
CHAPTER 3: ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT

Introduction

A community with a healthy economy can attract more businesses and residents; the more residents can acquire in terms of employment, products, and services from their own community, the more self-sufficient it will be. Labor force, employment sectors, and product sales are all indicative of community self-sufficiency, and can help establish goals that lead toward a healthier economy. This section provides general information about the past, present, and potential future of Piatt County's economy.

Labor Force

Piatt County's labor force is at its highest level historically, with 9,430 persons in 2007. As can be seen in Table 3-1, this marks an increase of over 20% from 1997, compared to a population increase of only 1% in the same time period.

Table 3-1: Piatt County Labor Force, 1977-2007

	1977	1987	1997	2007	% change 97-07	% change 77-07
Population	16,445	15,830	16,311	16,493	1.1%	0.3%
Labor Force	8,367	8,074	7,846	9,430	20.2%	12.7%
Employed	8,052	7,383	7,448	9,085	22.0%	12.8%
Unemployed	315	691	398	345	-13.3%	9.5%
Unemployment Rate	3.8	8.6	5.1	3.7	-27.5%	-2.6%

Source: Illinois Department of Employment Security

Piatt has the fifth largest labor force in the seven county region that includes all counties sharing a border with Piatt County. Table 3-2 shows that the increase in labor force over the last decade is the largest in the region, and its proportion of labor force to total population is the second highest, at 57%. The table also shows that Champaign, Macon, and McLean counties are the strongest employment destinations for residents in the area.

Table 3-2: Regional Labor Force Comparison, 1997-2007

County	Labor Force			As % of Population	
	1997	2007	% Change	1997	2007
Champaign	95,069	105,053	11%	53.8%	55.2%
DeWitt	8,388	8,644	3%	50.1%	52.6%
Douglas	11,908	10,543	-11%	59.8%	53.8%
Macon	59,980	54,994	-8%	51.8%	50.6%
McLean	83,528	91,036	9%	57.9%	55.4%
Moultrie	7,810	8,240	6%	54.9%	57.5%
Piatt	7,846	9,405	20%	48.1%	57.0%
Illinois	6,290,800	6,697,400	6%	51.6%	52.1%

Source: Illinois Department of Employment Security, US Census

Table 3-3 displays county to county commuter flows for 1989 and 1999 for employees in the seven county region. Piatt County’s employee base largely relies on its own residents, with about 75% of Piatt County workers also residing in Piatt. Champaign and Macon residents who work in Piatt County nearly doubled between 1989 and 1999, from 317 to 594.

Table 3-3: Journey to Work for Piatt County Employees, 1989-1999

Piatt County employees				
who live in:	1989	1999	1989	1999
Piatt	3475	3460	80.3%	75.5%
Champaign	195	375	4.5%	8.2%
Macon	122	219	2.8%	4.8%
Douglas	122	108	2.8%	2.4%
De Witt	65	101	1.5%	2.2%
Moultrie	57	67	1.3%	1.5%
McLean	47	38	1.1%	0.8%
Other	246	215	5.7%	4.7%
TOTAL	4329	4583	100.0%	100.0%

Source: US Census

Table 3-4 displays county to county commuter flows for residents of Piatt County in the seven county region. The data show that over half of Piatt County’s working residents commute to jobs outside Piatt County, and that more of them did so in 1999 than in 1989. Champaign County and Macon County are the biggest destinations for workers from Piatt County, with Champaign County becoming a more predominant force in 1999. Overall, the two tables show that Piatt County has a net outflow of working residents.

Table 3-4: Journey to Work for Piatt County Residents, 1989-1999

Piatt County residents who work in:	1989	1999	1989	1999
Piatt	3475	3460	46.5%	41.3%
Champaign	2152	2882	28.8%	34.4%
Macon	1067	1178	14.3%	14.1%
Douglas	209	196	2.8%	2.3%
De Witt	205	172	2.7%	2.1%
Moultrie	95	124	1.3%	1.5%
McLean	61	105	0.8%	1.3%
Other	202	258	2.7%	3.1%
TOTAL	7466	8375	100.0%	100.0%

Source: US Census

Employment Sectors

Piatt County's strongest employment sector, comprising about 14% of total employment in 2006, is in local government. Retail trade and construction are the second and third strongest, respectively, with the construction sector overtaking a diminishing manufacturing sector between 2001 and 2006. Farm employment, shown as decreasing between 2001 and 2006, is the fourth strongest industry.

