Data Snapshot

Randolph County

BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY

Indiana Communities Institute

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Randolph County at a Glance

OVERVIEW

Cultivating Community: Ready to Act is a participant-driven experience that stems from previous Cultivating Community efforts. It is designed to help Randolph County identify and take achievable, impactful, and sustainable action. Because data should be the root of any community action, a brief summary of quantitative information pertaining to basic demographics, quality of community, and the labor market has been provided in this "snapshot" to augment other information uncovered throughout the Cultivating Community process. It is not meant to be an inclusive analysis, but it does provide a glimpse of where the community is currently which, in turn, can help guide efforts to identify and realize what comes next. The data is pulled from generally accessible sources including STATS Indiana, the U.S. Census, and more. To ensure ample context, comparison data and trends are included where possible. Relevant narratives are also provided. As with any data, further exploration and discussion is warranted.

RANDOLPH COUNTY AT A GLANCE

Total Population:
24,665

Median Household Income:
$45,601

Median Age:
43

Educational Attainment:
21.9% have a post-secondary degree

Top-Industry by Sector:
Manufacturing

SECTION 02

Demographics

Population

Population by Age

Old Age Dependency Ratio

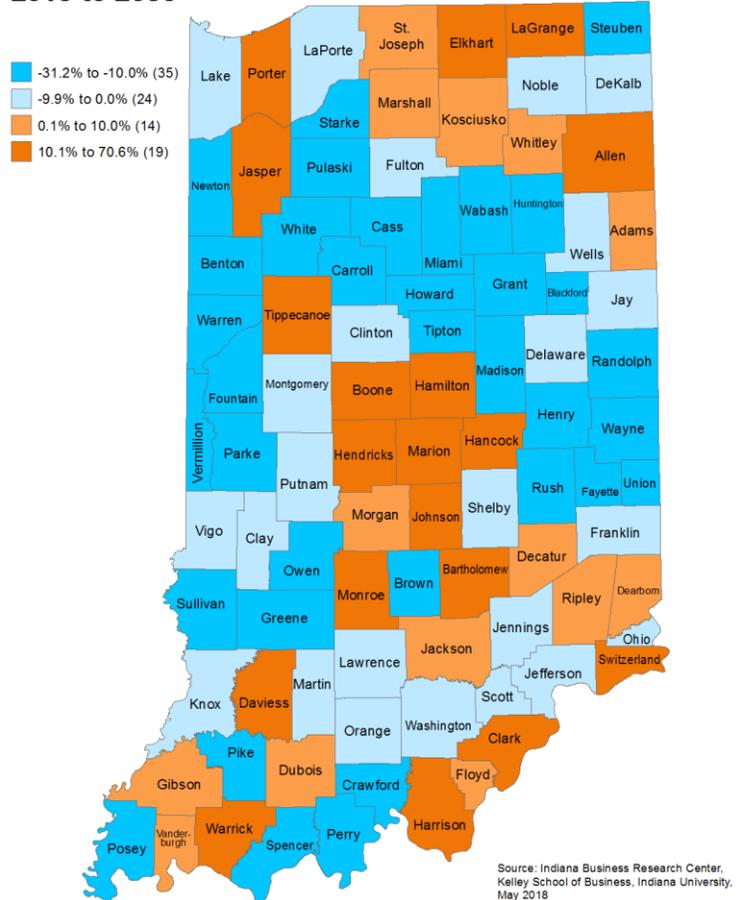Race and Ethnicity

Educational Attainment

POPULATION

Randolph County, as of 2019, had an estimated population of 24,665. Since the 2010 U.S. Census, the county's population has declined by nearly 6 percent which is in contrast to Indiana's 3.7 percent growth during the same timeframe (see Figure 1). This decline is projected to continue. According to forecasts available through STATS Indiana, Randolph County is among the 35 counties across Indiana likely to lose more than 10 percent of its population by 2050 (see Figure 2). It is important to note, however, that projections are not set in stone. Decisions communities make now will impact actual population growth or decline in the future.

Figure 2

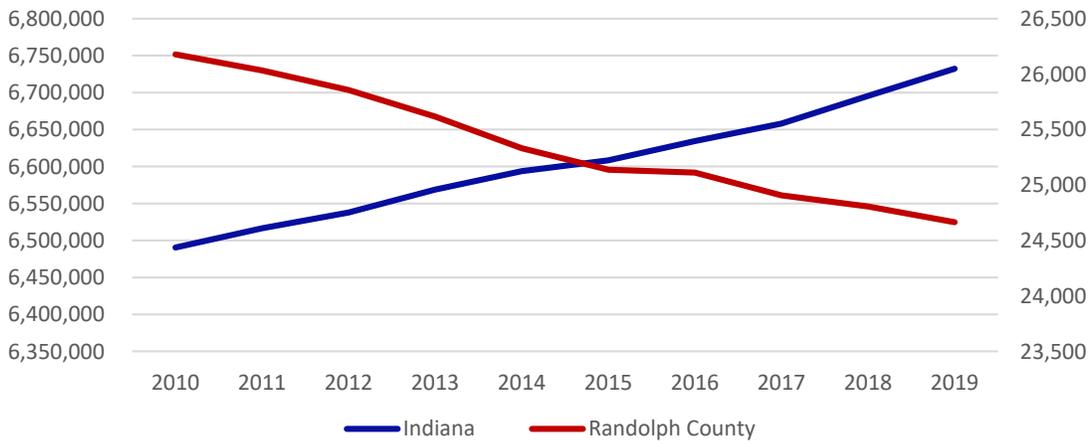*Population Projections*

Percent Change in Total Population, 2015 to 2050

Source: Indiana Business Research Center, Kelley School of Business, Indiana University, May 2018

Figure 1: Population Change, 2010-2019

Source: STATS Indiana

POPULATION BY AGE

It is often of value to compare population by age. Knowing which age groups are most prominent in a community can help drive policy decisions related to amenities or infrastructure needs, among others. Randolph County, compared to Indiana, has a higher percentage of people age 50 and older (see Figure 3). This helps explain why the county's 2019 median age of 43 (STATS Indiana) exceeds Indiana's median age (37.9). Randolph County does, however, have a higher percentage of residents between the ages of 10-14. Further exploration can help uncover what this may mean for the community.

