



Southern Illinois Regional Assessment Project

Union County Fact Sheet

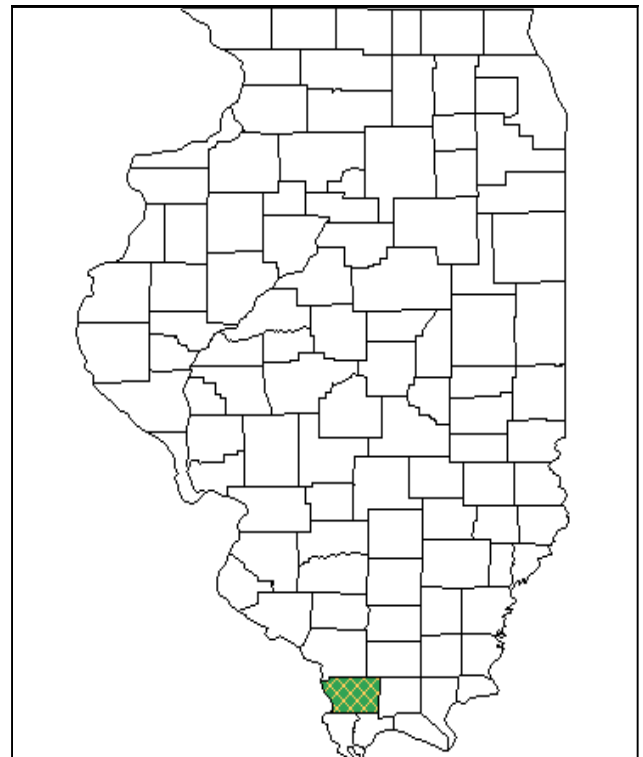
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Union County:

Union County was formed from Johnson County in 1818. It is named to commemorate the union between two competing ministers who partnered together with the goal of increasing revival attendance. The county borders the Mississippi River.

County Seat: Jonesboro

2005 Population Estimate: 18,202



Economic Indicators

Income and Poverty

2004 Per Capita Personal Income¹: \$22,680
(Region: \$23,753)

2000 Median Household Income²:
\$30,994 (Region, calculated: \$30,845)

**2000 Median Household Income where
householder is black or African American
alone²:**
\$27,813 (Region, calculated: \$18,340)

2000 Poverty Level²: 16.5% (Region: 15.8%)

**2000 Poverty Level Among Blacks or
African Americans²:** 69.2% (Region: 39.3%)

**Households with Public Assistance
Income in 2000 (percentage)²:**
357 (5.1%) (Region: 3.5%)

Unemployment Rate in 2005³: 6.4%

Sources: 1: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis; 2: U.S. Census Bureau; 3: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Commuting in 2000

Top 3 Counties from which Workers In-Commute

1	Jackson	291
2	Pulaski	256
3	Williamson	234

Top 3 Counties to which Workers Out-Commute

1	Jackson	1,011
2	29031	347
3	Alexander	284

Source: U.S. Census 2000, Journey to Work

Total number in-commuting: 1,404

Total number out-commuting: 2,708

Net commuting: -1,304

Total county workforce: 7,421

Net commuting as % of county workforce: -17.6%

Top Industries for Employment

Rank	NAICS Code	Industry Name	Employment
1	62	Health Care and Social Assistance	1,823
	623	Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	1,062
	623210	Residential Mental Retardation Facilities	775
	621	Ambulatory Health Care Services	584
2	72	Accommodation and Food Services	308
	722	Food Services and Drinking Places	293
3	452	General Merchandise Stores	260
	45211	Department Stores	244
4	325920	Explosives Manufacturing	240
5	23	Construction	226

Source: US Census Bureau, County Business Patterns

Note: NAICS is the North American Industry Classification System.

