

# Community Profile

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## Background History

In 1850, the federal government ceded the area known as Whiting to the State of Indiana. At that time, it was primarily swamps and woodlands with sand ridges along Lake Michigan. The Michigan Southern Railroad, the first of three rail lines, established the first line in 1851. Initial settlers were German and lured by employment within the rail industry. The first post office was established in 1871.

In 1889, Standard Oil Company began purchasing property along the lakefront. The company was seeking a site for the refinement of crude oil, with access to rail and water transportation. Whiting was chosen as the refinery site and became an integral part of the community. In 1880, the census bureau counted 115 people in Whiting. The population increased by approximately 2,000 people once the refinery was constructed.

Whiting incorporated as a town in 1895 and received city status in 1903. With the incorporation came amenities such as the lakefront park and public library. Standard Oil provided land and funding for the Memorial Community Center in 1923. The Community Center served as the hub for social and athletic activities in Whiting. By the early 1920s, the refinery employed over 4,000 people and the city’s population grew to approximately 10,000 residents.

By the mid-1960s, Whiting began to experience a population decline. Expansion was limited by Chicago to the west, East Chicago to the east, Hammond to the south, and Lake Michigan to the north. Whiting did not have a significant new housing supply for young adults. Consequently, that population began to relocate out of the immediate area. A project to construct “Camelot on the Lake,” a new apartment complex, was proposed but did not move ahead.

Today, Whiting is a dynamic city that cherishes its history and historic buildings. It is home to the fourth largest oil refinery in the nation, BP. Its streets are named after city founders and lined with beautiful homes. The commercial districts are populated by family-owned businesses and specialty shops. It has a rich ethnic heritage and a welcoming friendly atmosphere. Whiting is home to a range of ancestries, including Slovak, Polish, Irish, German, English, and Italian households. Whiting celebrates its traditions and hosts festivals, summer concerts, and parades. Lastly, the city is only 20 minutes from Chicago.

## Statistics at a Glance

Location:	14 miles southeast of Chicago
Total Area:	3.3 sq. miles; 1.8 sq. miles land; 1.5 sq. miles water
Population 2008:	4,770
Population 2000:	5,137
Density:	2,650 person per sq. mile of land
MSA:	Chicago

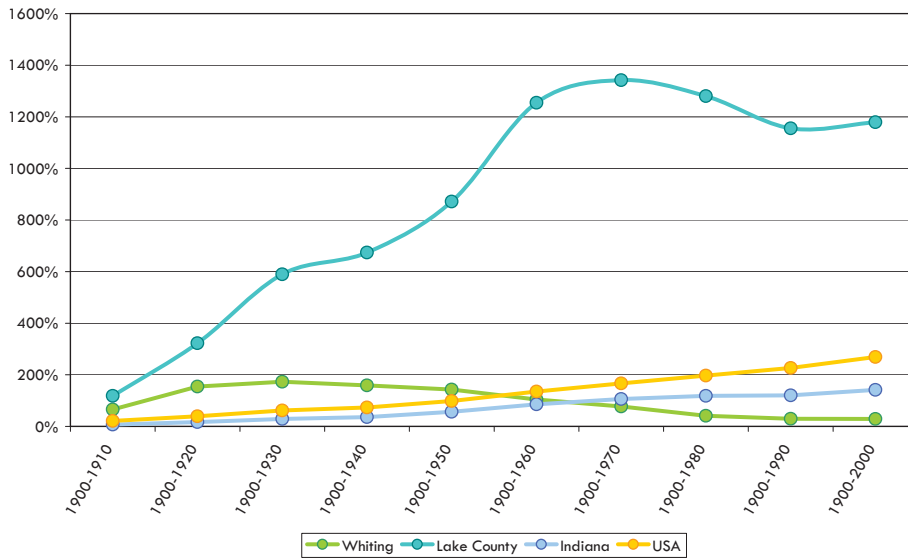
Taken from: History of Housing in Whiting ([whiting.lib.in.us/history](http://whiting.lib.in.us/history)); Whiting: A City Rich in History ([whitingindiana.com/history](http://whitingindiana.com/history)); ([wikipedia.org/wiki/whiting,-indiana](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/whiting,-indiana))



## Population

- The population of Whiting has been significantly decreasing since 1930 but has leveled out since 1980.

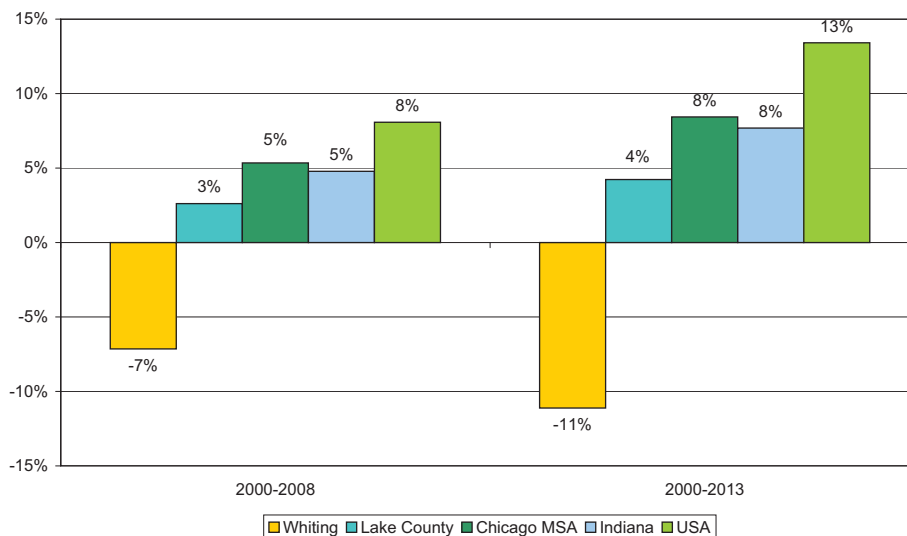
**Population Trends: Percent Change in Population Growth Since 1900**



Source: STATS Indiana, US Census Bureau, University of Virginia, and Geospatial and Statistical Data Center

- The population of Whiting has seen a decrease in population since 2000, while Lake County, the Chicago MSA, Indiana, and the nation have experienced an increase in population.

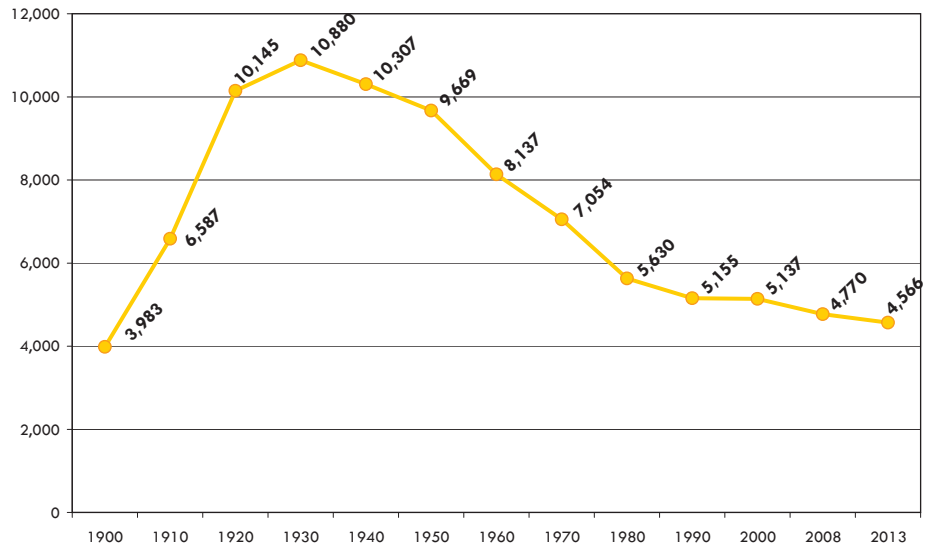
**Projected Population Trends: Percent Change in Population Growth Since 2000**



