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## Economic Conditions in Fostoria, Ohio

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# Economic Conditions in Fostoria, Ohio

A Briefing Book Prepared by  
Regional and Economic Planning Services at  
The W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research

November 2018

# Table of Contents

Overview.....	4
Key Takeaways.....	5
Commuting Patterns.....	8
By Income.....	13
By Age.....	20
By Industry.....	27
Demographic Comparisons.....	34
Assets Within the City and Surrounding Tracts.....	40
Observations.....	41
Maps of Fostoria Assets.....	42

# About the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research

The Institute is an activity of the W.E. Upjohn Unemployment Trustee Corporation, which was established in 1932 to administer a fund set aside by Dr. W.E. Upjohn, founder of the Upjohn Company. The W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan, independent research organization devoted to investigating the causes and effects of unemployment, to identifying feasible methods of insuring against unemployment, and to devising ways and means of alleviating the distress and hardship caused by unemployment.

The Institute has a three-pronged mission:

- Research the causes and consequences of unemployment and evaluate public employment programs and social safety nets
- Administer all federal and state re-employment and training programs in our four-county area (Michigan Works!)
- Disseminate our research findings and information on best practices



# Overview

- The City of Fostoria is a community of 13,256 people located in Northwest Ohio.
- From 2015 to 2016, the population of the city grew 1.59%.
- During the same time period, the median household income of Fostoria increased from \$33,485 to \$35,168, a 5.03% increase.
- The largest employers in the area are concentrated in Manufacturing, Health and Social Assistance, and Retail Trade.
- Finance and Insurance Services (\$38,750), Educational Services (\$33,625), and Transportation and Warehouses (\$23,580) are the highest paying industries in the city.
- Median household income in Fostoria, OH is much lower than the county in which it is situated, as well as its surrounding counties. The poverty rate in Fostoria is 30.6%.
- Individuals living in the city commute an average of 19.3 minutes to destinations outside the city for work.

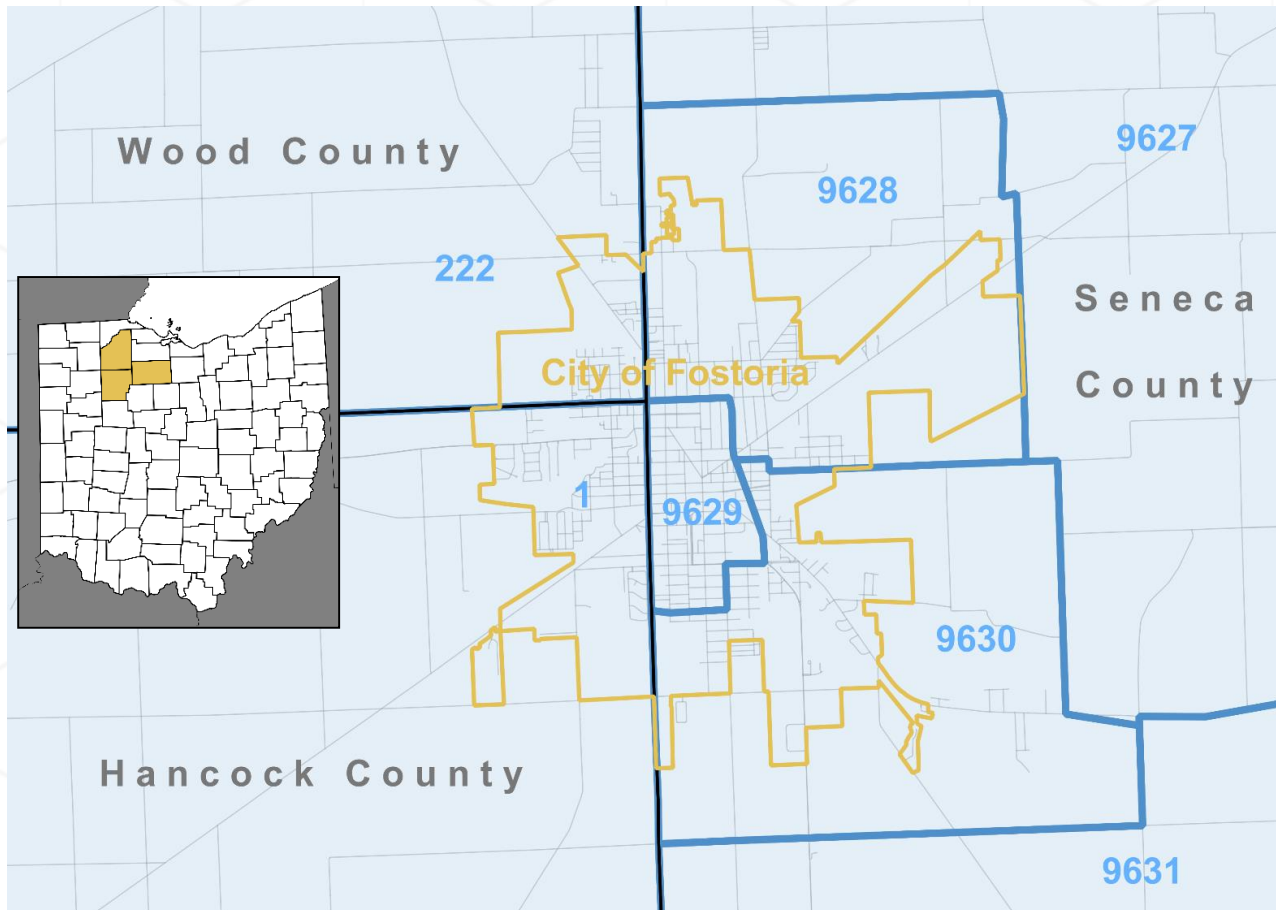


# KEY TAKEAWAYS

# Key Takeaways

- Fostoria residents often commute to work to nearby larger cities, including Findlay, Tiffin, and Bowling Green.
- Northeast Findlay, the location of the Tall Timbers Industrial Park, is a major employer of Fostoria residents across all age groups and in the middle- and high-income brackets.
- Fostoria residents and workers share similar demographic characteristics in terms of age and industry employment; however, workers commuting into Fostoria tend to earn higher incomes than Fostoria residents.
- The City of Fostoria has a labor force participation rate of 59%, which is well below the current national average of 62.9%, and an unemployment rate of 10.6%, well above the current national average of 3.7%. Current local rates may be closer to the national rates as values for smaller areas are derived from averages using data from 2012 to 2016.
- 63% of Fostoria residents over age 25 have less than a high school education or a high-school diploma or equivalent, indicating that residents of Fostoria are less educated than those in the surrounding counties and the state of Ohio.

# Defining the Districts: The City of Fostoria, Ohio



Fostoria, Ohio is at the intersection of three counties. The American Community Survey aggregates data to the census tract level. The data for the City of Fostoria are combined from census tracts 9628, 9629, and 9630 in Seneca County, census tract 1 in Hancock county, and census tract 222 in Wood County.

Residents of Fostoria typically do not commute outside these three counties for work. Findlay, Ohio in Hancock County is a popular commuting destination for work. Larger cities in northeast Ohio, such as Toledo and Cleveland, also draw Fostoria residents for employment, but this is less common.



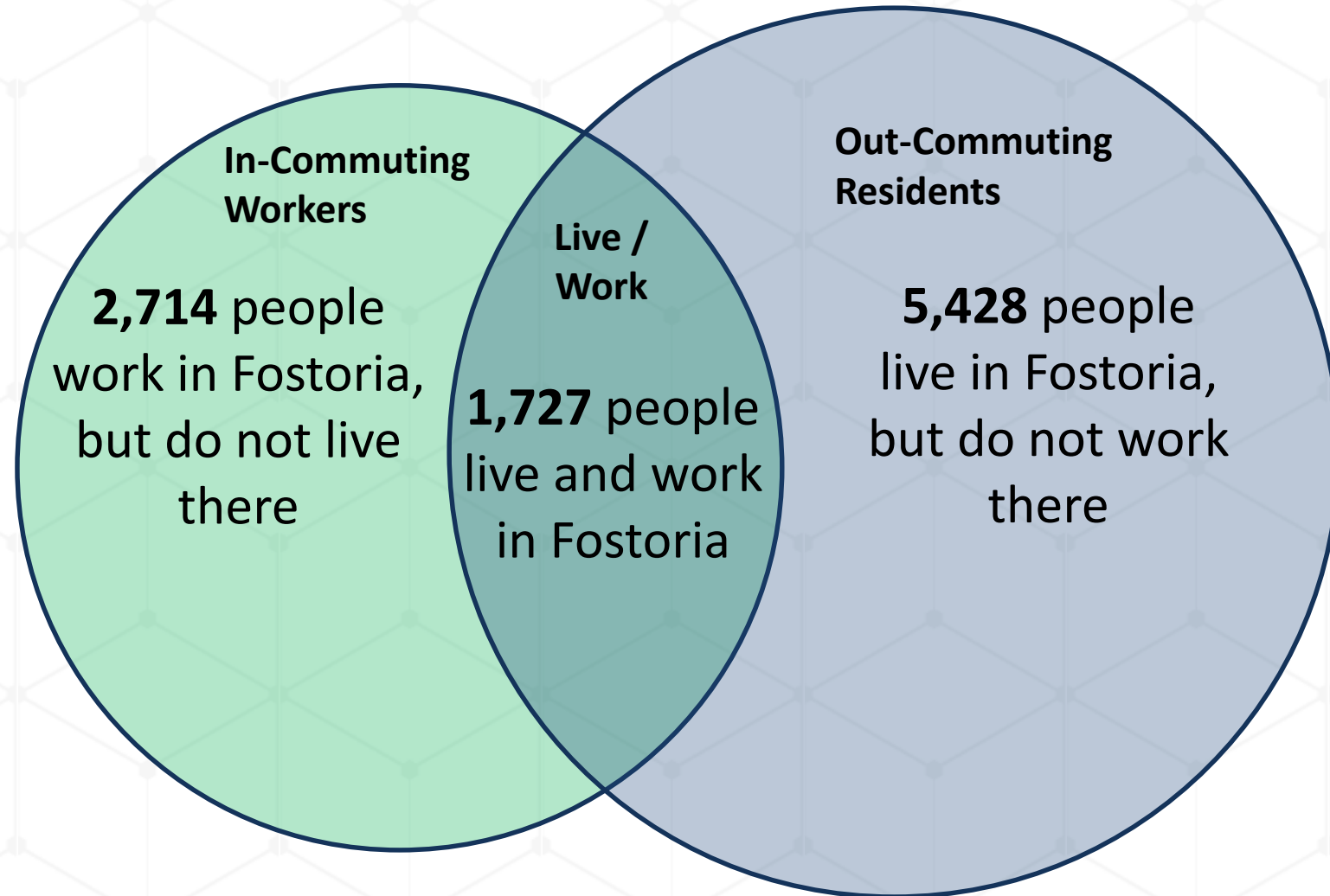


# COMMUTING PATTERNS

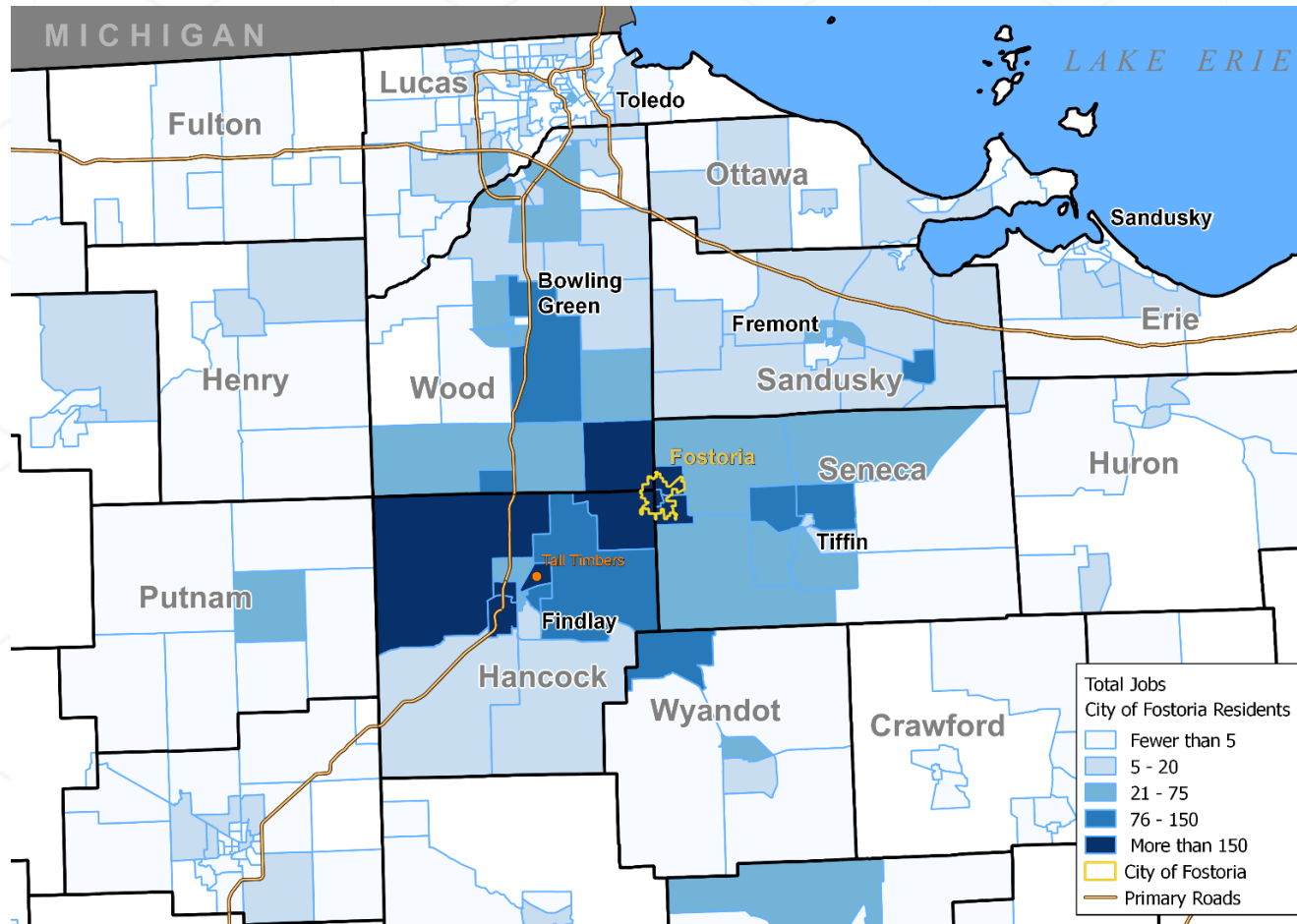
# Key Terms and Definitions

- **Residents of Fostoria:** Individuals who live, but may or may not work, in the City of Fostoria. All people who live in Fostoria are included in this group. The commuting patterns in the following maps are in blue.
- **Workers in Fostoria:** Individuals who work, but may or may not live, in the City of Fostoria. All people who work in Fostoria are included in this group. These commuting patterns are shown in the following maps are in green.

# Flow of Workers for Fostoria



# Locations Where Fostoria Residents Commute for Work



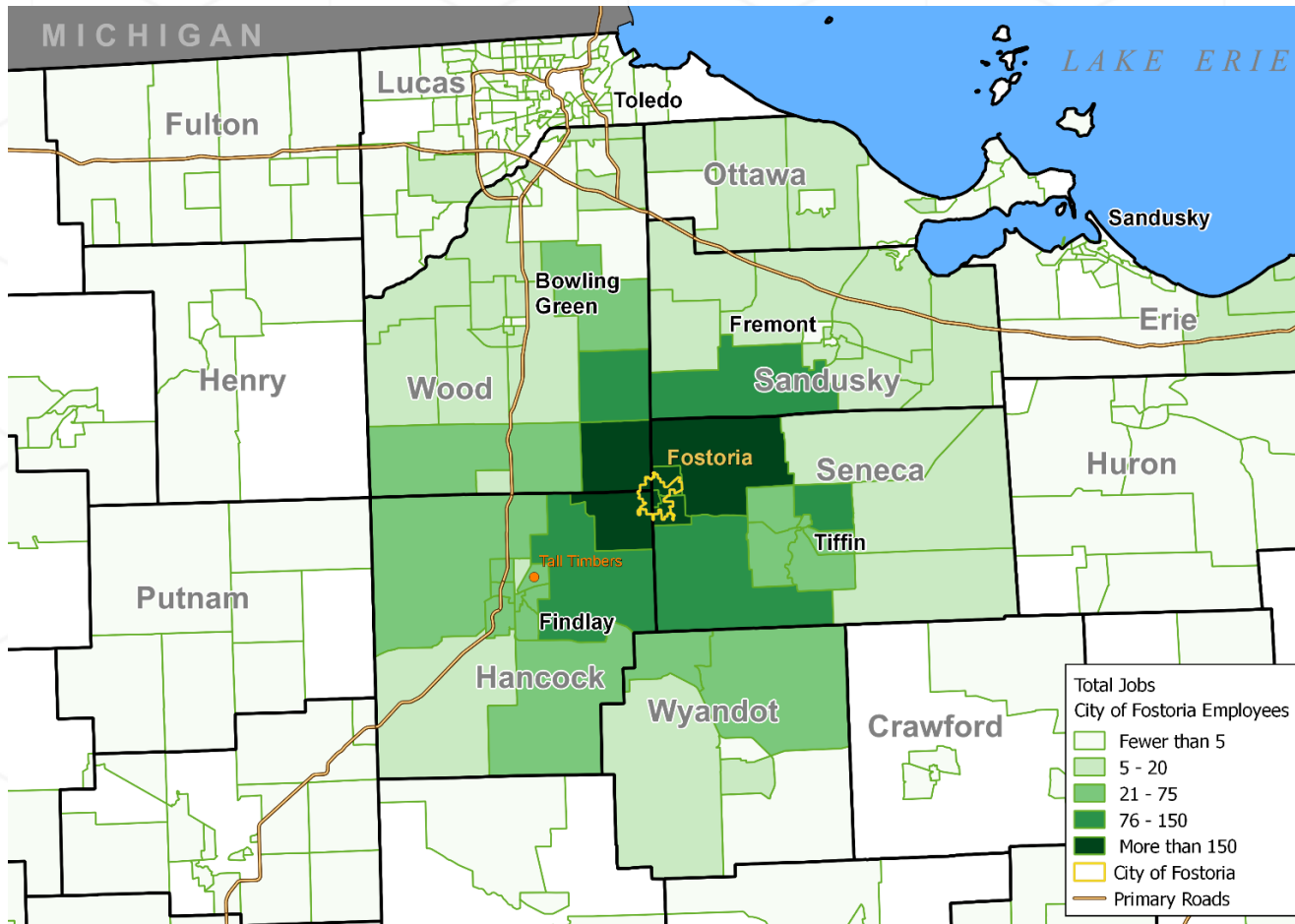
The City of Findlay is the most popular location for residents of Fostoria to work. There are 691 people, or about 9.7% of the employed population of Fostoria, commuting to Findlay.

Findlay is the most populous city in Hancock County, with a population of approximately 41,000 people.

The Tall Timbers Industrial Park is located here and is a large employer of Fostoria residents.



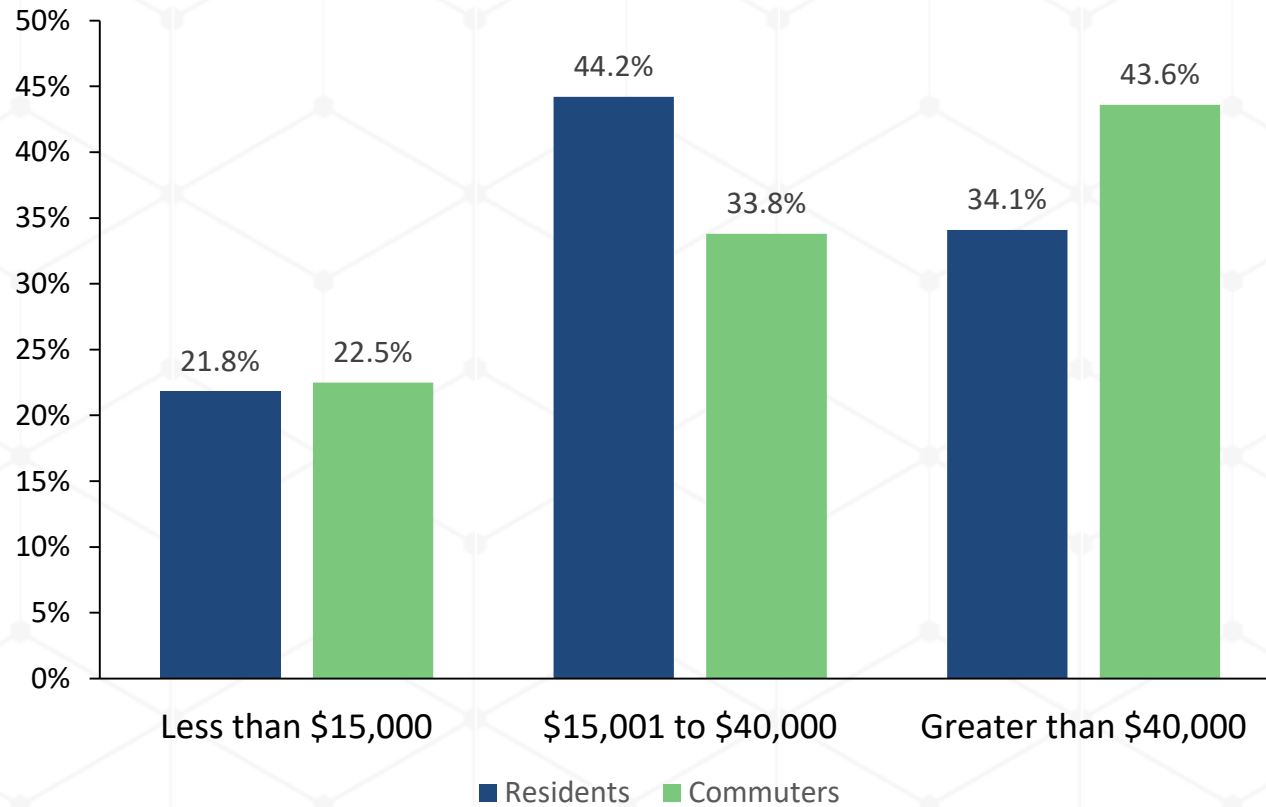
# Locations from Where Workers in Fostoria Travel for Work



Workers in Fostoria primarily live in Hancock County between Fostoria and Findlay.

Northeast Hancock County is the most popular source of workers in Fostoria. This part of the county accounts for 433 workers (about 9.8% of the total workers) into Fostoria.

