



Office of Engagement

A Macro Indicator Analysis of the Evolving Metro-Rural Divide

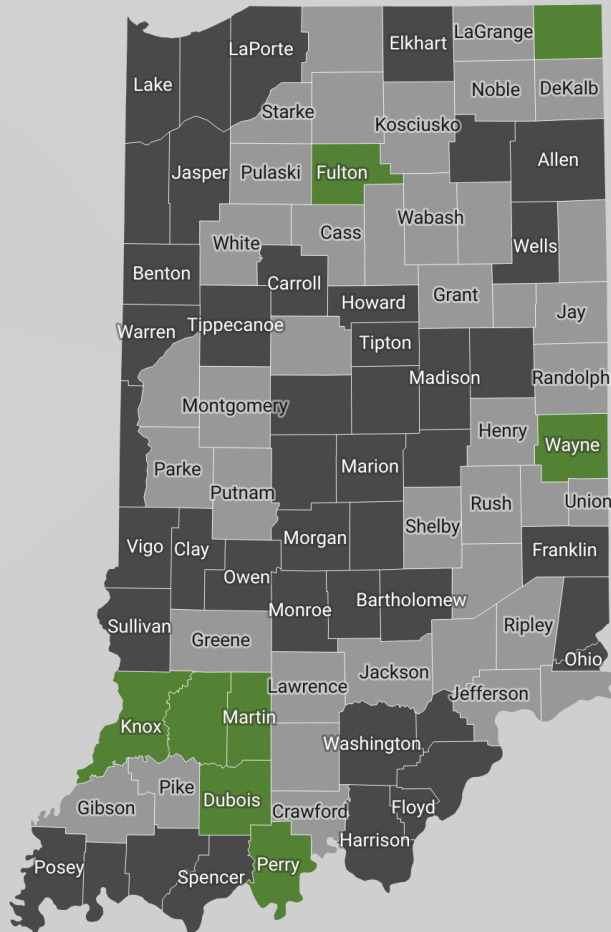
Farm Policy Study Group
Beck Agricultural Center
December 2025



What is Rural?

2023 USDA Urban-Rural Types

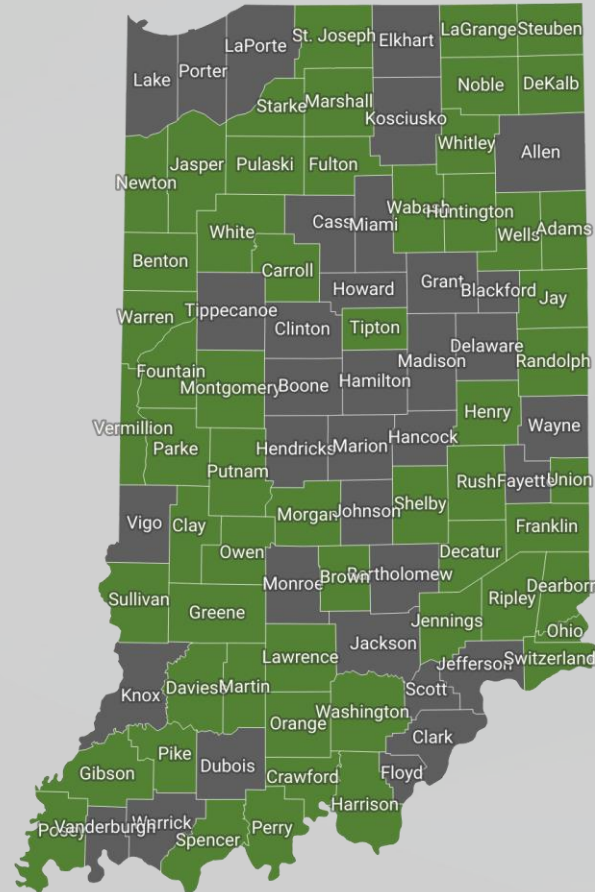
■ Metro ■ Rural Adjacent ■ Rural Non-Adjacent



Source: USDA Rural Urban Continuum Code • Created with Datawrapper

Decennial Census - Rural Population

■ Metro ■ Rural



Counties were labeled rural if 50% or more of its population lived in rural Census blocks based on the 2020 Decennial Census.

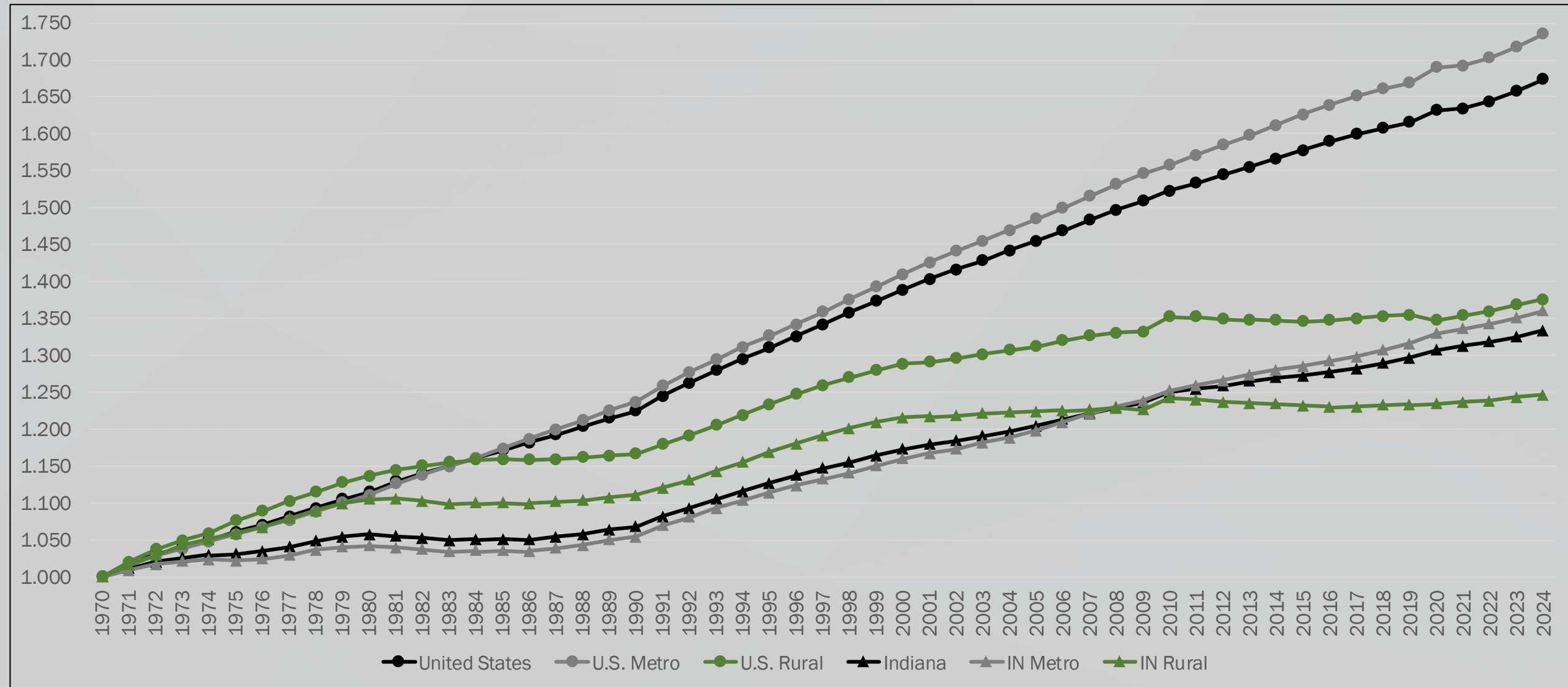
Source: U.S. 2020 Decennial Census • Created with Datawrapper

RUCC	2024
Metro	5,429,667
Rural	1,494,608
Rural Adjacent	1,230,550
Rural Non-Adjacent	264,058

