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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 7

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.

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, 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 job gains occurred in New Jersey (+14,900, or +0.3 percent) and South Carolina (+12,500, or +0.5 percent). The only decrease occurred in Wisconsin (-13,700, or -0.4 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.

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 7	104,016	100,085	3,931	3.8%	3.6%	3.6%
Terre Haute MSA	79,334	76,312	3,022	3.8%	3.7%	3.7%
Clay Co.	12,465	12,016	449	3.6%	3.3%	3.5%
Parke Co.	7,057	6,778	279	4.0%	3.5%	3.8%
Putnam Co.	17,625	16,995	630	3.6%	3.4%	3.4%
Sullivan Co.	9,398	9,063	335	3.6%	3.2%	3.5%
Vermillion Co.	7,299	7,002	297	4.1%	3.8%	4.1%
Vigo Co.	50,172	48,231	1,941	3.9%	3.8%	3.7%
Terre Haute	25,537	24,428	1,109	4.3%	4.4%	4.1%

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) 7

Clay, Parke, Putnam, Sullivan, Vermillion and Vigo 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

#9 - Vermillion (4.1%)

#12 - Parke (4%)

#16 - Vigo (3.9%)

#36 - Clay (3.6%)

#42 - Putnam (3.6%)

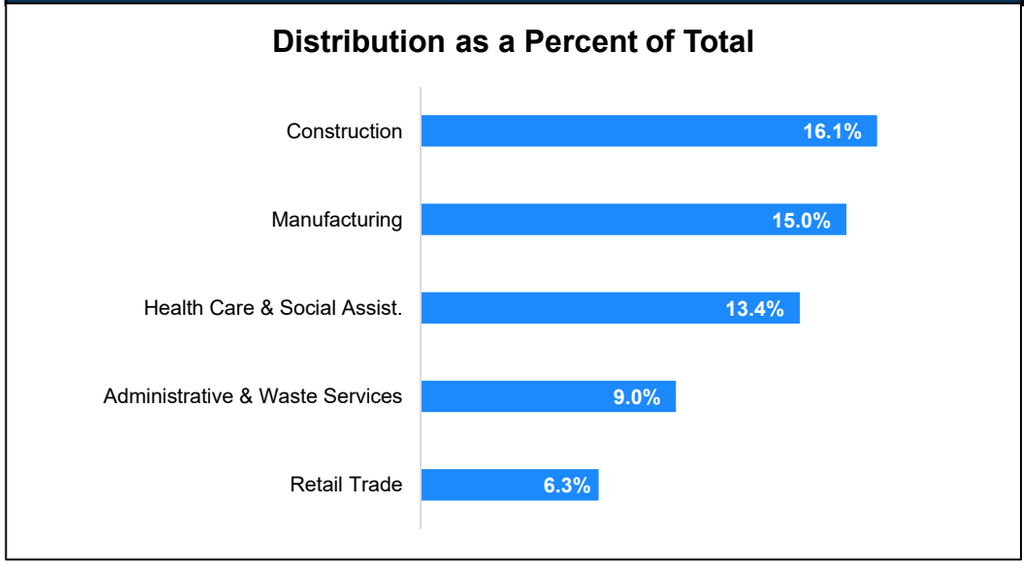
#44 - Sullivan (3.6%)

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis, 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 7 Industries September 2026



Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis

WARN Notices

WARN Notices for Region 7 for September 2026				
Company	City	County	# of Workers affected	Notice Date

There are no WARN Notices for September 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: September 2026

Region 7

Initial Claims

09/05/26 - 47(D)
09/12/26 - 27(D)
09/19/26 - 30(D)
09/26/26 - 16(D)

