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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 4

Statistical Data Report for September 2026, Released November 2026

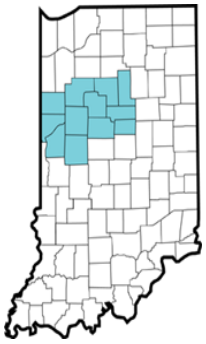
State Employment and Unemployment

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. 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.

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 4	256,538	247,293	9,245	3.6%	3.5%	3.7%
Kokomo MSA	35,435	33,798	1,637	4.6%	4.6%	5.7%
Lafayette MSA	121,681	117,488	4,193	3.4%	3.5%	3.3%
Benton Co.	4,548	4,410	138	3.0%	2.8%	2.9%
Carroll Co.	10,966	10,604	362	3.3%	3.0%	3.3%
Cass Co.	17,886	17,229	657	3.7%	3.5%	3.8%
Clinton Co.	16,969	16,432	537	3.2%	3.0%	3.2%
Fountain Co.	8,088	7,792	296	3.7%	3.3%	3.5%
Howard Co.	35,435	33,798	1,637	4.6%	4.6%	5.7%
Miami Co.	16,077	15,482	595	3.7%	3.6%	4.1%
Montgomery Co.	20,704	20,058	646	3.1%	3.0%	3.0%
Tippecanoe Co.	101,622	98,075	3,547	3.5%	3.6%	3.3%
Tipton Co.	7,980	7,717	263	3.3%	3.1%	3.5%
Warren Co.	4,545	4,399	146	3.2%	2.9%	3.1%
White Co.	11,718	11,297	421	3.6%	3.2%	3.1%
Attica	1,673	1,614	59	3.5%	3.3%	3.0%
Crawfordsville	8,281	7,994	287	3.5%	3.2%	3.4%
Delphi	1,230	1,178	52	4.2%	4.1%	4.4%
Fowler	1,169	1,135	34	2.9%	2.8%	3.1%
Frankfort	8,551	8,277	274	3.2%	3.0%	3.1%
Kokomo	24,709	23,489	1,220	4.9%	4.9%	6.2%
Lafayette	38,892	37,569	1,323	3.4%	3.3%	3.5%
Logansport	8,310	8,006	304	3.7%	3.6%	4.0%
Monticello	2,360	2,272	88	3.7%	3.1%	3.7%
Peru	4,924	4,739	185	3.8%	3.7%	4.0%
Tipton	2,544	2,456	88	3.5%	4.0%	3.3%
West Lafayette	22,308	21,520	788	3.5%	3.2%	3.3%
Williamsport	1,039	1,001	38	3.7%	2.8%	3.4%

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research & Analysis, Local Area Unemployment Statistics | Unemployment Statistics Released:11/26 | 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) 4

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

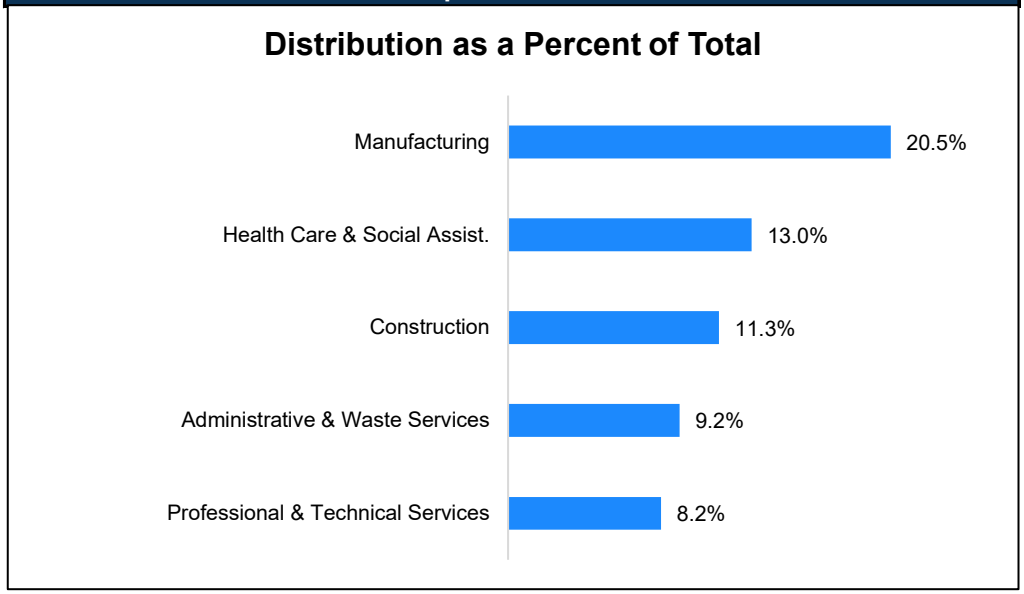
#2 - Howard (4.6%)
#21 - Cass (3.7%)
#23 - Fountain (3.7%)
#30 - Miami (3.7%)
#47 - White (3.6%)
#58 - Tippecanoe (3.5%)
#72 - Carroll (3.3%)
#75 - Tipton (3.3%)
#76 - Clinton (3.2%)
#81 - Warren (3.2%)
#88 - Montgomery (3.1%)
#89 - Benton (3%)

