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INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

LABOR MARKET REVIEW



September 2026
Labor Market Review

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INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Economic Growth Region 1

Statistical Data Report for September 2026, Released November 2026

State Employment and Unemployment

Unemployment rates were lower in September in 5 states and stable in 45 states and the District of Columbia, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Twenty states and the District had jobless rate decreases from a year earlier, 7 states had increases, and 23 states had little change. The national unemployment rate, 4.2 percent, changed little both over the month and over the year. In September, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 2 states, decreased in 1 state, and was essentially unchanged in 47 states and the District of Columbia. Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 7 states, decreased in the District, and was essentially unchanged in 43 states.

September 2026 Labor Force Estimates (not seasonally adjusted)

Area	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Sep-26	Aug-26	Sep-25
U.S.	170,298,000	163,439,000	6,859,000	4.0%	4.3%	4.3%
IN	3,500,854	3,373,034	127,820	3.7%	3.6%	3.5%
Lake-Porter-Jasper Div	357,602	341,796	15,806	4.4%	4.5%	4.3%
MichCity-LaPorte MSA	52,491	50,455	2,036	3.9%	3.8%	3.8%
EGR 1	428,256	409,737	18,519	4.3%	4.3%	4.2%
Lake Co.	243,748	232,337	11,411	4.7%	4.8%	4.6%
Porter Co.	89,874	86,370	3,504	3.9%	3.8%	3.7%
LaPorte Co.	52,491	50,455	2,036	3.9%	3.8%	3.8%
Newton Co.	6,916	6,659	257	3.7%	3.4%	3.9%
Jasper Co.	17,064	16,430	634	3.7%	3.5%	3.4%
Starke Co.	9,715	9,274	441	4.5%	4.1%	4.2%
Pulaski Co.	8,448	8,212	236	2.8%	2.7%	2.5%
East Chicago	11,064	10,487	577	5.2%	5.3%	5.5%
Hammond	36,465	34,807	1,658	4.5%	4.8%	4.5%
Munster	12,140	11,612	528	4.3%	4.4%	3.7%
Dyer	8,509	8,204	305	3.6%	3.7%	3.2%
Schererville	16,045	15,416	629	3.9%	4.0%	3.7%
Crown Point	17,003	16,267	736	4.3%	4.2%	4.2%
Griffith	9,390	9,004	386	4.1%	4.1%	4.0%
Highland	12,368	11,865	503	4.1%	4.1%	3.9%
Gary	24,385	22,543	1,842	7.6%	7.9%	8.3%
Merrillville	18,511	17,568	943	5.1%	5.2%	5.6%
Hobart	15,457	14,746	711	4.6%	4.7%	4.3%
Lake Station	5,540	5,219	321	5.8%	5.5%	5.6%
Portage	19,194	18,372	822	4.3%	4.2%	4.2%
Chesterton	7,533	7,251	282	3.7%	3.7%	3.5%
Valparaiso	18,115	17,436	679	3.7%	3.8%	3.7%
Michigan City	13,734	13,164	570	4.2%	4.0%	4.6%
LaPorte	11,277	10,864	413	3.7%	3.7%	3.5%

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



Economic Growth Region (EGR) 1

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

Unemployment Rates by State (seasonally adjusted): September 2026

U.S. - 4.2%

Illinois - 4.6%

Indiana - 3.4%

Kentucky - 4.7%

Michigan - 5%

Ohio - 3.4%

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

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

#1 - Lake (4.7%)

#3 - Starke (4.5%)

#14 - LaPorte (3.9%)

#15 - Porter (3.9%)

#25 - Jasper (3.7%)

#32 - Newton (3.7%)