Source: STATS Indiana, US Census Bureau



### Whiting Population Trends: 1900-2013

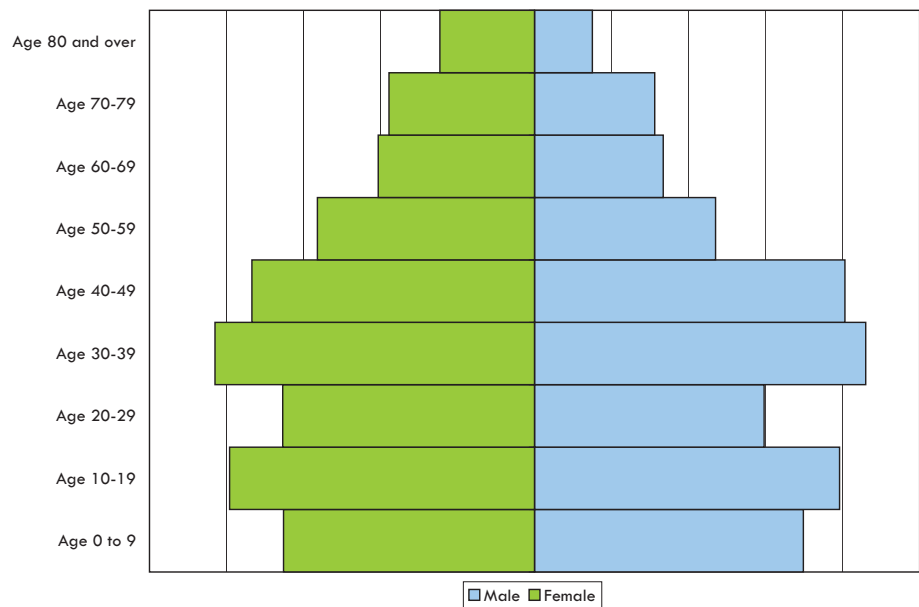


Source: STATS Indiana, US Census Bureau, University of Virginia, Geospatial and Statistical Data Center

- Since 1900, the percentage change in population for Lake County has grown significantly.
- Since 2000, the population of Indiana has leveled out.
- Since 2000, the population of the nation has grown ten percent.

## Age Distribution

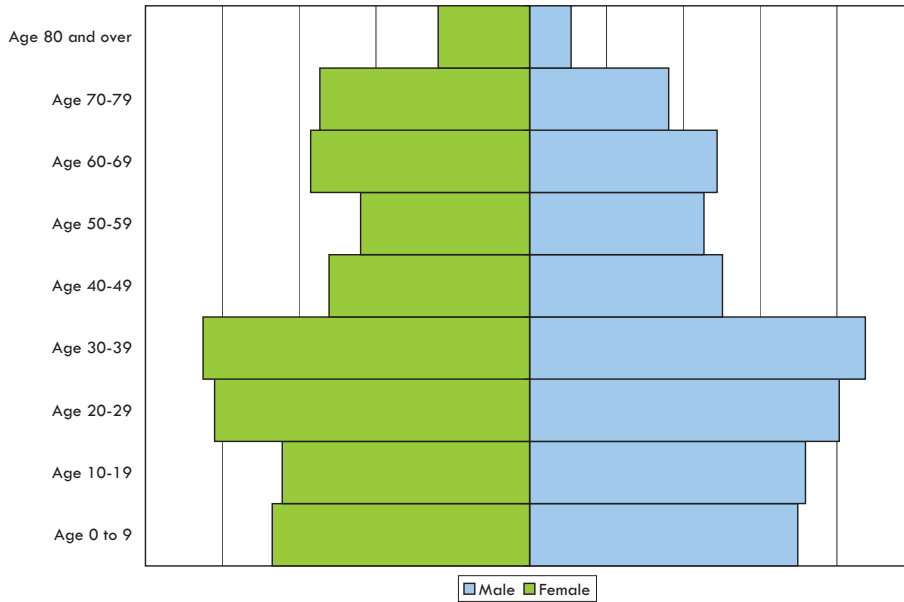
### Whiting Age Distribution: 2000



Source: Claritas, Inc.

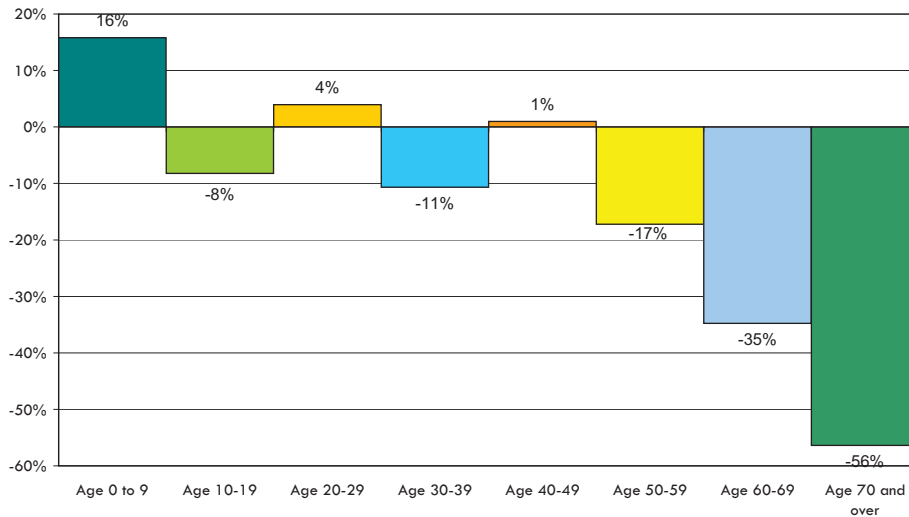


**Whiting Age Distribution: 1990**



Source: US Census Bureau

**Whiting Age Distribution Group Change 1990-2000**  
(1990 age group base)



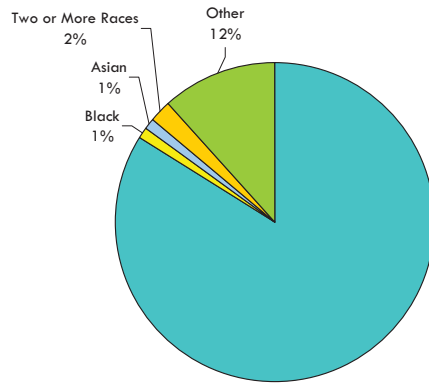
Source: Claritas and US Census Bureau

- Whiting has experienced a six percent decrease in population since 1990.
- Per the 2000 age breakouts, the most notable decrease in population was in the group aged 50 and above.
- The only age groups to notice an increase in population were those aged 0-9, 20-29, and 40-49.
- The percentage distribution of women in the childbearing years cohort (age 20-39) decreased between 1990-2000 from 16.2 percent to 14.4 percent; however, the percentage of children under age 19 increased from 26.5 percent to 28.6 percent.

