



WELLS COUNTY



Wells County, just south of Fort Wayne, is home to strong manufacturing, food-processing, and a transportation and logistics base. Major employers in the county include Peyton's Northern Distribution Center for Kroger, Bluffton Regional Medical Center, Pretzels Inc. and WEG Commercial Motors, 20/20 Custom Molded Plastics, AAM, to name a few. Cities and towns in Wells County include Bluffton, Markle, Ossian, Uniondale, Poneto, Vera Cruz and Zanesville.

COMMUNITY ASSETS & ACCOLADES

- Bluffton nicknamed "The Parlor City" over a century ago because its paved streets made the city "as clean as your parlor"
- In 2019, Parlor City Plaza was unveiled in downtown Bluffton after a \$1.2 million private-public investment
- Bluffton named Indiana's first "GigaBit" city
- Wells County home to Ouabache State Park—the site of a newly-refurbished 1930's fire tower and a Bison preserve



WELLS COUNTY TALENT MADE BETTER

POPULATION¹

Total Population, 2021	28,197
% Change 2016:2021	1.2%
Median Age, 2021	40.0

LABOR FORCE

Labor Force, May 2022 ²	14,343
Median Household Income, 2020 ¹	\$66,597
% of Population Ages 20-64, 2021 ¹	54.3%
60-Mile Radius Labor Force, 2021 ³	802,603

EDUCATION SYSTEMS

School Districts ⁴	3
Total Number of Students, 2022 ⁵	5,114
High Schools, 2022 ⁴	3
Middle Schools, 2022 ⁴	3
Elementary Schools, 2022 ⁴	4
Regional Colleges & Universities ⁶	10
Approx. Regional Enrollment, Fall 2021 ^{6,7}	36,390

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT¹



< Grade 9
1.7%



Grade 9-12
6%



High School
40.3%



Some College
20.6%



Assoc Degree
12.6%



Bach Degree
13.5%



Grad Degree
5.2%



“Bluffton, Indiana **met all our requirements to support our complex manufacturing needs**, increase our presence in the Midwest and align with General Motors’ preference to have their supply base close to their facilities. The **Mayor’s office and the Chamber were really helpful** in any way they could support us. It’s great to have that **personal relationship** in a small community.”

Mark Ellerbrock | Plant Manager
Inteva Products

ACCESSIBILITY⁹

Nearest MSA	Fort Wayne, 20 miles
Nearest International Airport	Fort Wayne International Airport (FWA), 15 miles
Airport Runway Length	11,981 feet
Distance to Interstate	10 miles
Nearest Port	Toledo-Lucas County Port, 120 miles
Foreign Trade Zone Availability	FTZ-182

UTILITIES⁹



Bluffton Utilities, Duke Energy, Indiana Michigan Power, Heartland REMC, Jay County REMC



Most of the cities and towns in Wells County provide water, sanitary and storm sewer



NIPSCO, CenterPoint Energy



Comcast, Community Fiber Solutions, Craigville Telephone, Frontier, Lumen, Mediacom, Metronet, RTC Communications

Sources

¹ U.S. Census Bureau

⁶ National Center for Education Statistics

² U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

⁷ Ivy Tech Community College

³ Hoosiers by the Numbers

⁸ Indiana Economic Development Corporation

⁴ Indiana Department of Education

⁹ Wells County Economic Development

⁵ STATS Indiana

MAJOR EMPLOYERS⁹



COUNTRIES PRESENT IN COUNTY⁸



TARGET INDUSTRIES⁹

- Advanced Materials
- Defense & Aerospace
- Food & Agriculture
- Logistics & E-Commerce
- Medical Device
- Vehicles

INCENTIVES⁹

» State Incentives

- Community Revitalization Enhancement District Tax Credit (CReED)
- Data Center Sales Tax Exemption
- Economic Development for a Growing Economy Credit (EDGE)
- Headquarters Relocation Tax Credit (HRTC)
- Hoosier Business Investment Tax Credit (HBI)
- Industrial Development Grant Fund
- Patent Income Tax Exemption
- Research & Development Incentives
- Skills Enhancement Fund (SEF)
- Venture Capital Investment Tax Credit (VCI)

» Tax Abatement

» Tax Increment Financing (TIF)

» County Economic Development Income Tax Assistance (CEDIT)

» Land Purchase Assistance

» Northeast Indiana Works

Scan code or call Wells County by contacting Chad Kline at the Wells County Economic Development at (260) 824-0510.