Decennial Census	2024
Urban	5,386,043
Rural	1,538,232

Total Population: 1970 – 2024

Indexed to 1970



Source: Census Population Estimates

Lake	Porter	LaPorte	St. Joseph	Elkhart	LaGrange	Steuben
494.2 499 4.7	165.2 174.2 9	111.3 112.1 0.8	266.7 272.6 5.9	198.7 206.9 8.2	37.5 40.6 3.1	34.2 34.6 0.5
Newton	Jasper	Starke	Marshall	Kosciusko	Noble	DeKalb
14.2 13.9 -0.3	33.4 33.2 -0.2	23.3 23.3 0	47.1 46.2 -0.8	77.5 80.4 2.8	47.5 47.4 -0.1	42.3 43.6 1.3
Benton	White	Pulaski	Fulton	Wabash	Whitley	Allen
8.8 8.7 -0.1	24.5 24.7 0.2	13.3 12.4 -0.8	20.7 20.4 -0.3	32.6 30.9 -1.7	33.3 34.4 1.1	358.3 388.8 30.5
Warren	Tippecanoe	Carroll	Miami	Huntington	Wells	Adams
8.5 8.5 0	175.6 187.4 11.8	20.1 20.4 0.3	36.6 35.8 -0.9	37 36.8 -0.3	27.7 28.3 0.6	34.4 36 1.6
Fountain	Montgomery	Cass	Howard	Grant	Blackford	Jay
17.1 16.5 -0.6	38.2 38.2 -0.1	38.8 37.7 -1.1	82.8 83.6 0.8	69.7 66.4 -3.3	12.7 12 -0.7	21.3 20.3 -1.1
Vermillion	Parke	Clinton	Tipton	Madison	Delaware	Randolph
16.1 15.5 -0.6	17.2 16.3 -0.9	33.1 33 -0.1	15.8 15.3 -0.5	131 130.9 -0.1	117.6 112.1 -5.5	26 24.4 -1.6
Vigo	Putnam	Boone	Hamilton	Hancock	Henry	Wayne
108.1 106.2 -1.9	37.8 37.1 -0.7	58 72.8 14.8	283 357.2 74.2	70.5 82 11.5	49.3 48.9 -0.4	68.6 66.4 -2.2
Sullivan	Owen	Hendricks	Marion	Shelby	Rush	Union
21.3 20.8 -0.6	21.5 21.4 0	148.6 179.4 30.8	912.2 971.8 59.6	44.5 45.1 0.6	17.3 16.7 -0.5	7.4 7 -0.4
Daviess	Greene	Morgan	Johnson	Bartholomew	Fayette	Franklin
31.9 33.4 1.5	33 31 -2	69.2 72.2 3	141.8 164 22.2	77.9 82.9 5	24.1 23.4 -0.7	23 22.9 -0.1
Pike	Martin	Clay	Brown	Knox	Decatur	Dearborn
12.8 12.2 -0.6	10.3 9.9 -0.4	26.9 26.4 -0.4	15.1 15.5 0.4	38.3 36.1 -2.2	25.9 26.4 0.5	50 50.8 0.9
Warrick	Dubois	Monroe	Lawrence	Jennings	Ripley	Ohio
60.2 64.7 4.5	42.1 43.6 1.5	139.6 139.8 0.2	46.1 45.1 -1	28.3 27.6 -0.7	28.6 29 0.4	6.1 6 -0.1
Gibson	Spencer	Orange	Jackson	Clark	Jefferson	Switzerland
33.5 33 -0.5	21 19.9 -1.1	19.8 19.7 -0.1	42.8 46.3 3.6	111.2 122.8 11.6	32.4 33.1 0.6	10.5 9.9 -0.6
Vanderburgh	Crawford	Washington	Scott	2013 2023 Diff.	2013 2023 Diff.	2013 2023 Diff.
180.2 179.9 -0.3	10.7 10.5 -0.2	28.1 28.2 0.1	24 24.5 0.4			
Posey	Perry	Harrison	Floyd			
25.7 25.2 -0.6	19.4 19.2 -0.2	39.2 39.8 0.6	75.1 80.5 5.4			
2013 2023 Diff.	2013 2023 Diff.	2013 2023 Diff.	2013 2023 Diff.			
Period						

Indiana Population: 2013 & 2023

Data Insights

Indiana population increased by ~296,800 residents between 2013 & 2023

Hamilton County gained the most with more than 740,000; Delaware County lost the most with 5,400

Six counties had more than 200,000 residents (Allen, Elkhart, Hamilton, Lake, Marion, and St. Joseph)

Six counties had less than 10,000 residents (Benton, Martin, Ohio, Switzerland, Union, and Warren)

Cumulative Component of Population Change (Thousands)
Period: 2013-2023

Lake	Porter	LaPorte	St. Joseph	Elkhart	LaGrange	Steuben
<u>-13.6</u> <u>2.5</u> <u>5.4</u>	<u>5.2</u> <u>0.9</u> <u>1</u>	<u>-2.3</u> <u>0.3</u> <u>0</u>	<u>-0.3</u> <u>0</u> <u>-0.1</u>	<u>-8</u> <u>2.1</u> <u>12.5</u>	<u>-2.1</u> <u>0</u> <u>4.6</u>	<u>0.6</u> <u>0.2</u> <u>0.3</u>
Newton	Jasper	Starke	Marshall	Kosciusko	Noble	DeKalb
<u>0.2</u> <u>0.2</u> <u>-0.3</u>	<u>0.4</u> <u>0</u> <u>0.2</u>	<u>0.1</u> <u>0</u> <u>-0.5</u>	<u>-1.5</u> <u>0.3</u> <u>0.7</u>	<u>-1.3</u> <u>0.9</u> <u>2.3</u>	<u>-1.1</u> <u>0.3</u> <u>1.5</u>	<u>1.2</u> <u>0</u> <u>0.9</u>
Benton	White	Pulaski	Fulton	Wabash	Whitley	Allen
<u>-0.2</u> <u>0</u> <u>0.1</u>	<u>-0.4</u> <u>0.4</u> <u>0</u>	<u>-0.5</u> <u>0.1</u> <u>-0.4</u>	<u>-0.7</u> <u>0.1</u> <u>-0.1</u>	<u>-0.4</u> <u>0.1</u> <u>-1.4</u>	<u>0.5</u> <u>0.1</u> <u>0.6</u>	<u>2.7</u> <u>6.2</u> <u>18.3</u>
Warren	Tippecanoe	Carroll	Miami	Huntington	Wells	Adams
<u>0</u> <u>0</u> <u>-0.1</u>	<u>-6.8</u> <u>15.5</u> <u>9.4</u>	<u>0</u> <u>0.1</u> <u>0.2</u>	<u>-1.3</u> <u>0.2</u> <u>-0.6</u>	<u>-0.3</u> <u>0.2</u> <u>-0.2</u>	<u>0.5</u> <u>0.2</u> <u>0.1</u>	<u>-1.7</u> <u>0</u> <u>3.4</u>
Fountain	Montgomery	Cass	Howard	Grant	Blackford	Jay
<u>-0.3</u> <u>0.1</u> <u>-0.3</u>	<u>0.4</u> <u>0.2</u> <u>0.2</u>	<u>-2.6</u> <u>0.9</u> <u>0.3</u>	<u>0.8</u> <u>0.5</u> <u>-1.3</u>	<u>-2.6</u> <u>0.4</u> <u>-1.6</u>	<u>-0.5</u> <u>0</u> <u>-0.5</u>	<u>-1.8</u> <u>0</u> <u>0.4</u>
Vermillion	Parke	Clinton	Tipton	Madison	Delaware	Randolph
<u>-0.1</u> <u>0.1</u> <u>-0.5</u>	<u>-0.2</u> <u>0</u> <u>0.4</u>	<u>-1.5</u> <u>0</u> <u>0.4</u>	<u>-0.3</u> <u>0.1</u> <u>-0.4</u>	<u>3.1</u> <u>0.4</u> <u>-1.9</u>	<u>-2.2</u> <u>1.2</u> <u>-2</u>	<u>-1.3</u> <u>0.1</u> <u>-0.5</u>
Vigo	Putnam	Boone	Hamilton	Hancock	Henry	Wayne
<u>-3.1</u> <u>1.4</u> <u>0.1</u>	<u>0.6</u> <u>0.4</u> <u>-0.2</u>	<u>11.1</u> <u>0.7</u> <u>2.4</u>	<u>43.7</u> <u>8.2</u> <u>20.6</u>	<u>12.7</u> <u>0.2</u> <u>1</u>	<u>0.6</u> <u>0</u> <u>-1.7</u>	<u>-1.8</u> <u>0.7</u> <u>-1.6</u>
Sullivan	Owen	Hendricks	Marion	Shelby	Rush	Union
<u>-0.3</u> <u>0</u> <u>-0.3</u>	<u>0.3</u> <u>0</u> <u>-0.6</u>	<u>23.4</u> <u>2.3</u> <u>5.3</u>	<u>38.2</u> <u>55.5</u> <u>-58.2</u>	<u>0.9</u> <u>0.1</u> <u>-0.7</u>	<u>-0.3</u> <u>0</u> <u>-0.2</u>	<u>-0.2</u> <u>0</u> <u>-0.1</u>
Daviess	Greene	Morgan	Johnson	Bartholomew	Fayette	Franklin
<u>-0.7</u> <u>0.3</u> <u>2</u>	<u>0.1</u> <u>0.2</u> <u>-0.7</u>	<u>2.2</u> <u>0.4</u> <u>0.2</u>	<u>14.4</u> <u>2.2</u> <u>4.4</u>	<u>-1</u> <u>5.1</u> <u>2.8</u>	<u>-0.1</u> <u>0.1</u> <u>-0.9</u>	<u>-0.3</u> <u>0.1</u> <u>0.2</u>
Pike	Martin	Clay	Brown	Knox	Decatur	Dearborn
<u>-0.2</u> <u>0</u> <u>-0.2</u>	<u>-0.2</u> <u>0</u> <u>0.1</u>	<u>-0.4</u> <u>0</u> <u>-0.1</u>	<u>0.8</u> <u>0</u> <u>-0.6</u>	<u>-1.6</u> <u>0.3</u> <u>-0.3</u>	<u>-0.2</u> <u>0.2</u> <u>0.4</u>	<u>0.6</u> <u>0</u> <u>-0.2</u>
Warrick	Dubois	Monroe	Lawrence	Jennings	Ripley	Ohio
<u>3.9</u> <u>0.5</u> <u>0.1</u>	<u>-1</u> <u>0.5</u> <u>0.9</u>	<u>-4.9</u> <u>8.7</u> <u>2.4</u>	<u>0.4</u> <u>0.1</u> <u>-1.1</u>	<u>-0.6</u> <u>0</u> <u>0.1</u>	<u>0.2</u> <u>0.1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>0.1</u> <u>0</u> <u>-0.2</u>
Gibson	Spencer	Orange	Jackson	Clark	Jefferson	Switzerland
<u>-0.4</u> <u>0.3</u> <u>0.1</u>	<u>0.2</u> <u>0.4</u> <u>0.1</u>	<u>-0.2</u> <u>0.1</u> <u>-0.2</u>	<u>-1.2</u> <u>1.3</u> <u>1.1</u>	<u>8.7</u> <u>0.7</u> <u>1.3</u>	<u>-0.1</u> <u>0.2</u> <u>-0.4</u>	<u>0.4</u> <u>0.1</u> <u>0.2</u>
Vanderburgh	Crawford	Washington	Scott	Dom. Int. Nat.	Dom. Int. Nat.	Dom. Int. Nat.
<u>-2.4</u> <u>1.5</u> <u>1</u>	<u>0</u> <u>0</u> <u>-0.2</u>	<u>0.3</u> <u>0</u> <u>-0.1</u>	<u>-7.2</u> <u>5.7</u> <u>6.5</u>			
Posey	Perry	Harrison	Floyd			
<u>-0.5</u> <u>0</u> <u>0.1</u>	<u>0</u> <u>0.1</u> <u>-0.3</u>	<u>1.9</u> <u>0.2</u> <u>-0.1</u>	<u>3</u> <u>0.5</u> <u>0.1</u>			
Dom. Int. Nat.	Dom. Int. Nat.	Dom. Int. Nat.	Dom. Int. Nat.			
Period						

