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INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

LABOR MARKET REVIEW



September 2026
Labor Market Review

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INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Economic Growth Region 8

Statistical Data Report for September 2026, Released November 2026

State Employment and Unemployment

Unemployment rates were lower in September in 5 states and stable in 45 states and the District of Columbia, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Twenty states and the District had jobless rate decreases from a year earlier, 7 states had increases, and 23 states had little change. The national unemployment rate, 4.2 percent, changed little both over the month and over the year.

South Dakota had the lowest jobless rate in September, 2.0 percent, followed by North Dakota, 2.2 percent. The District of Columbia had the highest unemployment rate, 5.6 percent. In total, 20 states had unemployment rates lower than the U.S. figure of 4.2 percent, 2 states and the District had higher rates, and 28 states had rates that were not appreciably different from that of the nation.

In September, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 2 states, decreased in 1 state, and was essentially unchanged in 47 states and the District of Columbia. Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment increased in 7 states, decreased in the District, and was essentially unchanged in 43 states.

The job gains occurred in New Jersey (+14,900, or +0.3 percent) and South Carolina (+12,500, or +0.5 percent). The only decrease occurred in Wisconsin (-13,700, or -0.4 percent).

This news release presents statistics from two monthly programs. The civilian labor force and unemployment data are modeled based largely on a survey of households. These data pertain to people by where they reside. The employment data are from an establishment survey that measures nonfarm employment, hours, and earnings by industry. These data pertain to jobs on payrolls defined by where the establishments are located.

September 2026 Labor Force Estimates (not seasonally adjusted)

Area	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Sep-26	Aug-26	Sep-25
U.S.	170,298,000	163,439,000	6,859,000	4.0%	4.3%	4.3%
IN	3,500,854	3,373,034	127,820	3.7%	3.6%	3.5%
EGR 8	158,655	152,900	5,755	3.6%	3.5%	3.3%
Bloomington MSA	82,608	79,520	3,088	3.7%	3.7%	3.3%
Brown Co.	7,936	7,656	280	3.5%	3.2%	3.2%
Daviess Co.	16,597	16,084	513	3.1%	3.0%	2.9%
Greene Co.	14,560	14,011	549	3.8%	3.5%	3.6%
Lawrence Co.	22,122	21,309	813	3.7%	3.4%	3.5%
Martin Co.	5,203	5,028	175	3.4%	2.9%	3.1%
Monroe Co.	72,239	69,534	2,705	3.7%	3.8%	3.3%
Orange Co.	9,629	9,292	337	3.5%	3.1%	3.5%
Owen Co.	10,369	9,986	383	3.7%	3.4%	3.5%
Bloomington	40,793	39,158	1,635	4.0%	4.3%	3.4%

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research & Analysis, Local Area Unemployment Statistics | Unemployment Statistics Released: 11/26 | 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) 8

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

Unemployment Rates by State (seasonally adjusted): September 2026

U.S. - 4.2%

Illinois - 4.6%

Indiana - 3.4%

Kentucky - 4.7%

Michigan - 5%

Ohio - 3.4%

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

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

#19 - Greene (3.8%)

#27 - Lawrence (3.7%)

#31 - Monroe (3.7%)

#33 - Owen (3.7%)

#48 - Brown (3.5%)

#54 - Orange (3.5%)

#67 - Martin (3.4%)

