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INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

LABOR MARKET REVIEW



August 2026 Labor Market Review

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INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

Economic Growth Region 2

Statistical Data Report for August 2026, Released October 2026

State Employment and Unemployment

Unemployment rates were lower in August in 8 states and the District of Columbia and stable in 42 states, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Fourteen states and the District had jobless rate decreases from a year earlier, 10 states had increases, and 26 states had little change. South Dakota had the lowest jobless rate in August, 2.0 percent, followed by North Dakota, 2.2 percent. The rate in Ohio (3.3 percent) set a new series low. (All state series begin in 1976.) The District of Columbia had the highest unemployment rate, 5.7 percent. The national unemployment rate, 4.1 percent, was unchanged over the month and was little changed from August 2025.

In August 2026, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 4 states and was essentially unchanged in 46 states and the District of Columbia. Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 8 states, decreased in the District, and was essentially unchanged in 42 states. The largest job gains occurred in Texas (+159,400), California (+138,500), and North Carolina (+65,600). The largest percentage increases occurred in Louisiana, New Mexico, and South Carolina (+1.6 percent each). The only job loss occurred in the District (-27,000, or -3.6 percent).



Economic Growth Region (EGR) 2

Elkhart, Fulton, Kosciusko, Marshall and St. Joseph Counties

Unemployment Rates by State (seasonally adjusted): August 2026

U.S. - 4.1%

Illinois - 4.7%

Indiana - 3.3%

Kentucky - 4.7%

Michigan - 5%

Ohio - 3.3%

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

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

#6 - St. Joseph (4.1%)

#8 - Elkhart (3.8%)

#28 - Fulton (3.5%)

#38 - Kosciusko (3.4%)

#57 - Marshall (3.2%)

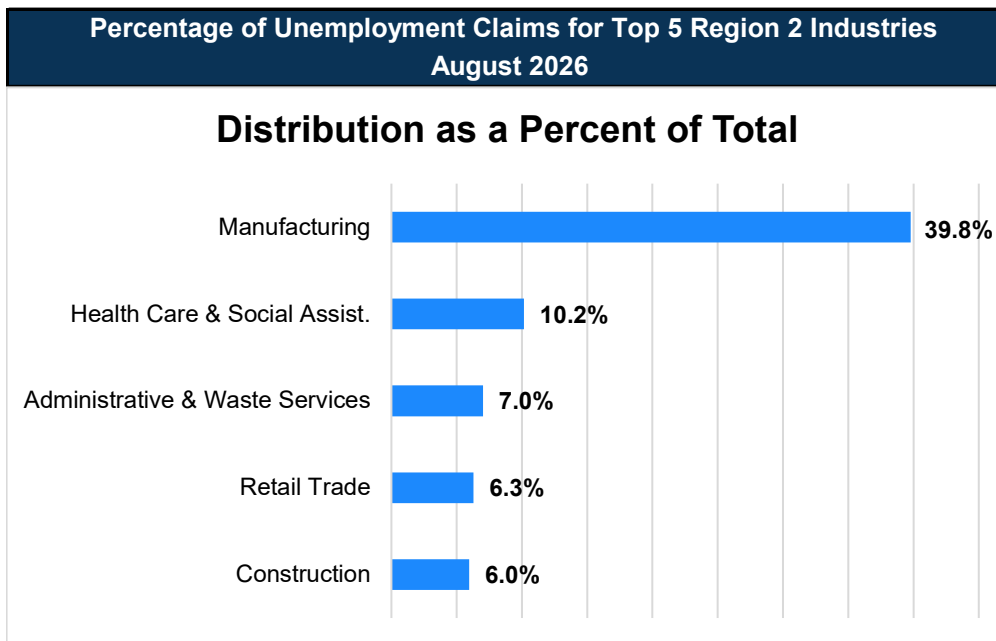
Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Development, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

