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LABOR MARKET REVIEW



August 2026 Labor Market Review

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LABOR MARKET REVIEW

Economic Growth Region 4

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.



Economic Growth Region (EGR) 4

Benton, Carroll, Cass, Clinton, Fountain, Howard, Miami, Montgomery, Tippecanoe, Tipton, Warren and White 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 4	257,298	248,220	9,078	3.5%	3.7%	4.2%
Kokomo MSA	35,441	33,826	1,615	4.6%	4.9%	6.4%
Lafayette MSA	121,980	117,737	4,243	3.5%	3.6%	4.0%
Benton Co.	4,737	4,603	134	2.8%	3.0%	3.1%
Carroll Co.	11,107	10,778	329	3.0%	3.1%	3.4%
Cass Co.	17,834	17,209	625	3.5%	3.7%	4.1%
Clinton Co.	17,109	16,604	505	3.0%	3.1%	3.5%
Fountain Co.	8,161	7,897	264	3.2%	3.4%	3.6%
Howard Co.	35,441	33,826	1,615	4.6%	4.9%	6.4%
Miami Co.	16,159	15,572	587	3.6%	3.8%	4.4%
Montgomery Co.	20,648	20,034	614	3.0%	3.0%	3.3%
Tippecanoe Co.	101,534	97,888	3,646	3.6%	3.6%	4.1%
Tipton Co.	8,057	7,805	252	3.1%	3.3%	3.7%
Warren Co.	4,602	4,468	134	2.9%	3.1%	3.3%
White Co.	11,909	11,536	373	3.1%	3.3%	3.3%
Attica	1,687	1,636	51	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%
Crawfordsville	8,252	7,984	268	3.2%	3.2%	3.7%
Delphi	1,249	1,198	51	4.1%	4.2%	5.1%
Fowler	1,219	1,185	34	2.8%	3.0%	3.1%
Frankfort	8,617	8,363	254	2.9%	3.2%	3.4%
Kokomo	24,722	23,509	1,213	4.9%	5.2%	6.9%
Lafayette	38,778	37,498	1,280	3.3%	3.4%	3.8%
Logansport	8,296	7,997	299	3.6%	3.8%	4.3%
Monticello	2,394	2,320	74	3.1%	3.3%	3.9%
Peru	4,952	4,767	185	3.7%	4.0%	4.5%
Tipton	2,584	2,484	100	3.9%	3.5%	3.6%
West Lafayette	22,193	21,479	714	3.2%	3.3%	3.5%
Williamsport	1,043	1,017	26	2.5%	2.9%	3.8%

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

#2 - Howard (4.6%)

#22 - Miami (3.6%)

#23 - Tippecanoe (3.6%)

#26 - Cass (3.5%)

#56 - Fountain (3.2%)

#72 - Tipton (3.1%)

#74 - White (3.1%)

#75 - Carroll (3%)

#76 - Clinton (3%)

#83 - Montgomery (3%)

#86 - Warren (2.9%)

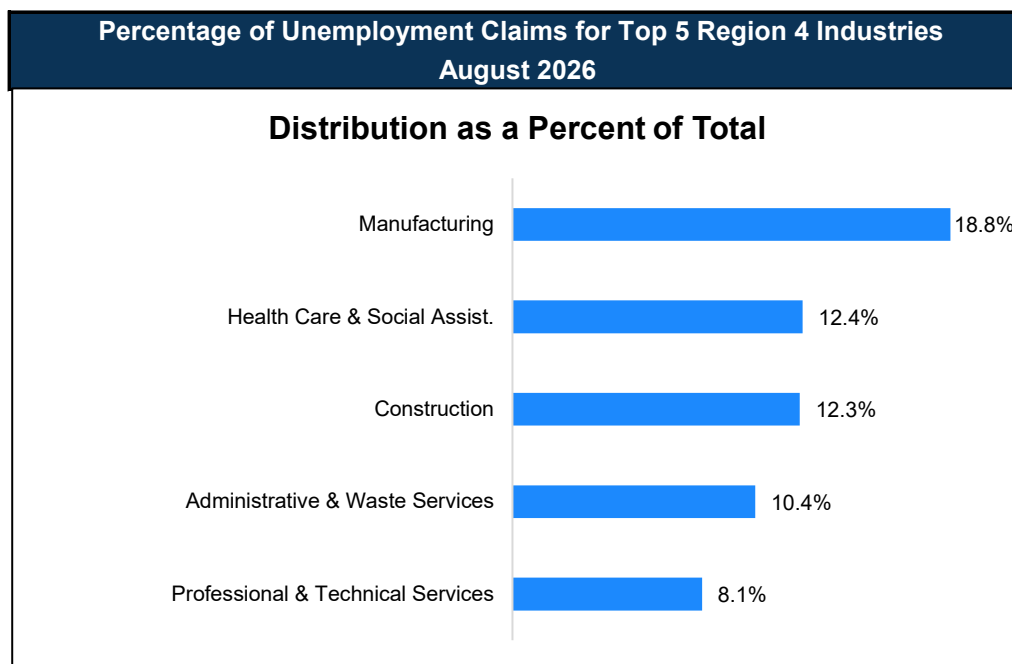
#88 - Benton (2.8%)

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

There are no WARN Notices for August 2026 for Region 4.

