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2010 Census Shows Switzerland County Among Fastest-Growing Counties in Indiana

The first data released from the U.S. Census Bureau indicate Switzerland County was the 6th fastest-growing county in the State of Indiana.

Outside the Indianapolis metropolitan area, however, Switzerland County was the fastest-growing county in Indiana over the last decade

Switzerland County's 2010 population is officially 10,613 citizens, compared to 9,065 in 2000. The 17.1% increase is larger than all other Indiana counties except five bordering Marion County (Indianapolis): Hamilton (50.3%), Hendricks (39.7%), Hancock (26.4%), Boone (22.8%), and Johnson (21.2%).

Rounding out the top ten of Indiana's fastest-growing counties were Tippecanoe (16%), Harrison (14.7%), Monroe (14.4%), and Clark (14.3%).

Many Indiana counties, especially those that were dependent on the U.S. auto industry, lost population after the Great Recession forced massive layoffs and plant closings.

Other data from the U.S. Census and made available to the Switzerland County Economic Development Corporation by the Indiana University Business Research Center showed that Jefferson Township remains the county's largest, with 3,167 people, compared to 3,111 people in 2000. However, its 1.8% growth rate was the lowest in the county.

Cotton Township now has 2,040 citizens, compared to 1,476 in 2000. That is a growth of 38.2%, the largest in the county over the last ten years.

Posey Township is the next largest township in the county, with 1,779 residents, up from 1,504 in 2000 for a growth rate of 18.3%.

Pleasant Township's 1,521 residents is up from 1,260 in 2000, representing a 20.7% increase.

York Township saw a growth rate of 28.7%, as its population grew from 937 in 2000 to 1,206 in 2010.

Craig Township remains the county's smallest township with 900 residents, up from 777 in 2000 for a growth rate of 15.8%.

While growing the county's population is not one of the county's economic development goals, identifying how many people choose to live in a community is a great way to measure quality of life in an area and the overall direction in which the county is moving.

Being the fastest-growing county in Indiana outside the Indianapolis region will likely bring increased attention to Switzerland County, according to SCEDC President Jon Bond.

"There are many positive things happening in Switzerland County, and these numbers from the U.S. Census will give us further opportunities that many other Indiana communities will not have", Bond believes.

"Businesses will want to find out why people are choosing to live here when many Indiana counties have grown much slower and others even lost population."

Switzerland County's highest recorded population was 13,336, following the census of 1880.