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INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

LABOR MARKET REVIEW



April 2026
Labor Market Review

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INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT



LABOR MARKET REVIEW

Economic Growth Region 1

Statistical Data Report for April 2026, Released June 2026

State Employment and Unemployment

Unemployment rates were lower in April in 3 states, higher in 2 states, and stable in 45 states and the District of Columbia, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Nineteen states had jobless rate increases from a year earlier, 6 states had decreases, and 25 states and the District had little change. The national unemployment rate, 4.3 percent, was unchanged over the month and was little changed from April 2025. In April 2026, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 6 states and was essentially unchanged in 44 states and the District of Columbia. Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment decreased in 1 state and the District, increased in 1 state, and was essentially unchanged in 48 states.



Economic Growth Region (EGR) 1

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

April 2026 Labor Force Estimates (not seasonally adjusted)						
Area	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Apr-26	Mar-26	Apr-25
U.S.	169,548,000	162,781,000	6,768,000	4.0%	4.3%	3.9%
IN	3,467,580	3,372,212	95,368	2.8%	3.6%	3.3%
Lake-Porter-Jasper Div	352,856	339,029	13,827	3.9%	4.7%	4.3%
MichCity-LaPorte MSA	51,918	50,168	1,750	3.4%	4.2%	3.8%
EGR 1	422,816	406,674	16,142	3.8%	4.6%	4.2%
Lake Co.	240,692	230,633	10,059	4.2%	5.1%	4.7%
Porter Co.	88,626	85,633	2,993	3.4%	3.9%	3.6%
LaPorte Co.	51,918	50,168	1,750	3.4%	4.2%	3.8%
Newton Co.	6,782	6,569	213	3.1%	4.1%	3.6%
Jasper Co.	16,756	16,194	562	3.4%	4.0%	3.4%
Starke Co.	9,488	9,120	368	3.9%	4.8%	4.4%
Pulaski Co.	8,554	8,357	197	2.3%	2.8%	2.7%
East Chicago	10,923	10,410	513	4.7%	6.5%	5.4%
Hammond	35,906	34,552	1,354	3.8%	5.2%	4.9%
Munster	11,928	11,527	401	3.4%	3.9%	3.6%
Dyer	8,414	8,144	270	3.2%	3.9%	3.2%
Schererville	15,849	15,303	546	3.4%	3.8%	3.3%
Crown Point	16,892	16,148	744	4.4%	4.6%	4.0%
Griffith	9,248	8,937	311	3.4%	4.2%	5.1%
Highland	12,240	11,778	462	3.8%	4.4%	3.9%
Gary	23,948	22,377	1,571	6.6%	8.3%	8.3%
Merrillville	18,344	17,439	905	4.9%	5.5%	5.2%
Hobart	15,266	14,638	628	4.1%	5.1%	4.6%
Lake Station	5,449	5,181	268	4.9%	6.9%	6.1%
Portage	18,927	18,215	712	3.8%	4.6%	4.3%
Chesterton	7,409	7,189	220	3.0%	3.7%	3.3%
Valparaiso	17,835	17,287	548	3.1%	3.4%	3.2%
Michigan City	13,529	13,089	440	3.3%	4.4%	4.7%
LaPorte	11,167	10,802	365	3.3%	4.2%	3.2%

Unemployment Rates by State (seasonally adjusted): April 2026

U.S. - 4.3%

Illinois - 5.1%

Indiana - 3.2%

Kentucky - 4.3%

Michigan - 5%

Ohio - 3.9%

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

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

#2 - Lake (4.2%)

#3 - Starke (3.9%)

#4 - Jasper (3.4%)

#5 - LaPorte (3.4%)

#6 - Porter (3.4%)

#14 - Newton (3.1%)

#76 - Pulaski (2.3%)

