



HOOSIERS BY THE NUMBERS

Your premier source for labor market information for Indiana.

DWD

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

LABOR MARKET REVIEW



August 2026 Labor Market Review

Reported by: Kathy Jaworski

Regional Workforce Analyst

[Email Kathy](#)

kjaworski@dwd.in.gov

Tel: 219-841-6347

DWD

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT



HOOSIERS BY THE NUMBERS

Your premier source for labor market information for Indiana.



LABOR MARKET REVIEW

Economic Growth Region 1

Statistical Data Report for August 2026, Released October 2026

State Employment and Unemployment

Unemployment rates were lower in August in 8 states and the District of Columbia and stable in 42 states, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Fourteen states and the District had jobless rate decreases from a year earlier, 10 states had increases, and 26 states had little change. The national unemployment rate, 4.1 percent, was unchanged over the month and was little changed from August 2025. In August 2026, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 4 states and was essentially unchanged in 46 states and the District of Columbia. Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 8 states, decreased in the District, and was essentially unchanged in 42 states.



Economic Growth Region (EGR) 1

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

August 2026 Labor Force Estimates (not seasonally adjusted)						
Area	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Aug-26	Jul-26	Aug-25
U.S.	170,048,000	162,667,000	7,381,000	4.3%	4.4%	4.5%
IN	3,488,974	3,364,991	123,983	3.6%	3.6%	3.8%
Lake-Porter-Jasper Div	355,409	339,613	15,796	4.4%	4.4%	4.6%
MichCity-LaPorte MSA	52,023	50,049	1,974	3.8%	3.8%	3.9%
EGR 1	425,624	407,234	18,390	4.3%	4.3%	4.5%
Lake Co.	241,946	230,398	11,548	4.8%	4.7%	5.0%
Porter Co.	89,210	85,798	3,412	3.8%	3.8%	3.9%
LaPorte Co.	52,023	50,049	1,974	3.8%	3.8%	3.9%
Newton Co.	7,011	6,777	234	3.3%	3.6%	3.8%
Jasper Co.	17,242	16,640	602	3.5%	3.6%	3.6%
Starke Co.	9,649	9,257	392	4.1%	4.3%	4.5%
Pulaski Co.	8,543	8,315	228	2.7%	2.7%	2.8%
East Chicago	10,972	10,400	572	5.2%	5.1%	6.0%
Hammond	36,231	34,517	1,714	4.7%	4.6%	4.8%
Munster	12,038	11,515	523	4.3%	4.4%	4.2%
Dyer	8,448	8,135	313	3.7%	3.6%	3.4%
Schererville	15,921	15,287	634	4.0%	4.0%	3.8%
Crown Point	16,848	16,132	716	4.2%	4.4%	4.2%
Griffith	9,317	8,928	389	4.2%	4.0%	4.2%
Highland	12,258	11,766	492	4.0%	4.1%	4.1%
Gary	24,267	22,355	1,912	7.9%	7.6%	9.2%
Merrillville	18,374	17,421	953	5.2%	5.1%	5.8%
Hobart	15,335	14,623	712	4.6%	4.5%	4.7%
Lake Station	5,479	5,175	304	5.5%	5.2%	5.7%
Portage	19,049	18,250	799	4.2%	4.2%	4.3%
Chesterton	7,481	7,203	278	3.7%	3.6%	3.8%
Valparaiso	18,002	17,321	681	3.8%	3.7%	3.9%
Michigan City	13,606	13,058	548	4.0%	4.0%	4.7%
LaPorte	11,195	10,777	418	3.7%	3.6%	3.5%

Unemployment Rates by State (seasonally adjusted): August 2026

U.S. - 4.1%

Illinois - 4.7%

Indiana - 3.3%

Kentucky - 4.7%

Michigan - 5%

Ohio - 3.3%

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

Unemployment Rank by County (of 92 counties): August 2026

#1 - Lake (4.8%)

#7 - Starke (4.1%)

#9 - LaPorte (3.8%)

#11 - Porter (3.8%)

#31 - Jasper (3.5%)

#48 - Newton (3.3%)

#90 - Pulaski (2.7%)

