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INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

LABOR MARKET REVIEW



March 2026 Labor Market Review

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INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

Economic Growth Region 3

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 unemployment rate increases from March 2025, the largest of which were in Connecticut and Florida (+1.1 percentage points each). The only over-the-year rate decreases were in Ohio (-0.7 percentage point) and Indiana (-0.4 point). Thirty-four states and the District of Columbia 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, 4.3 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. Employment increased in Texas (+46,800, or +0.3 percent), Florida (+28,100, or +0.3 percent), and Tennessee (+12,100, or +0.4 percent). Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment decreased in 3 states and the District of Columbia, increased in 3 states, and was essentially unchanged in 44 states. Employment decreased in Maryland (-49,900, or -1.8 percent), the District (-40,300, or -5.3 percent), Oregon (-21,900, or -1.1 percent), and Iowa (-20,700, or -1.3 percent). The job gains occurred in California (+144,700, or +0.8 percent), Texas (+117,200, or +0.8 percent), and Nevada (+28,700, or +1.8 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): 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

#21 - Grant (3.7%)

#45 - Noble (3.4%)

#52 - Allen (3.3%)

#62 - Steuben (3.3%)

#64 - Wabash (3.3%)

#65 - Adams (3.2%)

#70 - DeKalb (3.1%)

#71 - Huntington (3.1%)

#79 - LaGrange (3%)

#85 - Whitley (2.9%)

#91 - Wells (2.7%)

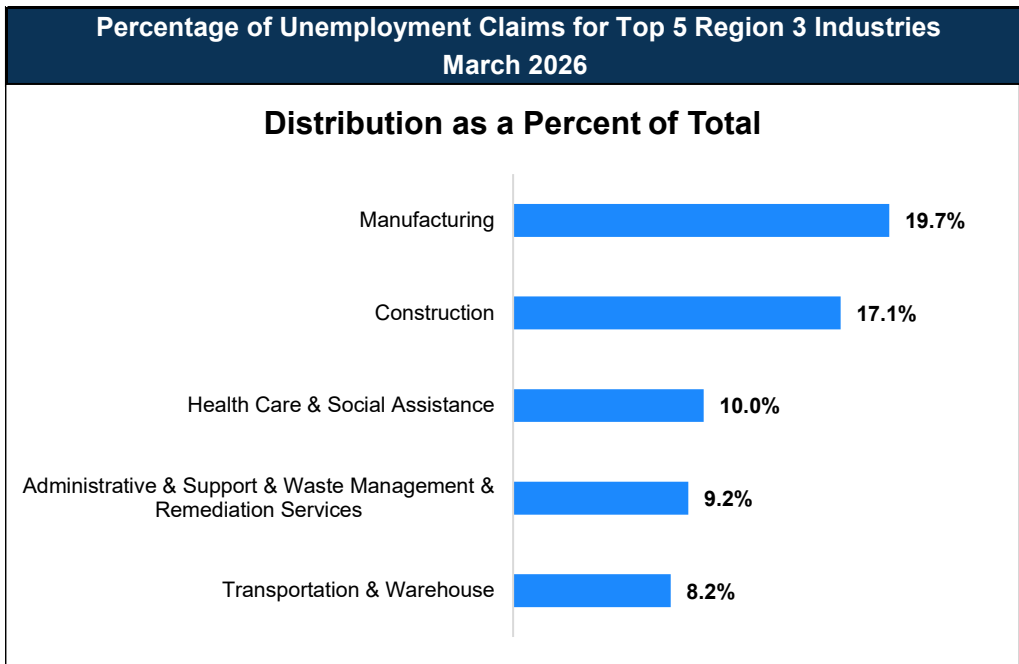
Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Development, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

