

Thriving Communities Thriving State

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Domestic Migration in Indiana Counties

Urban, mid-sized, and rural areas of Indiana have one thing in common—they are all at risk for slow growth or even losses in population over the next 25 years. Though birth and death statistics are, of course, part of population data, Indiana’s primary means of increasing its population is through positive net migration—increasing the number of people who move to Indiana with fewer individuals moving away.

This brief is the first in a four-part series on migration and Indiana. Though both international and domestic migration are important to a state’s population growth, this series begins with a focus on domestic migration. Examining trends among those who move to and within Indiana implies perceptions about personal or professional opportunities within the state.

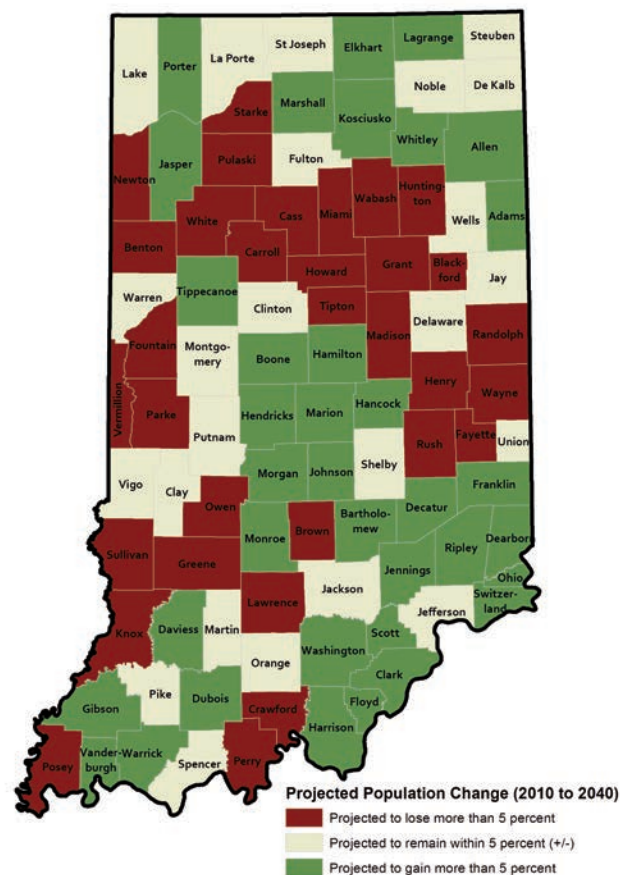
The good news: Indiana’s population grew by 5.1 percent from 2005 to 2014 (US Census Bureau). That percentage increase is higher than the state population growth in Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Iowa. Among neighboring states, only Kentucky has experienced a greater population growth than Indiana over the same period.

The bad news: Indiana’s projected growth is low compared to states in other regions and the United States as a whole. By 2050, the U.S. population is expected to increase by nearly 30 percent overall, but Indiana’s projected population will only increase by 15 percent during this same time period (US Census Bureau; US Census Bureau, *Projections of the Population and Components of Change for the United States: 2015 to 2060*).

Indiana may be outperforming its Midwestern neighbors overall, but these trends in population growth and

migration vary across Indiana communities (see Map 1). Migration trends by community type suggest that population growth in many Indiana places is heavily dependent on migration between communities.

Map 1. Indiana projected population change, by county, 2010 – 2040



Source: STATS Indiana using data from Indiana Business Research Center

Authors

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Thriving Communities, Thriving State

Thriving Communities, Thriving State, a Policy Choices Initiative project, explores state and local strategies and policies that can help communities of all sizes thrive and fulfill the critical roles they play in attracting businesses, new business investment, and workers to Indiana. The project’s purpose is to frame the changing demographic and economic realities in Indiana within a place-based context: urban (counties with at least one first- or second-class community over 50,000 in population), mid-sized/suburban (counties with communities larger than 15,000 in population that are not included in urban), and rural/small town (counties with communities fewer than 15,000 in population). Map 2 shows which counties fall into which category.

