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INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

LABOR MARKET REVIEW



May 2025 Labor Market Review

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Economic Growth Region 1

Statistical Data Report for May 2025, Released July 2025

State Employment and Unemployment

Unemployment rates were higher in May in 3 states, lower in 2 states, and stable in 45 states and the District of Columbia, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Twenty-four states and the District had jobless rate increases from a year earlier, 4 states had decreases, and 22 states had little change. The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.2 percent but was 0.2 percentage point higher than in May 2024.

In May 2025, nonfarm payroll employment was essentially unchanged in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 18 states and was essentially unchanged in 32 states and the District.



Economic Growth Region (EGR) 1

Jasper, Lake, LaPorte, Newton, Porter, Pulaski and Starke Counties

May 2025 Labor Force Estimates (not seasonally adjusted)						
Area	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	May-25	Apr-25	May-24
U.S.	170,216,000	163,401,000	6,815,000	4.0%	3.9%	3.7%
IN	3,496,249	3,377,094	119,155	3.4%	3.0%	4.0%
Lake-Porter-Jasper Div	354,293	338,240	16,053	4.5%	4.0%	5.0%
MichCity-LaPorte MSA	52,171	50,257	1,914	3.7%	3.5%	4.3%
EGR 1	423,200	404,639	18,561	4.4%	3.9%	4.9%
Lake Co.	241,590	229,710	11,880	4.9%	4.4%	5.4%
Porter Co.	88,799	85,496	3,303	3.7%	3.3%	4.3%
LaPorte Co.	52,171	50,257	1,914	3.7%	3.5%	4.3%
Newton Co.	6,850	6,585	265	3.9%	3.3%	4.0%
Jasper Co.	17,054	16,449	605	3.5%	3.2%	4.0%
Starke Co.	9,545	9,148	397	4.2%	4.0%	4.8%
Pulaski Co.	7,191	6,994	197	2.7%	2.4%	3.5%
East Chicago	11,103	10,442	661	6.0%	5.0%	7.0%
Hammond	36,472	34,650	1,822	5.0%	4.6%	5.8%
Munster	12,014	11,525	489	4.1%	3.4%	4.5%
Dyer	8,417	8,145	272	3.2%	2.9%	4.6%
Schererville	15,823	15,250	573	3.6%	3.1%	4.2%
Crown Point	16,767	16,061	706	4.2%	3.8%	4.9%
Griffith	9,424	8,961	463	4.9%	4.8%	4.5%
Highland	12,327	11,800	527	4.3%	3.7%	4.7%
Gary	24,517	22,425	2,092	8.5%	7.7%	8.7%
Merrillville	18,190	17,148	1,042	5.7%	4.9%	5.9%
Hobart	15,361	14,643	718	4.7%	4.3%	4.6%
Lake Station	5,495	5,190	305	5.6%	5.5%	7.2%
Portage	19,051	18,211	840	4.4%	3.9%	4.9%
Chesterton	7,467	7,200	267	3.6%	3.0%	4.2%
Valparaiso	17,719	17,095	624	3.5%	3.0%	4.0%
Michigan City	13,753	13,151	602	4.4%	4.3%	4.7%
LaPorte	11,181	10,807	374	3.3%	3.0%	3.9%

Unemployment Rates by State (seasonally adjusted): May 2025

U.S. - 4.2%

Illinois - 4.8%

Indiana - 3.7%

Kentucky - 5%

Michigan - 5.4%

Ohio - 4.9%

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Unemployment Rank by County (of 92 counties): May 2025

#2 - Lake (4.9%)

#3 - Starke (4.2%)

#9 - Newton (3.9%)

#14 - LaPorte (3.7%)

#15 - Porter (3.7%)

#25 - Jasper (3.5%)

#90 - Pulaski (2.7%)

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research & Analysis, Local Area Unemployment Statistics | Unemployment Statistics Released:06/25 | Notes: The data displayed are presented as estimates only. The most recent month's data are always preliminary and are revised when the next month's data are released. Gary Division has been renamed to Lake-Porter-Jasper Counties Division but still includes Newton County. Michigan City-LaPorte MSA: LaPorte County

