

# Hamilton and Other Suburban Counties Lead the State in Population Growth

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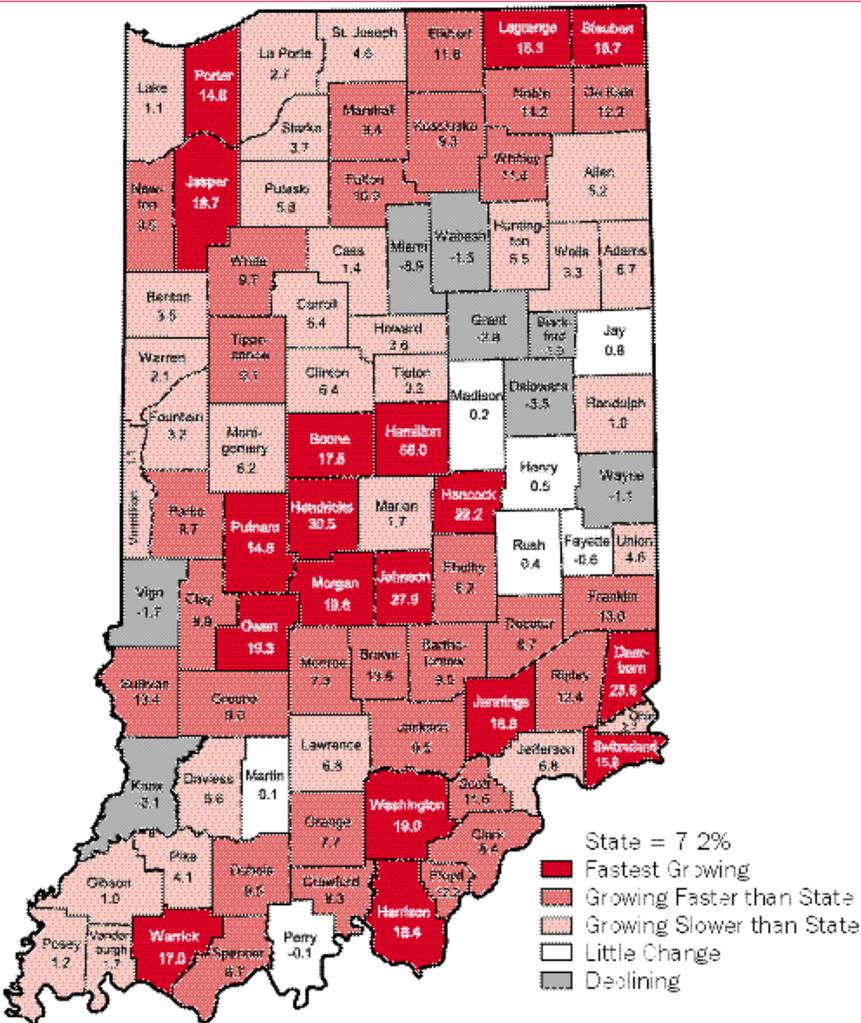
Most Indiana counties continue to experience population growth, according to population estimates released by the U.S. Bureau of the Census in March 2000. The estimates for July 1, 1999 indicate that 47 of 92 Hoosier counties have grown faster than the state average of 7.2 percent since the most recent census in 1990. Thirty counties have grown in population since 1990, but more slowly than the state as a whole. Seven Hoosier counties have seen little net population change since the census (less than 1%), and 8 counties experienced population decline of 1 percent or more between 1990 and 1999 (see Figure 1).

### The Fastest Growing Counties

The fastest growing Hoosier county continues to be Hamilton, home of rapidly growing Fishers, Noblesville and Carmel (see Figure 2). Hamilton County has added more than 63,000 persons since the 1990 census, for a growth rate of 58 percent between 1990 and 1999. Hamilton County has led the state in population growth rates for each year in the decade, with annual growth rates of about 5 percent each year.

