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INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

LABOR MARKET REVIEW



January 2026 Labor Market Review

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INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT



LABOR MARKET REVIEW

Economic Growth Region 1

Statistical Data Report for January 2026, Released April 2026

State Employment and Unemployment

Unemployment rates were higher in January in 1 state and stable in 49 states and the District of Columbia, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Fourteen states and the District had jobless rate increases from a year earlier, 2 states had decreases, and 34 states had little change. The national unemployment rate, 4.3 percent, changed little over the month but was 0.3 percentage point higher than in January 2025. In January 2026, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 5 states, decreased in the District of Columbia, and was essentially unchanged in 45 states. Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 4 states, decreased in Maryland and the District, and was essentially unchanged in 45 states.



Economic Growth Region (EGR) 1

Jasper, Lake, LaPorte, Newton, Porter, Pulaski and Starke Counties

January 2026 Labor Force Estimates (not seasonally adjusted)						
Area	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Jan-26	Dec-25	Jan-25
U.S.	169,612,000	161,670,000	7,942,000	4.7%	4.1%	4.4%
IN	3,473,602	3,359,879	113,723	3.3%	2.6%	4.2%
Lake-Porter-Jasper Div	354,713	339,152	15,561	4.4%	3.7%	5.7%
MichCity-LaPorte MSA	51,813	49,775	2,038	3.9%	3.2%	5.0%
EGR 1	424,051	405,776	18,275	4.3%	3.6%	5.6%
Lake Co.	242,479	231,022	11,457	4.7%	4.0%	6.0%
Porter Co.	88,849	85,686	3,163	3.6%	2.9%	4.8%
LaPorte Co.	51,813	49,775	2,038	3.9%	3.2%	5.0%
Newton Co.	6,739	6,458	281	4.2%	3.1%	5.3%
Jasper Co.	16,646	15,986	660	4.0%	3.0%	5.1%
Starke Co.	9,491	9,037	454	4.8%	3.7%	6.3%
Pulaski Co.	8,034	7,812	222	2.8%	2.0%	3.9%
East Chicago	11,055	10,428	627	5.7%	4.7%	7.2%
Hammond	36,400	34,610	1,790	4.9%	4.1%	6.3%
Munster	11,942	11,546	396	3.3%	3.0%	4.6%
Dyer	8,476	8,157	319	3.8%	3.0%	4.2%
Schererville	15,904	15,329	575	3.6%	3.3%	4.9%
Crown Point	16,898	16,175	723	4.3%	3.6%	5.3%
Griffith	9,336	8,953	383	4.1%	3.1%	5.7%
Highland	12,286	11,797	489	4.0%	3.3%	5.6%
Gary	24,302	22,415	1,887	7.8%	6.7%	8.9%
Merrillville	18,424	17,468	956	5.2%	4.5%	6.4%
Hobart	15,377	14,663	714	4.6%	4.0%	6.3%
Lake Station	5,572	5,189	383	6.9%	5.1%	9.0%
Portage	19,040	18,226	814	4.3%	3.4%	5.6%
Chesterton	7,467	7,194	273	3.7%	2.8%	4.7%
Valparaiso	17,822	17,298	524	2.9%	2.5%	4.0%
Michigan City	13,581	12,987	594	4.4%	3.6%	5.3%
LaPorte	11,123	10,718	405	3.6%	3.0%	4.5%

Unemployment Rates by State (seasonally adjusted): January 2026

U.S. - 4.3%

Illinois - 4.9%

Indiana - 3.4%

Kentucky - 4.3%

Michigan - 5%

Ohio - 4.3%

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

Unemployment Rank by County (of 92 counties): January 2026

#2 - Starke (4.8%)

#3 - Lake (4.7%)

#7 - Newton (4.2%)

#11 - Jasper (4%)

#14 - LaPorte (3.9%)

#20 - Porter (3.6%)

#76 - Pulaski (2.8%)