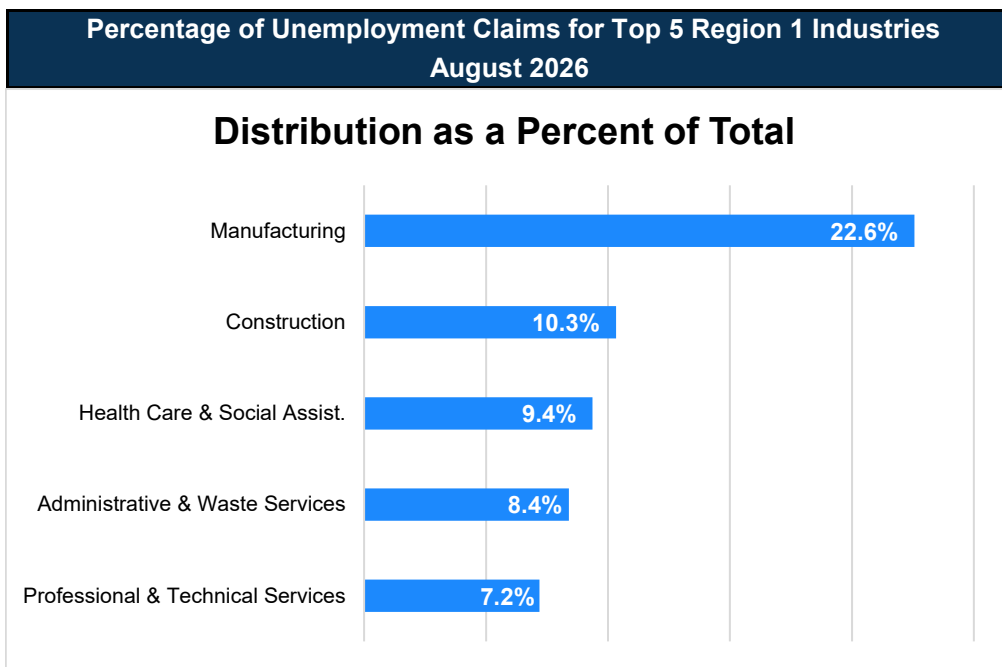
Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research & Analysis, Local Area Unemployment Statistics | Unemployment Statistics Released:10/26 |

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 August 2026			
Industry	Avg. Earnings per hr	Avg. # of hours worked per week	Avg. Earnings per week
Construction	\$40.36	42.7	\$1,723.37
Manufacturing	\$26.41	43.4	\$1,146.19
Durable Goods	\$27.17	44.5	\$1,209.07
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	\$26.08	44.1	\$1,150.13
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	\$28.31	40.0	\$1,132.40
Non-Durable Goods	\$24.55	41.0	\$1,006.55
Retail Trade	\$20.54	29.4	\$603.88
Financial Activities	\$31.02	38.3	\$1,188.07
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$31.29	32.6	\$1,020.05
Accommodation and Food Services	\$16.95	23.9	\$405.11

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Current Employment Statistics



Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis

WARN Notices

WARN Notices for Region 1 for August 2026				
Company	City	County	# affected	Notice Date
There are no WARN Notices for August 2026 for Region 1.				
Significant WARN Notices for nearby locations				
Company	City	County	# Affected	Notice Date
TV Hardward Distribution, LLC	Chicago	Cook, IL	116	8/10/26

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: August 2026

Region 1

Initial Claims

08/01/26 - 248(D)
08/08/26 - 238(D)
08/15/26 - 234(D)
08/22/26 - 421(D)
08/29/26 - 366(D)

Continued Claims

08/01/26 - 2,411
08/08/26 - 2,384
08/15/26 - 2,425
08/22/26 - 2,456
08/29/26 - 2,375

Total Claims

08/01/26 - 2,659
08/08/26 - 2,622
08/15/26 - 2,659
08/22/26 - 2,877
08/29/26 - 2,741

State of Indiana

Initial Claims

08/01/26 - 1,953
08/08/26 - 2,319
08/15/26 - 2,213
08/22/26 - 2,273
08/29/26 - 2,318

