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LABOR MARKET REVIEW



January 2019 Labor Market Review

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LABOR MARKET REVIEW

Economic Growth Region 10

Statistical Data Report for January 2019, Released March 2019

State Employment and Unemployment

Unemployment rates were lower in January in three states, higher in three states, and stable in 44 states and the District of Columbia, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Nine states had jobless rate decreases from a year earlier, one state had an increase, and 40 states and the District had little or no change. The national unemployment rate edged up to 4.0 percent over the month and was little changed from January 2018.

Nonfarm payroll employment increased in 13 states in January 2019 and was essentially unchanged in 37 states and the District of Columbia. Over the year, 26 states added nonfarm payroll jobs and 24 states and the District were essentially unchanged.

Iowa and New Hampshire had the lowest unemployment rates in January, 2.4 percent each. The rate in Vermont (2.5 percent) set a new series low. Alaska had the highest jobless rate, 6.5 percent. In total, 19 states had unemployment rates lower than the U.S. figure of 4.0 percent, eight states and the District of Columbia had higher rates, and 23 states had rates that were not appreciably different from that of the nation.

In January, North Dakota, Vermont, and Wyoming had unemployment rate decreases (-0.1 percentage point each). The three states with rate increases were Arizona (+0.2 percentage point) and Georgia and Minnesota (+0.1 point each). The remaining 44 states and the District of Columbia had jobless rates that were not notably different from those of a month earlier, though some had changes that were at least as large numerically as the significant changes.



Economic Growth Region (EGR) 10

Clark, Crawford, Floyd, Harrison, Scott, and Washington Counties

Unemployment Rates by State (seasonally adjusted): January 2019

- U.S. - 4%
- Illinois - 4.3%
- Indiana - 3.5%**
- Kentucky - 4.2%
- Michigan - 4%
- Ohio - 4.7%

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

Unemployment Rank by County (of 92 counties): January 2019

- #2 - Crawford (6%)
- #32 - Scott (4.4%)
- #33 - Washington (4.4%)
- #49 - Harrison (4.1%)
- #51 - Clark (4%)
- #57 - Floyd (3.9%)

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

January 2019 Labor Force Estimates (not seasonally adjusted)						
Area	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Jan-19	Dec-18	Jan-18
U.S.	162,104,000	154,964,000	7,140,000	4.4%	3.7%	4.5%
IN	3,390,894	3,252,471	138,423	4.1%	3.4%	3.6%
EGR 10	153,093	146,747	6,346	4.1%	3.5%	3.6%
Clark Co.	61,884	59,390	2,494	4.0%	3.4%	3.4%
Crawford Co.	4,958	4,659	299	6.0%	5.2%	5.5%
Floyd Co.	41,576	39,938	1,638	3.9%	3.3%	3.4%
Harrison Co.	20,258	19,418	840	4.1%	3.4%	3.8%
Scott Co.	10,644	10,173	471	4.4%	3.8%	4.0%
Washington Co.	13,773	13,169	604	4.4%	3.3%	4.1%
Corydon	1,403	1,341	62	4.4%	4.4%	3.9%
Jeffersonville	25,323	24,433	890	3.5%	2.9%	3.4%
New Albany	18,677	17,942	735	3.9%	3.4%	3.8%
Salem	2,695	2,547	148	5.5%	4.0%	5.8%
Scottsburg	2,751	2,625	126	4.6%	4.1%	4.3%

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research & Analysis, Local Area Unemployment Statistics | Unemployment Statistics Released: 02/19 | 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 January 2019 from				
CPI Item	Jan-18	Dec-18	Jan-18	Dec-18
	U.S. City		Midwest Region*	
All Items	1.6%	0.2%	0.8%	0.2%
Food & Beverages	1.6%	0.5%	1.0%	0.5%
Housing	2.9%	0.4%	2.8%	0.3%
Apparel	0.1%	1.6%	-1.5%	1.3%
Transportation	-1.3%	-1.0%	-3.7%	-1.2%
Medical Care	1.9%	0.6%	2.4%	1.0%
Recreation	1.4%	0.5%	-0.9%	0.5%
Education & Communication	0.3%	0.1%	-0.1%	0.3%
Other Goods & Services	1.9%	0.2%	2.4%	-0.1%