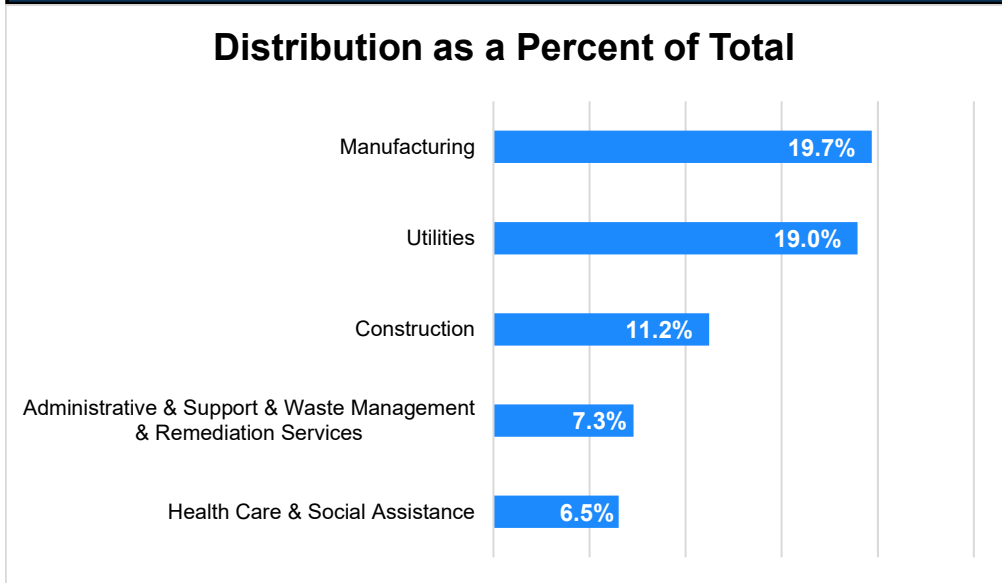
Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Development, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research & Analysis, Local Area Unemployment Statistics | Unemployment Statistics Released:06/26 | 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 April 2026			
Industry	Avg. Earnings per hr	Avg. # of hours worked per week	Avg. Earnings per week
Construction	\$39.85	40.2	\$1,601.97
Manufacturing	\$26.21	43.9	\$1,150.62
Durable Goods	\$26.74	45.8	\$1,224.69
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	\$25.45	41.9	\$1,066.36
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	\$27.40	37.1	\$1,016.54
Non-Durable Goods	\$24.75	39.5	\$977.63
Retail Trade	\$20.50	29.4	\$602.70
Financial Activities	\$28.96	37.5	\$1,086.00
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$31.40	32.1	\$1,007.94
Accommodation and Food Services	\$17.24	23.8	\$410.31

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Current Employment Statistics

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



Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis

WARN Notices

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

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

Significant WARN Notices for nearby locations				
Company	City	County	# Affected	Notice Date
Heartland Human Care Services (International Children's Reception Center)	Chicago, IL	Cook, IL	120	4/1/26
Gerresheimer Moulded Glass Chicago Inc.	Chicago Heights, IL	Cook, IL	172	4/13/26

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: April 2026

Region 1

Initial Claims

04/04/26 - 744(D)
04/11/26 - 932(D)
04/18/26 - 419(D)
04/25/26 - 299(D)

