

Regional Perspective: Economic Growth Region 11

Economic Growth Region (EGR) 11 is located in the southwesternmost tip of Indiana and is made up of nine counties: Dubois, Gibson, Knox, Perry, Pike, Posey, Spencer, Vanderburgh and Warrick. The approximate 421,400 people in these nine counties made up 6.7 percent of the state's population in 2005, down from 6.8 percent in 2000. So how are those 421,000 plus people distributed within the region? More than 41 percent reside in Vanderburgh County while another 13.4 percent are in Warrick County (see **Figure 1**). Pike County made up the smallest proportion of the region with 12,766 people (3 percent).

As far as change in population over the last five years, Knox County was hit the hardest, with decreases every year except from 2002 to 2003, where it saw a mild increase of 45 people. Over the five-year span, Knox County experienced a decrease in population of more than 800 people (see **Figure 2**). At the other end of the spectrum, Warrick County increased every year by at least 390 residents and had an overall

increase of about 3,780 people. Despite decreases in two thirds of the counties at some point in time over the five years, EGR 11 saw an overall increase of 6,290 people.

Jobs

Manufacturing supplied more jobs than any other industry in the region. Similar to the state was the numeric increase in health care and social services jobs, which added the most at both the regional and state levels from 2001 to 2004. Where the two geographies differed was change in manufacturing jobs. At the regional level, jobs in the manufacturing industry saw an increase of 1.4 percent while Indiana posted losses of 3.9 percent (see **Table 1**).

Regardless of its increase in manufacturing jobs, many manufacturing workers in the region appear to be browsing for openings. According to the Research and Analysis division at Indiana's Department of Workforce Development, the top five categories of people looking for jobs in Region 11 are assemblers (factory

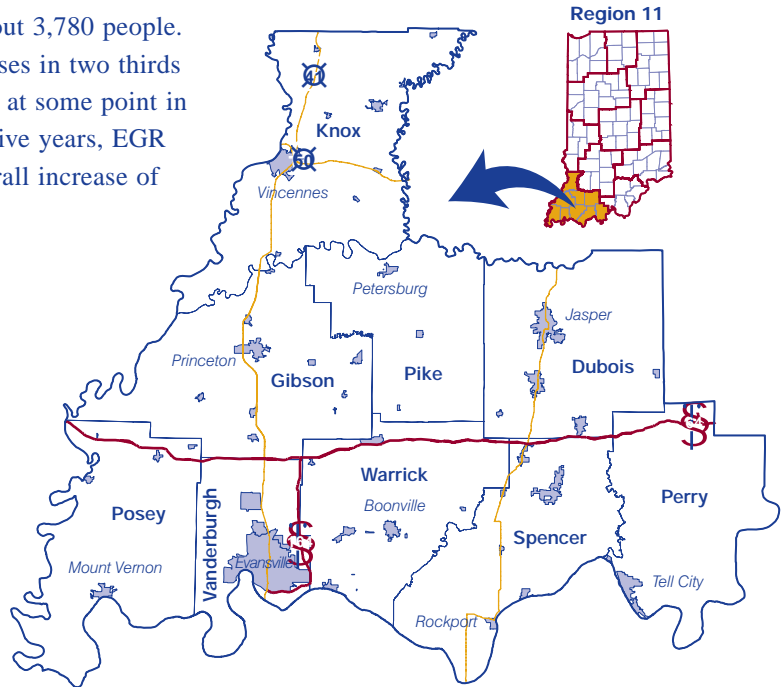
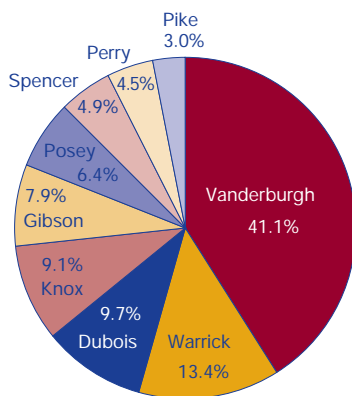
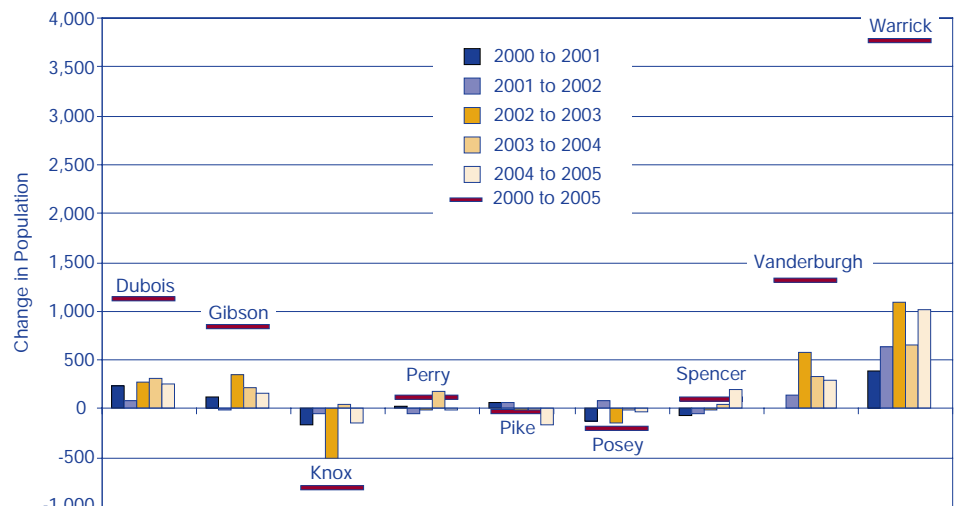