Continued Claims

08/01/26 - 18,164
08/08/26 - 17,953
08/15/26 - 17,757
08/22/26 - 17,631
08/29/26 - 17,551

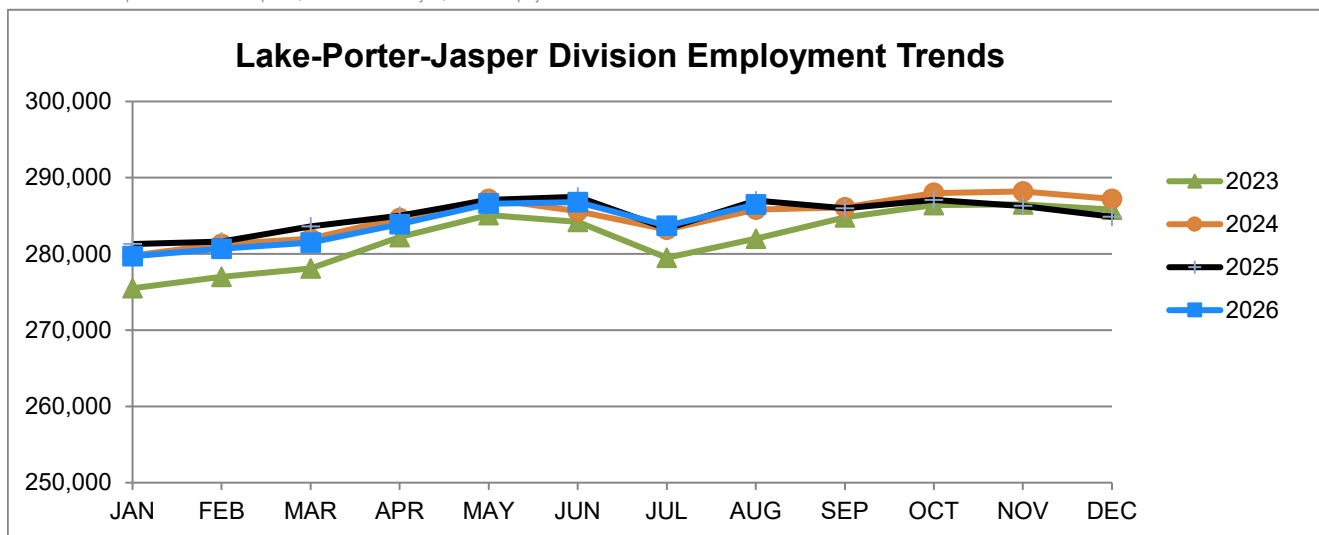
Total Claims

08/01/26 - 20,117
08/08/26 - 20,272
08/15/26 - 19,970
08/22/26 - 19,904
08/29/26 - 19,869