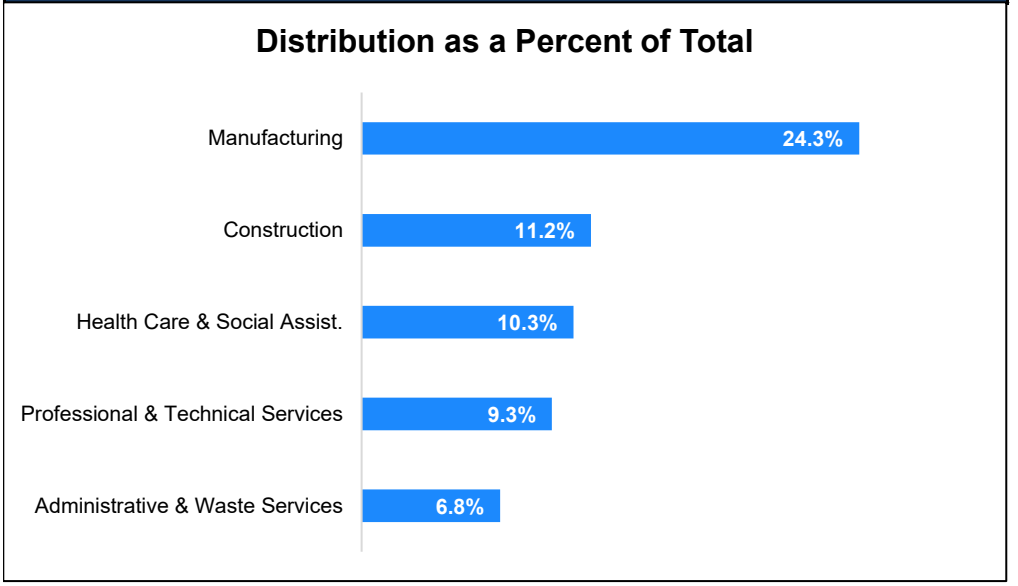
#84 - Daviess (3.1%)

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

Consumer Price Index (CPI-U Change), Unadjusted Percent Change to September 2026 from				
CPI Item	Sep-25	Aug-26	Sep-25	Aug-26
	U.S. City		Midwest Region*	
All Items	**3.7%**	**0.6%**	**4.2%**	**0.9%**
Food & Beverages	2.4%	0.1%	2.5%	0.2%
Housing	3.3%	0.3%	4.1%	0.5%
Apparel	3.4%	2.4%	4.2%	4.3%
Transportation	7.9%	1.7%	8.4%	4.3%
Medical Care	1.5%	0.1%	1.7%	0.6%
Recreation	2.8%	0.5%	3.8%	0.6%
Education & Communication	2.3%	0.4%	2.5%	0.9%
Other Goods & Services	4.1%	0.4%	2.6%	1.2%

*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 September 2026



Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis

WARN Notices

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

There are no WARN Notices for September 2026 for Region 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: September 2026

Region 8

Initial Claims

09/05/26 - 25(D)
09/12/26 - 25(D)
09/19/26 - 50(D)
09/26/26 - 23(D)