The largest increase in employment between 2001 and 2006 was in construction (37.7%, 153 employees). Manufacturing experienced the largest decrease (40.4%, 227 employees). Overall, employment decreased minimally during this time period by 0.4% (26 employees).

Industry earnings in Piatt County are 98% dependent on non-farm earnings, as can be seen in Table 3-6. The earnings leaders for 2006 are in government and government enterprises, reflective of its leading number of employees for the county. Other strong industries in terms of earnings include manufacturing and wholesale trade. Manufacturing, however, shows the most significant decline out of all sectors in both earnings and number of employees between 2001 and 2006. Other significant earnings declines from 2001 to 2006 were in farming and retail trade. Significant increases in the same time period were found in construction, wholesale trade, and services industries.

Table 3-5: Piatt County Employment by Sector, 2001-2006

NAICS Code	Sector	2001	2006	% of Total 2001	% of Total 2006	Change 2001-2006	% Change 2001-2006
10	Total employment	6110	6136	100.0%	100.0%	26	0.4%
20	Wage and salary employment	4119	3870	67.4%	63.1%	-249	-6.0%
40	Proprietors employment	1991	2266	32.6%	36.9%	275	13.8%
50	Farm proprietors employment	464	446	23.3%	19.7%	-18	-3.9%
60	Nonfarm proprietors employment	1527	1820	76.7%	80.3%	293	19.2%
70	Farm employment	568	533	9.3%	8.7%	-35	-6.2%
80	Nonfarm employment	5542	5603	90.7%	91.3%	61	1.1%
90	Private employment	4476	4607	73.3%	75.1%	131	2.9%
100	Forestry, fishing, related activities, and other	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
200	Mining	(D)	14	(D)	0.2%	(D)	(D)
300	Utilities	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
400	Construction	406	559	6.6%	9.1%	153	37.7%
500	Manufacturing	562	335	9.2%	5.5%	-227	-40.4%
600	Wholesale trade	358	319	5.9%	5.2%	-39	-10.9%
700	Retail trade	597	650	9.8%	10.6%	53	8.9%
800	Transportation and warehousing	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
900	Information	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
1000	Finance and insurance	287	316	4.7%	5.1%	29	10.1%
1100	Real estate and rental and leasing	167	224	2.7%	3.7%	57	34.1%
1200	Professional and technical services	264	298	4.3%	4.9%	34	12.9%
1300	Management of companies and enterprises	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0	0.0%
1400	Administrative and waste services	144	147	2.4%	2.4%	3	2.1%
1500	Educational services	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
1600	Health care and social assistance	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
1700	Arts, entertainment, and recreation	106	102	1.7%	1.7%	-4	-3.8%
1800	Accommodation and food services	274	321	4.5%	5.2%	47	17.2%
1900	Other services, except public administration	407	470	6.7%	7.7%	63	15.5%
2000	Government and government enterprises	1066	996	17.4%	16.2%	-70	-6.6%
2001	Federal, civilian	58	54	0.9%	0.9%	-4	-6.9%
2002	Military	35	32	0.6%	0.5%	-3	-8.6%
2010	State and local	973	910	15.9%	14.8%	-63	-6.5%
2011	State government	37	31	0.6%	0.5%	-6	-16.2%
2012	Local government	936	879	15.3%	14.3%	-57	-6.1%

Source: Regional Economic Information System, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce

(D) Not shown to avoid disclosure of confidential information, but the estimates for this item are included in the totals.

The BEA employment series for states and local areas comprises estimates of the number of jobs, full-time plus part-time, by place of work. Full-time and part-time jobs are counted at equal weight. Employees, sole proprietors, and active partners are included, but unpaid family workers and volunteers are not included.

