

## Summit County Profile

Summit County, which gets its name for having the highest point along the Erie-Ohio Canal, is vulnerable to a variety of natural and technological hazards. A better understanding of these hazards and their associated risks can be obtained by a brief examination of the characteristics of Summit County.

### Geography & Climate

Summit County contains a total land area of 412.8 square miles and is home to 542,899 persons, according to the 2000 census. According to population projections (Tab D), we can expect a slight reduction in the county's population in the next 5 years. However, long-range projections show steady growth through 2030. Located in the Northeast portion of Ohio, it is bordered to the north by Cuyahoga County, the west by Medina County, the southwest by Wayne County, the south by Stark County, and the east by Portage County.

The county contains terrain that contains plateaus and rolling hills. The vegetation for the area is considered Beech Forest. Approximately 60 percent of Summit County lies in the Cuyahoga River basin, which drains into Lake Erie. The average annual precipitation is 40 inches. The average annual temperature is 52°F.

### Economy and Transportation

Summit County is home to 32 political sub-divisions of which the largest city and county seat is Akron. Once known as the "Rubber Capital of the World," Akron is now highly recognized as a world leader in polymer research. The University of Akron's Institute of Polymer Science is internationally acclaimed. 28.8% of all workers in the county are employed in the services industry. Major employers in the county include, Summa Health Systems, Children's Hospital Medical Center, Akron General Health System, University of Akron, Daimler Chrysler Corp., First Energy Corp., Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co., Newel Rubbermaid/Little Tikes Co., Roadway Inc., and McDermott Int'l/Babcock & Wilcox. The County budget for 2003 is about \$560 million dollars with a total estimated private and public estimated building value of 22 Billion dollars.

Interstate Highways 76 and 80, U.S. Route 224, and State Routes 18, 82, 162, 261, 303, and 619 cross the county east and west. Interstate Highways 77 and 271, and State Routes 8, 21, 91, 93, and 241 run north and south. Major waterways in Summit County include the Cuyahoga, Tuscarawas, and Rocky Rivers. One commercial airport exists in Green, Ohio. The Akron-Canton Regional Airport is home to many commercial airline companies, with flights arriving and departing daily. Major railroad systems still used in Summit County include Norfolk Southern and CSX Transportation, which are two Class 1 (i.e., major) freight railroads. The Wheeling and Lake Erie Railway, a regional-sized railroad, and its subsidiary, the Akron Barberton Cluster Railway, also provide service in

the area. Amtrak provides daily inter-city passenger rail service from its station in downtown Akron, and the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad operates seasonal excursion rail service through the National Park.