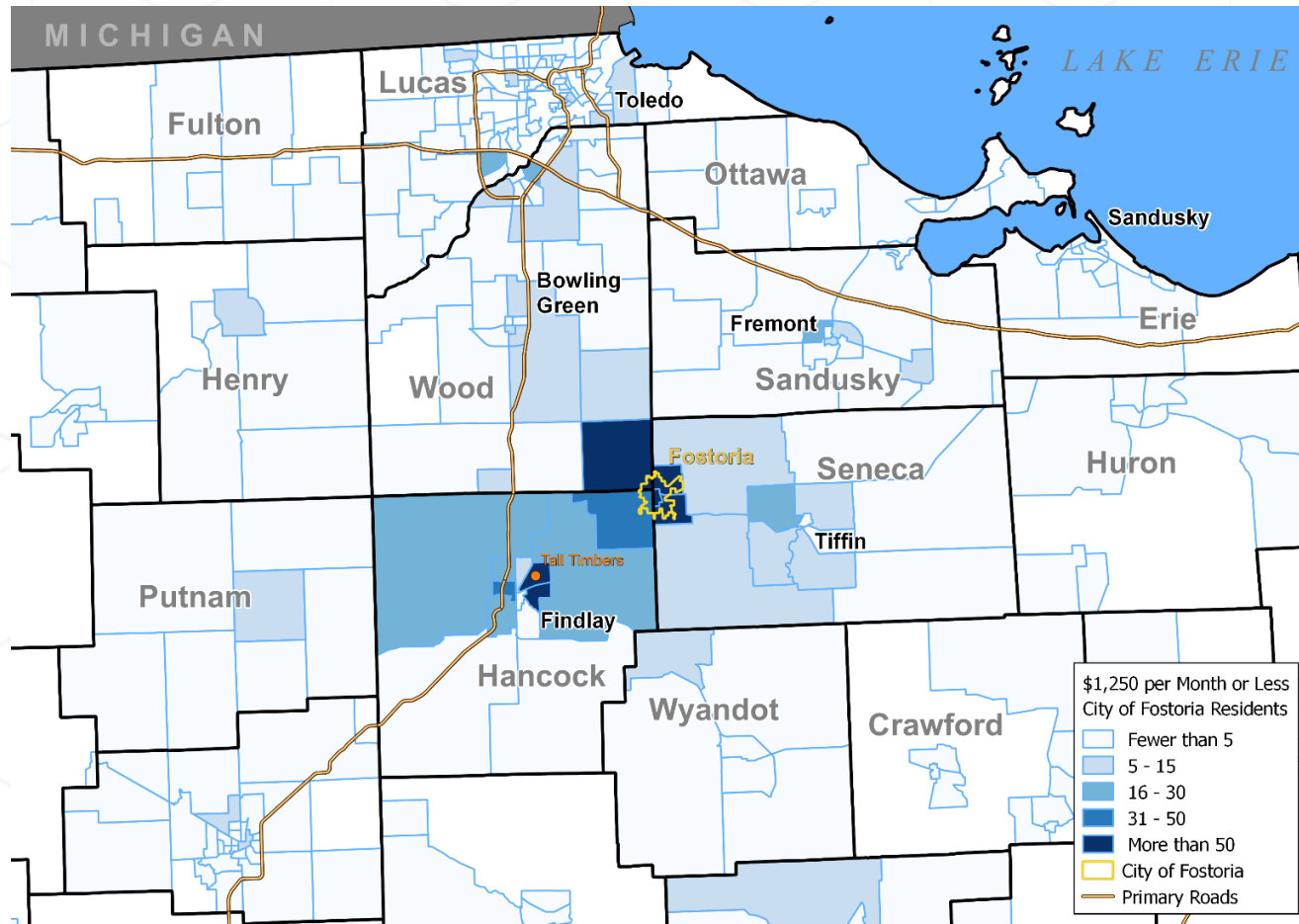
# Residents of Fostoria and Workers in Fostoria by Income



A greater proportion of workers in Fostoria earn a higher income than the residents of Fostoria.

Percent totals may not sum to 100 due to rounding

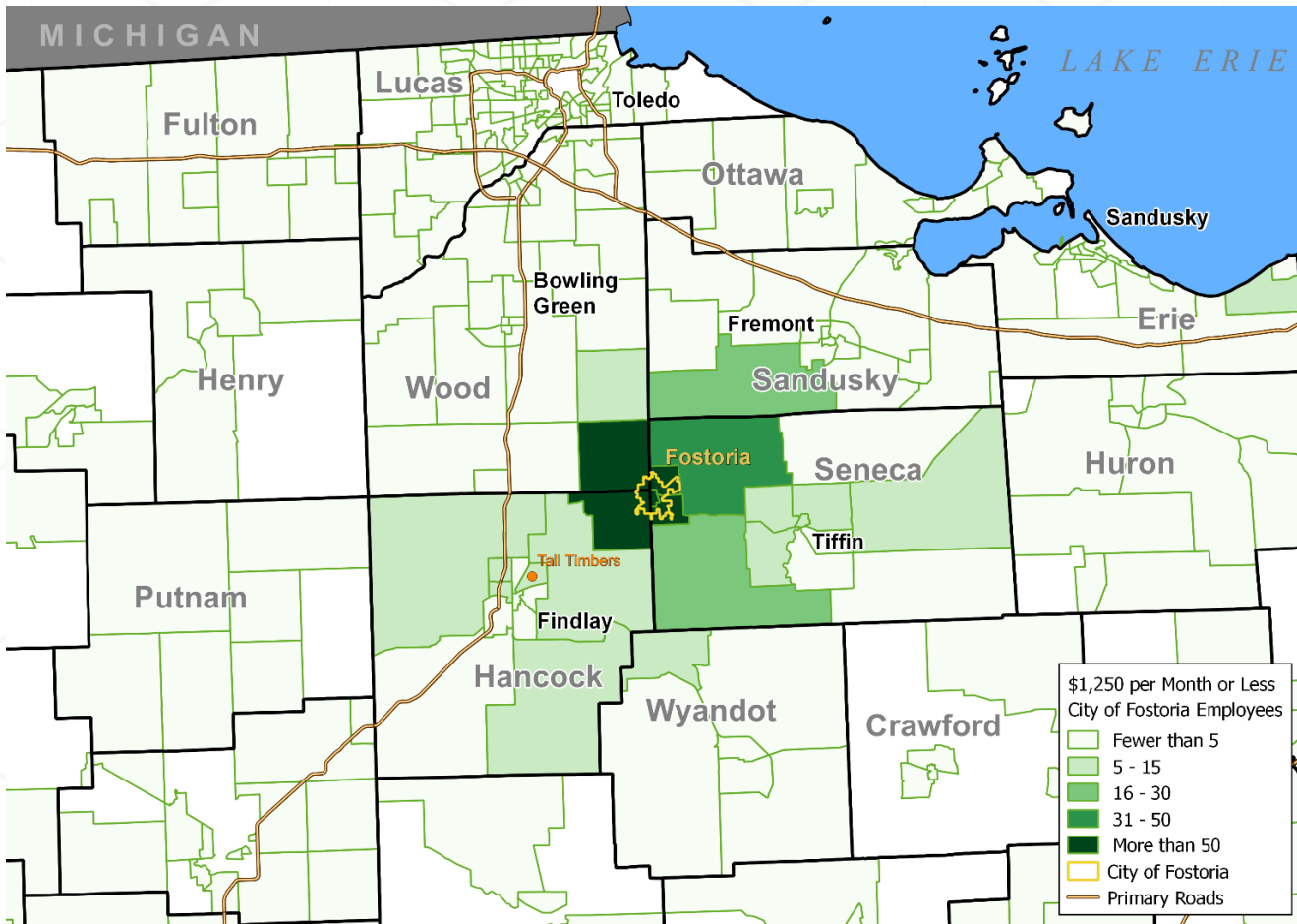
# Locations to Where Fostoria Residents Earning Less Than \$15,000 Per Year Commute for Work



The majority of low-income residents of Fostoria work within the City of Fostoria, and generally do not commute across counties for work.

There are a total of 1,561 residents in this income bracket (22% of residents).

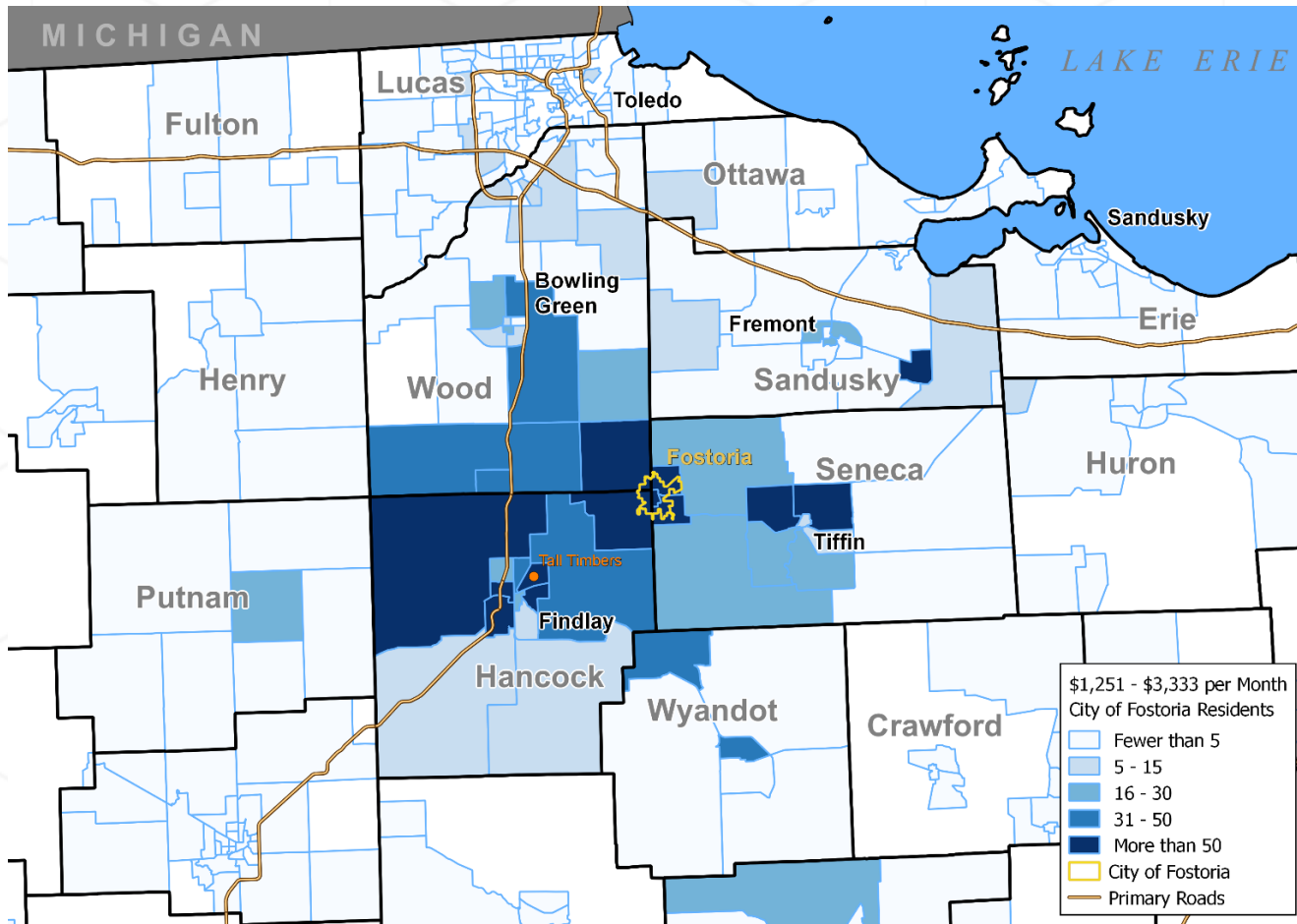
# Locations from Where Workers in Fostoria Earning Less Than \$15,000 Per Year Travel for Work



The majority of workers in Fostoria who earn \$15,000 per year or less live near the city and have short commutes.

There are a total of 1,002 workers in this income bracket (22.5% of workers into Fostoria).

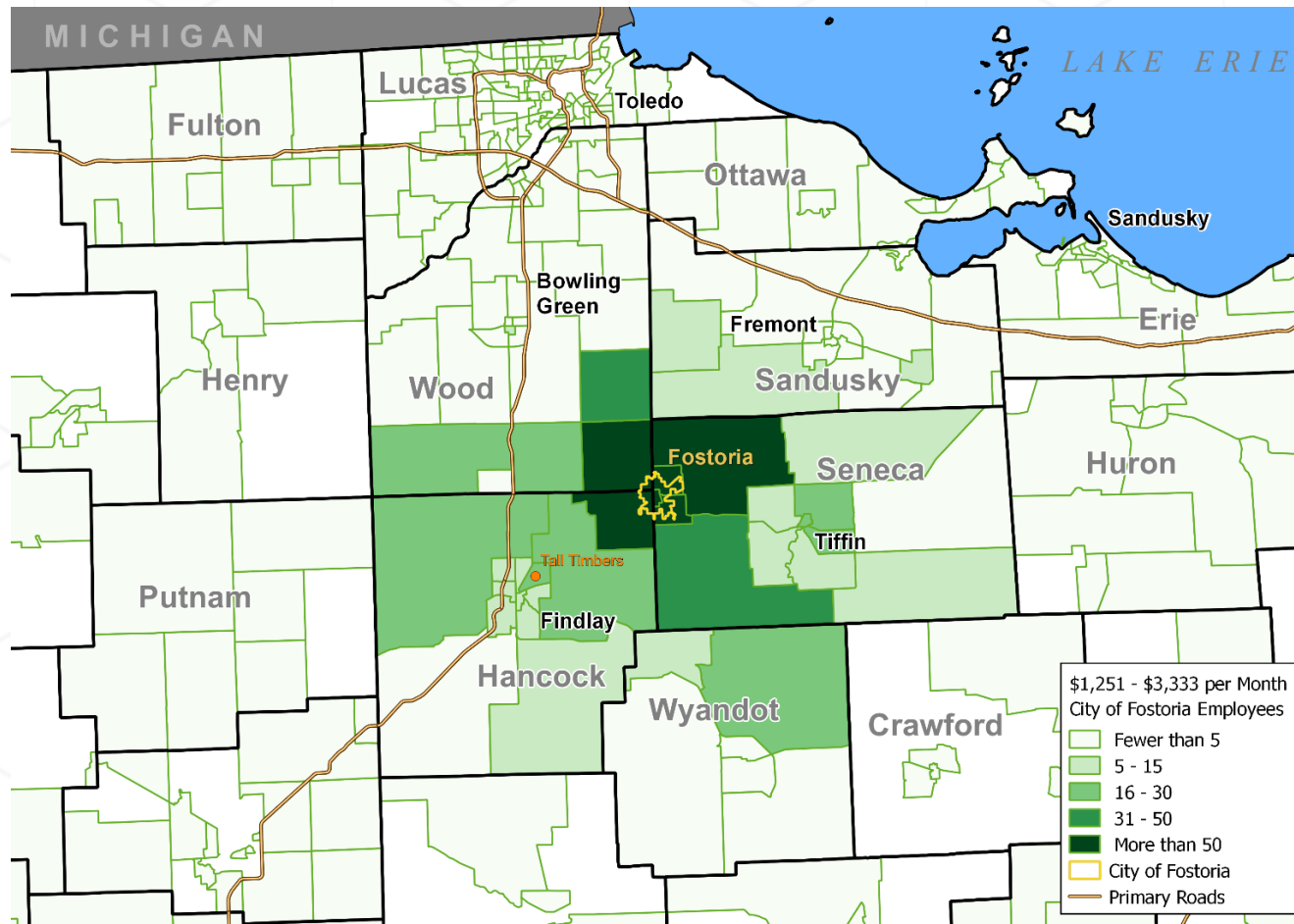
# Locations to Where Fostoria Residents Earning \$15,001 to \$40,000 Per Year Commute for Work



Residents of Fostoria who make between \$1,251 and \$3,333 per month are more likely to commute to Findlay and western Hancock County for employment.

There are a total of 3,163 residents in this income bracket (44.2% of residents).

# Locations from Where Workers in Fostoria Earning \$15,001 to \$40,000 Per Year Travel for Work

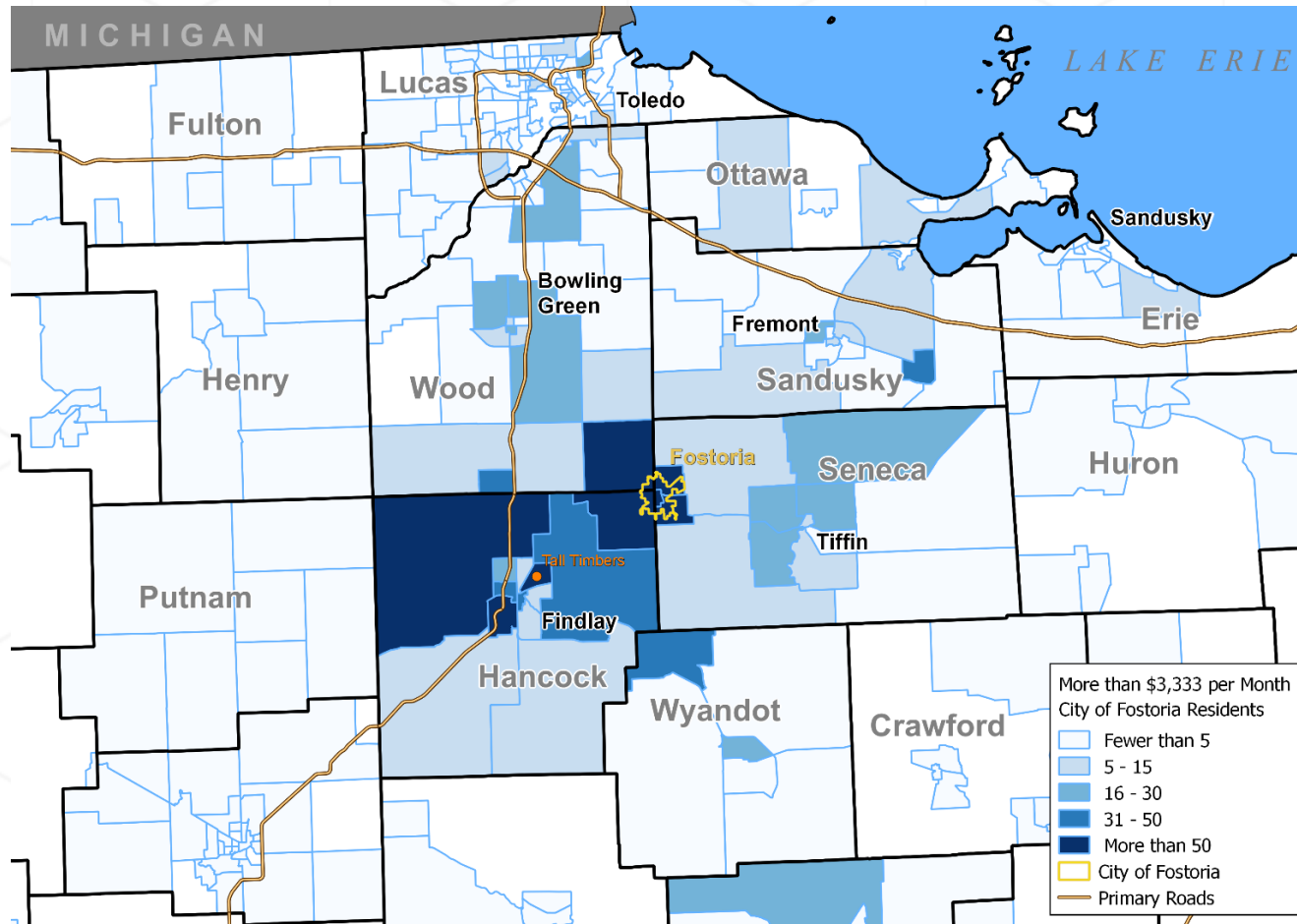


Middle-income workers in Fostoria are more likely to live just outside the city limits. The geography from which workers in Fostoria travel is much larger than for residents of Fostoria at this income level. This means middle-income workers in Fostoria travel larger distances to work in the city than middle-income residents of Fostoria travel to work outside the city.

There are a total of 1,504 workers in this income bracket (33.8% of workers).



# Locations to Where Fostoria Residents Earning Greater Than \$40,000 Per Year Commute for Work

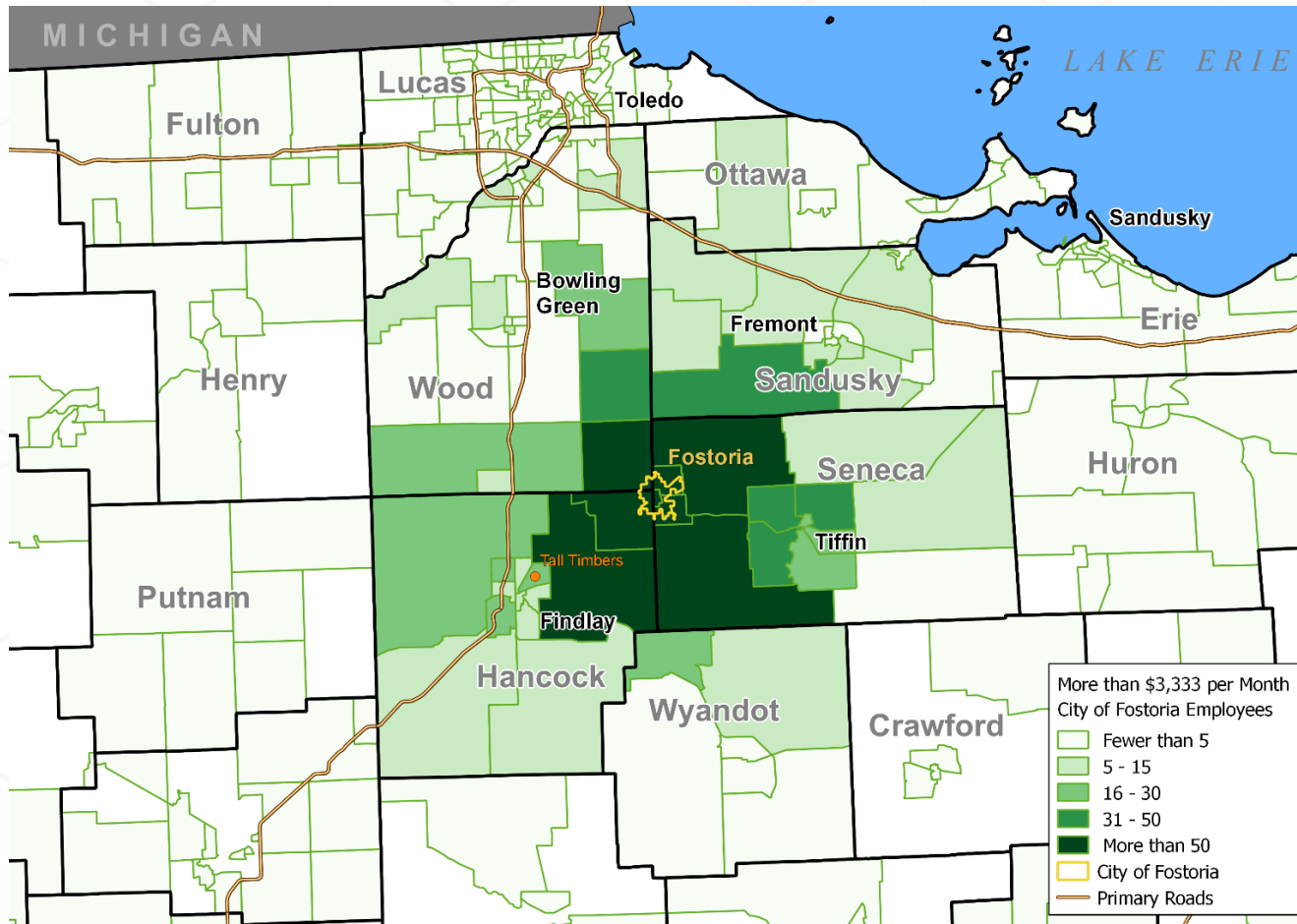


Both northeast Fostoria and the area in Findlay with the Tall Timbers Industrial Park employ a significant number of Fostoria residents who earn more than \$3,333 per month.