<http://www.bea.gov/regional/reis/CA25Nfn.cfm>

Table 3-6: Piatt County Wages by Sector (in thousands of dollars), 2001-2006

NAICS Code	Sector	2001	2006	% of Total 2001	% of Total 2006	Change 2001-2006	% Change 2001-2006
	Total earnings	149,491	153,968	100%	100%	4,477	3.0%
81	Farm earnings	4,953	3,743	3%	2%	-1,210	-24.4%
82	Nonfarm earnings	144,538	150,225	97%	98%	5,687	3.9%
90	Private earnings	113,104	114,280	76%	74%	1,176	1.0%
100	Forestry, fishing, related activities, and other	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
200	Mining	(D)	195	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
300	Utilities	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
400	Construction	11,181	14,512	7%	9%	3,331	29.8%
500	Manufacturing	25,118	15,583	17%	10%	-9,535	-38.0%
600	Wholesale trade	13,302	14,635	9%	10%	1,333	10.0%
700	Retail trade	11,732	10,551	8%	7%	-1,181	-10.1%
800	Transportation and warehousing	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
900	Information	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
1000	Finance and insurance	6,944	7,441	5%	5%	(D)	7.2%
1100	Real estate and rental and leasing	2,198	1,387	1%	1%	-811	-36.9%
1200	Professional and technical services	6,131	7,313	4%	5%	1,182	19.3%
1300	Management of companies and enterprises	0	0	0%	0%	0	0.0%
1400	Administrative and waste services	1,922	1,048	1%	1%	-874	-45.5%
1500	Educational services	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
1600	Health care and social assistance	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
1700	Arts, entertainment, and recreation	693	729	0%	0%	36	5.2%
1800	Accommodation and food services	2,230	3,622	1%	2%	1,392	62.4%
1900	Other services, except public administration	5,315	7,357	4%	5%	2,042	38.4%
2000	Government and government enterprises	31,434	35,945	21%	23%	4,511	14.4%
2001	Federal, civilian	2,892	3,422	2%	2%	530	18.3%
2002	Military	589	1,135	0%	1%	546	92.7%
2010	State and local	27,953	31,388	19%	20%	3,435	12.3%
2011	State government	1,365	1,531	1%	1%	166	12.2%
2012	Local government	26,588	29,857	18%	19%	3,269	12.3%

Source: <http://www.bea.gov/regional/reis/CA05Nfn.cfm>

(D) Not shown to avoid disclosure of confidential information, but the estimates for this item are included in the totals.

