

Regional Workforce Data Profile: Economic Growth Region 1



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Measuring Progress - EGR 1

Employment Metrics	WIOA EMPLOYMENT				
	Program Year 2023, Rolling 10 Q average	Job Placement After Exit	Job Placement Target	Retained Employment	Retention Target
	WIOA Adult	80%	81%	75%	80%
	WIOA Dislocated Worker	79%	80%	75%	80%
	WIOA Youth (age 14-24)	79%	75%	80%	83%

MEDIAN EARNINGS PROGRAM YEAR 2023 Q2, ROLLING	EGR 1	TARGET
Median Earnings Youth	\$3,576	\$3,610
Median Earnings DW	\$8,158	\$7,911
Median Earnings Adult	\$7,132	\$7,406

	Job Placement	Retention
WIOA Adult	80%	75%
WIOA Dislocated Worker	79%	75%
WIOA Youth (age 14-24)	79%	80%

Legend: | = Target

Education Attainment	POST SECONDARY COMPLETION RATE	EGR 1: ON TIME	STATE: ON TIME	ERG 1: 6 YEAR (Extended)	STATE: 6 YEAR (Extended)
	2 Year Public	Ivy Tech Northwest - Gary 14%	19%	Ivy Tech Northwest - Gary 39%	43%
	4 Year Public	Indiana University Northwest - Gary 22% Purdue University Northwest 30%	45%	Indiana University Northwest - Gary 47% Purdue University Northwest 52%	66%

Workforce Ready Grant - Ivy Tech EGR 1		
County	Distinct Count Enrolled	Distinct Count Awarded
Jasper	267	108
Lake	3,782	958
LaPorte	1,159	455
Newton	68	23
Porter	1,983	648
Pulaski	83	38
Starke	199	82
Total	7,541	2,312

Source: Commission for Higher Education, Indiana College Completion Report, 2022

Student Engagement and Preparation	CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION				
	INDICATOR	2019-2020		2020-2021	
		STATE	EGR 1	STATE	EGR 1
	Post Program Placement	7,409/8,719 = 85%	1,473/1,670 = 88%	7,496/9,801 = 76%	1,671/2,011 = 83%
	Credential Attainment	1,943/9,801 = 20%	426/2,011 = 21%	2,432/11,956 = 20%	643/2,656 = 24%
Dual Credit Attainment	4,490/9,801 = 46%	444/951 = 45%	5,142/11,956 = 43%	1,107/2,656 = 42%	
WBL Participation	1,784/9,801 = 18%	291/2,011 = 15%	1,781/11,956 = 14%	607/2,656 = 23%	

High School Students Who Earn a Credential (2021 Cohort)	EGR 1	State
	4.0%	5.5%

Adult Education	ADULT EDUCATION	PY 2020-2021		PY 2021-2022		PY 2022-2023	
		EGR 1	STATE	EGR 1	STATE	EGR 1	STATE
	High School Equivalencies Earned	357	4,146	239	4,744	299	3,808
	Workforce Education Initiative Classes	3	115	2	119	3	181
	Workforce Education Initiative Enrollment	54	1,497	38	1,381	52	2,816
	Employment 2nd Qtr. After Exit	50%	52%	55%	46%	53%	55%
	Employment 4th Qtr. After Exit	65%	78%	72%	73%	68%	73%
	Median Earnings 2nd Qtr. After Exit	\$3,451	\$4,791	\$4,647	\$4,985	\$4,878	\$6,733

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STATE FISCAL YEAR PAID INVOICE ALLOCATIONS

Only includes IN Department of Workforce Development pass through funding SFY23 represents partial year

Program	FY23	FY22
Adult Education	\$1,424,934	\$1,282,268
Apprenticeship State Expansion Grant	\$30,995	\$68,161
Disaster Recovery - Dislocated Worker National Emergency Grant		\$26,087
Employer Training Grant	\$911,491	\$181,463
Employment Recovery - Dislocated Worker Grant	\$97,371	\$231,217
Jobs for America's Graduates	\$379,288	\$450,309
Pre-Employment Transition Services	\$37,159	\$80,792
Trade Adjustment Act	\$3,856	\$6,415
Unemployment Insurance	\$651,500	\$474,030
Veterans	\$15,568	\$36,227
Wagner-Peyser	\$183,757	\$198,613
WIOA Adult	\$5,003,869	\$4,010,947
WIOA Dislocated Worker	\$1,427,756	\$1,908,000
WIOA Youth	\$6,368,393	\$4,672,828
Workforce Ready Grant	\$100,981	\$284,575
Grand Total	\$16,636,917	\$13,911,931
Federal	\$13,820,224	\$11,875,548
State	\$2,816,693	\$2,036,383
Expired	\$128,366	\$487,698



EGR DATA PROFILE REPORT

Executive Summary

This Economic Growth Region Data Profile provides an in-depth analysis of Economic Growth Region (EGR) 1 which consists of Jasper, Lake, La Porte, Newton, Porter, Pulaski, and Starke counties.

EGR Status

Social and Community Context.

The region shows moderate population growth driven by internal and international migration. Key challenges include age and racial disparities, low English fluency, and high food assistance needs.

Education Access and Quality.

There is a high rate of college completion, though variations in public school enrollment persist. Notable improvements in educational attainment have been observed.

Economic Stability.

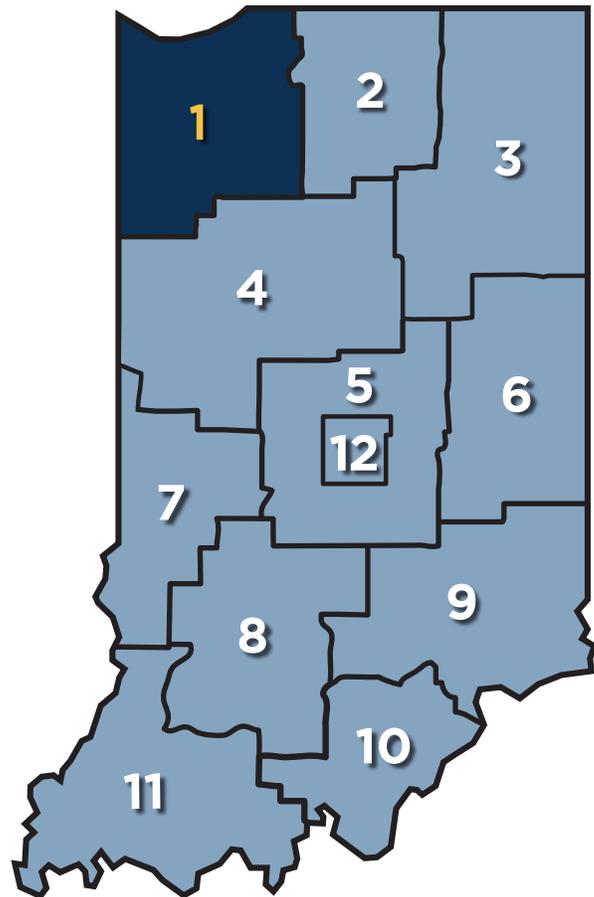
The region has the third-highest Real GDP in 2021, with a diverse job market. Income per capita is improving, but unemployment rates remain somewhat volatile.