Continued Claims

09/05/26 - 502
09/12/26 - 496
09/19/26 - 488
09/26/26 - 442

Total Claims

09/05/26 - 527
09/12/26 - 521
09/19/26 - 538
09/26/26 - 465

State of Indiana

Initial Claims

09/05/26 - 2,136
09/12/26 - 1,893
09/19/26 - 2,060
09/26/26 - 1,848

Continued Claims

09/05/26 - 17,275
09/12/26 - 17,319
09/19/26 - 17,043
09/26/26 - 16,775

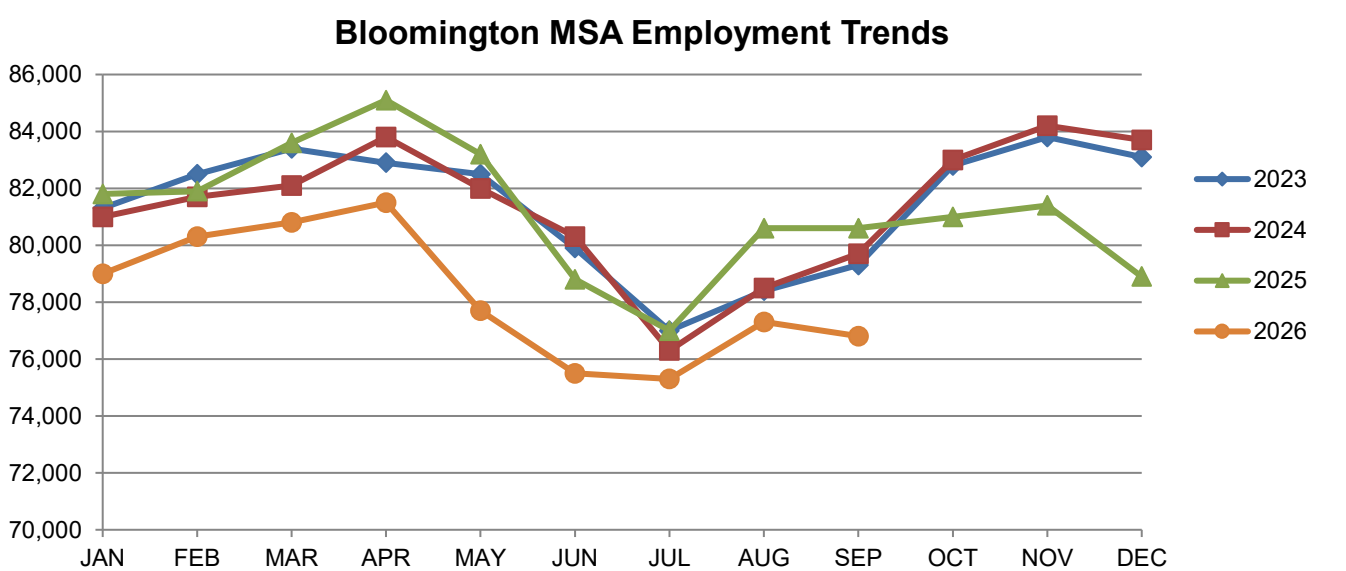
Total Claims

09/05/26 - 19,411
09/12/26 - 19,212
09/19/26 - 19,103
09/26/26 - 18,623

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

Bloomington MSA							
Wage and Salaried Employment	September 2026			# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Industry	Sep-26	Aug-26	Sep-25	Aug-26 to Sep-26		Sep-25 to Sep-26	
Total Nonfarm	**76,800**	**77,300**	**80,600**	**-500**	**-0.7%**	**-3,800**	**-4.7%**
Total Private	**57,400**	**57,700**	**57,500**	**-300**	**-0.5%**	**-100**	**-0.2%**
Goods Producing	14,400	14,500	14,200	-100	-0.7%	200	1.4%
Service-Providing	62,400	62,800	66,400	-400	-0.6%	-4,000	-6.0%
Private Service Providing	43,000	43,200	43,300	-200	-0.5%	-300	-0.7%
Mining, Logging and Construction	3,900	4,000	3,800	-100	-2.5%	100	2.6%
Manufacturing	10,500	10,500	10,400	0	0.0%	100	1.0%
Durable Goods	5,800	5,800	5,800	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	9,900	9,900	10,000	0	0.0%	-100	-1.0%
Wholesale Trade	2,100	2,100	2,100	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Retail Trade	6,600	6,600	6,700	0	0.0%	-100	-1.5%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	1,200	1,200	1,200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Information	700	700	800	0	0.0%	-100	-12.5%
Financial Activities	2,800	2,800	2,800	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Professional and Business Services	5,900	6,000	5,800	-100	-1.7%	100	1.7%
Education and Health Services	12,300	12,300	12,100	0	0.0%	200	1.7%
Leisure and Hospitality	8,800	8,800	9,200	0	0.0%	-400	-4.4%
Other Services	2,600	2,700	2,600	-100	-3.7%	0	0.0%
Total Government	**19,400**	**19,600**	**23,100**	**-200**	**-1.0%**	**-3,700**	**-16.0%**
Federal Government	400	300	400	100	33.3%	0	0.0%
State Government	13,400	13,700	17,300	-300	-2.2%	-3,900	-22.5%
Local Government	5,600	5,600	5,400	0	0.0%	200	3.7%
Local Government Educational Services	2,600	2,500	2,600	100	4.0%	0	0.0%
Local Government excluding Educational Services	3,000	3,100	2,800	-100	-3.2%	200	7.1%

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



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	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers
3	Retail Salespersons
4	First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers
5	Home Health and Personal Care Aides
6	Postsecondary Teachers
7	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
8	Merchandise Displayers and Window Trimmers
9	Medical and Health Services Managers
10	Customer Service Representatives
11	Health Technologists and Technicians, All Other
12	Speech-Language Pathologists
13	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General
14	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners
15	Nurse Practitioners
16	Cooks, Restaurant
17	Fast Food and Counter Workers
18	Stockers and Order Fillers
19	Nursing Assistants
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
Production Workers, All Other	95
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	93
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	90
Office Clerks, General	67
Cashiers	62
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	60
Helpers--Production Workers	57
Customer Service Representatives	47
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	45
Managers, All Other	43
Construction Laborers	41
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	39
Medical Assistants	38
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants	32
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	32
Retail Salespersons	32
Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators	31
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	29
Team Assemblers	29
Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	24

