

HARRISON COUNTY, INDIANA
COMMUTER STUDY

June, 2006

Compiled and Prepared by
THE PATHFINDERS



Dallas, Texas

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
2. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS	4
3. ASSESSMENT OF THE HARRISON COUNTY COMMUTER WORKFORCE.....	5
a) Number of Commuters	5
b) Counties/Cities of Employment	6
c) Reasons for Commuting	7
d) Characteristics of Commuters	8
Gender/Age	8
Length of Time in Current Job/Length of Time Lived in Harrison County	9
Education/Method of Transportation	10
Commuting Distances/Time	11
Current Sector of Employment/Weekly Expenditures.....	12
Current Pay Rates.....	13
Experience.....	15
Skills	16
4. OPINIONS ON COMPARABLE/AVAILABLE JOBS	17
5. “PASS-THROUGH” COMMUTERS.....	20
6. CLOSING REMARKS.....	21



INTRODUCTION

The Pathfinders has employed its experience in producing area workforce assessments for site-selection clients and local and state economic development organizations to produce this evaluation of the Harrison County, Indiana commuter workforce. The information presented in this report has been developed independently of the client, and the client has not influenced the findings.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the 2005 estimated population of Harrison County was 36,827. The population has slightly increased since 2000, as shown in the table below.

Harrison County Population

2000	2003	2005
34,509	35,708	36,827

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates and Counts

Also included in this evaluation are the Counties of Crawford (Indiana) and Meade (Kentucky) whose populations are as follows:

County	2000	2003	2005
Crawford County, Indiana	10,800	11,118	11,216
Meade County, Kentucky	26,566	27,582	28,447

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates and Counts

As with Harrison County, only slight increases in population have occurred in these two Counties since 2000.



The civilian labor force is a numerical estimate of employed and unemployed people by place of residence. The labor forces of the three counties included in this study are shown below.

Civilian Labor Force

County	Employed Persons	Unemployed Persons	Total Civilian Labor Force
Harrison	18,390	1,190	19,580
Crawford	5,110	480	5,590
Meade	11,351	850	12,201

Source: Indiana Workforce Development
Workforce Kentucky

For the purposes of this study, the employed labor force has been adjusted to reflect the age grouping used in the household survey sample (ages 22 – 64).

County	Adjusted Total of Employed Persons
Harrison	16,200
Crawford	4,600
Meade	10,200

As readily seen in both tables above, the labor force in Harrison County is certainly capable of providing workers for county employers; however, a percentage of these workers choose to live inside the county but to work outside the county. The Pathfinders was retained to conduct a survey of those individuals who fit this model.

In addition, those individuals who live in the neighboring counties of Crawford (Indiana) and Meade (Kentucky) and who “pass through” Harrison County on their routes to work were also included in the survey.



Taken together, data collected during the conduct of these surveys will enable local economic development officials to assess the impact of these commuting workers on the local economy and can be used in the areas of business recruitment and business expansion and retention.

To begin the survey, a random sample of telephone numbers of qualified respondents in the three counties was obtained for use in the Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing or CATI system. The age grouping used for the sample was 22 – 64, and there was no limit on household income.

The Pathfinders then conducted telephone interviews, based upon the sample collected, with individuals throughout each county. The purpose of these interviews was to identify those individuals who:

- Live in Harrison County but work in a different county
- Live in either Crawford or Meade Counties and drive through Harrison County on their way to work

Information was collected from the surveyed individuals on factors including, among others, the county of employment; the likelihood of working in Harrison County if comparable jobs became available; education; current pay; current occupation; experience; and, skills.

Sufficient interviews were completed with qualified individuals to produce results which vary by no more than plus or minus 5 percentage points. If the survey were repeated 100 times, 95 times out of 100 the results would be the same as those resulting from a survey of every individual.

The Pathfinders calculated the number of commuters using the employed labor force (total civilian labor force minus the unemployed, actively seeking work), adjusted to reflect the age group of the sample.



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- The employed labor force between the ages of 22 and 64 in Harrison County is approximately 16,200; Crawford County 4,600; and, Meade County 10,200.
- Approximately 7,800 people, or 48% of this employed labor force of Harrison County live inside the county but work outside the county. 7,100 of these are full-time workers, and approximately 700 individuals work part-time.
- Almost half of these commuters (47%) report the reason for working outside Harrison County is the lack of job opportunities in the county.
- 47% of these commuters work in Jefferson County, Kentucky.
- Over one-third of the Harrison County commuting labor force (39%) has an associate degree or higher.
- The median current pay of the Harrison County commuters is \$19.60 per hour.
- 83% of Harrison County commuters who work full-time, or approximately 5,900 individuals, would consider taking a comparable job in Harrison County if one became available.
- In Crawford and Meade Counties, approximately 1,500 workers “pass through” Harrison County on their way to work.
- In total, approximately 9,300 workers either (a) live in Harrison County and work in a different county or (b) live in Meade or Crawford County and drive through Harrison County on their way to work.



