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LABOR MARKET REVIEW



January 2026 Labor Market Review

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Economic Growth Region 3

Statistical Data Report for January 2026, Released April 2026

State Employment and Unemployment

Unemployment rates were higher in January in 1 state and stable in 49 states and the District of Columbia, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Fourteen states and the District of Columbia had unemployment rate increases from January 2025, the largest of which was in Delaware (+1.3 percentage points). The only over-the-year rate decreases occurred in Indiana and Ohio (-0.5 percentage point each). Thirty-four 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, 4.3 percent, changed little over the month but was 0.3 percentage point higher than in January 2025.

In January 2026, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 5 states, decreased in the District of Columbia, and was essentially unchanged in 45 states. Employment increased in California (+93,500, or +0.5 percent), Texas (+40,100, or +0.3 percent), Illinois (+18,000, or +0.3 percent), Indiana (+11,200, or +0.3 percent), and Iowa (+6,400, or +0.4 percent). Employment decreased in the District (-5,400, or -0.7 percent). Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 4 states, decreased in Maryland and the District, and was essentially unchanged in 45 states.



Economic Growth Region (EGR) 3

Adams, Allen, DeKalb, Grant, Huntington, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, Wabash, Wells, and Whitley Counties

Unemployment Rates by State (seasonally adjusted): January 2026

U.S. - 4.3%

Illinois - 4.9%

Indiana - 3.4%

Kentucky - 4.3%

Michigan - 5%

Ohio - 4.3%

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

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

#6 - Huntington (4.2%)

#12 - Allen (3.9%)

#13 - Grant (3.9%)

#35 - Whitley (3.4%)

#39 - Wells (3.3%)

#45 - Wabash (3.2%)

#51 - Steuben (3.1%)

#63 - Adams (2.9%)

#70 - Noble (2.9%)

#73 - DeKalb (2.8%)

#90 - LaGrange (2.4%)

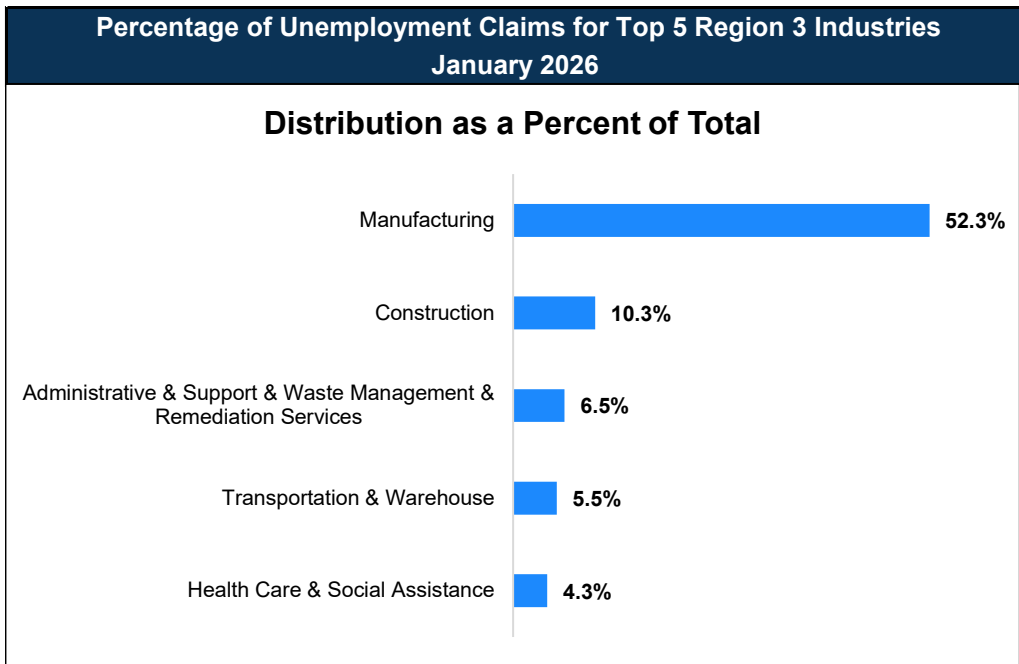
Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Development, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

January 2026 Labor Force Estimates (not seasonally adjusted)						
Area	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Jan-26	Dec-25	Jan-25
U.S.	169,612,000	161,670,000	7,942,000	4.7%	4.1%	4.4%
IN	3,473,602	3,359,879	113,723	3.3%	2.6%	4.2%
EGR 3	398,627	384,434	14,193	3.6%	2.4%	3.9%
Fort Wayne MSA	239,002	229,950	9,052	3.8%	2.4%	3.8%
Adams Co.	15,676	15,219	457	2.9%	2.3%	3.7%
Allen Co.	205,304	197,391	7,913	3.9%	2.5%	3.8%
DeKalb Co.	22,092	21,476	616	2.8%	2.3%	3.8%
Grant Co.	30,529	29,347	1,182	3.9%	2.8%	4.6%
Huntington Co.	19,602	18,773	829	4.2%	2.3%	3.8%
Lagrange Co.	17,939	17,501	438	2.4%	2.0%	3.5%
Noble Co.	21,858	21,234	624	2.9%	2.4%	4.0%
Steuben Co.	17,106	16,579	527	3.1%	2.4%	4.1%
Wabash Co.	14,823	14,355	468	3.2%	2.4%	4.1%
Wells Co.	15,415	14,903	512	3.3%	2.0%	3.5%
Whitley Co.	18,283	17,656	627	3.4%	2.2%	3.8%
Fort Wayne	139,836	134,325	5,511	3.9%	2.6%	4.0%
Marion	12,187	11,653	534	4.4%	3.3%	5.0%