FIGURE 1: EGR 11 POPULATION DISTRIBUTION, 2005



Source: IBRC, using U.S. Census Bureau data

FIGURE 2: CHANGE IN POPULATION IN EGR 11, 2000 TO 2005



Source: IBRC, using U.S. Census Bureau data

TABLE 1: CHANGE IN JOBS IN EGR 11, 2001:4 TO 2005:4

Industry	EGR 11			Indiana		
	2005:4	Change	Percent Change	2005:4	Change	Percent Change
Total	209,245	3,771	1.8	2,909,311	44,204	1.5
Management of Companies and Enterprises	4,166	961	30.0	26,383	580	2.2
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	986	225	29.6	11,676	179	1.6
Administrative, Support and Waste Management	8,894	1,532	20.8	162,971	26,231	19.2
Utilities	2,012	191	10.5	16,392	78	0.5
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	2,765	255	10.2	42,075	-938	-2.2
Transportation and Warehousing	9,787	739	8.2	130,762	2,254	1.8
Health Care and Social Services	27,175	2,006	8.0	349,731	26,716	8.3
Wholesale Trade	8,515	453	5.6	122,561	963	0.8
Public Administration	7,560	259	3.5	125,665	1,340	1.1
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	5,484	149	2.8	91,747	5,781	6.7
Accommodation and Food Services	15,881	389	2.5	234,925	10,247	4.6
Manufacturing	45,190	603	1.4	572,089	-23,038	-3.9
Construction	12,116	121	1.0	152,130	1,654	1.1
Educational Services	13,497	-21	-0.2	253,715	15,088	6.3
Retail Trade	23,634	-1,360	-5.4	341,224	-13,494	-3.8
Information	3,608	-228	-5.9	46,761	-3,811	-7.5
Other Services (Except Public Administration)	6,257	-430	-6.4	82,897	-1,875	-2.2
Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	2,308	-182	-7.3	37,808	537	1.4
Finance and Insurance	4,844	-1,578	-24.6	100,449	-4,138	-4.0
Mining	1,355	-650	-32.4	6,472	-420	-6.1

Source: IBRC, using Bureau of Labor Statistics data

work), production laborers, all other machine operators, all other hand workers, and forklift/industrial truck operators (as of September 10, 2006). **Table 2** shows the top 20 jobs being sought out by workers in the area.

Two industries in the region experienced double-digit percent losses: the mining industry decreased jobs by 32.4 percent, and the finance and insurance industry saw a 24.6 percent decline. The good news for EGR 11 is that while two industries lost a significant amount of jobs, there were five industries with double-digit percent increases that more than compensated for those losses. Overall, there were just over 10,000 establishments supplying 209,245 jobs in EGR 11 in the fourth quarter of 2005, an increase in jobs of 1.8 percent from the same time in 2001. This was a faster pace than the state overall, which saw a 1.5 percent increase over that time span.

