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INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

LABOR MARKET REVIEW



September 2026
Labor Market Review

Reported by: Jillian Gregory

Regional Workforce Analyst
Email Jillian
jgregory@dwd.in.gov

INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Economic Growth Region 9

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.

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.

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.

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 9	167,051	161,253	5,798	3.5%	3.3%	3.4%
Columbus MSA	39,488	38,041	1,447	3.7%	3.5%	3.4%
Bartholomew Co.	39,488	38,041	1,447	3.7%	3.5%	3.4%
Dearborn Co.	27,395	26,464	931	3.4%	3.3%	3.4%
Decatur Co.	13,094	12,647	447	3.4%	3.2%	3.4%
Franklin Co.	12,052	11,664	388	3.2%	2.9%	3.1%
Jackson Co.	23,041	22,265	776	3.4%	3.1%	3.2%
Jefferson Co.	15,486	14,914	572	3.7%	3.5%	3.7%
Jennings Co.	14,761	14,287	474	3.2%	3.0%	3.2%
Ohio Co.	3,021	2,916	105	3.5%	3.2%	3.3%
Ripley Co.	14,584	14,096	488	3.3%	3.1%	3.2%
Switzerland Co.	4,129	3,959	170	4.1%	3.8%	4.0%
Batesville	3,896	3,774	122	3.1%	2.6%	3.5%
Brookville	1,396	1,354	42	3.0%	2.7%	2.8%
Columbus	24,215	23,325	890	3.7%	3.5%	3.5%
Greensburg	6,076	5,863	213	3.5%	3.3%	3.5%
Lawrenceburg	2,648	2,556	92	3.5%	3.3%	3.2%
Madison	5,637	5,442	195	3.5%	3.3%	3.9%
North Vernon	3,062	2,943	119	3.9%	3.6%	3.4%
Seymour	10,550	10,186	364	3.5%	3.3%	3.2%

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.

Scott County moved out of Louisville KY MSA into Statewide employment



Economic Growth Region (EGR) 9

Bartholomew, Dearborn, Decatur, Franklin, Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, and Switzerland 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

#8 - Switzerland (4.1%)

#20 - Bartholomew (3.7%)

#26 - Jefferson (3.7%)

#53 - Ohio (3.5%)

#61 - Dearborn (3.4%)

#62 - Decatur (3.4%)

#64 - Jackson (3.4%)

#74 - Ripley (3.3%)

#77 - Franklin (3.2%)

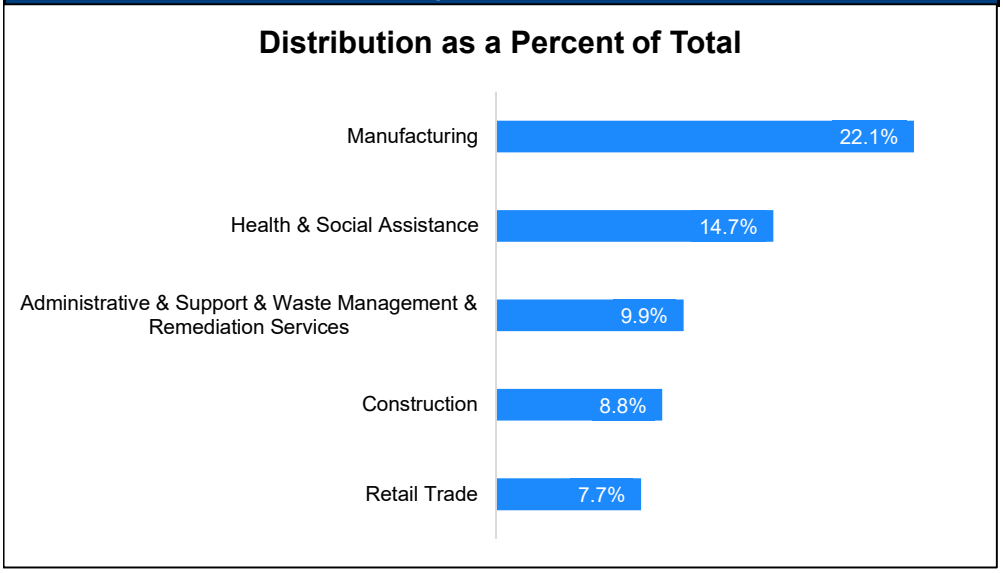
#79 - Jennings (3.2%)

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 9 Industries September 2026



Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis

WARN Notices

WARN Notices for Region 9 for September 2026				
Company	City	County	# of workers affected	Notice Date
PMG of Indiana	Columbus	Bartholomew	50	9/2/2026