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

Lake-Porter-Jasper Division							
Wage and Salaried Employment	August 2026			# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Industry	Aug-26	Jul-26	Aug-25	Jul-26 to Aug-26		Aug-25 to Aug-26	
Total Nonfarm	286,500	283,700	287,000	2,800	1.0%	-500	-0.2%
Total Private	254,500	254,900	254,700	-400	-0.2%	-200	-0.1%
Goods Producing	54,700	54,400	54,300	300	0.6%	400	0.7%
Service Providing	231,800	229,300	232,700	2,500	1.1%	-900	-0.4%
Private Service Providing	199,800	200,500	200,400	-700	-0.4%	-600	-0.3%
Mining and Logging	100	100	100	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Mining, Logging and Construction	20,000	19,800	19,800	200	1.0%	200	1.0%
Construction	19,900	19,700	19,700	200	1.0%	200	1.0%
Manufacturing	34,700	34,600	34,500	100	0.3%	200	0.6%
Durable Goods	25,100	25,000	25,000	100	0.4%	100	0.4%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	60,800	61,000	60,100	-200	-0.3%	700	1.2%
Wholesale Trade	11,000	11,000	10,800	0	0.0%	200	1.9%
Retail Trade	31,900	31,900	31,200	0	0.0%	700	2.2%
General Merchandise Stores	7,200	7,300	6,700	-100	-1.4%	500	7.5%
Other Gen Merch Stores	5,300	5,400	4,900	-100	-1.9%	400	8.2%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	17,900	18,100	18,100	-200	-1.1%	-200	-1.1%
Information	1,700	1,700	1,900	0	0.0%	-200	-10.5%
Financial Activities	9,600	9,700	9,700	-100	-1.0%	-100	-1.0%
Professional and Business Services	29,700	30,300	29,100	-600	-2.0%	600	2.1%
Employment Services	3,200	3,200	3,200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Education and Health Services	51,500	51,400	51,400	100	0.2%	100	0.2%
Educational Services	5,000	4,800	5,400	200	4.2%	-400	-7.4%
Health Care and Social Assistance	46,500	46,600	46,000	-100	-0.2%	500	1.1%
General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	13,500	13,500	13,400	0	0.0%	100	0.8%
Leisure and Hospitality	31,900	32,100	33,400	-200	-0.6%	-1,500	-4.5%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	3,600	3,700	4,100	-100	-2.7%	-500	-12.2%
Food Services and Drinking Places	28,300	28,400	29,300	-100	-0.4%	-1,000	-3.4%
Other Services	14,600	14,300	14,800	300	2.1%	-200	-1.4%
Total Government	32,000	28,800	32,300	3,200	11.1%	-300	-0.9%
Federal Government	1,900	1,900	2,000	0	0.0%	-100	-5.0%
State Government	3,900	3,500	4,100	400	11.4%	-200	-4.9%
Local Government	26,200	23,400	26,200	2,800	12.0%	0	0.0%
Local Government Educational Services	13,400	10,200	13,700	3,200	31.4%	-300	-2.2%

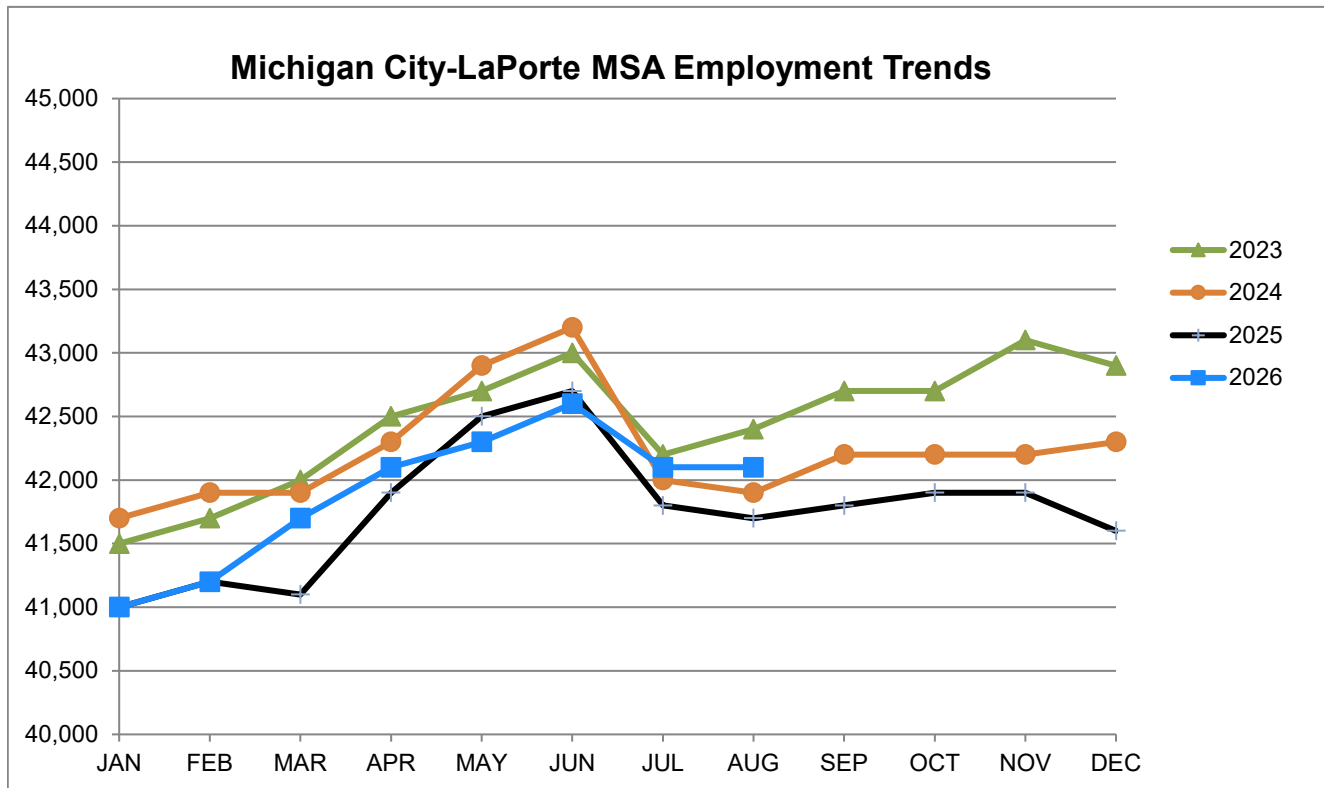
Source: Indiana Dept of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis, Current Employment Statistics



