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INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

LABOR MARKET REVIEW



May 2026 Labor Market Review

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Economic Growth Region 1

Statistical Data Report for May 2026, Released July 2026

State Employment and Unemployment

Unemployment rates were lower in May in 6 states, higher in 2 states, and stable in 42 states and the District of Columbia, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Sixteen states had jobless rate increases from a year earlier, 6 states had decreases, and 28 states and the District had little change. The national unemployment rate, 4.3 percent, was unchanged both over the month and over the year. In May, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 2 states and was essentially unchanged in 48 states and the District of Columbia. Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 2 states, decreased in 1 state and the District, and was essentially unchanged in 47 states.



Economic Growth Region (EGR) 1

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

May 2026 Labor Force Estimates (not seasonally adjusted)						
Area	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	May-26	Apr-26	May-25
U.S.	169,801,000	162,897,000	6,904,000	4.1%	4.0%	4.0%
IN	3,516,430	3,403,025	113,405	3.2%	2.8%	3.6%
Lake-Porter-Jasper Div	357,223	342,839	14,384	4.0%	3.9%	4.8%
MichCity-LaPorte MSA	52,490	50,680	1,810	3.4%	3.4%	3.9%
EGR 1	428,337	411,567	16,770	3.9%	3.8%	4.6%
Lake Co.	243,057	232,604	10,453	4.3%	4.2%	5.2%
Porter Co.	89,656	86,524	3,132	3.5%	3.4%	4.0%
LaPorte Co.	52,490	50,680	1,810	3.4%	3.4%	3.9%
Newton Co.	7,121	6,890	231	3.2%	3.1%	4.1%
Jasper Co.	17,389	16,821	568	3.3%	3.3%	3.7%
Starke Co.	9,597	9,231	366	3.8%	3.9%	4.4%
Pulaski Co.	9,027	8,817	210	2.3%	2.3%	2.9%
East Chicago	11,021	10,499	522	4.7%	4.5%	6.5%
Hammond	36,335	34,847	1,488	4.1%	3.8%	5.3%
Munster	12,099	11,625	474	3.9%	3.3%	4.3%
Dyer	8,509	8,213	296	3.5%	3.2%	3.4%
Schererville	16,022	15,434	588	3.7%	3.4%	3.8%
Crown Point	16,988	16,286	702	4.1%	4.4%	4.5%
Griffith	9,366	9,014	352	3.8%	3.4%	5.1%
Highland	12,359	11,878	481	3.9%	3.8%	4.5%
Gary	24,259	22,569	1,690	7.0%	6.6%	9.1%
Merrillville	18,395	17,588	807	4.4%	4.9%	6.0%
Hobart	15,406	14,763	643	4.2%	4.1%	5.0%
Lake Station	5,518	5,225	293	5.3%	5.1%	6.0%
Portage	19,176	18,404	772	4.0%	3.7%	4.7%
Chesterton	7,505	7,264	241	3.2%	3.0%	3.8%
Valparaiso	18,066	17,467	599	3.3%	3.1%	3.7%
Michigan City	13,732	13,223	509	3.7%	3.2%	4.7%
LaPorte	11,307	10,913	394	3.5%	3.2%	3.6%

Unemployment Rates by State (seasonally adjusted): May 2026

U.S. - 4.3%

Illinois - 5.1%

Indiana - 3.3%

Kentucky - 4.5%

Michigan - 5.1%

Ohio - 3.7%

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

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

#2 - Lake (4.3%)

#4 - Starke (3.8%)

#15 - Porter (3.5%)

#19 - LaPorte (3.4%)

#24 - Jasper (3.3%)

#32 - Newton (3.2%)

#92 - Pulaski (2.3%)

