



# 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



## July 2026 Labor Market Review

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## LABOR MARKET REVIEW

# Economic Growth Region 1

Statistical Data Report for July 2026, Released September 2026

## State Employment and Unemployment

Unemployment rates were lower in July in 10 states and stable in 40 states and the District of Columbia, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Twelve states had jobless rate increases from a year earlier, 10 states and the District had decreases, and 28 states had little change. The national unemployment rate, 4.1 percent, changed little both over the month and over the year. In July, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 1 state, decreased in 1 state, and was essentially unchanged in 48 states and the District of Columbia. Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 6 states, decreased in 1 state and the District, and was essentially unchanged in 43 states.



## Economic Growth Region (EGR) 1

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

| July 2026 Labor Force Estimates (not seasonally adjusted) |             |             |            |        |        |        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Area                                                      | Labor Force | Employed    | Unemployed | Jul-26 | Jun-26 | Jul-25 |
| U.S.                                                      | 170,235,000 | 162,800,000 | 7,435,000  | 4.4%   | 4.4%   | 4.6%   |
| IN                                                        | 3,511,303   | 3,385,244   | 126,059    | 3.6%   | 3.6%   | 4.2%   |
| Lake-Porter-Jasper Div                                    | 359,509     | 343,684     | 15,825     | 4.4%   | 4.4%   | 5.0%   |
| MichCity-LaPorte MSA                                      | 52,723      | 50,738      | 1,985      | 3.8%   | 3.8%   | 4.2%   |
| EGR 1                                                     | 430,204     | 411,754     | 18,450     | 4.3%   | 4.3%   | 4.9%   |
| Lake Co.                                                  | 244,854     | 233,319     | 11,535     | 4.7%   | 4.7%   | 5.4%   |
| Porter Co.                                                | 90,273      | 86,856      | 3,417      | 3.8%   | 3.8%   | 4.3%   |
| LaPorte Co.                                               | 52,723      | 50,738      | 1,985      | 3.8%   | 3.8%   | 4.2%   |
| Newton Co.                                                | 7,042       | 6,788       | 254        | 3.6%   | 3.6%   | 4.2%   |
| Jasper Co.                                                | 17,340      | 16,721      | 619        | 3.6%   | 3.6%   | 3.9%   |
| Starke Co.                                                | 9,641       | 9,229       | 412        | 4.3%   | 4.1%   | 5.0%   |
| Pulaski Co.                                               | 8,331       | 8,103       | 228        | 2.7%   | 2.8%   | 3.0%   |
| East Chicago                                              | 11,103      | 10,532      | 571        | 5.1%   | 5.0%   | 6.2%   |
| Hammond                                                   | 36,639      | 34,954      | 1,685      | 4.6%   | 4.5%   | 5.2%   |
| Munster                                                   | 12,191      | 11,661      | 530        | 4.3%   | 4.4%   | 4.4%   |
| Dyer                                                      | 8,551       | 8,238       | 313        | 3.7%   | 3.7%   | 3.8%   |
| Schererville                                              | 16,122      | 15,481      | 641        | 4.0%   | 4.1%   | 4.2%   |
| Crown Point                                               | 17,085      | 16,336      | 749        | 4.4%   | 4.5%   | 4.7%   |
| Griffith                                                  | 9,426       | 9,042       | 384        | 4.1%   | 3.9%   | 4.8%   |
| Highland                                                  | 12,419      | 11,915      | 504        | 4.1%   | 4.0%   | 4.4%   |
| Gary                                                      | 24,495      | 22,638      | 1,857      | 7.6%   | 7.6%   | 9.2%   |
| Merrillville                                              | 18,572      | 17,642      | 930        | 5.0%   | 4.7%   | 6.2%   |
| Hobart                                                    | 15,513      | 14,808      | 705        | 4.5%   | 4.5%   | 5.1%   |
| Lake Station                                              | 5,534       | 5,241       | 293        | 5.3%   | 5.4%   | 6.5%   |
| Portage                                                   | 19,282      | 18,475      | 807        | 4.2%   | 4.4%   | 4.8%   |
| Chesterton                                                | 7,561       | 7,292       | 269        | 3.6%   | 3.5%   | 4.4%   |
| Valparaiso                                                | 18,203      | 17,534      | 669        | 3.7%   | 3.7%   | 4.1%   |
| Michigan City                                             | 13,791      | 13,238      | 553        | 4.0%   | 4.1%   | 4.9%   |
| LaPorte                                                   | 11,336      | 10,925      | 411        | 3.6%   | 3.7%   | 3.9%   |

