



# 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

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## Economic Growth Region 4

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 had jobless rate increases from a year earlier, 2 states had decreases, and 35 states had little change. The national unemployment rate, 4.4 percent, changed little over the month but was 0.2 percentage point higher than in February 2025.



### Economic Growth Region (EGR) 4

Benton, Carroll, Cass, Clinton, Fountain, Howard, Miami, Montgomery, Tippecanoe, Tipton, Warren and White Counties.

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 4	254,857	245,097	9,760	3.8%	3.5%	4.4%
Kokomo MSA	35,178	33,236	1,942	5.5%	4.8%	6.9%
Lafayette MSA	121,675	117,528	4,147	3.4%	3.2%	3.8%
Benton Co.	4,454	4,294	160	3.6%	3.4%	3.8%
Carroll Co.	10,858	10,497	361	3.3%	3.4%	4.3%
Cass Co.	17,908	17,114	794	4.4%	4.0%	4.9%
Clinton Co.	16,842	16,306	536	3.2%	2.9%	3.6%
Fountain Co.	7,925	7,643	282	3.6%	3.5%	4.3%
Howard Co.	35,178	33,236	1,942	5.5%	4.8%	6.9%
Miami Co.	15,873	15,172	701	4.4%	3.9%	5.1%
Montgomery Co.	20,483	19,868	615	3.0%	2.6%	3.4%
Tippecanoe Co.	101,846	98,371	3,475	3.4%	3.1%	3.8%
Tipton Co.	7,838	7,534	304	3.9%	3.4%	4.2%
Warren Co.	4,517	4,366	151	3.3%	3.1%	3.6%
White Co.	11,135	10,696	439	3.9%	3.5%	3.6%
Attica	1,628	1,583	45	2.8%	3.7%	3.5%
Crawfordsville	8,174	7,918	256	3.1%	2.6%	3.6%
Delphi	1,219	1,167	52	4.3%	4.0%	5.3%
Fowler	1,140	1,105	35	3.1%	3.3%	3.8%
Frankfort	8,474	8,213	261	3.1%	2.8%	3.4%
Kokomo	24,515	23,099	1,416	5.8%	5.0%	7.4%
Lafayette	39,071	37,683	1,388	3.6%	3.9%	4.1%
Logansport	8,357	7,953	404	4.8%	4.3%	5.2%
Monticello	2,246	2,151	95	4.2%	3.7%	4.4%
Peru	4,887	4,644	243	5.0%	4.3%	6.1%
Tipton	2,499	2,398	101	4.0%	3.6%	4.5%
West Lafayette	22,235	21,585	650	2.9%	2.2%	3.3%
Williamsport	1,025	994	31	3.0%	3.1%	3.5%

### 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

#1 - Howard (5.5%)

#11 - Cass (4.4%)

#13 - Miami (4.4%)

#30 - Tipton (3.9%)

#32 - White (3.9%)

#48 - Benton (3.6%)

#51 - Fountain (3.6%)

#70 - Tippecanoe (3.4%)

#72 - Carroll (3.3%)

#76 - Warren (3.3%)

#78 - Clinton (3.2%)

#89 - Montgomery (3%)