Continued Claims

09/05/26 - 393
09/12/26 - 382
09/19/26 - 372
09/26/26 - 359

Total Claims

09/05/26 - 440
09/12/26 - 409
09/19/26 - 402
09/26/26 - 375

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

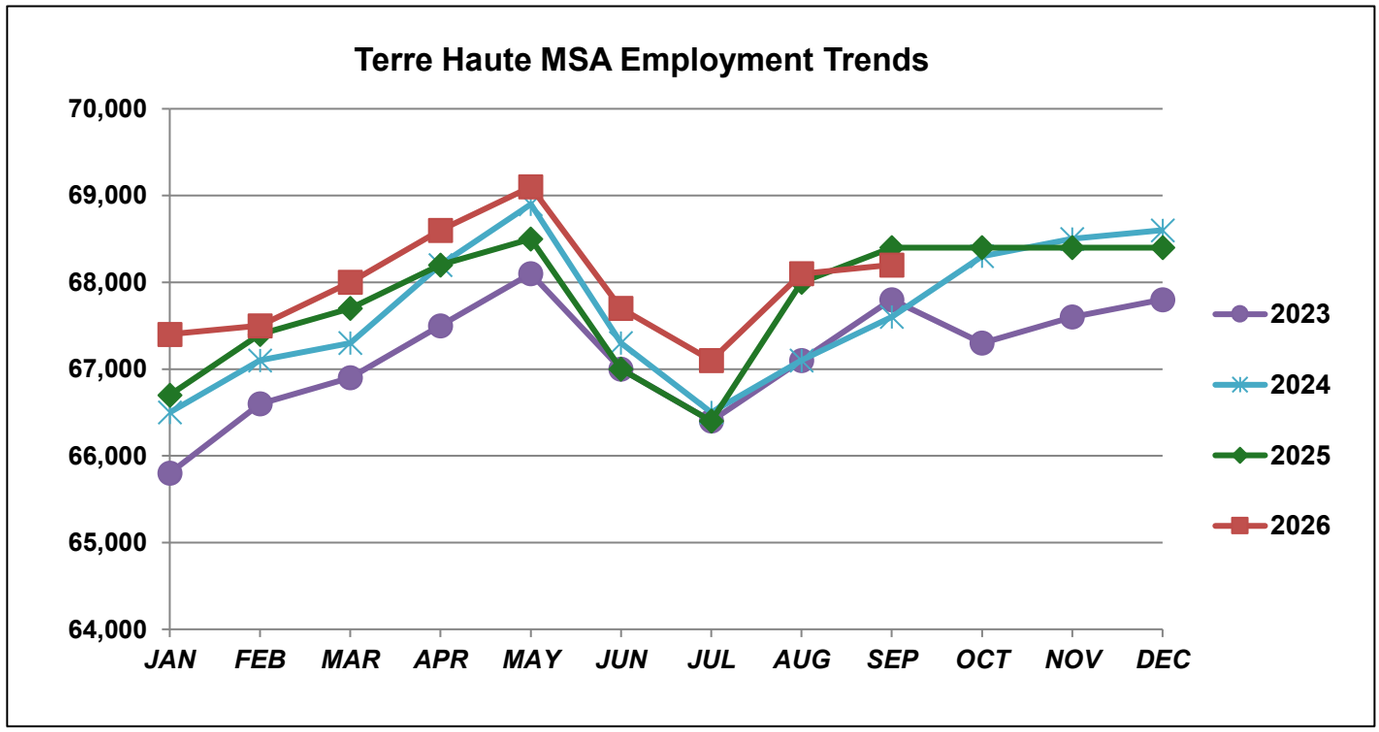
Total Claims

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 Analysis

Terre Haute 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	**68,200**	**68,100**	**68,400**	**100**	**0.2%**	**-200**	**-0.3%**
Total Private	**56,000**	**56,300**	**56,200**	**-300**	**-0.5%**	**-200**	**-0.4%**
Goods Producing	14,700	14,700	14,500	0	0.0%	200	1.4%
Service-Providing	53,500	53,400	53,900	100	0.2%	-400	-0.7%
Private Service Providing	41,300	41,600	41,700	-300	-0.7%	-400	-1.0%
Mining, Logging and Construction	5,000	5,100	4,900	-100	-2.0%	100	2.0%
Manufacturing	9,700	9,600	9,600	100	1.0%	100	1.0%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	12,100	12,000	12,200	100	0.8%	-100	-0.8%
Wholesale Trade	1,700	1,700	1,700	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Retail Trade	7,900	7,900	8,000	0	0.0%	-100	-1.3%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	2,500	2,400	2,500	100	4.2%	0	0.0%
Information	500	500	500	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	2,200	2,300	2,300	-100	-4.4%	-100	-4.4%
Professional and Business Services	4,000	4,100	3,900	-100	-2.4%	100	2.6%
Private Education and Health Services	12,800	12,800	12,700	0	0.0%	100	0.8%
Leisure and Hospitality	7,100	7,300	7,500	-200	-2.7%	-400	-5.3%
Other Services	2,600	2,600	2,600	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total Government	**12,200**	**11,800**	**12,200**	**400**	**3.4%**	**0**	**0.0%**
Federal Government	1,100	1,100	1,200	0	0.0%	-100	-8.3%
State Government	4,000	4,200	4,000	-200	-4.8%	0	0.0%
Local Government	7,100	6,500	7,000	600	9.2%	100	1.4%
Local Government Educational Services	3,600	3,100	3,600	500	16.1%	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	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
4	Retail Salespersons
5	First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers
6	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General
7	Production Workers, All Other
8	Nursing Assistants
9	Customer Service Representatives
10	Merchandise Displayers and Window Trimmers
11	Medical and Health Services Managers
12	Nurse Practitioners
13	Home Health Aides
14	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand
15	Cooks, Restaurant
16	Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners
17	Food Service Managers
18	Stockers and Order Fillers
19	Dining Room and Cafeteria Attendants and Bartender Helpers
20	Physical Therapists