## Unemployment Rates by State (seasonally adjusted): July 2026

U.S. - 4.1%

Illinois - 4.9%

Indiana - 3.3%

Kentucky - 4.7%

Michigan - 4.9%

Ohio - 3.4%

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

## Unemployment Rank by County (of 92 counties): July 2026

#2 - Lake (4.7%)

#4 - Starke (4.3%)

#13 - LaPorte (3.8%)

#16 - Porter (3.8%)

#24 - Jasper (3.6%)

#28 - Newton (3.6%)

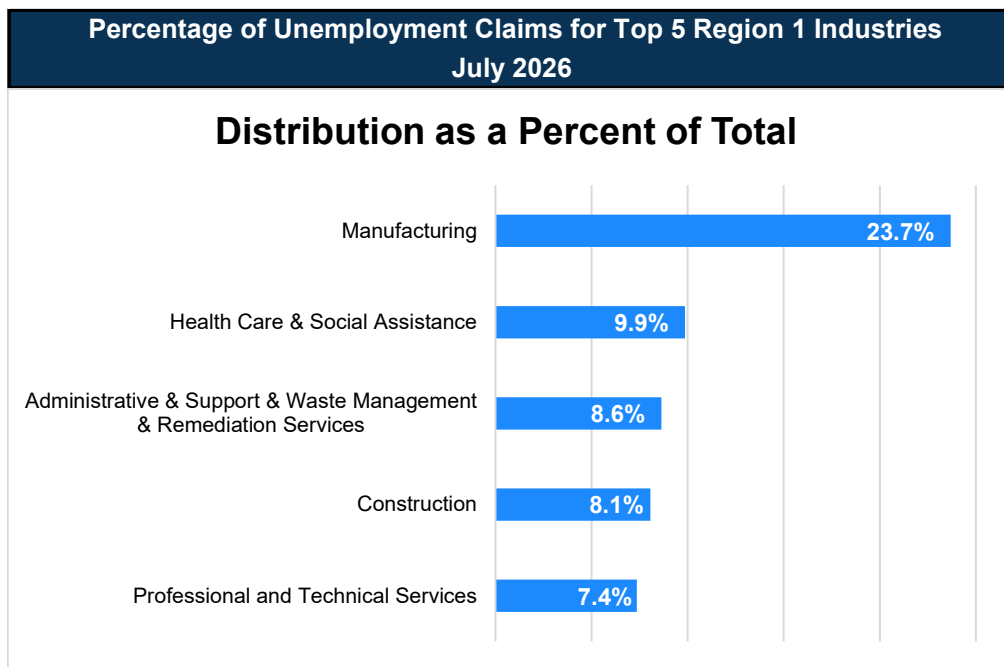
#92 - Pulaski (2.7%)

