



July 2026 Labor Market Review

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Economic Growth Region 6

Statistical Data Report for July 2026, Released September 2026

State Employment and Unemployment

Unemployment rates were lower in July in 10 states and stable in 40 states and the District of Columbia, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Twelve states had jobless rate increases from a year earlier, 10 states and the District had decreases, and 28 states had little change. The national unemployment rate, 4.1 percent, changed little both over the month and over the year.

In July, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 1 state, decreased in 1 state, and was essentially unchanged in 48 states and the District of Columbia. The only job gain occurred in Maryland (+11,700, or +0.4 percent). Employment decreased in New Jersey (-25,600, or 0.6 percent).

Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 6 states, decreased in 1 state and the District, and was essentially unchanged in 43 states. The largest job gains occurred in Texas (+165,600), California (+112,700), and North Carolina (+51,600). The largest percentage increase occurred in Minnesota (+1.4 percent), followed by Louisiana and South Carolina (+1.3 percent each). The job losses occurred in Virginia (-47,900, or -1.1 percent) and the District (-31,500, or -4.2 percent).

July 2026 Labor Force Estimates (not seasonally adjusted)						
Area	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Jul-26	Jun-26	Jul-25
U.S.	170,235,000	162,800,000	7,435,000	4.4%	4.4%	4.6%
IN	3,511,303	3,385,244	126,059	3.6%	3.6%	4.2%
EGR 6	154,914	149,016	5,898	3.8%	3.8%	4.5%
Muncie MSA	52,119	49,926	2,193	4.2%	4.2%	5.0%
Blackford Co.	5,113	4,915	198	3.9%	4.0%	4.6%
Delaware Co.	52,119	49,926	2,193	4.2%	4.2%	5.0%
Fayette Co.	10,074	9,641	433	4.3%	4.2%	4.8%
Henry Co.	22,793	22,023	770	3.4%	3.4%	4.0%
Jay Co.	9,485	9,174	311	3.3%	3.4%	4.0%
Randolph Co.	11,922	11,496	426	3.6%	3.5%	4.1%
Rush Co.	8,498	8,214	284	3.3%	3.4%	3.9%
Union Co.	4,265	4,143	122	2.9%	2.9%	2.9%
Wayne Co.	30,645	29,484	1,161	3.8%	3.8%	4.4%
Connersville	5,515	5,242	273	5.0%	4.9%	5.3%
Muncie	29,586	28,224	1,362	4.6%	4.5%	5.5%
New Castle	8,395	8,108	287	3.4%	3.3%	4.1%
Richmond	15,492	14,826	666	4.3%	4.3%	4.9%

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research & Analysis, Local Area Unemployment Statistics | Unemployment Statistics Released: 08/26 | 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.



Economic Growth Region (EGR) 6

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

Unemployment Rates by State (seasonally adjusted): July 2026

U.S. - 4.1%

Illinois - 4.9%

Indiana - 3.3%

Kentucky - 4.7%

Michigan - 4.9%

Ohio - 3.4%

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

Unemployment Rank by County (of 92 counties): July 2026

#3 - Fayette (4.3%)

#5 - Delaware (4.2%)

#10 - Blackford (3.9%)

#18 - Wayne (3.8%)

#31 - Randolph (3.6%)

#46 - Henry (3.4%)

#56 - Jay (3.3%)

#60 - Rush (3.3%)

#90 - Union (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 July 2026 from				
CPI Item	Jul-25	Jun-26	Jul-25	Jun-26
	U.S. City		Midwest Region*	
All Items	3.4%	0.0%	3.5%	-0.2%
Food & Beverages	2.9%	0.1%	2.7%	0.1%
Housing	3.3%	0.1%	3.8%	0.2%
Apparel	3.9%	-1.3%	6.4%	-0.2%
Transportation	5.8%	-0.6%	5.0%	-1.4%
Medical Care	1.7%	0.2%	1.9%	-0.3%
Recreation	2.6%	0.2%	3.6%	-0.9%
Education & Communication	0.5%	0.7%	0.4%	0.5%
Other Goods & Services	4.3%	0.0%	1.8%	-0.9%

*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

Unemployment Claims:
July 2026

Region 6

Initial Claims

07/04/26 - 57(D)
07/11/26 - 115(D)
07/18/26 - 74(D)
07/25/26 - 72(D)

