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INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

LABOR MARKET REVIEW



February 2021 Labor Market Review

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INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

Economic Growth Region 6

Statistical Data Report for February 2021, Released April 2021

State Employment and Unemployment

Unemployment rates were lower in February in 23 states and the District of Columbia, higher in 4 states, and stable in 23 states, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Forty-five states and the District had jobless rate increases from a year earlier and five states had little or no change. The national unemployment rate, 6.2 percent, was little changed over the month, but was 2.7 percentage points higher than in February 2020.

Nonfarm payroll employment increased in 11 states, decreased in 3 states, and was essentially unchanged in 36 states and the District of Columbia in February 2021. Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment decreased in 48 states and the District and was essentially unchanged in 2 states.

Hawaii and New York had the highest unemployment rates in February, 9.2 percent and 8.9 percent, respectively, while South Dakota, 2.9 percent, and Utah, 3.0 percent, had the lowest rates. In total, 27 states had unemployment rates lower than the U.S. figure of 6.2 percent, 12 states and the District of Columbia had higher rates, and 11 states had rates that were not appreciably different from that of the nation.

The largest unemployment rate increase from February 2020 occurred in Hawaii (+7.1 percentage points). The next largest over-the-year jobless rate increase was in New York (+5.0 percentage points), with another 10 states and the District of Columbia experiencing rate increases of at least 3.0 points.



Economic Growth Region (EGR) 6

Blackford, Delaware, Fayette, Henry, Jay, Randolph, Rush, Union, and Wayne Counties

Unemployment Rates by State (seasonally adjusted): February 2021

U.S. - 6.2%

Illinois - 7.4%

Indiana - 4%

Kentucky - 5.2%

Michigan - 5.2%

Ohio - 5%

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

Unemployment Rank by County (of 92 counties): February 2021

#6 - Fayette (6%)

#18 - Delaware (5.2%)

#25 - Blackford (5%)

#32 - Randolph (4.7%)

#35 - Wayne (4.7%)

#37 - Henry (4.6%)

#56 - Rush (4.1%)

#73 - Jay (3.7%)

#82 - Union (3.5%)

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

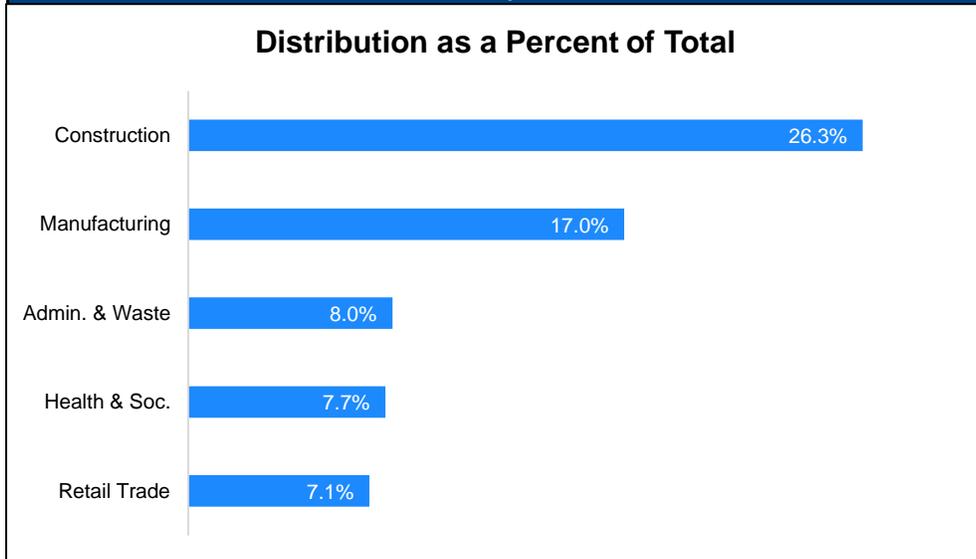
February 2021 Labor Force Estimates (not seasonally adjusted)						
Area	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Feb-21	Jan-21	Feb-20
U.S.	160,008,000	149,522,000	10,486,000	6.6%	6.8%	3.8%
IN	3,300,855	3,144,768	156,087	4.7%	4.7%	3.4%
EGR 6	148,240	141,088	7,152	4.8%	4.6%	3.8%
Muncie MSA	52,439	49,719	2,720	5.2%	5.0%	4.0%
Blackford Co.	4,740	4,501	239	5.0%	4.6%	4.3%
Delaware Co.	52,439	49,719	2,720	5.2%	5.0%	4.0%
Fayette Co.	8,280	7,782	498	6.0%	5.8%	4.5%
Henry Co.	21,601	20,607	994	4.6%	4.4%	3.4%
Jay Co.	8,513	8,195	318	3.7%	3.7%	3.3%
Randolph Co.	10,912	10,404	508	4.7%	4.4%	4.1%
Rush Co.	8,573	8,222	351	4.1%	3.9%	2.7%
Union Co.	3,405	3,286	119	3.5%	3.2%	3.3%
Wayne Co.	29,777	28,372	1,405	4.7%	4.6%	3.6%
Connersville	4,220	3,930	290	6.9%	7.0%	5.3%
Muncie	30,254	28,556	1,698	5.6%	5.6%	4.3%
New Castle	7,430	7,055	375	5.0%	5.3%	3.5%
Richmond	14,544	13,803	741	5.1%	5.4%	3.8%