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 4 Industries September 2026



Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis

WARN Notices

WARN Notices for Region 4 for September 2026				
Company	City	County	# of workers affected	Notice Date
ZF Active Safety & Elctronics US LLC	Lafayette	Tippecanoe	133	9/30/2026

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: September 2026

Region 4

Initial Claims
09/05/26 - 91(D)
09/12/26 - 69(D)
09/19/26 - 106(D)
09/26/26 - 59(D)

Continued Claims
09/05/26 - 897
09/12/26 - 852
09/19/26 - 841
09/26/26 - 812

Total Claims
09/05/26 - 988
09/12/26 - 921
09/19/26 - 947
09/26/26 - 871

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

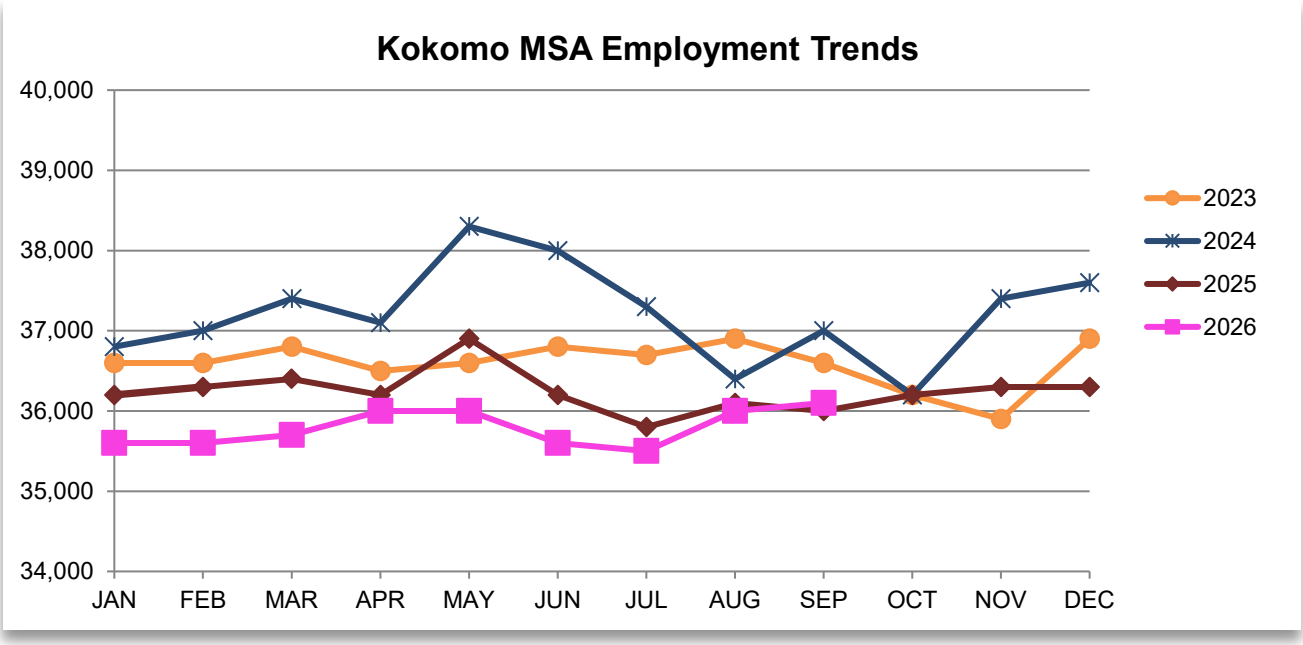
Continued Claims
09/05/26 - 17,275
09/12/26 - 17,319
09/19/26 - 17,043
09/26/26 - 16,671