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

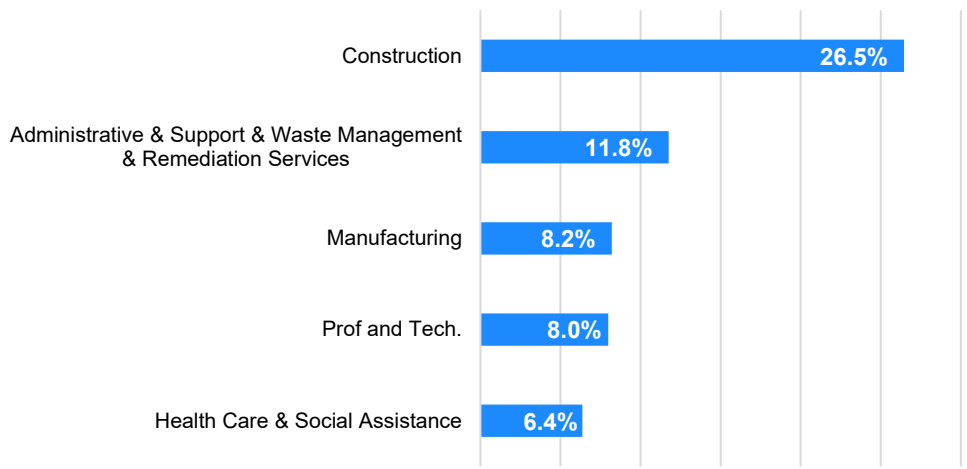
Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research & Analysis, Local Area Unemployment Statistics | Unemployment Statistics Released:04/26 | Notes: The data displayed are presented as estimates only. The most recent month's data are always preliminary and are revised when the next month's data are released. Gary Division has been renamed to Lake-Porter-Jasper Counties Division but still includes Newton County. Michigan City-LaPorte MSA: Laporte County

Statewide Average Weekly Hours & Earnings by Industry for January 2026			
Industry	Avg. Earnings per hr	Avg. # of hours worked per week	Avg. Earnings per week
Construction	\$39.28	37.9	\$1,488.71
Manufacturing	\$25.78	43.2	\$1,113.70
Durable Goods	\$26.35	44.3	\$1,167.31
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	\$24.53	41.8	\$1,025.35
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	\$28.06	38.4	\$1,077.50
Non-Durable Goods	\$24.33	40.7	\$990.23
Retail Trade	\$20.38	29.2	\$595.10
Financial Activities	\$28.88	37.9	\$1,094.55
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$30.62	33.1	\$1,013.52
Accommodation and Food Services	\$17.20	23.2	\$399.04

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Current Employment Statistics

Percentage of Unemployment Claims for Top 5 Region 1 Industries January 2026

Distribution as a Percent of Total



Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis

WARN Notices

WARN Notices for Region 1 for January 2026				
Company	City	County	# affected	Notice Date

There are no WARN Notices for January 2026 for Region 1.

Significant WARN Notices for nearby locations				
Company	City	County	# Affected	Notice Date

There are no WARN Notices for nearby locations

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: January 2026

Region 1

Initial Claims

01/03/26 - 775
01/10/26 - 786(D)
01/17/26 - 539
01/24/26 - 503(D)
01/31/26 - 661(D)

Continued Claims

01/03/26 - 3,617
01/10/26 - 3,592
01/17/26 - 3,503
01/24/26 - 3,673
01/31/26 - 3,808

Total Claims

01/03/26 - 4,392
01/10/26 - 4,378
01/17/26 - 4,042
01/24/26 - 4,176
01/31/26 - 4,469

State of Indiana

Initial Claims

01/03/26 - 4,665
01/10/26 - 7,494
01/17/26 - 3,789
01/24/26 - 3,186
01/31/26 - 3,722

Continued Claims

01/03/26 - 28,001
01/10/26 - 29,612
01/17/26 - 28,556
01/24/26 - 26,440
01/31/26 - 27,470

