

## Economic Report for LaPorte and Porter Counties

*This issue of ECON TRENDS contains information and statistical data about LaPorte and Porter counties' manufacturing sector including growth, employment, earnings, sales, and business distribution; and the unemployment trends.*

(Table 1)  
**1998 MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE**  
(LaPorte and Porter Counties)

### Manufacturing Employment and Wage

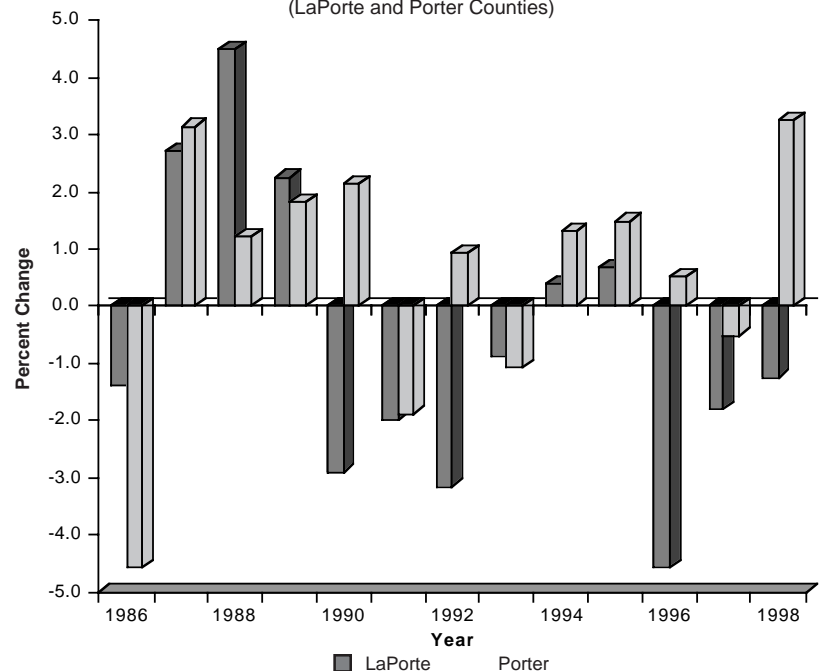
It should be noted that manufacturing as discussed here refers not only to large companies employing hundreds of workers, but also to the small operations that employ two, five or ten people, and all employers in between. In 1998, manufacturing accounted for 24.6 percent of those employed in LaPorte County and 22.6 percent in Porter County. Service industry employees account for 23.3 percent of the LaPorte County employment picture and 22.1 percent in Porter County. Retail employment accounts for 20.8 percent of LaPorte County employees and 20.4 percent in Porter County.

Those percentages vary only slightly from earlier years. For example, the 1997 manufacturing employment as a percentage of total industry employment in LaPorte County was 25.2 percent, compared to 22.3 percent in Porter County.

According to the statewide ranking of manufacturing employment published by the Harris Indiana Industrial Directory, between 1996 and 1998, LaPorte County dropped from 14th to 15th place among the state's 92 counties, while Porter County remained 13th in 1998.

Title	LaPorte County		Porter County	
	Annual Avg. Employment	Annual Avg. Wage	Annual Avg. Employment	Annual Avg. Wage
Food & Kindred Products	488	\$29,763	N/A	N/A
Apparel & Other Textile Products	477	\$26,140	83	\$14,735
Lumber & Wood Products, except Furniture	267	\$26,058	67	\$16,934
Furniture & Fixtures	176	\$31,472	12	\$26,669
Paper and Allied Products	394	\$30,725	N/A	N/A
Printing, Publishing and Allied Products	718	\$26,746	450	\$40,460
Chemicals & Allied Products	404	\$37,753	164	\$61,143
Rubber & misc. plastics products	826	\$27,964	351	\$39,980
Stone, clay, glass, & concrete products	117	\$27,883	367	\$47,552
Primary metal industries	1,734	\$36,963	8,096	\$60,347
Fabricated metal products, except machinery & transp. equipment	1,695	\$38,909	869	\$42,087
Machinery, except electrical	1,991	\$37,222	1,112	\$44,857
Electrical & electronic machinery, equip. & supplies (except computer equip.)	531	\$35,681	201	\$27,561
Transportation equipment	1,222	\$35,016	N/A	N/A
Measuring & controlling instruments; photo. & medical goods; watches & clocks	325	\$36,206	45	\$37,567
Misc. mfg industries	N/A	N/A	95	\$29,161

(Figure 1)  
**GROWTH IN MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT**  
(LaPorte and Porter Counties)



Source for Table 1 and Figure 1: Indiana Department of Workforce Development



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# MANUFACTURING

*continued from page 1*

Although the retail and service industries are growing at a strong pace, manufacturing remains the prominent industry of both LaPorte and Porter counties in terms of numbers employed. Manufacturing produces most of the durable and non-durable goods found in everyday life. Its processes and products are often more notable than those of other industries because of the nature of the resources and their operation. Above all, manufacturing employment typically offers higher wages and better benefits.