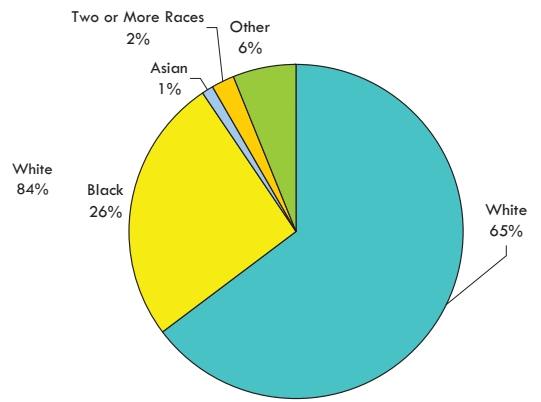


## Race

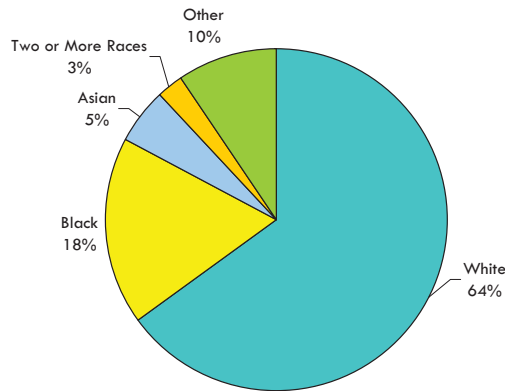
2008 Estimated Racial Distribution: Whiting



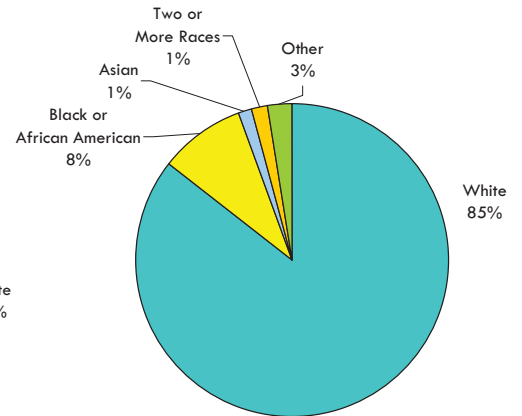
2008 Estimated Racial Distribution: Lake County



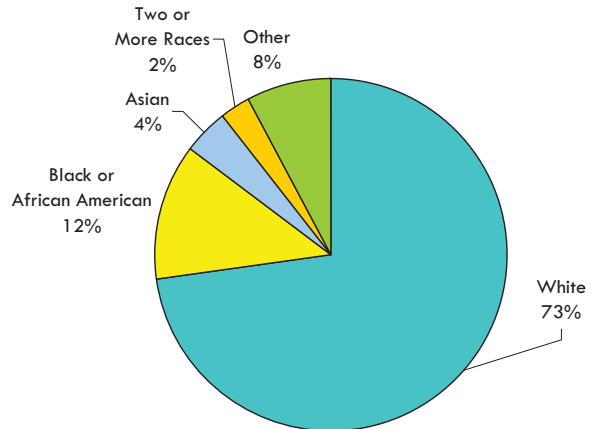
2008 Estimated Racial Distribution: Chicago MSA



2008 Estimated Racial Distribution: Indiana

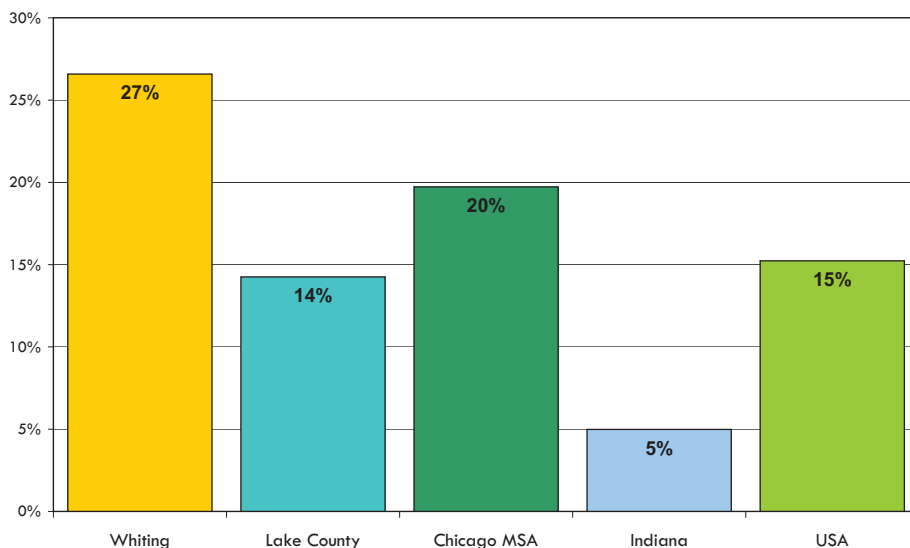


2008 Estimated Racial Distribution: USA



Source: Claritas, Inc.

Percentage Hispanic Population: 2008 Estimate



Source: Claritas, Inc.

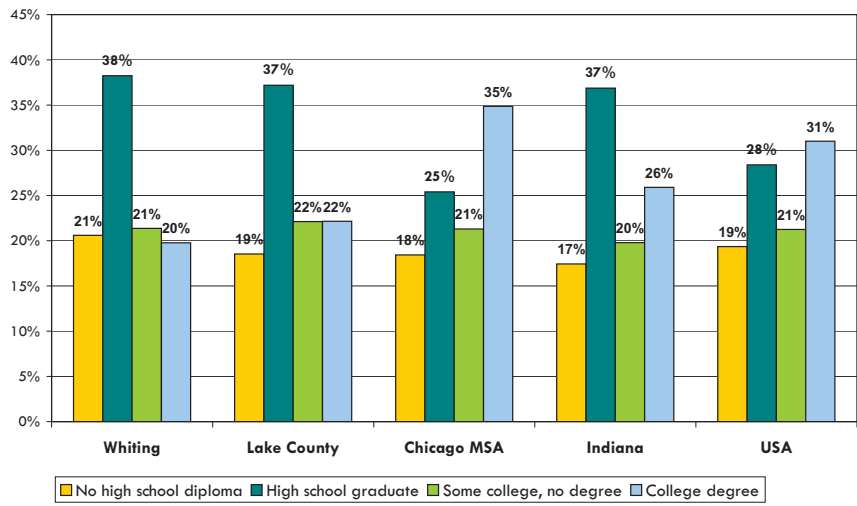
- Whiting has a relatively homogenous population. Less than 14 percent of the population is of a race other than white. It closely resembles the diversity of Indiana.
- The Chicago MSA and Lake County has a fairly diverse population. The majority of the population is white (67 percent), followed by blacks or African Americans.
- Whiting has a slightly higher distribution of Asians (2 percent) than the county and the state.
- The percentage of persons with Hispanic origin in Whiting (25 percent) is significantly higher than that of the other comparison areas.

