

LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

Highlights



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La Porte County, IN Highlights

Introduction

The first edition of the County Highlights was published in 1993. Lillian Miles, then Labor Market Analyst for the Gary Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area, originated the idea for this descriptive area publication.

Highlights are now a web publication and, as a result, the data can be updated throughout the year, not just on an annual basis. These Highlights are available in easy-to-use web format but are also printable and e-mailable and provide a snapshot of critical population and workforce statistics for each of Indiana's 92 counties, 11 Economic Growth Regions, and the State of Indiana.

Each Highlights includes an overview of the demographics and workforce of an area, from its population to the size of its labor force and the industry mix of jobs and wages.

Don't hesitate to contact your regional analyst if you need further information about your area.

Location

LaPorte County is located in Northwest Indiana. The county is bordered on the south by Starke County. The County is adjacent to St. Joseph County on the east, Lake Michigan and the State of Michigan are to the north, and Porter County to the west. LaPorte County is one of the seven counties located in the area designated by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development as Indiana Economic Growth Region 1.



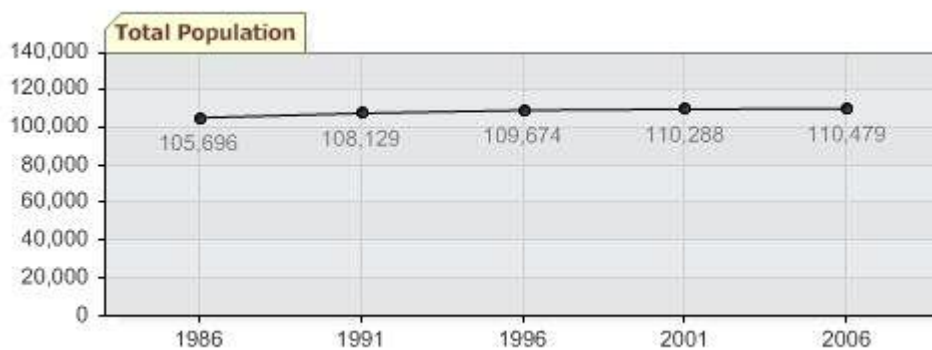
Population

The success of a regional economy depends in large part on the people who choose to live there. That choice may be the happenstance of being born there and desiring to stay, or a more deliberate one of choosing to re-locate from somewhere else.

Monitoring change in the size and movement of population is an important barometer of well-being. The barometer is a good metaphor for population change since it can presage more notable events, such as lackluster business attraction due to lack of workers.

LaPorte County's population estimate for 2006 was 110,479, up 0.3 percent from the 2000 Census total. During this same time period, Indiana's total 2006 population estimate of 6,313,520 was up by 3.8 percent.

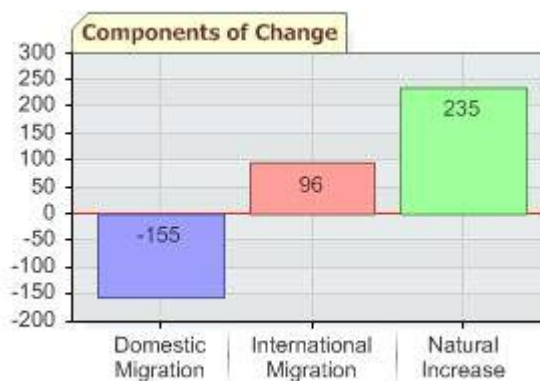
Population Over Time					
	1986	1991	1996	2001	2006
Total Population	105,696	108,129	109,674	110,288	110,479
Change Since 1986		2,433	3,978	4,592	4,783
Pct. Change Since 1986		2.3%	3.8%	4.3%	4.5%



Source: US Census Bureau

Components of Population Change 2005 to 2006

	Number
Net Domestic Migration	-155
International Migration	96
Natural Increase (births minus deaths)	235
Births	1,288
Deaths	1,053



Source: US Census Bureau

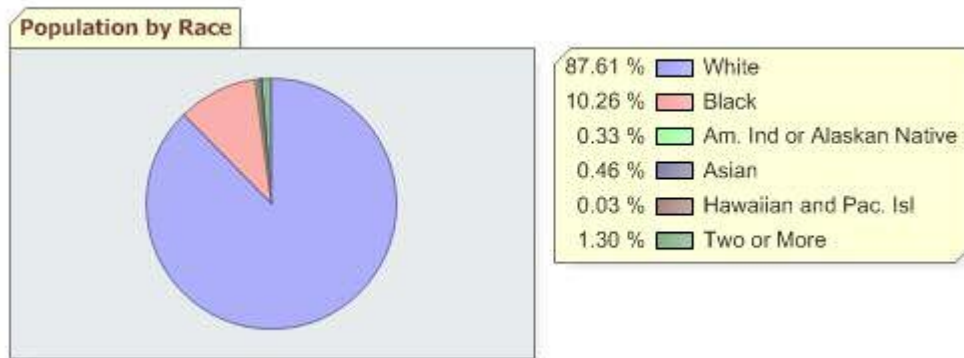
Population Estimates by Age in 2005

	Number	Pct. Dist
Preschool	6,729	6.1%
School Age	19,126	17.3%
College Age	9,554	8.7%
Young Adult	30,761	27.9%
Older Adult	29,127	26.4%
Older (65 plus)	14,984	13.6%

Source: US Census Bureau

Population Estimates by Race and Hispanic Origin in 2005

	Number	Pct. Dist
American Ind. or Alaskan Native Alone	368	0.3%
Asian Alone	508	0.5%
Black Alone	11,319	10.3%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pac. Isl. Alone	34	0.0%
White Alone	96,613	87.6%
Two or More Race Groups	1,439	1.3%



Hispanic or Latino

Non-Hispanic or Latino	106,024	96.1%
Hispanic or Latino	4,257	3.9%

Source: US Census Bureau

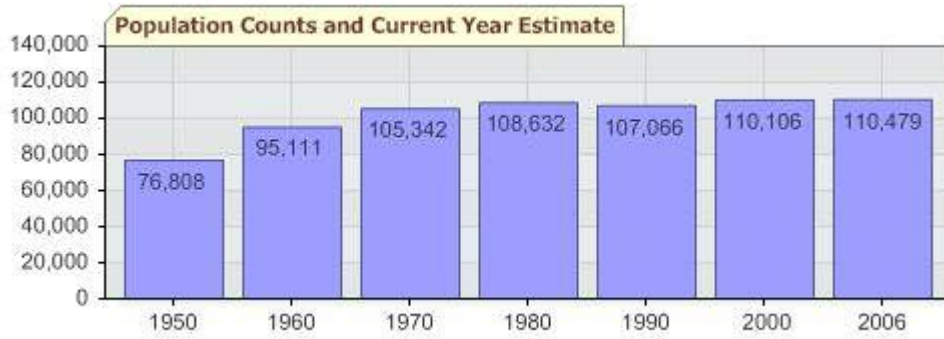
Households in 2000

	Number	Pct. Dist
Total Households	41,050	100.0%
Family Households	28,597	69.7%
Married with Children	9,262	22.6%
Married without Children	12,831	31.3%
Single Parents	3,808	9.3%
Other	35,974	87.6%
Non-family Households	12,453	30.3%
Living Alone	10,365	25.2%
Average Household Size	2.68	
Average Family Household Size	3.85	