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research & Analysis, Local Area Unemployment Statistics | Unemployment Statistics Released:08/26 | 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 July 2026 |                      |                                 |                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Industry                                                            | Avg. Earnings per hr | Avg. # of hours worked per week | Avg. Earnings per week |
| Construction                                                        | \$41.32              | 43.7                            | \$1,805.68             |
| Manufacturing                                                       | \$26.33              | 42.8                            | \$1,126.92             |
| Durable Goods                                                       | \$26.91              | 43.7                            | \$1,175.97             |
| Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing                              | \$26.13              | 43.4                            | \$1,134.04             |
| Transportation Equipment Manufacturing                              | \$28.46              | 39.0                            | \$1,109.94             |
| Non-Durable Goods                                                   | \$24.90              | 40.6                            | \$1,010.94             |
| Retail Trade                                                        | \$20.66              | 30.2                            | \$623.93               |
| Financial Activities                                                | \$29.64              | 37.7                            | \$1,117.43             |
| Health Care and Social Assistance                                   | \$31.28              | 32.6                            | \$1,019.73             |
| Accommodation and Food Services                                     | \$17.27              | 25.2                            | \$435.20               |

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 July 2026               |                 |          |            |             |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------|------------|-------------|
| Company                                               | City            | County   | # affected | Notice Date |
|                                                       |                 |          |            |             |
|                                                       |                 |          |            |             |
| There are no WARN Notices for July 2026 for Region 1. |                 |          |            |             |
| Significant WARN Notices for nearby locations         |                 |          |            |             |
| Company                                               | City            | County   | # Affected | Notice Date |
| CJ Logistics America, LLC                             | University Park | Will, IL | 89         | 7/10/26     |
| SCR Medical Transportation LLC                        | Chicago         | Cook, IL | 241        | 7/31/26     |
|                                                       |                 |          |            |             |

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: July 2026

### Region 1

#### Initial Claims

07/04/26 - 279(D)

07/11/26 - 332(D)

07/18/26 - 301(D)

07/25/26 - 268(D)