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	August 2026			# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Industry	Aug-26	Jul-26	Aug-25	Jul-26 to Aug-26		Aug-25 to Aug-26	
Total Nonfarm	42,100	42,100	41,700	0	0.0%	400	1.0%
Total Private	36,400	36,300	35,900	100	0.3%	500	1.4%
Goods Producing	10,900	10,800	10,500	100	0.9%	400	3.8%
Service Providing	31,200	31,300	31,200	-100	-0.3%	0	0.0%
Private Service Providing	25,500	25,500	25,400	0	0.0%	100	0.4%
Mining, Logging and Construction	2,500	2,500	2,300	0	0.0%	200	8.7%
Manufacturing	8,400	8,300	8,200	100	1.2%	200	2.4%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	8,700	8,600	8,500	100	1.2%	200	2.4%
Wholesale Trade	1,700	1,700	1,600	0	0.0%	100	6.3%
Retail Trade	5,000	5,000	5,000	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Information	200	200	200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	1,300	1,400	1,400	-100	-7.1%	-100	-7.1%
Professional and Business Services	2,700	2,700	2,700	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Education and Health Services	5,800	5,800	5,800	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	5,200	5,200	5,300	0	0.0%	-100	-1.9%
Other Services	1,600	1,600	1,500	0	0.0%	100	6.7%
Total Government	5,700	5,800	5,800	-100	-1.7%	-100	-1.7%
Federal Government	200	200	200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
State Government	1,900	1,900	1,900	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Local Government	3,600	3,700	3,700	-100	-2.7%	-100	-2.7%
Local Government Educational Services	1,600	1,700	1,800	-100	-5.9%	-200	-11.1%

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	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers
2	Registered Nurses
3	Retail Salespersons
4	First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers
5	Customer Service Representatives
6	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General
7	Home Health and Personal Care Aides
8	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners
9	Cashiers
10	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand
11	Health Technologists and Technicians, All Other
12	Physicians, All Other
13	Nursing Assistants
14	Medical Assistants
15	Production Workers, All Other
16	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
17	Physical Therapists
18	Fast Food and Counter Workers
19	Medical and Health Services Managers
20	Pharmacy Technicians