Source: US Census Bureau

Population Counts by Decade and Current Year Estimate

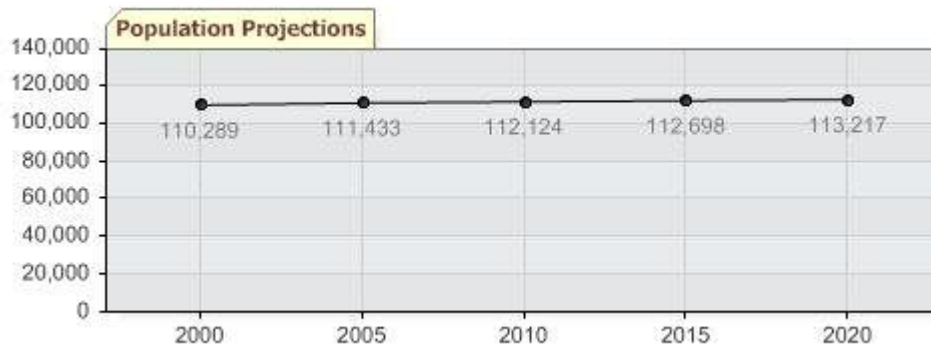
	Population	Numerical Chg.	Pct. Chg.
1950	76,808	NA	NA
1960	95,111	18,303	23.8%
1970	105,342	10,231	10.8%
1980	108,632	3,290	3.1%
1990	107,066	-1,566	-1.4%
April 2000	110,106	3,040	2.8%
2006	110,479	373	0.3%



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Population Projections

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
Population Projections	110,289	111,433	112,124	112,698	113,217
Change Since 2000		4,687	5,378	5,952	6,471
Pct. Change Since 2000		4.4%	5.0%	5.6%	6.1%



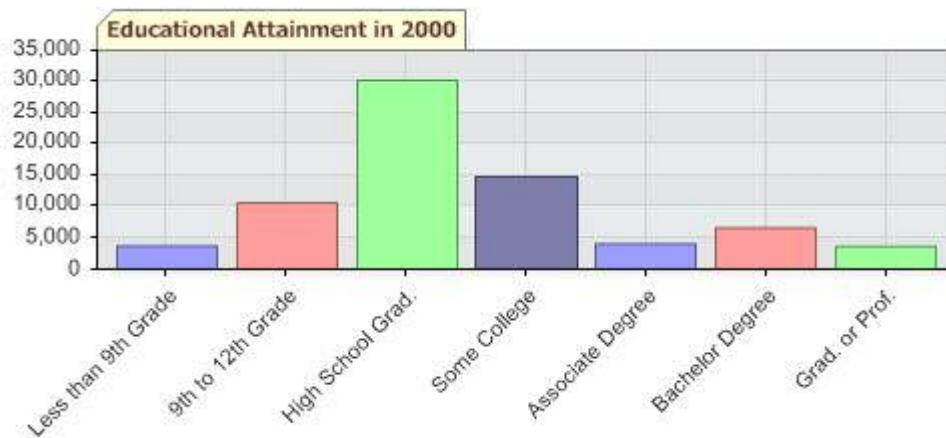
Source: Indiana Business Research Center; Note: additional detail can be found at the following URL: <http://www.stats.indiana.edu/topic/population.asp>

Education

The level of education of our workforce is a critical factor for economic and community development. It often provides insight into the skill levels of a local area. The metrics provided here focus on the attainment of degrees and high school graduates higher education intent. The type of work (occupations) residents perform can also assist understanding skill levels.

According to the 2000 Census, 59,409 people twenty-five years of age and over were high school graduates and/or had post-high school education. This amount represented 80.7 percent of LaPorte County's twenty-five and over population. For the twenty-five years of age and over population, 10,312 or 14 percent were four-year college graduates or higher, ranking LaPorte County 36th highest among Indiana counties for percentage of this population who were college graduates or higher. For the 2004-2005 school year, 898 persons graduated high school and 493 or 54.9 percent intended to go on to higher education.

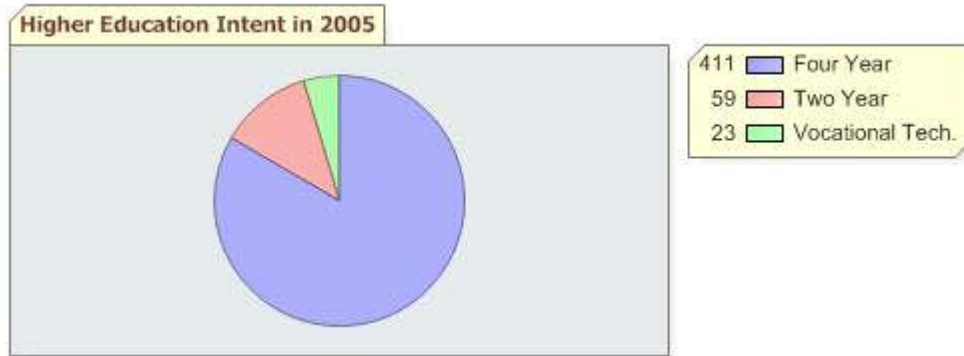
Educational Attainment				
	1970	1980	1990	2000
Total Population 25 and Older	57,607	63,540	70,102	73,723
Less than 9th Grade	15,862	10,146	5,981	3,706
9th to 12th, No Diploma	13,652	12,932	12,310	10,608
High School Graduate (incl. equiv.)	19,952	26,656	28,716	30,234
Some College, No Degree			11,052	14,804
Associate Degree			3,809	4,059
Bachelors Degree			4,814	6,633
Graduate or Professional Degree			3,420	3,679



