 | 6.3% |
| \$150,000 to \$199,999 | 2,504 | 12.3% |
| \$200,000 to \$299,999 | 2,322 | 11.4% |
| \$300,000 to \$499,999 | 780 | 3.8% |
| \$500,000 to \$999,999 | 167 | 0.8% |
| \$1,000,000 or more | 50 | 0.2% |

Median value \$94,800

House Heating Fuel

| | Number | Percent |
|----------------------------|--------|---------|
| Occupied housing units | 26,910 | 100.0% |
| Utility gas | 13,345 | 49.6% |
| Bottled, tank or LP gas | 1,938 | 7.2% |
| Electricity | 7,004 | 26.0% |
| Fuel oil, kerosene, etc | 3,156 | 11.7% |
| Coal, coke or wood | 1,129 | 4.2% |
| Solar energy or other fuel | 224 | 0.8% |
| No fuel used | 114 | 0.4% |

Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Gross Rent

| | Number | Percent |
|---|--------|---------|
| Specified renter-occupied housing units | 6,496 | 100.0% |
| Less than \$100 | 93 | 1.4% |
| \$100 to \$199 | 195 | 3.0% |
| \$200 to \$299 | 566 | 8.7% |
| \$300 to \$399 | 466 | 7.2% |
| \$400 to \$499 | 559 | 8.6% |
| \$500 to \$599 | 822 | 12.7% |
| \$600 to \$699 | 806 | 12.4% |
| \$700 to \$799 | 560 | 8.6% |
| \$800 to \$899 | 515 | 7.9% |
| \$900 to \$999 | 497 | 7.7% |
| \$1,000 to \$1,499 | 380 | 5.8% |
| \$1,500 or more | 50 | 0.8% |
| No cash rent | 987 | 15.2% |

Median gross rent \$607

Median gross rent as a percentage of household income 27.0

Selected Monthly Owner Costs for Specified Owner-Occupied Housing Units

| | Number | Percent |
|--|--------|---------|
| Specified owner-occupied housing units with a mortgage | 9,802 | 100.0% |
| Less than \$400 | 146 | 1.5% |
| \$400 to \$599 | 882 | 9.0% |
| \$600 to \$799 | 2,128 | 21.7% |
| \$800 to \$999 | 1,872 | 19.1% |
| \$1,000 to \$1,249 | 1,856 | 18.9% |
| \$1,250 to \$1,499 | 1,027 | 10.5% |
| \$1,500 to \$1,999 | 1,261 | 12.9% |
| \$2,000 to \$2,999 | 606 | 6.2% |
| \$3,000 or more | 24 | 0.2% |

