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LABOR MARKET REVIEW



March 2026 Labor Market Review

Reported by: Jillian A Gregory

Regional Workforce Analyst

[Email Jillian](mailto:jgregory@dwd.in.gov)

jgregory@dwd.in.gov



LABOR MARKET REVIEW

Economic Growth Regions 5 & 12

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.

In March 2026, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 3 states and was essentially unchanged in 47 states and the District of Columbia. Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment decreased in 3 states and the District, increased in 3 states, and was essentially unchanged in 44 states.



Economic Growth Regions (EGR) 5 & 12

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

EGR 12: Marion County

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 5	1,134,705	1,097,364	37,341	3.3%	3.5%	3.5%
Indy-Carmel-Greenwood MSA	1,150,357	1,112,477	37,880	3.3%	3.5%	3.5%
Boone Co.	42,740	41,567	1,173	2.7%	3.0%	2.8%
Hamilton Co.	210,335	204,390	5,945	2.8%	3.0%	2.9%
Hancock Co.	48,338	46,921	1,417	2.9%	3.2%	3.1%
Hendricks Co.	104,133	101,180	2,953	2.8%	3.0%	3.1%
Johnson Co.	89,068	86,359	2,709	3.0%	3.2%	3.1%
Madison Co.	64,513	62,114	2,399	3.7%	4.1%	3.9%
Marion Co.	515,044	496,300	18,744	3.6%	3.8%	3.8%
Morgan Co.	37,250	36,018	1,232	3.3%	3.6%	3.7%
Shelby Co.	23,284	22,515	769	3.3%	3.6%	3.3%
Anderson	25,226	24,117	1,109	4.4%	4.8%	4.5%
Carmel	57,036	55,442	1,594	2.8%	2.9%	2.9%
Fishers	58,256	56,636	1,620	2.8%	2.9%	2.8%
Greenfield	14,189	13,767	422	3.0%	3.3%	3.3%
Greenwood	36,113	35,064	1,049	2.9%	3.2%	3.1%
Indianapolis	471,349	454,109	17,240	3.7%	3.9%	3.9%
Lawrence	27,974	27,011	963	3.4%	3.7%	3.5%
Lebanon	9,783	9,505	278	2.8%	3.3%	3.0%
Noblesville	41,400	40,215	1,185	3.0%	3.1%	3.1%
Plainfield	18,995	18,415	580	3.1%	3.2%	3.5%
Shelbyville	10,494	10,129	365	3.5%	3.8%	3.4%
Westfield	35,248	34,279	969	2.7%	2.8%	2.7%
Zionsville	17,185	16,729	456	2.7%	2.7%	2.6%

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

- #23 - Madison (3.7%)
- #25 - Marion (3.6%)
- #58 - Morgan (3.3%)
- #61 - Shelby (3.3%)
- #78 - Johnson (3%)
- #83 - Hancock (2.9%)
- #86 - Hamilton (2.8%)
- #87 - Hendricks (2.8%)
- #89 - Boone (2.7%)

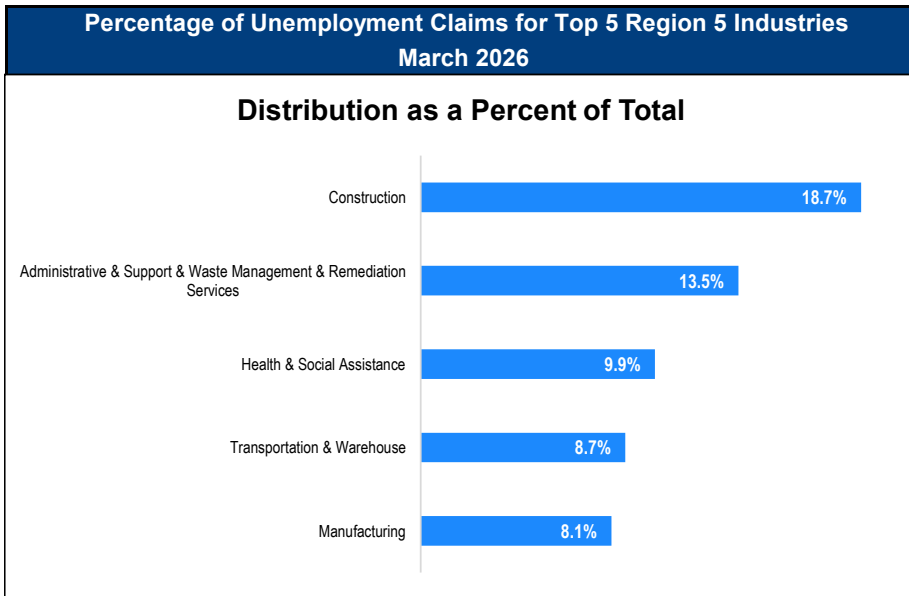
Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Development, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