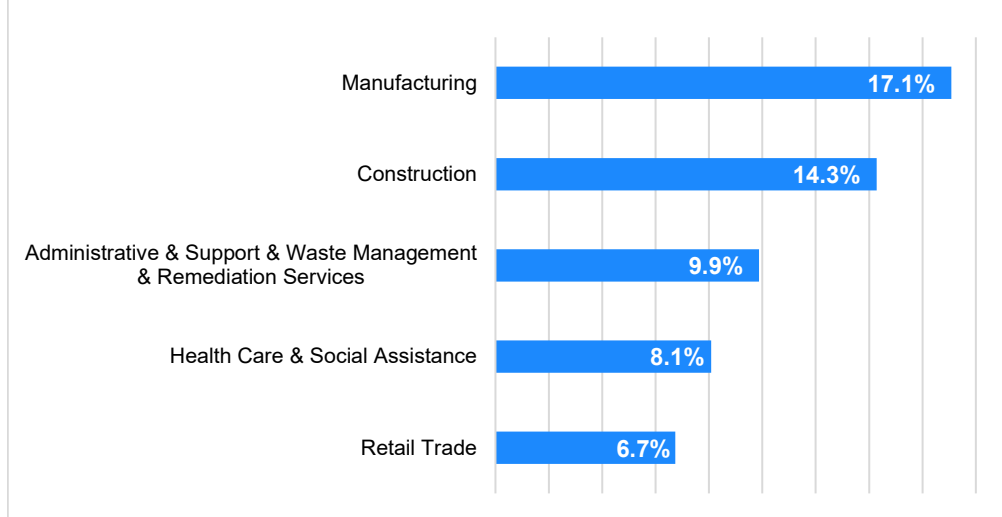
Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Development, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Statewide Average Weekly Hours & Earnings by Industry for May 2025			
Industry	Avg. Earnings per hr	Avg. # of hours worked per week	Avg. Earnings per week
Construction	\$35.73	39.5	\$1,411.34
Manufacturing	\$25.93	42.5	\$1,102.03
Durable Goods	\$26.92	44.2	\$1,189.86
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	\$26.18	41.9	\$1,096.94
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	\$28.60	43.5	\$1,244.10
Non-Durable Goods	\$23.14	38.3	\$886.26
Retail Trade	\$20.17	27.9	\$562.74
Financial Activities	\$27.74	36.6	\$1,015.28
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$30.43	32.6	\$992.02
Accommodation and Food Services	\$17.22	24.2	\$416.72
Food Services and Drinking Places	\$16.82	24.1	\$405.36

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Current Employment Statistics

Percentage of Unemployment Claims for Top 5 Region 1 Industries May 2025

Distribution as a Percent of Total



Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis

WARN Notices

WARN Notices for Region 1 for May 2025				
Company	City	County	# affected	Notice Date
NFI Industries	Crown Point	Lake	78	5/2/2025
Significant WARN Notices for nearby locations				
Company	City	County	# Affected	Notice Date

There are no WARN Notices for nearby locations

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, WARN Notices | For information on WARN Act requirements, you may go to the U.S. Department of Labor Employment Training Administration Fact Sheet: <https://www.doleta.gov/programs/factsht/warn.htm>

Unemployment Claims: May 2025

Region 1

Initial Claims

05/03/25 - 328(D)
05/10/25 - 372(D)
05/17/25 - 376(D)
05/24/25 - 409(D)
05/31/25 - 327(D)

Continued Claims

05/03/25 - 2,309
05/10/25 - 2,284
05/17/25 - 2,378
05/24/25 - 2,241
05/31/25 - 2,184

Total Claims

05/03/25 - 2,637
05/10/25 - 2,656
05/17/25 - 2,754
05/24/25 - 2,650
05/31/25 - 2,511

State of Indiana

Initial Claims

05/03/25 - 2,749
05/10/25 - 2,564
05/17/25 - 2,512
05/24/25 - 2,504
05/31/25 - 2,504

Continued Claims

05/03/25 - 21,137
05/10/25 - 20,537
05/17/25 - 20,644
05/24/25 - 20,243
05/31/25 - 21,697

