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INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

LABOR MARKET REVIEW

January 2026
Labor Market Review

Reported by: Cassie Janes

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INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Economic Growth Region 8

Statistical Data Report for January 2026, Released April 2026

State Employment and Unemployment

Unemployment rates were higher in January in 1 state and stable in 49 states and the District of Columbia, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Fourteen states and the District had jobless rate increases from a year earlier, 2 states had decreases, and 34 states had little change. The national unemployment rate, 4.3 percent, changed little over the month but was 0.3percentage point higher than in January 2025.

In January 2026, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 5 states, decreased in the District of Columbia, and was essentially unchanged in 45 states. Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 4 states, decreased in Maryland and the District, and was essentially unchanged in 45 states.

Hawaii and South Dakota had the lowest jobless rates in January, 2.2 percent each. The District of Columbia had the highest unemployment rate, 6.7 percent. The next highest rates were in California and Delaware, 5.4 percent each. In total, 20 states had unemployment rates lower than the U.S. figure of 4.3 percent, 7 states and the District had higher rates, and 23 states had rates that were not appreciably different from that of the nation.

January 2026 Labor Force Estimates (not seasonally adjusted)

Area	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Jan-26	Dec-25	Jan-25
U.S.	169,612,000	161,670,000	7,942,000	4.7%	4.1%	4.4%
IN	3,473,602	3,359,879	113,723	3.3%	2.6%	4.2%
EGR 8	155,773	151,156	4,617	3.0%	2.4%	3.8%
Bloomington MSA	81,024	78,733	2,291	2.8%	2.3%	3.5%
Brown Co.	7,801	7,546	255	3.3%	2.4%	4.4%
Daviess Co.	16,039	15,613	426	2.7%	2.1%	3.2%
Greene Co.	14,247	13,746	501	3.5%	2.8%	4.9%
Lawrence Co.	22,036	21,328	708	3.2%	2.6%	4.5%
Martin Co.	5,155	5,013	142	2.8%	2.1%	3.3%
Monroe Co.	70,869	68,918	1,951	2.8%	2.3%	3.4%
Orange Co.	9,471	9,177	294	3.1%	2.5%	4.7%
Owen Co.	10,155	9,815	340	3.3%	2.7%	4.5%
Bloomington	39,839	38,811	1,028	2.6%	2.3%	3.2%

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.

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Economic Growth Region (EGR) 8

Brown, Daviess, Greene, Lawrence, Martin, Monroe, Orange and Owen Counties

Unemployment Rates by State (seasonally adjusted): January 2026

U.S. - 4.3%

Illinois - 4.9%

Indiana - 3.4%

Kentucky - 4.3%

Michigan - 5%

Ohio - 4.3%

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

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

#24 - Greene (3.5%)

#36 - Brown (3.3%)

#37 - Owen (3.3%)

#43 - Lawrence (3.2%)

#48 - Orange (3.1%)

#74 - Martin (2.8%)

#75 - Monroe (2.8%)

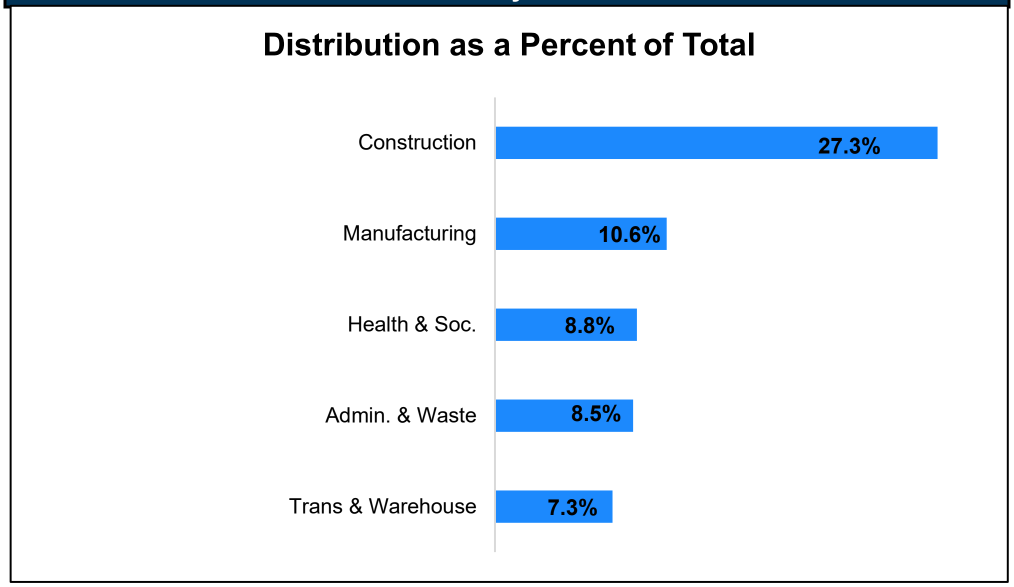
#80 - Daviess (2.7%)