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



Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis

WARN Notices for Regions 5 & 12 for March 2026				
Company	City	County	# of workers affected	Notice Date
Kem Krest Carmel	Carmel	Hamilton	77	3/11/2026
WIT Logistics	Plainfield	Hendricks	65	3/13/2026

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:
March 2026**

Region 5

Initial Claims

03/07/26 - 742

03/14/26 - 752

03/21/26 - 620

03/28/26 - 628

Continued Claims

03/07/26 - 6,626

03/14/26 - 6,419

03/21/26 - 6,191

03/28/26 - 6,060

Total Claims

03/07/26 - 7,368

03/14/26 - 7,171

03/21/26 - 6,811

03/28/26 - 6,688

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

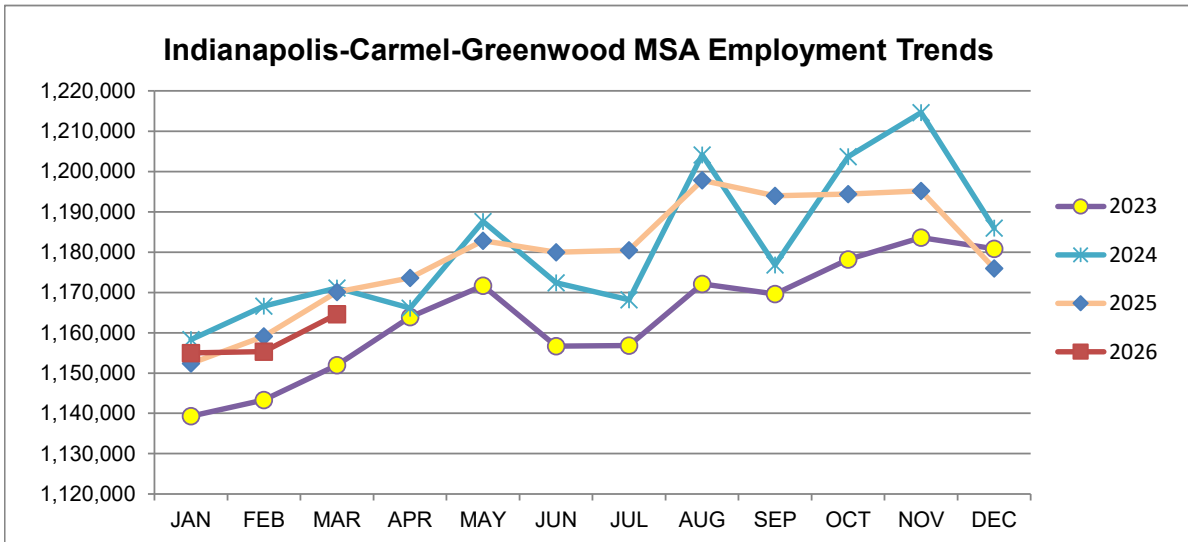
03/21/26 - 24,392

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

Indianapolis-Carmel-Greenwood 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	1,164,600	1,155,300	1,170,100	9,300	0.8%	-5,500	-0.5%
Total Private	1,018,200	1,009,600	1,022,300	8,600	0.9%	-4,100	-0.4%
Goods Producing	164,100	161,900	163,400	2,200	1.4%	700	0.4%
Service-Providing	1,000,500	993,400	1,006,700	7,100	0.7%	-6,200	-0.6%
Private Service Providing	854,100	847,700	858,900	6,400	0.8%	-4,800	-0.6%
Mining and Logging	700	700	700	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Mining, Logging and Construction	69,200	67,500	67,100	1,700	2.5%	2,100	3.1%
Construction	68,500	66,800	66,400	1,700	2.5%	2,100	3.2%
Specialty Trade Contractors	41,500	41,000	41,800	500	1.2%	-300	-0.7%
Manufacturing	94,900	94,400	96,300	500	0.5%	-1,400	-1.5%
Durable Goods	49,400	49,200	51,200	200	0.4%	-1,800	-3.5%
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	13,000	13,000	14,200	0	0.0%	-1,200	-8.5%
Motor Vehicle Parts Manufacturing	8,300	8,300	9,400	0	0.0%	-1,100	-11.7%
Non-Durable Goods	45,500	45,200	45,100	300	0.7%	400	0.9%
Chemical Manufacturing	20,700	20,600	20,200	100	0.5%	500	2.5%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	238,800	238,000	244,200	800	0.3%	-5,400	-2.2%
Wholesale Trade	54,000	54,200	55,100	-200	-0.4%	-1,100	-2.0%
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	34,700	34,800	35,700	-100	-0.3%	-1,000	-2.8%
Retail Trade	98,600	98,400	98,600	200	0.2%	0	0.0%
General Merchandise Stores	22,600	22,600	23,200	0	0.0%	-600	-2.6%
Department Stores	3,800	3,700	4,000	100	2.7%	-200	-5.0%