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 4

Initial Claims

08/01/26 - 95(D)

08/08/26 - 120(D)

08/15/26 - 221(D)

08/22/26 - 83(D)

08/29/26 - 260(D)

Continued Claims

08/01/26 - 986

08/08/26 - 1,062

08/15/26 - 890

08/22/26 - 997

08/29/26 - 1,012

Total Claims

08/01/26 - 1,081

08/08/26 - 1,182

08/15/26 - 1,111

08/22/26 - 1,080

08/29/26 - 1,272

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 - 2318

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

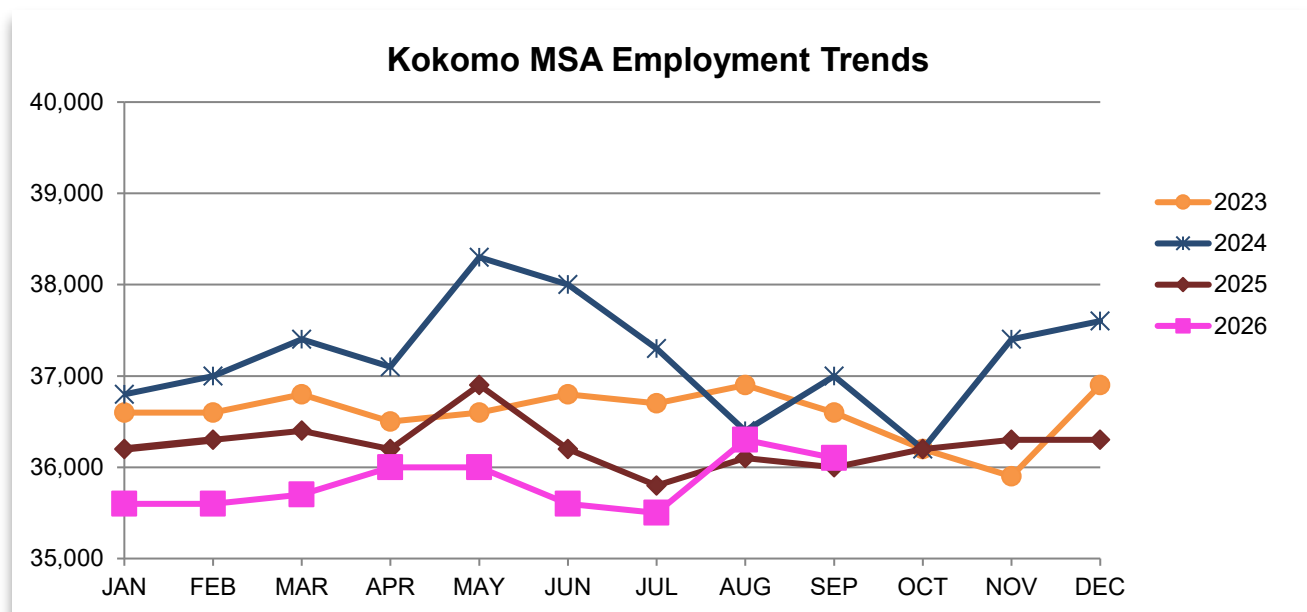
08/29/26 - 19,869

(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 Development

Kokomo 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	36,300	35,500	36,100	800	2.3%	200	0.6%
Total Private	31,500	31,400	31,600	100	0.3%	-100	-0.3%
Goods Producing	10,400	10,300	10,200	100	1.0%	200	2.0%
Service-Providing	25,900	25,200	25,900	700	2.8%	0	0.0%
Private Service Providing	21,100	21,100	21,400	0	0.0%	-300	-1.4%
Mining, Logging and Construction	1,900	1,900	1,800	0	0.0%	100	5.6%
Manufacturing	8,500	8,400	8,400	100	1.2%	100	1.2%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	6,200	6,200	6,300	0	0.0%	-100	-1.6%
Wholesale Trade	900	900	900	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Retail Trade	4,400	4,400	4,500	0	0.0%	-100	-2.2%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	900	900	900	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Information	200	200	200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	1,200	1,200	1,300	0	0.0%	-100	-7.7%
Leisure and Hospitality	4,300	4,300	4,400	0	0.0%	-100	-2.3%
Other Services	1,800	1,800	1,800	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Government	4,800	4,100	4,500	700	17.1%	300	6.7%
Local Government	3,500	3,000	3,300	500	16.7%	200	6.1%
Local Government Educational Services	1,900	1,300	1,800	600	46.2%	100	5.6%
Local Government excluding Educational Services	1,600	1,700	1,500	-100	-5.9%	100	6.7%