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

Consumer Price Index (CPI-U Change), Unadjusted Percent Change to January 2026 from				
CPI Item	Jan-25	Dec-25	Jan-25	Dec-25
	U.S. City		Midwest Region*	
All Items	**2.4%**	**0.4%**	**2.4%**	**0.4%**
Food & Beverages	2.8%	0.4%	2.0%	0.3%
Housing	3.4%	0.4%	4.5%	0.6%
Apparel	1.7%	2.0%	2.2%	2.7%
Transportation	-1.1%	-0.4%	-2.4%	-0.4%
Medical Care	3.2%	0.5%	2.6%	0.2%
Recreation	2.5%	0.8%	4.2%	0.6%
Education & Communication	0.5%	0.3%	1.0%	0.9%
Other Goods & Services	5.9%	1.5%	3.1%	-0.4%

*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 8 Industries January 2026



Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis

WARN Notices

WARN Notices for Region 8 for January 2026				
Company	City	County	# of workers affected	Notice Date

There are no WARN Notices for January 2026 for EGR 8.

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: January 2026

Region 8

Initial Claims
01/03/26 - 176(D)
01/10/26 - 175(D)
01/17/26 - 115(D)
01/24/26 - 101(D)
01/31/26 - 142 (D)

Continued Claims
01/03/26 - 862
01/10/26 - 852
01/17/26 - 875
01/24/26 - 900
01/31/26 - 969

Total Claims
01/03/26 - 1,038
01/10/26 - 1,027
01/17/26 - 990
01/24/26 - 1,001
01/31/26 - 1,111

State of Indiana

Initial Claims
01/03/26 - 4,665
01/10/26 - 7,494
01/17/26 - 3,789
01/24/26 - 3,186
01/31/26 - 3,722

Continued Claims
01/03/26 - 28,001
01/10/26 - 29,612
01/17/26 - 28,556
01/24/26 - 26,440
01/31/26 - 27,470

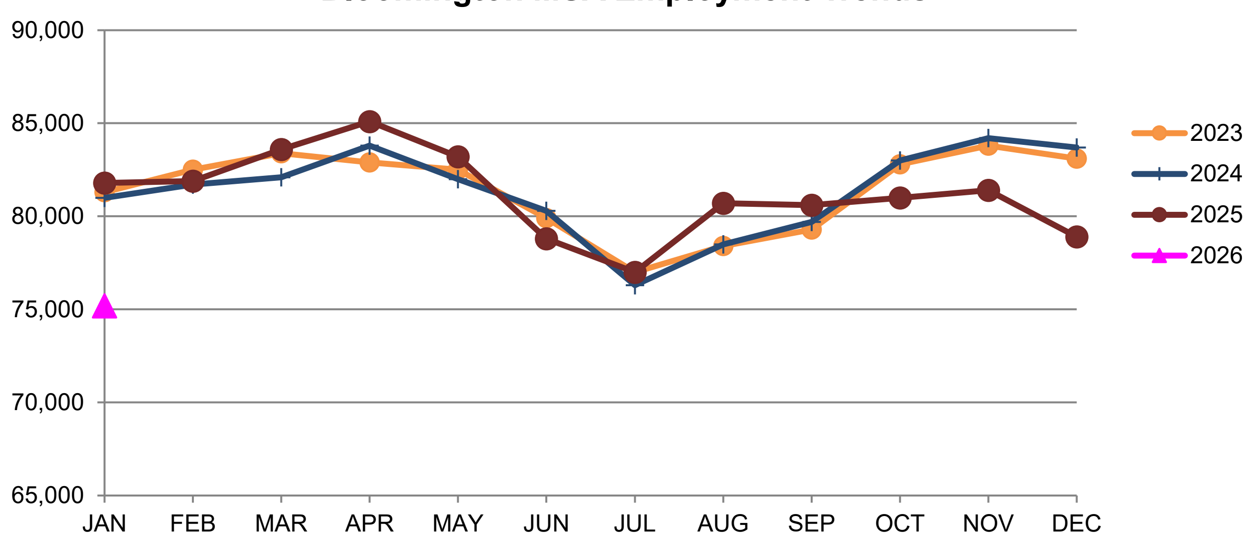
Total Claims
01/03/26 - 32,666
01/10/26 - 37,106
01/17/26 - 32,345
01/24/26 - 29,626
01/31/26 - 31,192