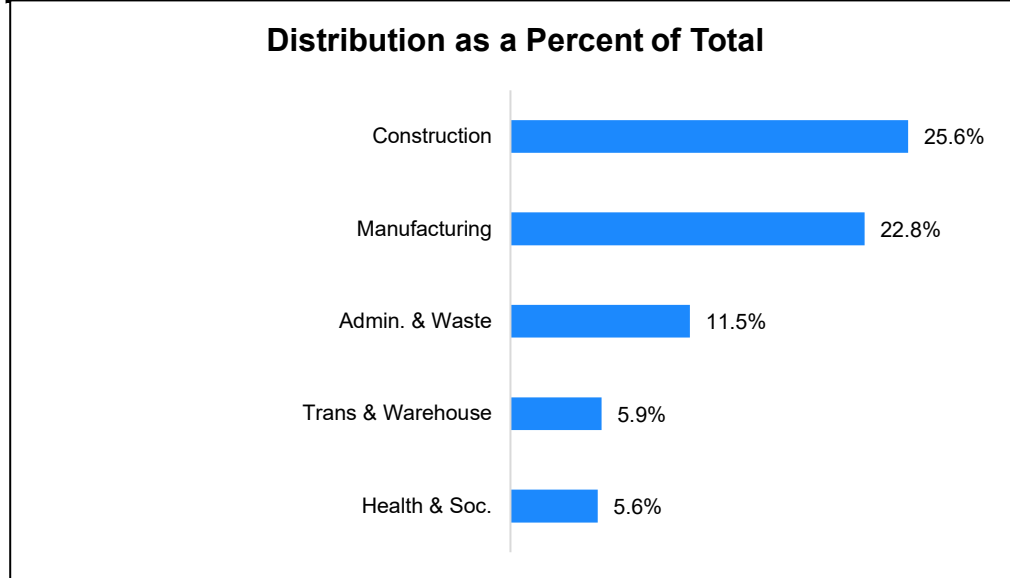
Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Development, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

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 4 Industries February 2026



Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis

## WARN Notices

WARN Notices for Region 4 for February 2026				
Company	City	County	# of workers affected	Notice Date

**There are no WARN Notices for February 2026 for Region 4.**

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 4

#### Initial Claims

02/07/26 - 348(D)

02/14/26 - 156(D)

02/21/26 - 140(D)

02/28/26 - 138(D)

