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INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

LABOR MARKET REVIEW



August 2026
Labor Market Review

Reported by: Jillian Gregory

Regional Workforce Analyst

[Email Jillian](#)

jgregory@dwd.in.gov

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INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT



Economic Growth Region 9

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 rates decreased 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) 9

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

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 9	165,794	160,358	5,436	3.3%	3.3%	3.6%
Columbus MSA	38,539	37,179	1,360	3.5%	3.5%	3.7%
Bartholomew Co.	38,539	37,179	1,360	3.5%	3.5%	3.7%
Dearborn Co.	27,176	26,279	897	3.3%	3.3%	3.6%
Decatur Co.	13,199	12,777	422	3.2%	3.2%	3.5%
Franklin Co.	12,006	11,659	347	2.9%	3.0%	3.2%
Jackson Co.	23,110	22,383	727	3.1%	3.2%	3.5%
Jefferson Co.	15,248	14,709	539	3.5%	3.6%	4.0%
Jennings Co.	14,655	14,218	437	3.0%	3.0%	3.3%
Ohio Co.	3,011	2,915	96	3.2%	3.2%	3.6%
Ripley Co.	14,694	14,239	455	3.1%	3.2%	3.4%
Switzerland Co.	4,156	4,000	156	3.8%	3.8%	4.1%
Batesville	3,906	3,798	108	2.8%	2.6%	3.6%
Brookville	1,387	1,353	34	2.5%	3.0%	2.9%
Columbus	23,632	22,797	835	3.5%	3.6%	3.7%
Greensburg	6,120	5,924	196	3.2%	3.1%	3.5%
Lawrenceburg	2,625	2,538	87	3.3%	3.0%	3.2%
Madison	5,549	5,367	182	3.3%	3.3%	4.1%
North Vernon	3,037	2,929	108	3.6%	3.8%	3.7%
Seymour	10,588	10,240	348	3.3%	3.2%	3.6%

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.

Scott County moved out of Louisville KY MSA into Statewide employment

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

#13 - Switzerland (3.8%)

#25 - Bartholomew (3.5%)

#32 - Jefferson (3.5%)

#46 - Dearborn (3.3%)

#54 - Decatur (3.2%)

#59 - Ohio (3.2%)

#66 - Jackson (3.1%)

#70 - Ripley (3.1%)

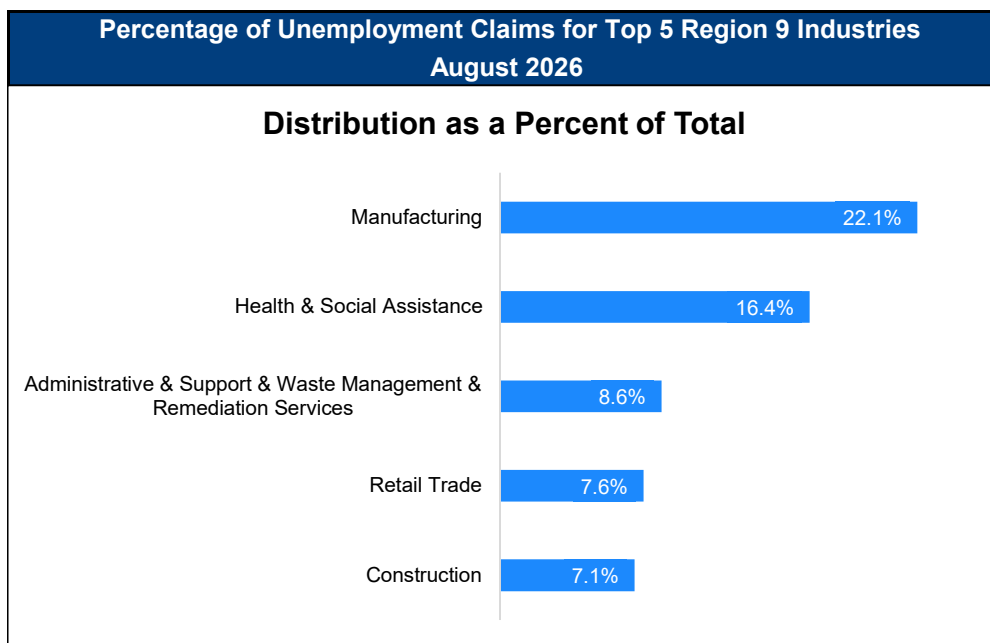
#82 - Jennings (3%)

#84 - Franklin (2.9%)

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Development, 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 9 for August 2026				
Company	City	County	# of workers affected	Notice Date

There are no WARN Notices for August 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: August 2026

