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INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

LABOR MARKET REVIEW



March 2024 Labor Market Review

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INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

Economic Growth Region 9

Statistical Data Report for March 2024, Released May 2024

State Employment and Unemployment

Unemployment rates were lower in March in 6 states, higher in 1 state, and stable in 43 states and the District of Columbia, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Twenty-nine states had jobless rate increases from a year earlier, 1 state had a decrease, and 20 states and the district had little change. The national unemployment rate changed little at 3.8 percent but was 0.3 percentage point higher than in March 2023.

Nonfarm payroll employment increased in 5 states and was essentially unchanged in 45 states and the District of Columbia in March 2024. Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 31 states and was essentially unchanged in 19 states and the district.

North Dakota had the lowest jobless rate in March, 2.0 percent, closely followed by South Dakota, 2.1 percent, and Vermont, 2.2 percent. The rate in Mississippi, 3.0 percent, set a new series low. (All state series begin in 1976.) California had the highest unemployment rate, 5.3 percent, closely followed by the District of Columbia, 5.2 percent. In total, 23 states had unemployment rates lower than the U.S. figure of 3.8 percent, 5 states and the district had higher rates, and 22 states had rates that were not appreciably different from that of the nation.



Economic Growth Region (EGR) 9

Bartholomew, Dearborn, Decatur, Franklin, Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, and Switzerland Counties

March 2024 Labor Force Estimates (not seasonally adjusted)						
Area	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Mar-24	Feb-24	Mar-23
U.S.	167,960,000	161,356,000	6,604,000	3.9%	4.2%	3.6%
IN	3,366,199	3,228,708	137,491	4.1%	4.2%	3.6%
EGR 9	165,120	158,745	6,375	3.9%	4.0%	3.4%
Columbus MSA	43,332	41,776	1,556	3.6%	3.7%	3.1%
Bartholomew Co.	43,332	41,776	1,556	3.6%	3.7%	3.1%
Dearborn Co.	25,724	24,696	1,028	4.0%	4.1%	3.7%
Decatur Co.	14,173	13,665	508	3.6%	3.7%	3.1%
Franklin Co.	10,921	10,446	475	4.3%	4.4%	3.7%
Jackson Co.	22,464	21,704	760	3.4%	3.4%	3.1%
Jefferson Co.	14,998	14,426	572	3.8%	3.9%	3.5%
Jennings Co.	13,359	12,771	588	4.4%	4.6%	4.3%
Ohio Co.	3,193	3,073	120	3.8%	3.8%	3.3%
Ripley Co.	12,440	11,862	578	4.6%	4.8%	4.0%
Switzerland Co.	4,516	4,326	190	4.2%	4.3%	3.4%
Batesville	3,251	3,130	121	3.7%	3.7%	3.4%
Brookville	1,056	995	61	5.8%	6.4%	4.8%
Columbus	24,767	23,886	881	3.6%	3.7%	3.2%
Greensburg	6,260	6,030	230	3.7%	3.8%	3.1%
Lawrenceburg	1,946	1,864	82	4.2%	5.3%	5.4%
Madison	5,410	5,212	198	3.7%	3.7%	3.5%
North Vernon	2,839	2,707	132	4.6%	5.1%	4.8%
Seymour	10,182	9,848	334	3.3%	3.2%	3.0%

Unemployment Rates by State (seasonally adjusted): March 2024

U.S. - 3.8%

Illinois - 4.8%

Indiana - 3.5%

Kentucky - 4.5%

Michigan - 3.9%

Ohio - 3.8%

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

Unemployment Rank by County (of 92 counties): March 2024

#20 - Ripley (4.6%)

#24 - Jennings (4.4%)

#28 - Franklin (4.3%)

#38 - Switzerland (4.2%)

#40 - Dearborn (4%)

#52 - Jefferson (3.8%)

#55 - Ohio (3.8%)

#61 - Bartholomew (3.6%)

#63 - Decatur (3.6%)

#75 - Jackson (3.4%)

