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LABOR MARKET REVIEW



November 2025 Labor Market Review

Reported by: Cassie Janes

Regional Workforce Analyst

[Email Cassie](#)

cjanes@dwd.in.gov





Economic Growth Region 6

Statistical Data Report for November 2025, Released January 2026

State Employment and Unemployment

BLS could not collect October 2025 reference period survey data for some surveys due to a lapse in appropriations, resulting in missing data values where data could not be retroactively collected

Unemployment rates were higher in November than a year earlier in 16 states and the District of Columbia, lower in 8 states, and little different in 26 states, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. October 2025 data from the household survey were not collected due to the lapse in federal appropriations; therefore, the unemployment analysis in this news release includes over-the-year changes only. The national unemployment rate, 4.6 percent, was 0.4 percentage point higher than in November 2024.

In November 2025, nonfarm payroll employment was essentially unchanged in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 12 states, decreased in the District, and was essentially unchanged in 38 states.



Economic Growth Region (EGR) 6

Blackford, Delaware, Fayette, Henry, Jay, Randolph, Rush, Union, and Wayne Counties

Unemployment Rates by State (seasonally adjusted): November 2025

U.S. - 4.5%

Illinois - 4.4%

Indiana - 3.7%

Kentucky - 5%

Michigan - 5%

Ohio - 4.5%

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

Unemployment Rank by County (of 92 counties): November 2025

#4 - Fayette (4.1%)

#10 - Blackford (3.7%)

#17 - Delaware (3.5%)

#21 - Randolph (3.5%)

#24 - Wayne (3.5%)

#26 - Henry (3.4%)

#31 - Jay (3.3%)

#37 - Rush (3.3%)

#92 - Union (2.5%)

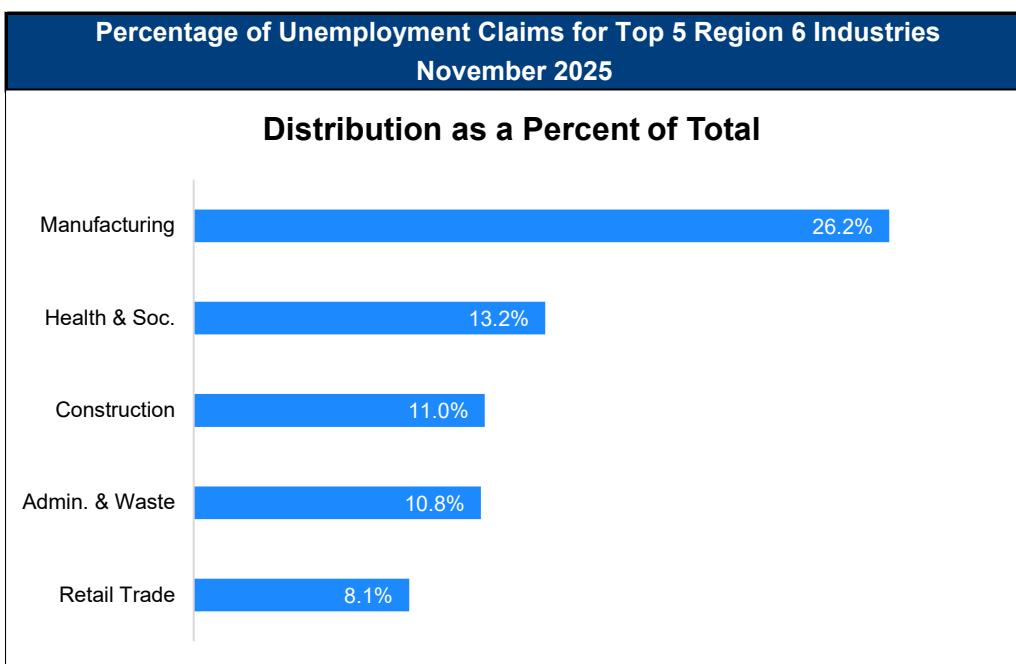
Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research & Analysis, Local Area Unemployment Statistics | Unemployment Statistics Released: 12/25 | Notes: The data displayed are presented as estimates only. The most recent month's data are always preliminary and are revised when the next month's data are released.