Neighborhood and Built Environment.

Improvements in housing conditions are noted, alongside consistent rent increases. Most building permits are for single-family homes, indicating ongoing residential development.

Healthcare Access and Quality.

Healthcare access shows balanced state contributions but varies in health outcomes like obesity and smoking. Efforts are needed to enhance healthcare accessibility and improve life expectancy disparities.





EGR STATUS REPORT

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY CONTEXT

Total population

- Based on the 2022 data, the total population for EGR 1 was 865,932 which accounts for approximately 13% of Indiana's population.
- The total population is expected to decline to 858,216 by 2030.¹

County Level Population

County	Population (2022)	Percent Change 2020 - 2022
Jasper	33,535	0.4%
Lake	500,598	3.3%
LaPorte	111,706	0.4%
Newton	13,960	0.9%
Porter	175,335	1.2%
Pulaski	12,385	-1.0%
Starke	23,206	-0.7%

Population Change

- EGR 1's 0.2% population growth places it in the 6th position among the 12 EGRs in terms of growth. This indicates that it experienced higher population growth than 6 of the other EGRs. EGR 5 had the highest growth at 3.5%.
- When we look at the projected 2030 population, EGR 1 is expected to decline from 865,932 to 858,216 reflecting a projected -1.24% decline in growth. A similar trend can be seen in EGR 6 and EGR 7 where they decline by 0.078% and 3.58% respectively.
- EGR 1 saw a significant net gain of 1,144 people through domestic migration, indicating a positive internal migration trend. The region also experienced an influx of 827 individuals from international migration, contributing to its overall population increase.

¹ US Census Bureau

Regional Workforce Data Profile: EGR 1

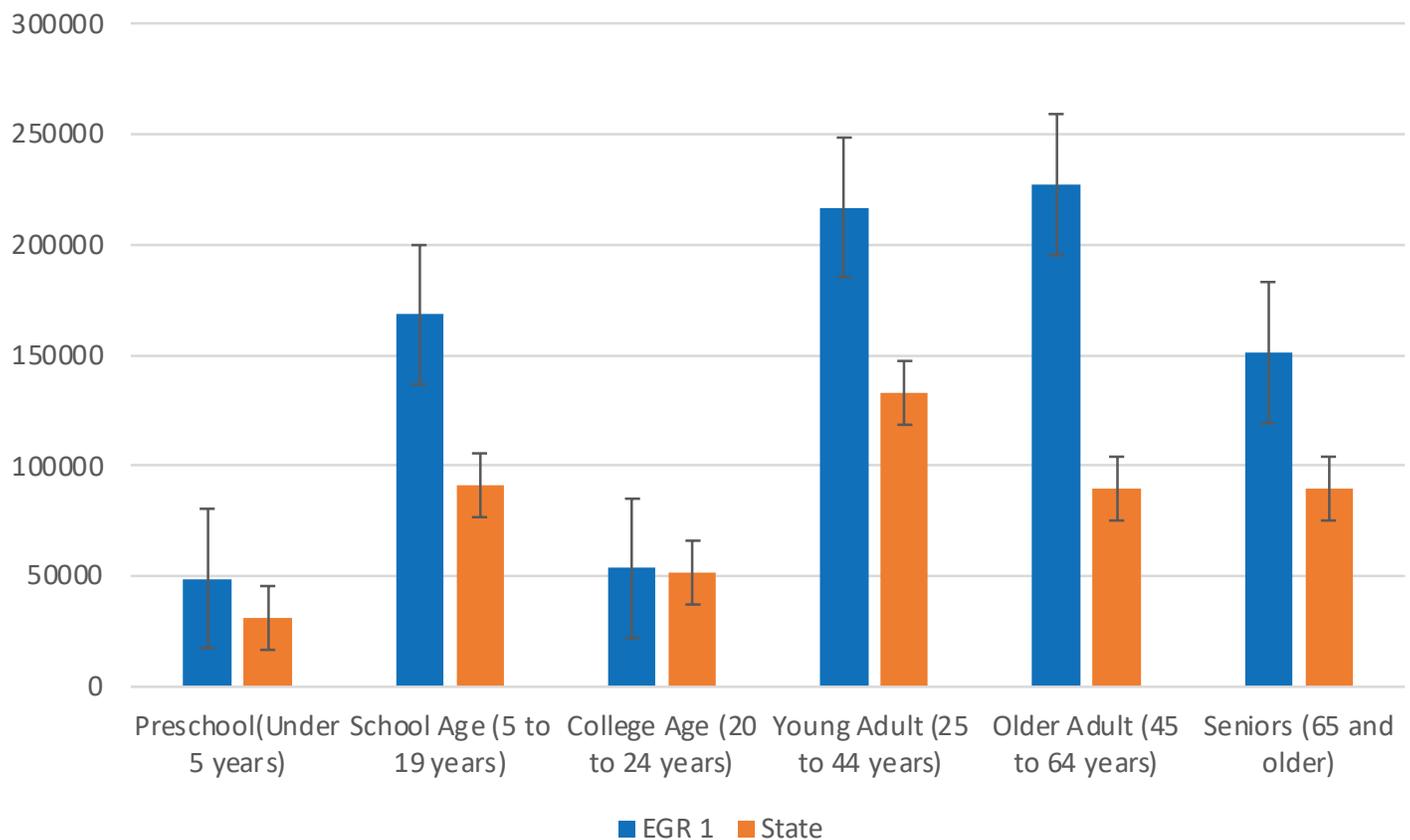


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Population by Age

- In the chart below, we plotted the expected distribution of values for each age across the state. EGR 1's population distribution is generally consistent yet usually lower than with the state for most age groups.
- The population numbers across age groups are generally stable or exceed the state average.
- It's crucial to highlight that Lake County significantly impacts the distribution of the young adult population (ages 25-44) across these counties, as it boasts a notably larger population within this age bracket. Remarkably, Lake County's young adult population comprises 53% of the entire EGR 1 population for this age group.²

Expected VS Actual Distributions (Age)



² US Census Bureau, American Community Survey

Regional Workforce Data Profile: EGR 1



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Number and % of Working Age Population 18-64 ²

Number and % of Working Age Population (18-64)	
County	Working Age Population (18-64)
Jasper	19,434
Lake	296,798
LaPorte	67,579
Newton	8,216
Porter	106,019
Pulaski	7,214
Starke	13,587

Percent of population by Age Group							
County	15 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 59	60 to 64
Jasper	6.9%	5.4%	11.9%	12.2%	12.4%	7.2%	7.1%
Lake	6.8%	6.2%	12.2%	12.9%	12.4%	6.9%	6.6%
LaPorte	5.7%	6.3%	13.0%	12.4%	12.4%	6.4%	7.6%
Newton	6.2%	5.2%	11.4%	12.0%	12.6%	8.3%	7.5%
Porter	6.6%	6.5%	11.9%	13.5%	12.8%	6.7%	7.1%
Pulaski	7.3%	5.6%	11.4%	11.0%	11.9%	7.5%	7.1%
Starke	6.3%	5.5%	11.4%	11.9%	12.5%	7.4%	7.4%

² US Census Bureau, American Community Survey

* The total won't reach 100 because not every age group is represented here.

