



HOOSIERS BY THE NUMBERS

Your premier source for labor market information for Indiana.

DWD

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

LABOR MARKET REVIEW



March 2026 Labor Market Review

Reported by: Cassie Janes

Regional Workforce Analyst

[Email Cassie](#)

cjanes@dwd.in.gov

DWD

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

LABOR MARKET REVIEW

Economic Growth Region 4

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.



Economic Growth Region (EGR) 4

Benton, Carroll, Cass, Clinton, Fountain, Howard, Miami, Montgomery, Tippecanoe, Tipton, Warren and White 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%
EGR 4	256,646	247,140	9,506	3.7%	3.8%	4.0%
Kokomo MSA	35,284	33,273	2,011	5.7%	5.5%	6.4%
Lafayette MSA	122,874	118,861	4,013	3.3%	3.4%	3.5%
Benton Co.	4,526	4,378	148	3.3%	3.6%	3.2%
Carroll Co.	10,952	10,626	326	3.0%	3.3%	3.8%
Cass Co.	17,957	17,211	746	4.2%	4.5%	4.5%
Clinton Co.	16,935	16,422	513	3.0%	3.2%	3.2%
Fountain Co.	7,981	7,725	256	3.2%	3.5%	3.8%
Howard Co.	35,284	33,273	2,011	5.7%	5.5%	6.4%
Miami Co.	15,991	15,268	723	4.5%	4.4%	4.5%
Montgomery Co.	20,519	19,949	570	2.8%	3.0%	3.0%
Tippecanoe Co.	102,828	99,430	3,398	3.3%	3.4%	3.5%
Tipton Co.	7,874	7,599	275	3.5%	3.8%	3.9%
Warren Co.	4,568	4,427	141	3.1%	3.4%	3.1%
White Co.	11,231	10,832	399	3.6%	4.0%	3.1%
Attica	1,649	1,600	49	3.0%	2.5%	2.9%
Crawfordsville	8,183	7,950	233	2.8%	3.2%	3.1%
Delphi	1,227	1,181	46	3.7%	4.2%	5.0%
Fowler	1,158	1,127	31	2.7%	3.1%	3.2%
Frankfort	8,527	8,271	256	3.0%	3.1%	3.1%
Kokomo	24,605	23,125	1,480	6.0%	5.8%	6.8%
Lafayette	39,361	38,089	1,272	3.2%	3.5%	3.7%
Logansport	8,391	7,998	393	4.7%	4.8%	4.7%
Monticello	2,262	2,178	84	3.7%	4.2%	3.5%
Peru	4,912	4,674	238	4.8%	5.0%	5.2%
Tipton	2,511	2,418	93	3.7%	4.0%	4.1%
West Lafayette	22,441	21,817	624	2.8%	2.9%	2.9%
Williamsport	1,040	1,008	32	3.1%	3.0%	3.0%

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

#1 - Howard (5.7%)

#5 - Miami (4.5%)

#6 - Cass (4.2%)

#28 - White (3.6%)

#37 - Tipton (3.5%)

#53 - Benton (3.3%)

#63 - Tippecanoe (3.3%)

#66 - Fountain (3.2%)

#73 - Warren (3.1%)

#75 - Carroll (3%)

#76 - Clinton (3%)

#88 - Montgomery (2.8%)