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%
EGR 3	397,635	384,679	12,956	3.3%	3.4%	3.6%
Fort Wayne MSA	236,503	228,853	7,650	3.2%	3.4%	3.5%
Adams Co.	15,730	15,233	497	3.2%	3.3%	3.5%
Allen Co.	202,989	196,290	6,699	3.3%	3.4%	3.6%
DeKalb Co.	21,997	21,323	674	3.1%	3.2%	3.5%
Grant Co.	32,018	30,828	1,190	3.7%	3.9%	4.1%
Huntington Co.	19,395	18,795	600	3.1%	3.4%	3.4%
Lagrange Co.	18,119	17,575	544	3.0%	3.2%	3.3%
Noble Co.	21,808	21,071	737	3.4%	3.5%	3.4%
Steuben Co.	17,067	16,497	570	3.3%	3.6%	3.8%
Wabash Co.	14,998	14,504	494	3.3%	3.6%	3.5%
Wells Co.	15,331	14,913	418	2.7%	3.0%	3.1%
Whitley Co.	18,183	17,650	533	2.9%	3.1%	3.4%
Fort Wayne	138,272	133,576	4,696	3.4%	3.6%	3.7%
Marion	12,769	12,241	528	4.1%	4.5%	4.5%

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.

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



Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis

WARN Notices

WARN Notices for Region 3 for March 2026				
Company	City	County	# of workers affected	Notice Date

There are no WARN Notices for March 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: March 2026

Region 3

Initial Claims

03/07/26 - 249(D)

03/14/26 - 214(D)

03/21/26 - 177(D)

03/28/26 - 176(D)