Regional Workforce Data Profile: EGR 1



Population by Race/Ethnicity

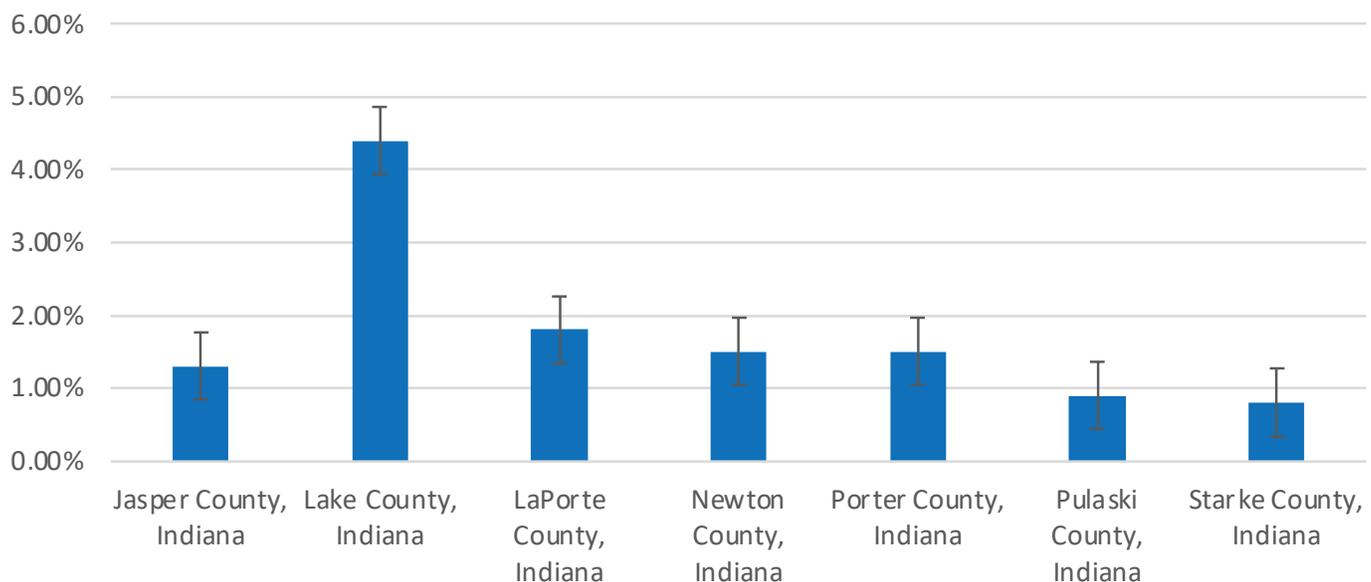
Population Estimates by Race and Hispanic Origin, 2022	Number	Rank of 12	Pct Dist. in Region	Pct Dist. in State
American Indian or Alaska Native Alone	4,455	2	0.5%	0.4%
Asian Alone	12,440	5	1.4%	2.8%
Black Alone	144,442	2	16.6%	10.3%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pac. Isl. Alone	489	5	0.1%	0.1%
White	688,539	2	79.2%	84.0%
Two or More Race Groups	18,637	4	2.1%	2.4%
Hispanic or Latino Origin (can be of any race)				
Non-Hispanic	731,437	4	84.2%	92.1%
Hispanic	137,565	1	15.8%	7.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

English as a Second Language

- Lake County, Indiana, exhibits the highest percentage of the population with low English fluency, as presented in the chart. In contrast, Pulaski and Starke Counties show the lowest percentages of low English fluency, which correlates with their demographic profiles. These counties have a majority White population and notably less diversity, which influences their higher homogeneity in English language proficiency.

Population % Low English Fluency



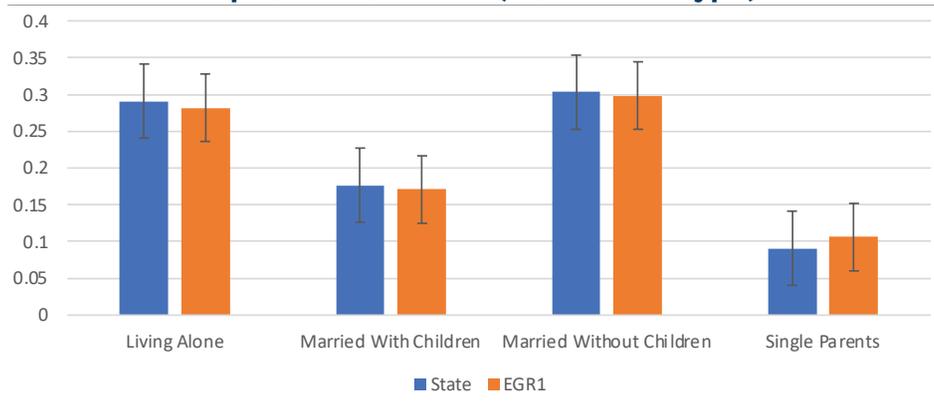
Regional Workforce Data Profile: EGR 1



Household Types

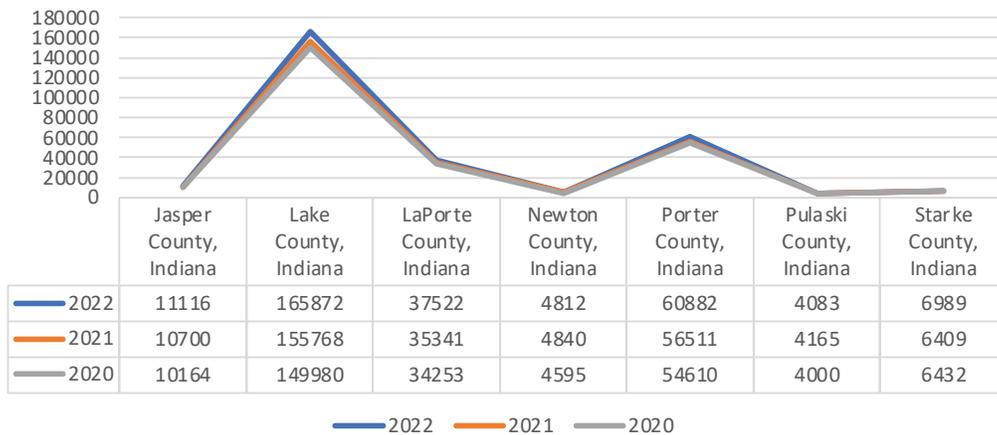
- Expected VS Actual by Household Type had expected distribution of values for the different household types that make up the state and compared it against the distribution of EGR 1.
- The largest difference between expected and actual values occurs in the "Living Alone" category, where the actual proportion is notably higher than expected. ²

Expected VS Actual (Household Type)



Broadband Prevalence ²

Households with Broadband Access



Other Social Factors to Employment

- ~6% of the population is under 6 years old
- ~2% of the population lacks vehicles or reliable transportation
- ~2% of the population does not speak English fluently
- ~12% of the population needed food assistance at some point
- ~366 individuals between the ages of 25 and 54 have been classified as "discouraged workers," meaning they desire employment and are available to work but have ceased their job search due to a belief that there are no job opportunities available for them.