Continued Claims

04/04/26 - 3,260
04/11/26 - 3,646
04/18/26 - 3,437
04/25/26 - 3,294

Total Claims

04/04/26 - 4,004
04/11/26 - 4,578
04/18/26 - 3,856
04/25/26 - 3,593

State of Indiana

Initial Claims

04/04/26 - 2,727
04/11/26 - 3,629
04/18/26 - 2,479
04/25/26 - 2,138

Continued Claims

04/04/26 - 20,966
04/11/26 - 21,000
04/18/26 - 20,087
04/25/26 - 19,380

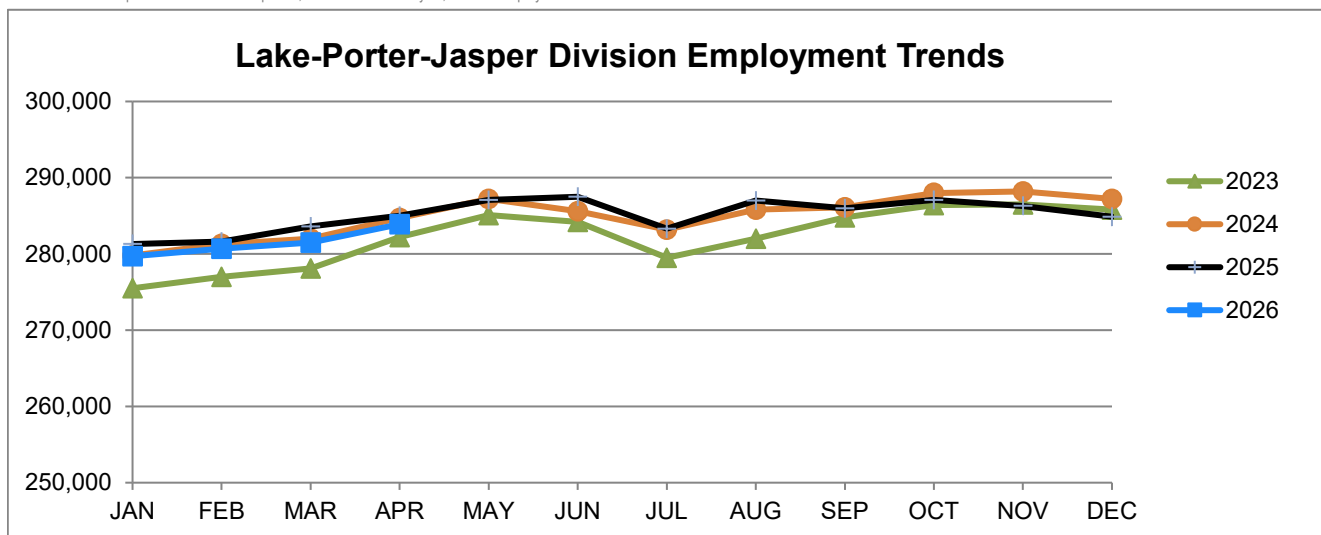
Total Claims

04/04/26 - 23,693
04/11/26 - 24,629
04/18/26 - 22,566
04/25/26 - 21,518

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	April 2026			# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Industry	Apr-26	Mar-26	Apr-25	Mar-26 to Apr-26	Apr-25 to Apr-26	Apr-25 to Apr-26	Apr-25 to Apr-26
Total Nonfarm	283,900	281,500	285,000	2,400	0.9%	-1,100	-0.4%
Total Private	251,000	248,600	251,500	2,400	1.0%	-500	-0.2%
Goods Producing	52,300	51,800	52,500	500	1.0%	-200	-0.4%
Service Providing	231,600	229,700	232,500	1,900	0.8%	-900	-0.4%
Private Service Providing	198,700	196,800	199,000	1,900	1.0%	-300	-0.2%
Mining and Logging	100	100	100	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Mining, Logging and Construction	18,200	17,600	18,700	600	3.4%	-500	-2.7%
Construction	18,100	17,500	18,600	600	3.4%	-500	-2.7%
Manufacturing	34,100	34,200	33,800	-100	-0.3%	300	0.9%
Durable Goods	24,800	24,900	24,300	-100	-0.4%	500	2.1%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	60,000	59,700	59,800	300	0.5%	200	0.3%
Wholesale Trade	10,900	10,800	10,700	100	0.9%	200	1.9%
Retail Trade	31,400	31,200	31,300	200	0.6%	100	0.3%
General Merchandise Stores	7,100	7,100	6,900	0	0.0%	200	2.9%
Other Gen Merch Stores	5,200	5,200	5,100	0	0.0%	100	2.0%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	17,700	17,700	17,800	0	0.0%	-100	-0.6%
Information	1,700	1,700	1,900	0	0.0%	-200	-10.5%
Financial Activities	9,600	9,600	9,600	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Professional and Business Services	29,100	28,300	28,800	800	2.8%	300	1.0%
Employment Services	3,200	3,100	3,100	100	3.2%	100	3.2%
Education and Health Services	52,200	51,900	52,100	300	0.6%	100	0.2%
Educational Services	5,900	5,800	6,100	100	1.7%	-200	-3.3%
Health Care and Social Assistance	46,300	46,100	46,000	200	0.4%	300	0.7%
General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	13,500	13,500	13,500	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	31,800	31,200	32,700	600	1.9%	-900	-2.8%
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	3,500	3,400	3,700	100	2.9%	-200	-5.4%
Food Services and Drinking Places	28,300	27,800	29,000	500	1.8%	-700	-2.4%
Other Services	14,300	14,400	14,100	-100	-0.7%	200	1.4%
Total Government	32,900	32,900	33,500	0	0.0%	-600	-1.8%
Federal Government	1,900	1,800	2,000	100	5.6%	-100	-5.0%
State Government	4,200	4,200	4,600	0	0.0%	-400	-8.7%
Local Government	26,800	26,900	26,900	-100	-0.4%	-100	-0.4%
Local Government Educational Services	15,500	15,800	15,400	-300	-1.9%	100	0.7%