## Education

- The level of educational attainment for Whiting closely parallels that of Lake County, with a high rate of high school graduates (39 percent) but significantly less higher education levels beyond high school (40 percent).
- While the figures are close, compared to the other areas, Whiting has the highest level of persons without a high school diploma (21 percent).
- The Chicago MSA has the highest level of persons with college degrees (35 percent).
- Only 19 percent of the population in Whiting has a college degree, compared to 21 percent in Lake County, 35 percent in the Chicago MSA, 25 percent in Indiana, and 31 percent for the nation.

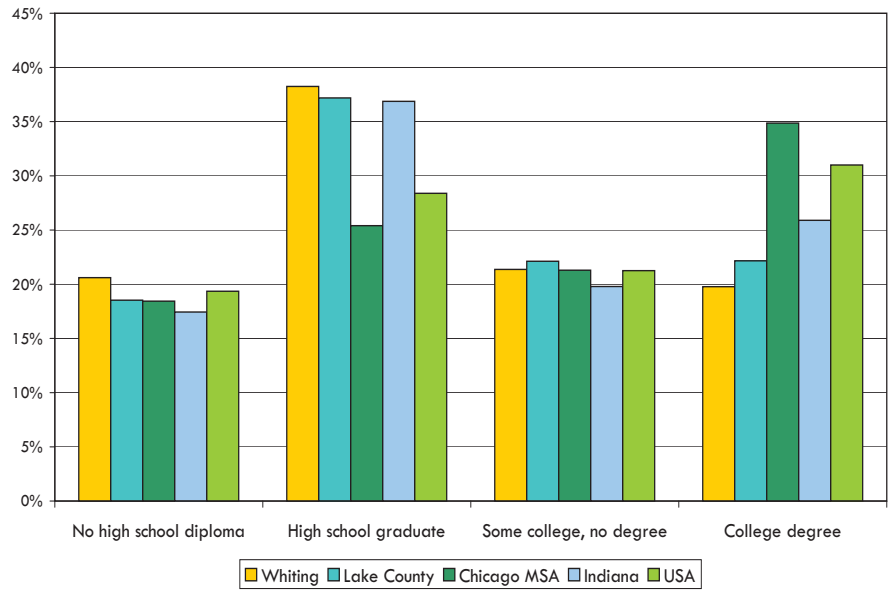


Educational Attainment by Study Areas: 2008 Estimate



Source: Claritas, Inc.

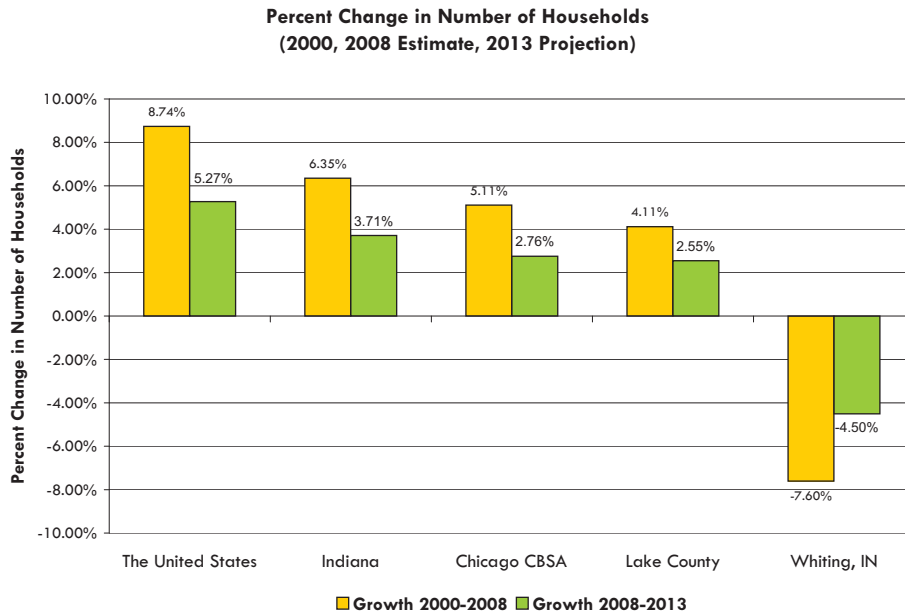
Percent Distribution of Educational Attainment: 2008 Estimate



Source: Claritas, Inc.



## Households

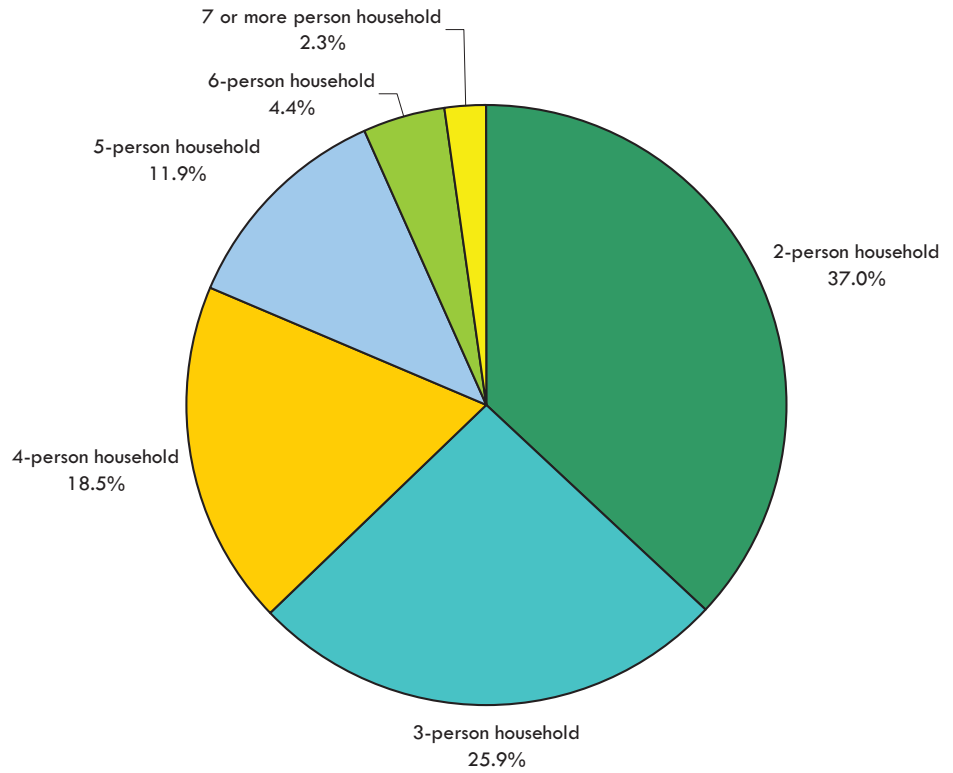


Source: Claritas, Inc.

- Whiting has been experiencing a decline in the number of households within the community since the 2000 Census.
- By 2012, it is projected Whiting will lose 9.9 percent of the number of households it had in 2000.
- The rate in decline (for households) between 2007 and 2012 is projected to be less than the rate in decline between 2000 and 2007.
- In 2000, there were 2,091 households in Whiting. It was estimated in 2007 there were 1,973 households in Whiting. It is projected in 2012 Whiting will have 1,890 households.