ASSESSMENT OF THE HARRISON COUNTY COMMUTER WORKFORCE

A survey of employed individuals, age 22 – 64, who reside in Harrison County was conducted in order to determine the percent of those workers who leave the county each day for work. Survey results indicate that 44% of Harrison County workers, or approximately 7,100 people, commute to a neighboring county for full-time employment. Another 4% of the workers, or approximately 700 people, commute for part-time jobs. In total, approximately 7,800 individuals reside in Harrison County but work in a different county.

NUMBER OF HARRISON COUNTY COMMUTERS

Description	Number of Persons	Percentage
Full-time workers who commute	7,100	44%
Part-time workers who commute	700	4%
	—————	—————
Totals	7,800	48%

Given that almost half of the Harrison County employed workforce leaves the County each day for work, certain questions naturally arise, for example:

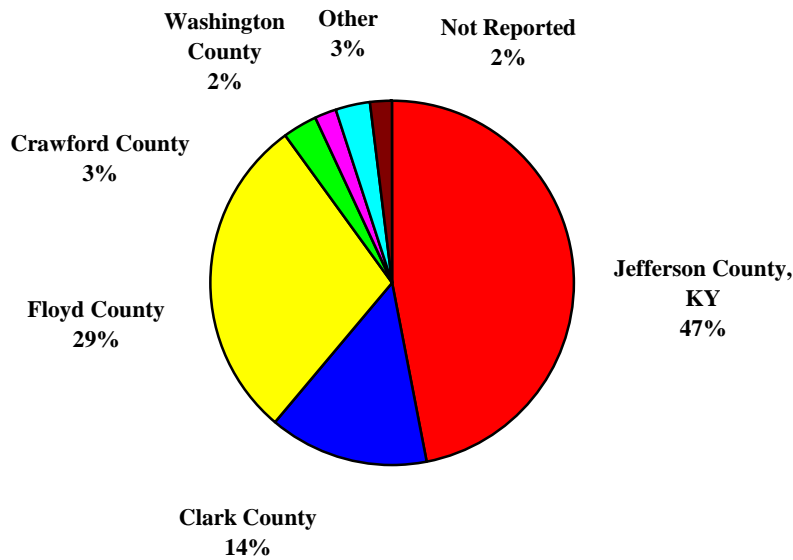
- Where do these commuters work?
- What kinds of jobs do they have?
- How much money do they make?
- Why don't they work in Harrison County?
- What kind of education and skills do they have?

This report will answer these and other questions and give an insight into the commuting workforce of Harrison County.

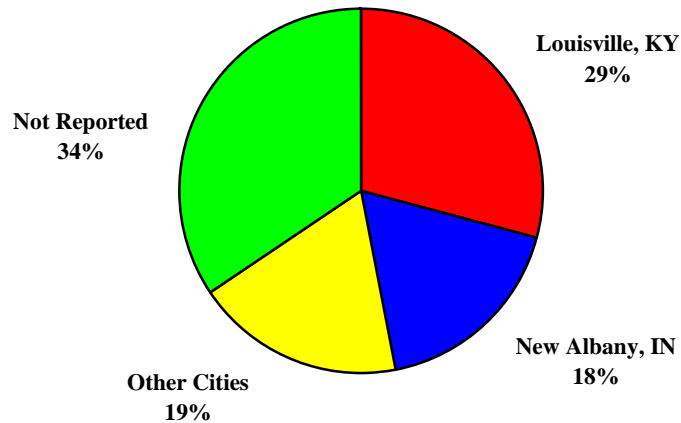


Almost half of the 7,800 Harrison County commuters (47%) work in Jefferson County, Kentucky, followed by 29% who work in Floyd County, Indiana and 14% who are employed in Clark County, Indiana. The “Other” was unspecified counties. Employer zip codes indicate Louisville, Kentucky and New Albany, Indiana are most likely the cities of employment for the Harrison County commuting workforce.

COMMUTERS COUNTY OF EMPLOYMENT



EMPLOYER ZIP CODES BY CITY



The commuting individuals were surveyed as to their reasons for working outside Harrison County. The main reason cited was the lack of job opportunities in Harrison County (47%). It should be noted that some cross-over exists in these answers, therefore the percentages will exceed 100%.

REASONS FOR WORKING OUTSIDE HARRISON COUNTY

7,800 Commuters

Sector	Percentage
Lack of Jobs in Harrison County	47%
Better Salary/Benefits in Another County	25%
Better Location	13%
Like Current Job	12%
Had Job Before Moving to Harrison County	6%
Work for Well-Known Company	5%
No Chance for Growth in Harrison County	3%
Close to Retirement	2%
Seniority	2%
Work involves Traveling	2%
Other*	6%

* Includes a variety of reasons, each with less than 2% representation, such as company transfers to another county and time for relaxation during the drive to work.