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

High School Graduates Going on to Higher Education

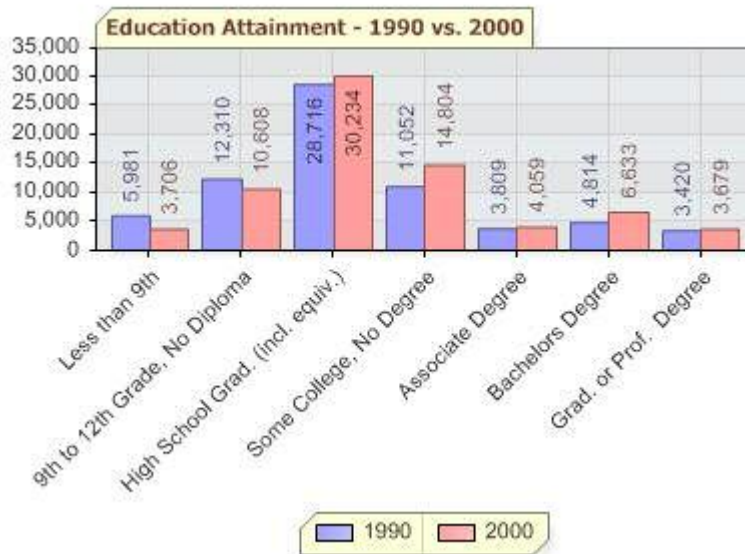
	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total Graduates	1,006	1,361	920	898
Total to Higher Education	465	508	668	493
Four-Year Institution	405	355	482	411
Two-Year Institution	26	98	83	59
Vocational/Tech.	34	55	103	23
Military	21	32	30	12



Source: Indiana Department of Education

Educational Attainment in 1990 and 2000

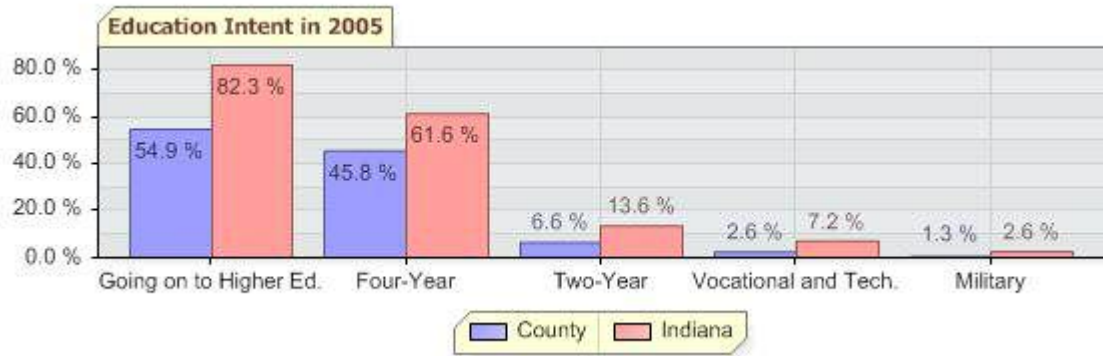
	1990	Pct. of Pop. 25+	2000	Pct. of Pop. 25+
Total Population 25+	70,102	100.0%	73,723	100.0%
Less than 9th Grade	5,981	8.5%	3,706	5.0%
9th to 12th Grade, No Diploma	12,310	17.6%	10,608	14.4%
High School Graduate (incl. equivalency)	28,716	41.0%	30,234	41.0%
Some College, No Degree	11,052	15.8%	14,804	20.1%
Associate Degree	3,809	5.4%	4,059	5.5%
Bachelors Degree	4,814	6.9%	6,633	9.0%
Graduate or Professional Degree	3,420	4.9%	3,679	5.0%



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

High School Graduates Higher Education Intent

	2005 Pct. Dist.	Indiana Pct. Dist.
Graduates	100.0%	100.0%
Total Going on to Higher Education	54.9%	82.3%
Four-Year Institution	45.8%	61.6%
Two-Year Institution	6.6%	13.6%
Vocational and Tech.	2.6%	7.2%
Military	1.3%	2.6%



Source: Indiana Department of Education

Commuting

In Indiana, most workers commute to a job, either within their home county or beyond. Patterns of commuting are significant in showing the labor supply. The county “labor force” represents workers who reside in the county no matter where they work.

Two types of commuting patterns are provided here – the Census 2000 “benchmark” and the annual data tabulated from state income tax returns that can help provide a more current view.

In 2005 persons living in but commuting to work out of LaPorte County were 11,015 or 16.1 percent of the labor force. Approximately 83.9 percent of LaPorte County’s working residents work in the county. The area outside LaPorte County where the largest number of residents went to work was Porter County. In 2005 persons commuting to work into the county from outside areas were 7,753 or 11.9 percent of the work force. The area sending the most number of persons into the county to work was Porter County.

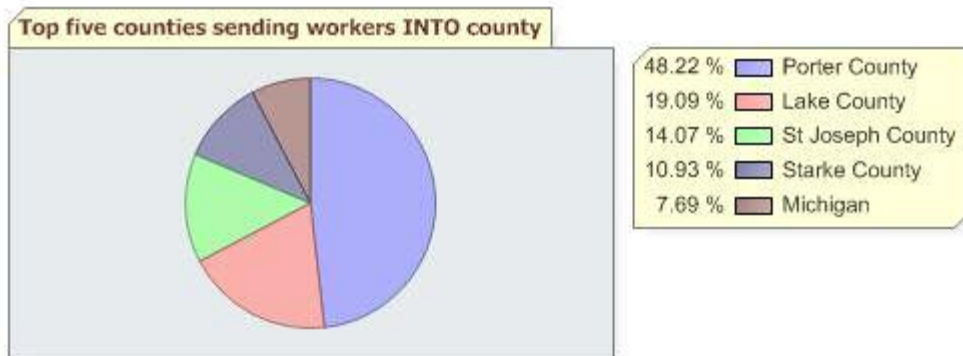
Commuting Data

	Number
Number of tax filers who live in county and work	68,408
Number of tax filers who work in the county	65,146
Number of tax filers who live in county and work in county	57,393
Number of tax filers who live out of the county and work in county	7,753

Source: Indiana Department of Revenue

Commuting Patterns: Top five counties sending workers INTO county, 2005

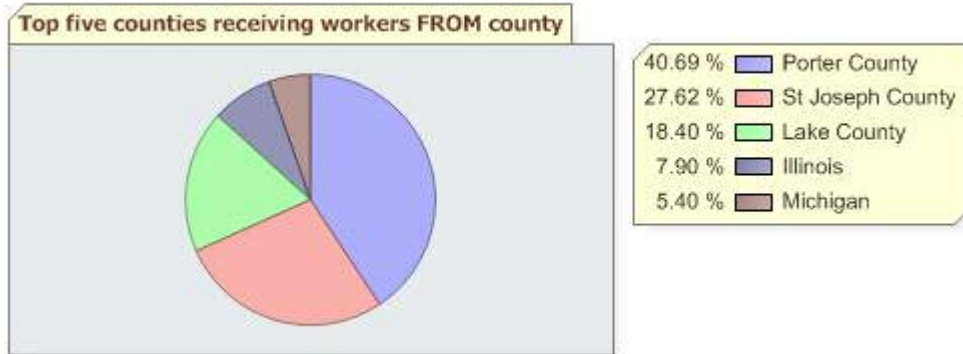
County	Number	Pct. Five County Total
Porter County	3,279	48.2%
Lake County	1,298	19.1%
St Joseph County	957	14.1%
Starke County	743	10.9%
Michigan	523	7.7%



