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LABOR MARKET REVIEW



## February 2026 Labor Market Review

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## LABOR MARKET REVIEW

# Economic Growth Regions 5 & 12

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 had jobless rate increases from a year earlier, 2 states had decreases, and 35 states had little change. 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, non-farm 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.



## Economic Growth Regions (EGR) 5 & 12

**EGR 5:** Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Madison, Marion, Morgan, and Shelby counties

**EGR 12:** Marion County

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 5	1,130,106	1,090,734	39,372	3.5%	2.9%	3.8%
Indy-Carmel-Greenwood MSA	1,145,711	1,105,742	39,969	3.5%	2.9%	3.8%
Boone Co.	42,521	41,272	1,249	2.9%	2.4%	3.2%
Hamilton Co.	209,283	203,095	6,188	3.0%	2.4%	3.2%
Hancock Co.	48,144	46,600	1,544	3.2%	2.6%	3.5%
Hendricks Co.	103,658	100,563	3,095	3.0%	2.4%	3.3%
Johnson Co.	88,726	85,883	2,843	3.2%	2.6%	3.5%
Madison Co.	64,335	61,717	2,618	4.1%	3.7%	4.4%
Marion Co.	513,069	493,404	19,665	3.8%	3.2%	4.2%
Morgan Co.	37,173	35,830	1,343	3.6%	3.0%	4.2%
Shelby Co.	23,197	22,370	827	3.6%	2.9%	3.8%
Anderson	25,183	23,963	1,220	4.8%	4.3%	5.0%
Carmel	56,702	55,091	1,611	2.8%	2.3%	3.2%
Fishers	57,926	56,277	1,649	2.8%	2.4%	3.1%
Greenfield	14,138	13,673	465	3.3%	2.8%	3.7%
Greenwood	35,994	34,870	1,124	3.1%	2.6%	3.5%
Indianapolis	469,505	451,459	18,046	3.8%	3.2%	4.2%
Lawrence	27,894	26,854	1,040	3.7%	3.2%	3.8%
Lebanon	9,754	9,437	317	3.2%	2.6%	3.4%
Noblesville	41,262	39,960	1,302	3.0%	2.6%	3.4%
Plainfield	18,907	18,303	604	3.2%	2.8%	3.7%
Shelbyville	10,458	10,064	394	3.8%	3.1%	3.9%
Westfield	35,061	34,062	999	2.8%	2.2%	3.1%
Zionsville	17,075	16,610	465	2.7%	2.2%	3.0%

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.

## 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

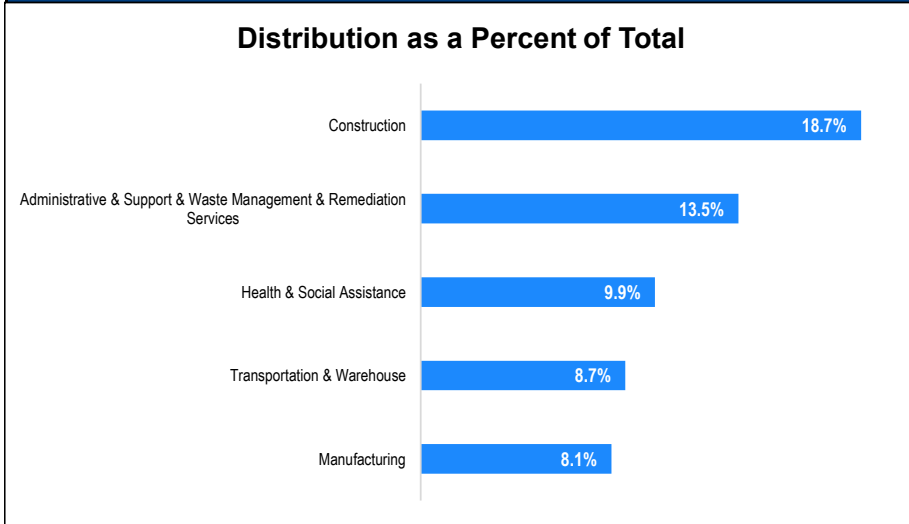
- #22 - Madison (4.1%)
- #38 - Marion (3.8%)
- #57 - Morgan (3.6%)
- #61 - Shelby (3.6%)
- #79 - Hancock (3.2%)
- #80 - Johnson (3.2%)
- #87 - Hamilton (3%)
- #88 - Hendricks (3%)
- #91 - Boone (2.9%)

