

# NEWS RELEASE

# For Statewide Distribution



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## **Iowa's Unemployment Rate Increases Slightly to 3.3 Percent in August**

DES MOINES, IOWA – Iowa's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased slightly to 3.3 percent for August. The state's jobless rate was 3.7 percent one year ago. The U.S. unemployment rate rose to 4.4 percent in August.

"The economy showed some minor improvements in August," said Beth Townsend, Iowa Workforce Development Director. "Iowa businesses have steadily added jobs since April and advanced by 2,300 jobs this month with job gains continuing in healthcare, trade, and other services and the labor force participation rate remained at 68.4%."

The number of unemployed Iowans increased to 55,200 in August. The current estimate is 7,800 lower than the year ago level of 63,000.

The total number of working Iowans decreased to 1,627,800 in August. This figure was 300 lower than July and 9,000 lower than one year ago.

## **Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment**

August marked the fourth-consecutive gain for total nonfarm employment for the State of Iowa. The monthly increase of 2,300 jobs lifted the total to 1,590,100 jobs. Goods-producing industries were sluggish in August, paring 1,000 jobs. Conversely, service sectors gained 3,300 jobs. In total, five private super sectors lost employment this month versus four that gained employment. Government was unchanged this month with declines at the local and federal levels exactly offsetting the state government gains. Compared to last August, government is down 2,000 jobs due to local government losses.

The education and health services sector added the most jobs in August (+2,500) and was fueled by growth in healthcare and social assistance (+1,900). This month's gain marks the ninth-straight gain for this super sector. Healthcare and social assistance alone has been responsible for a majority of this job growth. Elsewhere, retail trade expanded again this month (+800) leading to a gain of 1,600 jobs in trade, transportation and utilities. Transportation and warehousing also fared well in August and was up 700 jobs. Other gains this month were seen in other services (+1,300) and professional and business services (+1,000). Losses this month were largest in leisure and hospitality (-1,500) with declines nearly equal in both arts and entertainment (-800) and accommodations and food services (-700). Financial activities posted the first sector loss since last August (-1,300). Finance and insurance industries were responsible for most of the drop (-1,100), although real estate and rental activities shed 200 jobs. Construction has also trended down following record highs last year (-900). This month's loss marks the fifth-straight decline for this industry.

Annually, nonfarm employment remains up 17,200 jobs. Healthcare and social assistance has been responsible for much of the growth with 9,300 jobs added, more than offsetting the small drop in the partner sector of educational services. Trade, transportation and utilities have gained 5,400 jobs due to expansion in wholesale trade and transportation and warehousing. Aside from information services (-1,500), annual losses have been limited to construction industries (-5,900) which are partly due to the completion of large-scale projects ending over the past twelve months. The preliminary August mark compares closely to the State's 2014 level before the construction boom began.

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

	August 2017	July 2017	August 2016	Change from	
				July 2017	August 2016
Civilian labor force	1,682,900	1,682,600	1,699,800	300	-16,900
Unemployment	55,200	54,500	63,000	700	-7,800
Unemployment rate	3.3%	3.2%	3.7%	0.1	-0.4
Employment	1,627,800	1,628,100	1,636,800	-300	-9,000
U.S. unemployment rate	4.4%	4.3%	4.9%	0.1	-0.5

### Nonfarm Employment in Iowa, Seasonally Adjusted Data

Total Nonfarm Employment	1,590,100	1,587,800	1,572,900	2,300	17,200
Mining	2,500	2,500	2,300	0	200
Construction	75,400	76,300	81,300	-900	-5,900
Manufacturing	214,800	214,900	213,400	-100	1,400
Trade, transportation and utilities	321,800	320,200	316,400	1,600	5,400
Information	21,300	21,600	22,800	-300	-1,500
Financial activities	111,600	112,900	108,200	-1,300	3,400
Professional and business services	142,500	141,500	138,400	1,000	4,100
Education and health services	239,100	236,600	230,100	2,500	9,000
Leisure and hospitality	143,400	144,900	142,100	-1,500	1,300
Other services	60,900	59,600	59,100	1,300	1,800
Government	256,800	256,800	258,800	0	-2,000

### Unemployment Insurance Claims for Iowa

	August 2017	July 2017	August 2016	% Change from	
				July 2017	August 2016
<b>Initial claims</b>	8,659	9,301	8,466	-6.9%	2.3%
<b>Continued claims</b>					
Number of claimants	21,307	21,882	24,920	-2.6%	-14.5%
Weeks paid	76,942	67,714	88,355	13.6%	-12.9%
Amount paid	\$27,873,073	\$24,274,999	\$31,565,846	14.8%	-11.7%

Visit [www.iowalmi.gov](http://www.iowalmi.gov) 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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MEDIA ALERT: An audio cut of comments about Iowa's labor market situation is available by calling (515) 281-6057. Statewide data for September 2017 will be released on Friday, October 20, 2017. Local data for September will be posted to the IWD website on Tuesday, October 24, 2017.