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Report: Many Young People Working in Lower-Paying Industries

Fort Wayne, IN – Young people in northeast Indiana tend to be employed in lower-paying industries, according to the November Labor Market Report issued by Northeast Indiana Works.

On average between 2010 and 2014, administrative and support services led the way in new hires 19 to 24 years old (22.6 percent), followed by accommodation and food services (17.3); retail trade (16.2); manufacturing (11.3); and health care and social assistance (8.7).

Among those, manufacturing leads the way in average monthly earnings for people 19 to 24 (\$2,741), followed by administrative and support services (\$1,708); health care (\$1,596); retail trade (\$1,264); and accommodation and food services (\$1,012).

Administrative and support services largely includes those employed through temp agencies; also included are janitorial and landscaping services. Accommodation and food services includes workers in the hotel and restaurant businesses.

Even among workers 25 to 34 years old – when some people have presumably obtained an industry-recognized credential or graduated from college -- relatively low-paying industries rank high in new hires: administrative and support services ranks first, followed by manufacturing; accommodation and food services; health care and social assistance; and retail trade.

Manufacturing is an exception to the relatively low-paying industries; it is among the highest-paying industries in northeast Indiana for young people. Other relatively high-paying industries for young workers, especially those 25 to 34: professional, scientific and technical services; construction; management of companies and enterprises; and wholesale trade.

Although manufacturing is among the highest-paying industries for young people, those workers make up a smaller percentage of that workforce than young people in many other industry workforces in northeast Indiana. Just under 8 percent of manufacturing workers are 19 to 24 and 18.3 percent are 25 to 34.

Accommodation and food services is the industry with the largest percentage (25.4) of workers 19 to 24. Administrative and supportive services is the industry with the largest percentage (25.0) of workers 25 to 34.

The numbers in the report include both part-time and full-time workers and are based on an analysis of U.S. Census Bureau information.

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.workoneworks.com