



## Comparing Business Costs:

Northwest Indiana is considered one of the most cost effective places to do business in the Great Lake Region, and the Town of Merrillville is no exception. When comparing the Town of Merrillville to Chicago and other communities in Lake County, the choice is clear: locating your business in Merrillville is a smart economic decision.

- Cost of living in Merrillville averages 20% less than Chicago.
- Housing Costs in Merrillville are approximately 50% less than Chicago.
- Insurance Costs in Merrillville are approximately 20% less than Chicago.
- Health Care Costs in Merrillville are approximately 10% less than Chicago.

Comparing Average Annual Wages in Lake County Indiana (includes Merrillville) vs. Cook County, Illinois (primarily Chicago)

Year	Lake County Indiana	Cook County Illinois
2004	\$35,378	\$47,730
2003	\$34,721	\$46,661
2002	\$34,073	\$46,773

Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics(BLS)



Indiana offers a highly competitive and cost effective business climate. The following information compares business costs at the state level.

- Indiana has the lowest workers' compensation costs and unemployment insurance in the Midwest.
- Indiana ranks 11th in the country for the "Best Business Tax Climate", with Illinois ranking 23rd, and Michigan 26th.
- Industrial electricity costs in Indiana ranks second lowest in the nation.

Business Costs (Midwest)

	Indiana	Illinois	Michigan
Total State Business Taxes (Including Corporate State Income Tax, Workers Compensation and Unemployment Insurance: per net taxable income of 1,000,000) 2005	\$172,133	\$274,802	\$302,811

Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics(BLS), US Department of Labor, Actuarial & Technical Solutions Inc., CCH Incorporated