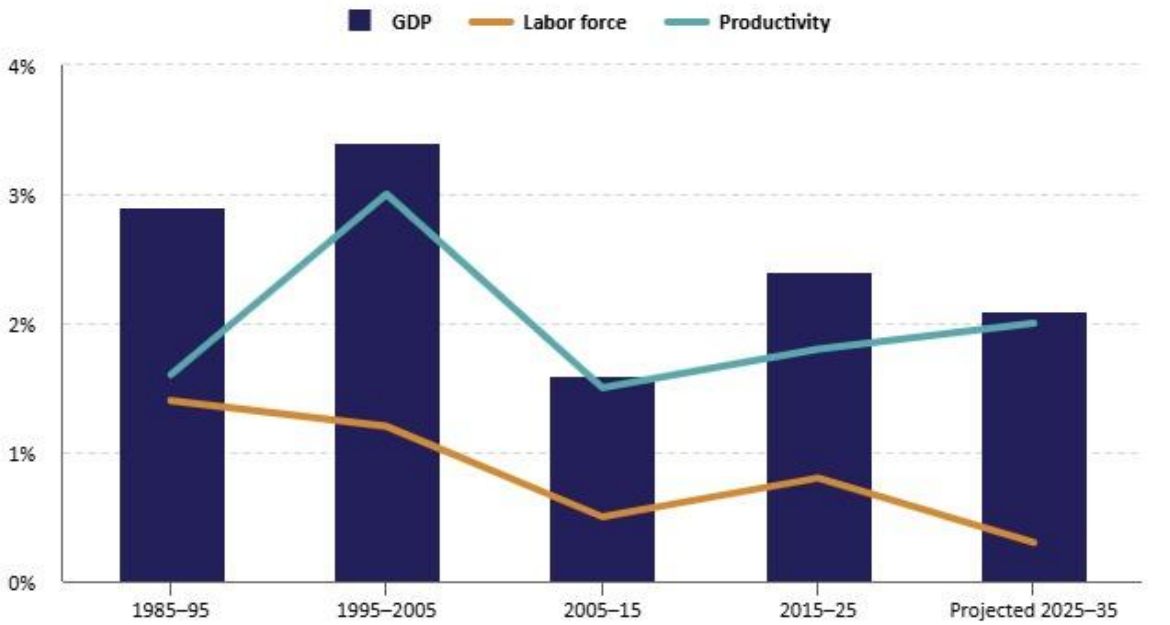
Source: Indiana Workforce Development, Indiana Career Connect

Career Outlook

Projections of the U.S. economy, labor force, and productivity 2025–35

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) projects the economy to grow by 2.1 percent each year, on average, from 2025 to 2035. As the columns in the chart show, this rate is in line with the average growth rates of the previous two decades. Economic growth is influenced by changes in the labor force and worker productivity, among other factors. The two lines on the chart show growth rates for the labor force (those working or looking for work) and productivity (output per hour).

Compound annual rate of change in real GDP, the labor force, and productivity, 1985–2025 and projected 2025–35 (percent)



Hover over chart to view data. Click on legend items to change display.