Other General Merchandise Stores	18,800	18,900	19,200	-100	-0.5%	-400	-2.1%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	86,200	85,400	90,500	800	0.9%	-4,300	-4.8%
Transportation and Warehousing	83,000	82,200	87,200	800	1.0%	-4,200	-4.8%
Information	10,100	10,100	11,200	0	0.0%	-1,100	-9.8%
Telecommunications	2,200	2,200	2,400	0	0.0%	-200	-8.3%
Financial Activities	75,000	73,800	75,600	1,200	1.6%	-600	-0.8%
Finance and Insurance	58,400	57,600	58,700	800	1.4%	-300	-0.5%
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	36,400	35,900	37,200	500	1.4%	-800	-2.2%
Insurance Carriers	18,900	18,700	19,700	200	1.1%	-800	-4.1%
Professional and Business Services	178,900	177,000	182,000	1,900	1.1%	-3,100	-1.7%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	83,000	82,600	83,200	400	0.5%	-200	-0.2%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	15,600	15,400	15,600	200	1.3%	0	0.0%
Administrative and support and waste management and Remediation Services	80,300	79,000	83,200	1,300	1.7%	-2,900	-3.5%
Administrative and Support Services	75,700	74,500	79,000	1,200	1.6%	-3,300	-4.2%
Employment Services	38,600	37,600	38,700	1,000	2.7%	-100	-0.3%
Education and Health Services	193,700	194,500	188,200	-800	-0.4%	5,500	2.9%
Educational Services	22,800	22,900	21,600	-100	-0.4%	1,200	5.6%
Health Care and Social Assistance	170,900	171,600	166,600	-700	-0.4%	4,300	2.6%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	77,000	77,300	73,700	-300	-0.4%	3,300	4.5%
Hospitals	45,100	45,200	44,900	-100	-0.2%	200	0.5%
Leisure and Hospitality	108,600	105,300	109,400	3,300	3.1%	-800	-0.7%
Accommodation and Food Services	90,400	88,800	92,000	1,600	1.8%	-1,600	-1.7%
Food Services and Drinking Places	82,800	81,200	83,800	1,600	2.0%	-1,000	-1.2%
Restaurants and Other Eating Places	74,800	73,200	75,100	1,600	2.2%	-300	-0.4%
Full-service restaurants	36,100	35,400	37,300	700	2.0%	-1,200	-3.2%
Limited-Service Restaurants and Other Eating Places	38,700	37,800	37,800	900	2.4%	900	2.4%
Other Services	49,000	49,000	48,300	0	0.0%	700	1.5%
Total Government	146,400	145,700	147,800	700	0.5%	-1,400	-1.0%
Federal Government	18,200	18,200	19,600	0	0.0%	-1,400	-7.1%
State Government	36,200	36,100	37,900	100	0.3%	-1,700	-4.5%
Local Government	92,000	91,400	90,300	600	0.7%	1,700	1.9%
Local Government Educational Services	46,600	46,400	45,800	200	0.4%	800	1.8%