November 2025 Labor Force Estimates (not seasonally adjusted)						
Area	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Nov-25	Oct-25	Nov-24
U.S.	171,467,000	164,066,000	7,401,000	4.3%	0.0%	4.0%
IN	3,477,160	3,363,465	113,695	3.3%	0.0%	4.3%
EGR 6	155,162	149,754	5,408	3.5%	0.0%	4.5%
Muncie MSA	54,268	52,369	1,899	3.5%	0.0%	4.6%
Blackford Co.	5,124	4,936	188	3.7%	0.0%	5.3%
Delaware Co.	54,268	52,369	1,899	3.5%	0.0%	4.6%
Fayette Co.	10,018	9,603	415	4.1%	0.0%	5.5%
Henry Co.	22,225	21,471	754	3.4%	0.0%	4.3%
Jay Co.	9,029	8,735	294	3.3%	0.0%	4.2%
Randolph Co.	11,778	11,365	413	3.5%	0.0%	4.2%
Rush Co.	8,224	7,952	272	3.3%	0.0%	4.0%
Union Co.	4,020	3,918	102	2.5%	0.0%	3.1%
Wayne Co.	30,476	29,405	1,071	3.5%	0.0%	4.6%
Connersville	5,467	5,222	245	4.5%	0.0%	6.3%
Muncie	30,835	29,662	1,173	3.8%	0.0%	4.9%
New Castle	8,190	7,905	285	3.5%	0.0%	4.2%
Richmond	15,390	14,792	598	3.9%	0.0%	5.3%

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research & Analysis, Local Area Unemployment Statistics | Unemployment Statistics Released: 12/25 | 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.

CPI Item	Consumer Price Index (CPI-U Change), Unadjusted Percent Change to November 2025 from			
	Nov-24	Oct-25	Nov-24	Oct-25
	U.S. City		Midwest Region*	
All Items	2.7%	0.0%	3.0%	0.0%
Food & Beverages	2.6%	0.0%	2.2%	0.0%
Housing	3.5%	0.0%	4.6%	0.0%
Apparel	0.2%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%
Transportation	1.6%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%
Medical Care	2.9%	0.0%	2.6%	0.0%
Recreation	1.8%	0.0%	3.5%	0.0%
Education & Communication	1.5%	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%
Other Goods & Services	3.9%	0.0%	3.2%	0.0%

*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 6 for November 2025				
Company	City	County	# of workers affected	Notice Date

There are no WARN Notices for November 2025 for EGR 6.

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.dol.gov/programs/factsht/warn.htm>

Unemployment Claims:
November 2025

Region 6

Initial Claims

11/01/25 - 91(D)
11/08/25 - 146(D)
11/15/25 - 95(D)
11/22/25 - 123(D)
11/29/25 - 76 (D)

Continued Claims

11/01/25 - 697
11/08/25 - 720
11/15/25 - 714
11/22/25 - 743
11/29/25 - 785

Total Claims

11/01/25 - 788
11/08/25 - 866
11/15/25 - 809
11/22/25 - 866
11/29/25 - 861

State of Indiana

Initial Claims

11/01/25 - 3,310
11/08/25 - 2,899
11/15/25 - 2,595
11/22/25 - 2,758
11/29/25 - 2,239

Continued Claims

11/01/25 - 19,775
11/08/25 - 18,769
11/15/25 - 19,240
11/22/25 - 18,892
11/29/25 - 21,914

Total Claims

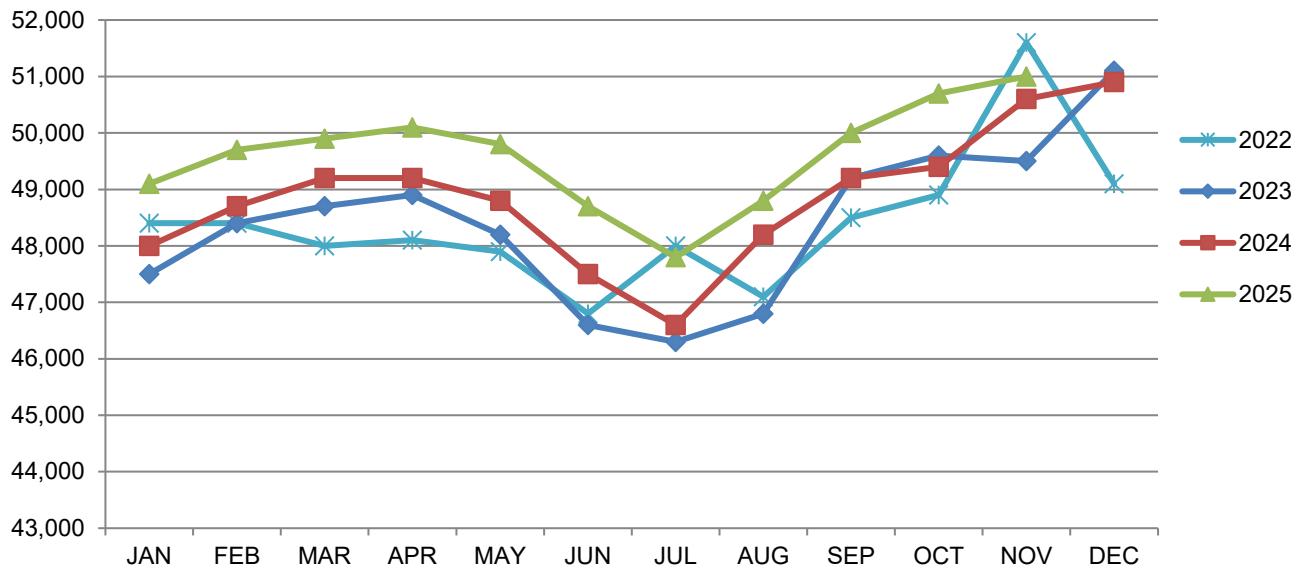
11/01/25 - 23,085
11/08/25 - 21,668
11/15/25 - 21,835
11/22/25 - 21,650
11/29/25 - 24,153

