

# Aging and Still At It: Older Workers in Indiana

About 14 percent of workers in Indiana were 55 and older in 2004, according to the most recent Older Worker Profiles from the U.S. Census Bureau Local Employment Dynamics (LED) program.<sup>1</sup> Why does this matter, and why such an emphasis on the older workforce across the state and nation? Demographic changes can affect how government programs are designed and how businesses deal with pensions and retirement.

This article highlights data from Indiana's Older Worker Profile, which was released late-2007 and relies on

**TABLE 1: AVERAGE MONTHLY EARNINGS FOR WORKERS 55 AND OLDER, 2004**

Industry	Earnings
Management of Companies and Enterprises	\$6,461
Utilities	\$5,133
Finance and Insurance	\$4,709
Mining	\$4,343
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	\$3,893
Wholesale Trade	\$3,771
Construction	\$3,619
Information	\$3,506
Educational Services	\$3,136
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$3,081
Transportation and Warehousing	\$2,988
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	\$2,524
Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	\$2,239
Administrative, Support and Waste Management	\$2,018
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	\$1,975
Other Services (Except Public Administration)	\$1,964
Retail Trade	\$1,877
Accommodation and Food Services	\$1,279

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics Program

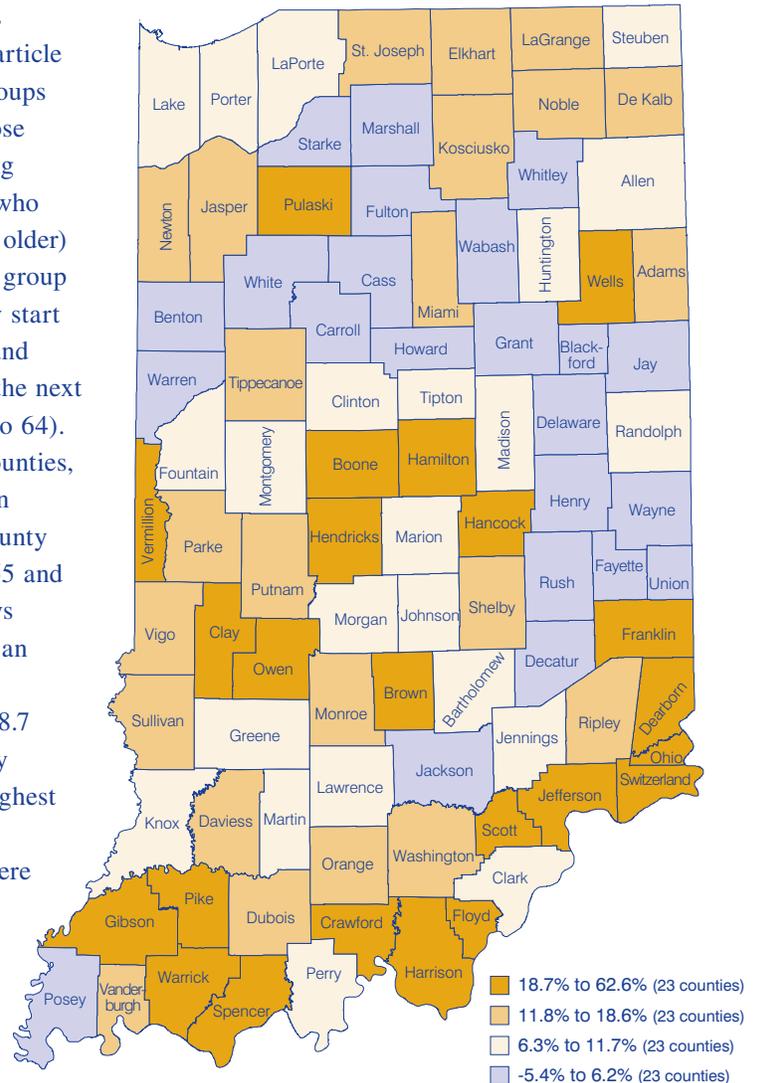
2004 data, to provide some insight into Indiana's older workers. This article will focus on two groups of older workers: those who may be receiving pension income but who are working (65 and older) and a pre-retirement group of workers, who may start collecting pensions and social security over the next decade (workers 55 to 64).

Of Indiana's 92 counties, 90 saw an increase in the percent of the county workforce that was 55 and older. **Figure 1** shows that 23 counties had an increase in the older workers by at least 18.7 percent. Ohio County ended up with the highest proportion of older workers in 2004, where one in every five workers was 55 or older.

## Jobs by Industry

What kinds of jobs are these older workers doing? Many are instructing and training in schools, colleges, universities and training centers. When looking at each individual industry sector, educational services had the highest proportion of workers in the 55 and older age group among industry sectors that employed at least 100 workers 55 and older. Overall, however, the manufacturing industry was most likely to employ older workers in 2004. Of all the workers in Indiana 55 and

**FIGURE 1: PERCENT CHANGE IN THE NUMBER OF WORKERS 55 AND OLDER BY COUNTY OF WORKPLACE IN INDIANA, 2001 TO 2004**



Note: Key values may not reflect precise category breaks due to rounding  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics Program

older, one in every four was employed in manufacturing.

Across the state, workers 55 and older earned an average of \$3,237 per month. Looking once again at industry sectors that employ at least 100 workers 55 and older, management of companies and enterprises paid the most, averaging \$6,461 per month (see **Table 1**).

