

# NATIONAL AND INDIANA REGIONAL SNAPSHOT

Since the introduction of *Indiana Vision 2025* in 2012, a biennial Report Card has evaluated Indiana's status compared to the other 49 states. That important assessment will return in 2021.

This analysis, a new offering, provides three different snapshots:

- Indiana compared to its four Midwest neighbors on 32 of the most telling *Indiana Vision 2025* metrics
- A similar assessment of Indiana vs. five national competitors – Iowa, Minnesota, North Carolina, Tennessee and Utah
- Data within Indiana's 12 Department of Workforce Development (DWD) regions. It features 11 metrics, primarily in the education and health care areas

The neighbor/national breakdowns are on Pages 4-11. Each page contains four metrics. When divided by *Indiana Vision 2025* driver, they fall into these categories: Outstanding Talent (8 metrics), Attractive Business Climate (8), Superior Infrastructure (4), and Dynamic and Creative Culture (12).

As always, the sources and data years are identified. The years indicated are when the data were collected, not published. For example, the smoking rate numbers are from 2018 (the latest year for which complete information is available, although you may see those statistics used in various reports and studies released in 2019 and 2020). Despite the limited numbers of states in these comparisons, the rankings reflect each state's position among all 50 states (as in the traditional Report Card).

Pages 12-13 offer a grid of the 11 Indiana regional metrics (an aggregation of the latest county-level American Community Survey estimates; in several cases, the county data lags behind state information). State level results (based on U.S. Census estimates) may vary slightly. This adjustment is necessary because some Indiana counties lack sufficient population for the Census reports.

Each DWD region is profiled on Pages 14-25 with two data points for each metric. Significant movement within a short time period may be rare, but the comparison can be useful in some cases.

Indiana possesses a wide variety of regional alignments, including different sets of counties, that are based on both public sector designations and private sector economic development efforts. The DWD regions were used here as a standard; information on various regional partnerships and planning commissions is available from the Indiana Chamber upon request.

## INDIANA IN THE MIDWEST

Let's spotlight some of the key findings, reminding all that this is a one-year snapshot. Broken down by driver, cumulative metric rankings reveal:

- Outstanding Talent: Indiana fourth of the five states, leading only Kentucky

- Attractive Business Climate: Indiana second, trailing only Michigan
- Superior Infrastructure (only four metrics): Indiana tied at the bottom with Kentucky
- Dynamic and Creative Culture: Indiana and Kentucky tied for second behind Michigan

In overall top 10 rankings among the 50 states, Michigan leads the Midwest contingent with eight, followed by Indiana, six; Illinois and Kentucky, four each; and Ohio, three. As for bottom 10 slots, Kentucky stands out in a negative way with its 12 (of the 32 total metrics). Indiana and Ohio have four, Michigan three and Illinois two.

In the often-discussed venture capital metric, Illinois leads by a wide margin simply due to the oversized Chicago presence. The other four states are grouped in the 30s, reinforcing the opportunity for Indiana to move forward and establish itself in this area. Each of the five have similar ranks in the bottom third in share of employment from firms less than five years old.

Indiana's top ranking is a No. 2 for university business spinouts. It has three No. 5 ranks: Regulatory Freedom Index, net job creation for firms six years and older, and employment at U.S. affiliates of foreign-owned companies (reflecting continued strong international investment).

## NATIONAL COMPETITORS

The states selected here have ranked highly in recent national comparisons, are generally regarded as possessing economic momentum and do compete with Indiana in certain industries. Thus, they would be expected to fare well in this analysis. Broken down by *Indiana Vision 2025* driver, as above:

- Outstanding Talent: Minnesota dominates with Indiana ahead of only Tennessee
- Attractive Business Climate: Utah leads, with Indiana bunched in the middle with Tennessee and North Carolina
- Superior Infrastructure (only four metrics): Utah leading; Indiana last
- Dynamic and Creative Culture: Indiana tied for second with North Carolina behind Utah

Utah, boosted by strong health metrics among others, has 12 top 10s (followed by Minnesota with nine and Tennessee with seven) and only one bottom 10. North Carolina is the only one of the 10 total states to have no bottom 10 rankings.

While Indiana's positive net domestic migration for 2019 placed it atop the Midwest states, it significantly trailed North Carolina, Tennessee and Utah in attracting new residents.

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