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: Cassie Janes

Regional Workforce Analyst
Email Cassie
cjanes@dwd.in.gov

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Economic Growth Region 6

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.

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. In total, 20 states had unemployment rates lower than the U.S. figure of 4.2 percent, 2 states and the District had higher rates, and 28 states had rates that were not appreciably different from that of the nation.

In September, five states had unemployment rates decreases: Maryland and New Hampshire (-0.2 percentage point each) and Florida, Nevada, and Pennsylvania (-0.1 point each). Forty-five states and the District of Columbia had jobless rates that were not notably different from those of a month earlier, though some had changes that were at least as large numerically as the significant changes.

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 6	156,122	150,082	6,040	3.9%	3.7%	3.7%
Muncie MSA	52,985	50,782	2,203	4.2%	4.2%	4.0%
Blackford Co.	5,135	4,932	203	4.0%	3.7%	3.8%
Delaware Co.	52,985	50,782	2,203	4.2%	4.2%	4.0%
Fayette Co.	10,159	9,720	439	4.3%	4.1%	4.1%
Henry Co.	22,895	22,062	833	3.6%	3.3%	3.6%
Jay Co.	9,399	9,075	324	3.4%	3.1%	3.4%
Randolph Co.	12,090	11,658	432	3.6%	3.3%	3.5%
Rush Co.	8,487	8,192	295	3.5%	3.2%	3.3%
Union Co.	4,231	4,105	126	3.0%	2.8%	2.8%
Wayne Co.	30,741	29,556	1,185	3.9%	3.7%	3.7%
Connersville	5,548	5,285	263	4.7%	4.6%	4.6%
Muncie	30,045	28,708	1,337	4.4%	4.6%	4.3%
New Castle	8,438	8,122	316	3.7%	3.3%	3.7%
Richmond	15,517	14,862	655	4.2%	4.2%	4.0%

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) 6

Blackford, Delaware, Fayette, Henry, Jay, Randolph, Rush, Union, and Wayne 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

#4 - Fayette (4.3%)

#5 - Delaware (4.2%)

#10 - Blackford (4%)

#17 - Wayne (3.9%)

#39 - Henry (3.6%)

#43 - Randolph (3.6%)

#56 - Rush (3.5%)

#65 - Jay (3.4%)

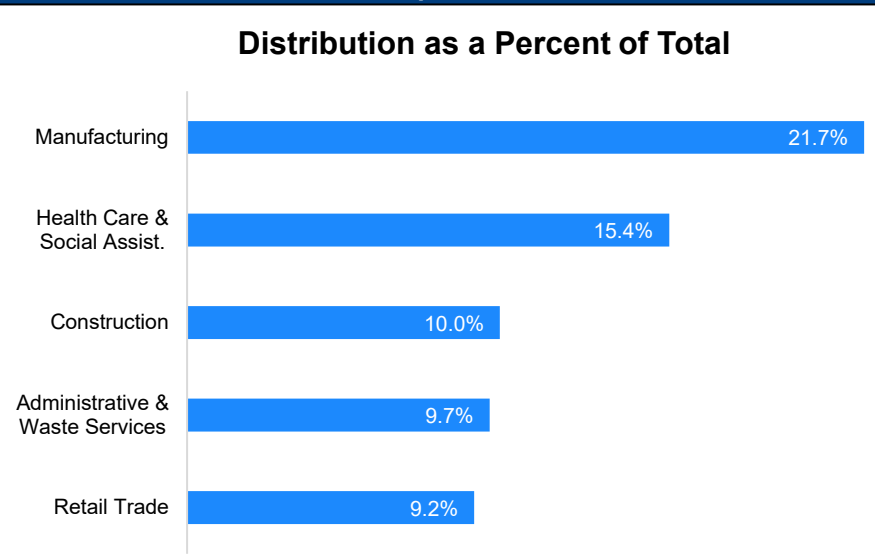
#90 - Union (3%)

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 6 Industries September 2026



Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis

WARN Notices

WARN Notices for Region 6 for September 2026				
Company	City	County	# of workers affected	Notice Date

There are no WARN Notices for September 2026 for EGR 6.