Figure 3: Population by Age, 2018
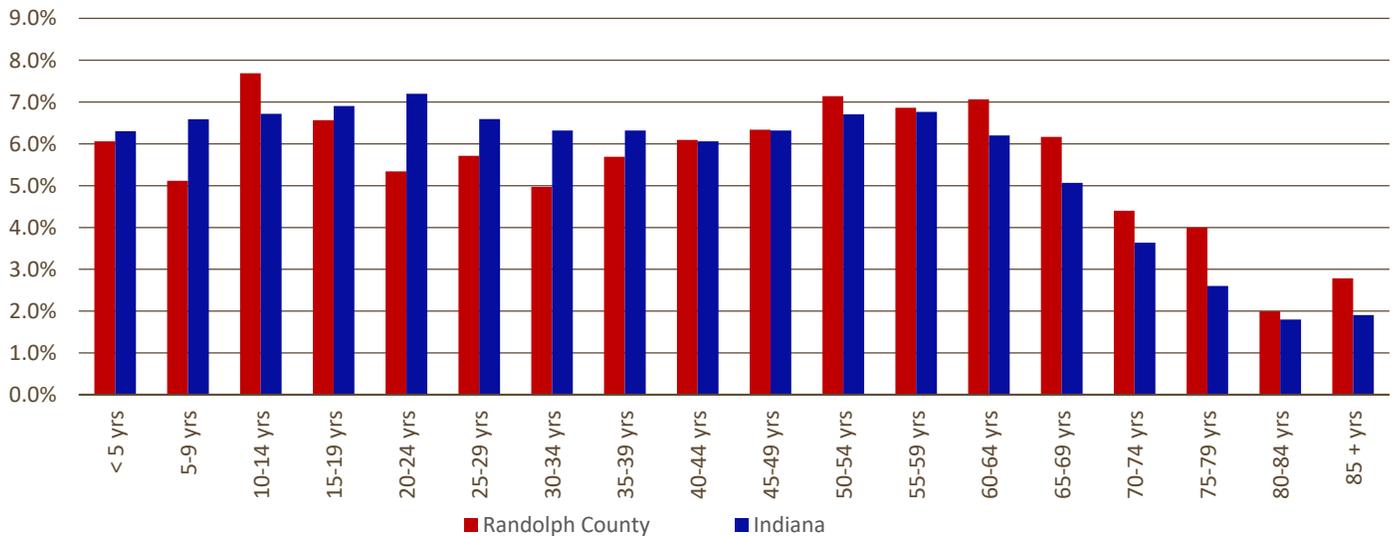
Source: U.S. Census Data

OLD AGE DEPENDENCY RATIO

Another useful age statistic is the old age dependency ratio. It measures the number of people over the age of 65 per 100 people who are of working age (working age is defined as people between 16 and 64 years old). The old age dependency ratio in Randolph County is 23.99. Indiana's old age dependency ratio is 22.95. In other words, as shown in Figure 4, there are 4.17 workers in Randolph County for every person that is 65 years of age or older. Statewide, there are 4.36 workers for every person over 65. This means Indiana, overall, has fewer people over 65 who are dependent upon workers earning income. The degree of this reliance can impact considerations related to availability of tax revenues, local budgets, and community development strategies.

Randolph County

1 to 4.17

In Randolph County, there are 4.17 workers for every person that is 65 years or older.

Indiana

In Indiana, there are 4.36 workers for every person that is 65 years or older.

RACE & ETHNICITY

Diversity in a community has been linked to positive quality of life outcomes such as greater place attachment and pride (see Knight Foundation's Soul of the Community study). Common measures of diversity include race and ethnicity. Though often used interchangeably, race and ethnicity are different. The information provided here is from the U.S. Census which categorizes race and ethnicity generally, but allows respondents to self-identify. Table 1 shows that Randolph County, like many other rural communities, is not very racially or ethnically diverse. There are, however, other types of diversity including gender, age, socioeconomics, geography, and length of residency, to name a few. Research suggests that fostering an open and welcoming environment can help ensure places are vibrant and resilient. Meaningfully engaging and involving *all* citizens benefits community development.

Table 1: Race and Ethnicity, 2018

| Race	Randolph County	Indiana
White	96.2%	83.6%
Black or African American	0.2%	9.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.1%	0.2%
Asian	0.0%	2.2%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%
Some other race	1.8%	2.2%
Ethnicity	Randolph County	Indiana
Hispanic or Latino origin	2.7%	6.8%

Source: U.S. Census Data

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Educational attainment refers to the highest level of education that a person has completed. Figure 5 shows educational attainment based on the percentage of the population age 25 and older. For the most part, Randolph County lags behind Indiana in educational attainment. Approximately 22 percent of Randolph County residents older than 25, for instance, have a post-secondary degree (associate's degree and higher) compared with 35 percent of all Hoosiers. More educational attainment is often associated with higher earnings and greater spending power. It is, therefore, one indicator of overall financial wealth in a community.