*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: January 2019

Region 10

Initial Claims

01/05/19 - 179(D)
01/12/19 - 212
01/19/19 - 113
01/26/19 - 127(D)

Continued Claims

01/05/19 - 537
01/12/19 - 584
01/19/19 - 641
01/26/19 - 637

Total Claims

01/05/19 - 716
01/12/19 - 796
01/19/19 - 754
01/26/19 - 764

State of Indiana

Initial Claims

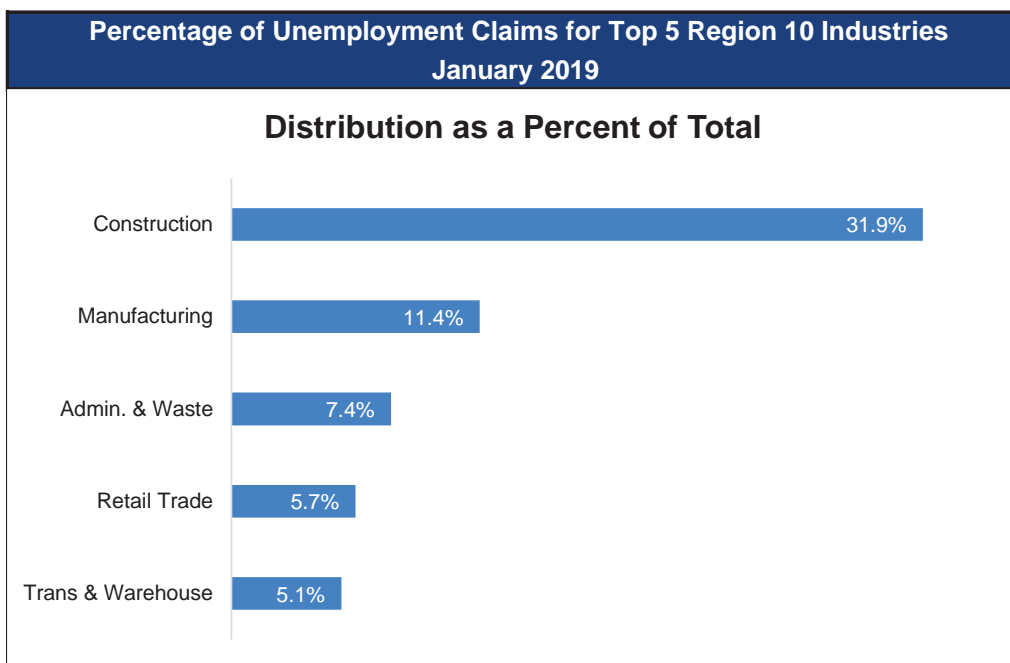
01/05/19 - 4,309
01/12/19 - 4,575
01/19/19 - 3,536
01/26/19 - 3,121

Continued Claims

01/05/19 - 17,896
01/12/19 - 17,861
01/19/19 - 18,630
01/26/19 - 18,878

Total Claims

01/05/19 - 22,205
01/12/19 - 22,436
01/19/19 - 22,166
01/26/19 - 21,999



Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research and Analysis

WARN Notices

WARN Notices for Region 10 for January 2019				
Company	City	County	# of workers affected	Notice Date

There are no WARN Notices for January 2019 for EGR 10.

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.dolela.gov/programs/factsh/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

Frequently Listed Jobs	
Top 20 job listings in Region 10 in the past month	
Rank	Occupations
1	Production Workers, All Other
2	Retail Salespersons
3	Stock Clerks- Stockroom, Warehouse, or Storage Yard
4	Registered Nurses
5	Customer Service Representatives
6	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Workers, All Other
7	Childcare Workers
8	Counter Attendants, Cafeteria, Food Concession, and Coffee Shop
9	First-Line Supervisors of Transportation and Material-Moving Machine and Vehicle Operators
10	Woodworking Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Except Sawing
11	Therapists, All Other
12	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners
13	Light Truck or Delivery Services Drivers
14	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
15	Sales Representatives, Services, All Other
16	Building Cleaning Workers, All Other
17	Construction and Related Workers, All Other
18	Engineers, All Other
19	First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers
20	Healthcare Support Workers, All Other

