

Housing Unit Estimates for 2006

We all need a place to live and there are roughly 2,756,000 housing units in Indiana to help meet that need, according to the 2006 housing unit estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau. That amounts to 2 percent of the 126 million units nationwide.

Just so we're all on the same page, the Census Bureau defines a housing unit as a house, an apartment, a mobile home or trailer, a group of rooms, or a single room that is occupied (or intended for occupancy) as separate living quarters (i.e., occupants do not have to go through someone else's living quarters to get to their own unit).¹

“Based on the sheer number of housing units added, Florida and Texas top the list, each adding more than 1 million units since 2000.”

Short-Term Change

Indiana's housing stock grew 1.2 percent between July 1, 2005, and July 1, 2006. The United States as a whole had a slightly faster growth rate at 1.4 percent. Nevada led the nation on a percentage basis at 4.5 percent, while Florida had the largest numeric growth with the addition of 273,000 housing units. Not surprisingly, Louisiana was the only state to lose housing units, with a decline of 5.7 percent (or 110,000 units), primarily due to Hurricane Katrina.

As far as Indiana counties are concerned, it's all about the suburbs (see **Table 1**). Hamilton and Hendricks counties led the state with 2005-2006 growth of 4.5 and 4.4 percent, respectively. Warrick, Boone and Johnson counties round out the top five based on percent change. All of these surround Indianapolis, with the exception of Warrick, which is adjacent to Evansville. Meanwhile, 59 of the state's 92 counties came in under 1 percent.

TABLE 1: TOP TEN FOR PERCENT CHANGE

County	July 2006	Change, 2005 to 2006	Percent Change, 2005 to 2006
Indiana	2,756,331	31,852	1.2
Hamilton	95,690	4,092	4.5
Hendricks	53,430	2,258	4.4
Warrick	23,783	811	3.5
Boone	21,277	695	3.4
Johnson	53,949	1,752	3.4
Hancock	26,947	698	2.7
Switzerland	5,064	121	2.4
Porter	64,621	1,271	2.0
Clark	46,845	865	1.9
Jasper	12,746	218	1.7

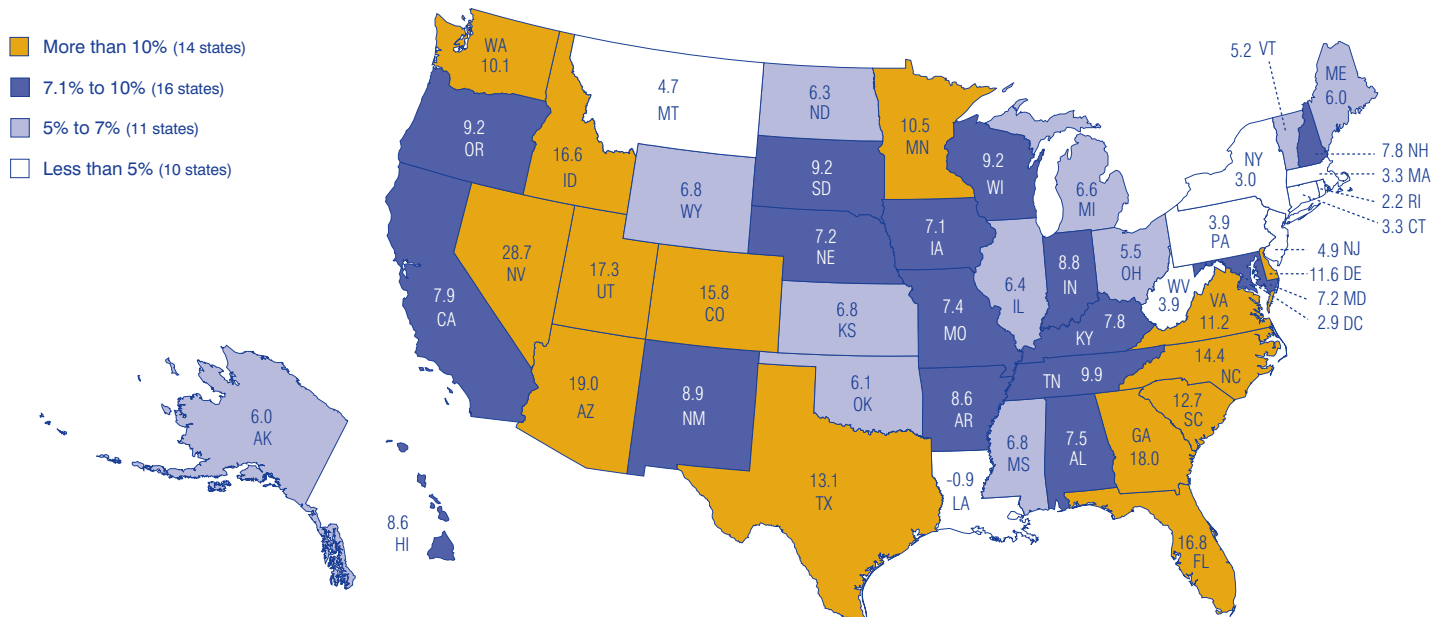
Source: IBRC, using U.S. Census Bureau data

Hamilton County led the state in the number of housing units added, building nearly 4,100 units in a single year.

Change Since Census 2000

Taking a longer time frame into consideration, Indiana has increased its housing stock by 8.8 percent since Census 2000, slightly less than the

FIGURE 1: CHANGE IN HOUSING UNITS BY STATE, 2000 TO 2006



Source: IBRC, using U.S. Census Bureau data