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

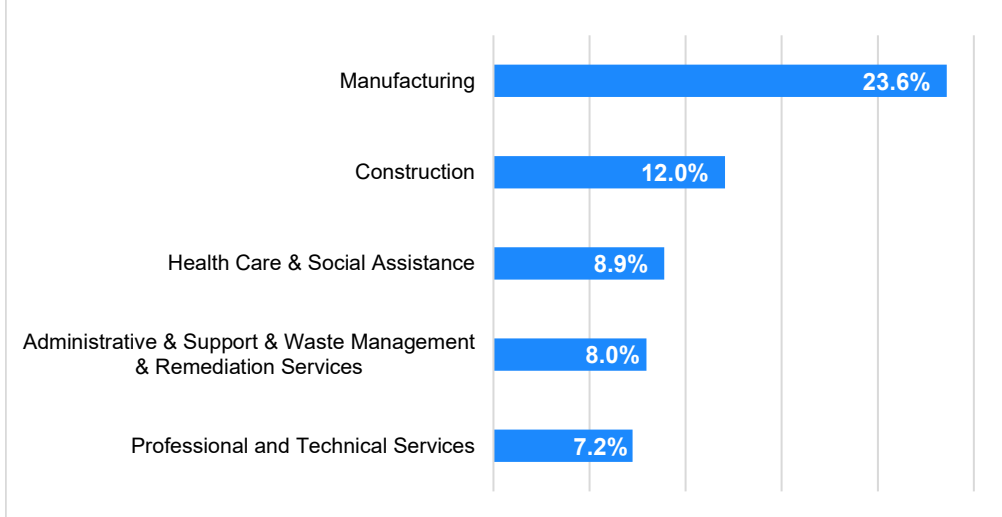
Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research & Analysis, Local Area Unemployment Statistics | Unemployment Statistics Released:06/26 | Notes: The data displayed are presented as estimates only. The most recent month's data are always preliminary and are revised when the next month's 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

Statewide Average Weekly Hours & Earnings by Industry for May 2026			
Industry	Avg. Earnings per hr	Avg. # of hours worked per week	Avg. Earnings per week
Construction	\$40.92	41.8	\$1,710.46
Manufacturing	\$26.29	44.0	\$1,156.76
Durable Goods	\$26.87	46.0	\$1,236.02
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	\$25.98	42.8	\$1,111.94
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	\$27.97	38.3	\$1,071.25
Non-Durable Goods	\$24.72	39.4	\$973.97
Retail Trade	\$21.22	29.2	\$619.62
Financial Activities	\$29.85	37.4	\$1,116.39
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$30.90	32.4	\$1,001.16
Accommodation and Food Services	\$17.18	23.6	\$405.45

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Current Employment Statistics

Percentage of Unemployment Claims for Top 5 Region 1 Industries May 2026

Distribution as a Percent of Total



Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis

WARN Notices

WARN Notices for Region 1 for May 2026				
Company	City	County	# affected	Notice Date

There are no WARN Notices for May 2026 for Region 1.

Significant WARN Notices for nearby locations				
Company	City	County	# Affected	Notice Date
MDMartin LLC	Matteson	Cook, IL	160	5/19/26

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: May 2026

Region 1

Initial Claims

- 05/02/26 - 294(D)
- 05/09/26 - 296(D)
- 05/16/26 - 303(D)
- 05/23/26 - 257(D)
- 05/30/26 - 300(D)

Continued Claims

- 05/02/26 - 2,921
- 05/09/26 - 2,667
- 05/16/26 - 2,577
- 05/23/26 - 2,527
- 05/30/26 - 2,419

Total Claims

- 05/02/26 - 3,215
- 05/09/26 - 2,963
- 05/16/26 - 2,880
- 05/23/26 - 2,784
- 05/30/26 - 2,719

State of Indiana

Initial Claims

- 05/02/26 - 2,224
- 05/09/26 - 2,550
- 05/16/26 - 2,385
- 05/23/26 - 1,976
- 05/30/26 - 2,164

Continued Claims

- 05/02/26 - 19,186
- 05/09/26 - 18,867
- 05/16/26 - 18,012
- 05/23/26 - 18,611
- 05/30/26 - 18,982