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

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*	
<b>All Items</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>0.6%</b>
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

**Percentage of Unemployment Claims for Top 5 Region 5 Industries February 2026**



Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis

**WARN Notices for Regions 5 & 12 for February 2026**

Company	City	County	# of workers affected	Notice Date
National Distribution Centers, LCC	Lebanon	Boone	53	2/2/2026

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 5**

**Initial Claims**

02/07/26 - 1,121

02/14/26 - 920

02/21/26 - 722

02/28/26 - 750

**Continued Claims**

02/07/26 - 7,294

02/14/26 - 7,269

02/21/26 - 7,058

02/28/26 - 6,790

**Total Claims**

02/07/26 - 8,415

02/14/26 - 8,189

02/21/26 - 7,780

02/28/26 - 7,540

**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

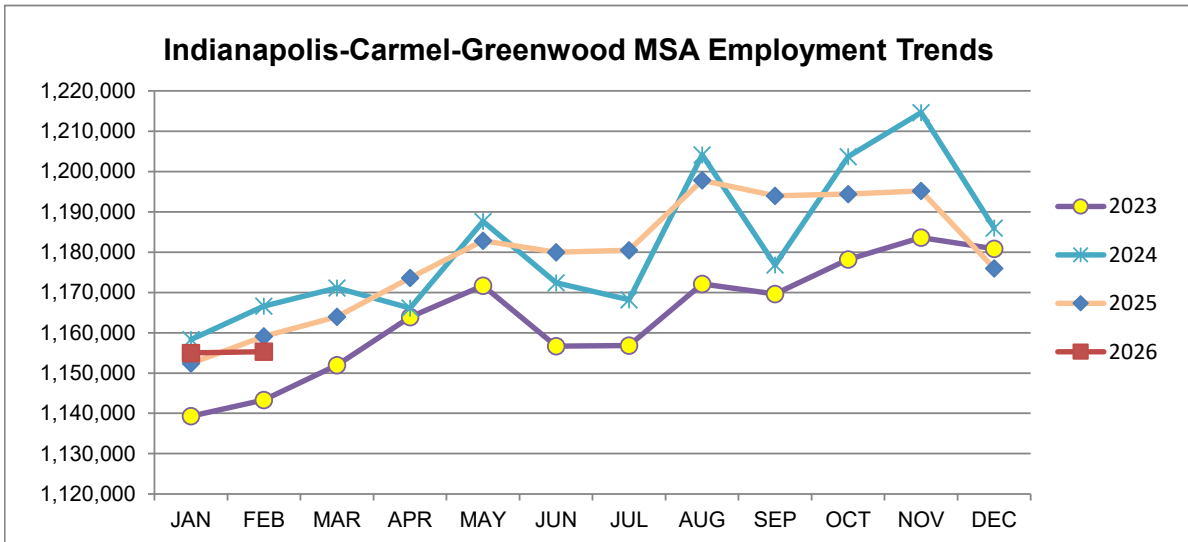
02/21/26 - 27,586

02/28/26 - 27,032

(D) indicates item is affected by non-disclosure issues relating to industry or ownership status \*Numbers subject to weekly revision Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development