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research & Analysis, Local Area Unemployment Statistics | Unemployment Statistics Released: 03/21 | 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 February 2021 from				
CPI Item	Feb-20	Jan-21	Feb-20	Jan-21
	U.S. City		Midwest Region*	
All Items	1.7%	0.5%	1.7%	0.8%
Food & Beverages	3.5%	0.2%	2.8%	0.1%
Housing	1.8%	0.3%	1.9%	0.5%
Apparel	-3.6%	1.9%	-2.1%	2.4%
Transportation	0.6%	1.7%	0.6%	2.3%
Medical Care	2.0%	0.4%	2.5%	0.5%
Recreation	0.8%	0.7%	1.5%	1.2%
Education & Communication	1.7%	0.1%	1.5%	0.2%
Other Goods & Services	2.1%	0.4%	0.6%	0.1%

*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 6 Industries February 2021



Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis

WARN Notices

WARN Notices for Region 6 for February 2021				
Company	City	County	# of workers affected	Notice Date

There are no WARN Notices for February 2021 for EGR 6.

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: February 2021

Region 6

Initial Claims

02/06/21 - 784(D)

02/13/21 - 700(D)

02/20/21 - 656

02/27/21 - 687(D)

Continued Claims

02/06/21 - 2,368

02/13/21 - 2,388

02/20/21 - 2,404

02/27/21 - 2,266

Total Claims

02/06/21 - 3,152

02/13/21 - 3,088

02/20/21 - 3,060

02/27/21 - 2,953

State of Indiana

Initial Claims

02/06/21 - 13,508

02/13/21 - 12,287

02/20/21 - 9,735

02/27/21 - 10,081

Continued Claims

02/06/21 - 77,782

02/13/21 - 73,668

02/20/21 - 72,770

02/27/21 - 69,343

Total Claims

02/06/21 - 91,290

02/13/21 - 85,955

02/20/21 - 82,505

02/27/21 - 79,424

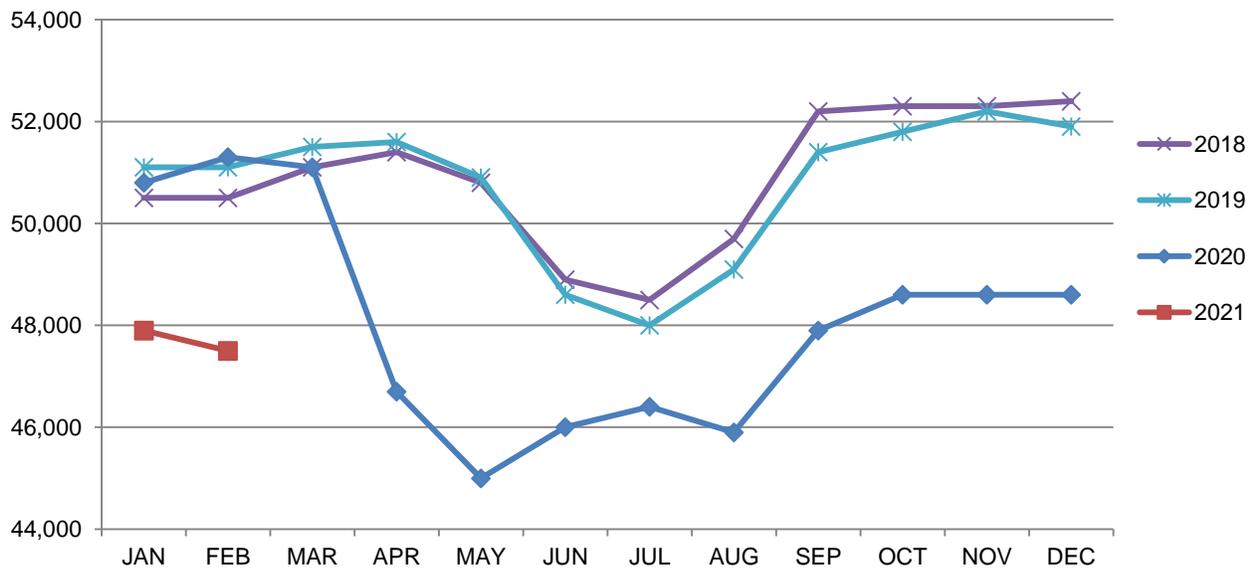
(D) indicates item is affected by non-disclosure issues relating to industry or ownership status |

