



# HOOSIERS BY THE NUMBERS

Your premier source for labor market information for Indiana.

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INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF  
**WORKFORCE**  
DEVELOPMENT

## LABOR MARKET REVIEW



## December 2025 Labor Market Review

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## LABOR MARKET REVIEW

# Economic Growth Region 1

Statistical Data Report for December 2025, Released February 2026

## State Employment and Unemployment

Unemployment rates were higher in December in 6 states and stable in 44 states and the District of Columbia, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Twenty-one states and the District had jobless rate increases from a year earlier, 8 states had decreases, and 21 states had little change. The national unemployment rate, 4.4 percent, changed little over the month but was 0.3 percentage point higher than in December 2024.

In December 2025, nonfarm payroll employment was essentially unchanged in all 50 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

December 2025 Labor Force Estimates (not seasonally adjusted)						
Area	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Dec-25	Nov-25	Dec-24
U.S.	170,723,000	163,720,000	7,003,000	4.1%	4.3%	3.8%
IN	3,455,706	3,363,377	92,329	2.7%	3.3%	4.0%
Lake-Porter-Jasper Div	350,578	338,974	11,604	3.3%	4.1%	5.4%
MichCity-LaPorte MSA	51,669	50,052	1,617	3.1%	3.6%	4.7%
EGR 1	419,009	405,274	13,735	3.3%	4.0%	5.3%
Lake Co.	238,826	230,438	8,388	3.5%	4.4%	5.8%
Porter Co.	88,209	85,694	2,515	2.9%	3.4%	4.5%
LaPorte Co.	51,669	50,052	1,617	3.1%	3.6%	4.7%
Newton Co.	6,710	6,517	193	2.9%	3.5%	4.6%
Jasper Co.	16,833	16,325	508	3.0%	3.5%	4.4%
Starke Co.	9,372	9,026	346	3.7%	3.9%	5.5%
Pulaski Co.	7,390	7,222	168	2.3%	2.8%	3.6%
East Chicago	10,918	10,475	443	4.1%	5.0%	6.8%
Hammond	36,067	34,760	1,307	3.6%	4.2%	6.1%
Munster	11,884	11,561	323	2.7%	3.4%	4.6%
Dyer	8,396	8,171	225	2.7%	3.4%	4.3%
Schererville	15,769	15,298	471	3.0%	3.6%	4.6%
Crown Point	16,647	16,112	535	3.2%	4.1%	5.0%
Griffith	9,241	8,989	252	2.7%	3.2%	5.7%
Highland	12,204	11,837	367	3.0%	4.1%	5.0%
Gary	23,870	22,496	1,374	5.8%	7.8%	9.2%
Merrillville	17,904	17,203	701	3.9%	5.0%	6.6%
Hobart	15,211	14,689	522	3.4%	4.3%	5.6%
Lake Station	5,439	5,207	232	4.3%	4.6%	8.1%
Portage	18,870	18,253	617	3.3%	3.9%	5.3%
Chesterton	7,422	7,217	205	2.8%	3.3%	4.7%
Valparaiso	17,565	17,134	431	2.5%	3.3%	3.8%
Michigan City	13,575	13,097	478	3.5%	4.3%	5.2%
LaPorte	11,089	10,763	326	2.9%	3.4%	4.2%

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research & Analysis, Local Area Unemployment Statistics | Unemployment Statistics Released:01/26 | 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

## Unemployment Rates by State (seasonally adjusted): December 2025

U.S. - 4.4%

Illinois - 4.6%

Indiana - 3.5%

Kentucky - 4.5%

Michigan - 5%

Ohio - 4.5%

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

## Unemployment Rank by County (of 92 counties): December 2025

#2 - Starke (3.7%)

#4 - Lake (3.5%)

#14 - LaPorte (3.1%)

#17 - Jasper (3%)

#21 - Newton (2.9%)

#22 - Porter (2.9%)

#76 - Pulaski (2.3%)