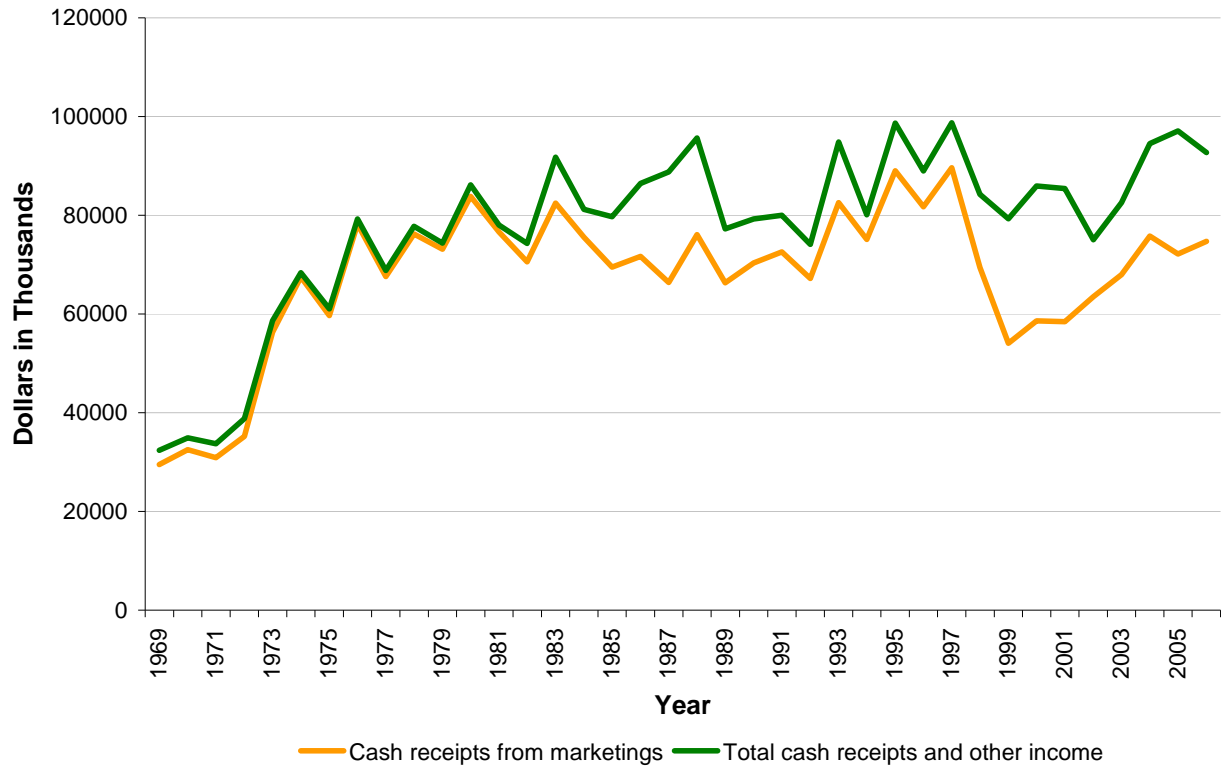
Agricultural Economy

The previous section noted that the agricultural industry has a significant but declining influence on employment and earnings in Piatt County. This tendency is not reflected in annual cash receipts, which are the value of gross revenues received from the marketing of crop commodities. Chart 3-1 shows a general increase in sales from 1969 to 2006. Cash receipts from marketing are the value of gross revenues received from the marketing of agricultural commodities, both livestock and crops, during a given calendar year. Total cash

receipts and other income include government payments as well as income from machine hire, custom work and rental income.

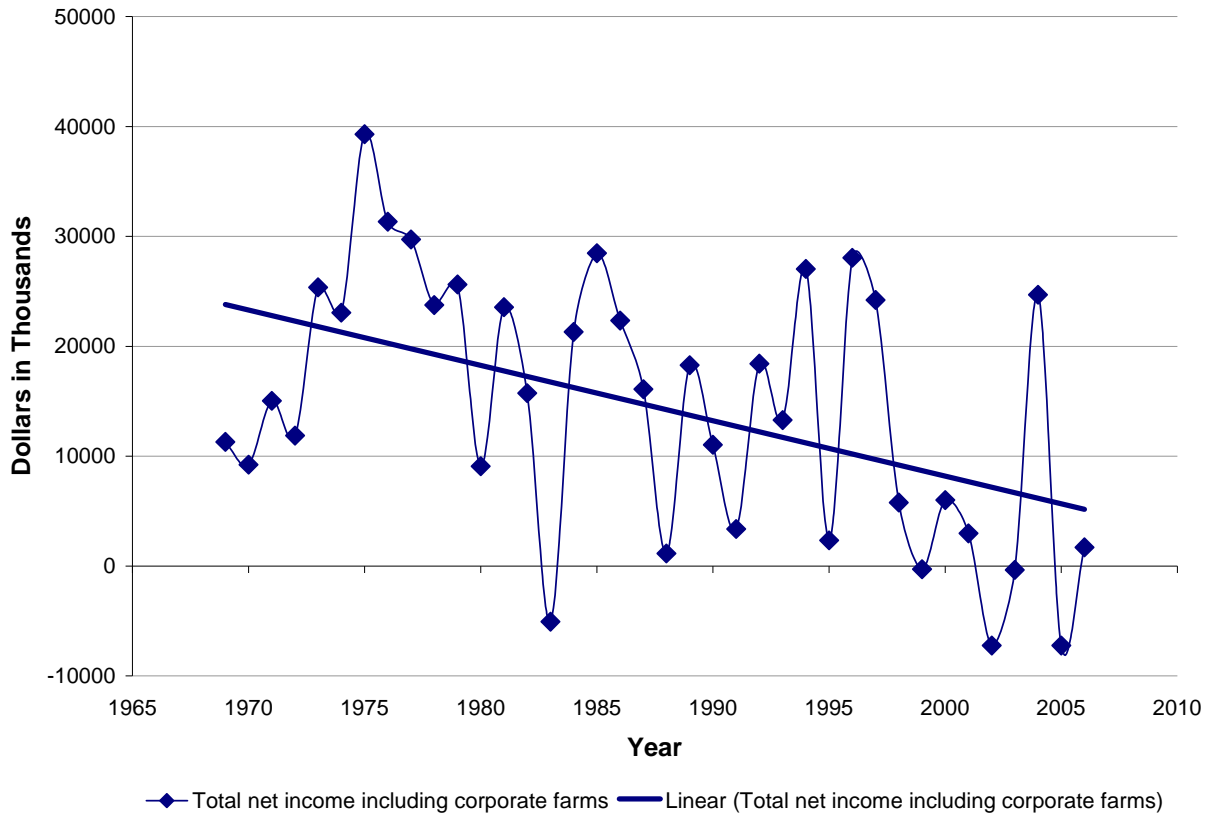
Annual cash receipts provide a picture of income but fail to incorporate production expenses as well as changes in value of inventory. This is an estimated value of net change in inventories of livestock and crops that are held for sale during a calendar year.

