



# HOOSIERS BY THE NUMBERS

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## DWD

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF  
**WORKFORCE**  
DEVELOPMENT

## LABOR MARKET REVIEW



## February 2026 Labor Market Review

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## DWD

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF  
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DEVELOPMENT



# Economic Growth Region 2

Statistical Data Report for February 2026, Released April 2026

### State Employment and Unemployment

Unemployment rates were higher in February in 1 state and stable in 49 states and the District of Columbia, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Thirteen states and the District of Columbia had unemployment rate increases from February 2025, the largest of which was in Delaware (+1.1 percentage points). The only over-the-year rate decreases occurred in Ohio (-0.7 percentage point) and Indiana (-0.5 point). Thirty-five states had jobless rates that were not notably different from those of a year earlier, though some had changes that were at least as large numerically as the significant changes.

The national unemployment rate, 4.4 percent, changed little over the month but was 0.2 percentage point higher than in February 2025.

In February 2026, nonfarm payroll employment decreased in 2 states, increased in 1 state, and was essentially unchanged in 47 states and the District of Columbia.

Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment decreased in 2 states and the District, increased in 2 states, and was essentially unchanged in 46 states. Employment decreased in Maryland (-52,700, or -1.9 percent), the District (-42,200, or -5.5 percent), and Iowa (-19,200, or -1.2 percent). The job gains occurred in California (+120,500, or +0.7 percent) and Nevada (+34,500, or +2.2 percent).



### Economic Growth Region (EGR) 2

Elkhart, Fulton, Kosciusko, Marshall and St. Joseph Counties

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

U.S. - 4.4%

Illinois - 5%

Indiana - 3.3%

Kentucky - 4.2%

Michigan - 5%

Ohio - 4.2%

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

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

#6 - Fulton (4.6%)

#23 - St. Joseph (4.1%)

#50 - Elkhart (3.6%)

#56 - Marshall (3.6%)

#67 - Kosciusko (3.4%)

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

February 2026 Labor Force Estimates (not seasonally adjusted)						
Area	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Feb-26	Jan-26	Feb-25
U.S.	170,206,000	162,153,000	8,052,000	4.7%	4.7%	4.5%
IN	3,461,067	3,330,356	130,711	3.8%	3.3%	4.3%
EGR 2	300,262	288,780	11,482	3.8%	3.2%	4.4%
Elkhart-Goshen MSA	99,050	95,481	3,569	3.6%	2.9%	4.3%
South Bend-Mishawaka MSA	153,066	146,603	6,463	4.2%	3.7%	4.9%
Elkhart Co.	99,050	95,481	3,569	3.6%	2.9%	4.3%
Fulton Co.	9,294	8,866	428	4.6%	4.0%	4.7%
Kosciusko Co.	39,322	37,975	1,347	3.4%	2.9%	4.1%
Marshall Co.	22,936	22,120	816	3.6%	2.9%	4.1%
St Joseph Co.	129,660	124,338	5,322	4.1%	3.4%	4.7%
Elkhart	25,021	24,073	948	3.8%	3.3%	5.1%
Goshen	15,336	14,772	564	3.7%	3.0%	4.4%
Mishawaka	24,758	23,803	955	3.9%	3.2%	4.7%
Plymouth	5,654	5,453	201	3.6%	2.9%	4.2%
South Bend	47,338	45,235	2,103	4.4%	3.8%	4.9%
Warsaw	7,865	7,614	251	3.2%	3.0%	4.2%