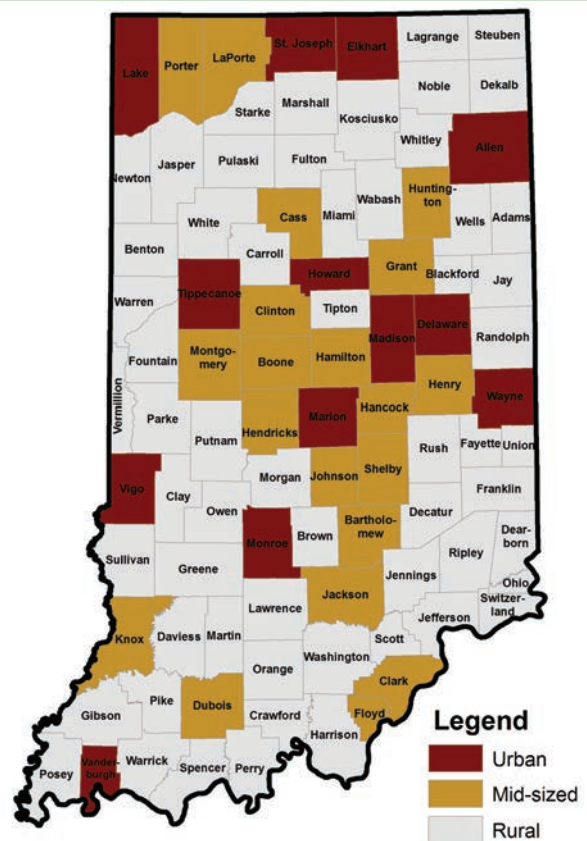
Understanding the interdependencies, similarities, and differences of these community types and their needs and issues can help inform how Indiana improves as a state. As this brief shows, the growth of any one of these areas is linked to the growth of the others. Migration data in this issue brief were obtained from two sources:

1. *2009-2013 American Community Survey (ACS)*: The ACS provides county-level estimates on migration over a five-year period, and asks surveyed individuals if they lived in the same house or apartment one year ago, without referring to a specific date.
2. U.S. Census Bureau: County-level estimates are calculated using data from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), changes in Medicare enrollments, and data from group quarters.

As noted, the data sources develop migration estimates using very different methodologies. Looking at both provides a more complete picture. Data are presented graphically from both sources, but because of the methodological differences, the estimates are not the same for both. Generally, however, they project the same sort of trends.

For this report, communities and counties are terms that are used interchangeably when discussing migration trends. Also, we noticed that the Mid-sized counties adjacent to Indianapolis/Marion County (Boone, Hancock, Hamilton, Hendricks, Johnson, and Shelby) have a large impact on the total Mid-sized group. To present a clearer picture, we broke out those counties and present them separately from the other Mid-sized counties. (Mid-sized counties excluding Indianapolis-adjacent counties are Group A and Mid-sized counties adjacent to Indianapolis are Group B)

Map 2. Indiana counties by community type



Source: IU Public Policy Institute using US Census data



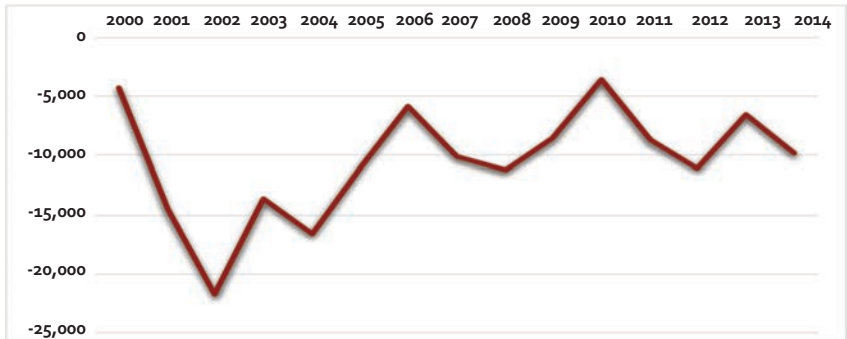
Urban Counties Domestic Migration

Indiana's Urban counties have experienced a net loss in domestic migration over the last 15 years (Figure 1). That is, more individuals moved away from Urban counties in Indiana than moved into them from other Indiana counties or other areas of the United States during this time period. These counties experienced an average loss in net migration of about 10,500 individuals annually. Overall, Urban Indiana saw the greatest influx of new residents from Rural Indiana counties, with a net gain of about 3,000 residents from these areas (Figure 2). Urban counties in Indiana experienced their greatest net losses to other states.

The top states to which individuals migrated from Urban counties in Indiana were Florida (a loss of 2,617 residents), Texas (a loss of 2,503 residents), and Kentucky (a loss of about 1,683 residents) (Map 3). The greatest losses by county were to Manatee County, Florida (part of the Sarasota metro area), Harris County, Texas (Houston), and Henderson County, Kentucky, which shares a state and county border with Evansville, Indiana.

