



August 2026 Labor Market Review

Reported by: Kim Stevenson

Regional Labor Analyst Manager

[Email Kim](#)

kstevenson@dwd.in.gov

LABOR MARKET REVIEW

Economic Growth Region 7

Statistical Data Report for August 2026, Released October 2026

State Employment and Unemployment

Unemployment rates were lower in August in 8 states and the District of Columbia and stable in 42 states, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Fourteen states and the District had jobless rate decreases from a year earlier, 10 states had increases, and 26 states had little change. The national unemployment rate, 4.1 percent, was unchanged over the month and was little changed from August 2025.

South Dakota had the lowest jobless rate in August, 2.0 percent, followed by North Dakota, 2.2 percent. The rate in Ohio (3.3 percent) set a new series low. (All state series begin in 1976.) The District of Columbia had the highest unemployment rate, 5.7 percent. In total, 19 states had unemployment rates lower than the U.S. figure of 4.1 percent, 6 states and the District had higher rates, and 25 states had rates that were not appreciably different from that of the nation.

In August 2026, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 4 states and was essentially unchanged in 46 states and the District of Columbia. Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 8 states, decreased in the District, and was essentially unchanged in 42 states.

The job gains occurred in California (+39,400, or +0.2 percent), Wisconsin (+11,800, or +0.4 percent), South Carolina (+10,800, or +0.4 percent), and New Mexico (+5,500, or +0.6 percent).

This news release presents statistics from two monthly programs. The civilian labor force and unemployment data are modeled based largely on a survey of households. These data pertain to people by where they reside. The employment data are from an establishment survey that measures nonfarm employment, hours, and earnings by industry. These data pertain to jobs on payrolls defined by where the establishments are located.

August 2026 Labor Force Estimates (not seasonally adjusted)						
Area	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Aug-26	Jul-26	Aug-25
U.S.	170,048,000	162,667,000	7,381,000	4.3%	4.4%	4.5%
IN	3,488,974	3,364,991	123,983	3.6%	3.6%	3.8%
EGR 7	103,896	100,133	3,763	3.6%	3.7%	4.0%
Terre Haute MSA	79,140	76,233	2,907	3.7%	3.7%	4.0%
Clay Co.	12,412	11,999	413	3.3%	3.4%	3.7%
Parke Co.	7,332	7,074	258	3.5%	3.6%	3.9%
Putnam Co.	17,424	16,826	598	3.4%	3.5%	3.9%
Sullivan Co.	9,447	9,142	305	3.2%	3.2%	3.6%
Vermillion Co.	7,335	7,057	278	3.8%	4.0%	4.2%
Vigo Co.	49,946	48,035	1,911	3.8%	3.9%	4.2%
Terre Haute	25,456	24,329	1,127	4.4%	4.4%	4.7%

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) 7

Clay, Parke, Putnam, Sullivan, Vermillion and Vigo Counties

Unemployment Rates by State (seasonally adjusted): August 2026

U.S. - 4.1%

Illinois - 4.7%

Indiana - 3.3%

Kentucky - 4.7%

Michigan - 5%

Ohio - 3.3%

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

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

#14 - Vermillion (3.8%)

#15 - Vigo (3.8%)

#36 - Parke (3.5%)

#41 - Putnam (3.4%)

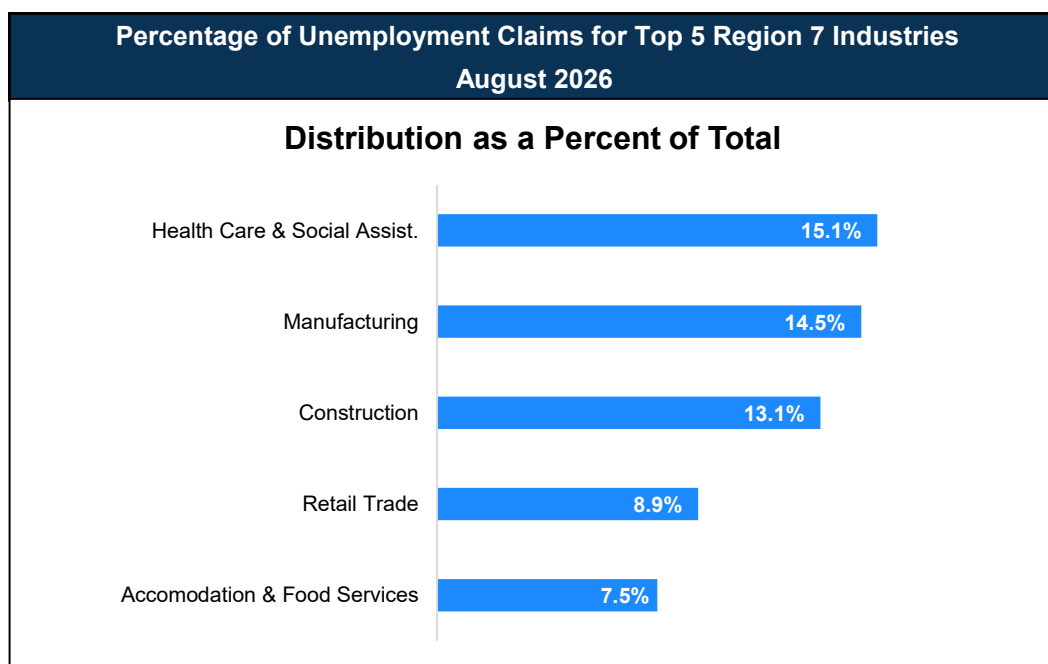
#45 - Clay (3.3%)

