Indiana’s statewide unemployment rate was 2.8% in November, continuing a gradual trend toward lower unemployment. Though the individual monthly rates normally bounce around a bit, the 12-month moving average (see Fig. 1) has been declining for several years. The statewide rate was near 4% as recently as early 1998. The U.S. unemployment rate was 3.8% in December.

Indiana typically runs at least one percentage point below the national average. Compared to neighboring states, Indiana’s average unemployment rate for the three months ending November 1999 was lowest.
The unemployment rate in many counties has fallen more than the statewide average rate. *See page 11, Technical Corner.*