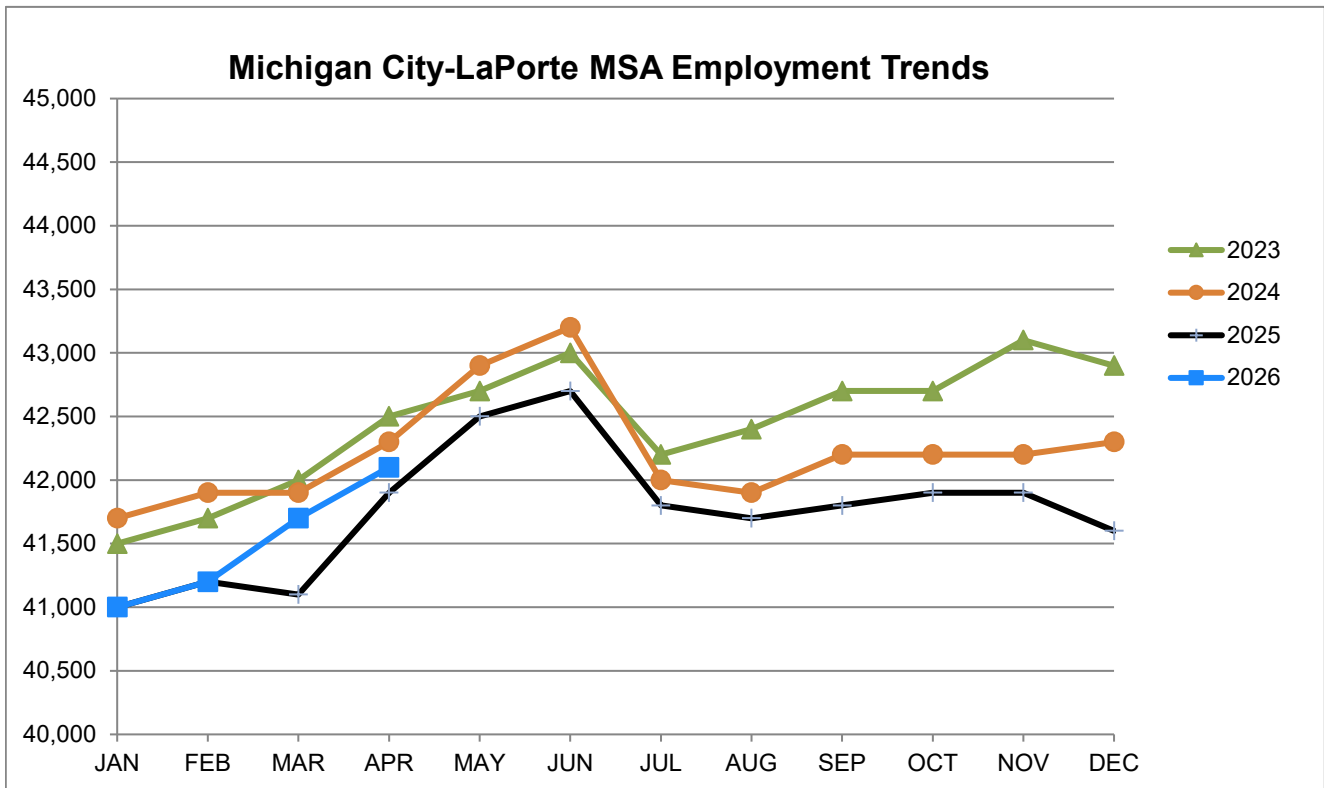
Source: Indiana Dept of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis, Current Employment Statistics



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.