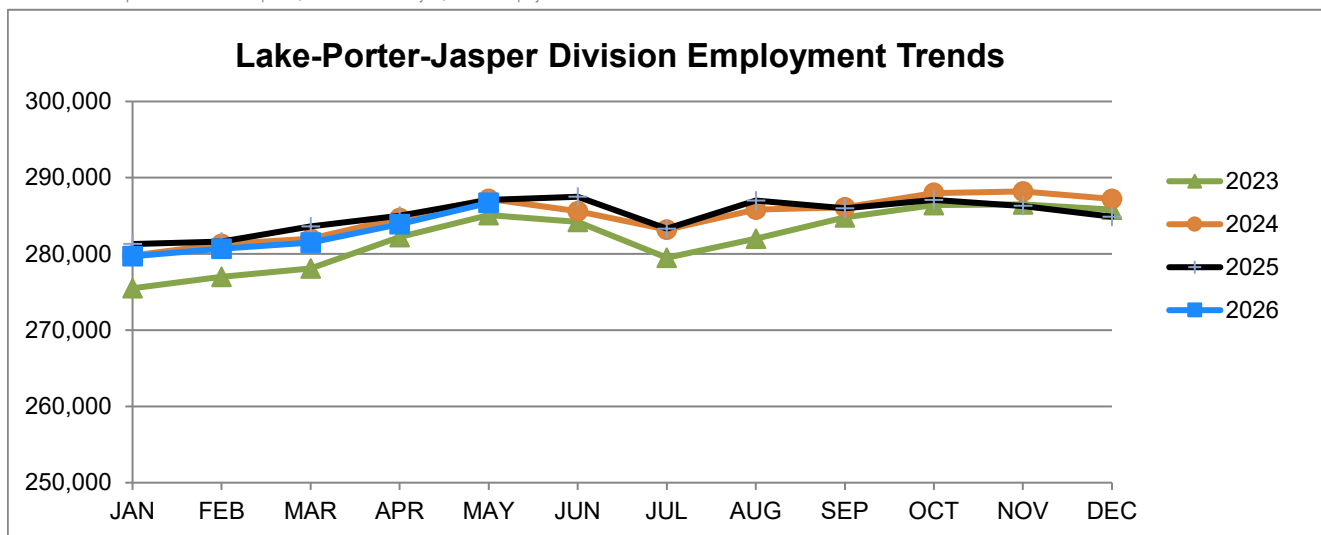
Total Claims

- 05/02/26 - 21,410
- 05/09/26 - 21,417
- 05/16/26 - 20,397
- 05/23/26 - 20,587
- 05/30/26 - 21,146

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	May 2026			# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Industry	May-26	Apr-26	May-25	Apr-26 to May-26	May-25 to May-26		
Total Nonfarm	286,700	283,900	287,100	2,800	1.0%	-400	-0.1%
Total Private	253,300	251,000	253,200	2,300	0.9%	100	0.0%
Goods Producing	53,200	52,400	52,100	800	1.5%	1,100	2.1%
Service Providing	233,500	231,500	235,000	2,000	0.9%	-1,500	-0.6%
Private Service Providing	200,100	198,600	201,100	1,500	0.8%	-1,000	-0.5%
Mining and Logging	100	100	100	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Mining, Logging and Construction	18,900	18,200	19,100	700	3.9%	-200	-1.1%
Construction	18,800	18,100	19,000	700	3.9%	-200	-1.1%
Manufacturing	34,300	34,200	33,000	100	0.3%	1,300	3.9%
Durable Goods	24,700	24,800	23,500	-100	-0.4%	1,200	5.1%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	60,200	60,000	60,300	200	0.3%	-100	-0.2%
Wholesale Trade	10,900	10,900	10,800	0	0.0%	100	0.9%
Retail Trade	31,500	31,400	31,600	100	0.3%	-100	-0.3%
General Merchandise Stores	7,200	7,200	6,900	0	0.0%	300	4.4%
Other Gen Merch Stores	5,200	5,200	5,100	0	0.0%	100	2.0%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	17,800	17,700	17,900	100	0.6%	-100	-0.6%
Information	1,700	1,700	2,000	0	0.0%	-300	-15.0%
Financial Activities	9,600	9,600	9,700	0	0.0%	-100	-1.0%
Professional and Business Services	30,100	29,100	29,000	1,000	3.4%	1,100	3.8%
Employment Services	3,200	3,200	3,200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Education and Health Services	51,700	52,200	51,800	-500	-1.0%	-100	-0.2%
Educational Services	5,500	5,900	5,600	-400	-6.8%	-100	-1.8%
Health Care and Social Assistance	46,200	46,300	46,200	-100	-0.2%	0	0.0%
General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	13,400	13,500	13,500	-100	-0.7%	-100	-0.7%
Leisure and Hospitality	32,400	31,700	33,700	700	2.2%	-1,300	-3.9%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	3,600	3,500	4,100	100	2.9%	-500	-12.2%
Food Services and Drinking Places	28,800	28,200	29,600	600	2.1%	-800	-2.7%
Other Services	14,400	14,300	14,600	100	0.7%	-200	-1.4%
Total Government	33,400	32,900	33,900	500	1.5%	-500	-1.5%
Federal Government	1,900	1,900	2,000	0	0.0%	-100	-5.0%
State Government	4,100	4,200	4,500	-100	-2.4%	-400	-8.9%
Local Government	27,400	26,800	27,400	600	2.2%	0	0.0%
Local Government Educational Services	15,700	15,600	15,500	100	0.6%	200	1.3%