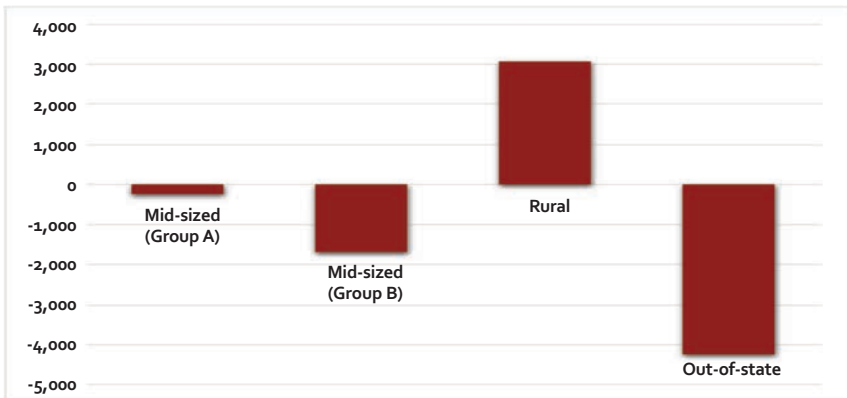
The states providing the greatest numbers of individuals to Urban counties in Indiana included Illinois (a gain of 7,515 residents), Pennsylvania (692), and New Hampshire (672). Most new urban residents from Illinois relocated from Cook County (Chicago) to Lake County, Indiana.

Figure 1: Net domestic migration to and from urban counties, 2000-2014



Source: US Census via STATS Indiana

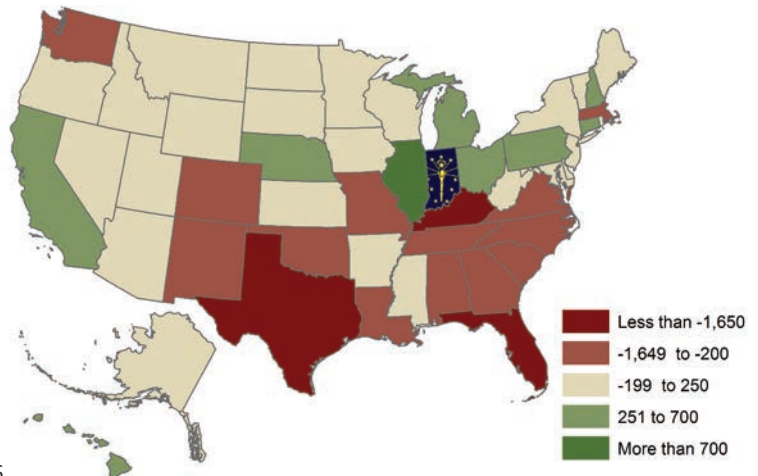
Figure 2. Source of net domestic migration for Indiana Urban counties, 2009 – 2013



Source: ACS

Note: Group A includes all Mid-sized Indiana counties excluding Indianapolis area counties; and Group B includes the six Mid-sized counties adjacent to Indianapolis/Marion County (Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, and Shelby).

Map 3. Domestic migration between Urban counties in Indiana and other states, 2009 – 2013



Source: ACS

Note: Red colors = levels of out-migration (from Indiana); greens = levels of in-migration (to Indiana). Migration between Indiana and states in neutral color was minimal.



Mid-sized Counties Domestic Migration

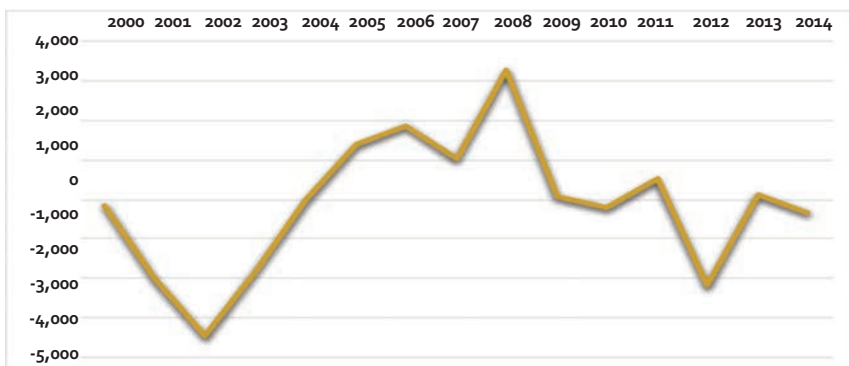
Mid-sized counties, excluding Indianapolis area counties (Group A)

From 2000 to 2014, Group A (Mid-sized, except the six around Indianapolis) counties had the least consistent trend in net domestic migration of the county types. Net domestic migration ranged from a net loss of 3,500 residents in 2002 to a net gain of 3,300 residents in 2008 (Figure 3). These counties averaged a net loss of 130 residents per year.

