Indiana Population Change in the 1990s:

A Graphic View

Figure 1

During the 1990s, Indiana's population increased by 355,000 persons

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In 1990, Indiana ranked 14th among the 50 states in total population, with Missouri 15th and 427,000 persons behind us. Our addition of 355,000 persons was the 18th highest increase for the period. Thus, in 1998, our 14th-ranked position is less secure. Washington State is 15th and our lead is only 210,000 persons.

Figure 2

Percent Change in Population (by state), 1990-1998
Between 1990 and 1998, Indiana's population grew by 6.4% (29th in the nation). Although greater than many of our neighboring states, this increase lagged behind the 8.7% national rate of growth.
Only in 1993 did Indiana’s population growth exceed 50,000 persons. There is also a declining trend in the additions to the state’s population each year. Had Indiana grown each year at the national rate, there would have been no years with increases less than 50,000.

As a result of this slower growth path, Indiana’s share of the U.S. population has fallen from 2.23% in 1990 to 2.18% in 1998.

Each year during this decade, Indiana’s population growth rate has been lower than that of the nation as a whole.

Although both the state and the nation are experiencing declining growth rates, the difference between Indiana and the U.S. is increasing.
Indiana had 2.11% of the nation’s births compared with 2.31% of the deaths in the U.S. Together that gave the Hoosier State 1.85% of the nation’s natural increase.

Indiana had just 0.37% of the net international migration of the U.S. and 0.52% of the net domestic migration.

Indiana’s growth in population was largely a result of natural increase (the excess of births over deaths). Net migration (the difference between the number of persons moving into the state and the number leaving) accounted for 28% of the change from 1990 to 1998.

There were 240,000 fewer persons in Indiana in 1998 than would have been the case if the state had grown at the national rate. If a 93rd county had been formed with this population, it would have ranked 11th in the state.

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Figure 9

Net domestic in-migration peaked in 1993 and has been in decline since 1996. In 1998, the number became negative. For the first time in many years, the number of persons leaving Indiana for other states was higher than the in-flow from those states.

Throughout the 1990s, net international migration to Indiana has been increasing.

Figure 10

Components of Natural Increase in Indiana’s Population, 1990-1998
While Indiana births declined by 2,100 between 1991 and 1998, deaths increased by 3,600. The effect was a decline of 5,700 in the state’s annual natural increase.

Figure 11

National Migration Status, 1990-1998
Indiana was one of 28 states where domestic in-migration was the dominant contributor to growth from migration. In three states (Texas, Nebraska, and Virginia) the net in-flow of international migrants exceeded net domestic in-migration.

California and other large states (including New York, Michigan, Illinois, and Ohio) all saw net domestic out-migration exceed their net in-flow of international migrants. Iowa was among the states where in-migration was positive because the in-flow of international migrants exceeded the net domestic out-migration.

Components of Migration in Indiana’s Population, 1990-1998
Net domestic in-migration peaked in 1993 and has been in decline since 1996. In 1998, the number became negative. For the first time in many years, the number of persons leaving Indiana for other states was higher than the in-flow from those states. Throughout the 1990s, net international migration to Indiana has been increasing.
In summary, the change in Indiana’s population has been slowing in the last few years, both in natural increase and net migration.

Note: The components of change are calculated from the Census date (April 1990) while the total population numbers reported here are based on the estimated population figures for July of each year. Between April and July of 1990, Indiana’s population is estimated to have grown by 11,000 people.