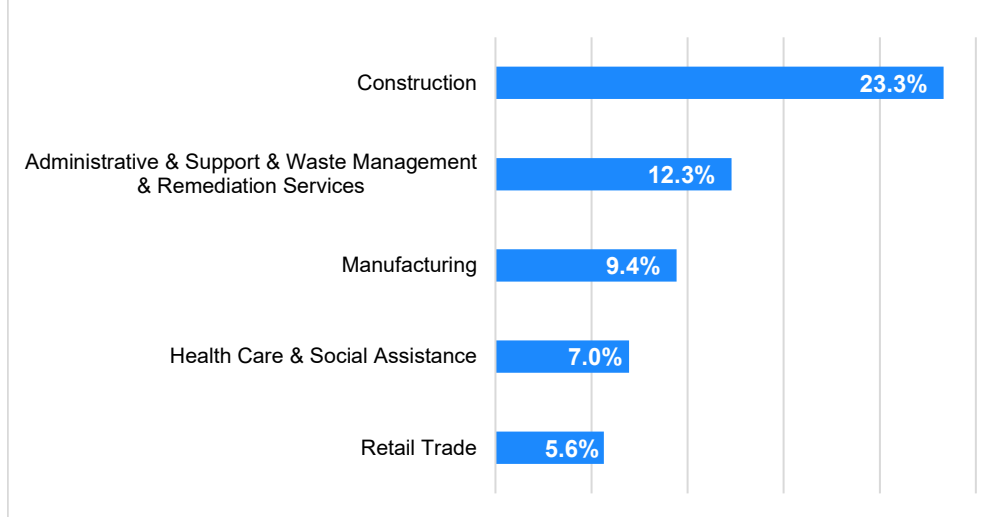
Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Development, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Statewide Average Weekly Hours & Earnings by Industry for December 2025			
Industry	Avg. Earnings per hr	Avg. # of hours worked per week	Avg. Earnings per week
Construction	\$39.87	38.4	\$1,531.01
Manufacturing	\$25.41	43.0	\$1,092.63
Durable Goods	\$26.06	44.4	\$1,157.06
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	\$24.39	41.9	\$1,021.94
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	\$27.42	42.3	\$1,159.87
Non-Durable Goods	\$23.73	39.7	\$942.08
Retail Trade	\$20.03	29.2	\$584.88
Financial Activities	\$28.61	37.4	\$1,070.01
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$31.59	33.1	\$1,045.63
Accommodation and Food Services	\$17.11	22.8	\$390.11
Food Services and Drinking Places	\$16.73	22.7	\$379.77

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Current Employment Statistics

### Percentage of Unemployment Claims for Top 5 Region 1 Industries December 2025

#### Distribution as a Percent of Total



Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis

### WARN Notices

WARN Notices for Region 1 for December 2025				
Company	City	County	# affected	Notice Date
There are no WARN Notices for December 2025 for Region 1.				
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: December 2025

#### Region 1

##### Initial Claims

12/06/25 - 674(D)

12/13/25 - 700(D)

12/20/25 - 599(D)

12/27/25 - 569(D)