Indiana Cumulative Components of Population Change: 2013 - 2023

Data Insights

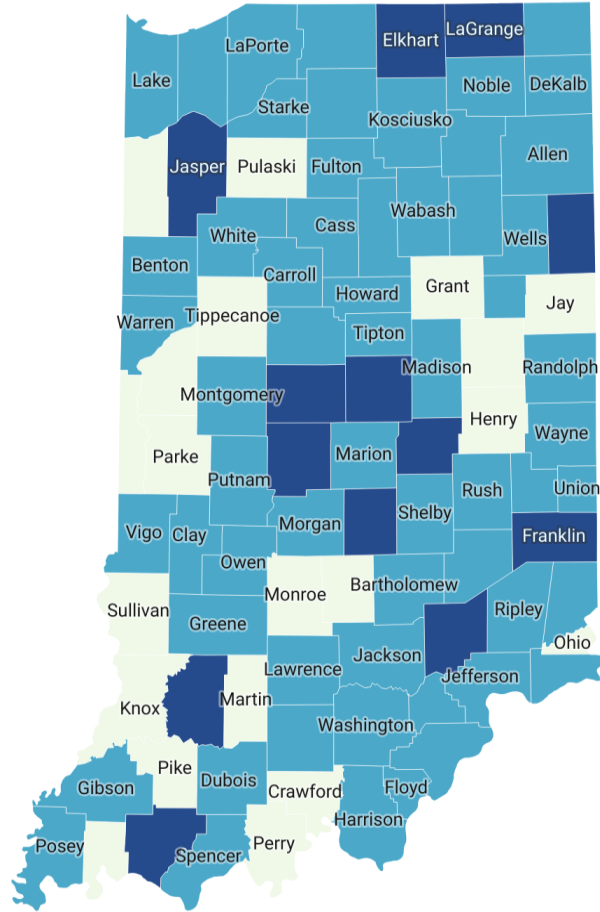
50 out of the 92 counties gained population due to an increase in the natural component (births minus deaths)

39 out of the 92 counties gained population due to an increase in the domestic component (in migration)

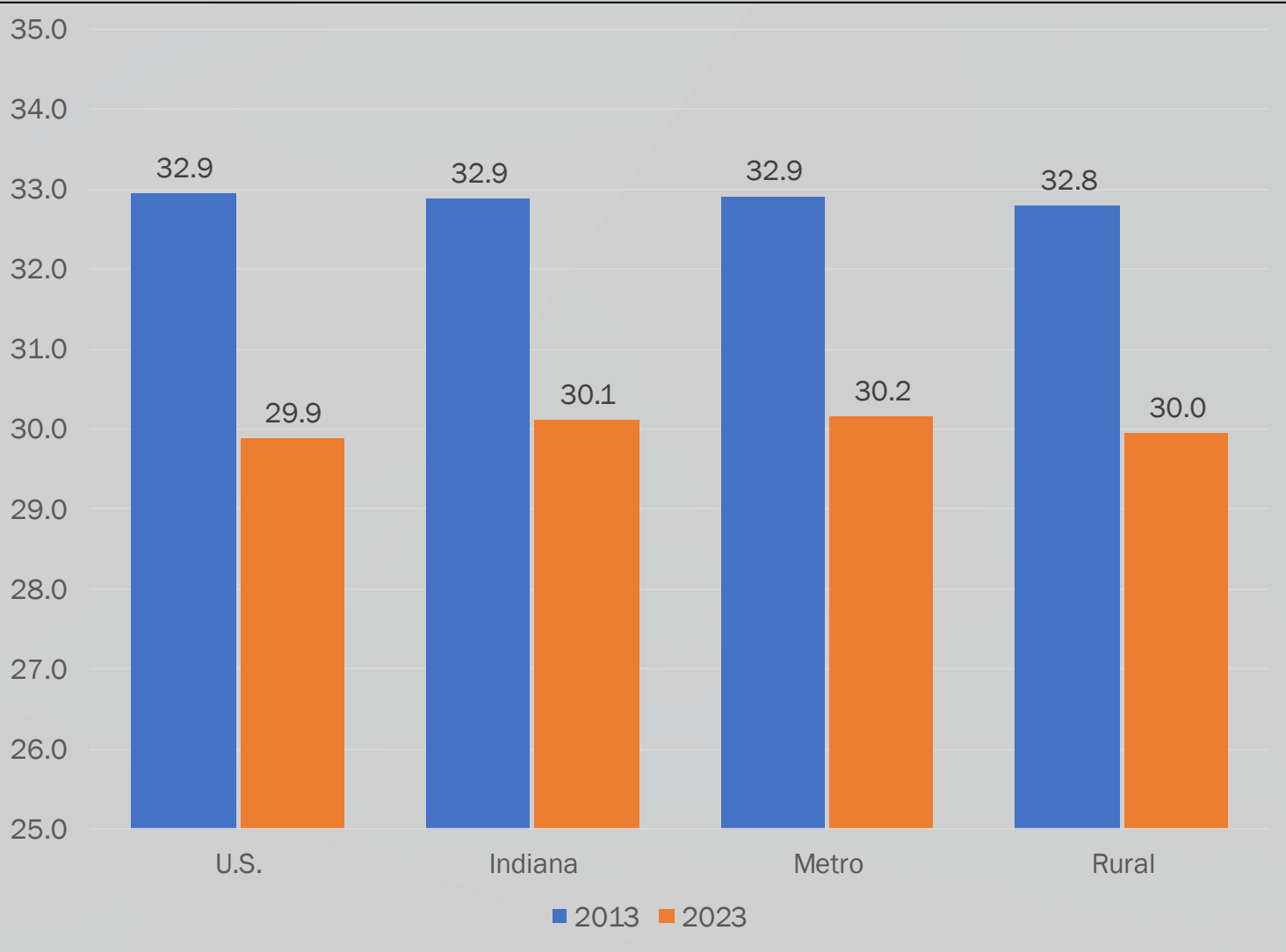
89 out of the 92 counties gained population due to an increase in the international component