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 6

Initial Claims

09/05/26 - 83(D)
09/12/26 - 62(D)
09/19/26 - 53(D)
09/26/26 - 66(D)

Continued Claims

09/05/26 - 631
09/12/26 - 626
09/19/26 - 593
09/26/26 - 557

Total Claims

09/05/26 - 714
09/12/26 - 688
09/19/26 - 646
09/26/26 - 623

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 - 16,771

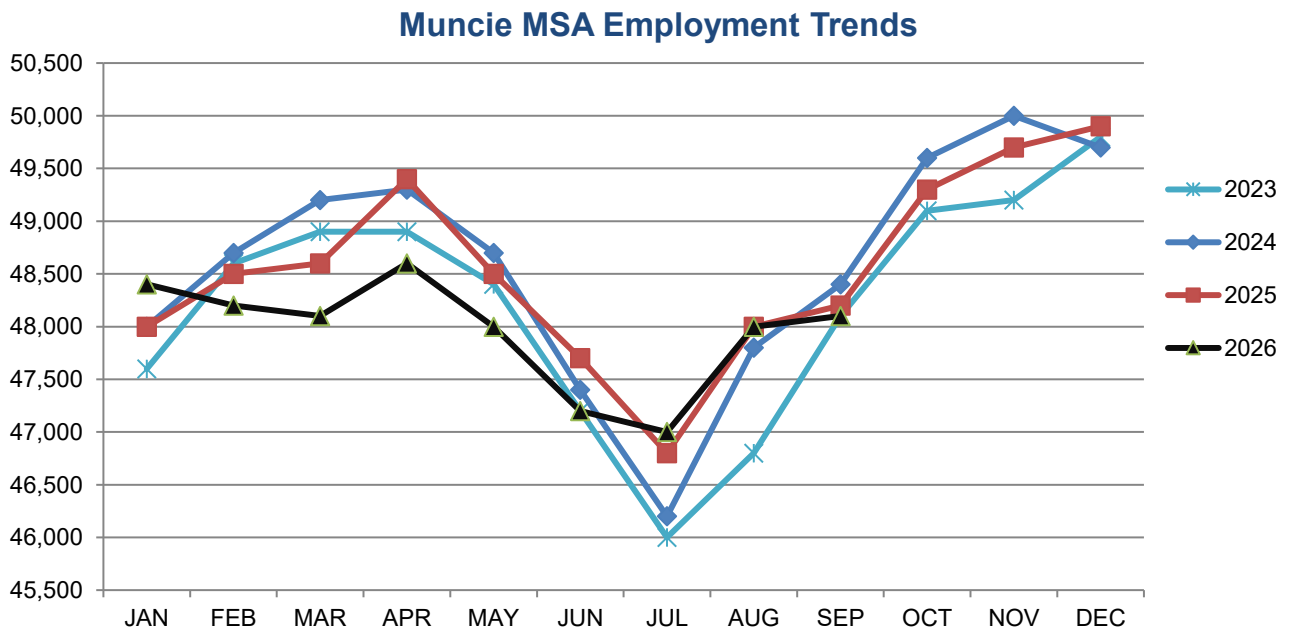
Total Claims

09/05/26 - 19,411
09/12/26 - 19,212
09/19/26 - 19,103
09/26/26 - 18,619

(D) indicates item is affected by non-disclosure issues relating to industry or ownership status | Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Development

Muncie 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	**48,100**	**48,000**	**48,200**	**100**	**0.2%**	**-100**	**-0.2%**
Total Private	**38,000**	**38,300**	**38,500**	**-300**	**-0.8%**	**-500**	**-1.3%**
Goods Producing	5,900	5,900	5,800	0	0.0%	100	1.7%
Service-Providing	42,200	42,100	42,400	100	0.2%	-200	-0.5%
Private Service Providing	32,100	32,400	32,700	-300	-0.9%	-600	-1.8%
Mining, Logging and Construction	1,700	1,700	1,600	0	0.0%	100	6.3%
Manufacturing	4,200	4,200	4,200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	7,900	7,900	8,100	0	0.0%	-200	-2.5%
Wholesale Trade	1,300	1,300	1,300	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Retail Trade	5,600	5,600	5,700	0	0.0%	-100	-1.8%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	1,000	1,000	1,100	0	0.0%	-100	-9.1%
Information	300	300	400	0	0.0%	-100	-25.0%
Financial Activities	2,300	2,300	2,300	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Education and Health Services	10,200	10,200	10,200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	4,900	5,000	5,200	-100	-2.0%	-300	-5.8%
Other Services	2,200	2,200	2,200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Government	10,100	9,700	9,700	400	4.1%	400	4.1%
State Government	5,800	5,700	5,700	100	1.8%	100	1.8%
State Government Educational Services	5,600	5,500	5,500	100	1.8%	100	1.8%
State Government Excluding Education	200	200	200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Local Government	3,700	3,400	3,700	300	8.8%	0	0.0%
Local Government Educational Services	2,100	1,900	2,100	200	10.5%	0	0.0%
Local Government excluding Educational Services	1,600	1,500	1,600	100	6.7%	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.