Figure 5: Educational Attainment
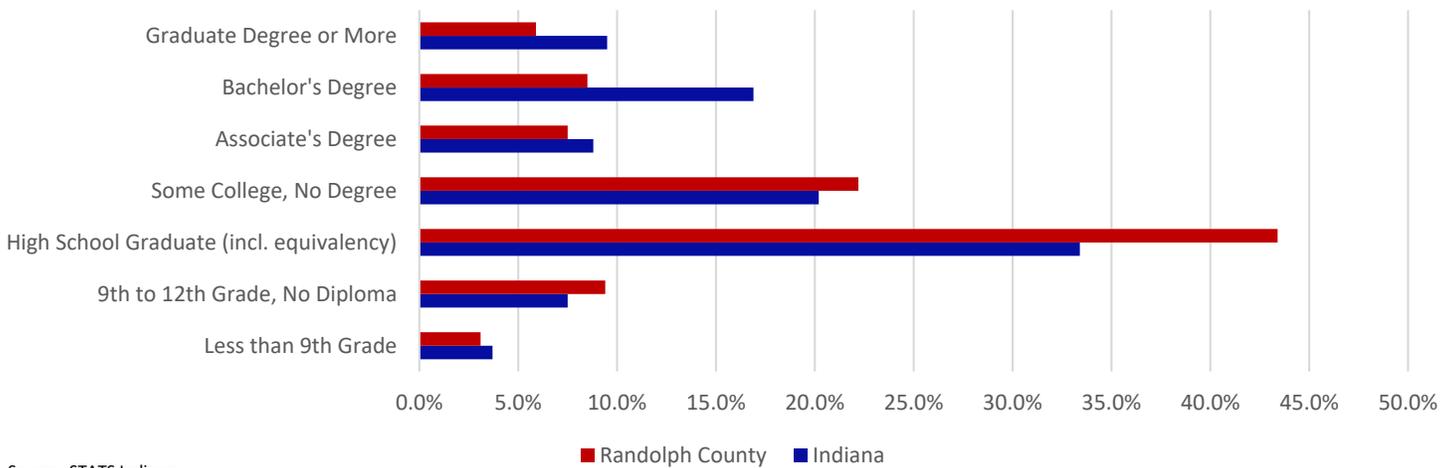
Source: STATS Indiana

SECTION 03

Quality of Community

Housing

Median Household Income

Per Capita Income

**Poverty and Income Inequality**

Livability

HOUSING

Housing data is abundant. More in-depth studies can better capture the complexities of the housing issues and opportunities in a community. Two data points of note are occupancy type and housing age because they help demonstrate the connection between housing and quality of place.

A variable often associated with place attachment, or the likelihood of remaining in a community, is home ownership as reflected by occupancy type. The theory is that those who have purchased a home are more rooted. Some also associate a higher number of rental units with lower property values. In his 2018 City Lab article (The Great Housing Reset), however, Richard Florida discusses how home ownership rates are at the lowest level since 1983. They have declined in 90 percent of all metros over the past five years. This is among the evidence suggesting that a healthy mix of rentals is needed to attract new talent. Randolph County has a higher percentage of owner-occupied housing than Indiana and a lower percentage of renters (see Figure 6). Finding the right mix of housing in a community requires additional research and robust discussion that accounts for various tradeoffs.

**Figure 6: Housing by Occupancy Type, 2018**
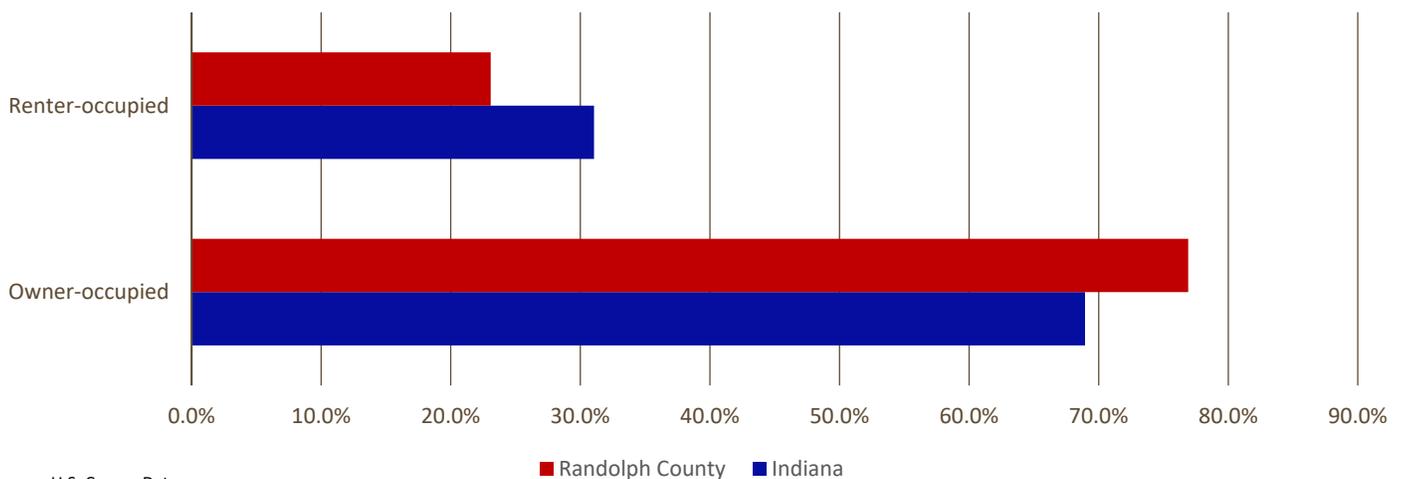
Source: U.S. Census Data

HOUSING

While well-maintained historic homes can provide a sense of place and add value to a community, new homes can demonstrate growth and indicate re-investment. Randolph County has a higher percentage of houses that are 50 years or older. In fact, nearly 41 percent of Randolph County's homes were built prior to 1940 (see Figure 7). By comparison, around 17 percent of Indiana's housing stock was built during that same time period. The housing age statistics for Randolph County indicate very little investment in new housing construction in the past decade. Of the total housing units in Randolph County, around .08 percent have been built since 2010. Indiana's percentage of new housing units built during that time span is 3.6 percent.