Both of these locations have significant numbers of manufacturing and distribution establishments.

There are a total of 2,431 residents in this income bracket (34.1% of residents).

# Locations from Where Workers in Fostoria Earning Greater Than \$40,000 Per Year Travel for Work



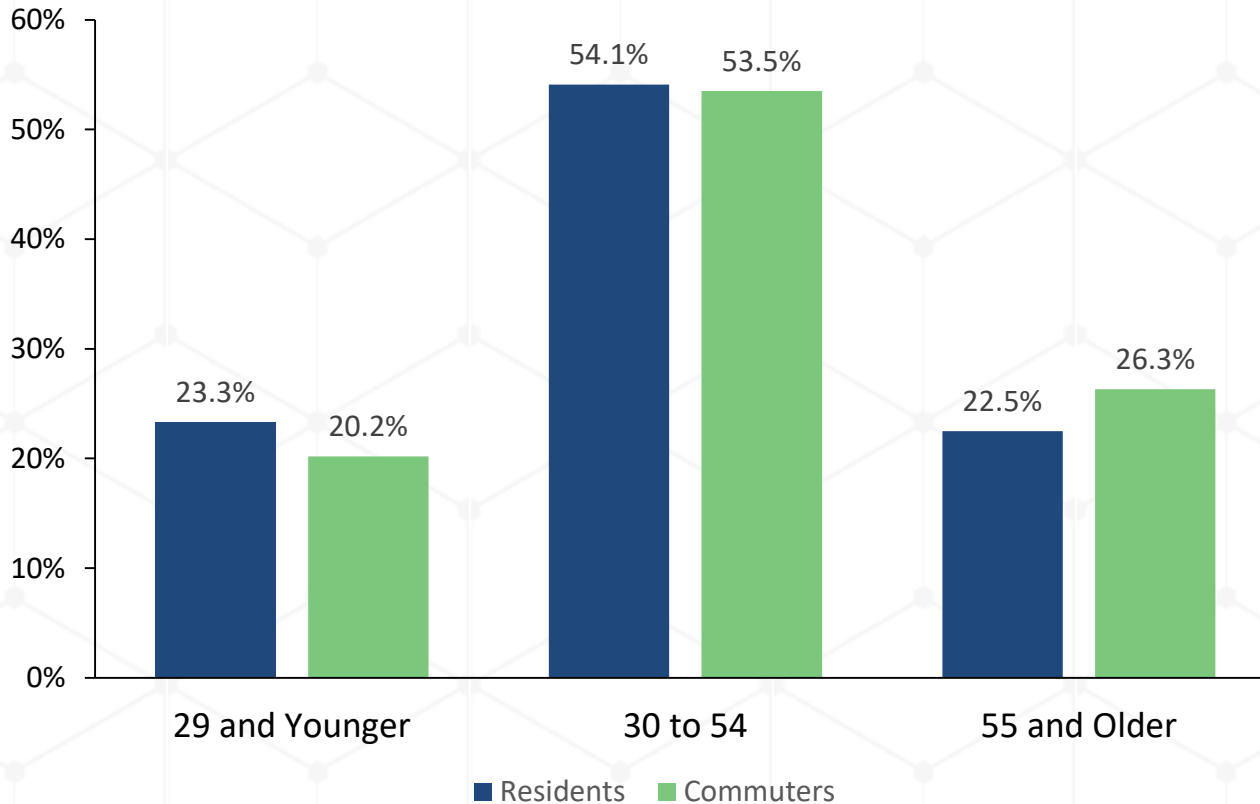
Similar to the middle-income level of workers in Fostoria, high-income workers travel greater distances for employment in Fostoria than residents of Fostoria travel to work outside the city.

Like all income brackets, high-income workers still prefer to live in close proximity to Fostoria.

There are a total of 1,935 workers in this income bracket (43.6% of workers).



# Residents of Fostoria and Workers in Fostoria by Age

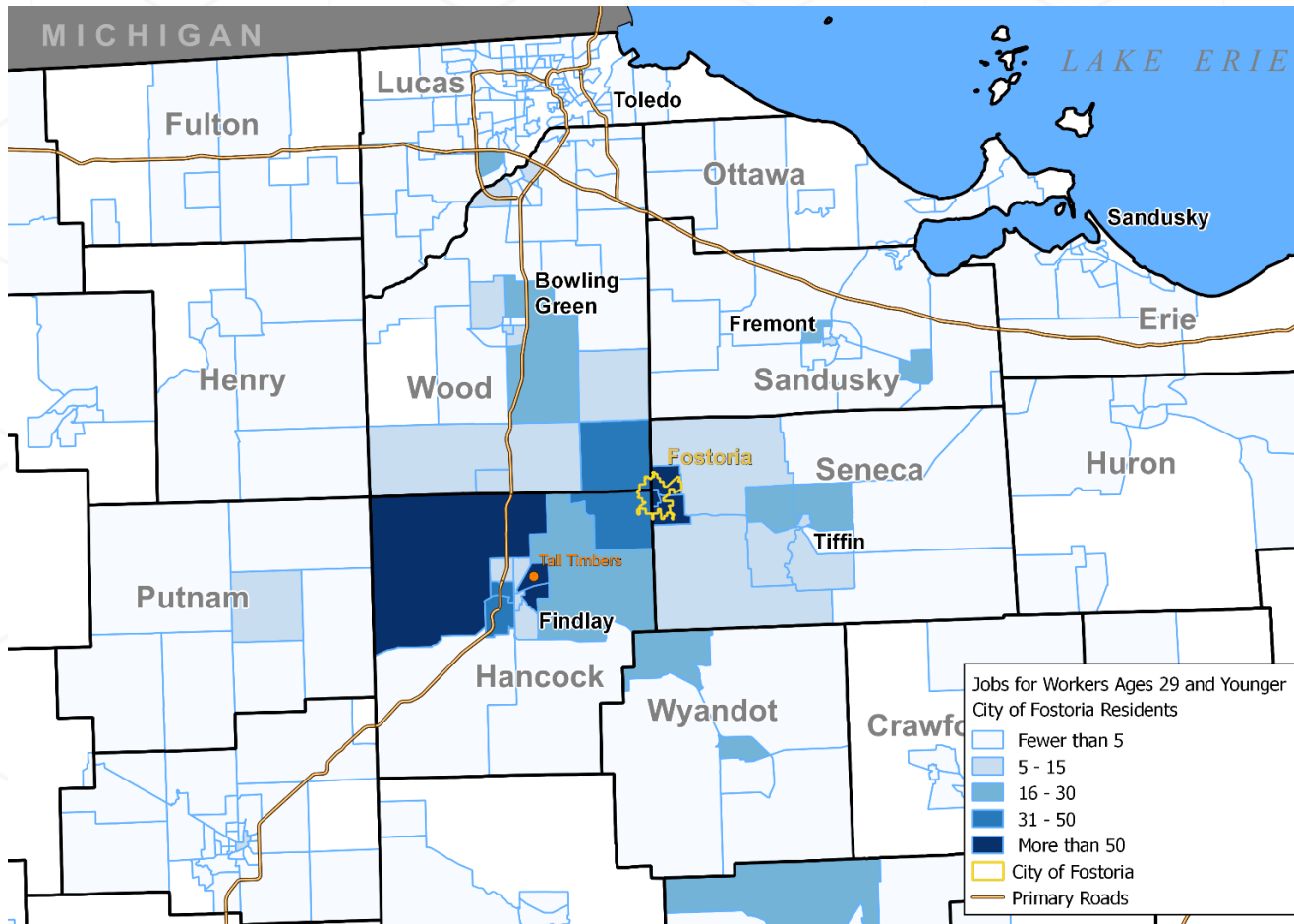


Percent totals may not sum to 100 due to rounding

The residents of Fostoria and workers in Fostoria have similar age compositions.

The majority of workers in both groups are in the 30-54 year-old age category.

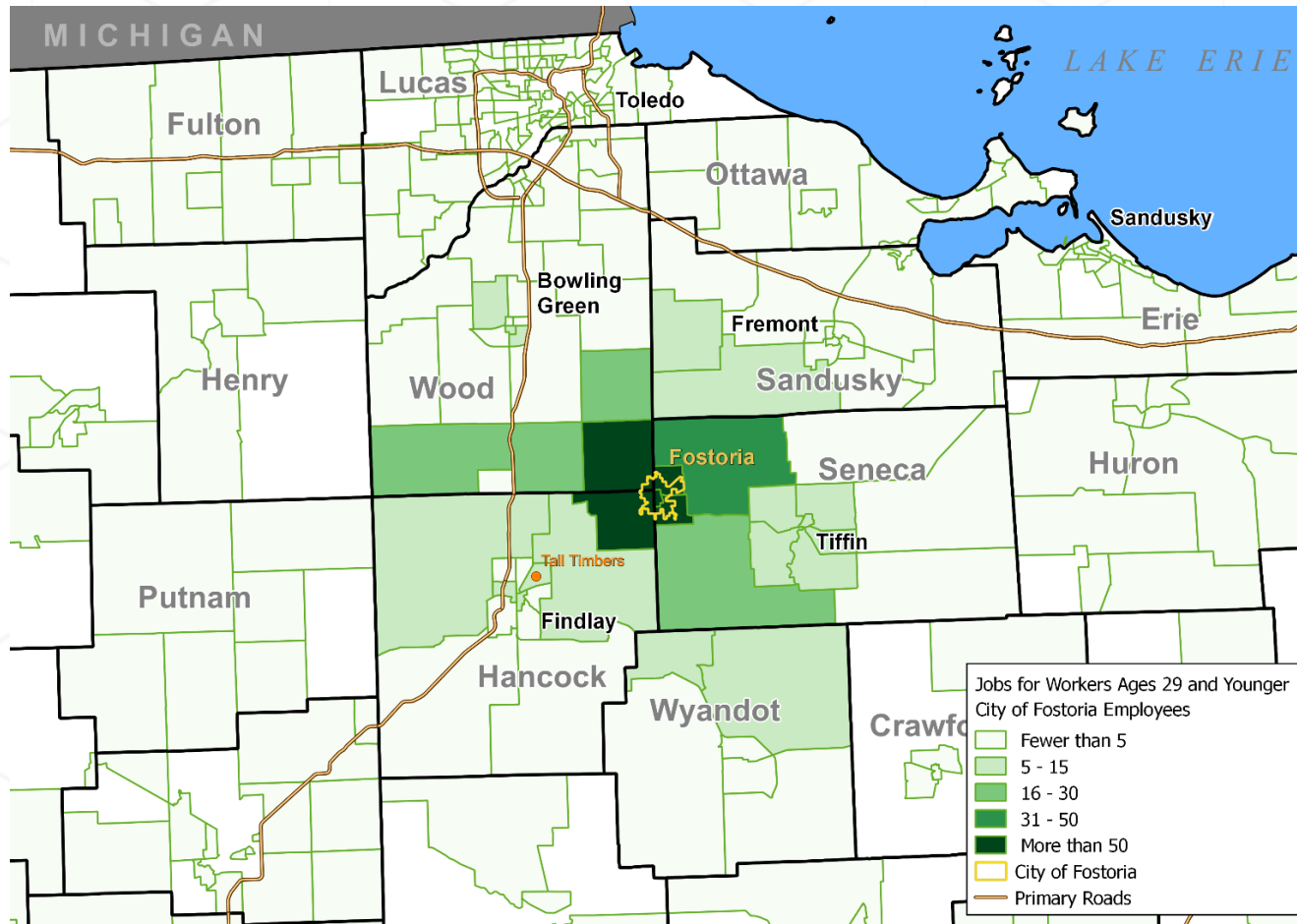
# Locations to Where Fostoria Residents Age 29 and Younger Commute for Work



Most young residents of Fostoria find employment outside of the City of Fostoria. The City of Findlay is a popular location for young residents of Fostoria to work. The locations in Findlay, where most young workers are employed, contain distribution centers, warehouses, and manufacturing firms.

There are a total of 1,664 residents in this age bracket (23.3% of residents).

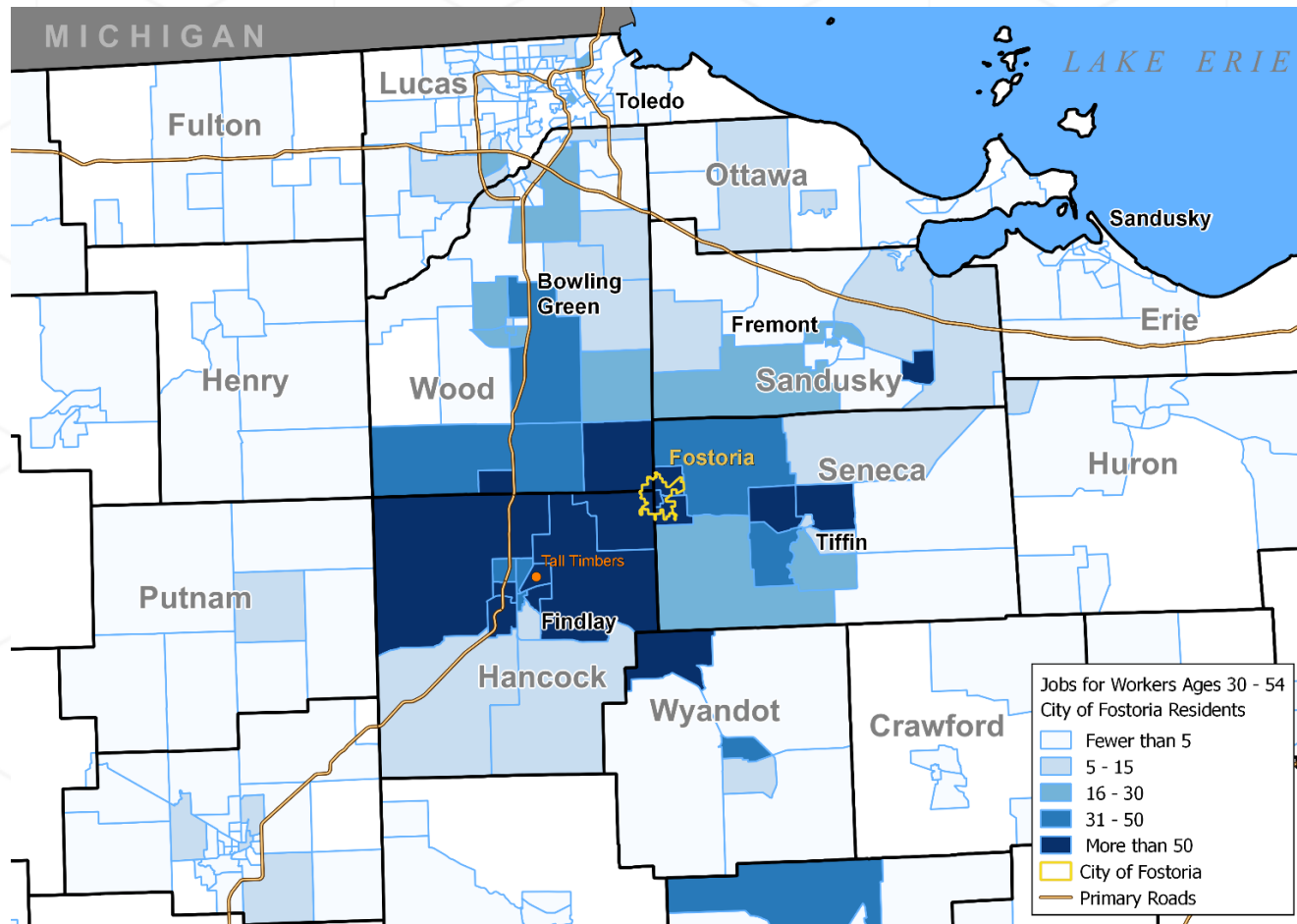
# Locations from Where Workers in Fostoria Age 29 and Younger Travel for Work



There are nearly 900 employed in Fostoria age 29 and under (compared to the more than 1,600 workers shown in the previous slide) commuting outside the area.

There are a total of 897 workers in this age bracket (20.2% of workers).

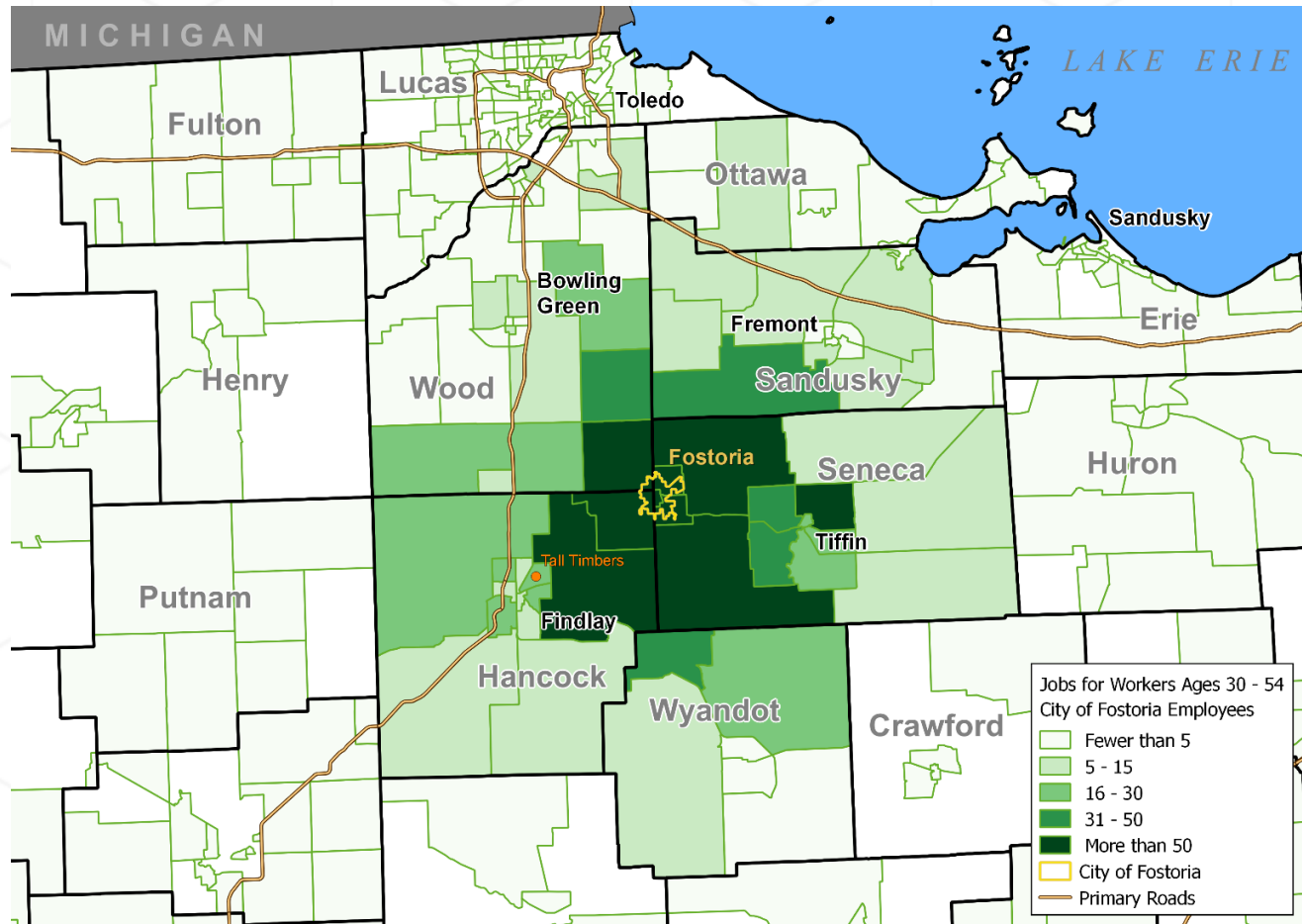
# Locations to Where Fostoria Residents Age 30 to 54 Commute for Work



Similar to younger workers, many middle-age Fostoria residents commute outside the city for employment. Again, the Tall Timbers Industrial Park is a primary location for employment. The commuting area for middle-age workers is much larger than it is for young workers and includes a higher proportion of residents commuting to Toledo.

There are a total of 3,874 residents in this age bracket (54.1% of residents).