Continued Claims

03/07/26 - 1,944

03/14/26 - 1,870

03/21/26 - 1,767

03/28/26 - 1,690

Total Claims

03/07/26 - 2,193

03/14/26 - 2,084

03/21/26 - 1,944

03/28/26 - 1,866

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

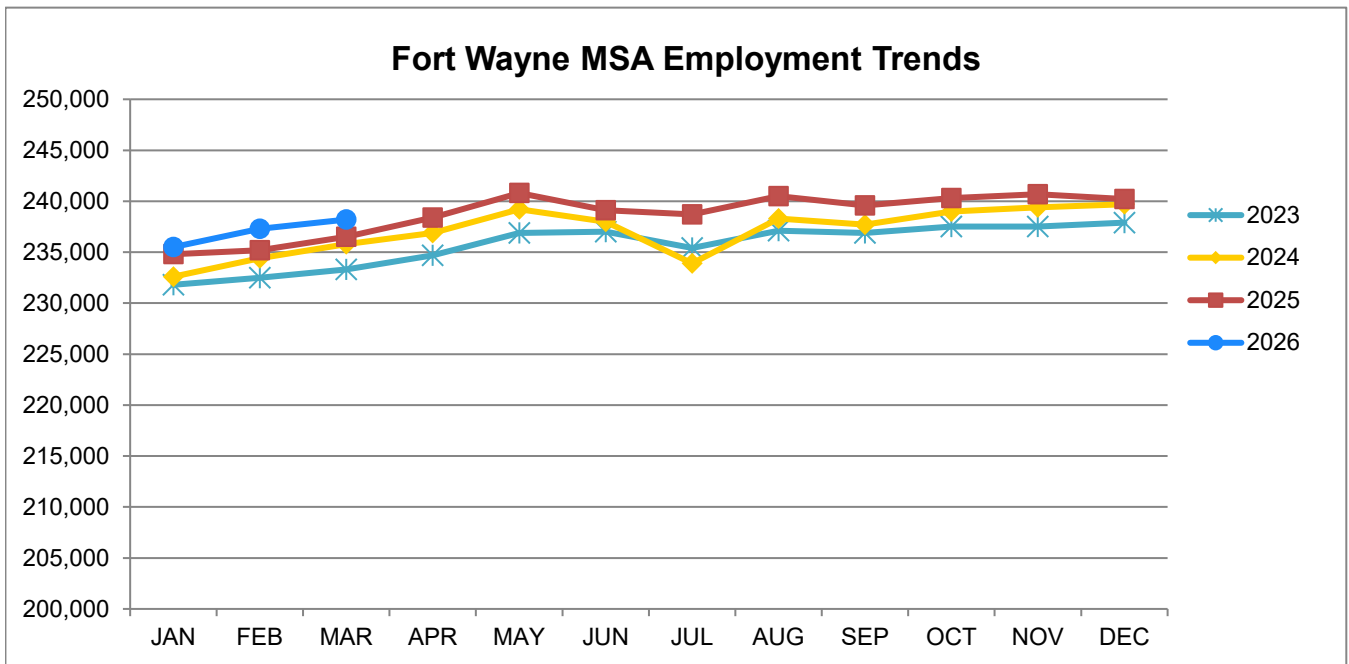
03/28/26 - 23,251

(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	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	238,200	237,300	236,500	900	0.4%	1,700	0.7%
Total Private	215,200	214,400	213,600	800	0.4%	1,600	0.8%
Goods Producing	52,000	51,900	51,200	100	0.2%	800	1.6%
Service Providing	186,200	185,400	185,300	800	0.4%	900	0.5%
Private Service Providing	163,200	162,500	162,400	700	0.4%	800	0.5%
Mining, Logging and Construction	13,700	13,700	13,200	0	0.0%	500	3.8%
Total Manufacturing	38,300	38,200	38,000	100	0.3%	300	0.8%
Durable Goods Manufacturing	28,200	28,200	27,900	0	0.0%	300	1.1%
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	8,400	8,400	7,900	0	0.0%	500	6.3%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	44,800	44,800	45,900	0	0.0%	-1,100	-2.4%
Wholesale Trade	10,700	10,700	11,000	0	0.0%	-300	-2.7%
Retail Trade	23,600	23,600	23,900	0	0.0%	-300	-1.3%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	10,500	10,500	11,000	0	0.0%	-500	-4.6%
Information	1,700	1,700	1,800	0	0.0%	-100	-5.6%
Financial Activities	12,100	12,000	12,200	100	0.8%	-100	-0.8%
Professional and Business Services	22,700	22,600	22,500	100	0.4%	200	0.9%
Education and Health Services	47,200	47,100	46,000	100	0.2%	1,200	2.6%
Leisure and Hospitality	20,900	20,600	21,000	300	1.5%	-100	-0.5%
Other Services	13,800	13,700	13,000	100	0.7%	800	6.2%
Total Government	23,000	22,900	22,900	100	0.4%	100	0.4%
Federal Government	2,100	2,100	2,200	0	0.0%	-100	-4.6%
State Government	4,100	4,100	4,100	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Local Government	16,800	16,700	16,600	100	0.6%	200	1.2%
Local Government Educational Services	9,400	9,300	9,500	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	First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers
5	Physicians, All Other
6	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General
7	Production Workers, All Other
8	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
9	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand
10	Customer Service Representatives
11	Food Service Managers
12	Home Health and Personal Care Aides
13	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners
14	Nursing Assistants
15	Medical and Health Services Managers
16	Fast Food and Counter Workers
17	Driver/Sales Workers
18	Sales Representatives of Services, Except Advertising, Insurance, Financial Services, and Travel
19	Food Preparation Workers
20	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products

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	578
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	303
Customer Service Representatives	275
Helpers--Production Workers	235
Office Clerks, General	179
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	165
Cashiers	158
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	109
Packers and Packagers, Hand	103
Managers, All Other	101
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	95
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	89
Shipping, Receiving, and Traffic Clerks	84
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	84
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	83
Team Assemblers	81
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	79
Retail Salespersons	76
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants	75
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	72