#### Continued Claims

07/04/26 - 2,428

07/11/26 - 2,477

07/18/26 - 2,419

07/25/26 - 2,416

#### Total Claims

07/04/26 - 2,707

07/11/26 - 2,809

07/18/26 - 2,720

07/25/26 - 2,684

### State of Indiana

#### Initial Claims

07/04/26 - 2,264

07/11/26 - 4,126

07/18/26 - 3,349

07/25/26 - 2,009

#### Continued Claims

07/04/26 - 19,177

07/11/26 - 20,998

07/18/26 - 18,701

07/25/26 - 18,092

#### Total Claims

07/04/26 - 21,441

07/11/26 - 25,124

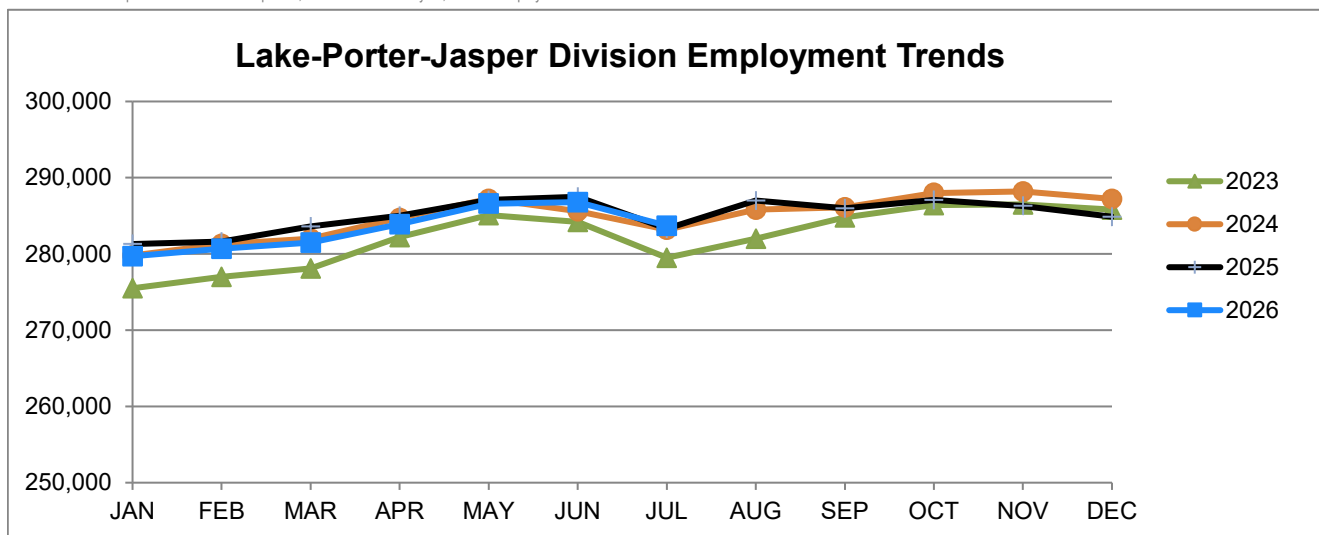
07/18/26 - 22,050

07/25/26 - 20,101

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              | July 2026      |                |                | # Change         | % Change      | # Change         | % Change    |
| Industry                                  | Jul-26         | Jun-26         | Jul-25         | Jun-26 to Jul-26 |               | Jul-25 to Jul-26 |             |
| <b>Total Nonfarm</b>                      | <b>283,700</b> | <b>286,800</b> | <b>283,300</b> | <b>-3,100</b>    | <b>-1.1%</b>  | <b>400</b>       | <b>0.1%</b> |
| <b>Total Private</b>                      | <b>254,800</b> | <b>254,000</b> | <b>254,700</b> | <b>800</b>       | <b>0.3%</b>   | <b>100</b>       | <b>0.0%</b> |
| Goods Producing                           | 54,300         | 53,800         | 54,000         | 500              | 0.9%          | 300              | 0.6%        |
| Service Providing                         | 229,400        | 233,000        | 229,300        | -3,600           | -1.6%         | 100              | 0.0%        |
| Private Service Providing                 | 200,500        | 200,200        | 200,700        | 300              | 0.2%          | -200             | -0.1%       |
| Mining and Logging                        | 100            | 100            | 100            | 0                | 0.0%          | 0                | 0.0%        |
| Mining, Logging and Construction          | 19,800         | 19,400         | 19,400         | 400              | 2.1%          | 400              | 2.1%        |
| Construction                              | 19,700         | 19,300         | 19,300         | 400              | 2.1%          | 400              | 2.1%        |
| Manufacturing                             | 34,500         | 34,400         | 34,600         | 100              | 0.3%          | -100             | -0.3%       |
| Durable Goods                             | 25,000         | 24,900         | 25,100         | 100              | 0.4%          | -100             | -0.4%       |
| Trade, Transportation and Utilities       | 60,800         | 60,400         | 60,300         | 400              | 0.7%          | 500              | 0.8%        |
| Wholesale Trade                           | 11,000         | 10,900         | 10,900         | 100              | 0.9%          | 100              | 0.9%        |
| Retail Trade                              | 31,800         | 31,700         | 31,300         | 100              | 0.3%          | 500              | 1.6%        |
| General Merchandise Stores                | 7,200          | 7,200          | 6,700          | 0                | 0.0%          | 500              | 7.5%        |
| Other Gen Merch Stores                    | 5,200          | 5,200          | 4,900          | 0                | 0.0%          | 300              | 6.1%        |
| Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities | 18,000         | 17,800         | 18,100         | 200              | 1.1%          | -100             | -0.6%       |
| Information                               | 1,700          | 1,700          | 2,000          | 0                | 0.0%          | -300             | -15.0%      |
| Financial Activities                      | 9,700          | 9,600          | 9,800          | 100              | 1.0%          | -100             | -1.0%       |
| Professional and Business Services        | 30,400         | 30,400         | 29,200         | 0                | 0.0%          | 1,200            | 4.1%        |
| Employment Services                       | 3,200          | 3,300          | 3,100          | -100             | -3.0%         | 100              | 3.2%        |
| Education and Health Services             | 51,500         | 51,500         | 50,800         | 0                | 0.0%          | 700              | 1.4%        |
| Educational Services                      | 4,800          | 5,000          | 4,700          | -200             | -4.0%         | 100              | 2.1%        |
| Health Care and Social Assistance         | 46,700         | 46,500         | 46,100         | 200              | 0.4%          | 600              | 1.3%        |
| General Medical and Surgical Hospitals    | 13,600         | 13,500         | 13,500         | 100              | 0.7%          | 100              | 0.7%        |
| Leisure and Hospitality                   | 32,000         | 32,100         | 33,700         | -100             | -0.3%         | -1,700           | -5.0%       |
| Arts, Entertainment and Recreation        | 3,700          | 3,600          | 4,300          | 100              | 2.8%          | -600             | -14.0%      |
| Food Services and Drinking Places         | 28,300         | 28,500         | 29,400         | -200             | -0.7%         | -1,100           | -3.7%       |
| Other Services                            | 14,400         | 14,500         | 14,900         | -100             | -0.7%         | -500             | -3.4%       |
| <b>Total Government</b>                   | <b>28,900</b>  | <b>32,800</b>  | <b>28,600</b>  | <b>-3,900</b>    | <b>-11.9%</b> | <b>300</b>       | <b>1.1%</b> |
| Federal Government                        | 1,900          | 1,900          | 2,000          | 0                | 0.0%          | -100             | -5.0%       |
| State Government                          | 3,500          | 3,600          | 3,400          | -100             | -2.8%         | 100              | 2.9%        |
| Local Government                          | 23,500         | 27,300         | 23,200         | -3,800           | -13.9%        | 300              | 1.3%        |
| Local Government Educational Services     | 10,200         | 13,900         | 10,200         | -3,700           | -26.6%        | 0                | 0.0%        |

