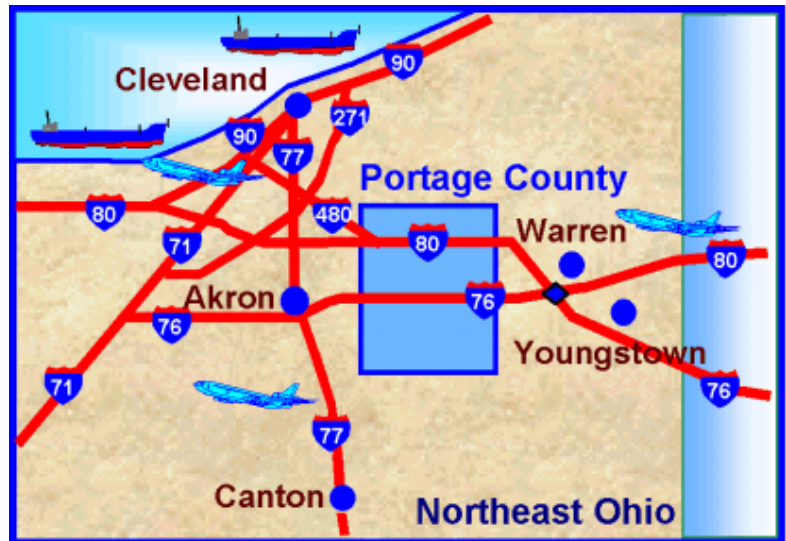


# Portage County, Ohio



Portage County, conveniently located in Northeast Ohio's industrial, educational and recreational heartland, features a robust economy, a rural

small town environment and all the amenities of Northeast Ohio within a one-hour drive. Formed as part of the Connecticut Western Reserve, Portage County has a population of 152,061 and encompasses over 500 square miles.



Portage County was born of transportation and in the beginning was acknowledged for its strategic location. It still is. I-80 (Ohio Turnpike), with two interchanges, and I-76 bisect the county in an east-west direction. I-480 provides quick access to the Cleveland metro area and I-90. I-76 provides access to the major north-south routes of I-77 and I-71. While centrally located in the center of Northeast Ohio's manufacturing heartland, the county retains its rural environment. Portage County's gently rolling topography houses over 152,000 people. Major cities include Aurora, Kent, Ravenna and Streetsboro.

All major modes of transportation are easily assessable. The commercial airports of Akron-Canton, Cleveland Hopkins International and Youngstown are within a one-hour drive. Private aircraft have use of Portage County (3500 ft. runway) and Kent State University Airports. The Wheeling and Lake Erie Railway provides quick access to the nation's rail network.

Once noted for the high quality of its manufactured glass and for the output of its more than 50 cheese plants, Portage County's growing business base now hosts a range of industry producing an array of products, from toys to lamp bulbs to aircraft components.

Metalworking, Plastic & Rubber Products and Printing/Publishing lead the county's manufacturing sector.

New and expanding manufacturing and distribution firms invested approximately 660 million dollars in Portage County during the period 1992 - 2000. These investments added over 6300 new jobs to Portage County's job base and retained 4200 existing jobs. New construction added over 6.8 million sq. ft. of new industrial space.

Portage County and local communities have an aggressive economic development policy. Fourteen Enterprise Zones within the county have produced over 120 enterprise zone agreements with new and expanding industries.

For more information, contact:

Portage County Office of Economic Development  
Sy Thompson, Director  
449 South Meridian Street  
Ravenna, Ohio 44266  
Phone: (330) 297-3470 Fax: (330) 297-3472  
E-mail: [pcoed@earthlink.net](mailto:pcoed@earthlink.net)  
Web Site: [www.portageworkforce.org/](http://www.portageworkforce.org/)

**Population**

152,061 (2000 Census)

**Government**

Portage County's government is administered by a three member board of commissioners. Political subdivisions include 5 cities, 7 villages and 18 townships

**Education**

12 Public school districts and 4 private schools  
 Maplewood Career Center  
 Kent State University  
 Hiram College  
 Northeast Ohio Universities College of Medicine  
 Boheckers Business College  
 The region is home to over 30 institutions of higher education.

**BUSINESS IN PORTAGE**

Portage County is home to over 2500 businesses. Nearly 400 are involved in manufacturing or distribution. Metalworking, Plastic & Rubber Products and Printing/Publishing lead the county's manufacturing sector. Agri-business, with 719 farms, average over \$33,000 each in annual sales. Major business employers include General Electric, The Step2 Company, Deluxe Business Systems, St Gobain Performance Plastics, Lucas Aerospace, Parker-Hannifin, Gougler Industries, The Press of Ohio, McMaster Carr Corporation, Automated Packaging, Davey Tree Expert Company and Daimler-Chrysler Mopar Distribution Center.

**TRANSPORTATION**

Highways I-76, I-80, & I-480 with quick access to I-71, I-77, I-90 & I-271. Ohio Turnpike (I-80) exits 13 & 13a are located in Portage County.  
 U. S. 224 & U.S. 422  
 Ohio 5, 14, 43, 44, 59, 82, 88, 183, 225, 261, 282, 303, 305, 306, & 700.

Rail Service Wheeling and Lake Erie Railway provides freight rail connections to the nations rail system.

Air Services Cleveland Hopkins International Airport, Akron/Canton Regional Airport and the Youngstown/Warren Regional Airport, conveniently located within a one hour drive of Portage County, offer daily direct and connecting flights to U. S. and international destinations. Private aircraft have use of the Portage County and Kent State University Airports.

Water Ports Low cost water transportation, via Lake Erie and the St. Lawrence Seaway is also within a one hour drive of Portage County.

**UTILITIES**

Electric Power: Ohio Edison , a First Energy Co.

Natural Gas: Dominion/East Ohio Gas

Water and Sanitary Sewer: Provided by various political subdivisions and the Portage County Water Resources Department.

Telecommunications: Ameritech, AllTel, GTE and United Telephone of Ohio.

**WORK FORCE**

Average Workforce 2000: 85,500

Average Unemployment 2000: 3.8%.

Covered employment by industry:

Manufacturing	26%
Wholesale/Retail	22%
Service	20%
*Gov/Education	22%
Transportation/Util.	2%
Construction	4%
Misc	2%
Finance/Ins/Real Estate	2%

\* Includes KSU, Hiram College and NEOUCOM.

**TAX STRUCTURE**

Local Real Property: Assessed at 35% of market value. Net effective millage for commercial/industrial property ranges from 41.04 to 72.52 per \$1000.

Local Tangible Personal Property: Assessed at 25% of true value. Gross millage ranges from 64.75 to 110.69 per \$1000.

Local Income Tax 0 to 2%

Local Sales/Use Tax 1%

**State Taxes**

Sales/Use tax:	5%
Corporate Income Tax	5.1%
Personal Income Tax	.7% - 7%
Unemployment Tax	1% - 8%

**RECREATION/SHOPPING**

Major malls in nearby communities, several strip centers and 70 outlet stores within the county provide an abundance of shopping opportunities. Family recreation options include Six Flags Worlds of Adventure, 11 public golf courses, 3 state parks and a wide array of community parks and private campgrounds. Major league sports within a one-hour drive include the Cleveland Indians, Cleveland Cavaliers and the Cleveland Browns.

Revised: 05/03/01