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INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

Economic Growth Region 6

Statistical Data Report for August 2026, Released October 2026

State Employment and Unemployment

Unemployment rates were lower in August in 8 states and the District of Columbia and stable in 42 states, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Fourteen states and the District had jobless rate decreases from a year earlier, 10 states had increases, and 26 states had little change. The national unemployment rate, 4.1 percent, was unchanged over the month and was little changed from August 2025.

In August 2026, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 4 states and was essentially unchanged in 46 states and the District of Columbia. Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 8 states, decreased in the District, and was essentially unchanged in 42 states.

South Dakota had the lowest jobless rate in August, 2.0 percent, followed by North Dakota, 2.2 percent. The rate in Ohio (3.3 percent) set a new series low. (All state series begin in 1976.) The District of Columbia had the highest unemployment rate, 5.7 percent. In total, 19 states had unemployment rates lower than the U.S. figure of 4.1 percent, 6 states and the District had higher rates, and 25 states had rates that were not appreciably different from that of the nation.



Economic Growth Region (EGR) 6

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

Unemployment Rates by State (seasonally adjusted): August 2026

U.S. - 4.1%

Illinois - 4.7%

Indiana - 3.3%

Kentucky - 4.7%

Michigan - 5%

Ohio - 3.3%

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

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

#3 - Delaware (4.2%)

#4 - Fayette (4.2%)

#16 - Blackford (3.7%)

#17 - Wayne (3.7%)

#28 - Fulton (3.7%)

#50 - Randolph (3.3%)

#61 - Rush (3.2%)

#67 - Jay (3.1%)

#91 - Union (2.7%)

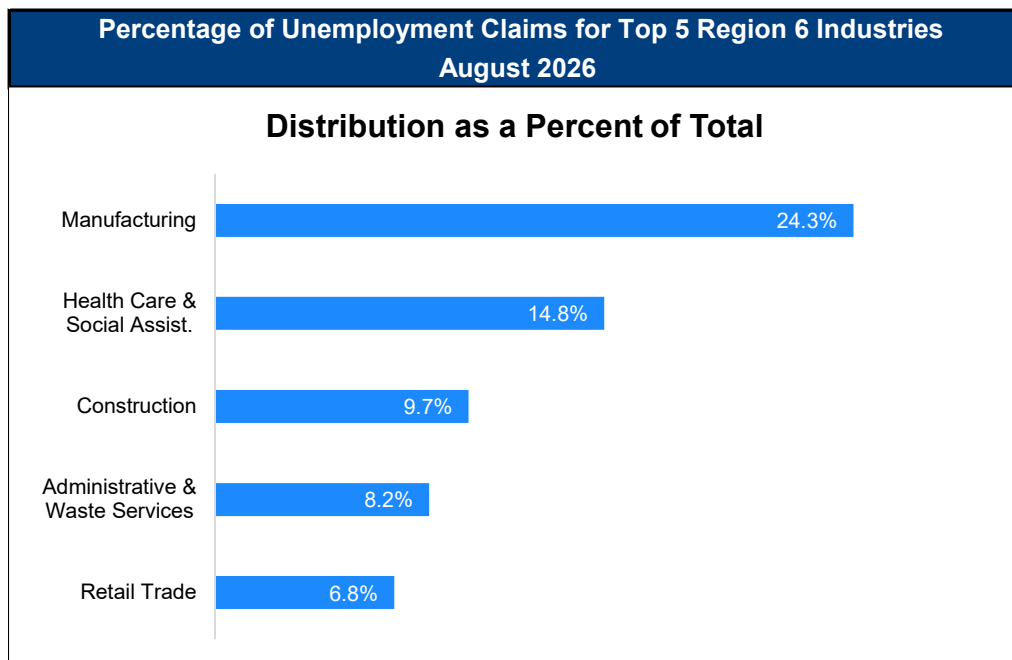
Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Development, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