Agricultural Indicators

Crop	Acreage	Percent
	1999-2000	1999-2000
Corn	25,774	17.5%
Soy	27,964	19.0%
Winter wheat	10,067	6.8%
Other small grains/ Hay	4,030	2.7%
Winter wheat/ Soybeans	4,263	2.9%
Other Agriculture	235	0.2%
Rural grassland	74,992	50.9%
Total	147,325	100%

2002 Market value of agricultural crop products sold (in \$1,000):

18,125 (Region average: 18,669)

2002 Market value of livestock and poultry products sold (in \$1,000):

4,378 (Region average: 5,768)

2002 Market value of total agricultural products sold (in \$1000):

22,503 (Region average: 23,361)

2002 Market value of agricultural products sold average per farm (in dollars):

33,788 (Region average: 50,680)

Source: USDA, 2002 Census of Agriculture

Source: USDA, IDA and IDNR, 2002 Illinois Interagency Landscape Classification Project

Livestock	Number of Farms with Animals			Number of Animals		
	1997	2002	% Change	1997	2002	% Change
Cattle	334	221	-34%	17,453	14,002	-20%
Hogs	24	7	-71%	3,090	710	-77%
Horses	97	127	+31%	474	741	+56%

Source: USDA, 1997 and 2002 Census of Agriculture

Soil Type	Acreage	Percent
Prime farmland soils (not eroded)	100,224	38.1%
Prime farmland soils (eroded)	79,934	30.4%
Non-prime farmland soils (all erosion classes)	83,210	31.6%
Total	263,367	100%

Irrigation	1997	2002
Acres Land in Irrigated Farms	4,054	6,037
Total Acres Farmland	150,420	152,288
% Farmland Irrigated	2.7%	4.0%

Source: USDA, 1997 and 2002 Census of Agriculture

Source: National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Web Soil Survey, and Union Soil Survey Report (1979)

Note: "D" indicates this information was not disclosed.

Note: Prime farmlands soils include those soil types with 0-10% slope; non-prime farmland soils are all other soil types with slope greater than 10%.

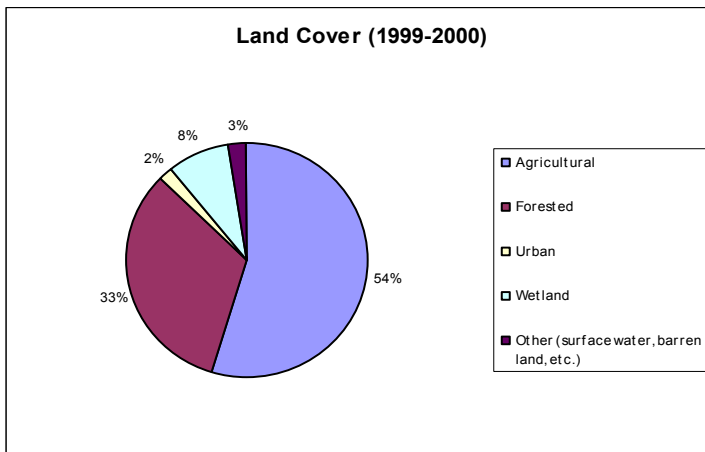
Environmental Indicators

Land

Land Cover (1999-2000)	Acreages	Percent (County)	Percent (Region)	Percent (State)
Agricultural	147,325	54.5%	64.6%	76.3%
Forested	88,199	32.6%	21.0%	11.5%
Urban	5,361	2.0%	3.0%	6.4%
Wetland	22,376	8.3	8.5%	3.9%
Other	6,957	2.6	2.8%	1.8%
Total	270,218	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Note: "Other" includes surface water, barren land, etc.

Source: USDA, IDA and IDNR, 2002 Illinois Interagency Landscape Classification Project



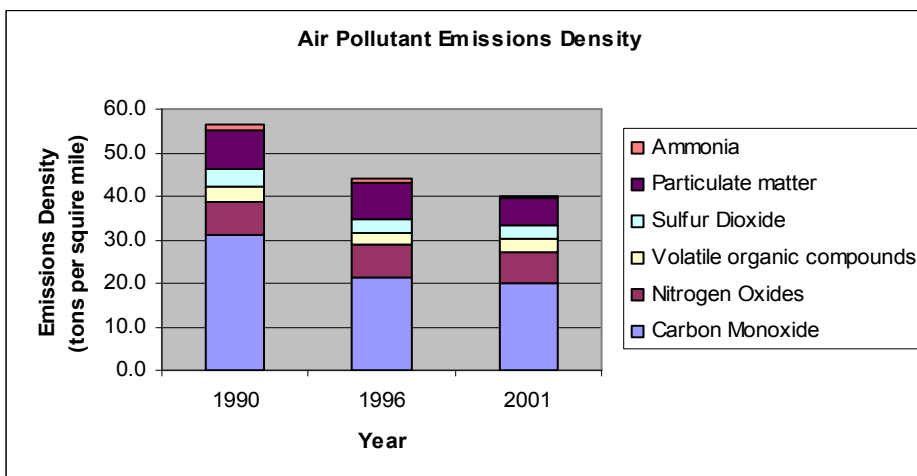
Timberland Ownership Classes	Acreages	Percent
National Forest	24,900	27.7%
Other Public	10,000	11.1%
Corporate	0	0.0%
Private	55,100	61.2%
Total	90,000	100.0%