Wages

The average weekly wage in Indiana for the fourth quarter of 2005 across all industry sectors was \$705. EGR 11 paid \$687 per week, a difference of \$18. However, Region 11 is improving, albeit slowly, from a difference in 2001 of \$19. In fact, eight of the 20 major industry sectors shown in **Figure 3** increased wages by more than the state, helping to narrow the gap in wage differences.

In Indiana, all major industry sectors increased wages since 2001. At the regional level, only finance and insurance saw a decrease in wages (down \$21 from its 2001 level). Management of companies and enterprises increased wages the most at both the regional and state levels, by \$217 and \$223, respectively. After these large increases, the management of companies and enterprises industry

TABLE 2: TOP 20 JOBS BEING SOUGHT IN EGR 11

Job Title	Number of Applicants
Assemblers (Factory Work)	4,799
Production Laborers	3,991
All Other Machine Operators	2,446
All Other Hand Workers	2,226
Forklift/Industrial Truck Operators	2,144
Hand Packers and Packagers	1,883
General Office Clerks	1,685
Plastic Molding and Casting Machine Operators	1,641
Production Inspectors, Testers, Graders	1,548
Cashiers, General	1,544
All Other Metal and Plastic Machine Operators	1,490
Receptionists/Information Clerks	1,416
Production Helpers	1,350
Shipping and Receiving Clerks	1,326
Stock Clerks: Stockroom/Warehouse	1,302
File Clerks	1,233
Administrative Assistants	1,168
Secretaries—Other	1,123
All Other Precision Assemblers	1,095
Order Fillers—Wholesale/Retail Sales	1,088

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development

maintained its lead as highest paying industry at the state level, and only mining paid more in EGR 11.

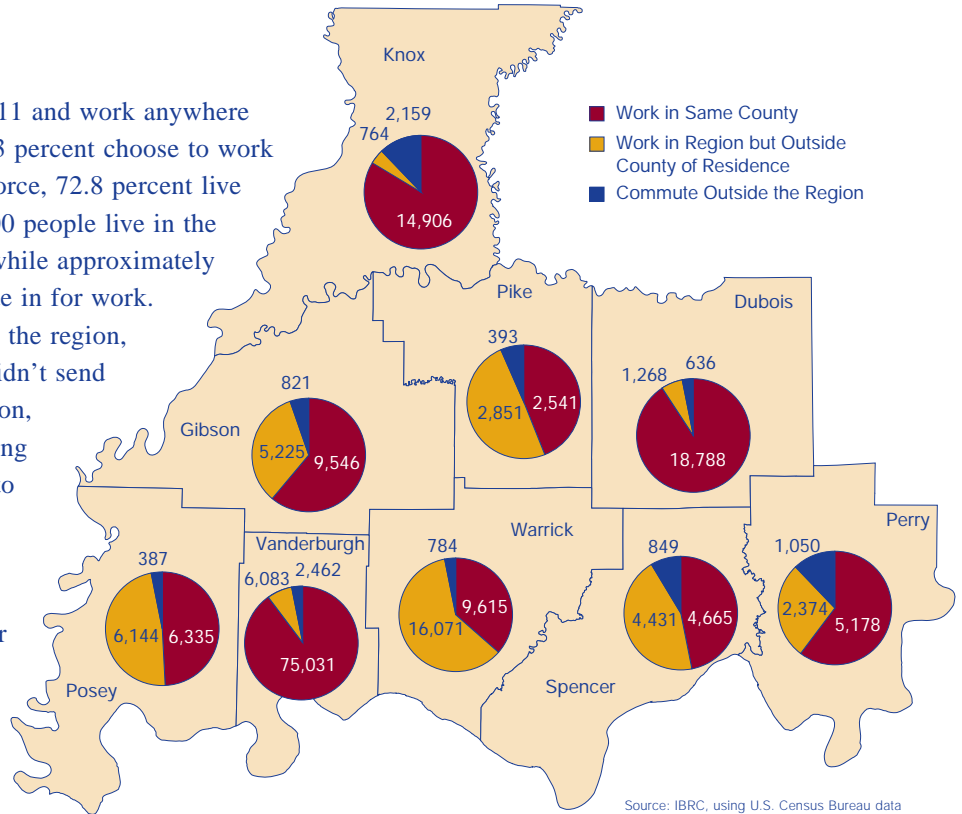
FIGURE 4: EGR 11 COMMUTING PATTERNS, 2000

Commuting

Of the 201,357 people who live in EGR 11 and work anywhere (defined as the regional labor force), 95.3 percent choose to work within the region; of the regional labor force, 72.8 percent live and work in the same county. About 9,500 people live in the region and commute out of it for work, while approximately 6,200 live outside the region but commute in for work.

