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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 11

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.

South Dakota had the lowest jobless rate in September, 2.0 percent, followed by North Dakota, 2.2 percent. The District of Columbia had the highest unemployment rate, 5.6 percent. In total, 20 states had unemployment rates lower than the U.S. figure of 4.2 percent, 2 states and the District had higher rates, and 28 states had rates that were not appreciably different from that of the nation.

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.

The job gains occurred in New Jersey (+14,900, or +0.3 percent) and South Carolina (+12,500, or +0.5 percent). The only decrease occurred in Wisconsin (-13,700, or -0.4 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

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%
EGR 11	217,759	210,061	7,698	3.5%	3.4%	3.3%
Evansville MSA	136,050	131,168	4,882	3.6%	3.4%	3.5%
Dubois Co.	21,581	20,858	723	3.4%	3.1%	2.9%
Gibson Co.	17,419	16,841	578	3.3%	3.2%	3.0%
Knox Co.	17,890	17,260	630	3.5%	3.5%	3.3%
Perry Co.	8,588	8,275	313	3.6%	3.4%	3.3%
Pike Co.	5,950	5,728	222	3.7%	3.5%	3.7%
Posey Co.	12,358	11,927	431	3.5%	3.1%	3.3%
Spencer Co.	10,281	9,931	350	3.4%	3.1%	3.1%
Vanderburgh Co.	90,044	86,730	3,314	3.7%	3.6%	3.5%
Warrick Co.	33,648	32,511	1,137	3.4%	3.1%	3.3%
Boonville	3,106	2,982	124	4.0%	3.4%	3.9%
Evansville	56,347	54,153	2,194	3.9%	3.8%	3.8%
Jasper	7,922	7,638	284	3.6%	3.3%	3.2%
Mount Vernon	2,866	2,758	108	3.8%	3.4%	4.1%
Petersburg	1,103	1,059	44	4.0%	3.7%	4.5%
Princeton	4,309	4,160	149	3.5%	3.3%	3.5%
Rockport	929	894	35	3.8%	3.4%	3.4%
Tell City	3,446	3,330	116	3.4%	3.3%	3.2%
Vincennes	8,254	7,937	317	3.8%	4.0%	3.4%

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research & Analysis, Local Area Unemployment Statistics | Unemployment Statistics Released: 11/26 | 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): 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

#34 - Pike (3.7%)

#35 - Vanderburgh (3.7%)

#41 - Perry (3.6%)

#50 - Knox (3.5%)

#55 - Posey (3.5%)

#63 - Dubois (3.4%)

#70 - Spencer (3.4%)

#71 - Warrick (3.4%)

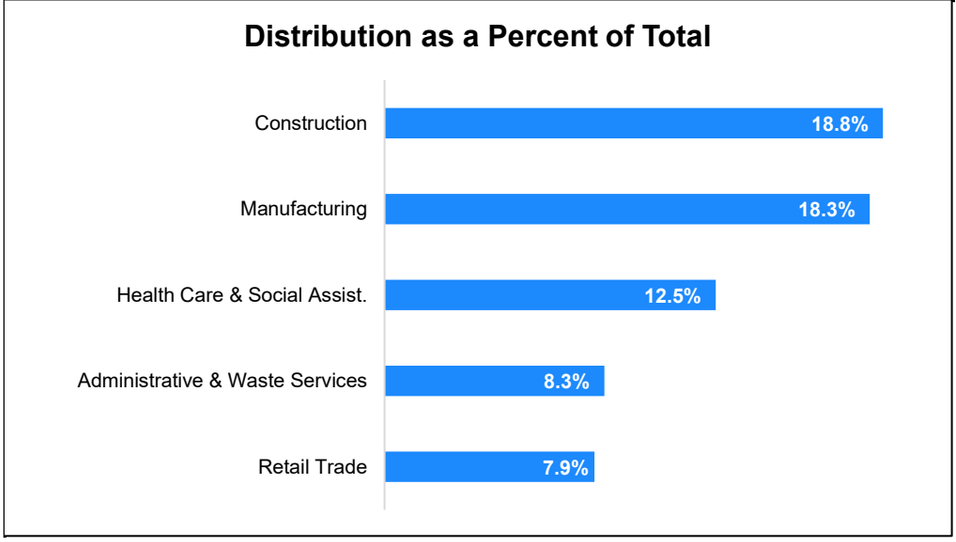
#73 - Gibson (3.3%)

