



HOOSIERS BY THE NUMBERS

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LABOR MARKET REVIEW



February 2026 Labor Market Review

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Economic Growth Region 3

Statistical Data Report for February 2026, Released April 2026

State Employment and Unemployment

Unemployment rates were higher in February in 1 state and stable in 49 states and the District of Columbia, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Thirteen states and the District of Columbia had unemployment rate increases from February 2025, the largest of which was in Delaware (+1.1 percentage points). The only over-the-year rate decreases occurred in Ohio (-0.7 percentage point) and Indiana (-0.5 point). Thirty-five states had jobless rates that were not notably different from those of a year earlier, though some had changes that were at least as large numerically as the significant changes.

The national unemployment rate, 4.4 percent, changed little over the month but was 0.2 percentage point higher than in February 2025.

In February 2026, nonfarm payroll employment decreased in 2 states, increased in 1 state, and was essentially unchanged in 47 states and the District of Columbia.

Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment decreased in 2 states and the District, increased in 2 states, and was essentially unchanged in 46 states. Employment decreased in Maryland (-52,700, or -1.9 percent), the District (-42,200, or -5.5 percent), and Iowa (-19,200, or -1.2 percent). The job gains occurred in California (+120,500, or +0.7 percent) and Nevada (+34,500, or +2.2 percent).



Economic Growth Region (EGR) 3

Adams, Allen, DeKalb, Grant, Huntington, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, Wabash, Wells, and Whitley Counties

Unemployment Rates by State (seasonally adjusted): February 2026

U.S. - 4.4%

Illinois - 5%

Indiana - 3.3%

Kentucky - 4.2%

Michigan - 5%

Ohio - 4.2%

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

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

#27 - Grant (3.9%)

#62 - Steuben (3.6%)

#63 - Wabash (3.6%)

#64 - Allen (3.4%)

#65 - Huntington (3.4%)

#69 - Noble (3.4%)

#71 - Adams (3.3%)

#74 - DeKalb (3.3%)

#81 - LaGrange (3.2%)

#85 - Whitley (3.1%)

#90 - Wells (3%)

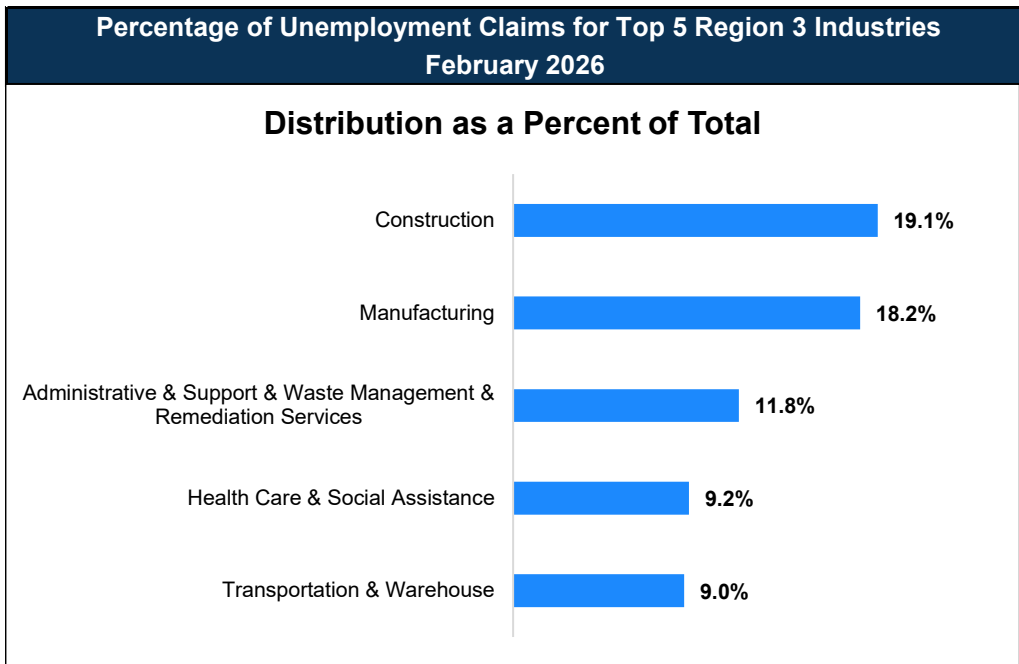
Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Development, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