Note: "Other Public" includes other federal, state, county and municipal.

Source: Schmidt, T. L., M. H. Hansen, and J. A. Solomakos. 2000. Illinois' forests in 1998 (Resource Bulletin NC-198). St. Paul, MN: USDA Forest Service North Central Research Station.

Air

Total Air Pollutant Emissions Density (tons per square mile)	1990	1996	2001	2001 Region Avg.
	56.2	44.2	40.0	59.6



Note: EPA collects emissions data for three criteria air pollutants: Carbon monoxide (CO), Sulfur dioxide (SO₂), Particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}), and three precursors/promoters of criteria air pollutants: Volatile organic compounds (VOC), Nitrogen oxides (NO_x), Ammonia (NH₃).

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Emission Inventory NEI database and Air Quality System (AQS) database

Water

Number of public water systems: 11
Number of water health based violation (since 1993): 11
Number of impaired or threatened water bodies: 156
Percentage of surface water areas with impaired or threatened uses: 20%

Sources: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Envirofacts Databases; Scorecard-the Pollution Information Site <http://www.scorecard.org>

Note: Scorecard's county-level data on impaired waterbodies are derived from two U.S. EPA sources: the 1998 TMDL Tracking System and the 1998 National Water Quality Inventory.

Estimated Use of Water (in million gallons per day)	1990	1995	2000
	3.13	3.84	2.17

Source: National Water-Use Information Program, U.S. Geological Survey

Toxics and Wastes

Facilities Generating Toxics and Wastes	Number
Facilities producing air emissions	20
Companies with wastewater discharging permits	20
Facilities having toxic chemical releases	1
Potential waste sites in Superfund	0
Hazardous waste generating facilities	36
Radiation regulated facilities	0

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Envirofacts Databases

Outdoor Recreational Areas

Shawnee National Forest

- McGee Hill

Lincoln Memorial Federal Recreational Area
Pine Hill Federal Recreational Area
Union County State Recreational Area
Bald Knob State Wildness Recreational Area
Trail of Tears State Forest
Clear Spring Wildness Recreational Area
Panther Den Recreational Area
Mississippi River

Sources: Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois Highway Map 2005-2006; USDA Forest Service, Shawnee National Forest Map

Demographic Indicators

Population	1990	2000	2005
Population Density (population per square mile land area)	42	44	44
Population	17,619	18,293	18,202
Dependency Ratio	61.6	57.3	—
Inmate Population	2	0	—