(D) indicates item is affected by non-disclosure issues relating to industry or ownership status |
Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Development

Muncie MSA						
Wage and Salaried Employment	November 2025			# Change	% Change	# Change % Change
Industry	Nov-25	Oct-25	Nov-24	Oct-25 to Nov-25		Nov-24 to Nov-25
Total Nonfarm	51,000	50,700	50,600	300	0.6%	400 0.8%
Total Private	39,800	39,600	39,500	200	0.5%	300 0.8%
Goods Producing	5,700	5,700	5,600	0	0.0%	100 1.8%
Service-Providing	45,300	45,000	45,000	300	0.7%	300 0.7%
Private Service Providing	34,100	33,900	33,900	200	0.6%	200 0.6%
Mining, Logging and Construction	1,700	1,700	1,600	0	0.0%	100 6.3%
Manufacturing	4,000	4,000	4,000	0	0.0%	0 0.0%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	8,500	8,400	8,700	100	1.2%	-200 -2.3%
Wholesale Trade	1,200	1,200	1,200	0	0.0%	0 0.0%
Retail Trade	6,100	6,000	6,200	100	1.7%	-100 -1.6%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	1,200	1,200	1,300	0	0.0%	-100 -7.7%
Information	400	400	400	0	0.0%	0 0.0%
Financial Activities	2,400	2,400	2,500	0	0.0%	-100 -4.0%
Education and Health Services	10,300	10,300	10,300	0	0.0%	0 0.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	5,500	5,500	5,500	0	0.0%	0 0.0%
Other Services	2,100	2,100	2,100	0	0.0%	0 0.0%
Government	11,200	11,100	11,100	100	0.9%	100 0.9%
State Government	4,300	4,200	7,100	100	2.4%	-2,800 -39.4%
State Government Educational Services	4,100	4,000	6,900	100	2.5%	-2,800 -40.6%
State Government Excluding Education	200	200	200	0	0.0%	0 0.0%
Local Government	3,800	3,800	3,800	0	0.0%	0 0.0%
Local Government Educational Services	2,300	2,300	2,200	0	0.0%	100 4.6%
Local Government excluding Educational Services	1,500	1,500	1,600	0	0.0%	-100 -6.3%

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

Muncie 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 6 in the past month	
Rank	Occupations
1	Registered Nurses
2	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers
3	Retail Salespersons
4	Food Service Managers
5	Home Health and Personal Care Aides
6	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
7	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General
8	Food Preparation Workers
9	Nursing Assistants
10	Customer Service Representatives
11	Driver/Sales Workers
12	First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers
13	Merchandise Displayers and Window Trimmers
14	Production Workers, All Other
15	Pharmacy Technicians
16	First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers
17	Radiologic Technologists and Technicians
18	Fast Food and Counter Workers
19	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand
20	General and Operations Managers

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	605
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	374
Helpers--Production Workers	258
Customer Service Representatives	257
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	181
Cashiers	180
Office Clerks, General	136
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	110
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	109
Construction Laborers	107
Extraction Workers, All Other	106
Managers, All Other	101
Team Assemblers	98
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	97
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	87
Retail Salespersons	85
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	78
General and Operations Managers	77
Packers and Packagers, Hand	77
Landscaping and Groundskeeping Workers	74

Source: Indiana Workforce Development, Indiana Career Connect

GARY, Ind. - The city of Gary has formally tossed its hat into the ring as a possible home for the Chicago Bears, pitching several sites across the city as possible locations for a new stadium and mixed-use development.

