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Reassessment nails business properties

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A "re-do" assessment of property values in Marion County has resulted in an increase of \$5.6 billion - or about 10.8 percent -- in the county's total assessed value, state officials said today.

Taking the biggest hit were commercial and industrial properties, which increased by 32 and 35 percent, respectively.

Residential values dropped by less than 1 percent.

Exactly how the new property values will affect 2007 tax bills is still not clear, because state and county officials now must recalculate tax rates before make-up bills are distributed later this year.

To figure tax bills, officials start with the total amount of money that must be raised to support government functions paid through property taxes. Then tax rates are calculated to multiply against the assessed value in a taxing district to come up with the amount that must be raised.

In general, as assessed values increase, the tax rates drop.

The reassessment was ordered last year by Gov. Daniels after a state review found the values of a majority of commercial and industrial properties had not increased from 1999 values, while home values had skyrocketed in some areas of the county.

The new assessments were done by county officials and a private contractor, then submitted to the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance. The state agency approved them today.

Marion County was one of a handful of counties that had their assessments redone.