Mid-sized Indiana counties experienced a net increase in domestic migration, fueled by people moving mostly from Rural Indiana (Figure 4). The most consistent trend was Rural bordering a Mid-sized migration to Group A. For example, Mid-sized counties with the greatest net gain from Rural Indiana included residents moving from Fountain County to Montgomery; Pike to Dubois; and Brown to Bartholomew.

The top states to which individuals migrated from Group A were Florida (net loss of 775 residents), Texas (527), and Missouri (387). The greatest losses by county were to Lake County, Florida (part of the Orlando metro), and Bexar County, Texas (San Antonio) (Map 4). The states providing the greatest numbers of individuals moving to Group A counties included California (gain of 1,040 residents), Illinois (700), and Michigan (586). New residents to Group A communities from California mostly relocated from San Diego County, with the majority moving to Bartholomew County. Most from Illinois moved from Cook County (Chicago), to LaPorte and Porter counties in Indiana. Berrien County, Michigan, which shares a border with Indiana, provided the most new residents to Group A communities, mostly to Porter County.

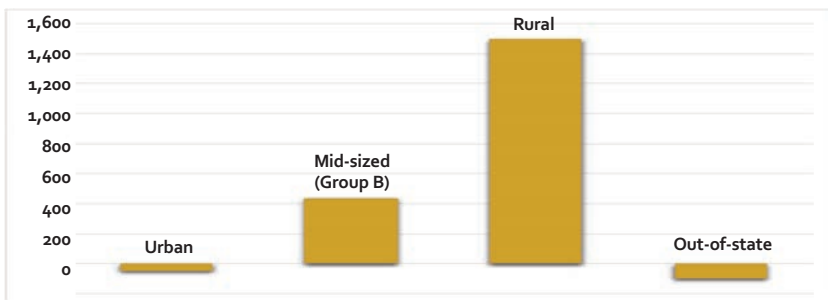
Figure 3. Net domestic migration, Indiana Mid-sized counties (Group A), 2000 – 2014



Source: US Census via STATS Indiana

Note: Group A includes all Mid-sized Indiana counties excluding Indianapolis area counties; and Group B includes the six Mid-sized counties adjacent to Indianapolis/Marion County (Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, and Shelby).

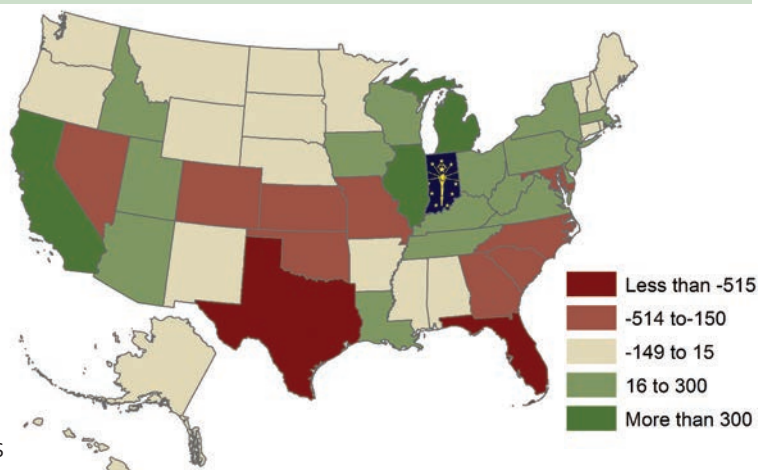
Figure 4. Source of net domestic migration for Indiana Mid-sized counties (Group A), 2009 – 2013



Source: ACS

Note: Group A includes all Mid-sized Indiana counties excluding Indianapolis area counties; and Group B includes the six Mid-sized counties adjacent to Indianapolis/Marion County (Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, and Shelby).

