

Quality of Life - Butler County, Ohio

"Liveability" is what Butler County is all about. The county's desirable location along Interstate-75, and its healthy mix of businesses and services, strong educational network, accountable government and array of cultural, civic and recreational offerings make Butler County one of the most exciting growth areas in Ohio and the Midwest.



Families who have chosen to live in Butler County experience big city amenities but live in a small-town setting point out that this as one of the best reasons for living in the area. They bring up the excellent educational opportunities, safe neighborhoods, rich cultural and recreational opportunities and the wide range of family-oriented attractions as the major reasons they moved to Butler County.

Fortune Magazine ranked Cincinnati 7th among the top 15 U.S. cities rated as great places to live and work.



PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME

In 2002 Butler had a per capita personal income (PCPI) of \$29,415. This PCPI ranked 16th in the state and was 101 percent of the state average, \$29,195, and 95 percent of the national average, \$30,906. The 2002 PCPI reflected an increase of 1.6 percent from 2001.

The 2001-2002 state change was 2.0 percent and the national change was 1.5 percent. In 1992 the PCPI of Butler was \$19,584 and ranked 19th in the state. The 1992-2002 average annual growth rate of PCPI was 4.2 percent. The average annual growth rate for the state was 3.8 percent and for the nation was 4.0 percent.

Recreation:

In the summer, families flock to theme parks, including Paramount's Kings Island, Coney Island, and The Beach Water Park. For year-round fun, families go to the Cincinnati Zoo, Krohn Conservatory, the Dayton Art Institute, Newport Aquarium, and Newport on the Levee. There are also three casinos for gaming fans to try their luck—Argosy, Belterra and Grand Victoria. In the winter, it's skiing at Perfect North Slopes.

Sports:

Families also are able to enjoy spectator sports, including Cincinnati Reds major league baseball games, the NFL's Cincinnati Bengals, NASCAR auto racing at Kentucky Speedway, and numerous college sporting events in the area including major college football and basketball.

Dining:

Dining out ranges from the nationally acclaimed, five-star Maisonette to chili parlors. There are more than 1,500 restaurants to please every palate and pocket including ethnic eateries—many of which are owned and operated by local families.

COST OF LIVING IN BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO

This index measures relative price levels for consumer goods and services, reflecting cost differentials for a mid-management standard of living.

Source: ACCRA Cost of Living Index, Fourth Quarter 2002

Region	Composite	Groceries	Housing	Utilities	Trans	Healthcare	Misc.
U.S. average	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Atlanta	98.1	101.9	94.5	92.1	101.8	106.3	98.3
Cincinnati	93.5	96.4	85.8	89.9	95.5	90.1	99.5
Cleveland	105.0	117.7	95.2	143.1	109.9	105.2	99.3
Dayton	96.0	96.5	88.3	103.5	102.4	98.7	98.1
Indianapolis	91.9	95.1	86.5	89.6	91.9	95.9	94.9
L.A. - Long Beach	137.8	110.5	207.6	109.3	111.6	112.9	110.3
Louisville	96.3	97.8	92.7	99.8	105.1	91.9	95.9
Milwaukee - Waukesha	107.3	102.4	124.0	98.8	101.8	102.2	99.9
Minneapolis	103.7	99.4	98.8	100.8	114.6	123.2	104.4
Nashville - Davidson	96.1	98.4	93.5	89.7	97.0	92.3	98.9
New York	226.2	142.6	444.8	175.4	119.6	186.2	131.8
Philadelphia	126.9	111.8	146.5	182.8	122.3	102.8	109.1
Raleigh - Durham	105.9	101.1	116.6	116.9	98.5	105.0	98.9
St. Louis	98.5	100.1	97.8	95.9	102.7	110.0	96.0

Land Area: Butler County: 470 square miles

Climate	Annual	January	April	July	October
Normal mean temp. (°F)	53.2	28.1	53.2	75.1	55.1
Normal max. temp. (°F)	63.2	36.6	64.2	85.5	66.0
Normal min. temp. (°F)	43.2	19.5	42.2	64.8	44.2
Normal precip. (inches)	41.33	2.59	3.75	4.24	2.86
Avg. number of days of .01 inch or more precip.	130	12	13	10	8
Avg. total snow/ice pellets (inches)	23.4	7	0.5	n/a	0.3
Avg. % possible sunshine	49	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Avg. % relative humidity (a.m.)	82	79	n/a	85	n/a
Avg. % relative humidity (p.m.)	60	68	n/a	57	n/a
Wind speed (mph)	9	10.6	n/a	7.2	n/a

Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States 1997, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census

Vital Statistics – 1997

	Number	Rate per 1,000
Total Births	4,496	15.4
Teen Births Females 10 – 19	544	24.6
Deaths	2,489	8.5
Marriages	1,968	6.8
Divorces	1,192	4.1

Source: Ohio Dept. of Dev. Office of Strategic Research

Health Care – 1997

Physicians	356
Hospitals	5
Number of Beds	1,077
Extended Care Homes	39
Number of Beds	3,404
Estimate of Uninsured	33,753
Percent of Population	1.3%

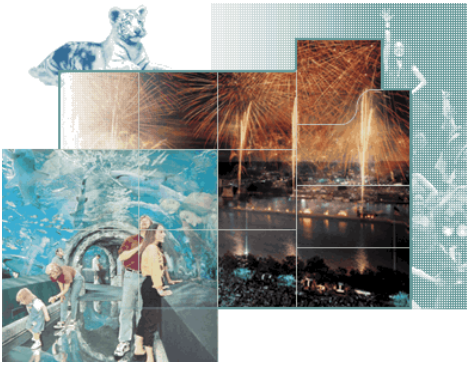
Source: Ohio Dept. of Dev. Office of Strategic Research

Top Relocation States:

Based on a random survey of 80,000 interstate moves here are the top 25 states and what percentage they represent.

California	10.36 %
Texas	9.65 %
Florida	8.90 %
Virginia	5.16 %
Georgia	4.56 %
North Carolina	4.50 %
New York	4.47 %
Illinois	4.30 %
Ohio	3.90 %
Pennsylvania	3.63 %
Arizona	3.50 %

Washington	3.35 %
Colorado	3.20 %
Michigan	2.60 %
Tennessee	2.50 %
Missouri	2.00 %
Indiana	1.91 %
South Carolina	1.77 %
Minnesota	1.70 %
Oregon	1.50 %
Alabama	1.46 %
Louisiana	1.43 %
Nevada	1.40 %
Wisconsin	1.36 %
Kentucky	1.30 %



The arts are important to the region. There are many galleries, theaters, and museums as well as the performing arts including the ballet, symphony, opera, and Playhouse in the Park.

The region is also home to a large variety of attractions to suit every age and interest. For the young at heart, our region is home to the 9th most popular theme park in the

United States - Paramount's Kings Island. The park is 1,600 acres and attracts more than 3 million visitors each year. The Golf Center at Kings Island hosts the Annual Great American Insurance ATP Tennis Tournament featuring professional tennis players such as Andre Agassi, Michael Chang and Pete Sampras. Musical entertainment can be found at Riverbend Music Center and the Aronoff Center. Both theaters present a variety of concerts, musicals, and dramas each year. The Nutter Center at Wright State University also hosts an assortment of events including concerts, sporting events, and conventions. Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens, one of the top ten zoos in the United States, is located within 25 miles of Butler County and is home to the world's largest collection of cats.

Cultural amenities are thriving in the Butler County area. The Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park & Museum, located in Hamilton, is 256 acres and has 41 pieces of sculpture art. In the summer time, the museum park opens an amphitheater for local art groups to perform. The Cincinnati-Dayton Metroplex is home to more than 100 museums and galleries. They include the U.S. Air Force Museum, Dayton Art Institute, Cincinnati Art Museum, Taft Museum, Contemporary Arts Center, Krohn Conservatory, and the Cincinnati MuseumCenter (which houses the Museum of Natural History and Science, OMNIMAX Theater and the Children's Museum).

There are a variety of annual festivals and fairs in Butler County. Each year, the Butler County Fair attracts thousands of visitors daily to the Hamilton area for the week long event. Butler County is also home of the annual Ohio Honey Festival - most recently held in Oxford. The Great Miami River in Hamilton is the location of Dam Fest. Dam Fest which has become home to the National Water Ski Competition which is broadcast on ESPN 2. The Fourth of July brings along with it Fort Hamilton Days each year, featuring fireworks and food! And for the past seven Christmas', Hamilton has hosted the German Village Christmas Walk, allowing visitors to tour area renovated historic homes decorated for the season.