



# HOOSIERS BY THE NUMBERS

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## DWD

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF  
**WORKFORCE**  
DEVELOPMENT

LABOR MARKET REVIEW



**March 2026**  
**Labor Market Review**

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## DWD

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF  
**WORKFORCE**  
DEVELOPMENT



## Economic Growth Region 9

Statistical Data Report for March 2026, Released May 2026

### State Employment and Unemployment

Unemployment rates were little changed in March in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Fourteen states had jobless rate increases from a year earlier, 2 states had decreases, and 34 states and the District had little change. The national unemployment rate, 4.3 percent, changed little over the month and from March 2025.

In March 2026, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 3 states and was essentially unchanged in 47 states and the District of Columbia. Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment decreased in 3 states and the District, increased in 3 states, and was essentially unchanged in 44 states.

South Dakota had the lowest jobless rate in March, 2.3 percent, followed by Hawaii, 2.4 percent, and North Dakota, 2.5 percent. The District of Columbia had the highest unemployment rate, 6.3 percent. The next highest rate was in Delaware, 5.4 percent, followed by California and Nevada, 5.3 percent each. In total, 17 states had unemployment rates lower than the U.S. figure of 4.3 percent, 8 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) 9

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

March 2026 Labor Force Estimates (not seasonally adjusted)						
Area	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Mar-26	Feb-26	Mar-25
U.S.	170,102,000	162,764,000	7,337,000	4.3%	4.7%	4.2%
IN	3,470,481	3,346,967	123,514	3.6%	3.8%	3.8%
EGR 9	165,657	160,103	5,554	3.4%	3.7%	3.7%
Columbus MSA	39,211	37,896	1,315	3.4%	3.6%	3.7%
Bartholomew Co.	39,211	37,896	1,315	3.4%	3.6%	3.7%
Dearborn Co.	27,011	26,100	911	3.4%	3.7%	3.7%
Decatur Co.	13,052	12,623	429	3.3%	3.6%	3.5%
Franklin Co.	11,814	11,441	373	3.2%	3.6%	3.7%
Jackson Co.	22,906	22,182	724	3.2%	3.4%	3.3%
Jefferson Co.	15,376	14,862	514	3.3%	3.6%	3.8%
Jennings Co.	14,755	14,210	545	3.7%	4.2%	4.0%
Ohio Co.	2,979	2,875	104	3.5%	4.0%	3.4%
Ripley Co.	14,533	14,056	477	3.3%	3.6%	3.8%
Switzerland Co.	4,020	3,858	162	4.0%	4.2%	4.4%
Batesville	3,837	3,742	95	2.5%	3.1%	3.0%
Brookville	1,377	1,328	49	3.6%	4.1%	4.7%
Columbus	24,036	23,237	799	3.3%	3.5%	3.7%
Greensburg	6,060	5,852	208	3.4%	3.5%	3.5%
Lawrenceburg	2,605	2,521	84	3.2%	4.2%	5.0%
Madison	5,590	5,423	167	3.0%	3.0%	3.4%
North Vernon	3,049	2,927	122	4.0%	4.4%	4.1%
Seymour	10,465	10,148	317	3.0%	3.3%	3.2%

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research & Analysis, Local Area Unemployment Statistics | Unemployment Statistics Released: 05/26 | 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.

Scott County moved out of Louisville KY MSA into Statewide employment

### Unemployment Rates by State (seasonally adjusted): March 2026

**U.S. - 4.3%**

Illinois - 5.1%

**Indiana - 3.3%**

Kentucky - 4.2%

Michigan - 5%

Ohio - 4.1%

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

### Unemployment Rank by County (of 92 counties): March 2026

#17 - Switzerland (4%)

#22 - Jennings (3.7%)

#34 - Ohio (3.5%)

#38 - Bartholomew (3.4%)

#41 - Dearborn (3.4%)

#54 - Decatur (3.3%)

#56 - Jefferson (3.3%)

#60 - Ripley (3.3%)