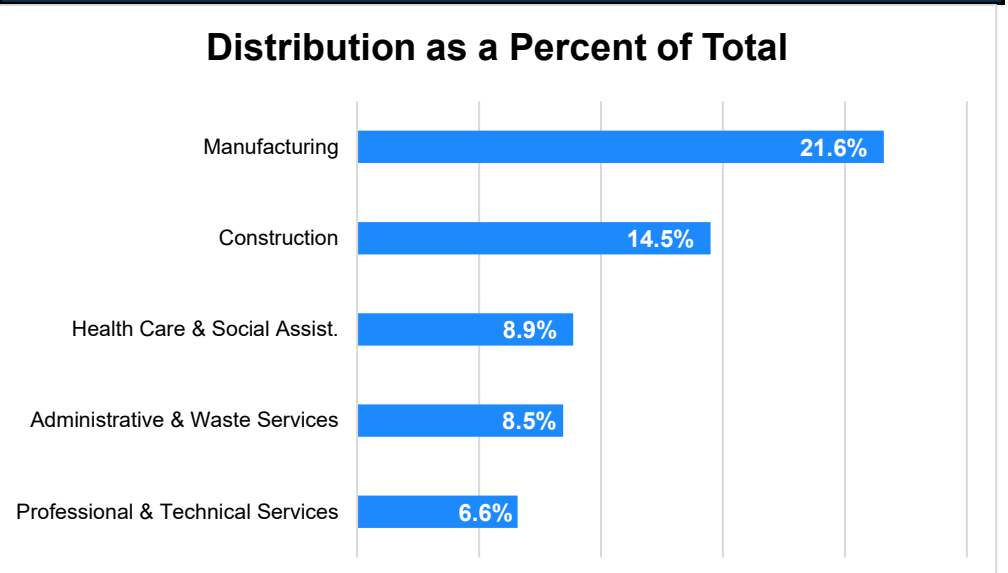
#92 - Pulaski (2.8%)

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

Statewide Average Weekly Hours & Earnings by Industry for September 2026			
Industry	Avg. Earnings per hr	Avg. # of hours worked per week	Avg. Earnings per week
Construction	$39.14	40.8	$1,596.91
Manufacturing	$27.03	42.7	$1,154.18
Durable Goods	$27.72	43.3	$1,200.28
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	$27.31	41.1	$1,122.44
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	$28.36	37.6	$1,066.34
Non-Durable Goods	$25.44	41.3	$1,050.67
Retail Trade	$21.31	28.6	$609.47
Financial Activities	$30.28	37.3	$1,129.44
Health Care and Social Assistance	$31.80	32.4	$1,030.32
Accommodation and Food Services	$17.13	23.9	$409.41

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Current Employment Statistics

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



Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis

WARN Notices

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

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

Significant WARN Notices for nearby locations				
Company	City	County	# Affected	Notice Date
Fulton Troika LLC	Chicago	Cook, IL	109	9/2/26
Uber Technologies, Inc.	Chicago	Cook, IL	363	9/2/26

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: September 2026

Region 1

Initial Claims
09/05/26 - 366(D)
09/12/26 - 286(D)
09/19/26 - 306(D)
09/26/26 - 273(D)

Continued Claims
09/05/26 - 2,428
09/12/26 - 2,452
09/19/26 - 2,382
09/26/26 - 2,296

Total Claims
09/05/26 - 2,794
09/12/26 - 2,738
09/19/26 - 2,688
09/26/26 - 2,569

State of Indiana

Initial Claims
09/05/26 - 2,136
09/12/26 - 1,893
09/19/26 - 2,060
09/26/26 - 1,848