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Development

Muncie MSA							
Wage and Salaried Employment	February 2021			# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Industry	Feb-21	Jan-21	Feb-20	Jan-21 to Feb-21	Feb-20 to Feb-21		
Total Nonfarm	47,500	47,900	50,500	-400	-0.8%	-3,000	-5.9%
Total Private	36,000	36,400	38,200	-400	-1.1%	-2,200	-5.8%
Goods Producing	4,900	4,900	5,300	0	0.0%	-400	-7.6%
Service-Providing	42,600	43,000	45,200	-400	-0.9%	-2,600	-5.8%
Private Service Providing	31,100	31,500	32,900	-400	-1.3%	-1,800	-5.5%
Mining, Logging and Construction	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	3,400	3,400	3,800	0	0.0%	-400	-10.5%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	8,200	8,300	8,400	-100	-1.2%	-200	-2.4%
Wholesale Trade	1,100	1,100	1,200	0	0.0%	-100	-8.3%
Retail Trade	5,800	5,800	6,000	0	0.0%	-200	-3.3%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	1,300	1,400	1,200	-100	-7.1%	100	8.3%
Information	300	300	300	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	2,100	2,200	2,300	-100	-4.6%	-200	-8.7%
Education and Health Services	9,300	9,200	9,500	100	1.1%	-200	-2.1%
Leisure and Hospitality	4,700	4,600	5,400	100	2.2%	-700	-13.0%
Other Services	1,800	1,700	2,100	100	5.9%	-300	-14.3%
Government	11,500	11,500	12,300	0	0.0%	-800	-6.5%
State Government	7,600	7,500	8,300	100	1.3%	-700	-8.4%
State Government Educational Services	7,400	7,300	8,100	100	1.4%	-700	-8.6%
State Government Excluding Education	200	200	200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Local Government	3,600	3,700	3,600	-100	-2.7%	0	0.0%
Local Government Educational Services	2,000	2,000	2,100	0	0.0%	-100	-4.8%
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