## Porter County Maintains Lead in Average Earnings

Although the average earnings in manufacturing in LaPorte County grew in the past years, manufacturing workers in that county continued to earn less than their peers in neighboring Porter County (Table 1). For example, the top average earnings in Porter County was \$61,143 in Chemicals & Allied Products while it was \$37,753 in LaPorte County. The top average earnings for manufacturing employees in LaPorte County was \$38,909 in Fabricated Metal Products (except machinery and transportation equipment) while it was \$42,087 in Porter County. The lowest

average earnings in manufacturing in LaPorte County was \$26,058 in Lumber & Wood Products (except Furniture) while it was \$16,934 in Porter County. Porter County experienced the lowest average earnings in Apparel & Other Textile Products at \$14,735 compared to \$26,140 in LaPorte County.

Illustration of the change in manufacturing employment is seen in Figure 1. Overall in the last 10 years, the average annual growth rates are -1.3 percent in LaPorte County and 0.8 percent in Porter County. Last year, LaPorte County experienced a decline of 1.2 while Porter County gained over 3.3 percent from the previous year.

The actual number of people employed in manufacturing has remained fairly constant in Porter County the last few years. However, LaPorte County manufacturing employment peaked at 13,499 in 1989, then declined steadily. It appeared to level off in 1994 then dropped

(Table 2)  
**MANUFACTURING STATISTICS BY MAJOR STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION**  
 (LaPorte and Porter Counties)

SIC Group	Establishments						Employees					
	LaPorte		% Chge.	Porter		% Chge.	Laporte		% Chge.	Porter		% Chge.
	1996	1998	1996-98	1996	1998	1996-98	1996	1998	1996-98	1996	1998	1996-98
Mining & Quarrying	2	1	-50.0	1	2	100.0	9	5	-44.4	250	354	41.6
Food & Kindred Products	4	5	25.0	9	8	-11.1	477	317	-33.5	485	421	-13.2
Textile Mill Products	1	0	-100.0	0	0	0.0	130	0	-100.0	0	0	N/A
Apparel & Textile Prdts From Fabrics	2	3	50.0	4	4	0.0	503	509	1.2	76	70	-7.9
Lumber & Wood Prdts Exc Furniture	13	12	-7.7	7	5	-28.6	226	235	4.0	39	30	-23.1
Furniture & Fixtures	4	4	0.0	1	0	-100.0	300	238	-20.7	0	0	N/A
Paper & Allied Products	9	9	0.0	0	0	0.0	482	464	-3.7	0	0	N/A
Printing, Publishing & Allied Inds	27	29	7.4	18	22	22.2	585	578	-1.2	361	431	19.4
Chemicals & Allied Products	20	18	-10.0	10	9	-10.0	639	609	-4.7	407	257	-36.9
Petroleum Refining & Related Inds	0	1	N/A	1	1	0.0	0	17	N/A	5	5	0.0
Rubber & Misc Plastics Prdts	11	11	0.0	5	5	0.0	557	575	3.2	171	166	-2.9
Leather And Leather Products	0	0	N/A	1	1	0.0	0	0	N/A	1	2	100.0
Stone, Clay, Glass & Concrete Prdts	7	9	28.6	5	3	-40.0	129	305	136.4	109	125	14.7
Primary Metal Inds	11	11	0.0	12	13	8.3	1,849	1,664	-10.0	8,543	8,504	-0.5
Fabricated Metal Prdts, Exc Mchry & Transport Eqpt	34	38	11.8	15	18	20.0	2,491	2,565	3.0	1,207	1,165	-3.5
Machinery, Except Electrical	45	44	-2.2	28	30	7.1	1,897	2,047	7.9	1,557	1,537	-1.3
Electrical & Electronic Mchry, Eqpt & Splys	10	13	30.0	3	4	33.3	398	718	80.4	82	40	-51.2
Transportation Eqpt	5	3	-40.0	4	5	25.0	1,467	806	-45.1	40	181	352.5
Meas, Analyzing & Controlling Instruments	5	8	60.0	3	4	33.3	439	384	-12.5	61	174	185.2
Misc Manufacturing Inds	3	7	133.3	6	8	33.3	157	147	-6.4	57	69	21.1
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	0	0	N/A	4	5	25.0	0	0	N/A	117	251	114.5
Business Services	4	4	0.0	4	5	25.0	273	140	-48.7	520	509	-2.1
Miscellaneous Repair Services	2	3	50.0	3	4	33.3	21	28	33.3	6	26	333.3
Social Services	1	1	0.0	1	1	0.0	210	58	-72.4	200	219	9.5
Engineering, Research, Mgmt & Related Services	0	0	N/A	0	0	N/A	0	0	N/A	0	0	N/A
Total	220	234	6.4	145	157	8.3	13,239	12,409	-6.3	14,294	14,536	1.7

