



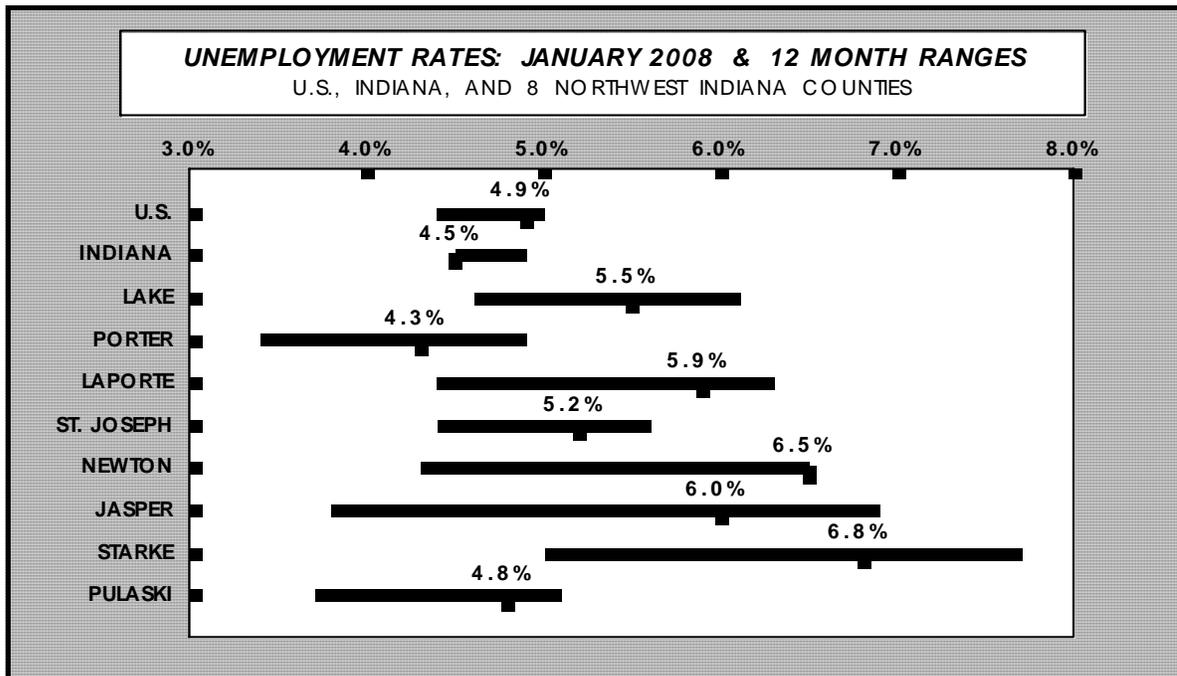
Labor Market Review

MARCH 2008

NORTHWEST INDIANA EDITION

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES					LABOR FORCE TOTALS		
Area	Unemp Rate Jan 2007	Rank Hi-Lo 1to92	Unemp Rate Yr Ago	Jan 07 to Jan 08 (up/dn)	Total Labor Force	Number Employed	Number Unemployed
U.S.*	4.9%		4.6%	up 0.3	152,828,000	144,607,000	8,221,000
Indiana*	4.5%		4.8%	dn 0.3	3,191,164	3,029,437	161,727
Lake	5.5%	48	6.4%	dn 0.9	223,348	211,106	12,242
Porter	4.3%	76	4.8%	dn 0.5	81,603	78,094	3,509
LaPorte	5.9%	33	6.3%	dn 0.4	52,473	49,384	3,089
St. Joseph	5.2%	53	5.8%	dn 0.6	131,934	125,136	6,798
Newton	6.5%	16	6.6%	dn 0.1	7,061	6,601	460
Jasper	6.0%	28	6.2%	dn 0.2	15,425	14,494	931
Starke	6.8%	9	7.2%	dn 0.4	10,327	9,628	699
Pulaski	4.8%	66	5.0%	dn 0.2	6,784	6,459	325

Notes: Jan 2008 data was released Mar 11, 2008. Data are estimates using federal procedures. Degree of accuracy varies. * Seasonally adjusted - other rates are not adjusted. Data for ranges in the chart below have been updated and revised to the 2007 Benchmark. **The more recent U.S. unemployment rate for Feb 2008 was 4.8%, seasonally adjusted.**