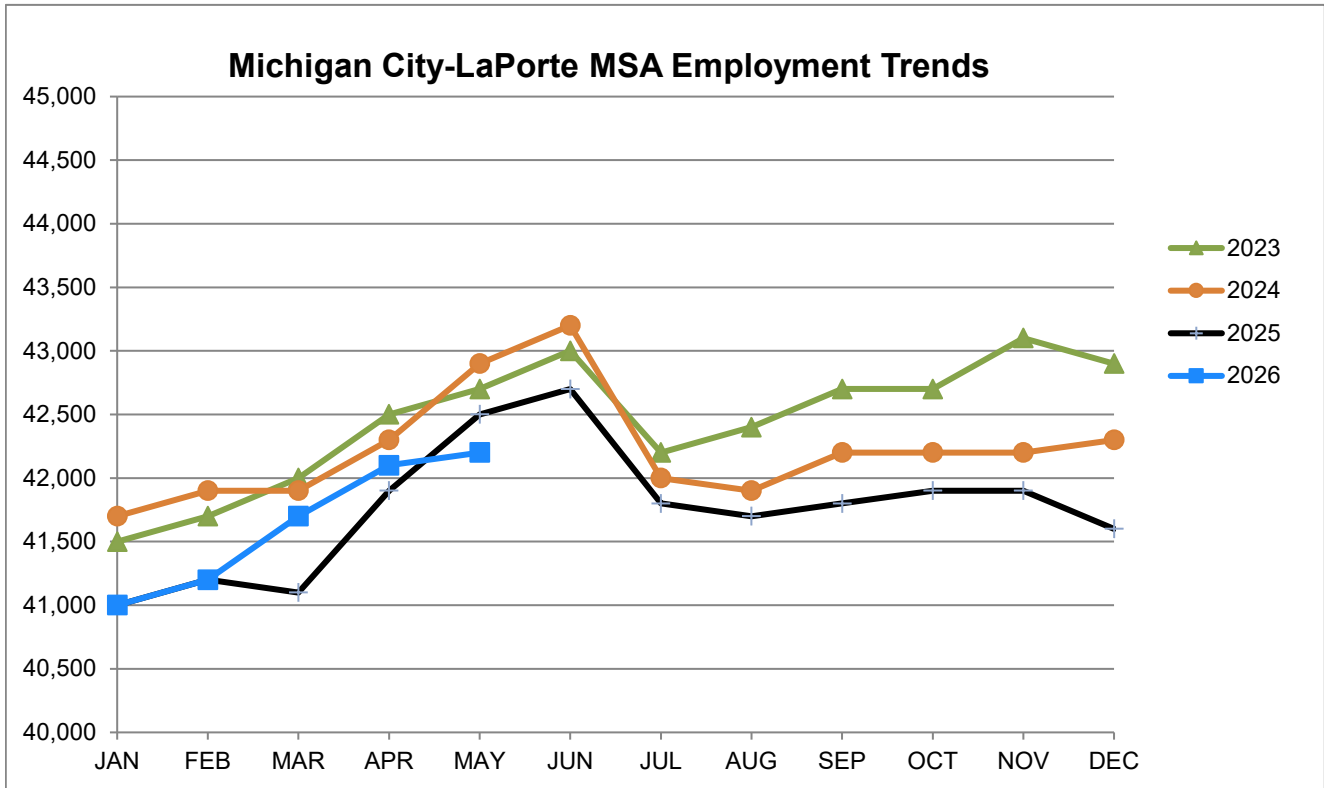
Source: Indiana Dept of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis, Current Employment Statistics