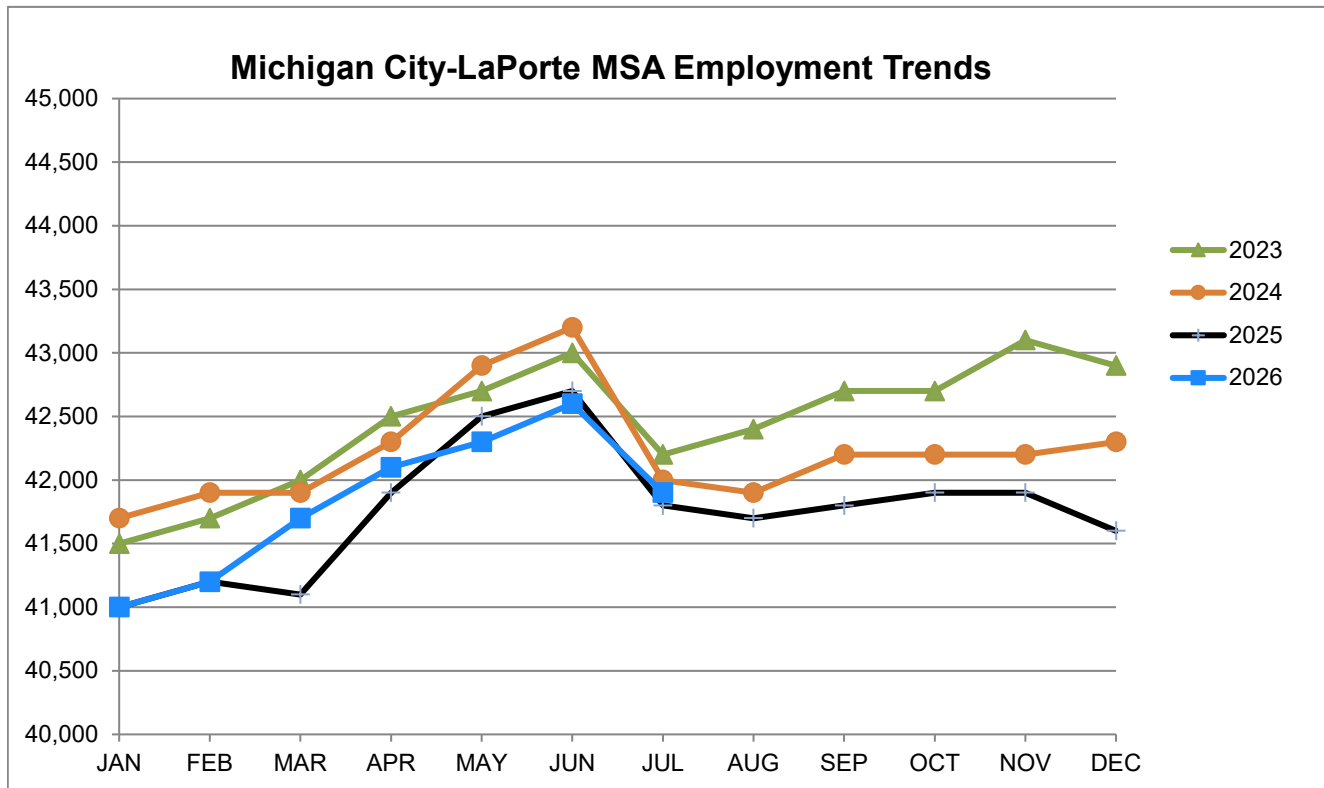
Source: Indiana Dept of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis, Current Employment Statistics