² US Census Bureau, American Community Survey



EDUCATION ACCESS AND QUALITY

College Going Rates by School Systems in Each County

County	School System ³	Population	College Going Rate
Jasper	Kankakee Valley, School Corp, Rensselaer Central, School Corp,	33,045	15%
Lake	21St Century Charter Sch Of Gary, Aspire Charter Academy, Campagna Academy Charter School, Charter School Of The Dunes, Crown Point Community Sch Corp, East Chicago Lighthouse Charter, East Chicago Urban Enterprise Acad, Gary Community School Corp, Gary Lighthouse Charter School, Griffith Public Schools, Hammond Academy Of Science & Tech, Hanover Community School Corp, Lead College Prep Charter, Lake Central School Corp, Lake Ridge Schools, Lake Station Community Schools, Merrillville Community School, Northwest In Education Center, Northwest Indiana Spec Ed Coop, River Forest Community Sch Corp, School City Of East Chicago, School City Of Hammond, School City Of Hobart, School Town Of Highland, School Town Of Munster, Thea Bowman Leadership Academy, Tri-Creek School Corporation, West Gary Lighthouse Charter, Whiting School City,	497,682	17%
LaPorte	Cass Township Schools, Dewey Township Schools, Laporte Community School Corp, Laporte County Superintendent, M S D Of New Durham Township, Michigan City Area Schools, New Prairie United School Corp, Prairie Township Schools, Renaissance Academy Charter School, South Central Com School Corp,	112,215	14%
Newton	North Newton School Corp, South Newton School Corp,	13,829	7%
Porter	Duneland School Corporation, East Porter County School Corp, M S D Boone Township, Portage Township Schools, Porter County Education Services, Porter Township School Corp, Union Township School Corp, Valparaiso Community Schools,	173,355	20%
Pulaski	Eastern Pulaski Com Sch Corp, West Central School Corp,	12,498	18%
Starke	Knox Community School Corp, North Judson-San Pierre Sch Corp, Oregon-Davis School Corp,	23,308	9%

- The data illustrates the college-going rates for these counties, reflecting the percentage of their populations that pursued higher education.
- The figures can be valuable for assessing the educational aspirations and opportunities within each county and can inform educational policies and support services to meet the needs of their residents.

³ Indiana State Department of Education

Regional Workforce Data Profile: EGR 1



Core 40 by County ⁴

Percent of high school graduates that completed the Core 40 that enrolled in college

County	2021	2020	2019	2018
Jasper	46.70%	37.20%	46.50%	47.90%
Lake	41.70%	43.90%	50.40%	50.60%
LaPorte	35.60%	32.30%	42.20%	46.30%
Newton	25.70%	34.80%	34.80%	45.30%
Porter	39.00%	41.60%	48.00%	53.60%
Pulaski	45.80%	34.40%	48.20%	43.30%
Starke	31.70%	37.50%	43.00%	38.60%

- The percentage of Core 40 students who have enrolled in college has dropped in all of the counties except Pulaski from 2018 to 2021; Jasper, LaPorte and Pulaski have rebounded from a low 2020 while all other counties have continued to decline.

Percent of high school graduates that were 21st Century Scholars enrolled in college.

County	2021	2020	2019	2018
Jasper	80.80%	92.00%	79.40%	100.00%
Lake	82.40%	82.70%	93.20%	87.20%
LaPorte	91.40%	78.80%	89.30%	92.90%
Newton		81.30%		90.00%
Porter	86.10%	85.80%	92.50%	91.50%
Pulaski		82.40%	100.00%	78.60%
Starke	73.70%	77.80%	93.10%	81.10%

- As seen with the Core 40 students, the percentage of 21st Century Scholars enrolled in college has also declined.

*some data is missing / unavailable

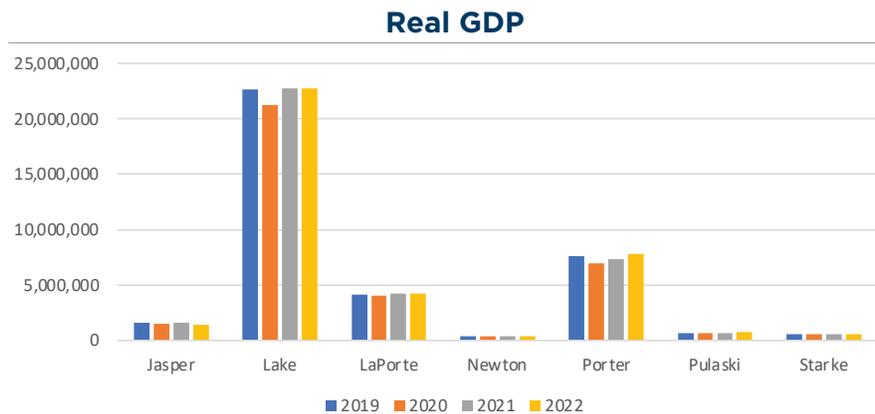
Population Without a High School Degree 18-64 ⁴

County	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Jasper County	7.5%	9%	10%	12%	11%
LaPorte County	11.3%	12%	12%	13%	13%
Lake County	9%	10%	10%	11%	11%
Newton County	15.5%	14%	16%	15%	16%
Porter County	6.2%	6%	6%	6%	6%
Pulaski County	12%	13%	12%	12%	13%
Starke County	14%	14%	15%	15%	17%

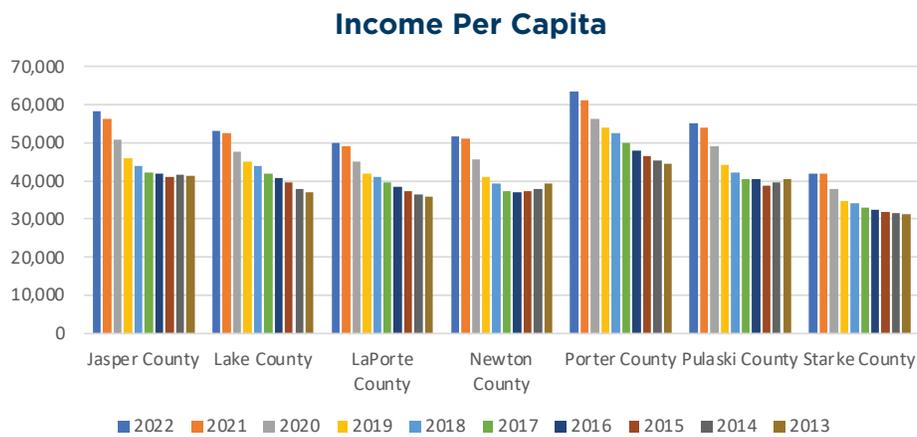
⁴ U.S Bureau of Economic Analysis



ECONOMIC STABILITY



- EGR 1 has displayed a mix of economic trends over the years, with some experiencing consistent growth, some remaining stable, and others facing challenges and recovery. The real GDP was significantly affected during the 2020 pandemic, but it appears to have stabilized subsequently.
- Lake County has the highest Real GDP across all four years when compared to the other regions shown, indicating it is likely the most economically significant or largest economy among them.
- The higher Real GDP of Lake County can be seen as a direct reflection of its larger share of the population within the EGR.
- EGR 1 has the 5th highest GDP among all EGRs with a GDP of 37,818,312. ⁴