Source: Harris Indiana Industrial Directory 1997-1999

# EARNINGS

*continued from page 2*

again at a slower rate from 1996. In 1998, 11,531 people were employed in manufacturing in LaPorte County while 12,331 were working in Porter County facilities, according to data provided by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development.

## Payroll-Employment Share Ratio

Employment alone may not render a clear picture. In general, manufacturing wages are higher than wages in other industries. Manufacturing workers in LaPorte and Porter counties generated about 35.9 and 39.9 percent, respectively, of total payroll in 1995. Furthermore, manufacturing workers in LaPorte and Porter counties accounted for about 27.2 and 23.1 percent of total employment. Therefore, the ratio of payroll to employment share in LaPorte and Porter counties were 1.3 and 1.7, respectively.

In 1998, the proportions of payroll contributed by manufacturing workers in LaPorte and Porter counties were 33.2 and 39.5 percent, respectively. However, the shares of total employment declined to 24.6 percent in LaPorte County and 22.6 percent in Porter County. These imply that payroll to employment share ratios in LaPorte and Porter counties were 1.4 and 1.8, respectively.

Despite the decline in manufacturing employment, retailers and counties still depend largely on manufacturing workers' income to support sales and taxes. The increase in ratios like those in LaPorte and Porter counties would suggest that the local economy relies increasingly on manufacturing employment for its economic base.

## Where Were These Employees Working?

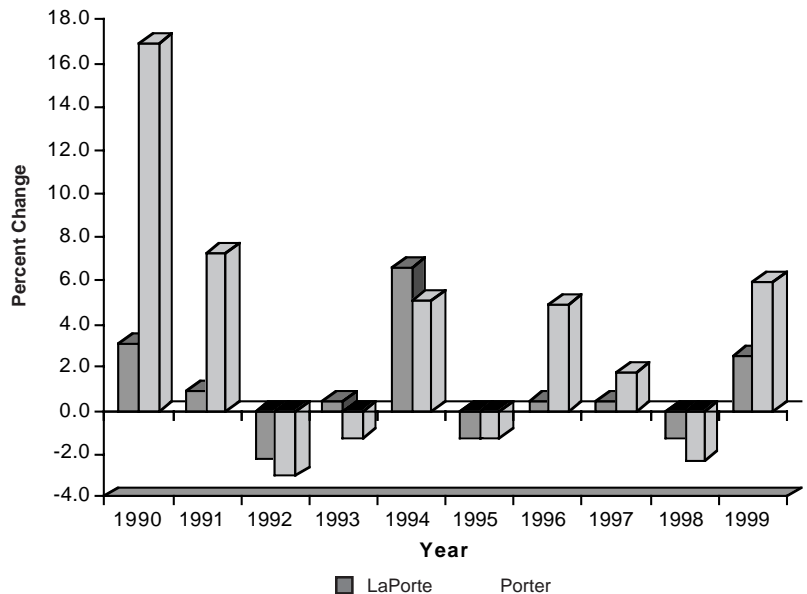
Table 2 shows that in 1998, the largest number of LaPorte and Porter County manufacturers were primarily in the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) categories of Machinery Except Electrical and Fabricated Metal Products Except Machinery and Transportation Equipment. The top three manufacturing employment classifications in Porter County are Primary

(Table 3)  
**MANUFACTURING FACILITIES**  
(LaPorte and Porter Counties)