Map 4. Domestic migration between Mid-sized counties (Group A) in Indiana and other states, 2009 – 2013



Source: ACS

Notes:

- Group A includes all Mid-sized Indiana counties excluding Indianapolis area counties; and Group B includes the six Mid-sized counties adjacent to Indianapolis/Marion County (Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, and Shelby).
- Red colors = levels of out-migration (from Indiana); greens = levels of in-migration (to Indiana). Migration between Indiana and states in neutral color was minimal.



Mid-sized counties surrounding Indianapolis (Group B)

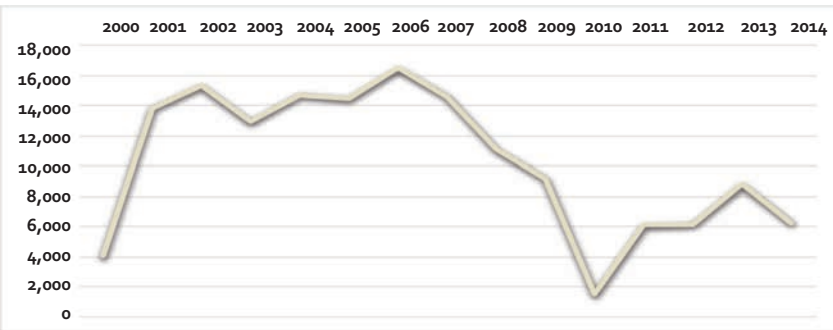
Mid-sized counties adjacent to Indianapolis (Group B – Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, and Shelby counties) experienced positive net domestic migration between 2000 and 2014 (Figure 5). These estimates ranged from a low of 1,516 individuals in 2010, to a high of 16,448 residents in 2006; averaging a net gain of about 10,000 residents per year.

The majority of individuals relocating to Group B counties moved from Urban counties in Indiana (Figure 6). These six Mid-sized counties experienced a net gain of about 1,900 residents from all Urban Indiana counties, including a net gain of 5,000 individuals from Marion County alone. The largest net losses to one county resulted from 1,900 residents relocating to Monroe County. Overall, most net losses came from individuals moving to another state.

The top states to which individuals migrated from Group B were North Carolina (a net loss of 411 residents), Ohio (410), and Georgia (358) (Map 5). The greatest losses by county were to Cumberland County (Fayetteville), North Carolina, and Franklin County (Columbus), Ohio.

The states providing the greatest numbers of individuals relocating to Group B counties included Missouri (a gain of 524 residents), Illinois (424), and New Jersey (262). New residents from Missouri mostly relocated from St. Louis, Missouri, to Hamilton County, Indiana, while those from Illinois mostly moved from Lake County, Illinois (Chicago metro), to Hamilton County, Indiana.

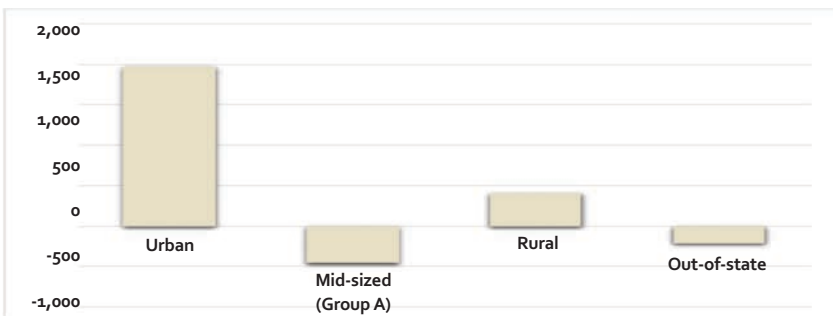
Figure 5. Net domestic migration, Indiana Mid-sized counties (Group B), 2000 – 2014



Source: US Census via STATS Indiana

Note: Group A includes all Mid-sized Indiana counties excluding Indianapolis area counties; and Group B includes the six Mid-sized counties adjacent to Indianapolis/Marion County (Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, and Shelby).

