

## Analysis of Industrial Employment by County

With information gathered from the Harris Indiana Industrial Directory, in the 2003 - 2007 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, the largest employers were identified in each county. Then the employment numbers were tracked over the last five years. With that information we identified what type of manufacturing was largest in each county and the employment levels of that industry.

Using the 2004 Harris Indiana Industrial Directory, we have continued to track the employment of the lead industrial employers in each county for the past year.

### CRAWFORD

According to the 2000 Census data, the largest industrial employment in Crawford County was the manufacturing sector. The county's biggest employers continue to be Jasper Engines and Transmissions, Inc. and Mulzer Crushed Stone Inc.

Jasper Engines and Transmissions Inc. still remains the largest industrial employer in the county. Jasper Engines and Transmissions Inc., manufacture drive trains, engines and transmissions. Disassembly and cleaning are the primary functions at the Leavenworth site. Over the last year they have maintained their employment level of 300 employees.

Mulzer Crushed Stone, Inc. continues to be the seconded largest employer in Crawford County, employing 119 employees. They manufacture riprap, crushed stone, agricultural lime, and sand and gravel construction materials. Mulzer Crushed Stone, Inc. has maintained its level of employment over the last year.

### DUBOIS

Thirty-seven and a half percent (37.5%) of Dubois County's employment is in the manufacturing sector, with a high volume of the manufacturing being in the wood working manufacturing industry. There are six industries located in Dubois County that employ over 550 employees, and four of the six are in the wood or furniture-manufacturing sector.

Kimball International, Inc. continues to be the largest employer in Dubois County, employing approximately 2,200 people. Kimball Electronics Group manufactures printed circuit boards and electronic assemblies. Kimball International, Inc manufactures office, residential, healthcare and hospitality furniture.

Jasper Engines & Transmissions Inc., continues to be the second largest employer in the county. Jasper Engines & Transmissions Inc., has maintained an employment level of 1,500 over the past year.

Masterbrand Cabinets, Inc., a manufacturer of wooden & laminated kitchen and bathroom cabinets has increased employment by seven percent 7% over the last year.

Jasper Rubber Products, Inc. is the fourth largest industrial employer in the Dubois County employing 850 people. This company manufacture rubber mechanical, molded, extruded and lathe cut gaskets, as well as molded and extruded thermoplastic rubber. The company slightly decreased its employment by seven percent (7%) over the past year.

Best Chairs, Inc., has maintained its employment level of 600, which has made it the fifth largest employer in Dubois County. Best Chairs, Inc., manufactures upholstered chairs.

Office Furniture Systems, Inc. (OFS) which manufactures wooden office furniture has decreased its employment by 168 which is twenty-two percent (22%) of its employment over the last year.

## ORANGE

Like the other counties in the region, Orange County's biggest industrial employer is in the manufacturing sector. Three of the five largest manufacturing employers continue to be in the wood or furniture industry.

Paoli, Inc., which was established in 1926, is still Orange County's biggest employer, employing 630 people. Paoli, Inc. manufactures desks and upholstered furniture. Paoli, Inc. has maintained its employment levels, even with the decline in the wood manufacturing industry.

Superior Essex, Inc., a manufacturer of industrial and electrical wiring products was Orange County's third largest industrial employer. However, Superior Essex, Inc. shut its doors in the last year, which eliminated 200 jobs in Orange County.

Pluto Corp., formerly AHF Industries, Inc., manufacturers blow molded plastic bottles and is a contract packaging service provider. Pluto Corp. is currently the county's second largest industrial employer. This company has maintained its employment level since last year.

JSI, Inc., a wooden office furniture manufacturer is the third largest industrial employer in Orange County. JSI has continued to maintain its employment level over the last year.

Mi-Lin Wood Products, manufactures wood dimension projects. They have reduced their employment level by five percent (5%) since last year.

White Castle System, Inc., a meat processing plant for the White Castle Restaurant chain has moved its way up to the fifth largest industrial employer in Orange County. However, White Castle Systems, Inc. has reduced its employment level by twenty-eight (28%), since last year.