City officials announced Friday that three sites, ranging from 145 to 760 acres, have been put forth in an effort to woo the team, which nearly one month ago announced it would consider sites in northwest Indiana for a stadium amid an impasse with Illinois state leaders involving sites in Chicago and its suburb, Arlington Heights.

Mayor Eddie Melton said the proposal gives the Bears the tax certainty and stability the team said is key to success. In an interview with Inside Indiana Business host Gerry Dick, the mayor said he had a very positive conversation with the team prior to publicly presenting the proposal.

"I think we made a lot of noise [Friday] by rolling this out," he said. "I did get a phone call from the organization, and I don't want to go into any details, but it was very, very positive in tone and next steps."

Gary is about 30 miles southwest of Chicago and each of the three sites put forth by Gary—detailed on a website called BearStadiumDistrict.com and in a 20-page proposal—are considered "plug-and-play" by city officials, meaning they're generally ready for intensive commercial development. The three sites proposed are:

- A 400-acre site fronting Interstates 80 and 94, adjacent to the Hard Rock Casino Northern Indiana, in an area that has been dubbed the Gary West End Entertainment District;
- a 145-acre site called Buffington Harbor near Cline Avenue, which resides in an Opportunity Zone and the city's lakefront tax-increment financing district with space allowing for a marina development;
- and a 760-acre site called Miller Beach along the Lake Michigan shoreline, with access to multiple interstates and adjacent to the Indiana Dunes National Park.

Melton said his team is making a strong push for the site near the casino.

"[We have] the Hard Rock Casino, the number one casino in the state of Indiana and probably in the Midwest. [There's] also the new convention center that we're getting ready to build, in addition to the three new hotels that's going to be coming online," Melton said. "So, we knew that the Bears organization was looking to establish entertainment district. Well, we're halfway there."

Friday's announcement comes one day after Indiana lawmakers proposed a framework for the development of a new stadium governing body and financing mechanism.

Senate Bill 27 would create a Northwest Indiana Stadium Authority authorized to acquire land, finance capital improvements and enter into leases with private entities—including NFL teams. Gary officials said each of the sites would be able to accommodate the language presented in the bill SB 27, authored by Sen. Ryan Mishler, R-Mishawaka, and Sen. Chris Garten, R-Charlestown, marks the Indiana Legislature's first formal overture to the Bears organization after public comments from lawmakers, local officials in Hammond and Gary and Gov. Mike Braun indicating an appetite for bringing a second professional football franchise to the state.

Melton, a former state senator, said he has an established relationship with the Indiana Legislature and the governor's office that can help bring the project to fruition.

"I truly believe that this makes good business sense for the McCaskey family and the other minority shareholders at the end of the day," he said. "I want to reassure the fans, as a lifelong Bears fan, that if this organization is able to make a sound business decision, it will benefit the entire organization and the fans to build on their current winning team, to make the investments that they need to continue to build a dynasty."

For nearly a month, the team has publicly expressed an interest in leaving Illinois if it can't work out at a deal in Arlington Heights, where it has acquired property, and has sent representatives to tour potential stadium sites in northwest Indiana.

On Friday, Arlington Heights officials made a plea to Illinois lawmakers to pass legislation that would make it easier for the Chicago suburb to strike a deal with the Bears.

Melton said he agrees with Indiana lawmakers who have expressed a sense of urgency in working to lure the team to the Hoosier State.

"The state of Illinois is very concerned," he said. "A lot of elected officials have reached out, and they're trying to figure out, what can they do now to entice and keep the Bears there? So, I think time is of the essence. This is a priority to the organization."

Earlier this week, Indianapolis law firm Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP registered as a lobbyist in Indiana for a Bears-affiliated holding company, allowing the team's interests to be represented at the Statehouse.

"The media has asked if Gary is serious. Our answer is in the legislation and on the map," Gary Common Council President Linda Barnes-Caldwell said in a written statement. "We are not just offering land; we are offering a partner who moves at the speed of business. With the backing of the Statehouse and the specific tools provided by Senate Bill 27, we are ready to break ground while others are still breaking promises."

Editor's note: This story has been updated to add comments Gary Mayor Eddie Melton made to Inside Indiana Business host Gerry Dick.

Friday, January 16, 2026 03:39 PM EDT
Updated: Sunday, January 18, 2026 03:13 PM EDT
By Mickey Shuey, Indianapolis Business Journal

County Unemployment Rates

November 2025



Questions?

Please contact the
Regional Labor Analyst
listed below:

Cassie Janes

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