Percentage Households with Children

2013 % Households with Children



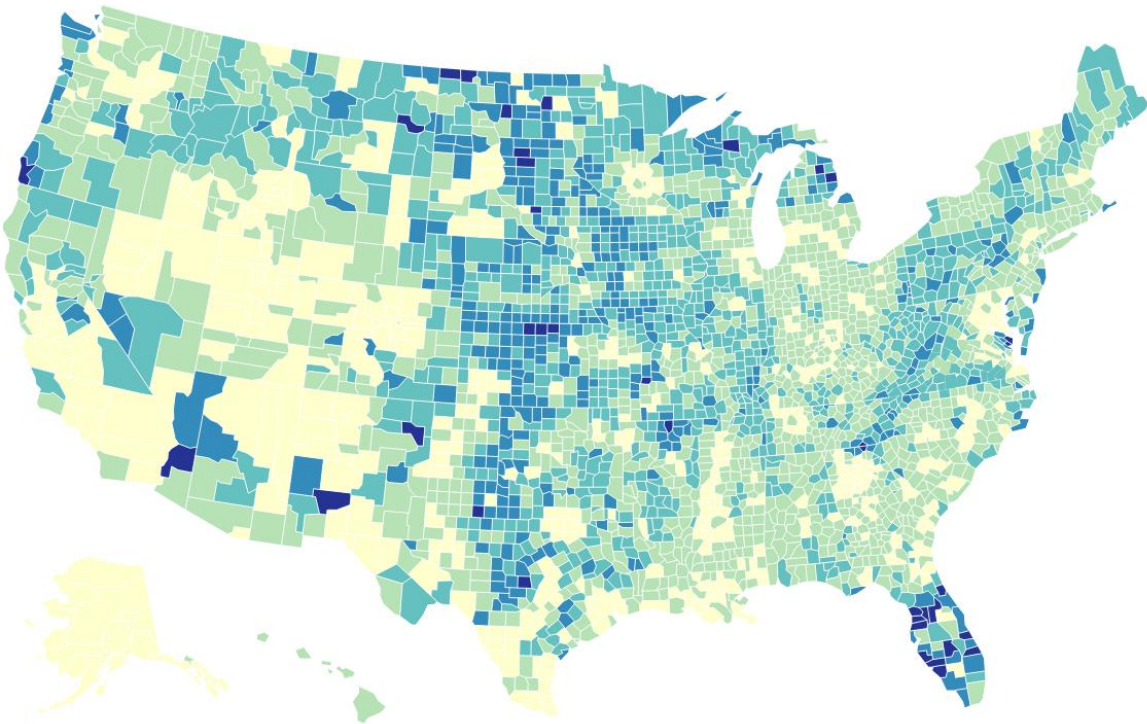
Source: 5-Year ACS • Created with Datawrapper



Older-Younger (OY) Ratio: 2000 & 2024

2000 Older-Younger (OY) Ratio

Number of residents aged 65 or older divided by residents ages 0 to 14.



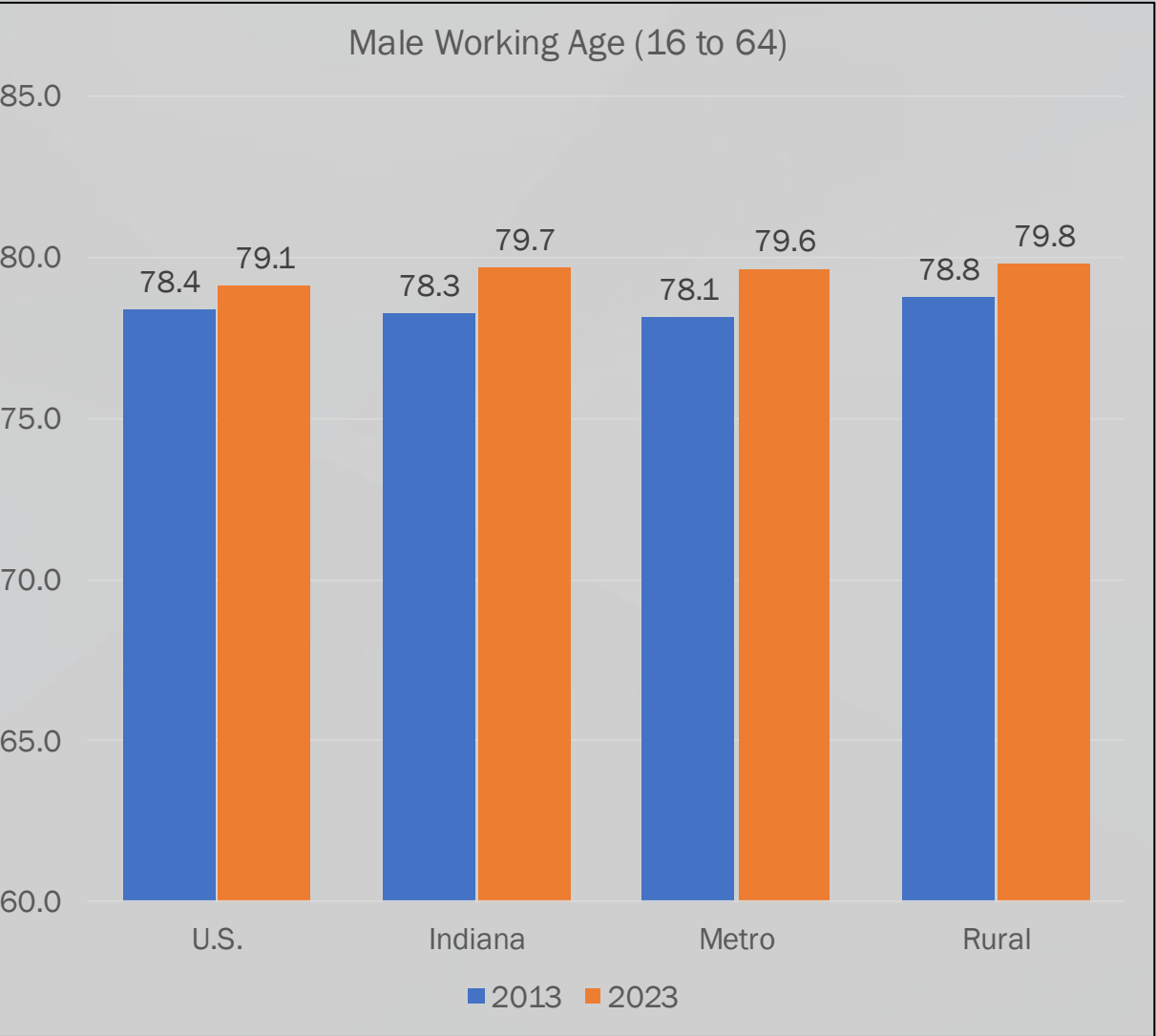
A number higher than 100 means that there are more residents aged 65 or older compared to residents ages 0 to 14. For example, a number of 120 means there are 20% more aged 65 or older than they are ages 0 to 14.

Source: Census Population Estimates • Created with Datawrapper

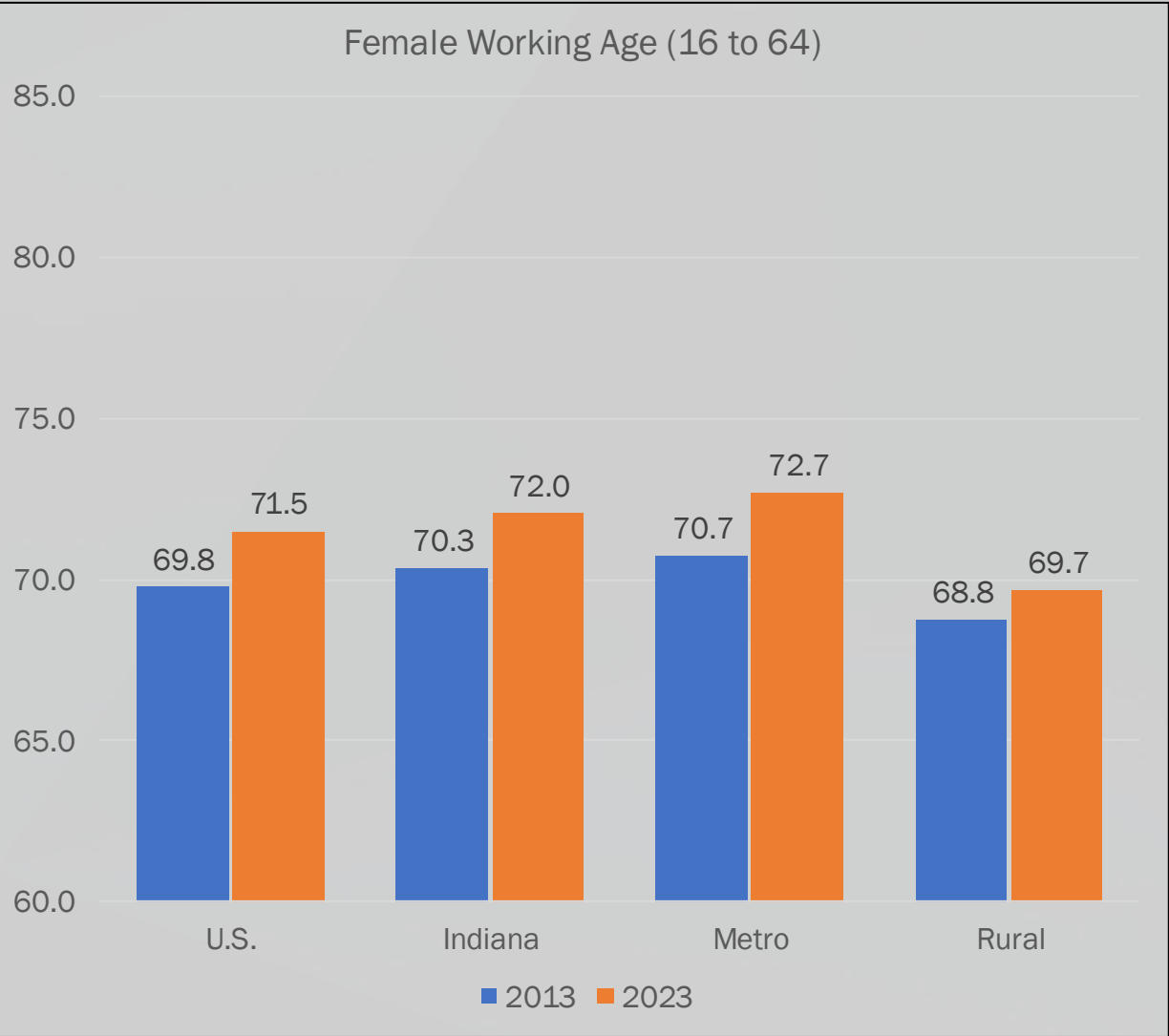
Indiana Population	2000	2024	Diff.
Age 0-14	1,309,904	1,296,342	-13,562
Metro	982,356	1,014,241	31,885
Rural	327,548	282,101	-45,447
Age 65 or Older	752,831	1,213,910	461,079
Metro	553,028	904,838	351,810
Rural	199,803	309,072	109,269