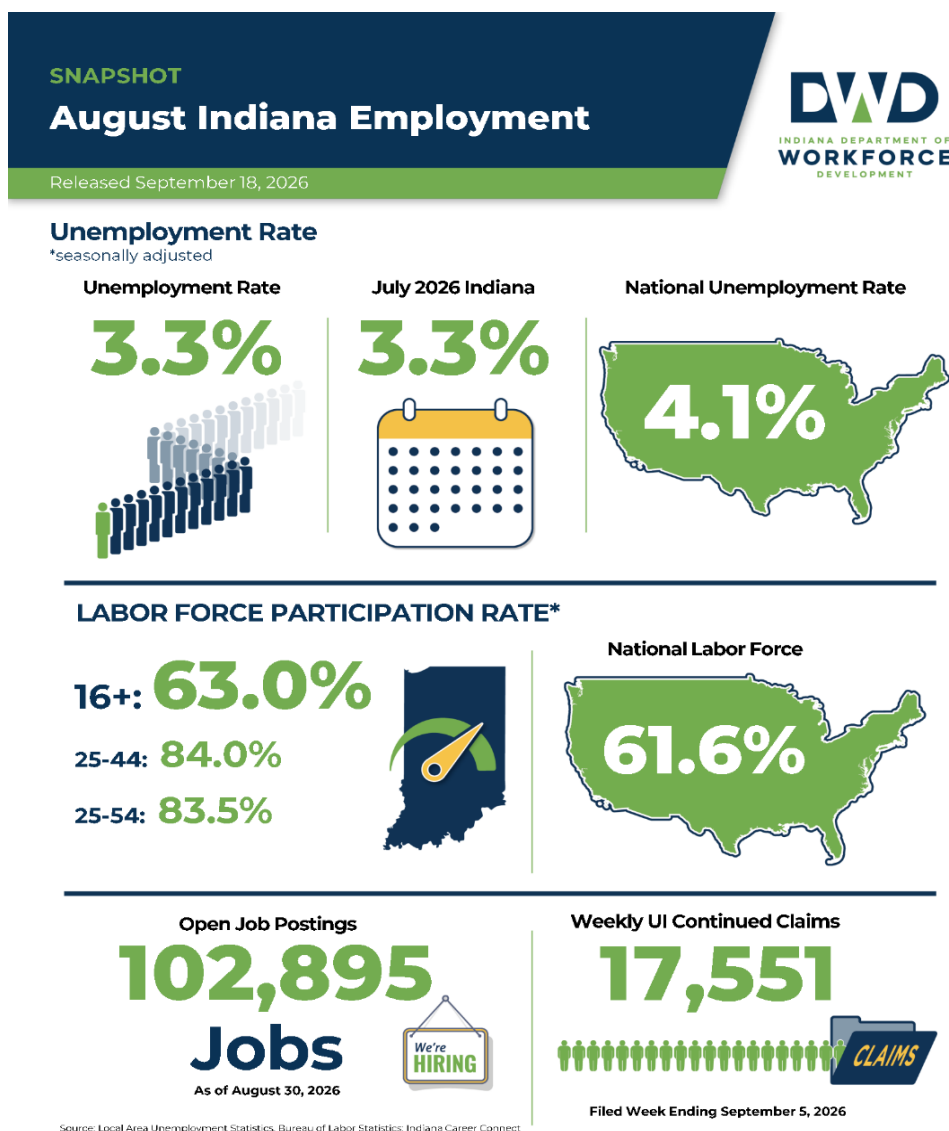
Source: Lightcast

Applicant Pool	
Top 20 occupations desired by applicants on their resumes in the past 12 months	
Occupations	# of applicants
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	479
Production Workers, All Other	408
Helpers--Production Workers	386
Customer Service Representatives	307
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	275
Cashiers	223
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	223
Office Clerks, General	186
Construction Laborers	161
Metal-Refining Furnace Operators and Tenders	157
Medical Assistants	155
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	121
Receptionists and Information Clerks	120
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	119
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	108
Managers, All Other	105
Retail Salespersons	104
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	98
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants	95
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	91