August 2026 Labor Force Estimates (not seasonally adjusted)						
Area	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Aug-26	Jul-26	Aug-25
U.S.	170,048,000	162,667,000	7,381,000	4.3%	4.4%	4.5%
IN	3,488,974	3,364,991	123,983	3.6%	3.6%	3.8%
EGR 2	302,345	290,761	11,584	3.8%	3.9%	4.1%
Elkhart-Goshen MSA	99,456	95,672	3,784	3.8%	4.1%	4.1%
South Bend-Mishawaka MSA	152,233	145,823	6,410	4.2%	4.2%	4.5%
Elkhart Co.	99,456	95,672	3,784	3.8%	4.1%	4.1%
Fulton Co.	9,641	9,303	338	3.5%	3.6%	3.7%
Kosciusko Co.	40,443	39,067	1,376	3.4%	3.5%	3.6%
Marshall Co.	23,168	22,417	751	3.2%	3.4%	3.7%
St Joseph Co.	129,637	124,302	5,335	4.1%	4.1%	4.4%
Elkhart	25,168	24,121	1,047	4.2%	4.3%	4.6%
Goshen	15,453	14,802	651	4.2%	4.9%	4.1%
Mishawaka	24,834	23,796	1,038	4.2%	4.1%	4.3%
Plymouth	5,695	5,527	168	2.9%	3.2%	3.7%
South Bend	47,276	45,222	2,054	4.3%	4.3%	4.7%
Warsaw	8,110	7,833	277	3.4%	3.4%	3.7%

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research & Analysis, Local Area Unemployment Statistics | Unemployment Statistics Released:10/26 | 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.

Consumer Price Index (CPI-U Change), Unadjusted Percent Change to August 2026 from				
CPI Item	Aug-25	Jul-26	Aug-25	Jul-26
	U.S. City		Midwest Region*	
All Items	3.4%	0.3%	3.6%	0.4%
Food & Beverages	2.6%	0.1%	2.5%	0.5%
Housing	3.1%	0.2%	3.7%	0.0%
Apparel	3.6%	1.9%	4.0%	0.6%
Transportation	6.2%	0.5%	5.8%	1.0%
Medical Care	1.6%	-0.1%	1.6%	-0.2%
Recreation	2.7%	0.0%	3.8%	0.8%
Education & Communication	2.1%	1.9%	2.4%	1.9%
Other Goods & Services	4.2%	0.1%	2.2%	0.3%

*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



Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis

WARN Notices

WARN Notices for Region 2 for August 2026				
Company	City	County	# affected	Notice Date

There are no WARN Notices for August 2026 for Region 2.

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: August 2026

Region 2

Initial Claims

08/01/26 - 181(D)
08/08/26 - 235(D)
08/15/26 - 212(D)
08/22/26 - 239(D)
08/29/26 - 222(D)

Continued Claims

08/01/26 - 1,479
08/08/26 - 1,519
08/15/26 - 1,545
08/22/26 - 1,500
08/29/26 - 1,472

Total Claims

08/01/26 - 1,660
08/08/26 - 1,754
08/15/26 - 1,757
08/22/26 - 1,739
08/29/26 - 1,694

State of Indiana

Initial Claims

08/01/26 - 1,953
08/08/26 - 2,319
08/15/26 - 2,213
08/22/26 - 2,273
08/29/26 - 2,318

Continued Claims

08/01/26 - 18,164
08/08/26 - 17,953
08/15/26 - 17,757
08/22/26 - 17,631
08/29/26 - 17,551