Source: Indiana Department of Revenue

Commuting Patterns: Top five counties receiving workers FROM county, 2005

County	Number	Pct. Five County Total
Porter County	3,952	40.7%
St Joseph County	2,682	27.6%
Lake County	1,787	18.4%
Illinois	767	7.9%
Michigan	524	5.4%



Source: Indiana Department of Revenue

Travel To Work in 2000

	Number	Pct. Dist
Total Workers Age 16 and Over	50,121	100.0%
Travel To Work	48,813	97.4%
Car, Truck, or Van	46,825	93.4%
Traveled Alone	41,892	83.6%
Carpooled	4,933	9.8%
Used Public Transportation	490	1.0%
Motorcycle, Bicycle, Walked, Other	1,498	3.0%
Worked At Home	1,308	2.6%
Average Travel Time (Minutes)	22.0	
Average Travel Time using Public Transportation (Minutes)	52.2	

Source: US Census Bureau

Labor Force

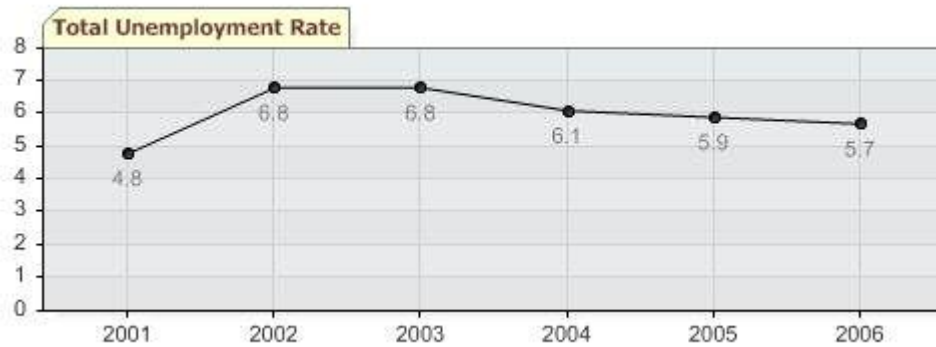
An area's labor force provides insight on the availability factor and is residence-based – that is, the people are working or seeking work and reside in the specific county or region.

A key component of labor force is the unemployment rate, which is estimated monthly but best used as an annual trend. The annual trends are what we focus on here.

LaPorte County's estimated average unemployment rate for 2006 was 5.7 percent, above Indiana's annual average of 5.0 percent. The county's unemployment rate was based on an estimated average residential labor force of 53,734. Of that labor force, 50,674 were employed and 3,060 were unemployed. LaPorte County's unemployment rate reached a decade low of 3.1 percent in 1998. The rate high was 6.8 percent in 2002 & 2003.

Annual Labor Force Estimates in 2006

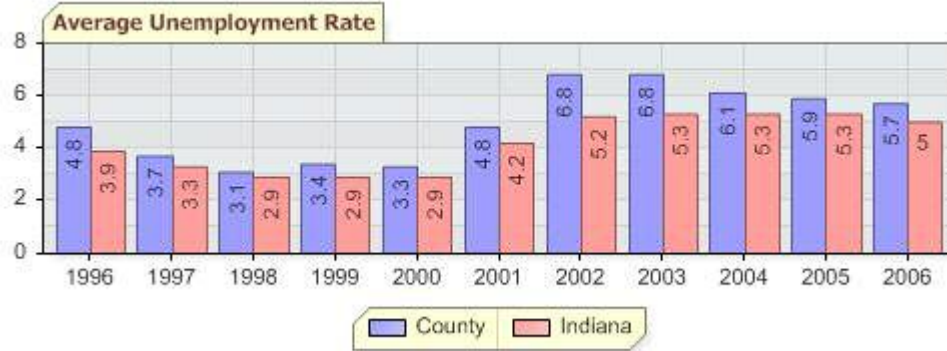
	Number	Pct. Chg. from 2000
Labor Force	53,734	-0.7%
Employed	50,674	-3.1%
Unemployed	3,060	69.8%
Rate	5.7	72.7%



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Labor Force Estimates

	Labor Force	Emp.	Unemp.	Cnty. Rate	State Rate
1996	54,730	52,127	2,603	4.8	3.9
1997	54,624	52,586	2,038	3.7	3.3
1998	54,191	52,499	1,692	3.1	2.9
1999	53,839	52,028	1,811	3.4	2.9
2000	54,097	52,295	1,802	3.3	2.9
2001	54,115	51,529	2,586	4.8	4.2
2002	54,092	50,404	3,688	6.8	5.2
2003	53,806	50,145	3,661	6.8	5.3
2004	52,891	49,656	3,235	6.1	5.3
2005	53,427	50,258	3,169	5.9	5.3
2006	53,734	50,674	3,060	5.7	5.0