February 2026 Labor Force Estimates (not seasonally adjusted)						
Area	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Feb-26	Jan-26	Feb-25
U.S.	170,206,000	162,153,000	8,052,000	4.7%	4.7%	4.5%
IN	3,461,067	3,330,356	130,711	3.8%	3.3%	4.3%
EGR 3	396,986	383,401	13,585	3.4%	3.6%	4.0%
Fort Wayne MSA	236,432	228,460	7,972	3.4%	3.8%	3.9%
Adams Co.	15,694	15,172	522	3.3%	2.9%	3.9%
Allen Co.	202,987	196,035	6,952	3.4%	3.9%	4.0%
DeKalb Co.	21,976	21,259	717	3.3%	2.8%	3.8%
Grant Co.	31,735	30,489	1,246	3.9%	3.9%	4.5%
Huntington Co.	19,326	18,675	651	3.4%	4.2%	3.8%
Lagrange Co.	18,071	17,499	572	3.2%	2.4%	3.6%
Noble Co.	21,805	21,053	752	3.4%	2.9%	3.9%
Steuben Co.	17,078	16,461	617	3.6%	3.1%	4.2%
Wabash Co.	14,869	14,333	536	3.6%	3.2%	4.1%
Wells Co.	15,298	14,840	458	3.0%	3.3%	3.5%
Whitley Co.	18,147	17,585	562	3.1%	3.4%	3.8%
Fort Wayne	138,291	133,402	4,889	3.5%	3.9%	4.1%
Marion	12,661	12,107	554	4.4%	4.4%	5.0%

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.

Consumer Price Index (CPI-U Change), Unadjusted Percent Change to February 2026 from				
CPI Item	Feb-25	Jan-26	Feb-25	Jan-26
	U.S. City		Midwest Region*	
All Items	2.4%	0.5%	2.8%	0.6%
Food & Beverages	3.0%	0.4%	3.0%	0.9%
Housing	3.3%	0.3%	4.6%	0.7%
Apparel	2.5%	4.2%	3.0%	4.2%
Transportation	-0.5%	0.8%	-1.6%	0.5%
Medical Care	3.4%	0.4%	3.7%	0.5%
Recreation	2.3%	0.2%	4.1%	0.4%
Education & Communication	0.1%	-0.2%	0.0%	-0.8%
Other Goods & Services	5.1%	0.1%	2.4%	0.1%

*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 3 for February 2026				
Company	City	County	# of workers affected	Notice Date

There are no WARN Notices for February 2026 for Region 3.

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: February 2026

Region 3

Initial Claims

02/07/26 - 386(D)

02/14/26 - 256(D)

02/21/26 - 233(D)

02/28/26 - 292(D)