Labor Force Participation Rates

Male Working Age (16 to 64)

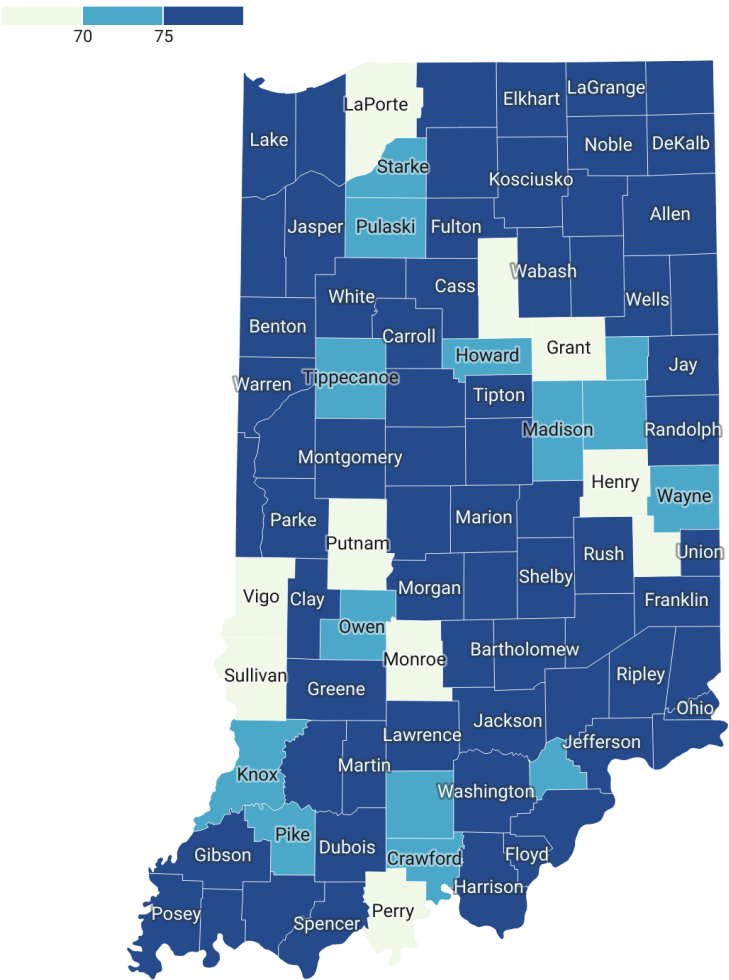


Female Working Age (16 to 64)



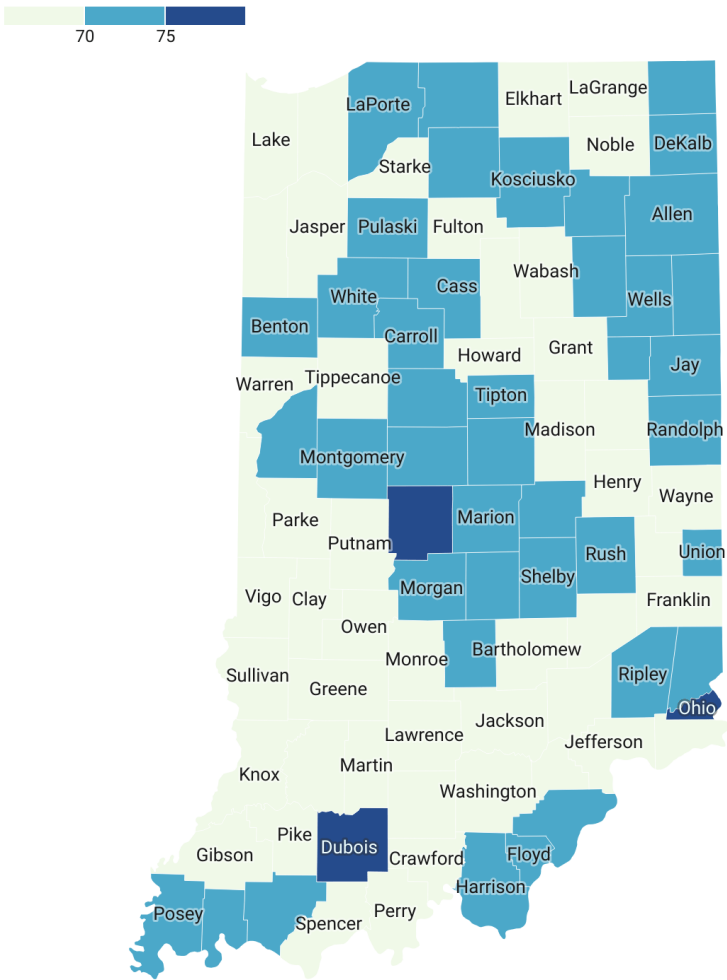
Labor Force Participation Rates (Cont'd)