Chart 3-1: Agricultural Cash Receipts, 1969-2006



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

Chart 3-2: Total Net Farm Income, 1969-2006



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

The number of farms in Piatt County decreased between 1997 and 2002, from 449 to 384, as seen in Table 3-7. Significant decreases were found in farms with 10-999 acres, with farms greater than 1,000 acres increasing in number. The average farm size in 1997 was 550 acres, increasing to 583 acres in 2002. These factors suggest that larger farms are changing the rural landscape in the county.

Table 3-7: Number of Farms by Acreage, 1997-2002

	1997	2002	% Change 1997 to 2002
Number of Farms by Farm Size			
1 to 9 acres	8	9	12.50%
10 to 49 acres	52	40	-23.08%
50 to 99 acres	42	32	-23.81%
100 to 499 acres	144	117	-18.75%
500 to 999 acres	121	97	-19.83%
1000+ acres	82	89	8.54%
Total Farms	449	384	-14.48%
Harvested Acreage			
Acreage in Farms >1000 acres	121,950	143,419	17.60%
Share of Acreage in Farms > 1000 acres	50.12%	58.19%	
Total Acreage (Censuses)	243,308	246,470	1.30%

Source: 1997, 2002 Census of Agriculture

Table 3-8 indicates a significant decrease in the number of part-owners in farms and a slight increase in full owners. Tenant farms also decreased between 1997 and 2002.

Table 3-8: Number of Farms by Tenure, 1997-2002

Tenure	1997	2002	% Change 1997 - 2002
Full Owners:			
Total	164	166	1.22%
Harvested cropland	151	120	-20.53%
Part Owners:			
Total	193	174	-9.84%
Harvested cropland	193	167	-13.47%
Tenants:			
Total	108	102	-5.56%
Harvested cropland	105	97	-7.62%

Source: Table 40, 2002 Census, National Agricultural Statistical Services, US Department of Agriculture

Comparative statistics regarding market value of land, buildings, and agricultural products can be found in Table 3-9. While there was an increase in land and buildings from 1997 to 2002, agricultural product values declined. Livestock, poultry, and their products comprised 6.3% of all agricultural products sold in 1997; this figure decreased to 3.9% in 2002. While crops increased in their proportion to all agricultural products sold, their value decreased by 12% from 1997 to 2002.

Table 3-9: Market Value of Land, Buildings, and Products Sold, 1997–2002

	1997	2002	% Change
Estimated market value of land/ buildings, average per acre	\$2,914	\$2,981	2.3%
Estimated market value of land/ buildings, average per farm	\$1,572,444	\$1,827,180	16.2%
Market value of agricultural products sold	\$83,439,000	\$71,605,000	-14.2%
Market value of agricultural products sold, average per farm	\$186,248	\$162,002	-13.0%
Market value of agricultural products sold, Crops	\$78,165,000	\$68,784,000	-12.0%
Market value of ag products sold, Livestock, poultry, and their products	\$5,275,000	\$2,821,000	-46.5%

Source: 1997, 2002 Census of Agriculture

In terms of specific crop yields, Table 3-10 provides figures for corn, soybeans, and wheat from 2003 through 2007. Corn has taken precedence over soybeans in Piatt County in the last five years, with wheat varying from year to year.

