

Region 6: A Detailed View of Employment and Wages

With the implementation of the national Workforce Investment Act of 1997, the Department of Workforce Development, in conjunction with the governor's office and local civic and government units, grouped Indiana's 92 counties into 12 regions. The Workforce Investment/economic development planning regions were based on, among other criteria, economic similarities in industrial composition, trade relationships and work commuting patterns.

Region 6 is located in east central Indiana and stretches to the eastern border of the state. It is comprised of Blackford, Delaware, Grant, Henry,

Jay, Madison and Randolph counties. The Muncie MSA, which consists of only Delaware County, is also located in Region 6. The city of Muncie, located in the center of the region, is approximately 55 miles northeast of Indianapolis. According to the 2000 Census, these seven contiguous counties are home to 437,293 residents, indicating a net gain of 1,930 residents, or 0.4%, over the past decade. The 2000 Census shows that Madison County — part of the Indianapolis MSA — has the largest population base in Region 6, accounting for 30% of the total population. The least populated county in the region is Blackford, with

14,048, or 3% of the regional population. The region has been losing population since its 1970 high of 472,677 residents.

On a more current note, the labor force for Region 6 was 209,000 in January 2001, down 0.2% from the previous January (see Tables 1 and 2). The labor force and employment were down in all Region 6 counties except Madison. Unemployment rates were higher in January 2001 than the previous year, and the number of unemployed workers in each county was also greater, even in Madison County.

Employment in the service industries grew nearly 30% in the last 10 years, while manufacturing decreased more than 16%. Since the late 1970s, manufacturing, which has been heavily concentrated around the transportation equipment industries, decreased 40% in the region. In the past, General Motors was the largest employer, due to the many large manufacturing plants in the area. Although the region has been significantly affected by declines in manufacturing, less than 20% of the area's 2000 total industry employment is still in the manufacturing sector. The service industries comprise 27% of the 2000 total industry employment. The region's fastest-growing occupations reflect the shift in industries. The 10 fastest-growing occupations include none of the factory skills that once were in high demand.

In the second quarter 2000, firms and employment by industry report 9,005 firms with 163,670 workers were in the region. The quarterly average wage for all industry groups (except

Table 1: January 2000 Local Area Employment and Unemployment

Area	Total Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Blackford County	6,340	6,020	320	5.0%
Delaware County	60,280	58,000	2,280	3.8%
Grant County	32,180	30,740	1,440	4.5%
Henry County	23,470	22,520	950	4.0%
Jay County	10,330	9,910	420	4.1%
Madison County	65,550	63,050	2,500	3.8%
Randolph County	11,300	10,620	680	6.0%
Region 6	209,450	200,860	8590	4.1%

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development

Table 2: January 2001 Local Area Employment and Unemployment

Area	Total Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Blackford County	6,165	5,770	395	6.4%
Delaware County	59,910	57,450	2,460	4.1%
Grant County	31,660	29,870	1,790	5.7%
Henry County	23,280	22,200	1,080	4.7%
Jay County	10,250	9,720	530	5.1%
Madison County	67,030	64,290	2,740	4.1%
Randolph County	10,730	10,020	710	6.6%
Region 6	209,025	199,320	9,705	4.6%

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development

federal) was \$27,055, which is lower than the state average of \$30,056. Manufacturing, with average annual wages of \$41,162, is the only industry group in the region reporting average

annual wages higher than the state average of \$40,132. The quarterly wages in individual counties for all industries ranged from \$30,524 in Madison to a low of \$23,400 in Jay

County (see Table 4). Wages in the manufacturing industries were highest in Henry County, \$55,796. Jay County once again had the lowest wages, \$27,872.

Table 3: Muncie MSA: Wage and Salary Employment

Sector	Jan. '01	Dec. '00	Jan. '00	Dec. '00 to Jan. '01		Jan. '00 to Jan. '01	
				Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Total Nonfarm	58,900	60,900	58,000	2,000	3.30%	-900	-1.60%
Goods Producing	12,100	12,200	11,700	100	0.80%	-400	-3.40%
Construction & Mining	2,400	2,500	2,200	100	4.00%	-200	-9.10%
Manufacturing	9,700	9,700	9,500	0	0.00%	-200	-2.10%
Durable Goods	7,900	7,900	7,600	0	0.00%	-300	-3.90%
Industrial Machinery	1,300	1,300	1,300	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Nondurable Goods	1,800	1,800	1,900	0	0.00%	100	5.30%
Service Producing	46,800	48,700	46,300	1,900	3.90%	-500	-1.10%
Transportation & Utilities	3,400	3,500	3,400	100	2.90%	0	0.00%
Wholesale Trade	1,700	1,700	1,700	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Retail Trade	12,100	12,800	12,100	700	5.50%	0	0.00%
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	1,900	1,900	1,900	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Services	16,000	16,300	15,500	300	1.80%	-500	-3.20%
Total Government	11,700	12,500	11,700	800	6.40%	0	0.00%
State	6,700	7,400	6,700	700	9.50%	0	0.00%
Local	4,400	4,500	4,500	100	2.20%	100	2.20%
Local Education	2,700	2,900	2,800	200	6.90%	100	3.60%

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development

Table 4: Employment and Wages in Covered* Employment, Second Quarter 2000

Region	June Employment	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS		AVERAGE ANNUAL EARNINGS	
		All	Manufacturing	All	Manufacturing
Indiana	2,930,320	\$578	\$791	\$30,056	\$41,132
Region 6	163,670	\$520	\$792	\$27,055	\$41,162
Blackford County	4,240	\$466	\$564	\$24,232	\$29,328
Delaware County (Muncie MSA)	53,980	\$528	\$854	\$27,456	\$44,408
Grant County	29,400	\$542	\$823	\$28,184	\$42,796
Henry County	14,660	\$580	\$1,073	\$30,160	\$55,796
Jay County	7,270	\$450	\$536	\$23,400	\$27,872
Madison County	46,220	\$587	\$1,040	\$30,524	\$54,080
Randolph County	7,900	\$489	\$651	\$25,428	\$33,852

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Covered Employment & Wages Report

*By Unemployment Insurance