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 January 2026 from				
CPI Item	Jan-25	Dec-25	Jan-25	Dec-25
	U.S. City		Midwest Region*	
All Items	2.4%	0.4%	2.4%	0.4%
Food & Beverages	2.8%	0.4%	2.0%	0.3%
Housing	3.4%	0.4%	4.5%	0.6%
Apparel	1.7%	2.0%	2.2%	2.7%
Transportation	-1.1%	-0.4%	-2.4%	-0.4%
Medical Care	3.2%	0.5%	2.6%	0.2%
Recreation	2.5%	0.8%	4.2%	0.6%
Education & Communication	0.5%	0.3%	1.0%	0.9%
Other Goods & Services	5.9%	1.5%	3.1%	-0.4%

*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 3 for January 2026				
Company	City	County	# of workers affected	Notice Date

There are no WARN Notices for January 2026 for Region 3.

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: January 2026

Region 3

Initial Claims

01/03/26 - 740
01/10/26 - 2,568
01/17/26 - 533
01/24/26 - 302(D)
01/31/26 - 383(D)

Continued Claims

01/03/26 - 2,645
01/10/26 - 4,410
01/17/26 - 4,019
01/24/26 - 2,238
01/31/26 - 2,324

Total Claims

01/03/26 - 3,385
01/10/26 - 6,978
01/17/26 - 4,552
01/24/26 - 2,540
01/31/26 - 2,707

State of Indiana

Initial Claims

01/03/26 - 4,665
01/10/26 - 7,494
01/17/26 - 3,789
01/24/26 - 3,186
01/31/26 - 3,722

Continued Claims

01/03/26 - 28,001
01/10/26 - 29,612
01/17/26 - 28,556
01/24/26 - 26,440
01/31/26 - 27,470

Total Claims

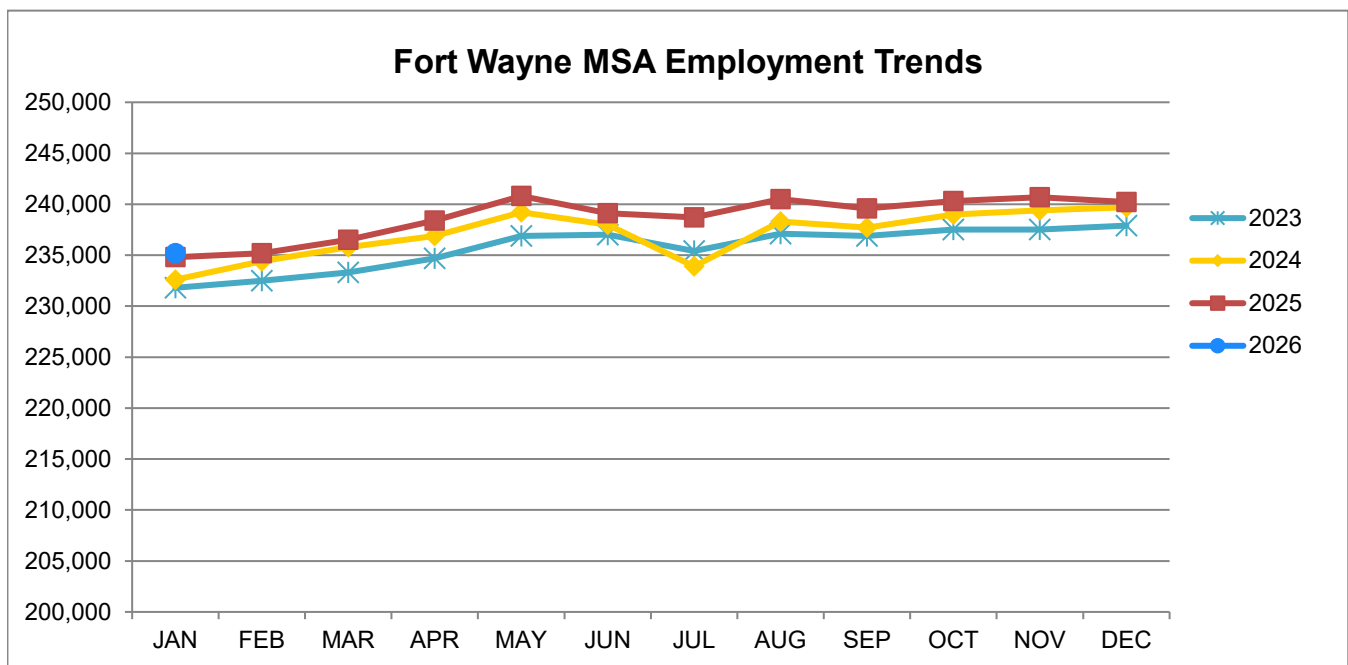
01/03/26 - 32,666
01/10/26 - 37,106
01/17/26 - 32,345
01/24/26 - 29,626
01/31/26 - 31,192