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

Consumer Price Index (CPI-U Change), Unadjusted Percent Change to September 2026 from				
CPI Item	Sep-25	Aug-26	Sep-25	Aug-26
	U.S. City		Midwest Region*	
All Items	**3.7%**	**0.6%**	**4.2%**	**0.9%**
Food & Beverages	2.4%	0.1%	2.5%	0.2%
Housing	3.3%	0.3%	4.1%	0.5%
Apparel	3.4%	2.4%	4.2%	4.3%
Transportation	7.9%	1.7%	8.4%	4.3%
Medical Care	1.5%	0.1%	1.7%	0.6%
Recreation	2.8%	0.5%	3.8%	0.6%
Education & Communication	2.3%	0.4%	2.5%	0.9%
Other Goods & Services	4.1%	0.4%	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

Percentage of Unemployment Claims for Top 5 Region 11 Industries September 2026



Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis

WARN Notices

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

There are no WARN Notices for September 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: September 2026

Region 11

Initial Claims

09/01/26 - 60(D)
09/08/26 - 90(D)
09/15/26 - 97(D)
09/22/26 - 82(D)

Continued Claims

09/01/26 - 880
09/08/26 - 854
09/15/26 - 818
09/22/26 - 820

Total Claims

09/01/26 - 940
09/08/26 - 944
09/15/26 - 915
09/22/26 - 902

State of Indiana

Initial Claims

09/01/26 - 2,136
09/08/26 - 1,893
09/15/26 - 2,060
09/22/26 - 1,848

Continued Claims

09/01/26 - 17,275
09/08/26 - 17,319
09/15/26 - 17,043
09/22/26 - 16,671

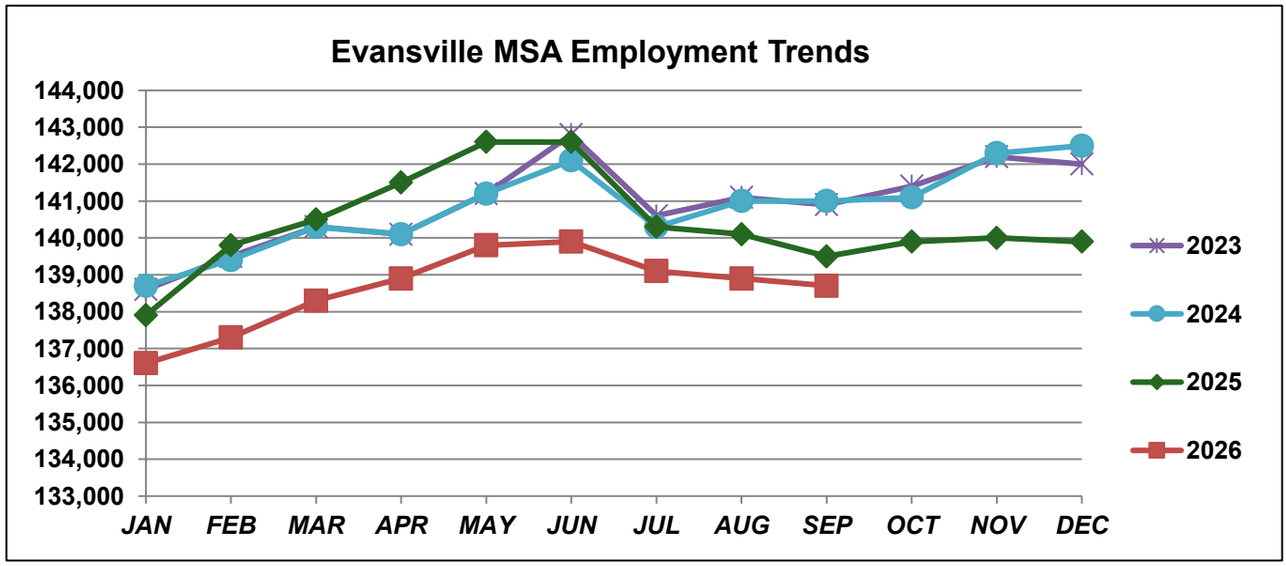
Total Claims

09/01/26 - 19,411
09/08/26 - 19,212
09/15/26 - 19,103
09/22/26 - 18,519

(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	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	**138,700**	**138,900**	**139,500**	**-200**	**-0.1%**	**-800**	**-0.6%**
Total Private	**125,200**	**126,000**	**126,800**	**-800**	**-0.6%**	**-1,600**	**-1.3%**
Goods Producing	26,100	26,300	26,800	-200	-0.8%	-700	-2.6%
Service-Providing	112,600	112,600	112,700	0	0.0%	-100	-0.1%
Private Service Providing	99,100	99,700	100,000	-600	-0.6%	-900	-0.9%
Mining, Logging and Construction	8,900	9,000	9,400	-100	-1.1%	-500	-5.3%
Manufacturing	17,200	17,300	17,400	-100	-0.6%	-200	-1.2%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	26,300	26,500	27,100	-200	-0.8%	-800	-3.0%
Wholesale Trade	5,600	5,700	5,700	-100	-1.8%	-100	-1.8%
Retail Trade	14,100	14,200	14,300	-100	-0.7%	-200	-1.4%
General Merchandise Stores	3,800	3,800	3,800	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	6,600	6,600	7,100	0	0.0%	-500	-7.0%
Information	2,000	2,000	2,200	0	0.0%	-200	-9.1%
Financial Activities	5,600	5,600	5,700	0	0.0%	-100	-1.8%
Professional and Business Services	16,500	16,700	16,300	-200	-1.2%	200	1.2%
Private Education and Health Services	28,200	28,000	27,600	200	0.7%	600	2.2%
Health Care and Social Assistance	25,500	25,500	24,900	0	0.0%	600	2.4%