Indianapolis-Carmel-Greenwood 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	
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>1,155,300</b>	<b>1,155,000</b>	<b>1,166,400</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>-11,100</b>	<b>-1.0%</b>
<b>Total Private</b>	<b>1,009,600</b>	<b>1,010,100</b>	<b>1,020,200</b>	<b>-500</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>	<b>-10,600</b>	<b>-1.0%</b>
Goods Producing	161,900	162,600	162,000	-700	-0.4%	-100	-0.1%
Service-Providing	993,400	992,400	1,004,400	1,000	0.1%	-11,000	-1.1%
Private Service Providing	847,700	847,500	858,200	200	0.0%	-10,500	-1.2%
Mining and Logging	700	700	700	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Mining, Logging and Construction	67,500	68,700	66,000	-1,200	-1.8%	1,500	2.3%
Construction	66,800	68,000	65,300	-1,200	-1.8%	1,500	2.3%
Specialty Trade Contractors	41,000	42,000	41,200	-1,000	-2.4%	-200	-0.5%
Manufacturing	94,400	93,900	96,000	500	0.5%	-1,600	-1.7%
Durable Goods	49,200	49,100	51,100	100	0.2%	-1,900	-3.7%
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	13,000	12,900	14,200	100	0.8%	-1,200	-8.5%
Motor Vehicle Parts Manufacturing	8,300	8,300	9,400	0	0.0%	-1,100	-11.7%
Non-Durable Goods	45,200	44,800	44,900	400	0.9%	300	0.7%
Chemical Manufacturing	20,600	20,300	20,200	300	1.5%	400	2.0%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	238,000	241,900	245,400	-3,900	-1.6%	-7,400	-3.0%
Wholesale Trade	54,200	54,100	55,200	100	0.2%	-1,000	-1.8%
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	34,800	34,600	35,900	200	0.6%	-1,100	-3.1%
Retail Trade	98,400	99,400	98,700	-1,000	-1.0%	-300	-0.3%
General Merchandise Stores	22,600	23,000	23,500	-400	-1.7%	-900	-3.8%
Department Stores	3,700	3,900	4,000	-200	-5.1%	-300	-7.5%
Other General Merchandise Stores	18,900	19,100	19,500	-200	-1.1%	-600	-3.1%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	85,400	88,400	91,500	-3,000	-3.4%	-6,100	-6.7%
Transportation and Warehousing	82,200	85,200	88,100	-3,000	-3.5%	-5,900	-6.7%
Information	10,100	10,100	11,200	0	0.0%	-1,100	-9.8%
Telecommunications	2,200	2,300	2,400	-100	-4.4%	-200	-8.3%
Financial Activities	73,800	74,100	75,800	-300	-0.4%	-2,000	-2.6%
Finance and Insurance	57,600	57,900	58,800	-300	-0.5%	-1,200	-2.0%
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	35,900	36,100	37,300	-200	-0.6%	-1,400	-3.8%
Insurance Carriers	18,700	18,800	19,700	-100	-0.5%	-1,000	-5.1%
Professional and Business Services	177,000	177,500	180,800	-500	-0.3%	-3,800	-2.1%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	82,600	82,700	83,600	-100	-0.1%	-1,000	-1.2%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	15,400	15,300	15,500	100	0.7%	-100	-0.7%
Administrative and support and waste management and Remediation Services	79,000	79,500	81,700	-500	-0.6%	-2,700	-3.3%
Administrative and Support Services	74,500	75,100	77,500	-600	-0.8%	-3,000	-3.9%
Employment Services	37,600	37,600	38,400	0	0.0%	-800	-2.1%
Education and Health Services	194,500	191,100	189,700	3,400	1.8%	4,800	2.5%
Educational Services	22,900	21,600	22,400	1,300	6.0%	500	2.2%
Health Care and Social Assistance	171,600	169,500	167,300	2,100	1.2%	4,300	2.6%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	77,300	76,500	73,900	800	1.1%	3,400	4.6%
Hospitals	45,200	44,900	45,600	300	0.7%	-400	-0.9%
Leisure and Hospitality	105,300	104,300	107,200	1,000	1.0%	-1,900	-1.8%
Accommodation and Food Services	88,800	88,200	90,600	600	0.7%	-1,800	-2.0%
Food Services and Drinking Places	81,200	80,600	82,700	600	0.7%	-1,500	-1.8%
Restaurants and Other Eating Places	73,200	72,700	74,200	500	0.7%	-1,000	-1.4%
Full-service restaurants	35,400	35,200	37,000	200	0.6%	-1,600	-4.3%
Limited-Service Restaurants and Other Eating Places	37,800	37,500	37,200	300	0.8%	600	1.6%
Other Services	49,000	48,500	48,100	500	1.0%	900	1.9%
<b>Total Government</b>	<b>145,700</b>	<b>144,900</b>	<b>146,200</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>-500</b>	<b>-0.3%</b>
Federal Government	18,200	18,300	19,700	-100	-0.6%	-1,500	-7.6%
State Government	36,100	35,500	36,800	600	1.7%	-700	-1.9%
Local Government	91,400	91,100	89,700	300	0.3%	1,700	1.9%
Local Government Educational Services	46,400	46,300	45,600	100	0.2%	800	1.8%

