

Inside the Data Center

Hoosier-Built Products and Gulf Coast Reconstruction

A photograph in the September 26, 2005 *Newsweek* shows a man overlooking a sea of mobile homes from a helicopter in Baton Rouge, La. The gentleman, a Flour Corp. manager named Bob Spaulding, does not like what he sees: “There’s not enough of ‘em and we need to move faster,” he said. A September 18, 2005 *Indianapolis Star* article discusses the economic fallout from Hurricane Katrina on Indiana’s economy. The reporter points out that Indiana is the nation’s largest producer of manufactured homes and wood office furniture—goods needed during the reconstruction of the Gulf Coast.

Exploring the recently released data from the 2002 Economic Census, Indiana ranks first in the total value of shipments in the manufacturing of manufactured homes (mobile homes) and of wood office furniture.

In 2002, Indiana manufactured over \$924 million worth of manufactured homes (see **Table 1**), about 32 percent more than Texas, which produced just under \$700 million. Indiana contributed 13.8 percent to the total value of shipments of manufactured homes in the United States. Although the Economic Census shows that, compared to 1997, there was a significant drop in the value of shipments, annual payroll and number of employees involved in the industry, the decrease was greater for the United States as a whole.

The 2002 Economic Census shows that Indiana produced almost \$466 million worth of wood office furniture (see **Table 2**), ahead of North Carolina, which produced just over \$410 million. Indiana contributed 16.5 percent to the total value of shipments of wood furniture nationwide. Like

TABLE 1: FIVE-YEAR TREND IN MANUFACTURED HOMES MANUFACTURING

Geography	Year	Number of Establishments	Value of Shipments (In Thousands)	Annual Payroll (In Thousands)	Number of Employees
Indiana	1997	38	1,254,600	214,198	6,679
	2002	35	924,724	200,378	5,581
	Percent Change	-7.9	-26.3	-6.5	-16.4
United States	1997	319	10,167,746	1,788,646	68,269
	2002	412	6,694,980	1,407,444	49,959
	Percent Change	29.2	-34.2	-21.3	-26.8

Source: 1997 and 2002 economic censuses, U.S. Census Bureau

TABLE 2: FIVE-YEAR TREND IN WOOD OFFICE FURNITURE MANUFACTURING

Geography	Year	Number of Establishments	Value of Shipments (in Thousands)	Annual Payroll (in Thousands)	Number of Employees
Indiana	1997	32	551,833	132,970	5,113
	2002	27	465,559	118,430	3,828
	Percent Change	-15.6	-15.6	-10.9	-25.1
United States	1997	676	3,109,092	780,935	30,621
	2002	569	2,816,606	716,782	24,301
	Percent Change	-15.8	-9.4	-8.2	-20.6

Source: 1997 and 2002 economic censuses, U.S. Census Bureau

TABLE 3: INCOME, POVERTY AND HEALTH INSURANCE IN INDIANA

Indicator	Two-year average		Percentage Point Change ²
	2002–2003	2003–2004	
Median Household Income ¹	\$43,341	\$42,946	-0.9
People in Poverty	9.5%	10.8%	1.3
People Without Health Insurance Coverage	13.5%	14.0%	0.6

¹ The two-year-average median is the sum of two inflation-adjusted, single-year medians divided by two.
² Details may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Source: 2004 Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States, U.S. Census Bureau

the manufactured homes industry in Indiana, there was a drop between 1997 and 2002 in the value of shipments, annual payroll and number of employees in the wood furniture manufacturing industry. Unlike the manufactured homes industry, however, the decrease in Indiana was relatively large compared to that of the nation.

Income, Poverty and Health Insurance

On August 30, the Census Bureau released income, poverty and health insurance data, showing 2003–2004 (two-year average) estimates and percent changes from the 2002–2003 estimates. Nationwide, real median household income remained unchanged between 2003 and 2004 at \$44,389. Meanwhile, the nation’s official poverty rate rose from 12.5 percent in 2003 to 12.7 percent in 2004. The percentage of the nation’s population without health

insurance coverage remained stable, at 15.7 percent in 2004. The number of people with health insurance increased by 2.0 million to 245.3 million between 2003 and 2004, and the number without such coverage rose by 800,000 to 45.8 million.

Based on two-year moving averages (2002–2003 and 2003–2004), the story for Indiana is fairly similar. Income for 2003–2004 dropped to \$42,946 (down 0.9 percent from \$43,341). Indiana was one of seven states that saw poverty rates increase. Other Midwest states that experienced increases were Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin. The poverty rate in Indiana increased 1.3 percent to 10.8 percent (see **Table 3**). Finally, the percentage of people without health insurance coverage increased by 0.6 percent to 14 percent.

—Frank Wilmot, State Data Center Coordinator, Indiana State Library