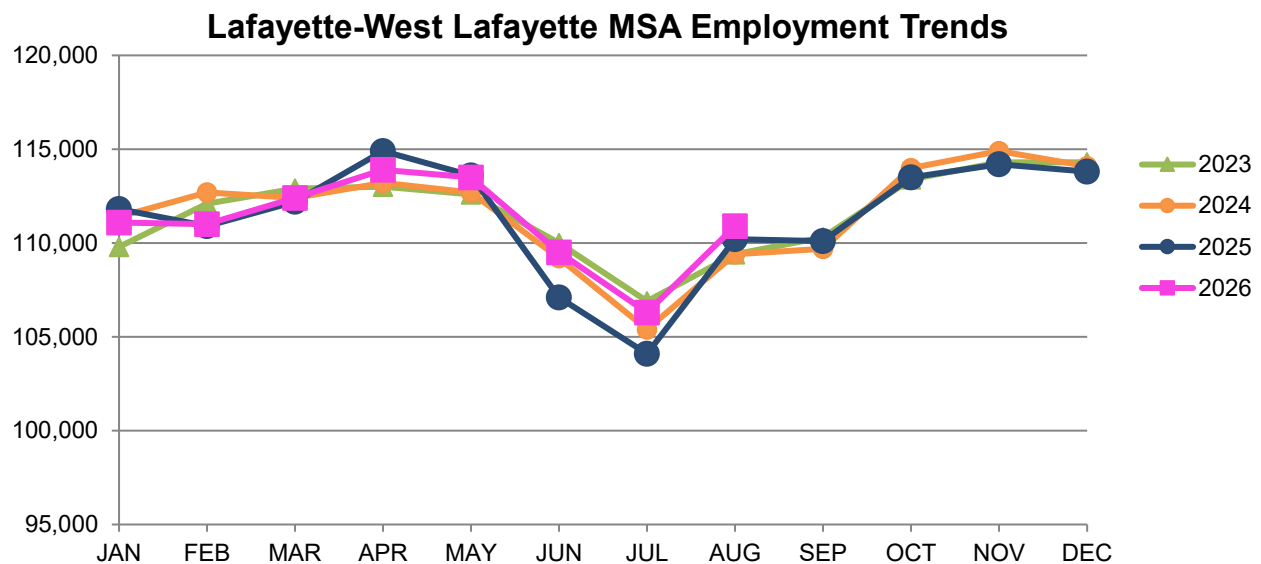
Source: Indiana Dept of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis, Current Employment Statistics



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.

Lafayette-West Lafayette 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	110,900	106,300	110,200	4,600	4.3%	700 0.6%
Total Private	84,800	84,500	83,500	300	0.4%	1,300 1.6%
Goods Producing	26,700	26,600	26,200	100	0.4%	500 1.9%
Service Providing	84,200	79,700	84,000	4,500	5.7%	200 0.2%
Private Service Providing	58,100	57,900	57,300	200	0.4%	800 1.4%
Mining, Logging and Construction	5,400	5,300	5,000	100	1.9%	400 8.0%
Manufacturing	21,300	21,300	21,200	0	0.0%	100 0.5%
Durable Goods	16,500	16,400	16,600	100	0.6%	-100 -0.6%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	15,400	15,500	15,700	-100	-0.7%	-300 -1.9%
Wholesale Trade	3,200	3,300	3,300	-100	-3.0%	-100 -3.0%
Retail Trade	9,500	9,400	9,400	100	1.1%	100 1.1%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	2,700	2,800	3,000	-100	-3.6%	-300 -10.0%
Information	700	700	700	0	0.0%	0 0.0%
Financial Activities	3,300	3,300	3,400	0	0.0%	-100 -2.9%
Professional and Business Services	9,500	9,400	9,100	100	1.1%	400 4.4%
Education and Health Services	13,900	13,900	13,700	0	0.0%	200 1.5%
Leisure and Hospitality	11,000	10,900	10,600	100	0.9%	400 3.8%
Accommodation and Food Services	10,200	10,200	9,900	0	0.0%	300 3.0%
Other Services	4,300	4,200	4,100	100	2.4%	200 4.9%
Total Government	26,100	21,800	26,700	4,300	19.7%	-600 -2.3%
Federal Government	500	500	500	0	0.0%	0 0.0%
State Government	18,100	15,400	18,600	2,700	17.5%	-500 -2.7%
Local Government	7,500	5,900	7,600	1,600	27.1%	-100 -1.3%
Local Government Educational Services	4,300	2,700	4,300	1,600	59.3%	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 postings in Region 4 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	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
6	Home Health and Personal Care Aides
7	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General
8	Production Workers, All Other
9	Nursing Assistants
10	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners
11	Stockers and Order Fillers
12	Food Service Managers
13	Physical Therapists
14	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand
15	Medical and Health Services Managers
16	First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers
17	Occupational Therapists
18	Cashiers
19	Speech-Language Pathologists
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	450
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	363
Helpers--Production Workers	296
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	191
Cashiers	134
Team Assemblers	124
Customer Service Representatives	123
Office Clerks, General	95
Managers, All Other	89
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	81
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	78
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	73
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	69
Extraction Workers, All Other	67
Construction Laborers	64
Retail Salespersons	63
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants	59
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	59
Receptionists and Information Clerks	56
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	56