Hospitals	9,200	9,200	9,000	0	0.0%	200	2.2%
Leisure and Hospitality	13,900	14,200	14,500	-300	-2.1%	-600	-4.1%
Other Services	6,600	6,700	6,600	-100	-1.5%	0	0.0%
Total Government	**13,500**	**12,900**	**12,700**	**600**	**4.7%**	**800**	**6.3%**
Federal Government	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
State Government	4,400	3,800	3,200	600	15.8%	1,200	37.5%
Local Government	8,000	8,000	8,400	0	0.0%	-400	-4.8%
Local Government Educational Services	4,500	4,400	4,700	100	2.3%	-200	-4.3%

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. 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	Nurse Practitioners
8	Customer Service Representatives
9	Nursing Assistants
10	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products
11	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand
12	Sales Representatives of Services, Except Advertising, Insurance, Financial Services, and Travel
13	Driver/Sales Workers
14	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners
15	Project Management Specialists
16	Food Service Managers
17	Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners
18	Patient Representatives
19	Medical and Health Services Managers
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	267
Helpers--Production Workers	140
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	115
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	88
Customer Service Representatives	87
Office Clerks, General	71
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	59
Cashiers	58
Managers, All Other	54
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	53
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	46
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	45
General and Operations Managers	41
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	41
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	36
Team Assemblers	36
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	35
Receptionists and Information Clerks	35
Construction Laborers	32
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants	32

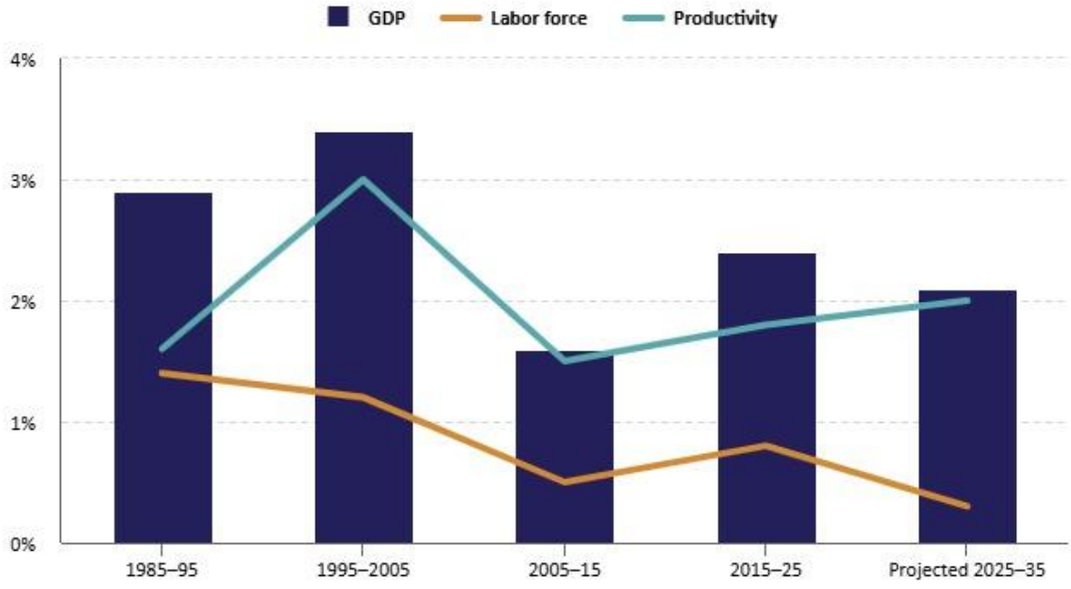
Source: Indiana Workforce Development, Indiana Career Connect

Career Outlook

Projections of the U.S. economy, labor force, and productivity 2025–35

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) projects the economy to grow by 2.1 percent each year, on average, from 2025 to 2035. As the columns in the chart show, this rate is in line with the average growth rates of the previous two decades. Economic growth is influenced by changes in the labor force and worker productivity, among other factors. The two lines on the chart show growth rates for the labor force (those working or looking for work) and productivity (output per hour).