(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, Research and Development

Bloomington MSA							
Wage and Salaried Employment	January 2026			# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Industry	**Jan-26**	**Dec-25**	**Jan-25**	**Dec-25 to Jan-26**		**Jan-25 to Jan-26**	
Total Nonfarm	**75,200**	**78,900**	**81,800**	**-3,700**	**-4.7%**	**-6,600**	**-8.1%**
Total Private	**56,800**	**57,500**	**56,100**	**-700**	**-1.2%**	**700**	**1.3%**
Goods Producing	14,000	14,100	13,400	-100	-0.7%	600	4.5%
Service-Providing	61,200	64,800	68,400	-3,600	-5.6%	-7,200	-10.5%
Private Service Providing	42,800	43,400	42,700	-600	-1.4%	100	0.2%
Mining, Logging and Construction	3,600	3,700	3,000	-100	-2.7%	600	20.0%
Manufacturing	10,400	10,400	10,400	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Durable Goods	5,800	5,800	6,000	0	0.0%	-200	-3.3%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	10,000	10,300	10,000	-300	-2.9%	0	0.0%
Wholesale Trade	2,100	2,100	2,200	0	0.0%	-100	-4.6%
Retail Trade	6,700	6,900	6,600	-200	-2.9%	100	1.5%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	1,200	1,300	1,200	-100	-7.7%	0	0.0%
Information	800	800	800	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	2,800	2,800	2,800	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Professional and Business Services	5,700	5,800	5,800	-100	-1.7%	-100	-1.7%
Education and Health Services	12,200	12,200	12,300	0	0.0%	-100	-0.8%
Leisure and Hospitality	8,700	8,900	8,400	-200	-2.3%	300	3.6%
Other Services	2,600	2,600	2,600	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total Government	**18,400**	**21,400**	**25,700**	**-3,000**	**-14.0%**	**-7,300**	**-28.4%**
Federal Government	300	400	400	-100	-25.0%	-100	-25.0%
State Government	12,800	15,700	19,800	-2,900	-18.5%	-7,000	-35.4%
Local Government	5,300	5,300	5,500	0	0.0%	-200	-3.6%
Local Government Educational Services	2,600	2,600	2,800	0	0.0%	-200	-7.1%
Local Government excluding Educational Services	2,700	2,700	2,700	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

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

Bloomington 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 8 in the past month	
Rank	**Occupations**
1	Registered Nurses
2	Driver/Sales Workers and Truck Drivers
3	Home Health and Personal Care Aides
4	Retail Salespersons
5	First-Line Supervisors of Sales Workers
6	Postsecondary Teachers
7	Physicians
8	Therapists
9	Building Cleaning Workers
10	Laborers and Material Movers
11	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing
12	Food Preparation Workers
13	Medical and Health Services Managers
14	Diagnostic Related Technologists and Technicians
15	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
16	Nursing Assistants, Orderlies, and Psychiatric Aides
17	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General
18	Logisticians and Project Management Specialists
19	Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers
20	Food Service Managers

Source: Lightcast

Applicant Pool	
Top 20 occupations desired by applicants on their resumes in the past 12 months	
Occupations	**# of applicants**
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	88
Production Workers, All Other	84
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	81
Office Clerks, General	64
Cashiers	58
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	57
Customer Service Representatives	55
Helpers--Production Workers	48
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	43
Construction Laborers	41
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	37
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants	34
Managers, All Other	34
Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators	32
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	30
Retail Salespersons	30
Team Assemblers	29
Waiters and Waitresses	29
Medical Assistants	27
General and Operations Managers	26

Source: Indiana Workfroce Development, Indiana Career Connect.