Year	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99
<b>LaPorte County</b>										
Hanna	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Kingsbury	21	21	19	19	19	18	17	17	18	20
Kingsford Heights			1	1	1	2	2	2	3	3
LaCrosse	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	3
LaPorte	90	87	88	92	101	100	97	95	94	96
Michigan City	99	105	100	97	100	98	101	104	100	100
Mill Creek	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2
Rolling Prairie	5	4	4	4	6	6	6	5	6	5
Union Mills							1	2	2	2
Wanatah	2	3	4	3	4	5	5	5	5	5
Westville	7	5	4	5	5	5	6	6	6	6
Total	230	232	227	228	243	240	241	242	239	245
Percent Change	3.14	0.87	-2.16	0.44	6.58	-1.23	0.42	0.41	-1.24	2.51
<b>Porter County</b>										
Beverly Shores	1	1	1	1	1	1				1
Burns Harbor							2	4	4	8
Chesterton	25	28	29	29	30	31	31	30	28	27
Hebron	7	8	8	7	7	7	7	8	6	6
Kouts	9	10	9	6	6	6	6	6	6	5
Portage	30	32	29	29	32	33	36	36	35	35
Porter	2	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3
Valparaiso	78	80	78	80	84	79	85	86	87	94
Total	152	163	158	156	164	162	170	173	169	179
Percent Change	16.92	7.24	-3.07	-1.27	5.13	-1.22	4.94	1.76	-2.31	5.92

Source: Indiana Manufacturers Directory 1999

(Figure 2)  
**GROWTH IN MANUFACTURING FACILITIES**  
(LaPorte and Porter Counties)



Source: Indiana Manufacturers Directory 1999

# EMPLOYMENT

*continued from page 3*

(Table 4)  
**NUMBER OF MANUFACTURERS BY EMPLOYEE SIZE**  
 (LaPorte and Porter Counties)

Year	1998						
	10-19	20-49	50-99	100-249	250-499	500-999	1,000-4,999
<b>LaPorte County</b>							
Kingsbury	3	6	3	2			
Kingsford Heights	1	1					
LaPorte	19	16	13	6	5	1	
Michigan City	21	24	14	16	1	1	2
Rolling Prairie	2			1			
Union Mills	1						
Wanatah			1				
Westville	1						
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Porter County</b>							
Burns Harbor	1		1	2			
Chesterton	10	5	4	3			
Hebron	4						
Kouts	1	2	1				
Portage	5	7	7	6	1		
Porter				1			
Valparaiso	23	15	6	7	2		1
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

Source: Indiana Business Directory 1999-2000

(Table 5)  
**NUMBER OF MANUFACTURERS BY SALES VOLUME**  
 (LaPorte and Porter Counties)

Year	1998								
	.5-1	1-2.5	2.5-5	5-10	10-20	20-50	50-100	100-500	Over 500
<b>LaPorte County</b>									
Kingsbury		3	5	2	2	2			
Kingsford Heights		1	1						
LaPorte	4	12	13	9	11	8	2	1	
Michigan City	3	16	18	15	12	11	1		1
Rolling Prairie		1		1	1				
Union Mills		1							
Wanatah						1			
Westville		1							
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Porter County</b>									
Burns Harbor	1				2	1			
Chesterton		6	7	4	2	2		1	
Hebron	3			1	1				
Kouts			2	1	1				
Portage	2	3	5		10	4	1	1	
Porter							1		
Valparaiso	6	17	11	8	5	4	2		
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>

Source: Indiana Business Directory 1999-2000

Metal Industry, Machinery Except Electrical, and Fabricated Metal Products Except Machinery & Transportation Equipment. The percentage of the total manufacturing employment in these categories are 59, 11 and 8 percents, respectively.

LaPorte County manufacturing employment is more broadly based than that of Porter County, though the top three employing groups were the same as Porter County's biggest three. The largest manufacturing employment (about 21 percent of the total) was in Fabricated Metal Products Except Machinery & Transportation Equipment. The next two groups, Machinery Except Electrical and Primary Metal employed about 16.5 and 13.4 percent of the total, respectively. Following the top three was Transportation Equipment which employed about 6.5 percent of the total. The remaining categories of LaPorte County's manufacturing employment each employed less than 6 percent of the total.