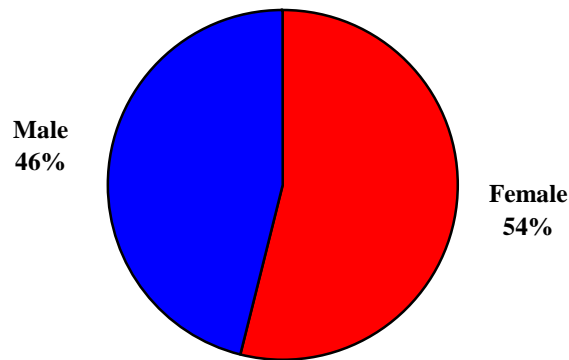


CHARACTERISTICS OF COMMUTERS

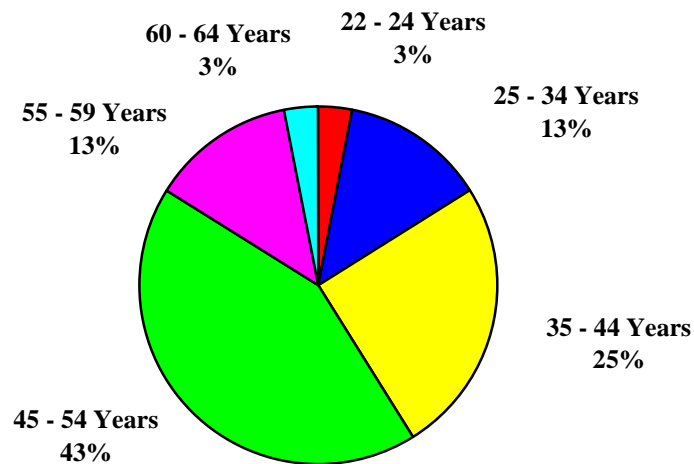
Harrison County

The following charts provide information on various characteristics of the 7,800 individuals who reside in Harrison County but work full-time or part-time in a different county. As these data relate solely to those individuals in the county who are commuters, they will vary from data representative of the labor force as a whole.