INSIDE INDIANA BUSINESS WITH GERRY DICK

US employers added a surprisingly strong 178,000 jobs last month
Friday, April 3, 2026 11:26 AM EDT
By Associated Press

WASHINGTON, D.C. - American employers added a surprisingly strong 178,000 new jobs last month, rebounding from a dismal February. And the unemployment rate dipped to 4.3%.

The Labor Department reported Friday that hiring marked a turnaround from the loss of 133,000 jobs in February. The job gains were about three times what economists had forecast. But uncertainty surrounding the war with Iran — and its impact on energy prices — is clouding the outlook for the labor market.

The unemployment rate was down from 4.4% in February. That is partly because the labor force — those working and looking for work — dropped by 396,000 in March so fewer people were competing for jobs. In fact, the percentage of people in the labor force dropped to 61.9% last month, the lowest since November 2021.

Health care companies added 76,400 jobs last month, boosted by the return of 31,000 Kaiser Permanente employees to work after the end of a strike in February. Factories added 15,000 jobs last month but have still shed jobs for 14 of the last 16 months. Construction companies added 26,000 jobs, probably partly because of warmer weather last month.

Average hourly wages were up 0.2% from February. Compared to March 2025, they were up 3.5% — the smallest gain since May 2021 and one consistent with the Federal Reserve's 2% annual inflation target.

Labor Department revisions shaved 7,000 jobs off combined January and February payrolls.

The U.S. job market has been in a slump over the past year. Most economists say the impact of the war and higher energy prices was probably not fully reflected in the March jobs numbers.

"The data is mostly backward-looking, and likely does not incorporate any impact from the recent rise in energy prices, or other risks related to the war in Iran,'' Thomas Simons, chief U.S. economist with the investment firm Jefferies, wrote in a commentary.

Diane Swonk, chief economist at the accounting firm KPMG, said that the economy is getting a lift from big tax refunds made possible by President Donald Trump's 2025 tax cuts. "But those are now being eaten up by higher energy costs,'' she said.

Last year, employers added an average of just 9,700 jobs a month, the weakest hiring outside a recession since 2002. Businesses have been reluctant to bring on new workers partly because of uncertainty arising from President Donald Trump's tariffs on imports and crackdown on immigration. One measure released by the Labor Department on Monday showed the weakest hiring since April 2020 – in the middle of COVID-19 lockdowns.

But firms have also been reluctant to let go of their existing employees, creating what economists describe as a "no-hire, no-fire'' scenario that locks young applicants out of the job market. At the same time, there are growing worries that artificial intelligence is taking entry-level jobs.

New jobs are heavily concentrated in health care and social assistance (which includes day care and vocational rehabilitation centers). That combined category accounted for more than half the jobs created last month. The trend reflects an aging U.S. population. A graying Japan saw the same thing in the early 2010s, Vanguard economist Adam Schickling wrote in a commentary ahead of Friday's jobs report.

"The larger-than-expected rebound in nonfarm payrolls in March mainly reflects a reversal of the strike and weather effects that weighed on hiring in February, rather than being a sign that the labor market is rapidly gaining momentum," said Stephen Brown, chief North America economist at Capital Economics. Citing higher oil prices, he warned of the risk that "the hit to consumers' purchasing power will weigh on demand and therefore hiring in the near term."

March's unexpectedly strong hiring is likely to ease pressure on the Fed policymakers to cut interest rates right away to help the job market, giving them time to assess what impact higher energy prices are having on overall inflation. Worries about the fallout from the war are likely to limit job gains for awhile. "It's the nature of uncertainties,'' said Olu Sonola, U.S. head of research at Fitch Ratings. "Companies typically respond by holding back'' on hiring decisions.

A lot will depend on how long the conflict lats and what happens to oil prices. The price of benchmark American crude oil closed just below $112 a barrel Thursday. "If that's $140 next month," Sonola said, "God knows what's going to happen.''