2013 Male Working Age Labor Force Participation Rate



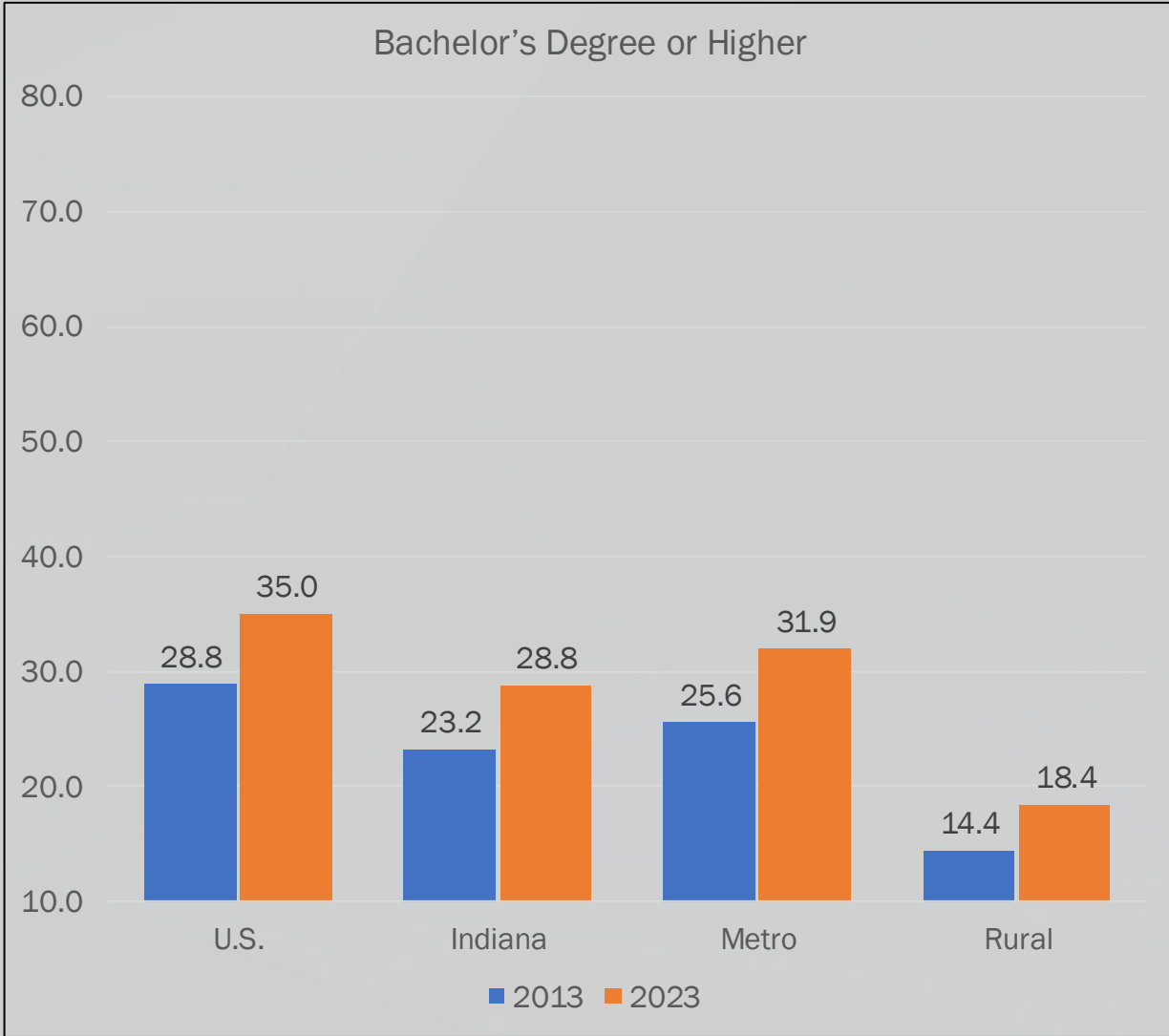
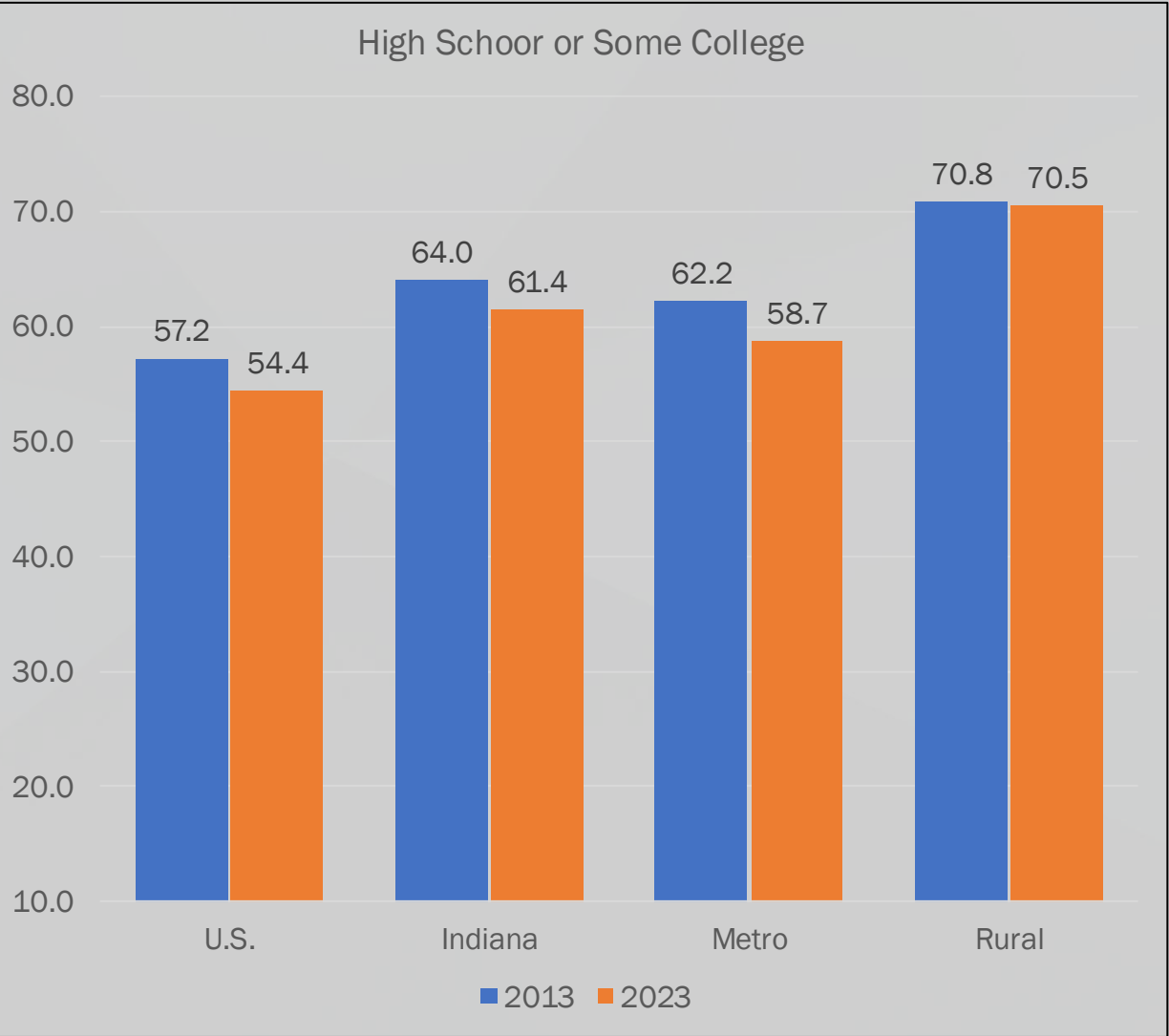
Source: 5-Year ACS • Created with Datawrapper

2013 Female Working Age Labor Force Participation Rate



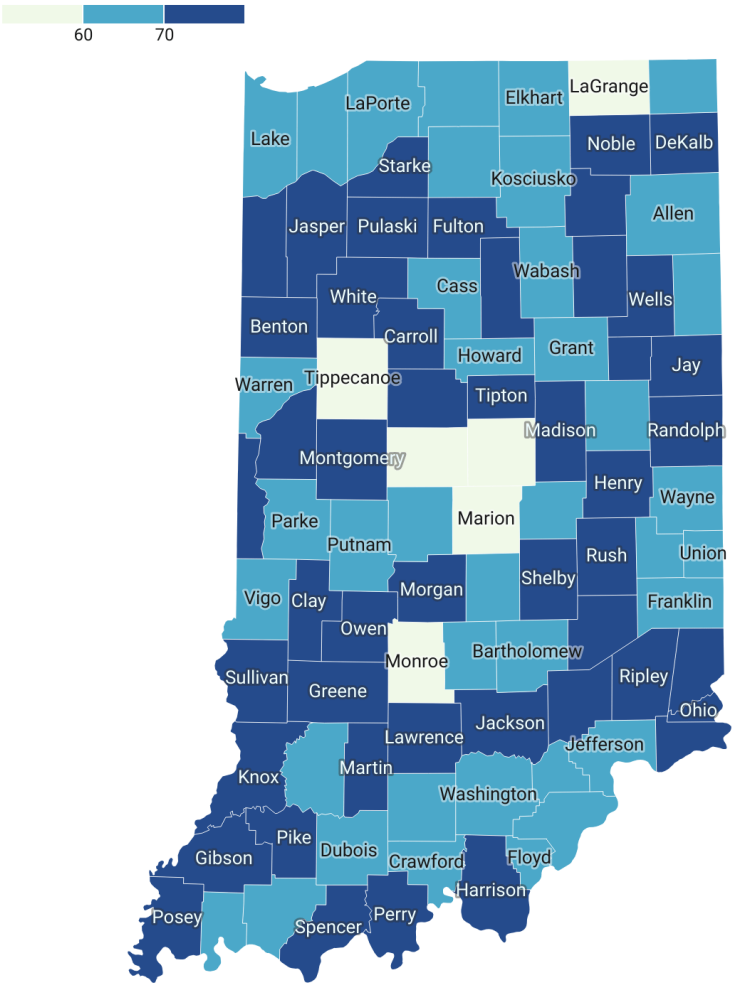
Source: 5-Year ACS • Created with Datawrapper