#63 - Sullivan (3.2%)

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

Consumer Price Index (CPI-U Change), Unadjusted Percent Change to August 2026 from				
CPI Item	Aug-25	Jul-26	Aug-25	Jul-26
	U.S. City		Midwest Region*	
All Items	3.4%	0.3%	3.6%	0.4%
Food & Beverages	2.6%	0.1%	2.5%	0.5%
Housing	3.1%	0.2%	3.7%	0.0%
Apparel	3.6%	1.9%	4.0%	0.6%
Transportation	6.2%	0.5%	5.8%	1.0%
Medical Care	1.6%	-0.1%	1.6%	-0.2%
Recreation	2.7%	0.0%	3.8%	0.8%
Education & Communication	2.1%	1.9%	2.4%	1.9%
Other Goods & Services	4.2%	0.1%	2.2%	0.3%

*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 7 for August 2026				
Company	City	County	# of Workers affected	Notice Date

There are no WARN Notices for August 2026 for EGR 7.

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: August 2026

Region 7

Initial Claims

08/01/26 - 23(D)

08/08/26 - 35(D)

08/15/26 - 29(D)

08/22/26 - 27(D)

08/29/26 - 47(D)

Continued Claims

08/01/26 - 400

08/08/26 - 388

08/15/26 - 367

08/22/26 - 370

08/29/26 - 380

Total Claims

08/01/26 - 423

08/08/26 - 423

08/15/26 - 396

08/22/26 - 397

08/29/26 - 427

State of Indiana

Initial Claims

08/01/26 - 1,953

08/08/26 - 2,319

08/15/26 - 2,213

08/22/26 - 2,273

08/29/26 - 2,318

Continued Claims

08/01/26 - 18,164

08/08/26 - 17,953

08/15/26 - 17,757

08/22/26 - 17,631

08/29/26 - 17,551

Total Claims

08/01/26 - 20,117

08/08/26 - 20,272

08/15/26 - 19,970

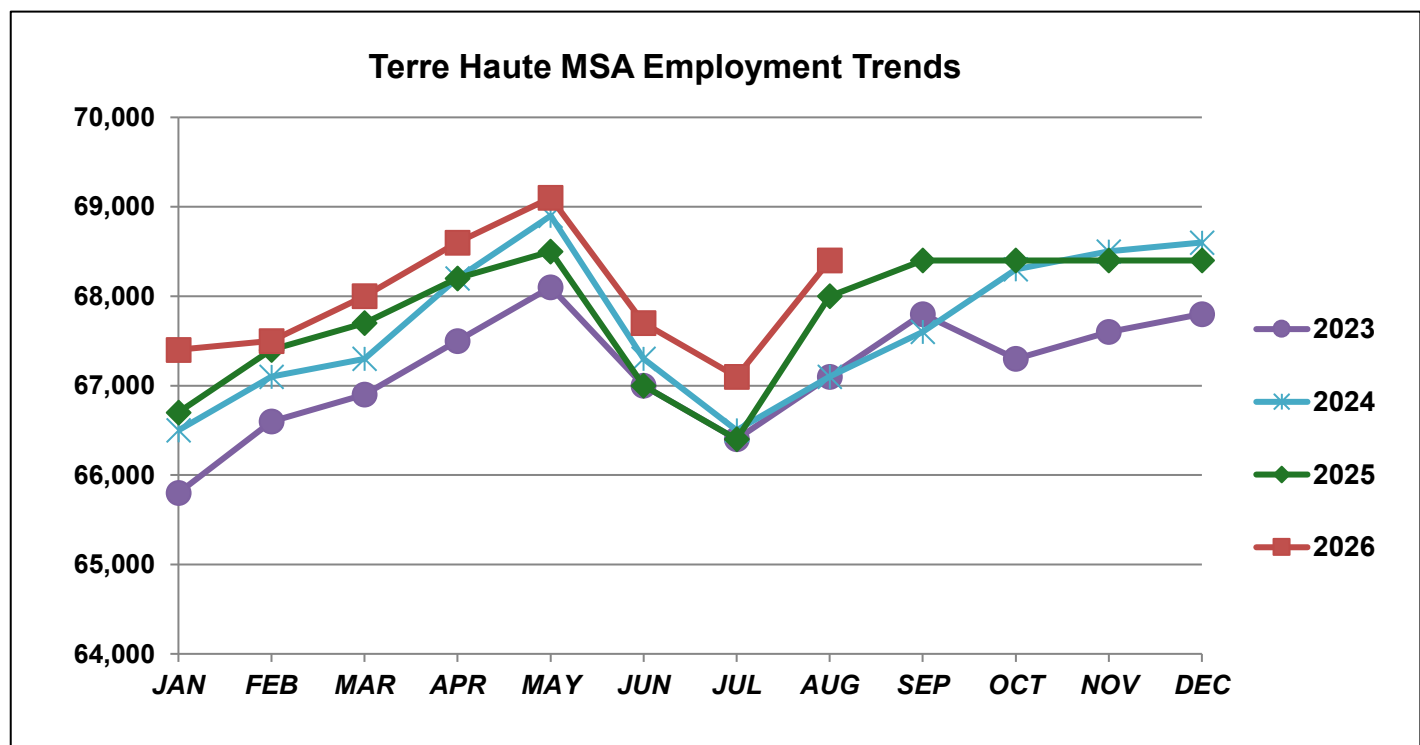
08/22/26 - 19,904

08/29/26 - 19,869

(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 Analysis

Terre Haute MSA							
Wage and Salaried Employment	August 2026			# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Industry	Aug-26	Jul-26	Aug-25	Jul-26 to Aug-26		Aug-25 to Aug-26	
Total Nonfarm	68,400	67,100	68,000	1,300	1.9%	400	0.6%
Total Private	56,600	56,400	56,100	200	0.4%	500	0.9%
Goods Producing	14,800	14,700	14,500	100	0.7%	300	2.1%
Service-Providing	53,600	52,400	53,500	1,200	2.3%	100	0.2%
Private Service Providing	41,800	41,700	41,600	100	0.2%	200	0.5%
Mining, Logging and Construction	5,100	5,100	4,900	0	0.0%	200	4.1%
