Monroe County

The maps and tables in this publication were prepared using PCensus 7.06 for MapInfo and MapInfo Professional 7.0.
Monroe County is located in South Central Indiana and is bordered by the following counties: Morgan to the north, Brown to the east, Jackson to the southeast, Lawrence to the south, Green to the west and southwest, and Owen to the west and northwest. U.S. Highways 37, 45, and 46 cross the county. Elevation is 700-850 feet. The county's landscape is moderately to steeply sloping in the central and northwestern portions of the county and very steeply sloping in the eastern and southwestern areas along the county border, and nearly level along the Beanblossom and Salt Creeks in the north and eastern parts of the county. The landscape features oak and hickory trees. The county pertains in part to the Kentucky and Indiana Sandstone and Shale Hills and Valleys land resource area (near the eastern and western borders), but mainly to the Highland Rim and Pennyroyal land resource area.

Monroe County is in the Eastern Time Zone and observes DST. Average daily temperatures are 17/38° in January and 63°/88° in July. Annual precipitation is about 42 and snowfall about 15 inches. Typically the first freeze of the season occurs October 15-20; the last freeze typically occurs April 20-25 (but April 25-30 in extreme northwestern corner). The growing season lasts about 168-183 days.

Agricultural activity is mainly in livestock and corn for grain. Other primary crops include hay and soybeans. Only about a quarter of the land is in farms and about a third of that in commercial crops. Apples are a primary fruit. Livestock include cattle/calves, hogs/pigs, sheep/pullets, and lambs. Main natural resources include dimension limestone, crushed stone, petroleum, and forestland. Water resources include numerous lakes (Bean Blossom, Egenolf, Hu-Ru-Ri, Lemon, and Lazy), reservoirs (Monroe and Griffy), and streams/creeks (Clear, Salt, North Fork Salt, Sout, Jacks Defeat, and Bean Blossom).

Communities include the city of Bloomington, which is also the county seat; and the towns of Ellettsville and Stinesville.

Sources: Map from PCensus for MapInfo; Notes from Indiana Facts: Flying the Colors by John Clements, 1995.
Monroe 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):