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INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

LABOR MARKET REVIEW



March 2026 Labor Market Review

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INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF
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DEVELOPMENT



LABOR MARKET REVIEW

Economic Growth Region 1

Statistical Data Report for March 2026, Released May 2026

State Employment and Unemployment

Unemployment rates were little changed in March in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Fourteen states had jobless rate increases from a year earlier, 2 states had decreases, and 34 states and the District had little change. The national unemployment rate, 4.3 percent, changed little over the month and from March 2025. In March 2026, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 3 states and was essentially unchanged in 47 states and the District of Columbia. Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment decreased in 3 states and the District, increased in 3 states, and was essentially unchanged in 44 states.



Economic Growth Region (EGR) 1

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

March 2026 Labor Force Estimates (not seasonally adjusted)						
Area	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Mar-26	Feb-26	Mar-25
U.S.	170,102,000	162,764,000	7,337,000	4.3%	4.7%	4.2%
IN	3,470,481	3,346,967	123,514	3.6%	3.8%	3.8%
Lake-Porter-Jasper Div	352,327	335,652	16,675	4.7%	5.0%	5.1%
MichCity-LaPorte MSA	51,709	49,566	2,143	4.1%	4.5%	4.5%
EGR 1	421,601	402,092	19,509	4.6%	4.9%	5.0%
Lake Co.	240,687	228,431	12,256	5.1%	5.4%	5.5%
Porter Co.	88,220	84,747	3,473	3.9%	4.2%	4.3%
LaPorte Co.	51,709	49,566	2,143	4.1%	4.5%	4.5%
Newton Co.	6,771	6,493	278	4.1%	4.7%	4.4%
Jasper Co.	16,649	15,981	668	4.0%	4.4%	4.4%
Starke Co.	9,452	9,000	452	4.8%	5.3%	5.2%
Pulaski Co.	8,113	7,874	239	2.9%	3.1%	3.4%
East Chicago	11,019	10,311	708	6.4%	6.4%	6.9%
Hammond	36,095	34,222	1,873	5.2%	5.5%	5.8%
Munster	11,883	11,417	466	3.9%	3.9%	4.5%
Dyer	8,391	8,066	325	3.9%	4.3%	3.8%
Schererville	15,758	15,157	601	3.8%	4.1%	3.9%
Crown Point	16,770	15,994	776	4.6%	5.1%	4.5%
Griffith	9,240	8,852	388	4.2%	4.0%	5.3%
Highland	12,203	11,665	538	4.4%	4.8%	4.4%
Gary	24,176	22,164	2,012	8.3%	8.8%	8.7%
Merrillville	18,278	17,272	1,006	5.5%	5.9%	6.1%
Hobart	15,275	14,498	777	5.1%	5.1%	5.3%
Lake Station	5,509	5,131	378	6.9%	8.1%	8.0%
Portage	18,909	18,026	883	4.7%	4.9%	5.2%
Chesterton	7,384	7,115	269	3.6%	3.8%	4.4%
Valparaiso	17,717	17,108	609	3.4%	3.6%	3.7%
Michigan City	13,519	12,932	587	4.3%	4.6%	5.1%
LaPorte	11,137	10,673	464	4.2%	4.5%	4.0%

Unemployment Rates by State (seasonally adjusted): March 2026

U.S. - 4.3%

Illinois - 5.1%

Indiana - 3.3%

Kentucky - 4.2%

Michigan - 5%

Ohio - 4.1%

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

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

#2 - Lake (5.1%)

#3 - Starke (4.8%)

#11 - LaPorte (4.1%)

#12 - Newton (4.1%)

#16 - Jasper (4%)

#18 - Porter (3.9%)

#84 - Pulaski (2.9%)