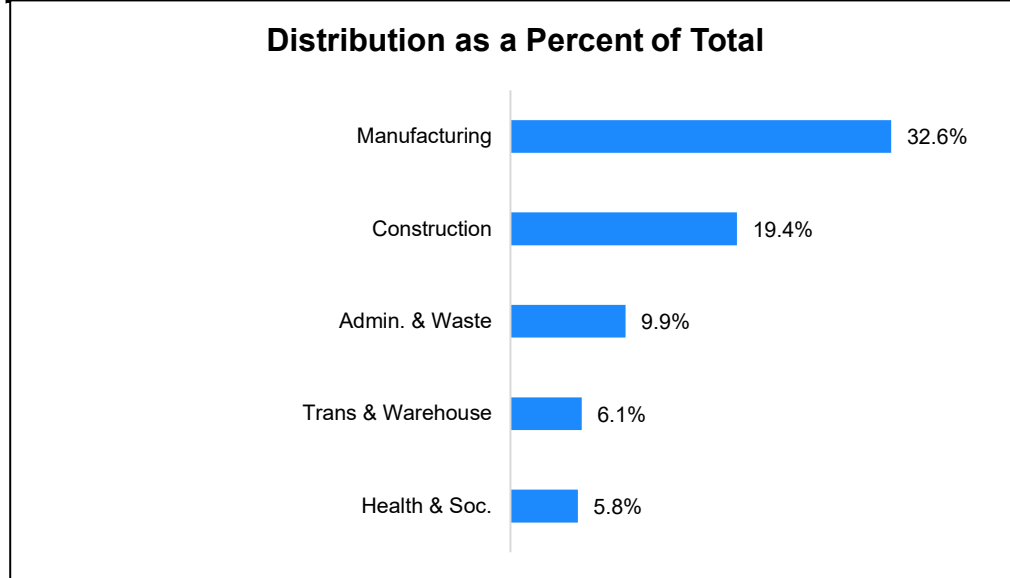
Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Development, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

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.

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

Percentage of Unemployment Claims for Top 5 Region 4 Industries March 2026



Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis

WARN Notices

WARN Notices for Region 4 for March 2026				
Company	City	County	# of workers affected	Notice Date

There are no WARN Notices for March 2026 for Region 4.

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 4

Initial Claims

03/07/26 - 248(D)

03/14/26 - 189(D)

03/21/26 - 145(D)

03/28/26 - 98(D)