Compound annual rate of change in real GDP, the labor force, and productivity, 1985–2025 and projected 2025–35 (percent)



Hover over chart to view data. Click on legend items to change display.

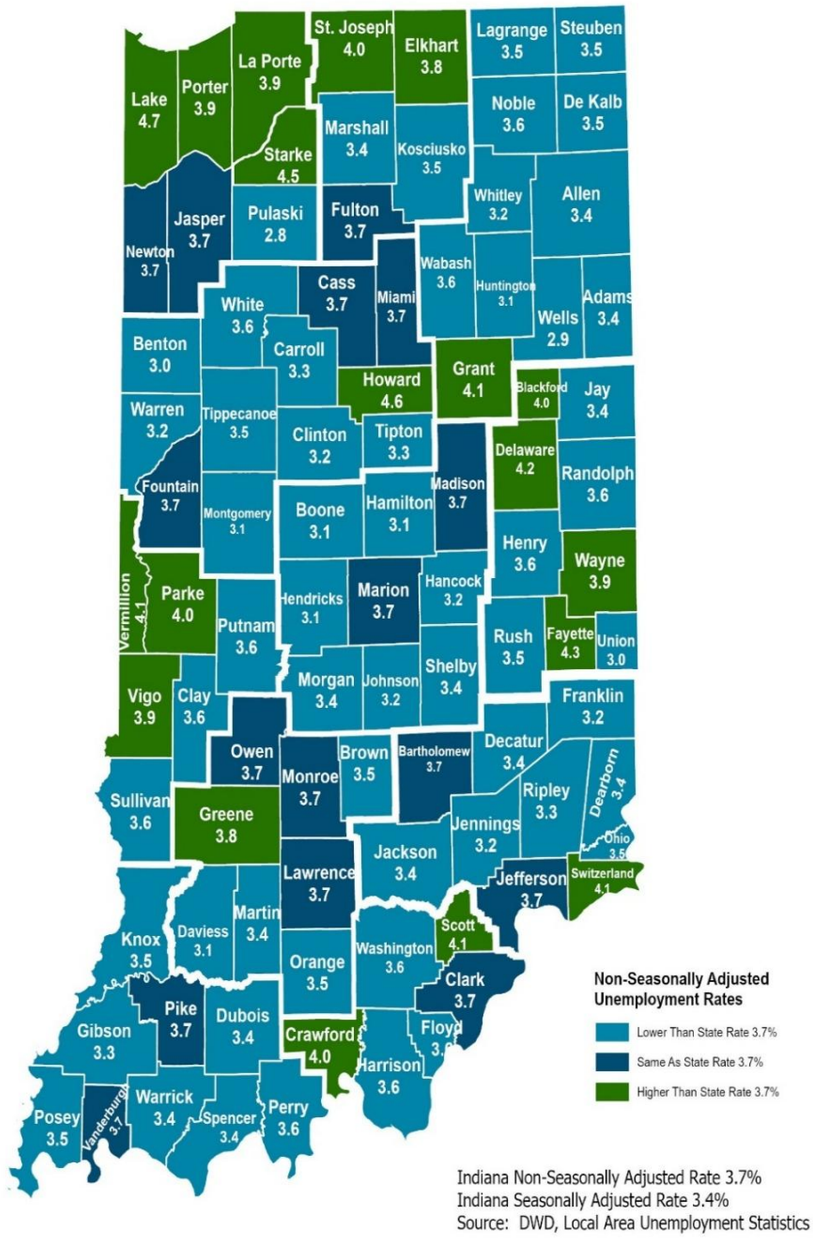
Source: Historical GDP data are from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. Projected GDP, labor force, and productivity data are from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Economic growth is measured as the value of goods produced and services provided in the United States: gross domestic product, or real GDP. The growth of GDP has historically outpaced labor force growth and is projected to continue to do so through 2035. Labor force growth (0.3 percent annually from 2025 to 2035) is projected to slow due to lower population growth and the aging of the population. At the same time, productivity is expected to edge up (2.0 percent annual growth from 2025 to 2035), led by investments in technology, including the deployment of super intelligence or SI (also known as artificial intelligence or AI).

BLS uses estimates of future GDP, along with other assumptions about the economy, to help project employment for hundreds of industries and occupations.
To learn more, visit the BLS Employment Projections webpage.

Source: Maria Hussain, "Projections of the U.S. economy, labor force, and productivity 2025–35," *Career Outlook,* U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, October 2026.

County Unemployment Rates
September 2026



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

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Questions?

Please contact the DWD Representative listed below:

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