

# Family Income, Earners, and Occupations: An American Community Survey Snapshot of Indiana

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Stop the presses. With the release of the Census Bureau's 2004 American Community Survey (ACS) data, we had to make space to publish some of the key data relating to families, income, and work.

Median family income rose to \$52,627 in 2004, ranking Indiana 26th among the states. This figure was an increase over the \$50,889 in 2002 and the \$51,338 in 2003, but Indiana's rank on this measure is dropping: 2002: 23rd; 2003: 25th; 2004: 26th. How did Indiana's rank slip even as its median increased? Other states' income increased at a faster pace.

According to the survey, one in six Indiana families (or 272,606 families) have incomes of less than \$25,000 a year (see **Table 1**). These families earn less than half of the 2004 state median family income (\$52,627). And of the 272,000 families, 26 percent earn less than \$10,000 a year (73,418 families).

More survey findings:

- Professional, financial, and management occupations pay the best in Indiana (see **Table 2**).
- Higher education results in higher income (see **Table 3**).
- Most Indiana families who make less than the median income fall in the \$20,000 to \$34,999 range (see **Figure 1**).
- Indiana was among 27 other states to fall behind the U.S. median income for 2004 (see **Figure 2**). ■

**Table 1**  
Family Income by Indiana County, 2004

Family Income in 2004	Allen	Lake	Marion	St. Joseph	Indiana
Total Families	86,186	124,212	215,335	64,074	1,621,912
Less than \$25,000	13,231	24,415	44,395	12,670	272,606
\$25,000 to \$49,999	26,513	41,491	64,869	19,953	491,706
\$50,000 to \$99,999	35,349	43,299	71,680	24,339	628,551
\$100,000 or more	11,093	15,007	34,391	7,112	229,049

Note: Allen, Lake, Marion, and St. Joseph are the Indiana counties that currently have ACS data available  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2004

**Table 2**  
Indiana's Median Earnings by Occupation for Full-Time Workers 16 and Older

Occupation	Median Earnings
Management, Business, and Financial Occupations	\$48,054
Management	\$50,723
Business and Financial Operations	\$43,438
Professional and Related Occupations	\$46,184
Computer and Mathematical	\$60,276
Architecture and Engineering	\$56,344
Life, Physical, and Social Science	\$51,886
Community and Social Services	\$29,610
Legal	\$53,617
Education, Training, and Library	\$41,010
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	\$34,951
Healthcare Practitioner and Technical	\$43,902
Service Occupations	\$22,729
Healthcare Support	\$20,835
Protective Service	\$37,326
Food Preparation and Serving Related	\$17,337
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	\$24,898
Personal Care and Service	\$18,951
Sales and Office Occupations	\$30,019
Construction, Extraction, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	\$36,674
Production, Transportation, and Material Moving Occupations	\$32,354

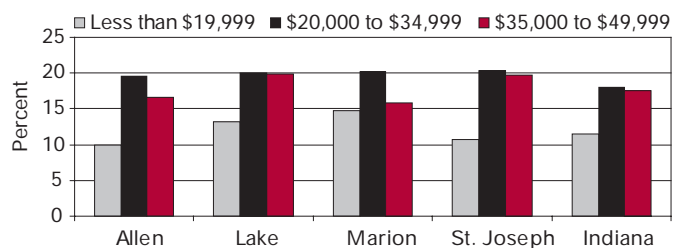
Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2004

**Table 3**  
Indiana's Median Earnings by Educational Attainment (25 and Older)

Educational Level	Total	Male	Female
Less than High School Graduate	\$21,931	\$28,256	\$14,232
High School Graduate (Includes Equivalency)	\$25,331	\$32,009	\$18,952
Some College or Associate's Degree	\$30,238	\$39,019	\$24,142
Bachelor's Degree	\$40,653	\$51,961	\$30,639
Graduate or Professional Degree	\$51,305	\$61,631	\$42,042

