

IN the Spotlight:

Indiana Population Exceeds 6 Million, but U.S. House Seat Is Lost

On Dec. 28, 2000, the U.S. Census Bureau released the first population numbers from Census 2000. The Bureau announced that the nation's April 1, 2000, resident population stood at 281.4 million, an increase of 13.2%, or up 32.7 million people, from the 1990 census count.

For Indiana, the initial census results are a story of good news-bad news. For the first time, the number of Hoosier residents surpassed 6 million, allowing Indiana to hold onto its ranking as the 14th largest state in population. After anemic growth of 1% in the 1980s, Indiana's population increased 9.7% between 1990 and 2000. In comparison to its neighboring states, Indiana matched Kentucky's 9.7% growth rate

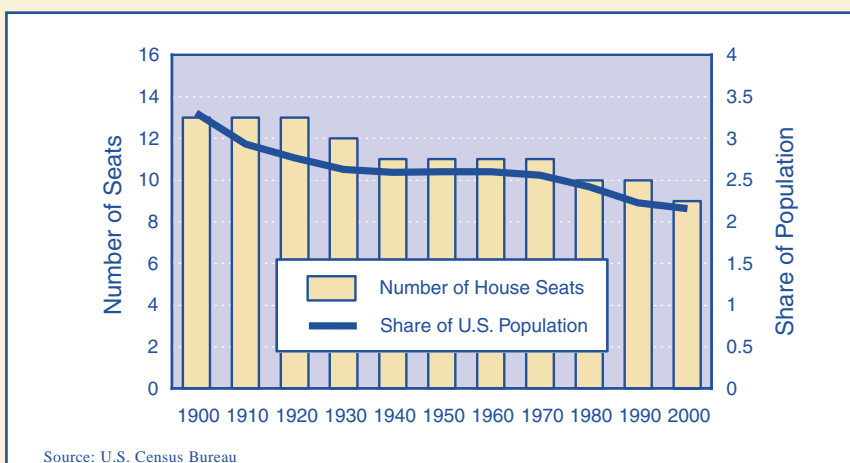
and exceeded Michigan's, Illinois's and Ohio's. In absolute numbers, the state added 536,000 residents in the 1990s, a number 10 times higher than the population gain of the 1980s. Despite this impressive turnaround, bad news still crept in. The state's growth rate failed to keep pace with the nation, and Indiana's share of the total U.S. population continued to slide. Figure 1 portrays Indiana's declining population share since 1900 and the negative outcome: the state's loss of four congressional seats since 1900.

The primary reason for conducting the decennial headcount is the constitutional requirement that the House of Representatives is to be
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Figure 1: Indiana's Seats in the U.S. House and Share of Nation's Population, 1900-2000



**Indiana
Unemployment Rate
for November 2000:
2.4%**
*Ranging from 1.1% in
Bloomington to 3.9%
in Terre Haute*

