



THE

Lebanon Reporter

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2009

WWW.REPORTER.NET

50¢

County loses 577 jobs in 12 months

BY ROD ROSE
The Lebanon Reporter

Boone County's unemployment rate improved by three-tenths of a percent between August and September of this year, but is still 2.8 percent higher than it was at this time last year.

At 6.8 percent, Boone's unemployment rate meant 1,861 persons of the just-over 27,500 available workers were without jobs.

The jobless rate doesn't necessarily include everyone who is collecting unemployment, nor does the number of persons in the "labor pool" necessarily include all of the county's potential workers.

"The labor pool includes anyone who is able, available and interested in work," said Mark Lotter, a spokesman for the Indiana Department of Workforce Development.

More than 1,300 workers have dropped out of Boone County's labor pool in the last year, according to the IDWD's report.

While the percentage of persons reporting they were unemployed fell, the number of Hoosiers out of work rose by nearly 100,000 over the last year.

Boone County has 577 fewer jobs since the same time last year.

Indiana was also losing employees. More than 188,000 fewer Hoosiers were reported as "working" in September than a year ago.

Lotter said there could be "many reasons" for the difference in the labor pool.

"You could have people who became discouraged and stopped looking," he said. "You could have people who have retired." Or some of those persons may have gone back to school, retraining for other careers, Lotter said.

To determine the unemployment rate, the state does a monthly random survey; checks payroll records and examines jobless claims, Lotter said.

▼ Turn to **JOBS**/ Page 10

Jobs

▲ Continued from Page 1

"One of the big misconceptions is that the unemployment figure is the number (of persons) who are collecting unemployment," Lotter said. "It includes both those who are and are not collecting benefits."

Anyone who has a job is counted as employed, whether they are working part-time or full-time, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics said.

Indiana's overall unemployment rate has fallen 1.1 percent in the last three months, to 9.6 percent in September.

"Indiana is bucking the national trend with three straight months of declining unemployment," said Teresa Voors, commissioner of the IDWD.

INDIANA

	labor pool	working	unemployed
Sept. 08	3,226,796	3,039,454	187,342
Sept. 09	3,138,958	2,851,238	287,720
Difference	-87,838	-188,216	+100,378

BOONE COUNTY

Sept. 08	28,117	26,983	1,134
Sept. 09	27,540	25,679	1,861
Difference	-544	-1,304	+ 727

Job prospects for Boone workers could improve next year, if the economy rebounds enough to convince businesses to start building, said Dax Norton, executive director of the Boone Economic Development Corp.

"(New business) leads are coming in steadily," Norton

said. Boone is on the "short list" for several companies planning expansion. Companies aren't building because the capital markets are tight, he said.

"We believe in 2010 you'll see deals being closed," Norton said.

"We're poised and ready to go; it's all a matter of capital opening up," he said.