Manufacturing	9,700	9,600	9,600	100	1.0%	100	1.0%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	12,200	12,200	12,100	0	0.0%	100	0.8%
Wholesale Trade	1,700	1,700	1,700	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Retail Trade	8,000	8,000	7,900	0	0.0%	100	1.3%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	2,500	2,500	2,500	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Information	500	500	500	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	2,300	2,300	2,300	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Professional and Business Services	4,100	4,000	4,000	100	2.5%	100	2.5%
Private Education and Health Services	12,800	12,800	12,700	0	0.0%	100	0.8%
Leisure and Hospitality	7,300	7,300	7,500	0	0.0%	-200	-2.7%
Other Services	2,600	2,600	2,500	0	0.0%	100	4.0%
Total Government	11,800	10,700	11,900	1,100	10.3%	-100	-0.8%
Federal Government	1,100	1,100	1,200	0	0.0%	-100	-8.3%
State Government	4,200	3,400	4,200	800	23.5%	0	0.0%
Local Government	6,500	6,200	6,500	300	4.8%	0	0.0%
Local Government Educational Services	3,100	2,900	3,100	200	6.9%	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 7 in the past month	
Rank	Occupations
1	Registered Nurses
2	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers
3	Retail Salespersons
4	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
5	First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers
6	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General
7	Customer Service Representatives
8	Home Health and Personal Care Aides
9	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand
10	Production Workers, All Other
11	Nurse Practitioners
12	Nursing Assistants
13	Health Technologists and Technicians, All Other
14	Medical and Health Services Managers
15	Merchandise Displayers and Window Trimmers
16	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners
17	Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners
18	Speech-Language Pathologists
19	Project Management Specialists
20	Cooks, Restaurant

Source: Lightcast, Job Postings Table.