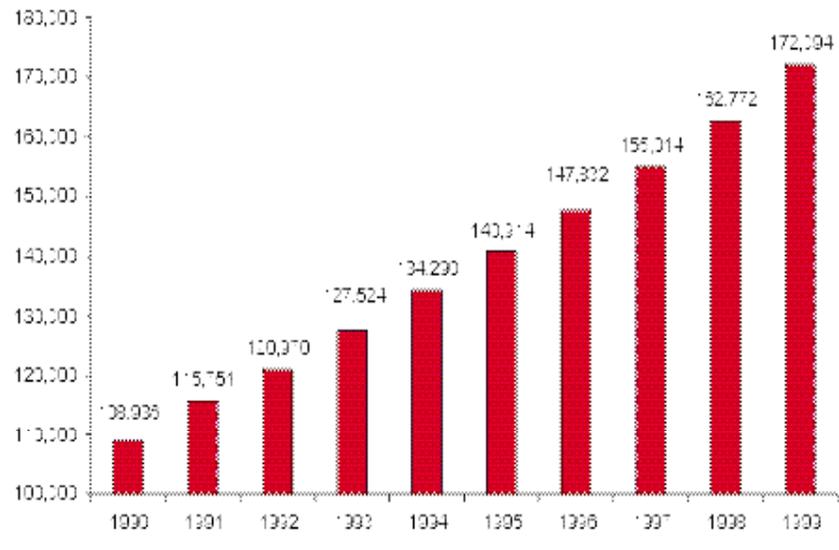
Hamilton has been the fastest growing county in the region consisting of Indiana and its neighboring states of Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and Kentucky and the 27<sup>th</sup> fastest growing county in the nation. The fastest growing counties in the nation since the 1990 census are in Colorado and Georgia. Other Hoosier counties experiencing high rates of growth include Hendricks (30.5%), Johnson (27.9%), Dearborn (23.6%), and Hancock (22.2%). These high growth rates are consistent with growth patterns experienced by the nation as a whole, where much of the rapid population growth is occurring in suburban areas. Indiana counties with growth rates exceeding 15 percent are Morgan, Owen, Washington, Jennings, Jasper, Harrison, Boone, Warrick, Switzerland, Steuben and Lagrange. Hamilton County also led the state in population growth in the most recent year from 1998 to 1999, with a growth rate of 5.7 percent, compared with 0.6 percent for the state. The increase of 9,300 persons between 1998 and 1999 represented Hamilton County's largest annual increase in population. Other counties experiencing growth of 2 percent or more between 1998 and 1999 are Hendricks, Johnson, Morgan, Boone, Harrison and Hancock.

**Figure 1**  
 Indiana Net Population Change, 1990-1999



**Figure 2**  
**Hamilton County Annual**  
**Population Estimates, 1990-1999**

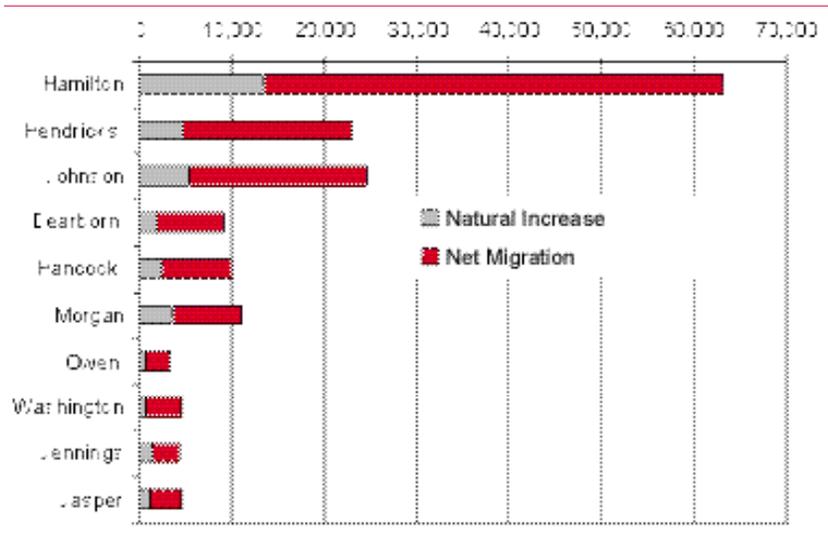
*“Hamilton is the 27<sup>th</sup> fastest growing county in the nation...”*



**Figure 3**  
**Components of Population**  
**Growth,**  
**1990-1999**

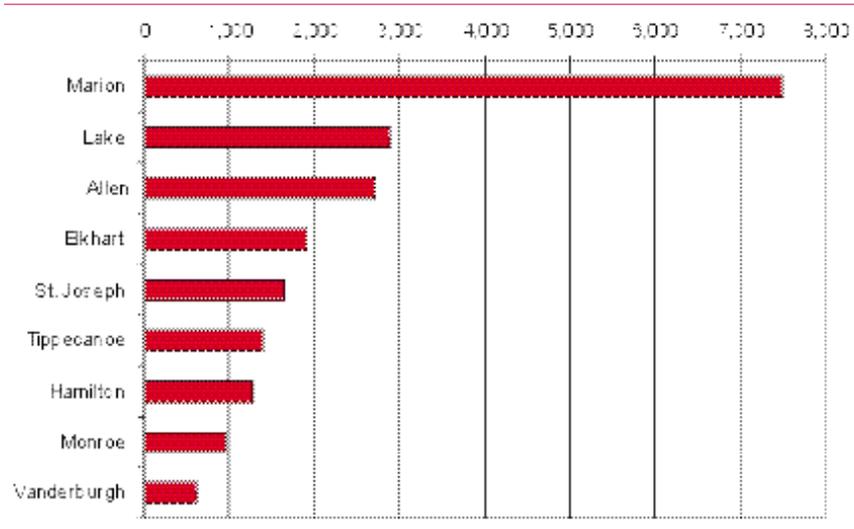
**Ten Fastest Growing**  
**Hoosier Counties**