Continued Claims

03/07/26 - 1,519

03/14/26 - 1,571

03/21/26 - 1,556

03/28/26 - 1,457

Total Claims

03/07/26 - 1,767

03/14/26 - 1,760

03/21/26 - 1,701

03/28/26 - 1,555

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

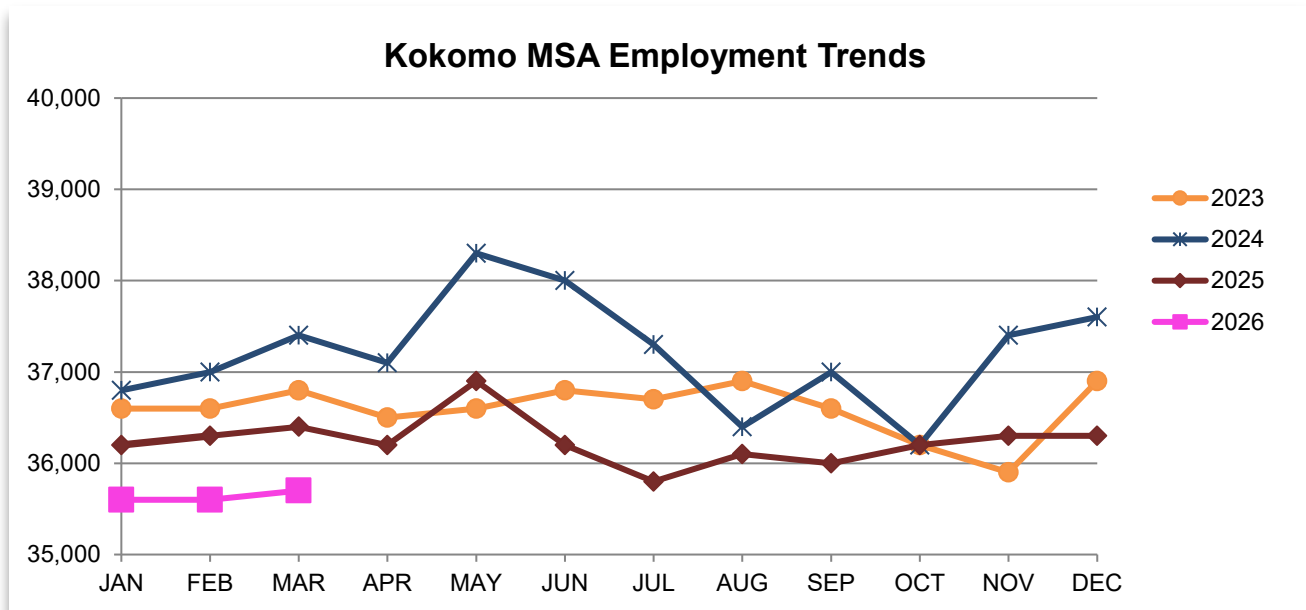
03/28/26 - 23,251

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

*Numbers subject to weekly revision Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Development

Kokomo 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	35,700	35,600	36,400	100	0.3%	-700	-1.9%
Total Private	31,000	30,900	31,600	100	0.3%	-600	-1.9%
Goods Producing	10,100	10,000	10,600	100	1.0%	-500	-4.7%
Service-Providing	25,600	25,600	25,800	0	0.0%	-200	-0.8%
Private Service Providing	20,900	20,900	21,000	0	0.0%	-100	-0.5%
Mining, Logging and Construction	1,800	1,700	1,800	100	5.9%	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	8,300	8,300	8,800	0	0.0%	-500	-5.7%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	6,200	6,200	6,100	0	0.0%	100	1.6%
Wholesale Trade	900	900	800	0	0.0%	100	12.5%
Retail Trade	4,400	4,400	4,400	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	900	900	900	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Information	200	200	200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	1,200	1,200	1,200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	4,100	4,100	4,100	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other Services	1,800	1,800	1,900	0	0.0%	-100	-5.3%
Government	4,700	4,700	4,800	0	0.0%	-100	-2.1%
Local Government	3,200	3,200	3,200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Local Government Educational Services	1,900	1,900	1,900	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Local Government excluding Educational Services	1,300	1,300	1,300	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

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

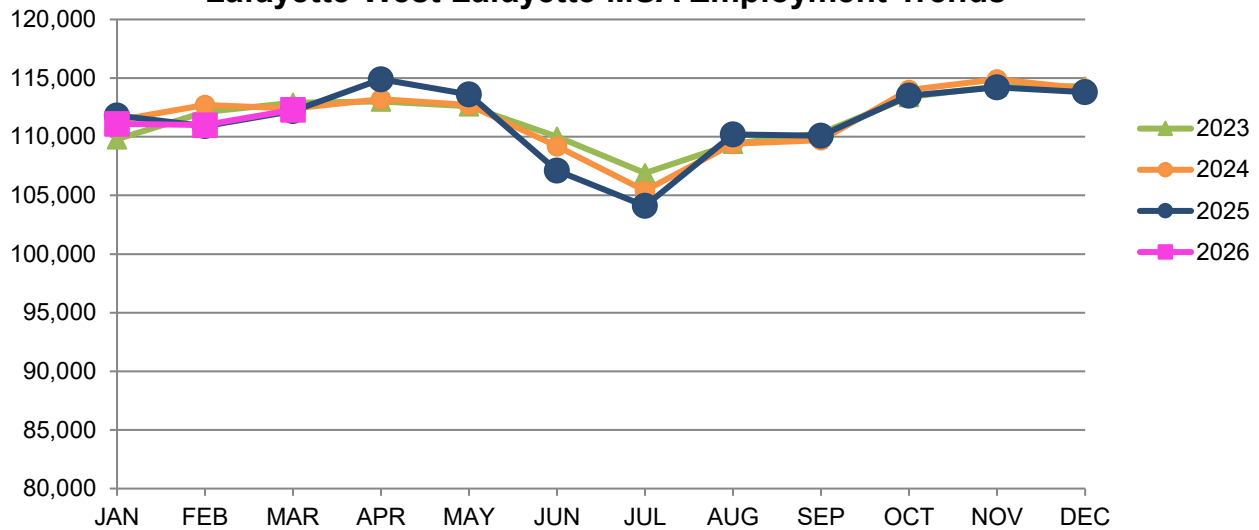


Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research & Analysis, Current Employment Statistics | Note: Historical data for the most recent 4 years (both seasonally adjusted and not seasonally adjusted) are revised near the beginning of each calendar year, prior to the release of January estimates for statewide data.