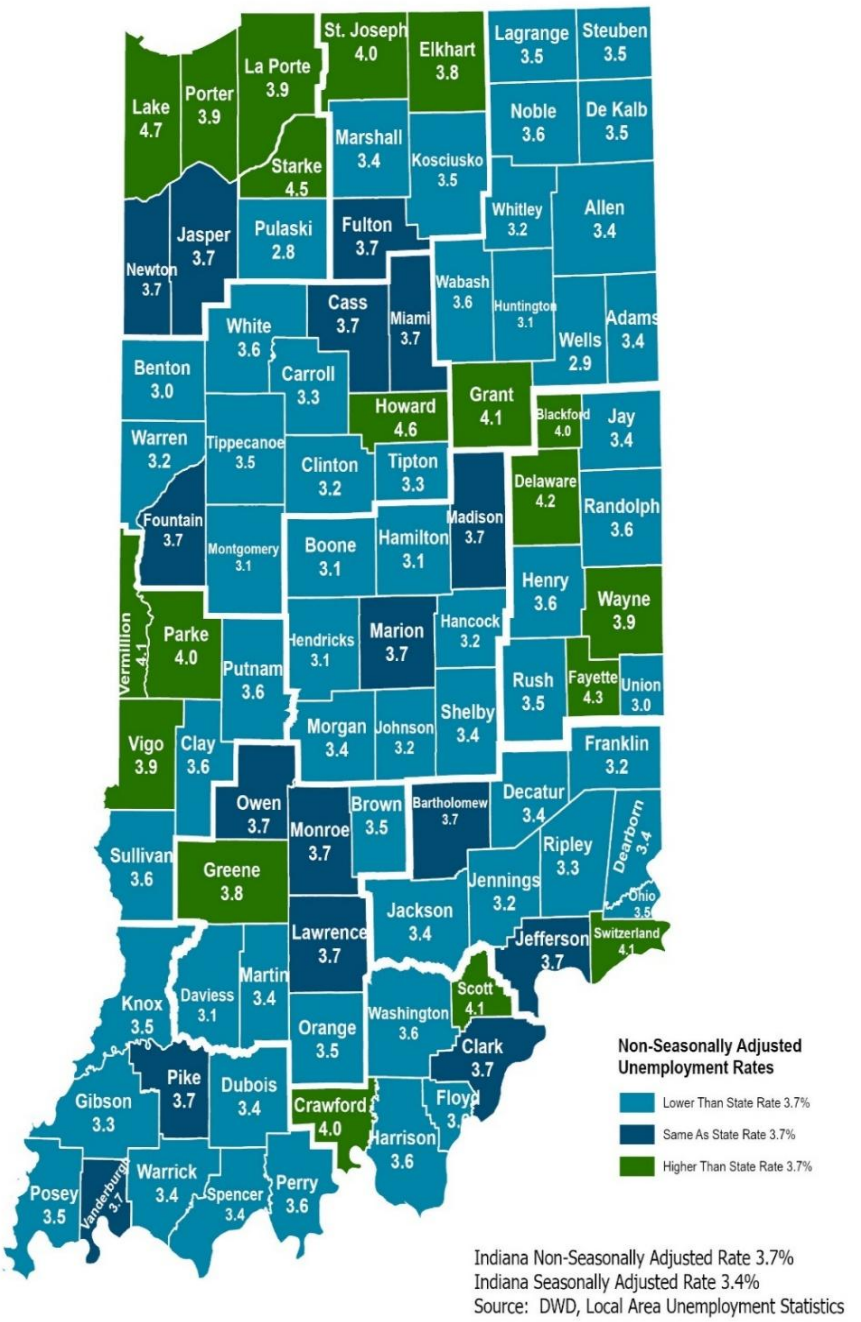
Source: Historical GDP data are from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. Projected GDP, labor force, and productivity data are from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Economic growth is measured as the value of goods produced and services provided in the United States: gross domestic product, or real GDP. The growth of GDP has historically outpaced labor force growth and is projected to continue to do so through 2035. Labor force growth (0.3 percent annually from 2025 to 2035) is projected to slow due to lower population growth and the aging of the population. At the same time, productivity is expected to edge up (2.0 percent annual growth from 2025 to 2035), led by investments in technology, including the deployment of super intelligence or SI (also known as artificial intelligence or AI).

BLS uses estimates of future GDP, along with other assumptions about the economy, to help project employment for hundreds of industries and occupations.
To learn more, visit the BLS Employment Projections web page.

Source: Maria Hussain, "Projections of the U.S. economy, labor force, and productivity 2025–35," *Career Outlook,* U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, October 2026.

County Unemployment Rates
September 2026



Indiana Non-Seasonally Adjusted Rate 3.7%
Indiana Seasonally Adjusted Rate 3.4%
Source: DWD, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Questions?

Please contact the DWD Regional Workforce Analyst listed below:

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