



August 2026 Labor Market Review

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Economic Growth Region 8

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.

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.

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.



Economic Growth Region (EGR) 8

Brown, Daviess, Greene, Lawrence, Martin, Monroe, Orange and Owen 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

#10 - Monroe (3.8%)

#35 - Owen (3.5%)

#29 - Greene (3.5%)

#34 - Lawrence (3.5%)

#53 - Brown (3.2%)

#60 - Orange (3.2%)

#85 - Martin (2.9%)

#77 - Daviess (3%)

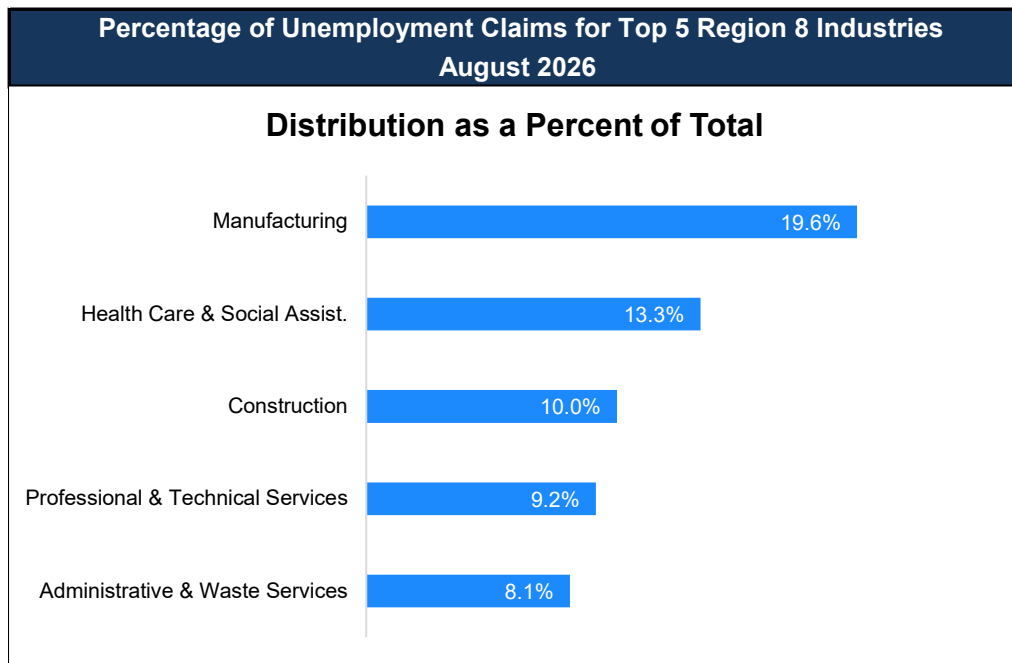
Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Development, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

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 8	157,534	151,965	5,569	3.5%	3.5%	3.7%
Bloomington MSA	81,384	78,295	3,089	3.8%	3.7%	3.9%
Brown Co.	7,974	7,722	252	3.2%	3.2%	3.3%
Daviess Co.	16,786	16,290	496	3.0%	3.0%	3.3%
Greene Co.	14,514	14,000	514	3.5%	3.7%	3.7%
Lawrence Co.	21,917	21,158	759	3.5%	3.5%	3.6%
Martin Co.	5,263	5,110	153	2.9%	2.9%	3.2%
Monroe Co.	71,131	68,398	2,733	3.8%	3.8%	4.0%
Orange Co.	9,696	9,390	306	3.2%	3.3%	3.6%
Owen Co.	10,253	9,897	356	3.5%	3.5%	3.6%
Bloomington	40,274	38,518	1,756	4.4%	4.2%	4.6%

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.

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 8 for August 2026				
Company	City	County	# of workers affected	Notice Date

There are no WARN Notices for August 2026 for Region 8.

