Metro and Nonmetro Counties in Indiana

Based on the most recent listing of core based statistical areas by the Office of Management and Budget (December 2005), 46 counties in Indiana are part of metropolitan statistical areas, and 26 counties are part of micropolitan areas. The micropolitan category defines counties that were previously included in the nonmetropolitan category, and include an urban area with a population of 10,000 to 49,999 plus surrounding counties that are linked through commuting ties. These areas often represent important economic and trade centers in rural areas. The remaining 20 counties in Indiana are considered noncore counties. Using these classifications and the population estimates for 2005, 77.7 percent of Indiana residents live in metropolitan counties, 16.5 percent live in micropolitan counties, and the remaining 5.9 percent live in noncore counties.
Population

Indiana’s population in July 2005 was 6,271,973, up 3.1 percent from the 2000 Census. During the 1990s, the population in Indiana grew by 9.7 percent. Nationally, population increased 13.1 percent during the 1990s, and 5.3 percent from April 2000 to July 2005. Within Indiana, population growth in metropolitan areas exceeded the nonmetropolitan growth in both time periods.

Eleven counties in Indiana lost population during the 1990s (3 metro and 8 nonmetro counties). Three counties (all metro in the Indianapolis area) had population gains over 30 percent during the 1990s.

Between the 2000 Census and July 2005, 25 counties in Indiana lost population (8 metro and 17 nonmetro counties). Only 5 counties (all within the Indianapolis-Carmel metropolitan area) experienced population gains over 10 percent during this time period.
The Economic Research Service, USDA, classifies counties as population loss counties if the “number of residents declined both between the 1980 and 1990 censuses and between the 1990 and 2000 censuses.” In Indiana, eleven counties are classified as population loss counties, 3 metro and 8 nonmetro counties.

Race / Ethnicity

The population of Indiana is 88.7 percent white and 8.8 percent African American (2004 population estimates data). Nationally, the population is 80.4 percent white and 12.8 percent African American. People of Hispanic origin make up 4.3 percent of Indiana’s population, compared to 14.1 percent of the total U.S. population.
Within Indiana, the metro population is 86.1 percent white and 11 percent African American. The micropolitan population is 97 percent white and 1.5 percent African American, and the noncore population is 98.4 percent white and 0.5 African American.

People of Hispanic origin make up 4.7 percent of the metropolitan population and 3.3 percent of the micropolitan population, and only 1.9 percent of the noncore population. Many counties in Indiana experienced significant growth in Hispanic populations during the 1990s. In fact, in 56 counties, the Hispanic population more than doubled during the decade. In only three counties, however, does the Hispanic population account for more than 10 percent of the total population (Lake, Elkhart and Clinton Counties).
Age

The age distribution of the metro and nonmetro populations in Indiana is shown in the chart below. The percent of the population in the 20 to 44 age groups is higher in the metro areas, while the percent of the population age 55 and over is higher in the nonmetro areas.

Several counties in Indiana have a considerable percentage of older residents. Over 15 percent of the population is over 65 in 22 counties, the majority of which are nonmetro counties (16 of 22).
Educational Attainment

The percent of the population age 25 and over that has earned a Bachelor’s degree or higher is 24.4 percent in the U.S. and 19.4 percent in Indiana. In only 16 Indiana counties did over 20 percent of the population earn a Bachelor’s degree or higher, all of them metropolitan counties.

The chart to the right compares the educational attainment of Indiana’s metro and nonmetro populations. The percent of the population with high educational attainment (Bachelor’s degree or higher) is greater in metro areas, while the percent of the population with low educational attainment (high school degree or lower) is greater in nonmetro areas.

Within Indiana, there are 16 public 4-year colleges and universities (Indiana Commission for Higher Education). There are 20 two-year colleges in Indiana. The map to the right shows the location of their campuses. Thirteen of the campuses are located in rural areas.
Poverty

In 2002 the poverty rate was 12.1 percent in the U.S. and 9.6 percent in Indiana (Census Bureau estimates). The poverty rate in Indiana counties ranged from 3.5 percent (Hamilton County) to 13.9 percent (Vigo County). The state’s lowest poverty rates were in three metropolitan counties in the Indianapolis area (Hamilton, Hendricks, and Hancock Counties).