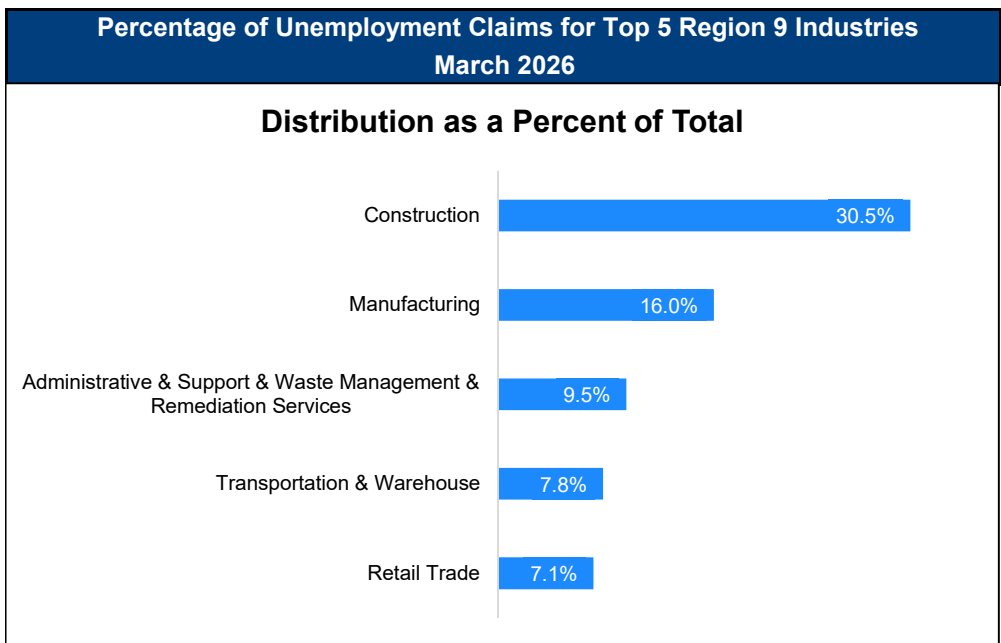
#67 - Franklin (3.2%)

#68 - Jackson (3.2%)

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

Consumer Price Index (CPI-U Change), Unadjusted Percent Change to March 2026 from				
CPI Item	Mar-25	Feb-26	Mar-25	Feb-26
	U.S. City		Midwest Region*	
<b>All Items</b>	<b>3.3%</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>	<b>0.9%</b>
Food & Beverages	2.6%	0.1%	2.3%	0.0%
Housing	3.4%	0.4%	4.0%	-0.1%
Apparel	3.4%	1.8%	3.6%	0.9%
Transportation	5.0%	5.1%	3.8%	5.4%
Medical Care	3.1%	-0.1%	3.9%	0.1%
Recreation	2.2%	-0.1%	4.3%	0.5%
Education & Communication	0.0%	0.1%	-0.2%	0.0%
Other Goods & Services	3.8%	-0.3%	2.3%	0.7%

\*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 9 for March 2026				
Company	City	County	# of workers affected	Notice Date

**There are no WARN Notices for March 2026 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.doleta.gov/programs/factsht/warn.htm>

## Unemployment Claims: March 2026

### Region 9

#### Initial Claims

03/07/26 - 31(D)

03/14/26 - 56(D)

03/21/26 - 26(D)

03/28/26 - 29(D)