Source: Indiana Workforce Development, Indiana Career Connect

Applicant Pool	
Top 20 occupations desired by applicants on their resumes in the past 12 months	
Occupations	# of applicants
Production Workers, All Other	259
Customer Service Representatives	194
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	156
Helpers--Production Workers	151
Office Clerks, General	137
Cashiers	129
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	113
Stock Clerks and Order Fillers	113
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	105
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	88
Nursing Assistants	88
Managers, All Other	85
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	81
Receptionists and Information Clerks	76
Administrative Services Managers	70
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	65
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	57
Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants	56
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	56
Retail Salespersons	56

Source: Indiana Workforce Development, Indiana Career Connect

Median household income by race: Why margins of error matter

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Indiana's annual median household income is \$52,182 (+/- \$200), according to the 2017 five-year American Community Survey (ACS) estimates published by the U.S. Census Bureau. Both Asian and white households surpassed this statewide median. Meanwhile, Hispanic households and black households earned less than the statewide median.

For households that contain people of different races, it is the race of the householder that is used to categorize households by race. All data in this article (except for the "two or more races" category) refer to data for those who identify as a single race (i.e., "white alone" or "black alone" in Census Bureau terminology). Also, keep in mind that the bureau classifies "Hispanic" as an ethnicity, which is tabulated separately from race. In other words, Hispanic individuals can be of any race.

Selected categories	Median household income	Margin of error
Total	\$52,182	\$200
Asian	\$59,361	\$2,836
White	\$54,951	\$256
Hispanic	\$42,995	\$1,092
Two or more races	\$40,479	\$1,698
Black	\$32,163	\$516

Source: American Community Survey five-year estimates

Even though Asian households are at the top of the income spectrum in Indiana, Asian households fare significantly better nationwide, with a median exceeding \$80,000

Figure 1: Comparing Indiana and U.S. median household incomes by race, 2017



Source: American Community Survey five-year estimates

Why county-level race data from the ACS are problematic

The ACS reports margins of error at the 90 percent confidence level. In other words, if the estimate is 100 with a margin of error equal to 20, one can be 90 percent confident that the true value is between 80 and 120. When survey-based data drill in to focus on a smaller subset of the population, margins of error generally become larger. At the statewide level, the margin of error for white households (which accounts for about 86 percent of all households) was only \$256, but it was \$2,836 for Asian households (2 percent of all households).

Thus, when we try to segment the population by both race and a smaller geography, some of the margins of error go sky high. Want an example? Median household income for a black household in Ripley County is \$35,735 with a margin of error of \$25,864. In other words, we are 90 percent sure that the true median is between \$9,871 and \$61,599. Here's another estimate that's even less useful: Median household income for Hispanics in Putnam County is \$52,778 (+/- \$50,948). Needless to say that when the true value of an estimate could range anywhere between \$1,830 and \$103,726, some red flags should go up.

So where do we go from here? We can calculate reliability thresholds based on an estimate's coefficient of variation (CV). "High reliability" is based on a CV of 12 percent or less, while "low reliability" indicates a CV exceeding 40 percent. Estimates with CVs between 12 and 40 are grouped into the "medium reliability" category and should be used with caution.

First of all, in many cases, a county-level estimate isn't even published. All of the estimates for white households are highly reliable, but only 26 percent of counties have highly reliable Hispanic income estimates—and just 12 percent have highly reliable estimates for Asian households.

