

Notes from 2025 Indiana Deer Season

[Deer Season Report](#)

A total of 131,226 harvested deer were reported in Indiana during the 2025 season (Figures 3-1 and 3-2). This harvest was 4.0% higher than the 126,169 deer taken during the 2024 season. The antlered deer harvest of 62,876 was 5.4% higher than the 59,643 reported in 2024. The antlerless harvest of 68,350 was 2.7% higher than the 66,526 harvested in 2024. In 2025, the reported harvest for total deer ranks 4th highest all-time, while the total antlerless deer harvest ranks as the 16th highest all-time in Indiana history. The antlered harvest ranks the highest since reporting began in 1951.

[p. 16]

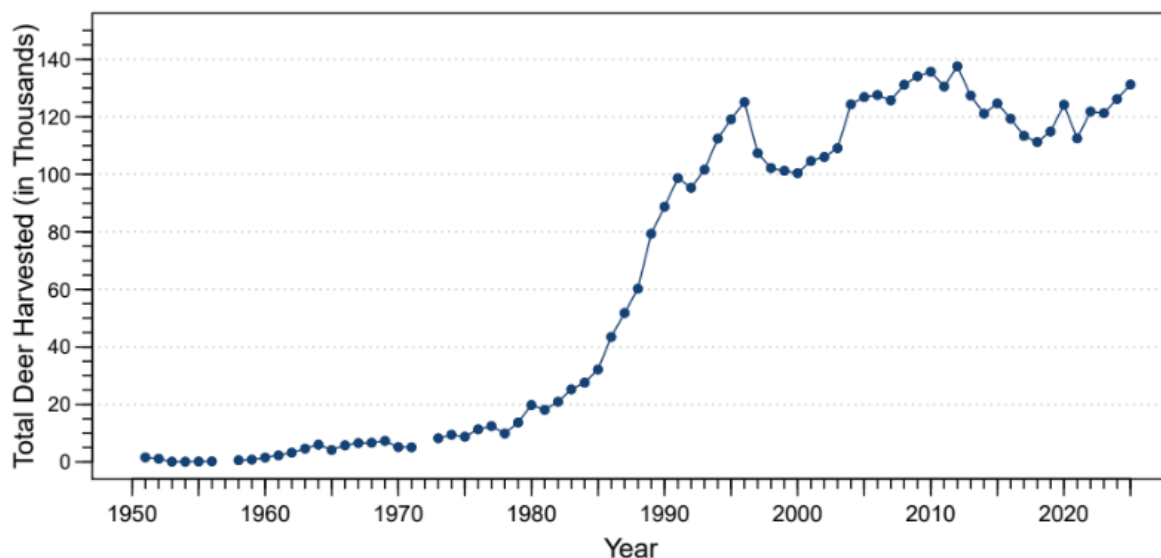


FIGURE 3-1. The total number of deer harvested in each Indiana deer season, 1951-2025. Totals include deer harvested in State Park Management Hunts, 1993-2025. Reporting error rates: $\pm 0.19\%$ (2025), $\pm 0.23\%$ (2024), $\pm 0.24\%$ (2023), $\pm 0.19\%$ (2022), $\pm 0.20\%$ (2021), $\pm 0.21\%$ (2020), $\pm 0.23\%$ (2019), $\pm 0.57\%$ (2018), $\pm 1.30\%$ (2017), and $\pm 0.67\%$ (2016).

Harvest summary reports prior to 2016 did not include harvest numbers from Indiana State Park Management Hunts

TABLE 3-17. Deer license sales in Indiana by license type, 2016-2025. Total license sale numbers are subject to change slightly as refunds or voids are made.