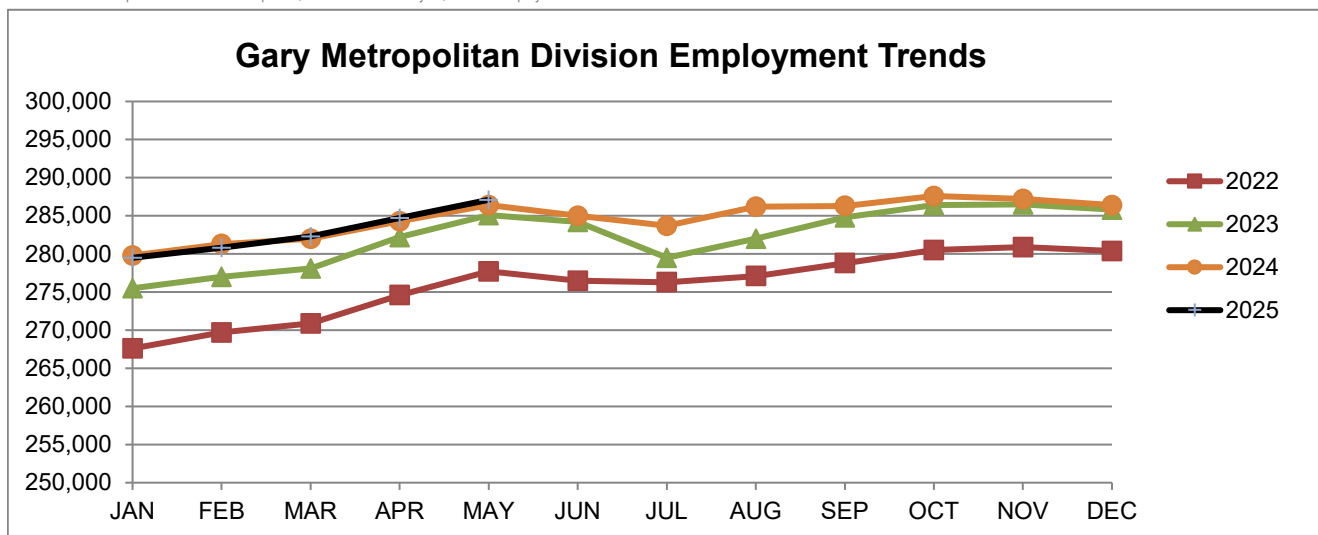
Total Claims

05/03/25 - 23,886
05/10/25 - 23,101
05/17/25 - 23,156
05/24/25 - 22,747
05/31/25 - 24,201

Notes: (D) Indicates one or more counties are excluded due to non-disclosure issues | Numbers subject to weekly revision | Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis

Gary Metropolitan Division							
Wage and Salaried Employment	May 2025			# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Industry	May-25	Apr-25	May-24	Apr-25 to May-25		May-24 to May-25	
Total Nonfarm	287,100	284,700	286,400	2,400	0.8%	700	0.2%
Total Private	254,100	252,200	252,400	1,900	0.8%	1,700	0.7%
Goods Producing	52,100	51,500	51,800	600	1.2%	300	0.6%
Service Providing	235,000	233,200	234,600	1,800	0.8%	400	0.2%
Private Service Providing	202,000	200,700	200,600	1,300	0.7%	1,400	0.7%
Mining and Logging	100	100	100	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Mining, Logging and Construction	18,000	17,400	18,000	600	3.5%	0	0.0%
Construction	17,900	17,300	17,900	600	3.5%	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	34,100	34,100	33,800	0	0.0%	300	0.9%
Durable Goods	25,100	25,000	24,800	100	0.4%	300	1.2%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	61,100	61,000	60,700	100	0.2%	400	0.7%
Wholesale Trade	11,500	11,300	10,700	200	1.8%	800	7.5%
Retail Trade	31,900	32,000	31,800	-100	-0.3%	100	0.3%
General Merchandise Stores	7,000	7,100	6,900	-100	-1.4%	100	1.5%
Other Gen Merch Stores	5,200	5,200	5,100	0	0.0%	100	2.0%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	17,700	17,700	18,200	0	0.0%	-500	-2.8%
Information	1,900	1,900	1,900	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	9,300	9,300	9,500	0	0.0%	-200	-2.1%
Professional and Business Services	29,200	28,900	29,000	300	1.0%	200	0.7%
Employment Services	3,200	3,200	3,200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Education and Health Services	52,300	52,300	51,100	0	0.0%	1,200	2.4%
Educational Services	5,700	6,100	5,400	-400	-6.6%	300	5.6%
Health Care and Social Assistance	46,600	46,200	45,700	400	0.9%	900	2.0%
General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	14,000	13,900	13,700	100	0.7%	300	2.2%
Leisure and Hospitality	33,300	32,600	33,800	700	2.2%	-500	-1.5%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	3,800	3,700	4,300	100	2.7%	-500	-11.6%
Food Services and Drinking Places	29,500	28,900	29,500	600	2.1%	0	0.0%
Other Services	14,900	14,700	14,600	200	1.4%	300	2.1%
Total Government	33,000	32,500	34,000	500	1.5%	-1,000	-2.9%
Federal Government	2,000	2,000	2,000	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
State Government	4,400	4,500	4,400	-100	-2.2%	0	0.0%
Local Government	26,600	26,000	27,600	600	2.3%	-1,000	-3.6%
Local Government Educational Services	15,300	15,200	15,600	100	0.7%	-300	-1.9%