Percentage Age 25 or Older: Educational Attainment



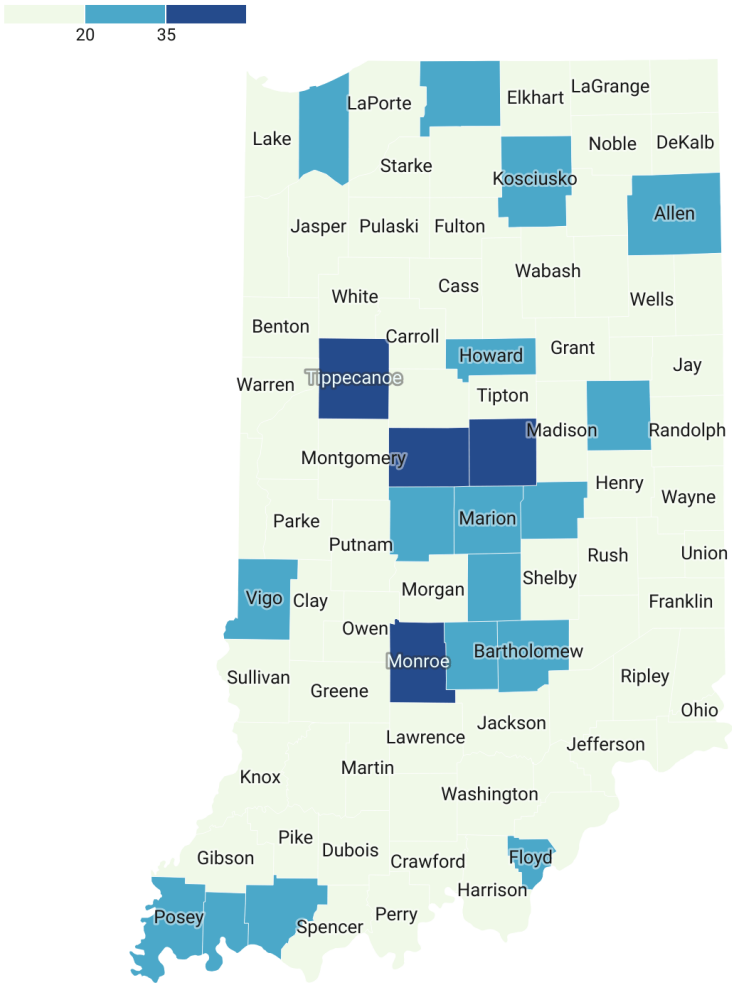
Percentage Age 25 or Older: Educational Attainment (Cont'd)

2013 % Pop. 25 or Older with High School or Some College



Source: 5-Year ACS • Created with Datawrapper

2013 % Pop. 25 or Older with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher

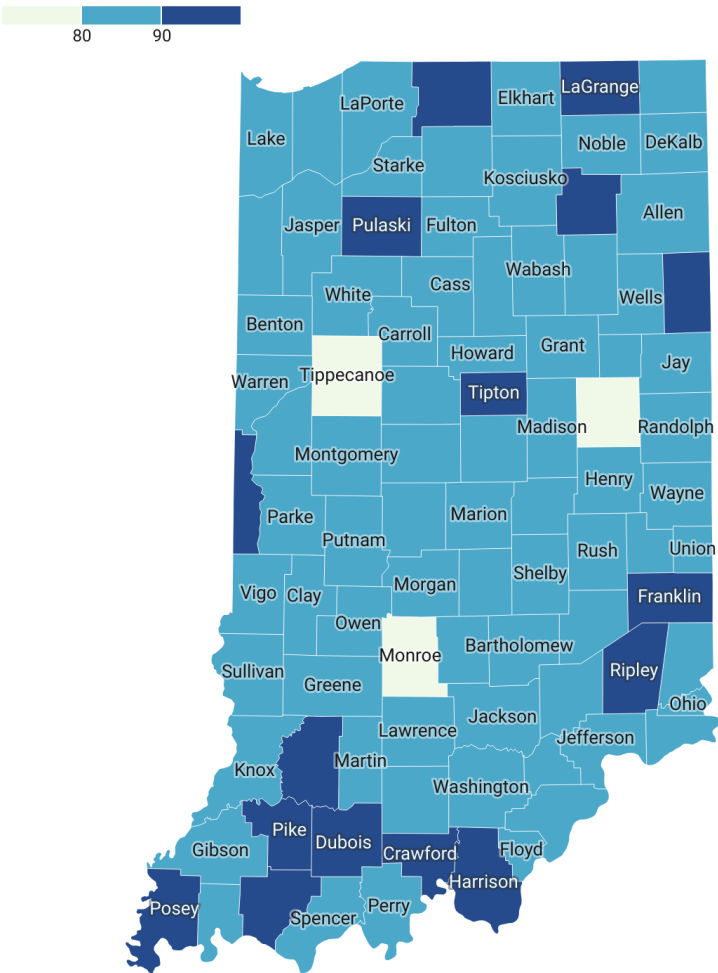


Source: 5-Year ACS • Created with Datawrapper

Geographic Mobility: Compared to 1 Year Ago, Moved from ...