GENDER

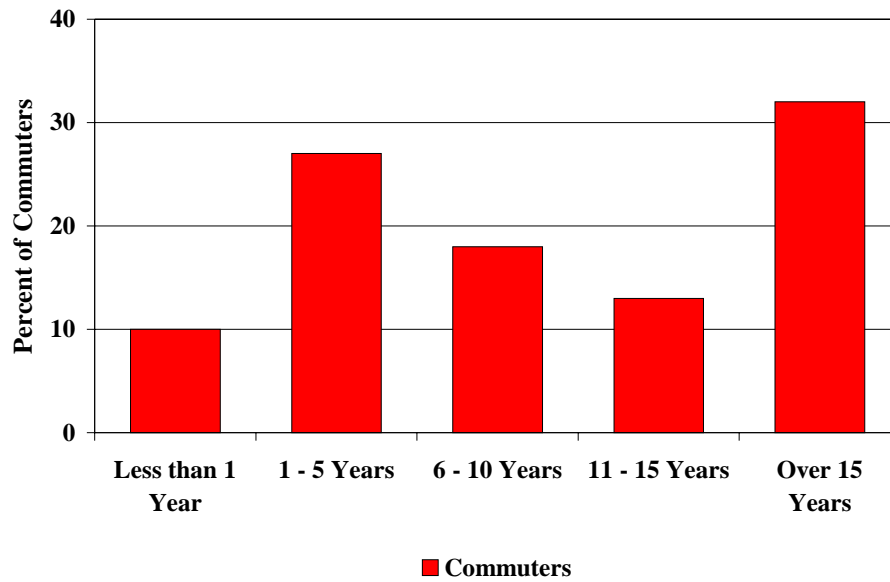


AGE

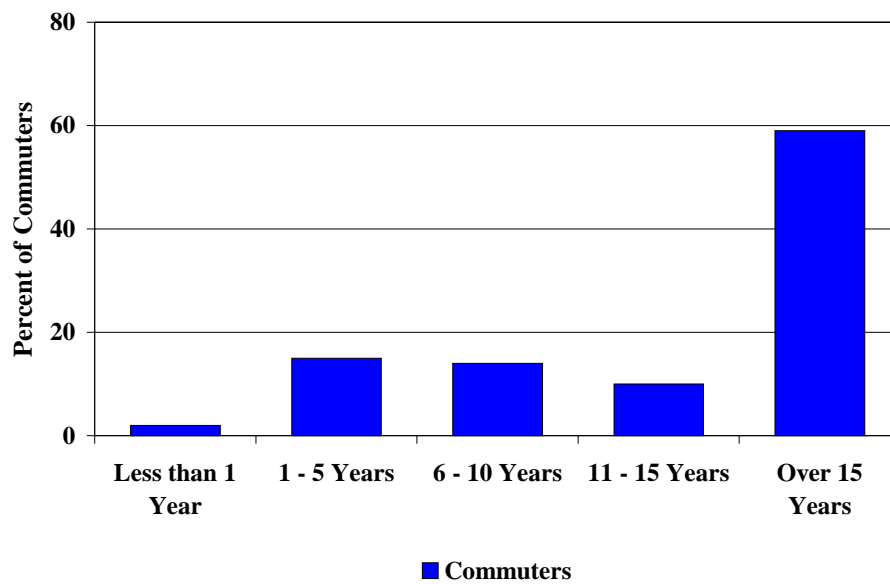


CHARACTERISTICS OF COMMUTERS Harrison County

LENGTH OF TIME IN CURRENT JOB



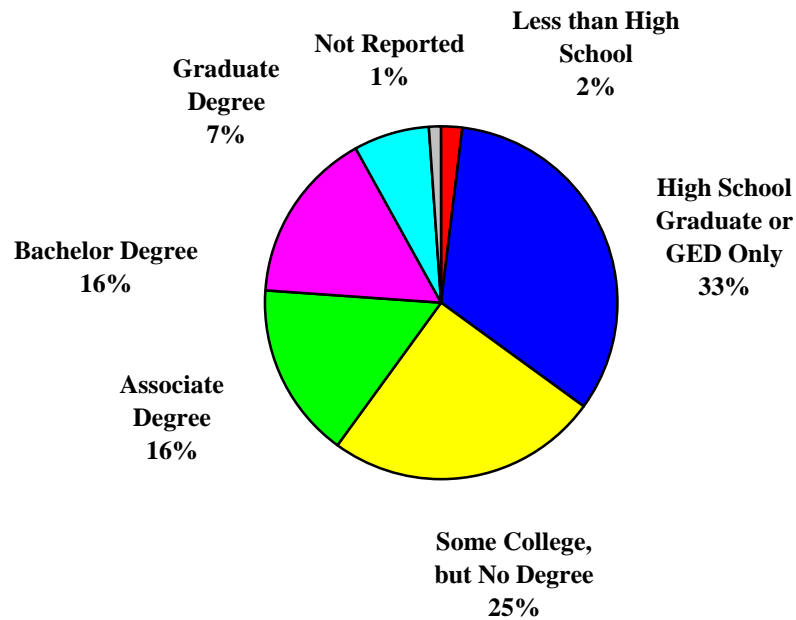
LENGTH OF TIME LIVED IN HARRISON COUNTY



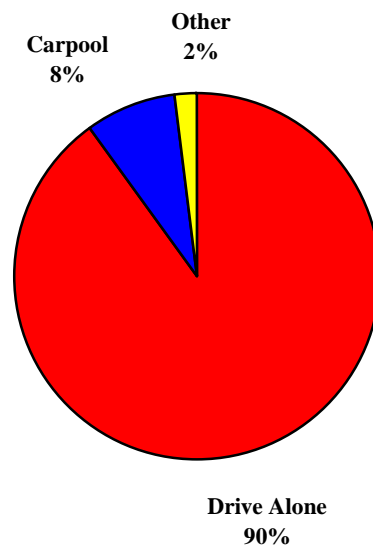
CHARACTERISTICS OF COMMUTERS

Harrison County

EDUCATION



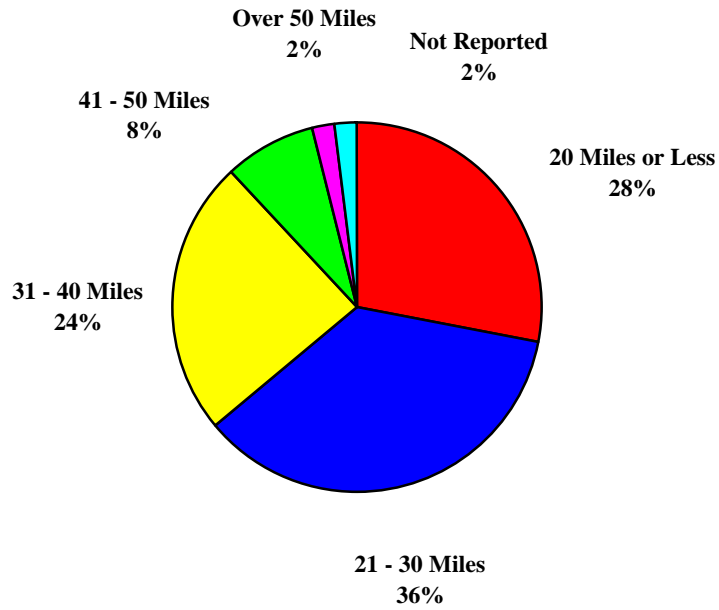
COMMUTING TRANSPORTATION



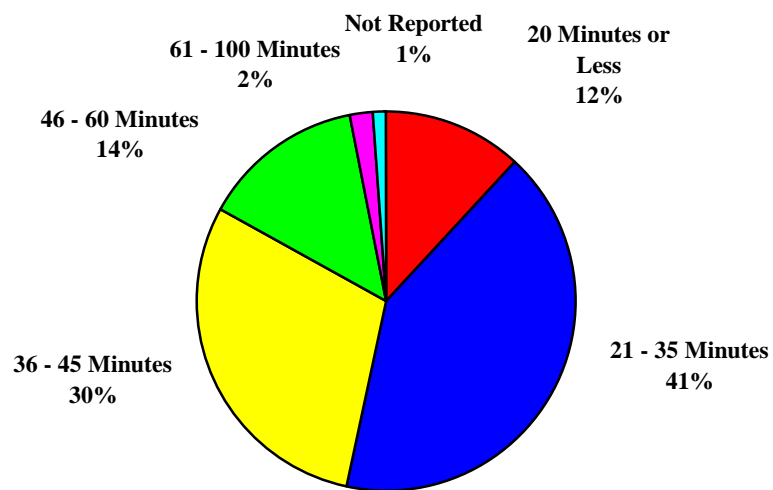
CHARACTERISTICS OF COMMUTERS

Harrison County

COMMUTING DISTANCES



COMMUTING TIMES



CHARACTERISTICS OF COMMUTERS

Harrison County

CURRENT SECTOR OF EMPLOYMENT

Sector	Percentage
Medical/Healthcare	15%
Manufacturing/Assembly	14%
Construction/Trades	10%
Financial/Insurance/Real Estate	9%
Sales/Services	8%
Maintenance/Installation/Repair	6%
Distribution/Transportation	6%
Education	5%

Other sectors of current employment were reported by the commuters, each with less than 5% representation. These included, among others, office and government.

WEEKLY EXPENDITURES

During the course of the survey, the commuters were asked to estimate the amount of money spent each week for fuel, tolls, parking and other expenses related to commuting. The median dollar amount reported was \$43.73 per week. Further, the commuters were asked to estimate the amount spent on miscellaneous purchases made outside of Harrison County as