

Fort Wayne, Carmel Among Biggest Population Increases

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BLOOMINGTON - Carmel and Fort Wayne posted some of the largest year-over-year population increases in 2016, according to U.S. Census Bureau numbers analyzed by Indiana University's Kelley School of Business. The Indiana Business Research Center also says Whitestown in Boone County was the state's fastest-growing community among those with at least 5,000 residents.

According to the report, the top three population increases from 2015 to 2016 were in Carmel (2,977), Indianapolis (2,869) and Fort Wayne (1,682). The next five spots went to other communities in the Indianapolis area: Noblesville (1,562), Westfield (1,285), Fishers (1,147), Greenwood (1,073) and Plainfield (834). Lafayette and Bloomington rounded out the top 10.

The school says Whitestown has been the state's fastest-growing community for six straight years. Over that time, the town has more than doubled from 3,147 in 2010 to 6,590 in 2016. McCordsville in Hancock County was the second-fastest growing community for the second straight year. Thirteen of the state's 15 fastest-growing cities or towns in 2016 were in suburban counties in the Indianapolis area. The others were Winfield and St. John in Lake County.

In all, 13 of the 15 fastest-growing cities or towns in the state in 2016 were in suburban counties in the Indy metropolitan area. The only places outside Central Indiana to make the top 15 were the Lake County communities of Winfield (2.9 percent) and St. John (1.9 percent).

Evansville had one of the state's largest population declines, with a loss of 561 residents.