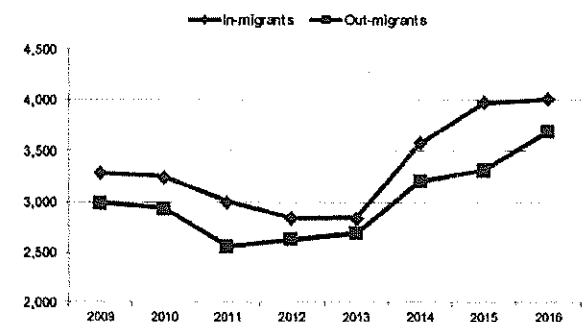
Median monthly owners cost \$986

Median monthly owners cost as a percentage of household income 18.3

Vital Statistics

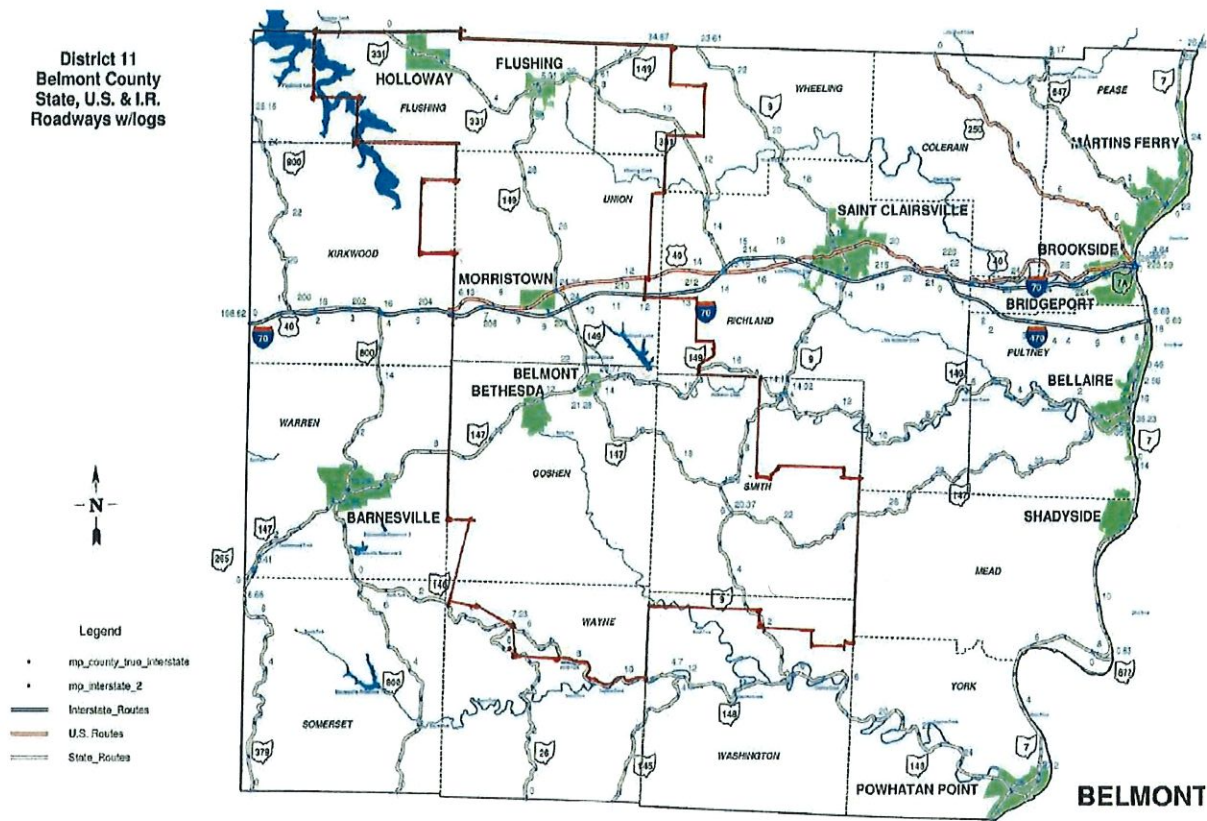
| | Number | Rate |
|---|--------|---------|
| Births / rate per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44 | 606 | 57.2 |
| Teen births / rate per 1,000 females 15-19 | 45 | 26.9 |
| Deaths / rate per 100,000 population | 924 | 1,340.2 |

Domestic Migration



Major Highways and Transportation

Belmont County is well served by major highways, rail and river transportation. The area is served by I-70 and I-470 east and west. I-70 connects Belmont County to I-77 and I-79 north and south and major cities in the region. The Pittsburgh International Airport, Cleveland-Hopkins International Airport and Rickenbacker International Airport in Columbus are all within reasonable travel distance and connect business and commerce to and from Belmont County and the world. Norfolk-Southern Corporation and the Wheeling/Lake Erie Railway Company provide rail systems for transporting coal and other goods and services. These major highway and transportation system connectors provide excellent opportunities for growth in the North Eastern Ohio region.



Source: Ohio Department of Highways

Employment Opportunities

Entrepreneurship is growing in the county and the number of self-employed individuals is also growing in Belmont County and the Morristown areas. The southeastern region of Ohio represents the largest hardwood furniture manufacturing sectors in the nation. APEG indicates that there are over 30 motor freight companies located in Belmont County. This number is growing due to the strategic location of river and rail systems available with reasonable access to major metropolitan areas within 500 miles of the Belmont County communities. ([Barnesville, Ohio Chamber of Commerce, 2019](#)) Industrial parks are being developed in all areas of the county with 15 sites being developed along the Ohio River alone. The Bellaire Industrial Park has been repurposed from a former steel factory creating a center for activities in this area. The Fox Commerce Park is at full capacity and contributes to the employment opportunities in the area as well. The Eastern Ohio Regional Industrial Park in Barnesville continues to develop and expand. These and other similar facilities provide vital support for current and new employment opportunities for residents in Belmont County and students with skills developed in the ULSD college prep and career development courses.