- EGR 1 has the 2nd highest personal income per capita of all EGRs, with an income per capita of \$55,607. It is above the median income level for the EGRs, suggesting that it is performing better in terms of personal income per capita compared to some of the other regions.
- The average annual inflation rate from 2013 to 2022 in Indiana was approximately 2.6%. This means that, on average, the general level of prices for goods and services increased by about 2.6% each year. ⁵ Given this, the average growth income per capita increase of 3.73% for the counties over the same period slightly outpaces the average annual inflation rate for goods and services, not including housing.

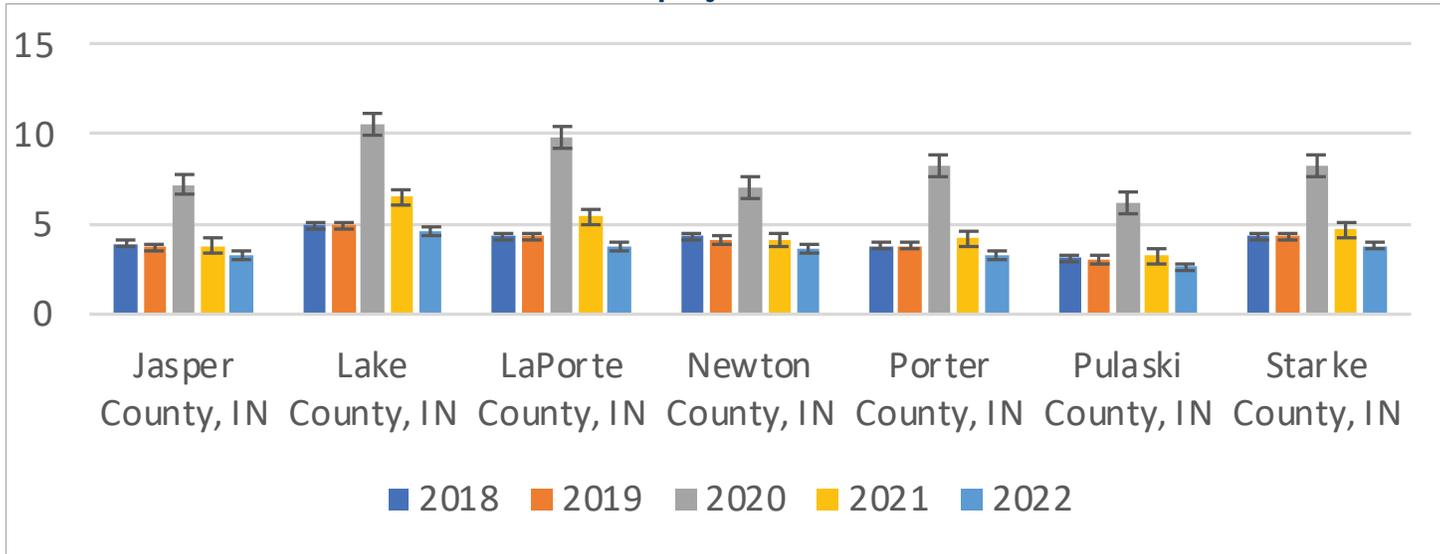
⁴ U.S Bureau of Economic Analysis

⁵ Inflation Calculator: STATS Indiana



Unemployment and Labor Force Participation

Unemployment Rate



- The average unemployment rate for EGR 1 in 2022 is 4.1%.
- EGR 1 had an unemployment rate above the state median in 2022.
- Within EGR 1, Pulaski County, IN consistently shows the lowest unemployment rates for the years available, including 2022.
- In contrast, Lake County, IN within EGR 1, has experienced some of the highest unemployment rates, particularly in 2020.
 - Lake County, IN, with its status as the most populous county within EGR 1, has some of the highest unemployment rates, especially notable in 2020. The sizeable population means that the unemployment figures for Lake County carry more weight in the overall economic health of EGR 1. The higher unemployment rate in this county could disproportionately skew EGR 1's average unemployment rate upwards, making the economic challenges here more influential on the region's performance metrics.

Regional Workforce Data Profile: EGR 1



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Industries, Employers, and Occupations

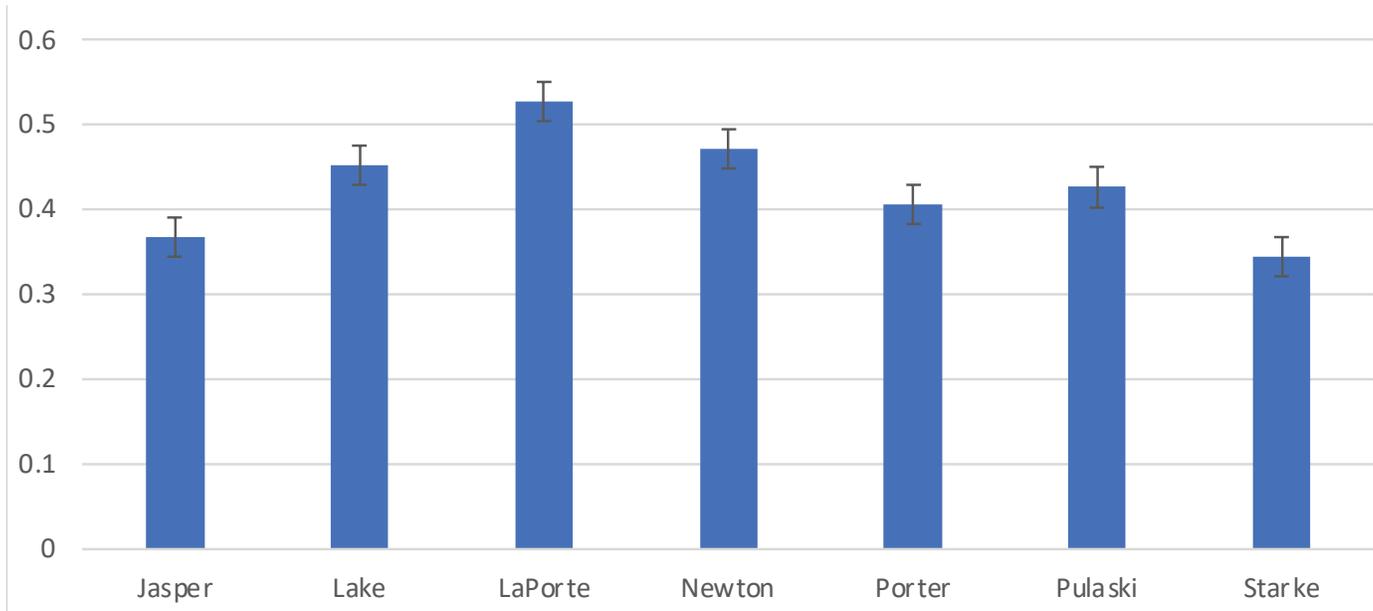
- EGR 1 mirrors Indiana's broader economic structure and top industries, with a strong presence in health care and social assistance, manufacturing, and retail trade.
- EGR 1 stands out for its health care/social services sector, which is a major part of its economy, more so than in other regions. This sector, along with manufacturing, forms the backbone of the local job market, reflecting EGR 1's unique industrial composition and its role as a regional economic hub.
- Leading employers in EGR 1, which form the economic pillars of the region, include:
 - Cleveland Cliffs, Franciscan Health facilities in Dyer and Crown Point, Community Hospital, Strack & Van Til, Northwest Health – Porter, Alverno Clinical Labs LLC, Methodist Hospital Northlake, Blue Chip Casino Hotel Spa, and US Steel Corp.
 - This diverse group of key employers underscores the significant role of healthcare and manufacturing in driving EGR 1's economy.
 - These organizations represent a broad spectrum of sectors, from health care and higher education to advanced manufacturing and defense, reflecting the region's varied employment landscape.
 - The presence of these employers underscores their role in fostering job opportunities and contributing to the economic resilience of EGR 1.
- The predominant occupations in EGR 1 are generally in line with those found in other regions across the state.
- The key occupations in EGR 1, according to the projections for 2021-2031, include a diverse range of job categories such as legal, healthcare support, personal care and service, computer and mathematical, community and social services, food preparation and serving, healthcare practitioners and technical, life, physical, and social science, business, and financial operations, and building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations ⁵