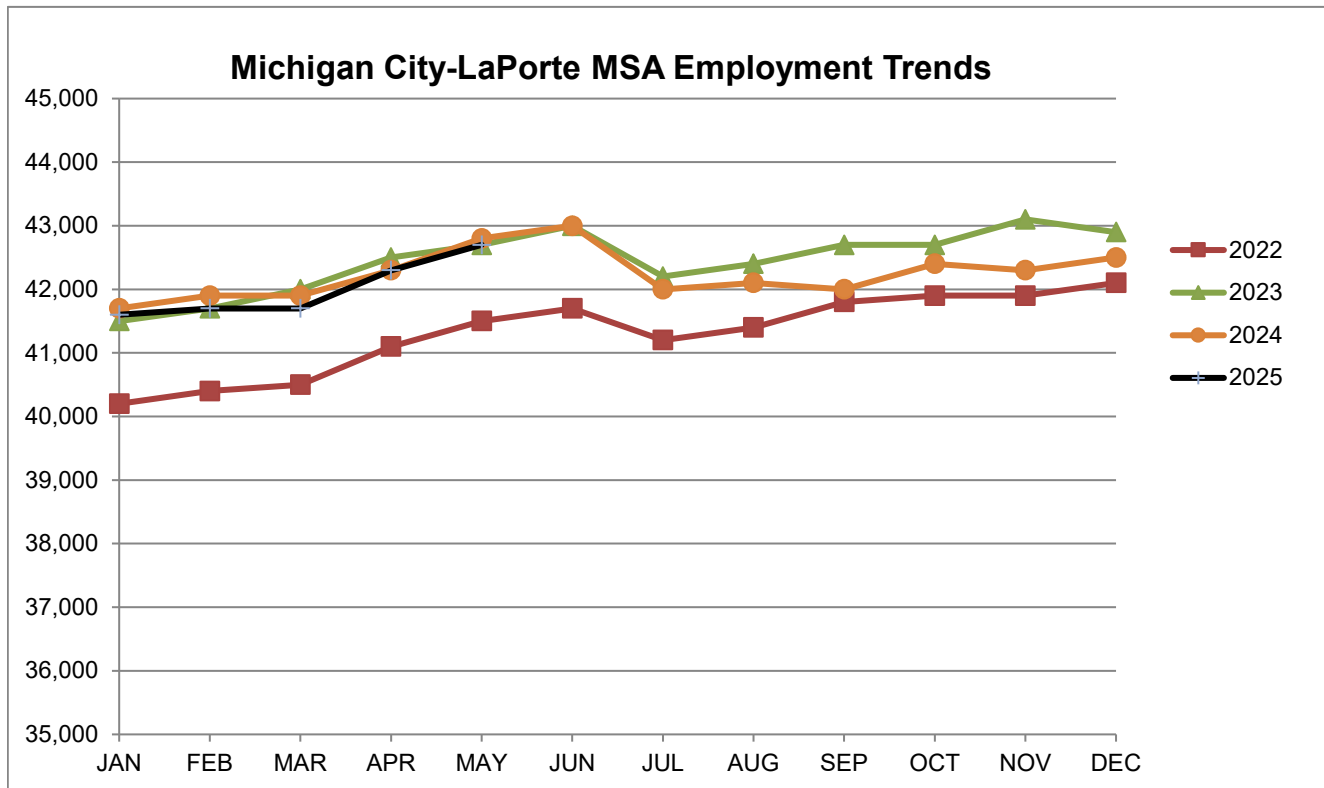
Source: Indiana Dept of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis, Current Employment Statistics



Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research & Analysis, Current Employment Statistics | Note: Historical data for the most recent 4 years (both seasonally adjusted and not seasonally adjusted) are revised near the beginning of each calendar year, prior to the release of January estimates for statewide data.

Michigan City-LaPorte MSA							
Wage and Salaried Employment	May 2025			# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Industry	May-25	Apr-25	May-24	Apr-25 to May-25		May-24 to May-25	
Total Nonfarm	42,700	42,300	42,800	400	1.0%	-100	-0.2%
Total Private	36,200	35,800	36,300	400	1.1%	-100	-0.3%
Goods Producing	11,100	10,900	11,000	200	1.8%	100	0.9%
Service Providing	31,600	31,400	31,800	200	0.6%	-200	-0.6%
Private Service Providing	25,100	24,900	25,300	200	0.8%	-200	-0.8%
Mining, Logging and Construction	2,500	2,400	2,400	100	4.2%	100	4.2%
Manufacturing	8,600	8,500	8,600	100	1.2%	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	8,400	8,300	8,500	100	1.2%	-100	-1.2%
Wholesale Trade	1,900	1,800	1,800	100	5.6%	100	5.6%
Retail Trade	4,900	4,900	4,900	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Information	200	200	200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	1,300	1,300	1,300	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Professional and Business Services	2,700	2,700	2,800	0	0.0%	-100	-3.6%
Education and Health Services	6,000	6,000	5,800	0	0.0%	200	3.5%
Leisure and Hospitality	5,000	4,900	5,200	100	2.0%	-200	-3.9%
Other Services	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total Government	6,500	6,500	6,500	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Federal Government	200	200	200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
State Government	2,000	2,000	1,900	0	0.0%	100	5.3%
Local Government	4,300	4,300	4,400	0	0.0%	-100	-2.3%
Local Government Educational Services	2,400	2,400	2,400	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

Source: Indiana Dept of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis, Current Employment Statistics



Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research & Analysis, Current Employment Statistics | Note: Historical data for the most recent 4 years (both seasonally adjusted and not seasonally adjusted) are revised near the beginning of each calendar year, prior to the release of January estimates for statewide data.

Frequently Listed Jobs	
Top 20 job listings by number of openings in Region 1 in the past month	
Rank	Occupations
1	Farmworkers and Laborers, Crop, Nursery, and Greenhouse
2	Construction Laborers
3	Home Health Aides
4	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General
5	Agricultural Equipment Operators
6	Tellers
7	New Accounts Clerks
8	Engineers, All Other
9	Cutting and Slicing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders
10	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers
11	Maintenance Workers, Machinery
12	Production Workers, All Other
13	Accountants and Auditors
14	Architectural and Engineering Managers
15	Electro-Mechanical and Mechatronics Technologists and Technicians
16	Financial Managers
17	First-Line Supervisors of Helpers, Laborers, and Material Movers, Hand
18	Industrial Engineers
19	Industrial Machinery Mechanics
20	Manufacturing Engineers