Muncie 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 6 in the past month	
Rank	Occupations
1	Production Workers, All Other
2	Bus Drivers, Transit and Intercity
3	Registered Nurses
4	Customer Service Representatives
5	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Workers, All Other
6	Social and Human Service Assistants
7	Taxi Drivers and Chauffeurs
8	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
9	Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators
10	Environmental Scientists and Specialists, Including Health
11	Counter Attendants, Cafeteria, Food Concession, and Coffee Shop
12	Home Health Aides
13	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers
14	Landscaping and Groundskeeping Workers
15	Merchandise Displayers and Window Trimmers
16	Managers, All Other
17	Food Processing Workers, All Other
18	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand
19	Nursery Workers
20	Child, Family, and School Social Workers

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	4,049
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	2,949
Helpers--Production Workers	1,933
Cashiers	1,274
Customer Service Representatives	1,154
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	1,147
Office Clerks, General	775
Stock Clerks and Order Fillers	747
Nursing Assistants	695
Team Assemblers	645
Packers and Packagers, Hand	623
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	603
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	601
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	597
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	591
Managers, All Other	583
Electrical and Electronic Equipment Assemblers	581
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	557
Retail Salespersons	555
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	524

Source: Indiana Workforce Development, Indiana Career Connect

How the Census 2020 response rate varied across Indiana: A granular view by tact



A publication of the Indiana Business Research Center at Indiana University's Kelley School of Business.
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The first wave of data from Census 2020—the statewide numbers used to apportion congressional seats—will be released in the near future after multiple delays.

Those who have followed the news about the decennial census know that Census 2020 has been plagued with a variety of problems that have raised accuracy concerns. The best way to ensure an accurate census is for households to “self-respond”—i.e., fill out the form themselves (online, by phone or by mail)—and not rely on the Census Bureau to follow-up and gather that information itself. In fact, “low self-response rates are correlated with people being missed in the census.”

Indiana’s final self-response rate was 70.3%, close to 1 percentage point higher (0.7) than in Census 2010. But as mentioned in an earlier article, most census tracts actually had lower self-response rates relative to their Census 2010 rates. This article dives a bit deeper into the local self-response numbers (using the final set of self-response data from October 28, 2020).

Census tracts are small, relatively permanent subdivisions of a county used for statistical purposes. They generally follow visible and identifiable land-based features and have between 1,500 and 8,000 people, with an optimum size of 4,000 people.

One area of particular concern (nationwide) are college communities. Due to the pandemic, we see some of the largest self-response declines within our college communities, as many campuses were being closed at the time when census materials were being distributed in March. The pandemic also complicated non-response follow-up in these areas during the late spring and early summer months. It is important to note that those who live in dorms on campus were counted during the group quarters enumeration, so the low response rate concern revolves around students living off campus.

Indiana has nine counties where student enrollment surpasses 10,000. In six counties, the student population makes up more than 10% of total population—led by Monroe County (Indiana University) at 29%.

Not all of the poor response in these counties can be traced to the student population. For example, the tracts with the lowest response in Allen, Knox and Lake counties are not campus related. However, out of the 26 tracts in the state with the largest declines in response rate (i.e., more than 15 percentage points), 16 would appear to be impacted by poor off-campus student response.

Table 1: Comparison of Census 2010 and 2020 self-response rates by tract

		Census 2020 response rate				
		80% or more	70% to 79.9%	60% to 69.9%	50% to 59.9%	Less than 50%
Census 2010 response rate	80% or more	207	52	-	-	-
	70% to 79.9%	85	503	158	12	3
	60% to 69.9%	-	90	228	86	11
	50% to 59.9%	-	4	26	85	66
	Less than 50%	-	-	1	4	61

Source: Indiana Business Research Center, using U.S. Census Bureau data

In particular, both Monroe County and Tippecanoe County (Purdue University) have four tracts where response rates were less than 45%—representing declines between 15 and 30 percentage points.

As more 2020 census data gets released throughout the coming year, researchers here at the Indiana Business Research Center will give extra scrutiny to those areas with low self-response rates to see if any anomalies arise in the final data for Indiana. Results of our review will be made available on the Census in Indiana website (www.census.indiana.edu/), as well as in *InContext*.

County Unemployment Rates February 2021



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Questions?

Please contact the
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