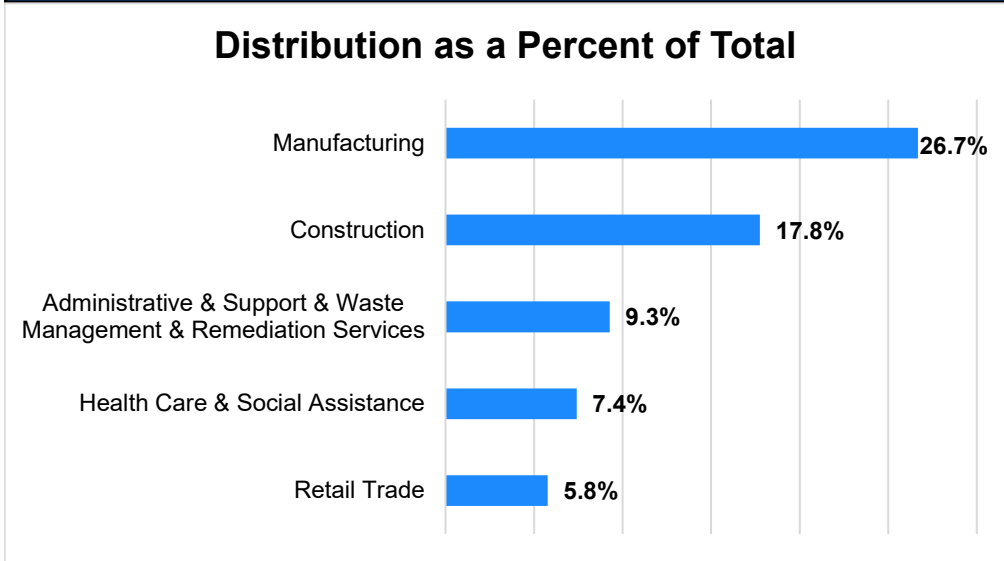
Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research & Analysis, Local Area Unemployment Statistics | Unemployment Statistics Released:04/26 | Notes: The data displayed are presented as estimates only. The most recent month's data are always preliminary and are revised when the next month's data are released.

Consumer Price Index (CPI-U Change), Unadjusted Percent Change to February 2026 from				
CPI Item	Feb-25	Jan-26	Feb-25	Jan-26
	U.S. City		Midwest Region*	
<b>All Items</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>0.6%</b>
Food & Beverages	3.0%	0.4%	3.0%	0.9%
Housing	3.3%	0.3%	4.6%	0.7%
Apparel	2.5%	4.2%	3.0%	4.2%
Transportation	-0.5%	0.8%	-1.6%	0.5%
Medical Care	3.4%	0.4%	3.7%	0.5%
Recreation	2.3%	0.2%	4.1%	0.4%
Education & Communication	0.1%	-0.2%	0.0%	-0.8%
Other Goods & Services	5.1%	0.1%	2.4%	0.1%

\*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

### Percentage of Unemployment Claims for Top 5 Region 2 Industries February 2026

#### Distribution as a Percent of Total



Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis

### WARN Notices

WARN Notices for Region 2 for February 2026				
Company	City	County	# affected	Notice Date
Grouper Acquisition Company, LLC, dba Shiloh Industries, Inc	Goshen	Elkhart	172	2/2/2026

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: February 2026

#### Region 2

##### Initial Claims

02/07/26 - 329  
02/14/26 - 274(D)  
02/21/26 - 247(D)  
02/28/26 - 185(D)