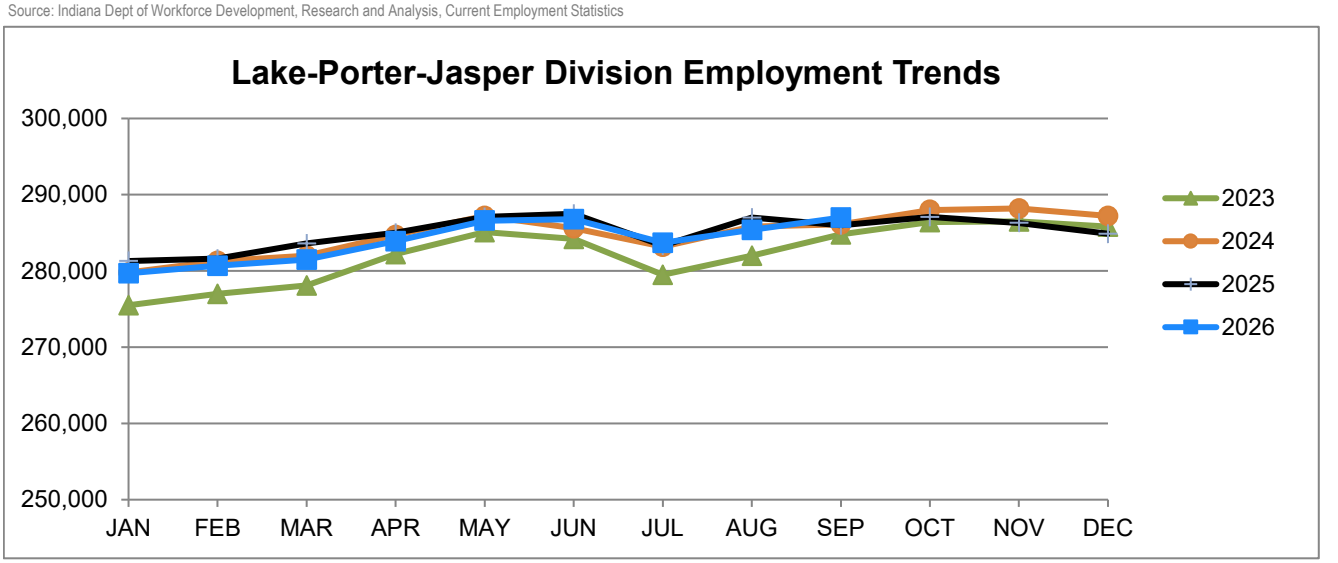
Continued Claims
09/05/26 - 17,275
09/12/26 - 17,319
09/19/26 - 17,043
09/26/26 - 16,671

Total Claims
09/05/26 - 19,411
09/12/26 - 19,212
09/19/26 - 19,103
09/26/26 - 18,519

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	September 2026			# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Industry	Sep-26	Aug-26	Sep-25	Aug-26 to Sep-26		Sep-25 to Sep-26	
Total Nonfarm	**287,000**	**285,400**	**286,000**	**1,600**	**0.6%**	**1,000**	**0.4%**
Total Private	**253,400**	**254,000**	**253,000**	**-600**	**-0.2%**	**400**	**0.2%**
Goods Producing	54,500	54,600	54,300	-100	-0.2%	200	0.4%
Service Providing	232,500	230,800	231,700	1,700	0.7%	800	0.4%
Private Service Providing	198,900	199,400	198,700	-500	-0.3%	200	0.1%
Mining and Logging	100	100	100	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Mining, Logging and Construction	19,600	20,000	19,800	-400	-2.0%	-200	-1.0%
Construction	19,500	19,900	19,700	-400	-2.0%	-200	-1.0%
Manufacturing	34,900	34,600	34,500	300	0.9%	400	1.2%
Durable Goods	25,100	25,100	25,000	0	0.0%	100	0.4%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	60,700	60,600	60,400	100	0.2%	300	0.5%
Wholesale Trade	10,900	10,900	10,900	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Retail Trade	31,800	31,800	31,300	0	0.0%	500	1.6%
General Merchandise Stores	7,300	7,300	7,100	0	0.0%	200	2.8%
Other Gen Merch Stores	5,400	5,300	5,200	100	1.9%	200	3.9%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	18,000	17,900	18,200	100	0.6%	-200	-1.1%
Information	1,700	1,700	1,800	0	0.0%	-100	-5.6%
Financial Activities	9,500	9,600	9,700	-100	-1.0%	-200	-2.1%
Professional and Business Services	29,800	29,700	28,800	100	0.3%	1,000	3.5%
Employment Services	3,300	3,300	3,300	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Education and Health Services	51,900	51,500	51,400	400	0.8%	500	1.0%
Educational Services	5,600	5,000	5,900	600	12.0%	-300	-5.1%
Health Care and Social Assistance	46,300	46,500	45,500	-200	-0.4%	800	1.8%
General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	13,500	13,500	13,400	0	0.0%	100	0.8%
Leisure and Hospitality	31,100	31,800	32,200	-700	-2.2%	-1,100	-3.4%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	3,400	3,600	3,700	-200	-5.6%	-300	-8.1%
Food Services and Drinking Places	27,700	28,200	28,500	-500	-1.8%	-800	-2.8%
Other Services	14,200	14,500	14,400	-300	-2.1%	-200	-1.4%
Total Government	**33,600**	**31,400**	**33,000**	**2,200**	**7.0%**	**600**	**1.8%**
Federal Government	1,900	1,900	2,000	0	0.0%	-100	-5.0%
State Government	4,100	3,400	4,000	700	20.6%	100	2.5%
Local Government	27,600	26,100	27,000	1,500	5.8%	600	2.2%
Local Government Educational Services	15,500	13,200	15,200	2,300	17.4%	300	2.0%