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2004

**Figure 1**  
Percent of Indiana Families with Income Below Median, 2004

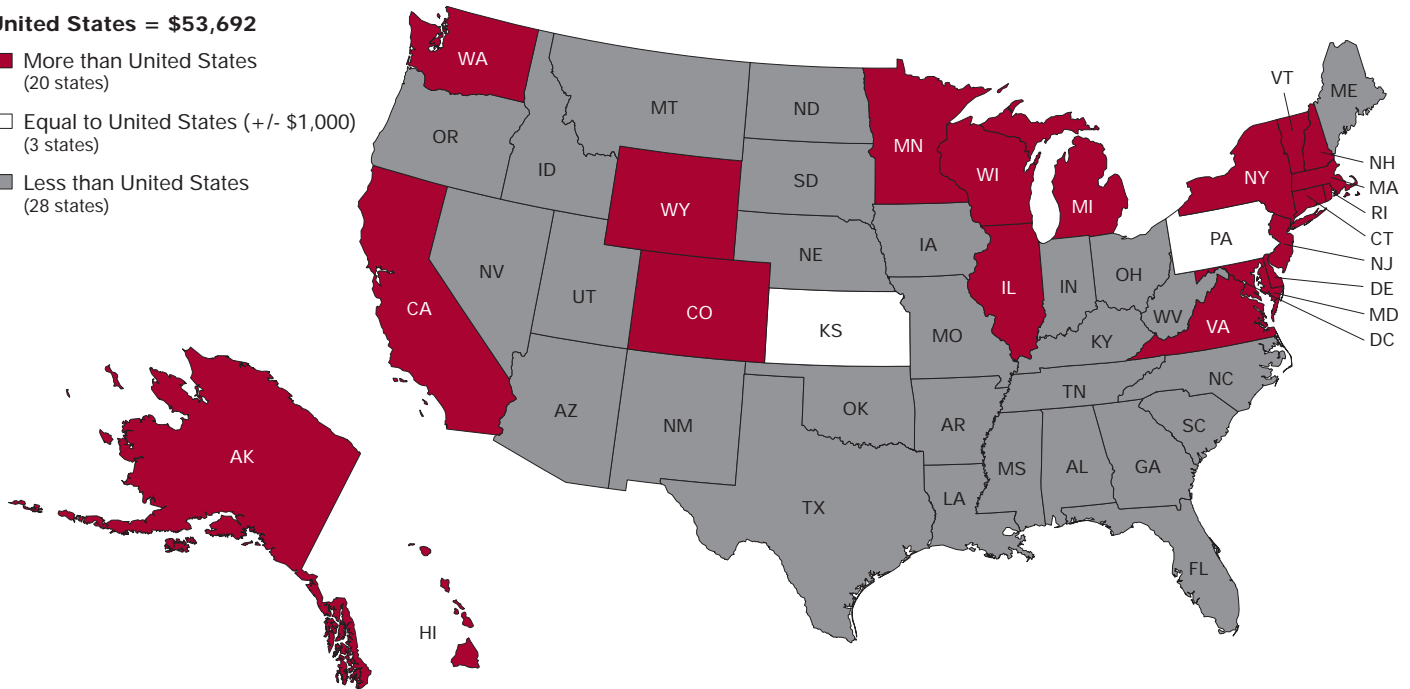


Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2004

**Figure 2**  
**Median Family Income, 2004**

**United States = \$53,692**

- More than United States (20 states)
- Equal to United States (+/- \$1,000) (3 states)
- Less than United States (28 states)



Source: IBRC, using U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey data, 2004



### American Community Survey: Use it or Lose it

The U.S. Census Bureau began full implementation of the American Community Survey this year, with three million households surveyed across the nation during a twelve-month period. While results from the ACS are currently available for states, metro areas, and very large counties and cities, eventually (2009 and beyond) these data will be available to us at the census tract level on an annual basis in the form of three-year averages. The ACS replaces the long-form census traditionally conducted of a sample of households every ten years. However, funding is always an issue, and with the federal budget being stretched in many directions, it is important that those of us who need more current data use the ACS and provide feedback to the Census Bureau—both pros and cons.

In the meantime, we continue to analyze and publish results from the ACS for Indiana. This is the largest survey being conducted by the federal government and its monthly nature, whereby the Census Bureau surveys a proportion of those three million households each month and then averages the twelve months' results, makes it starkly different from using the long-form data from the decennial census. As time goes on, we will better understand the nature of these data and their utility at smaller levels of geography such as smaller cities, townships, and census tracts. We will use these pages to share our results with you. If you

would like further information on the ACS, feel free to contact us at [ibrc@iupui.edu](mailto:ibrc@iupui.edu) and also, please use the ACS website at the Census Bureau (<http://www.census.gov/acs/>)

Type of Data	Population Size of Area	Data for the Previous Year Released in the Summer of:							
		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010+
Annual Estimates	250,000+	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Annual Estimates	65,000+				█	█	█	█	█
3-Year Averages	20,000+						█	█	█
5-Year Averages	Census Tract and Block Group								█