NON-FARM EMPLOYMENT IN INDIANA

Employment estimates for nonfarm industries are derived from a monthly survey of over 7,700 Indiana employing establishments and include full-time and part-time wage and salaried workers. Current month estimates may be revised slightly if additional data received in the following month warrants a change and may be revised when new benchmarks are constructed annually. Industry employment is coded under the 2002 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

NON-FARM EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES**GARY, IN, METRO DIVISION (LAKE/ PORTER/ JASPER/ NEWTON COUNTIES)**

INDUSTRY	JAN 2008	DEC 2007	JAN 2007	CHANGE FROM			
				DEC 2007 TO JAN 2008		JAN 2007 TO JAN 2008	
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	277,400	284,000	276,000	-6,600	-2.3%	1,400	0.5%
Total Private Employment	238,700	244,600	235,500	-5,900	-2.4%	3,200	1.4%
GOODS PRODUCING	56,700	58,100	56,900	-1,400	-2.4%	-200	-0.4%
Natural Resources & Construction	500	500	600	0	0.0%	-100	-16.7%
---Construction	18,400	19,500	18,300	-1,100	-5.6%	100	0.5%
Manufacturing	37,800	38,100	38,000	-300	-0.8%	-200	-0.5%
---Durable Goods	29,600	29,900	29,800	-300	-1.0%	-200	-0.7%
Primary Metal Mfg	18,300	18,300	18,500	0	0.0%	-200	-1.1%
Iron and Steel Mills	17,000	17,000	16,800	0	0.0%	200	1.2%
SERVICE PRODUCING	220,700	225,900	219,100	-5,200	-2.3%	1,600	0.7%
Private Service Providing	182,000	186,500	178,600	-4,500	-2.4%	3,400	1.9%
---Trade,Transportation, Utilities	59,900	61,800	59,700	-1,900	-3.1%	200	0.3%
Wholesale Trade	10,200	10,300	10,200	-100	-1.0%	0	0.0%
Retail Trade	35,400	36,700	35,100	-1,300	-3.5%	300	0.9%
General Merch Stores	7,000	7,600	6,800	-600	-7.9%	200	2.9%
Other Gen Merch Stores	3,400	3,600	3,500	-200	-5.6%	-100	-2.9%
Transp/Warehousing/Utilities	14,300	14,800	14,400	-500	-3.4%	-100	-0.7%
---Information	2,300	2,300	2,300	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
---Financial Activities	9,600	9,800	10,000	-200	-2.0%	-400	-4.0%
---Professional & Business	22,400	22,800	21,700	-400	-1.8%	700	3.2%
Admin/Support/Waste Svcs	3,300	3,500	3,300	-200	-5.7%	0	0.0%
Employment Services	45,500	46,000	42,800	-500	-1.1%	2,700	6.3%
---Educational & Health	7,200	7,500	7,200	-300	-4.0%	0	0.0%
Educational Services	38,300	38,500	35,600	-200	-0.5%	2,700	7.6%
Health Care/Social Assist.	13,500	13,500	11,500	0	0.0%	2,000	17.4%
Med/Surgical Hospitals	30,100	31,300	29,800	-1,200	-3.8%	300	1.0%
---Leisure & Hospitality	7,300	7,600	7,200	-300	-3.9%	100	1.4%
Arts/Entertainment/Rec'n	21,500	22,200	21,300	-700	-3.2%	200	0.9%
Food Svcs / Drinking Places	12,200	12,500	12,300	-300	-2.4%	-100	-0.8%
---Other Services	38,700	39,400	40,500	-700	-1.8%	-1,800	-4.4%
Government	2,000	2,000	2,100	0	0.0%	-100	-4.8%
---Federal Government	4,200	4,200	4,300	0	0.0%	-100	-2.3%
---State Government	32,500	33,200	34,100	-700	-2.1%	-1,600	-4.7%
---Local Government	18,700	19,400	18,600	-700	-3.6%	100	0.5%

