



The Economic Impact of the Ohio Geological Survey's Products and Services



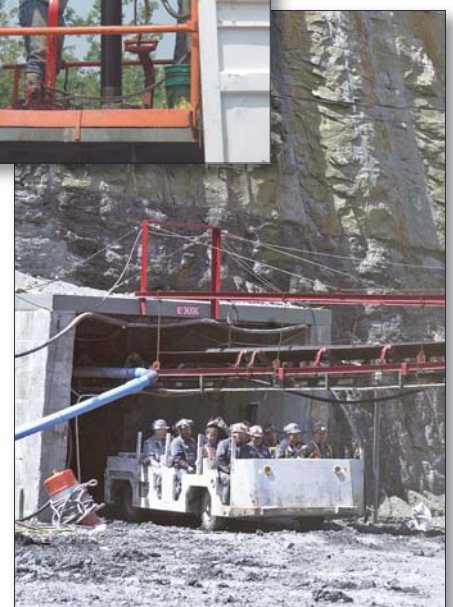
The 175-year history of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Division of Geological Survey—commonly known as the Ohio Geological Survey—has created a legacy of geologic data and information that provides a critical public function and today contributes an estimated \$575 million to the Ohio economy. According to a recent analysis conducted by Kleinhenz & Associates, a Cleveland-based economic and business-consulting firm, the products, information, services, and expenditures provided by and associated with the Survey benefit industry, government agencies, the academic community, and Ohio citizens.

The analysis, which included a survey of Ohio Geological Survey users as well as roundtable discussions and one-on-one interviews with industry experts and constituents, examined how the agency's products and services impacted public and private-sector projects in 2010. Based on information collected, these products and services were either mandatory or critical to project success, created jobs, and stimulated the state economy:

- Approximately 8,740 projects were undertaken utilizing items requested from the Ohio Geological Survey. Without these items, the projected average per-project replacement cost was \$65,800.
- Without Ohio Geological Survey maps and data, 17% of project costs would be needed to cover additional information gathering or research—totaling \$1.5 billion per year.
- For every \$1 in state revenue it receives, the Ohio Geological Survey receives 80 cents in federal grant money, not unlike an exporter of goods—bringing funding into the state and expanding the Ohio economy. Should the agency lose its federal revenue, Ohio businesses would lose \$2.5 million in sales and Ohio payroll would be reduced by \$1.6 million.

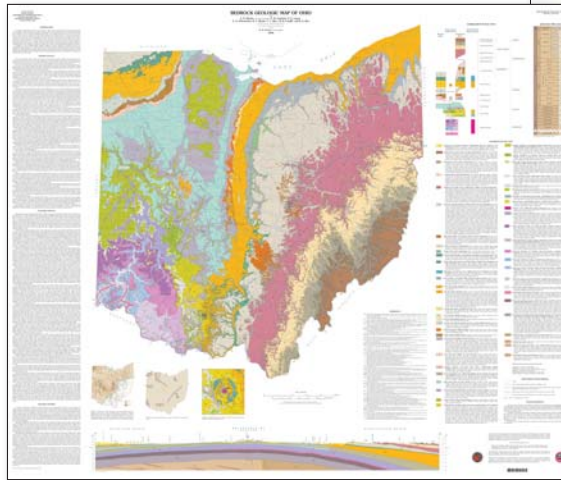
Ohio Geological Survey products and expertise are employed by oil-and-gas exploration firms, mining companies, the Ohio EPA, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), other divisions within the ODNR and governmental agencies, university researchers, K–12 educators, and a cross section of environmental and geotechnical engineering consultants. Findings from the analysis illustrate how these sectors are benefitting from Ohio Geological Survey products and services:

- The mineral extraction industry, which depends largely on Ohio Geological Survey data, employs more than 10,000 people, with a payroll of \$559 million and sales of over \$2 billion.
- Environmental engineers and consultants save at least \$10 million per year using Ohio Geological Survey data, maps, cores and well logs.
- ODOT saves approximately \$160,000 per project by using Ohio Geological Survey maps and records.



- Public health and utilities agencies and regulators utilize Ohio Geological Survey maps, well logs, and geologic data when planning and developing new utilities infrastructure and water resources; conducting environmental investigations; and assessing and remediating the effects of geologic hazards, such as karst, abandoned mines, and coastal erosion.

Citizens and industry can access the Ohio Geological Survey through the Internet and by telephone, e-mail, and personal visits. The agency provides an array of information at no charge via its website, which gets at least 105,500 unique visitors annually. In fact more than half of the agency's customers reported they did not pay anything for information obtained from the Ohio Geological Survey for their latest projects. And in 2010, the agency reported nearly 35,000 sales transactions, which did not include information and maps provided free of charge. Such web-based, low-cost access combined with continually improved GIS-based maps allows users to benefit from the Ohio Geological Survey's constantly increasing geologic knowledge base.



The high degree of value provided by the Ohio Geological Survey continues to spur economic development and investment within the state, a benefit that is summed up simply by one environmental engineer:

“The Ohio Geological Survey (OGS) provides a critical public function for engineers and geologists throughout the state. Without the OGS, Ohio would not be as safe, and particular industries would be impacted [in performing] critical tasks in order to produce revenue.”



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