Figure 7: Housing by Year Built, 2018
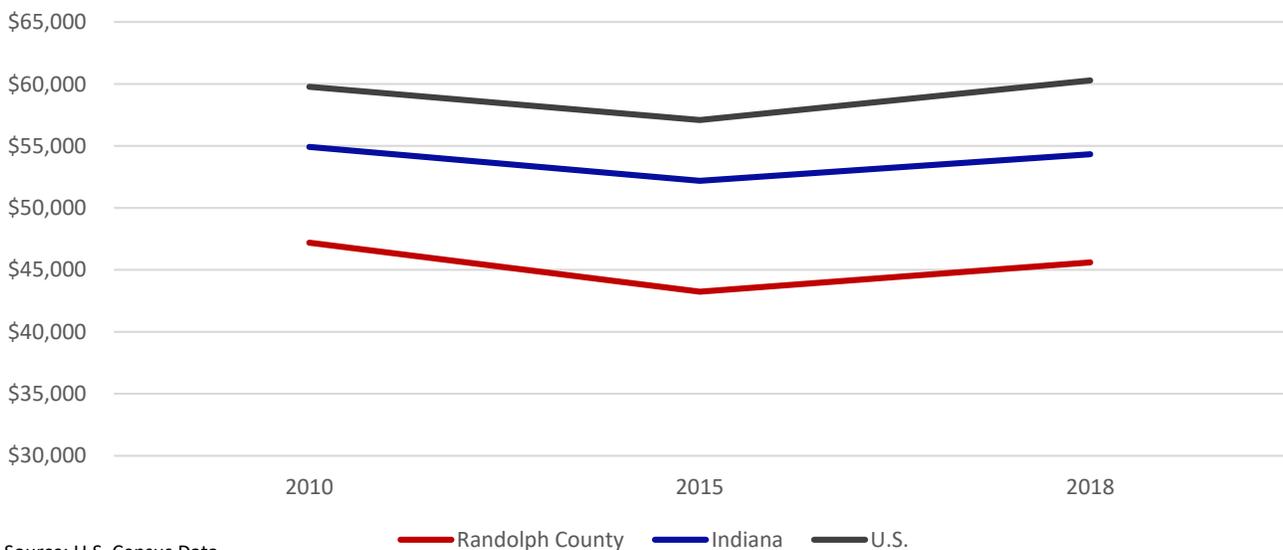

Source: U.S. Census Data
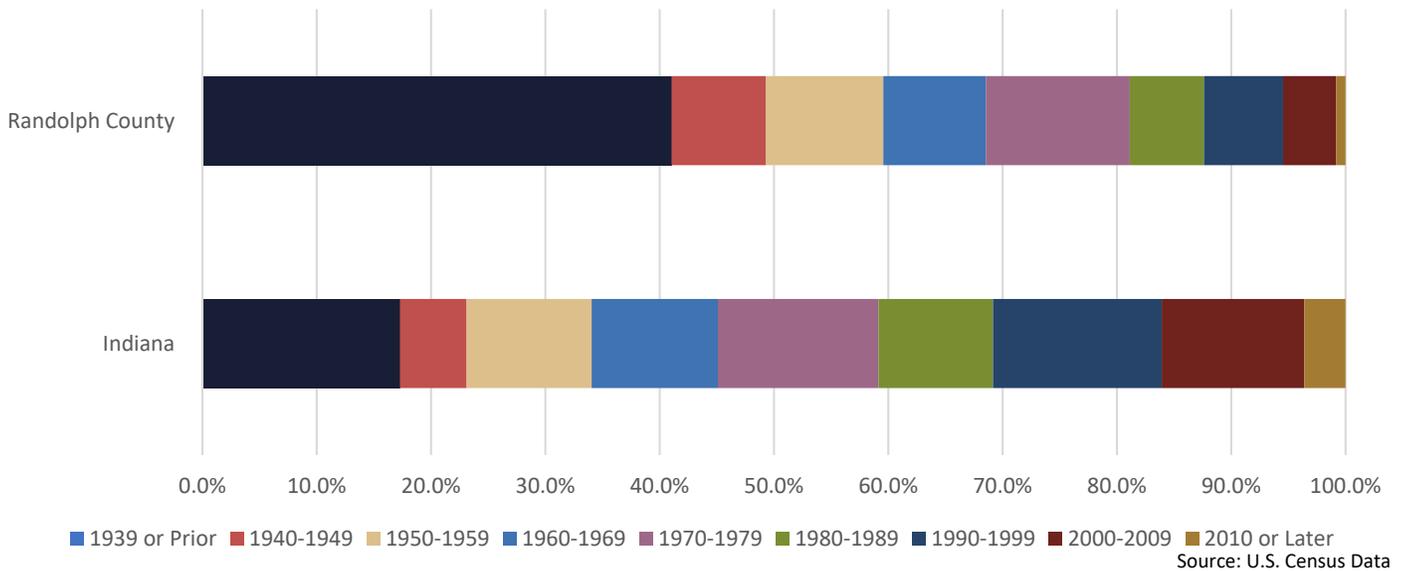
MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Household income is all money flowing into a household including wages, pensions, Social Security, interest earned on assets, and other sources. Median is not average, rather a middle number at which point half of the relevant population is below it and half is above it. Randolph County's median household income was $45,601 in 2018. This number was up approximately 11 percent since 2010, and is $8,724 below Indiana's median household income ($54,325). Figure 8 shows "real" median household income for Randolph County, Indiana, and the U.S. Real median household income calculations are made relative to the consumer price index which allows the figures to be adjusted for inflation. Randolph County's real median household income has actually fallen over the time span considered here.

Figure 8: Real Median Household Income, 2010-2018

Source: U.S. Census Data

PER CAPITA INCOME

Per capita income is the average income per person in a given geography. Randolph County's per capita income in 2019 was $39,222. Indiana's per capita income that same year was $48,678. Figure 9 compares the "real" per capita income of Randolph County, Indiana, and the U.S. dating back to 1969. Real per capita income calculations are made relative to the consumer price index which allows the figures to be adjusted for inflation.