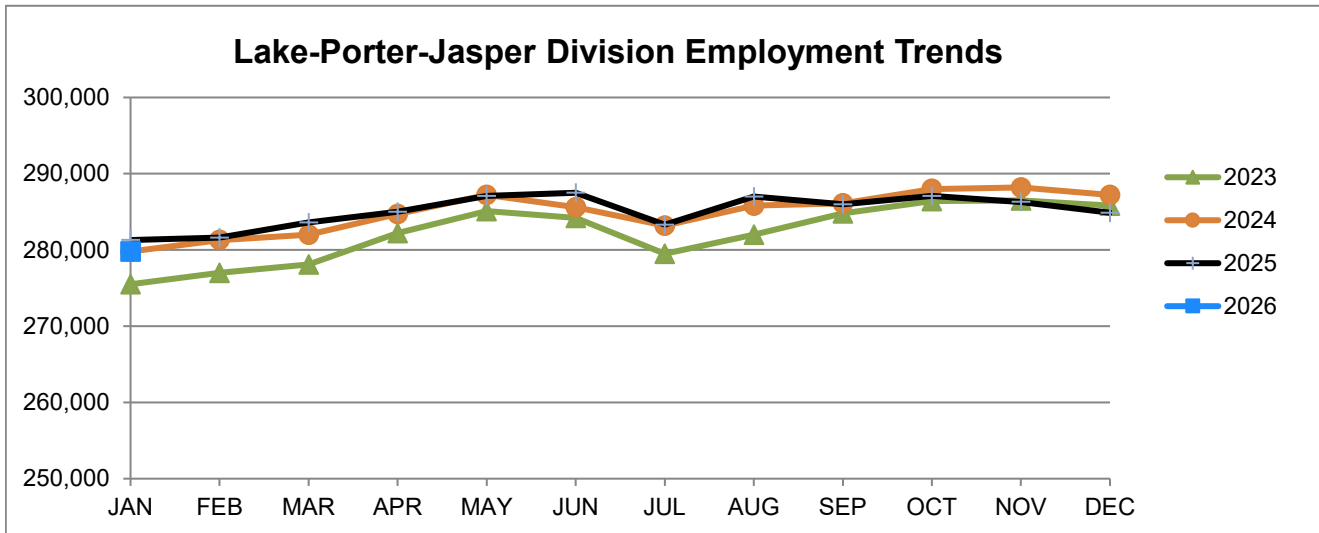
Total Claims

01/03/26 - 32,666
01/10/26 - 37,106
01/17/26 - 32,345
01/24/26 - 29,626
01/31/26 - 31,192

Notes: (D) Indicates one or more counties are excluded due to non-disclosure issues | Numbers subject to weekly revision | Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis

Lake-Porter-Jasper Division							
Wage and Salaried Employment	January 2026			# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Industry	Jan-26	Dec-25	Jan-25	Dec-25 to Jan-26	Jan-25 to Jan-26	Jan-25 to Jan-26	Jan-25 to Jan-26
Total Nonfarm	279,800	284,900	281,300	-5,100	-1.8%	-1,500	-0.5%
Total Private	247,500	251,700	248,700	-4,200	-1.7%	-1,200	-0.5%
Goods Producing	51,500	52,100	51,300	-600	-1.2%	200	0.4%
Service Providing	228,300	232,800	230,000	-4,500	-1.9%	-1,700	-0.7%
Private Service Providing	196,000	199,600	197,400	-3,600	-1.8%	-1,400	-0.7%
Mining and Logging	100	100	100	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Mining, Logging and Construction	17,700	18,000	17,100	-300	-1.7%	600	3.5%
Construction	17,600	17,900	17,000	-300	-1.7%	600	3.5%
Manufacturing	33,800	34,100	34,200	-300	-0.9%	-400	-1.2%
Durable Goods	24,800	24,900	24,800	-100	-0.4%	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	59,700	61,900	60,300	-2,200	-3.6%	-600	-1.0%
Wholesale Trade	10,700	10,800	10,600	-100	-0.9%	100	0.9%
Retail Trade	31,100	32,300	31,600	-1,200	-3.7%	-500	-1.6%
General Merchandise Stores	7,200	7,600	7,100	-400	-5.3%	100	1.4%
Other Gen Merch Stores	5,200	5,300	5,200	-100	-1.9%	0	0.0%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	17,900	18,800	18,100	-900	-4.8%	-200	-1.1%
Information	1,800	1,800	1,900	0	0.0%	-100	-5.3%
Financial Activities	9,500	9,700	9,500	-200	-2.1%	0	0.0%
Professional and Business Services	28,200	28,300	28,100	-100	-0.4%	100	0.4%
Employment Services	3,000	3,100	3,100	-100	-3.2%	-100	-3.2%
Education and Health Services	52,100	52,300	52,100	-200	-0.4%	0	0.0%
Educational Services	5,900	6,100	5,900	-200	-3.3%	0	0.0%
Health Care and Social Assistance	46,200	46,200	46,200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	13,500	13,500	13,500	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	30,400	31,100	31,400	-700	-2.3%	-1,000	-3.2%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	3,300	3,400	3,400	-100	-2.9%	-100	-2.9%
Food Services and Drinking Places	27,100	27,700	28,000	-600	-2.2%	-900	-3.2%
Other Services	14,300	14,500	14,100	-200	-1.4%	200	1.4%
Total Government	32,300	33,200	32,600	-900	-2.7%	-300	-0.9%
Federal Government	1,900	1,900	2,000	0	0.0%	-100	-5.0%
State Government	4,000	4,200	4,200	-200	-4.8%	-200	-4.8%
Local Government	26,400	27,100	26,400	-700	-2.6%	0	0.0%
Local Government Educational Services	15,300	15,700	15,300	-400	-2.6%	0	0.0%