Lafayette-West Lafayette 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	112,300	111,000	112,200	1,300	1.2%	100	0.1%
Total Private	83,400	83,000	83,700	400	0.5%	-300	-0.4%
Goods Producing	25,700	25,600	25,900	100	0.4%	-200	-0.8%
Service Providing	86,600	85,400	86,300	1,200	1.4%	300	0.4%
Private Service Providing	57,700	57,400	57,800	300	0.5%	-100	-0.2%
Mining, Logging and Construction	4,900	4,800	4,600	100	2.1%	300	6.5%
Manufacturing	20,800	20,800	21,300	0	0.0%	-500	-2.4%
Durable Goods	16,300	16,300	16,800	0	0.0%	-500	-3.0%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	15,400	15,400	15,500	0	0.0%	-100	-0.7%
Wholesale Trade	3,200	3,200	3,100	0	0.0%	100	3.2%
Retail Trade	9,500	9,500	9,500	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	2,700	2,700	2,900	0	0.0%	-200	-6.9%
Information	700	700	800	0	0.0%	-100	-12.5%
Financial Activities	3,300	3,300	3,400	0	0.0%	-100	-2.9%
Professional and Business Services	9,200	9,100	8,900	100	1.1%	300	3.4%
Education and Health Services	13,700	13,700	13,900	0	0.0%	-200	-1.4%
Leisure and Hospitality	11,200	11,000	11,100	200	1.8%	100	0.9%
Accommodation and Food Services	10,400	10,200	10,300	200	2.0%	100	1.0%
Other Services	4,200	4,200	4,200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total Government	28,900	28,000	28,500	900	3.2%	400	1.4%
Federal Government	500	500	500	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
State Government	20,800	19,900	20,300	900	4.5%	500	2.5%
Local Government	7,600	7,600	7,700	0	0.0%	-100	-1.3%
Local Government Educational Services	4,600	4,600	4,700	0	0.0%	-100	-2.1%

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

Lafayette-West Lafayette MSA Employment Trends



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 postings in Region 4 in the past month	
Rank	Occupations
1	Registered Nurses
2	Driver/Sales Workers and Truck Drivers
3	Physicians
4	Retail Salespersons
5	Therapists
6	First-Line Supervisors of Sales Workers
7	Laborers and Material Movers
8	Building Cleaning Workers
9	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General
10	Health Practitioner Support Technologists and Technicians
11	Home Health and Personal Care Aides
12	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
13	Diagnostic Related Technologists and Technicians
14	Miscellaneous Production Workers
15	Miscellaneous Healthcare Support Occupations
16	Designers
17	Nursing Assistants, Orderlies, and Psychiatric Aides
18	Food Service Managers
19	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing
20	Cooks

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	518
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	412
Helpers--Production Workers	335
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	215
Team Assemblers	152
Cashiers	142
Customer Service Representatives	134
Office Clerks, General	107
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	97
Managers, All Other	90
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	86
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	81
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	81
Extraction Workers, All Other	80
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	79
Retail Salespersons	78
Construction Laborers	76
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	66
Electrical and Electronic Equipment Assemblers	63
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants	61