### 2008 Estimated Family Household Size in Whiting

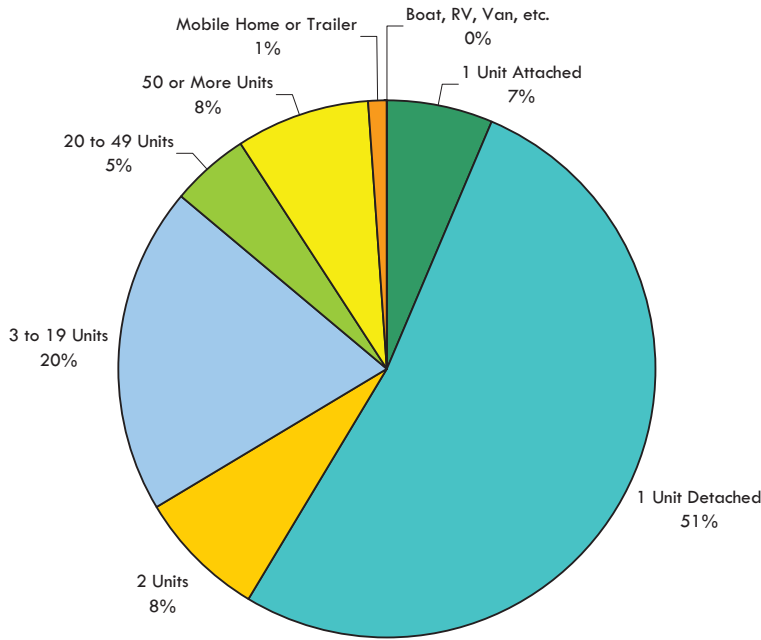


Source: Claritas, Inc.

- In 2007 it is estimated Whiting had 1,973 households. Of these, 61 percent (1,202) were considered “family” households and 39 percent (771) were considered “non-family” households.
- The average size of all households was estimated to be 2.45 in 2007.

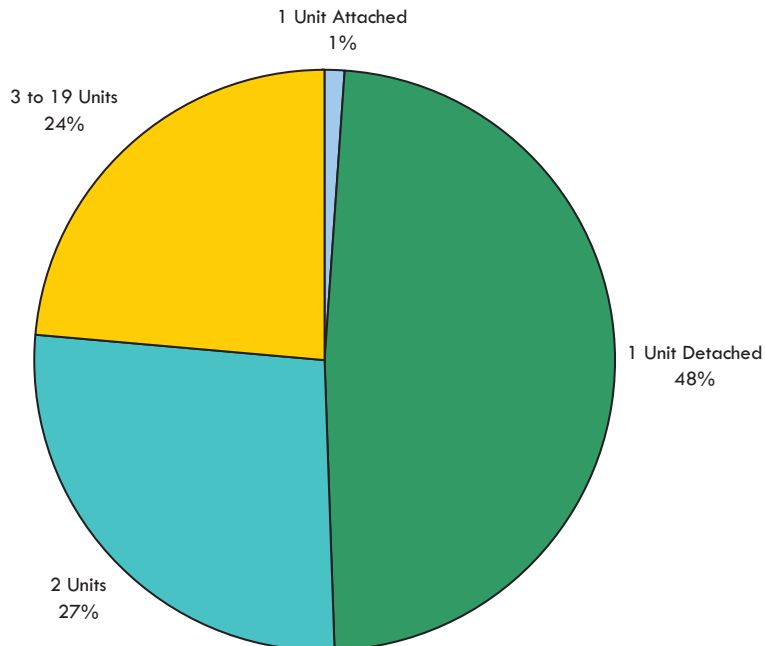
## Housing

### Chicago CBSA Housing Units by Units in Structure (2008 Estimate)



Source: Claritas, Inc.

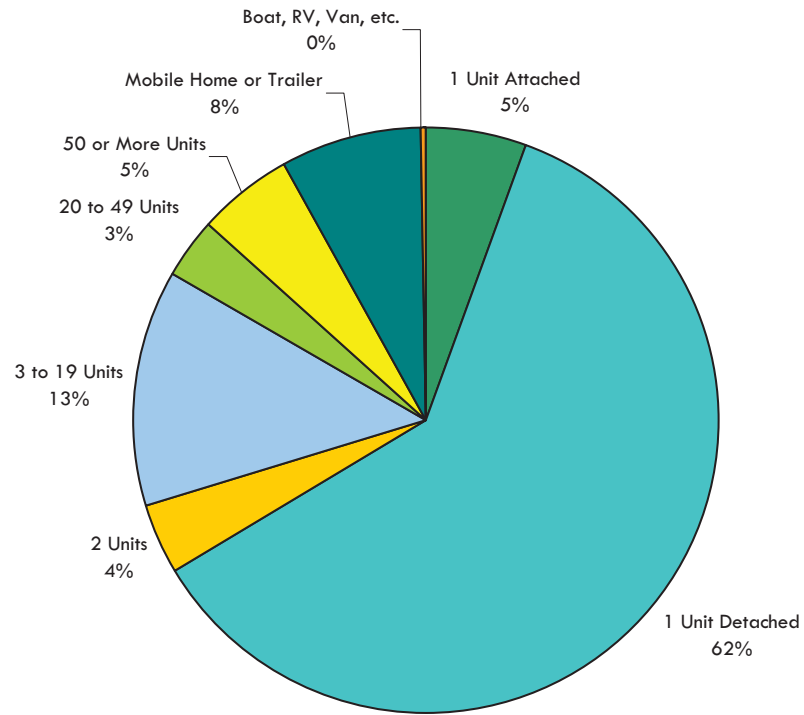
### Whiting Housing Units by Units in Structure (2008 Estimate)



Source: Claritas, Inc.



## United States Housing Units by Units in Structure (2008 Estimate)

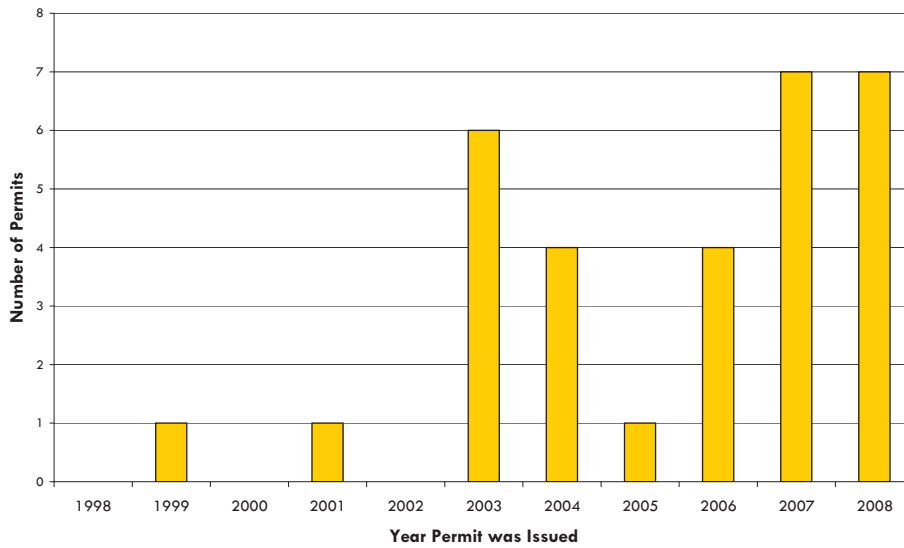


Source: Claritas, Inc.