Table 2: Number of Indiana counties in each reliability category

Reliability of median household income	Total	White	Black	Asian	Two or more races	Hispanic
Low reliability	0	0	11	8	19	11
Medium reliability	0	0	19	21	39	32
High reliability	92	92	19	11	13	24
Data not available	0	0	43	52	21	25
Percent of counties that are highly reliable	100%	100%	21%	12%	14%	26%

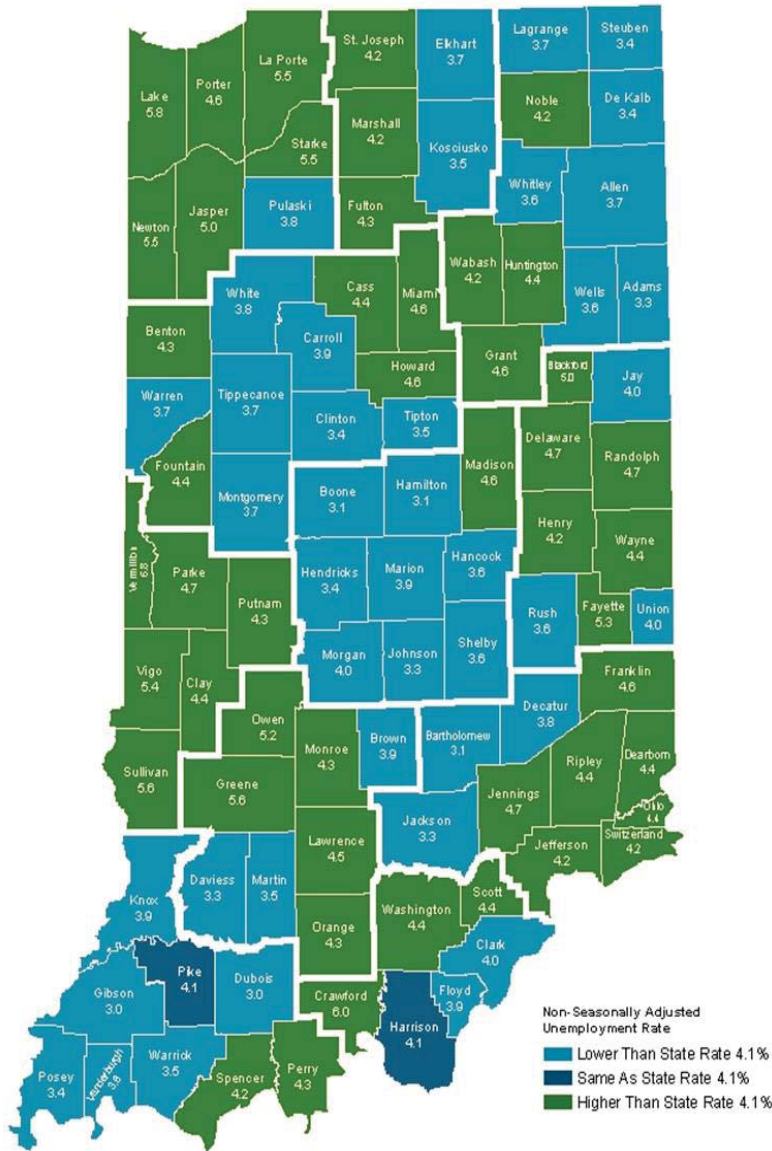
Source: Author's calculations, using American Community Survey 2017 five-year estimates

For white households, Hamilton County in the Indianapolis metro topped the list with a median of \$91,020 (+/- \$2,071). Among the 19 counties with highly reliable data for black households, Johnson, Hendricks, Benton and Bartholomew are near the top. Ripley, Hamilton, Jasper and Porter counties have some of the highest median incomes for Hispanic households (out of the 24 counties falling in the highly reliable category). And for Asian households, Hamilton, Bartholomew and Floyd counties have the highest median incomes among the 11 counties with highly reliable data.

Indiana's median household income trails the U.S. across all major race categories, with Asian households experiencing the largest gap (even though they are at the top of the Indiana income spectrum). Our knowledge of income by race at the county level is somewhat hindered by the high margins of error.

What started out as an exploration of income by race ends with advice for any and all data users: Please don't just grab an ACS estimate (or any survey-based estimate for that matter) without looking at its margin of error. Just because a number is published doesn't always mean it is useful.

County Unemployment Rates January 2019



Indiana Non-Seasonally Adjusted Rate 4.1%
 Indiana Seasonally Adjusted Rate 3.5%
 Source: DWD, Local Area Unemployment Statistics



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 DEVELOPMENT

Questions?

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