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



LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE*

16+: **63.3%**

25-44: **83.9%**

25-54: **83.5%**



National Labor Force



Open Job Postings

98,050

Jobs

As of March 29, 2026



Weekly UI Continued Claims

20,972

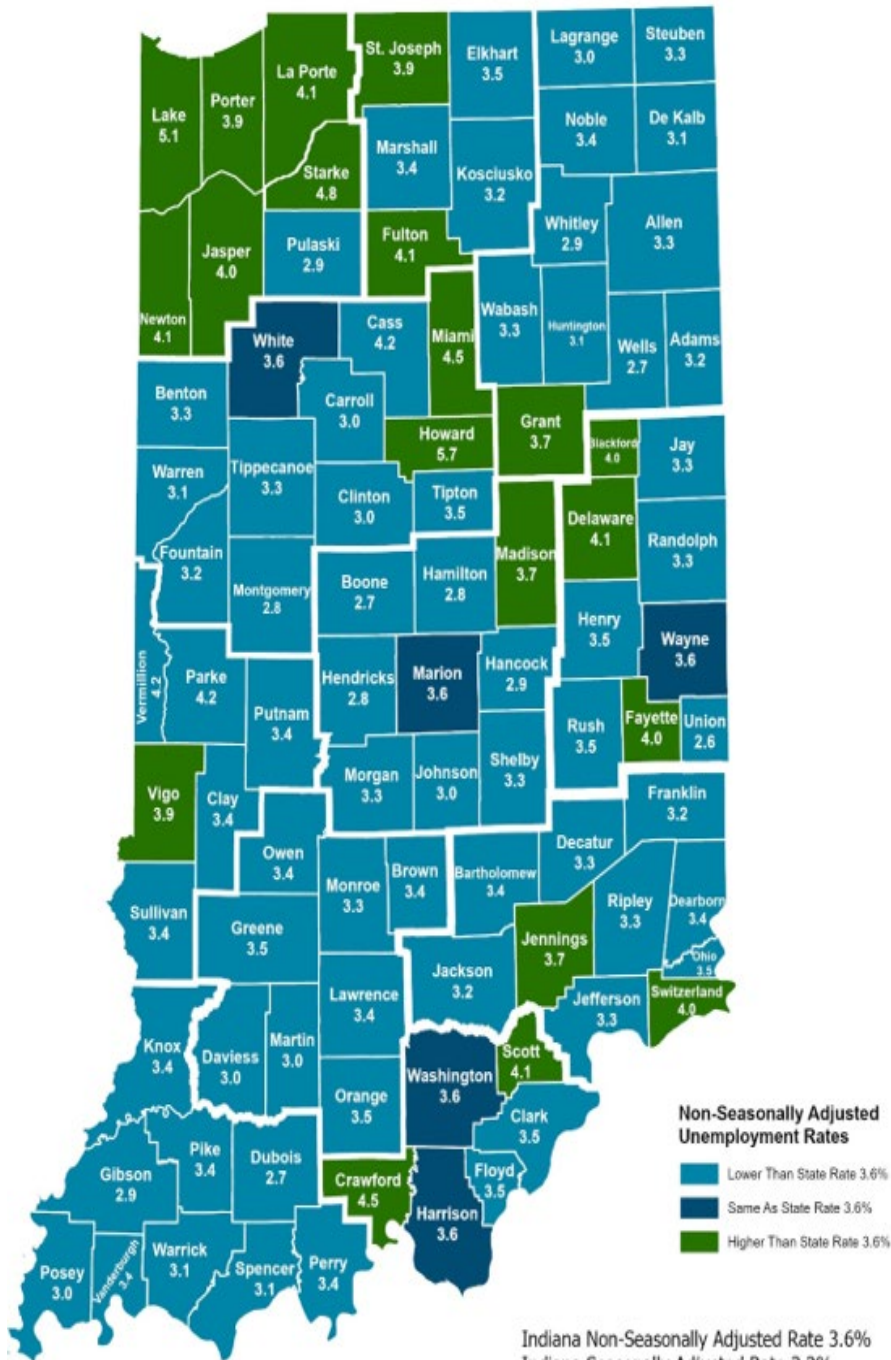


Filed Week Ending April 4, 2026

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



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF
WORKFORCE
 DEVELOPMENT

Questions?

Please contact the DWD
 Regional Workforce
 Analyst listed below:

Cassie Janes

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

cjanes@dwd.in.gov