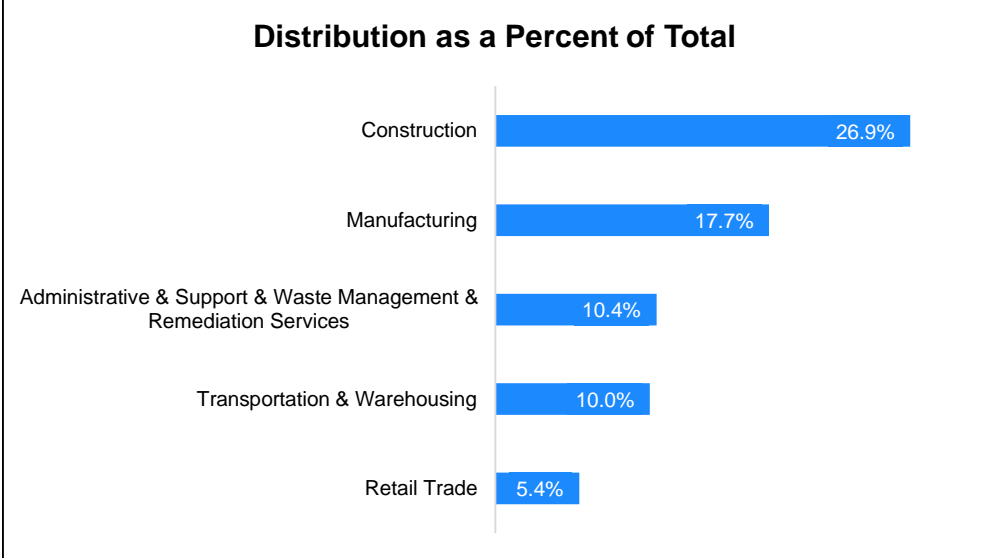
Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Development, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research & Analysis, Local Area Unemployment Statistics | Unemployment Statistics Released: 04/24 | 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 March 2024 from				
CPI Item	Mar-23	Feb-24	Mar-23	Feb-24
	U.S. City		Midwest Region*	
All Items	3.5%	0.6%	2.8%	0.7%
Food & Beverages	2.2%	0.1%	2.1%	0.0%
Housing	4.7%	0.5%	4.1%	0.4%
Apparel	0.4%	1.3%	0.1%	0.1%
Transportation	4.0%	2.2%	3.2%	2.8%
Medical Care	2.2%	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%
Recreation	1.8%	-0.1%	1.6%	0.1%
Education & Communication	0.2%	-0.1%	-0.4%	-0.2%
Other Goods & Services	4.7%	0.5%	6.4%	0.8%

*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 9 Industries March 2024



Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis

WARN Notices

WARN Notices for Region 9 for March 2024				
Company	City	County	# of workers affected	Notice Date

There are no WARN Notices for March 2024 for EGR 9.

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.dolela.gov/programs/facisht/warn.htm>

Unemployment Claims: March 2024

Region 9

Initial Claims

03/02/24 - 46(D)

03/09/24 - 84(D)

03/16/24 - 10(D)

03/23/24 - 27(D)

