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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 2

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. 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.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. The largest job gains occurred in Texas (+154,300), California (+129,300), and North Carolina (+67,000). The largest percentage increases occurred in South Carolina (+2.3 percent), Louisiana (+1.8 percent), and Utah (+1.5 percent). The only job loss occurred in the District (-25,800, or -3.5 percent).

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 2	303,452	291,810	11,642	3.8%	3.8%	3.7%
Elkhart-Goshen MSA	99,645	95,859	3,786	3.8%	3.8%	3.6%
South Bend-Mishawaka MSA	153,196	146,940	6,256	4.1%	4.2%	3.9%
Elkhart Co.	99,645	95,859	3,786	3.8%	3.8%	3.6%
Fulton Co.	9,572	9,215	357	3.7%	3.5%	3.7%
Kosciusko Co.	40,161	38,745	1,416	3.5%	3.4%	3.4%
Marshall Co.	23,107	22,319	788	3.4%	3.2%	3.4%
St Joseph Co.	130,967	125,672	5,295	4.0%	4.1%	3.9%
Elkhart	25,217	24,169	1,048	4.2%	4.1%	4.0%
Goshen	15,448	14,831	617	4.0%	4.2%	3.7%
Mishawaka	25,075	24,059	1,016	4.1%	4.2%	4.0%
Plymouth	5,679	5,502	177	3.1%	2.9%	3.4%
South Bend	47,756	45,720	2,036	4.3%	4.3%	4.2%
Warsaw	8,068	7,768	300	3.7%	3.4%	3.6%

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.



Economic Growth Region (EGR) 2

Elkhart, Fulton, Kosciusko, Marshall and St. Joseph 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

#13 - St. Joseph (4%)

#18 - Elkhart (3.8%)

#24 - Fulton (3.7%)

#51 - Kosciusko (3.5%)

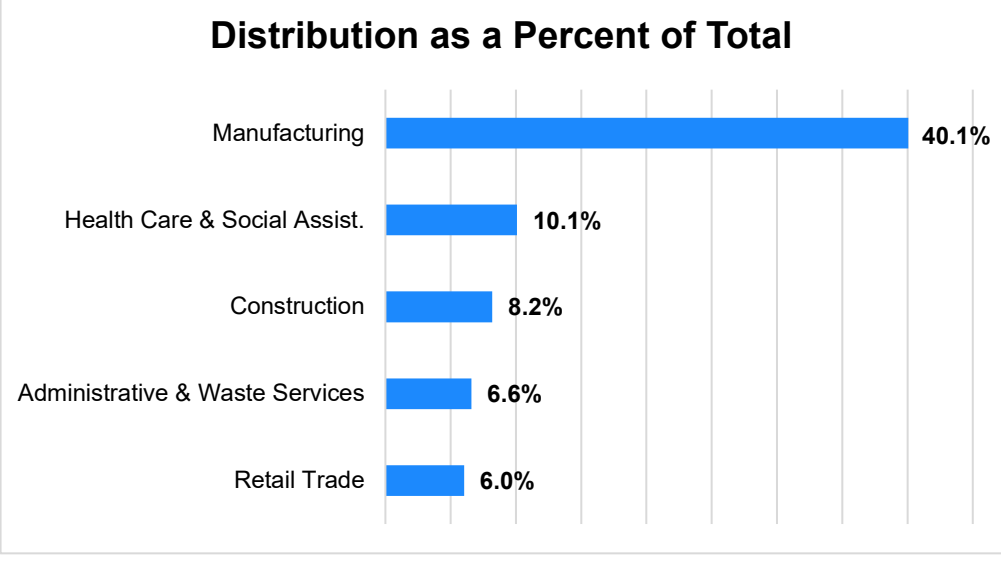
#66 - Marshall (3.4%)

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Development, 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 2 Industries September 2026



Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis

WARN Notices

WARN Notices for Region 2 for September 2026				
Company	City	County	# affected	Notice Date

There are no WARN Notices for September 2026 for Region 2.

