

## Indiana in 98th Month of Continuous Employment Expansion

Since December of 1991, and every month thereafter through December 1999, total non-farm employment in Indiana has exceeded the same month a year earlier (see Figure 1).

The 1990-91 recession cut into employment gains for 11 months, a situation that might have been worse if the state had not enjoyed gains in finance, insurance and real estate while other sectors were in decline.

Since that period, each month the number of jobs in the state has been greater than it had been 12 months earlier. Some sectors saw a slowdown in 1995, but 120 consecutive months of advances in services kept the state growing.

For the year 1999, Indiana has averaged 1.2% above the corresponding period in 1998. However, that rate has been decreasing, as seen in the 12-month moving average of the monthly numbers (Fig. 2). The curve is flattening in recent years, reflecting the lower rate of increase. There has been speculation that this slowing of the growth rate may be related to Indiana's low unemployment rate.

The most significant softening in growth appears in construction, where employment has been below year-earlier levels in 11 of the past 12 months (see Fig. 3). Another area of slowing is transportation and public utilities which has been in negative territory in four of the last six months. Considerable strength, however, appears in finance, insurance and real estate where the 1999 average employment gain has been 3.9% compared to just 1.8% in 1998.

Figure 1: Non-farm Employment, Percent Change from Year Earlier

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development

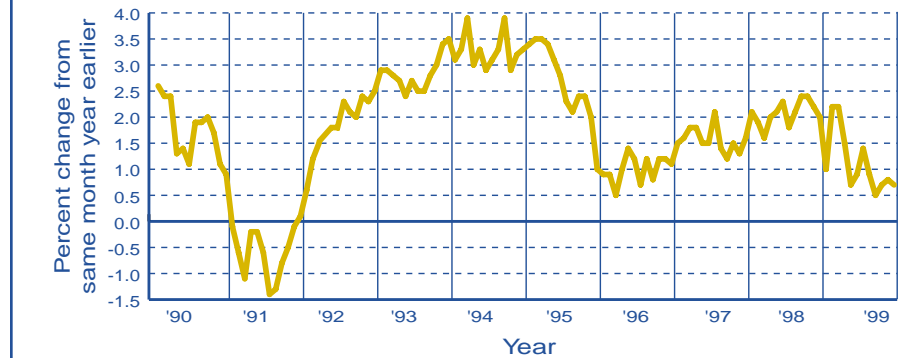


Figure 2: Non-farm Employment, Percent Change From Year Earlier

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development

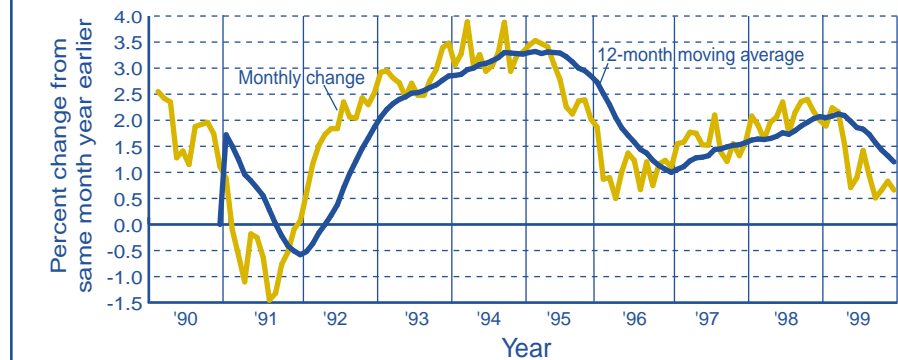
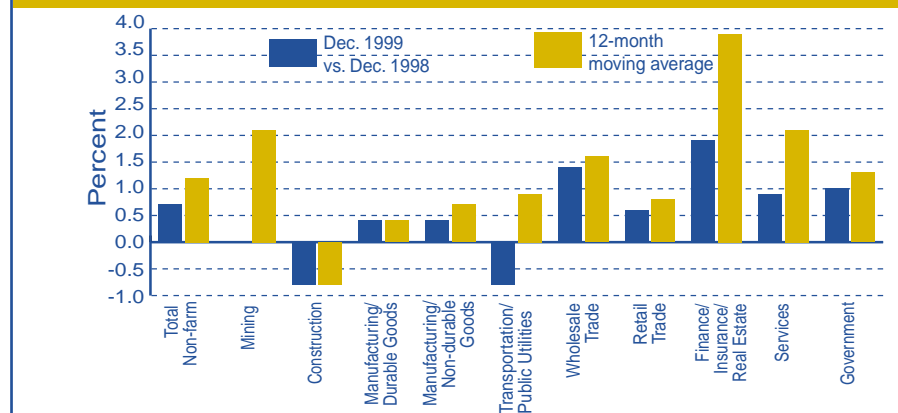