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Employment

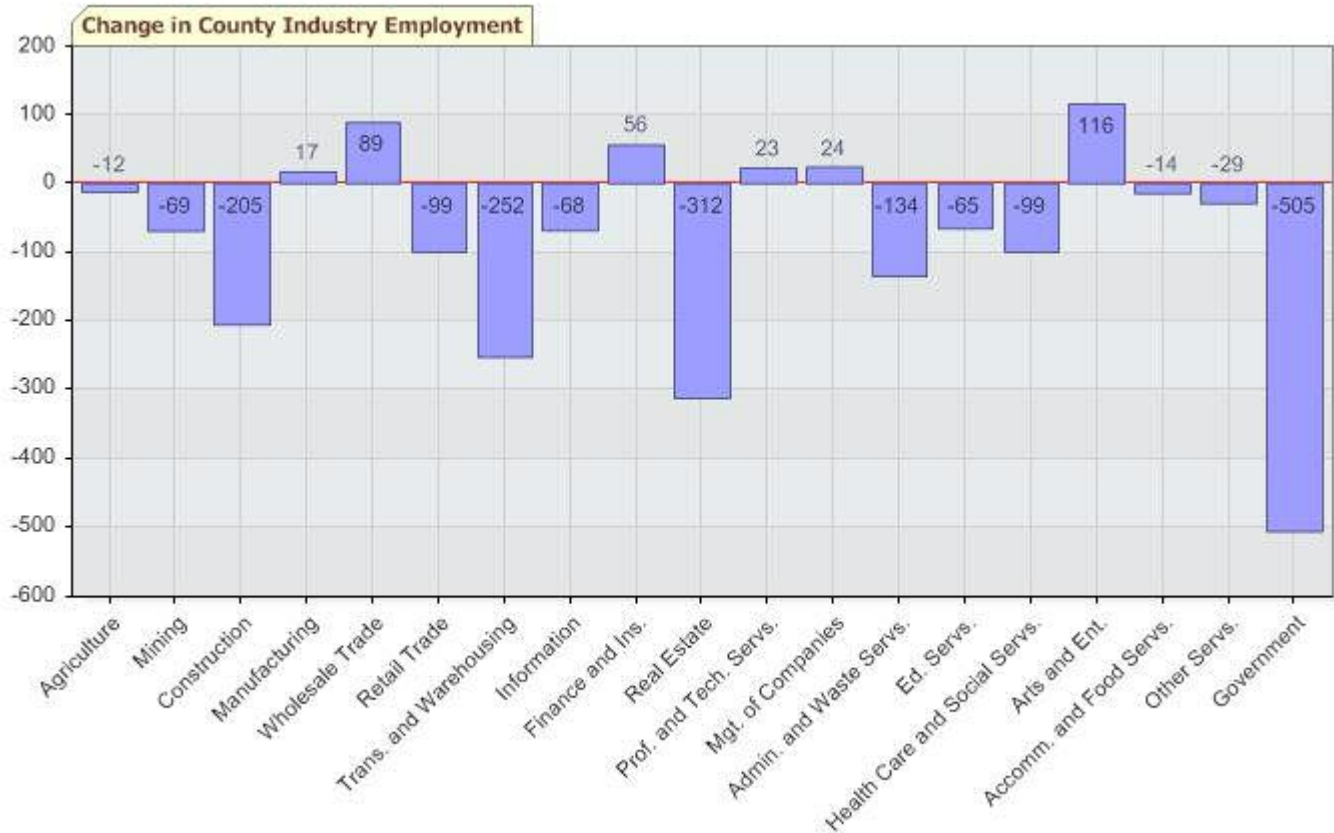
An area's labor force employment is a count of employed persons by residence, whereas industry employment is a job count by work site. Self employed are counted in the residential report whereas in the work site report they are not. In addition, a person may hold multiple jobs and each job is counted in industry employment.

In 2006, LaPorte County businesses had an average of 44,771 jobs. Three major industry sectors: Manufacturing, Government (all levels), and Health Care & Social Assistance dominated the county in terms of employment. These three industry sectors accounted for 50.0 percent of the county's 2006 industry employment. The largest employing industry in the county was Manufacturing with 9,478 jobs, accounting for 21.2 percent of total employment.

Total covered employment was down 3.4 percent between 2002 and 2006. Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation showed the most job growth between 2002 and 2006, increasing 116 jobs or 7.9 percent. Wholesale Trade was second, adding 89 jobs or 7.8 percent. Management of Companies and Enterprises had the largest percentage gain at 36.9 percent.

Average Employment by Sector

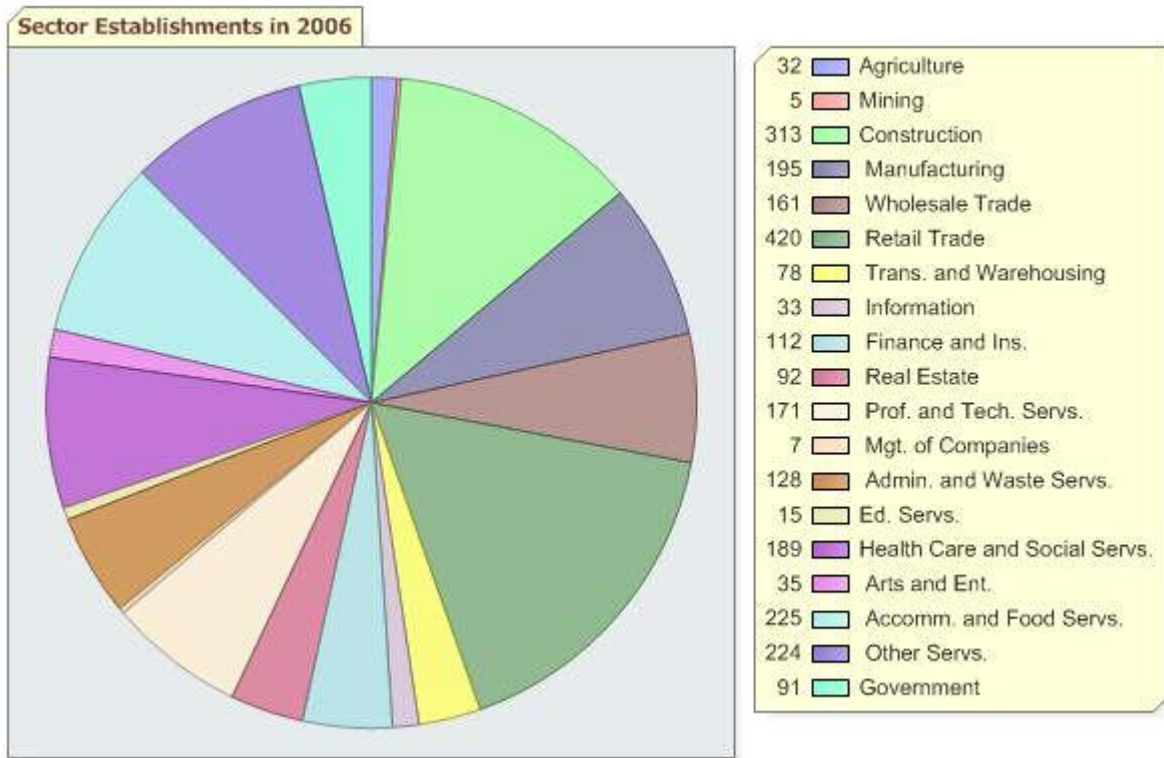
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Change 2002-2006	% Change 2002-2006
Total Employment	46,323	45,425	44,674	45,109	44,771	-1,552	-3.35%
Total Private Employment	38,747	37,948	37,301	37,802	37,700	-1,047	-2.70%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunt	236	262	256	238	224	-12	-5.08%
Mining	103	D	90	50	34	-69	-66.99%
Construction	2,333	2,260	2,162	2,215	2,128	-205	-8.79%
Manufacturing	9,461	8,980	9,196	9,341	9,478	17	0.18%
Wholesale Trade	1,143	1,196	1,208	1,236	1,232	89	7.79%
Retail Trade	5,775	5,650	5,617	5,609	5,676	-99	-1.71%
Transport. and Warehousing	1,556	1,293	1,238	1,329	1,304	-252	-16.20%
Utilities	276	257	251	D	D	N/A	N/A
Information	723	690	675	668	655	-68	-9.41%
Finance and Insurance	861	875	882	924	917	56	6.50%
Real Estate, Rental, Leasing	667	751	336	366	355	-312	-46.78%
Professional and Tech. Servs.	734	717	750	774	757	23	3.13%
Mgmt. of Companies	65	81	84	99	89	24	36.92%
Admin. and Waste Services	2,046	1,833	1,866	1,903	1,912	-134	-6.55%
Educational Services	368	322	333	309	303	-65	-17.66%
Health Care and Social Assistance	5,928	6,179	5,944	5,898	5,829	-99	-1.67%
Arts, Entertain., and Recreation	1,477	1,556	1,501	1,620	1,593	116	7.85%
Accommodation and Food Service	3,659	3,600	3,564	3,609	3,645	-14	-0.38%
Other Services	1,336	1,307	1,347	1,356	1,307	-29	-2.17%
Federal, State, & Local Govt.	7,576	7,477	7,373	7,307	7,071	-505	-6.67%