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 | *Numbers subject to weekly revision Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Development

Kokomo 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	**36,100**	**36,000**	**36,000**	**100**	**0.3%**	**100**	**0.3%**
Total Private	**31,300**	**31,400**	**31,300**	**-100**	**-0.3%**	**0**	**0.0%**
Goods Producing	10,400	10,300	10,200	100	1.0%	200	2.0%
Service-Providing	25,700	25,700	25,800	0	0.0%	-100	-0.4%
Private Service Providing	20,900	21,100	21,100	-200	-1.0%	-200	-1.0%
Mining, Logging and Construction	1,900	1,900	1,800	0	0.0%	100	5.6%
Manufacturing	8,500	8,400	8,400	100	1.2%	100	1.2%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	6,200	6,200	6,300	0	0.0%	-100	-1.6%
Wholesale Trade	900	900	900	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Retail Trade	4,400	4,400	4,500	0	0.0%	-100	-2.2%
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	4,300	4,300	-200	-4.7%	-200	-4.7%
Other Services	1,800	1,800	1,800	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Government	**4,800**	**4,600**	**4,700**	**200**	**4.4%**	**100**	**2.1%**
Local Government	3,400	3,500	3,400	-100	-2.9%	0	0.0%
Local Government Educational Services	1,900	1,900	2,000	0	0.0%	-100	-5.0%
Local Government excluding Educational Services	1,500	1,600	1,400	-100	-6.3%	100	7.1%

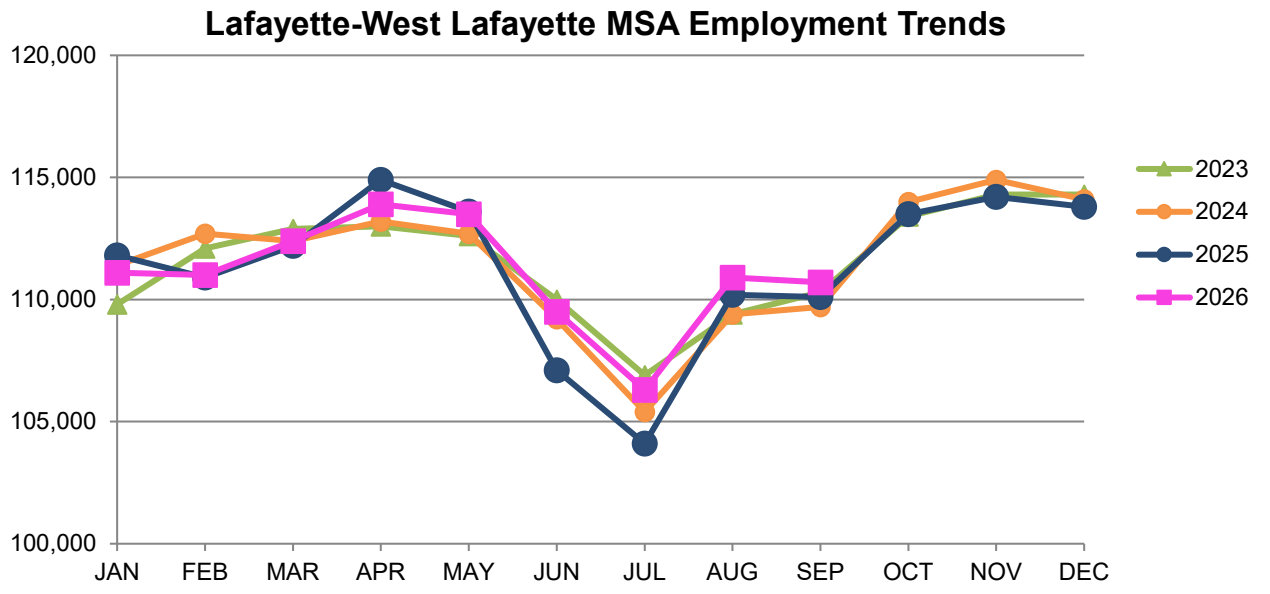
Source: Indiana Dept of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis, Current Employment Statistics



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.