Region 9

Initial Claims

08/01/26 - 43(D)

08/08/26 - 15(D)

08/15/26 - 42(D)

08/22/26 - 48(D)

08/29/26 - 21(D)

Continued Claims

08/01/26 - 432

08/08/26 - 418

08/15/26 - 423

08/22/26 - 419

08/29/26 - 415

Total Claims

08/01/26 - 475

08/08/26 - 433

08/15/26 - 465

08/22/26 - 467

08/29/26 - 436

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

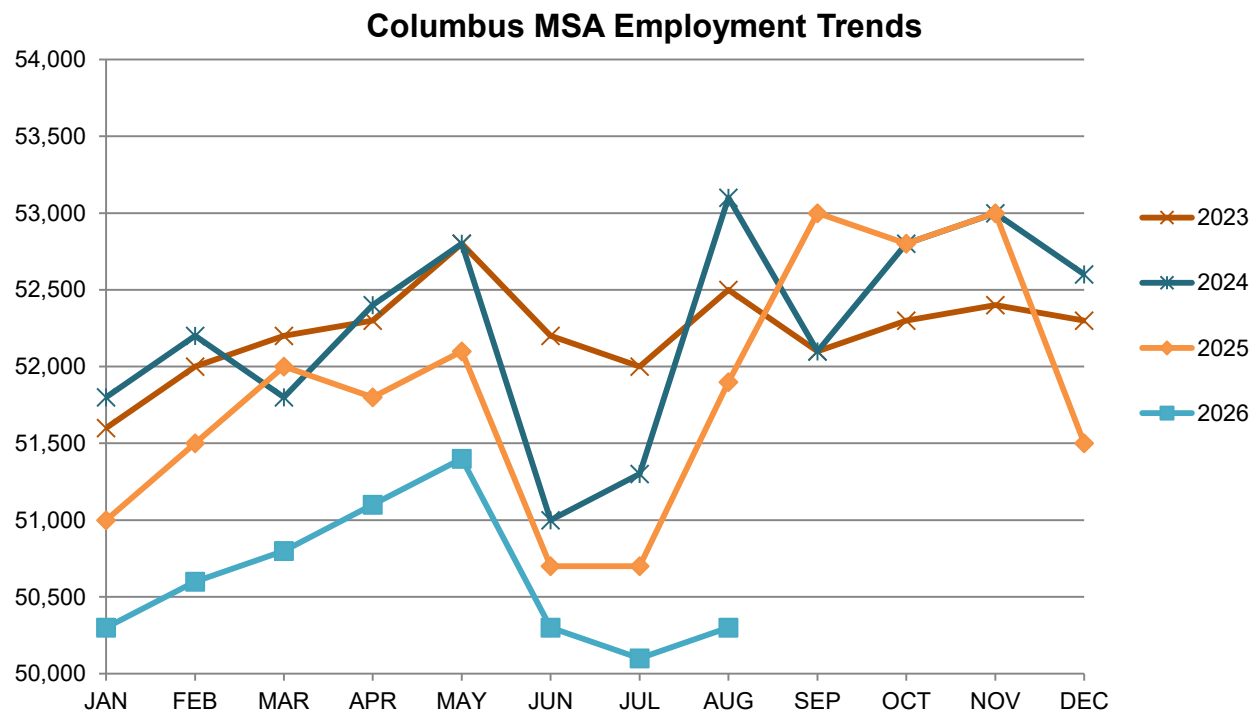
08/29/26 - 19,869

(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

Columbus 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	50,300	50,100	51,900	200	0.4%	-1,600	-3.1%
Total Private	45,800	45,600	45,800	200	0.4%	0	0.0%
Goods Producing	20,200	20,200	20,300	0	0.0%	-100	-0.5%
Service-Providing	30,100	29,900	31,600	200	0.7%	-1,500	-4.8%
Private Service Providing	25,600	25,400	25,500	200	0.8%	100	0.4%
Mining, Logging and Construction	2,000	2,000	1,900	0	0.0%	100	5.3%
Manufacturing	18,200	18,200	18,400	0	0.0%	-200	-1.1%
Durable Goods	16,200	16,100	16,400	100	0.6%	-200	-1.2%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	7,600	7,700	7,600	-100	-1.3%	0	0.0%
Retail Trade	4,800	4,800	4,900	0	0.0%	-100	-2.0%
Information	200	200	300	0	0.0%	-100	-33.3%
Financial Activities	1,900	1,900	1,900	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Professional and Business Services	5,200	5,100	5,000	100	2.0%	200	4.0%
Education and Health Services	4,900	4,800	4,900	100	2.1%	0	0.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	4,000	4,000	4,100	0	0.0%	-100	-2.4%
Other Services	1,800	1,700	1,700	100	5.9%	100	5.9%
Total Government	4,500	4,500	6,100	0	0.0%	-1,600	-26.2%
Federal Government	200	200	200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
State Government	900	700	800	200	28.6%	100	12.5%
Local Government	3,400	3,600	5,100	-200	-5.6%	-1,700	-33.3%
Local Government Educational Services	1,200	1,200	2,100	0	0.0%	-900	-42.9%