a result of their commute to work including meals, entertainment, services, retail purchases, etc. The median dollar amount reported for these expenditures was \$46.33 per week, for a total of approximately \$90.00 spent each week outside Harrison County.



CHARACTERISTICS OF COMMUTERS

Harrison County

CURRENT PAY RATES

The following data represent the current pay rates of the Harrison County commuters. Many workers expressed their wage requirements in annual terms, but all wage figures in this report are presented in hourly rates. Selected conversions may add perspective to the hourly rates. Figures presented below are based on a 40-hour workweek.

CONVERSION CHART

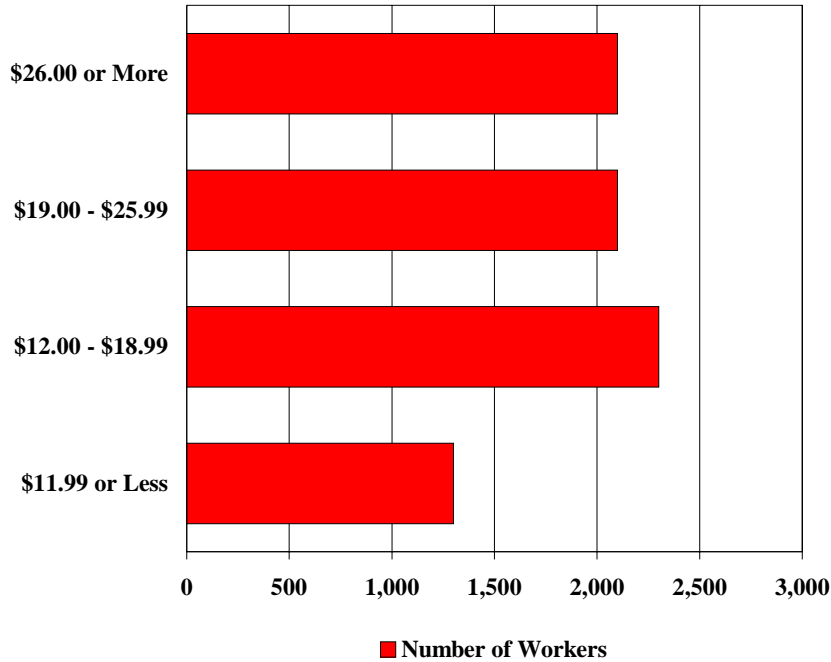
Hourly	Weekly	Monthly	Annually
\$ 8.00	\$ 320.00	\$ 1,386.00	\$ 16,640.00
\$ 10.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 1,733.00	\$ 20,800.00
\$ 12.00	\$ 480.00	\$ 2,078.00	\$ 24,960.00
\$ 14.00	\$ 560.00	\$ 2,425.00	\$ 29,120.00
\$ 16.00	\$ 640.00	\$ 2,771.00	\$ 33,280.00
\$ 18.00	\$ 720.00	\$ 3,118.00	\$ 37,440.00
\$ 20.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 3,464.00	\$ 41,600.00
\$ 22.00	\$ 880.00	\$ 3,810.00	\$ 45,760.00
\$ 24.00	\$ 960.00	\$ 4,157.00	\$ 49,920.00
\$ 26.00	\$ 1,040.00	\$ 4,503.00	\$ 54,080.00
\$ 28.00	\$ 1,120.00	\$ 4,850.00	\$ 58,240.00
\$ 30.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 5,196.00	\$ 62,400.00



