



May 2026 Labor Market Review

Reported by: Kim Stevenson

Regional Labor Analyst Manager
[Email Kim](#)
kstevenson@dwd.in.gov



LABOR MARKET REVIEW

Economic Growth Region 11

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, six states had unemployment rate decreases: Delaware, Massachusetts, Ohio, Rhode Island, and South Carolina (-0.2 percentage point each) and South Dakota (-0.1 point). Two states had rate increases: Alabama and Kentucky (+0.2 percentage point each). The remaining 42 states and the District of Columbia had jobless rates that were not notably different from those of a month earlier, though some had changes that were at least as large numerically as the significant changes.

South Dakota had the lowest jobless rate in May, 2.1 percent. The District of Columbia had the highest unemployment rate, 6.1 percent. The next highest rate was in California, 5.3 percent. In total, 18 states had unemployment rates lower than the U.S. figure of 4.3 percent, 7 states and the District had higher rates, and 25 states had rates that were not appreciably different from that of the nation.

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. The job gains occurred in North Carolina (+17,400, or +0.3 percent) and West Virginia (+9,700, or +1.4 percent).

This news release presents statistics from two monthly programs. The civilian labor force and unemployment data are modeled based largely on a survey of households. These data pertain to people by where they reside. The employment data are from an establishment survey that measures nonfarm employment, hours, and earnings by industry. These data pertain to jobs on payrolls defined by where the establishments are located.



Economic Growth Region (EGR) 11

Dubois, Gibson, Knox, Perry, Pike, Posey, Spencer, Vanderburgh and Warrick 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%
EGR 11	219,760	213,084	6,676	3.0%	2.5%	3.3%
Evansville MSA	136,895	132,637	4,258	3.1%	2.5%	3.4%
Dubois Co.	22,285	21,645	640	2.9%	2.1%	3.0%
Gibson Co.	17,756	17,273	483	2.7%	2.2%	3.0%
Knox Co.	17,755	17,210	545	3.1%	2.7%	3.4%
Perry Co.	8,721	8,454	267	3.1%	2.5%	3.4%
Pike Co.	5,621	5,440	181	3.2%	2.7%	3.6%
Posey Co.	12,539	12,175	364	2.9%	2.3%	3.4%
Spencer Co.	10,727	10,425	302	2.8%	2.2%	3.1%
Vanderburgh Co.	90,286	87,382	2,904	3.2%	2.6%	3.5%
Warrick Co.	34,070	33,080	990	2.9%	2.4%	3.1%
Boonville	3,142	3,034	108	3.4%	2.9%	3.2%
Evansville	56,515	54,561	1,954	3.5%	2.9%	3.7%
Jasper	8,182	7,926	256	3.1%	2.2%	3.1%
Mount Vernon	2,908	2,816	92	3.2%	2.4%	3.7%
Petersburg	1,034	1,006	28	2.7%	2.6%	4.0%
Princeton	4,401	4,267	134	3.0%	2.7%	3.3%
Rockport	969	938	31	3.2%	3.0%	3.5%
Tell City	3,519	3,402	117	3.3%	2.5%	3.3%
Vincennes	8,189	7,914	275	3.4%	3.0%	3.6%

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.

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

#35 - Pike (3.2%)

#37 - Vanderburgh (3.2%)

#43 - Knox (3.1%)

#47 - Perry (3.1%)

#62 - Dubois (2.9%)

#67 - Posey (2.9%)

#71 - Warrick (2.9%)

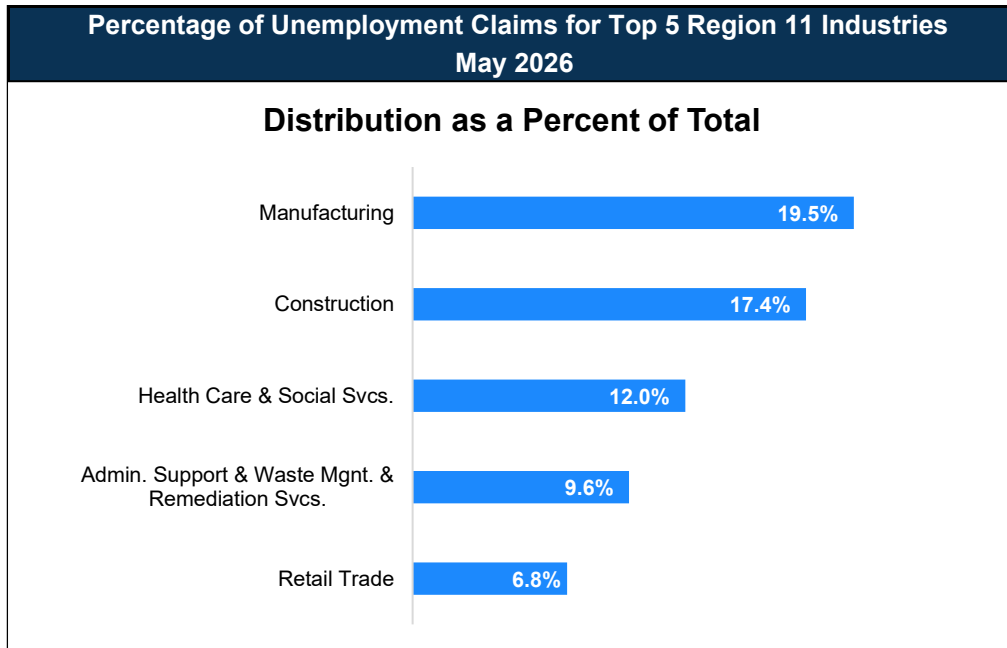
#77 - Spencer (2.8%)