Table 3-10: Acreage Harvested, Yield and Production of Crops, 2003-2007

Crop	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	%Change 2003- 2007	%Change 2006- 2007
Corn							
Acres Harvested	128,700	133,200	138,000	140,100	161,200	25.3%	15.1%
Yield (Bushels/Acre)	185	191	171	182	190	2.7%	4.4%
Production (Bushels)	23,809,500	25,441,200	23,598,000	25,498,200	30,628,000	28.6%	20.1%
Soybeans							
Acres Harvested	122,400	115,600	113,500	114,500	96,600	-21.1%	-15.6%
Yield (Bushels/Acre)	41	54	56	55	56	36.6%	1.8%
Production (Bushels)	5,018,400	6,242,400	6,356,000	6,297,500	5,409,600	7.8%	-14.1%
Wheat							
Acres Harvested	1,500	2,100	1,500	1,900	1,700	13.3%	-10.5%
Yield (Bushels/Acre)	90	53	74	92	63	-30.0%	-31.5%
Production (Bushels)	135,000	111,300	111,000	174,800	107,100	-20.7%	-38.7%

Source: Quick Stats, Illinois Agricultural Statistical Service, Illinois Department of Agriculture

The county's livestock inventory, as noted in Table 3-11, saw a fairly significant reduction in cattle, calves, hogs and pigs between 1997 and 2002, with a slight increase in sheep and lambs.

Table 3-11: Livestock inventory, 1997-2002

	1997	2002	Change 1997-2002	% Change 1997-2002
Number of Farms				
Cattle and calves inventory - Beef cows	47	40	-7	-14.9%
Cattle and calves inventory - Milk cows	2	4	2	100.0%
Cattle and calves inventory	62	51	-11	-17.7%
Hogs and pigs inventory	17	15	-2	-11.8%
Sheep and lambs inventory	5	14	9	180.0%
Number of Animals				
Cattle and calves inventory - Beef cows	(D)	701	-	-
Cattle and calves inventory - Milk cows	(D)	113	-	-
Cattle and calves inventory	2860	2,294	-566	-19.8%
Hogs and pigs inventory	15839	8,072	-7767	-49.0%
Sheep and lambs inventory	162	230	68	42.0%

Source: 1997, 2002 Census of Agriculture

The number of farms devoted to crops and livestock both decreased from 1997 to 2002, as shown in Table 3-12. The table also reflects that the majority of farms in Piatt County are for crops.

Table 3-12: Number of Farms by Type, 1997-2002

Type of Farm	1997	2002	% Change
Crop	439	420	-4.3%
Livestock	84	80	-4.8%
Total	523	500	-4.4%

Private Sector Economy

As can be seen in Table 3-13, between 1997 and 2002, the private sector in Piatt County grew by approximately 10%, with 18 additional businesses establishing within the five years. Sales receipts for this sector in the same time period increased by 21%. The average sales per establishment in 1997 were approximately \$633,439, versus \$699,632 in 2002.

Table 3-13: Private Sector Number of Establishments, Sales, and Payroll, 1997-2002

NAICS Code	Description	Establishments			Sales receipts or shipments (in \$1000s)		
		1997	2002	% Change	1997	2002	% Change
21	Mining	X	X	X	X	X	X
22	Utilities	X	X	X	X	X	X
23	Construction	X	X	X	X	X	X
31-33	Manufacturing	X	X	X	X	X	X
42	Wholesale trade	29	22	-24%	D	D	D
44-45	Retail trade	55	54	-2%	\$99,377	\$110,651	11%
48-49	Transportation & warehousing	X	X	X	X	X	X
51	Information	X	X	X	X	X	X
52	Finance & insurance	X	X	X	X	X	X
53	Real estate & rental & leasing	8	6	-25%	\$2,036	\$1,381	-32%
54	Professional, scientific, & technical services	25	33	32%	\$4,571	\$7,642	67%
55	Management of companies & enterprises	X	X	X	X	X	X
56	Administrative/support/waste mgmt/remediation services	7	11	57%	\$2,764	\$2,987	8%
61	Educational services	X	X	X	X	X	X
62	Health care & social assistance	14	27	93%	\$6,499	\$17,724	173%
71	Arts, entertainment, & recreation	3	4	33%	D	D	D
72	Accommodation & food services	28	32	14%	D	D	D
81	Other services (except public administration)	20	18	-10%	\$4,473	\$4,439	-1%
TOTAL		189	207	10%	\$119,720	\$144,824	21%