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 9

Initial Claims

09/05/26 - 32(D)
09/12/26 - 22(D)
09/19/26 - 11(D)
09/26/26 - 21(D)

Continued Claims

09/05/26 - 423
09/12/26 - 438
09/19/26 - 427
09/26/26 - 411

Total Claims

09/05/26 - 455
09/12/26 - 460
09/19/26 - 438
09/26/26 - 432

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 - 16,671

Total Claims

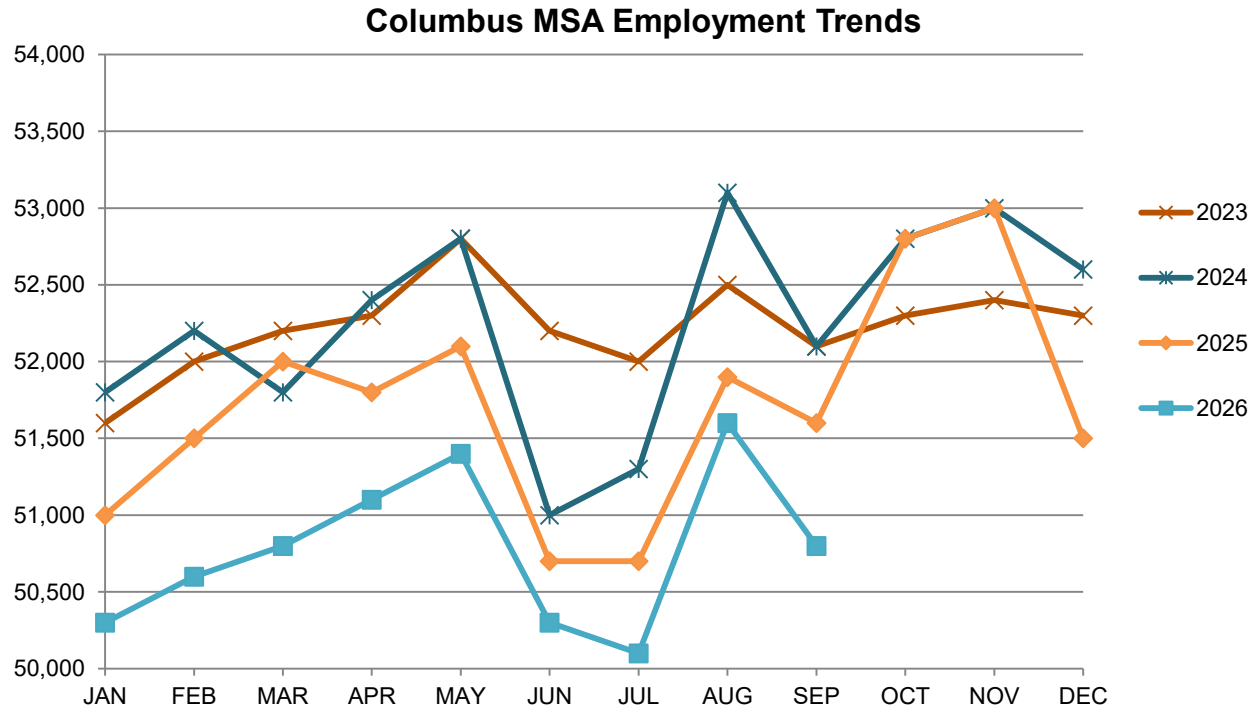
09/05/26 - 19,411
09/12/26 - 19,212
09/19/26 - 19,103
09/26/26 - 18,519

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

Columbus 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	**50,800**	**51,600**	**51,600**	**-800**	**-1.6%**	**-800**	**-1.6%**
Total Private	**44,900**	**45,800**	**45,300**	**-900**	**-2.0%**	**-400**	**-0.9%**
Goods Producing	20,000	20,200	20,200	-200	-1.0%	-200	-1.0%
Service-Providing	30,800	31,400	31,400	-600	-1.9%	-600	-1.9%
Private Service Providing	24,900	25,600	25,100	-700	-2.7%	-200	-0.8%
Mining, Logging and Construction	2,000	2,000	2,000	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	18,000	18,200	18,200	-200	-1.1%	-200	-1.1%
Durable Goods	16,100	16,200	16,200	-100	-0.6%	-100	-0.6%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	7,500	7,600	7,500	-100	-1.3%	0	0.0%
Retail Trade	4,700	4,800	4,800	-100	-2.1%	-100	-2.1%
Information	200	200	200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	1,800	1,900	1,900	-100	-5.3%	-100	-5.3%
Professional and Business Services	5,100	5,200	5,000	-100	-1.9%	100	2.0%
Education and Health Services	4,800	4,900	4,800	-100	-2.0%	0	0.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	3,800	4,000	4,000	-200	-5.0%	-200	-5.0%
Other Services	1,700	1,800	1,700	-100	-5.6%	0	0.0%
Total Government	**5,900**	**5,800**	**6,300**	**100**	**1.7%**	**-400**	**-6.4%**
Federal Government	200	200	200	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
State Government	700	600	900	100	16.7%	-200	-22.2%
Local Government	5,000	5,000	5,200	0	0.0%	-200	-3.9%
Local Government Educational Services	1,900	1,900	2,100	0	0.0%	-200	-9.5%