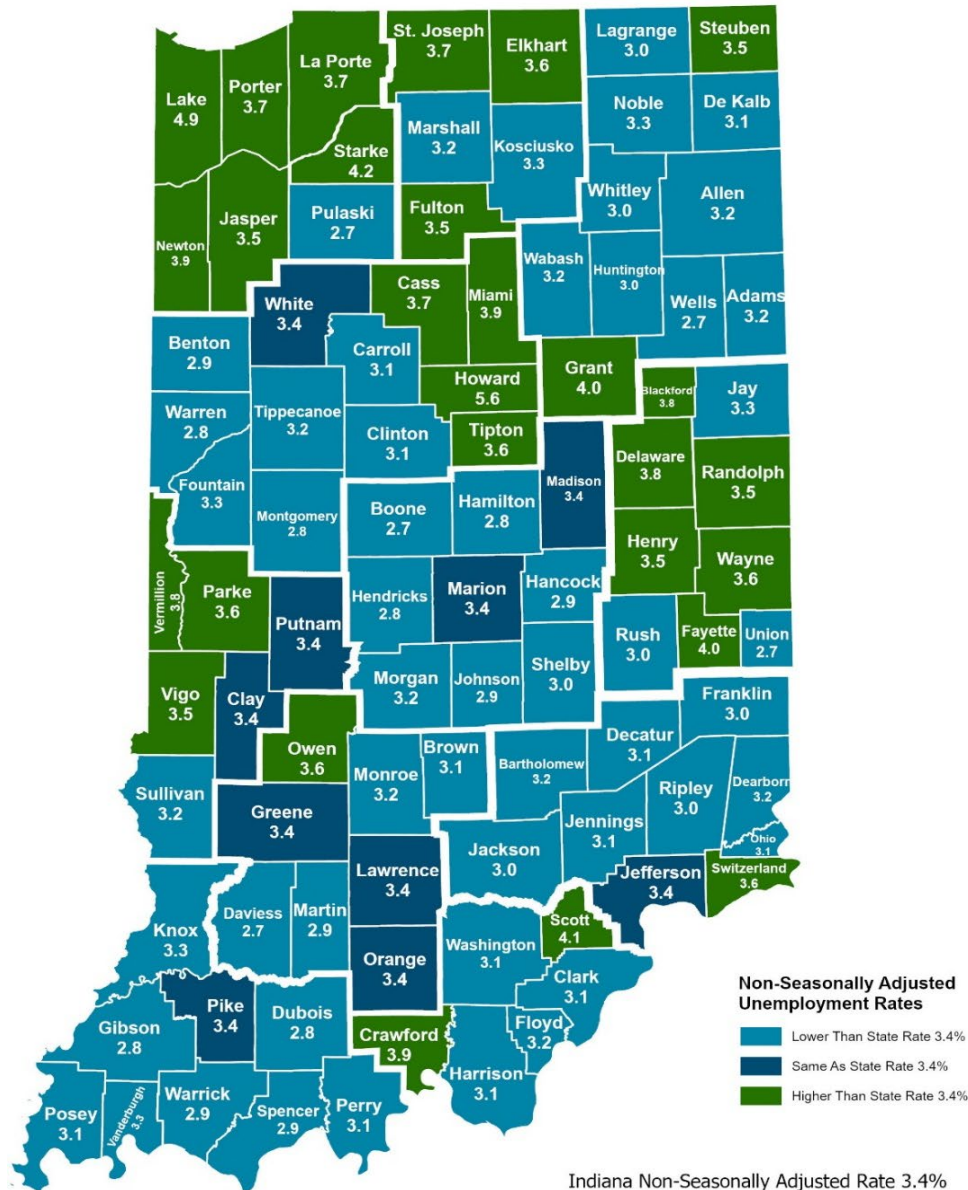
* Due to an upgrade in the reporting system, there is a notable change in Job Postings recorded. The tool used to measure Job Postings was upgraded to prevent malicious or false postings. While customers adjust to the enhancements a drop in the record is to be expected.

Source: Indiana Workforce Development, Indiana Career Connect

Applicant Pool	
Top 20 occupations desired by applicants on their resumes in the past 12 months	
Occupations	# of applicants
Production Workers, All Other	848
Helpers--Production Workers	762
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	719
Customer Service Representatives	584
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	519
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	499
Cashiers	488
Construction Laborers	390
Office Clerks, General	318
Carpenters	293
Managers, All Other	251
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	249
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	243
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	234
Retail Salespersons	228
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	224
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	221
Construction and Related Workers, All Other	213
Extraction Workers, All Other	212
Medical Assistants	208

Source: Indiana Workforce Development, Indiana Career Connect

County Unemployment Rates May 2025



Indiana Non-Seasonally Adjusted Rate 3.4%
 Indiana Seasonally Adjusted Rate 3.7%
 Source: DWD, Local Area Unemployment Statistics



Questions?

Please contact the DWD
 Research and Analysis
 Regional Labor Analyst
 listed below:

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 Research and Analysis

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