##### Continued Claims

02/07/26 - 1,923  
02/14/26 - 1,883  
02/21/26 - 1,798  
02/28/26 - 1,774

##### Total Claims

02/07/26 - 2,252  
02/14/26 - 2,157  
02/21/26 - 2,045  
02/28/26 - 1,959

#### State of Indiana

##### Initial Claims

02/07/26 - 4,025  
02/14/26 - 2,941  
02/21/26 - 2,469  
02/28/26 - 2,514

##### Continued Claims

02/07/26 - 26,734  
02/14/26 - 25,628  
02/21/26 - 25,117  
02/28/26 - 24,518

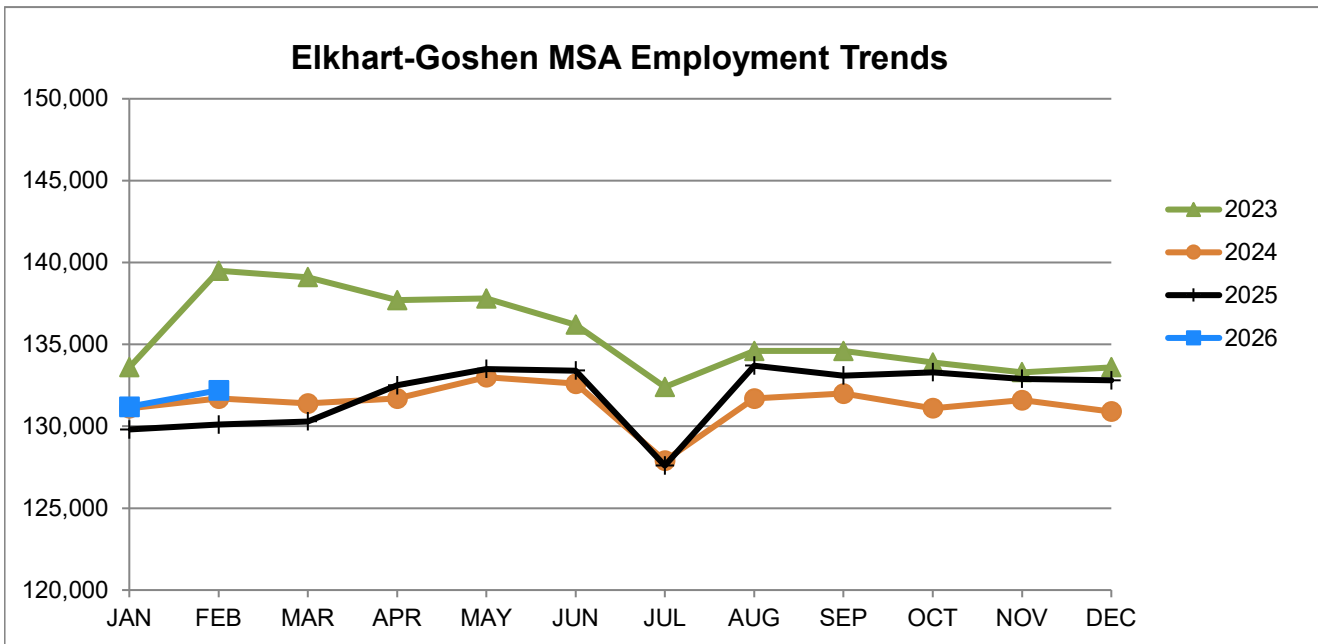
##### Total Claims

02/07/26 - 30,759  
02/14/26 - 28,569  
02/21/26 - 27,586  
02/28/26 - 27,032

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

Elkhart-Goshen MSA							
Wage and Salaried Employment	February 2026			# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Industry	Feb-26	Jan-26	Feb-25	Jan-26 to Feb-26	Feb-25 to Feb-26	Jan-26 to Feb-26	Feb-25 to Feb-26
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>132,200</b>	<b>131,200</b>	<b>130,100</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>1.6%</b>
<b>Total Private</b>	<b>123,700</b>	<b>122,700</b>	<b>121,100</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>2.2%</b>
Goods Producing	66,300	65,500	64,600	800	1.2%	1,700	2.6%
Service-Providing	65,900	65,700	65,500	200	0.3%	400	0.6%
Private Service Providing	57,400	57,200	56,500	200	0.4%	900	1.6%
Mining, Logging and Construction	4,700	4,600	4,500	100	2.2%	200	4.4%
Manufacturing	61,600	60,900	60,100	700	1.2%	1,500	2.5%
Durable Goods	52,500	52,100	51,300	400	0.8%	1,200	2.3%
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	33,900	33,700	33,100	200	0.6%	800	2.4%
Motor Vehicle Body and Trailer Manufacturing	29,100	28,900	28,300	200	0.7%	800	2.8%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	19,700	19,800	19,800	-100	-0.5%	-100	-0.5%
Wholesale Trade	7,800	7,800	7,700	0	0.0%	100	1.3%
Retail Trade	9,500	9,500	9,500	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	2,400	2,500	2,600	-100	-4.0%	-200	-7.7%
Information	500	500	500	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	3,200	3,200	3,200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Professional and Business Services	9,700	9,600	9,500	100	1.0%	200	2.1%
Education and Health Services	12,200	12,200	12,200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	7,000	6,900	6,800	100	1.5%	200	2.9%
Other Services	5,100	5,000	4,500	100	2.0%	600	13.3%
<b>Government</b>	<b>8,500</b>	<b>8,500</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>-500</b>	<b>-5.6%</b>
Federal Government	200	200	300	0	0.0%	-100	-33.3%
State Government	300	300	300	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Local Government	8,000	8,000	8,400	0	0.0%	-400	-4.8%
Local Government Educational Services	5,300	5,400	5,700	-100	-1.9%	-400	-7.0%