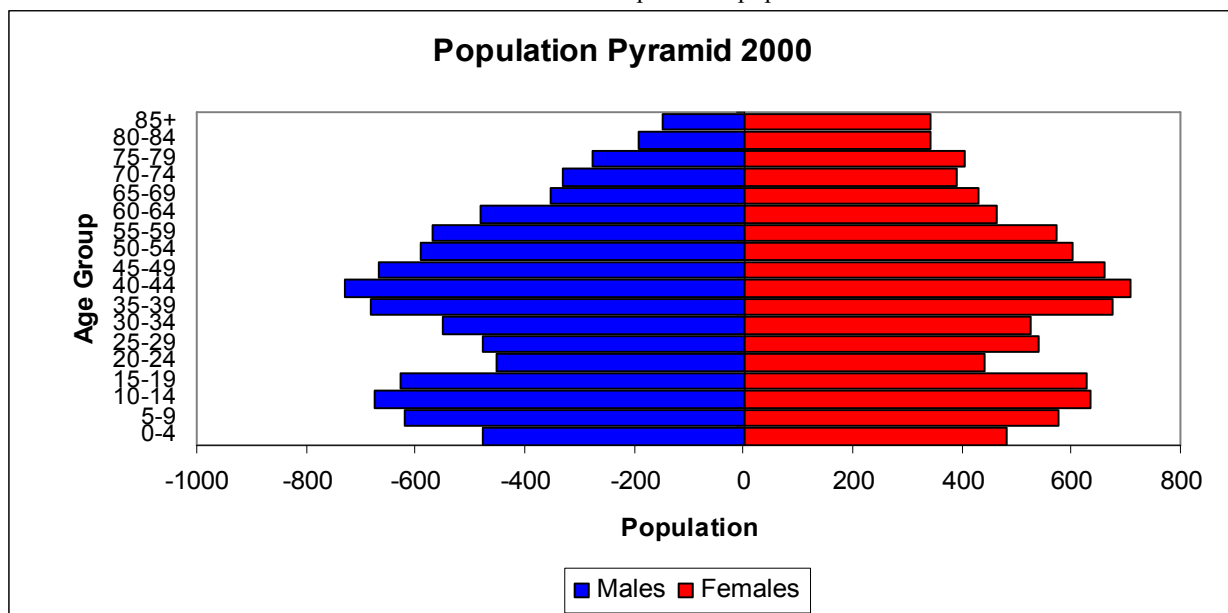
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Note: Dependency ratio is the ratio of the population under age 15 and over age 64 to the working age population (ages 15-64). Higher values imply a greater dependent population.

Selected Vital Statistics	Union	Region Avg.	State
Average Crude Birth Rate (1990-2004)	11.7	11.2	14.9
Average Crude Death Rate (1990-2004)	13.8	12.5	8.6
Average Percent of Birth of Low Birth Weight to Total Birth (1995-2001)	6.9%	7.7%	8.0%
Percent of People with Disability in the 16 to 64 Age Group (2000)	24.9%	20.3%	16.6%

Source: Illinois Department of Public Health, Birth Statistics

Note: Crude birth/death rate is the number of births/deaths per 1000 population.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

Note: All figures on the X-axis are population numbers and should be treated as positive.

Ancestry

Ancestry	Number	Percent
German	3,272	23.8%
United States/ American	2,379	17.3%
Other groups	1,991	14.5%
Irish	1,839	13.4%
English	1,568	11.4%
French (except Basque)	478	3.5%
Dutch	401	2.9%

Source: US Census Bureau, Census 2000

Note: The Hispanic/Latino figures may be included in other race categories.

Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	Number	Percent
White alone	17,407	95.2%
Black or African American alone	149	0.8%
Hispanic or Latino	481	2.6%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	62	0.3%
Asian alone	48	0.3%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	2	0.0%
Some other race alone	6	0.0%
Two or more races	138	0.8%
Total Population	18,293	100.0%

2002-2003 County-to-County Migration

Migration	In-migrants	Out-migrants	Net migrants
Total migration: US and Foreign	627	584	43
Median adjusted gross income of migrants	\$19,499	\$15,162	—
Total US migration	627	584	43
Total migration to/from the same state	341	341	0
Total migration to/from a different state	286	243	43
Non-migrants	13,654	13,654	—
#1 County migrants move from/to	Jackson, IL (84)	Jackson, IL (94)	-10
#2 County migrants move from/to	Williamson, IL (34)	Williamson, IL (44)	-10
#3 County migrants move from/to	Alexander, IL (35)	Johnson, IL (47)	—

Source: 2003 IRS Migration Files

Note: This table shows that between 2002 and 2003, there were 43 net migrants to Union County. The incomes of the in-migrants were higher than those of the out-migrants, which may be a result of the age bracket of the in-migrants (potential retirees). Migration is split fairly evenly between Illinois and non-Illinois Counties. The heaviest flows both into and out of Union County are with Jackson and Williamson Counties.