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

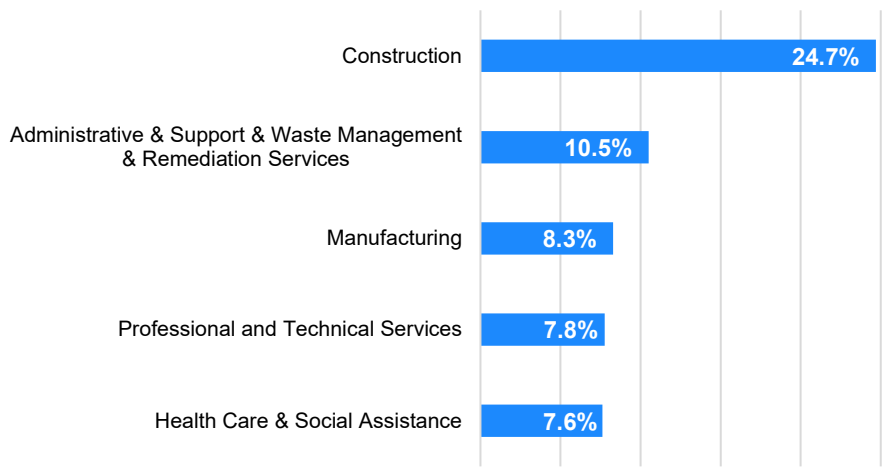
Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research & Analysis, Local Area Unemployment Statistics | Unemployment Statistics Released:05/26 | Notes: The data displayed are presented as estimates only. The most recent month's data are always preliminary and are revised when the next month's 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 March 2026			
Industry	Avg. Earnings per hr	Avg. # of hours worked per week	Avg. Earnings per week
Construction	\$39.34	37.8	\$1,487.05
Manufacturing	\$26.08	43.4	\$1,131.87
Durable Goods	\$26.81	44.2	\$1,185.00
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	\$24.98	40.7	\$1,016.69
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	\$27.77	39.4	\$1,094.14
Non-Durable Goods	\$24.28	41.5	\$1,007.62
Retail Trade	\$20.74	29.9	\$620.13
Financial Activities	\$28.66	38.3	\$1,097.68
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$30.90	32.7	\$1,010.43
Accommodation and Food Services	\$17.32	23.1	\$400.09

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Current Employment Statistics

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

Distribution as a Percent of Total



Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis

WARN Notices

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

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

Significant WARN Notices for nearby locations				
Company	City	County	# Affected	Notice Date
Six (6) Illinois companies in Cook Co, IL	Various	Cook, IL	593	3/3/26-3/31/26

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/factsht/warn.htm>

Unemployment Claims: March 2026

Region 1

Initial Claims

03/07/26 - 354(D)
03/14/26 - 366(D)
03/21/26 - 586(D)
03/28/26 - 520(D)

