Executive Summary

In 2019, the Mining sector comprised about 0.2 percent of all public and private employment in Iowa, making it the smallest sector in the state. While there were only an average of 2,397 mining employees in 2019, workers in the industry are well-compensated: at $60,611, their average wage was 24.5 percent higher than the statewide average. Employment in this small sector has tended to hover between 2,100 and 2,200 employees, with a recent increase between 2016 and 2018 of 245 employees (11.2 percent) has changed this trend, though 2019 did buck this trend by decreasing slightly by 34 employees from 2018 (1.4 percent).

97.7 percent of the employment in the sector is in the Mining (except oil and gas) subsector. This industry consists of establishments primarily engaged in developing the mine site and/or mining or quarrying stone. The remaining 2.3 percent of employment in the sector belongs to the Supporting activities for mining subsector. This industry consists of establishments primarily engaged in exploring, taking core samples and making geological observations at prospective mining sites. Iowa had zero employment in the Oil and gas extraction subsector in 2018.

Men hold 89 percent of jobs in this sector.
What is Mining?

The Mining sector comprises establishments that extract naturally occurring mineral solids, such as coal and ores; liquid minerals, such as crude petroleum; and gases, such as natural gas.

The term mining is used in a broad sense to include quarrying, well operations, beneficiating (i.e., crushing, screening, washing and flotation), and other preparation customarily performed at the mine site, or as a part of mining activities.


---

2019 Industry Breakout by Employment in Iowa

Percentage Employed and Average Annual Wage by Subsector

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subsector</th>
<th>Percentage Employed</th>
<th>Average Annual Wage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>212 - Mining (except Oil &amp; Gas)</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>$60,607</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>213 - Support Activities for Mining</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>$60,779</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), Iowa Workforce Development

---

2010–2019 Employment in Mining in Iowa

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), Iowa Workforce Development

https://www.iowalmi.gov/qcew
MINING
IOWA INDUSTRY PROFILE

In 2019, there were 217 Mining related locations across Iowa. The Mining (except oil and gas) subsector represented 97.7 percent of locations within the sector. The other 2.3 percent of establishments belonged to the Support activities for mining subsector.

Support activities include work activities such as site exploration, taking core samples, directional drilling, etc. Many mining companies do this in-house, but they may contract such duties out to mining support companies.

The Oil and gas extraction subsector had zero locations in Iowa in 2019.

Top Occupations in Mining

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Employment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators</td>
<td>505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers</td>
<td>226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crushing, Grinding, and Polishing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders</td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excavating and Loading Machine and Dragline Operators</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weighers, Measurers, Checkers, and Samplers, Recordkeeping</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuous Mining Machine Operators</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mine Cutting and Channeling Machine Operators</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock Splitters, Quarry</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Establishment Facts:


2019 Covered Employment in Mining by County

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), Iowa Workforce Development

https://www.iowalmi.gov/qcew
MINING
IOWA INDUSTRY PROFILE

2019 Average Annual Wage for Covered Employment in Mining

State Comparisons by Private Ownership

United States Average: $107,986

- North Dakota $108,829
- South Dakota $63,935
- Nebraska $58,268
- Iowa $60,611
- Kansas $56,134
- Minnesota $92,236
- Wisconsin $66,413
- Michigan $81,979
- Ohio $74,452
- Illinois $79,105
- Indiana $76,385
- Missouri $71,060
- South Dakota $63,935
- United States Average: $107,986

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/