03/30/24 - 12

Continued Claims

03/02/24 - 742

03/09/24 - 722

03/16/24 - 680

03/23/24 - 640

03/30/24 - 612

Total Claims

03/02/24 - 788

03/09/24 - 806

03/16/24 - 690

03/23/24 - 667

03/30/24 - 624

State of Indiana

Initial Claims

03/02/24 - 2,451

03/09/24 - 2,878

03/16/24 - 2,450

03/23/24 - 3,137

03/30/24 - 2,791

Continued Claims

03/02/24 - 26,237

03/09/24 - 24,399

03/16/24 - 23,862

03/23/24 - 23,988

03/30/24 - 23,975

Total Claims

03/02/24 - 28,688

03/09/24 - 27,277

03/16/24 - 26,312

03/23/24 - 27,125

03/30/24 - 26,766

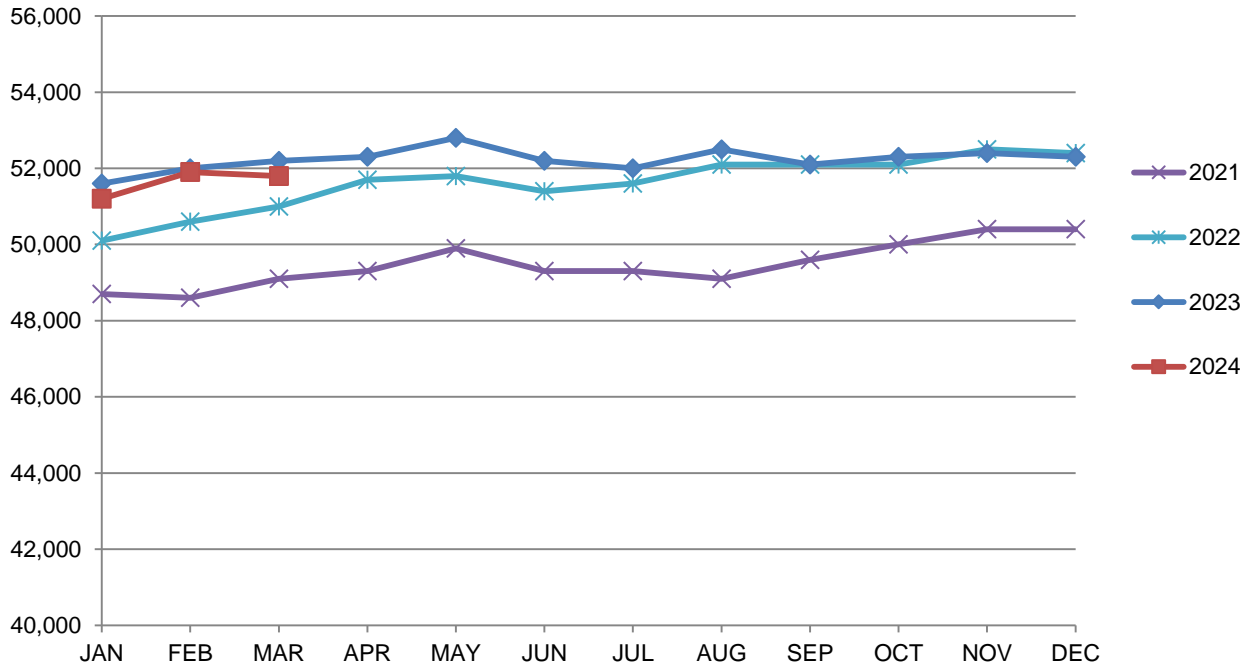
(D) indicates item is affected by non-disclosure issues relating to industry or ownership status |

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

Columbus MSA							
Wage and Salaried Employment	March 2024			# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Industry	Mar-24	Feb-24	Mar-23	Feb-24 to Mar-24	Mar-23 to Mar-24	Mar-23 to Mar-24	Mar-23 to Mar-24
Total Nonfarm	51,800	51,900	52,200	-100	-0.2%	-400	-0.8%
Total Private	45,600	45,600	46,100	0	0.0%	-500	-1.1%
Goods Producing	21,100	21,100	21,400	0	0.0%	-300	-1.4%
Service-Providing	30,700	30,800	30,800	-100	-0.3%	-100	-0.3%
Private Service Providing	24,500	24,500	24,700	0	0.0%	-200	-0.8%
Mining, Logging and Construction	1,700	1,700	1,800	0	0.0%	-100	-5.6%
Manufacturing	19,400	19,400	19,600	0	0.0%	-200	-1.0%
Durable Goods	17,200	17,200	17,500	0	0.0%	-300	-1.7%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	7,400	7,400	7,500	0	0.0%	-100	-1.3%
Retail Trade	4,700	4,700	4,700	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Information	300	300	300	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	1,600	1,600	1,500	0	0.0%	100	6.7%
Professional and Business Services	4,900	4,900	5,300	0	0.0%	-400	-7.6%
Education and Health Services	4,800	4,800	4,600	0	0.0%	200	4.4%
Leisure and Hospitality	4,100	4,100	4,100	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other Services	1,400	1,400	1,400	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total Government	6,200	6,300	6,100	-100	-1.6%	100	1.6%
Federal Government	200	200	200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
State Government	900	900	900	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Local Government	5,100	5,200	5,000	-100	-1.9%	100	2.0%
Local Government Educational Services	2,100	2,100	2,100	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