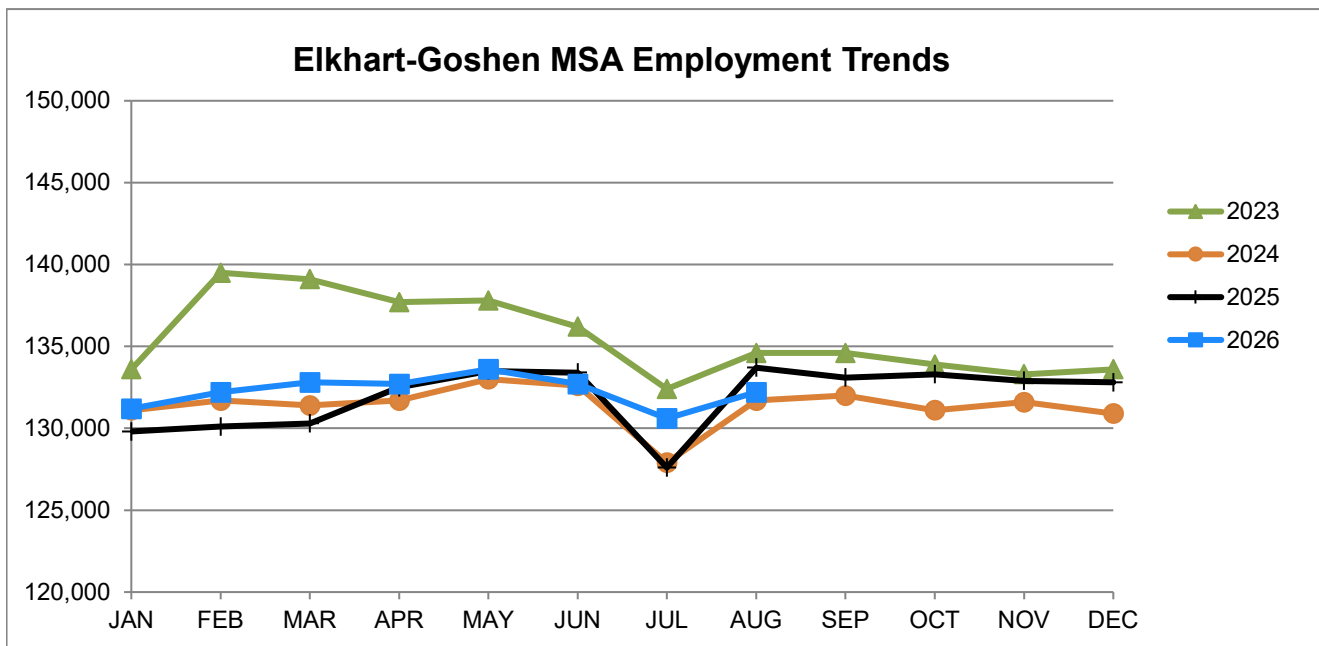
Total Claims

08/01/26 - 20,117
08/08/26 - 20,272
08/15/26 - 19,970
08/22/26 - 19,904
08/29/26 - 19,869

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

Elkhart-Goshen MSA						
Wage and Salaried Employment	August 2026			# Change	% Change	# Change % Change
Industry	Aug-26	Jul-26	Aug-25	Jul-26 to Aug-26	Aug-25 to Aug-26	
Total Nonfarm	132,200	130,600	133,700	1,600	1.2%	-1,500 -1.1%
Total Private	124,600	123,800	125,000	800	0.7%	-400 -0.3%
Goods Producing	65,700	65,100	66,600	600	0.9%	-900 -1.4%
Service-Providing	66,500	65,500	67,100	1,000	1.5%	-600 -0.9%
Private Service Providing	58,900	58,700	58,400	200	0.3%	500 0.9%
Mining, Logging and Construction	5,200	5,100	5,000	100	2.0%	200 4.0%
Manufacturing	60,500	60,000	61,600	500	0.8%	-1,100 -1.8%
Durable Goods	51,800	51,600	52,800	200	0.4%	-1,000 -1.9%
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	33,300	33,100	34,200	200	0.6%	-900 -2.6%
Motor Vehicle Body and Trailer Manufacturing	28,600	28,400	29,400	200	0.7%	-800 -2.7%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	19,900	20,100	20,100	-200	-1.0%	-200 -1.0%
Wholesale Trade	8,000	8,000	8,000	0	0.0%	0 0.0%
Retail Trade	9,500	9,600	9,500	-100	-1.0%	0 0.0%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	2,400	2,500	2,600	-100	-4.0%	-200 -7.7%
Information	500	500	500	0	0.0%	0 0.0%
Financial Activities	3,300	3,300	3,300	0	0.0%	0 0.0%
Professional and Business Services	10,300	10,100	9,800	200	2.0%	500 5.1%
Education and Health Services	12,300	12,200	12,200	100	0.8%	100 0.8%
Leisure and Hospitality	7,500	7,500	7,600	0	0.0%	-100 -1.3%
Other Services	5,100	5,000	4,900	100	2.0%	200 4.1%
Government	7,600	6,800	8,700	800	11.8%	-1,100 -12.6%
Federal Government	200	200	200	0	0.0%	0 0.0%
State Government	300	300	300	0	0.0%	0 0.0%
Local Government	7,100	6,300	8,200	800	12.7%	-1,100 -13.4%
Local Government Educational Services	4,900	3,700	5,400	1,200	32.4%	-500 -9.3%

