

The Bloomington Metro Story: Told by STATS Indiana

This article, the fourth in a series about Indiana's metro areas, will focus on the Bloomington metro. All data used for this article are available via the USA Counties and Metros Side-by-Side profiles on STATS Indiana (www.stats.indiana.edu).

The Area

Three counties make up the Bloomington metro: Greene, Monroe and Owen. In 2006, these three counties contained slightly more than 178,700 residents, a 14.1 percent increase since 1990. That growth rate was faster than Indiana overall (13.9 percent growth) but lagged the national rate of 20.3 percent. Taking an even longer view, the Bloomington metro has seen an increase of 43.8 percent since 1970, whereas the state has grown 21.5 percent and the nation has grown 47.3 percent.

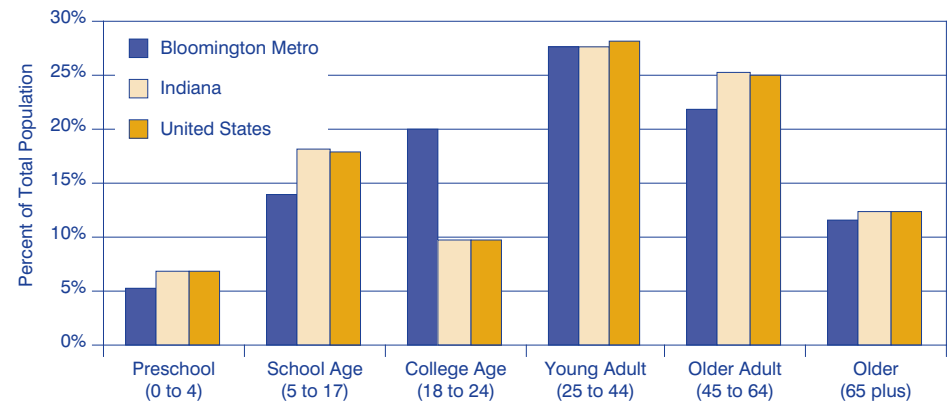
The median age of residents in the metro (31.4) is lower than in Indiana (36.3) and the United States (36.4). This is due to the presence of Indiana University Bloomington drawing younger adults to the area. This is also reinforced by the population by age data (see **Figure 1**). One in every five people is college-age in the Bloomington metro, compared to less than one in 10 people at the state and national levels.

Jobs & Wages

Jobs in the Bloomington metro have risen over the past 10 years, posting a gain of 6.9 percent. This is a faster rate of growth than Indiana overall (5.3 percent) but about half the growth rate of the nation (13.6 percent).

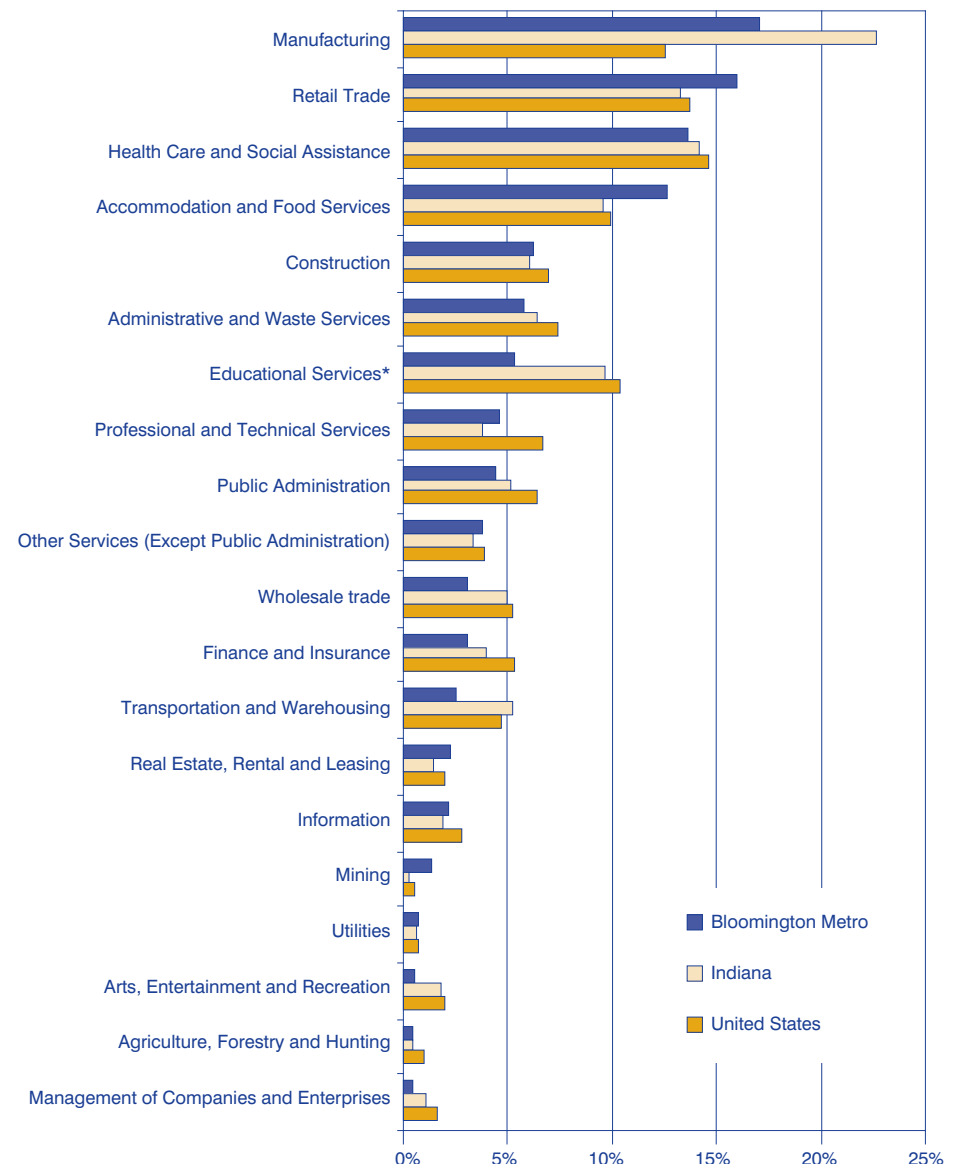
Manufacturing, retail trade, health care and social assistance, and accommodation and food services each contributed more than 10 percent of

FIGURE 1: AGE DISTRIBUTION AS A PERCENT OF TOTAL POPULATION, 2006



Source: STATS Indiana

FIGURE 2: JOBS AS A PERCENT OF TOTAL PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT, 2006



*Employment for educational services appears low in the Bloomington metro because of nondisclosure requirements.
Source: STATS Indiana