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 2

Initial Claims

09/05/26 - 215(D)
09/12/26 - 208(D)
09/19/26 - 259(D)
09/26/26 - 176(D)

Continued Claims

09/05/26 - 1,456
09/12/26 - 1,467
09/19/26 - 1,369
09/26/26 - 1,428

Total Claims

09/05/26 - 1,671
09/12/26 - 1,675
09/19/26 - 1,628
09/26/26 - 1,604

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

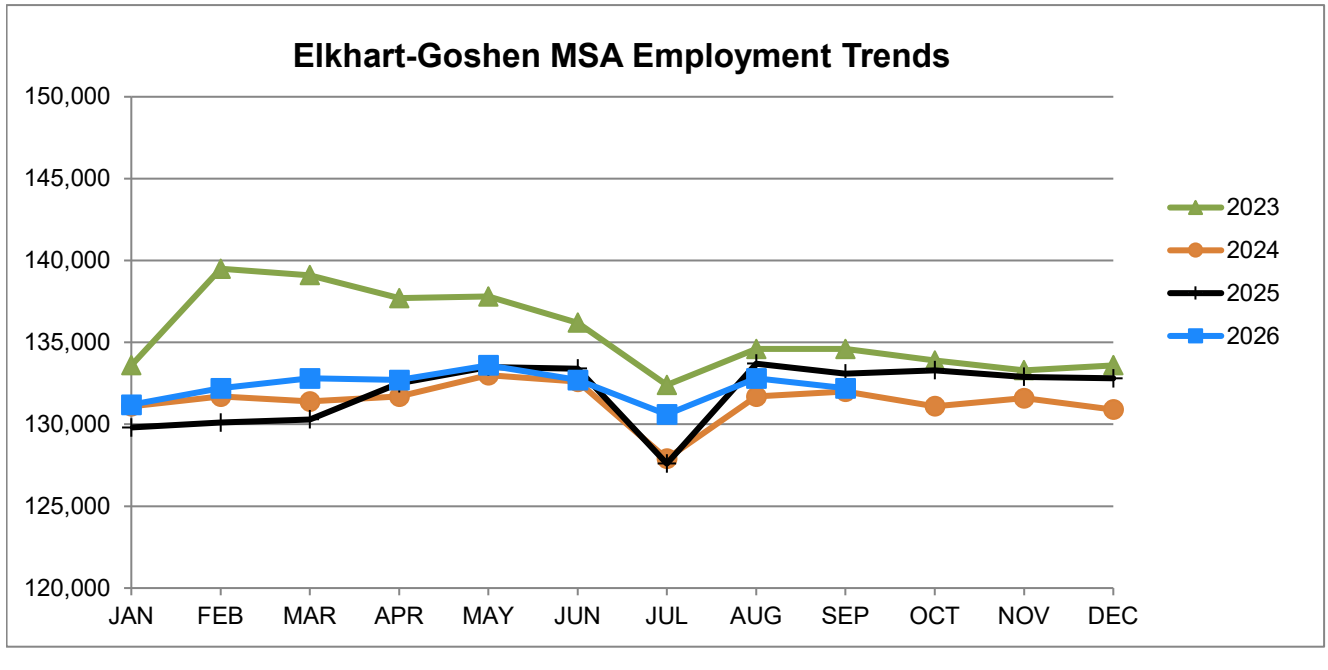
Total Claims

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

Elkhart-Goshen 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	**132,200**	**132,800**	**133,100**	**-600**	**-0.5%**	**-900**	**-0.7%**
Total Private	**123,600**	**124,300**	**124,400**	**-700**	**-0.6%**	**-800**	**-0.6%**
Goods Producing	65,400	65,500	66,100	-100	-0.2%	-700	-1.1%
Service-Providing	66,800	67,300	67,000	-500	-0.7%	-200	-0.3%
Private Service Providing	58,200	58,800	58,300	-600	-1.0%	-100	-0.2%
Mining, Logging and Construction	5,000	5,100	4,800	-100	-2.0%	200	4.2%
Manufacturing	60,400	60,400	61,300	0	0.0%	-900	-1.5%
Durable Goods	51,600	51,700	52,600	-100	-0.2%	-1,000	-1.9%
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	33,200	33,200	34,100	0	0.0%	-900	-2.6%