A significant expansion of temporary and permanent jobs in the area will be the proposed new Ethane Cracker Facility at Shadyside. ([Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth, 2019](#)) Through the cooperation of the local CIC, APEG and state and federal partnerships, it appears this facility will be built along the Ohio River in the Shadyside area. Once this project begins, it will provide thousands of temporary jobs during construction and hundreds of permanent jobs once completed.

A study of similar sites by the Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth (APEG) indicates historically that these types of facilities create direct and indirect jobs in the oil and gas industry and also related business and service jobs related to this energy sector industry. The APEG research indicates that typically a \$5 billion ethane cracker facility will create 10,000 construction jobs and 350 – 1,200 permanent jobs once the facility is completed and in operation. According to data from the APEG, several related support industries including the plastics industry are also performing preliminary site searches and site studies on properties near the proposed ethane cracker plant site. These projects are directly related to the proposed ethane cracker plant.

Current employment opportunities also exist in other local businesses and industries. Major employers in Belmont County are:

- Barnesville Hospital Association
- Stingray Energy Services
- Murray Energy/Ohio Valley Coal Company
- Commercial Vehicle Group
- Nickles Bakery
- United Dairy, Inc.

The Eastern Ohio region is also home to other key industries such as Forestry and Wood Products, Logistics, Energy Production, Transportation and Aerospace, Food Products, Metals and Polymers and Plastics and Consumer Products. ([Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth, 2019](#))

The U.S. Department of Education reports that there will be 68% more job openings in infrastructure-related fields in the next five years than there are people training to fill them. (Belmont County Port Authority, 2019)

| 2016 Job Distribution in Belmont County | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Statistical Category | Number of Full-time Jobs |
| Total Employer Establishments, 2016 | 1,445 |
| Total Employment, 2016 | 19,935 |
| Total Annual Payroll, 2016 (\$1,000) | 668,504 |
| Total Employment, % change, 2015-2016 | 1.7% |
| Total Non-employee Establishments, 2016 | 3,130 |
| All Firms, (Estimate) | 4,239 |
| Men owned Firms, (Estimate) | 2,205 |
| Women owned Firms, (Estimate) | 1,457 |
| Minority owned Firms, (Estimate) | 190 |
| Non-minority owned Firms, (Estimate) | 3,862 |
| Veteran owned Firms, (Estimate) | 565 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Demographic data is being used to assess the historic and projected job markets and business opportunities in the Belmont County and within the caption area of ULSD. The possibility of new business and industry moving into the area could have a significant effect on the student population in ULSD and surrounding school districts.

The availability of a qualified civilian labor workforces will be a vital ingredient for an improved labor market in Belmont County and the surrounding area. The ULSD should play a major role in the development of this workforce. With the commitment of the ULSD Board of Education and the administrative staff to maintain and develop new course offerings for students in every facility, the school district accepts this challenge and with the community's guidance and involvement this planning process will help create a road map for future success.

The following labor and job market data is being used to help the district plan for the success of the students in ULSD through facilities and relevant curricular improvements:

Civilian Labor Force

| | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 |
|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Civilian labor force | 30,600 | 30,300 | 31,000 | 31,100 | 31,800 |
| Employed | 28,900 | 28,400 | 28,700 | 29,200 | 29,700 |
| Unemployed | 1,700 | 1,700 | 2,300 | 2,000 | 2,100 |
| Unemployment rate | 5.5 | 6.3 | 7.5 | 6.4 | 6.7 |