##### Continued Claims

12/06/25 - 2,741

12/13/25 - 2,849

12/20/25 - 3,079

12/27/25 - 3,391

##### Total Claims

12/06/25 - 3,415

12/13/25 - 3,549

12/20/25 - 3,678

12/27/25 - 3,960

#### State of Indiana

##### Initial Claims

12/06/25 - 4,729

12/13/25 - 3,953

12/20/25 - 3,445

12/27/25 - 3,479

##### Continued Claims

12/06/25 - 21,725

12/13/25 - 22,174

12/20/25 - 22,299

12/27/25 - 25,414

##### Total Claims

12/06/25 - 26,454

12/13/25 - 26,127

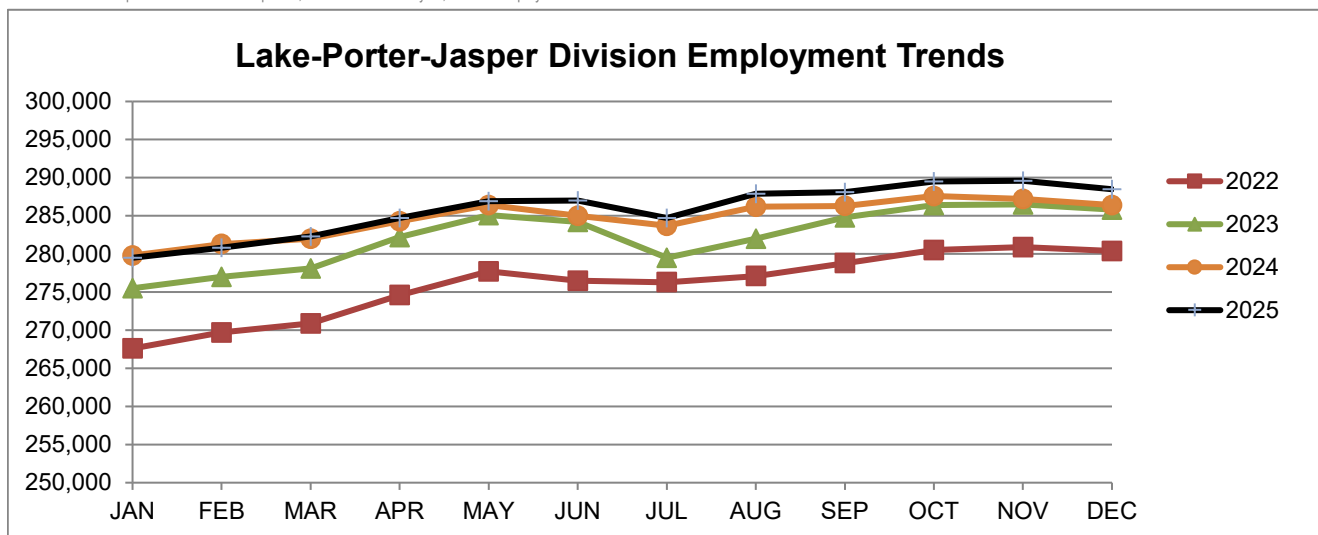
12/20/25 - 25,744

12/27/25 - 28,893

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	December 2025			# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Industry	Dec-25	Nov-25	Dec-24	Nov-25 to Dec-25		Dec-24 to Dec-25	
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>288,500</b>	<b>289,600</b>	<b>286,400</b>	<b>-1,100</b>	<b>-0.4%</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>0.7%</b>
<b>Total Private</b>	<b>254,900</b>	<b>256,300</b>	<b>254,200</b>	<b>-1,400</b>	<b>-0.6%</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
Goods Producing	51,000	51,600	51,400	-600	-1.2%	-400	-0.8%
Service Providing	237,500	238,000	235,000	-500	-0.2%	2,500	1.1%
Private Service Providing	203,900	204,700	202,800	-800	-0.4%	1,100	0.5%
Mining and Logging	100	100	100	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Mining, Logging and Construction	17,400	18,100	17,300	-700	-3.9%	100	0.6%
Construction	17,300	18,000	17,200	-700	-3.9%	100	0.6%
Manufacturing	33,600	33,500	34,100	100	0.3%	-500	-1.5%
Durable Goods	24,700	24,700	24,800	0	0.0%	-100	-0.4%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	63,200	62,800	63,900	400	0.6%	-700	-1.1%
Wholesale Trade	11,300	11,400	11,300	-100	-0.9%	0	0.0%
Retail Trade	33,500	33,100	33,500	400	1.2%	0	0.0%
General Merchandise Stores	7,700	7,500	7,700	200	2.7%	0	0.0%
Other Gen Merch Stores	5,500	5,400	5,400	100	1.9%	100	1.9%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	18,400	18,300	19,100	100	0.6%	-700	-3.7%
Information	1,900	1,900	1,900	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	9,200	9,200	9,400	0	0.0%	-200	-2.1%
Professional and Business Services	29,700	30,000	28,400	-300	-1.0%	1,300	4.6%
Employment Services	3,200	3,200	3,300	0	0.0%	-100	-3.0%
Education and Health Services	54,000	54,200	52,300	-200	-0.4%	1,700	3.3%
Educational Services	6,400	6,400	5,900	0	0.0%	500	8.5%
Health Care and Social Assistance	47,600	47,800	46,400	-200	-0.4%	1,200	2.6%
General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	14,300	14,300	14,000	0	0.0%	300	2.1%
Leisure and Hospitality	31,300	31,800	32,400	-500	-1.6%	-1,100	-3.4%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	3,400	3,500	3,600	-100	-2.9%	-200	-5.6%
Food Services and Drinking Places	27,900	28,300	28,800	-400	-1.4%	-900	-3.1%
Other Services	14,600	14,800	14,500	-200	-1.4%	100	0.7%
<b>Total Government</b>	<b>33,600</b>	<b>33,300</b>	<b>32,200</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>4.4%</b>
Federal Government	1,900	1,900	2,000	0	0.0%	-100	-5.0%
State Government	4,400	4,400	4,400	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Local Government	27,300	27,000	25,800	300	1.1%	1,500	5.8%
Local Government Educational Services	15,500	15,400	15,700	100	0.7%	-200	-1.3%