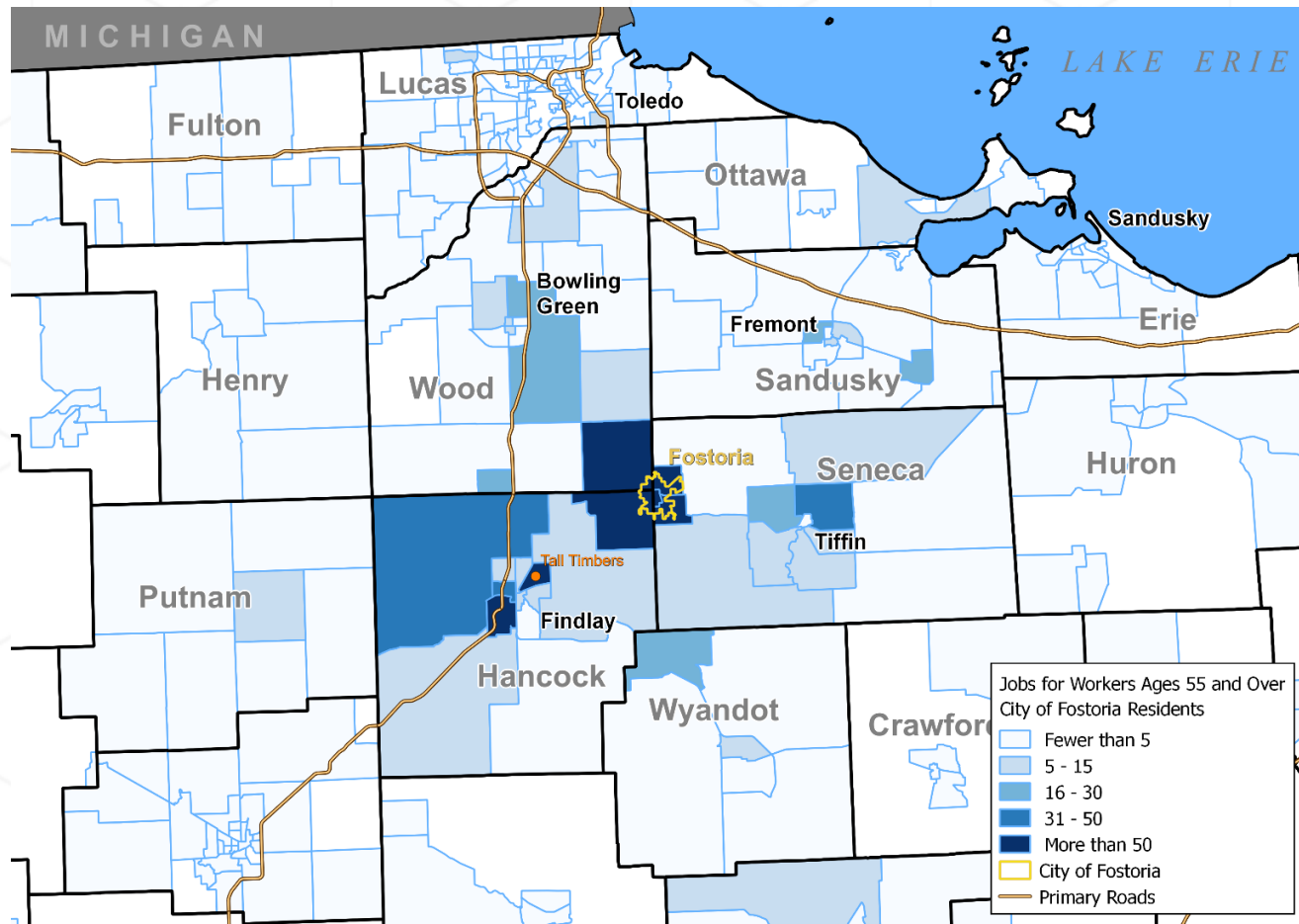
# Locations from Where Workers in Fostoria Age 30 to 54 Travel for Work



Middle-age workers in Fostoria are most likely to live close to the city. Northeast Hancock County and northeast Fostoria, where many manufacturing and distribution centers are located, are the primary locations drawing workers to the city.

There are a total of 2,374 workers in this age bracket (53.5% of workers).

# Locations to Where Fostoria Residents Age 55 and Older Commute for Work

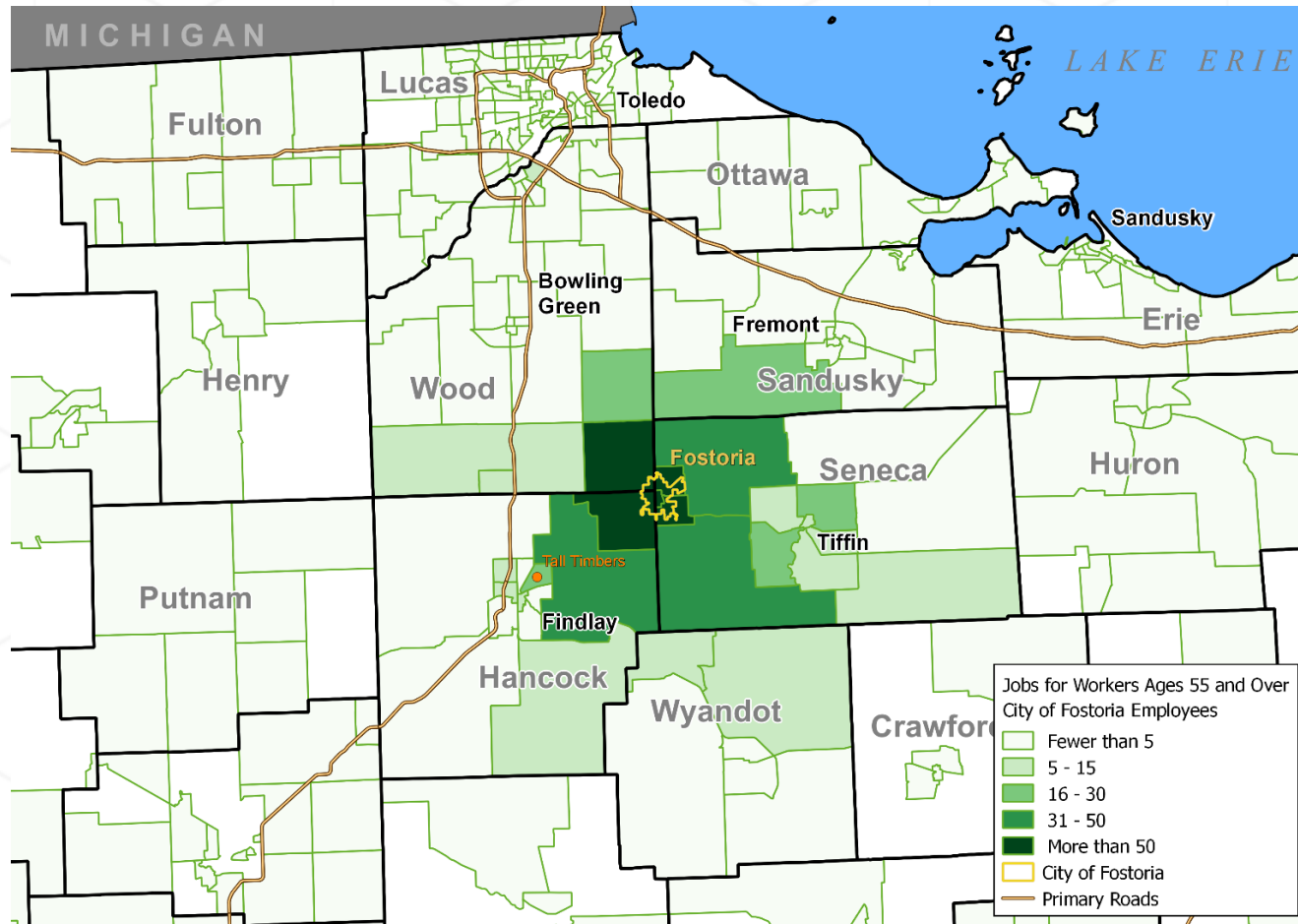


Older residents of Fostoria are more likely to commute further away from the city for work to metro areas like Toledo, as well as to Bowling Green and Findlay.

There are a total of 1,617 residents in this age bracket (22.5% of residents).



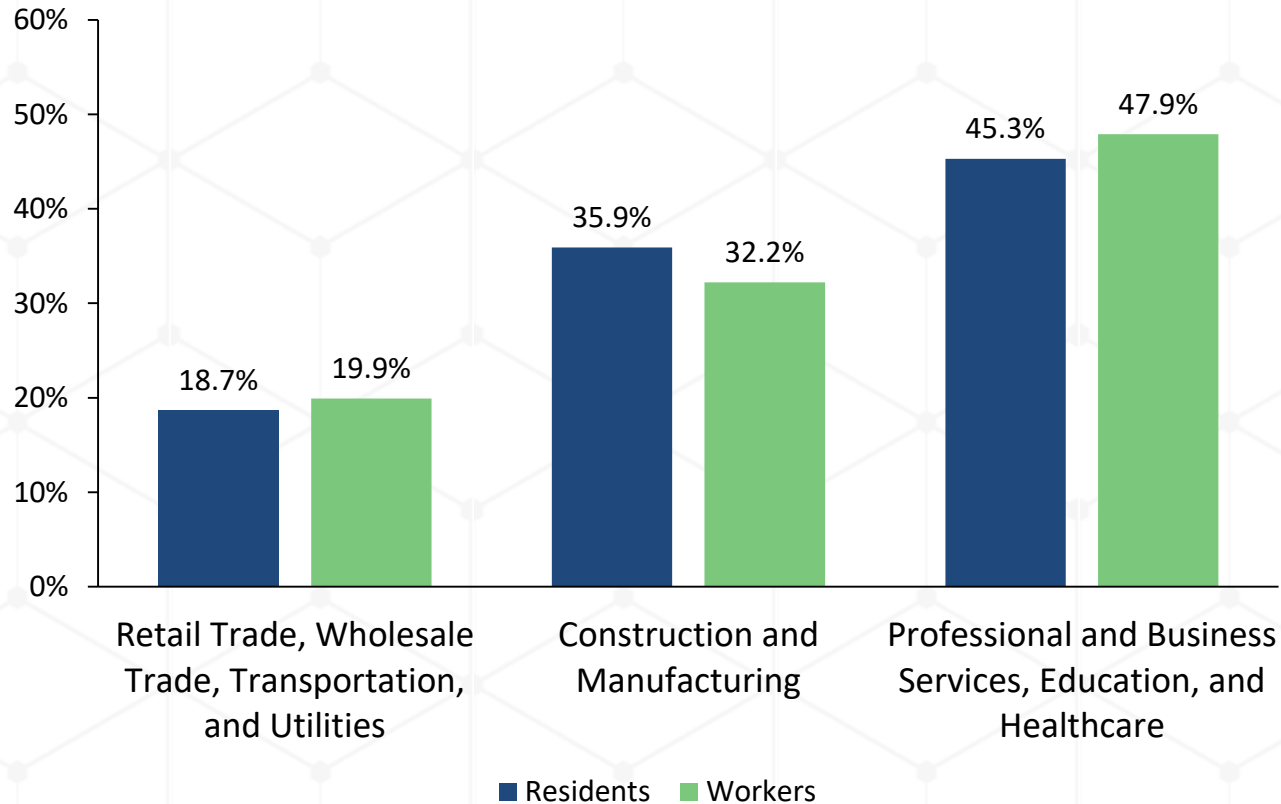
# Locations from Where Workers in Fostoria Age 55 and Older Travel for Work



Older workers in Fostoria are traveling from greater distances than younger workers to work in the city.

There are a total of 1,170 workers in this age bracket (26.3% of workers).

# Residents of Fostoria and Workers in Fostoria by Industry

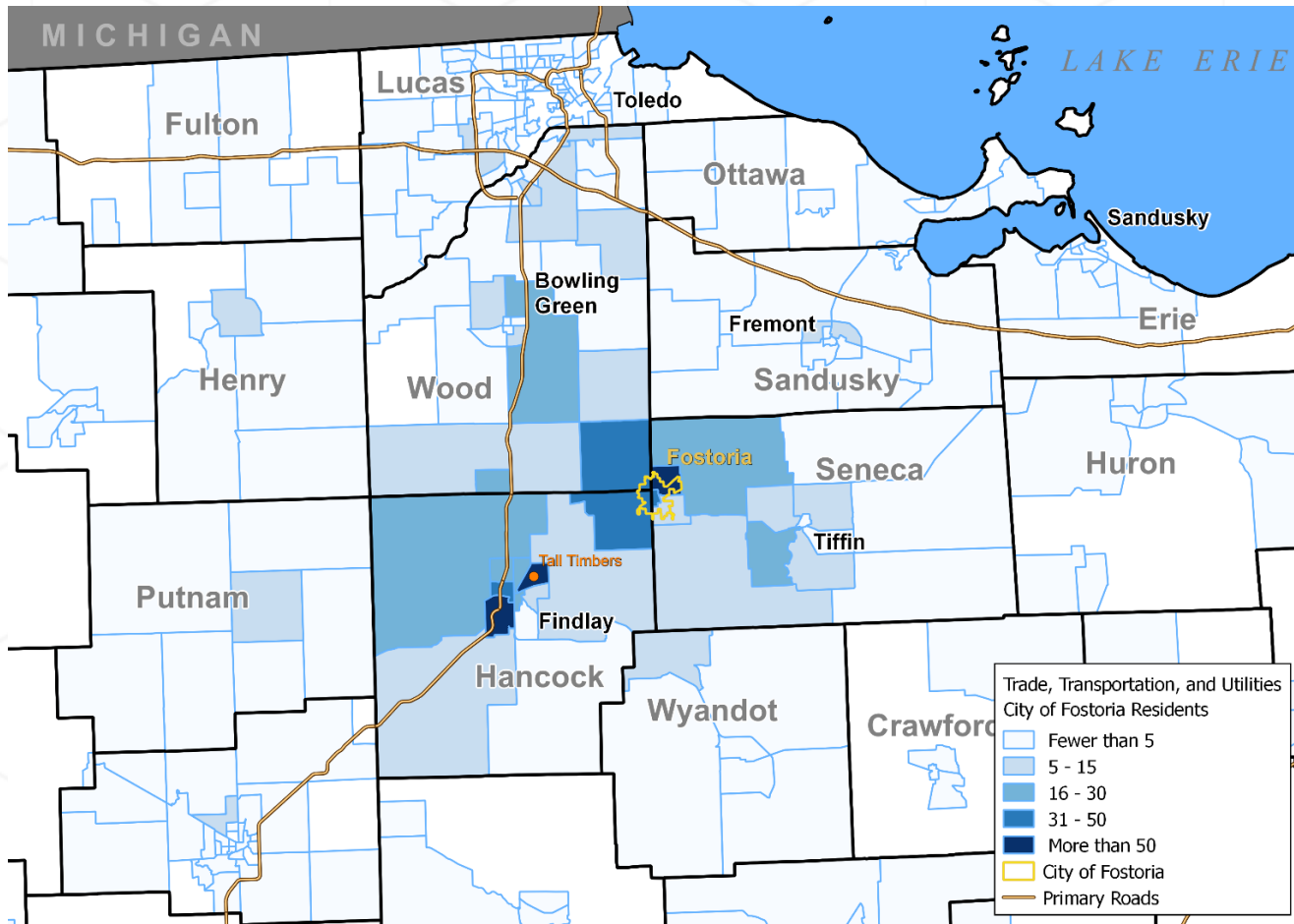


Percent totals may not sum to 100 due to rounding

Residents of Fostoria are more likely to be employed in Construction and Manufacturing than workers in Fostoria. Workers in Fostoria are more likely to be employed in Professional and Business Services, Education, and Health Care. This may help to account for the earnings gap between residents of Fostoria and workers in Fostoria, as these industries are mostly comprised of high wage jobs.



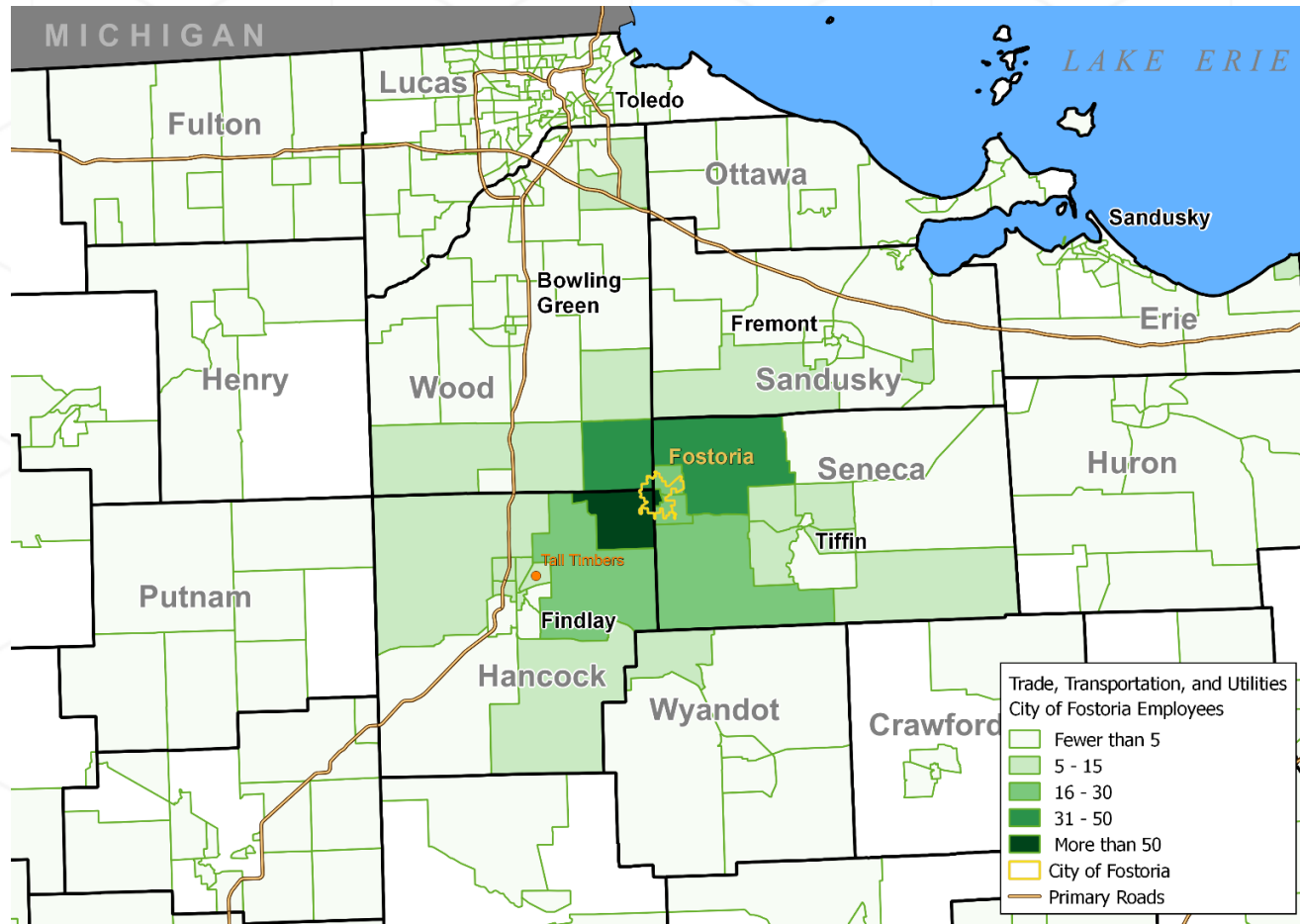
# Locations to Where Fostoria Residents Working in Retail Trade, Wholesale Trade, Transportation, and Utilities Commute for Work



The Tall Timbers Industrial Park is a popular destination for residents of Fostoria to work, employing 12.2% of all Fostoria residents.

There are 1,341 residents in these industries (18.7% of residents).

# Locations from Where Workers in Fostoria Working in Retail Trade, Wholesale Trade, Transportation, and Utilities Travel for Work

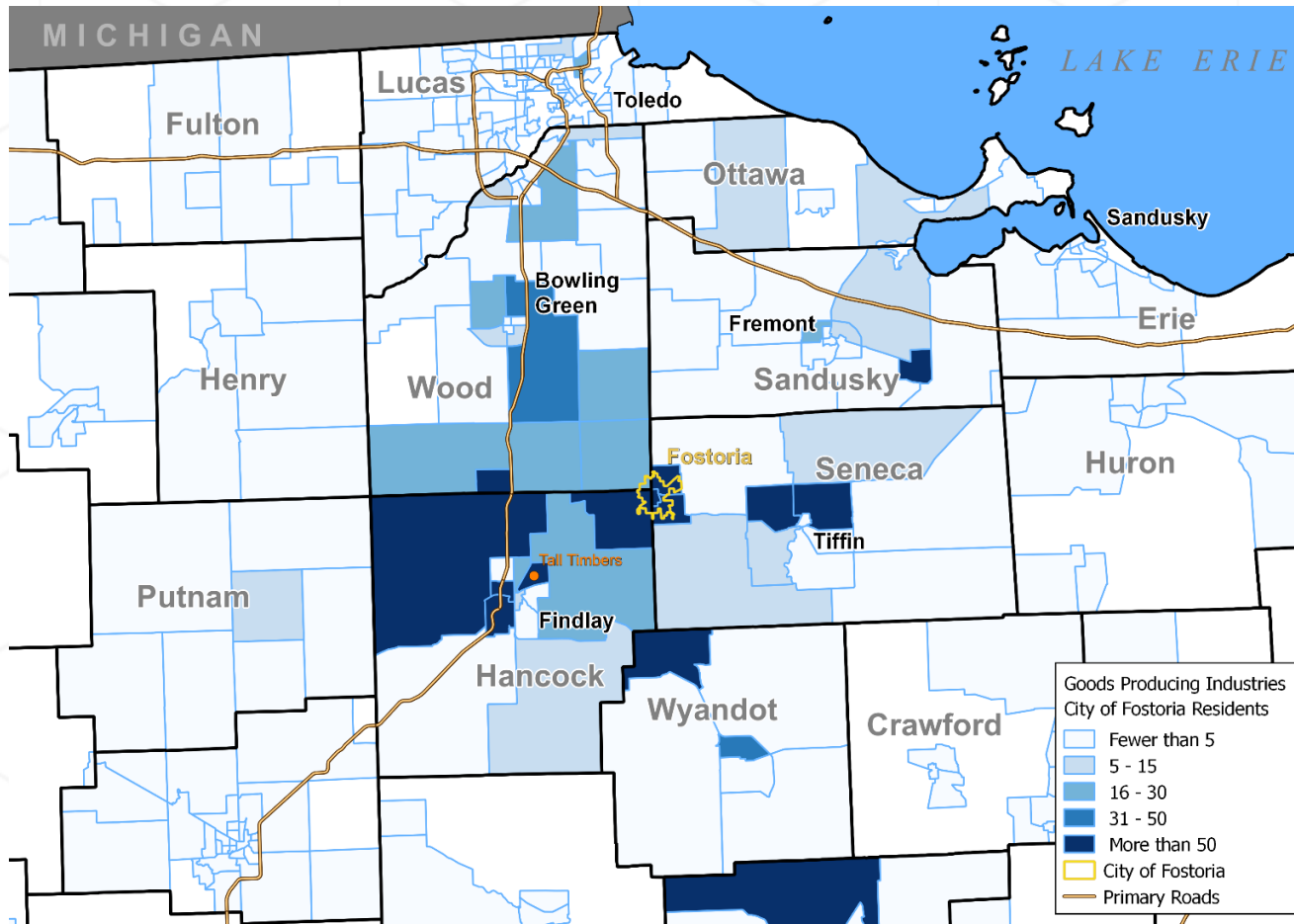


Fostoria's Retail Trade, Wholesale Trade, Transportation, and Utilities industry attracts workers from an area that includes Toledo and Sandusky.

Although these are popular industries for employment, more Fostoria residents commute outside of the city to work in these industries than workers travel into the city for employment in these industries.

There are 882 workers in these industries (19.9% of workers).

