The maps and tables in this publication were prepared using PCensus 7.06 for MapInfo and MapInfo Professional 7.0.
Vigo County is located in West Central Indiana, bordered by the State of Illinois and the Indiana counties of Vermillion to the north, Parke to the north and northeast, Clay to the east and southeast, Sullivan to the south. U.S. Highways 41 and 150 and Interstate Highway 70 cross the county. Elevation is 500 to 650 feet.

Although most of the landscape is nearly flat, there is a slightly sloping stretch of slightly sloping land from the far southeastern point to the far northeastern one, and steeper slopes in northwest areas and eastern central areas. The landscape features hickory and oak trees. The county pertains to three different land resource areas: the Central Mississippi Valley Wooded Slopes (western portion of the county); Southern Illinois and Indiana Thin Loess and Till Plain (east), and the Indiana and Ohio Till Plain (far northwestern corner).

Vigo county is in the Eastern Time Zone and observes DST. Average daily temperatures are 17°/35° in January and 64°/87° in July. Annual precipitation is about 38 and snowfall about 15-25 inches. The first freeze comes in the north between October 15-20, and the last freeze between April 20-25. The growing season lasts 163-183 days.

Agricultural activity is mainly in corn for grain, winter wheat, soybeans and livestock. Hay is an additional crop. Livestock are mainly cattle/calves and hogs/pigs. Popcorn is a special crop. Over half of the land is in farms and about three-quarters of that land is in cash crops. Important natural resources include coal, construction sand and gravel, petroleum and forestland. Water resources include many lakes/reservoirs (the largest being Izaak Walton Lake, Prairie Creek Lake No. 1, Greenfield Bayou, Haunted house Lake, Prairie Creek Lake No. 2, Stick Pits), the Wabash River, and several streams (Coal, Otter, Turman, Honey, and Prairie Creeks).

Communities include the cities of Terre Haute, the county seat, and West Terre Haute; and the towns of Riley and Seelyville.
3. Location and Historical Notes

Vigo 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):