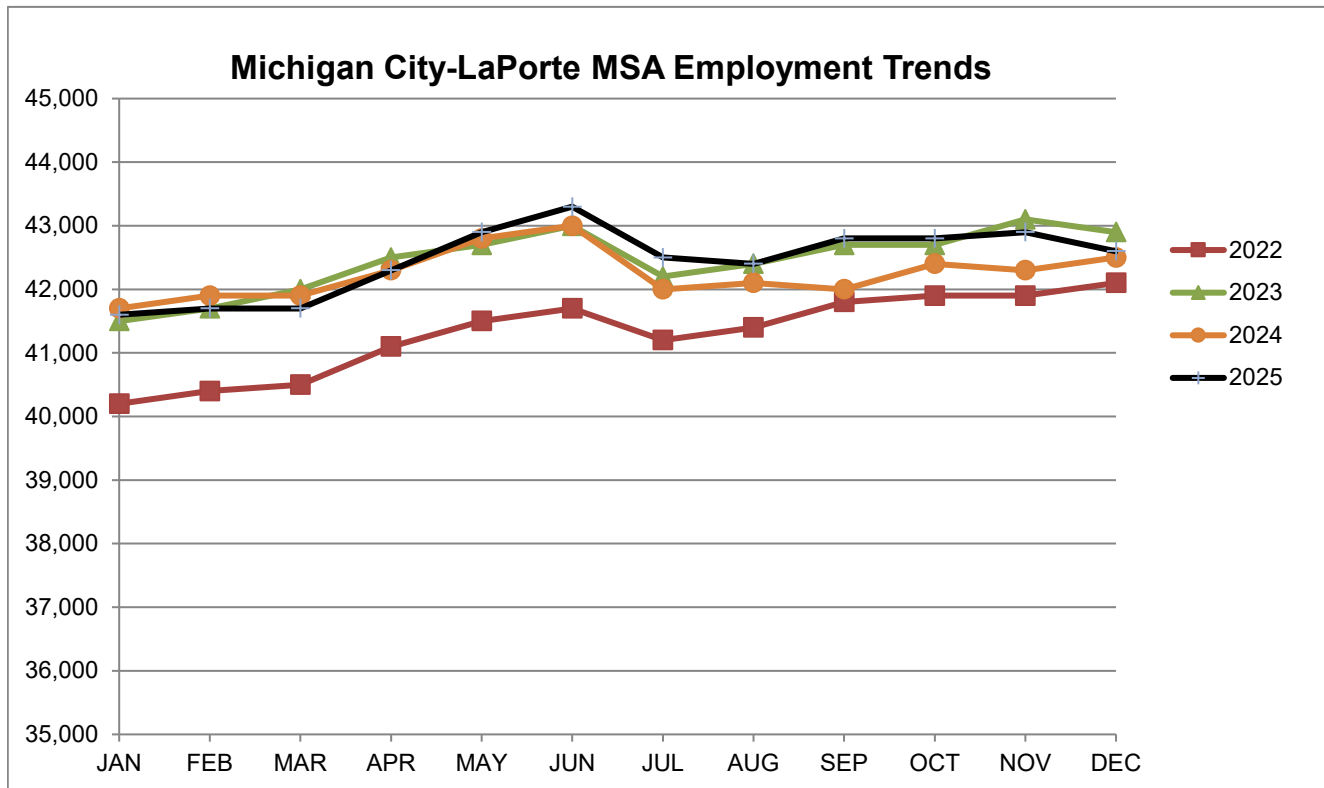
Source: Indiana Dept of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis, Current Employment Statistics



