

Northwest Indiana Labor Market Highlights

Latest market data figures were released by the Department of Workforce Development for May 2021 and reflect changes since March 2021.

May 2021 DATA



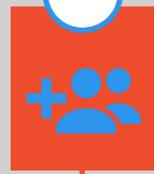
Unemployment Rate increased to **7.0%**



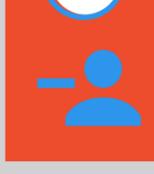
Labor Force increased by **5,585**



Employment increased by **3,496**

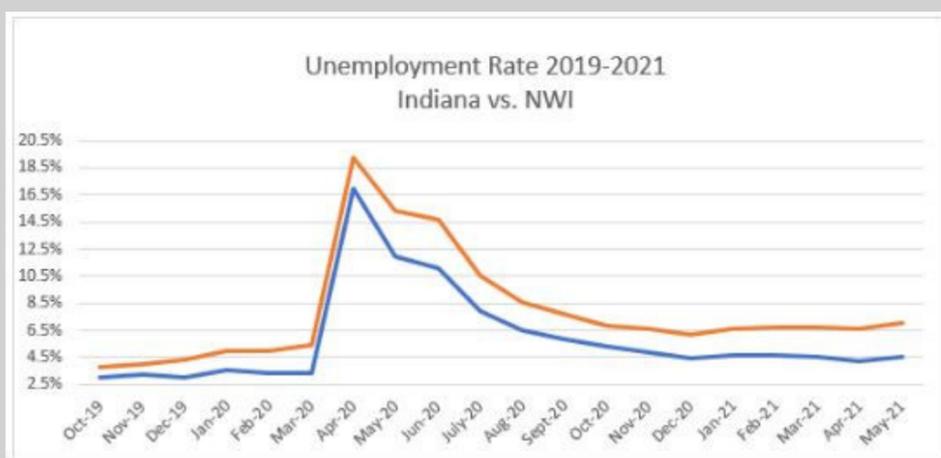
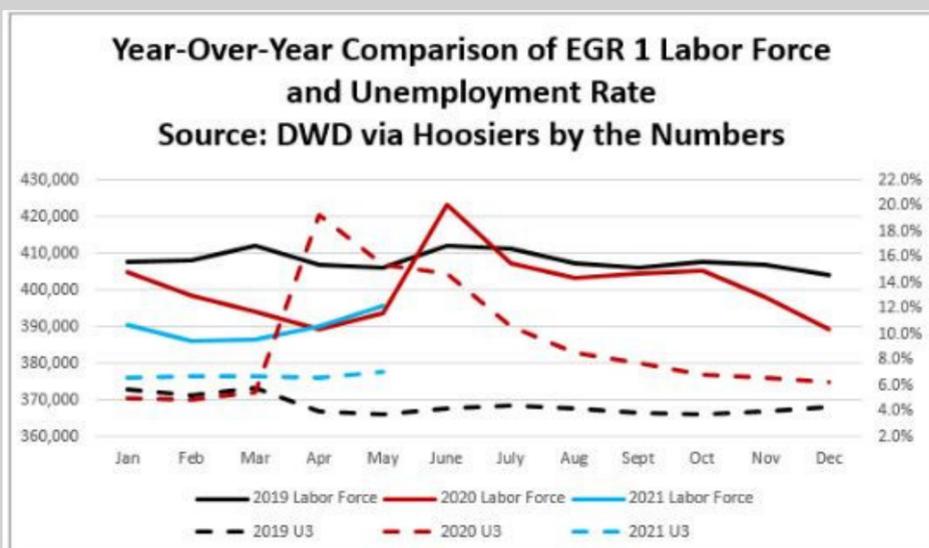


Largest Gain Leisure & Hospitality **+1,200**



Largest Decline Government **-200**

	May-21	Apr-21	Mar-21	May-20	CHANGE	
					Month	Year
Labor Force	395,774	390,189	386,344	393,705	5,585	2,069
Employed	367,980	364,484	360,325	333,225	3,496	34,755
Unemployed	27,794	25,705	26,019	60,480	2,089	-32,686



The latest data for Northwest Indiana (May 2021) shows a drastic improvement in region's top line labor force and employment measures compared to the previous year. At the same time, May's data shows that more than a year after the beginning of the pandemic Northwest Indiana still has room for improvement. Employment in the region improved by more than 34,000, but still stands below pre-pandemic levels. The region's labor force, or the number of people working or looking for work, similarly remains far below pre-pandemic levels. Despite these improvements, unemployment in the region has been creeping up, rising to 7% in the region for the first time since September of 2020.

Private sector employment has seen strong gains since the height of the pandemic shut downs, rising by 8.7% in May compared to the previous year. The strongest growth was concentrated in service providing industries, as many of these were the most severely affected by lockdown policies. Leisure and Hospitality (37.3%), Accommodation and Food Service (29%), and to a lesser extent Retail employment (9.8%) all saw astonishing increases. Goods producing industries (5.6%) also experienced growth from the previous year, though more muted than that of service industries. Manufacturing and Construction led the way, rising by 6.1% and 5.0%, respectively.

There were essentially no declines among and industries in the region except for a slight contraction in government employment compared to the previous month, but overall employment in the sector is steady. We continue to watch these numbers for signs of improvement or areas that may need additional support in the region.

Until next month,



Lisa Daugherty
President & CEO
Center of Workforce Innovations and Executive Staff
to the Northwest Indiana Workforce Board