Continued Claims

03/07/26 - 3,213
03/14/26 - 3,118
03/21/26 - 3,064
03/28/26 - 3,132

Total Claims

03/07/26 - 3,567
03/14/26 - 3,484
03/21/26 - 3,650
03/28/26 - 3,652

State of Indiana

Initial Claims

03/07/26 - 2,586
03/14/26 - 2,608
03/21/26 - 2,418
03/28/26 - 2,279

Continued Claims

03/07/26 - 23,875
03/14/26 - 22,954
03/21/26 - 21,974
03/28/26 - 20,972

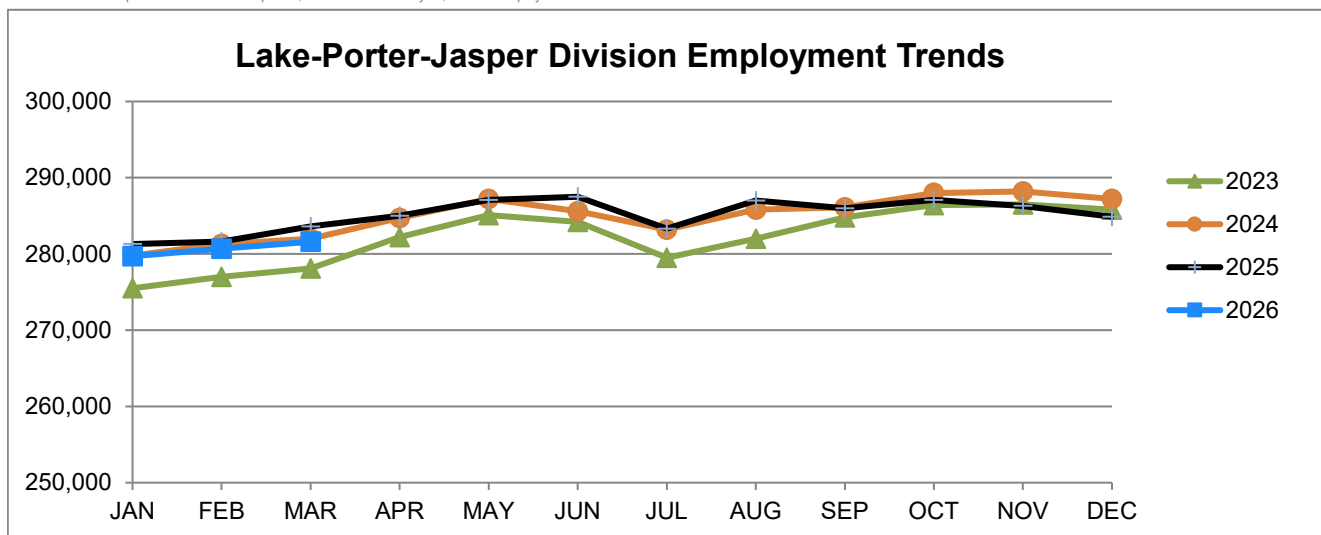
Total Claims

03/07/26 - 26,461
03/14/26 - 25,562
03/21/26 - 24,392
03/28/26 - 23,251

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	March 2026			# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Industry	Mar-26	Feb-26	Mar-25	Feb-26 to Mar-26	Mar-25 to Mar-26		
Total Nonfarm	281,600	280,700	283,600	900	0.3%	-2,000	-0.7%
Total Private	248,700	247,900	250,700	800	0.3%	-2,000	-0.8%
Goods Producing	51,700	51,200	52,500	500	1.0%	-800	-1.5%
Service Providing	229,900	229,500	231,100	400	0.2%	-1,200	-0.5%
Private Service Providing	197,000	196,700	198,200	300	0.2%	-1,200	-0.6%
Mining and Logging	100	100	100	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Mining, Logging and Construction	17,500	17,300	18,000	200	1.2%	-500	-2.8%
Construction	17,400	17,200	17,900	200	1.2%	-500	-2.8%
Manufacturing	34,200	33,900	34,500	300	0.9%	-300	-0.9%
Durable Goods	24,900	24,900	24,900	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	59,600	59,400	60,000	200	0.3%	-400	-0.7%
Wholesale Trade	10,700	10,700	10,700	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Retail Trade	31,200	31,000	31,600	200	0.7%	-400	-1.3%
General Merchandise Stores	7,100	7,100	7,000	0	0.0%	100	1.4%
Other Gen Merch Stores	5,200	5,200	5,100	0	0.0%	100	2.0%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	17,700	17,700	17,700	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Information	1,700	1,700	1,900	0	0.0%	-200	-10.5%
Financial Activities	9,600	9,500	9,500	100	1.1%	100	1.1%
Professional and Business Services	28,300	28,300	28,500	0	0.0%	-200	-0.7%
Employment Services	3,100	3,000	3,100	100	3.3%	0	0.0%
Education and Health Services	52,000	52,400	52,000	-400	-0.8%	0	0.0%
Educational Services	5,800	6,200	5,800	-400	-6.5%	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	13,400	0	0.0%	100	0.8%
Leisure and Hospitality	31,300	30,900	32,100	400	1.3%	-800	-2.5%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	3,500	3,400	3,600	100	2.9%	-100	-2.8%
Food Services and Drinking Places	27,800	27,500	28,500	300	1.1%	-700	-2.5%
Other Services	14,500	14,500	14,200	0	0.0%	300	2.1%
Total Government	32,900	32,800	32,900	100	0.3%	0	0.0%
Federal Government	1,800	1,900	2,000	-100	-5.3%	-200	-10.0%
State Government	4,200	4,100	4,500	100	2.4%	-300	-6.7%
Local Government	26,900	26,800	26,400	100	0.4%	500	1.9%
Local Government Educational Services	15,800	15,700	15,500	100	0.6%	300	1.9%