Figure 3: Change in Non-farm Employment by Industry Sector

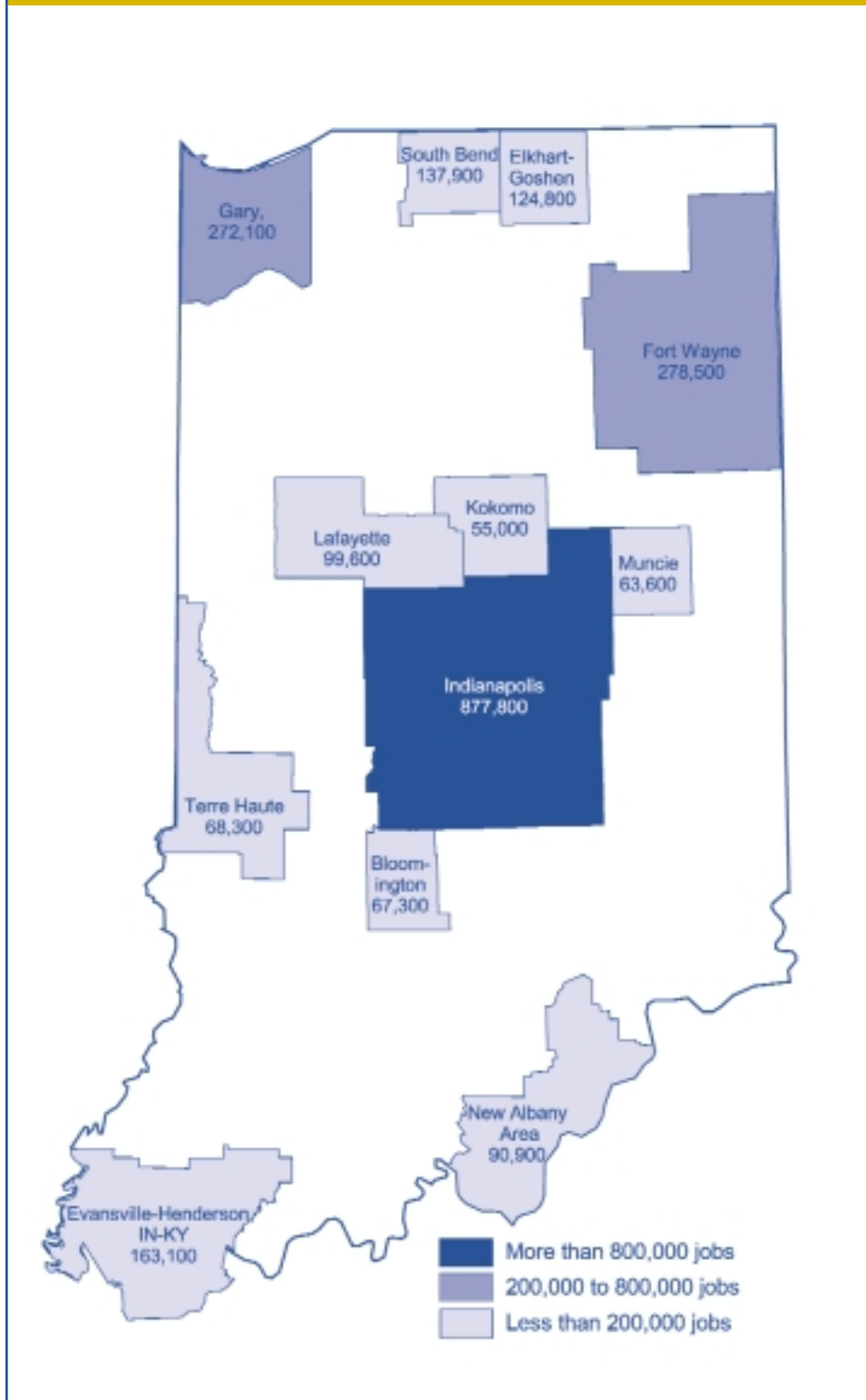
Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development



# Jobs by Metropolitan Statistical Area

Figure 4: December 1999 MSA Employment

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development



This page of each issue of *IN Context* will present different views of the employment data for Indiana. This month, the map shows total jobs as of December, 1999 in each Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) in Indiana. An MSA is defined by the federal government to include a main city and the surrounding territory that is most closely linked to the economy of that city.

There are ten MSAs in Indiana, plus two portions of MSAs that are centered on cities outside Indiana: the Gary area and the New Albany area.

Ranked by employment, Indianapolis' 877,800 jobs makes it the state's largest MSA. Fort Wayne and Gary are nearly equal to each other, between 270,000 and 280,000 jobs. The Kokomo MSA has the smallest number of jobs, at 55,000.