Applicant Pool	
Top 20 occupations desired by applicants on their resumes in the past 12 months	
Occupations	# of Applicants
Production Workers, All Other	74
Helpers--Production Workers	57
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	51
Cashiers	43
Customer Service Representatives	41
Office Clerks, General	39
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	33
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	22
Managers, All Other	22
Receptionists and Information Clerks	20
Medical Assistants	19
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	19
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	18
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	17
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	17
Waiters and Waitresses	16
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants	15
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	14
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	14
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	14

Source: Indiana Workforce Development, Indiana Career Connect

SNAPSHOT

August Indiana Employment

Released September 18, 2026



Unemployment Rate

*seasonally adjusted

Unemployment Rate

3.3%



July 2026 Indiana

3.3%



National Unemployment Rate



LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE*

16+: **63.0%**

25-44: **84.0%**

25-54: **83.5%**



National Labor Force



Open Job Postings

102,895

Jobs

As of August 30, 2026



Weekly UI Continued Claims

17,551

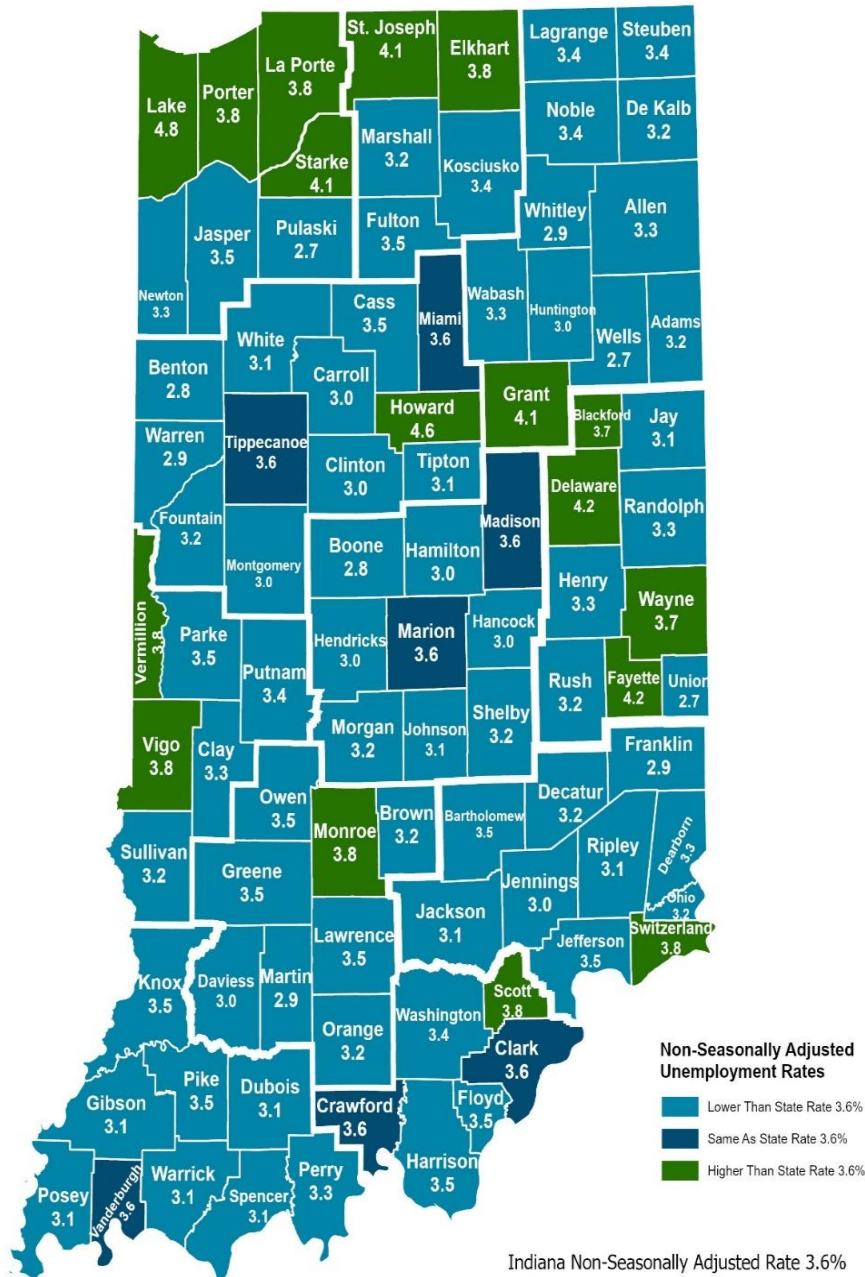


Filed Week Ending September 5, 2026

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 August 2026



Indiana Non-Seasonally Adjusted Rate 3.6%
Indiana Seasonally Adjusted Rate 3.3%
Source: DWD, Local Area Unemployment Statistics



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

Questions?

Please contact the DWD
Representative listed below:

Kim Stevenson
*Regional Workforce Analyst
Manager*

kstevenson@dwd.in.gov