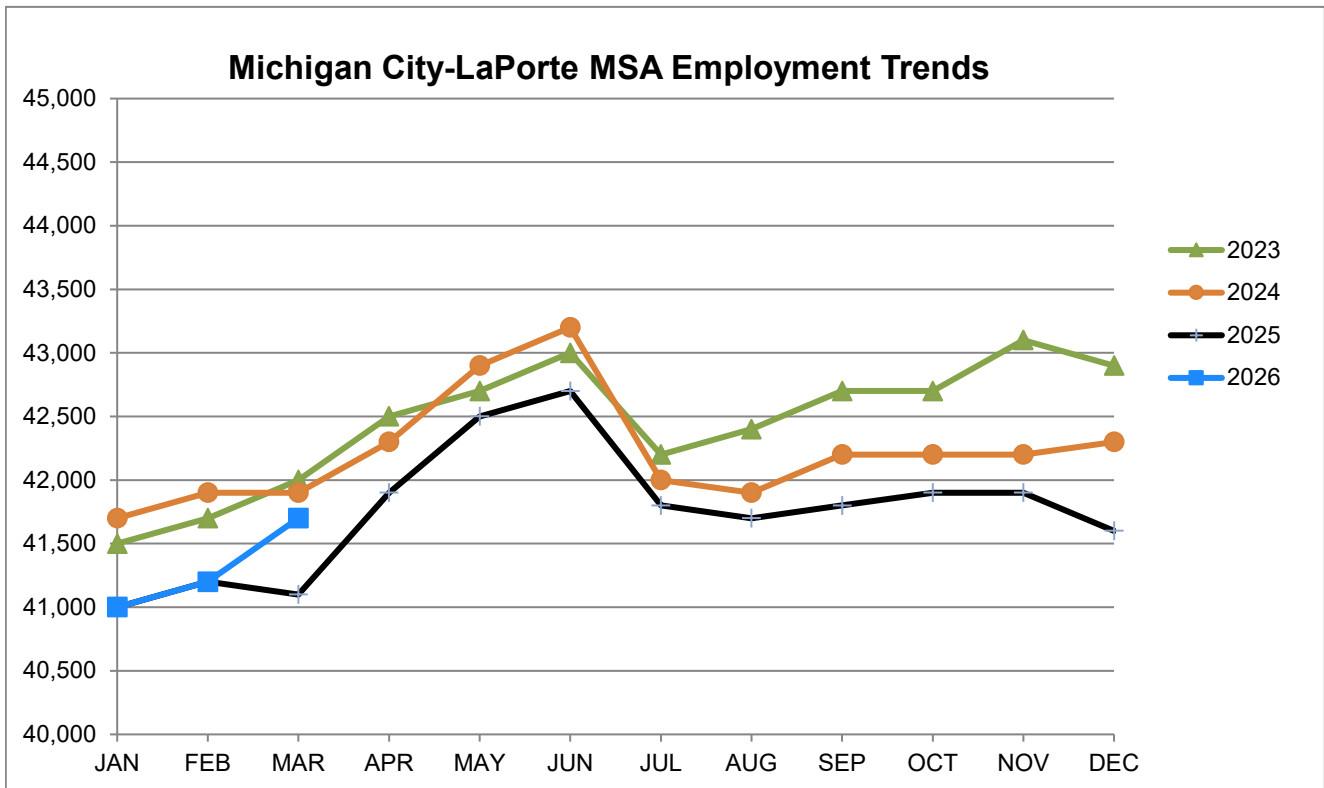
Source: Indiana Dept of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis, Current Employment Statistics