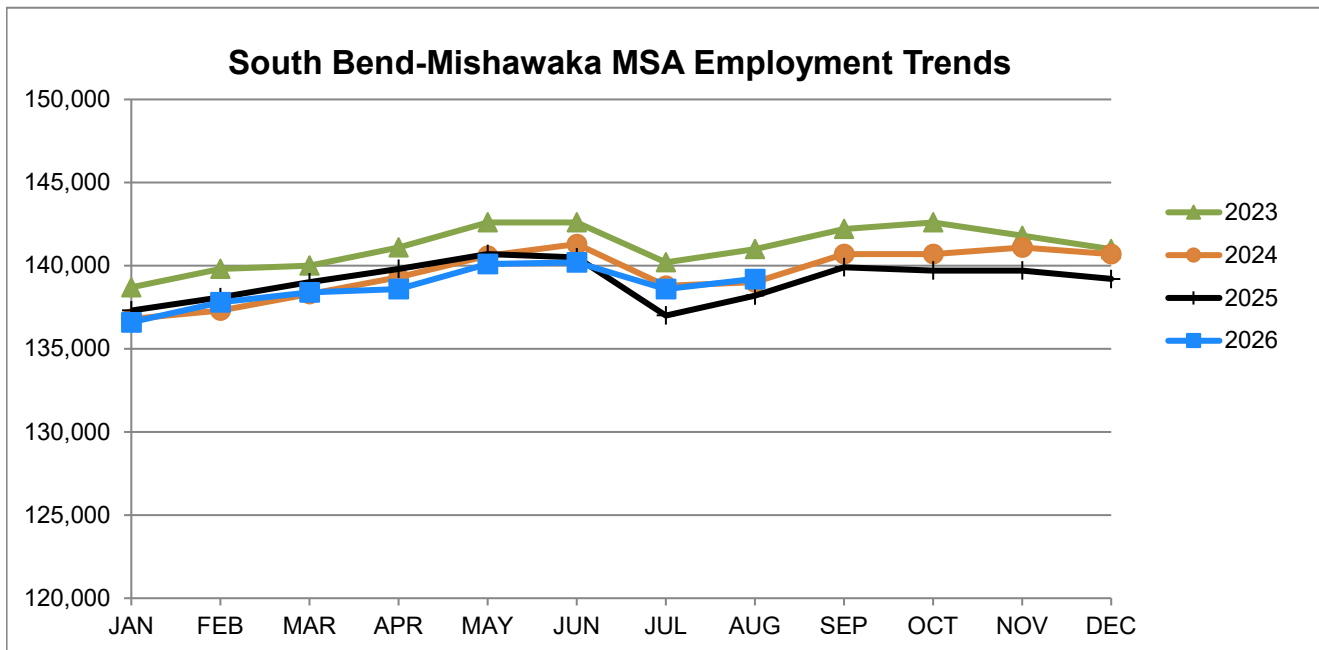
Source: Indiana Dept of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis, Current Employment Statistics



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.