August 2026 Labor Force Estimates (not seasonally adjusted)						
Area	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Aug-26	Jul-26	Aug-25
U.S.	170,048,000	162,667,000	7,381,000	4.3%	4.4%	4.5%
IN	3,488,974	3,364,991	123,983	3.6%	3.6%	3.8%
EGR 6	154,982	149,186	5,796	3.7%	3.8%	4.1%
Muncie MSA	51,824	49,623	2,201	4.2%	4.2%	4.7%
Blackford Co.	5,138	4,949	189	3.7%	3.8%	4.2%
Delaware Co.	51,824	49,623	2,201	4.2%	4.2%	4.7%
Fayette Co.	10,190	9,763	427	4.2%	4.3%	4.3%
Henry Co.	22,826	22,064	762	3.3%	3.4%	3.7%
Jay Co.	9,484	9,188	296	3.1%	3.3%	3.7%
Randolph Co.	12,065	11,664	401	3.3%	3.6%	3.7%
Rush Co.	8,550	8,277	273	3.2%	3.3%	3.6%
Union Co.	4,291	4,174	117	2.7%	2.9%	2.7%
Wayne Co.	30,614	29,484	1,130	3.7%	3.8%	4.0%
Connersville	5,568	5,308	260	4.7%	4.9%	4.7%
Muncie	29,428	28,053	1,375	4.7%	4.6%	5.2%
New Castle	8,399	8,123	276	3.3%	3.4%	4.0%
Richmond	15,472	14,826	646	4.2%	4.3%	4.4%

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research & Analysis, Local Area Unemployment Statistics | Unemployment Statistics Released: 10/26 | 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 August 2026 from				
CPI Item	Aug-25	Jul-26	Aug-25	Jul-26
	U.S. City		Midwest Region*	
All Items	3.4%	0.3%	3.6%	0.4%
Food & Beverages	2.6%	0.1%	2.5%	0.5%
Housing	3.1%	0.2%	3.7%	0.0%
Apparel	3.6%	1.9%	4.0%	0.6%
Transportation	6.2%	0.5%	5.8%	1.0%
Medical Care	1.6%	-0.1%	1.6%	-0.2%
Recreation	2.7%	0.0%	3.8%	0.8%
Education & Communication	2.1%	1.9%	2.4%	1.9%
Other Goods & Services	4.2%	0.1%	2.2%	0.3%

*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 August 2026				
Company	City	County	# of workers affected	Notice Date

There are no WARN Notices for August 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>

Unemployment Claims: August 2026

Region 6

Initial Claims

08/01/26 - 58(D)

08/08/26 - 80(D)

08/15/26 - 74(D)

08/22/26 - 133(D)

08/29/26 - 73(D)