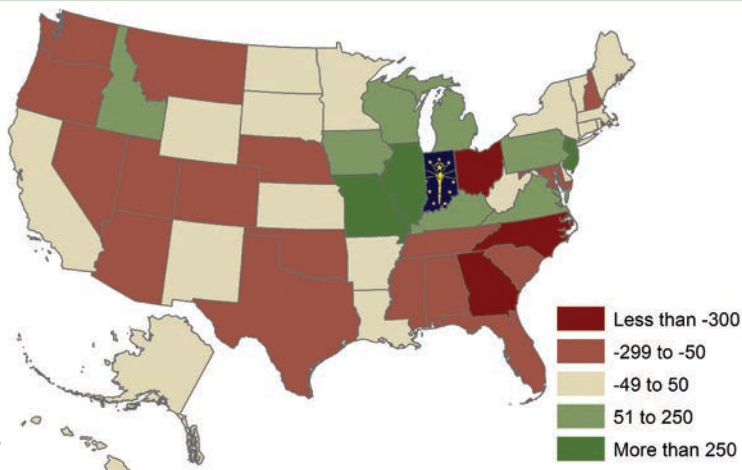
Figure 6. Source of net domestic migration for Indiana Mid-sized counties (Group B), 2009 – 2013



Source: ACS

Note: Group A includes all mid-sized Indiana counties excluding Indianapolis area counties; and Group B includes the six mid-sized counties adjacent to Indianapolis/Marion County (Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, and Shelby).

Map 5. Domestic migration between Mid-sized counties (Group B) in Indiana and other states, 2009 – 2013



Source: ACS

Notes:

- Group A includes all Mid-sized Indiana counties excluding Indianapolis area counties; and Group B includes the six Mid-sized counties adjacent to Indianapolis/Marion County (Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, and Shelby).
- Red colors = levels of out-migration (from Indiana); greens = levels of in-migration (to Indiana). Migration between Indiana and states in neutral color was minimal.



Rural Counties Domestic Migration

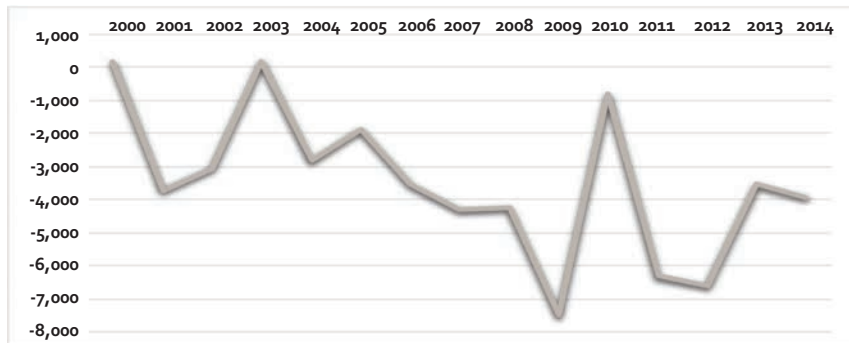
From 2000 to 2014, only Urban Indiana counties experienced more negative net domestic migration than Rural Indiana counties. Net domestic migration ranged from a net loss of about 7,500 residents in 2009 to a net gain of 182 residents in 2003 (Figure 7). Rural Indiana counties averaged a net loss of 3,500 residents per year during this time period.

Rural counties in Indiana were the only group of counties that experienced a net loss in migration across all county types (Figure 8). These trends were strongest among those leaving Rural Indiana for Urban Indiana counties and out-of-state locations. The largest net losses came from rural residents migrating to bordering urban areas: White County to Tippecanoe County; Randolph County to Delaware County, and Clay County to Vigo County.

Florida (net loss of 736 residents), Tennessee (611), and Arizona (563 residents) were the top three out-of-state destinations from Rural Indiana counties (Map 6). The top counties to which rural residents relocated included Maricopa County, Arizona (Phoenix), Broward County, Florida (Fort Lauderdale metro), and Williamson County, Tennessee (Nashville metro).

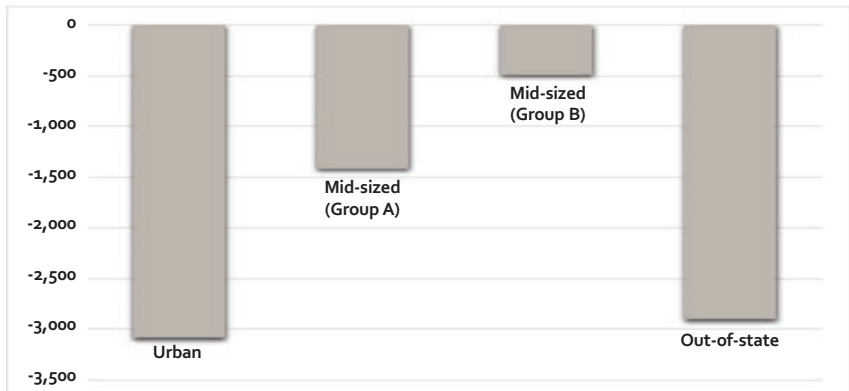
The greatest gains in new residents were from Michigan (net gain of 731 residents), North Carolina (415), and Virginia (305). Among the out-of-state counties that experienced the largest net losses to Rural counties in Indiana were St. Joseph County, Michigan (shares a border with LaGrange County), and Onslow County, North Carolina.