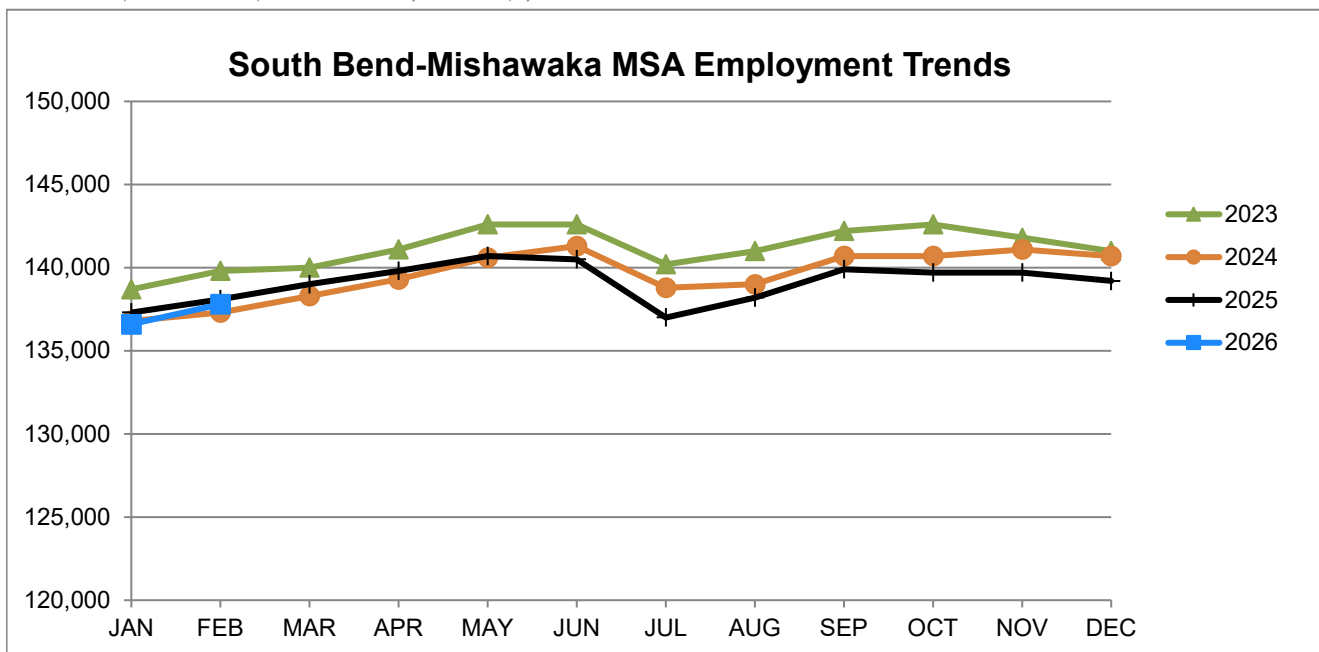
Source: Indiana Dept of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis, Current Employment Statistics



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.

South Bend-Mishawaka MSA							
Wage and Salaried Employment	February 2026			# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Industry	Feb-26	Jan-26	Feb-25	Jan-26 to Feb-26	Feb-25 to Feb-26	Jan-26 to Feb-26	Feb-25 to Feb-26
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>137,800</b>	<b>136,600</b>	<b>138,100</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>-300</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>
<b>Total Private</b>	<b>122,100</b>	<b>121,400</b>	<b>122,800</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>-700</b>	<b>-0.6%</b>
Goods Producing	21,300	21,100	21,100	200	1.0%	200	1.0%
Service Providing	116,500	115,500	117,000	1,000	0.9%	-500	-0.4%
Private Service Providing	100,800	100,300	101,700	500	0.5%	-900	-0.9%
Mining, Logging and Construction	6,500	6,400	6,100	100	1.6%	400	6.6%
Manufacturing	14,800	14,700	15,000	100	0.7%	-200	-1.3%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	24,500	24,700	24,800	-200	-0.8%	-300	-1.2%
Wholesale Trade	6,300	6,300	6,500	0	0.0%	-200	-3.1%
Retail Trade	13,900	14,000	13,800	-100	-0.7%	100	0.7%
General Merchandise Stores	3,500	3,600	3,400	-100	-2.8%	100	2.9%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	4,300	4,400	4,500	-100	-2.3%	-200	-4.4%
Information	2,300	2,200	1,800	100	4.6%	500	27.8%
Financial Activities	5,900	5,900	5,900	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Professional & Business Services	13,200	13,000	12,700	200	1.5%	500	3.9%
Educational & Health Services	34,400	34,200	35,800	200	0.6%	-1,400	-3.9%
Hospitals	7,100	7,100	7,000	0	0.0%	100	1.4%
Leisure & Hospitality	14,400	14,300	14,700	100	0.7%	-300	-2.0%
Food Services and Drinking Places	10,700	10,600	10,900	100	0.9%	-200	-1.8%
Other Services	6,100	6,000	6,000	100	1.7%	100	1.7%
<b>Total Government</b>	<b>15,700</b>	<b>15,200</b>	<b>15,300</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>3.3%</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>2.6%</b>
Federal Government	900	900	900	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
State Government	2,400	2,300	2,500	100	4.4%	-100	-4.0%
Local Government	12,400	12,000	11,900	400	3.3%	500	4.2%
Local Government Educational Services	6,900	6,400	6,300	500	7.8%	600	9.5%