#### Continued Claims

02/07/26 - 1,678

02/14/26 - 1,634

02/21/26 - 1,580

02/28/26 - 1,539

#### Total Claims

02/07/26 - 2,026

02/14/26 - 1,790

02/21/26 - 1,720

02/28/26 - 1,677

### 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

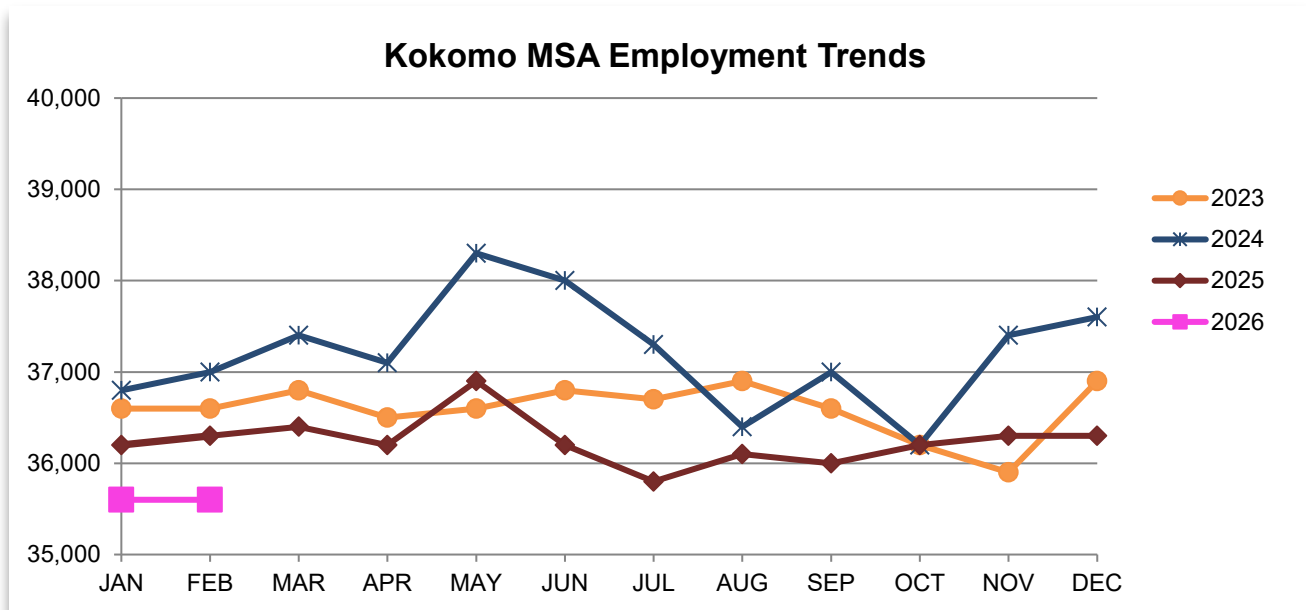
02/28/26 - 27,032

(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 Development

Kokomo 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	
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>35,600</b>	<b>35,600</b>	<b>36,300</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>-700</b>	<b>-1.9%</b>
<b>Total Private</b>	<b>30,900</b>	<b>31,000</b>	<b>31,600</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-0.3%</b>	<b>-700</b>	<b>-2.2%</b>
Goods Producing	10,000	10,000	10,700	0	0.0%	-700	-6.5%
Service-Providing	25,600	25,600	25,600	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Private Service Providing	20,900	21,000	20,900	-100	-0.5%	0	0.0%
Mining, Logging and Construction	1,700	1,700	1,800	0	0.0%	-100	-5.6%
Manufacturing	8,300	8,300	8,900	0	0.0%	-600	-6.7%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	6,200	6,300	6,100	-100	-1.6%	100	1.6%
Wholesale Trade	900	900	800	0	0.0%	100	12.5%
Retail Trade	4,400	4,500	4,400	-100	-2.2%	0	0.0%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	900	900	900	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Information	200	200	200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	1,200	1,200	1,200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	4,100	4,000	4,000	100	2.5%	100	2.5%
Other Services	1,800	1,800	1,800	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
<b>Government</b>	<b>4,700</b>	<b>4,600</b>	<b>4,700</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2.2%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
Local Government	3,200	3,200	3,200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Local Government Educational Services	1,900	1,900	1,900	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Local Government excluding Educational Services	1,300	1,300	1,300	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

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

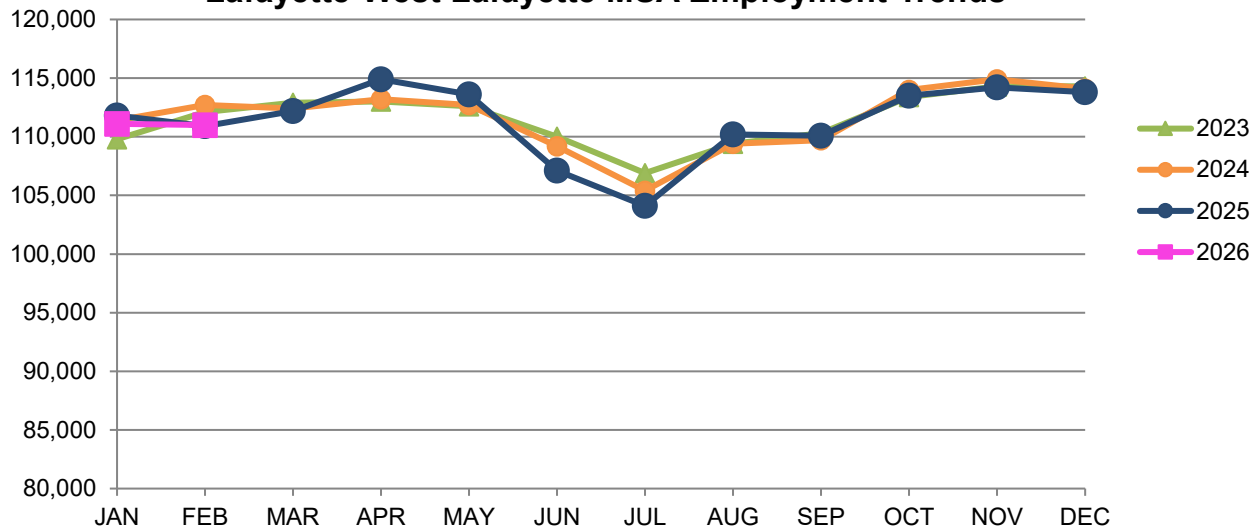


Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research & Analysis, Current Employment Statistics | Note: Historical data for the most recent 4 years (both seasonally adjusted and not seasonally adjusted) are revised near the beginning of each calendar year, prior to the release of January estimates for statewide data.