- In 2007 it was estimated there were 2,223 housing units in Whiting.
- Between 2000 and 2012, it is projected Whiting will experience a 7.7 percent decrease in the number of housing units, while it is projected there will be an 8.8 percent increase in housing units in the Chicago BCSA between 2000 and 2012.
- Almost half of Whiting’s housing units are 1-unit, detached structures, and approximately a quarter of housing structures are either 2-unit or 3- to 19-unit structures.

## Building Permits

Residential Building Permits in Whiting (1997-2007)



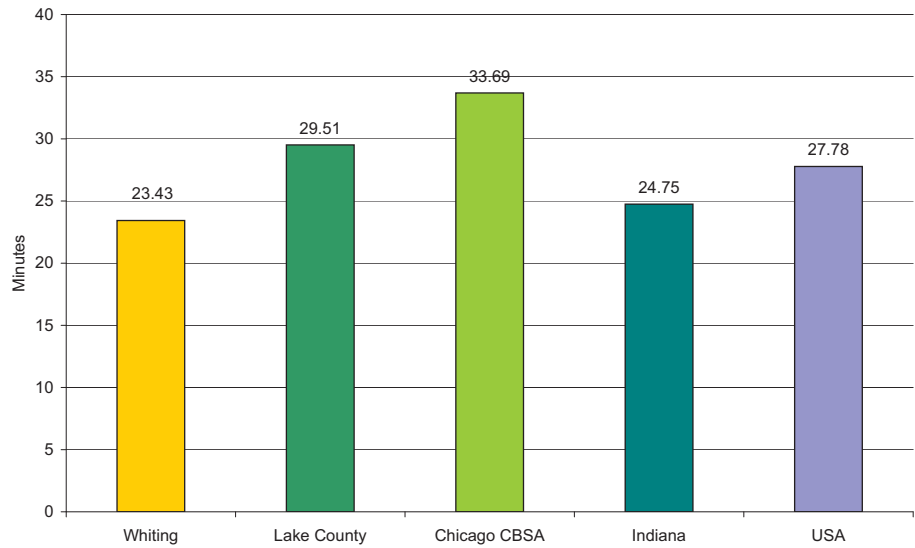
Source: Stats Indiana

- Whiting does not have the opportunity to annex since the community is surrounded by Hammond, East Chicago, and Lake Michigan, forcing the community to rely on infill development
- The unavailability of open land within or surrounding Whiting prevents a large number of new residential building permits to be issued.
- Since 2003, Whiting has experienced some growth in new residential structures due to infill development.



## Transportation

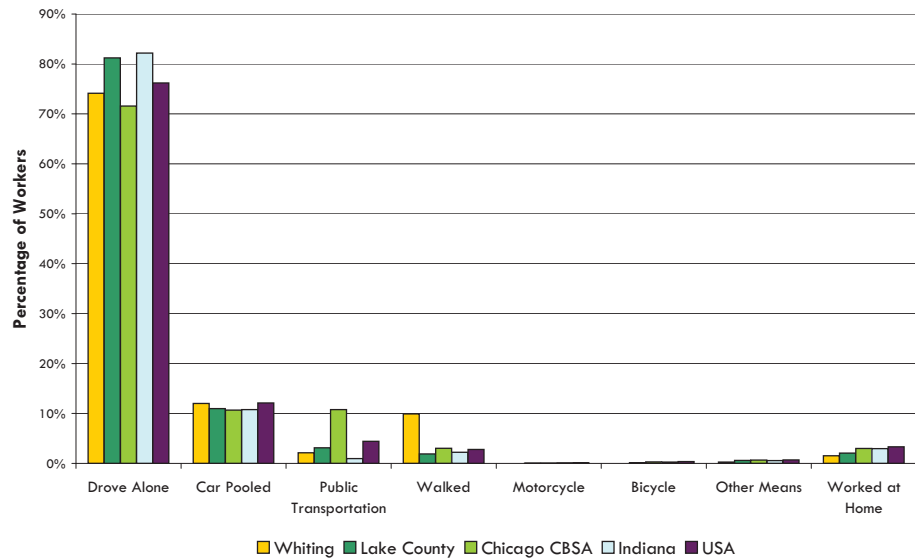
Average Travel Time to Work in Minutes (2008 Estimate)



Source: Claritas, Inc.

- Whiting has a lower average travel time to work than the average Chicago CBSA and average national travel time to work.
- Almost half (44%) of Whiting residents who work commute an average of 15 minutes or less. This indicates almost half of Whiting’s working residents work within the city of Whiting or adjacent communities.

Mode of Transportation to Work (2008 Estimate)

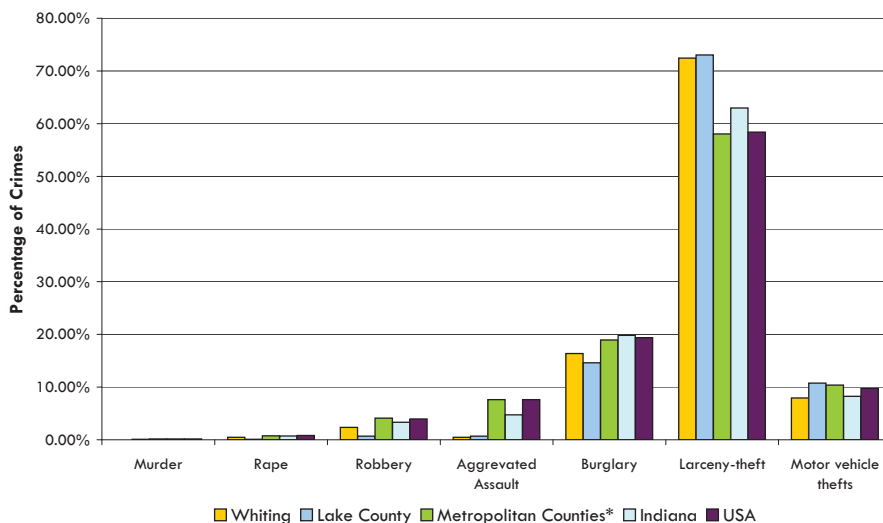


Source: Claritas, Inc.

- The majority of commuters from Whiting, the Chicago CBSA, and the nation drive alone during their commute to and from work.
- Whiting has a higher percentage of workers who walk to work than the Chicago CBSA and the nation.
- There are a smaller percentage of workers who commute using public transportation in Whiting compared to the percentage of commuters in the Chicago CBSA that commute by public transportation.