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	73
Helpers--Production Workers	60
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	51
Cashiers	47
Customer Service Representatives	39
Office Clerks, General	37
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	34
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	24
Managers, All Other	24
Receptionists and Information Clerks	21
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	19
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	19
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	18
Medical Assistants	18
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants	16
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	16
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	16
Retail Salespersons	15
Waiters and Waitresses	15
Carpenters	14

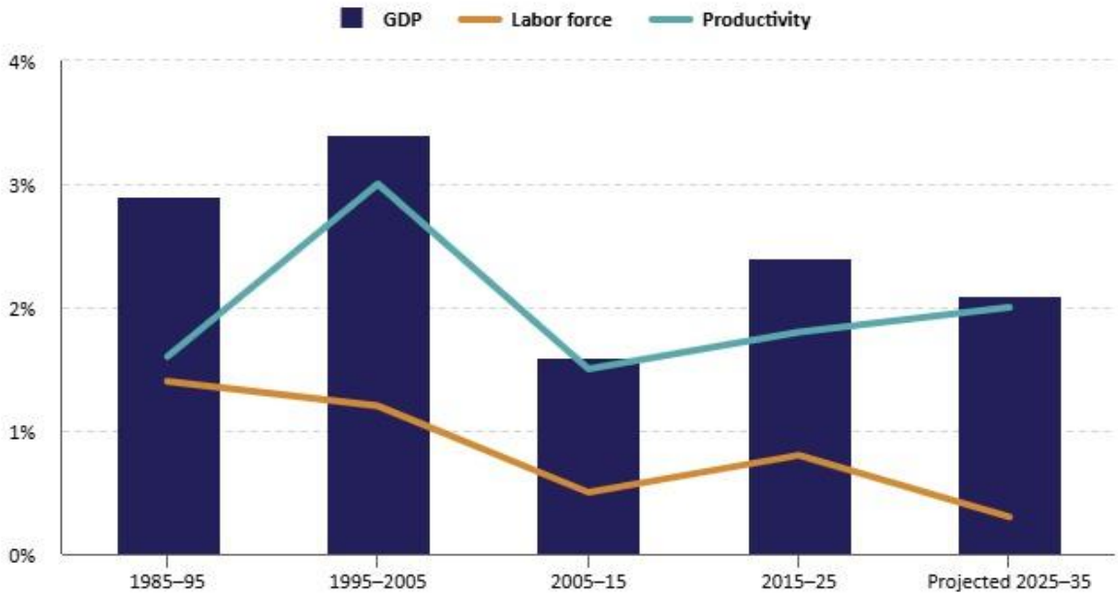
Source: Indiana Workforce Development, Indiana Career Connect

Career Outlook

Projections of the U.S. economy, labor force, and productivity 2025–35

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) projects the economy to grow by 2.1 percent each year, on average, from 2025 to 2035. As the columns in the chart show, this rate is in line with the average growth rates of the previous two decades. Economic growth is influenced by changes in the labor force and worker productivity, among other factors. The two lines on the chart show growth rates for the labor force (those working or looking for work) and productivity (output per hour).

Compound annual rate of change in real GDP, the labor force, and productivity, 1985–2025 and projected 2025–35 (percent)



Hover over chart to view data. Click on legend items to change display.