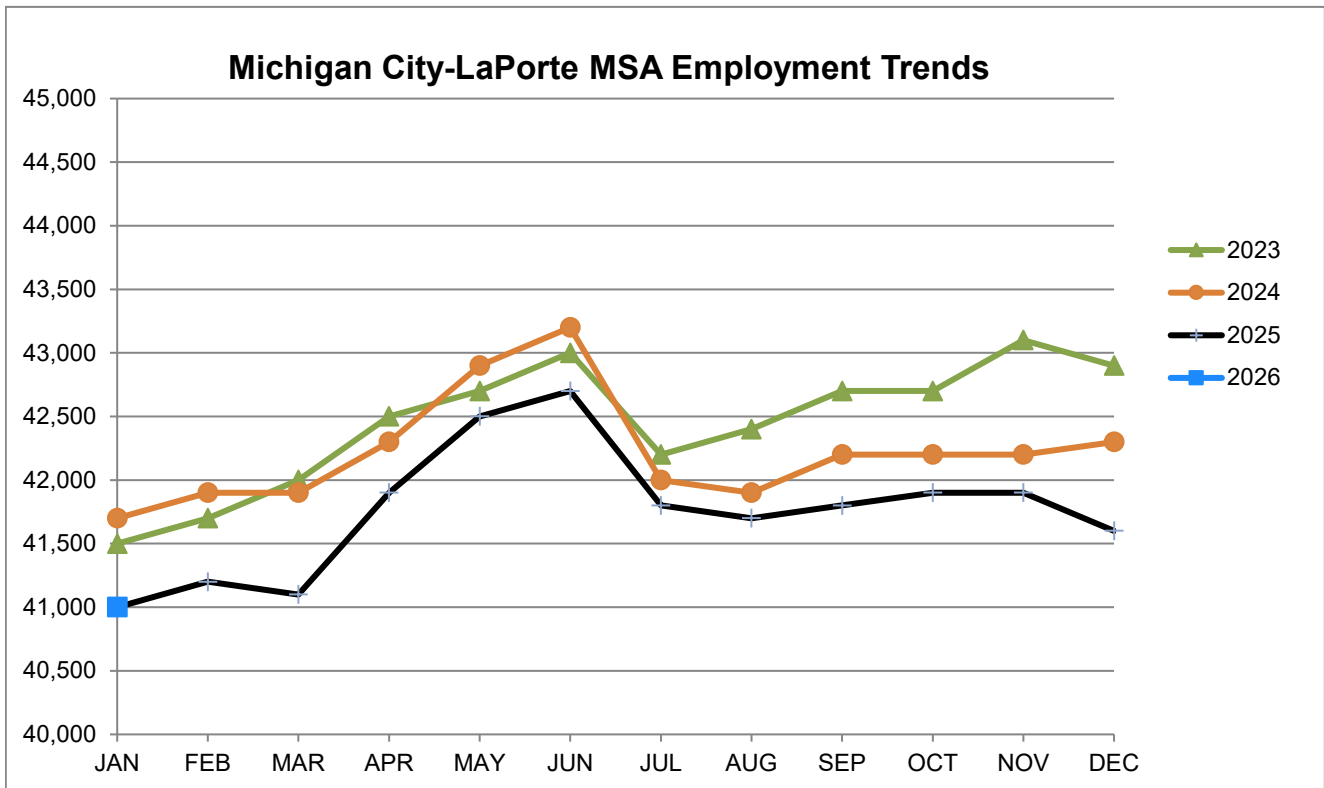
Source: Indiana Dept of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis, Current Employment Statistics



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.