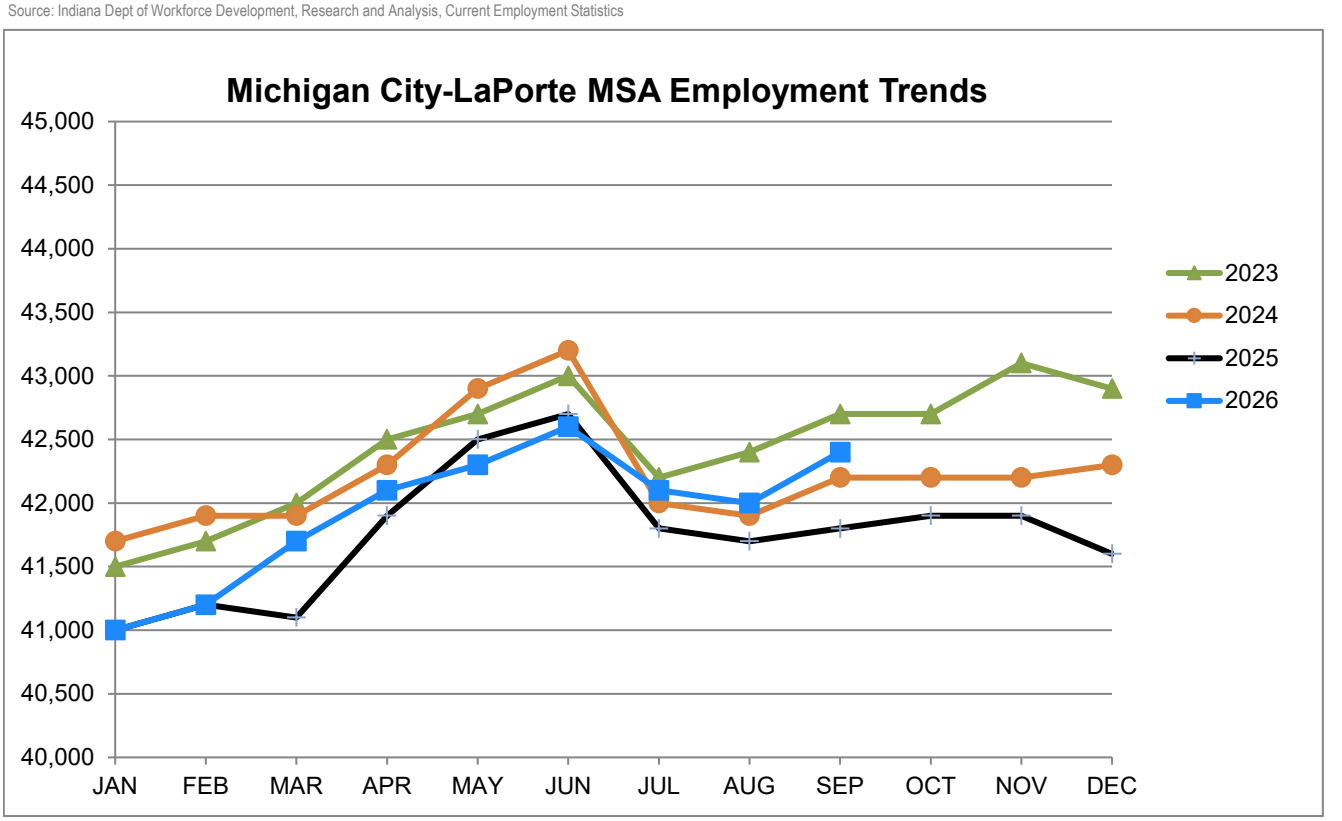
Source: Indiana Dept of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis, Current Employment Statistics