(D) indicates item is affected by non-disclosure issues relating to industry or ownership status |

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Development

Fort Wayne MSA							
Wage and Salaried Employment	January 2026			# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Industry	Jan-26	Dec-25	Jan-25	Dec-25 to Jan-26	Jan-25 to Jan-26		
Total Nonfarm	235,200	240,200	234,800	-5,000	-2.1%	400	0.2%
Total Private	212,800	216,800	212,500	-4,000	-1.9%	300	0.1%
Goods Producing	50,700	52,400	50,500	-1,700	-3.2%	200	0.4%
Service Providing	184,500	187,800	184,300	-3,300	-1.8%	200	0.1%
Private Service Providing	162,100	164,400	162,000	-2,300	-1.4%	100	0.1%
Mining, Logging and Construction	13,400	13,600	12,800	-200	-1.5%	600	4.7%
Total Manufacturing	37,300	38,800	37,700	-1,500	-3.9%	-400	-1.1%
Durable Goods Manufacturing	27,300	28,600	27,800	-1,300	-4.6%	-500	-1.8%
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	7,900	8,400	7,800	-500	-6.0%	100	1.3%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	45,300	46,300	46,500	-1,000	-2.2%	-1,200	-2.6%
Wholesale Trade	10,700	10,800	11,000	-100	-0.9%	-300	-2.7%
Retail Trade	23,800	24,300	24,100	-500	-2.1%	-300	-1.2%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	10,800	11,200	11,400	-400	-3.6%	-600	-5.3%
Information	1,700	1,800	1,800	-100	-5.6%	-100	-5.6%
Financial Activities	12,000	12,200	12,300	-200	-1.6%	-300	-2.4%
Professional and Business Services	22,600	22,700	22,000	-100	-0.4%	600	2.7%
Education and Health Services	46,700	47,000	45,800	-300	-0.6%	900	2.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	20,300	20,700	20,700	-400	-1.9%	-400	-1.9%
Other Services	13,500	13,700	12,900	-200	-1.5%	600	4.7%
Total Government	22,400	23,400	22,300	-1,000	-4.3%	100	0.5%
Federal Government	2,100	2,100	2,200	0	0.0%	-100	-4.6%
State Government	3,800	4,200	3,800	-400	-9.5%	0	0.0%
Local Government	16,500	17,100	16,300	-600	-3.5%	200	1.2%
Local Government Educational Services	9,200	9,300	9,300	-100	-1.1%	-100	-1.1%

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 3 in the past month	
Rank	Occupations
1	Registered Nurses
2	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers
3	Retail Salespersons
4	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General
5	First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers
6	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
7	Food Service Managers
8	Production Workers, All Other
9	Home Health and Personal Care Aides
10	Customer Service Representatives
11	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand
12	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners
13	Medical and Health Services Managers
14	Health Technologists and Technicians, All Other
15	Food Preparation Workers
16	Nursing Assistants
17	Driver/Sales Workers
18	Physicians, All Other
19	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products
20	First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving 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	1,071
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	575
Customer Service Representatives	423
Helpers--Production Workers	415
Cashiers	296
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	280
Office Clerks, General	247
Managers, All Other	189
Packers and Packagers, Hand	180
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	173
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	170
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	166
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	155
Shipping, Receiving, and Traffic Clerks	151
Team Assemblers	150
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	141
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	139
Retail Salespersons	125
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	117
Receptionists and Information Clerks	113

Source: Indiana Workforce Development, Indiana Career Connect

SNAPSHOT

January Indiana Employment

Released April 8, 2026



Unemployment Rate

*seasonally adjusted

Unemployment Rate

3.4%



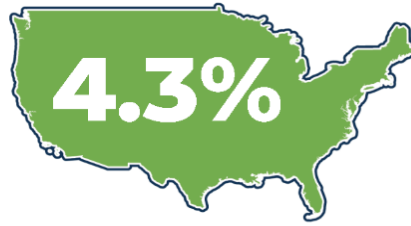
December 2025 Indiana

3.5%



National Unemployment Rate

4.3%



LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE*

16+: **63.5%**

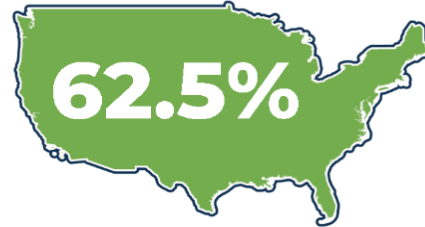
25-44: **84.4%**

25-54: **83.9%**



National Labor Force

62.5%



Open Job Postings

85,672

Jobs

As of January 31, 2026



Weekly UI Continued Claims

27,470



Filed Week Ending February 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.