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	December 2025			# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Industry	Dec-25	Nov-25	Dec-24	Nov-25 to Dec-25		Dec-24 to Dec-25	
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>42,600</b>	<b>42,900</b>	<b>42,500</b>	<b>-300</b>	<b>-0.7%</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.2%</b>
<b>Total Private</b>	<b>36,100</b>	<b>36,400</b>	<b>35,900</b>	<b>-300</b>	<b>-0.8%</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>0.6%</b>
Goods Producing	11,000	11,000	10,700	0	0.0%	300	2.8%
Service Providing	31,600	31,900	31,800	-300	-0.9%	-200	-0.6%
Private Service Providing	25,100	25,400	25,200	-300	-1.2%	-100	-0.4%
Mining, Logging and Construction	2,400	2,400	2,300	0	0.0%	100	4.4%
Manufacturing	8,600	8,600	8,400	0	0.0%	200	2.4%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	8,600	8,800	8,800	-200	-2.3%	-200	-2.3%
Wholesale Trade	1,900	1,900	1,800	0	0.0%	100	5.6%
Retail Trade	5,100	5,000	5,200	100	2.0%	-100	-1.9%
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	2,800	2,600	-100	-3.6%	100	3.9%
Education and Health Services	6,000	6,000	6,000	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	4,800	4,800	4,800	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other Services	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
<b>Total Government</b>	<b>6,500</b>	<b>6,500</b>	<b>6,600</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-1.5%</b>
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	4,400	4,400	4,500	0	0.0%	-100	-2.2%
Local Government Educational Services	2,500	2,500	2,500	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	Registered Nurses
2	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers
3	Retail Salespersons
4	Home Health and Personal Care Aides
5	First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers
6	Customer Service Representatives
7	Physical Therapists
8	Fast Food and Counter Workers
9	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners
10	Food Preparation Workers
11	Food Service Managers
12	Nursing Assistants
13	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
14	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General
15	Medical and Health Services Managers
16	Health Technologists and Technicians, All Other
17	Stockers and Order Fillers
18	Driver/Sales Workers
19	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand
20	General and Operations Managers

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	666
Production Workers, All Other	635
Helpers--Production Workers	612
Customer Service Representatives	485
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	415
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	409
Cashiers	364
Construction Laborers	302
Office Clerks, General	270
Carpenters	212
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	207
Medical Assistants	196
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	191
Retail Salespersons	189
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	189
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	186
Receptionists and Information Clerks	183
Managers, All Other	182
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	174
Construction and Related Workers, All Other	170

Source: Indiana Workforce Development, Indiana Career Connect



Consumer Price Index (CPI-U Change), Unadjusted Percent Change to December 2025 from						
CPI Item	Dec-24	Nov-25	Dec-24	Nov-25	Dec-24	Nov-25
	Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IN-IL-WI		U.S. City		Midwest Region*	
All Items	2.2%	-0.2%	2.7%	0.0%	2.7%	-0.1%
Food & Beverages	1.8%	-0.8%	3.0%	0.6%	2.6%	0.2%
Housing	5.1%	0.8%	3.6%	0.3%	4.4%	0.2%
Apparel	0.9%	1.5%	0.6%	-1.3%	2.6%	-0.5%
Transportation	-2.4%	-3.2%	0.4%	-1.5%	-1.4%	-1.6%
Medical Care	0.2%	0.2%	3.2%	0.3%	2.7%	0.4%
Recreation	4.3%	0.7%	3.0%	1.2%	4.4%	1.1%
Education & Communication	-6.1%	-1.9%	0.5%	-1.0%	0.7%	-1.0%
Other Goods & Services	5.7%	0.1%	4.2%	-0.1%	3.2%	-0.4%