Employment loss during the last three years in LaPorte County's manufacturing sector was largely in the categories of Textile Mill Products (-100 percent) and Social Services (-72.4 percent). The county gained employment mainly in Stone, Clay, Glass & Concrete Products (136.4 percent) and Electrical & Electronic Machinery, Equipment & Supplies (80.4 percent). Porter County experienced a significant decline in the areas of Electrical & Electronic Machinery, Equipment & Supplies (-51.2 percent) and Chemicals and Allied Products (-36.9 percent). Significant gains occurred in Transportation Equipment (352.5 percent) and Miscellaneous Repair Services (333.3 percent). Overall, LaPorte County experienced employment declines in thirteen major Standard Industrial Classification groups as compared with ten groups in Porter County from 1996 to 1998.

According to the 1996 Harris Indiana Industrial Directory, LaPorte County ranked eighth in the number of manufacturing establishments while Porter County ranked twentieth, respectively, among 92 counties in the state of Indiana. Two years later, LaPorte County still ranked eighth while Porter County moved up to eighteenth. The leaders in northern Indiana were Elkhart and St. Joseph counties, followed by Lake County.

# EMPLOYMENT

*continued from page 4*

Table 3 shows historical data of the number of manufacturing facilities from 1990 to 1999. Manufacturers tend to locate in a few large cities where there is easy access to major highways and other services and amenities. In 1999, about 80 percent of LaPorte County manufacturing is concentrated in Michigan City and in the city of LaPorte. In Porter County, about 87 percent is located in Valparaiso, Chesterton and Portage. The annual growth rate of manufacturing facilities in LaPorte County peaked at 6.6 percent in 1994 and dropped to 2.5 percent in 1999 (Figure 2). For Porter County the growth rate peaked at a high of 16.9 percent in 1990 and declined to 5.9 percent in 1999. However, LaPorte and Porter counties saw the highest number of manufacturing facilities in 1999 at 245 and 179, respectively.

As indicated in the next section, the number of manufacturing facilities that employ more than 10 employees has grown. The data in Tables 4 and 5 are inferred from information published in the Indiana Business Directory. Data in Table 4 show only the number of manufacturers employing ten or more employees while Table 3 data, which was derived from Indiana Manufacturing Directory, show the total number of manufacturing facilities regardless of size.

In 1996, about 34.7 and 43 percent of manufacturers in LaPorte and Porter counties, respectively, employed fewer than 10. About 53.3 percent in LaPorte County and 45 percent in Porter County employed between 10 and 99 employees. Only 12 percent of manufacturers in each county employed 100 or more workers.

In 1998, about 31 and 27 percent of manufacturers in LaPorte and Porter counties, respectively, employed fewer than 10. About 54 percent in LaPorte County and 58.6 percent in Porter County employed between 10 to 99 employees. Only 15 and 14.6 percents of manufacturers in LaPorte and Porter counties, respectively, employed 100 or more workers.

Table 5 indicates that in 1998 the majority of manufacturers (about 57 percent in LaPorte County and 52 percent in Porter County) that employed 10 or more generated between 2.5 and 20 million in sales volume.

(Table 6)  
**MANUFACTURERS AND THEIR MARKETS**  
 (LaPorte and Porter Counties)

	Local	Regional	National	Inter-national	N/A
<b>LaPorte County</b>					
<b>1997</b>					
Hanna	2			1	
Kingsbury		5	7	4	
Kingsford Heights	1			1	
LaCrosse	1				
LaPorte	20	21	29	22	
Michigan City	19	22	29	30	
Mill Creek	1	1			
Rolling Prairie		2	2	1	
Union Mills			1		
Wanatah		2	2	1	
Westville	3	2	1		
Total	47	55	71	60	
<b>1999</b>					
Hanna	2			1	
Kingsbury	2	5	7	5	1
Kingsford Heights	1			1	1
LaCrosse	2	1			
LaPorte	19	18	30	26	3
Michigan City	17	20	30	29	4
Mill Creek	2				
Rolling Prairie		2	1	2	
Union Mills			1		1
Wanatah		2	2	1	
Westville	3	2	1		
Total	48	50	72	65	10
% Change 1997-99	2.13	-9.09	-7.69	14.04	
<b>Porter County</b>					
<b>1997</b>					
Beverly Shores					
Burns Harbor			1	2	
Chesterton	7	12	3	8	
Hebron	3	3	1	1	
Kouts	3	1	1	1	
Portage	7	16	10	3	
Porter	1		1	1	
Valparaiso	22	23	16	23	
Total	43	55	33	39	
<b>1999</b>					
Beverly Shores				1	
Burns Harbor	1	1	3	2	1
Chesterton	7	12	2	6	
Hebron	3	2	1		
Kouts	1	2	1	1	
Portage	4	15	11	5	
Porter	1		2		
Valparaiso	22	22	21	25	9
Total	39	54	41	40	10
% Change 1997-99	-9.30	-1.82	24.24	2.56	