Figure 7. Net domestic migration, Indiana Rural counties, 2000 – 2014



Source: US Census via STATS Indiana

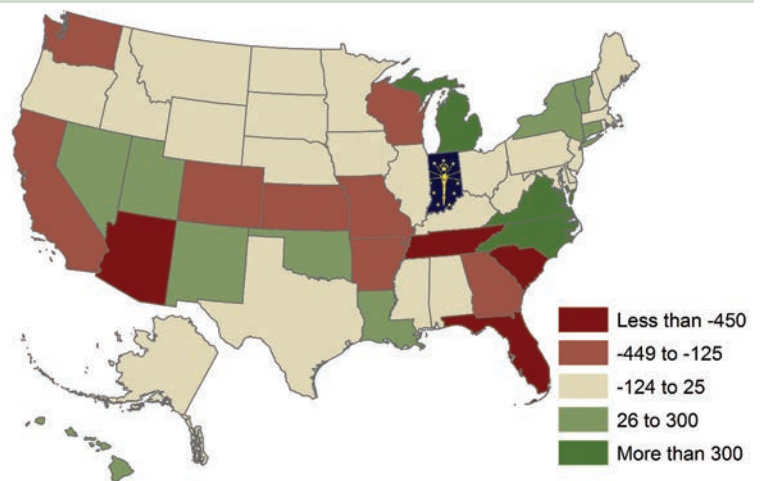
Figure 8. Source of net domestic migration for Indiana Rural counties, 2009 – 2013



Source: ACS

Note: Group A includes all Mid-sized Indiana counties excluding Indianapolis area counties; and Group B includes the six Mid-sized counties adjacent to Indianapolis/Marion County (Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, and Shelby).

Map 6. Domestic migration between Rural counties in Indiana and other states, 2009 – 2013



Source: ACS

Note: Red colors = levels of out-migration (from Indiana); greens = levels of in-migration (to Indiana). Migration between Indiana and states in neutral color was minimal.



Overall Domestic Migration Trends

Comparing Indiana's domestic migration across counties suggests that many counties in Indiana are only growing because individuals are relocating from other parts of the state. These domestic migration patterns are not sustainable for long-term population growth—they highlight that Indiana counties rely on one another's residents for population growth rather than residents of other states. The data presented here underscore several key trends in county-level migration in Indiana:

- Mid-sized Indiana counties provide the greatest source of growth in Indiana due to net domestic migration. This growth is mostly from:
 - Individuals moving from Urban Indiana to Mid-sized counties surrounding Indianapolis, and
 - Individuals moving from Rural to the other Mid-sized Indiana counties.

- Indiana communities of all types have undergone a net loss in domestic migration to other U.S. states.
 - Most of those states are in the Sun Belt, are experiencing some of the largest population growth nationally, and are projected to continue that trend.
 - Individuals who move to other states from Indiana tend to move to metropolitan areas.
 - Urban counties in Indiana had the greatest net losses to other states.
- Neighboring counties are sources of growth for some counties.
 - Rural populations may be attracted to more urban locations.
 - Domestic migration to border counties also exists for state-to-state migration, especially for Rural and Mid-sized counties.

Overall, Indiana risks increasingly smaller population growth in all regions of the state due to multiple factors, but mostly related to losses in net domestic migration.

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The IU Public Policy Institute delivers unbiased research and data-driven, objective, expert analysis to help public, private, and nonprofit sectors make important decisions that impact quality of life in Indiana and throughout the nation. A multidisciplinary institute within the IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs, we also support the Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (IACIR).

Thriving Communities, Thriving State (policyinstitute.iu.edu/thriving) is a project of the Policy Choices Initiative. The goal of the Policy Choices Initiative is to encourage discussions among government, nonprofit, and private sector leaders about issues that are or will be critical to Indiana's future—to provide policy options for action.



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