Continued Claims

07/04/26 - 645
07/11/26 - 679
07/18/26 - 654
07/25/26 - 643

Total Claims

07/04/26 - 702
07/11/26 - 794
07/18/26 - 728
07/25/26 - 715

State of Indiana

Initial Claims

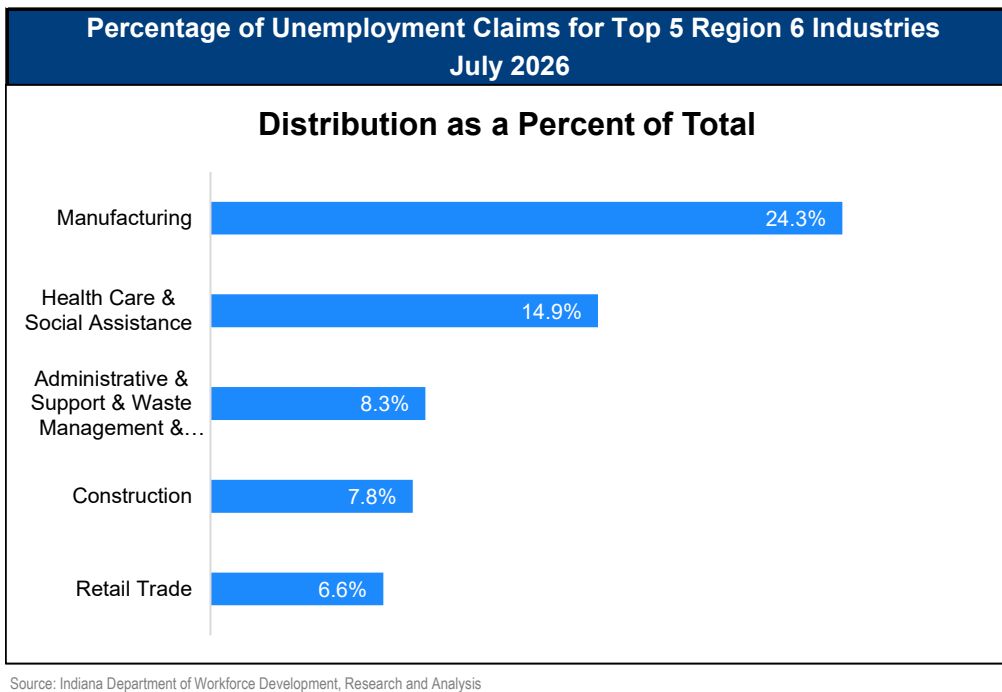
07/04/26 - 2,264
07/11/26 - 4,126
07/18/26 - 3,349
07/25/26 - 2,009

Continued Claims

07/04/26 - 19,177
07/11/26 - 20,998
07/18/26 - 18,701
07/25/26 - 18,092

Total Claims

07/04/26 - 21,441
07/11/26 - 25,124
07/18/26 - 22,050
07/25/26 - 20,101



WARN Notices

WARN Notices for Region 6 for July 2026				
Company	City	County	# of workers affected	Notice Date

There are no WARN Notices for July 2026 for EGR 6.

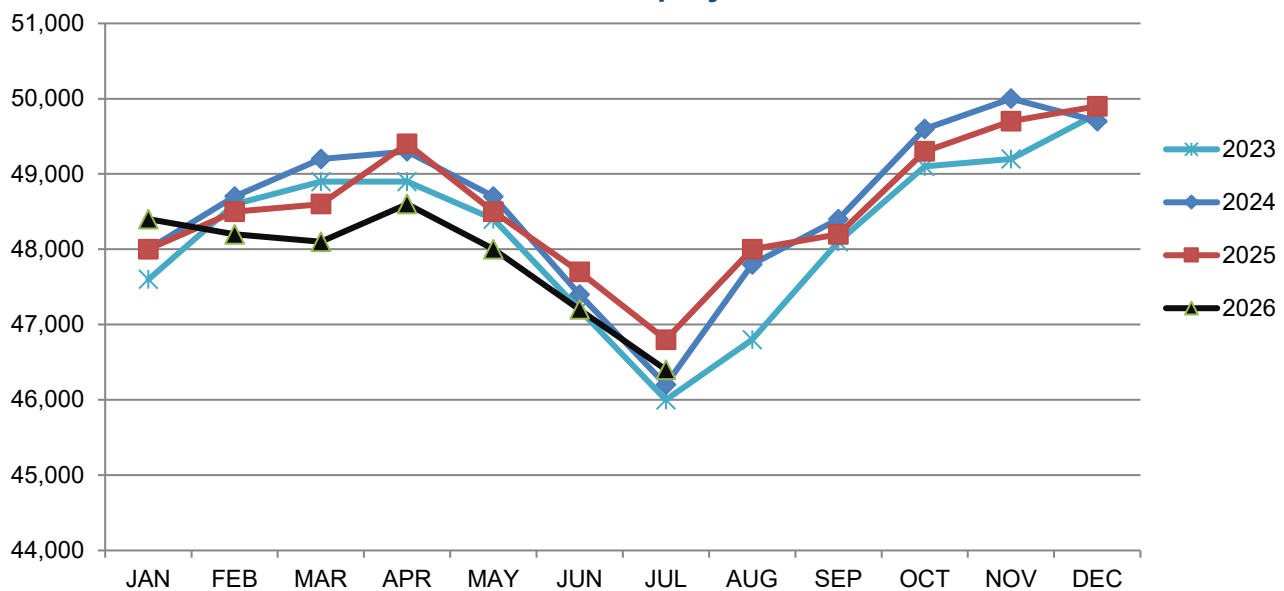
Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, WARN Notices | For information on WARN Act requirements, you may go to the U.S. Department of Labor Employment Training Administration Fact Sheet:
<https://www.doleta.gov/programs/factsht/warn.htm>