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

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



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 9 in the past month	
Rank	Occupations
1	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers
2	Registered Nurses
3	Retail Salespersons
4	First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers
5	Home Health and Personal Care Aides
6	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General
7	Customer Service Representatives
8	Unclassified Occupation
9	Merchandise Displayers and Window Trimmers
10	Production Workers, All Other
11	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
12	Nursing Assistants
13	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand
14	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners
15	Industrial Engineers
16	Coaches and Scouts
17	Fast Food and Counter Workers
18	Food Service Managers
19	Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers
20	Health Technologists and Technicians, All Other

Source: Lightcast

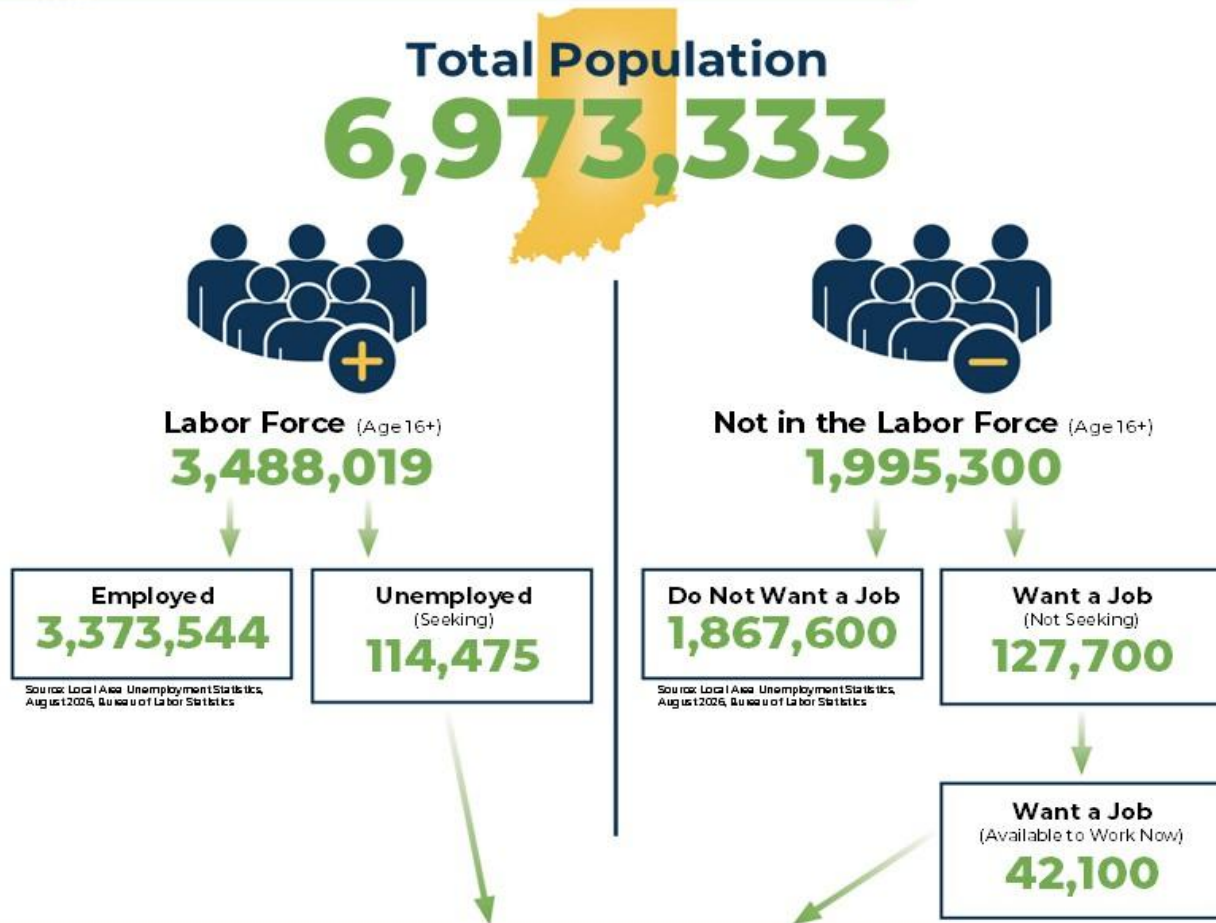
Applicant Pool	
Top 20 occupations desired by applicants on their resumes in the past 12 months	
Occupations	# of Applicants
Production Workers, All Other	452
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	285
Customer Service Representatives	184
Helpers--Production Workers	179
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	151
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	145
Office Clerks, General	131
Cashiers	125
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	110
Construction Laborers	107
Managers, All Other	101
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	95
Extraction Workers, All Other	88
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	88
Retail Salespersons	85
Team Assemblers	81
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	80
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	73
Receptionists and Information Clerks	69
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	67