⁵ Inflation Calculator: STATS Indiana



Percent Labor Force Below Poverty Level ³

Percent Labor Force Below Poverty Level



Educational Attainment:

- The population in EGR 1 exhibits diverse educational backgrounds.
- Data shows that individuals with less than a high school diploma make up 4% of the population.
- Individuals with some post-secondary education represent 29%.
- Bachelor's degree and graduate school degree holders constitute 17%.⁵

³ Indiana State Department of Education

⁵ Inflation Calculator: STATS Indiana

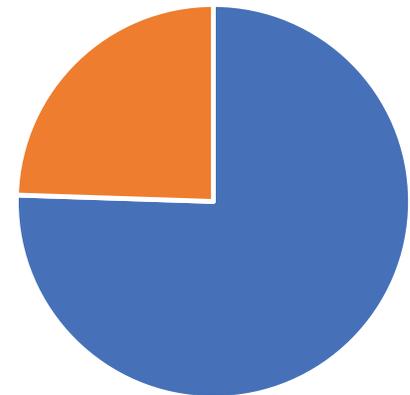


NEIGHBORHOOD AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Housing

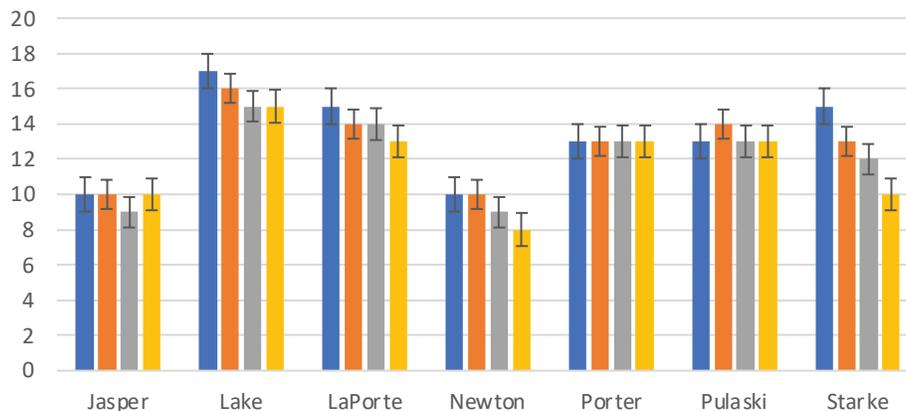
- EGR 1 has an average of 78% for owner-occupied housing units and 22% for a second metric of renter-occupied housing units.
- When looking at the housing distribution in EGR 1, most of the population is living as owners compared to a much smaller fraction of the population who are renters.
- EGR 1 is tied for the highest percentage of owner-occupied housing units with EGR 3 and has a lower percentage of renter-occupied housing units compared to EGR 12. The majority of the EGRs are close to EGR 1's performance, with differences ranging between 1-5%, except for EGR 12, which has a markedly different distribution.

Housing Distribution (EGR 1)



- Owner-occupied housing units
- Renter-occupied housing units

Percent of Severe Housing Shortages



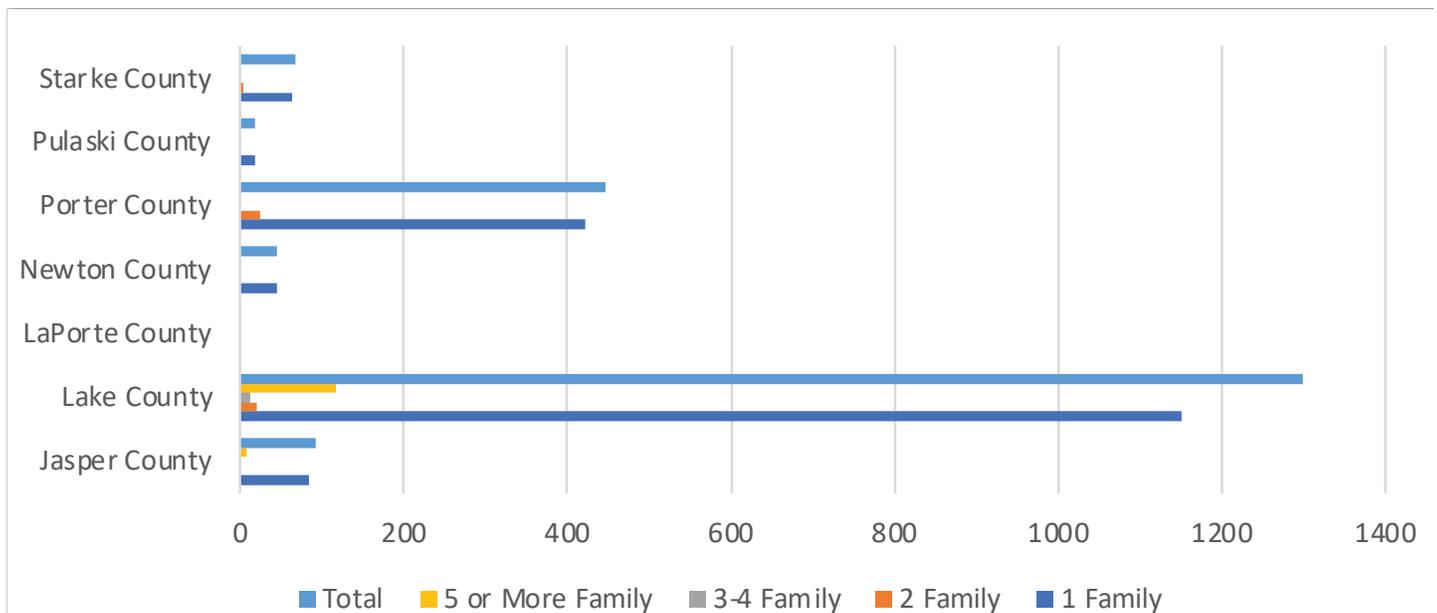
- The percentage of severe housing problems in EGR 1 has shown a general decreasing trend over the period from 2018 to 2021.
- Lake County had the highest housing shortage severity but showed a minor improvement by 2021. Newton and Starke Counties saw significant reductions in shortage severity, with Newton improving by 20% and Starke by 33%. Porter County's situation remained unchanged, while LaPorte and Pulaski saw minimal overall change. Jasper County experienced a slight temporary increase in severity but ended the period no worse than it began.⁶

