



The following is from an article written by Laura Lane that appeared in the Hoosier Times newspaper on Sept. 26

JACKSON COUNTY JOBS, WAGES SHOW GROWTH (09/04)

The efforts of the Jackson County Industrial Development Corporation and executive director, Jim Plump, appear to be paying off. Statistics from the U.S. Dept. of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis show that Jackson County is faring better than the other 9 counties in the Hoosier Times circulation area.

From 1992 to 2002, full- and part-time employment there increased 21% while the state increase was just 14.6%. And during the same time frame, average earnings increased 48.4%, exceeding the state average by 10 percentage points.

"We have focused a lot on job growth, but we have also talked a lot about creating wealth. And these numbers really demonstrate that during the 10-year period, there has been significant growth," Plump said. "Certainly you have to attribute that to the quality companies that have located here and those that have been here for a number of years increasing their wages."

Seven of the area's counties are lagging the state in the growth of average earnings per job. Only Jackson, Owen and Morgan counties had earnings increase more than the state level of 38.2% in the 10-year period.