HOOSIERS BY THE NUMBERS

Your premier source for labor market information for Indiana.

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

LABOR MARKET REVIEW



September 2026
Labor Market Review

Reported by: Kathy Jaworski

Regional Workforce Analyst

kjaworski@dwd.in.gov

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Economic Growth Region 3

Statistical Data Report for September 2026, Released November 2026

State Employment and Unemployment

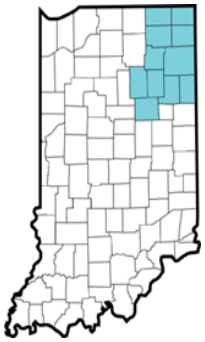
Unemployment rates were lower in September in 5 states and stable in 45 states and the District of Columbia, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Twenty states and the District had jobless rate decreases from a year earlier, 7 states had increases, and 23 states had little change. South Dakota 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 3	400,220	386,360	13,860	3.5%	3.3%	3.3%
Fort Wayne MSA	239,584	231,479	8,105	3.4%	3.3%	3.3%
Adams Co.	16,123	15,570	553	3.4%	3.2%	3.2%
Allen Co.	205,594	198,527	7,067	3.4%	3.4%	3.4%
DeKalb Co.	21,339	20,600	739	3.5%	3.1%	3.2%
Grant Co.	30,597	29,341	1,256	4.1%	4.1%	4.0%
Huntington Co.	19,621	19,003	618	3.1%	3.0%	3.2%
Lagrange Co.	18,310	17,670	640	3.5%	3.4%	3.1%
Noble Co.	22,570	21,760	810	3.6%	3.4%	3.4%
Steuben Co.	17,500	16,884	616	3.5%	3.4%	3.4%
Wabash Co.	14,576	14,053	523	3.6%	3.3%	3.4%
Wells Co.	15,519	15,071	448	2.9%	2.7%	2.9%
Whitley Co.	18,471	17,881	590	3.2%	2.9%	3.1%
Fort Wayne	140,058	135,098	4,960	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
Marion	12,211	11,651	560	4.6%	4.8%	4.5%

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) 3

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

#6 - Grant (4.1%)

#40 - Noble (3.6%)

#45 - Wabash (3.6%)

#49 - DeKalb (3.5%)

#52 - LaGrange (3.5%)

#57 - Steuben (3.5%)

#59 - Adams (3.4%)

#60 - Allen (3.4%)

#82 - Whitley (3.2%)

#87 - Huntington (3.1%)

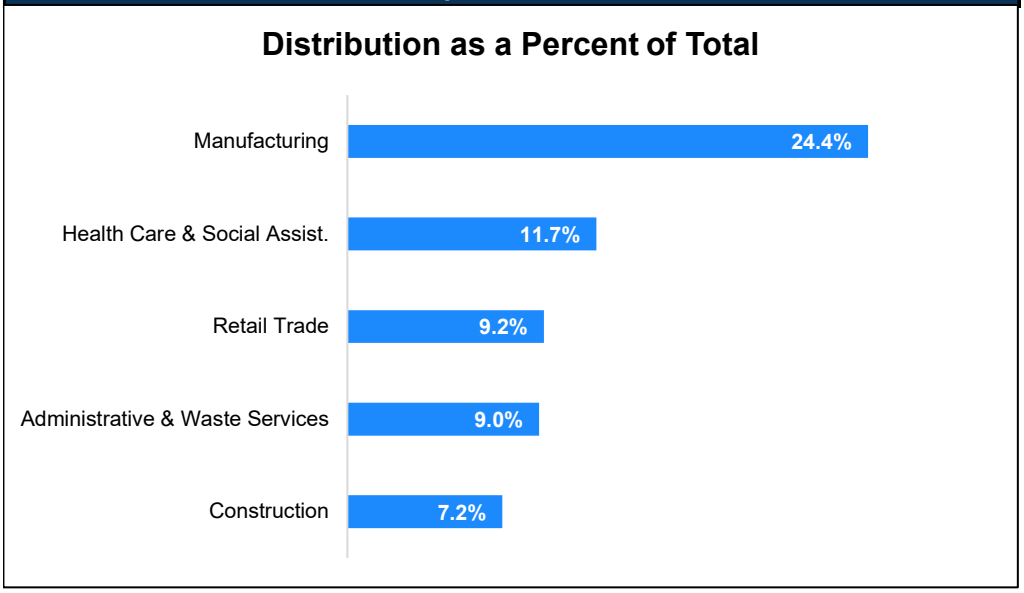
#91 - Wells (2.9%)