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	May 2026			# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Industry	May-26	Apr-26	May-25	Apr-26 to May-26	May-25 to May-26		
Total Nonfarm	42,200	42,100	42,500	100	0.2%	-300	-0.7%
Total Private	35,800	35,700	35,900	100	0.3%	-100	-0.3%
Goods Producing	10,600	10,500	10,400	100	1.0%	200	1.9%
Service Providing	31,600	31,600	32,100	0	0.0%	-500	-1.6%
Private Service Providing	25,200	25,200	25,500	0	0.0%	-300	-1.2%
Mining, Logging and Construction	2,400	2,300	2,200	100	4.4%	200	9.1%
Manufacturing	8,200	8,200	8,200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	8,600	8,600	8,600	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Wholesale Trade	1,700	1,700	1,700	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Retail Trade	5,000	5,000	5,100	0	0.0%	-100	-2.0%
Information	200	200	200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	1,300	1,300	1,400	0	0.0%	-100	-7.1%
Professional and Business Services	2,600	2,600	2,700	0	0.0%	-100	-3.7%
Education and Health Services	5,800	5,900	5,900	-100	-1.7%	-100	-1.7%
Leisure and Hospitality	5,100	5,000	5,200	100	2.0%	-100	-1.9%
Other Services	1,600	1,600	1,500	0	0.0%	100	6.7%
Total Government	6,400	6,400	6,600	0	0.0%	-200	-3.0%
Federal Government	200	200	200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
State Government	1,900	1,900	2,000	0	0.0%	-100	-5.0%
Local Government	4,300	4,300	4,400	0	0.0%	-100	-2.3%
Local Government Educational Services	2,300	2,300	2,400	0	0.0%	-100	-4.2%

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.

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	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners
6	Physicians, All Other
7	Home Health and Personal Care Aides
8	Customer Service Representatives
9	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General
10	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand
11	Physical Therapists
12	Nursing Assistants
13	Medical and Health Services Managers
14	Medical Assistants
15	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
16	Food Preparation Workers
17	Cashiers
18	Food Service Managers
19	Speech-Language Pathologists
20	Fast Food and Counter Workers

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	509
Production Workers, All Other	407
Helpers--Production Workers	376
Customer Service Representatives	355
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	297
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	267
Cashiers	263
Office Clerks, General	215
Construction Laborers	197
Medical Assistants	172
Receptionists and Information Clerks	143
Retail Salespersons	140
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	135
Managers, All Other	129
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	126
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	119
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	119
Carpenters	117
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	115
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	110

Source: Indiana Workforce Development, Indiana Career Connect

Consumer Price Index (CPI-U Change), Unadjusted Percent Change to May 2026 from						
CPI Item	May-25	Apr-26	May-25	Apr-26	May-25	Apr-26
	Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IN-IL-WI		U.S. City		Midwest Region*	
All Items	3.7%	1.1%	4.2%	0.6%	5.0%	1.1%
Food & Beverages	2.3%	-0.5%	3.0%	0.1%	3.2%	0.4%
Housing	4.1%	0.9%	3.6%	0.3%	4.6%	0.3%
Apparel	11.7%	4.9%	4.8%	-0.4%	6.1%	0.2%
Transportation	7.4%	3.1%	9.3%	2.3%	10.1%	4.1%
Medical Care	-1.1%	0.3%	2.6%	0.3%	3.6%	0.5%
Recreation	2.7%	-0.4%	2.6%	0.3%	4.8%	0.7%
Education & Communication	-2.4%	1.4%	0.8%	0.7%	1.1%	0.9%
Other Goods & Services	1.7%	2.9%	4.9%	0.8%	2.7%	2.1%