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	September 2026			# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Industry	Sep-26	Aug-26	Sep-25	Aug-26 to Sep-26		Sep-25 to Sep-26	
Total Nonfarm	**42,400**	**42,000**	**41,800**	**400**	**1.0%**	**600**	**1.4%**
Total Private	**36,100**	**36,300**	**35,500**	**-200**	**-0.6%**	**600**	**1.7%**
Goods Producing	10,900	10,900	10,500	0	0.0%	400	3.8%
Service Providing	31,500	31,100	31,300	400	1.3%	200	0.6%
Private Service Providing	25,200	25,400	25,000	-200	-0.8%	200	0.8%
Mining, Logging and Construction	2,500	2,500	2,400	0	0.0%	100	4.2%
Manufacturing	8,400	8,400	8,100	0	0.0%	300	3.7%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	8,700	8,700	8,400	0	0.0%	300	3.6%
Wholesale Trade	1,600	1,700	1,600	-100	-5.9%	0	0.0%
Retail Trade	4,900	5,000	5,000	-100	-2.0%	-100	-2.0%
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	2,600	0	0.0%	100	3.9%
Education and Health Services	5,800	5,800	5,800	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	4,900	5,100	5,100	-200	-3.9%	-200	-3.9%
Other Services	1,600	1,600	1,600	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total Government	**6,300**	**5,700**	**6,300**	**600**	**10.5%**	**0**	**0.0%**
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	4,200	3,600	4,200	600	16.7%	0	0.0%
Local Government Educational Services	2,100	1,600	2,200	500	31.3%	-100	-4.6%

