



August 2026 Labor Market Review

Reported by: Kathy Jaworski

Regional Workforce Analyst

kjaworski@dwd.in.gov

Economic Growth Region 3

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. 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. 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. The largest job gains occurred in Texas (+159,400), California (+138,500), and North Carolina (+65,600). The largest percentage increases occurred in Louisiana, New Mexico, and South Carolina (+1.6 percent each). The only job loss occurred in the District (-27,000, or -3.6 percent).



Economic Growth Region (EGR) 3

Adams, Allen, DeKalb, Grant, Huntington, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, Wabash, Wells, and Whitley 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

#5 - Grant (4.1%)

#39 - LaGrange (3.4%)

#40 - Noble (3.4%)

#42 - Steuben (3.4%)

#44 - Allen (3.3%)

#51 - Wabash (3.3%)

#52 - Adams (3.2%)

#55 - DeKalb (3.2%)

#81 - Huntington (3%)

#87 - Whitley (2.9%)

#92 - Wells (2.7%)

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 3	398,198	384,957	13,241	3.3%	3.4%	3.7%
Fort Wayne MSA	238,196	230,391	7,805	3.3%	3.3%	3.6%
Adams Co.	16,244	15,726	518	3.2%	3.3%	3.7%
Allen Co.	204,219	197,378	6,841	3.3%	3.3%	3.7%
DeKalb Co.	21,408	20,733	675	3.2%	3.3%	3.3%
Grant Co.	29,932	28,714	1,218	4.1%	4.1%	4.7%
Huntington Co.	19,651	19,071	580	3.0%	3.1%	3.4%
LaGrange Co.	18,475	17,850	625	3.4%	3.5%	3.6%
Noble Co.	22,546	21,787	759	3.4%	3.7%	3.6%
Steuben Co.	17,310	16,730	580	3.4%	3.4%	3.9%
Wabash Co.	14,436	13,955	481	3.3%	3.4%	3.5%
Wells Co.	15,520	15,095	425	2.7%	2.8%	3.0%
Whitley Co.	18,457	17,918	539	2.9%	3.0%	3.2%
Fort Wayne	139,139	134,316	4,823	3.5%	3.4%	3.8%
Marion	11,971	11,402	569	4.8%	4.8%	5.2%

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.

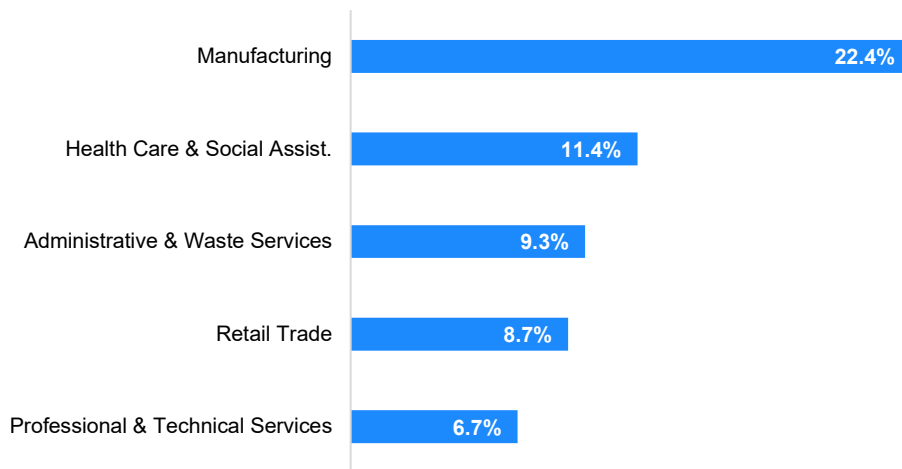
Consumer Price Index (CPI-U Change), Unadjusted Percent Change to August 2026 from

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

Percentage of Unemployment Claims for Top 5 Region 3 Industries August 2026

Distribution as a Percent of Total



Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis

WARN Notices

WARN Notices for Region 3 for August 2026

Company	City	County	# of workers affected	Notice Date
Packaging Corporation of America	Gas City	Grant	72	8/31/26