Frequently Listed Jobs

Top 20 job listings by number of postings in Region 6 in the past month

Rank	Occupations
1	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers
2	Registered Nurses
3	Retail Salespersons
4	First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers
5	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
6	Home Health and Personal Care Aides
7	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General
8	Food Service Managers
9	Production Workers, All Other
10	Merchandise Displayers and Window Trimmers
11	Nursing Assistants
12	Physical Therapists
13	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products
14	Pharmacy Technicians
15	Customer Service Representatives
16	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand
17	Stockers and Order Fillers
18	Medical Assistants
19	Fast Food and Counter Workers
20	Cashiers

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	164
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	114
Customer Service Representatives	86
Helpers--Production Workers	64
Office Clerks, General	59
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	53
Cashiers	52
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	51
Team Assemblers	40
Managers, All Other	35
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	34
Receptionists and Information Clerks	34
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants	33
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	33
Retail Salespersons	29
Data Entry Keyers	27
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	27
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	27
Extraction Workers, All Other	26
General and Operations Managers	26

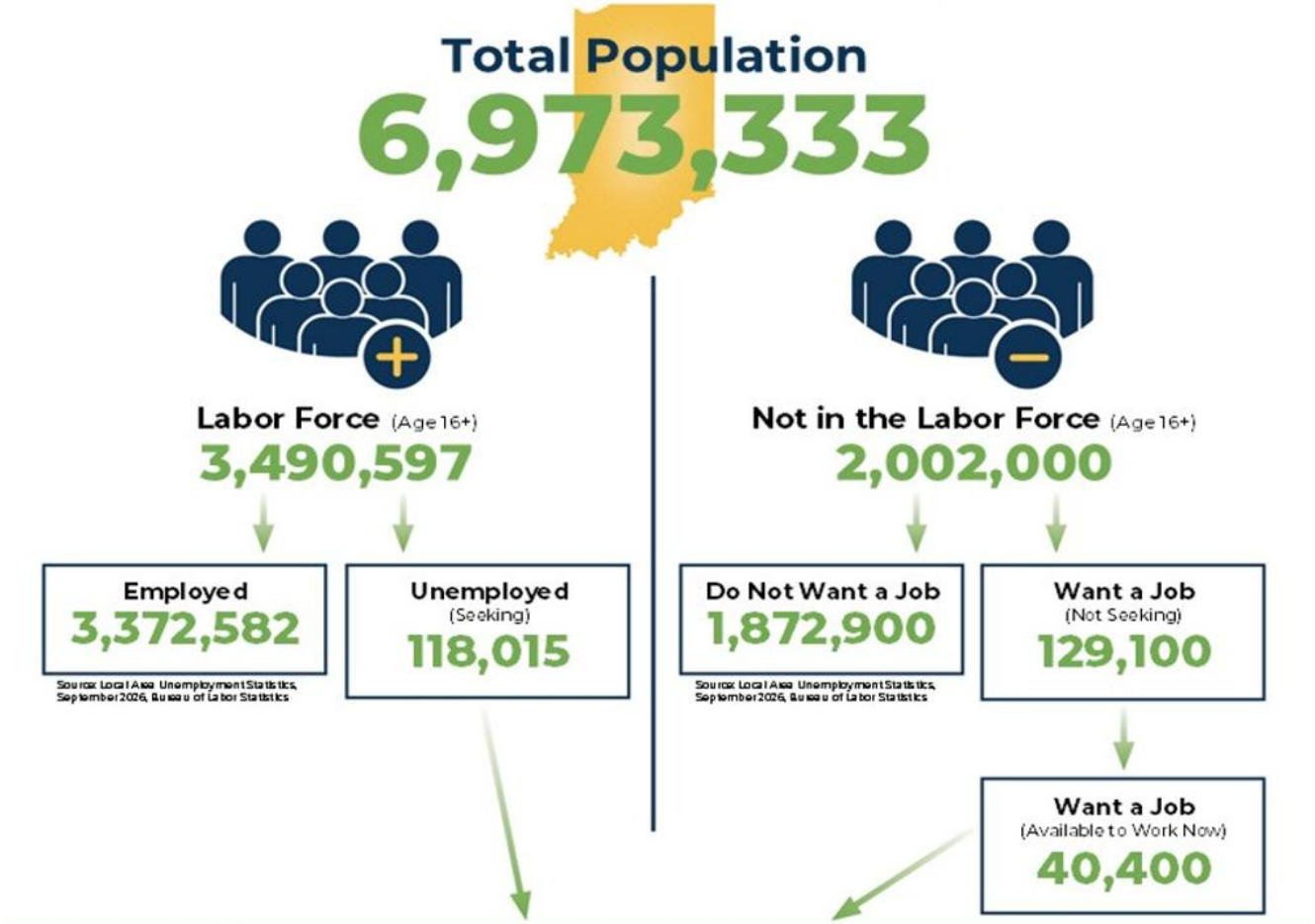
Source: Indiana Workforce Development, Indiana Career Connect