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.

<b>Frequently Listed Jobs</b>	
<b>Top 20 job listings by number of openings in Region 2 in the past month</b>	
<b>Rank</b>	<b>Occupations</b>
1	Registered Nurses
2	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers
3	Retail Salespersons
4	Production Workers, All Other
5	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General
6	First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers
7	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
8	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand
9	Home Health and Personal Care Aides
10	Physicians, All Other
11	Customer Service Representatives
12	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners
13	Radiologic Technologists and Technicians
14	Stockers and Order Fillers
15	Food Service Managers
16	Fast Food and Counter Workers
17	Nursing Assistants
18	Family Medicine Physicians
19	Medical and Health Services Managers
20	Health Technologists and Technicians, All Other

Source: Lightcast

<b>Applicant Pool</b>	
<b>Top 20 occupations desired by applicants on their resumes in the past 12 months</b>	
<b>Occupations</b>	<b># of applicants</b>
Production Workers, All Other	687
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	414
Helpers--Production Workers	319
Customer Service Representatives	244
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	223
Office Clerks, General	172
Cashiers	152
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	119
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	118
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	115
Team Assemblers	113
Shipping, Receiving, and Traffic Clerks	108
Receptionists and Information Clerks	98
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	98
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	87
Retail Salespersons	87
Packers and Packagers, Hand	83
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	80
Managers, All Other	79
General and Operations Managers	71

Source: Indiana Workforce Development, Indiana Career Connect

Statewide Average Weekly Hours & Earnings by Industry for February 2026			
Industry	Average Earnings (per hour)	Average # of hours worked (weekly)	Average Earnings (per week)
Construction	\$39.37	38.9	\$1,531.49
Manufacturing	\$25.78	43.7	\$1,126.59
Durable Goods	\$26.31	45.0	\$1,183.95
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	\$25.41	39.5	\$1,003.70
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	\$27.95	38.4	\$1,073.28
Non-Durable Goods	\$24.44	40.6	\$992.26
Retail Trade	\$20.27	29.9	\$606.07
Financial Activities	\$28.82	38.3	\$1,103.81
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$30.81	32.8	\$1,010.57
Accommodation and Food Services	\$17.39	23.4	\$406.93

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Current Employment Statistics