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

County Unemployment Rates August 2026



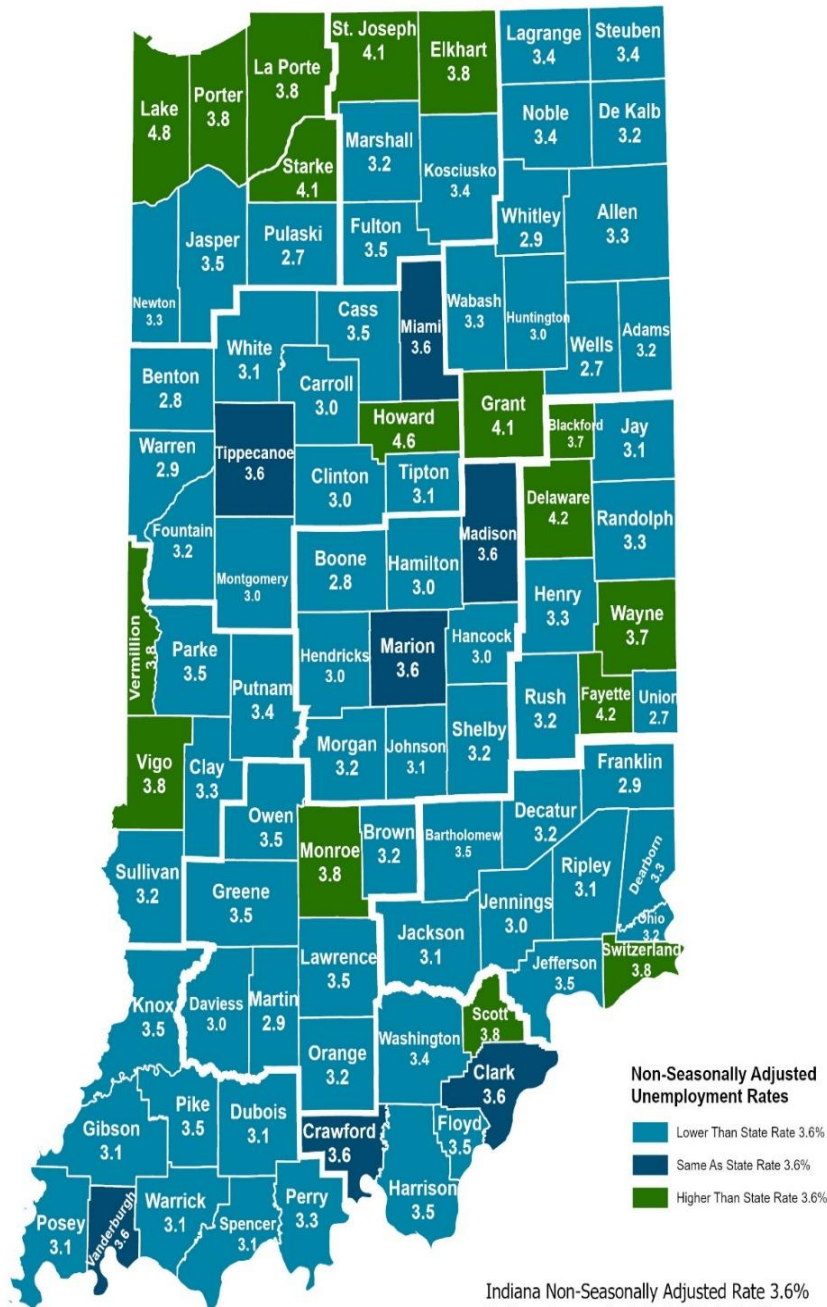
INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

Questions?

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