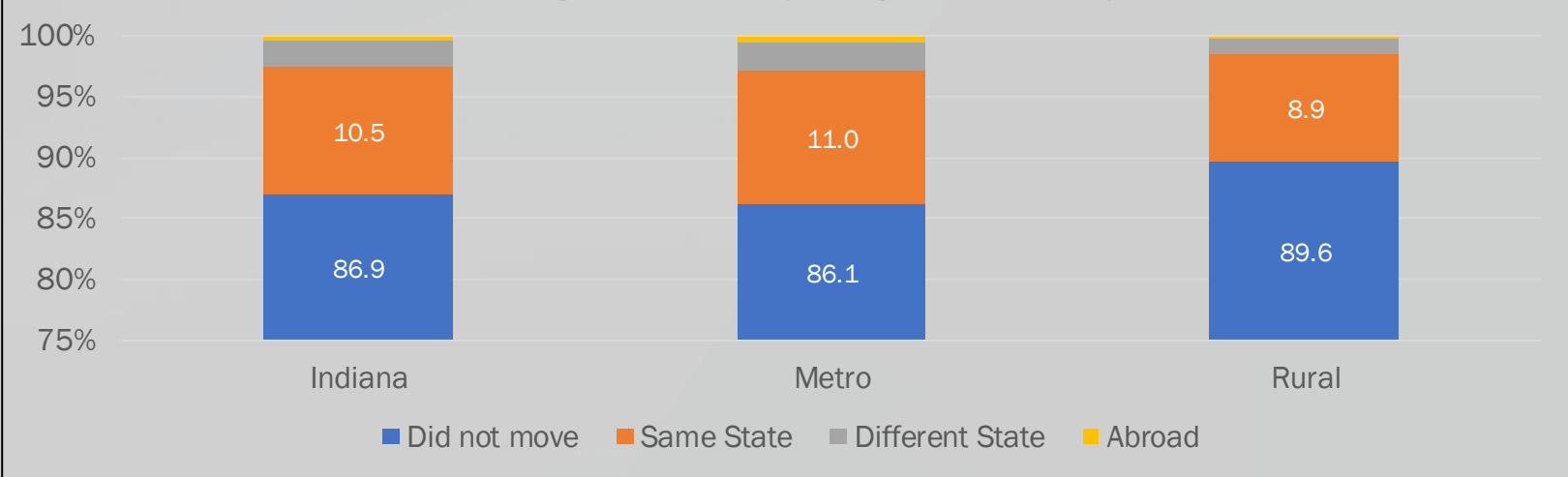
2013 Did not Move

Percentage of residents that did not move compared to 1 year ago

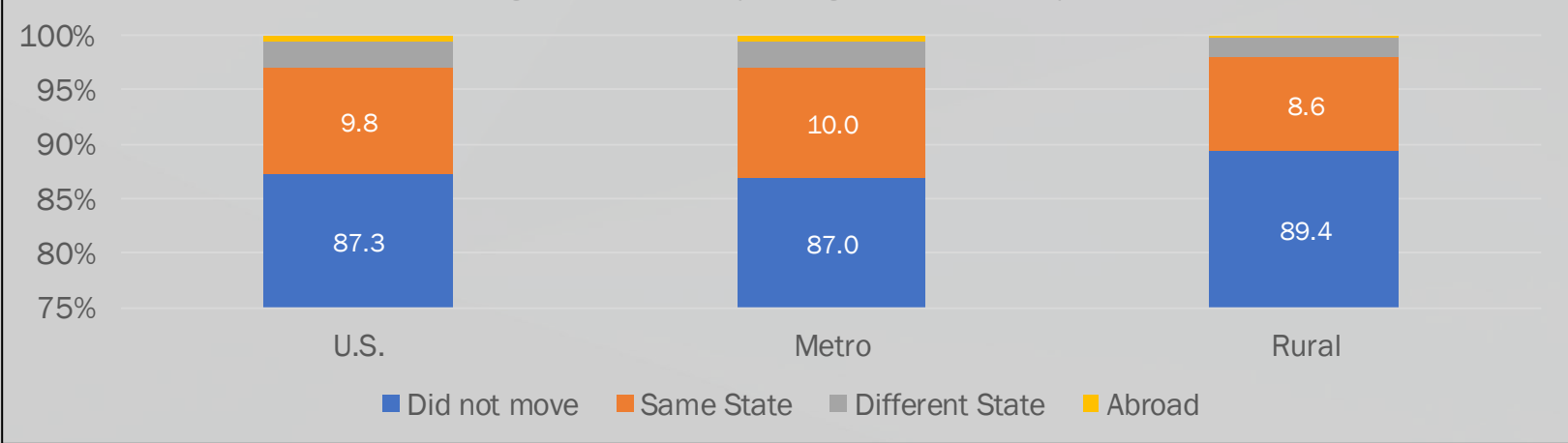


Source: 5-Year ACS • Created with Datawrapper

2023 Percentage Residents by Geographic Mobility: Indiana



2023 Percentage Residents by Geographic Mobility: United States

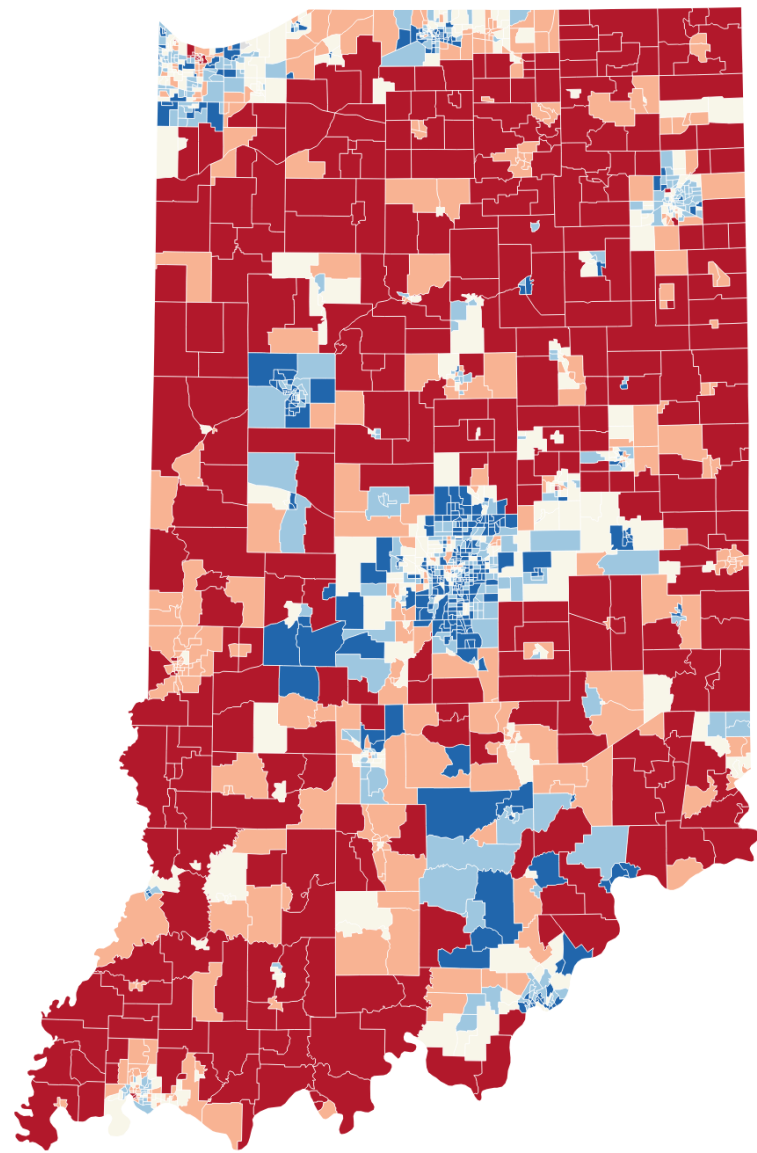
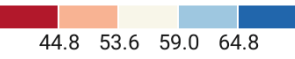


Number of Farms by Farm Sales



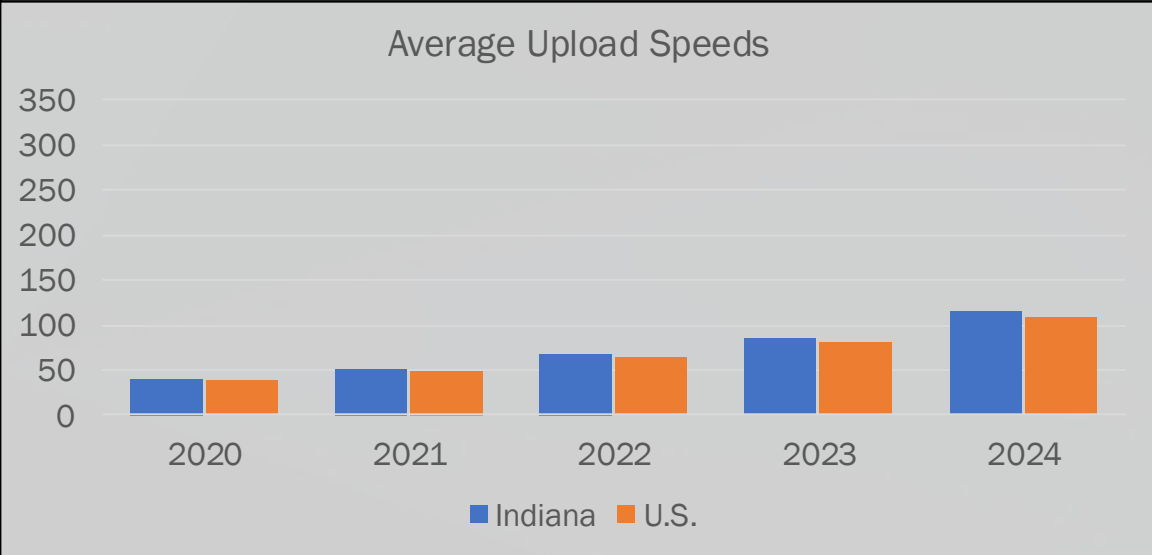
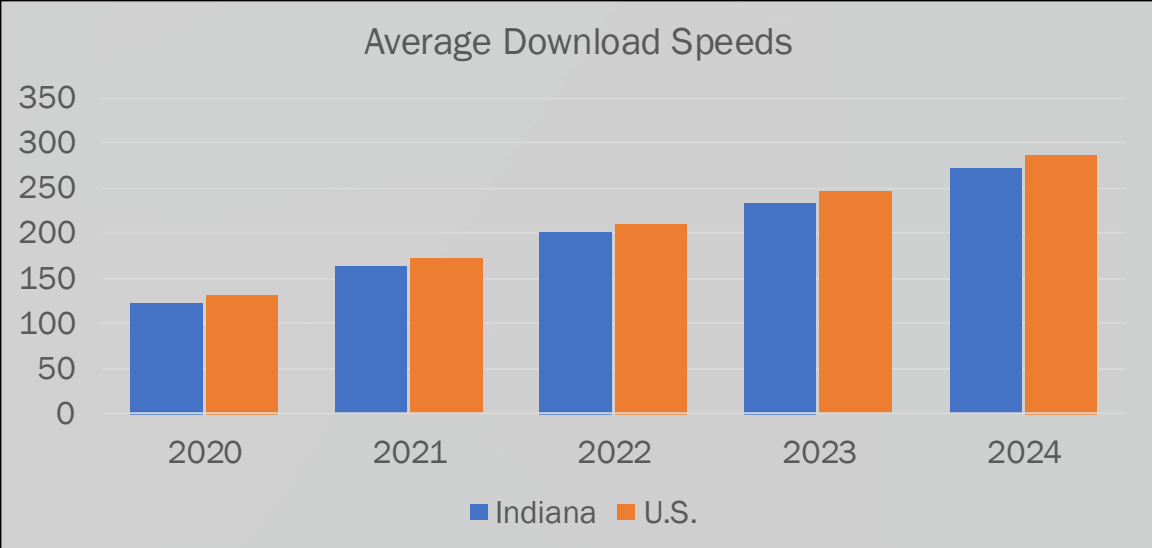
2020 Broadband Quality Score (BQS)

The BQS ranges from 0 to 100, where a higher number denotes a better broadband quality. BQS factors in download and upload speeds as well as latency.



Source: Ookla Speed Tests; RG • Created with Datawrapper

2020-2024 Broadband Quality



Key Takeaways

- Population increasingly concentrating in urban areas; however, geographic mobility is stalling (may create other issues e.g., left-behind places)
- Between 2013 & 2023 population growth was mostly due to the international component
- Indiana is aging, not unlike the U.S., though at a lower pace. OY ratio for the US in 2024 was 102.5 (124 in rural areas); Indiana's was 93.6 (rural Indiana's was 109.6)
- Labor force participation rates increased; though, 45 counties (out of 92) saw their participation decline and gaps between male and female rates persist
- Indiana lags the nation regarding those with a Bachelor's degree or higher; however, almost three-quarters of residents aged 25 or older had high school or some college, conducive for reskilling/upskilling
- Number of farms decreased; share of higher sales increased
- Persistent low-quality broadband areas