Continued Claims

02/07/26 - 2,189

02/14/26 - 2,087

02/21/26 - 2,103

02/28/26 - 2,091

Total Claims

02/07/26 - 2,575

02/14/26 - 2,343

02/21/26 - 2,336

02/28/26 - 2,383

State of Indiana

Initial Claims

02/07/26 - 4,025

02/14/26 - 2,941

02/21/26 - 2,469

02/28/26 - 2,514

Continued Claims

02/07/26 - 26,734

02/14/26 - 25,628

02/21/26 - 25,117

02/28/26 - 24,518

Total Claims

02/07/26 - 30,759

02/14/26 - 28,569

02/21/26 - 27,586

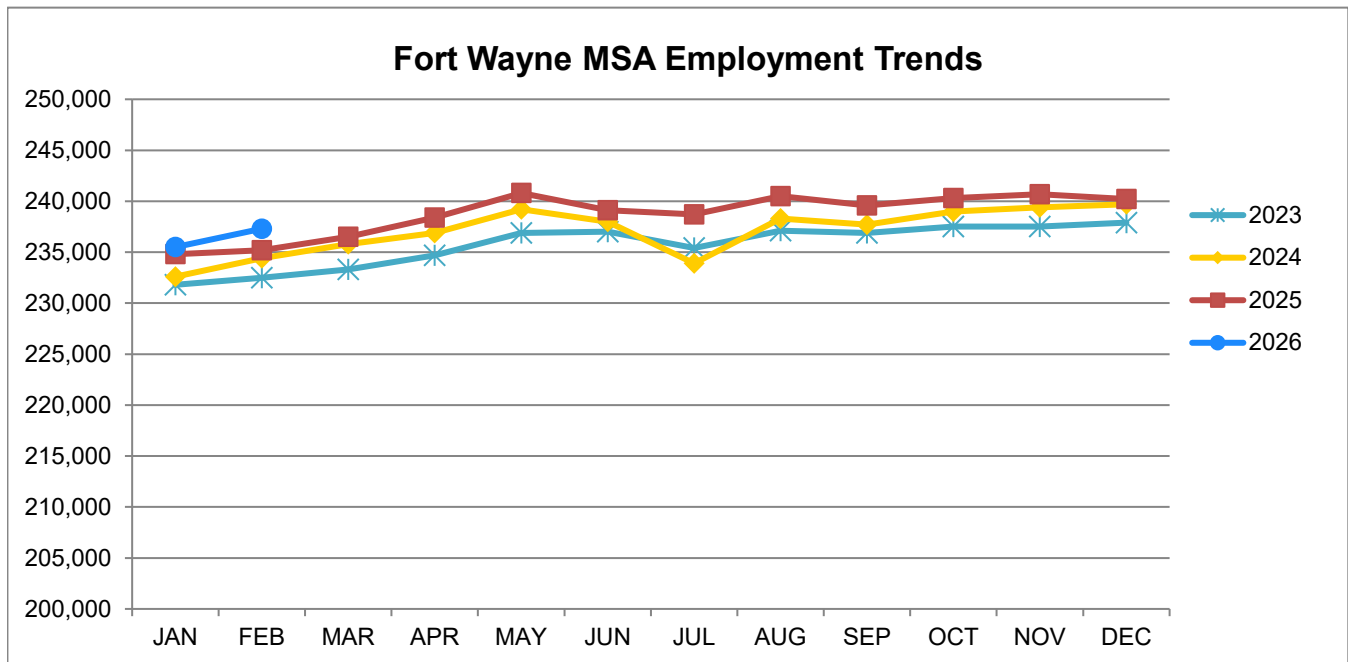
02/28/26 - 27,032

(D) indicates item is affected by non-disclosure issues relating to industry or ownership status |

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Development

Fort Wayne MSA							
Wage and Salaried Employment	February 2026			# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Industry	Feb-26	Jan-26	Feb-25	Jan-26 to Feb-26		Feb-25 to Feb-26	
Total Nonfarm	237,300	235,500	235,200	1,800	0.8%	2,100	0.9%
Total Private	214,400	213,100	212,600	1,300	0.6%	1,800	0.9%
Goods Producing	51,900	51,200	50,700	700	1.4%	1,200	2.4%
Service Providing	185,400	184,300	184,500	1,100	0.6%	900	0.5%
Private Service Providing	162,500	161,900	161,900	600	0.4%	600	0.4%
Mining, Logging and Construction	13,700	13,500	13,000	200	1.5%	700	5.4%
Total Manufacturing	38,200	37,700	37,700	500	1.3%	500	1.3%
Durable Goods Manufacturing	28,200	27,700	27,800	500	1.8%	400	1.4%
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	8,400	8,300	7,800	100	1.2%	600	7.7%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	44,800	45,200	46,200	-400	-0.9%	-1,400	-3.0%
Wholesale Trade	10,700	10,600	11,000	100	0.9%	-300	-2.7%
Retail Trade	23,600	23,800	24,000	-200	-0.8%	-400	-1.7%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	10,500	10,800	11,200	-300	-2.8%	-700	-6.3%
Information	1,700	1,700	1,800	0	0.0%	-100	-5.6%
Financial Activities	12,000	12,000	12,300	0	0.0%	-300	-2.4%
Professional and Business Services	22,600	22,400	22,100	200	0.9%	500	2.3%
Education and Health Services	47,100	46,700	45,900	400	0.9%	1,200	2.6%
Leisure and Hospitality	20,600	20,300	20,600	300	1.5%	0	0.0%
Other Services	13,700	13,600	13,000	100	0.7%	700	5.4%
Total Government	22,900	22,400	22,600	500	2.2%	300	1.3%
Federal Government	2,100	2,100	2,200	0	0.0%	-100	-4.6%
State Government	4,100	3,800	3,900	300	7.9%	200	5.1%
Local Government	16,700	16,500	16,500	200	1.2%	200	1.2%
Local Government Educational Services	9,300	9,200	9,400	100	1.1%	-100	-1.1%

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 3 in the past month	
Rank	Occupations
1	Registered Nurses
2	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers
3	Retail Salespersons
4	Physicians, All Other
5	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General
6	First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers
7	Production Workers, All Other
8	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
9	Customer Service Representatives
10	Food Service Managers
11	Home Health and Personal Care Aides
12	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand
13	Nursing Assistants
14	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners
15	Driver/Sales Workers
16	Medical and Health Services Managers
17	Fast Food and Counter Workers
18	Health Technologists and Technicians, All Other
19	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products
20	Stockers and Order Fillers

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	750
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	400
Customer Service Representatives	333
Helpers--Production Workers	307
Cashiers	216
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	213
Office Clerks, General	195
Packers and Packagers, Hand	138
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	133
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	128
Managers, All Other	127
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	117
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	111
Shipping, Receiving, and Traffic Clerks	109
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	109
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	107
Retail Salespersons	96
Team Assemblers	96
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	89
Receptionists and Information Clerks	87