## Crime

Crimes Reported in 2007



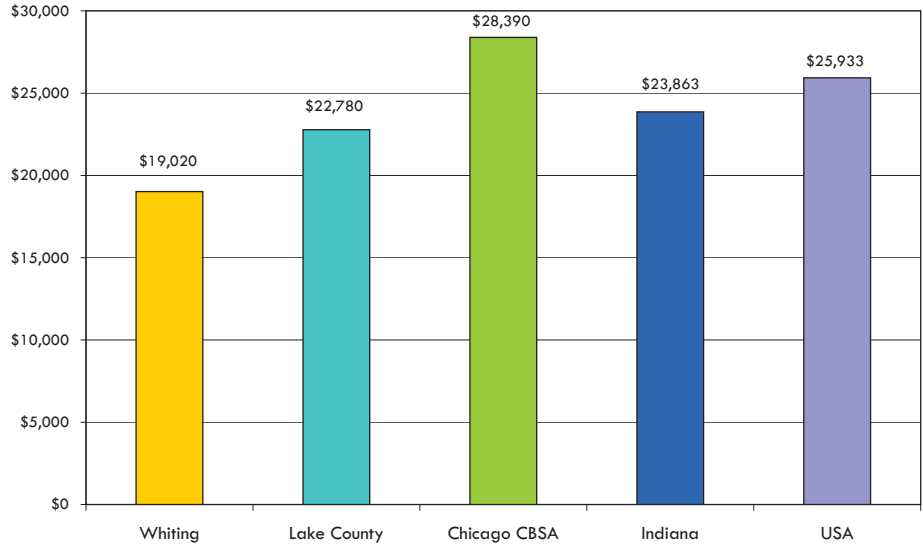
Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation

- The majority of crimes reported in Whiting, metropolitan counties (with a population over 100,000), and the United States were larceny theft. However, Whiting had 15 percent more larceny theft crimes reported than the average in metropolitan counties and 12 percent more reported than the United States.
- Whiting reported either similar or less crime percentages in all other categories other than larceny theft, compared to the average reported in metropolitan counties and the United States.
- In 2006, there were no reported murders or rapes in Whiting.



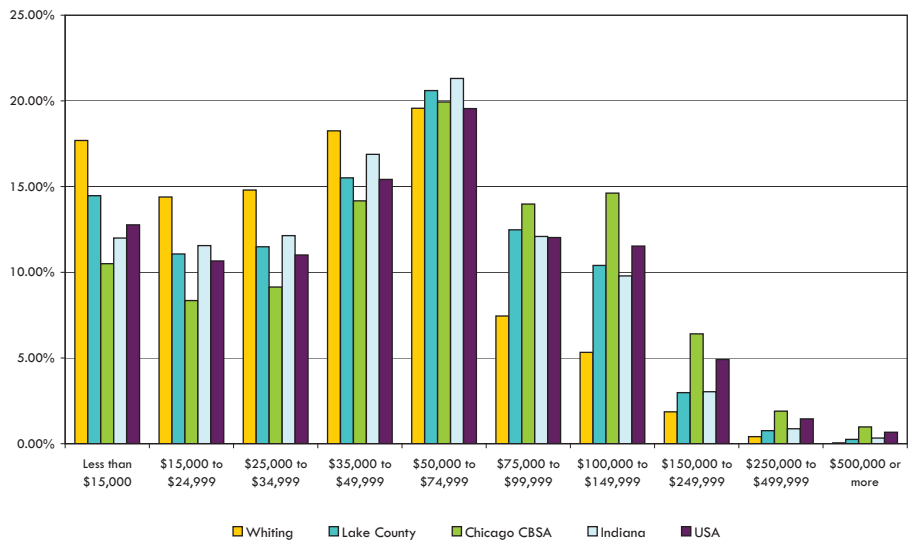
## Income

2008 Estimated Per Capita Income



Source: Claritas, Inc.

2008 Estimated Households by Household Income



Source: Claritas, Inc.

The per capita income (total income divided by all persons) of Whiting is 24 percent lower than the per capita income of the nation, while the per capita income of the entire Chicago MSA is 10 percent higher than that of the nation.

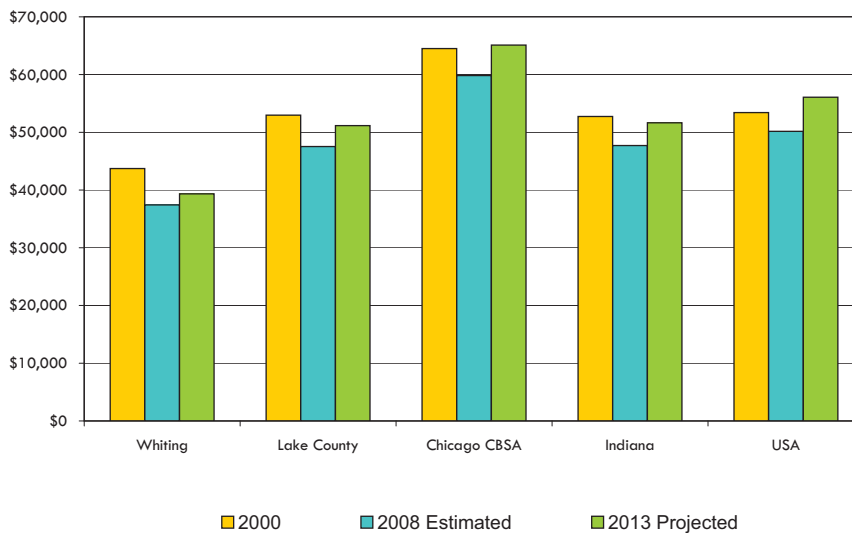


This same disparity is seen in median household incomes (the 50 percent level of income of all households), where Whiting’s household income is also 24 percent lower than that of the nation while the household income of the Chicago MSA is 16 percent higher than that of the nation.

When examining household income distributions, Whiting has more households below the \$50,000 household income level than the nation—65 percent to 50 percent, respectively. This distribution accounts for a much lower median household income than the nation. More so, 32 percent of Whiting households make less than \$25,000 in household income, while only 19 percent of Chicago MSA households make less than this amount.

## Income Trends

Real Median Household Income Trends (2008 dollars)



Source: Claritas, Inc.

The measure of real income adjusts the statistics to account for inflation, so all dollar amounts are equal in terms of potential buying power—in this case 2007 dollars. This adjustment was accomplished using the Midwest Consumer Price Index (CPI) calculated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

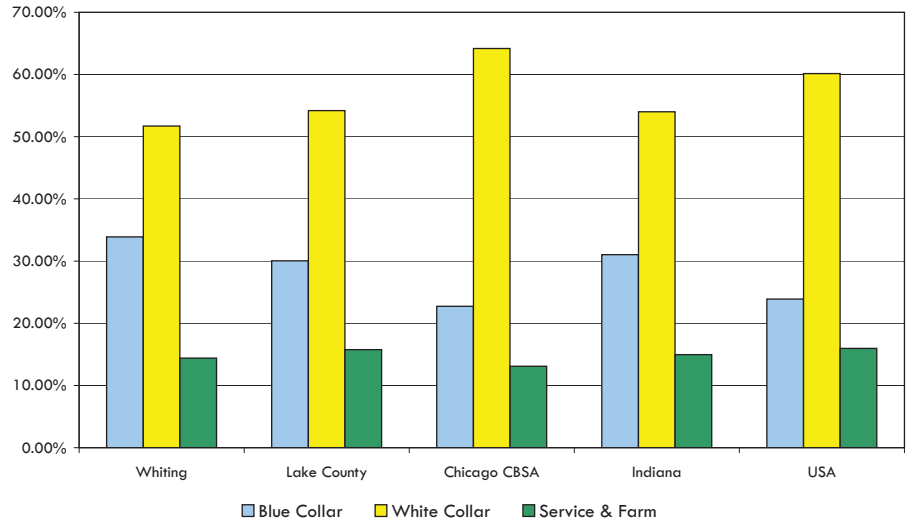
The nation has seen an overall decline in real household median income from 2000 to 2007. The overall slowdown in the economy has taken a toll on personal income. In the same period of time, the Chicago MSA experienced a similar decline of 2.2 percent in the same period, while Whiting experienced a 7.8 percent decline in median household income.