Real Per Capita Income 1969-2019
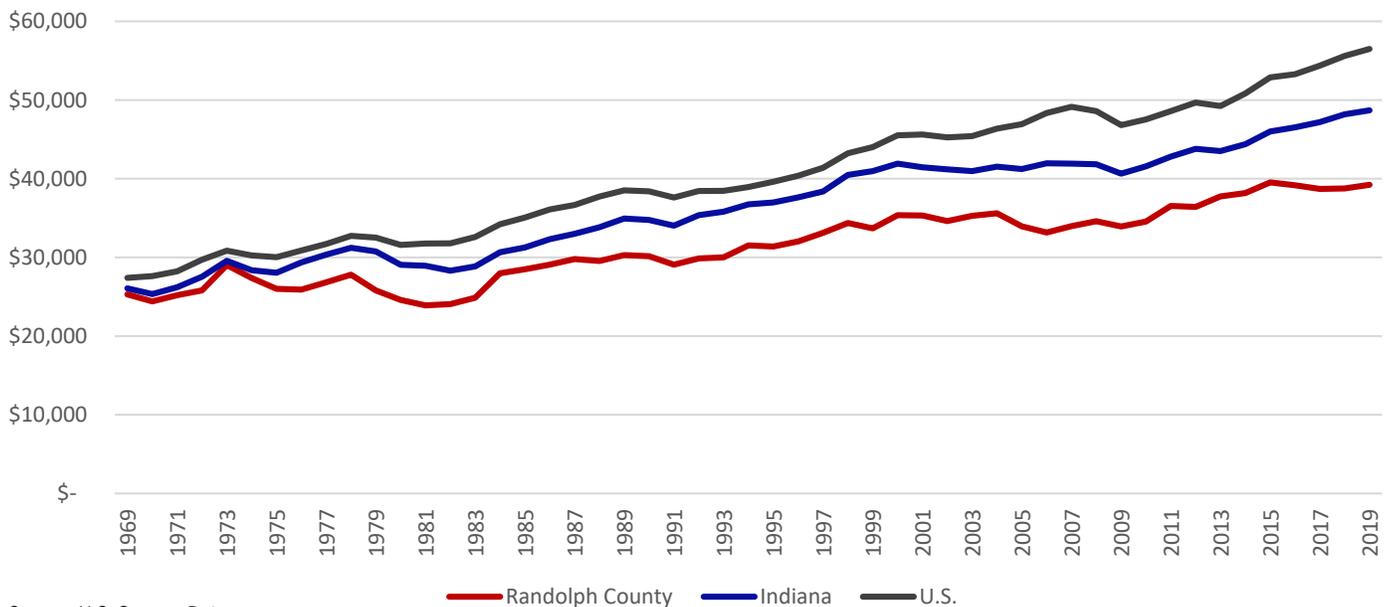
Source: U.S. Census Data

POVERTY & INCOME INEQUALITY

Poverty is a complex issue. Many data points should be considered when assessing the impact poverty may have on a community. One common measure is the poverty rate which is tallied based on the percentage of a population with income that is less than a fixed proportion of median income. Factors such as family size and inflation are accounted for when determining poverty thresholds, but not geography or several other relevant ones. The percentage of people living in poverty is higher in Randolph County than in both the State of Indiana and the United States (see Table 2).

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Table 2: Poverty Rate

Year	Randolph County	Indiana	U.S.
2006	12.9%	12.5%	13.3%
2012	16.6%	15.5%	15.9%
2018	13.6%	13.0%	13.1%

Source: U.S. Census Data

Table 3: Gini Index, 2018

Randolph County	Indiana	U.S.
0.4096	0.4501	0.4822

Source: U.S. Census Data

The Gini coefficient is one of the most common ways to measure income inequality within a community.

A Gini coefficient of zero represents equal income. This means that all households have the same income.

A Gini coefficient of one represents unequal income. This means that one household has all of the income while all other households have none

A community has more income equality when the Gini coefficient is a number that is closer to zero than it is to one.

LIVABILITY

The AARP has developed a "Livability Index" which assesses the livability of various places based on seven categories including: housing, neighborhood, environment, transportation, health, engagement, and opportunity. Each category is scored using a scale of 0 to 100. The overall livability score is an average of the individual category scores. Higher scores are better. Randolph County's total score is 47 which is lower than Indiana's overall index of 51 (see Figure 11). Most of the county's category scores track closely with Indiana's scores, with three exceptions. Randolph County exceeds Indiana's engagement score (55 compared to 41), but lags the state's health score (21 compared to 44) and opportunity score (42 compared to 61).

Figure 11: Livability Index

Category	Randolph County	Indiana
Total Index Score	47	51
Housing	56	54
Neighborhood	41	46
Transportation	54	50
Environment	60	59
Health	21	44
Engagement	55	41
Opportunity	42	61

Source: AARP.org

While Randolph County does a bit less well in regards to social engagement as measured by Internet access and voting rates, it exceeds the national rate for both cultural organizations and social institutions per 10,000 people which help explain the higher (than Indiana) engagement score. The prevalence of smoking and obesity, but also the greater number of health care professional shortage areas and an elevated preventable hospitalization rate account for the lower health score. A lack of overall job opportunities is the primary reason Randolph County fares worse than Indiana on the opportunity score. All category scores are calculated using several sub factors and each of the sub factors requires additional scrutiny and discussion. It is also important to note that the scores examined in this overview reflect the county as a whole and are not necessarily representative of individual communities.

SECTION 04

Labor Force

Employment by Industry Sector

Average Annual Income

Earnings by Industry Sector

Living Wage

Labor Force

Commuting Patterns

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY SECTOR

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) uses the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) to collect, analyze, and publish data based on economic activity. NAICS provides a standardized way to classify businesses by sector, subsector, industry group, industry, and national industry. There are twenty broad sectors included in the NAICS. Table 4 lists Randolph County's top five industry sectors by employment in 2015 and 2019. The rankings show both the total number of jobs per each sector in each of the respective years and the percentage of total employment in the county those jobs represent. Of the top five industry sectors represented in the top five in both of the years considered here, two experienced growth in employment (Federal, State, & Local Government and Health Care & Social Assistance). Two lost employment (Manufacturing and Retail Trade). Administrative & Waste Services dropped out of the top five and Construction jumped into it in 2019. Overall, total employment declined more than 1,000 between 2015 and 2019.