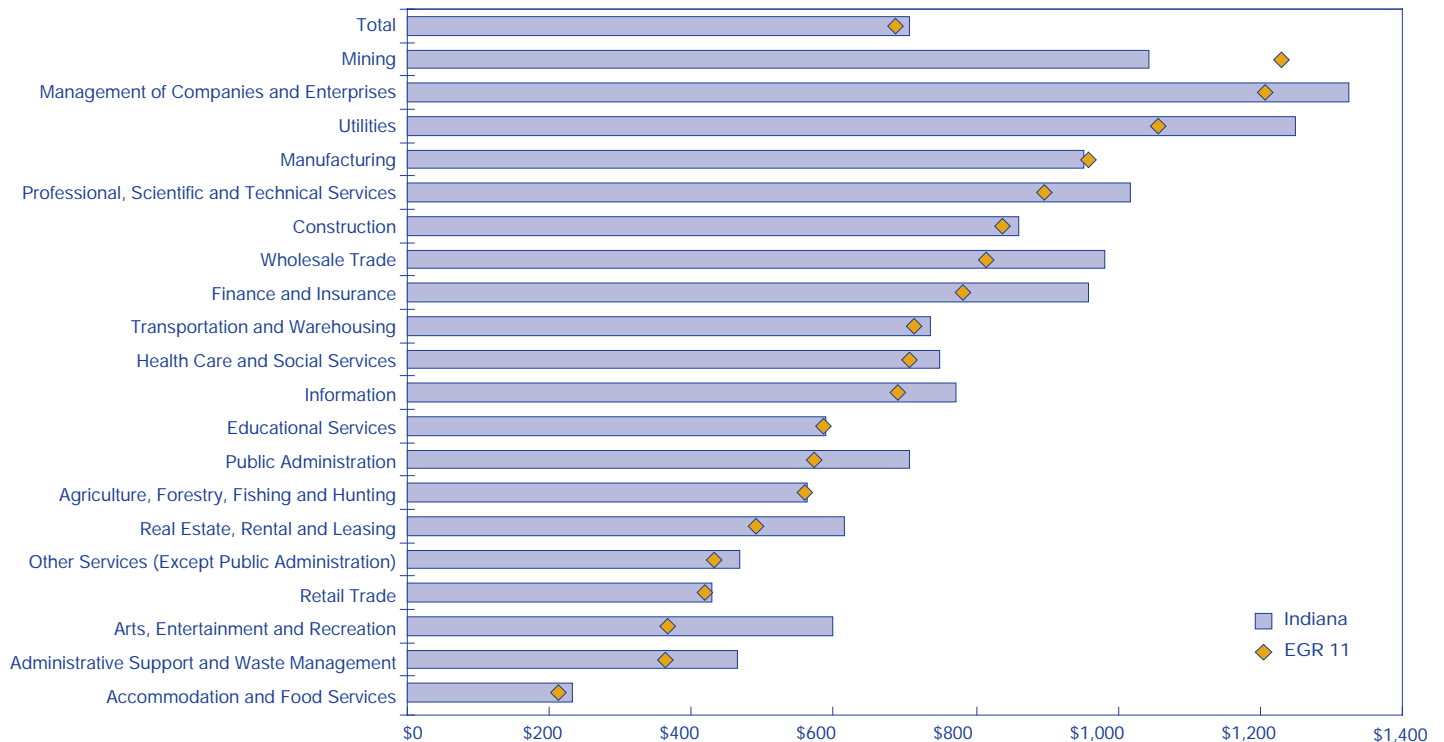
As for those who live and work within the region, Knox County was the only county that didn't send workers to every other county in the region, leaving Spencer out of the mix and sending out the fewest number of workers (764) to fellow EGR 11 counties. Warrick County was the most generous with its workers, sending out 16,071 workers to the other eight counties and keeping only 9,615 for itself.

—Molly Manns, Research Associate, Indiana Business Research Center, Kelley School of Business, Indiana University



Source: IBRC, using U.S. Census Bureau data

FIGURE 3: AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGES IN EGR 11 AND INDIANA, 2005:4



Source: IBRC, using Bureau of Labor Statistics data