

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 1: Employment Growth in Metro Areas January 1999 - January 2000

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

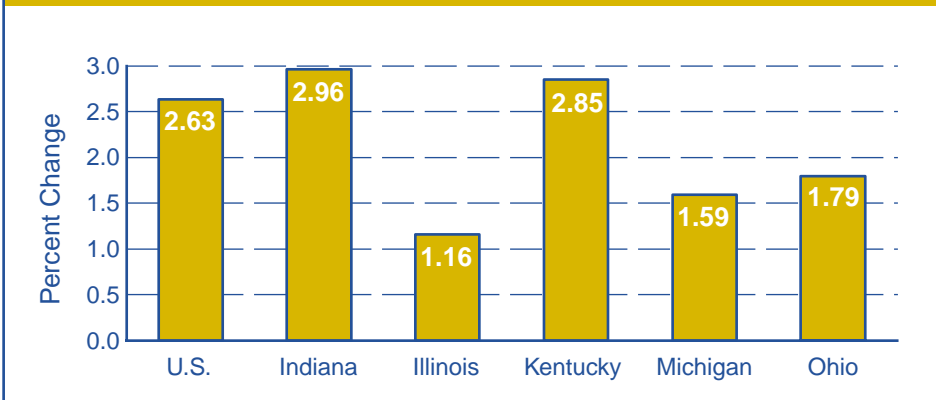


Figure 2: Employment Growth by Sector January 1999 - January 2000

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

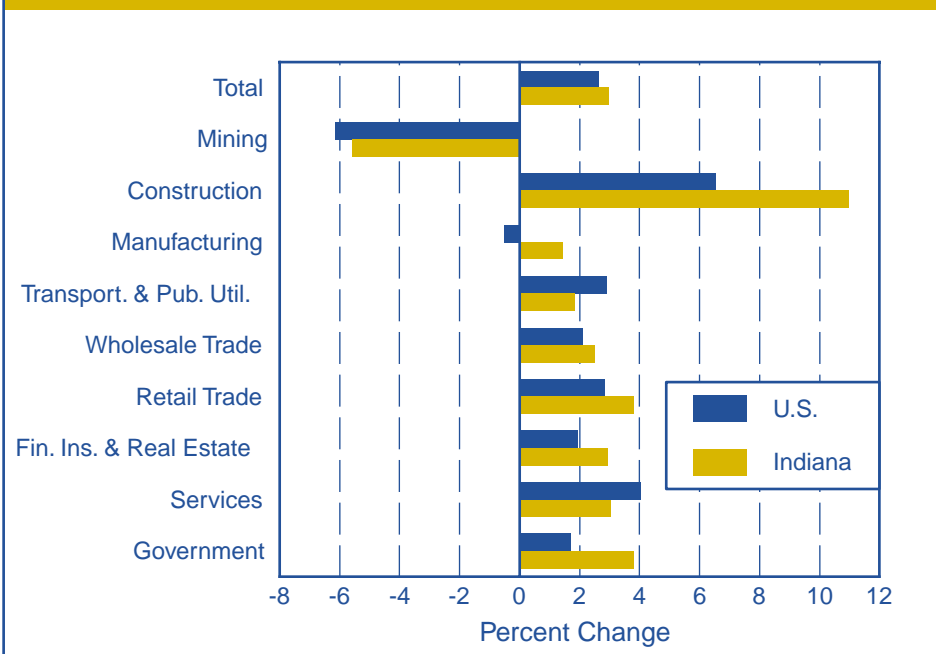


Figure 3: Metro Areas with Highest Employment Growth Rates

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

The six metro areas with the highest annual job growth in this region were all in Indiana. For the five-state region that includes Indiana and its four neighboring states, non-farm employment grew 5.5% in Elkhart-Goshen, to lead all metro areas. Job growth reached 5.4% in Kokomo and 5.2% in Muncie. Rounding out the region's top six metro areas were Lafayette at 4.3%, Bloomington at 3.8% and the Indianapolis area with 3.7%.

The employment growth data come from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics for the period January 1999 to January 2000.

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