CURRENT WAGE RATES OF COMMUTERS BY RANGE

Harrison County

7,800 Commuters



CURRENT WAGE RATES OF COMMUTERS PER HOUR (rounded)

<u>\$7.99 or Less</u> 200	<u>\$8.00 - \$8.99</u> 300	<u>\$9.00 - \$9.99</u> 300	<u>\$10.00 - \$10.99</u> 200	<u>\$11.00 - \$11.99</u> 300
<u>\$12.00 - \$12.99</u> 300	<u>\$13.00 - \$13.99</u> 300	<u>\$14.00 - \$14.99</u> 400	<u>\$15.00 - \$15.99</u> 400	<u>\$16.00 - \$16.99</u> 400
<u>\$17.00 - \$17.99</u> 200	<u>\$18.00 - \$18.99</u> 300	<u>\$19.00 - \$19.99</u> 500	<u>\$20.00 - \$20.99</u> 400	<u>\$21.00 - \$21.99</u> 300
<u>\$22.00 - \$22.99</u> 300	<u>\$23.00 - \$23.99</u> 100	<u>\$24.00 - \$24.99</u> 200	<u>\$25.00 - \$25.99</u> 300	<u>\$26.00 - \$26.99</u> 200
<u>\$27.00 - \$27.99</u> 100	<u>\$28.00 - \$28.99</u> 200	<u>\$29.00 - \$29.99</u> 300	<u>\$30.00 - \$ 30.99</u> 200	<u>\$31.00 or More</u> 1,100



CHARACTERISTICS OF COMMUTERS

Harrison County

The following table shows the approximate number of commuters who are experienced in the categories listed. It should be noted that some cross-over exists as those individuals polled may have experience in more than one job classification.

EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE (rounded)

7,800 Commuters

Experience	Number of Commuters	Percentage
Office	4,300	55%
Sales/Customer Service	3,900	50%
Middle Management	3,300	42%
Manufacturing/Assembly/Fabrication	3,100	40%
Warehouse/Distribution/Transportation	2,300	30%
Maintenance/Installation/Repair	2,300	30%
Medical/Health Sciences	2,100	27%
Industrial Operations	1,900	24%
Government/Education	1,800	23%
Upper Management	1,600	20%
Information Technology/Telecommunications	1,400	18%
Electronics/Engineering	1,400	18%
Call Center	1,200	16%



CHARACTERISTICS OF COMMUTERS

Harrison County

The following table shows the approximate number of commuters who are skilled in the categories listed. It should be noted that some cross-over exists as those individuals polled may have skills in more than one job classification.

EMPLOYMENT SKILLS (rounded)

7,800 Commuters

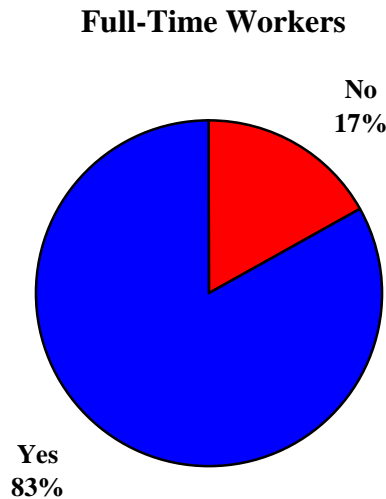
Skills	Number of Commuters	Percentage
Office	4,400	57%
Middle Management	3,600	46%
Manufacturing/Assembly/Fabrication	3,100	40%
Warehouse/Materials Handling	2,900	37%
Technician/Quality Assurance	2,200	28%
Maintenance/Installation/Repair	2,200	28%
Medical/Health Sciences	2,000	25%
Machining/Welding/Other Industrial Machines	1,700	22%
Upper Management	1,600	21%
Information Technology/Telecommunications	1,400	18%
Electronics/Engineering	1,200	15%
Software Development/Programming	800	10%



COMMUTERS' OPINIONS ON COMPARABLE / AVAILABLE JOBS Harrison County

The approximately 7,800 individuals who live in Harrison County but work in a different county were surveyed as to whether they would consider taking a job in Harrison County if one comparable to their current job became available. For the 7,100 full-time workers, 83% of them, or approximately 5,900 individuals, responded positively.

CONSIDER TAKING A COMPARABLE JOB IN HARRISON COUNTY?