Source: Indiana Manufacturers Directory 1997-1999

In 1996 the majority of manufacturers (about 58.2 percent in LaPorte County and 49 percent in Porter County) that employed 10 or more generated between 2.5 and 20 million in sales volume.

From 1996 to 1998, there was a slight decline in the proportion of manufacturers that generated sales volume above \$2.5 million in LaPorte County but about the same in Porter County.

(Table 7)  
**FOREIGN TRADE 1999**  
(LaPorte and Porter Counties)

	Import/ Export	Import	Export
<b>LaPorte County</b>			
Hanna			1
Kingsbury	1	1	3
Kingsford Heights			
LaCrosse			
LaPorte	10		21
Michigan City	12	3	24
Mill Creek			1
Rolling Prairie			1
Union Mills			
Wanatah	1		
Westville			
Total	24	4	51
<b>Porter County</b>			
Beverly Shores			3
Chesterton	1		3
Hebron			
Kouts	1		1
Portage	5	4	4
Porter			
Valparaiso	9	3	15
Total	16	7	26

Source: Harris Indiana Industrial Directory 1999

(Table 8)  
**NUMBER OF EXPORTING MANUFACTURERS BY  
MAJOR STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION**

	LaPorte		Porter	
	1997	1999	1997	1999
Mining & Quarrying			2	
Food & Kindred Products				2
Textile Mill Products	2	2		
Apparel & Textile Prdts From Fabrics	3	2	1	
Lumber & Wood Prdts Exc Furniture	1	2		1
Furniture & Fixtures	1	1		
Paper & Allied Products	3	3	1	1
Printing, Publishing & Allied Inds		1	4	4
Chemicals & Allied Products	3	4	4	5
Petroleum Refining & Related Inds	1	1		1
Rubber & Misc Plastics Prdts	6	5	2	2
Stone, Clay, Glass & Concrete Prdts	1	1	1	2
Primary Metal Inds	6	5	4	4
Fabricated Metal Prdts, Exc Mchry & Transport Eqpt	13	15	3	1
Machinery, Except Electrical	17	19	9	9
Electrical & Electronic Mchry, Eqpt & Splys	7	7	7	6
Transportation Eqpt	2	3		
Meas, Analyzing & Controlling Instruments	5	4	2	2
Misc Manufacturing Inds				
Business Services				
Miscellaneous Repair Services				
Social Services				
Total	71	75	40	40

Source: Indiana Manufacturers Directory 1997-1999

## Increasing Expansion Into Global Marketplace

In today's economy, international business represents a substantial share of a firm's profits and sales volume. Firms that trade internationally can benefit from the economies of scale which simply means that they can spread costs over larger sales volume, and thereby enhance profits. The export volume can also increase if the dollar declines in value relative to other currencies, therefore making American products cheaper. An international market sometimes helps to stabilize the sale of cyclical products which are prone to seasonal variations in the domestic markets.

Table 6 shows that in 1997, 60 manufacturers (26 percent) in LaPorte County and 39 manufacturers (23 percent) in Porter County distributed their products in the global market. Seventy-one manufacturers from LaPorte County (30 percent) and 33 from Porter County (20 percent) distributed at the national level. In 1999, 65 manufacturers (28 percent) in LaPorte County and 40 manufacturers (23 percent) in Porter County distributed their products at the international level. Seventy two manufacturers from LaPorte County (31 percent) and 41 from Porter County (24 percent) distributed at the national level. The number of manufacturers that deal internationally increased in both counties from 1997 to 1999. In 1999, the proportion of manufacturers that distributed regionally was greater in Porter County (31 percent) than in LaPorte County (21 percent). The percentage of local distribution was 20 and 22 percent in LaPorte and Porter counties, respectively.