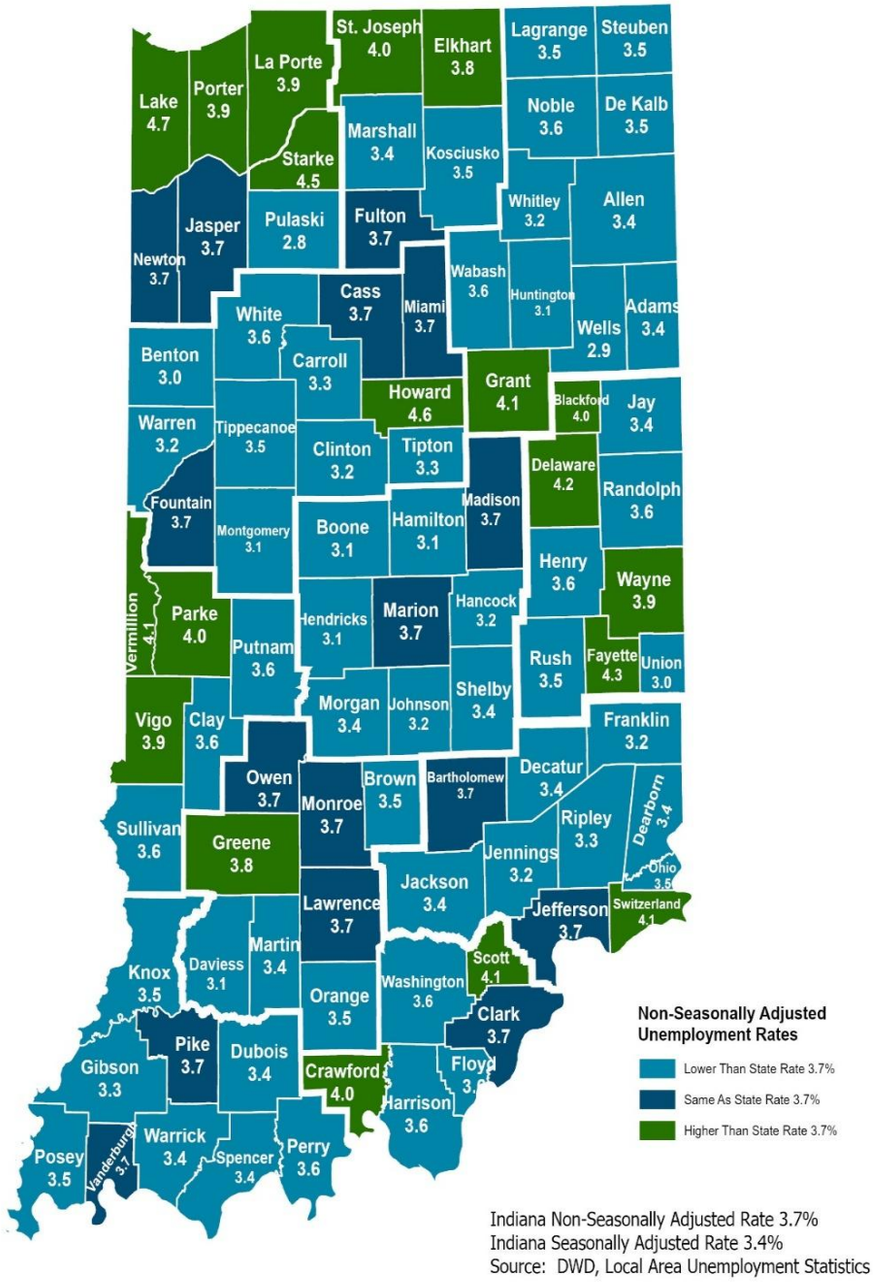
Source: Historical GDP data are from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. Projected GDP, labor force, and productivity data are from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Economic growth is measured as the value of goods produced and services provided in the United States: gross domestic product, or real GDP. The growth of GDP has historically outpaced labor force growth and is projected to continue to do so through 2035. Labor force growth (0.3 percent annually from 2025 to 2035) is projected to slow due to lower population growth and the aging of the population. At the same time, productivity is expected to edge up (2.0 percent annual growth from 2025 to 2035), led by investments in technology, including the deployment of super intelligence or SI (also known as artificial intelligence or AI).

BLS uses estimates of future GDP, along with other assumptions about the economy, to help project employment for hundreds of industries and occupations.
To learn more, visit the BLS Employment Projections webpage.

Source: Maria Hussain, "Projections of the U.S. economy, labor force, and productivity 2025–35," *Career Outlook,* U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, October 2026.

County Unemployment Rates
September 2026



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

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Questions?

Please contact the DWD Representative listed below:

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