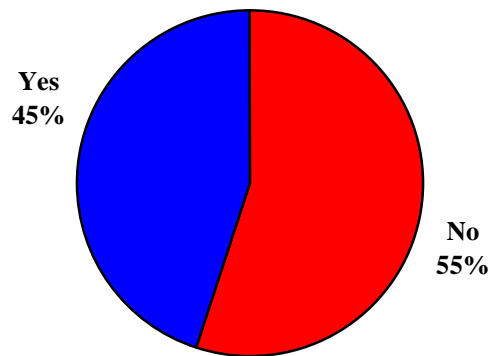
Additionally, for those approximately 700 commuters who work part-time, 67% of them, or about 470 workers, reported they would consider a part-time job in Harrison County if one comparable to their current job became available. Further, of the part-time commuters, 68% of them, approximately 480 individuals, would consider full-time work in Harrison County if a good job became available.

Please note that cross-over may exist in these responses.

The commuters were also surveyed as to whether they would consider taking a job in Harrison County that was available but not comparable to their current job. 45% of full-time workers responded positively. The part-time commuters were split 50-50 on this question

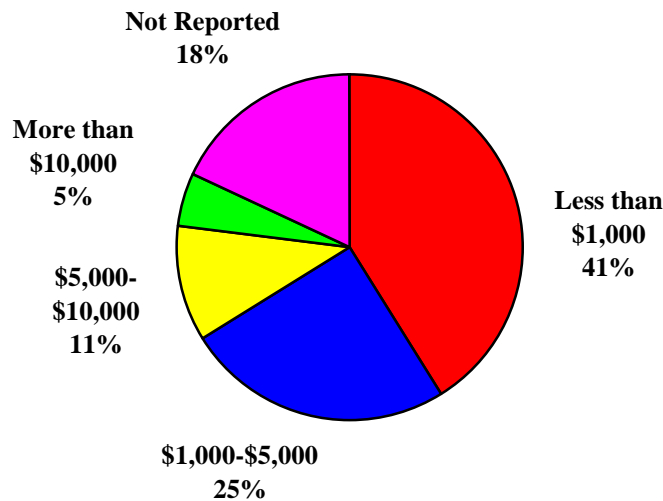
CONSIDER TAKING AN AVAILABLE, BUT NOT COMPARABLE, JOB IN HARRISON COUNTY?

Full-Time Workers



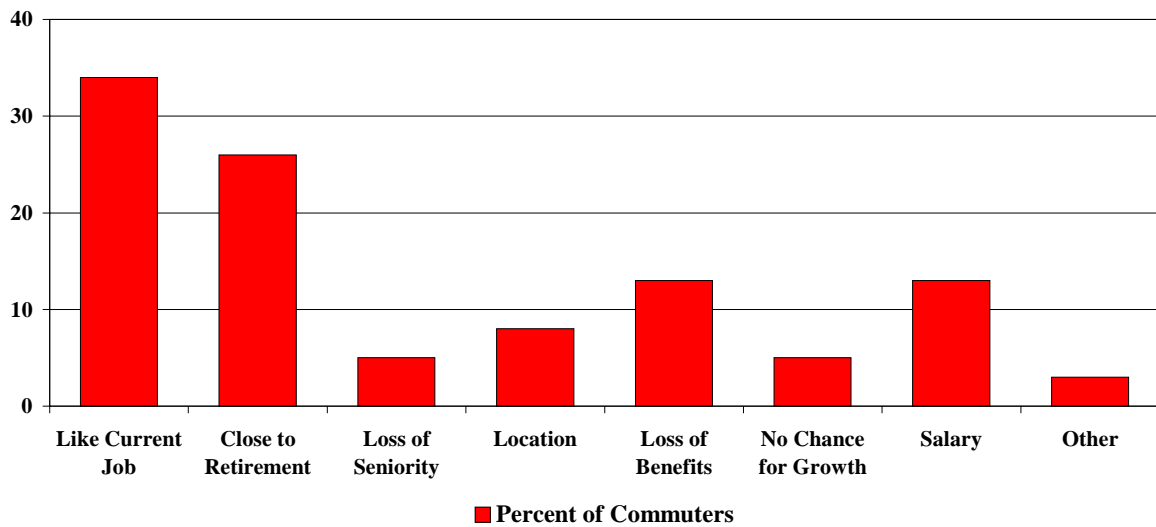
The full-time commuters who would take an available, but not comparable, job in Harrison County were asked how much of a reduction in annual salary they would be willing to take in order to work in their home county.