Lafayette-West Lafayette 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	**110,700**	**110,900**	**110,100**	**-200**	**-0.2%**	**600**	**0.5%**
Total Private	**84,900**	**84,800**	**84,400**	**100**	**0.1%**	**500**	**0.6%**
Goods Producing	26,800	26,600	26,000	200	0.8%	800	3.1%
Service Providing	83,900	84,300	84,100	-400	-0.5%	-200	-0.2%
Private Service Providing	58,100	58,200	58,400	-100	-0.2%	-300	-0.5%
Mining, Logging and Construction	5,300	5,300	5,000	0	0.0%	300	6.0%
Manufacturing	21,500	21,300	21,000	200	0.9%	500	2.4%
Durable Goods	16,500	16,500	16,400	0	0.0%	100	0.6%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	15,600	15,400	15,700	200	1.3%	-100	-0.6%
Wholesale Trade	3,200	3,200	3,300	0	0.0%	-100	-3.0%
Retail Trade	9,700	9,500	9,500	200	2.1%	200	2.1%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	2,700	2,700	2,900	0	0.0%	-200	-6.9%
Information	700	700	700	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	3,300	3,300	3,400	0	0.0%	-100	-2.9%
Professional and Business Services	9,500	9,600	9,300	-100	-1.0%	200	2.2%
Education and Health Services	13,900	13,900	13,600	0	0.0%	300	2.2%
Leisure and Hospitality	10,900	11,000	11,500	-100	-0.9%	-600	-5.2%
Accommodation and Food Services	10,200	10,200	10,700	0	0.0%	-500	-4.7%
Other Services	4,200	4,300	4,200	-100	-2.3%	0	0.0%
Total Government	**25,800**	**26,100**	**25,700**	**-300**	**-1.2%**	**100**	**0.4%**
Federal Government	500	500	500	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
State Government	17,800	18,100	17,600	-300	-1.7%	200	1.1%
Local Government	7,500	7,500	7,600	0	0.0%	-100	-1.3%
Local Government Educational Services	4,400	4,300	4,500	100	2.3%	-100	-2.2%

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 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	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
6	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General
7	Home Health and Personal Care Aides
8	Production Workers, All Other
9	Nursing Assistants
10	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners
11	Merchandise Displayers and Window Trimmers
12	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand
13	Stockers and Order Fillers
14	First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers
15	Medical Assistants
16	Industrial Engineers
17	Food Service Managers
18	Speech-Language Pathologists
19	Customer Service Representatives
20	Occupational Therapists

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	443
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	367
Helpers--Production Workers	296
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	196
Customer Service Representatives	133
Cashiers	131
Team Assemblers	124
Office Clerks, General	96
Managers, All Other	91
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	79
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	79
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	72
Extraction Workers, All Other	68
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	65
Retail Salespersons	65
Construction Laborers	64
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	58
Receptionists and Information Clerks	58
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants	56
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	55