## **PERRY**

Perry County's largest industrial employment is also in manufacturing. Unlike the other counties in the region, Perry County has a more diverse manufacturing sector. Only two of the county's largest employers are in the wood or furniture manufacturing industry.

Perry County's largest employer is Waupaca Foundry, Inc. Recently established in 1997, they manufacture gray iron foundries, castings and parts. Waupaca's has maintained their employment level at 800 over the last year.

Parker Hannifin Corp, is the second largest industrial employer in Perry County, employing approximately 120 workers. They manufacture liquid and gas filtration media and honeycomb lifter tubes and bags, microfiber depth filters and pleated cartridges. Parker Hannifin has hired 20 additional employees since last year.

General Electric Company, (GE) which was established in 1943, manufactures electric motors. GE has maintained its employment level since last year.

Swiss Plywood Corp., which manufactures wooden piano and organ cabinets, is currently the County's fourth largest employer. However, they decreased their employment level by twenty percent (20%) since last year.

Best Chairs, Inc, a manufacturer of glide rockers and ottomans is the county's fifth largest industrial employer. Best Chairs, Inc. has maintained its employment level over the last year.

## **PIKE**

Twenty-six percent (26%) of Pike County's industrial employment is in manufacturing sector. Pike County has five employers that have approximately 100 or more employees. The majority of the employment is in the mining sector, with three of the largest employers being bituminous surface coal mining companies.

Five Star Mining continues to be the largest employer in the county maintaining its employment of 275 people. Five Star Mining was established in 1999 and mines underground bituminous coal.

Kindill Mining, Inc. was established in 1972, and also mines underground bituminous coal. Kindill Mining, Inc. is currently the second largest industrial employer in Pike County. However, just recently all 240 workers were sent a warning notice that the company would cease operation on September 4, 2004.

Pike County Area Rehabilitation is tied for the third largest employer in Pike County. This company is a sheltered workshop for cardboard and metal recycling. Pike County Area Rehabilitation has hired 30 new employees since last year.

Solar Sources, Inc. is tied for the third largest employer in Pike County. Solar Sources, Inc., a bituminous surface coal mining company has hired an additional 80 employees over the last year.

Four Star Fabricators, Inc. manufactures stainless, plate and structural steel fabricating. They added an additional 5 employees this year.

## **SPENCER**

Like the other five counties in the region, Spencer County's biggest industrial employer is in the manufacturing sector. Over twenty-eight percent (28%) of Spencer County's labor force is employed in the manufacturing sector.

Abbey Press is now the largest employer in Spencer County and one of the oldest. Abbey Press was established in 1867. They are a printing and direct marketing service company. The Abbey Press has maintained its level of employment over the last year.

Kimball International - Heritage Hills Division has fallen from the largest industrial employer in Spencer County to the seconded largest. The Heritage Hills plant has decreased its employment to only 350 employees. Kimball International - Heritage Hills Division, manufactures wooden and laminated television cabinets, speaker enclosures and stands.

AK Steel Corp., which manufactures hot rolled flat steel has become the County's third largest industrial employer. AK Steel Corp. has maintained its employment level over the past year.

Spencer Industries, Inc. has dropped to the fourth largest employer in the county. Once again Spencer Industries has decreased their employment twenty-eight (28%). Spencer Industries, Inc. manufacture thermoformed plastic parts, TV, exercise and appliance parts.

Until October 31, 2004, Peerless Pottery, Inc., will be the fifth largest employer in Spencer County. However, on October 31, 2004 Peerless Pottery will close its doors, with all 167 of its employees losing their jobs. Peerless Pottery, Inc. was established in 1902 and manufactures vitreous china plumbing fixtures.

Thermwood Corp. a manufacturer of computer controlled routing equipment for woodworking has added 20 new jobs over the past year. Thermwood Corp. will be the fifth largest employer in Spencer County after Peerless Pottery, Inc, closes it's doors.