IN CONTEXT

Published six times per year by a partnership of:

Indiana Business Research Center

Kelley School of Business Indiana University

Director: Jerry Conover Editor: Carol O. Rogers

Managing Editor: Rachel Justis Circulation: Nikki Livingston

> **Bloomington Campus** 1275 E. Tenth Street, Suite 3110 Bloomington, IN 47405

IUPUI Campus 777 Indiana Avenue, Suite 210 Indianapolis, IN 46202

Web: www.ibrc.indiana.edu E-mail: context@indiana.edu

INDIANA UNIVERSITY



Indiana Department of Commerce

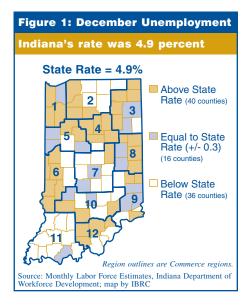
Research Director: Dennis Paramore



December's Unemployment Snapshot

ith 158,311 residents seeking work, Indiana ranked 13th in the nation for its overthe-month (OTM) percentage change in unemployment (3.9 percent), and fourth in absolute change (5,930). According to these nonseasonally adjusted figures, only Ohio, Wisconsin and Minnesota had higher OTM absolute gains in unemployment. When looking at Indiana's 2003 annual average, however, with a 5.1 percent unemployment rate, it is still well below the nation's 6 percent—the highest percentage point spread since 1999.

Commerce Region 11 had the lowest unemployment rate among the regions for



December, with an IBRC-calculated unemployment rate of 3.7 percent, and Commerce Region 4 had the highest (6.3 percent). Commerce Region 1, also known as the Gary Metropolitan Division, had the greatest OTM absolute increase in the number of people seeking work (1,575). Unfortunately, Gary may not have seen the last of high unemployment. According to an article in the *Times* of Northwest Indiana, Indiana University Northwest economics professor Don Coffin expects the region to lose up to 1,200 jobs in 2004, with unemployment rising to 7 percent.

—Amber Dodez-Kostelac, Data Manager, Indiana Business Research Center, Kelley School of Business, Indiana University

For the latest information and news, these are must-bookmark websites:

IN Context Online

www.incontext.indiana.edu

Indiana Economic Digest www.indianaeconomicdigest.net

STATS Indiana www.stats.indiana.edu



Indiana Business Research Center Kelley School of Business Indiana University, IUPUI Campus 777 Indiana Avenue, Suite 210 Indianapolis, IN 46202

Nonprofit Organization U.S. Postage **PAID** Permit No. 4245 Indianapolis, Indiana