⁶ Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) data



Building Permits

Number of Residential Building Permits Filed, 2022



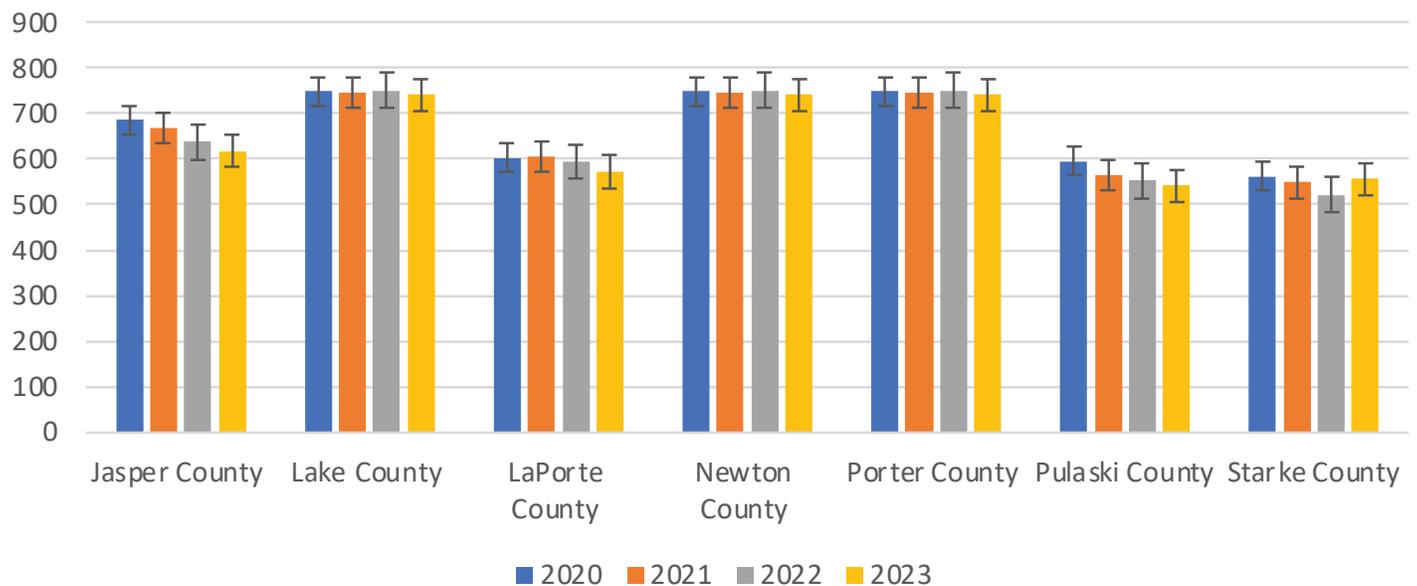
Note: Greene County totals are not included as it does not currently issue building permits. Indiana totals are a sum of the county data. U.S. and state totals are estimates prior to 1999 and are a sum of the county data for 1999 forward. County data are counts with imputation of missing data. Cost detail may not sum to totals due to rounding.

- There is a strong preference for 1 Family home construction across all counties.
- Only Lake County has a noticeable contribution of 3-4 Family and a minimal amount of 5 or More Family homes.
- The vast majority of permits filed across all counties are for 1 Family homes, indicating that this is the most common type of new residential construction.
- Lake County leads in construction growth, which may impact the housing shortage situation positively if this trend correlates with an increase in housing availability.
- 2 Family homes are not a popular construction choice, with very few permits filed for this type across most counties.



Rent ⁷

Rent Prices for 1 BR



- Rent prices appear to have increased in each county from 2020 to 2023, indicating a trend of rising rent over the years.
 - Lake County consistently has the highest rent prices among the listed counties, starting just below \$800 and increasing each year.
 - Jasper County, Pulaski County, and Starke County generally have the lowest rent prices, all starting around \$600 or lower and showing slight increases over the years.
 - LaPorte County and Porter County rent prices are in the middle range, starting from around \$700 and showing an upward trend.
 - Newton County's rent started lower than LaPorte and Porter's but increased at a rate that suggests it might surpass them by 2023.
- The variability of rent prices within each year, as shown by the error bars, is relatively small compared to the overall price, suggesting a stable rental market within each county.
- The consistent increase across all counties may indicate a general rise in housing costs, which could exacerbate housing shortage issues if wages do not increase correspondingly.
- EGR 12 and EGR 5 are the only regions with a higher average rent price than EGR 1, while all the other EGRs listed have lower average rent prices for 2023.

⁷ Zillow Housing Data - Zillow Home Value Index (ZHVI)