Michigan City-LaPorte MSA							
Wage and Salaried Employment	April 2026			# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Industry	Apr-26	Mar-26	Apr-25	Mar-26 to Apr-26	Apr-25 to Apr-26	Mar-26 to Apr-26	Apr-25 to Apr-26
Total Nonfarm	42,100	41,700	41,900	400	1.0%	200	0.5%
Total Private	35,700	35,400	35,400	300	0.9%	300	0.9%
Goods Producing	10,500	10,500	10,300	0	0.0%	200	1.9%
Service Providing	31,600	31,200	31,600	400	1.3%	0	0.0%
Private Service Providing	25,200	24,900	25,100	300	1.2%	100	0.4%
Mining, Logging and Construction	2,300	2,200	2,100	100	4.6%	200	9.5%
Manufacturing	8,200	8,300	8,200	-100	-1.2%	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	8,600	8,500	8,500	100	1.2%	100	1.2%
Wholesale Trade	1,700	1,600	1,700	100	6.3%	0	0.0%
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	1,400	0	0.0%	-100	-7.1%
Professional and Business Services	2,600	2,600	2,700	0	0.0%	-100	-3.7%
Education and Health Services	5,900	5,800	5,900	100	1.7%	0	0.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	5,000	4,900	4,900	100	2.0%	100	2.0%
Other Services	1,600	1,600	1,500	0	0.0%	100	6.7%
Total Government	6,400	6,300	6,500	100	1.6%	-100	-1.5%
Federal Government	200	200	200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
State Government	1,900	1,900	2,000	0	0.0%	-100	-5.0%
Local Government	4,300	4,200	4,300	100	2.4%	0	0.0%
Local Government Educational Services	2,300	2,200	2,400	100	4.6%	-100	-4.2%

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	Retail Salespersons
3	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers
4	First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers
5	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners
6	Home Health and Personal Care Aides
7	Physicians, All Other
8	Physical Therapists
9	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General
10	Fast Food and Counter Workers
11	Customer Service Representatives
12	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
13	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand
14	Nursing Assistants
15	Medical and Health Services Managers
16	Cashiers
17	Food Preparation Workers
18	Medical Assistants
19	Health Technologists and Technicians, All Other
20	Food Service Managers

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	461
Production Workers, All Other	362
Helpers--Production Workers	336
Customer Service Representatives	320
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	272
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	235
Cashiers	234
Office Clerks, General	191
Construction Laborers	189
Medical Assistants	157
Retail Salespersons	129
Receptionists and Information Clerks	124
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	121
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	120
Managers, All Other	115
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	110
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	106
Carpenters	102
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	102
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	99

Source: Indiana Workforce Development, Indiana Career Connect

Consumer Price Index (CPI-U Change), Unadjusted Percent Change to April 2026 from						
CPI Item	Apr-25	Mar-26	Apr-25	Mar-26	Apr-25	Mar-26
	Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IN-IL-WI		U.S. City		Midwest Region*	
All Items	3.1%	0.9%	3.8%	0.9%	4.1%	0.8%
Food & Beverages	3.3%	0.3%	3.1%	0.5%	3.1%	0.5%
Housing	4.0%	1.0%	3.6%	0.6%	4.7%	0.8%
Apparel	6.0%	0.0%	4.2%	-0.4%	5.4%	-0.8%
Transportation	5.0%	3.2%	7.1%	2.9%	5.8%	2.7%
Medical Care	-1.4%	-0.2%	2.5%	-0.1%	3.4%	-0.3%
Recreation	3.4%	0.1%	2.3%	0.0%	4.2%	0.0%
Education & Communication	-3.2%	-0.5%	0.2%	-0.1%	0.1%	0.2%
Other Goods & Services	-0.2%	0.1%	4.4%	0.9%	0.5%	-1.0%