Continued Claims

08/01/26 - 651

08/08/26 - 653

08/15/26 - 649

08/22/26 - 654

08/29/26 - 628

Total Claims

08/01/26 - 709

08/08/26 - 733

08/15/26 - 723

08/22/26 - 787

08/29/26 - 701

State of Indiana

Initial Claims

08/01/26 - 1,953

08/08/26 - 2,319

08/15/26 - 2,213

08/22/26 - 2,273

08/29/26 - 2,318

Continued Claims

08/01/26 - 18,164

08/08/26 - 17,953

08/15/26 - 17,757

08/22/26 - 17,631

08/29/26 - 17,551

Total Claims

08/01/26 - 20,117

08/08/26 - 20,272

08/15/26 - 19,970

08/22/26 - 19,904

08/29/26 - 19,869

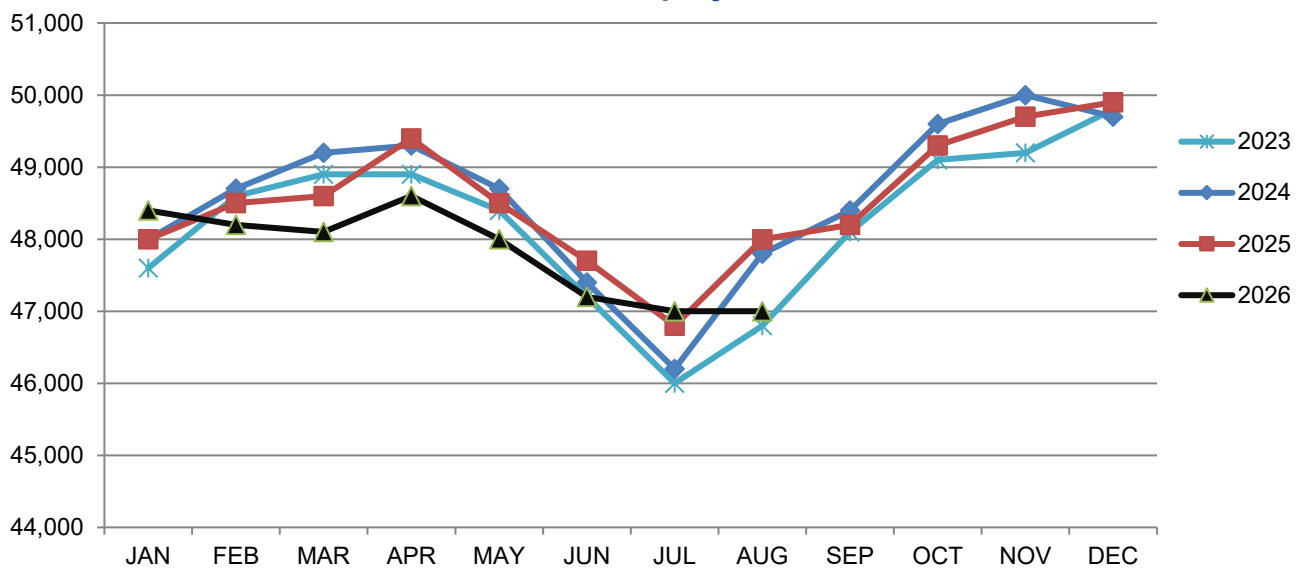
(D) indicates item is affected by non-disclosure issues relating to industry or ownership status |

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Development

Muncie MSA							
Wage and Salaried Employment	August 2026			# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Industry	Aug-26	Jul-26	Aug-25	Jul-26 to Aug-26		Aug-25 to Aug-26	
Total Nonfarm	47,000	47,000	48,000	0	0.0%	-1,000	-2.1%
Total Private	38,400	38,400	38,400	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Goods Producing	5,900	5,900	5,700	0	0.0%	200	3.5%
Service-Providing	41,100	41,100	42,300	0	0.0%	-1,200	-2.8%
Private Service Providing	32,500	32,500	32,700	0	0.0%	-200	-0.6%
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	7,900	8,000	0	0.0%	-100	-1.3%
Wholesale Trade	1,300	1,300	1,300	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Retail Trade	5,600	5,600	5,600	0	0.0%	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	10,200	10,200	10,100	0	0.0%	100	1.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	5,000	5,000	5,200	0	0.0%	-200	-3.9%
Other Services	2,200	2,200	2,100	0	0.0%	100	4.8%
Government	8,600	8,600	9,600	0	0.0%	-1,000	-10.4%
State Government	3,800	4,900	5,600	-1,100	-22.5%	-1,800	-32.1%
State Government Educational Services	3,600	4,700	5,400	-1,100	-23.4%	-1,800	-33.3%
State Government Excluding Education	200	200	200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Local Government	3,400	3,300	3,800	100	3.0%	-400	-10.5%
Local Government Educational Services	1,900	1,700	2,100	200	11.8%	-200	-9.5%
Local Government excluding Educational Services	1,500	1,600	1,700	-100	-6.3%	-200	-11.8%

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	Production Workers, All Other
8	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General
9	Nursing Assistants
10	Physical Therapists
11	Food Service Managers
12	Postsecondary Teachers
13	Physicians, All Other
14	Merchandise Displayers and Window Trimmers
15	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners
16	Customer Service Representatives
17	Health Technologists and Technicians, All Other
18	Medical and Health Services Managers
19	Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary
20	Nurse Practitioners

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	167
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	117
Customer Service Representatives	86
Helpers--Production Workers	66
Office Clerks, General	60
Cashiers	55
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	55
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	49
Team Assemblers	41
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants	36
Managers, All Other	35
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	34
Receptionists and Information Clerks	33
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	30
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	30
Retail Salespersons	29
Extraction Workers, All Other	27
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	26
Construction Laborers	26
Data Entry Keyers	26