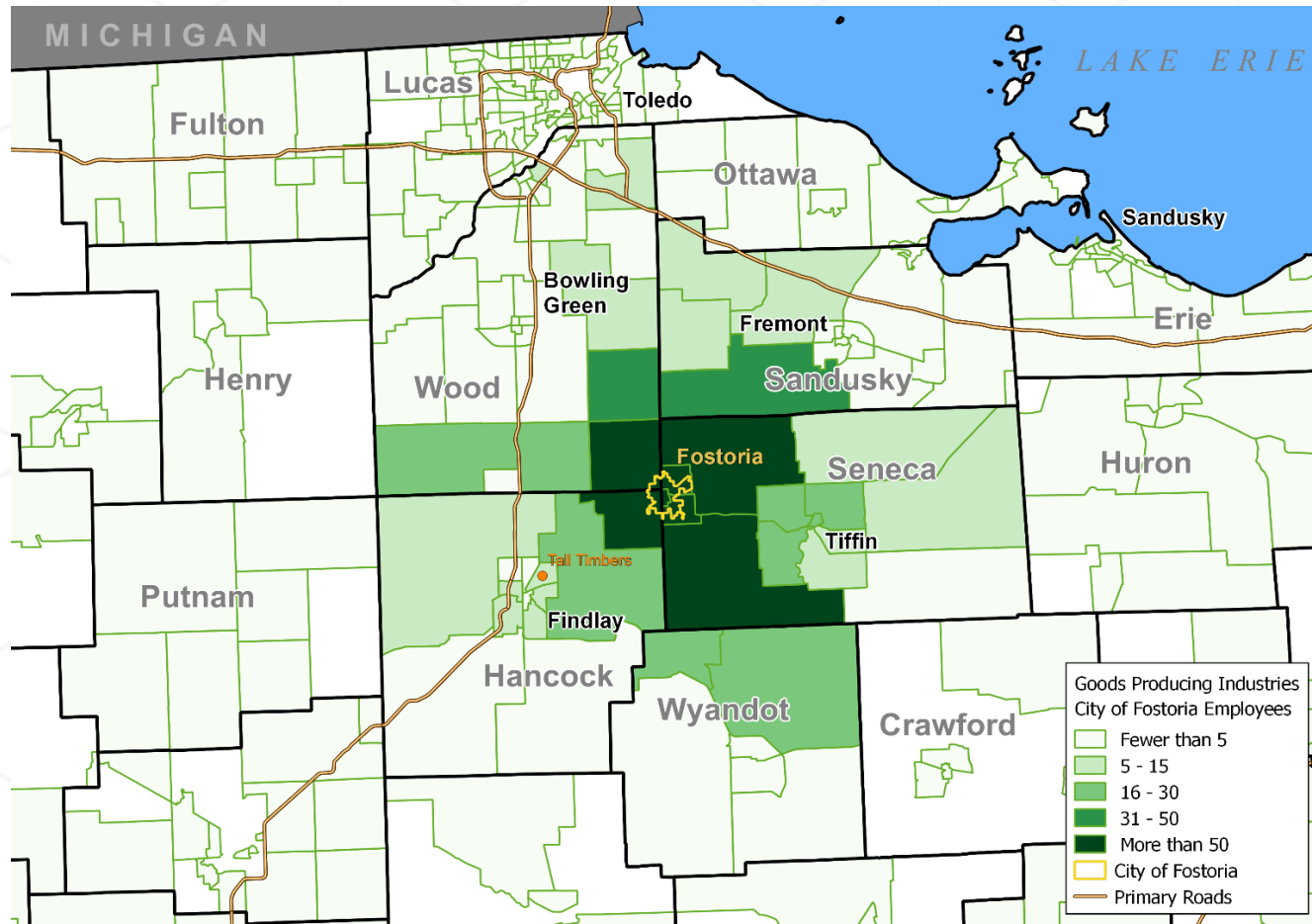
# Locations to Where Fostoria Residents Working in Construction and Manufacturing Commute for Work



A significant number of Fostoria residents commute outside of the city for employment in the Construction and Manufacturing industry. Much of this commuting is to Hancock County. The Whirlpool Corporation, along with the Industrial Park, are likely the top employers for Fostoria residents, based on the locations of their employment.

There are 2,573 residents in these industries (35.9% of residents).

# Locations from Where Workers in Fostoria Working in Construction and Manufacturing Travel for Work

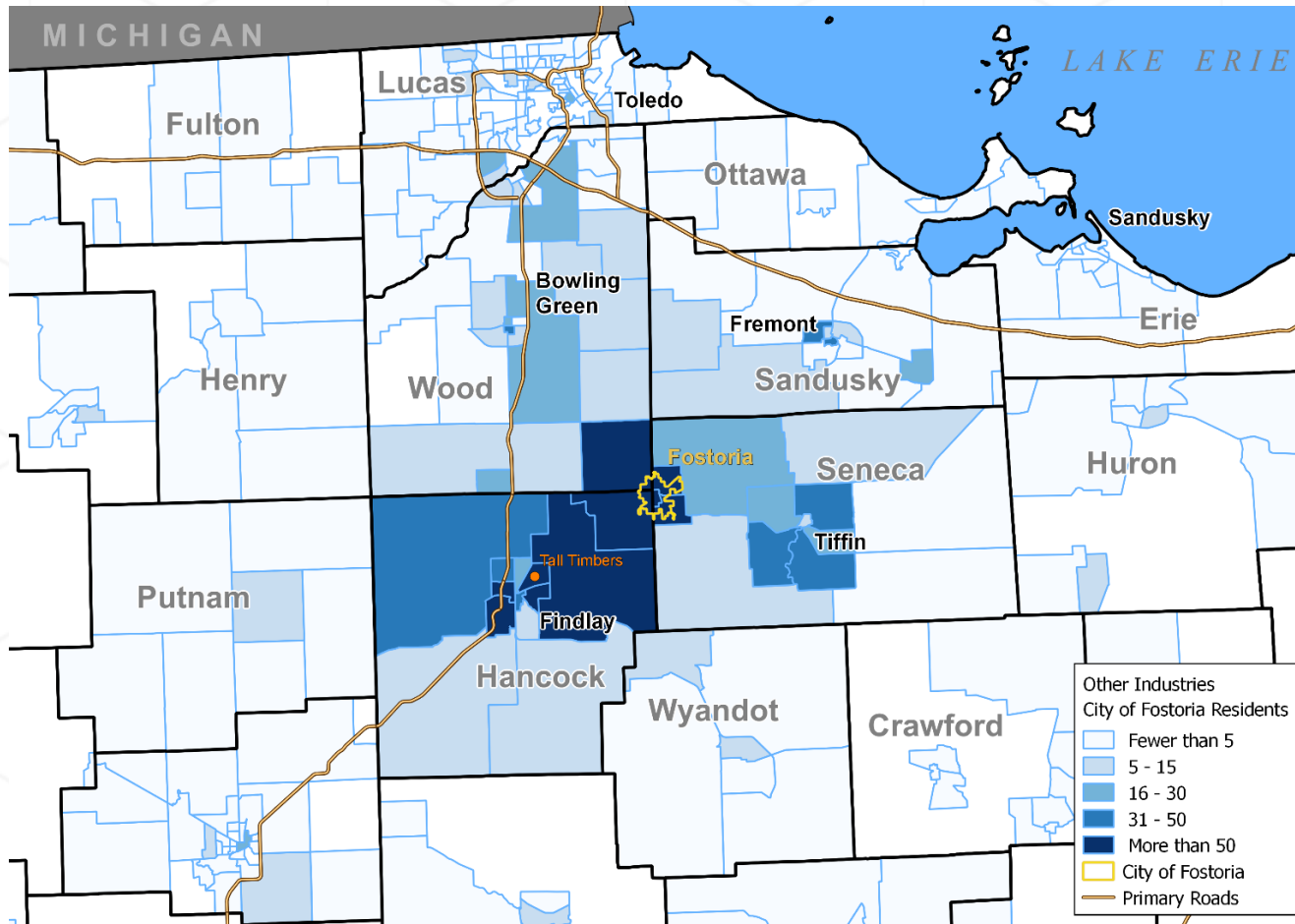


As two of the primary industries in Fostoria, Construction and Manufacturing draw a sizable number of workers to the city.

There are fewer workers in Fostoria available to work in Construction and Manufacturing than there are residents of Fostoria, who commute out of the city to work in the Construction and Manufacturing industry.

There are 1,429 workers in these industries (32.2% of workers).

# Locations to Where Fostoria Residents Working in Professional and Business Services, Education, and Health Care Commute for Work

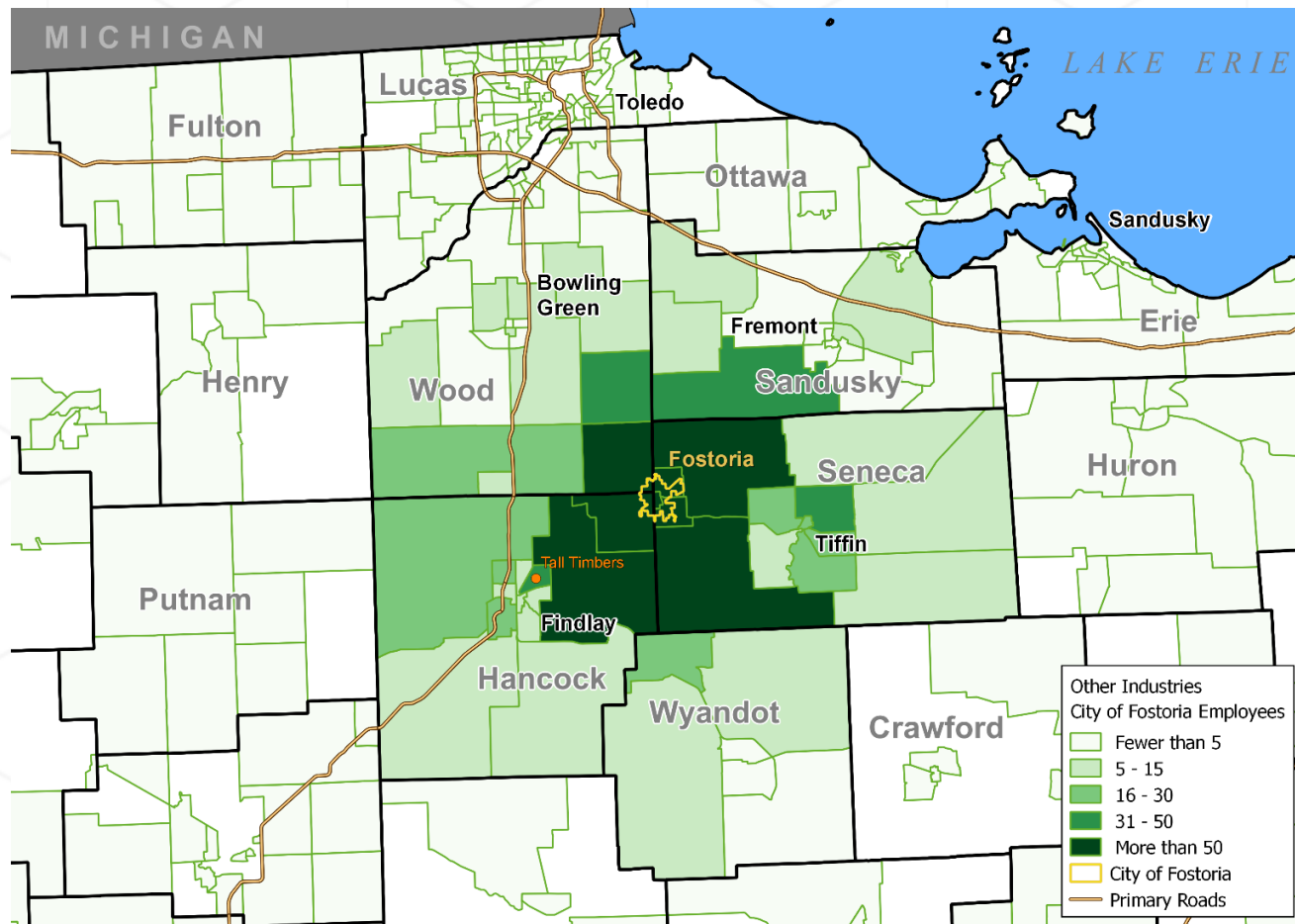


Residents of Fostoria working in Professional and Business Services, Education, and Health Care stick to a small commuting area with very few residents traveling outside Hancock or Seneca counties for employment.

There are 3,241 residents in these industries (45.3% of residents).



# Locations from Where Workers in Fostoria Working in Professional and Business Services, Education, and Health Care Travel for Work



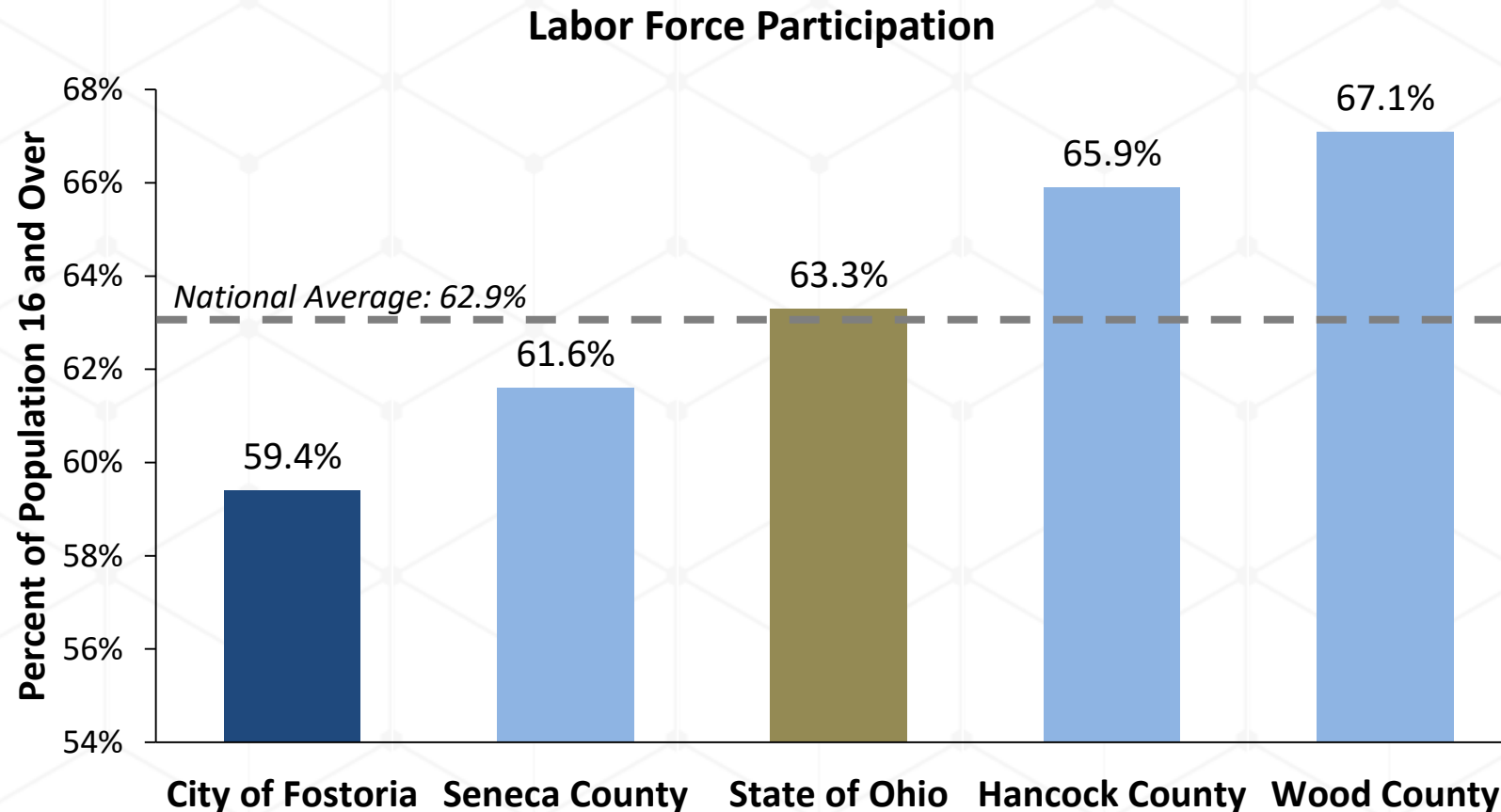
Workers in Fostoria employed in Professional and Business Services, Education, and Health Care travel from a wide geographic region to work in the city. Larger employers in these categories in the City of Fostoria include the City of Fostoria Public Schools and the Fostoria Hospital Association.

There are 2,130 workers in these industries (47.9% of workers).



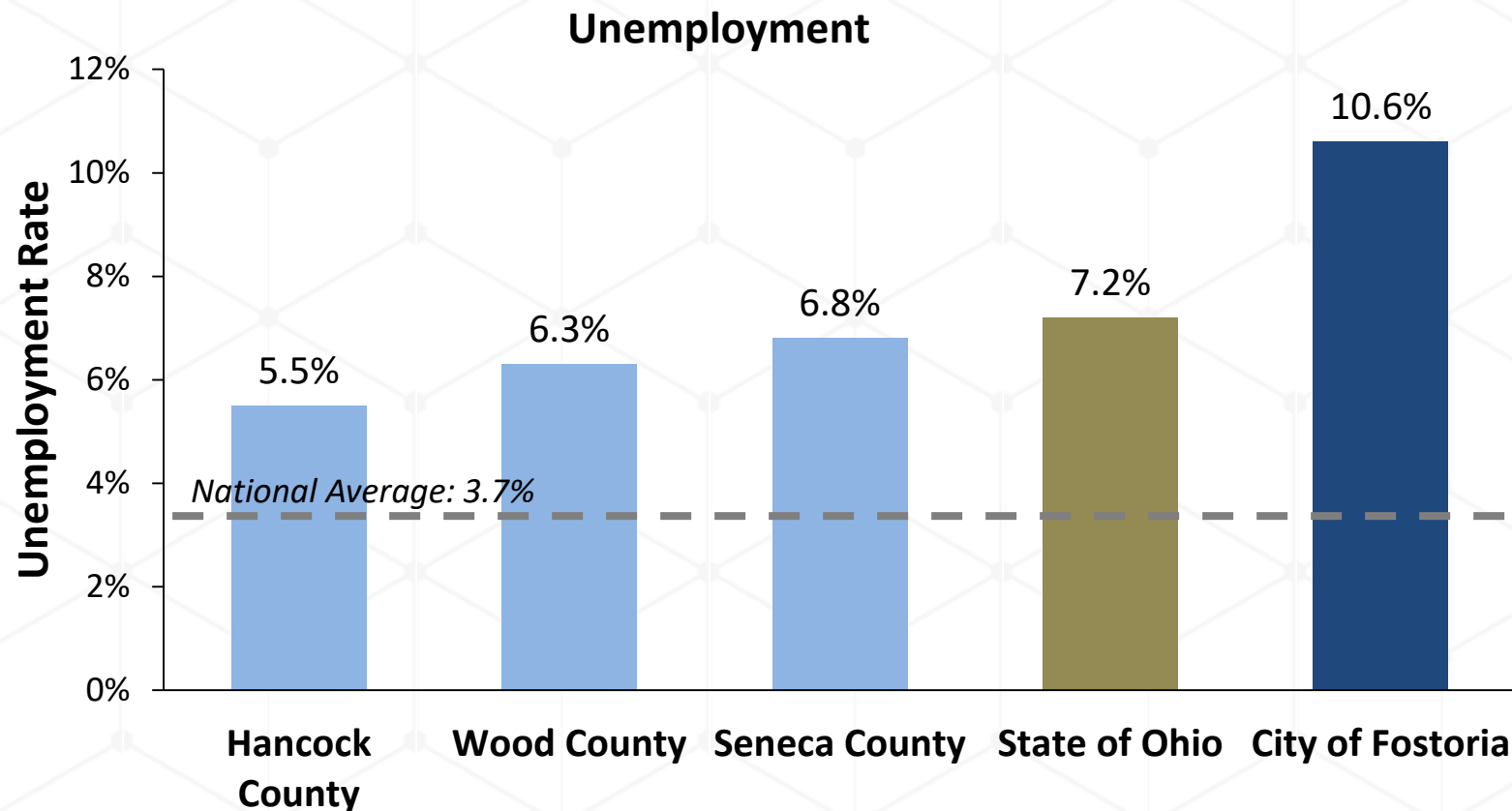
# DEMOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

Labor force participation in the City of Fostoria is well below the national average. The gap in Fostoria suggests workers may be available locally.