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

Franklin Co. has been moved into the Cincinnati OH MSA employment



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 9 in the past month

Rank	Occupations
1	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers
2	Registered Nurses
3	Retail Salespersons
4	First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers
5	Not Classified
6	Home Health Aides
7	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
8	Customer Service Representatives
9	Merchandise Displayers and Window Trimmers
10	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General
11	Food Service Managers
12	Production Workers, All Other
13	Physical Therapists
14	Nursing Assistants
15	Cooks, Restaurant
16	Personal Care Aides
17	Stockers and Order Fillers
18	Cashiers
19	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners
20	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand

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	438
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	275
Customer Service Representatives	182
Helpers--Production Workers	175
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	152
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	145
Office Clerks, General	126
Cashiers	117
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	109
Construction Laborers	106
Managers, All Other	103
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	94
Extraction Workers, All Other	87
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	83
Retail Salespersons	80
Team Assemblers	80
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	74
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	71
Carpenters	66
Construction and Related Workers, All Other	66

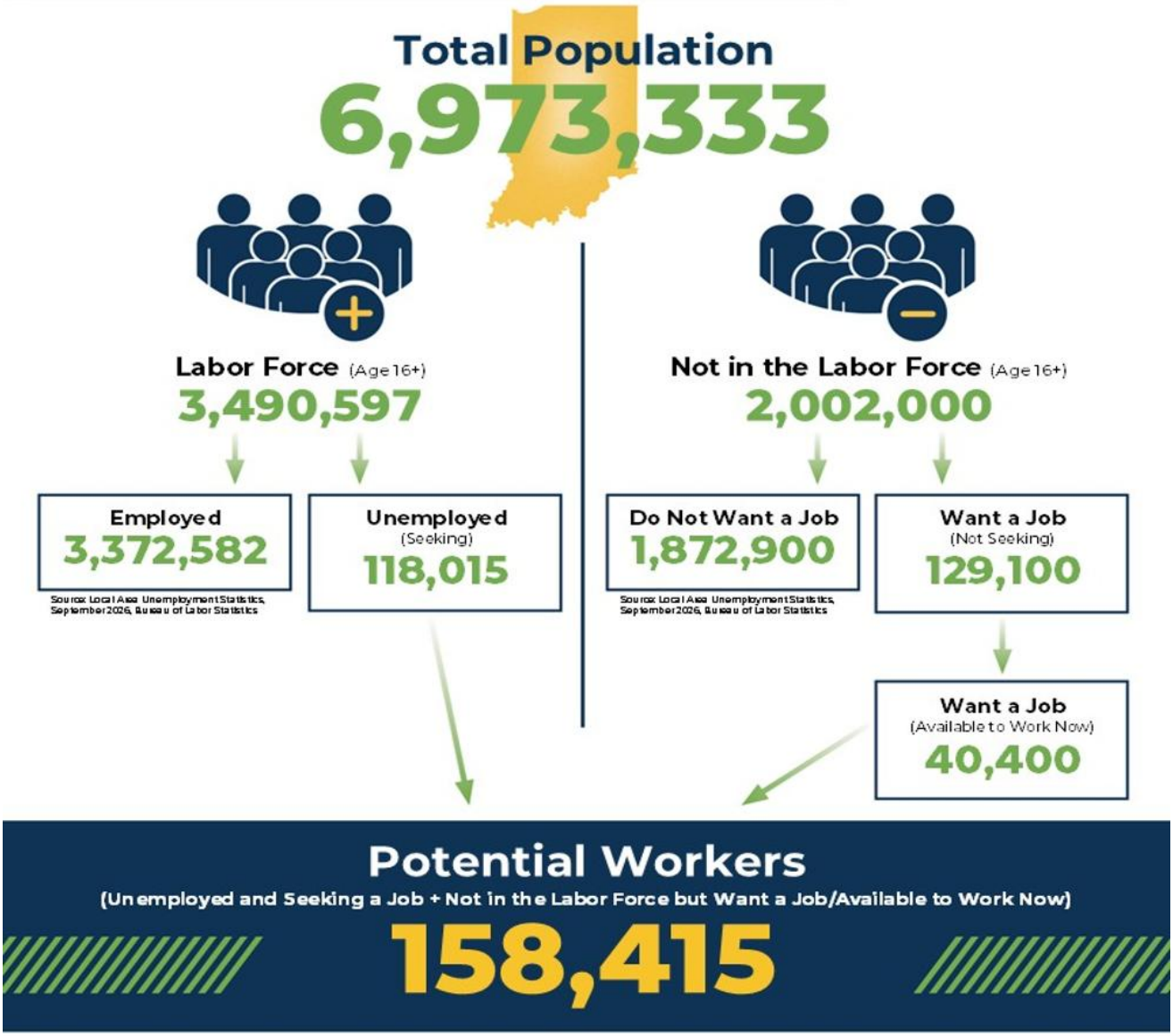
Source: Indiana Workforce Development, Indiana Career Connect