International trade is not a one way street. Typically, firms may choose to either export or import or do both as shown in Table 7. This table also shows foreign trade by cities in LaPorte and Porter counties. The majority of manufacturers in LaPorte (51 firms) and Porter (26 firms) counties indicate export only as their principal business. With a highly competitive U.S. market, many firms may see more rewarding opportunity to sell their product overseas. When the product is proved to be good, sales momentum will bring it back to the U.S. market.

# GLOBAL EXPANSION

*continued from page 6*

The leading companies in terms of exports are those that manufacture machinery and fabricated metal products. Thirty-four LaPorte County exporters and 10 in Porter County fell into these categories (see Table 8).

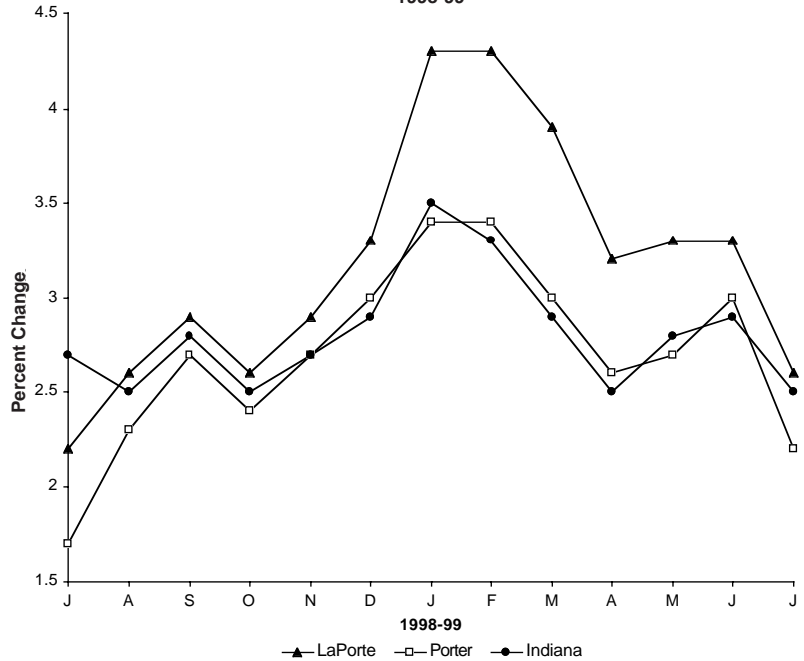
## Outlook

The report from Bruce F. Bendull, labor market analyst for the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, indicates local area labor shortages in various skilled occupations such as electronic technicians, machinists, machine setup operators, tool & die makers, maintenance mechanics, etc. "In fact, job applicant files at LaPorte and Porter counties' Workforce Development offices decreased significantly over the 12 months ending June 1999," said Bendull. The combined job applicant databases in these offices dropped by 32.9 percent (or 1,461 job seekers) from one year ago. However, the combined total still remained at 2,979 job applicants in June 1999. The number of individuals registered any time during the year July 1998 through June 1999 was 11,070, a decline of 3,803 or 25.6 percent from the preceding 12 month total of 14,873.

The key to a sustained moderate economic growth is a continued decline in the unemployment rate. Figure 3 provides the monthly unemployment picture. The latest figures available at press time show that in July the unemployment rates in both counties appear to be higher than the previous year. The rates tend to increase towards the winter months and peak during January and February. But this seasonal increase should pose no serious problem since the unemployment rates has been relatively low. The unemployment rates for July of this year were 2.5, 2.6 (1,420 unemployed) and 2.2 (1,680 unemployed) percent for the State of Indiana, LaPorte and Porter counties, respectively. However, these numbers will be revised in the future, so month to month figures should be viewed with caution.

Table 9 shows the percentage of employers in selected cities of LaPorte and Porter counties that plan to change or maintain the size of their workforce during the fourth quarter of 1999 as indicated by Manpower Inc.'s Employment Outlook Survey. The survey results reflect the intentions of the sample employers interviewed. Some of these intentions may change unexpectedly upon the conclusion of this survey.

(Figure 3)  
**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**  
1998-99



Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development

(Table 9)  
**EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK SURVEY**  
for the Fourth Quarter of 1999

(All figures are percentages)					
	Increase	No Change	Decrease	Don't Know	Net (Inc.- Dec.)
LaPorte	17	80	3	0	14
Michigan City	27	66	7	0	20
Valparaiso	13	81	3	3	10
Indiana	30	55	11	4	19
National	30	58	8	4	22
Midwest	30	58	9	3	21

Source: Manpower, Inc.

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