Source: 1997 and 2002 Economic Census, US Census Bureau

D = Withheld to avoid disclosing data of individual companies; data are included in higher level totals

X = Not applicable

Retail Sector

Retail trade lost one establishment between 1997 and 2002, but increased sales receipts by 11%, from over \$99 million to \$110 million. Retail trade comprised 29% of all private sector establishments in 1997, which decreased to 26% in 2002. In 1997, the proportion of retail trade sales to total sales in the private sector was 83%; this decreased to 76% in 2002.

Healthcare Sector

Healthcare and social assistance establishments increased in number by 93%, from 14 to 27 between 1997 and 2002. These establishments comprised 7% of the total private sector establishments in 1997, increasing to 13% in 2002. Sales receipts for this sector almost tripled for the same time period, from \$6.5 million to \$17.7 million. In 1997, the proportion of healthcare related sales to total sales in the private sector was 5%; this increased to 12% in 2002.

Services Sector

A combined total of 94 service sector establishments existed in 1997; this increased to 121 by 2002, or 29%. Service sectors comprised half of the private sector establishments in 1997, increasing to 58% in 2002. Sales receipts for these sectors increased by 79% for the same time period, from \$18.3 million to \$32.8 million. In 1997, the proportion of service sector sales to total sales in the private sector was 15%; this increased to 23% in 2002.

Future Economy

Employment projections through 2030 suggest that total employment will increase in Piatt County, with the most significant growth occurring in the service, retail, and local government sectors. A decline is anticipated in farm and federal government employment. All private employment sectors are expected to increase in employment with the least growth in wholesale trade, manufacturing, and mining. Overall, the projections indicate that total employment will grow at a decreasing rate through 2030, with a decennial rate of 8% growth that is anticipated to decrease to about 6% between 2020 and 2030.

Table 3-14: Employment Sector Projections, 2005-2030

NAICS Description	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Change	%
							2005-2030	2005-2030
Total Employment	6,111	6,348	6,578	6,795	7,004	7,202	1,091	18%
Farm Employment	551	540	529	518	507	495	-56	-10%
Non-farm employment	5,560	5,808	6,049	6,277	6,497	6,707	1,147	21%
Private Employment	4,590	4,785	4,974	5,149	5,316	5,473	883	19%
Agricultural Services, Other	129	154	178	203	227	252	123	95%
Mining	32	36	40	44	48	52	20	63%
Construction	306	314	322	328	335	341	35	11%
Manufacturing	404	409	413	415	417	418	14	3%
Transport, Comm & Public Utilities	197	200	203	206	209	212	15	8%
Wholesale Trade	325	327	329	330	330	330	5	2%
Retail Trade	1,078	1,115	1,152	1,185	1,216	1,243	165	15%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	581	598	615	630	644	658	77	13%
Services	1,538	1,632	1,722	1,808	1,890	1,967	429	28%
Government Employment	970	1,023	1,075	1,128	1,181	1,234	264	27%
Federal Civilian	51	49	46	44	42	40	-11	-22%
Federal Military	31	31	32	32	32	32	1	3%
State and Local	888	943	997	1,052	1,107	1,162	274	31%

Source: Woods & Poole Economics, Inc. Washington, D.C. Copyright 2007. Woods & Poole does not guarantee the accuracy of this data. The use of this data and the conclusion drawn from it are solely the responsibility of CCRPC.

Key Findings

- Recent trends suggest a strengthening workforce in Piatt County, but residents are still more dependent on neighboring counties than their home county for work.
- In 2006, local government was the strongest employment sector in Piatt County, followed by retail trade and construction.
- Private sector employment and earnings dominated government and farm employment and earnings in the most recent economic Census (2002).
- Manufacturing experienced the largest loss in workforce and in earnings between 2001 and 2006.
- The number of farms in Piatt County decreased by 14% between 1997 and 2002.
- Farm sizes generally increased between 1997 and 2002.
- The majority of farms are devoted to crops rather than livestock. Corn is the predominant crop in the county.
- The number of private sector establishments increased by 10% between 1997 and 2002.
- Retail trade dominates the number of establishments and annual sales receipts in the private sector.
- Service establishments increased in number more than any other private sector industry.
- Employment projections suggest that private employment sectors will grow the most through 2030, with retail, services, and local government employment experiencing the greatest increases.