#83 - Gibson (2.7%)

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

Consumer Price Index (CPI-U Change), Unadjusted Percent Change to May 2026 from				
CPI Item	May-25	Apr-26	May-25	Apr-26
	U.S. City		Midwest Region*	
All Items	4.2%	0.6%	5.0%	1.1%
Food & Beverages	3.0%	0.1%	3.2%	0.4%
Housing	3.6%	0.3%	4.6%	0.3%
Apparel	4.8%	-0.4%	6.1%	0.2%
Transportation	9.3%	2.3%	10.1%	4.1%
Medical Care	2.6%	0.3%	3.6%	0.5%
Recreation	2.6%	0.3%	4.8%	0.7%
Education & Communication	0.8%	0.7%	1.1%	0.9%
Other Goods & Services	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



Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis

WARN Notices

WARN Notices for Region 11 for May 2026				
Company	City	County	# of Workers affected	Notice Date

There are no WARN Notices for May 2026 for EGR 11.

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 11

Initial Claims

05/02/26 - 120(D)

05/09/26 - 133(D)

05/16/26 - 132(D)

05/23/26 - 77(D)

05/30/26 - 99(D)

Continued Claims

05/02/26 - 808

05/09/26 - 840

05/16/26 - 837

05/23/26 - 823

05/30/26 - 816

Total Claims

05/02/26 - 928

05/09/26 - 973

05/16/26 - 969

05/23/26 - 900

05/30/26 - 915

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

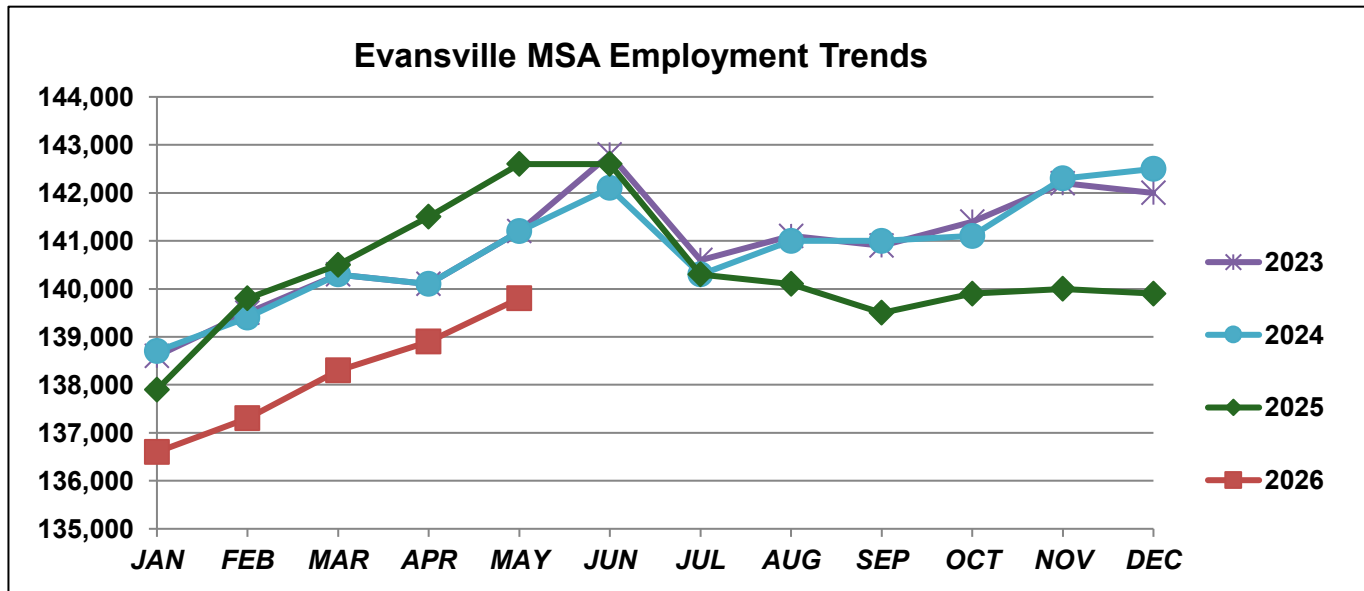
05/23/26 - 20,587

05/30/26 - 21,146

(D) indicates item is affected by non-disclosure issues relating to industry or ownership status *Numbers subject to weekly revision Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis

Evansville 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	139,800	138,900	142,600	900	0.7%	-2,800	-2.0%
Total Private	126,000	125,400	127,900	600	0.5%	-1,900	-1.5%
Goods Producing	26,500	26,100	27,400	400	1.5%	-900	-3.3%
Service-Providing	113,300	112,800	115,200	500	0.4%	-1,900	-1.7%
Private Service Providing	99,500	99,300	100,500	200	0.2%	-1,000	-1.0%
Mining, Logging and Construction	9,200	9,000	9,900	200	2.2%	-700	-7.1%
Manufacturing	17,300	17,100	17,500	200	1.2%	-200	-1.1%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	26,500	26,500	27,000	0	0.0%	-500	-1.9%
Wholesale Trade	5,700	5,600	5,900	100	1.8%	-200	-3.4%
Retail Trade	14,300	14,300	14,200	0	0.0%	100	0.7%
General Merchandise Stores	3,800	3,800	3,700	0	0.0%	100	2.7%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	6,500	6,600	6,900	-100	-1.5%	-400	-5.8%
Information	2,100	2,100	2,200	0	0.0%	-100	-4.6%
Financial Activities	5,600	5,700	5,700	-100	-1.8%	-100	-1.8%
Professional and Business Services	16,400	16,300	16,300	100	0.6%	100	0.6%
Private Education and Health Services	27,900	28,000	27,600	-100	-0.4%	300	1.1%
Health Care and Social Assistance	25,200	25,300	24,900	-100	-0.4%	300	1.2%
Hospitals	9,100	9,100	8,900	0	0.0%	200	2.3%
Leisure and Hospitality	14,400	14,100	15,400	300	2.1%	-1,000	-6.5%
Other Services	6,600	6,600	6,300	0	0.0%	300	4.8%
Total Government	13,800	13,500	14,700	300	2.2%	-900	-6.1%
Federal Government	1,100	1,200	1,200	-100	-8.3%	-100	-8.3%
State Government	4,100	3,900	3,700	200	5.1%	400	10.8%
Local Government	8,600	8,400	9,800	200	2.4%	-1,200	-12.2%
Local Government Educational Services	4,600	4,500	5,900	100	2.2%	-1,300	-22.0%

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. Henderson County is now in Kentucky's Balance of State (Statewide). This will account for a drop in employment for the MSA.

Frequently Listed Jobs	
Top 20 job listings by number of postings in Region 11 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	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
6	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General
7	Home Health and Personal Care Aides
8	Health Technologists and Technicians, All Other
9	Customer Service Representatives
10	Nursing Assistants
11	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners
12	Food Service Managers
13	Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners
14	Physicians, All Other
15	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products
16	Nurse Practitioners
17	First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers
18	Sales Representatives of Services, Except Advertising, Insurance, Financial Services, and Travel
19	Production Workers, All Other
20	General and Operations Managers

Source: Lightcast, Job Postings Table.

Applicant Pool	
Top 20 occupations desired by applicants on their resumes in the past 12 months	
Occupations	# of Applicants
Production Workers, All Other	388
Helpers--Production Workers	173
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	156
Customer Service Representatives	130
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	117
Office Clerks, General	95
Cashiers	87
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	82
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	68
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	66
Managers, All Other	59
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants	52
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	52
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	52
General and Operations Managers	50
Receptionists and Information Clerks	48
Team Assemblers	47
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	46
Retail Salespersons	46
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	46