Note: D = non-discloseable in compliance with the Bureau of Labor Statistics and/or State of Indiana confidentiality guidelines. Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, as of June 29, 2007

Establishments by Sector

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Change 2002-2006	% Change 2002-2006
Total Establishments	2,530	2,513	2,491	2,502	2,533	3	0.12%
Total Private Establishments	2,439	2,422	2,397	2,410	2,442	3	0.12%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunt	32	35	36	35	32	0	0.00%
Mining	5	D	4	5	5	0	0.00%
Construction	311	311	312	308	313	2	0.64%
Manufacturing	213	206	201	198	195	-18	-8.45%
Wholesale Trade	139	145	147	157	161	22	15.83%
Retail Trade	422	422	412	413	420	-2	-0.47%
Transport. and Warehousing	93	84	75	75	78	-15	-16.13%
Utilities	5	5	5	D	D	N/A	N/A
Information	34	30	30	30	33	-1	-2.94%
Finance and Insurance	100	103	105	110	112	12	12.00%
Real Estate, Rental, Leasing	87	88	87	94	92	5	5.75%
Professional and Tech. Servs.	168	170	167	174	171	3	1.79%
Mgmt. of Companies	5	6	6	8	7	2	40.00%
Admin. and Waste Services	121	122	121	120	128	7	5.79%
Educational Services	21	18	17	15	15	-6	-28.57%
Health Care and Social Assistance	193	198	196	189	189	-4	-2.07%
Arts, Entertain., and Recreation	29	29	34	37	35	6	20.69%
Accommodation and Food Service	214	215	218	220	225	11	5.14%
Other Services	247	230	225	220	224	-23	-9.31%
Federal, State, & Local Govt.	91	91	94	92	91	0	0.00%



Note: D = non-discloseable in compliance with the Bureau of Labor Statistics and/or State of Indiana confidentiality guidelines. Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, as of June 29, 2007

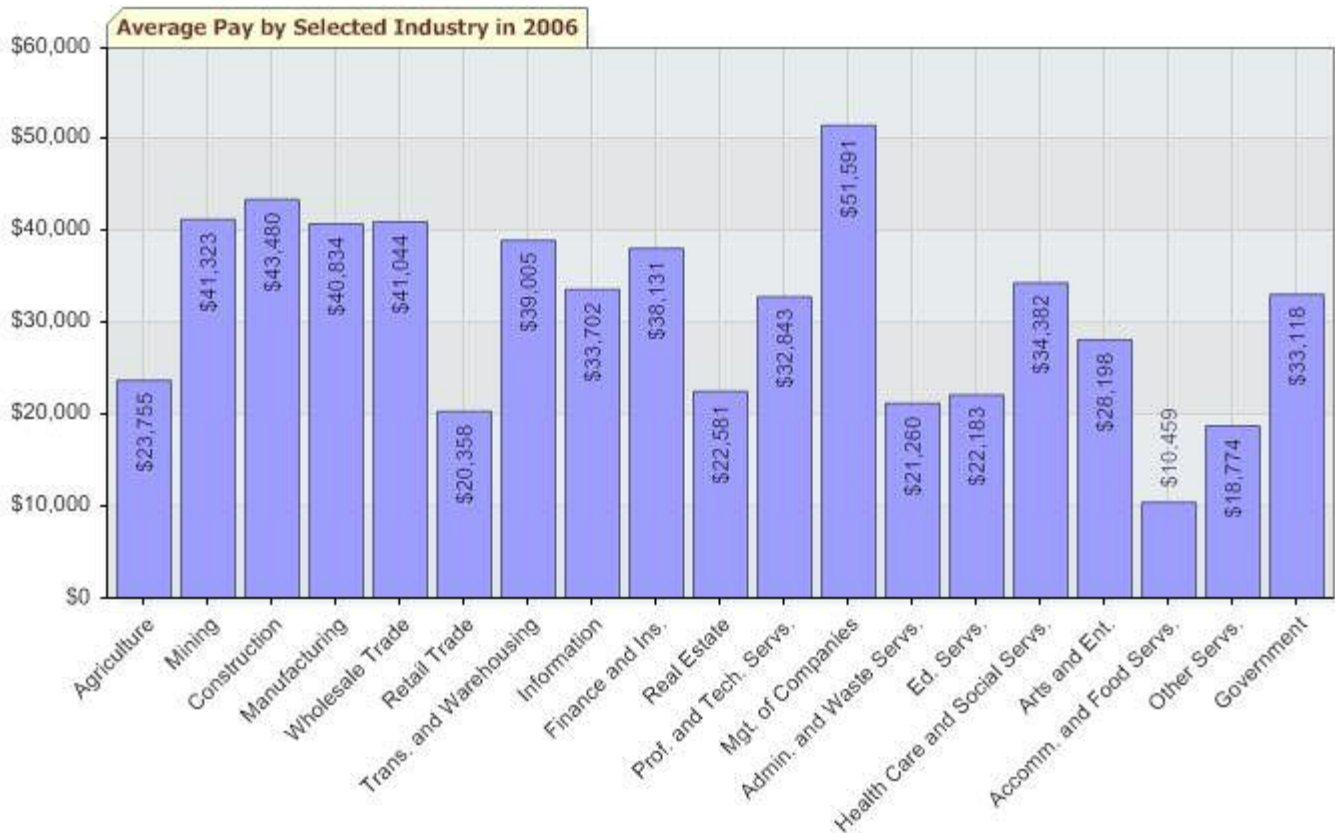
Earnings and Income

The average 2006 earnings for LaPorte County was \$31,389 per year versus Indiana's \$36,411. The average industry wage rose by \$3,028 or 10.7 percent from 2002 to 2006. The Management of Companies and Enterprises industry had the highest average earnings at \$51,591 per year, with the Construction industry second at \$43,480, while the industry with the lowest annual earnings number was Accommodation & Food Services at \$10,459.