Establishments, Employment, and Wages by Sector: 2017

| Industrial Sector | Number of Establishments | Average Employment | Total Wages | Average Weekly Wage |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Private Sector | 1,509 | 19,536 | \$786,390,444 | \$774 |
| Goods-Producing | 240 | 3,742 | \$269,813,218 | \$1,387 |
| Natural Resources and Mining | 61 | * * * * * | Data Not Available | * * * * * |
| Construction | 135 | 1,274 | \$77,420,996 | \$1,169 |
| Manufacturing | 44 | * * * * * | Data Not Available | * * * * * |
| Service-Providing | 1,269 | 15,794 | \$516,577,226 | \$629 |
| Trade, Transportation and Utilities | 425 | 5,624 | \$177,828,222 | \$608 |
| Information | 12 | 486 | \$22,536,340 | \$893 |
| Financial Services | 140 | 1,108 | \$51,501,531 | \$894 |
| Professional and Business Services | 184 | 1,324 | \$84,905,081 | \$1,233 |
| Education and Health Services | 227 | 3,711 | \$120,671,421 | \$625 |
| Leisure and Hospitality | 151 | 2,925 | \$44,048,022 | \$290 |
| Other Services | 129 | 614 | \$15,025,699 | \$470 |
| Federal Government | | 157 | \$8,339,244 | \$1,019 |
| State Government | | 675 | \$37,653,811 | \$1,073 |
| Local Government | | 2,847 | \$102,938,259 | \$695 |

Private Sector total includes Unclassified establishments not shown.

Change Since 2012

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|
| Private Sector | 4.4% | 3.9% | 24.4% | 19.6% |
| Goods-Producing | 18.8% | -1.2% | 14.6% | 16.0% |
| Natural Resources and Mining | 74.3% | * * * * * | Data Not Available | * * * * * |
| Construction | 7.1% | 23.3% | 64.0% | 33.0% |
| Manufacturing | 4.8% | * * * * * | Data Not Available | * * * * * |
| Service-Producing | 2.0% | 5.2% | 30.2% | 23.8% |
| Trade, Transportation and Utilities | 2.4% | 9.1% | 18.5% | 8.6% |
| Information | -7.7% | 40.1% | 85.8% | 32.9% |
| Financial Services | -4.1% | -8.3% | 28.4% | 40.1% |
| Professional and Business Services | 12.9% | 30.3% | 169.7% | 106.9% |
| Education and Health Services | 5.6% | -5.3% | 3.9% | 9.6% |
| Leisure and Hospitality | 4.9% | 10.2% | 29.5% | 17.9% |
| Other Services | -12.8% | -14.5% | 17.5% | 37.4% |
| Federal Government | | -0.6% | -4.9% | -4.3% |
| State Government | | -11.5% | 7.7% | 21.8% |
| Local Government | | -0.2% | 11.8% | 12.1% |

Residential

| Construction | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Total units | 5 | 52 | 10 | 6 | 115 |
| Total valuation (000) | \$508 | \$4,974 | \$1,801 | \$818 | \$14,397 |
| Total single-unit bldgs | 5 | 8 | 10 | 4 | 8 |
| Average cost per unit | \$101,605 | \$152,735 | \$180,060 | \$198,250 | \$165,875 |
| Total multi-unit bldg units | 0 | 44 | 0 | 2 | 107 |
| Average cost per unit | \$0 | \$85,273 | \$0 | \$12,500 | \$122,150 |

Major & Notable Employers

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Barnesville Hospital Assn | Serv |
| Belmont Community Hospital | Serv |
| Belmont County Government | Govt |
| East Ohio Regional Hospital | Serv |
| Kroger Co | Trade |
| Murray Energy/Ohio Valley Coal Co | Mining |
| Nickles Bakery | Mfg |
| State of Ohio | Govt |
| Stingray Pressure Pumping | Mining |
| United Dairy, Inc. | Mfg |
| Wal-Mart Stores Inc | Trade |

Beyond the obvious factors of regulatory oversight, business taxation and availability of a qualified workforce, the possibility of new business being located in the county or region is often affected by the availability of community services, the educational systems in place (K-12, college/university, vocational training and adult vocational training) as well as other desirable community factors. The availability of land, the type of land and waterways, transportation facilities for goods and services, housing and property tax levels will also affect the decision makers when they consider investments of major capital in new or even existing businesses in Belmont County. The ULSD Comprehensive Educational Facilities Planning process is considering how these issues will effect ULSD students and how the District can be proactive as we prepare students and facilities for job opportunities if business leaders are considering moving or expanding in the region.