-- EMPLOYMENT DATA ROUNDED TO THE NEAREST HUNDRED AND THUS MAY NOT ADD TO THE TOTAL SHOWN

-- GARY METROPOLITAN DIVISION OF THE CHICAGO CSA EQUALS LAKE, PORTER, JASPER, AND NEWTON COUNTIES

-- PLEASE NOTE: MICHIGAN CITY/LAPORTE MSA NONFARM DATA WILL NO LONGER BE PRODUCED

UNION MEMBERS IN 2007

In 2007, the number of workers belonging to a union rose by 311,000 to 15.7 million, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics has recently reported. Union members accounted for 12.1 percent of employed wage and salary workers, essentially unchanged from 12.0 percent in 2006. In 1983, the first year for which comparable union data are available, the union membership rate was 20.1 percent.

Some highlights from the 2007 data include:

❑ Workers in the public sector had a union membership rate nearly five times that of private sector employees.

❑ Education, training, and library occupations had the highest unionization rate among all occupations, at 37.2 percent, followed closely by protective service occupations at 35.2 percent.

❑ Among demographic groups, the union membership rate was highest for black men and lowest for Hispanic women.

❑ Wage and salary workers ages 45 to 54 (15.7 percent) and ages 55 to 64 (16.1 percent) were more likely to be union members than were workers ages 16 to 24 (4.8 percent).

Membership by industry and occupation

The union membership rate for public sector workers (35.9 percent) was substantially higher than for private industry workers (7.5 percent). Within the public sector, local government workers had the highest union membership rate, 41.8 percent. This group includes many workers in several heavily unionized occupations, such

as teachers, police officers, and fire fighters. Private sector industries with high unionization rates include transportation and utilities (22.1 percent), telecommunications (19.7 percent), and construction (13.9 percent). In 2007, unionization rates were relatively low in agriculture and related industries (1.5 percent) and in financial activities (2.0 percent).

Among occupational groups, education, training, and library occupations (37.2 percent) and protective service occupations (35.2 percent) had the highest unionization rates in 2007. Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations (2.7 percent) and sales and related occupations (3.3 percent) had the lowest unionization rates

Demographics of union membership

In 2007, the union membership rate was higher for men (13.0 percent) than for women (11.1 percent). The gap between their rates has narrowed considerably since 1983, when the rate for men was about 10 percentage points higher than the rate for women. The rates for both men and women declined between 1983 and 2007, but the rate for men declined much more rapidly.

Black workers were more likely to be union members (14.3 percent) than were whites (11.8 percent), Asians (10.9 percent), or Hispanics (9.8 percent). Within these major groups, black men had the highest union membership rate (15.8 percent) while Hispanic women had the lowest rate (9.6 percent).

Among age groups, union membership rates were highest among workers 55 to 64 years old (16.1 percent) and 45 to 54 years old (15.7 percent). The lowest union membership rates occurred among those ages 16 to 24 (4.8 percent). Full-time workers

were about twice as likely as part-time workers to be union members, 13.2 compared with 6.5 percent.

