

# Indiana Population Change in the 1990s:

## A Narrative View

### Hoosier State's Population Continues to Grow

Indiana's population continues to grow. Population estimates released by the U.S. Census Bureau in December 1998 indicate that the state's population grew to almost 5.9 million on July 1, 1998, up from 5.5 million counted during the most recent census on April 1, 1990. (See **Figure 1**)

The net increase of 355,000 persons between 1990 and 1998 is attributed to natural increase (more births than deaths) and to positive net migration (more people moving into the state than moving out of the state) since 1990. About 75% (265,000 persons) of the net population growth was a result of natural increase, with the remaining 25% (90,000 persons) due to positive net migration.

The estimates indicate the state's population has grown much more rapidly in the most recent eight years than in the previous two decades. The state's growth rate since the 1990 census was 6.4%. The state grew by 5.7% (295,000 persons) between 1970 and 1980, and only by 1.0% (54,000 persons) between 1980 and 1990. Indiana experienced net out-migration during the 1980s, when the number of people moving out of the state exceeded the number moving into the state. The state's slight growth in the '80s was due to natural increase.

Indiana's population growth has not kept pace with the growth experienced by the nation. The

state's rate of growth of 6.4% since 1990 was lower than the growth rate of 8.7% for the nation during the same period. Indiana remains the 14th most populous state, but its share of the nation's population continues to decline, from 2.56% in 1970, to 2.42% in 1980, to 2.23% in 1990 and to 2.18% in 1998.

Indiana has been the 29th fastest growing state in the nation since 1990. The fastest growing states are in the southern and western regions of the nation. The Hoosier State's growth rate of 6.4% compares favorably with the growth rates of neighboring states. The Midwest grew by 5.4% since 1990. Indiana grew faster than Michigan (5.6%), Illinois (5.4%) and Ohio (3.3%), with a slightly lower rate of growth than Kentucky (6.8%). (See **Figure 2**)

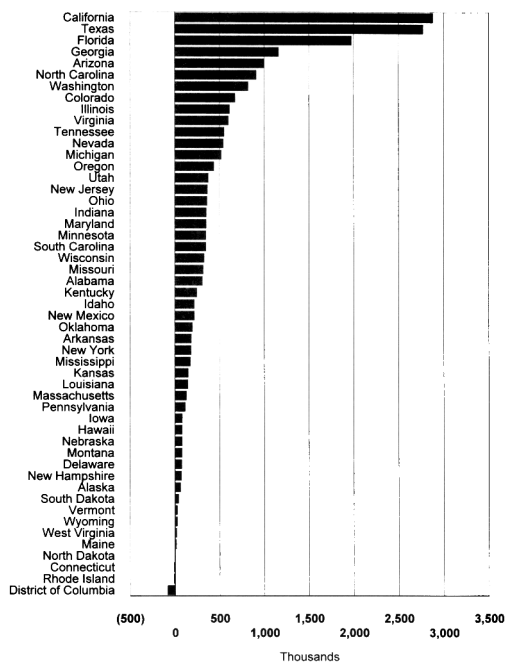
The annual rate of population growth in the state appears to have peaked between 1991 and 1993, with annual growth rates of 0.8% and 0.9%. In the most recent two-year period, annual growth rates slowed to 0.6%.

Indiana's population is projected to continue growing, but with decreasing rates of growth. It is projected that the state of Washington, currently ranked 15th in population, will pass Indiana by the year 2005. Washington has been the 7th fastest growing state in the nation since 1990.

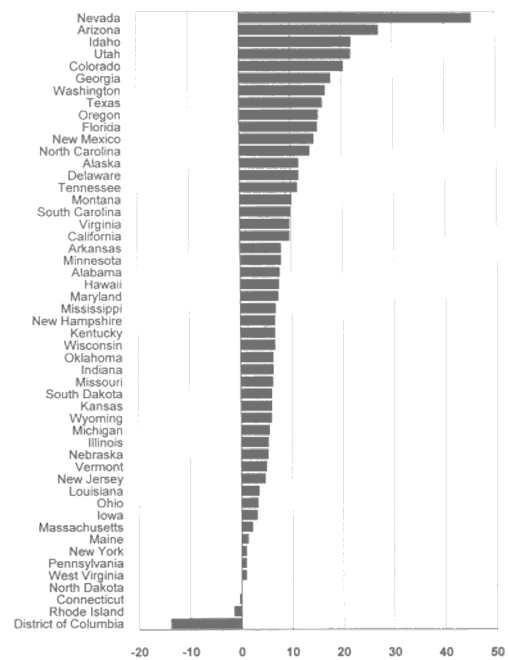
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**Figure 1**  
Actual Population Change (by state), 1990-1998