Motor Vehicle Body and Trailer Manufacturing	28,300	28,400	29,300	-100	-0.4%	-1,000	-3.4%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	19,800	19,900	20,000	-100	-0.5%	-200	-1.0%
Wholesale Trade	7,900	8,000	8,000	-100	-1.3%	-100	-1.3%
Retail Trade	9,500	9,500	9,500	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	2,400	2,400	2,500	0	0.0%	-100	-4.0%
Information	500	500	500	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	3,200	3,300	3,300	-100	-3.0%	-100	-3.0%
Professional and Business Services	10,100	10,200	9,900	-100	-1.0%	200	2.0%
Education and Health Services	12,200	12,300	12,100	-100	-0.8%	100	0.8%
Leisure and Hospitality	7,300	7,500	7,500	-200	-2.7%	-200	-2.7%
Other Services	5,100	5,100	5,000	0	0.0%	100	2.0%
Government	**8,600**	**8,500**	**8,700**	**100**	**1.2%**	**-100**	**-1.2%**
Federal Government	200	200	200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
State Government	300	300	300	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Local Government	8,100	8,000	8,200	100	1.3%	-100	-1.2%
Local Government Educational Services	5,200	5,100	5,400	100	2.0%	-200	-3.7%

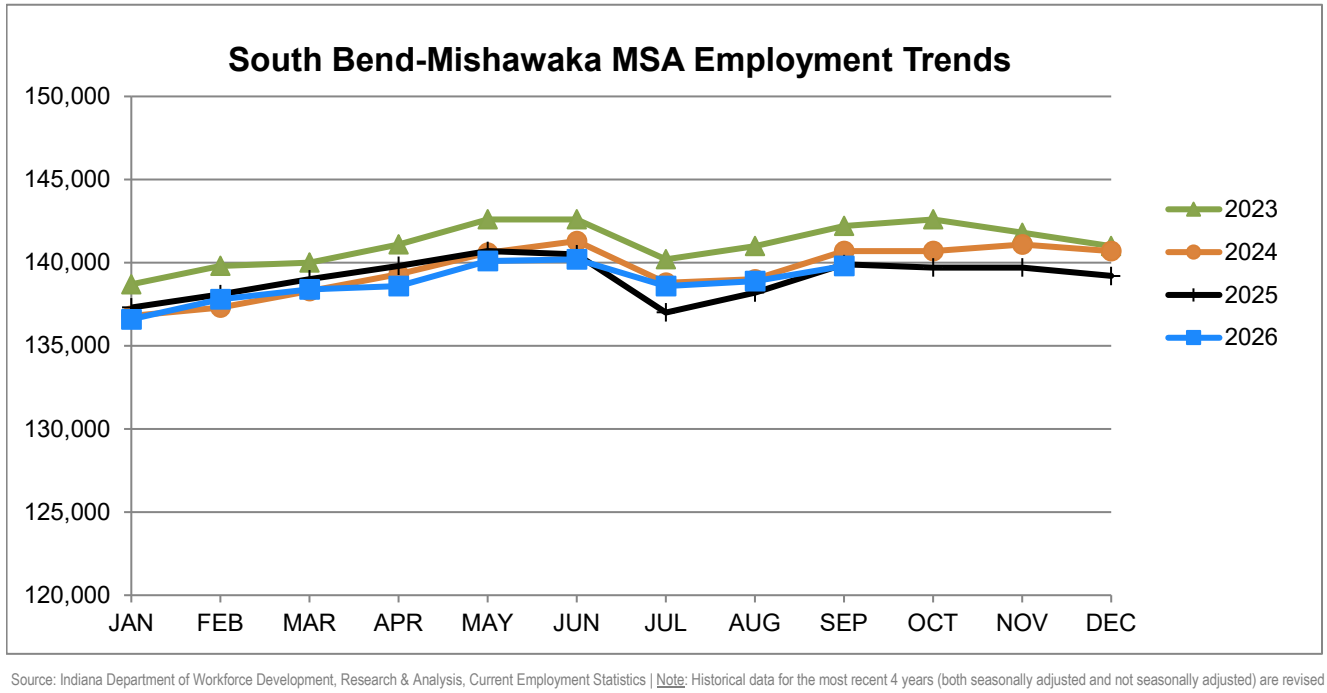
Source: Indiana Dept of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis, Current Employment Statistics