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	March 2026			# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Industry	Mar-26	Feb-26	Mar-25	Feb-26 to Mar-26	Mar-25 to Mar-26	Mar-25 to Mar-26	Mar-25 to Mar-26
Total Nonfarm	41,700	41,200	41,100	500	1.2%	600	1.5%
Total Private	35,400	35,100	34,700	300	0.9%	700	2.0%
Goods Producing	10,500	10,400	10,200	100	1.0%	300	2.9%
Service Providing	31,200	30,800	30,900	400	1.3%	300	1.0%
Private Service Providing	24,900	24,700	24,500	200	0.8%	400	1.6%
Mining, Logging and Construction	2,200	2,200	2,000	0	0.0%	200	10.0%
Manufacturing	8,300	8,200	8,200	100	1.2%	100	1.2%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	8,500	8,400	8,400	100	1.2%	100	1.2%
Wholesale Trade	1,600	1,600	1,700	0	0.0%	-100	-5.9%
Retail Trade	5,000	5,000	4,900	0	0.0%	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	2,600	2,500	2,600	100	4.0%	0	0.0%
Education and Health Services	5,800	5,900	5,900	-100	-1.7%	-100	-1.7%
Leisure and Hospitality	4,900	4,800	4,600	100	2.1%	300	6.5%
Other Services	1,600	1,600	1,500	0	0.0%	100	6.7%
Total Government	6,300	6,100	6,400	200	3.3%	-100	-1.6%
Federal Government	200	200	200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
State Government	1,900	1,800	2,000	100	5.6%	-100	-5.0%
Local Government	4,200	4,100	4,200	100	2.4%	0	0.0%
Local Government Educational Services	2,200	2,200	2,400	0	0.0%	-200	-8.3%

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	Physicians, All Other
7	Food Service Managers
8	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners
9	Fast Food and Counter Workers
10	Physical Therapists
11	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General
12	Customer Service Representatives
13	Health Technologists and Technicians, All Other
14	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
15	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand
16	Food Preparation Workers
17	Cashiers
18	Nursing Assistants
19	Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners
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	422
Production Workers, All Other	315
Helpers--Production Workers	303
Customer Service Representatives	293
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	254
Cashiers	210
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	208
Office Clerks, General	175
Construction Laborers	160
Medical Assistants	150
Retail Salespersons	120
Receptionists and Information Clerks	111
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	104
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	103
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	101
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	100
Managers, All Other	95
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	90
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	89
Carpenters	89

Source: Indiana Workforce Development, Indiana Career Connect

Consumer Price Index (CPI-U Change), Unadjusted Percent Change to March 2026 from						
CPI Item	Mar-25	Feb-26	Mar-25	Feb-26	Mar-25	Feb-26
	Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IN-IL-WI		U.S. City		Midwest Region*	
All Items	2.3%	0.7%	3.3%	1.0%	3.4%	0.9%
Food & Beverages	3.3%	0.9%	2.6%	0.1%	2.3%	0.0%
Housing	3.4%	-0.1%	3.4%	0.4%	4.0%	-0.1%
Apparel	0.7%	-2.4%	3.4%	1.8%	3.6%	0.9%
Transportation	1.8%	5.4%	5.0%	5.1%	3.8%	5.4%
Medical Care	-1.2%	-1.5%	3.1%	-0.1%	3.9%	0.1%
Recreation	3.0%	0.0%	2.2%	-0.1%	4.3%	0.5%
Education & Communication	-3.8%	0.3%	0.0%	0.1%	-0.2%	0.0%
Other Goods & Services	1.7%	-1.2%	3.8%	-0.3%	2.3%	0.7%