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



SNAPSHOT
March Indiana Employment
 Released May 6, 2026

Unemployment Rate

*seasonally adjusted

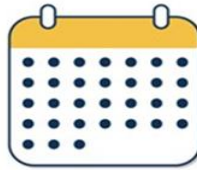
Unemployment Rate

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 child care needs.

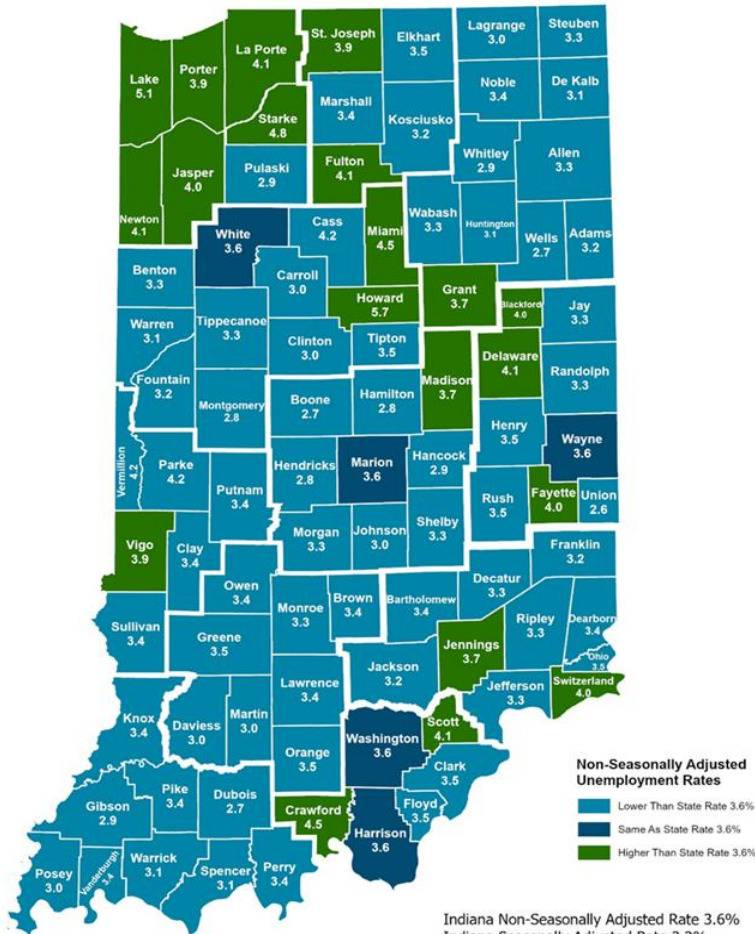
Frequently Listed Jobs	
Top 20 job listings by number of openings in Region 5 in the past month	
Rank	Occupations
1	Registered Nurses
2	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers
3	Retail Salespersons
4	First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers
5	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General
6	Customer Service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

Source: Lightcast

Applicant Pool	
Top 20 occupations desired by applicants on their resumes in the past 12 months	
Occupations	# of applicants
Material Moving Workers, All Other	115
Computer and Information Systems Managers	111
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	110
Construction Laborers	109
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 March 2026



Non-Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

- Lower Than State Rate 3.6%
- Same As State Rate 3.6%
- Higher Than State Rate 3.6%

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



Questions?

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

Jillian A Gregory
 Regional Labor Analyst

Indiana Department of Workforce Development
jgregory@dwd.in.gov