The maps and tables in this publication were prepared using PCensus 7.06 for MapInfo and MapInfo Professional 7.0.
3. Geographic and Historical Notes

Pike County is located in Southwestern Indiana and is bordered by the following Indiana counties: Dubois to the east, Daviess to the north and northeast, Knox to the north and northwest, Gibson to the west and southwest, and Warrick to the south. State Highways 56, 57, and 61 cross the county. Elevation is 450 to 550 feet.

There is a wide variation in terrain with most being moderately to steeply sloping; some is slightly sloping (northeast) and areas some nearly flat surfaces (central and southern along rivers). The landscape features hickory, elm, cottonwood, ash and oak trees. The county pertains to the Kentucky and Indiana Sandstone and Shale Hills and Valleys land resource area.

Pike county is in the Central Time Zone and observes DST. Average daily temperatures are 22/44°F in January and 66/89°F in July. Annual precipitation is about 42 and snowfall about 11-17 inches. The first freeze occurs first in the northeast corner (October 15-20) and a little later elsewhere (October 20-25). The last freeze occurs first in the northwest corner (April 10-15) and a little later (April 15-20) elsewhere. The growing season lasts about 178-198 days.

Agricultural activity is mainly in livestock, soybeans and corn for grain. About four-tenths of the land is in farms and about three-quarters of that is in cash crops. Additional crops include hay and winter wheat. Livestock include hogs/pigs and turkeys. Main natural resources include coal, construction sand/gravel, petroleum and forestland. Water resources include lakes/reservoirs (Augusta, Blackfoot Mine, Enos Coal Co., Enos, Forest Homes, and Grey Lakes; Chew Pond, Lake Frank, Patoka Twin Pits and Prides Creek No. 4), rivers (Patoka, White, East Fork of the White, South Fork Patoka Rivers), and streams (Conger Creek, Flat Creek, and Cup Creek).

Communities include the city of Petersburg, the county seat; and the towns of Spurgeon and Winslow.
Pike 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):