



**For Release:** 9:00 a.m.  
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## **Iowa's Unemployment Rate Drops to 3.6 Percent in September**

DES MOINES, IOWA – Iowa's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased slightly to 3.6 percent in September from 3.7 percent in August. The state's jobless rate was 4.3 percent one year ago. The U.S. unemployment rate remained at 5.1 percent in September.

"The unemployment rate continues to decline and reflects numbers not seen since 2006, this is good news for Iowans across the state," said Beth Townsend, director of Iowa Workforce Development. "A record number of job openings exist in various industry sectors and we will continue to do all that we can to help Iowans find those opportunities."

The number of unemployed Iowans decreased to 61,300 in September from 62,500 in August. The current estimate is 12,700 lower than the year ago level of 74,000.

The total number of working Iowans increased to 1,640,200 in September. This figure was 2,600 higher than August, and 2,700 higher than one year ago.

## **Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment**

Iowa's nonfarm employment decreased by 2,100 jobs in September and now rests at 1,573,000. This month's drop is the second consecutive loss for the state and fueled by a drop of 1,800 jobs in the private sector. Government was down a slight 300 jobs as seasonal summer employment losses were mitigated by early hiring at the state's universities. Overall, government has added 1,200 jobs annually due to state government education hiring, while private industries remain up 22,000 jobs despite recent losses.

Leisure and hospitality added the most jobs in September (+1,500) and was bolstered by growth in accommodations and food services (+500). These industries have steadily trended up since 2010. Education and health care services also added jobs this month (+600), as did professional and business services (+200). Job losses in September were largest in manufacturing (-2,000) and split between durable and nondurable goods factories. This month's drop marks the second consecutive loss for durable goods manufacturing, while prior to this month, nondurable goods factories actually added jobs in eight of the last nine months and remain up 1,800 jobs annually. Construction pared seasonal employment early this year (-1,500), while trade and transportation shed jobs primarily in wholesale trade (-600).

Since last September, Iowa's total nonfarm is up 23,700 jobs (+1.5 percent). The largest gains have been in education and health services (+5,500) with both health care and private educational services advancing. Trade and transportation is second in terms of jobs growth (+4,700) thanks to hiring in both wholesale and retail trade. Construction has gained jobs (+4,600) despite the early seasonal paring. The only sectors to trail last year's level are manufacturing (-1,300) and information services (-1,000).

**MEDIA ALERT:** An audio cut of comments about Iowa's labor market situation is available by calling (515) 281-6057. Statewide data for October will be released on Friday, November 20, 2015. Local data for October will be posted to the IWD website on Tuesday, November 24, 2015.

**Employment and Unemployment in Iowa, Seasonally Adjusted Data**

	September 2015	August 2015	September 2014	Change from	
				August 2015	September 2014
Civilian labor force	1,701,500	1,700,100	1,711,500	1,400	-10,000
Unemployment	61,300	62,500	74,000	-1,200	-12,700
Unemployment rate	3.6%	3.7%	4.3%	-0.1	-0.7
Employment	1,640,200	1,637,600	1,637,500	2,600	2,700
U.S. unemployment rate	5.1%	5.1%	5.9%	0.0	-0.8

**Nonfarm Employment in Iowa, Seasonally Adjusted Data**

Total Nonfarm Employment	1,573,000	1,575,100	1,549,300	-2,100	23,700
Mining	2,200	2,200	2,200	0	0
Construction	80,600	82,100	76,000	-1,500	4,600
Manufacturing	214,900	216,900	216,200	-2,000	-1,300
Trade, transportation and utilities	316,900	317,500	312,200	-600	4,700
Information	24,600	24,600	25,600	0	-1,000
Financial activities	107,000	107,100	104,400	-100	2,600
Professional and business services	138,800	138,600	136,300	200	2,500
Education and health services	229,000	228,400	223,500	600	5,500
Leisure and hospitality	140,800	139,300	137,600	1,500	3,200
Other services	60,400	60,300	59,200	100	1,200
Government	257,800	258,100	256,100	-300	1,700

**Unemployment Insurance Claims for Iowa**

	September 2015	August 2015	September 2014	% Change from	
				August 2015	September 2014
<b>Initial claims</b>	10,464	9,413	8,590	11.2%	21.8%
<b>Continued claims</b>					
Number of claimants	22,722	24,069	19,739	-5.6%	15.1%
Weeks paid	95,086	74,626	62,637	27.4%	51.8%
Amount paid	\$33,687,013	\$25,409,775	\$20,853,477	32.6%	61.5%

Visit [www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/labor-market-information-division](http://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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