(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	July 2026			# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Industry	Jul-26	Jun-26	Jul-25	Jun-26 to Jul-26		Jul-25 to Jul-26	
Total Nonfarm	46,400	47,200	46,800	-800	-1.7%	-400	-0.9%
Total Private	38,500	38,400	38,300	100	0.3%	200	0.5%
Goods Producing	5,900	5,900	5,700	0	0.0%	200	3.5%
Service-Providing	40,500	41,300	41,100	-800	-1.9%	-600	-1.5%
Private Service Providing	32,600	32,500	32,600	100	0.3%	0	0.0%
Mining, Logging and Construction	1,700	1,700	1,600	0	0.0%	100	6.3%
Manufacturing	4,200	4,200	4,100	0	0.0%	100	2.4%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	7,900	8,000	8,100	-100	-1.3%	-200	-2.5%
Wholesale Trade	1,300	1,300	1,400	0	0.0%	-100	-7.1%
Retail Trade	5,600	5,700	5,600	-100	-1.8%	0	0.0%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	1,000	1,000	1,100	0	0.0%	-100	-9.1%
Information	300	300	400	0	0.0%	-100	-25.0%
Financial Activities	2,300	2,300	2,400	0	0.0%	-100	-4.2%
Education and Health Services	10,300	10,300	10,200	0	0.0%	100	1.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	5,000	5,000	5,100	0	0.0%	-100	-2.0%
Other Services	2,200	2,200	2,200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Government	7,900	8,800	8,500	-900	-10.2%	-600	-7.1%
State Government	4,600	4,800	4,700	-200	-4.2%	-100	-2.1%
State Government Educational Services	4,400	4,600	4,500	-200	-4.4%	-100	-2.2%
State Government Excluding Education	200	200	200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Local Government	3,300	3,400	3,500	-100	-2.9%	-200	-5.7%
Local Government Educational Services	1,700	1,800	1,800	-100	-5.6%	-100	-5.6%
Local Government excluding Educational Services	1,600	1,600	1,700	0	0.0%	-100	-5.9%

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	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers
2	Registered Nurses
3	Retail Salespersons
4	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
5	First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers
6	Home Health and Personal Care Aides
7	Nursing Assistants
8	Physicians, All Other
9	Food Service Managers
10	Physical Therapists
11	Customer Service Representatives
12	Production Workers, All Other
13	Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary
14	Coaches and Scouts
15	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General
16	Postsecondary Teachers
17	Nurse Practitioners
18	Medical and Health Services Managers
19	Merchandise Displayers and Window Trimmers
20	Food Preparation Workers

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	203
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	129
Customer Service Representatives	96
Helpers--Production Workers	79
Cashiers	63
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	62
Office Clerks, General	61
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	55
Team Assemblers	44
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants	42
Managers, All Other	38
Receptionists and Information Clerks	38
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	37
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	33
Retail Salespersons	33
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	32
Construction Laborers	31
Extraction Workers, All Other	30
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	30
General and Operations Managers	30

Source: Indiana Workforce Development, Indiana Career Connect

SNAPSHOT

July Indiana Employment

Released August 21, 2026



Unemployment Rate

*seasonally adjusted

Unemployment Rate

3.3%

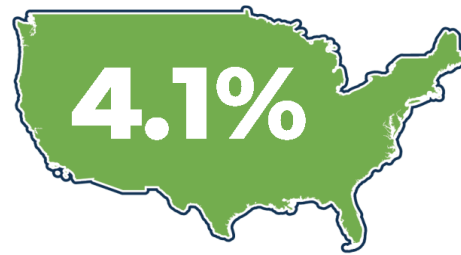


June 2026 Indiana

3.3%



National Unemployment Rate



LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE*

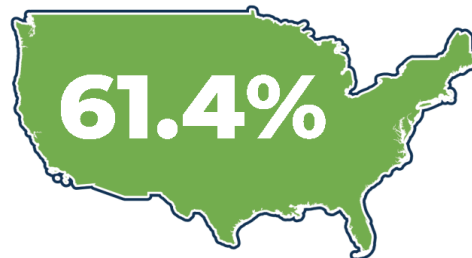
16+: **63.1%**

25-44: **83.9%**

25-54: **83.5%**



National Labor Force



Open Job Postings

101,704
Jobs

As of August 1, 2026



Weekly UI Continued Claims

18,092



Filed Week Ending August 1, 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.

**Please contact the
Regional Labor Analyst
listed below:**

Indiana Department of
Workforce Development

Indiana Non-Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

Legend:

- 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%

Labor Market Review EGR 6