#### Continued Claims

03/07/26 - 756

03/14/26 - 679

03/21/26 - 617

03/28/26 - 556

#### Total Claims

03/07/26 - 787

03/14/26 - 735

03/21/26 - 643

03/28/26 - 585

### State of Indiana

#### Initial Claims

03/07/26 - 2,586

03/14/26 - 2,608

03/21/26 - 2,418

03/28/26 - 2,279

#### Continued Claims

03/07/26 - 23,875

03/14/26 - 22,954

03/21/26 - 21,974

03/28/26 - 20,972

#### Total Claims

03/07/26 - 26,461

03/14/26 - 25,562

03/21/26 - 24,392

03/28/26 - 23,251

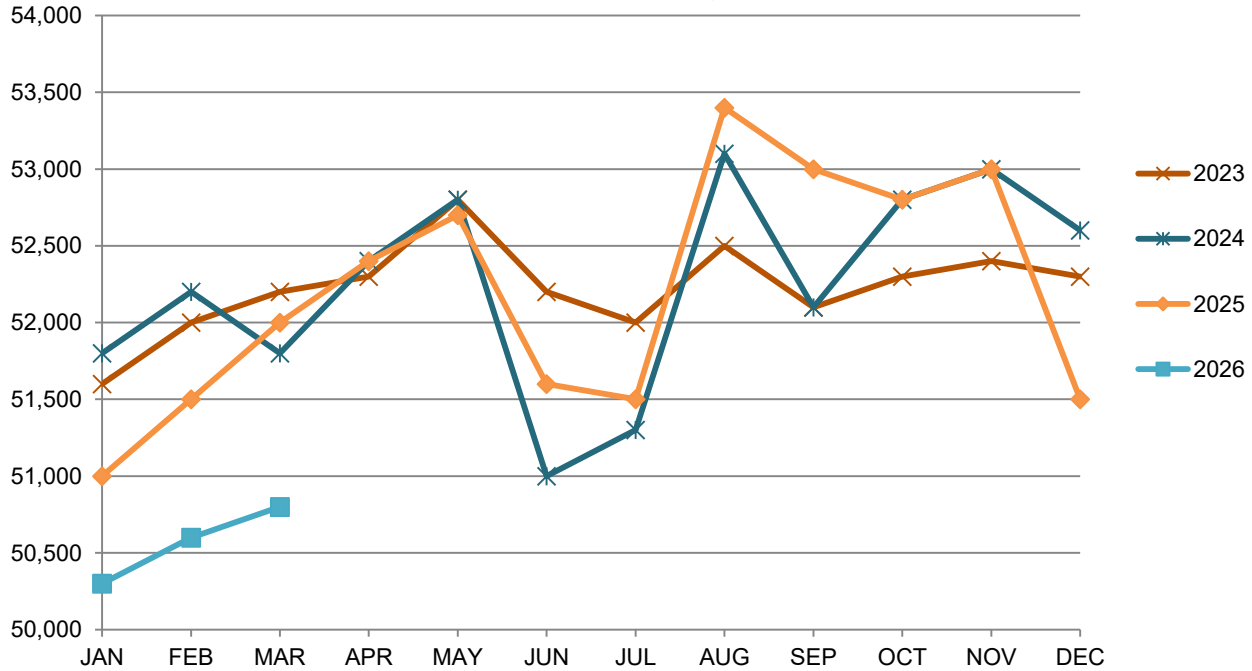
(D) indicates item is affected by non-disclosure issues relating to industry or ownership status | \*Numbers subject to weekly revision | Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis

Columbus MSA							
Wage and Salaried Employment	March 2026			# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Industry	Mar-26	Feb-26	Mar-25	Feb-26 to Mar-26	Mar-25 to Mar-26		
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>50,800</b>	<b>50,600</b>	<b>52,000</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>-1,200</b>	<b>-2.3%</b>
<b>Total Private</b>	<b>44,600</b>	<b>44,200</b>	<b>45,600</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>-1,000</b>	<b>-2.2%</b>
Goods Producing	19,900	19,600	20,800	300	1.5%	-900	-4.3%
Service-Providing	30,900	31,000	31,200	-100	-0.3%	-300	-1.0%
Private Service Providing	24,700	24,600	24,800	100	0.4%	-100	-0.4%
Mining, Logging and Construction	1,900	1,800	1,800	100	5.6%	100	5.6%
Manufacturing	18,000	17,800	19,000	200	1.1%	-1,000	-5.3%
Durable Goods	16,100	16,000	16,900	100	0.6%	-800	-4.7%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	7,300	7,300	7,600	0	0.0%	-300	-4.0%
Retail Trade	4,800	4,800	4,800	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Information	200	200	300	0	0.0%	-100	-33.3%
Financial Activities	1,900	1,800	1,900	100	5.6%	0	0.0%
Professional and Business Services	4,900	4,900	4,800	0	0.0%	100	2.1%
Education and Health Services	4,800	4,900	4,700	-100	-2.0%	100	2.1%
Leisure and Hospitality	3,900	3,800	3,900	100	2.6%	0	0.0%
Other Services	1,700	1,700	1,600	0	0.0%	100	6.3%
<b>Total Government</b>	<b>6,200</b>	<b>6,400</b>	<b>6,400</b>	<b>-200</b>	<b>-3.1%</b>	<b>-200</b>	<b>-3.1%</b>
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	5,300	5,300	-200	-3.8%	-200	-3.8%
Local Government Educational Services	2,100	2,200	2,200	-100	-4.6%	-100	-4.6%

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

Franklin Co. has been moved into the Cincinnati OH MSA employment

### 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.

<b>Frequently Listed Jobs</b>	
<b>Top 20 job listings by number of postings in Region 9 in the past month</b>	
<b>Rank</b>	<b>Occupations</b>
1	Registered Nurses
2	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers
3	Retail Salespersons
4	Home Health and Personal Care Aides
5	First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers
6	Customer Service Representatives
7	Merchandise Displayers and Window Trimmers
8	Production Workers, All Other
9	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General
10	Food Service Managers
11	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
12	Fast Food and Counter Workers
13	Physical Therapists
14	Nursing Assistants
15	Stockers and Order Fillers
16	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners
17	Medical and Health Services Managers
18	Food Preparation Workers
19	Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners
20	Cashiers