Social Indicators

Education

Enrollment	Number	% Change 2004-2005	Race/Ethnicity (2005-2006)	Number	Percent
2005-2006 K-12 Enrollment	3,144	-1.0%	White	3,089	91.6%
2005-2006 Total Housed Student Enrollment	3,373	+2.8%	Black	21	0.6%
Projected 2007-2008 Enrollment (K-12)	3,215	+1.2%	American Indian	16	0.5%
Projected 2012-2013 Enrollment (K-12)	3,213	+1.2%	Asian	9	0.3%
			Hispanic	202	6.0%
			Multi-racial	36	1.1%
			Total	3,373	100%

Selected School Report Statistics	Union	Region Avg.	State
Average Low-income-family Student Rate in 2005	47.6	45.5	40.0
Average High School Dropout Rate in 2005	3.6	3.2	4.0
Average High School Graduation Rate in 2005	91.9	90.7	87.4

Source: Illinois State Board of Education, Data Analysis & Process Reporting

Note: Total housed student enrollment includes pre-K through post secondary students. All rates in school report statistics are numbers per 100 students.

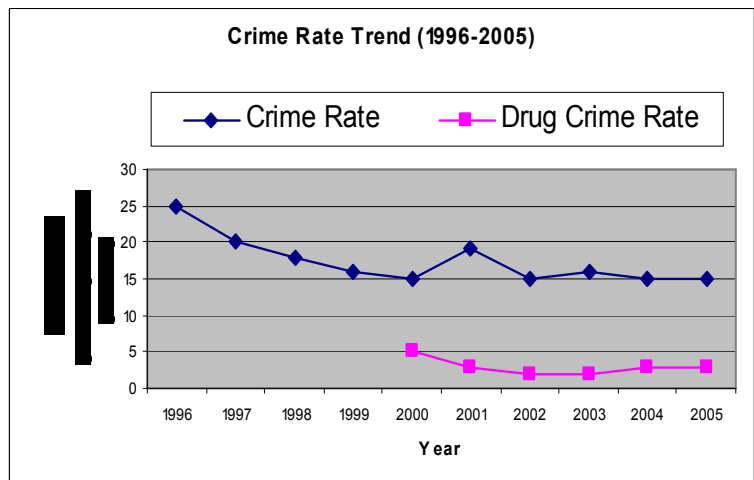
Educational Attainment (Percent, Population 25 years and over)	1990		2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
High School Graduate or Higher	7,766	64.2%	9,495	74.8%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	1,315	10.9%	2,001	15.8%

Source: US Census Bureau, Census 1990 and 2000.

Crime

Crime in 2005	Number
Total Crimes	274
Crime Rate (crimes per 1,000 persons)	15
Drug Arrests	57
Drug Crime Arrest Rate (arrests per 1,000 persons)	3

Source: Illinois State Police, Crime in Illinois, 2006



Note: The Illinois State Police calculated crime rate as the number of crimes per 100,000 persons. We adjusted the rate to the number of crimes per 1000 persons here due to relatively small populations of most southern Illinois counties.

Health Care Coverage

Percent of persons having some kind of health care coverage (including health insurance, prepaid plans such as HMOs, or government plans such as Medicare)	2003	2003 Region Avg.	2004 State
	82.5%	83.0%	84.8%

Source: Illinois Department of Public Health, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

Housing

Housing	Percent	Region
Mobile homes that are rented	19.3%	24.6%
Owner-occupied units with housing problems	17.7%	18.7%
Renter-occupied units with housing problems	32.1%	35.6%
Homeownership	75.4%	73.6%
Homeownership among blacks/African Americans (2)	61.5%	41.4%
Vacant housing units for seasonal or recreational use	1.0%	2.0%

Source: US Census 2000 and HUD (2000)

Note: Housing problems, according to HUD, include incomplete plumbing, incomplete kitchen facilities, over-crowding or non-affordability.

2) There are 11 households in the county in which the householder is black or African American alone.

<p>Housing Permits in 2005: 43 Houses Sold in the First Quarter of 2006: 14 Median House Sale Price in the First Quarter of 2006: \$59,000</p>
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Source: Department of Housing and Urban Development; IL Association of Realtors

For more information, contact the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, W-503 Turner Hall, 1201 S. Goodwin, Urbana, IL 61801, 217-333-2770, cflint@uiuc.edu or gasteyer@uiuc.edu.