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 3 Industries September 2026



Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis

WARN Notices

WARN Notices for Region 3 for September 2026				
Company	City	County	# of workers affected	Notice Date

There are no WARN Notices for September 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: September 2026

Region 3

Initial Claims
09/05/26 - 155(D)
09/12/26 - 125(D)
09/19/26 - 170(D)
09/26/26 - 186(D)

Continued Claims
09/05/26 - 1,393
09/12/26 - 1,397
09/19/26 - 1,333
09/26/26 - 1,349

Total Claims
09/05/26 - 1,548
09/12/26 - 1,522
09/19/26 - 1,503
09/26/26 - 1,535

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

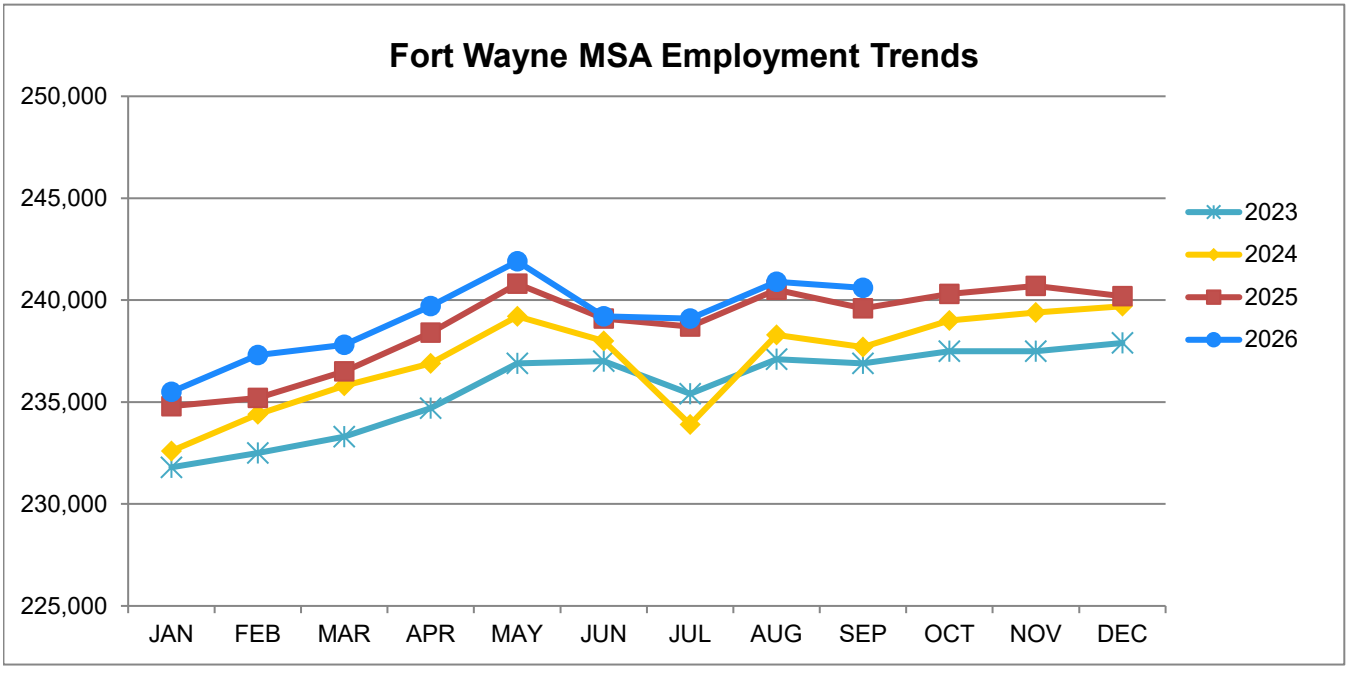
Continued Claims
09/05/26 - 17,275
09/12/26 - 17,319
09/19/26 - 17,043
09/26/26 - 16,671

Total Claims
09/05/26 - 19,411
09/12/26 - 19,212
09/19/26 - 19,103
09/26/26 - 18,519