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



## 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.

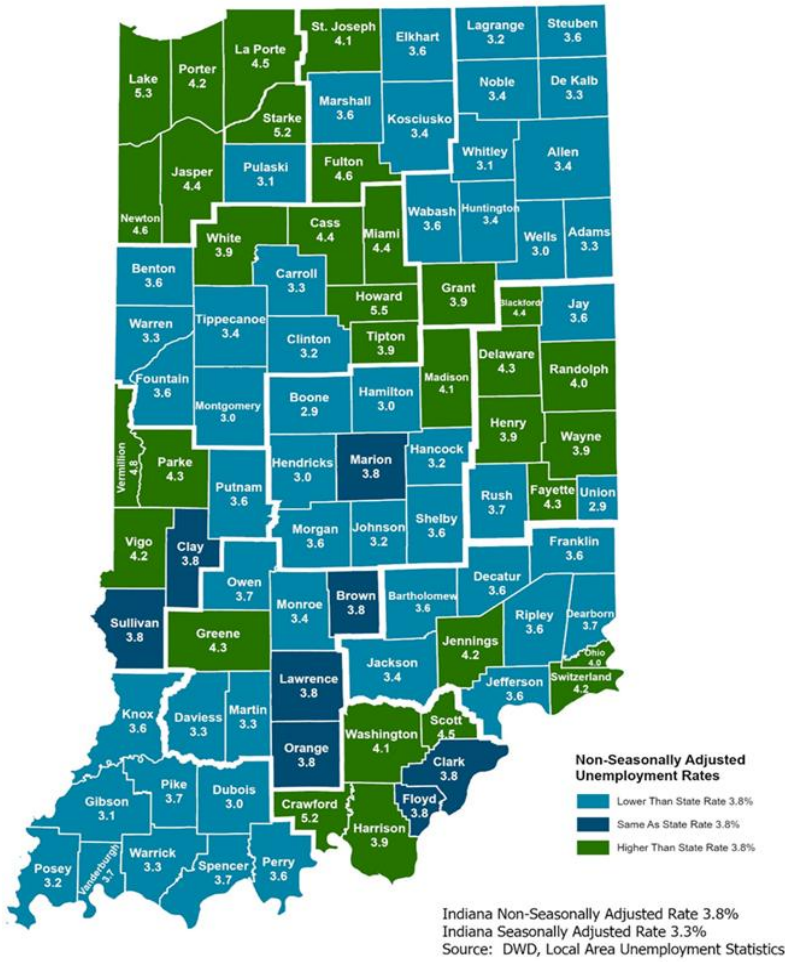
<b>Frequently Listed Jobs</b>	
<b>Top 20 job listings by number of openings in Region 5 in the past month</b>	
<b>Rank</b>	<b>Occupations</b>
1	Registered Nurses
2	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers
3	Retail Salespersons
4	First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers
5	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General
6	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products
7	Customer Service Representatives
8	Home Health and Personal Care Aides
9	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand
10	Medical and Health Services Managers
11	General and Operations Managers
12	Project Management Specialists
13	Software Developers
14	Sales Managers
15	Food Service Managers
16	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Technical and Scientific Products
17	Computer Occupations, All Other
18	Health Technologists and Technicians, All Other
19	Financial Managers
20	Sales Representatives of Services, Except Advertising, Insurance, Financial Services, and Travel

Source: Lightcast

<b>Applicant Pool</b>	
<b>Top 20 occupations desired by applicants on their resumes in the past 12 months</b>	
<b>Occupations</b>	<b># of applicants</b>
Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products	134
Waiters and Waitresses	162
Light Truck or Delivery Services Drivers	160
Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products	157
Construction and Related Workers, All Other	156
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	155
Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	153
Healthcare Support Workers, All Other	151
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	148
Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers	148
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	148
Sales and Related Workers, All Other	145
Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Technical and Scientific Products	140
Computer and Information Systems Managers	137
Food Preparation Workers	137
Billing and Posting Clerks	136
Packaging and Filling Machine Operators and Tenders	135
Human Resources Managers	135
Driver/Sales Workers	129
Bill and Account Collectors	126

Source: Indiana Workforce Development, Indiana Career Connect

## County Unemployment Rates February 2026



### Questions?

Please contact the DWD Research and Analysis Regional Labor Analyst listed below:

**Jillian A Gregory**

Regional Labor Analyst

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