Crime

The map below represents the number of crimes reported per 10,000 population in Indiana counties in 2002. Among the 28 counties with the highest rates of crimes reported (250 or more per 10,000 residents), 17 were metropolitan counties, 10 were micropolitan counties, and 1 was a noncore county.
Health Care Services

The designation of areas or populations as medically underserved is based on an index of four variables - the ratio of primary medical care physicians per 1,000 population, the infant mortality rate, the percent of the population with incomes below the poverty level, and the percent of the population age 65 and over (Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS). Within Indiana, there are several areas that are designated as medically underserved areas or populations, shown in the map below.

Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) are those areas that “have shortages of primary medical care, dental or mental health providers and may be urban or rural areas, population groups, or medical or other public facilities.” (Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS). Within Indiana, several portions of the state are designated as primary care HPSAs for the total and/or low income populations, shown in the map below.
Per Capita Income

Indiana’s per capita income trends have closely mirrored the nation, with Indiana’s income lagging slightly behind over the past several decades. In 2003, per capita income in Indiana was $28,838, compared to $31,472 for the U.S.

Within Indiana, the highest incomes tended to be in metropolitan counties. Of the 14 counties with per capita income over $30,000, 13 were metropolitan counties and 1 was a micropolitan county. The highest per capita income was in Hamilton County, at over $41,000.

Nonmetro per capita income in Indiana has lagged behind metro. In 2003, metro per capita income was $29,970, compared to $24,954 in nonmetro areas. The per capita income gap between metro and nonmetro areas (measured with nonmetro income as a percent of metro) has increased during the late 1990s and early 2000s, but showed a decrease from 2002 to 2003.
Employment Structure

Manufacturing accounted for the largest share of employment in Indiana (16.3%) in 2003. Nationally, manufacturing accounts for only 9.0 percent of total employment in 2003. Government (12.3%) and retail trade (11.7%) made up the next largest employment sectors in Indiana.

The Economic Research Service developed an economic typology that classifies counties into one of five industry categories of specialization, or as nonspecialized. The thresholds are based on the percent of labor and proprietors’ earnings derived from the industry during 1998-2000, or in the case of farming, the percent of employed residents in farming occupations. The map to the right shows the classification of Indiana’s counties by the ERS Economic Typology. The map illustrates the dependence on manufacturing in much of Indiana.
Manufacturing

Manufacturing is a major industry in Indiana. The chart below illustrates the breakdown of manufacturing earnings by NAICS code for 2003. Motor Vehicle Manufacturing is the largest sector, accounting for over 30 percent of manufacturing earnings in the state.

![Chart: Percent of Total Manufacturing Earnings in Indiana, 2003]

Unemployment

The 2004 unemployment rate for Indiana was 5.2 percent, compared to 5.5 percent for the U.S. Within Indiana, the unemployment rate ranged from 3.1 percent (Hamilton County) to 8.3 percent (Grant County).

![Map: Unemployment Rate, 2004]
Agriculture

Agriculture is an important industry in many parts of the state. Although no counties are classified by the Economic Research Service as farming dependent, several counties have sizeable sales of agricultural products, as shown in the map below.

Average farm size in Indiana is 250 acres, and just under 14 percent of the farms are 500 acres or larger. The map below shows the percent of farms in each county that are larger than 500 acres.
Entrepreneurship

The CFED Development Report Card rates each state on its entrepreneurial energy, “evaluating the extent to which new firms are generated and whether they are contributing to employment growth.” The rating of each state is shown in the map below. Indiana receives a grade of “C” on this indicator.

One county level indicator for entrepreneurship is the percent of private nonfarm employment that are self employed. Data from the Census Bureau estimates the number of non-employer establishments, which is a proxy for self employed. The map below illustrates this indicator - in 13 counties the self employed account for over 20 percent of private nonfarm employment.
Data Sources and References

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