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	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	**139,800**	**138,900**	**139,900**	**900**	**0.7%**	**-100**	**-0.1%**
Total Private	**123,500**	**124,300**	**124,300**	**-800**	**-0.6%**	**-800**	**-0.6%**
Goods Producing	21,500	21,600	21,700	-100	-0.5%	-200	-0.9%
Service Providing	118,300	117,300	118,200	1,000	0.9%	100	0.1%
Private Service Providing	102,000	102,700	102,600	-700	-0.7%	-600	-0.6%
Mining, Logging and Construction	6,700	6,900	6,800	-200	-2.9%	-100	-1.5%
Manufacturing	14,800	14,700	14,900	100	0.7%	-100	-0.7%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	25,000	25,200	25,000	-200	-0.8%	0	0.0%
Wholesale Trade	6,400	6,400	6,500	0	0.0%	-100	-1.5%
Retail Trade	14,200	14,400	13,900	-200	-1.4%	300	2.2%
General Merchandise Stores	3,500	3,500	3,500	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	4,400	4,400	4,600	0	0.0%	-200	-4.4%
Information	2,200	2,200	2,400	0	0.0%	-200	-8.3%
Financial Activities	5,800	5,900	6,000	-100	-1.7%	-200	-3.3%
Professional & Business Services	13,700	13,900	13,500	-200	-1.4%	200	1.5%
Educational & Health Services	34,500	34,200	34,200	300	0.9%	300	0.9%
Hospitals	7,200	7,200	7,000	0	0.0%	200	2.9%
Leisure & Hospitality	14,700	15,100	15,400	-400	-2.7%	-700	-4.6%
Food Services and Drinking Places	11,000	11,200	11,300	-200	-1.8%	-300	-2.7%
Other Services	6,100	6,200	6,100	-100	-1.6%	0	0.0%
Total Government	**16,300**	**14,600**	**15,600**	**1,700**	**11.6%**	**700**	**4.5%**
Federal Government	900	900	900	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
State Government	2,600	2,100	2,400	500	23.8%	200	8.3%
Local Government	12,800	11,600	12,300	1,200	10.3%	500	4.1%
Local Government Educational Services	7,000	5,200	6,400	1,800	34.6%	600	9.4%

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 2 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	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General
6	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand
7	Production Workers, All Other
8	Industrial Engineers
9	Customer Service Representatives
10	Stockers and Order Fillers
11	Coaches and Scouts
12	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
13	Home Health and Personal Care Aides
14	Security Guards
15	Nursing Assistants
16	General and Operations Managers
17	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners
18	Financial Managers
19	Food Service Managers
20	Fast Food and Counter Workers