The following provides additional county profile data that will help guide the planning decisions within this CEFP:

Agriculture

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Land in farms (acres) | 129,364 |
| Number of farms | 750 |
| Average size (acres) | 172 |
| Total cash receipts | \$25,357,000 |
| Per farm | \$33,810 |
| Receipts for crops | \$5,887,000 |
| Receipts for livestock/products | \$19,470,000 |

Education

| | |
|---|---------|
| Traditional public schools buildings | 22 |
| Students | 8,898 |
| Teachers (Full Time Equivalent) | 702.9 |
| Expenditures per student | \$7,931 |
| Graduation rate | 89.5 |
| Community/charter schools buildings | 0 |
| Students | 0 |
| Teachers (Full Time Equivalent) | 0.0 |
| Expenditures per student | |
| Graduation rate | |
| Private schools | 7 |
| Students | 655 |
| 4-year public universities | 0 |
| Regional campuses | 1 |
| 2-year public colleges/satellites | 1 |
| Ohio Technical Centers | 0 |
| Private universities and colleges | 0 |
| Public libraries (Districts / Facilities) | 4 / 9 |

Transportation

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Registered motor vehicles | 83,500 |
| Passenger cars | 49,121 |
| Noncommercial trucks | 16,135 |
| Total license revenue | \$2,415,895.91 |
| Permissive tax revenue | \$660,142.50 |
| Interstate highway miles | 33.66 |
| Turnpike miles | 0.00 |
| U.S. highway miles | 32.01 |
| State highway miles | 213.75 |
| County, township, and municipal road miles | 1,209.62 |
| Commercial airports | 2 |

Health Care

| | |
|--|-------|
| Physicians | 80 |
| Registered hospitals | 4 |
| Number of beds | 283 |
| Licensed nursing homes | 10 |
| Number of beds | 785 |
| Licensed residential care | 5 |
| Number of beds | 300 |
| Persons with health insurance (Aged 0 to 64) | 93.5% |
| Adults with insurance (Aged 18 to 64) | 92.6% |
| Children with insurance (Aged Under 19) | 96.0% |

Communications

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Television stations | 0 |
| Radio stations | 3 |
| Daily newspapers | 1 |
| Circulation | 9,000 |
| Average monthly unique visitors | 0 |
| Weekly newspapers | 1 |
| Circulation | 3,611 |
| Average monthly unique visitors | 5,825 |
| Online only | 0 |
| Average monthly unique visitors | 0 |

Crime

| | |
|---|-----|
| Total crimes reported in Uniform Crime Report | 544 |
| Violent crime | 59 |
| Property crime | 485 |

Finance

| | |
|---|-----------|
| FDIC insured financial institutions (HQs) | 3 |
| Assets (000) | \$946,237 |
| Branch offices | 31 |
| Institutions represented | 13 |

Transfer Payments

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Total transfer payments | \$712,463,000 |
| Payments to individuals | \$696,336,000 |
| Retirement and disability | \$259,840,000 |
| Medical payments | \$349,808,000 |
| Income maintenance (Supplemental SSI, family assistance, food stamps, etc) | \$47,701,000 |
| Unemployment benefits | \$6,555,000 |
| Veterans benefits | \$17,602,000 |
| Federal education and training assistance | \$9,122,000 |
| Other payments to individuals | \$5,708,000 |
| Total personal income | \$2,697,089,000 |
| Dependency ratio | 26.4% |
| (Percent of income from transfer payments) | |

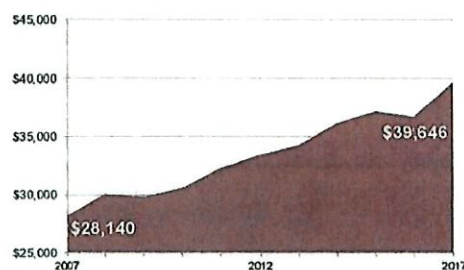
Voting

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Number of registered voters | 47,702 |
| Voted in 2018 election | 25,332 |
| Percent turnout | 53.1% |