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

Columbus 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 in Region 9 in the past month	
Rank	Occupations
1	Registered Nurses
2	First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers
3	Nursing Assistants
4	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
5	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General
6	Social and Human Service Assistants
7	Industrial Engineers
8	Data Scientists
9	Personal Care Aides
10	Industrial Machinery Mechanics
11	Merchandise Displayers and Window Trimmers
12	Physical Therapists
13	First-Line Supervisors of Housekeeping and Janitorial Workers
14	Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators
15	Customer Service Representatives
16	Psychiatric Technicians
17	Food Preparation Workers
18	Occupational Therapists
19	Compensation, Benefits, and Job Analysis Specialists
20	Farmworkers and Laborers, Crop, Nursery, and Greenhouse

Source: Indiana Workforce Development, Indiana Career Connect

Applicant Pool	
Top 20 occupations desired by applicants on their resumes in the past 12 months	
Occupations	# of Applicants
Production Workers, All Other	402
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	304
Helpers--Production Workers	194
Customer Service Representatives	145
Cashiers	140
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	135
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	130
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	109
Construction Laborers	105
Office Clerks, General	104
Extraction Workers, All Other	99
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	99
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	85
Managers, All Other	78
Construction and Related Workers, All Other	72
Carpenters	71
Retail Salespersons	71
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	70
Electrical and Electronic Equipment Assemblers	69
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	66

Source: Indiana Workforce Development, Indiana Career Connect

BEYOND THE NUMBERS

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Projected employment growth for community and social service occupations, 2022-32

Mihael Rieley an economist in the Office of Employment and Unemployment Statistics, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.



As Americans confront health and social problems, community and social service occupations are there to help. Trends, such as increased need for elderly care, mental health services, treatment of substance use disorders, and public health and preventative care, are contributing to strong demand for jobs associated with healthcare and social assistance throughout the next decade. But not all jobs associated with these trends provide medical care. Jobs in the community and social service occupational group, which include therapy, counseling, social work, and community outreach, are also expected to see strong employment demand because of these health-related trends. This occupational group is expected to see fast employment growth of 7.8 percent over the next 10 years. (See table 1). This projected employment growth for the community and social service occupational group is nearly 3 times faster than the all-occupation average (2.8 percent) and ranks 4th out of all 22 occupational groups. This **Beyond the Numbers** article explores the various trends supporting growth for community and social service occupations.

As the U.S. population ages, jobs helping the elderly increase

The continued aging of the population will increase the need for jobs that provide services for the elderly. By 2032, 25.2 percent of the population is projected to be age 65 or older, up from 21.5 percent in 2022. Moreover, the 75 and older age group is projected to reach a share of 11.8 percent of the population, an all-time high for this group. As older age groups have greater health and personal care needs, demand for these occupations are also expected to grow. This translates to growth for many healthcare practitioners and support occupations. Community and social service occupations are also expected to see resulting employment demand. Among these are healthcare social workers, who are projected to grow 9.6 percent from 2022–32. These workers help individuals with health issues understand their diagnoses and provide advice on adjustments to lifestyle or housing. This is often particularly important for older clients who may be evaluating options for assisted living—either at home or in a facility. Social and human service assistants are similarly projected to see fast growth of 8.6 percent. These workers often assist healthcare social workers in their care for the elderly, coordinating community services such as meals, adult day care, and transportation services. Even though healthcare social workers and social and human service assistants also attend to other groups (including those with disabilities, veterans, and children and families), the elderly population is a key customer base for these services. Therefore, strong employment growth for these workers is expected over the next decade, as the aging population supports demand for these services.

Workers needed to help treat opioid epidemic and substance use disorder

Demand for community and social service occupations is also expected to increase due to substance use disorders becoming a larger issue. In particular, opioid addiction is a concern, as addiction and overdose death rates increased rapidly in the 2010s and have remained elevated since. In turn, demand for treatment services has increased: as of 2021, approximately 2.5 million people in the United States had opioid use disorder, and 36 percent of those were receiving treatment. This demand for treatment translates to employment demand for substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors, which is projected to be one of the fastest growing occupations from 2022–32, at 18.4 percent. These counselors help clients recover from substance use disorders by recommending treatment plans and strategies for behavior modification. In addition to initial treatment, patients often stay in counseling for several years to support continued recovery and prevent relapse, which may contribute to ongoing demand for these workers.