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 8

Initial Claims

08/01/26 - 46(D)

08/08/26 - 46(D)

08/15/26 - 31(D)

08/22/26 - 32(D)

08/29/26 - 36(D)

Continued Claims

08/01/26 - 493

08/08/26 - 500

08/15/26 - 500

08/22/26 - 490

08/29/26 - 503

Total Claims

08/01/26 - 539

08/08/26 - 546

08/15/26 - 531

08/22/26 - 522

08/29/26 - 539

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

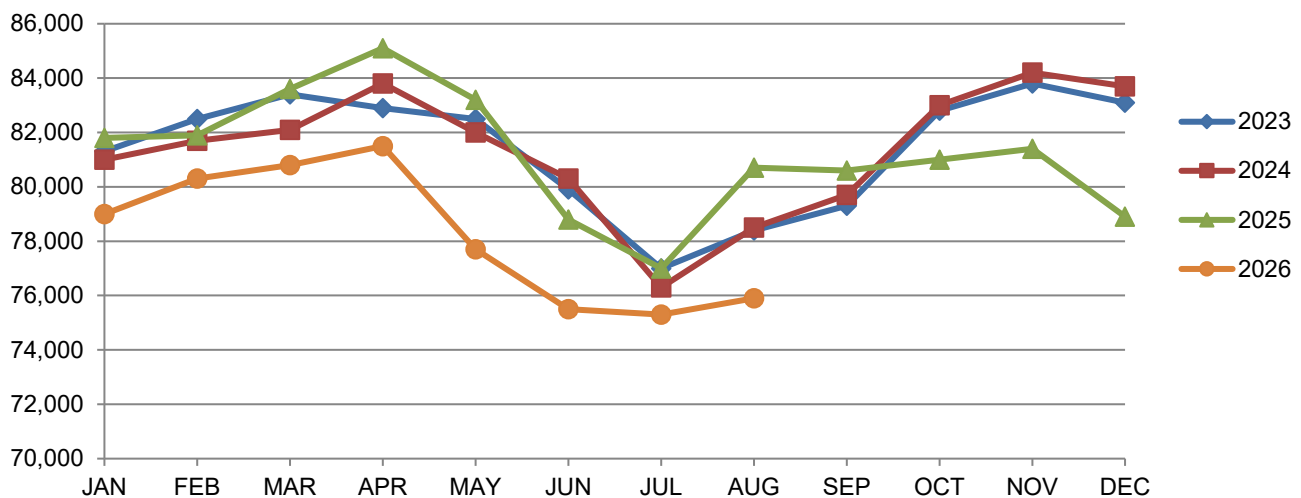
(D) indicates item is affected by non-disclosure issues relating to industry or ownership status |

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Development

Bloomington 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	75,900	75,300	80,700	600	0.8%	-4,800	-6.0%
Total Private	57,700	57,600	56,800	100	0.2%	900	1.6%
Goods Producing	14,500	14,500	14,100	0	0.0%	400	2.8%
Service-Providing	61,400	60,800	66,600	600	1.0%	-5,200	-7.8%
Private Service Providing	43,200	43,100	42,700	100	0.2%	500	1.2%
Mining, Logging and Construction	4,000	4,000	3,800	0	0.0%	200	5.3%
Manufacturing	10,500	10,500	10,300	0	0.0%	200	1.9%
Durable Goods	5,800	5,800	5,800	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	9,900	9,900	9,900	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Wholesale Trade	2,100	2,100	2,100	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Retail Trade	6,600	6,600	6,500	0	0.0%	100	1.5%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	1,200	1,200	1,300	0	0.0%	-100	-7.7%
Information	700	800	800	-100	-12.5%	-100	-12.5%
Financial Activities	2,800	2,800	2,800	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Professional and Business Services	6,000	5,900	5,900	100	1.7%	100	1.7%
Education and Health Services	12,300	12,300	12,200	0	0.0%	100	0.8%
Leisure and Hospitality	8,800	8,700	8,600	100	1.2%	200	2.3%
Other Services	2,700	2,700	2,500	0	0.0%	200	8.0%
Total Government	18,200	17,700	23,900	500	2.8%	-5,700	-23.9%
Federal Government	300	300	400	0	0.0%	-100	-25.0%
State Government	12,400	12,600	18,200	-200	-1.6%	-5,800	-31.9%
Local Government	5,500	4,800	5,300	700	14.6%	200	3.8%
Local Government Educational Services	2,500	1,800	2,500	700	38.9%	0	0.0%
Local Government excluding Educational Services	3,000	3,000	2,800	0	0.0%	200	7.1%