Table 4: Average Employment by Industry Sector

| Rank	2015 Top Industries By Employment	Top 5 Total 5,080	% of Total Employment	2019 Top Industries By Employment	Top 5 Total 4,423	% of Total Employment
1	Manufacturing	2,003	27%	Manufacturing	1,512	24%
2	Federal, State, & Local Government	1,245	17%	Federal, State, & Local Government	1,251	20%
3	Admin. & Waste Services	677	9%	Health Care & Social Assistance	610	10%
4	Health Care & Social Assistance	583	8%	Retail Trade	539	8%
5	Retail Trade	572	8%	Construction	511	8%

Source: Hoosiers by the Numbers

AVERAGE ANNUAL INCOME

Randolph County's average annual income in 2019 was $37,799 which is almost $11,000 lower than Indiana's average annual income ($48,793). Figure 12 shows the "real" average annual income from 2010 to 2019. Real average annual income calculations are made relative to the consumer price index which allows the figures to be adjusted for inflation. Since 2010, Randolph County's real average annual income increased by about 2.6 percent while Indiana's real average annual income increased by 6.2 percent.

Figure 12: Real Average Annual Income, 2010-2019
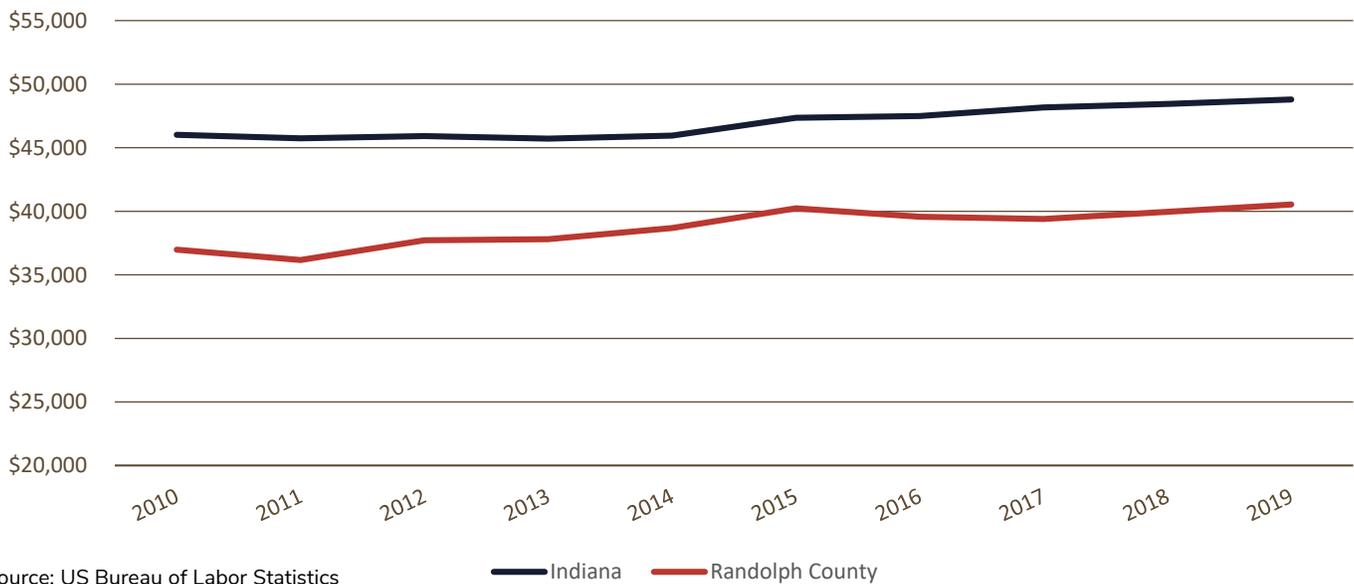
Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics

Indiana ——— Randolph County

EARNINGS BY INDUSTRY SECTOR

Table 5 shows the average annual earnings for the top five industry sectors by employment (2019), as previously indicated. The change since 2015 is included. Average annual earnings associated with each of the top five industry sectors by employment increased between 2015 and 2019. The Construction sector has the highest average annual earnings. This information should be juxtaposed with the numbers related to the living wage that are found in Table 6. Doing so illustrates the value of looking at data in total and with proper context.

Table 5: Earnings by Industry Sector, 2019

Rank	Top 5 Sectors by Employment	Average Annual Earnings	Change from 2015
1	Manufacturing	$51,608	14.00%
2	Federal, State, & Local Government	$31,340	8.90%
3	Health Care & Social Assistance	$36,298	8.40%
4	Retail Trade	$21,582	11.30%
5	Construction	$55,140	14.00%

Source: Hoosiers by the Numbers

LIVING WAGE

A person's capacity to live within a certain standard of living is often determined by juxtaposing income with the federal poverty threshold. In fact, many of the data points chosen for this overview reflect that approach. Unfortunately, this typical method, while of value in some ways, can be limiting. Necessities such as childcare and healthcare are not part of the federal measure for poverty and geographic variation is not accounted for, among other drawbacks. Assessing dynamic matters like financial wellbeing requires a more comprehensive strategy, one made possible through helpful tools like the Living Wage Calculator. Created in 2004 by MIT professor, Dr. Amy Glasmeier, the Living Wage Calculator models living wages via a market-based approach that uses place-specific data related to a variety of likely family expenditures necessary for daily life. The calculations are broken down based on family size and employment realities. Included in the model is the living wage for the county, but also the poverty wage and minimum wage. Randolph County's living wage data can be found in Table 6. Other helpful information related to wages including typical salaries for various occupations, are included on the website. A broad set of data points related to income, poverty, and more should be considered when discussing and formulating strategies to improve quality of life for citizens.