\*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

**SNAPSHOT**  
**December Indiana Employment**  
Released January 27, 2026



### Unemployment Rate

\*seasonally adjusted

Unemployment Rate

**3.5%**

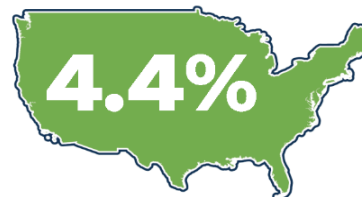


November 2025 Indiana

**3.7%**



National Unemployment Rate



### LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE\*

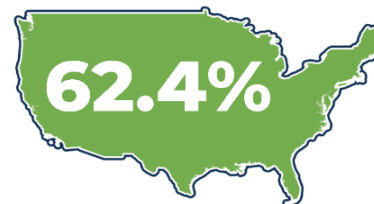
16+: **63.6%**

25-44: **84.7%**

25-54: **84.1%**



National Labor Force



Open Job Postings

**83,797**  
**Jobs**

As of December 31, 2025



Weekly UI Continued Claims

**25,414**

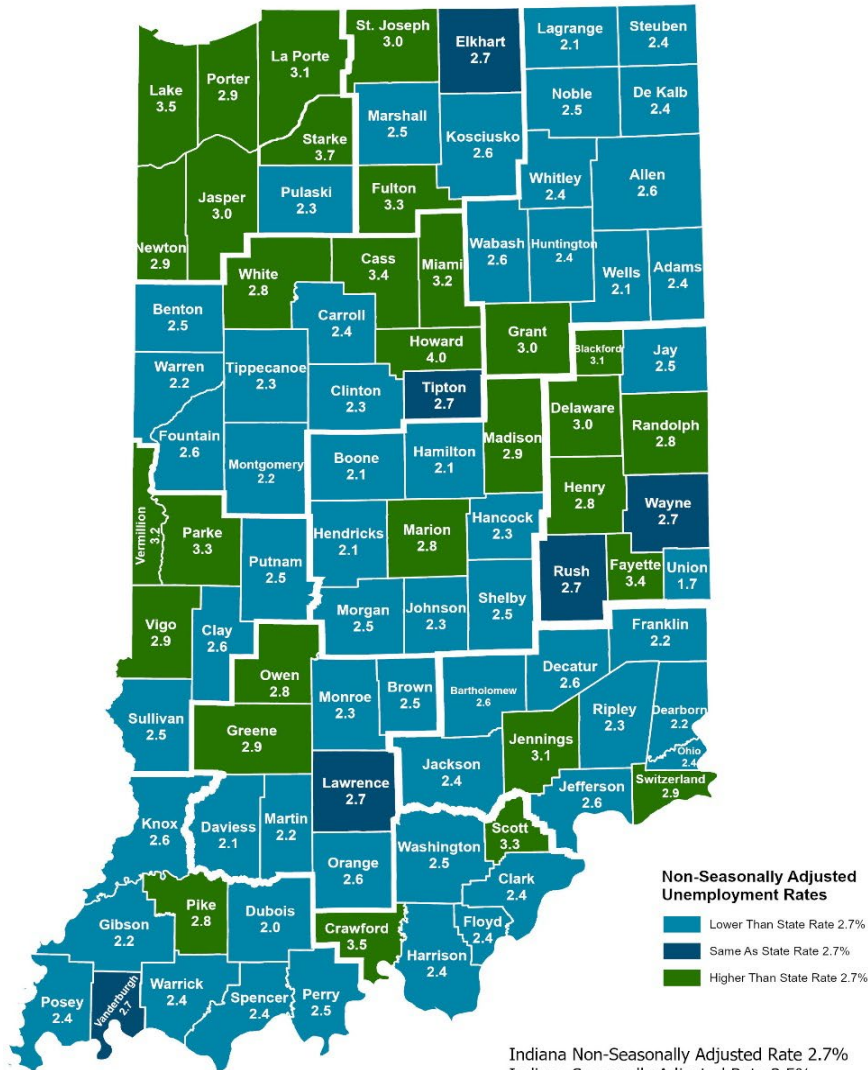


Filed Week Ending January 3, 2026

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics; Indiana Career Connect

\*The percentage of Hoosiers 16 and older who are either working or actively looking for work. Those not in the labor force include primarily: students, retirees and other non-working populations, such as individuals unable to work due to a disability or illness, or adults responsible for their family's childcare needs.

## County Unemployment Rates December 2025



Indiana Non-Seasonally Adjusted Rate 2.7%  
Indiana Seasonally Adjusted Rate 3.5%  
Source: DWD, Local Area Unemployment Statistics



### Questions?

Please contact the DWD  
Regional Labor Analyst  
listed below:

Kathy Jaworski

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