Source: Indiana Workforce Development, Indiana Career Connect

SNAPSHOT

May Indiana Employment

Released June 23, 2026



Unemployment Rate

*seasonally adjusted

Unemployment Rate

3.3%

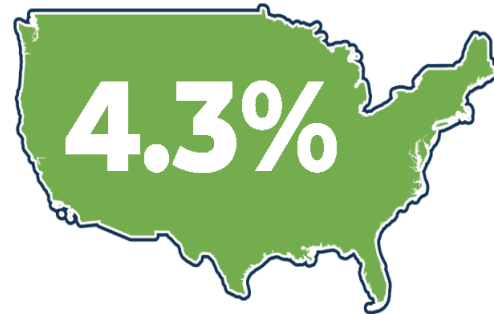


April 2026 Indiana

3.3%



National Unemployment Rate



LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE*

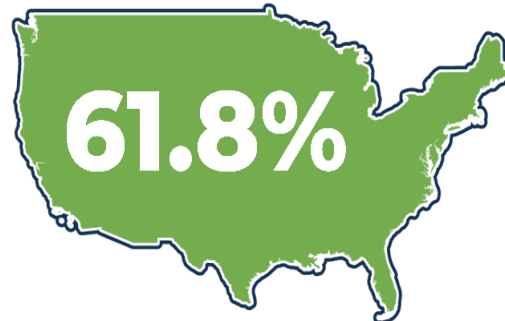
16+: 63.2%

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

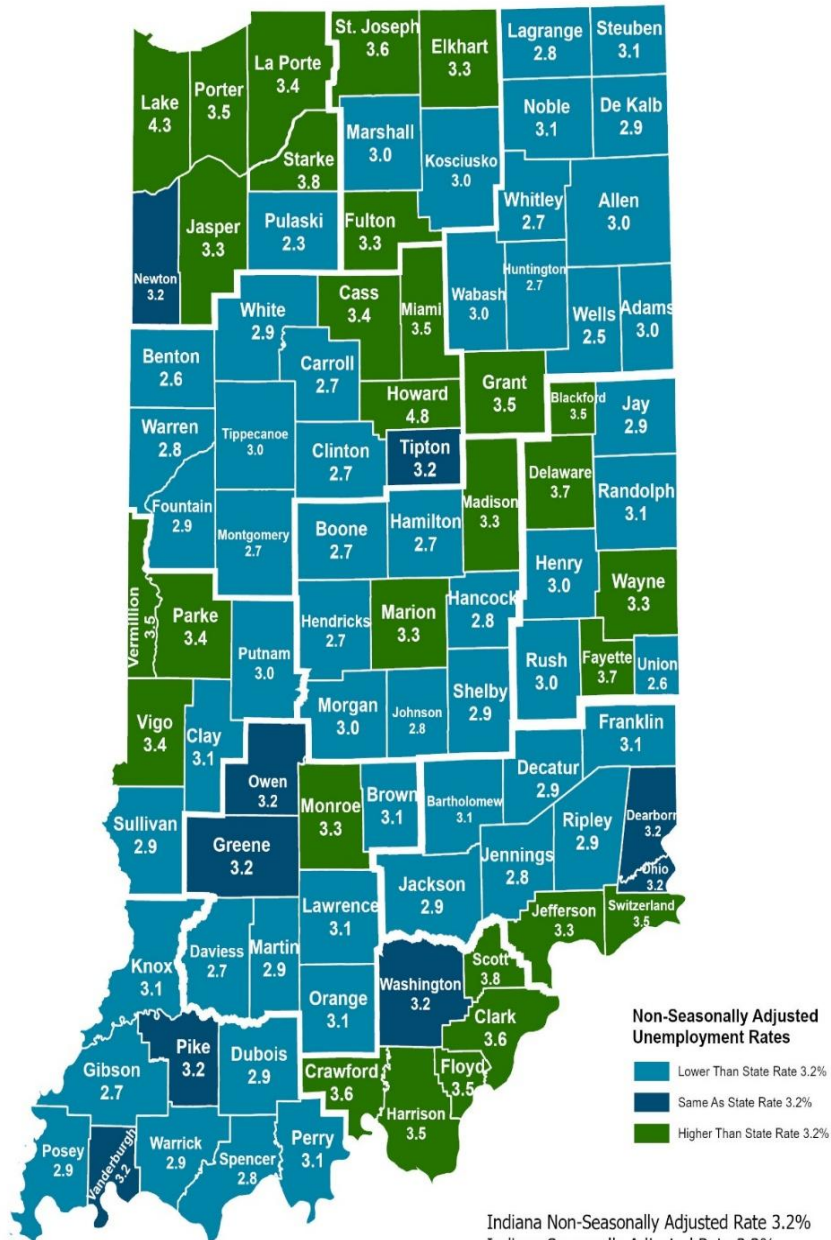


Filed Week Ending June 6, 2026

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



Indiana Non-Seasonally Adjusted Rate 3.2%
 Indiana Seasonally Adjusted Rate 3.3%
 Source: DWD, Local Area Unemployment Statistics



Questions?

Please contact the DWD
Representative listed
below:

Kim Stevenson

*Regional Workforce Analyst
Manager*

kstevenson@dwd.in.gov