Per capita income for 2005 was \$27,222 in LaPorte County, up 38.3 percent since 1995.

Average Annual Earnings by Industry

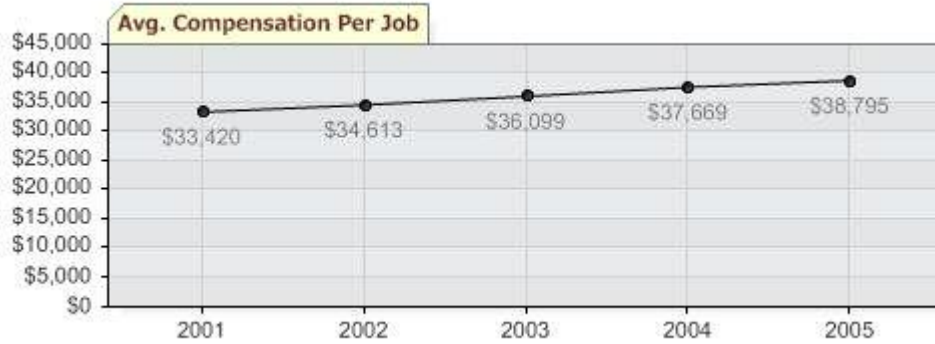
	2002	2006	Change 2002-2006	% Change 2002-2006	Indiana 2006	% of State
All Industries	\$28,361	\$31,389	\$3,028	10.7%	\$36,411	86.2%
Ag., For., Fishing, & Hunt.	\$20,126	\$23,755	\$3,629	18.0%	\$26,705	89.0%
Mining	\$23,447	\$41,323	\$17,875	76.2%	\$55,083	75.0%
Construction	\$39,080	\$43,480	\$4,400	11.3%	\$41,825	104.0%
Manufacturing	\$37,720	\$40,834	\$3,115	8.3%	\$50,045	81.6%
Wholesale Trade	\$36,167	\$41,044	\$4,877	13.5%	\$47,193	87.0%
Retail Trade	\$18,226	\$20,358	\$2,133	11.7%	\$21,936	92.8%
Trans. & Warehousing	\$35,657	\$39,005	\$3,348	9.4%	\$37,168	104.9%
Utilities	\$67,643	D	N/A	N/A	\$67,889	N/A
Information	\$28,278	\$33,702	\$5,424	19.2%	\$44,748	75.3%
Finance & Insurance	\$33,775	\$38,131	\$4,356	12.9%	\$50,891	74.9%
Real Est., Rent., Leasing	\$18,085	\$22,581	\$4,495	24.9%	\$31,409	71.9%
Prof. & Tech. Svcs.	\$29,617	\$32,843	\$3,227	10.9%	\$48,562	67.6%
Mgt. of Companies	\$50,285	\$51,591	\$1,306	2.6%	\$75,170	68.6%
Admin. & Waste Svcs.	\$18,778	\$21,260	\$2,482	13.2%	\$23,842	89.2%
Education Svcs.	\$18,367	\$22,183	\$3,817	20.8%	\$29,780	74.5%
Health Care & Social Assist.	\$30,805	\$34,382	\$3,577	11.6%	\$36,743	93.6%
Arts, Ent. &, Rec.	\$25,287	\$28,198	\$2,910	11.5%	\$27,190	103.7%
Accom. & Food Svcs.	\$9,927	\$10,459	\$532	5.4%	\$11,987	87.3%
Other Svcs.	\$17,942	\$18,774	\$832	4.6%	\$23,924	78.5%
Fed., State & Local Govt.	\$29,801	\$33,118	\$3,317	11.1%	\$36,229	91.4%



Note: D = non-discloseable in compliance with the Bureau of Labor Statistics and/or State of Indiana confidentiality guidelines. Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, as of June 29, 2007

Average Compensation Per Job Over Time

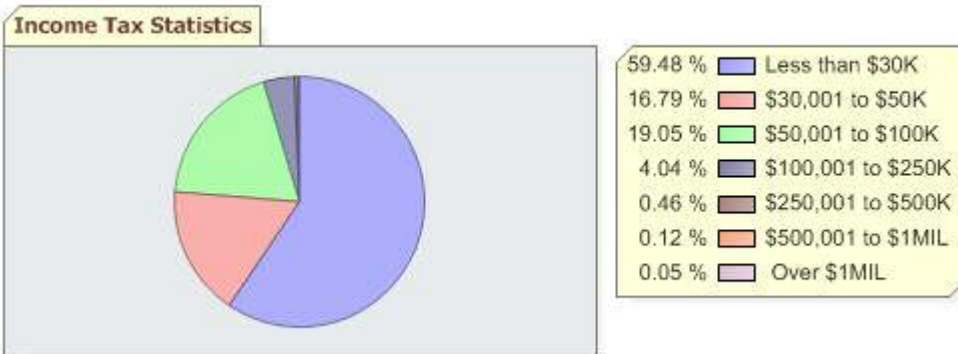
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Avg. Compensation per Job	\$33,420	\$34,613	\$36,099	\$37,669	\$38,795
Change Since 2001		\$1,193	\$2,679	\$4,249	\$5,375
Pct. Change Since 2001		3.6%	8.0%	12.7%	16.1%



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

2004 Income Tax Returns

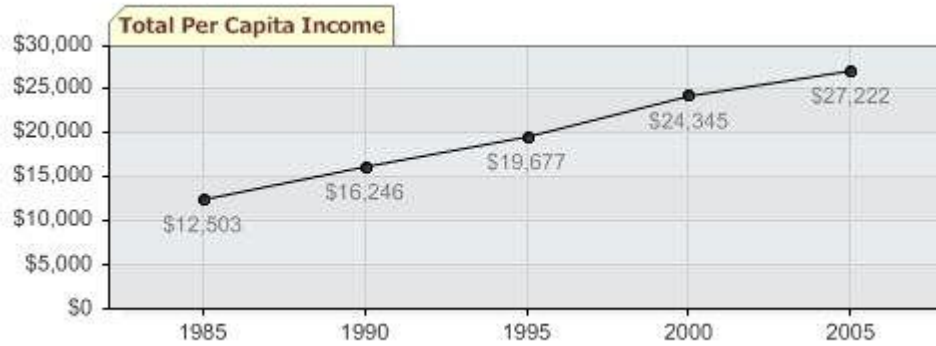
	# of Returns	Value of Returns	Number Chg. 99 to 04	Pct. Chg. 99 to 04	Pct. of Total Returns
Total	47,834	\$1,939,264,858	-1,572	-3.2%	100.0%
Less than \$30,000	28,454	\$418,313,235	-2,147	-7.0%	59.5%
\$30,001 to \$50,000	8,033	\$366,319,485	-786	-8.9%	16.8%
\$50,001 to \$100,000	9,113	\$689,901,441	764	9.2%	19.1%
\$100,001 to \$250,000	1,934	\$269,849,818	609	46.0%	4.0%
\$250,001 to \$500,000	220	\$75,156,139	10	4.8%	0.5%
\$500,001 to \$1,000,000	57	\$38,120,188	-8	-12.3%	0.1%
Over \$1Mil	23	\$81,604,552	-14	-37.8%	0.0%