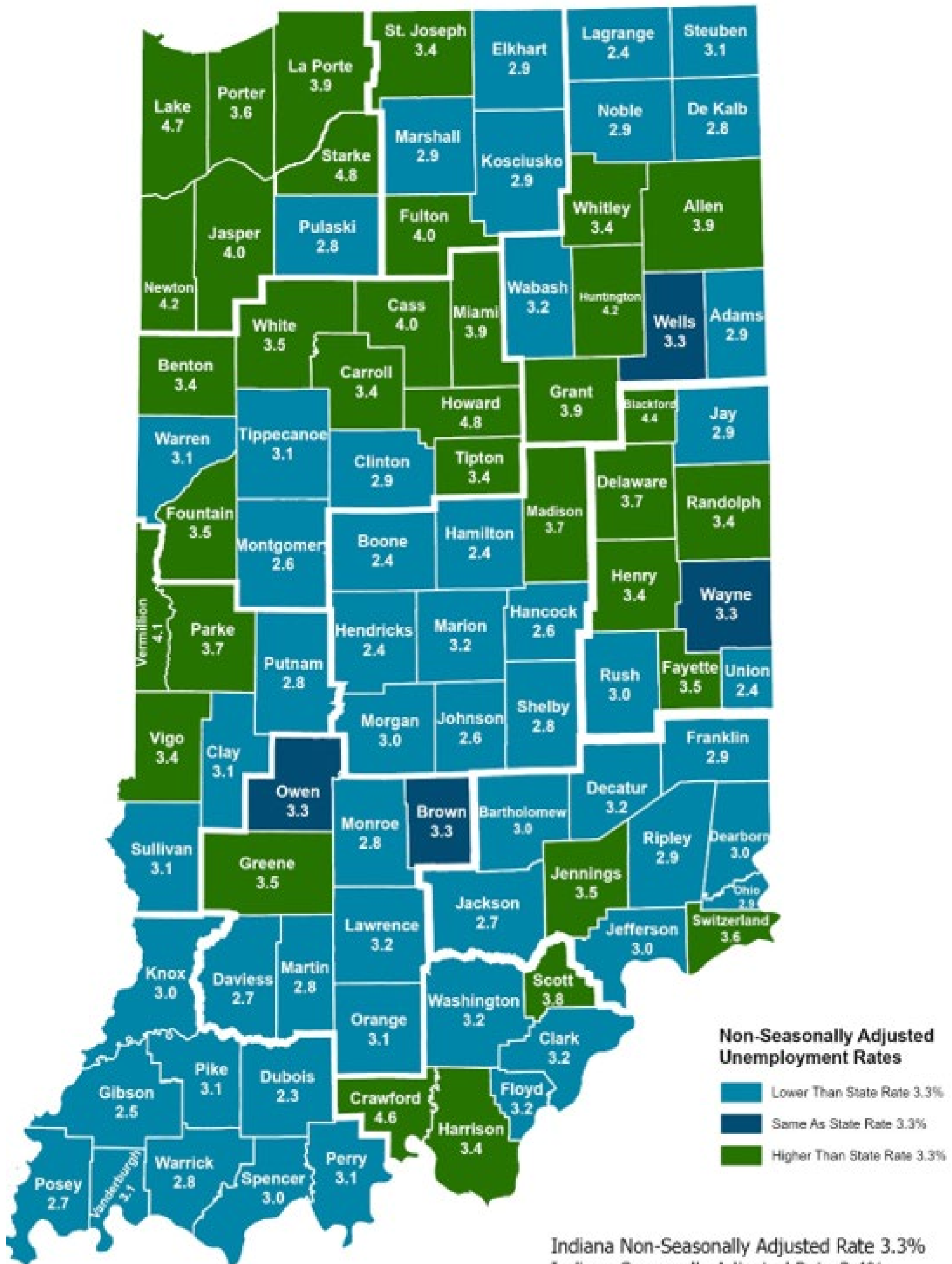
Mai Truong is the founder of Bo & Mei, which makes games and puzzles designed to celebrate Asian heritage. She's currently preparing for this year's holiday shopping season and assessing her hiring plans — but she's facing lots of unknowns.

The Brooklyn, New York-based company, which had sales of under $500,000 last year, had to pay tens of thousands of dollars in tariffs last year. Truong is not sure what her tariff bill will be this year and whether she will be able to get a refund after the Supreme Court struck down some of Trump's tariffs. The Iran war is also creating unforeseen costs including higher shipping expenses.

Truong is her company's only full-time employee. But she typically hires a couple of contractors, who work in operations, marketing and other areas, to help in the months heading to Christmas.

"It makes everything feel very uncertain," she said. "On the other hand, there's so little you can do with the volatility. You just have to stay the course and kind of deal with the variables as they become more clear."

County Unemployment Rates
January 2026



Indiana Non-Seasonally Adjusted Rate 3.3%
Indiana Seasonally Adjusted Rate 3.4%
Source: DWD, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Questions?

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