Source: Indiana Workfroce 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%

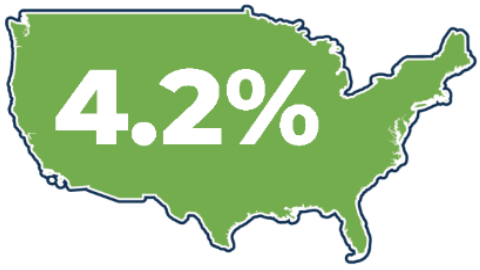


August 2026 Indiana

3.3%



National Unemployment Rate



LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE*

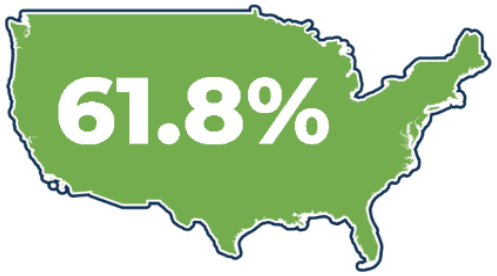
16+: 63.1%

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

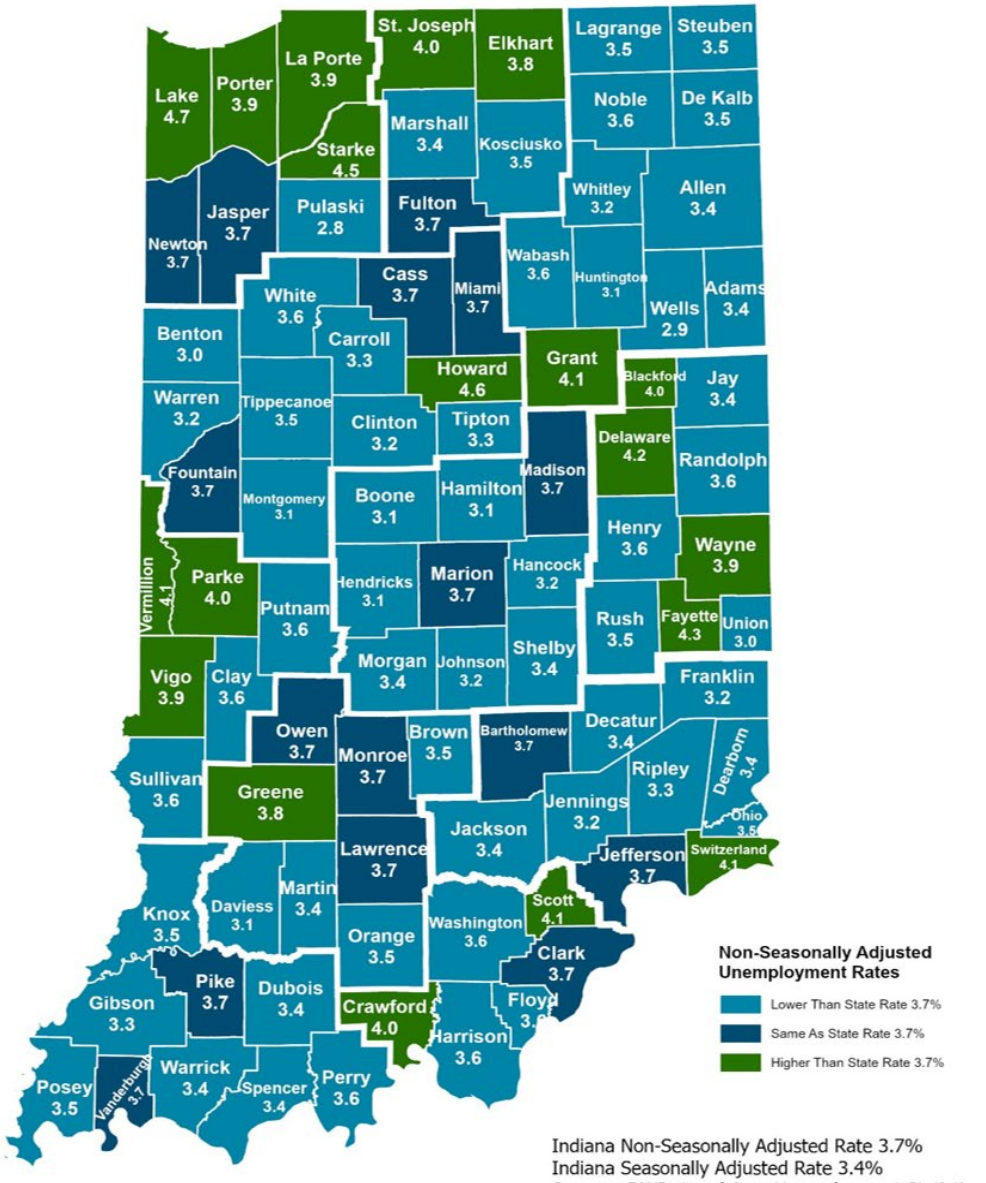


Filed Week Ending October 3, 2026

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 DWD Regional Workforce Analyst listed below:

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