Lafayette-West Lafayette 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	
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>111,000</b>	<b>111,100</b>	<b>110,900</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.1%</b>
<b>Total Private</b>	<b>83,000</b>	<b>82,700</b>	<b>83,800</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>-800</b>	<b>-1.0%</b>
Goods Producing	25,600	25,400	26,000	200	0.8%	-400	-1.5%
Service Providing	85,400	85,700	84,900	-300	-0.4%	500	0.6%
Private Service Providing	57,400	57,300	57,800	100	0.2%	-400	-0.7%
Mining, Logging and Construction	4,800	4,700	4,500	100	2.1%	300	6.7%
Manufacturing	20,800	20,700	21,500	100	0.5%	-700	-3.3%
Durable Goods	16,300	16,300	17,000	0	0.0%	-700	-4.1%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	15,400	15,600	15,500	-200	-1.3%	-100	-0.7%
Wholesale Trade	3,200	3,200	3,200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Retail Trade	9,500	9,600	9,400	-100	-1.0%	100	1.1%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	2,700	2,800	2,900	-100	-3.6%	-200	-6.9%
Information	700	700	800	0	0.0%	-100	-12.5%
Financial Activities	3,300	3,300	3,500	0	0.0%	-200	-5.7%
Professional and Business Services	9,100	9,000	8,900	100	1.1%	200	2.3%
Education and Health Services	13,700	13,700	14,000	0	0.0%	-300	-2.1%
Leisure and Hospitality	11,000	10,800	10,900	200	1.9%	100	0.9%
Accommodation and Food Services	10,200	10,000	10,200	200	2.0%	0	0.0%
Other Services	4,200	4,200	4,200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
<b>Total Government</b>	<b>28,000</b>	<b>28,400</b>	<b>27,100</b>	<b>-400</b>	<b>-1.4%</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>3.3%</b>
Federal Government	500	400	500	100	25.0%	0	0.0%
State Government	19,900	20,500	18,900	-600	-2.9%	1,000	5.3%
Local Government	7,600	7,500	7,700	100	1.3%	-100	-1.3%
Local Government Educational Services	4,600	4,500	4,700	100	2.2%	-100	-2.1%

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

**Lafayette-West Lafayette MSA Employment Trends**



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 postings in Region 4 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	Home Health and Personal Care Aides
7	Physicians, All Other
8	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
9	Physical Therapists
10	Nursing Assistants
11	Food Service Managers
12	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners
13	Food Preparation Workers
14	Production Workers, All Other
15	Merchandise Displayers and Window Trimmers
16	Occupational Therapists
17	Fast Food and Counter Workers
18	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand
19	First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers
20	Customer Service Representatives

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	720
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	530
Helpers--Production Workers	427
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	284
Team Assemblers	193
Cashiers	174
Customer Service Representatives	160
Office Clerks, General	129
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	124
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	113
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	111
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	108
Managers, All Other	106
Construction Laborers	104
Retail Salespersons	102
Extraction Workers, All Other	101
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	99
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	86
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	81
Electrical and Electronic Equipment Assemblers	77

Source: Indiana Workforce Development, Indiana Career Connect.