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.

| Michigan City-LaPorte MSA             |               |               |               |                  |               |                  |             |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|
| Wage and Salaried Employment          | July 2026     |               |               | # Change         | % Change      | # Change         | % Change    |
| Industry                              | Jul-26        | Jun-26        | Jul-25        | Jun-26 to Jul-26 |               | Jul-25 to Jul-26 |             |
| <b>Total Nonfarm</b>                  | <b>41,900</b> | <b>42,600</b> | <b>41,800</b> | <b>-700</b>      | <b>-1.6%</b>  | <b>100</b>       | <b>0.2%</b> |
| <b>Total Private</b>                  | <b>36,100</b> | <b>36,100</b> | <b>36,100</b> | <b>0</b>         | <b>0.0%</b>   | <b>0</b>         | <b>0.0%</b> |
| Goods Producing                       | 10,800        | 10,800        | 10,500        | 0                | 0.0%          | 300              | 2.9%        |
| Service Providing                     | 31,100        | 31,800        | 31,300        | -700             | -2.2%         | -200             | -0.6%       |
| Private Service Providing             | 25,300        | 25,300        | 25,600        | 0                | 0.0%          | -300             | -1.2%       |
| Mining, Logging and Construction      | 2,500         | 2,500         | 2,300         | 0                | 0.0%          | 200              | 8.7%        |
| Manufacturing                         | 8,300         | 8,300         | 8,200         | 0                | 0.0%          | 100              | 1.2%        |
| Trade, Transportation & Utilities     | 8,500         | 8,600         | 8,500         | -100             | -1.2%         | 0                | 0.0%        |
| Wholesale Trade                       | 1,700         | 1,600         | 1,700         | 100              | 6.3%          | 0                | 0.0%        |
| 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         | 1,300         | 1,400         | 0                | 0.0%          | -100             | -7.1%       |
| Professional and Business Services    | 2,700         | 2,700         | 2,700         | 0                | 0.0%          | 0                | 0.0%        |
| Education and Health Services         | 5,900         | 5,800         | 5,800         | 100              | 1.7%          | 100              | 1.7%        |
| Leisure and Hospitality               | 5,100         | 5,100         | 5,400         | 0                | 0.0%          | -300             | -5.6%       |
| Other Services                        | 1,600         | 1,600         | 1,600         | 0                | 0.0%          | 0                | 0.0%        |
| <b>Total Government</b>               | <b>5,800</b>  | <b>6,500</b>  | <b>5,700</b>  | <b>-700</b>      | <b>-10.8%</b> | <b>100</b>       | <b>1.8%</b> |
| Federal Government                    | 200           | 200           | 200           | 0                | 0.0%          | 0                | 0.0%        |
| State Government                      | 1,900         | 1,900         | 1,800         | 0                | 0.0%          | 100              | 5.6%        |
| Local Government                      | 3,700         | 4,400         | 3,700         | -700             | -15.9%        | 0                | 0.0%        |
| Local Government Educational Services | 1,700         | 2,200         | 1,800         | -500             | -22.7%        | -100             | -5.6%       |