Michigan City-LaPorte MSA							
Wage and Salaried Employment	January 2026			# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Industry	Jan-26	Dec-25	Jan-25	Dec-25 to Jan-26	Jan-25 to Jan-26	Jan-25 to Jan-26	Jan-25 to Jan-26
Total Nonfarm	41,000	41,600	41,000	-600	-1.4%	0	0.0%
Total Private	34,900	35,400	34,700	-500	-1.4%	200	0.6%
Goods Producing	10,300	10,300	10,300	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Service Providing	30,700	31,300	30,700	-600	-1.9%	0	0.0%
Private Service Providing	24,600	25,100	24,400	-500	-2.0%	200	0.8%
Mining, Logging and Construction	2,200	2,200	2,000	0	0.0%	200	10.0%
Manufacturing	8,100	8,100	8,300	0	0.0%	-200	-2.4%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	8,400	8,700	8,400	-300	-3.5%	0	0.0%
Wholesale Trade	1,600	1,700	1,700	-100	-5.9%	-100	-5.9%
Retail Trade	5,000	5,200	4,900	-200	-3.9%	100	2.0%
Information	200	200	200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	1,300	1,300	1,300	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Professional and Business Services	2,500	2,600	2,600	-100	-3.9%	-100	-3.9%
Education and Health Services	5,800	5,800	5,800	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	4,800	4,900	4,600	-100	-2.0%	200	4.4%
Other Services	1,600	1,600	1,500	0	0.0%	100	6.7%
Total Government	6,100	6,200	6,300	-100	-1.6%	-200	-3.2%
Federal Government	200	200	200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
State Government	1,800	1,800	2,000	0	0.0%	-200	-10.0%
Local Government	4,100	4,200	4,100	-100	-2.4%	0	0.0%
Local Government Educational Services	2,200	2,300	2,300	-100	-4.4%	-100	-4.4%

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 1 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	Home Health and Personal Care Aides
6	Customer Service Representatives
7	Food Service Managers
8	Food Preparation Workers
9	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
10	Physicians, All Other
11	Fast Food and Counter Workers
12	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General
13	Nursing Assistants
14	Health Technologists and Technicians, All Other
15	Physical Therapists
16	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners
17	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand
18	Medical and Health Services Managers
19	Cashiers
20	Family Medicine Physicians

Source: Lightcast

Applicant Pool	
Top 20 occupations desired by applicants on their resumes in the past 12 months	
Occupations	# of applicants
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	564
Production Workers, All Other	500
Helpers--Production Workers	500
Customer Service Representatives	390
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	347
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	327
Cashiers	298
Construction Laborers	240
Office Clerks, General	227
Medical Assistants	177
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	169
Retail Salespersons	161
Receptionists and Information Clerks	160
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	160
Carpenters	156
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	153
Managers, All Other	150
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	149
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	145
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	132

Source: Indiana Workforce Development, Indiana Career Connect

Consumer Price Index (CPI-U Change), Unadjusted Percent Change to January 2026 from						
CPI Item	Jan-25	Dec-25	Jan-25	Dec-25	Jan-25	Dec-25
	Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IN-IL-WI		U.S. City		Midwest Region*	
All Items	1.3%	0.4%	2.4%	0.4%	2.4%	0.4%
Food & Beverages	1.8%	1.1%	2.8%	0.4%	2.0%	0.3%
Housing	3.4%	-0.4%	3.4%	0.4%	4.5%	0.6%
Apparel	1.3%	5.4%	1.7%	2.0%	2.2%	2.7%
Transportation	-4.5%	-0.6%	-1.1%	-0.4%	-2.4%	-0.4%
Medical Care	0.7%	0.8%	3.2%	0.5%	2.6%	0.2%
Recreation	3.3%	0.2%	2.5%	0.8%	4.2%	0.6%
Education & Communication	-3.4%	3.3%	0.5%	0.3%	1.0%	0.9%
Other Goods & Services	3.6%	-1.4%	5.9%	1.5%	3.1%	-0.4%