*“Domestic migration is driving growth in these counties...”*



**Figure 4**  
**Net International Migration**  
**Leaders, 1990-1999**

*“International migration has steadily grown in Indiana since 1990...”*



**Most and Least Populous Counties in the State**

The ten largest Hoosier counties are Marion, Lake, Allen, St. Joseph, Elkhart, Hamilton, Vanderburgh, Porter, Tippecanoe and Madison (see **Table 1** and **Figure 5**). Hamilton passed Vanderburgh in the most recent year to become the 6<sup>th</sup> most populous county in the state. The smallest Indiana counties are Ohio, Union, Warren, Switzerland and Benton, each with population under 10,000.

**Marion County**

Marion population has seen an overall increase of 13,800 persons since 1990, but has experienced population decline of 4,800 persons since 1996. Earlier in the decade, Marion County's natural increase (more births than deaths) exceeded its out-migration, resulting in population growth. However, since 1996, the county's out-migration has exceeded its natural increase, resulting in population loss. The county has experienced growing domestic out-migration during

the decade, with increasing numbers of people moving to other states, but international migration from other countries to Marion County has increased steadily throughout the decade.

**Population Decline**

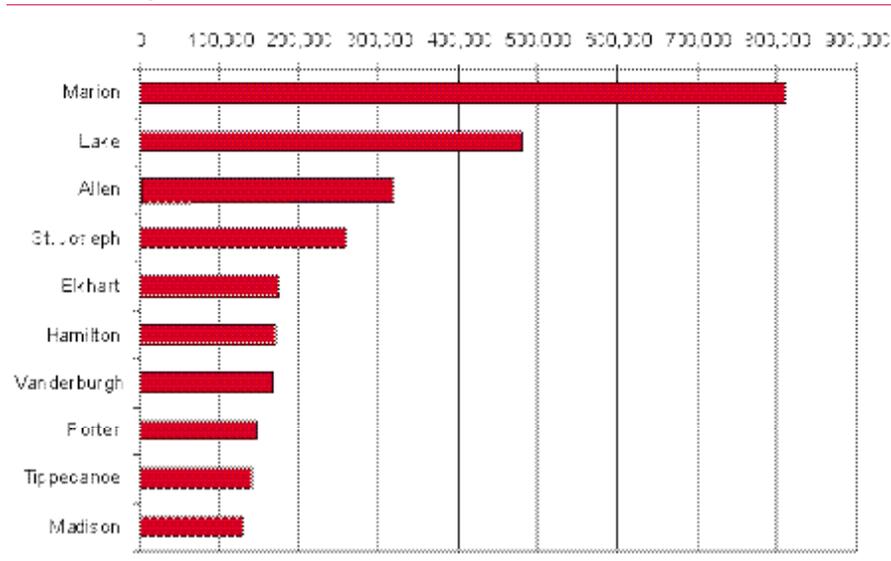
Miami County has lost population since the 1990 census, due to the restructuring of Grissom Air Force Base in the early 1990s. Miami County's population is down by 8.9 percent since the census, but the county has seen population increases in each of the most recent four years, with population growth of over 1,200 persons since 1995.

Other counties experiencing population decline since 1990 are Delaware, down by 4,200 persons or 3.5 percent; Grant, down by 2,100 persons or 2.8 percent; Vigo, down by 1,800 persons or 1.7 percent and Knox, down by 800 persons or 2.1 percent. Counties showing smaller rates of decline include Wabash, Wayne and Blackford.

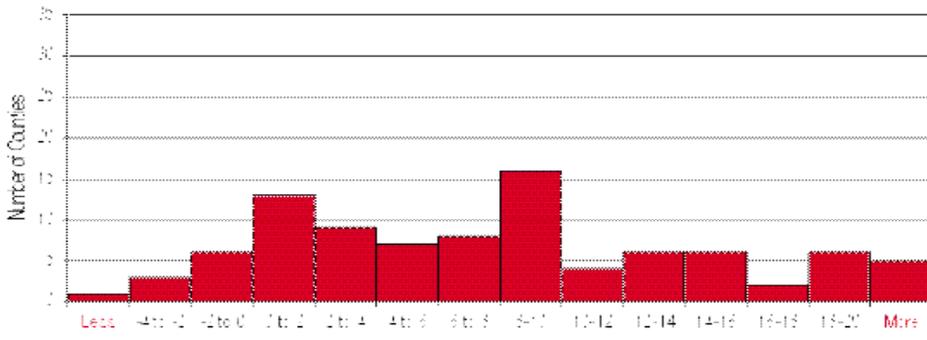
**Table 1**  
**Shifting Ranks: Top Ten Counties Over Time**