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

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                          | 469             |
| Production Workers, All Other                                                   | 360             |
| Helpers--Production Workers                                                     | 321             |
| Customer Service Representatives                                                | 306             |
| Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers                                         | 278             |
| Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other                                           | 224             |
| Cashiers                                                                        | 220             |
| Office Clerks, General                                                          | 193             |
| Construction Laborers                                                           | 161             |
| Medical Assistants                                                              | 157             |
| Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators                                          | 118             |
| Receptionists and Information Clerks                                            | 116             |
| Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers                                        | 110             |
| Managers, All Other                                                             | 106             |
| Retail Salespersons                                                             | 104             |
| Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants                   | 97              |
| Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other                            | 96              |
| Maintenance and Repair Workers, General                                         | 95              |
| Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners                   | 94              |
| Carpenters                                                                      | 92              |

Source: Indiana Workforce Development, Indiana Career Connect

| Consumer Price Index (CPI-U Change), Unadjusted Percent Change to July 2026 from |                                    |        |           |        |                 |        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------|-----------|--------|-----------------|--------|
| CPI Item                                                                         | Jul-25                             | Jun-26 | Jul-25    | Jun-26 | Jul-25          | Jun-26 |
|                                                                                  | Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IN-IL-WI |        | U.S. City |        | Midwest Region* |        |
| All Items                                                                        | 2.5%                               | -0.1%  | 3.4%      | -0.1%  | 3.5%            | -0.2%  |
| Food & Beverages                                                                 | 2.4%                               | 0.5%   | 2.9%      | 0.1%   | 2.7%            | 0.1%   |
| Housing                                                                          | 3.6%                               | 0.0%   | 3.3%      | 0.0%   | 3.8%            | 0.2%   |
| Apparel                                                                          | 12.4%                              | 3.6%   | 3.9%      | -1.3%  | 6.4%            | -0.2%  |
| Transportation                                                                   | 1.3%                               | -2.2%  | 5.8%      | -2.2%  | 5.0%            | -1.4%  |
| Medical Care                                                                     | -1.8%                              | -0.5%  | 1.7%      | 0.2%   | 1.9%            | -0.3%  |
| Recreation                                                                       | 2.7%                               | 0.0%   | 2.6%      | 0.0%   | 3.6%            | -0.9%  |
| Education & Communication                                                        | -0.9%                              | 0.5%   | 0.5%      | 0.7%   | 0.4%            | 0.5%   |
| Other Goods & Services                                                           | -1.3%                              | -0.5%  | 4.3%      | -0.5%  | 1.8%            | -0.9%  |

\*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**  
**July Indiana Employment**  
Released August 21, 2026

