The maps and tables in this publication were prepared using PCensus 7.06 for MapInfo and MapInfo Professional 7.0.
Marion County is located in Central Indiana and includes the State Capital, Indianapolis. The County and City of Indianapolis constitute a single government. Marion County is bordered by the following counties: Hamilton to the north, Hancock to the east, Shelby to the southeast, Johnson to the south, Morgan to the southwest, Hendricks to the west, and Boone to the northwest. Interstate Highways 65, 70, 74, and 69 cross the county and 465 bypasses Indianapolis. Elevation is 700-850 feet. Except for slightly sloping areas along rivers, creeks and reservoirs, the landscape is nearly level. The landscape features birch, maple, beech, oak, and hickory trees. The county pertains to the Indiana and Ohio Till Plain land resource area.

Marion county is in the Eastern Time Zone and observes DST. Average daily temperatures are 21°/37° in January and 64°/88° in July. Annual precipitation is about 40 and snowfall about 18 inches. Typically the first freeze of the season occurs October 10-15 in the north and October 15-20 in the south. The last freeze occurs April 25-30. The growing season lasts about 163-178 days.

Agricultural activity is diversified, but only about 15% of land is in farms and four-fifths of that land in cash crops. Main crops include winter wheat, hay, grain and soybeans. Vegetable crops include sweet corn and pumpkins. Livestock includes cattle/calves and hogs/pigs. Main natural resources include construction sand and gravel, crushed stone, and some forestland. Water resources include the West Fork of the White River, various lakes and reservoirs (Blue Lake, College Park Lake, Dolly Gray Lake, Eagle Creek Reservoir, Geist Reservoir, Shannon Lake, Traders Point Lake, and West Lake Arms); and the Buck, Eagle and Fall Creeks.

Indianapolis is the State Capital and County Seat. For census purposes cities and towns are considered separate governments and include: Beech Grove, Castleton, Clermont, Crows Nest, Ravenswood, Rocky Ripple, Southport, Speedway, Spring Hill, Warren Park, Williams Creek and Wynnedale. The townships are also considered as separate governments for purposes of the census.

Sources: Map from PCensus for MapInfo; Geographic Notes from Indiana Facts: Flying the Colors by John Clements, 1995.
Marion County is not a tobacco-producing county, according to the Strategic Development Group’s “Alternative Agricultural Strategy” (Bloomington, March 15, 2001) report, which is part of Governor Joseph E. Kernan’s “Recipient Final Reports for Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture Grant Programs” (http://www.in.gov/oca/grants/valueadd/VAFinalReports.html):