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

Source: Lightcast

Applicant Pool

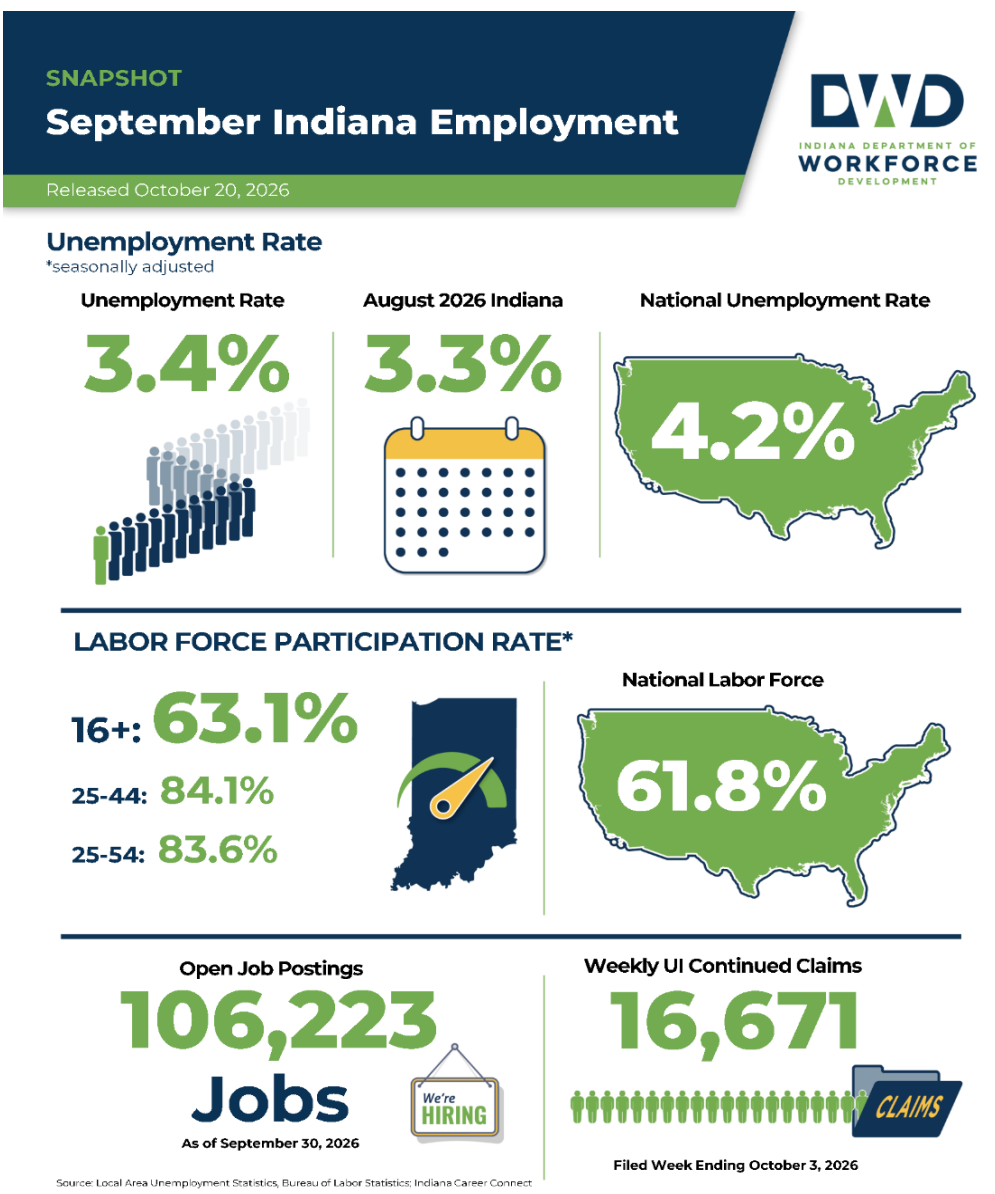
Top 20 occupations desired by applicants on their resumes in the past 12 months

Occupations	# of applicants
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	470
Production Workers, All Other	415
Helpers--Production Workers	376
Customer Service Representatives	300
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	280
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	226
Cashiers	219
Office Clerks, General	181
Medical Assistants	161
Construction Laborers	161
Metal-Refining Furnace Operators and Tenders	159
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	122
Receptionists and Information Clerks	118
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	118
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	111
Managers, All Other	108
Retail Salespersons	101
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	101
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	95
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants	95