**BREAKDOWN**

# February Indiana Labor Force

Released April 22, 2026



## Total Population 6,973,333



**Labor Force (Age 16+)**  
**3,498,263**



**Not in the Labor Force (Age 16+)**  
**1,978,900**

**Employed**  
**3,382,822**

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics, February 2026, Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Unemployed (Seeking)**  
**115,441**

**Do Not Want a Job**  
**1,867,900**

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics, February 2026, Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Want a Job (Not Seeking)**  
**111,000**

**Want a Job (Available to Work Now)**  
**38,600**

## Potential Workers

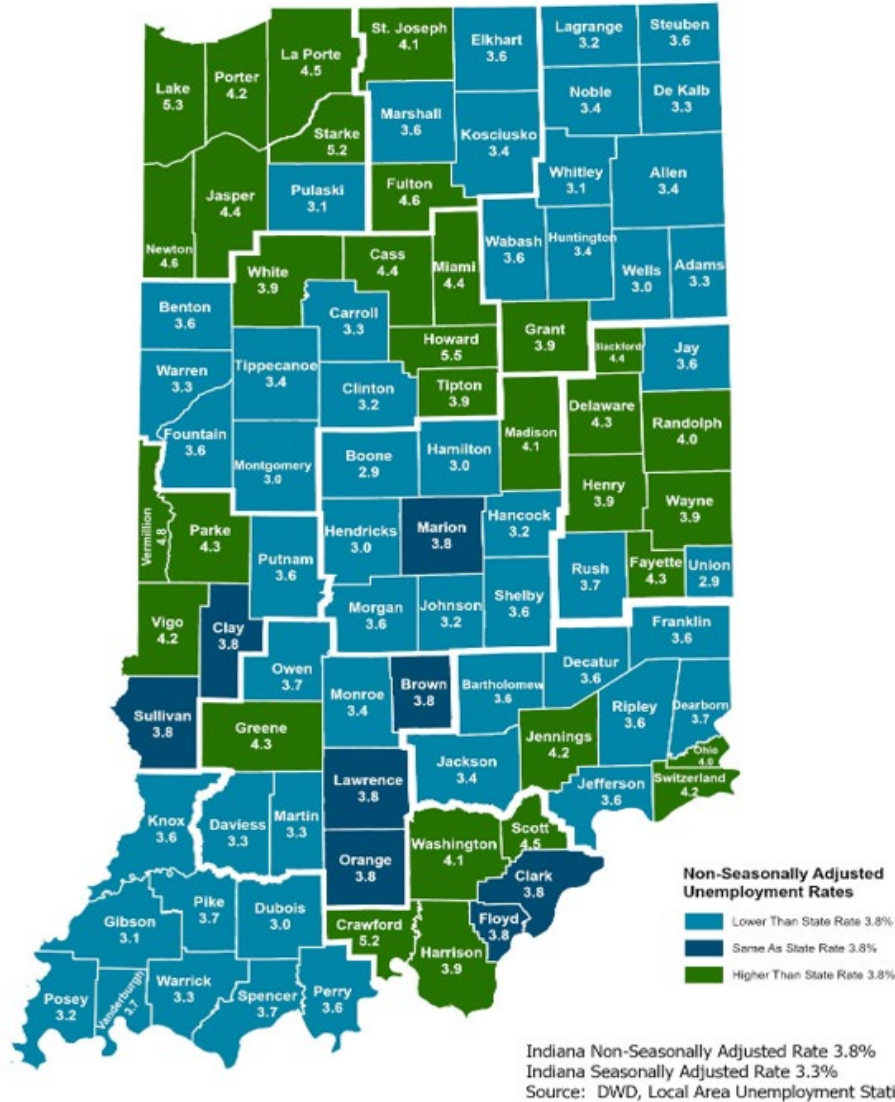
(Unemployed and Seeking a Job + Not in the Labor Force but Want a Job/Available to Work Now)

# 154,041

More about the US Bureau of Labor Statistics data sources used within:  
Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS): Captures Indiana's labor force, which includes those currently employed and those who are unemployed and actively seeking work.  
Current Population Survey (CPS): Captures individuals not participating in Indiana's Labor Force. This set includes non-participants that do not want a job (e.g. retirees and students) and those that want a job but are not actively seeking work.  
U.S. Census Bureau, Indiana Population 2025

Resource: Notes on Using Current Population Survey (CPS) Subnational Data and Differences Between CPS and LAUS Estimates

# County Unemployment Rates February 2026



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF  
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Questions?

Please contact the DWD  
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