License Type	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Resident Archery	21,301	21,291	20,075	19,450	18,722	16,618	18,152	19,442	18,258	16,919
Resident Firearm	40,577	37,254	34,575	29,627	26,671	24,265	26,177	26,279	25,269	23,461
Resident License Bundle	68,997	67,731	67,963	69,683	79,881	80,974	73,330	76,449	77,595	81,745
Resident Military/Refuge	1,343	1,355	1,611	1,613	1,081	1,504	1,514	1,757	1,751	1,743
Resident Multiseason Antlerless	18,065	16,188	13,866	15,149	14,378	11,267	10,053	9,972	9,987	7,510
Resident Muzzleloader	4,669	4,376	3,898	3,607	3,715	2,902	2,759	2,608	2,503	1,928
Resident Reduction Zone	3,495	3,753	4,719	5,062	6,658	6,183	5,982	6,491	5,984	6,002
Nonresident Archery	2,585	2,989	3,168	3,291	3,449	3,316	3,523	4,126	4,081	4,455
Nonresident Firearm	4,155	4,032	3,854	3,829	3,783	4,098	4,371	4,286	4,732	4,422
Nonresident License Bundle	2,960	2,948	2,874	3,050	3,674	4,014	1,806	1,689	1,814	1,932
Nonresident Military/Refuge	23	26	98	33	24	28	26	40	43	53
Nonresident Multiseason Antlerless	366	331	311	359	386	321	462	438	547	479
Nonresident Muzzleloader	363	439	398	369	390	440	372	336	354	320
Nonresident Reduction Zone	41	31	70	58	107	131	92	92	92	76
Nonresident Youth Archery	109	121	94	94	112	120	123	129	121	109
Nonresident Youth Firearm	360	339	343	264	251	248	269	347	334	291
Nonresident Youth License Bundle	302	311	253	305	374	431	343	338	359	386
Nonresident Youth Military/Refuge	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	4	2	0
Nonresident Youth Multiseason Antlerless	87	73	47	97	97	76	66	79	73	82
Nonresident Youth Muzzleloader	29	24	23	26	12	23	18	17	13	11
Nonresident Youth Reduction Zone	6	7	6	4	4	8	8	15	6	4
Total Licenses (Excluding Resident Youth)	169,833	163,619	158,247	155,970	163,769	156,968	149,447	154,934	153,918	151,928
Total Privileges (Excluding Resident Youth)	314,351	305,599	300,427	302,046	331,627	327,806	300,405	311,886	313,454	320,054

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TABLE 3-21. Calculated estimated hunters afield during Indiana deer hunting seasons, 2015-2016 through 2025-2026.

Year	Resident Hunters Using Annual License	Nonresident Hunters Using Annual License	Estimated Hunters Using Lifetime License	Estimated Hunters Using Landowner Exemption	Military Exempt Hunters	Youth Hunters	Estimated Total Hunters Afield
2015	126,782	9,590	46,595	39,029	289	28,361	250,646
2016	124,475	9,997	40,581	34,113	242	24,817	234,225
2017	119,818	10,259	42,810	30,448	257	23,683	227,275
2018	116,272	10,210	37,874	27,582	195	22,209	214,342
2019	113,626	10,436	33,450	24,599	170	19,982	202,263
2020	121,053	11,158	32,604	25,994	143	22,646	213,598
2021	117,526	11,754	30,683	25,508	111	22,618	208,200
2022	113,570	9,858	28,515	25,520	110	21,911	199,484
2023	117,696	10,235	27,974	25,769	106	23,130	204,910
2024	117,122	10,793	26,320	25,946	130	23,852	204,163
2025	118,257	11,645	24,323	24,722	106	22,749	201,802

Since 2012, CBAQs (now CABL) have been gradually lowered across the state as the deer-management goals of Indiana DNR have shifted from that of herd reduction to population maintenance. This approach integrated with strategic harvest in Deer Reduction Zones (DRZ) has been adopted to provide a healthy deer population across the state while addressing human safety concerns along roadways that have historically experienced high levels of deer-vehicle collisions (DVC). CABL should be maintained at current levels if harvest remains steady,

unless population indices indicate that adjustments are necessary to increase or reduce local deer harvest in a county. [page 34]

TABLE 3-19. Calculated annual success rates and 95% confidence intervals of non-youth licensed resident and nonresident deer hunters who purchased an annual deer license and checked in at least one deer using the same Customer ID number.