Source: Indiana Workforce Development, Indiana Career Connect

SNAPSHOT

February Indiana Employment

Released April 22, 2026



Unemployment Rate

*seasonally adjusted

Unemployment Rate

3.3%

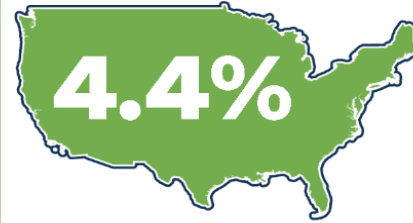


January 2026 Indiana

3.4%



National Unemployment Rate



LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE*

16+: **63.4%**

25-44: **84.3%**

25-54: **83.9%**



National Labor Force



Open Job Postings

85,672

Jobs

As of February 28, 2026



Weekly UI Continued Claims

24,518

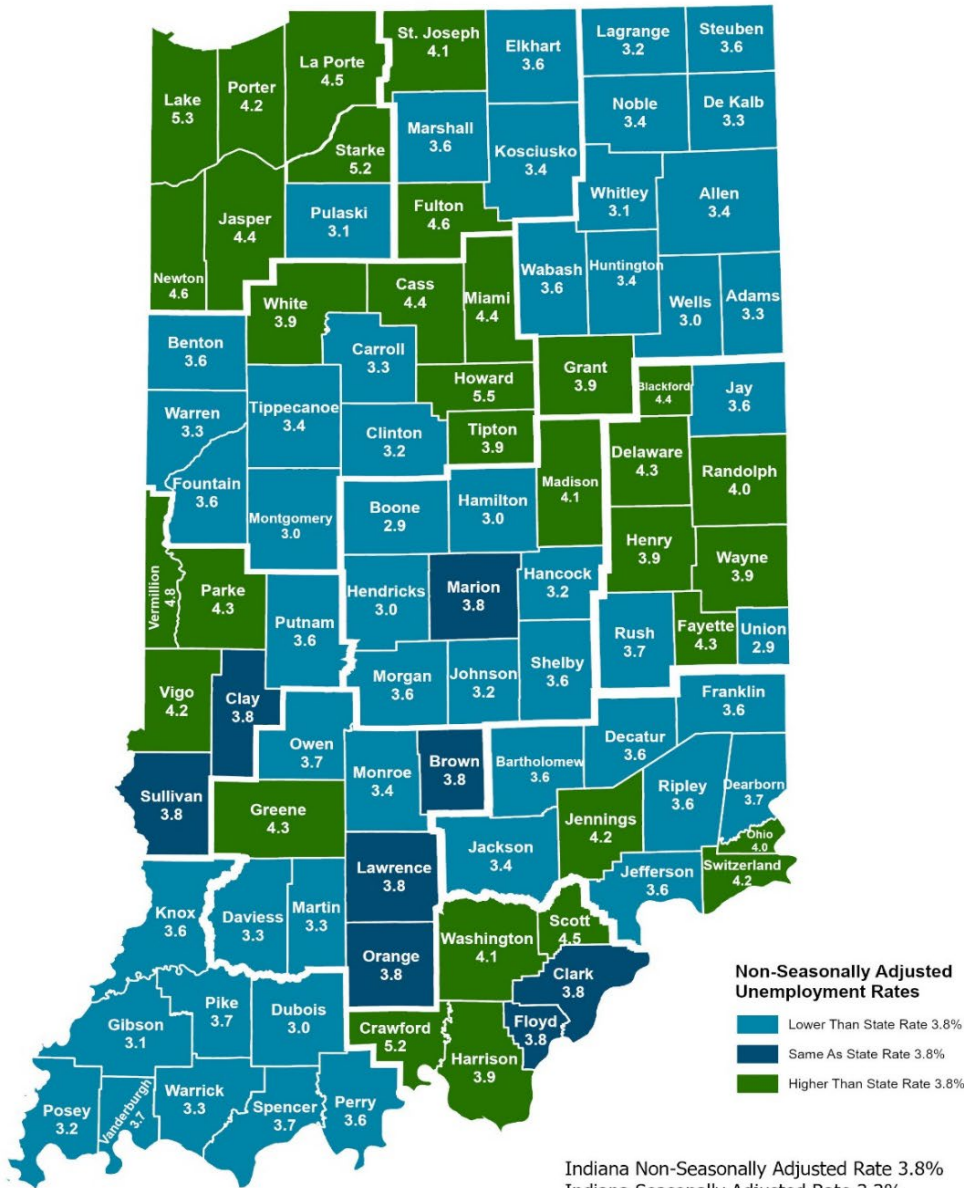


Filed Week Ending March 7, 2026

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 February 2026



Non-Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

- Lower Than State Rate 3.8%
- Same As State Rate 3.8%
- Higher Than State Rate 3.8%

Indiana Non-Seasonally Adjusted Rate 3.8%
 Indiana Seasonally Adjusted Rate 3.3%
 Source: DWD, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Questions?

Please contact the Regional Workforce Analyst listed below:

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