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

Bloomington 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 8 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	Home Health and Personal Care Aides
6	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
7	Medical and Health Services Managers
8	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners
9	Postsecondary Teachers
10	Customer Service Representatives
11	Health Technologists and Technicians, All Other
12	Nurse Practitioners
13	Merchandise Displayers and Window Trimmers
14	Physical Therapists
15	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General
16	Speech-Language Pathologists
17	Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners
18	Stockers and Order Fillers
19	Cooks, Restaurant
20	Computer Occupations, All Other

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	93
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	92
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	89
Office Clerks, General	65
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	61
Cashiers	60
Helpers--Production Workers	53
Customer Service Representatives	51
Construction Laborers	44
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	43
Medical Assistants	42
Managers, All Other	39
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	39
Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators	31
Retail Salespersons	31
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	30
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	28
Team Assemblers	28
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants	27
Landscaping and Groundskeeping Workers	23

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 disability, illness, or a child responsible for their family's childcare needs.

County Unemployment Rates August 2026



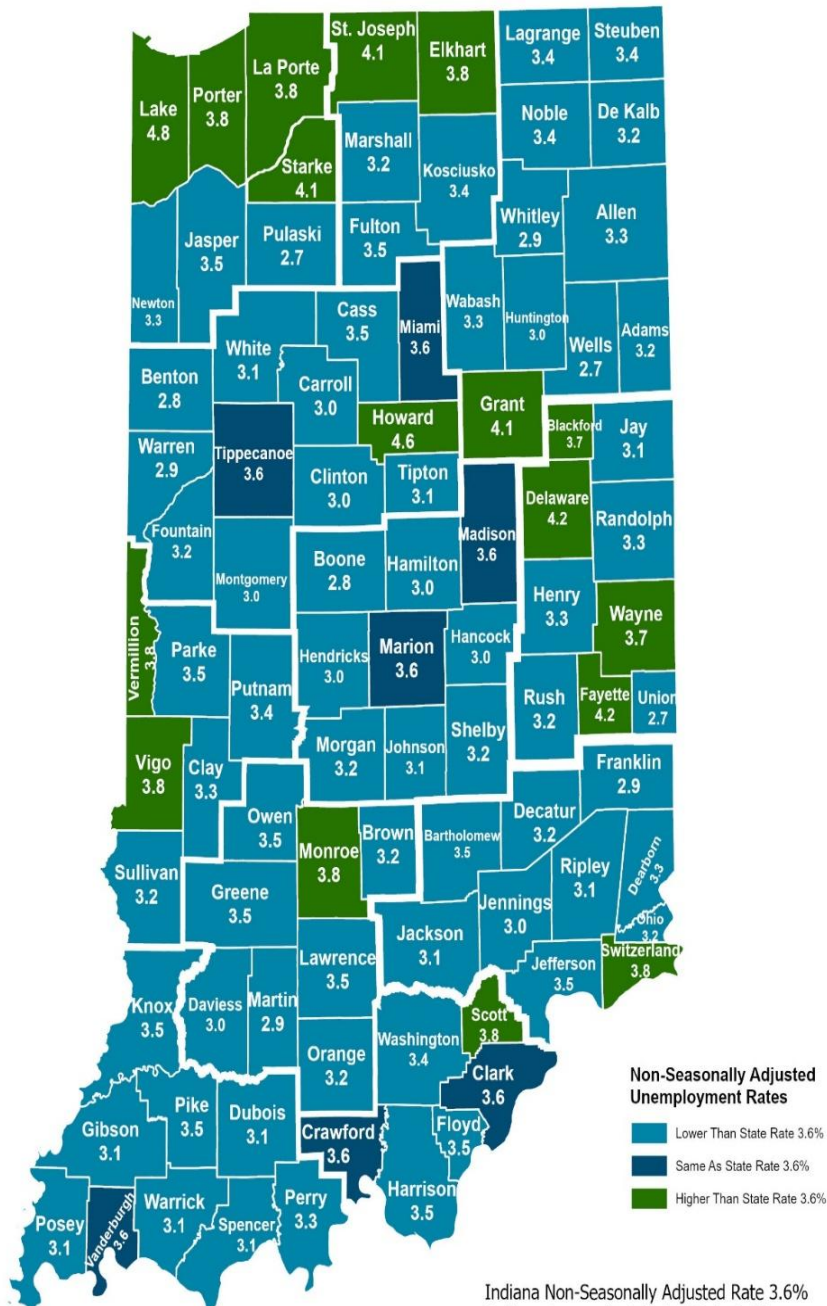
Questions?

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