

# NEWS RELEASE

# For Statewide Distribution



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## Iowa's Unemployment Rate Increases to 3.9 Percent in April

DES MOINES, IOWA – Iowa's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased slightly to 3.9 percent in April from 3.8 percent in March. The state's jobless rate was 3.7 percent one year ago. The U.S. unemployment rate remained at 5.0 percent in April.

"Although Iowa's unemployment rate ticked up for the third straight month, the good news is that there are over 56,000 jobs posted at [iowajobs.org](http://iowajobs.org), indicating Iowa's employers are still in significant need of skilled workers," said Iowa Workforce Development Director Beth Townsend. "While we never like to see the unemployment rate increase, Iowa still maintains a friendly environment for job seekers."

The number of unemployed Iowans rose to 66,100 in April from 65,500 in March. The current estimate is 3,800 higher than the year ago level of 62,300.

The total number of working Iowans decreased to 1,647,200 in April. This figure was 2,300 lower than March and 10,200 higher than one year ago.

## Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment

In April, Iowa's nonfarm employment advanced by 4,300, lifting employment to 1,580,800 jobs. The monthly gain is the second consecutive for the state following an unusually large paring in February. Despite increasing concern over an economic downturn, Iowa businesses continue to hire and the state has added jobs in six of the last seven months leading to an increase of 20,000 jobs versus one year ago. Private sector firms increased marginally this month (+2,400). Government added jobs primarily at the local government level (+2,100) and is up 2,000 jobs annually.

Construction added the most jobs this month (+3,300). This increase follows another large increase in March and is not unexpected given the large quantity of institutional and infrastructure projects taking place around the state. The financial sector rebounded from a slight loss last month and added 1,600 jobs. This sector has steadily advanced throughout 2015 and carrying over into 2016. Other sectors adding jobs this month include manufacturing (+1,000), education and health care (+900), and professional and business services (+500). Alternatively, losses were concentrated in trade and transportation (-3,500). Declines were nearly split between both wholesale and retail trade payrolls in April. All other losses were minor this month and included leisure and hospitality (-600) and other services (-600).

Annually, construction continues to hire and has accounted for slightly over half of all job gains in Iowa (+10,600). The state's continued expansion in construction provides at least some indication of continued optimism firms hold regarding the economic future. Education and health care is second in terms of growth (+5,100) followed by financial activities (+3,800). Losses have been sparse with the exception of manufacturing (-4,200), information (-1,800), and professional and business services (-900).

**MEDIA ALERT:** An audio cut of comments about Iowa's labor market situation is available by calling (515) 281-6057. Statewide data for May will be released on Friday, June 17, 2016. Local data for May will be posted to the IWD website on Tuesday, June 21, 2016.

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

	<b>April 2016</b>	<b>March 2016</b>	<b>April 2015</b>	<b>Change from March 2016</b>	<b>April 2015</b>
Civilian labor force	1,713,300	1,714,900	1,699,200	-1,600	14,100
Unemployment	66,100	65,500	62,300	600	3,800
Unemployment rate	3.9%	3.8%	3.7%	0.1	0.2
Employment	1,647,200	1,649,500	1,637,000	-2,300	10,200
U.S. unemployment rate	5.0%	5.0%	5.4%	0.0	-0.4

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

Total Nonfarm Employment	1,580,800	1,576,500	1,560,800	4,300	20,000
Mining	2,200	2,300	2,300	-100	-100
Construction	89,400	86,100	78,800	3,300	10,600
Manufacturing	212,400	211,400	216,600	1,000	-4,200
Trade, transportation and utilities	316,100	319,600	315,800	-3,500	300
Information	23,300	23,400	25,100	-100	-1,800
Financial activities	109,100	107,500	105,300	1,600	3,800
Professional and business services	138,000	137,500	138,900	500	-900
Education and health services	229,400	228,500	224,300	900	5,100
Leisure and hospitality	141,600	142,200	139,100	-600	2,500
Other services	62,100	62,700	59,400	-600	2,700
Government	257,200	255,300	255,200	1,900	2,000

**Unemployment Insurance Claims for Iowa**

	<b>April 2016</b>	<b>March 2016</b>	<b>April 2015</b>	<b>% Change from March 2016</b>	<b>April 2015</b>
<b>Initial claims</b>	10,082	11,227	9,683	-10.2%	4.1%
<b>Continued claims</b>					
Number of claimants	29,149	40,789	31,464	-28.5%	-7.4%
Weeks paid	85,625	148,902	102,012	-42.5%	-16.1%
Amount paid	\$30,832,382	\$54,696,526	\$35,430,672	-43.6%	-13.0%

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.