South Bend-Mishawaka MSA						
Wage and Salaried Employment	August 2026			# Change	% Change	# Change % Change
Industry	Aug-26	Jul-26	Aug-25	Jul-26 to Aug-26	Aug-25 to Aug-26	
Total Nonfarm	139,200	138,600	138,200	600	0.4%	1,000 0.7%
Total Private	124,300	124,200	124,100	100	0.1%	200 0.2%
Goods Producing	21,700	21,600	21,800	100	0.5%	-100 -0.5%
Service Providing	117,500	117,000	116,400	500	0.4%	1,100 1.0%
Private Service Providing	102,600	102,600	102,300	0	0.0%	300 0.3%
Mining, Logging and Construction	6,900	6,900	6,700	0	0.0%	200 3.0%
Manufacturing	14,800	14,700	15,100	100	0.7%	-300 -2.0%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	25,200	25,200	25,300	0	0.0%	-100 -0.4%
Wholesale Trade	6,400	6,400	6,600	0	0.0%	-200 -3.0%
Retail Trade	14,400	14,400	14,000	0	0.0%	400 2.9%
General Merchandise Stores	3,500	3,500	3,500	0	0.0%	0 0.0%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	4,400	4,400	4,700	0	0.0%	-300 -6.4%
Information	2,200	2,300	2,200	-100	-4.4%	0 0.0%
Financial Activities	5,900	6,000	6,000	-100	-1.7%	-100 -1.7%
Professional & Business Services	13,900	13,800	13,300	100	0.7%	600 4.5%
Educational & Health Services	34,100	34,100	33,700	0	0.0%	400 1.2%
Hospitals	7,200	7,200	7,000	0	0.0%	200 2.9%
Leisure & Hospitality	15,100	15,100	15,800	0	0.0%	-700 -4.4%
Food Services and Drinking Places	11,200	11,100	11,600	100	0.9%	-400 -3.5%
Other Services	6,200	6,100	6,000	100	1.6%	200 3.3%
Total Government	14,900	14,400	14,100	500	3.5%	800 5.7%
Federal Government	900	900	900	0	0.0%	0 0.0%
State Government	2,400	2,200	2,400	200	9.1%	0 0.0%
Local Government	11,600	11,300	10,800	300	2.7%	800 7.4%
Local Government Educational Services	5,200	4,600	4,900	600	13.0%	300 6.1%

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 2 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	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General
6	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand
7	Production Workers, All Other
8	Stockers and Order Fillers
9	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
10	Customer Service Representatives
11	Nursing Assistants
12	Industrial Engineers
13	Home Health and Personal Care Aides
14	General and Operations Managers
15	Financial Managers
16	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners
17	Coaches and Scouts
18	Fast Food and Counter Workers
19	Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary
20	Driver/Sales Workers

Source: Lightcast

Applicant Pool	
Top 20 occupations desired by applicants on their resumes in the past 12 months	
Occupations	# of applicants
Production Workers, All Other	503
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	268
Helpers--Production Workers	228
Customer Service Representatives	175
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	149
Office Clerks, General	129
Cashiers	111
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	94
Team Assemblers	93
Shipping, Receiving, and Traffic Clerks	91
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	85
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	85
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	72
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	66
Managers, All Other	62
Receptionists and Information Clerks	62
Retail Salespersons	60
Packers and Packagers, Hand	60
General and Operations Managers	58
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	58

Source: Indiana Workforce Development, Indiana Career Connect

Statewide Average Weekly Hours & Earnings by Industry for August 2026			
Industry	Average Earnings (per hour)	Average # of hours worked (weekly)	Average Earnings (per week)
Construction	\$40.36	42.7	\$1,723.37
Manufacturing	\$26.41	43.4	\$1,146.19
Durable Goods	\$27.17	44.5	\$1,209.07
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	\$26.08	44.1	\$1,150.13
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	\$28.31	40.0	\$1,132.40
Non-Durable Goods	\$24.55	41.0	\$1,006.55
Retail Trade	\$20.54	29.4	\$603.88
Financial Activities	\$31.02	38.3	\$1,188.07
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$31.29	32.6	\$1,020.05
Accommodation and Food Services	\$16.95	23.9	\$405.11

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Current Employment Statistics

SNAPSHOT

August Indiana Employment

Released September 18, 2026

Unemployment Rate

*seasonally adjusted

Unemployment Rate

3.3%

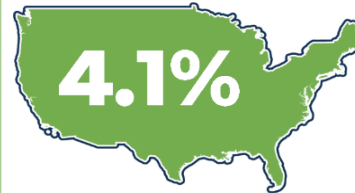


July 2026 Indiana

3.3%



National Unemployment Rate



LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE*

16+: **63.0%**

25-44: **84.0%**

25-54: **83.5%**



National Labor Force



Open Job Postings

102,895
Jobs

As of August 30, 2026



Weekly UI Continued Claims

17,551



Filed Week Ending September 5, 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 August 2026



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Questions?