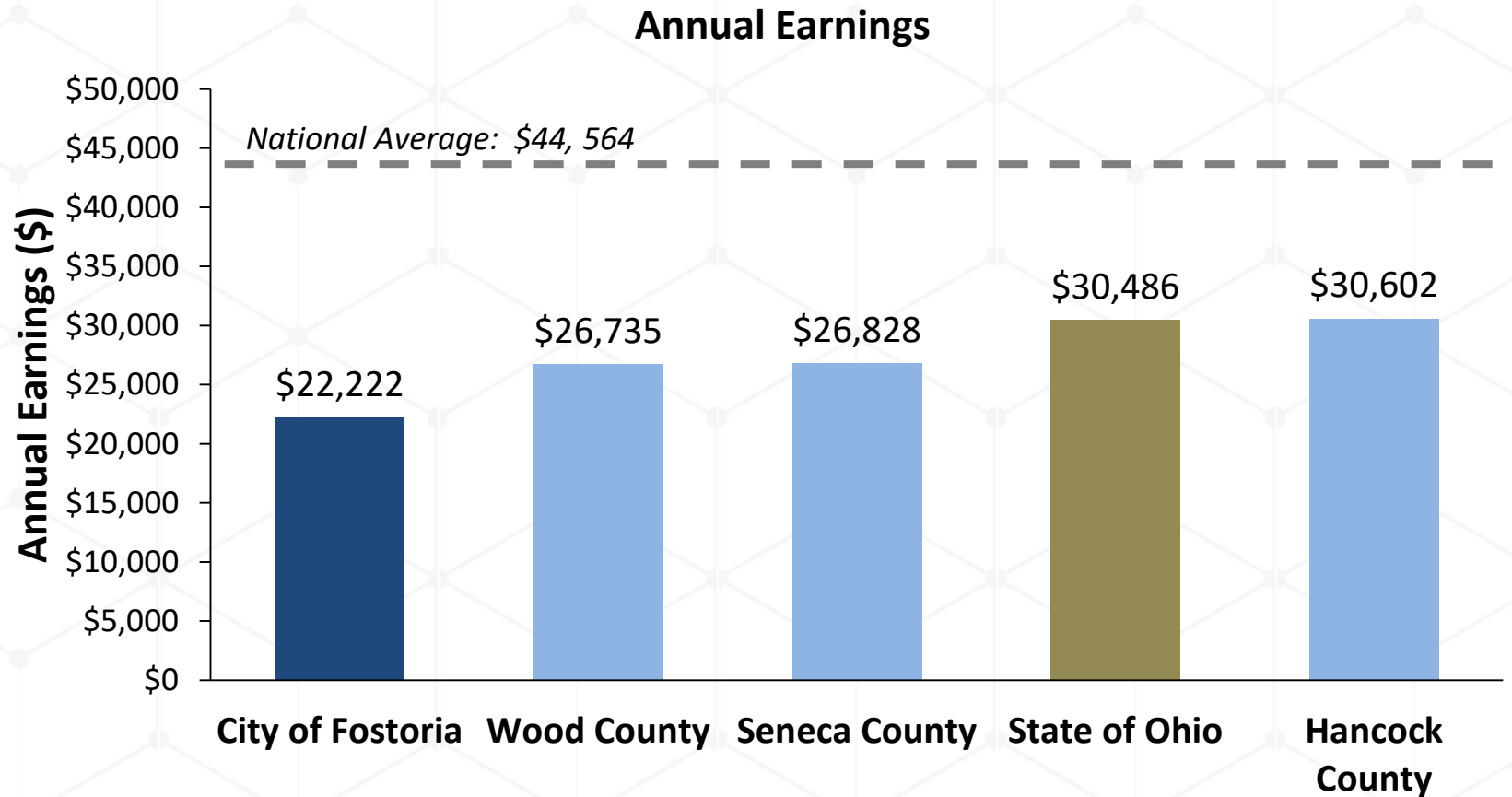




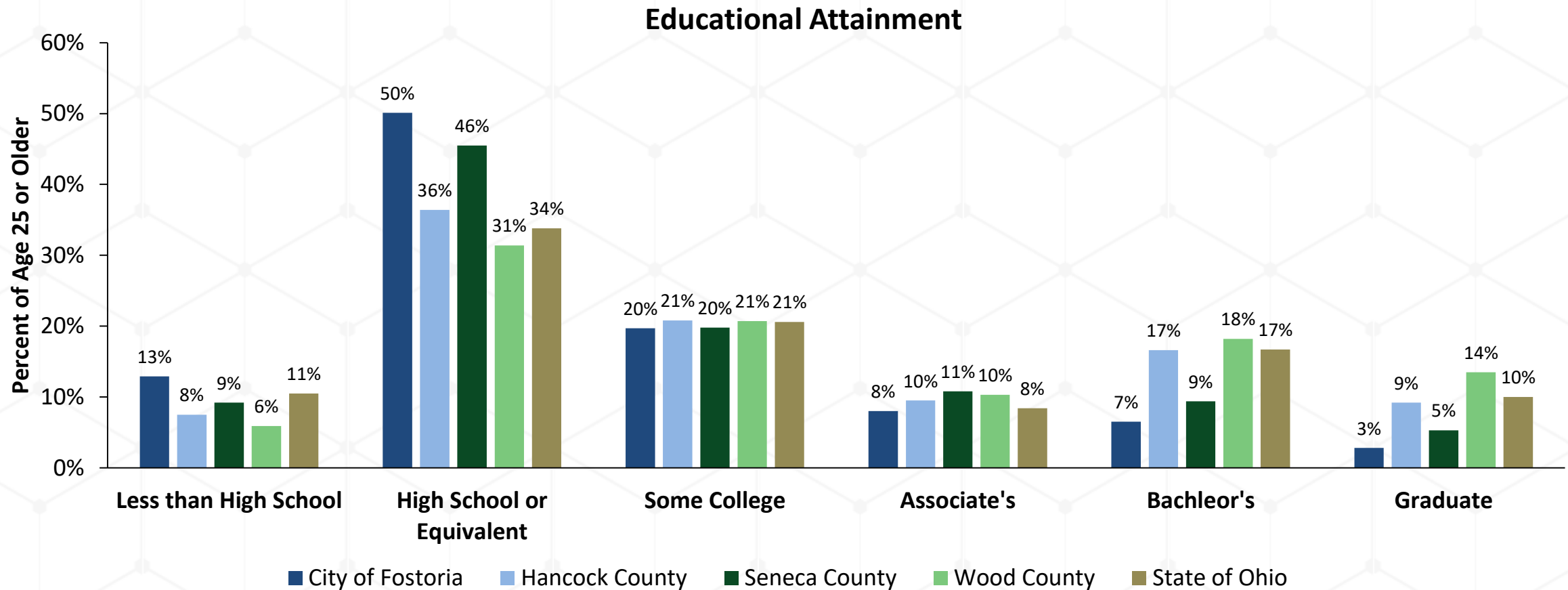
The City of Fostoria has the highest 5-year average unemployment rate when compared to surrounding areas. All areas are much higher than the national average.



Annual earnings in the City of Fostoria are well below both the state and national averages, and are also the lowest of all the surrounding counties.



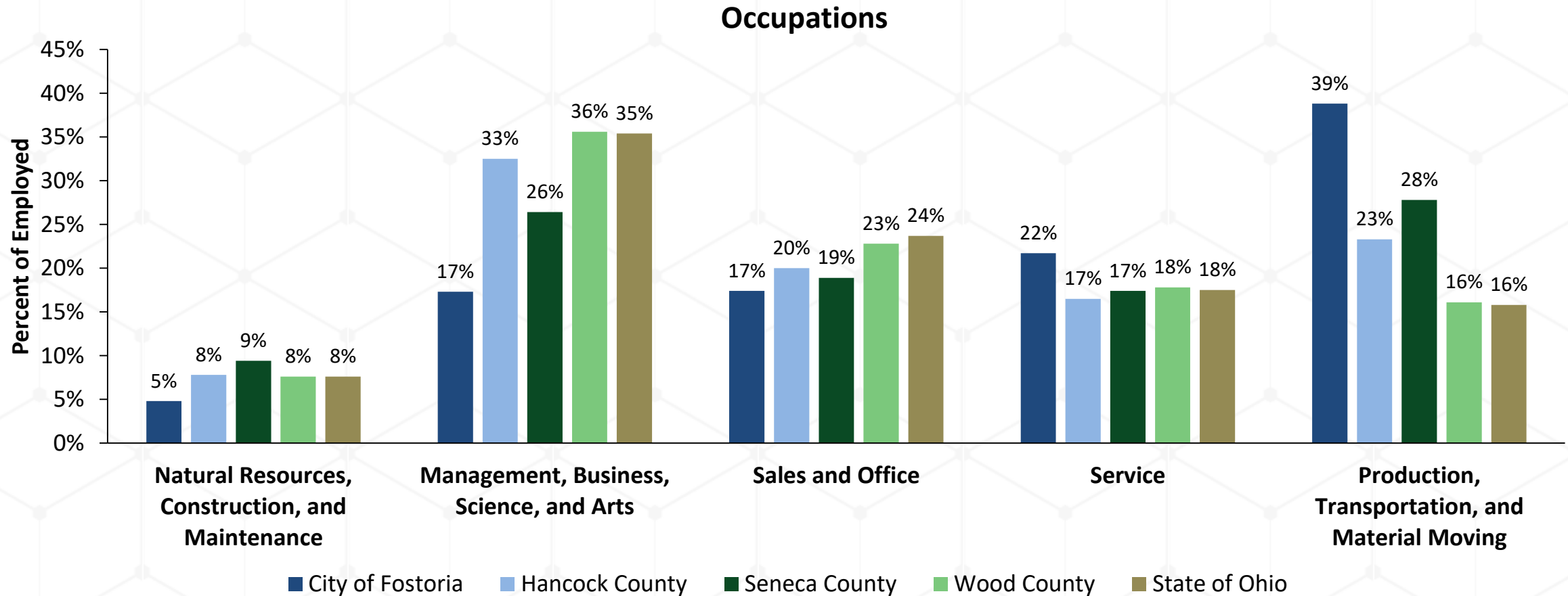
Fostoria residents tend to be less educated than in peer counties; only 10% of Fostoria residents have a Bachelor's degree or higher.



Percent totals may not sum to 100 due to rounding

Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey, 2012-2016

# Workers in Fostoria are largely found in Production, Transportation, and Material Moving, as well as Service occupations.



Percent totals may not sum to 100 due to rounding

Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey, 2012-2016



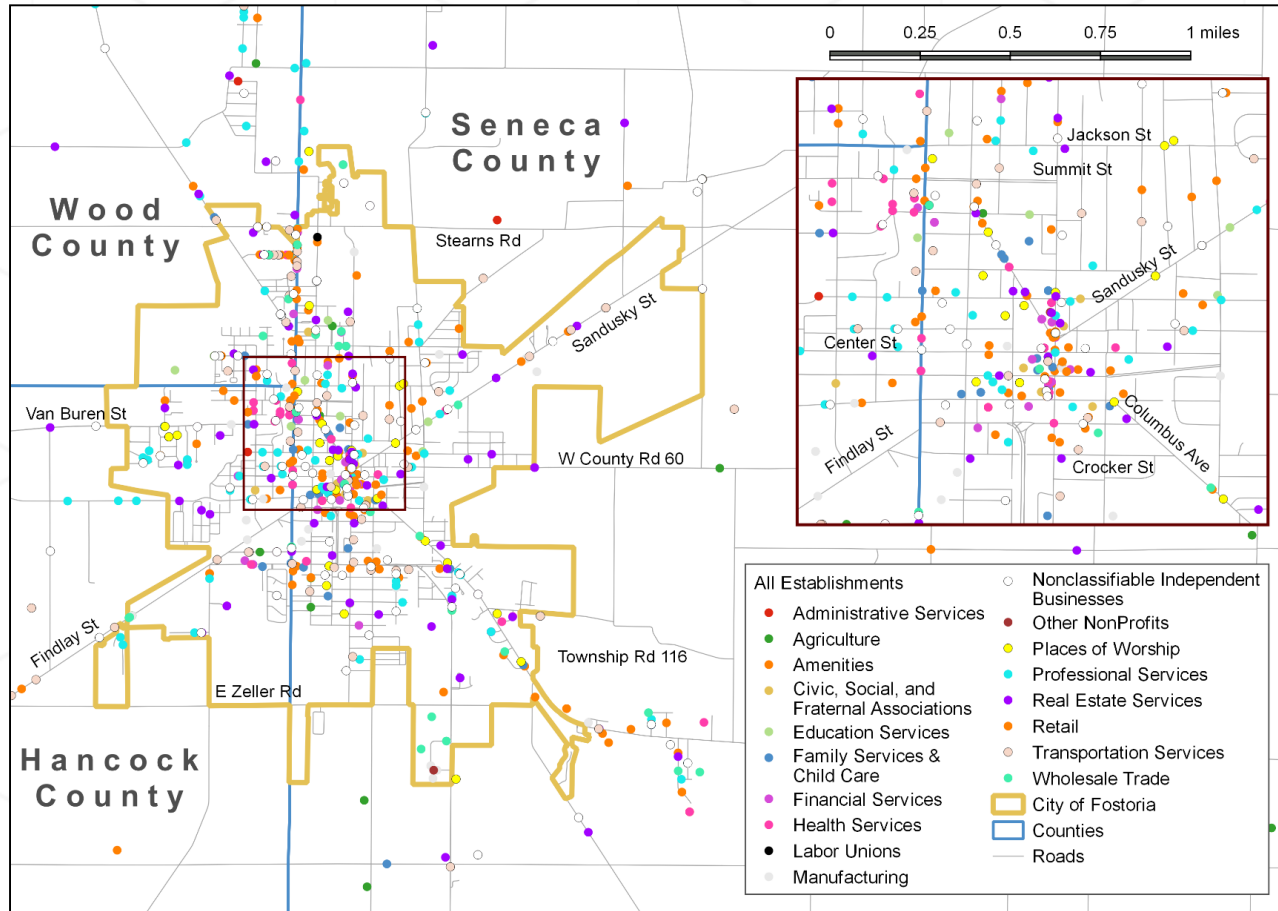
# ASSETS WITHIN THE CITY AND SURROUNDING TRACTS

# Observations

- Amenities such as bars and restaurants are some of the largest employers in downtown Fostoria.
- A variety of manufacturing activities are present within the City of Fostoria. The Automobile and Auto Parts Manufacturing industry employs the most people.
- The City of Fostoria Public Schools is one of the largest employers throughout the greater Fostoria area.
- Health services are located primarily downtown.

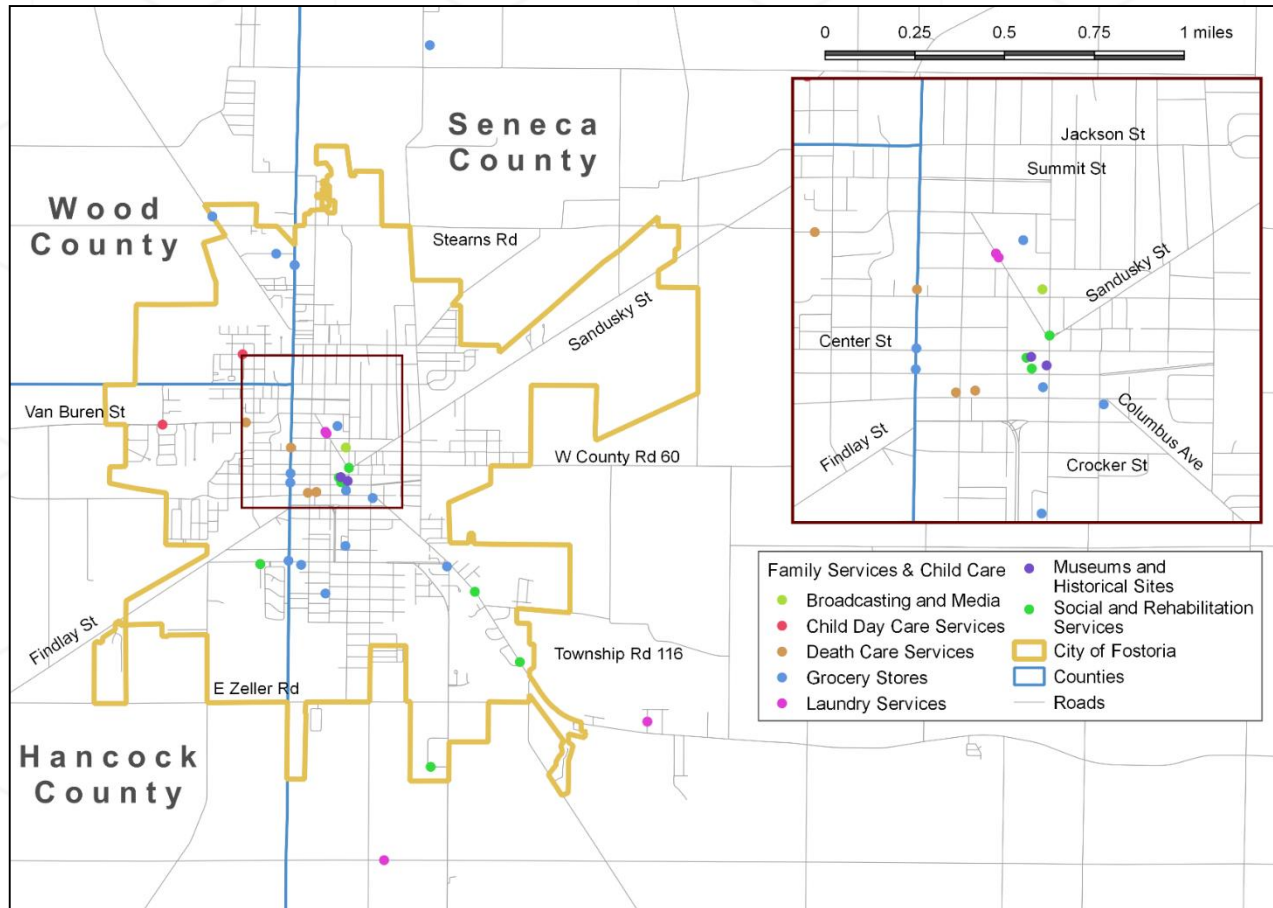


# All Establishments



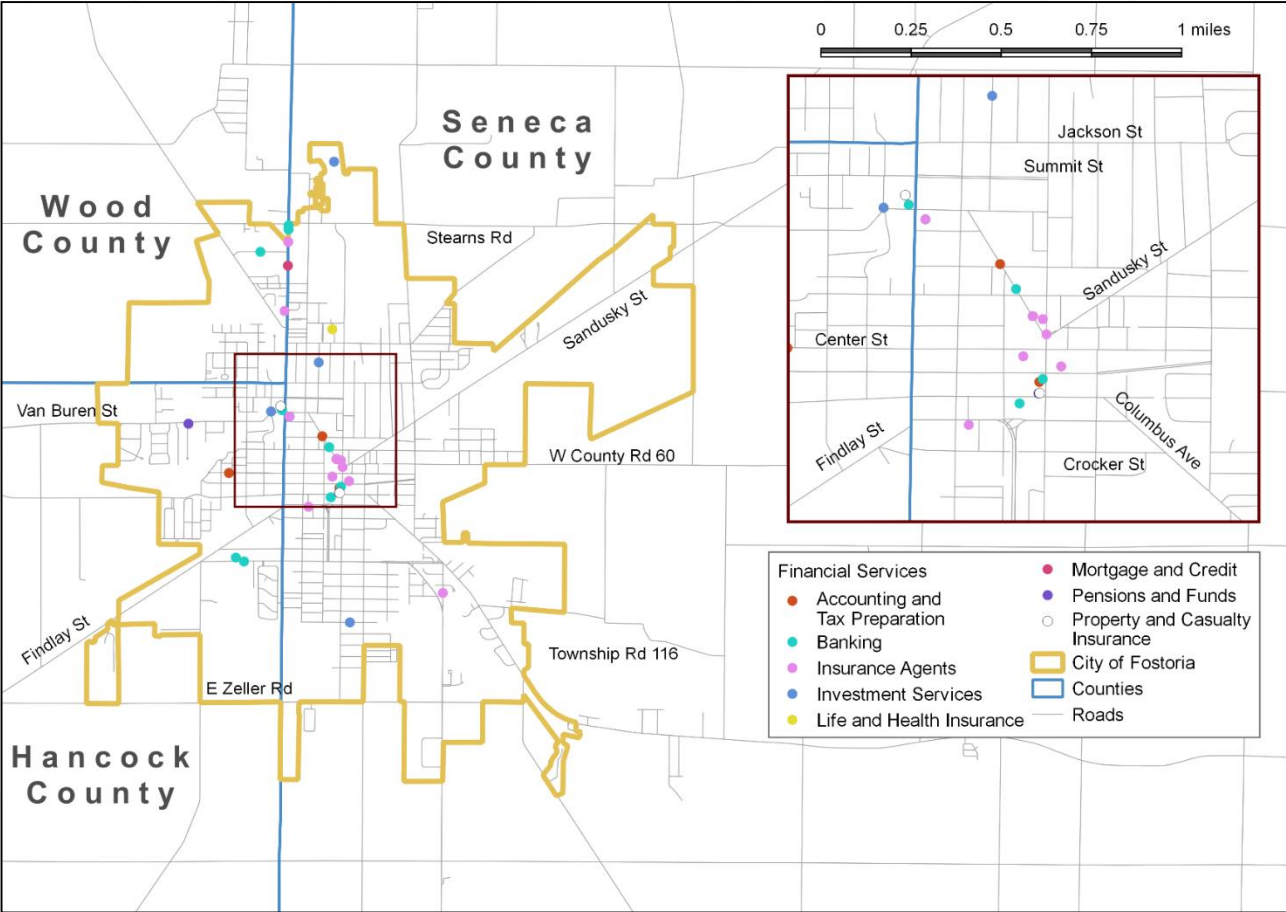
There are 8,899 workers employed in 917 establishments in and in the near vicinity of Fostoria. Manufacturing is the largest industry, employing 2,374 workers, which is 26.7% of total employment.

# Family Services and Child Care



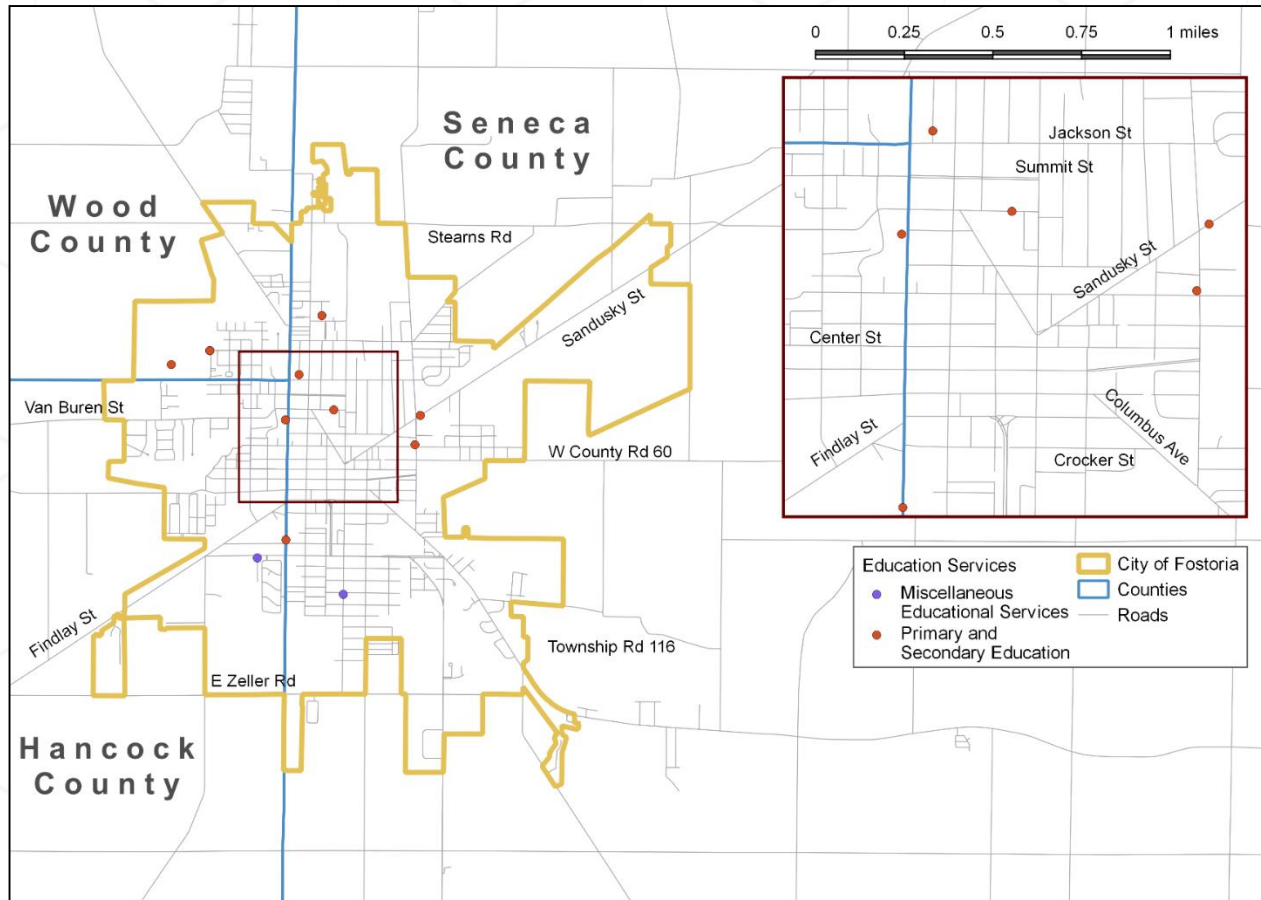
Family services and child care establishments employ 392 people, or about 4.4% of the workforce.