**Figure 2**  
Percent of Population Change (by state), 1990-1998



### Migration Into and Out of the Hoosier State

The largest number of people moving into Indiana has been from neighboring states, led by Illinois. It is estimated that 42% of the people moving into Indiana between 1996 and 1997 were from Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky, or Michigan. People also moved into Indiana in significant numbers from Florida, California, Texas and from foreign countries.

The largest numbers of Hoosiers moving to other states between 1996 and 1997 tended to move to neighboring states or to states in the South or West: Illinois, Florida, Ohio, Kentucky, Michigan, Texas, Tennessee and California.

Another way to view the migration picture between Indiana and other states is to look at the number of net migrants between pairs of states. Indiana's estimated in-migration of 119,000 and out-migration of 116,000 between 1996 and 1997 resulted in a net migration figure of 3,000. This means that 3,000 more people moved into the state than out of the state during this period. The largest numbers of in-migrants were from Illinois, California, foreign countries, Ohio, New York and Pennsylvania. States that accounted for the largest number of net out-migrants from Indiana were Florida, Arizona, Tennessee, Georgia, Texas, North Carolina and South Carolina.

### Rapid Population Growth in Suburban Counties

The most recent county population estimates for July 1, 1997 indicated that 76 of 92 Hoosier counties grew by 1% or more since 1990, with 49 of these

counties growing faster than the state. Eleven counties showed little population change (less than 1%) and five Indiana counties experienced population decline exceeding 1% since the 1990 census.

Hamilton has been the fastest growing county in the state, adding 46,000 persons since the 1990 census, for a growth rate of 42.1%. Hamilton county's growth rate was double the growth rate of the 2nd fastest growing county, Hendricks. Hamilton was the fastest growing county in the five state region consisting of Indiana and neighboring states Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and Kentucky.

The fastest growing counties in the state since 1990 were primarily suburban counties. In addition to Hamilton and Hendricks, Johnson, Dearborn, Owen, Hancock, Morgan, Jasper and Jennings all experienced growth rates of 15% or higher between 1990 and 1997.

Counties that experienced population decline since 1990 were Miami, Delaware, Grant, Vigo and Wabash. Estimates indicate that the population of Miami County has been growing since 1995, due to redevelopment efforts there after the restructuring of Grissom Air Force Base resulted in significant population decline earlier in the decade.

The ten largest Hoosier counties in terms of population are Marion, Lake, Allen, St. Joseph, Elkhart, Vanderburgh, Hamilton, Porter, Tippecanoe, and Madison. The smallest Indiana counties are Ohio, Union, Warren, Switzerland and Benton, each with populations less than 10,000.

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## Indiana Farms: Bigger, But Fewer

The average size of Indiana's farms increased from 249 acres in 1992 to 261 acres in 1997, even while the land in farms decreased by 3 percent during the same five year span. (See **Figure 1**) But the number of farms in Indiana decreased between 1992 and 1997 (the years of the latest censuses of agriculture) by 14 percent, from 31,547 farms to 26,993. (See **Table 1** and **Figure 2**) Indiana ranked 1st in the number of ducks, geese, and other poultry sold (10,547,462 were sold in 1997), and was among the top ten states in sales of other agricultural items:

Item	Value	Indiana's Rank
Value of Crops (including nursery)	\$3,246,617,000	9th out of 50 states
Corn for Grain	\$1,515,617,000	5th out of 48 states
Soybeans	\$1,344,904,000	4th out of 40 states
Hogs and Pigs	\$ 843,002,000	6th out of 50 states