Mental health and substance abuse social workers are also projected for strong employment growth of 10.6 percent from 2022–32. These workers also help those seeking recovery from addiction, including by facilitating support and 12-step groups. Public policy is also expected to support demand for these workers, as states such as Kentucky and New York are expanding funding for substance abuse treatment service providers. In addition to opioids, the National Center for Drug Abuse Statistics estimates that 1 in 10 Americans over the age of 12 have alcohol use disorder (AUD). Of these, 1.4 million people received treatment for AUD in the past year, according to the 2021 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. As individuals continue to seek treatment for substance abuse

disorders, employment demand for these counselors and social workers who provide treatment and facilitate support for recovery will continue to grow.

As more people seek mental healthcare, more therapists, counselors, and social workers will be needed

A general demand for counseling and therapy services is also expected to contribute to strong growth for this occupational group. The destigmatization of mental healthcare is expected to lead to more people seeking these services. According to a 2004 American Psychological Association (APA) survey, 30 percent of respondents were concerned about other people finding out if they had sought mental health treatment. By 2019, by contrast, 87 percent of respondents agreed with the statement that “having a mental health disorder is nothing to be ashamed of.” Alongside this shift in attitudes, more individuals sought mental health treatment itself: from 2004 to 2022 the percentage of adults reported having visited a “therapist, psychiatrist, or other mental health professional within the past year,” rose from 13 percent to 23 percent. Particularly, marriage and family therapists are projected to see employment growth of 14.9 percent from 2022–32. There also appears to be a generational shift in attitudes toward mental health treatment. According to the APA, 37 percent of Generation Z and 35 percent of millennials reported having received treatment from a mental health professional, which is higher than any of the older generations. As Generation Z, who is more inclined to seek therapy, ages into typical marriage and family-building years, demand for marriage and family therapists is likely to continue growing. The availability of remote therapy sessions increases access to these services and will likely further support the higher demand. According to a 2021 survey of mental health professionals, over 90 percent reported that they planned to permanently continue to offer remote sessions in some capacity.

Mental health challenges among school-aged children are also expected to support demand for these occupations. A 2022 APA survey reveals that adolescents (ages 13–17) saw the greatest annual increase in those seeking psychological therapy services among all age groups. Higher demand for child support services will increase the need for child, family, and school social workers, which are projected to grow 5.3 percent from 2022–32. These workers develop plans and strategies to improve students’ academic performance and social development and help protect vulnerable children in need of assistance. Support for school-aged children is also expected to drive demand for educational, guidance, and career counselors and advisors, which are projected to grow 5.4 percent from 2022–32. According to a 2022 survey from the National Center for Education Statistics, 70 percent of public schools “reported an increase in the percentage of their students seeking mental health services at school since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.” Educational counselors help children overcome social or behavioral challenges and prepare for college or work life and are likely to see sustained employment demand.

Increasing emphasis on public health and preventative care leads to demand for jobs