State Parks, Forests, Nature Preserves, Scenic Waterways, And Wildlife Areas

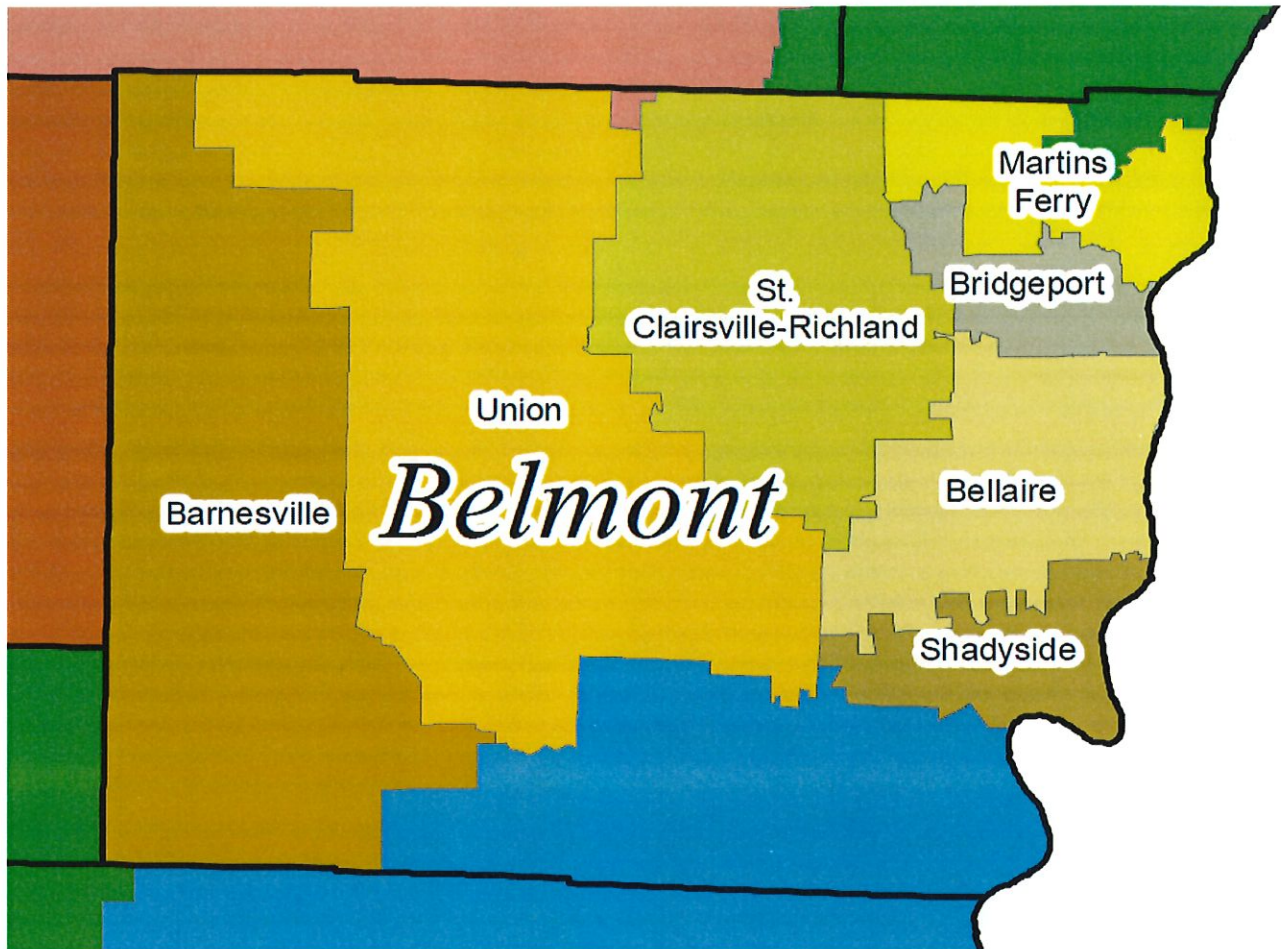
| | |
|------------------|--------|
| Areas/Facilities | 9 |
| Acreage | 20,588 |

Per Capita Personal Income



School Attendance Zone

The Union Local School District caption area is the largest school attendance zone in Belmont County with a land area 145.16 square miles. As a result, the population is diverse with a variety of interests. Students living in Flushing, Goshen, Kirkwood, Richland, Smith, Union, Washington, Wayne and Wheeling Townships attend Union Local School District. The graphic below provides an illustration of the 7 school districts in Belmont County:



Prepared by:
State of Ohio
Department of Administrative Services
GIS Support Center
August 2016

School District boundary data last updated in 2016

Sources: Ohio DAS GIS Support Center and Cleveland State University in partnership with the Ohio Department of Education

Community Analysis Summary

The geographic location of the Union Local School District (ULSD) provides an excellent opportunity for development of the community from a business and industry perspective as well as from the school district perspective with the school system providing leadership in career opportunities and job training. The historic population of Belmont County has declined very slowly since 1940 and credit should be given to the business development offices at the local and state levels for developing programs to attract business and train the workforce to support these businesses. Prior to the ULSD Boards proactive stance, the school district has only been able to react to the changing community and business environment. The ULSD administration and Board of Education is now making a conscience effort to become part of the group of agents for change in the county and region.