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/factsheet/warn.htm>

Unemployment Claims: August 2026

Region 3

Initial Claims

08/01/26 - 204(D)

08/08/26 - 187(D)

08/15/26 - 170(D)

08/22/26 - 115(D)

08/29/26 - 188(D)

Continued Claims

08/01/26 - 1,421

08/08/26 - 1,429

08/15/26 - 1,383

08/22/26 - 1,366

08/29/26 - 1,339

Total Claims

08/01/26 - 1,625

08/08/26 - 1,616

08/15/26 - 1,553

08/22/26 - 1,481

08/29/26 - 1,527

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

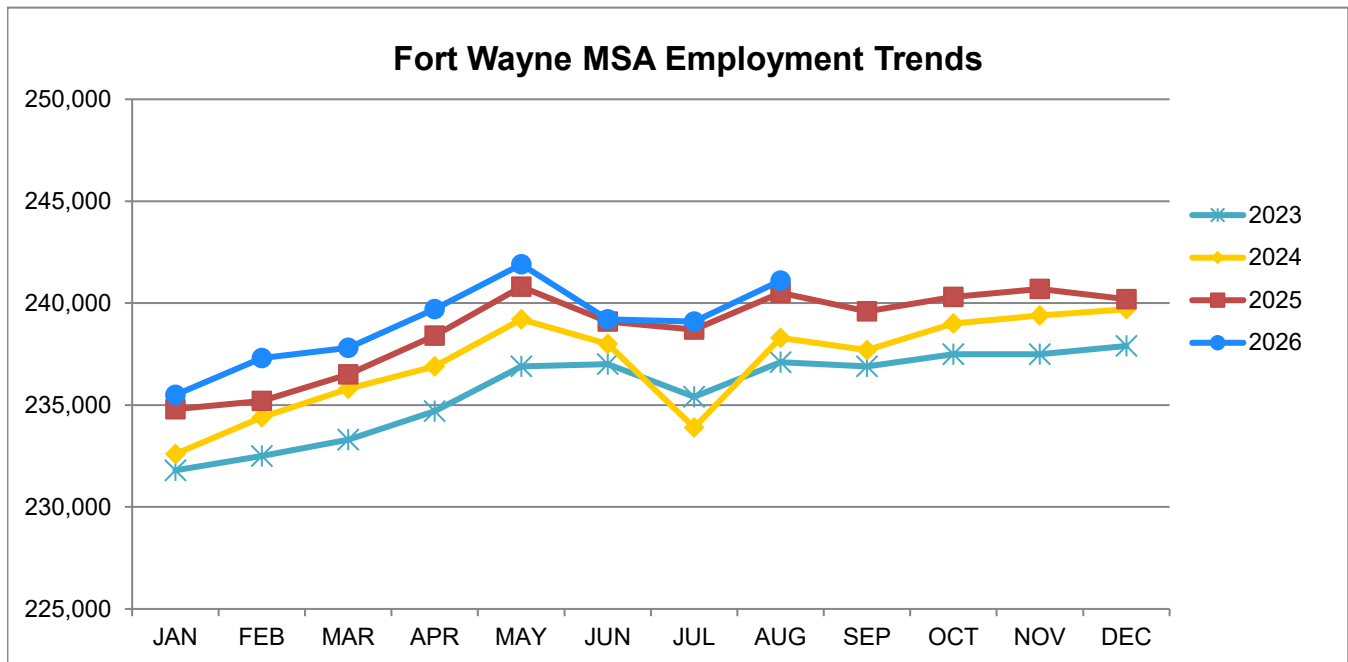
08/29/26 - 19,869

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

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Development

Fort Wayne 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	241,100	239,100	240,500	2,000	0.8%	600	0.3%
Total Private	219,300	219,500	218,700	-200	-0.1%	600	0.3%
Goods Producing	53,400	53,300	52,700	100	0.2%	700	1.3%
Service Providing	187,700	185,800	187,800	1,900	1.0%	-100	-0.1%
Private Service Providing	165,900	166,200	166,000	-300	-0.2%	-100	-0.1%
Mining, Logging and Construction	14,800	14,800	14,200	0	0.0%	600	4.2%
Total Manufacturing	38,600	38,500	38,500	100	0.3%	100	0.3%
Durable Goods Manufacturing	28,400	28,200	28,500	200	0.7%	-100	-0.4%
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	8,400	8,300	8,300	100	1.2%	100	1.2%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	46,100	46,100	45,700	0	0.0%	400	0.9%
Wholesale Trade	10,900	10,900	10,900	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Retail Trade	24,500	24,400	23,900	100	0.4%	600	2.5%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	10,700	10,800	10,900	-100	-0.9%	-200	-1.8%
Information	1,700	1,700	1,800	0	0.0%	-100	-5.6%
Financial Activities	12,100	12,200	12,400	-100	-0.8%	-300	-2.4%
Professional and Business Services	23,300	23,400	23,500	-100	-0.4%	-200	-0.9%
Education and Health Services	47,400	47,600	46,400	-200	-0.4%	1,000	2.2%
Leisure and Hospitality	21,500	21,600	22,400	-100	-0.5%	-900	-4.0%
Other Services	13,800	13,600	13,800	200	1.5%	0	0.0%
Total Government	21,800	19,600	21,800	2,200	11.2%	0	0.0%
Federal Government	2,100	2,100	2,100	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
State Government	3,700	3,400	3,900	300	8.8%	-200	-5.1%
Local Government	16,000	14,100	15,800	1,900	13.5%	200	1.3%
Local Government Educational Services	8,900	7,600	8,900	1,300	17.1%	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 openings in Region 3 in the past month	
Rank	Occupations
1	Registered Nurses
2	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers
3	Retail Salespersons
4	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General
5	First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers
6	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand
7	Customer Service Representatives
8	Production Workers, All Other
9	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
10	Nursing Assistants
11	Food Service Managers
12	Home Health and Personal Care Aides
13	Health Technologists and Technicians, All Other
14	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products
15	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners
16	Medical and Health Services Managers
17	Driver/Sales Workers
18	Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary
19	General and Operations Managers
20	Physicians, 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	540
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	293
Customer Service Representatives	247
Helpers--Production Workers	224
Office Clerks, General	175
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	166
Cashiers	160
Managers, All Other	108
Packers and Packagers, Hand	91
Shipping, Receiving, and Traffic Clerks	90
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	87
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	86
Team Assemblers	85
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	77
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	75
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants	74
Retail Salespersons	73
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	73
Material Moving Workers, All Other	70
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	67