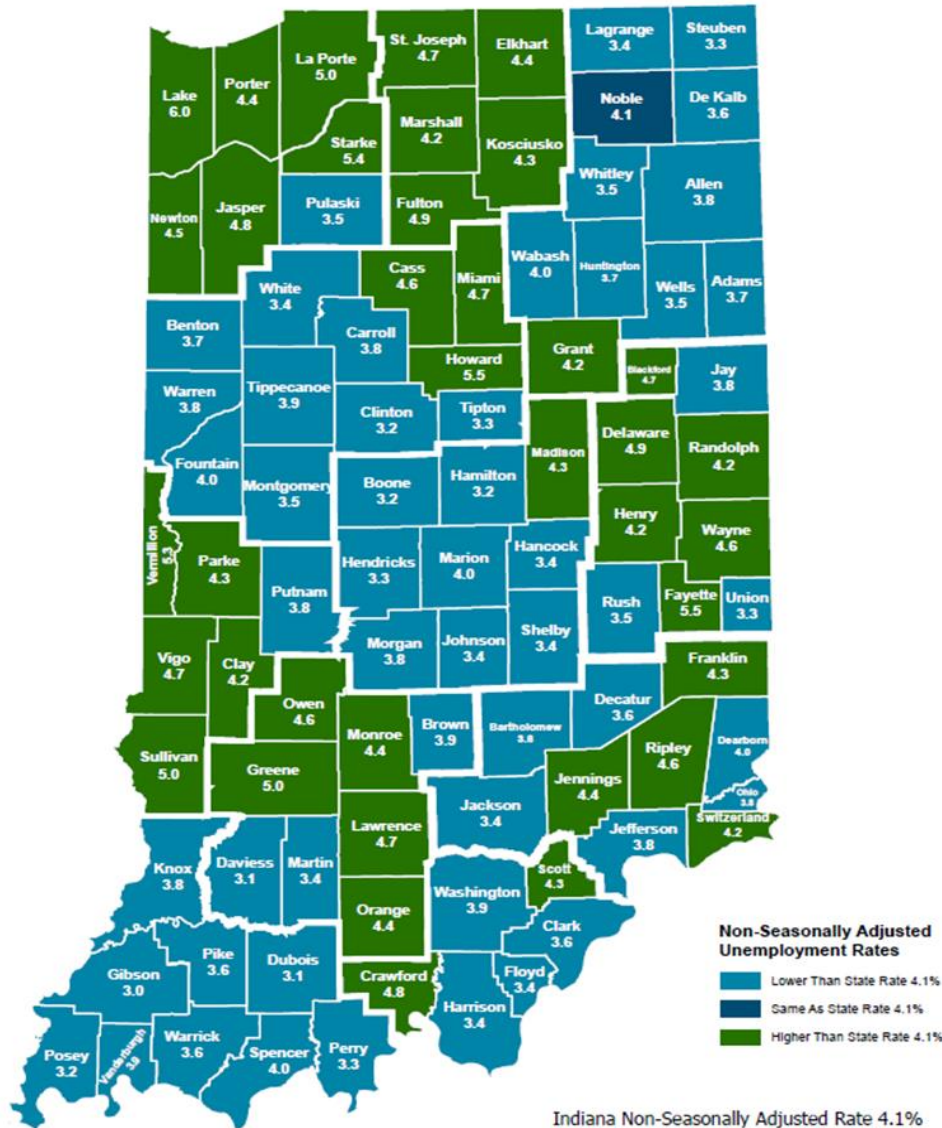
During the COVID-19 pandemic, there was increased concern for public health issues, contributing to, demand for community and social service occupations. Population health management and disease prevention are expected to drive demand for health education specialists, who are projected to see employment growth of 7.2 percent from 2022–32. These workers develop programs, materials, and events to teach people about health topics. For example, they may aim to increase community knowledge of ways to combat the spread of contagious diseases. By influencing population-wide behaviors, these workers can reduce the need for costlier healthcare treatments. These workers are therefore in high demand for their ability to generate cost savings to health systems.

Community health workers also assist in population-level preventative health initiatives. These workers have distinctive knowledge of the specific communities in which they work, which allows for more effective communication between public health officials and individuals. For instance, these workers may be more familiar with specific concerns or skepticism regarding certain public health interventions, which can help tailor both public health policy and its associated messaging. The COVID-19 pandemic increased the need for these workers, as they were integral to relaying information such as where to access COVID-19 testing. Community health workers are projected to grow 14.1 percent from 2022–32, much faster than the average for all occupations (2.8 percent).

Conclusion

The increased need for elderly care, mental health services, treatment of substance use disorders, and public health and preventative care are all expected to contribute to strong employment demand for community and social service occupations throughout the next decade. Some of the fastest growing occupations in this group include substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors; marriage and family therapists; and community health workers, which are all projected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations from 2022–32.

County Unemployment Rates March 2024



Non-Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

- Lower Than State Rate 4.1%
- Same As State Rate 4.1%
- Higher Than State Rate 4.1%

Indiana Non-Seasonally Adjusted Rate 4.1%
 Indiana Seasonally Adjusted Rate 3.5%
 Source: DWD, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Questions?
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