The adoption of districtwide educational and facility goals and objectives by the District Board directs the administration to prepare programs of study that will prepare students for college and/or workforce after graduation. This commitment is the foundation for the Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan (CEFP). Additionally, the district is committed to a long range planning document that considers factors outside the school district's delivery of curriculum for their students. The CEFP should illustrate the district's commitment to providing programs of study that are aligned with the region and state job markets to allow students to engage in meaningful, self-sustaining vocations

The business development organizations have been preparing for several years through infrastructure improvements, industrial parks, transportation updates and business development assistance. The next logical step is linking the school district with these agencies by forming business partnerships and by having round table discussions on working cooperatively to attract new businesses and families into the area. The school district's primary goal is to prepare students for employment and careers once they leave high school. The ideal scenario for the school district and the families within the district would be to develop specific curriculum within the 3 current schools that prepare students for college or careers in jobs that currently exist or could exist in the future in Belmont County or surrounding areas.

The community analysis provides an overview of what has happened in the Belmont County region of Ohio and also considers what could happen when community leaders work together to improve the lives of their residents. The opportunities for organized and well planned growth in the Belmont/Morristown area and the entire State of Ohio are greater today than they have been for several decades. The timing of the Board's decision to create a Long Range Comprehensive Educational Facilities Plan could not have been better planned than now. The data available within the community analysis should help the Comprehensive Educational Facilities Planning Committee, the District Administration and the District Board make proactive decisions that will better prepare students for immediate career placement, career/technical school or 2/4 year college degrees.

Bibliography

- Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth. (2019). *APEG Belmont County*. Retrieved from APEG Website: <https://apeg.com/?s=belmont+county>
- Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth. (2019). *Belmont County Overview*. Retrieved from APEG Website: <https://apeg.com/counties/belmont>
- Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth. (2019). *JobsOhio invests in prep work for proposed Belmont County 'cracker' plant*. Retrieved from APEG Website: <https://apeg.com/blog-and-media/2016-12-05/jobsohio-invests-in-prep-work-for-proposed-belmont-county-cracker-plant/>
- Barnesville Area Chamber of Commerce. (2019). *Community Improvement Corporation of Belmont County*. Retrieved from Barnesville Area Chamber of Commerce Website: <http://www.barnesvilleohiochamber.com/business-directory/community-improvement-corporation-of-belmont-county/>
- Barnesville, Ohio Chamber of Commerce. (2019). *Community Improvement Corporation of Belmont County*. Retrieved from Barnesville Ohio Chamber of Commerce Website: <http://www.barnesvilleohiochamber.com/business-directory/community-improvement-corporation-of-belmont-county/>
- Belmont County Ohio Recreation Department. (2019). *Belmont County Ohio Recreation Department*. Retrieved from Belmont County Ohio Recreation Department Website: <https://www.bing.com/maps?q=belmont+county+ohiorecreation+department&FORM=HDRSC4>
- Belmont County Port Authority. (2019). *Welcome Belmont County, Ohio Port Authority*. Retrieved from Belmont County, Ohio Port Authority Website: <http://belmontcountyporthauthority.com/>
- Gianangelis, V. (2018). Director of the Belmont County Department of Job and Family Services. (J. J. David Sneed, Interviewer)
- Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services. (2018). *Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services*. Retrieved from Department of Jobs and Family Services Website: http://jfs.ohio.gov/County/County_Directory.stm
- Ohio Development Services Agency, Office of Research. (2018). *Ohio County Profiles: Belmont County*. Retrieved from Ohio Government Website: <https://development.ohio.gov/files/research/C1008.pdf>
- Union Local School District. (2019, September). *Union Local School District - Wikipedia*. Retrieved from Wikipedia Website: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Union_Local_School_District#History