Executive Summary

In 2019, the Arts, Entertainment and Recreation sector provided 22,311 jobs to Iowans, which represents 1.4 percent of all covered employment (both private and public sector) in the state. This sector reported an average annual wage of $19,135, which is 39.3 percent lower than the statewide average of $48,672 for all industries.

Employment in this sector had slumped to its lowest point in a number of years with 2013 recording employment of 19,213. Since then, it has started to slowly increase, surpassing the high of 2016 with employment in 2019 at 22,311. Despite a decrease from 2016 to 2017, the employment still surpasses much of the past decade’s employment numbers. The average annual wage has fluctuated over the last decade between a high of $18,705 in 2010 to a low of $17,409 in 2013 to its current level at $19,315.

Wages are significantly lower in Iowa than in the nation as a whole. Iowans in the private sector of this industry made 53.6 percent less than the national average wage of $40,056. Furthermore, Iowa’s private sector wages are much lower than the other states in the region, with the exception of the Dakotas, Nebraska and Kansas.
What is Arts, Entertainment and Recreation?

The Arts, Entertainment and Recreation sector comprises: (a) establishments that are involved in producing, promoting, or participating in live performances, events, or exhibits intended for public viewing, (b) establishments that preserve and exhibit objects and sites of historical, cultural, or educational interest; and (c) establishments that operate facilities or provide services that enable patrons to participate in recreational activities or pursue amusement, hobby, and leisure time interests.

The main components of this sector are Performing arts and spectator sports, Museums, historical sites, zoos and parks, and Amusements, gambling, and recreation.

Source: www.bls.gov/cew/bls_naics/bls_naics_app.htm

2010–2019 Employment in Arts, Entertainment & Recreation in Iowa

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), Iowa Workforce Development
In 2019, the Amusements, gambling, and recreation subsector was the largest sector in this industry, accounting for 76.5 percent of employment and 67.6 percent of worksites. The second largest subsector in this industry was Performing arts and spectator sports, which accounted for 18.1 percent of employment, and 23.8 percent of establishments.

Even though this industry includes gambling establishments, if establishments are casinos with guest accommodation like a hotel, it will be included in the Accommodation and Food Services sector.

### Establishment Facts:

2019 Average Annual Wage for Covered Employment in Arts, Entertainment & Recreation

State Comparisons by Private Ownership

North Dakota $18,768
South Dakota $18,648
Nebraska $18,768
Iowa $18,572
Kansas $20,333
Minnesota $36,976
Wisconsin $31,252
Illinois $37,314
Indiana $35,223
Michigan $34,262
Minnesota $36,976
North Dakota $18,768
South Dakota $18,648
Nebraska $18,768
Iowa $18,572
Kansas $20,333

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), Bureau of Labor Statistics

Industry Distribution by Age and Gender, 2nd Quarter 2019

Source: Local Employment Dynamics, Iowa Workforce Development and U.S. Census Bureau
https://lehd.ces.census.gov/