(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	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	**240,600**	**240,900**	**239,600**	**-300**	**-0.1%**	**1,000**	**0.4%**
Total Private	**217,900**	**219,100**	**216,700**	**-1,200**	**-0.6%**	**1,200**	**0.6%**
Goods Producing	53,200	53,300	52,500	-100	-0.2%	700	1.3%
Service Providing	187,400	187,600	187,100	-200	-0.1%	300	0.2%
Private Service Providing	164,700	165,800	164,200	-1,100	-0.7%	500	0.3%
Mining, Logging and Construction	14,700	14,800	14,100	-100	-0.7%	600	4.3%
Total Manufacturing	38,500	38,500	38,400	0	0.0%	100	0.3%
Durable Goods Manufacturing	28,300	28,300	28,400	0	0.0%	-100	-0.4%
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	8,400	8,400	8,400	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	46,100	46,000	45,300	100	0.2%	800	1.8%
Wholesale Trade	10,800	10,900	10,800	-100	-0.9%	0	0.0%
Retail Trade	24,600	24,400	23,700	200	0.8%	900	3.8%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	10,700	10,700	10,800	0	0.0%	-100	-0.9%
Information	1,700	1,700	1,800	0	0.0%	-100	-5.6%
Financial Activities	11,900	12,100	12,300	-200	-1.7%	-400	-3.3%
Professional and Business Services	23,100	23,400	23,200	-300	-1.3%	-100	-0.4%
Education and Health Services	47,700	47,500	46,400	200	0.4%	1,300	2.8%
Leisure and Hospitality	20,700	21,400	21,500	-700	-3.3%	-800	-3.7%
Other Services	13,500	13,700	13,700	-200	-1.5%	-200	-1.5%
Total Government	22,700	21,800	22,900	900	4.1%	-200	-0.9%
Federal Government	2,100	2,100	2,200	0	0.0%	-100	-4.6%
State Government	3,700	3,700	3,900	0	0.0%	-200	-5.1%
Local Government	16,900	16,000	16,800	900	5.6%	100	0.6%
Local Government Educational Services	9,400	8,900	9,300	500	5.6%	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	Production Workers, All Other
7	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand
8	Home Health and Personal Care Aides
9	Food Service Managers
10	Customer Service Representatives
11	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
12	Nursing Assistants
13	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products
14	Health Technologists and Technicians, All Other
15	Medical and Health Services Managers
16	General and Operations Managers
17	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners
18	Driver/Sales Workers
19	Sales Representatives of Services, Except Advertising, Insurance, Financial Services, and Travel
20	Medical Assistants

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	558
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	302
Customer Service Representatives	257
Helpers--Production Workers	238
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	173
Office Clerks, General	167
Cashiers	164
Managers, All Other	109
Shipping, Receiving, and Traffic Clerks	94
Packers and Packagers, Hand	94
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	88
Team Assemblers	87
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	85
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	81
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	79
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	77
Retail Salespersons	74
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants	74
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	72
Material Moving Workers, All Other	71