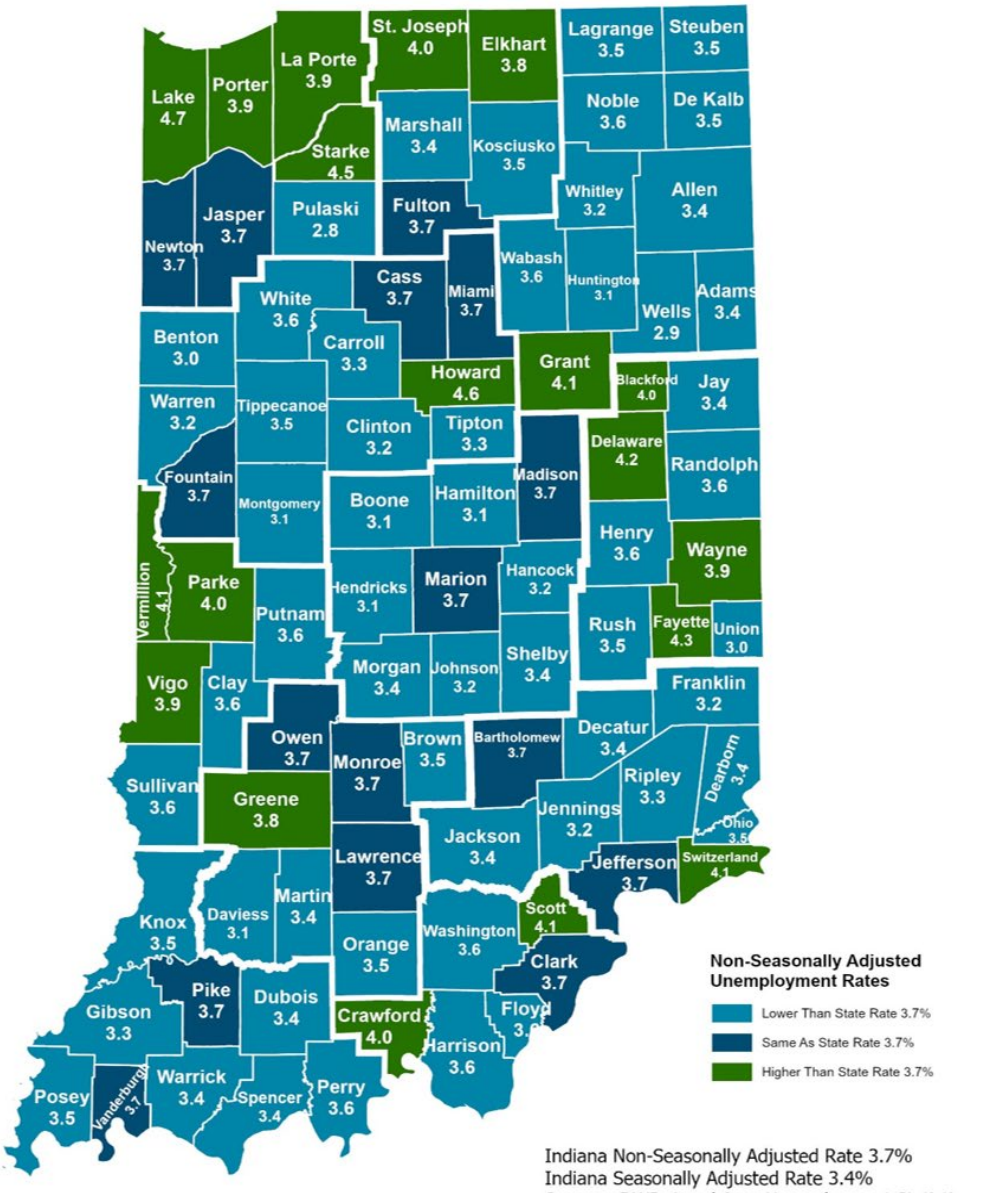
Source: Indiana Workforce Development, Indiana Career Connect

Consumer Price Index (CPI-U Change), Unadjusted Percent Change to September 2026 from						
CPI Item	Sep-25	Aug-26	Sep-25	Aug-26	Sep-25	Aug-26
	Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IN-IL-WI		U.S. City		Midwest Region*	
All Items	**2.9%**	**0.8%**	**3.7%**	**0.8%**	**4.2%**	**0.9%**
Food & Beverages	2.3%	0.5%	2.4%	0.1%	2.5%	0.2%
Housing	2.8%	0.1%	3.3%	0.1%	4.1%	0.5%
Apparel	3.2%	4.6%	3.4%	2.4%	4.2%	4.3%
Transportation	3.0%	1.4%	7.9%	1.4%	8.4%	4.3%
Medical Care	1.0%	2.2%	1.5%	0.1%	1.7%	0.6%
Recreation	2.9%	0.7%	2.8%	0.7%	3.8%	0.6%
Education & Communication	6.8%	1.6%	2.3%	0.4%	2.5%	0.9%
Other Goods & Services	-0.3%	0.2%	4.1%	0.2%	2.6%	1.2%

*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
September 2026



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

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Questions?

Please contact the DWD Regional Labor Analyst listed below:

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