Table 6: Living Wage Calculator

# of Children	1 Adult				2 Adults (1 Working)				2 Adults (Both Working)			
	0	1	2	3	0	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
Living Wage	$12.82	$25.25	$30.16	$37.66	$21.32	$25.67	$29.25	$30.88	$10.66	$13.99	$16.95	$18.92
Poverty Wage	$6.13	$8.29	$10.44	$12.60	$8.29	$10.44	$12.60	$14.75	$4.14	$5.22	$6.30	$7.38
Minimum Wage	$7.25	$7.25	$7.25	$7.25	$7.25	$7.25	$7.25	$7.25	$7.25	$7.25	$7.25	$7.25

Source: LivingWage.MIT.edu

LABOR FORCE

There are several data points that help capture the state of a community's workforce. They include labor force, unemployment rate, and labor force participation rate, among others. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, labor force is the sum employed and unemployed persons. An unemployed person is without a job, but they are both actively looking for and able to work. The unemployment rate reflects the number of unemployed people as a percentage of the labor force. The labor force participation rate is the labor force as a percent of the civilian (non-military) noninstitutionalized (i.e. not in prison) population of working age (ages 16 to 64). Table 7 provides a snapshot of the Randolph County labor force in 2019 with statewide context included.

Table 7: Labor Force, 2021

		Randolph County	Rank in State
Total Resident Labor Force		11,347	64
	Employed	10,992	64
	Unemployed	425	61
Annual Unemployment Rate		3.7	17

Source: STATS Indiana

Figure 13 shows the unemployment rate over time (1990 to 2019) in Randolph County and Indiana. Randolph County's unemployment rate has been higher than Indiana's unemployment rate in each of the years considered, though the difference has lessened recently.

**Figure 13: Unemployment Rate, 1990-2019**
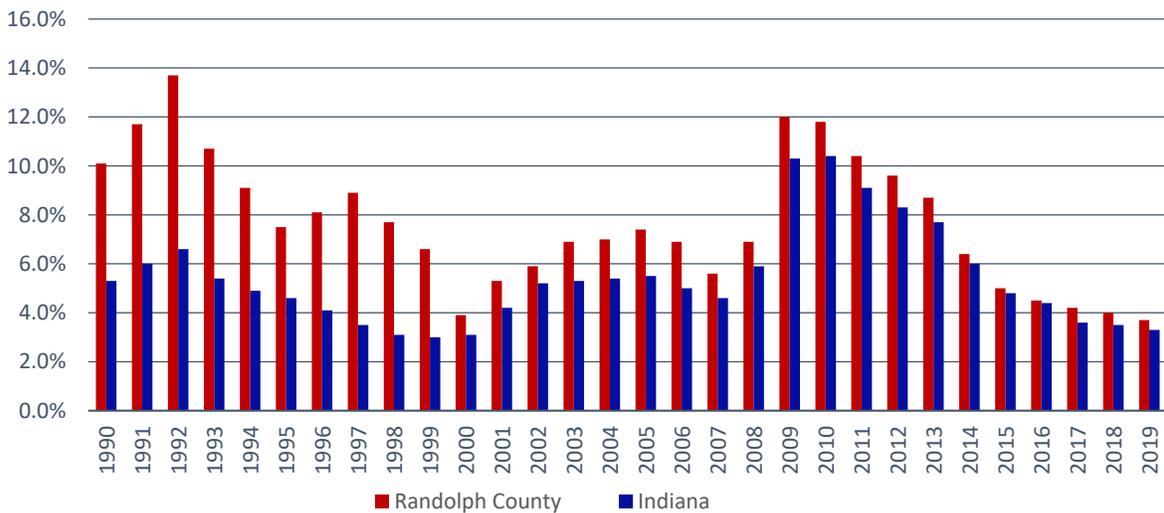
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

LABOR FORCE

The labor force participation rate measures employment and unemployment as a percentage of all working age persons (who are non-military and noninstitutionalized). This means it accounts for people no longer looking for work which generally makes it a more complete barometer for understanding the health of the labor market and economy. For context, the U.S. labor force participation rate reached an all-time high of 67.2 percent in 2000 and has generally trended downward since then. It fell to 62.7 percent in July 2020, following a dip early in the pandemic. Less predictable and cyclical events (natural disasters, recessions, etc.) can certainly impact the labor force participation rate, but so can longer-term factors that relate to demographic, social, and economic trends. Economists debate the degree to which influences like baby boomer retirements, automation, and educational attainment (i.e. people remaining in school to pursue higher degrees) impact the rate. Analyzing the labor force participation rate, especially in tandem with other relevant data like the unemployment rate, can spark complex conversations about potential root causes (income inequality, economic despair, workforce readiness etc.) and effects (slow GDP growth, higher taxes, unfilled jobs, etc.). Randolph County's labor force participation rate has been below Indiana's labor force participation rate since at least 2010. The difference reached about 6 percentage points in 2017 and is currently about 5 percent lower (see Figure 14).

