

Educational Attainment and Our Neighboring States

Carol O. Rogers

Associate Director and IBR
Editor, Indiana Business
Research Center,
Kelley School of Business,
Indiana University

Between the 1990 and 2000 censuses, Indiana and its neighboring states showed similar declines among adults with less than a high school education and increases in those with at least a high school diploma or some college (see **Table 1**). Ohio experienced the most significant decline in adults with less than a ninth grade education, followed by Michigan, Indiana, and Kentucky. Between 1990 and 2000, Kentucky experienced the smallest decline in adults who went to high school but did not receive a diploma. During that same ten-year span, Indiana experienced the largest percentage increase in adults with a bachelor's degree—47.9 percent—among its neighbors and compared to the U.S. (see **Figure 1**).

At the same time, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio have the lowest proportion of adults with less than a ninth grade education when compared to the United States (7.5 percent) and Kentucky (12 percent) (see **Table 2**).

Figure 1
Percent Change in Adults with
a Bachelor's Degree, 1990-2000

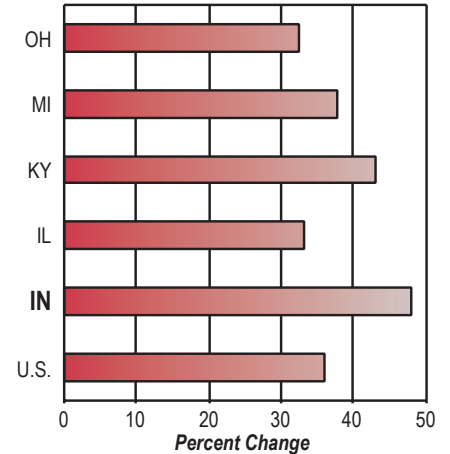


Table 1
Ten Year Changes in Educational Attainment—Indiana and Its Neighbors

Percent Change 1990 to 2000	U.S.	IN	IL	KY	MI	OH
Less than 9th grade	-16.6	-30.6	-20.4	-30.1	-34.0	-39.3
9th to 12th, no diploma	-3.9	-11.5	-10.4	-2.0	-15.4	-18.2
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	9.5	8.6	1.1	19.9	6.5	6.3
Some college, no degree	28.8	32.9	21.6	38.4	25.6	24.8
Associate degree	17.6	22.1	14.5	36.9	14.1	19.1
Bachelor's degree	35.9	47.9	33.1	43.2	37.7	32.4
Graduate or professional degree	40.7	26.5	39.6	41.6	37.7	34.3
Total Population Age 25 and older	14.7	11.6	9.3	13.4	9.8	7.0

Table 2
Type of Educational Attainment—Indiana and Its Neighbors

Percent Distribution—2000	U.S.	IN	IL	KY	MI	OH
Less than 9th grade	7.55	5.31	7.50	11.69	4.66	4.48
9th to 12th, no diploma	12.05	12.56	11.07	14.20	11.93	12.55
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	28.63	37.19	27.74	33.57	31.34	36.09
Some college, no degree	21.05	19.75	21.58	18.52	23.33	19.86
Associate degree	6.32	5.79	6.05	4.89	6.98	5.93
Bachelor's degree	15.54	12.21	16.52	10.26	13.70	13.71
Graduate or professional degree	8.86	7.20	9.54	6.88	8.07	7.38
Total Population Age 25 and older	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00