# Financial Services



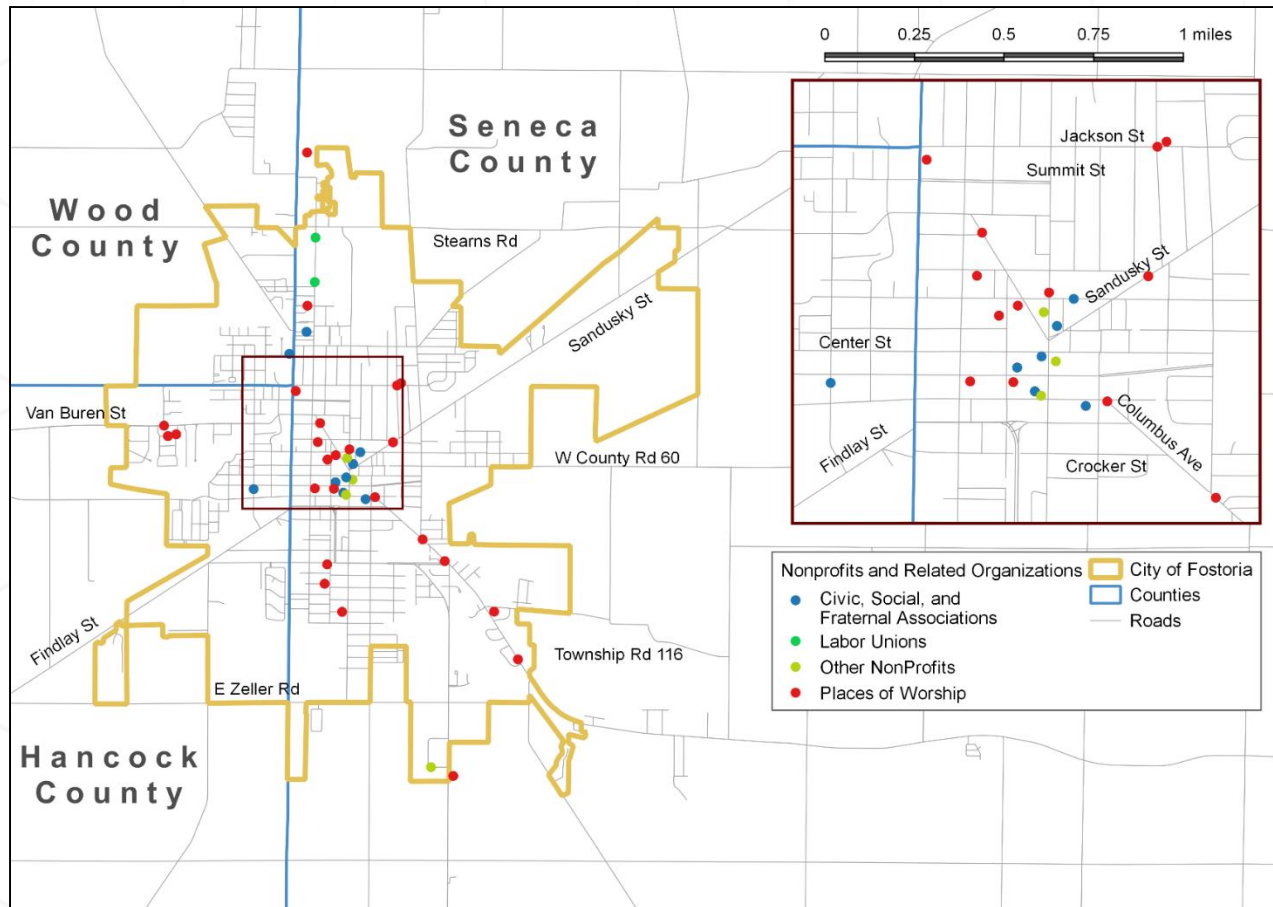
Financial services are clustered in the center of town and employ 148 people, or about 1.7% of the employed workforce.

# Education Services



Education services includes primary and secondary education and employs 910 workers, or about 10.2% of the employed workforce.

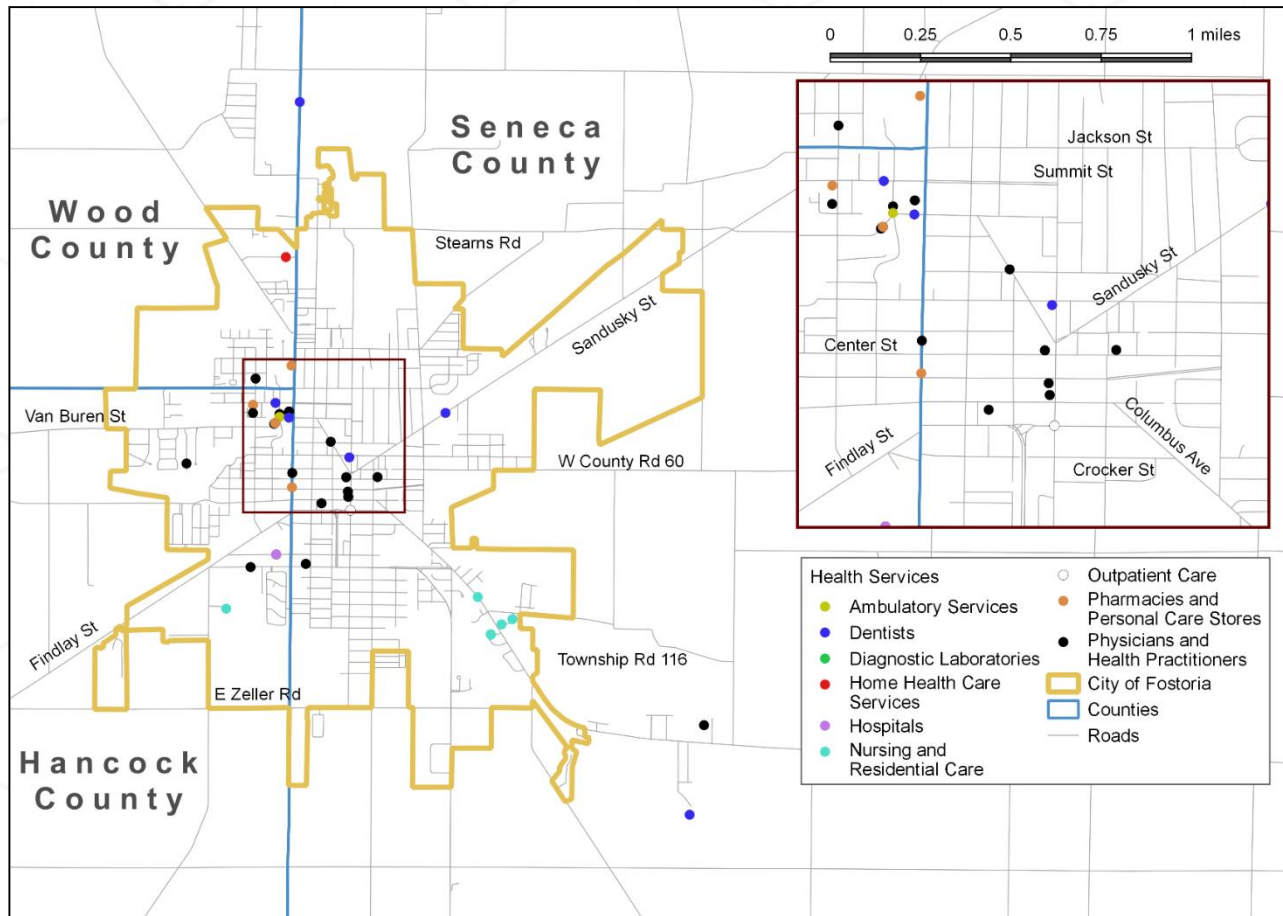
# Nonprofits and Related Organizations (including places of worship)



A total of 406 people are employed at nonprofit organizations, or about 4.7% of Fostoria's employed workforce.



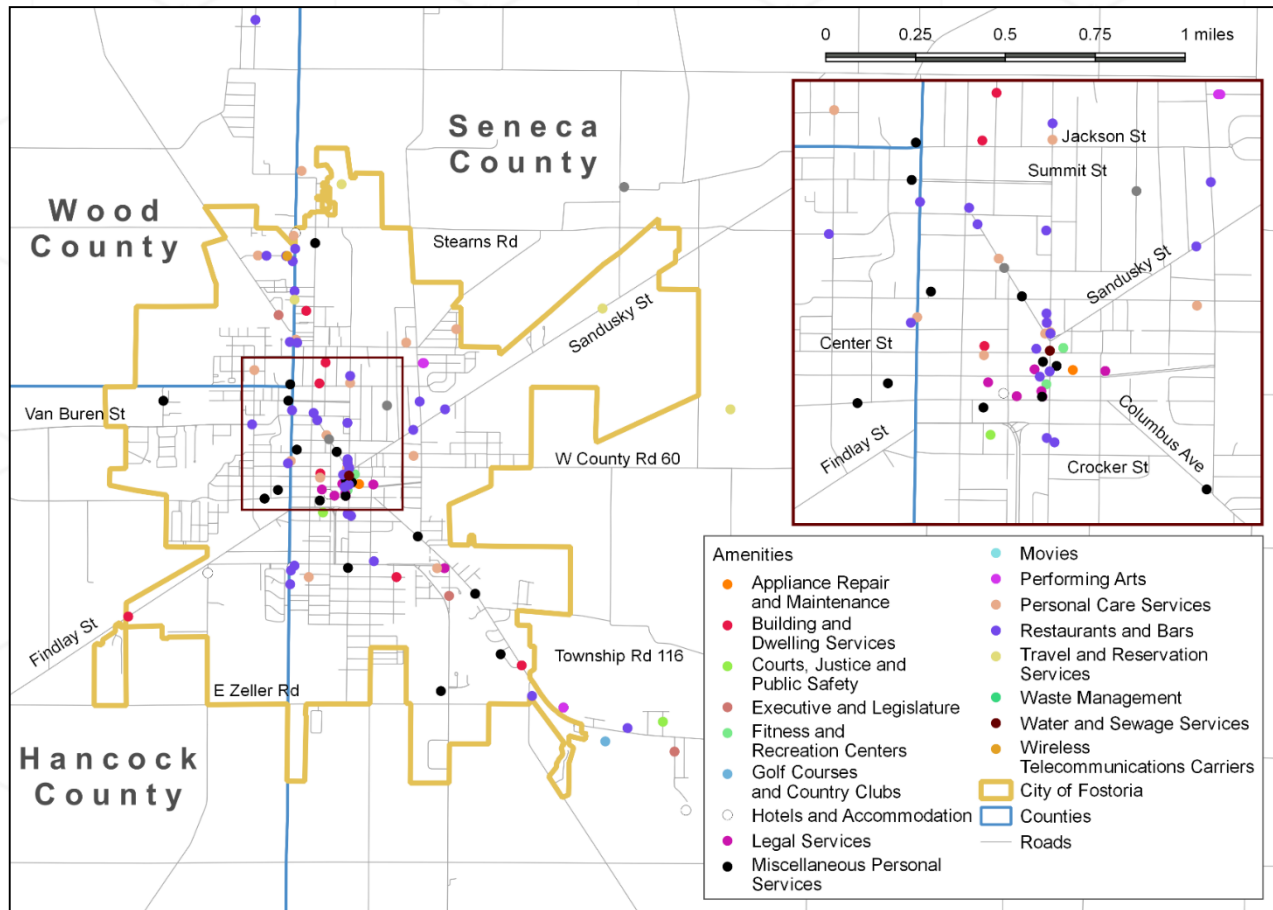
# Health Services



Health services is the third largest group. The sector employs 1,013 persons, or about 11.4% of the workforce. Health care practitioners are concentrated in the center of town, with nursing and residential care facilities located further out.

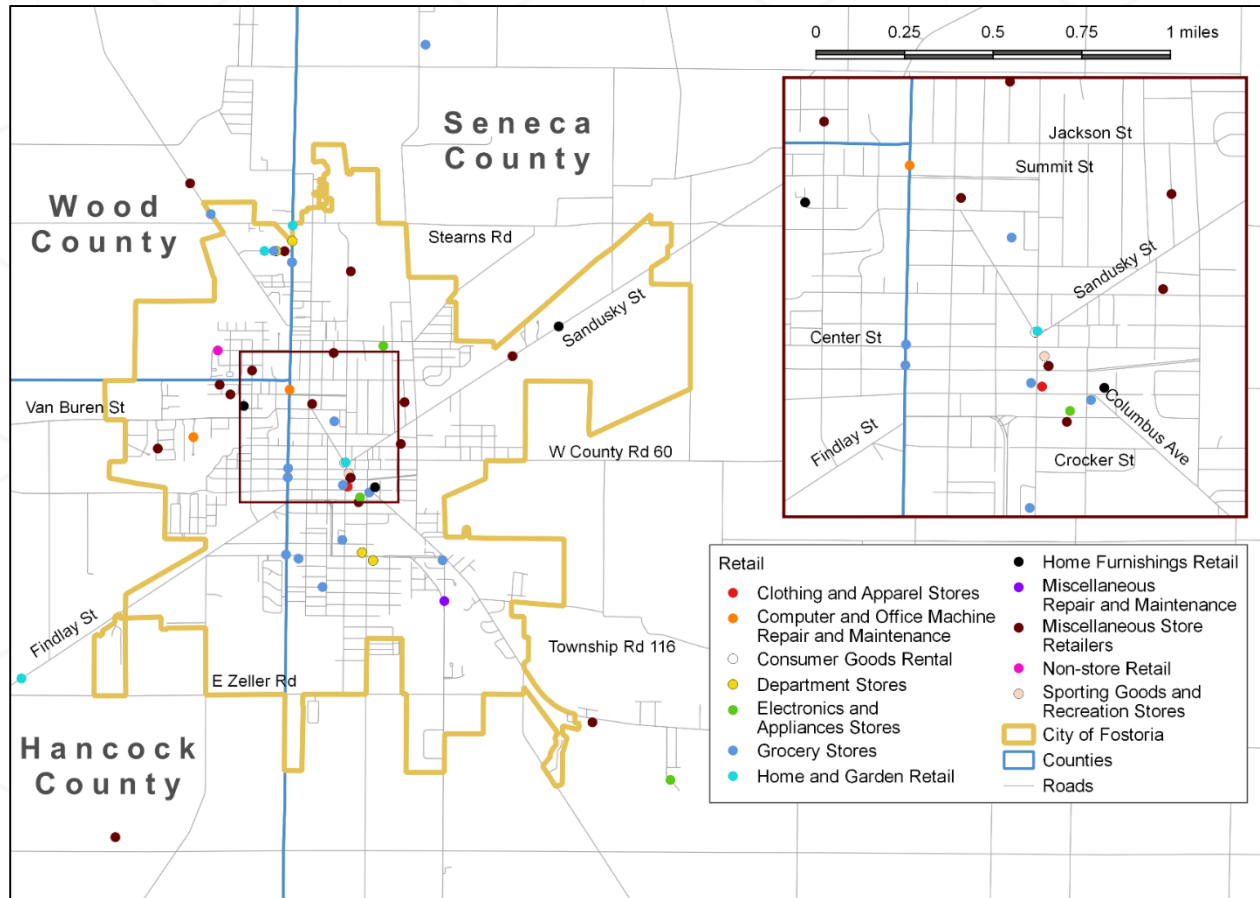


# Amenities



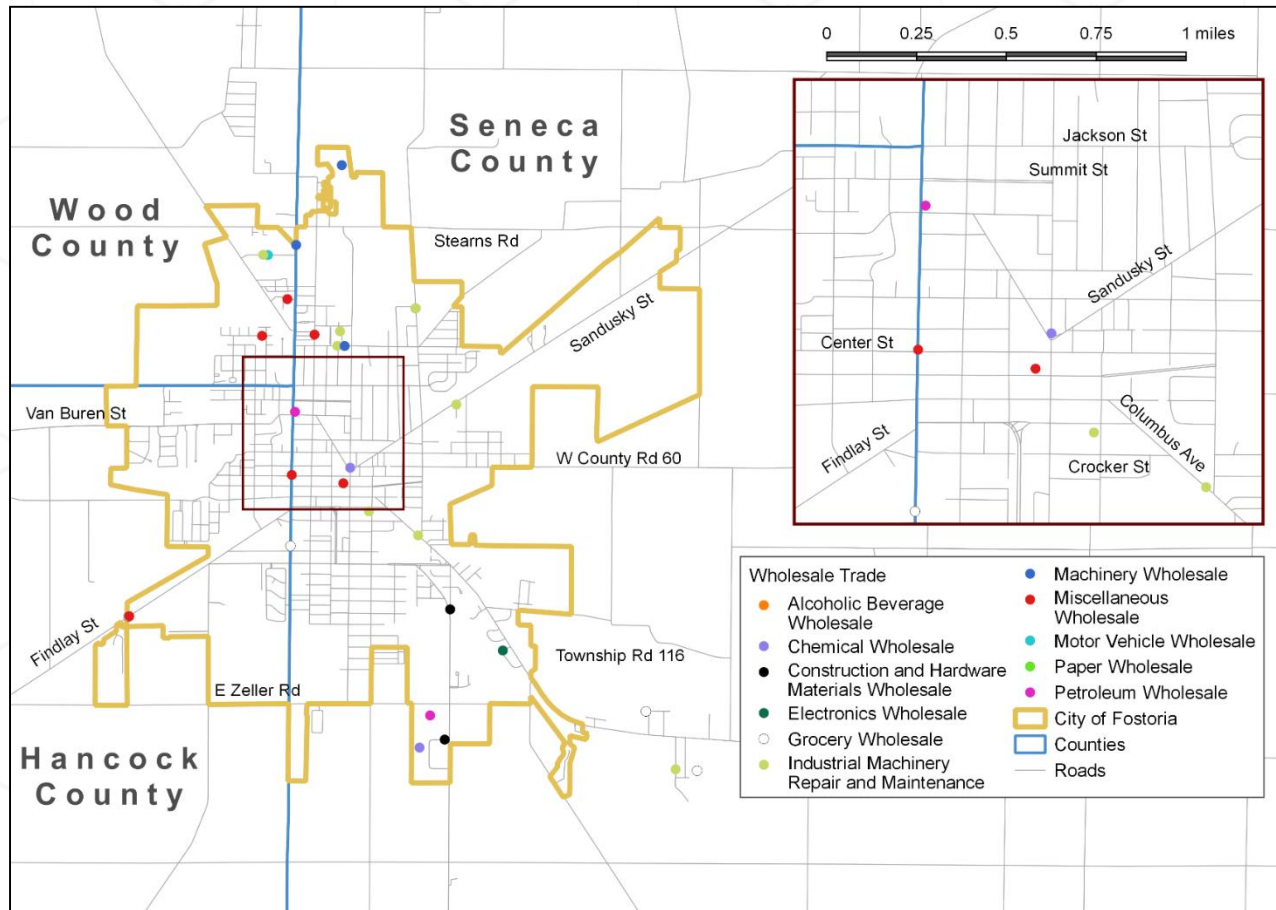
Amenities include a diverse group of employers. This sector is the second largest in the city, with about 1,100 employees that represent about 12.4% of all employment. These firms include recreational amenities such as restaurants and golf courses, and more personal services such as waste management and personal care.

# Retail



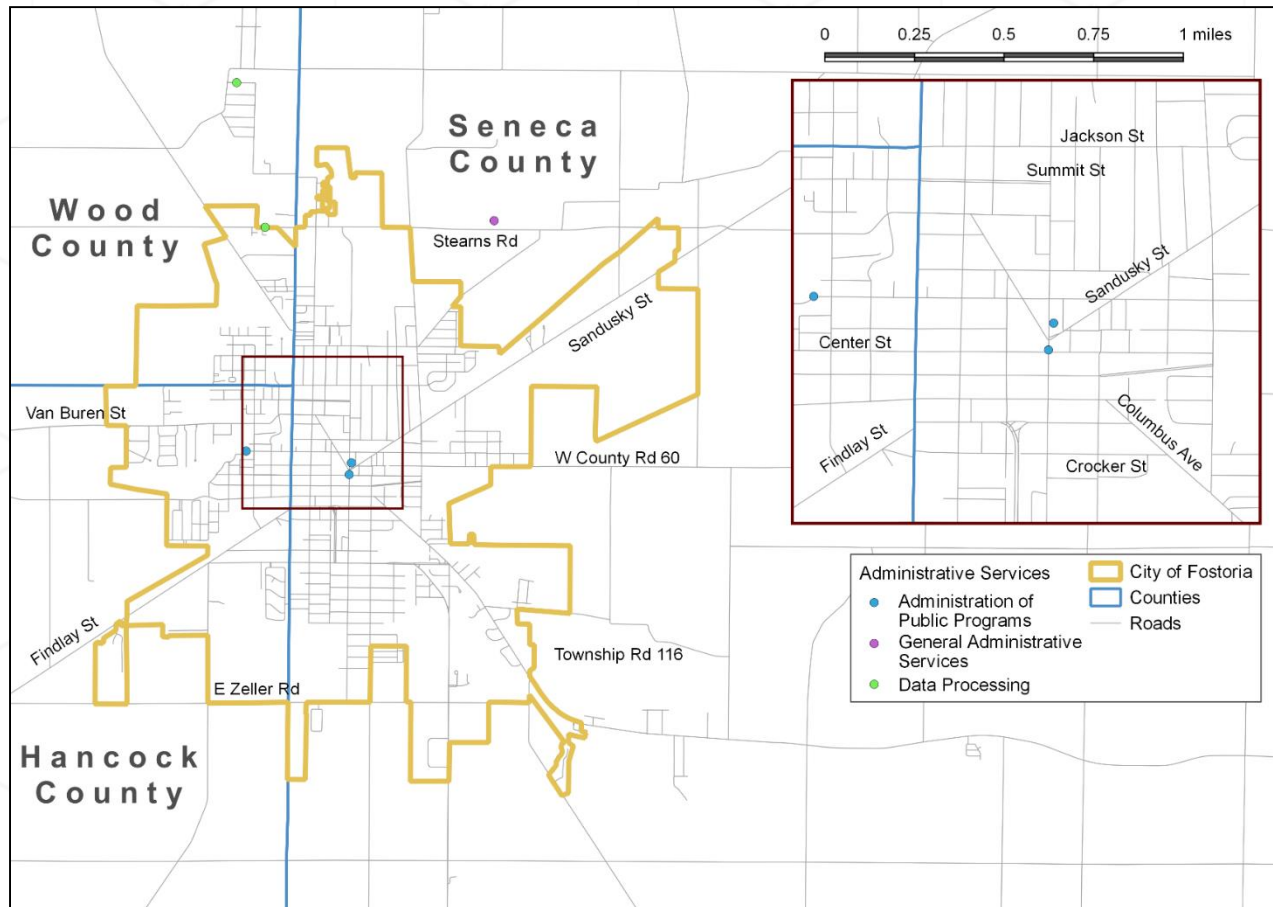
Retail employment is spread throughout the area, but is a relatively small industry sector employer. The sector employs 129 workers, or about 1.5% of the employed workforce.