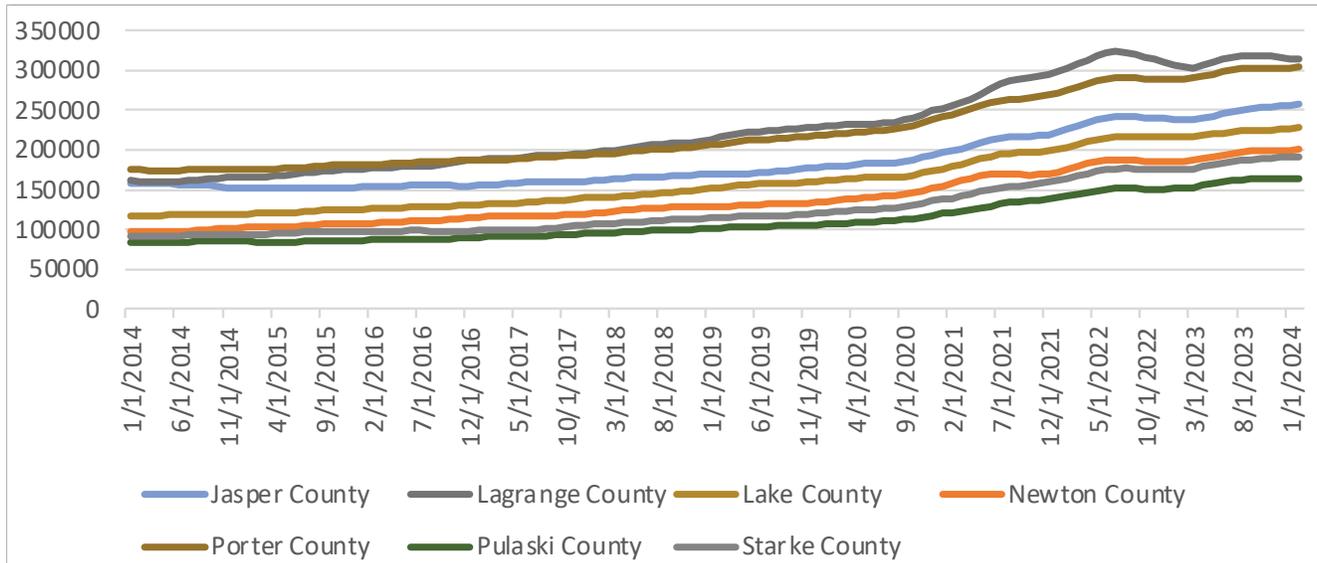
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List Price ⁷

ZHVI Home Values (2022)



(Zillow Home Value Index (ZHVI) is a measure of the typical home value and reflects the 35th to 65th percentile range)

- **Jasper County:** From 2014 to 2023, home values increased by over \$80,000, with the most significant yearly increase of \$17,691 between 2020 and 2021 (a 9.91% increase).
- **Lagrange County:** Over the nine years, home values surged by nearly \$145,000. The year 2021-2022 saw a remarkable jump of \$46,221, the highest annual increase in both absolute and percentage terms (18.30%).
- **Lake County:** The total increase in home values was close to \$100,000 over the period, with the largest yearly growth of \$24,896 occurring from 2021 to 2022 (a 14.14% increase).
- **Newton County:** Home values rose by approximately \$87,000 from 2014 to 2023, with the year 2020-2021 witnessing the highest increase of \$20,036 (a 14.88% increase).
- **Porter County:** Experienced an increase of over \$114,000 in home values, with the most substantial growth happening between 2020 and 2021, increasing by \$21,914 (a 10% increase).
- **Pulaski County:** A total rise of nearly \$68,000 in home values, with 2021-2022 seeing the largest annual increase of \$20,562 (a 17.16% increase).
- **Starke County:** Home values increased by about \$83,000 over the nine years, with the largest annual growth of \$23,895 recorded between 2021 and 2022 (a 17.39% increase).

Between 2014 and 2023, the EGR 1 region has experienced robust growth in home values. This trend peaked significantly between 2020 and 2021, likely driven by a combination of economic factors and possibly changes in the housing market such as supply constraints or increased demand.

⁷ Zillow Housing Data - Zillow Home Value Index (ZHVI)



HEALTHCARE ACCESS AND QUALITY

Health and Vital Statistics

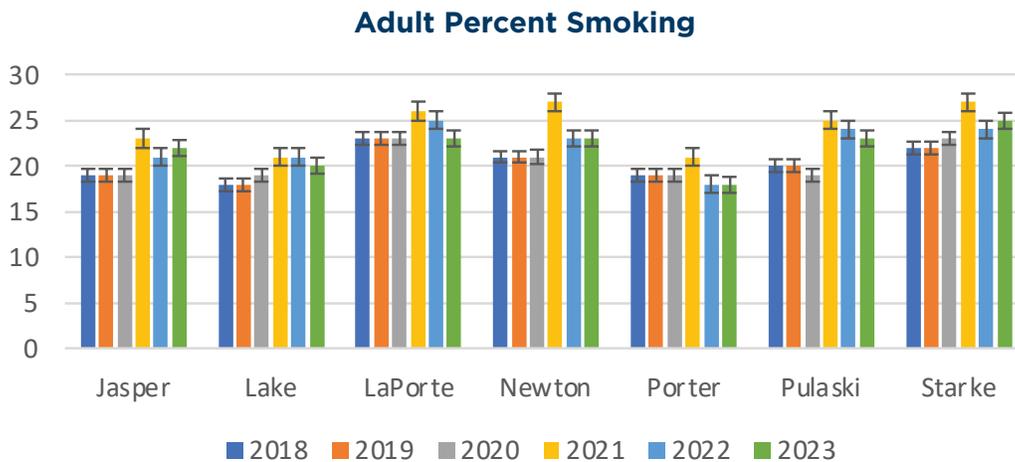
- **Births:** The number of births for EGR 1 in 2023 was 9,421. As a percentage of the state, this represents ~12% of the state's births. This places EGR 1 in the 83rd percentile.
- **Deaths:** The number of deaths for EGR 1 in the 2022-2023 time period was 9,611. As a percentage of the state, this represents 1-3% of the state's deaths. This places EGR 1 in the 75th percentile.
- **Births to teens:** The number of teen births for EGR 1 in the given period was 428. As a percentage of the state, this represents 11% of the state's teen births. This places EGR 1 in the 92nd percentile.
- **Life Expectancy:** EGR 1 shows diversity in life expectancies across its counties, with the latest average life expectancy for the region being approximately 75.7 years, based on the most recent 2023 data.
 - In the year 2023, life expectancy across the counties varied, reflecting a slight downward trend from 2019 figures.
 - Jasper County maintained the highest life expectancy at 77 years, despite a small drop from 77.2 years. Porter County followed closely with life expectancy at 77.9 years, down from 78.5 years. In contrast, Pulaski County witnessed the largest decline, with life expectancy falling from 75.8 to 74.2 years. Similarly, Starke County saw life expectancy decrease to 73.8 years from 75 years. Lake and LaPorte Counties recorded life expectancies of 75.7 and 75.4 years, respectively, both experiencing declines of less than one year. Lastly, Newton County's life expectancy stood at 75.9 years, a decrease from 76.7 years in 2019.
 - This regional overview highlights the need for closer examination into health and social factors that might be influencing these changes

Regional Workforce Data Profile: EGR 1



Non-Medical Drug Use

• Smokers



- Smoking prevalence in these counties is either slightly increasing or stabilizing, with Jasper County showing a marginal improvement.

Health Insurance

Percent Population Uninsured ⁸

County	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Jasper	10	9	10	10	11	10
Lake	12	9	10	9	10	8
LaPorte	11	9	9	9	10	8
Newton	12	12	12	13	13	12
Porter	9	7	7	8	7	6
Pulaski	12	10	10	10	11	10
Starke	13	10	10	10	11	10

Hospitals and Health Systems

County	Number of Hospitals	Number of Childcare Centers
Jasper	1	3
Lake	14	139
LaPorte	3	14
Newton	0	4
Porter	2	28
Pulaski	1	5
Starke	1	3

⁸ Small Area Health Insurance Estimates