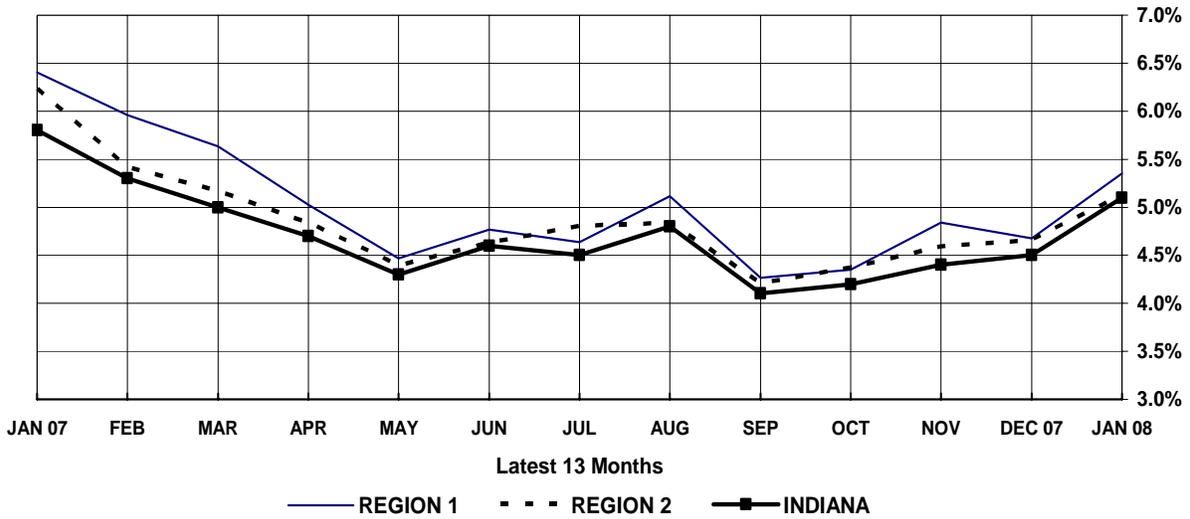
Earnings

In 2007, among full-time wage and salary workers, union members had median usual weekly earnings of \$863 while those who were not represented by unions had median weekly earnings of \$663. The difference reflects a variety of influences in addition to coverage by a collective bargaining agreement, including variations in the distributions of union members and nonunion employees by occupation, industry, firm size, or

geographic region. (For a discussion of the problem of differentiating between the influence of unionization status and the influence of other worker characteristics on employee earnings, see "Measuring union-nonunion earnings differences," Monthly Labor Review, June 1990.)

Further information from this BLS report including data tables can be accessed via the report table of contents links which are listed at the following Internet address:
<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/union2.toc.htm> □

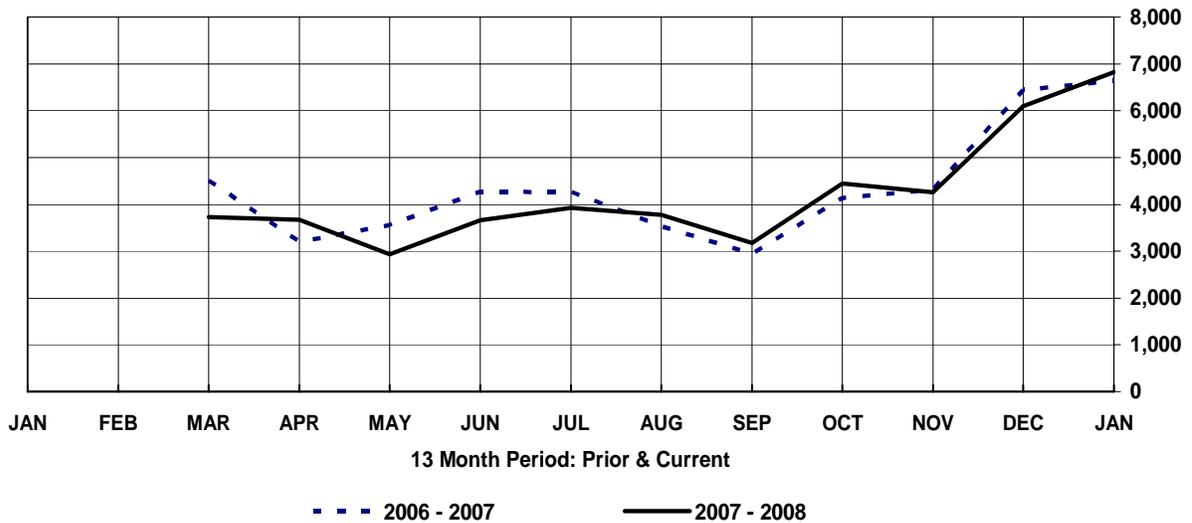
REGIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATES* Region 1, Region 2, & Indiana



* Unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted

Notes: Region 1 consists of Indiana Counties Lake, Porter, LaPorte, Newton, Jasper, Starke, & Pulaski
 Region 2 consists of Indiana Counties St. Joseph, Elkhart, Marshall, Kosciusko, & Fulton

INITIAL CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS Region 1 Unemployment Benefit Offices



Note: February data is not available.

Initial claims data above is presented through November 07 to make it consistent with other data in this publication.
 Region 1 unemployment benefits offices are in the cities of Hammond, Gary, and LaPorte

This newsletter is produced monthly by Bruce F. Bendull, Regional Analyst, Research & Analysis Unit
 Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Phone 219 762-6592 ext 228