Source: Indiana Workforce Development, Indiana Career Connect

BREAKDOWN

August Indiana Labor Force

Released September 18,



Potential Workers

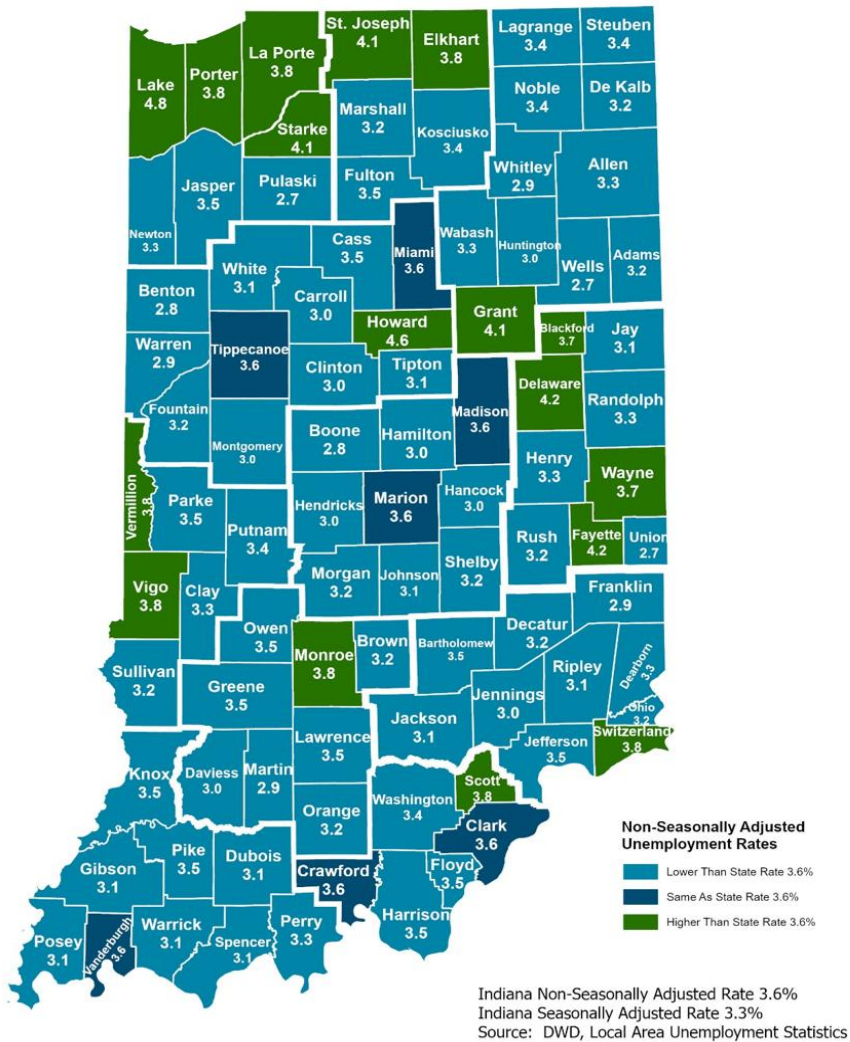
(Unemployed and Seeking a Job + Not in the Labor Force but Want a Job/Available to Work Now)

156,575

More about the US Bureau of Labor Statistics data sources used within:
Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS): Captures Indiana's labor force which includes those currently employed and those who are unemployed and actively seeking work.
Current Population Survey (CPS): Captures individuals not participating in Indiana's labor force. This set includes non-participants that do not want a job (i.e. retirees and students) and those that want a job but are not actively seeking work.
U.S. Census Bureau, Indiana Population 2025

Resource: Notes on Using Current Population Survey (CPS) Subnational Data and Differences Between CPS and LAUS Estimates

County Unemployment Rates August 2026



Questions?

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

Jillian A. Gregory
Regional Labor Analyst
Research and Analysis

[Indiana Department of
Workforce Development](https://www.in.gov/dwd/)

jgregory@dwd.in.gov