*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

SNAPSHOT

January Indiana Employment

Released April 8, 2026



Unemployment Rate

*seasonally adjusted

Unemployment Rate

3.4%

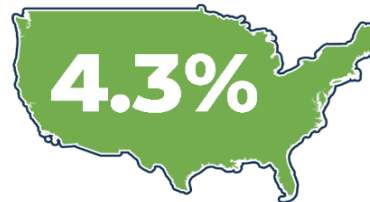


December 2025 Indiana

3.5%



National Unemployment Rate



LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE*

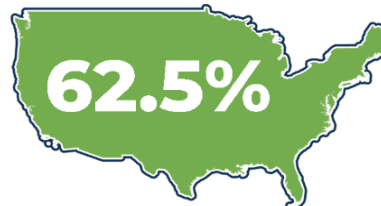
16+: 63.5%

25-44: 84.4%

25-54: 83.9%



National Labor Force



Open Job Postings

85,672


Jobs

As of January 31, 2026



Weekly UI Continued Claims

27,470



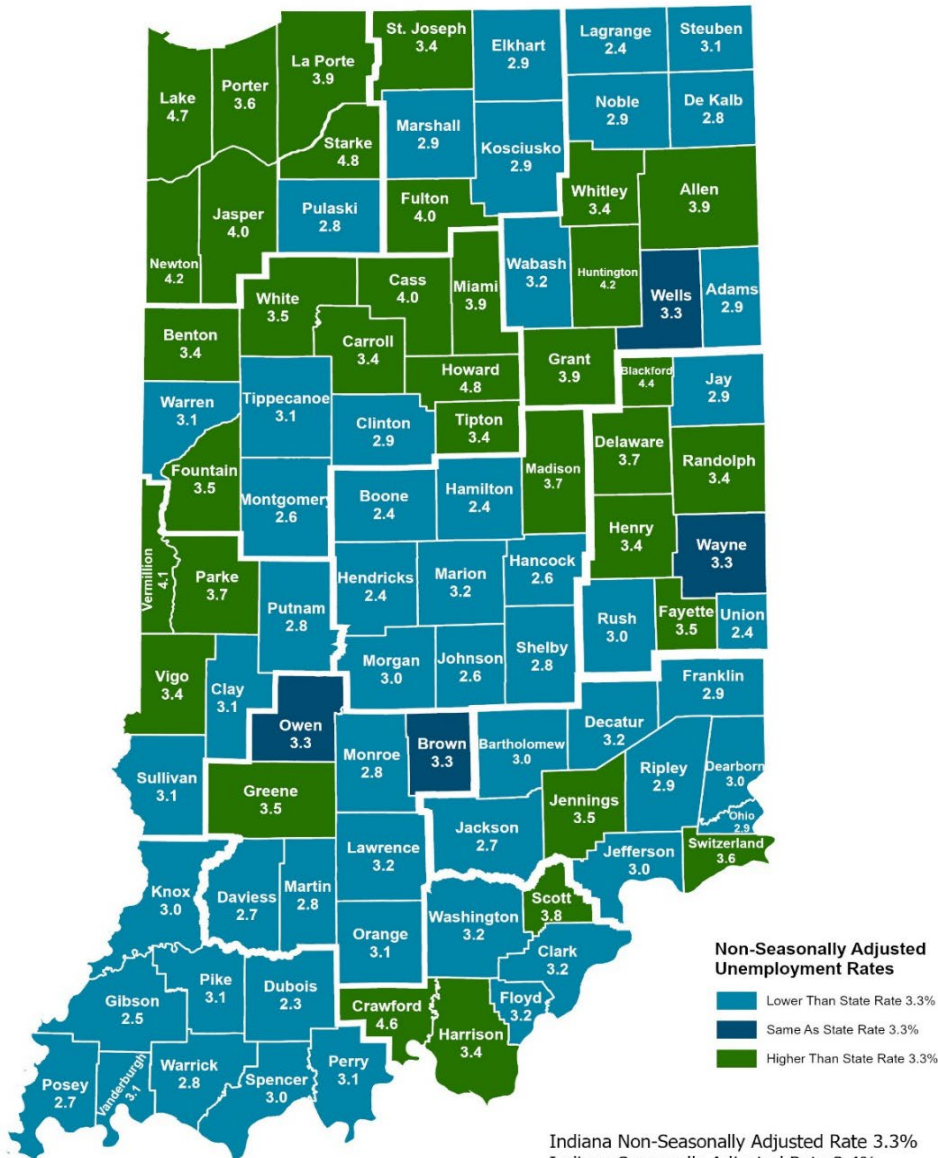
CLAIMS

Filed Week Ending February 7, 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 January 2026



Non-Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

- Lower Than State Rate 3.3%
- Same As State Rate 3.3%
- Higher Than State Rate 3.3%

Indiana Non-Seasonally Adjusted Rate 3.3%
 Indiana Seasonally Adjusted Rate 3.4%
 Source: DWD, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Questions?

Please contact the DWD Regional Labor Analyst listed below:

Kathy Jaworski

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