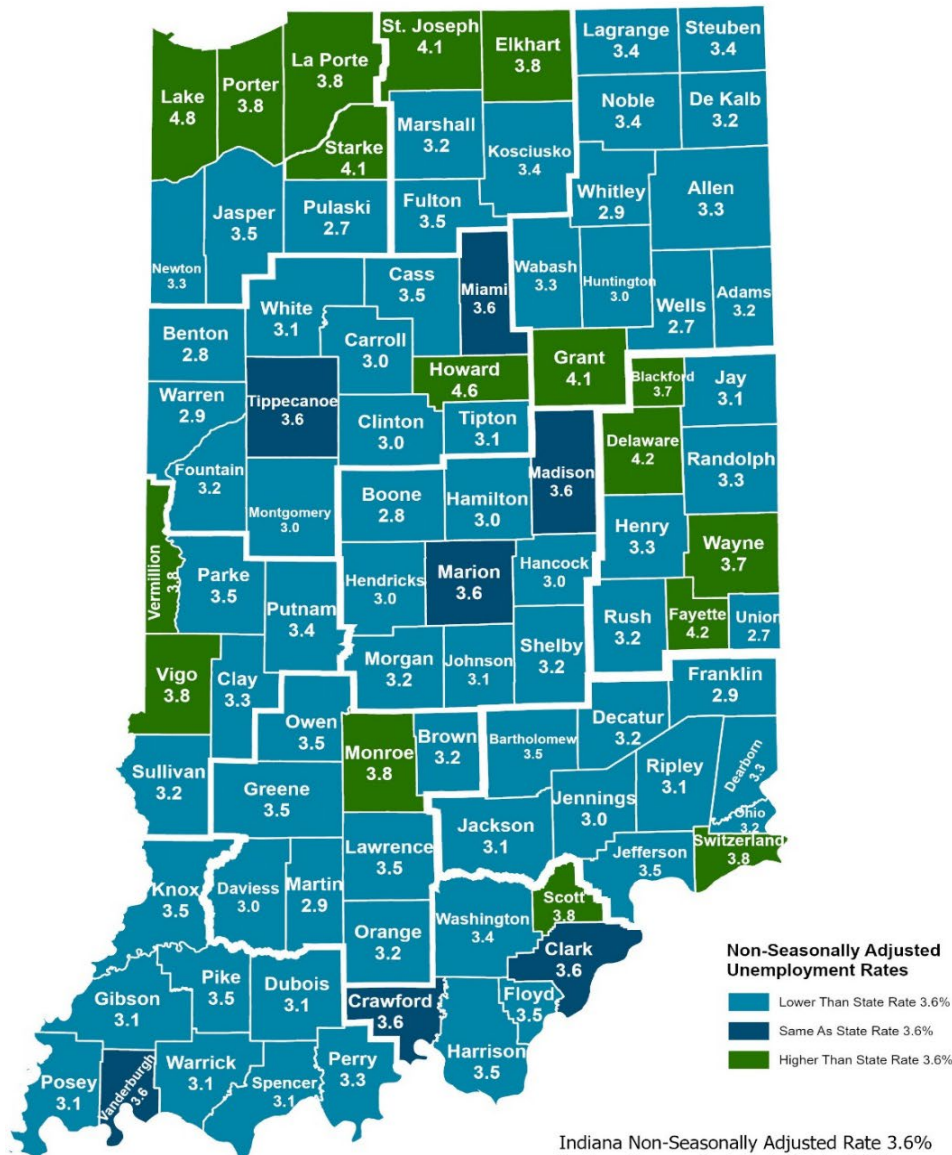
Source: Indiana Workforce Development, Indiana Career Connect

Consumer Price Index (CPI-U Change), Unadjusted Percent Change to August 2026 from						
CPI Item	Aug-25	Jul-26	Aug-25	Jul-26	Aug-25	Jul-26
	Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IN-IL-WI		U.S. City		Midwest Region*	
All Items	2.4%	0.5%	3.4%	0.5%	3.6%	0.4%
Food & Beverages	2.0%	0.3%	2.6%	0.1%	2.5%	0.5%
Housing	3.3%	0.2%	3.1%	0.2%	3.7%	0.0%
Apparel	2.7%	-1.0%	3.6%	1.9%	4.0%	0.6%
Transportation	1.8%	1.0%	6.2%	1.0%	5.8%	1.0%
Medical Care	-1.6%	0.3%	1.6%	-0.1%	1.6%	-0.2%
Recreation	3.7%	1.2%	2.7%	1.2%	3.8%	0.8%
Education & Communication	1.3%	1.3%	2.1%	1.9%	2.4%	1.9%
Other Goods & Services	0.1%	0.8%	4.2%	0.8%	2.2%	0.3%

*Midwest region = Midwest Urban Average. Midwest Region includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin | Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



County Unemployment Rates August 2026



Indiana Non-Seasonally Adjusted Rate 3.6%
Indiana Seasonally Adjusted Rate 3.3%
Source: DWD, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Questions?

Please contact the DWD
Regional Labor Analyst
listed below:

Kathy Jaworski

[Indiana Department of
Workforce Development](#)
kjaworski@dwd.in.gov