Source: Indiana Workforce Development, Indiana Career Connect

SNAPSHOT

September Indiana Employment

Released October 20, 2026

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Unemployment Rate

*seasonally adjusted

Unemployment Rate

3.4%

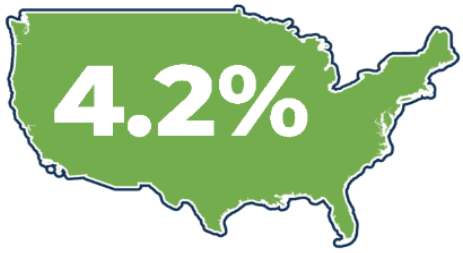


August 2026 Indiana

3.3%



National Unemployment Rate



LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE*

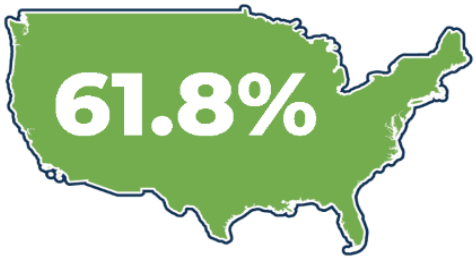
16+: 63.1%

25-44: 84.1%

25-54: 83.6%



National Labor Force



Open Job Postings

106,223

Jobs



As of September 30, 2026

Weekly UI Continued Claims

16,671

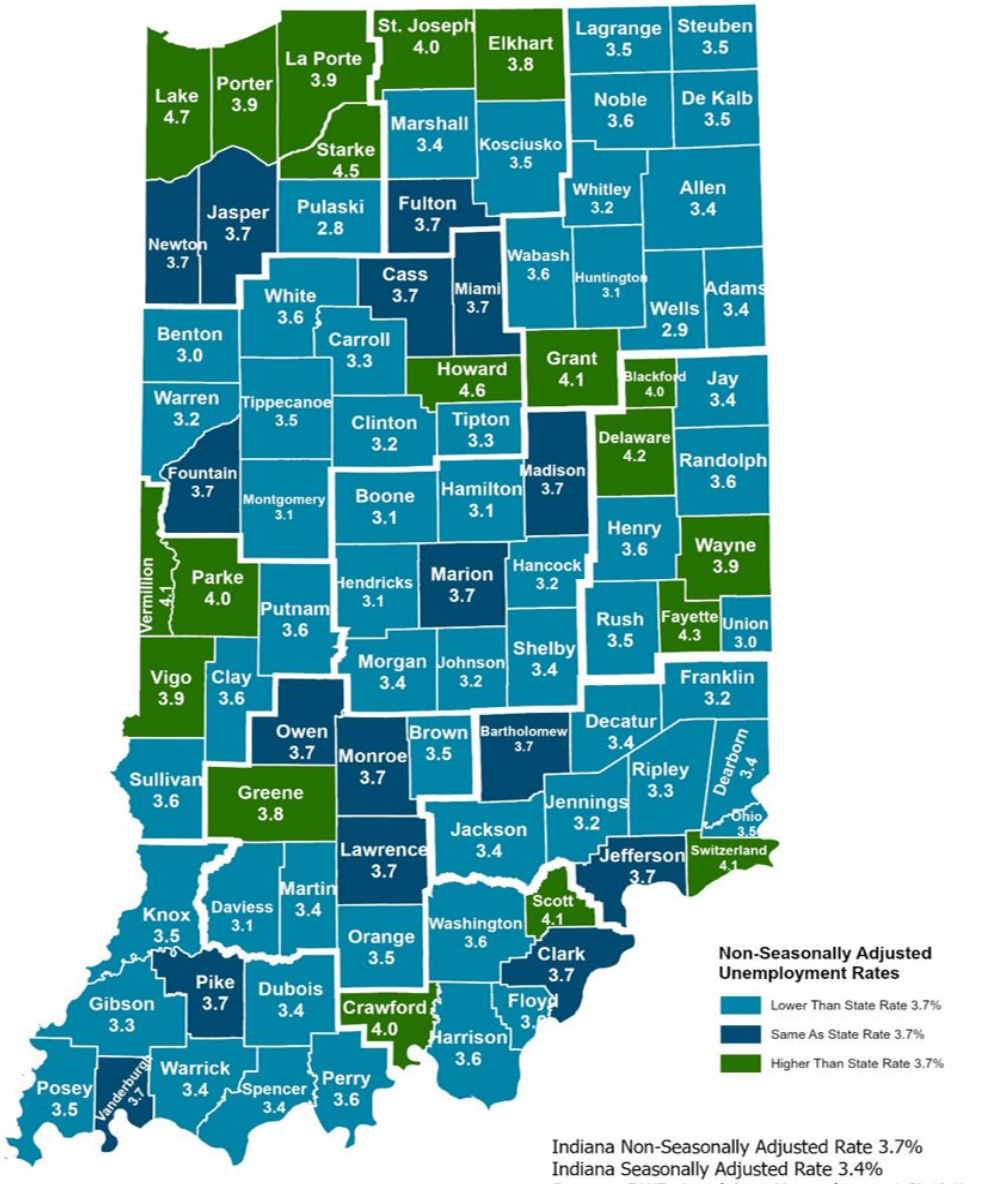


Filed Week Ending October 3, 2026

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
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 Regional Workforce Analyst listed below:

Kathy Jaworski

Indiana Department of Workforce Development

kjaworski@dwd.IN.gov