*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

April Indiana Employment

Released May 22, 2026



Unemployment Rate

*seasonally adjusted

Unemployment Rate

3.2%

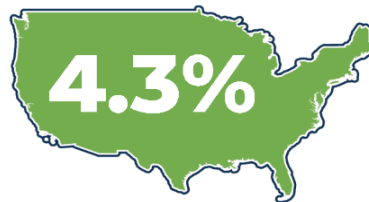


March 2026 Indiana

3.3%



National Unemployment Rate



LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE*

16+: 63.2%

25-44: 83.8%

25-54: 83.4%



National Labor Force



Open Job Postings

94,224

Jobs

As of April 30, 2026



Weekly UI Continued Claims

19,380

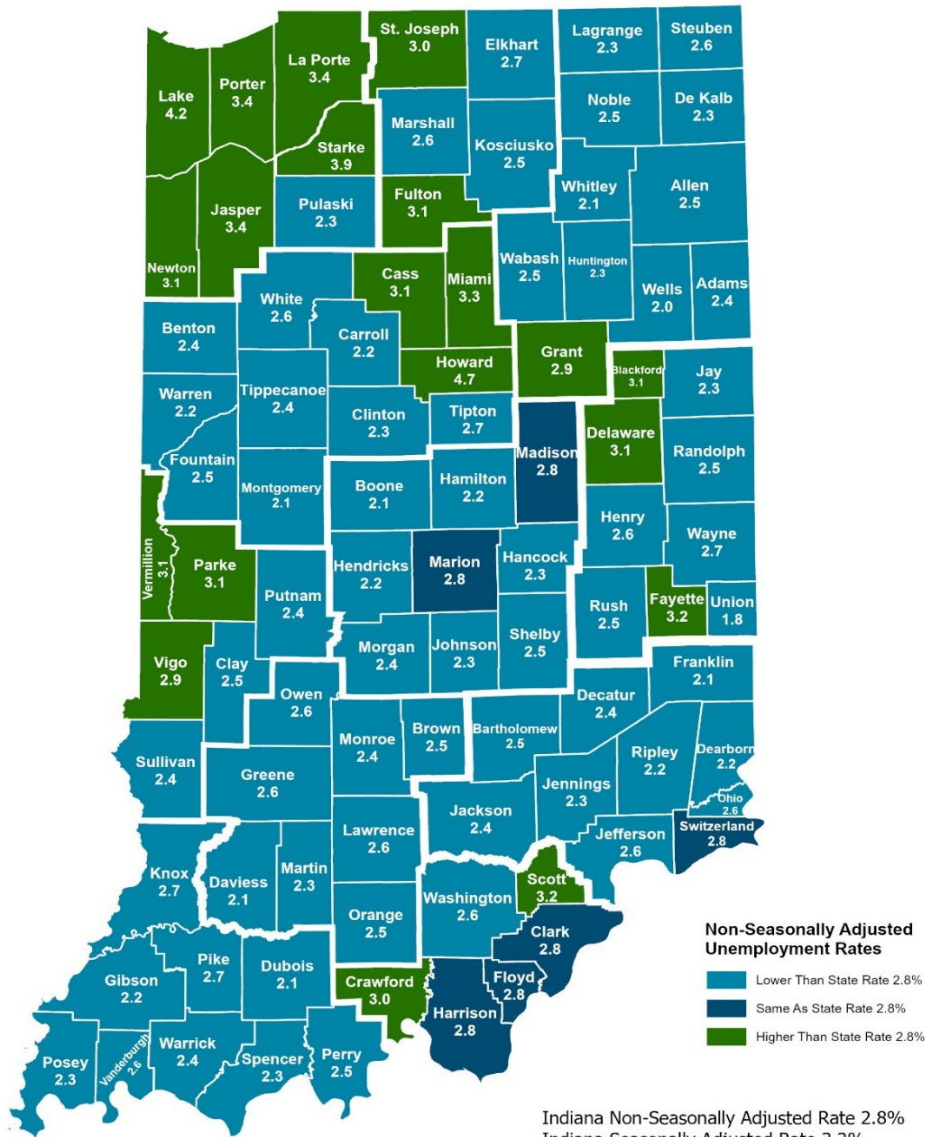


Filed Week Ending May 2, 2026

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 April 2026



Non-Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

- Lower Than State Rate 2.8%
- Same As State Rate 2.8%
- Higher Than State Rate 2.8%

Indiana Non-Seasonally Adjusted Rate 2.8%
 Indiana Seasonally Adjusted Rate 3.2%
 Source: DWD, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Questions?

Please contact the DWD Regional Labor Analyst listed below:

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