Source: Lightcast

<b>Applicant Pool</b>	
<b>Top 20 occupations desired by applicants on their resumes in the past 12 months</b>	
<b>Occupations</b>	<b># of Applicants</b>
Production Workers, All Other	80
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	51
Customer Service Representatives	51
Office Clerks, General	49
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	39
Cashiers	29
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	29
Helpers--Production Workers	28
Construction Laborers	27
Managers, All Other	25
Retail Salespersons	25
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	23
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	22
Team Assemblers	22
Medical Assistants	20
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	18
General and Operations Managers	17
Machinists	17
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	17
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	16

Source: Indiana Workforce Development, Indiana Career Connect

SNAPSHOT

# March Indiana Employment

Released May 6, 2026



## Unemployment Rate

\*seasonally adjusted

Unemployment Rate

**3.3%**



February 2026 Indiana

**3.3%**



National Unemployment Rate



## LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE\*

16+: **63.3%**

25-44: **83.9%**

25-54: **83.5%**



National Labor Force



Open Job Postings

**98,050**

**Jobs**

As of March 29, 2026



Weekly UI Continued Claims

**20,972**

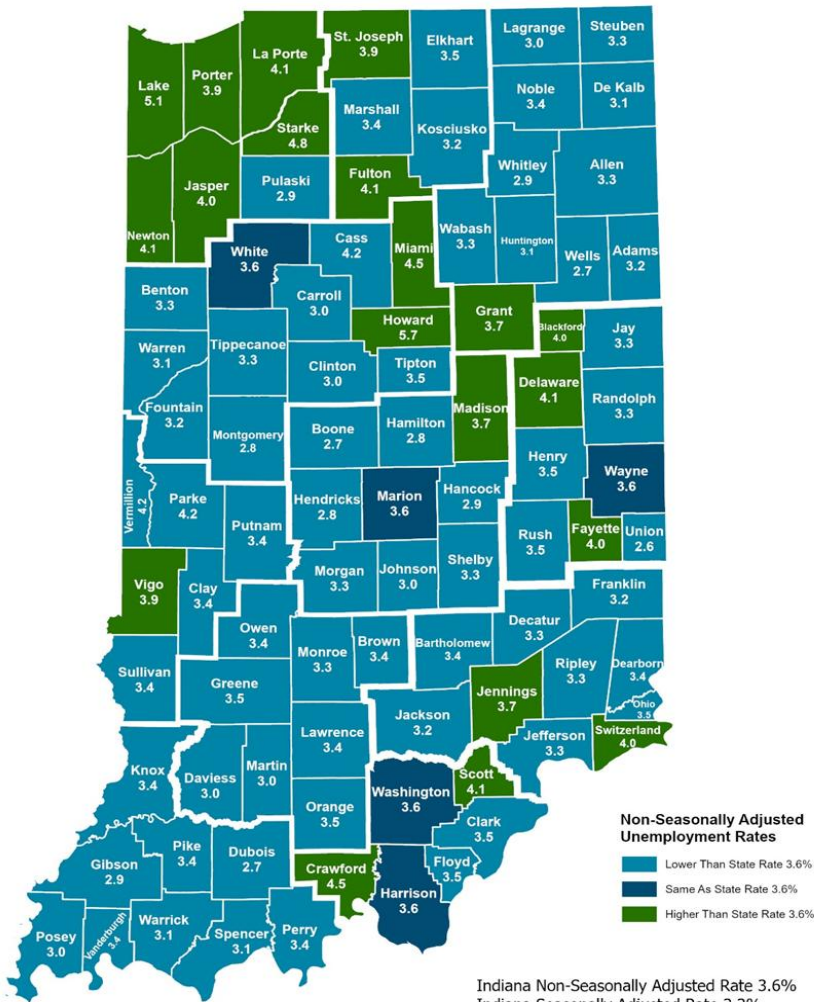


Filed Week Ending April 4, 2026

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 March 2026



**Non-Seasonally Adjusted  
Unemployment Rates**

- Lower Than State Rate 3.6%
- Same As State Rate 3.6%
- Higher Than State Rate 3.6%

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



## Questions?

Please contact the DWD  
 Research and Analysis  
 Regional Labor Analyst  
 listed below:

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