Source: Indiana Workforce Development, Indiana Career Connect

SNAPSHOT

August Indiana Employment

Released September 18, 2026



Unemployment Rate

*seasonally adjusted

Unemployment Rate

3.3%

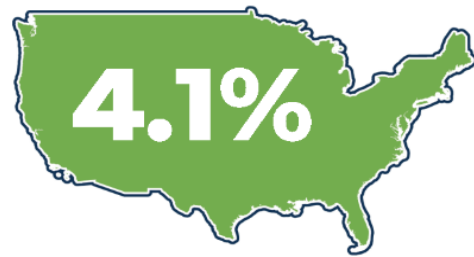


July 2026 Indiana

3.3%



National Unemployment Rate



LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE*

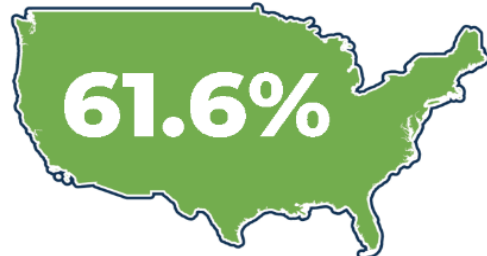
16+: **63.0%**

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

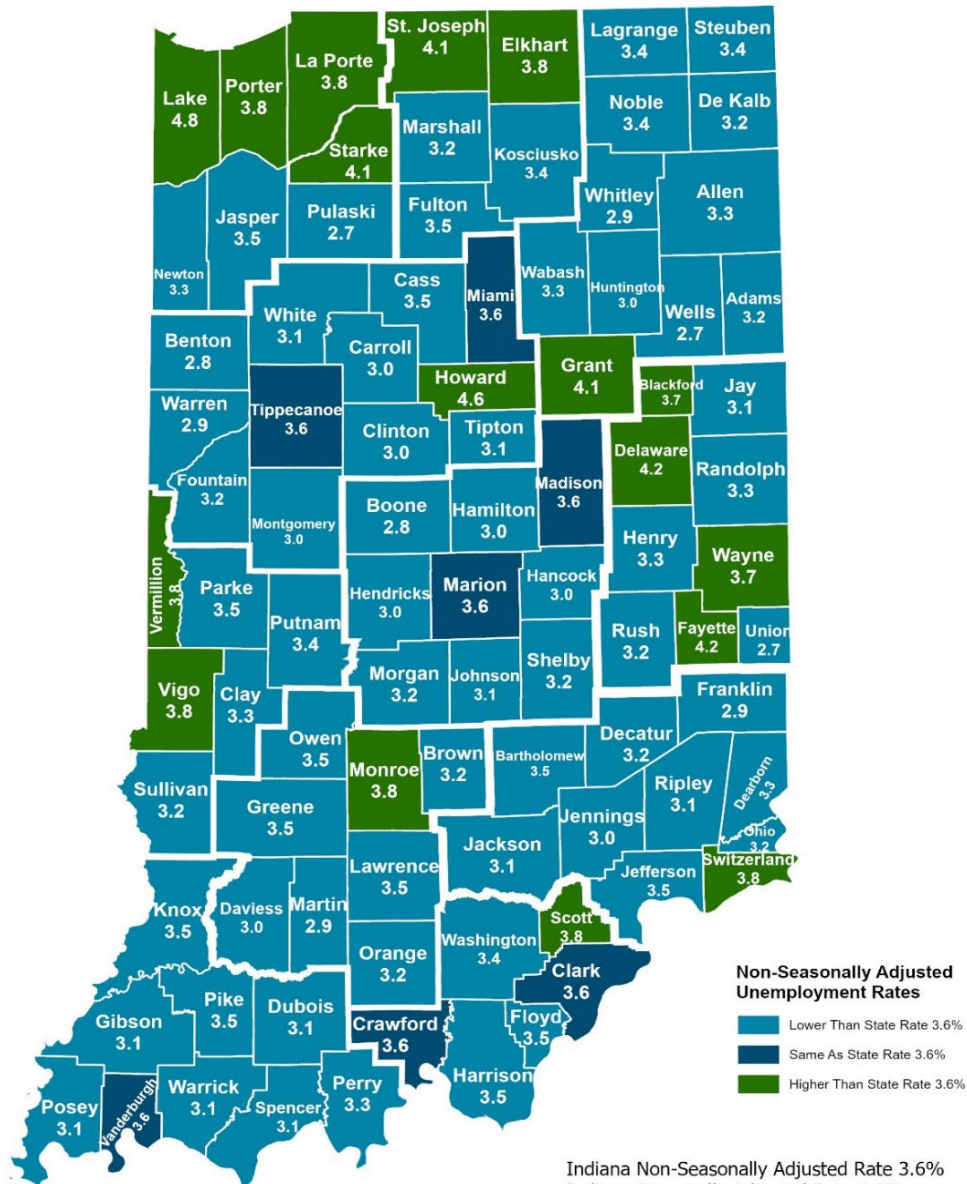


Filed Week Ending September 5, 2026

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

County Unemployment Rates August 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
Regional Workforce
Analyst listed below:

Kathy Jaworski

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

kjaworski@dwd.IN.gov