Source: Indiana Workforce Development, Indiana Career Connect

SNAPSHOT

March Indiana Employment

Released May 6, 2026



Unemployment Rate

*seasonally adjusted

Unemployment Rate

3.3%



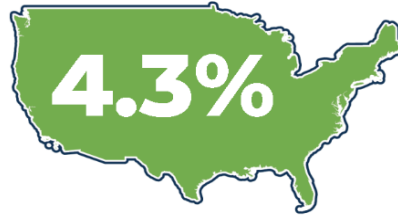
February 2026 Indiana

3.3%



National Unemployment Rate

4.3%



LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE*

16+: **63.3%**

25-44: **83.9%**

25-54: **83.5%**



National Labor Force

61.9%



Open Job Postings

98,050

Jobs

As of March 29, 2026



Weekly UI Continued Claims

20,972

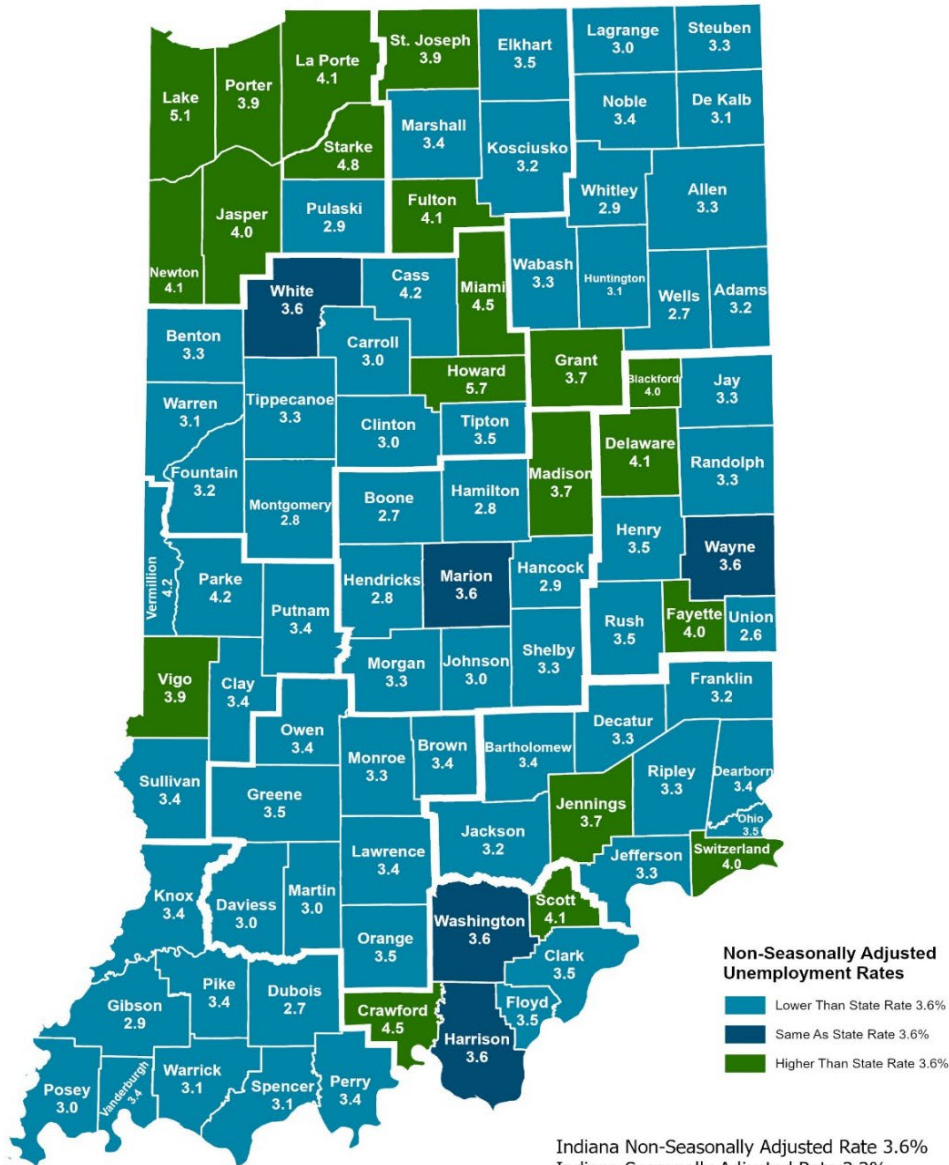


Filed Week Ending April 4, 2026

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 March 2026



Indiana Non-Seasonally Adjusted Rate 3.6%
 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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