BREAKDOWN

September Indiana Labor Force

Released October 20, 2026

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



Potential Workers

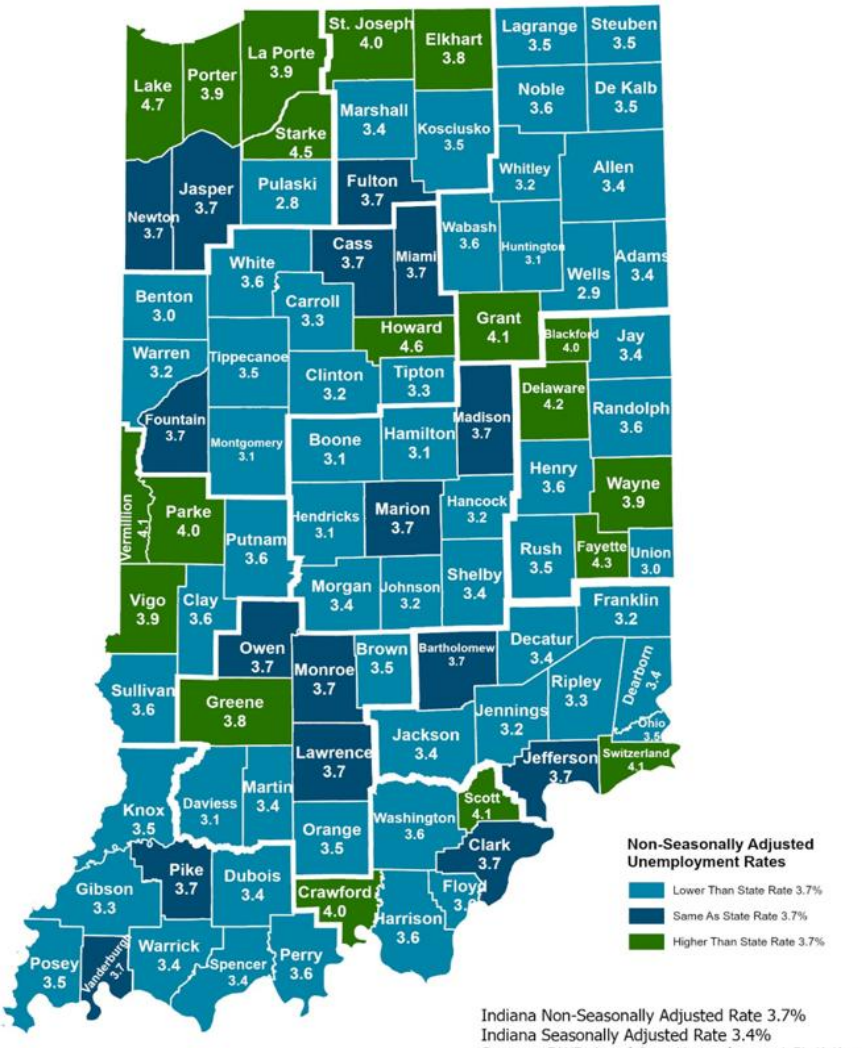
(Unemployed and Seeking a Job + Not in the Labor Force but Want a Job/Available to Work Now)

158,415

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 (i.e. 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 ad LAUS Estimates

County Unemployment Rates
September 2026



Indiana Non-Seasonally Adjusted Rate 3.7%
Indiana Seasonally Adjusted Rate 3.4%
Source: DWD, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Questions?

Please contact the Regional Labor Analyst listed below:

Cassie Janes

Indiana Department of Workforce Development

cjanes@dwd.in.gov