



## NEWS RELEASE

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### State Unemployment Rate Report:

## ***December preliminary and November revised state unemployment figures released***

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Today the Indiana Department of Workforce Development released preliminary December and revised November 2004 unemployment figures for the state.

Computed in conjunction with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the state's unemployment rate is derived from a national survey of about 60,000 households. Of that number, approximately 1,300 Indiana households are polled each month during the calendar week that contains the 12<sup>th</sup> day of the month.

Indiana's **preliminary non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December was 5 percent**, remaining at the same level as November's 5 percent (revised) figure and December 2003's 5 percent mark.

For the month, the state's estimated non-seasonally adjusted labor force, or the number of people 16 years of age and older who were able and available for work, totaled 3,151,200. In November (revised), Indiana reported 3,165,000 people in its labor force, while in December 2003 the number was 3,169,300. Of December's total non-seasonally adjusted labor force figure, 2,992,700 Hoosiers were reported as employed and 158,500 people were unemployed.

Of Indiana's Midwest neighbors, Illinois reported 5.7 percent unemployment, Kentucky reported a 4.2 percent rate, Michigan's rate was 6.9 percent and Ohio recorded 5.6 percent unemployment rate for December. The U.S., meanwhile, posted a non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 5.1 percent.

Using the same data, and adjusting the numbers for seasonal employment trends, the federal government reported that Indiana's December **preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.1 percent**, down from November's 5.3 percent, but the same as December 2003's rate.

The state's estimated seasonally adjusted labor force for December reached 3,171,700 (preliminary), an increase from November's 3,167,800 number. Of the total December labor force, 3,008,600 Hoosiers were reported as employed and 163,100 as unemployed for the month.

Of Indiana's neighboring states, Illinois reported a 5.8 percent seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December, while Kentucky reported a 4.5 percent rate, Michigan's rate was 7.3 percent and Ohio's rate was reported at 5.9 percent. The U.S. seasonally adjusted rate for the month was 5.4 percent.

Revised unemployment figures for November showed that the state's *non-seasonally adjusted* unemployment rate increased from 4.9 to 5 percent, while the labor force figure grew from 3,164,400 (preliminary) to 3,165,000 (revised). At the same time, the number of Hoosiers

employed in November remained stable at 3,007,800 (revised) and the number of unemployed Hoosiers increased from 156,600 to 157,200.

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November's revised *seasonally adjusted* unemployment rate also remained at 5.3 percent, while the labor force went from 3,167,200 (preliminary) to 3,167,800 (revised). The number of Hoosiers employed remained unchanged at 3,000,400 (revised), while the number of Hoosiers reported as unemployed in November was revised from 166,900 (preliminary) to 167,400 (revised).

Through its various programs and initiatives, DWD is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures, and operates a statewide job placement service.

For more information on Indiana's unemployment rate, contact DWD at 1-888-WorkOne, or visit the web site at [www.workforce.IN.gov](http://www.workforce.IN.gov).

Technical Notes:

- In calculating unemployment rates, two different types of numbers are provided. The first, known as the *non-seasonally adjusted rate*, estimates employment and unemployment without taking into account the effects of seasonal trends. In calculating the *seasonally adjusted rate*, or employment that follows more or less a regular pattern each year, holiday, summer or other types of seasonal employment is factored out of the estimate. These adjustments make it easier to observe the cyclical and other non-seasonal movements.
- The Household survey that calculates the unemployment rate is conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and is conducted during the week of the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month.
- For most accurate analysis, please use revised data sets and not preliminary estimates
- Unemployment rates for individual counties, cities and metropolitan statistical areas will be available on Jan. 28, 2004.

**INDIANA VS. U.S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATES**

<b><i>Not Seasonally Adjusted</i></b>	<b>Dec. 2004p</b>	<b>Nov. 2004</b>	<b>Dec. 2003</b>
<b>Indiana</b>			
Labor Force	3,151,200	3,165,000	3,169,300
Employed	2,992,700	3,007,800	3,011,000
Unemployed	158,500	157,200	158,300
Rate	5.0	5.0	5.0
<b>U.S.</b>			
Rate	5.1	5.2	5.4
<b><i>Seasonally Adjusted</i></b>	<b>Dec. 2004p</b>	<b>Nov. 2004</b>	<b>Dec. 2003</b>
<b>Indiana</b>			
Labor Force	3,171,700	3,167,800	3,188,800
Employed	3,008,600	3,000,400	3,025,900
Unemployed	163,100	167,400	162,900
Rate	5.1	5.3	5.1
<b>U.S.</b>			
Rate	5.4	5.4	5.7

p= preliminary

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