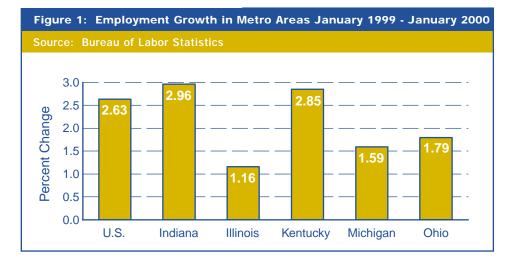
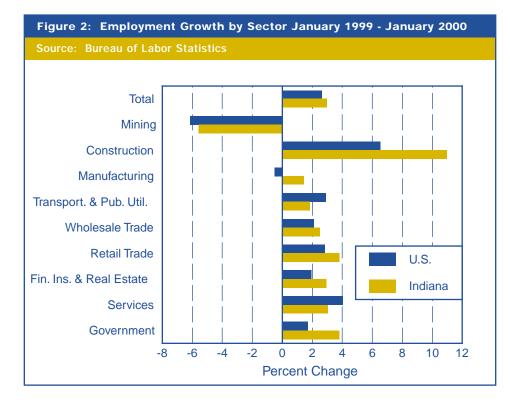
Indiana Metro Areas Take Three of the Top 15 Spots

Employment growth figures just released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics show three Indiana metropolitan areas among the top 15 growth leaders in the nation thus far in 2000.

The Elkhart-Goshen, Kokomo and Muncie areas led the state's 11 metro





areas to a 3.0% increase in non-farm jobs over January 1999, while the 273 metro areas of the nation recorded a 2.6% advance. Only Kentucky, of Indiana's four neighboring states, also exceeded the national figure. The metro areas of Illinois, Michigan and Ohio fell below 2% in employment growth (see figure 1).

The higher growth rate for Indiana metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) was most pronounced in construction, government and retail trade (see figure 2). In the manufacturing sector, Indiana advanced in employment while the nation saw a contraction. The United States metro areas exceeded Indiana only in two sectors: transportation and public utilities and in services. For the nation's 273 metro areas, services dominated employment growth, accounting for nearly 50% of all added jobs. In Indiana, growth was more balanced with 26% in services and 24% in retail trade.

The 11 Indiana MSAs tracked by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (excluding New Albany) ranged in growth rates from 5.5% in Elkhart-Goshen to 0.4% next door in South Bend. Nearly half of all the jobs added in Indiana, between January of 1999 and the same month in 2000, were in the Indianapolis MSA. The Gary and the Ft. Wayne metro areas together added fewer jobs than did Elkhart-Goshen.

Figure 3: Metro Areas with Highest Employment Growth Rates Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