# Wholesale Trade



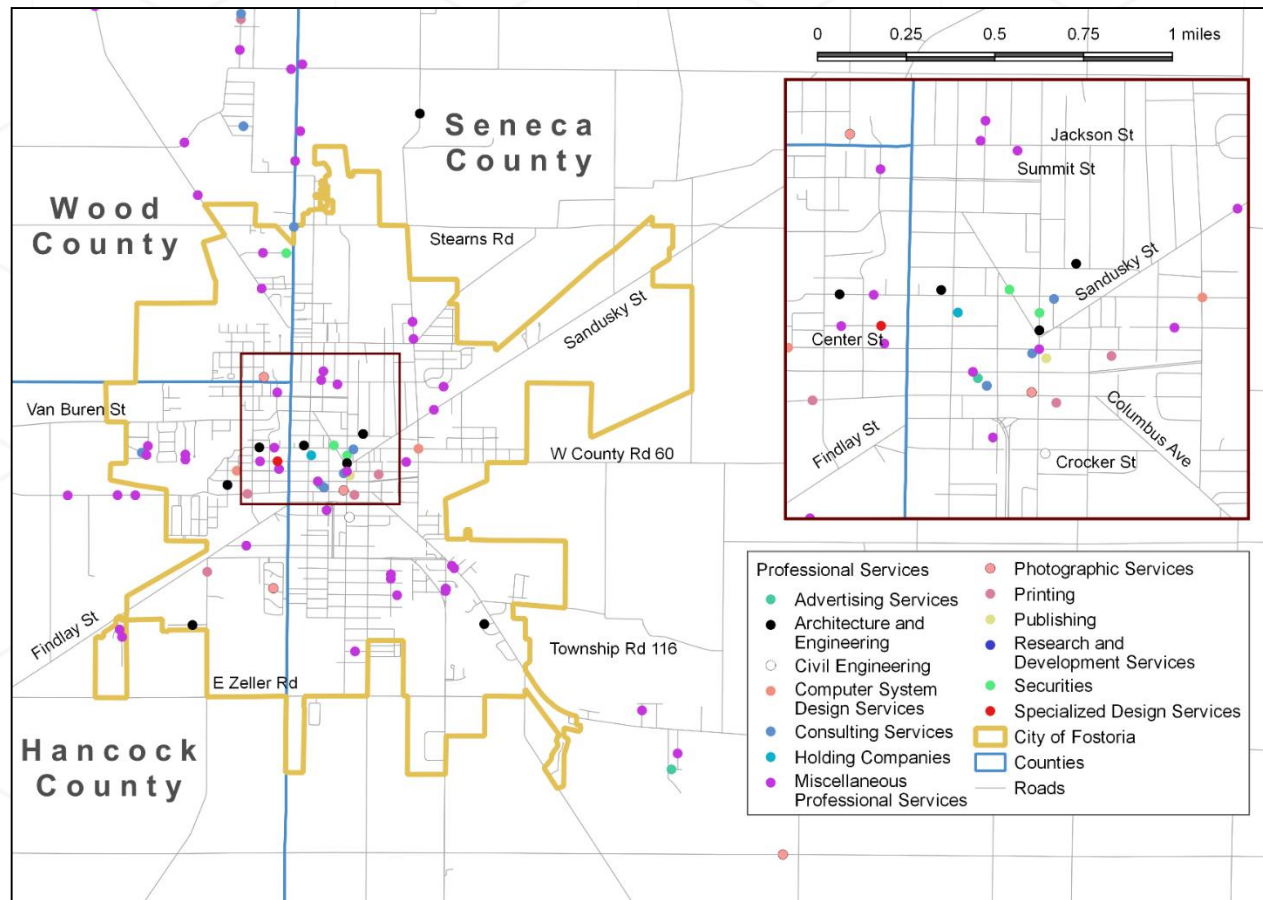
Wholesale trade distributors are a relatively small portion of the area's employment – 2.4% or 217 persons.

# Administrative Services



Administrative services employs just 41 people at a few establishments in the area.

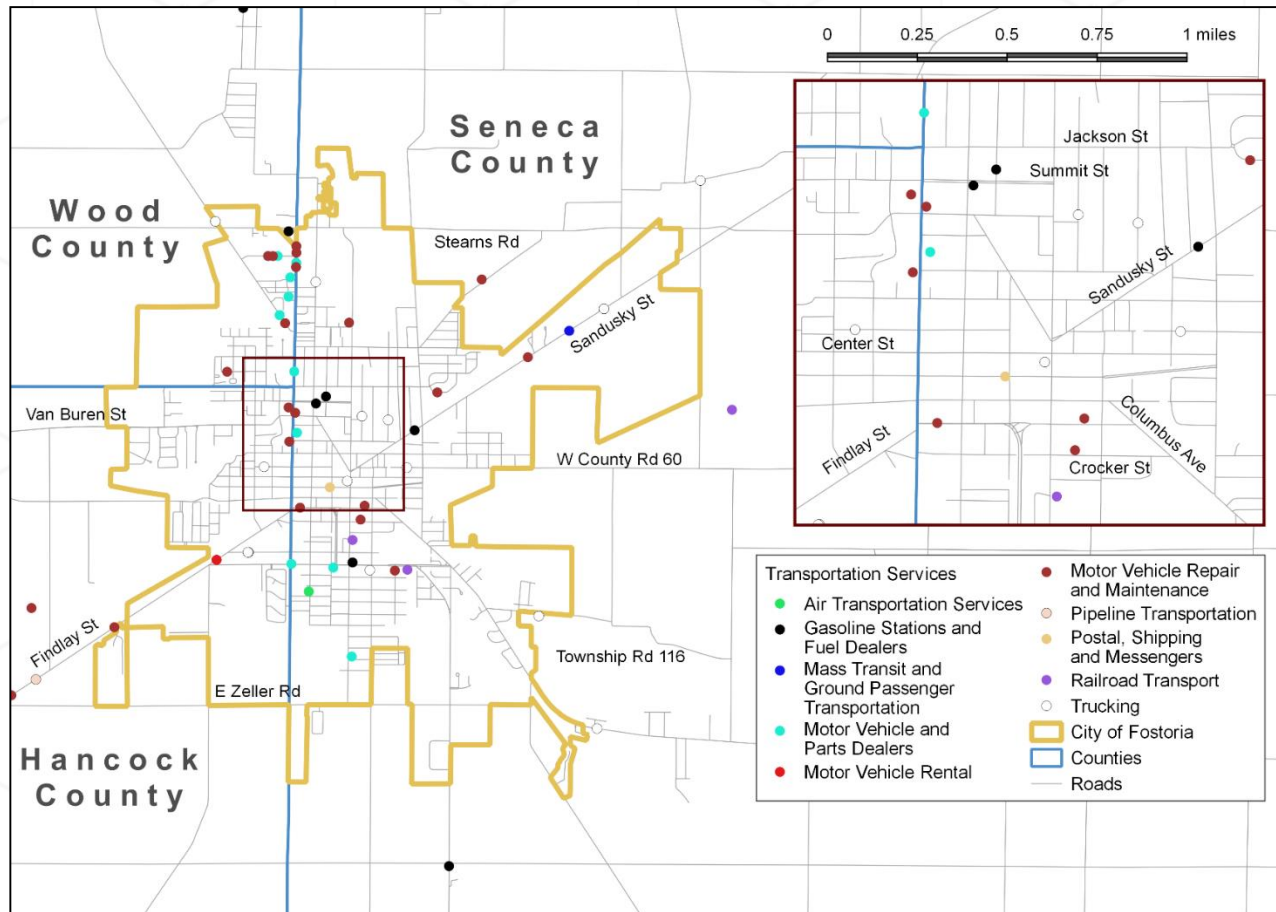
# Professional Services



Professional services industries are a variety of small establishments providing services such as advertising, engineering, printing, consulting, and others. The sector employs 352 people spread across 102 establishments.



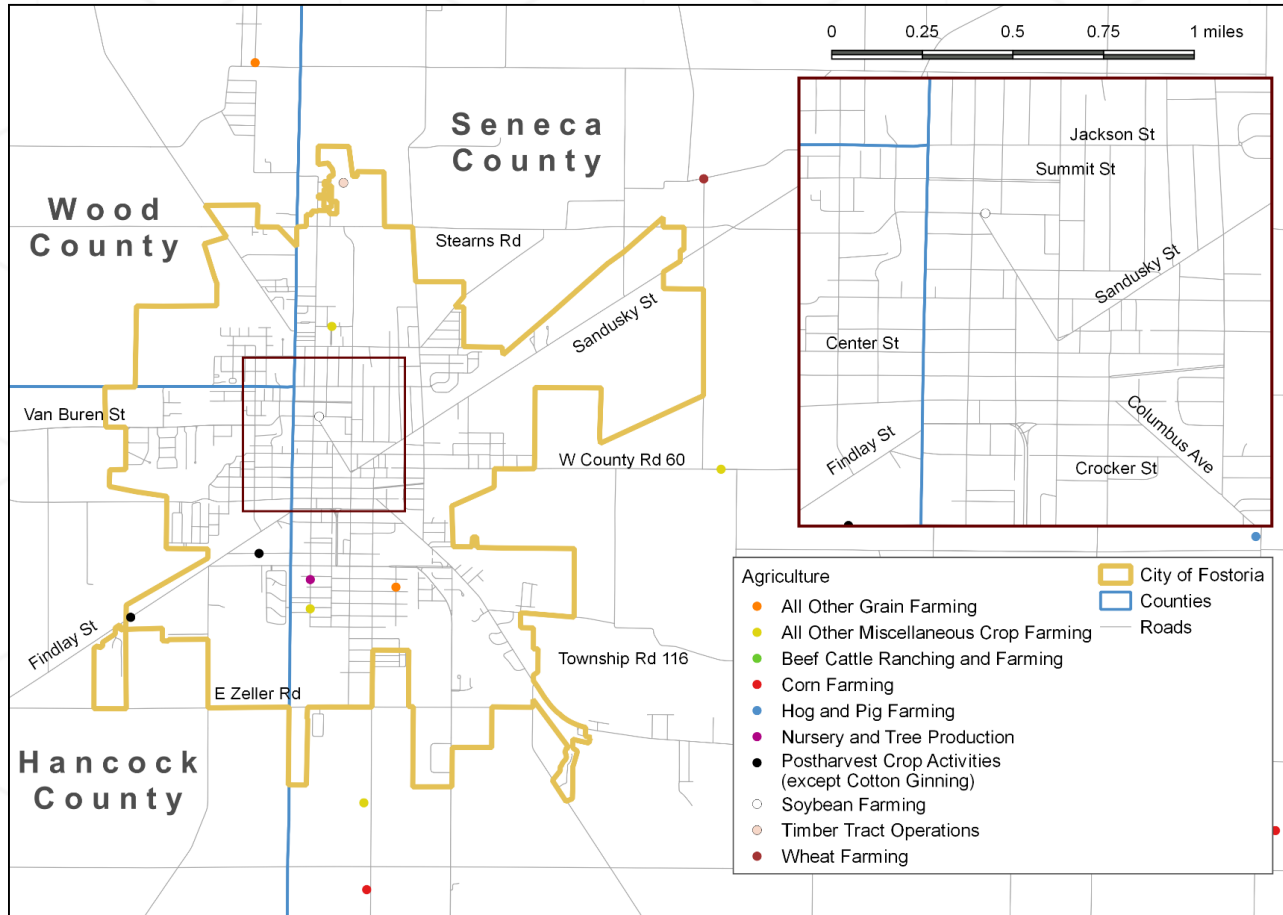
# Transportation Services



Transportation services employs 694 workers and comprise 7.8% of the employed workforce. Many are employed at motor vehicle dealerships, which are clustered along U.S. Highway 23.

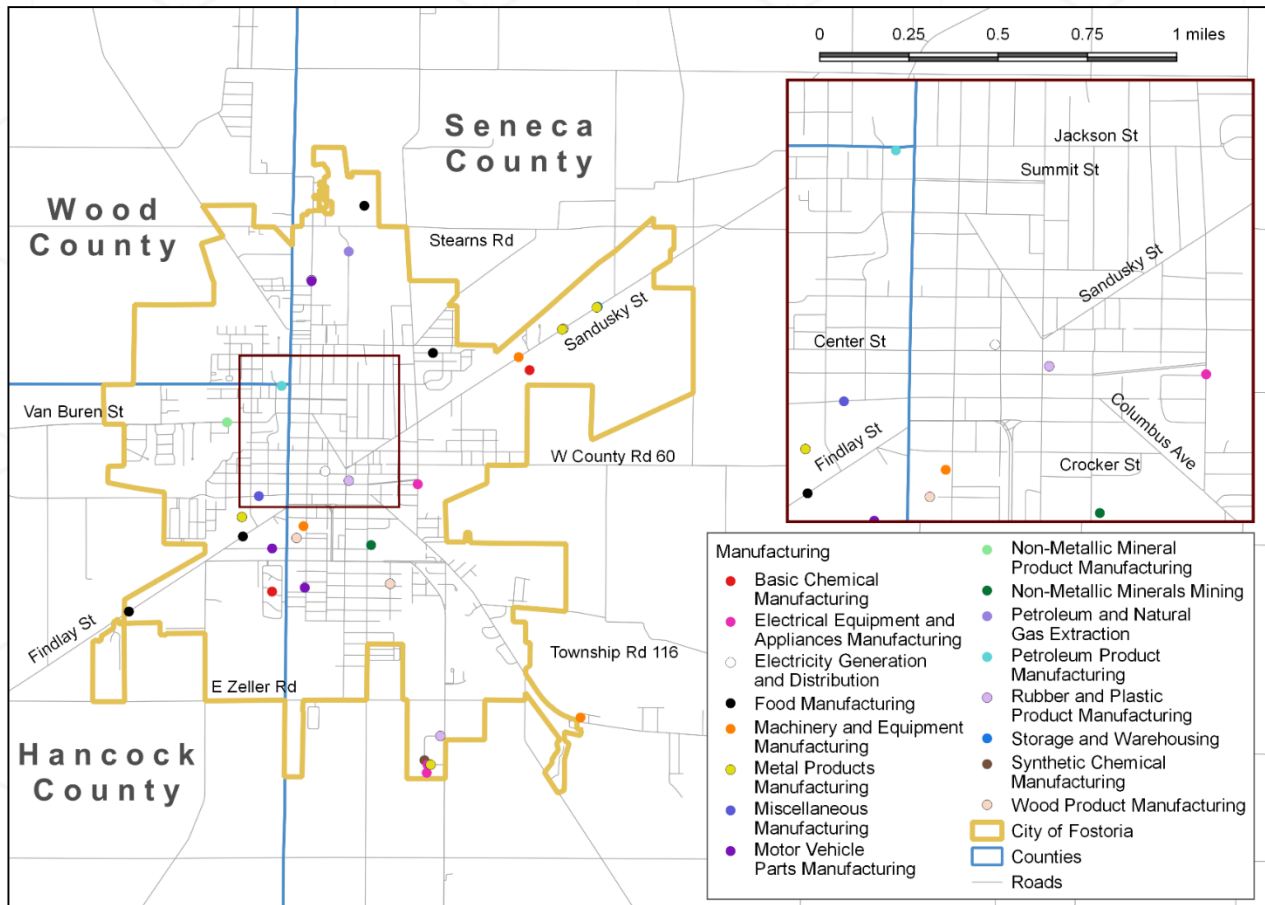


# Agriculture



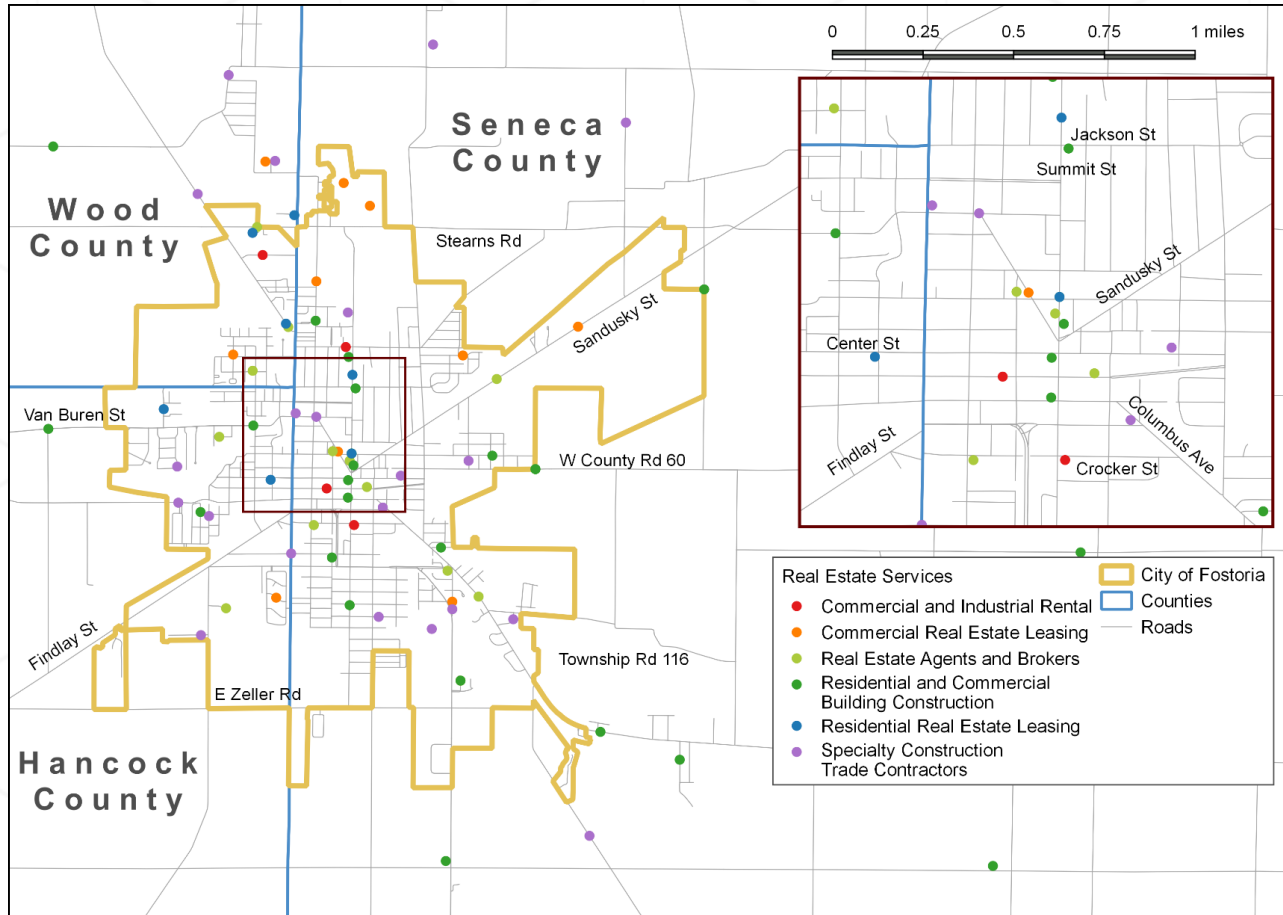
Agriculture is a relatively small portion of the city's workforce, less than 100 workers or 1.1% of employment. Note that this does not include food processing, which falls in the Manufacturing sector.

# Manufacturing



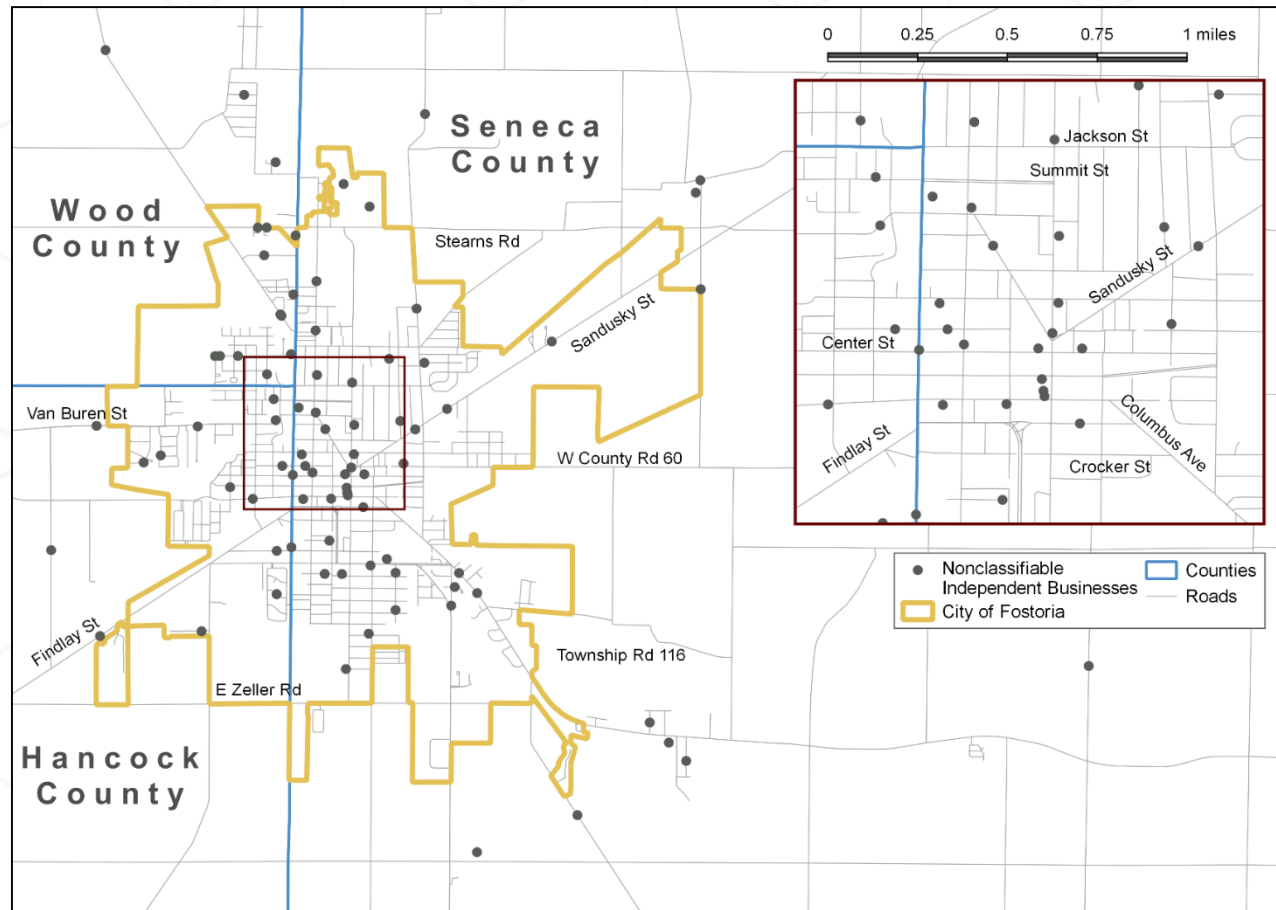
Manufacturing employs 2,374 workers -- 26.7% of the workforce -- and is the largest employment sector in the area. Employment in this sector includes a very diverse range of manufacturing establishments.

# Real Estate Services



Real-estate-related services are 4.8% of the employed, or about 431 persons. These firms are spread evenly throughout the area.

# Nonclassifiable Independent Businesses



This group contains firms that are not elsewhere classified. The sector employs an estimated 503 people. It is likely that many of these establishments should be applied to other sectors, but because of limitations in the data, they are included in this “catch all” group.

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