

NEWS RELEASE

For Statewide Distribution



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Iowa Nonfarm Jobs Increase by 8,400 in November

DES MOINES, IOWA – Iowa’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continued to drop in November, falling to 3.4 percent from 3.5 percent in October. The state’s jobless rate was 4.3 percent one year ago. The U.S. unemployment rate remained at 5.0 percent in November.

“Iowa’s businesses showed unmistakable optimism in November,” said Beth Townsend, director of Iowa Workforce Development. “This month’s increase is the highest in several years and includes job gains in virtually all industries. Additionally, Iowa’s unemployment rate trended down to the lowest level since 2001.”

The number of unemployed Iowans fell to 58,700 in November from 60,400 in October. The current estimate is 15,000 lower than the year ago level of 73,700.

The total number of working Iowans increased to 1,647,500 in November. This figure was 3,100 higher than October and 6,500 higher than one year ago.

Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment

Iowa’s total nonfarm employment advanced by 8,400 jobs in November and now rests at 1,584,700 jobs. This month’s unusually large increase follows a quiet October which saw almost no change in the number of jobs. Private industries combined for all of the gain this month; government pared 600 jobs with losses at the state and local level. Overall, employment in the state has continued to trend up, and Iowa has added an average of 2,300 jobs per month totaling 27,300 jobs added over the past twelve months. Private industries have advanced by 28,200 jobs and government is down slightly (-900).

This month, virtually all private industries expanded. The largest private sector gain was in construction (+3,700) and follows consecutive months of declines totaling 1,500 jobs. Leisure and hospitality also increased this month (+3,300) with hiring being heaviest in accommodations and food services. Like construction, this sector is also rebounding from a recent loss. Elsewhere, retail trade helped fuel a gain of 2,300 in trade, transportation, and warehousing. Smaller gains occurred in financial activities (+600) and education and health services (+400). Losses this month were limited to professional and business services (-2,100) and follows three consecutive months of unusually high gains.

Since last November, the largest annual increase occurred in construction (+7,200). This sector has also added the most jobs by percentage (+9.3 percent versus +1.8 percent for Iowa). Education and health is second in terms of growth (+5,400) followed by leisure and hospitality (+4,400). Information services leads all sectors in jobs lost (-600) due to restructuring and transformation of the sector. Manufacturing is down due to cutbacks within durable goods factories (-500). These losses have been partially offset by hiring at nondurable goods locations.

MEDIA ALERT: An audio cut of comments about Iowa’s labor market situation is available by calling (515) 281-6057. Statewide and local data for December 2015 will be released on Tuesday, January 26, 2016.

Employment and Unemployment in Iowa, Seasonally Adjusted Data

	November 2015	October 2015	November 2014	Change from October 2015	
				November 2014	
Civilian labor force	1,706,200	1,704,800	1,714,700	1,400	-8,500
Unemployment	58,700	60,400	73,700	-1,700	-15,000
Unemployment rate	3.4%	3.5%	4.3%	-0.1	-0.9
Employment	1,647,500	1,644,400	1,641,000	3,100	6,500
U.S. unemployment rate	5.0%	5.0%	5.8%	0.0	-0.8

Nonfarm Employment in Iowa, Seasonally Adjusted Data

	November 2015	October 2015	November 2014	Change from October 2015	
				November 2014	
Total Nonfarm Employment	1,584,700	1,576,300	1,557,400	8,400	27,300
Mining	2,100	2,100	2,300	0	-200
Construction	84,300	80,600	77,100	3,700	7,200
Manufacturing	215,000	214,400	215,500	600	-500
Trade, transportation and utilities	318,000	315,700	315,700	2,300	2,300
Information	24,600	24,500	25,200	100	-600
Financial activities	107,600	107,000	104,700	600	2,900
Professional and business services	140,500	142,600	136,400	-2,100	4,100
Education and health services	229,500	229,100	224,100	400	5,400
Leisure and hospitality	143,700	140,400	139,300	3,300	4,400
Other services	62,200	62,100	59,000	100	3,200
Government	257,200	257,800	258,100	-600	-900

Unemployment Insurance Claims for Iowa

	November 2015	October 2015	November 2014	% Change from October 2015	
				November 2014	
Initial claims	15,891	10,687	16,905	48.7%	-6.0%
Continued claims					
Number of claimants	21,858	20,236	22,176	8.0%	-1.4%
Weeks paid	67,398	64,324	64,761	4.8%	4.1%
Amount paid	\$23,716,577	\$22,867,451	\$21,546,154	3.7%	10.1%

Visit www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/labor-market-information-division for more information about current and historical data, labor force data, nonfarm employment, hours and earnings, and jobless benefits by county.

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