Source: Indiana Workforce Development, Indiana Career Connect

SNAPSHOT

August Indiana Employment

Released September 18, 2026



Unemployment Rate

*seasonally adjusted

Unemployment Rate

3.3%



July 2026 Indiana

3.3%



National Unemployment Rate



LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE*

16+: **63.0%**

25-44: **84.0%**

25-54: **83.5%**



National Labor Force



Open Job Postings

102,895

Jobs

As of August 30, 2026



Weekly UI Continued Claims

17,551

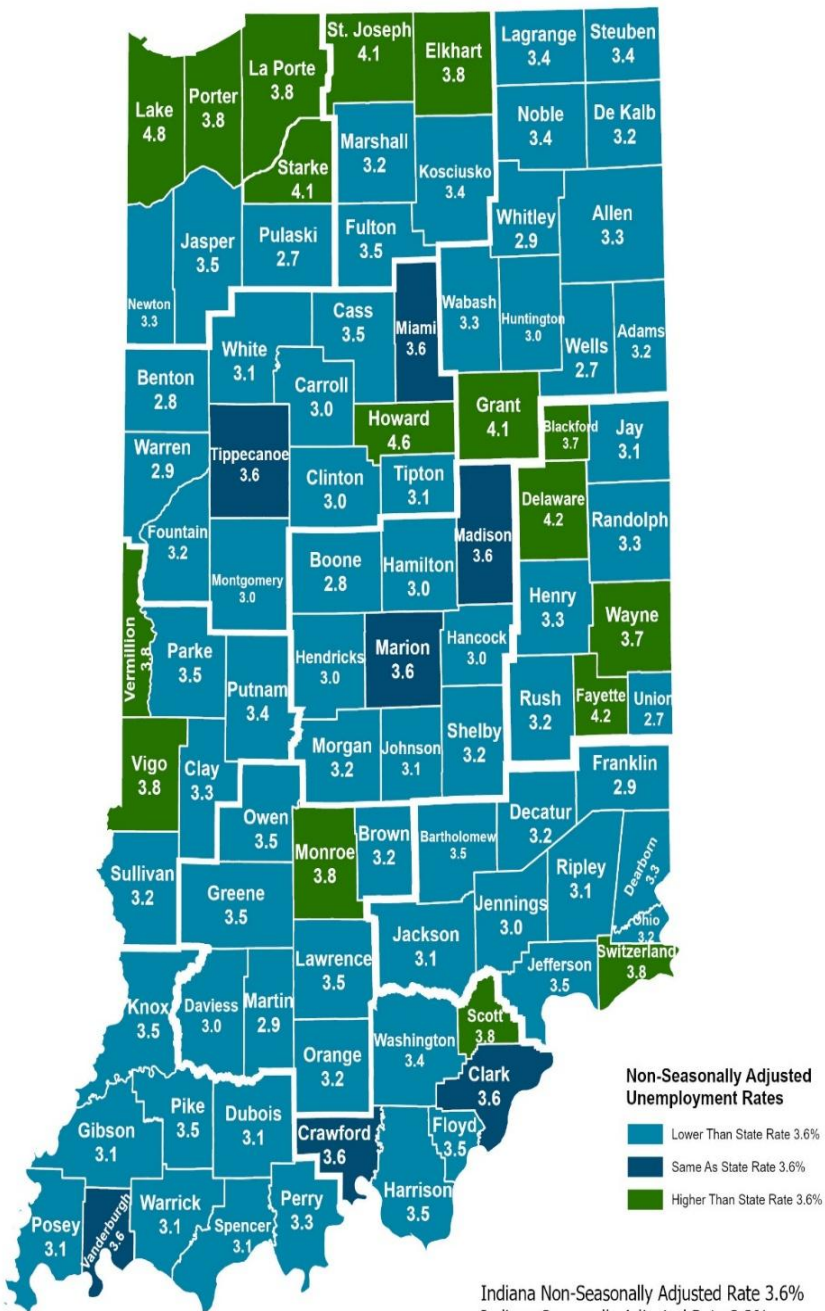


Filed Week Ending September 5, 2026

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Indiana Career Connect

* The percentage of those aged 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 children's needs.

County Unemployment Rates August 2026



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



Questions?

Please contact the
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listed below:

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