Plans for the Economy

This section establishes goals, objectives and strategies for the future conditions of Piatt County's economy. Recommendations in this chapter are intended to provide tools by which the economy can be strengthened and of more benefit to residents. Creating a balance between quality of life for residents, needed infrastructure for developing Piatt County's economic base, and available financial resources is crucial to a growing economy.

Issues

Piatt County residents indicated a variety of issues related to the economy during the public input opportunities afforded by the planning process.

- There are not enough jobs or industry in Piatt County.
- Opportunities for growth are not being encouraged in some employment sectors.
- Some residents oppose industry in some parts of Piatt County.
- There are few existing facilities for business expansion or growth.
- Residents would like more shopping areas.
- Residents would like to maintain agricultural/rural character.

Best Management Practices

There are several factors that should be considered in light of current known best planning practices for Piatt County's economy. The following can be considered when implementing the plan.

- **Regional coordination**
Applications for funding are considered more favorably by state and local agencies when they are multi-jurisdictional or regional projects. Expertise in some fields can also be shared via working groups such as Economic Development Districts.
- **Marketing**
Marketing the County's strengths is essential to attracting more of an economic base. Immediate information readiness, especially via electronic means, is the standard for developers and potential business interests. The more information the county has about available infrastructure, vacant buildings, buildable lots, demographic and community information, the more ready they will be to answer inquiries and solicit development.

Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Strive to achieve a stable economy that includes business diversity, provides high-paying primary employment opportunities, and is compatible with planned growth and quality of life objectives for the County.

Objective 1.1: Consider preparing an economic development implementation program that includes programs to attract complementary businesses for Piatt County.

Objective 1.2: Retain and/or attract employers, which provide employment opportunities of sufficient income to sustain a family standard of living.

Goal 2: Support workforce education to expand and diversify the County's labor pool through a variety of institutions and learning technologies.

Objective 2.1: Coordinate with State and local agencies to identify and help the workforce obtain information, training, transportation, and maintain employment.

Objective 2.2: Continue to support State agencies in obtaining and disseminating accurate labor market information and encourage local employers to participate in supplying labor market information.

Goal 3: Improve the county's capacity to effectively foster the expansion of existing business operations as well as the location of new industrial investments which generate better paying employment opportunities for local residents.

Objective 3.1: Strengthen the capabilities of local governments and economic development organizations and their efforts to solicit desirable firms interested in starting operations within Piatt County through information sharing.

Objective 3.2: Support public relation campaigns of local organizations, such as Chambers of Commerce, to better develop and promote the assets of Piatt County.

Objective 3.3: Continue to cooperate with local governments and developments in an effort to strengthen the capability for providing assistance to existing local businesses interested in expanding their current operations within the county.

Objective 3.4: Work with regional, state and federal resource agencies to bolster economic opportunities in Piatt County through grants, loans, public private partnerships and other available programs.

Goal 4: Establish Piatt County as a viable area for tourism.

Objective 4.1: Create a marketing plan that identifies possible tourism sites and activities, establishes possible funding sources and responsible parties for implementing the plan.

Future Conditions

Employment projections through 2030 suggest that total employment will increase in Piatt County, with the most significant growth occurring in the service, retail, and local government sectors. A decline is anticipated in farm and federal government employment. All private employment sectors are expected to increase in employment with the least growth in wholesale trade, manufacturing, and mining. Overall, the projections indicate that total employment will grow at a decreasing rate through 2030, with a decennial rate of 8% growth that is anticipated to decrease to about 6% between 2020 and 2030.

In the future, Piatt County will have many opportunities for both living and working in the county. A more diverse economic base will be present, which will be facilitated by improved infrastructure, services, and marketing. Public transportation, ride sharing, and other alternative transportation modes will assist residents in arriving to training centers and their jobs. In addition to regional educational opportunities, local schools and libraries can be used for computer based training sites. Economic development will occur in conjunction with the most recent Future Land Use Map in accordance with the plan's goals and objectives.