SNAPSHOT

## February Indiana Employment

Released April 22, 2026



### Unemployment Rate

\*seasonally adjusted

**Unemployment Rate**

**3.3%**

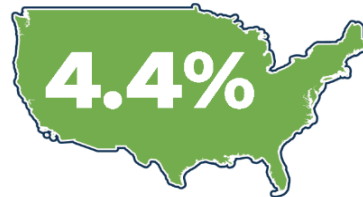


**January 2026 Indiana**

**3.4%**



**National Unemployment Rate**



### LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE\*

**16+: 63.4%**

**25-44: 84.3%**

**25-54: 83.9%**



**National Labor Force**



**Open Job Postings**

**85,672**

**Jobs**

As of February 28, 2026



**Weekly UI Continued Claims**

**24,518**



Filed Week Ending March 7, 2026

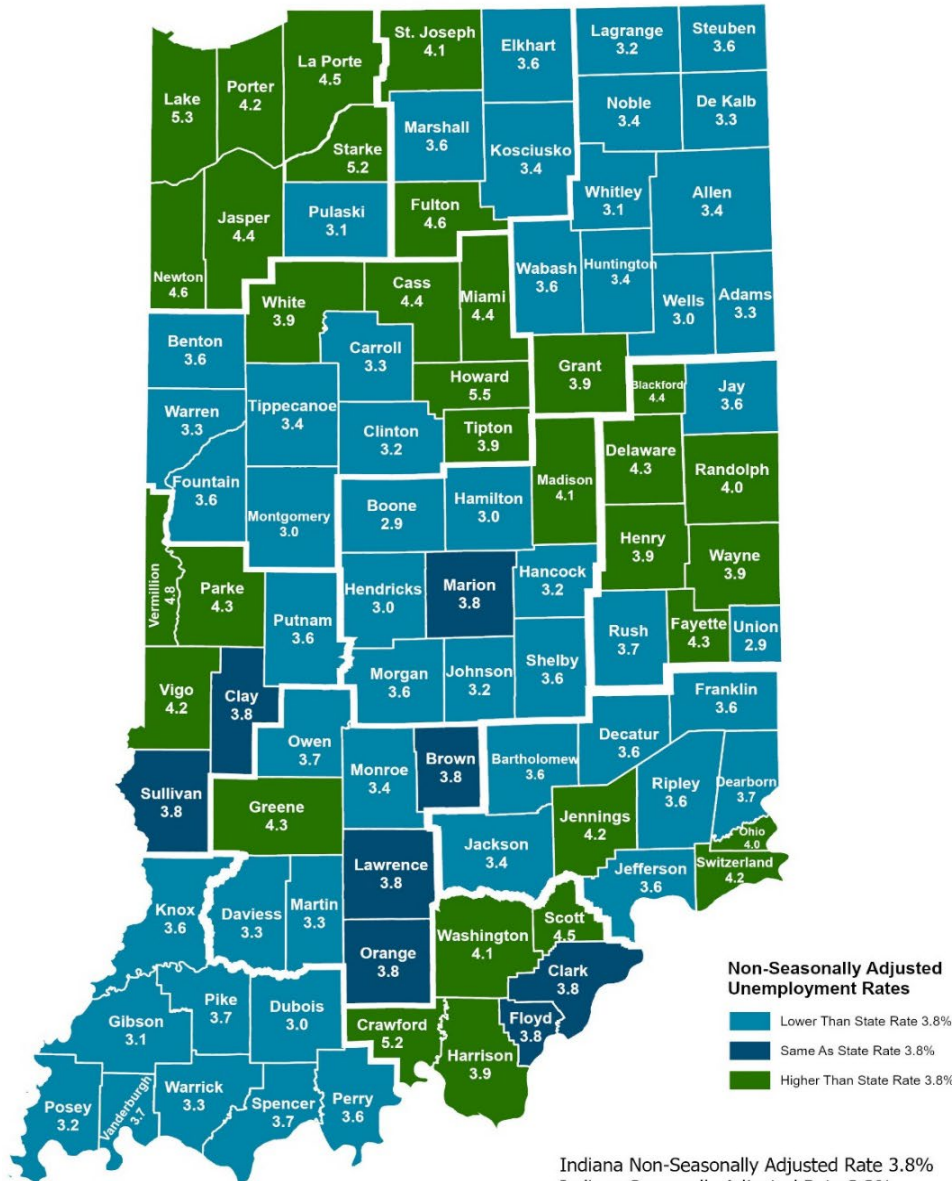
Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics; Indiana Career Connect

\*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 February 2026



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF  
**WORKFORCE**  
DEVELOPMENT



**Non-Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates**

- Light Blue: Lower Than State Rate 3.8%
- Dark Blue: Same As State Rate 3.8%
- Green: Higher Than State Rate 3.8%

Indiana Non-Seasonally Adjusted Rate 3.8%  
 Indiana Seasonally Adjusted Rate 3.3%  
 Source: DWD, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

## Questions?

Please contact the DWD  
Regional Workforce  
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