Counties	1922	1930	1980	1972	1950	1952	1940	1930	1920	1912	1910
Allen	2	3	3	2	4	6	6	6	6	2	2
Delaware	12	12	3	7	7	8	8	9	9	3	8
Elkhart	3	3	7	8	9	9	9	8	8	1	9
Hamilton	3	12	15	21	24	21	15	22	23	21	22
Lake	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	5	13
La Porte	14	13	12	11	12	13	13	13	11	1	12
Madison	13	7	3	6	3	7	7	7	7	7	4
Marion	1	1	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	1	.
Porter	3	3	10	12	15	20	20	41	42	51	15
St. Joseph	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	4	4	8
Tippecanoe	3	3	3	13	1	11	13	13	15	13	11
Vanderburgh	1	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Vigo	15	14	11	9	9	8	8	8	5	3	5
Wayne	22	22	19	18	12	12	11	11	12	12	12

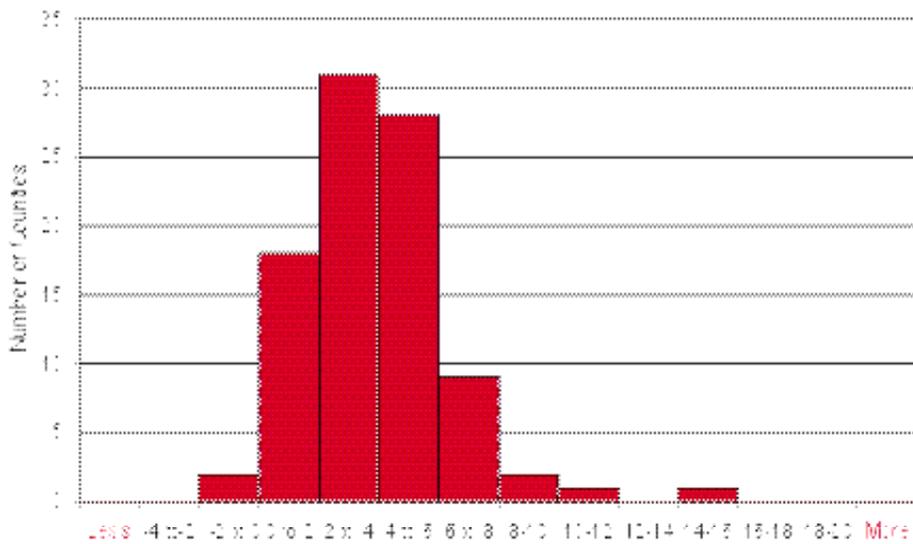
**Figure 5**  
**Ten Most Populous Indiana Counties in 1999**



**Figure 6**  
**Population Estimates for Indiana Counties (Percent Change 1990-1999)**



**Figure 7**  
**What If-Scenario for “No Migration” Population Estimates (Indiana Counties Percent Change 1990-1999)**



**What if?**

**Figure 6** is a histogram showing the number of counties that experienced population growth rates from 1990 to 1999 in various ranges. The chart shows somewhat of a concentration of counties experiencing growth rates between 0 and 10 percent (53 counties). Twenty-nine counties saw growth exceeding 10 percent and 10 counties experienced population decline.

What if no one had moved into or out of Indiana counties from 1990 to 1999? To illustrate population change due only to natural increase (births minus deaths), we applied average annual birth and death rates to 1990 population counts and produced a fictitious set of “no migration” population estimates for 1999. **Figure 7** shows the resulting distribution of counties in the same growth rate ranges as above.

In **Figure 7**, the concentration of counties experiencing growth rates between 0 and 10 percent is much more pronounced (88 of 92 counties). In this scenario, only 2 counties saw growth exceeding 10 percent and only 2 counties experienced population decline. Without net migration, the variability of population growth rates is relatively small.

Natural increase accounted for almost three-fourths of the population change experienced by the state between 1990 and 1999, with only the remaining one-fourth due to net migration. However, even though the volume of net migration may be small compared with natural increase, population estimates are strongly affected by the estimated net migration component.

**Background on production...**

It is important to note that these population figures are estimates produced using a demographic model and are not the result of an attempt to directly count people, as is done in a census. This set of estimates was produced by the U.S. Bureau of the Census using a demographic technique called the Tax Return Method. Estimates are produced annually and when estimates for the next year are released, estimates for previous years are corrected and/or revised to reflect more up-to-date information that may be available.