Figure 14: Labor Force Participation Rate, 2010-2019
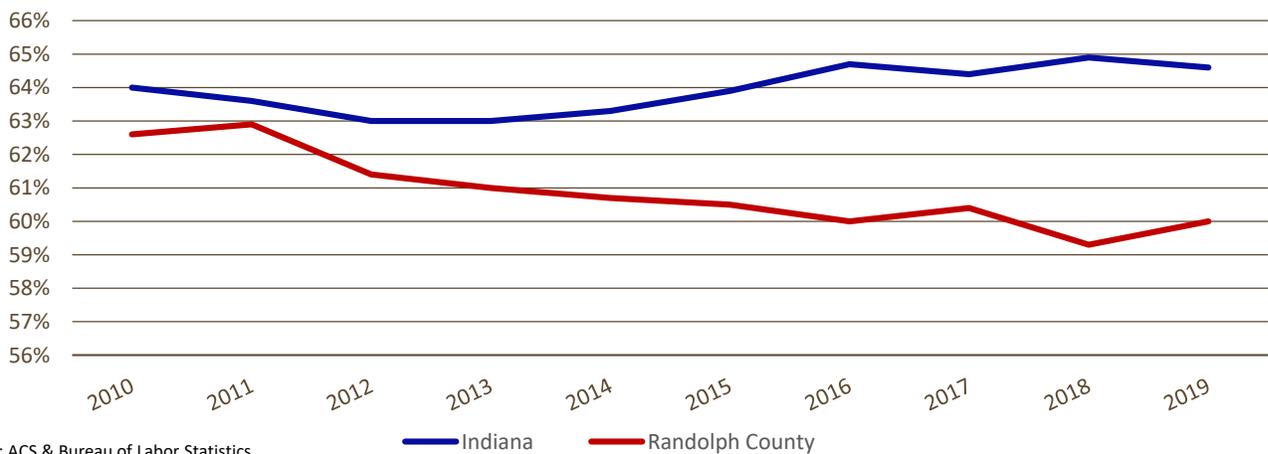
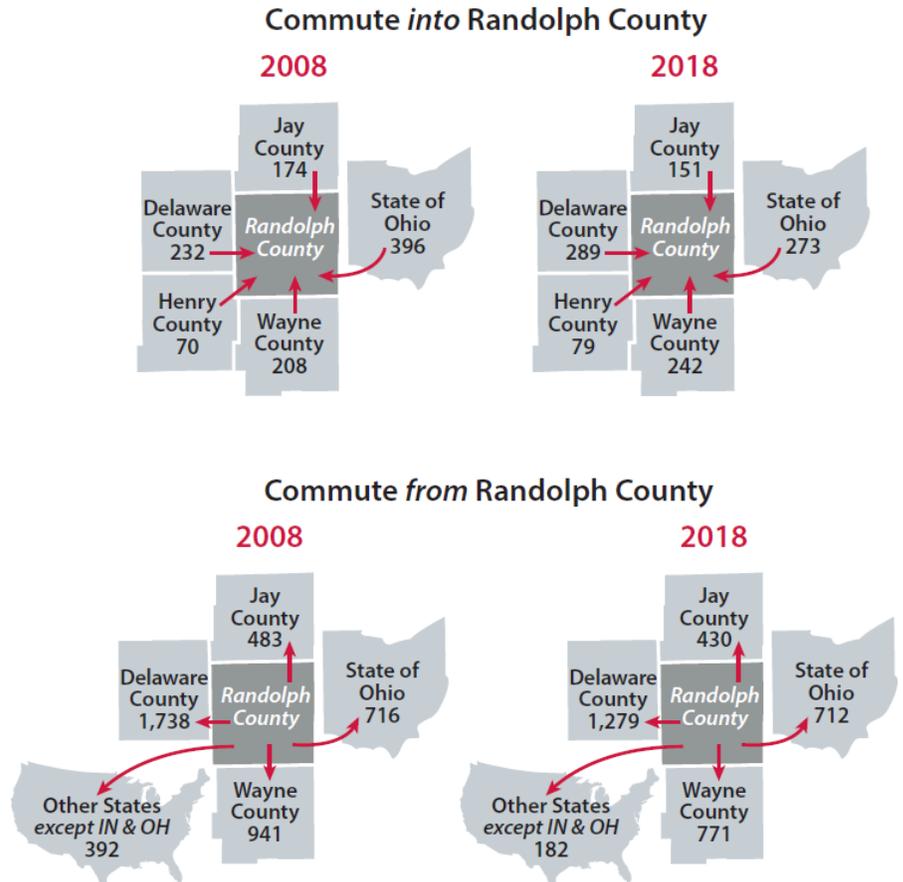Source: ACS & Bureau of Labor Statistics

COMMUTING PATTERNS

Commuting patterns show how many people drive into and out of the county for work. Because they are based on IT-40 tax returns, some anomalies may exist (for instance, a person working remotely may appear to commute because the company's location is reflected in the filing). Considering the top five counties for in and out commutes can help mitigate such issues. It is also helpful to review commuting patterns over a period of time. Figure 15 shows the top five counties, in both 2008 and 2018, that Randolph County sent workers to and the top five counties from which Randolph County received workers. Delaware County sent the most workers to Randolph County in both years considered here. It is also the top destination for Randolph County residents to drive to work. According to the 2018 data found at STATS Indiana, the overall total number of people who live in Randolph County, but work outside the county (3,975) is higher than the total number of people who come into Randolph County for work (1,195).

Considerations related to commuting patterns that require further reflection are: preference to live in the county and drive to work, availability of jobs within the county, the price of gasoline, and the impact of commute times on community involvement, among others. New trends reflecting opportunities to work from home may also impact these patterns in coming years.

Figure 15

Commute *into* Randolph County

2008

Jay County 174
Delaware County 232 — Randolph County — State of Ohio 396
Henry County 70
Wayne County 208

2018

Jay County 151
Delaware County 289 — Randolph County — State of Ohio 273
Henry County 79
Wayne County 242

Commute *from* Randolph County

2008

Jay County 483
Delaware County 1,738 — Randolph County — State of Ohio 716
Other States except IN & OH 392
Wayne County 941

2018

Jay County 430
Delaware County 1,279 — Randolph County — State of Ohio 712
Other States except IN & OH 182
Wayne County 771

SECTION 05

Conclusion | Final Thoughts

FINAL THOUGHTS

The information provided in this overview is from publicly available sources and was purposefully selected to provide a *glimpse* of the current conditions in Randolph County at a given point in time. It shows, among other things, that Randolph County is currently losing population and lags Indiana in educational attainment, but the data also indicates a greater level of income equality and overall engagement compared to the state. It is important to keep in mind that data is not innately good or bad, beneficial or harmful. It is how the data is used, or not, that can greatly impact community development efforts—whether positively or negatively. Data should be considered over time, in total, and with proper context. For instance, the old age dependency ratio in conjunction with the Gini index may help identify issues or opportunities related to housing. The data provided here are among the information that should be sought, discussed, and utilized as a starting point for all efforts to build a stronger, more sustainable place.

Thank you.