*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

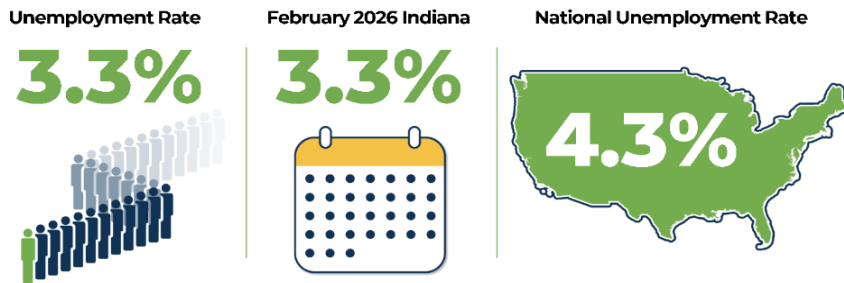
March Indiana Employment

Released May 6, 2026

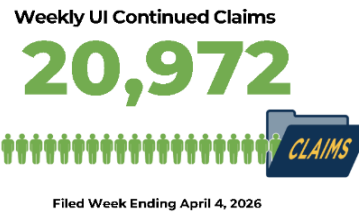


Unemployment Rate

*seasonally adjusted



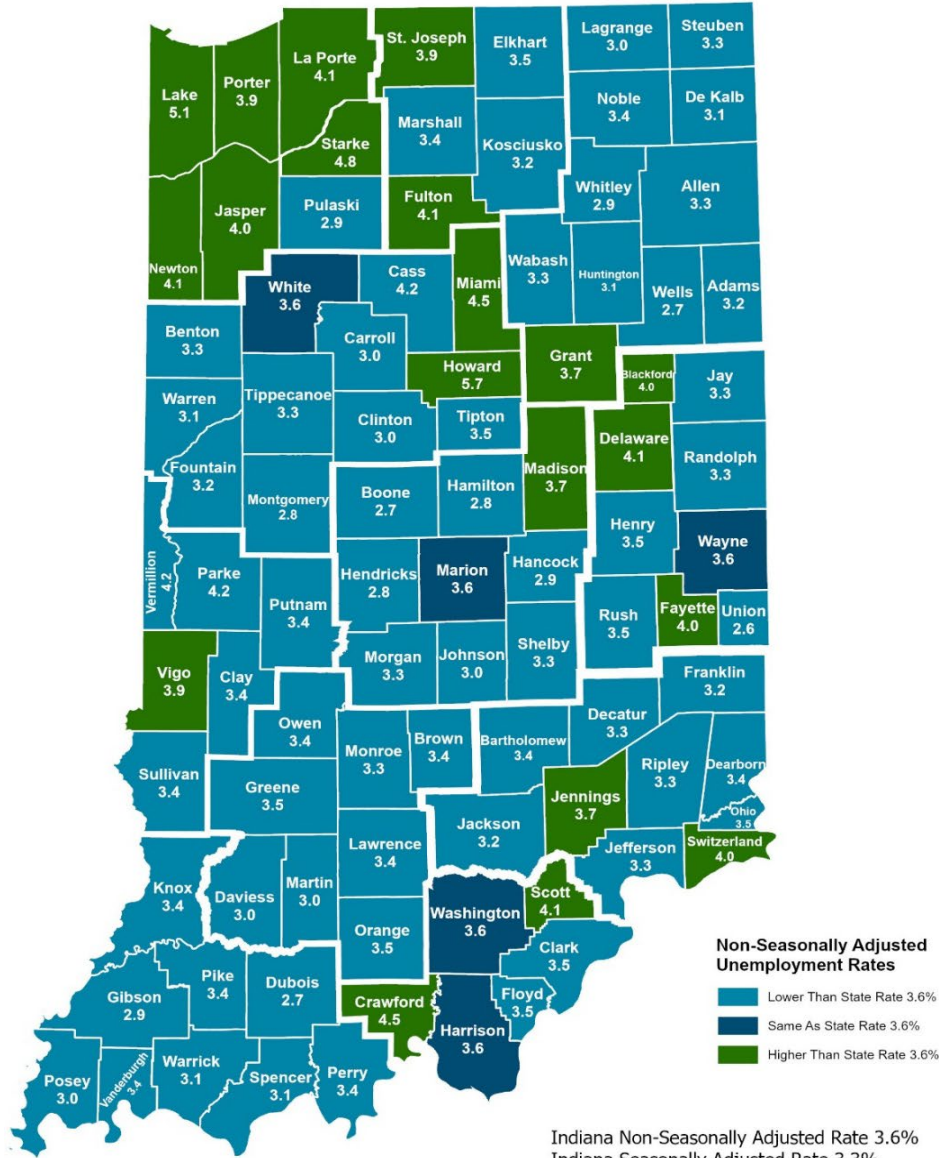
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE*



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 March 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 DWD Regional Labor Analyst listed below:

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