### Unemployment Rate

\*seasonally adjusted

#### Unemployment Rate

**3.3%**

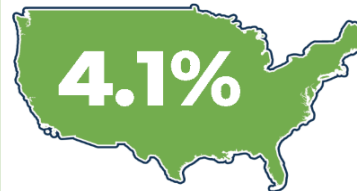


#### June 2026 Indiana

**3.3%**



#### National Unemployment Rate



### LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE\*

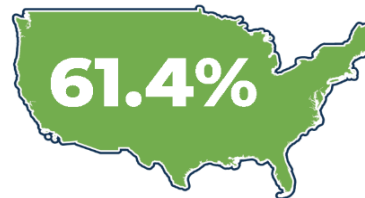
16+: **63.1%**

25-44: **83.9%**

25-54: **83.5%**



#### National Labor Force



#### Open Job Postings

**101,704**  
**Jobs**

As of August 1, 2026



#### Weekly UI Continued Claims

**18,092**

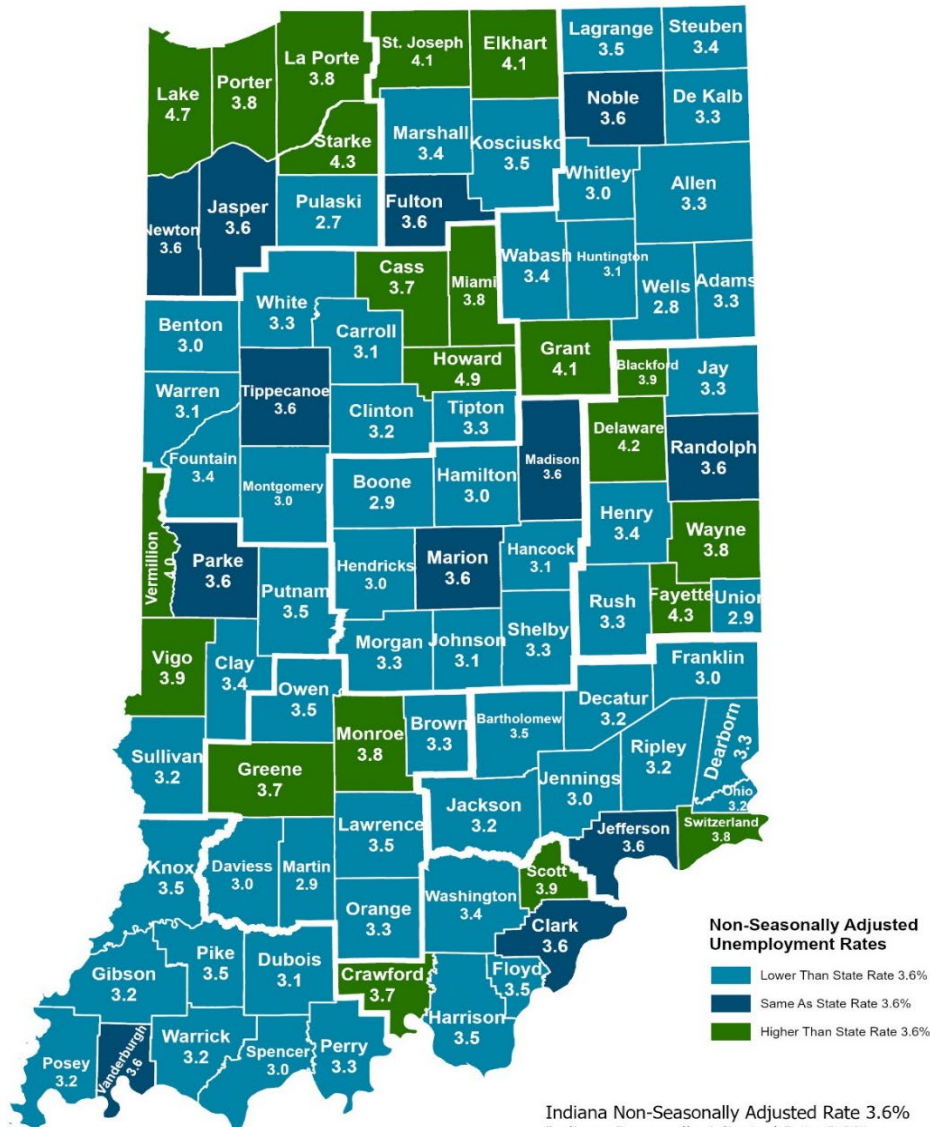


Filed Week Ending August 1, 2026

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 July 2026 - Non Seasonally Adjusted



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](mailto:kjaworski@dwd.in.gov)