Projections for 2012 completed by Claritas, Inc., do show potential relief from this trend, with the nation’s median household income increasing by 10.6 percent over the next five years. Unfortunately Whiting’s projected recovery is to be much slower, with only a 4.7 percent growth during the same time period, leaving its overall median household income below that of its 2000 Census figure of \$41,164 (adjusted).



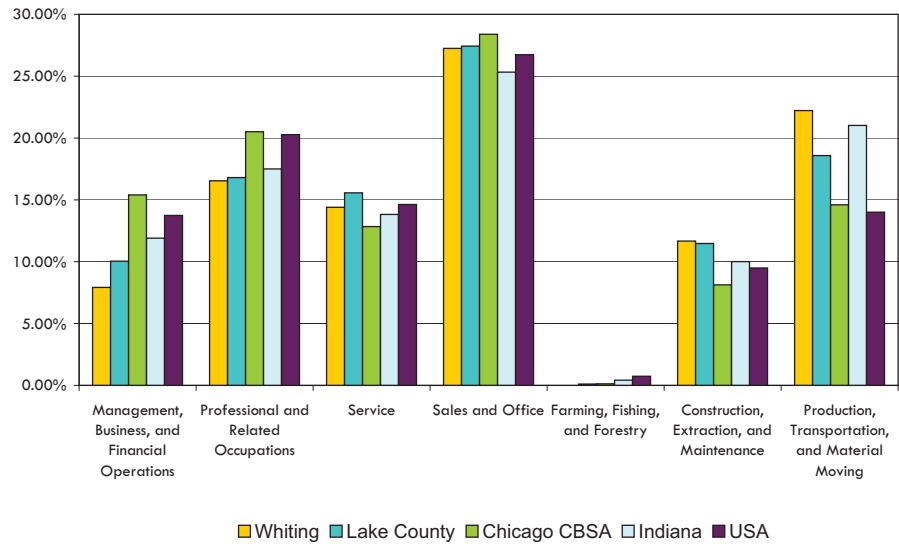
## Employed Population

2008 Estimated Civilian Employed Population Age 16 and Over by Occupation Classification



Source: Claritas, Inc.

2008 Estimated Employed Population Age 16 and Over by Occupation



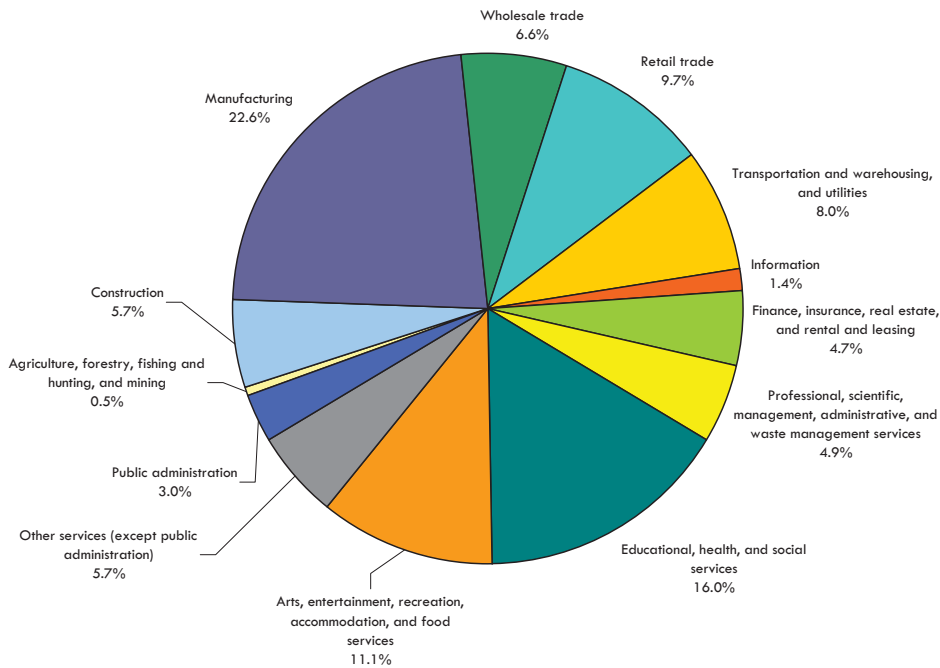
Source: Claritas, Inc.

Approximately 52 percent of the Whiting workforce are in white collar occupations. This is approximately 15 percent lower than that of the nation. Conversely approximately 34 percent of the local workforce is in blue collar occupations, which is 41 percent higher than the nation.



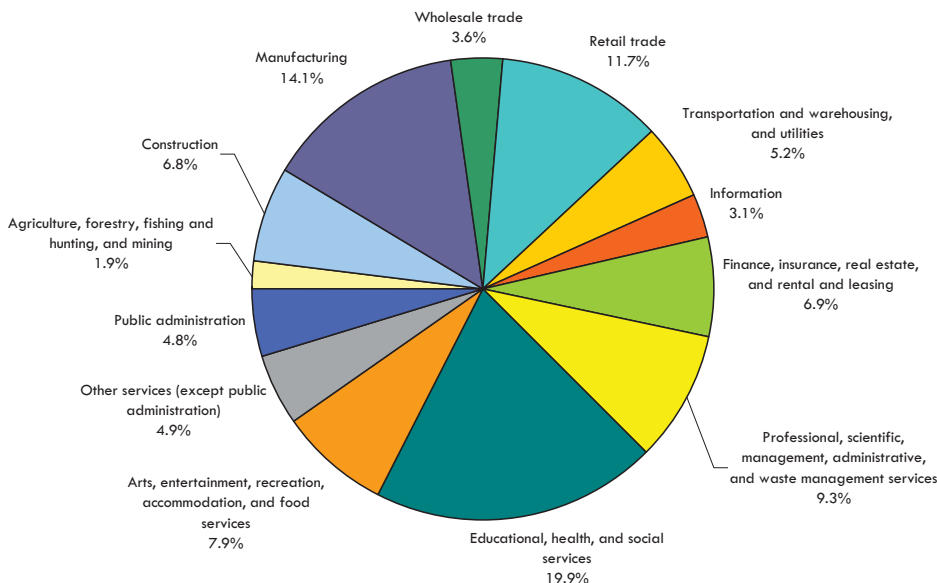
In terms of distribution of the Whiting workforce, over 27 percent are employed in sales and office occupations while just over 22 percent are employed in production, transportation, and materials moving. For the most part, this trend mirrors that of the Chicago MSA and the nation, although Whiting has a higher concentration of production workers and a lower concentration of workers in management, business, and financial operations.

**Employment by Industry in 2000 for Population Age 16 and Over (Whiting)**



Source: Claritas, Inc.

**Employment by Industry in 2000 for Population Age 16 and Over (Nation)**



Source: Claritas, Inc.



### Employment By Sector

Almost 23 percent of the civilian labor force of Whiting is in manufacturing, which represents the largest sector of the economy. The next highest categories of education, health and Social Services and Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation and Food Services employ 16 percent and 11.1 percent, respectively.

When compared to the nation, Whiting has a higher concentration of workers in Manufacturing—22.6 percent to 14.1 percent, respectively. It also has a higher concentration of workers in Arts, Recreation, Accommodation and Food Services, 11.1 percent to 7.9 percent respectively.