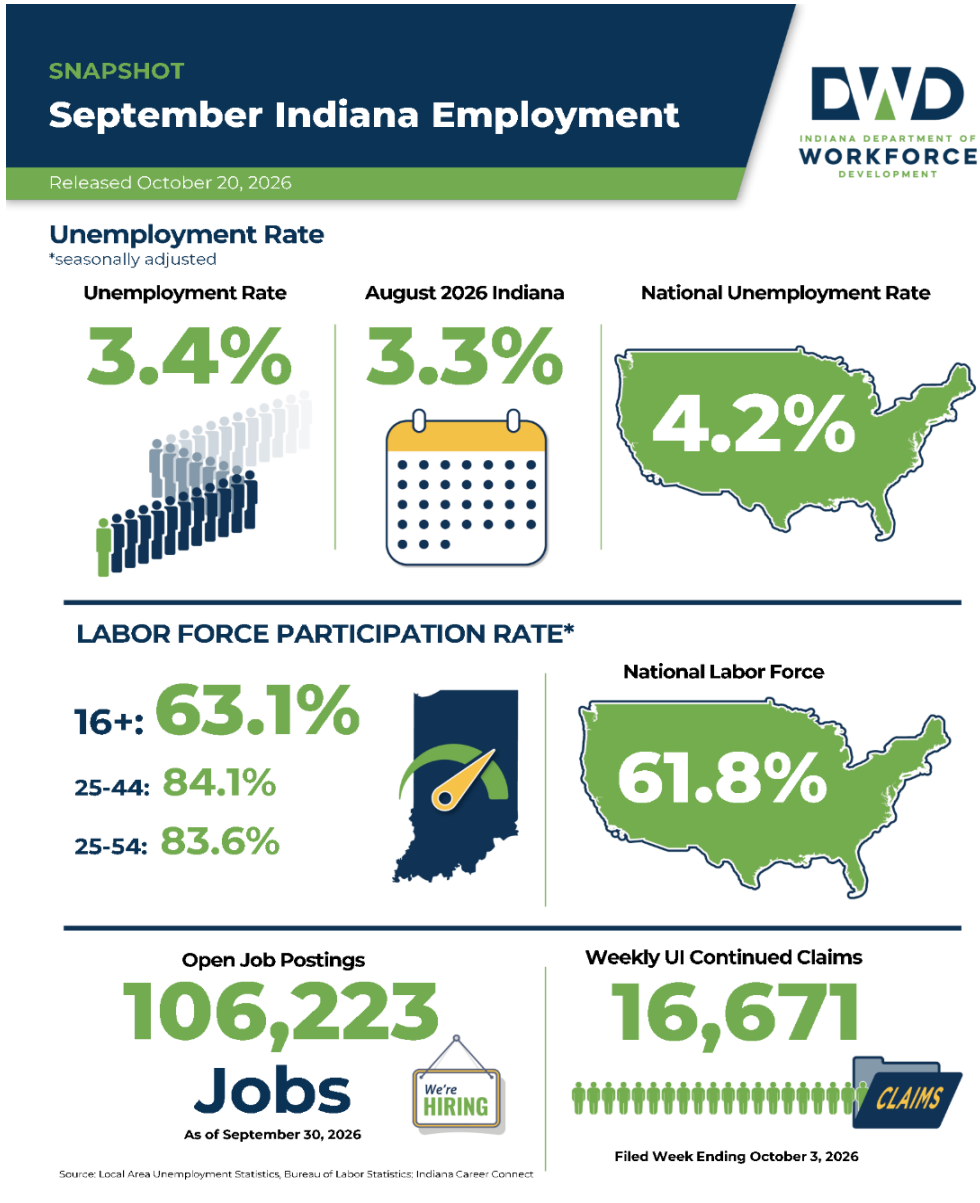
Source: Lightcast

Applicant Pool	
Top 20 occupations desired by applicants on their resumes in the past 12 months	
Occupations	**# of applicants**
Production Workers, All Other	499
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	276
Helpers--Production Workers	228
Customer Service Representatives	178
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	148
Office Clerks, General	134
Cashiers	110
Team Assemblers	94
Shipping, Receiving, and Traffic Clerks	94
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	93
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	86
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	80
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	75
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	74
Receptionists and Information Clerks	66
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	64
Managers, All Other	63
Packers and Packagers, Hand	63
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	61
General and Operations Managers	61