Source: Indiana Department of Revenue

Per Capita Income Over Time

	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005
Total Per Capita Income	\$12,503	\$16,246	\$19,677	\$24,345	\$27,222
Change Since 1985		\$3,743	\$7,174	\$11,842	\$14,719
Pct. Change Since 1985		29.9%	57.4%	94.7%	117.7%



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

Income & Wage

	Number
Median family income in 2005 (ACS)	\$45,960
Median household income in 2005 (ACS)	\$54,182
Average Wage Per Job in 2006 (BLS)	\$31,343
Wage Growth since 1996 (BLS)	32.7%

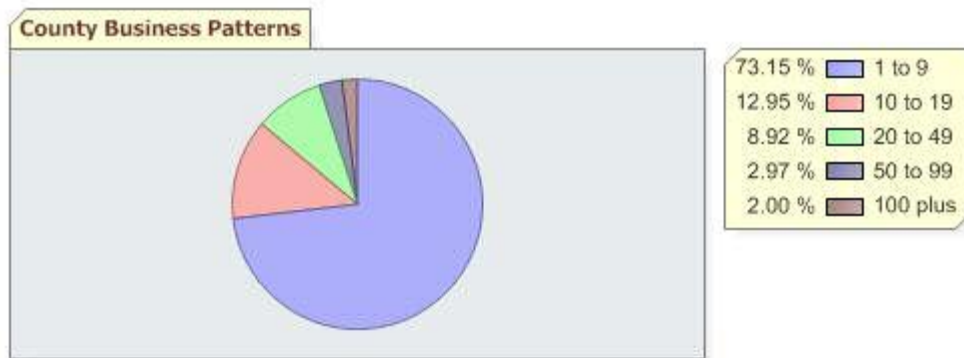
Source: US Census Bureau & Bureau of Labor Statistics

Firms and Employment by Size

Firm data are available for both the type of industry and the size of the firms.

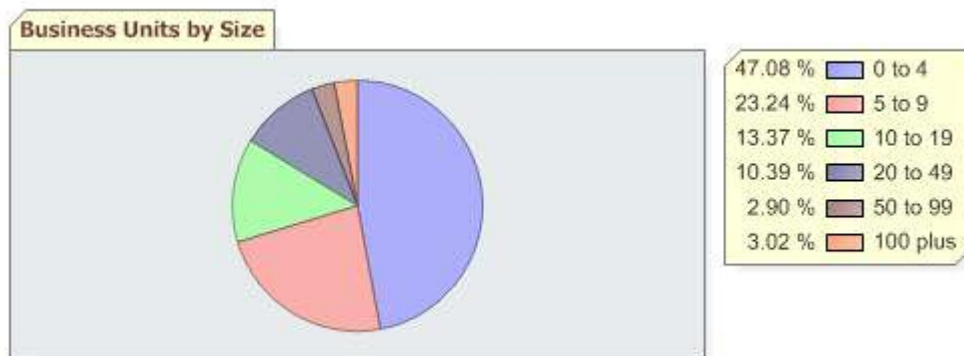
LaPorte County has 2,513 firms, with 76 firms or about 3.0 percent employing 100 or more workers, while firms employing fewer than 10 workers account for 70.3 percent. Also, the number of firms employing fewer than 10 workers fell 6.2 per cent or 116 firms between 1999 and 2006 to total 1,767 firms in 2006.

County Business Patterns, 2005				
	Establishments	Number Chg. 99 to 05	Pct.Chg. 99 to 05	Pct. of Total
1-9 employees	1,869	-64	-3.3%	73.2%
10-19 employees	331	-49	-12.9%	13.0%
20-49 employees	228	10	4.6%	8.9%
50-99 employees	76	0	0.0%	3.0%
100 plus employees	51	-13	-20.3%	2.0%
TOTAL	2,555	-116	-4.3%	100.0%



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

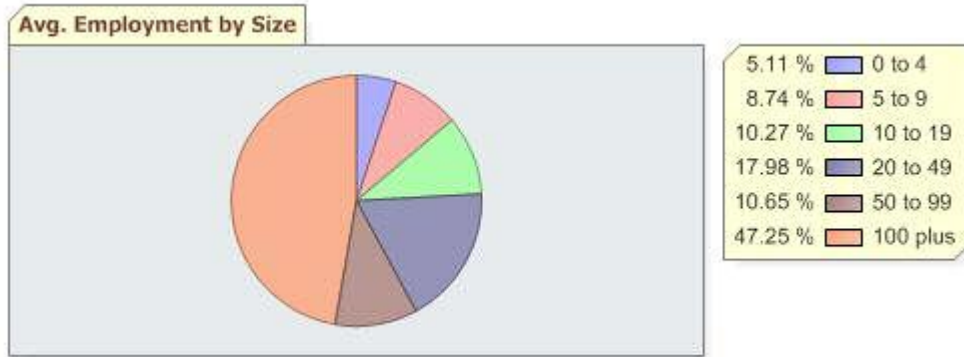
Firms by Size, 2006:3		
	Number of Business Units, 2006:3	Pct. of Total
0 to 4 employees	1,183	47.1%
5 to 9 employees	584	23.2%
10 to 19 employees	336	13.4%
20 to 49 employees	261	10.4%
50 to 99 employees	73	2.9%
100 plus employees	76	3.0%
TOTAL	2,513	100.0%



Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research & Analysis, Covered Employment; Note: Business Units with zero employees and Federal Government Employees are included.

Avg. Employment by Business Unit Size, 2006:3

	Avg. Employment, 2006:3	Pct. of Total
0 to 4 employees	2,279	5.1%
5 to 9 employees	3,902	8.7%
10 to 19 employees	4,586	10.3%
20 to 49 employees	8,025	18.0%
50 to 99 employees	4,754	10.6%
100 plus employees	21,094	47.3%
TOTAL	44,642	100.0%



Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research & Analysis, Covered Employment; Note: Business Units with zero employees and Federal Government Employees are included.