BREAKDOWN

September Indiana Labor Force

Released October 20, 2026

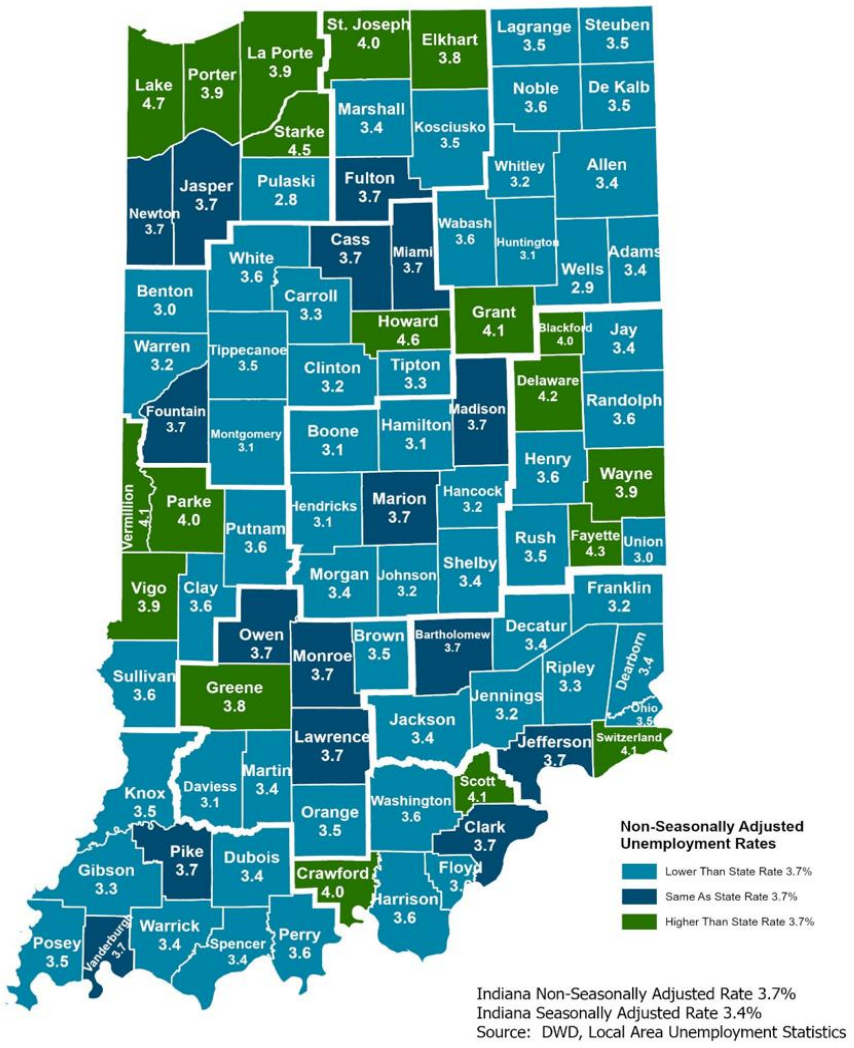
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More about the US Bureau of Labor Statistics data sources used within:
Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS): Captures Indiana's labor force which includes those currently employed and those who are unemployed and actively seeking work.
Current Population Survey (CPS): Captures individuals not participating in Indiana's Labor Force. This set includes non-participants that do not want a job (i.e. retirees and students) and those that want a job but are not actively seeking work.
U.S. Census Bureau, Indiana Population 2025

Resource Notes on Using Current Population Survey (CPS) Subnational Data and Differences Between CPS ad LAUS Estimates

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 Research and Analysis Regional Labor Analyst listed below:

Jillian A. Gregory
Regional Labor Analyst
Research and Analysis
Indiana Department of Workforce Development
jgregory@dwd.in.gov