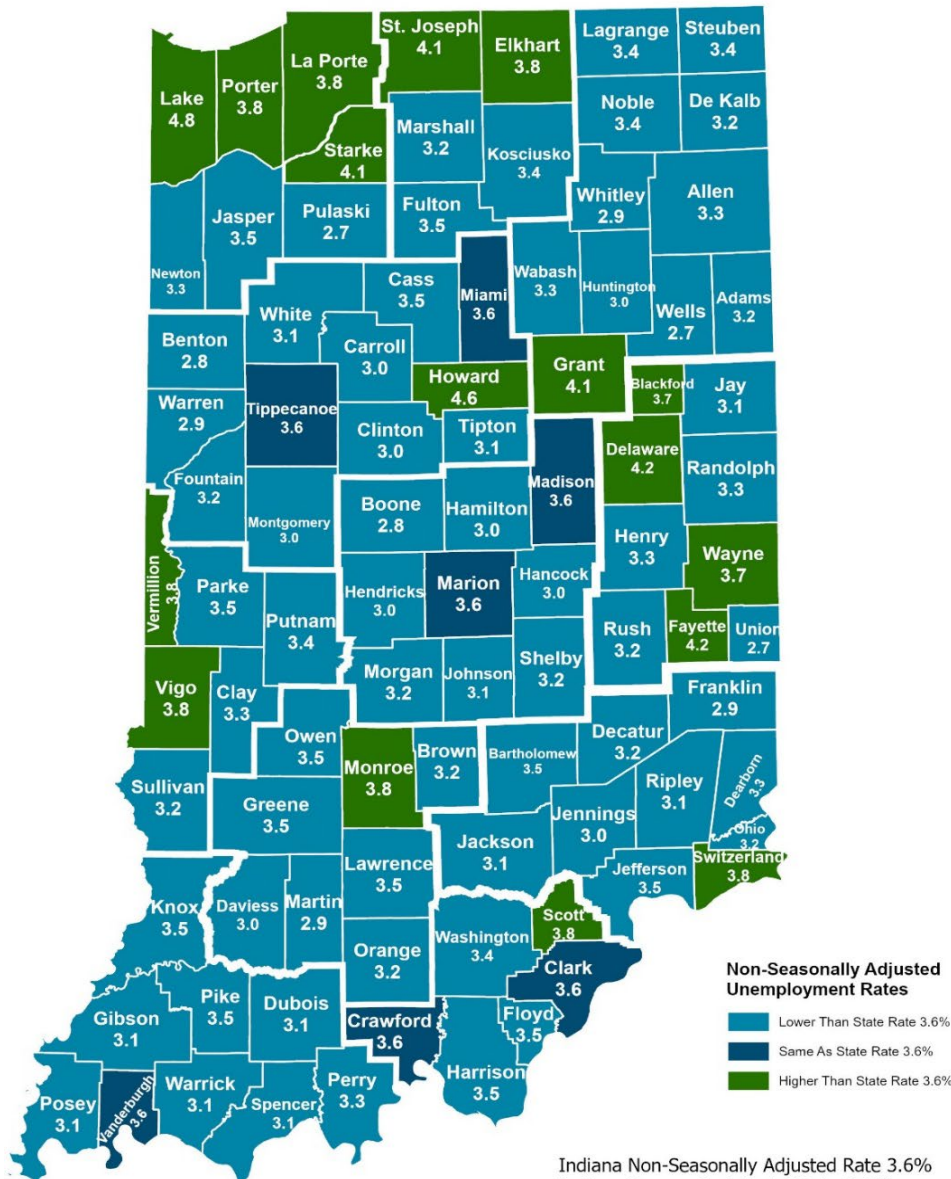
Please contact the DWD
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Analyst listed below:

Kathy Jaworski

[Indiana Department of
Workforce Development](https://www.in.gov/dwd/)

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Indiana Non-Seasonally Adjusted Rate 3.6%
Indiana Seasonally Adjusted Rate 3.3%
Source: DWD, Local Area Unemployment Statistics