*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

May Indiana Employment

Released June 23, 2026



Unemployment Rate

*seasonally adjusted

Unemployment Rate

3.3%



April 2026 Indiana

3.3%



National Unemployment Rate



LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE*

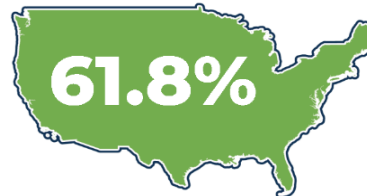
16+: 63.2%

25-44: 83.9%

25-54: 83.4%



National Labor Force



Open Job Postings

94,059

Jobs

As of May 31, 2026



Weekly UI Continued Claims

19,068

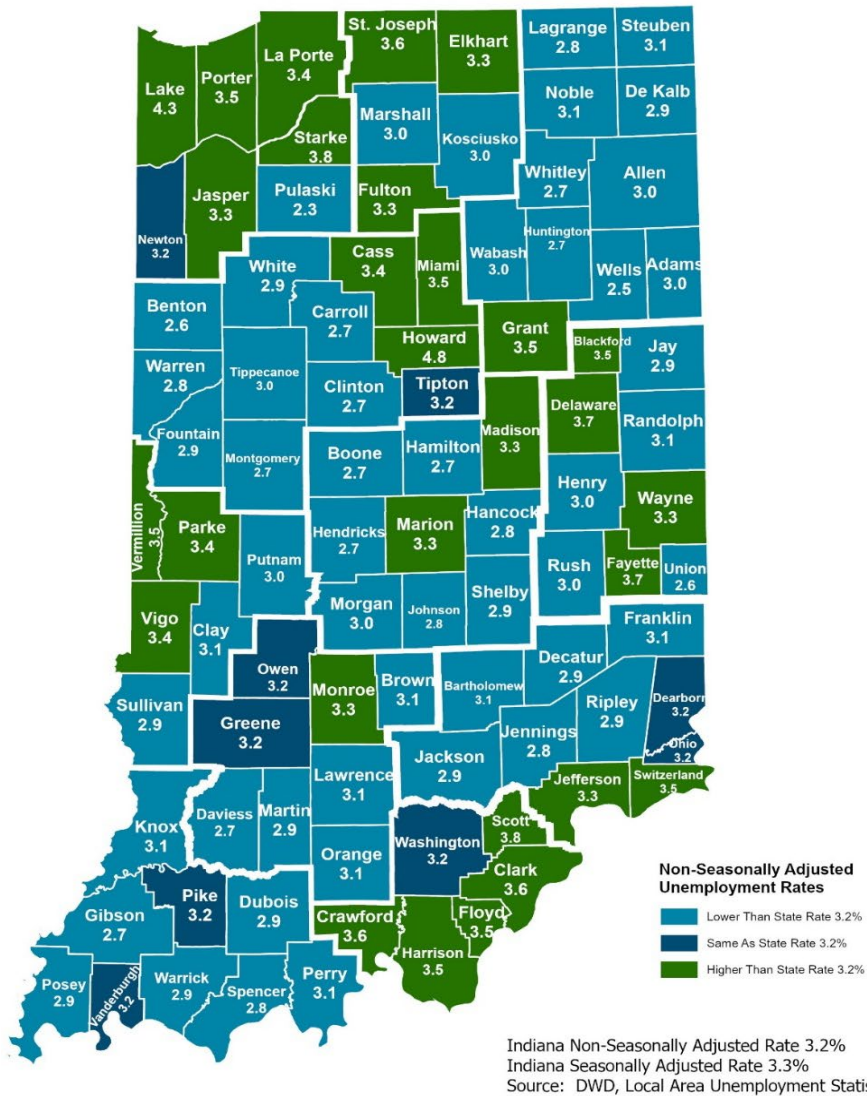


Filed Week Ending June 6, 2026

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 May 2026



Questions?

Please contact the DWD Regional Labor Analyst listed below:

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