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CONTACT: Rick Farrant, Director of Communications
OFFICE: 260.469.4306
CELL: 260.414.6249
EMAIL: RFarrant@NEINworks.org

More Women Entering Northeast Indiana Manufacturing Sector

The number of women employed in northeast Indiana's manufacturing industry – the region's largest employer – has been growing steadily, according to Northeast Indiana Works' November Labor Market Report.

A comparison of U.S. Census Bureau fourth-quarter 2010 data and fourth-quarter 2015 data shows the number of women employed in manufacturing grew from 20,850 to 24,071, or 15.4 percent. That is the second largest percentage gain among the top five women-employing industries in northeast Indiana, all of which registered percentage increases.

However, those five industry sectors, including manufacturing, show little or no gains in the percentages of women employed compared to men.

The top five women-employing industries in northeast Indiana are: health care and social assistance, 39,074 women employees; manufacturing, 24,071; educational services, 20,035; retail trade, 17,809; and accommodation and food services, 17,587.

Between fourth-quarter 2010 and fourth-quarter 2015, the percentages of women employed in those industries have changed little: health care and social assistance, down from 82.6 percent to 82 percent; manufacturing, up from 29.1 percent to 29.4 percent; educational services, down from 68.9 percent to 68.5 percent; retail trade, down from 52.2 percent to 51 percent; accommodation and food services, down from 61.1 percent to 60.7 percent.

Across all industries, the employment of women is not keeping pace with the employment of men. While the number of women employed across northeast Indiana increased by more than 10,000 (or 7 percent) between 2010 and 2015, the percentage of women in the workforce dipped from 48.7 percent to 48.3 percent.

Northeast Indiana is faring better than the Midwest as a whole. Among all industries across 10 states (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin) the number of

women employed dropped by more than 1 million (or 10 percent), all five top women-employing industries registered significant decreases, and the percentage of women compared to men decreased from 50.4 percent to 49.8 percent.

One of the smaller industry sectors in northeast Indiana showing significant gains in the number of women employed is management of companies and enterprises – up 325, from 1,308 to 1,633, or 24.8 percent – comparing fourth-quarter 2010 and 2015 data. Conversely, the percentage of women employed in that industry dropped from 53.5 percent to 51 percent.

Fourth-quarter 2015 data is the latest period for which female-male employment information is available.

About Northeast Indiana Works: Northeast Indiana Works, the region’s workforce development board, provides public and private financial and employment resources to businesses and individuals for education and skills training to meet the needs of regional industries. The nonprofit sets policy for how public and private funds are utilized to support talent development. It also operates and staffs the 11 county-based WorkOne Northeast career centers in the region. Individuals and companies may access resources and services by visiting or calling WorkOne in their county. To find your local WorkOne, log on to www.neinworks.org