Season	All Resident Hunter Success Rate	All Resident Hunter Success Rate $\pm$ 95% CI	Nonresident Success Rate	Nonresident Success Rate $\pm$ 95% CI
2015-2016	0.31	0.003	0.33	0.009
2016-2017	0.33	0.003	0.35	0.009
2017-2018	0.33	0.003	0.33	0.009
2018-2019	0.35	0.003	0.34	0.009
2019-2020	0.39	0.003	0.37	0.009
2020-2021	0.40	0.003	0.37	0.009
2021-2022	0.39	0.003	0.37	0.009
2022-2023	0.43	0.003	0.40	0.010
2023-2024	0.42	0.003	0.35	0.009
2024-2025	0.43	0.003	0.38	0.009
2025-2026	0.44	0.003	0.38	0.009

Hunter success may act as an index of deer populations (Roseberry and Woolf 1991)

Roseberry, J. L. and A. Woolf. 1991. A Comparative Evaluation of Techniques for Analyzing White-tailed Deer Harvest Data. Wildlife Monographs 117: 3-59.

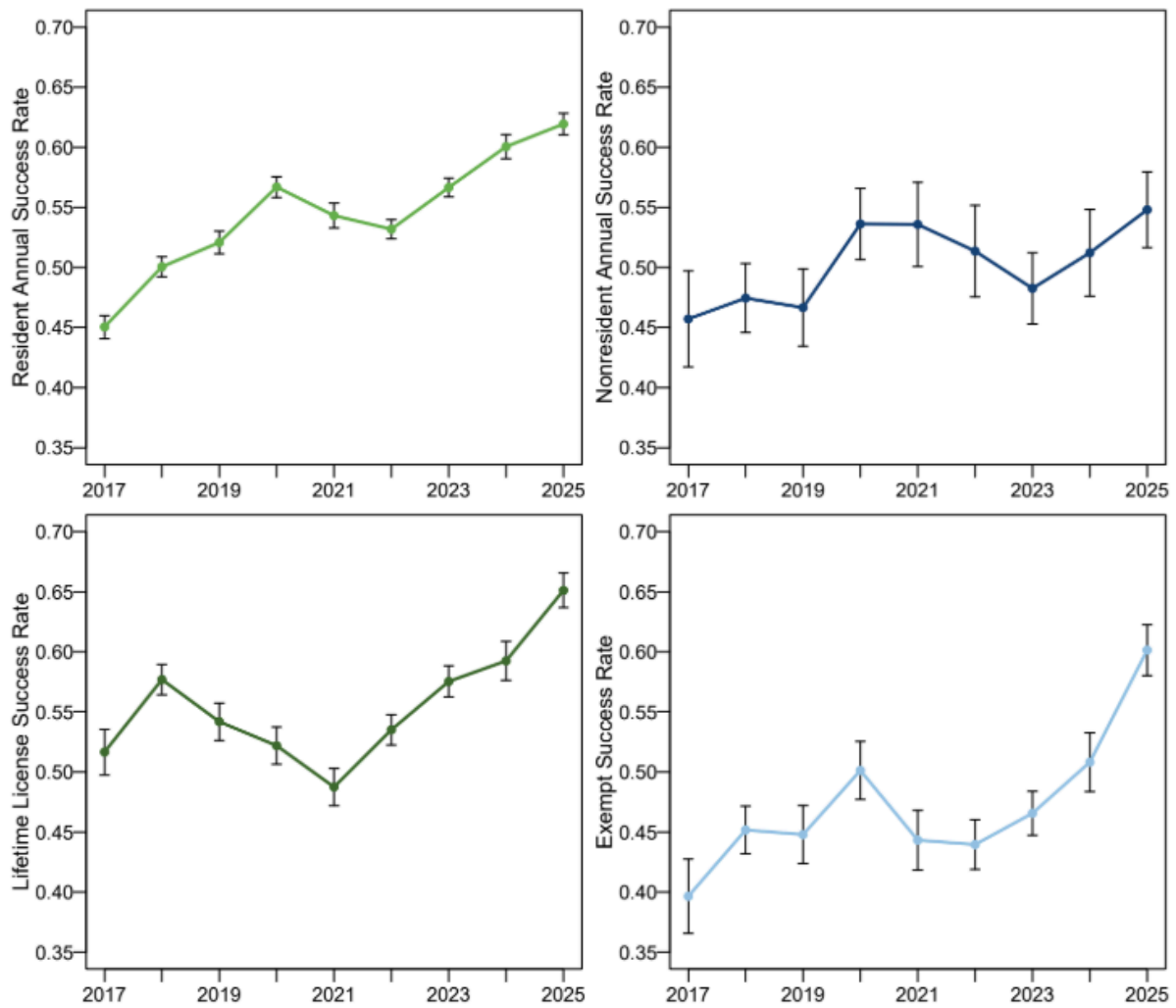


FIGURE 3-8. Calculated annual success rates of non-youth deer hunters who hunted using resident and nonresident annual licenses, lifetime licenses, and military and landowner exemptions, and participated in the annual Deer Management Survey.

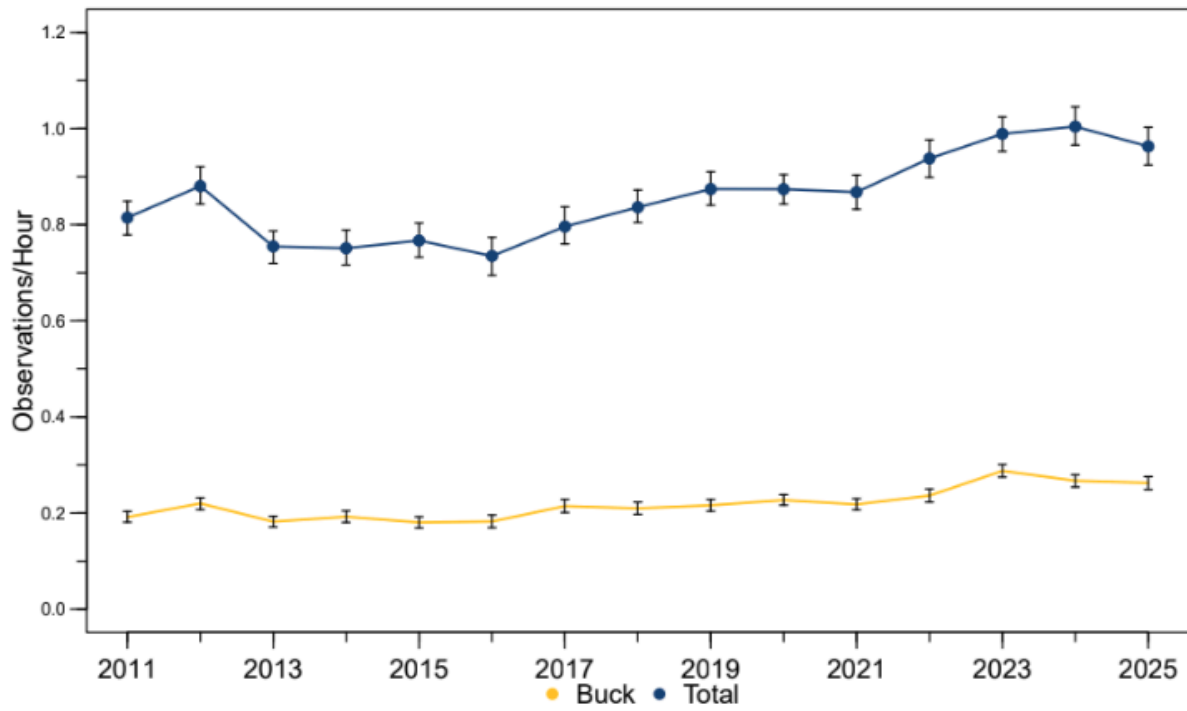


FIGURE 8-1. Annual average observations per hour of bucks and total deer reported in the Archer's Index.