Reduction in Annual Salary

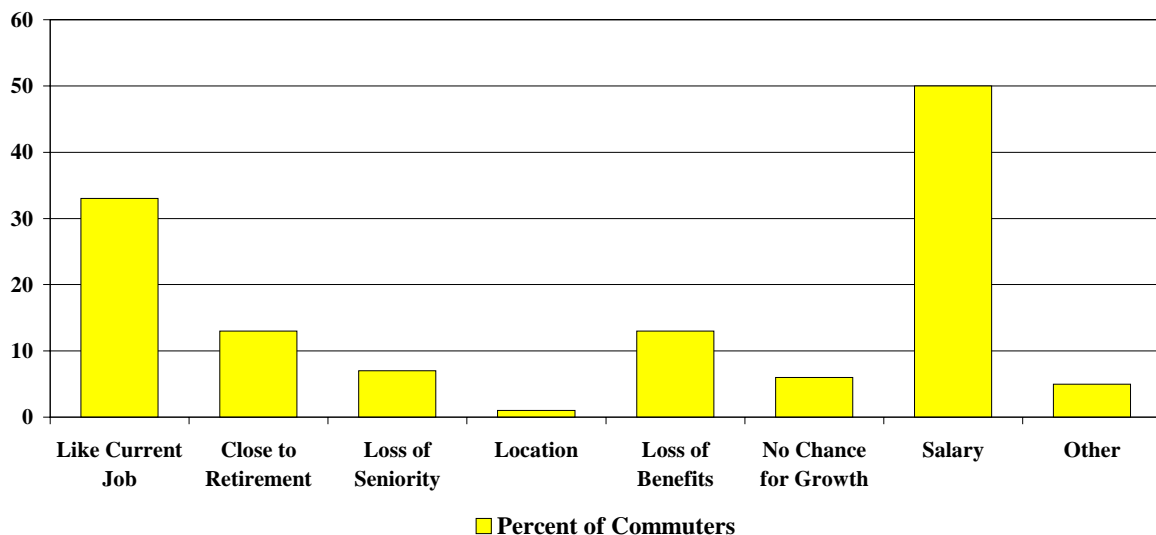


Those individuals who responded negatively to the above questions were then asked why they would not consider taking a job in Harrison County if (a) one comparable to their current job became available and (b) one was available, but not comparable, to their current job. The reasons are shown in the charts below. It should be noted that some cross-over exists in these answers.

REASONS FOR NOT TAKING A COMPARABLE JOB



REASONS FOR NOT TAKING AN AVAILABLE JOB



“PASS-THROUGH” COMMUTERS

Crawford County, Indiana and Meade County, Kentucky

As part of this study, telephone surveys were conducted with qualified respondents in Crawford County, Indiana and Meade County, Kentucky. The purpose of these surveys was to identify those individuals who reside in either Crawford or Meade County and who drive through Harrison County on their way to work. Survey results indicate that approximately 1,500 individuals fall into this category of workers, and these individuals are referred to in this report as the “pass-through” commuters.

These commuters primarily work in Jefferson County, Kentucky, and the largest sectors of employment are manufacturing/assembly and medical/healthcare. Their median commute distance is 50 miles, and their median commute time is 59 minutes. 60% of these workers are male, and their median age is 48. 28% have a two-year degree or higher, and 24% have “Some College, but No Degree”. The median current pay of the “pass-through” commuters is \$19.13 per hour.

As shown below, the highest percentages of experience and skills of these commuters fall in the categories of office operations, manufacturing and distribution. Please note that individuals polled may have experience and skills in more than one job classification.

Experience	Percent	Skills	Percent
Manufacturing/Assembly	54%	Manufacturing/Assembly	50%
Office Operations	48%	Office Operations	48%
Warehouse/Distribution/ Transportation	48%	Warehouse/Materials Handling	48%

The “pass-through” commuters were asked if they would consider a job comparable to their own if one became available in Harrison County. 88%, or approximately 1,320 individuals, responded “Yes”. Further, 40% responded they would consider an available, but not comparable job in Harrison County. Please note that cross-over may exist in these responses.



CLOSING REMARKS

The foregoing report represents an assessment of the commuting workforce in Harrison County and the “pass-through” commuters in Crawford and Meade Counties. The information gathered from the household survey of individuals, after being tabulated and analyzed, documents the number of commuters, their counties of employment, their reasons for commuting and their likelihood of considering employment in Harrison County. Also included in the assessment are such factors as age, gender, education, current pay, current occupation and commuting distances and times of these individuals.

In total, approximately 9,300 individuals either live in Harrison County and work in a different county or live in Crawford or Meade County and drive through Harrison County to get to work. Of these individuals, almost 7,700 would consider working in Harrison County if a job comparable to their own became available. The reader is cautioned that, while the number of commuters identified in the region, as well as their skills, experience, education, and costs, is accurate, all of those individuals may not be acceptable candidates for an employer. Their previous work records, stability, integrity, intelligence, appearance, and other factors are not considered in this report.

The information contained in this report can be used as an aid by local officials in their economic development efforts to attract these commuters into Harrison County. In order for these workers to seek employment in Harrison County, jobs comparable to their own will need to be created. With the continued attraction of new companies for the purpose of job creation, these individuals might well bring their skills and experience, plus their dollars, into Harrison County. Attracting new employers to the county can also be considered a local business retention and expansion initiative by increasing the potential customer base for those resident businesses that sell their goods and services to customers within the boundaries of the county.





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