Source: Indiana Workforce Development, Indiana Career Connect

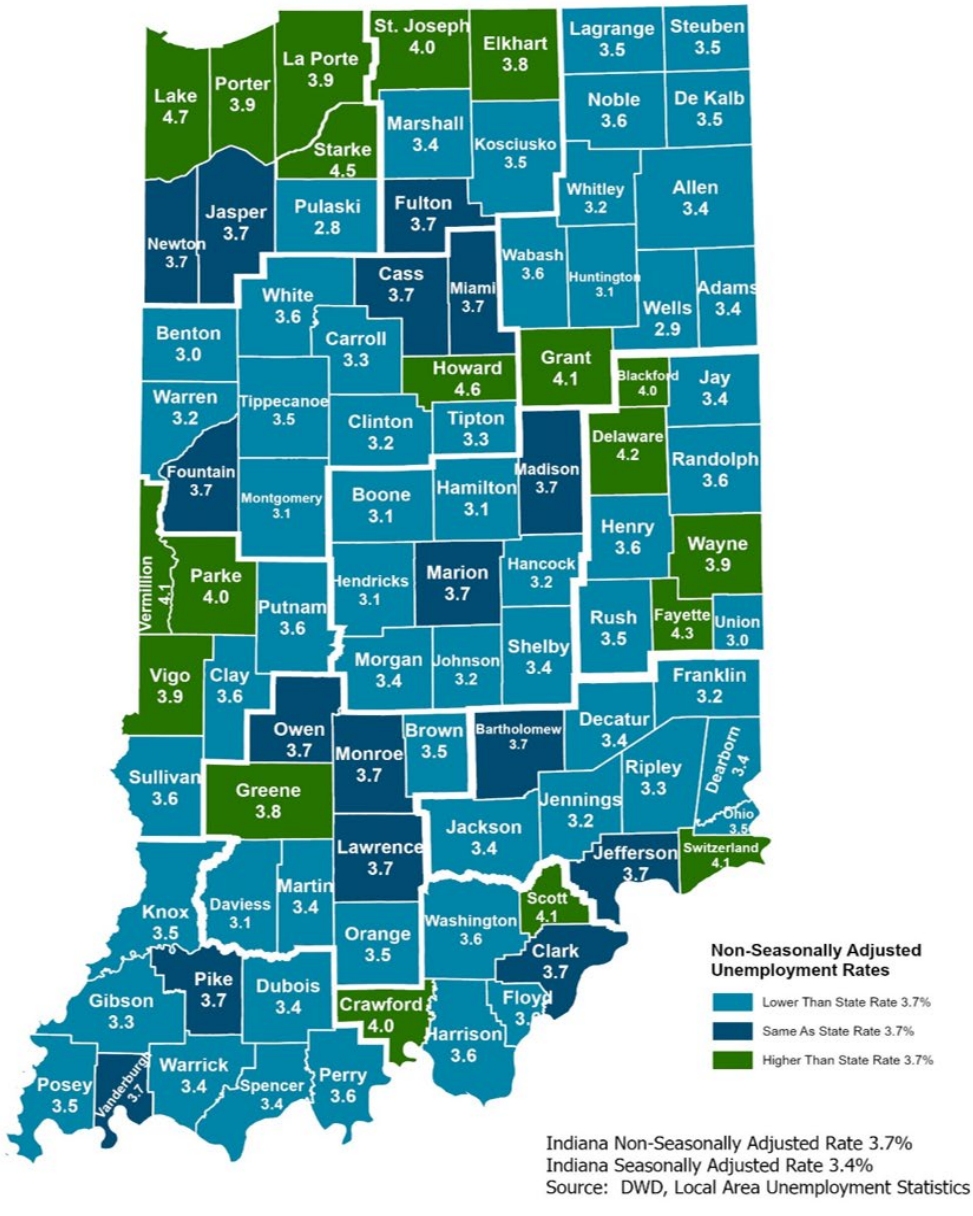
Statewide Average Weekly Hours & Earnings by Industry for September 2026			
Industry	Average Earnings (per hour)	Average # of hours worked (weekly)	Average Earnings (per week)
Construction	$39.14	40.8	$1,596.91
Manufacturing	$27.03	42.7	$1,154.18
Durable Goods	$27.72	43.3	$1,200.28
Fabricated Metal Product 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



* 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
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 Workforce Analyst listed below:

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