

# INDIANA BUSINESS REVIEW UPDATE



A MONTHLY OVERVIEW  
OF ECONOMIC TRENDS

INDIANA BUSINESS RESEARCH CENTER  
INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
KEELY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

## THE AGE DISTRIBUTION OF INDIANA'S POPULATION

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Imagine that your community could choose its composition of people by age. Would you want to have lots of young people (under 15)? A host of new labor market entrants (15 to 24)? A preponderance of household builders (25 to 44)? The stability of mature workers (45 to 64)? Many folks in transition from work to retirement? Or a heavy representation of older citizens?

We do not have the explicit luxury of choice. But public and private policy can shape our communities and state. According to the latest data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, 52% of Indiana's population was between ages 25 and 64 in 1998. If these are the prime ages of contribution to the economic well being of the community, it means (with slight exaggeration) that we have almost as many people in some form of dependency as we have persons of working age.

Our 92 counties vary greatly. As seen in the table, La Grange County has 28% of its population under age 15 while Monroe County has the lowest percentage at 15.5%. It will be noticed that in every age group the highest or lowest percentages are associated with either Monroe or Hamilton counties. This is understandable because Monroe County is home to Indiana University. Other university counties (Delaware, St. Joseph, Tippecanoe, and Vigo) are also strong in the 15 to 24 age group (see figure 2).

Hamilton County does not have the college students or the young (low earning) workers. Its strength is in the household builder ages of 25 to 44. And, as a relatively new area of development, Hamilton County has low representation of persons over 65.

Figure 1. Indiana's Population by Age, 1998 (Percent Distribution)

	Age Groups					
	0 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 64	65 - 74	75+
Indiana	21.2	14.2	30.5	21.5	6.7	5.8
Maximum Percent	28.2	28.7	35.2	26.3	8.3	8.1
County Name	La Grange	Monroe	Hamilton	Brown	Cass/Martin	Knox/Sullivan
Minimum Percent	15.5	11.2	26.0	16.9	4.5	3.4
County Name	Monroe	Hamilton	Delaware	Monroe	Hamilton	Hamilton

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