

NEWS RELEASE

For Statewide Distribution



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Iowa's Unemployment Rate Falls to 3.8 Percent in November

DES MOINES, IOWA – Iowa's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 3.8 percent in November. The state's jobless rate was 3.5 percent one year ago. The U.S. unemployment rate dropped to 4.6 percent in November.

"The unemployment rate in Iowa is the lowest since March, which in part is due to holiday hiring and the great fall weather we have had this year," said Beth Townsend, Director of Iowa Workforce Development. "The economy remains soft as we transition to seasonal unemployment during the winter months."

The number of unemployed Iowans decreased to 65,000 in November from 70,400 in October. The current estimate is 5,300 higher than the year ago level of 59,700.

The total number of working Iowans decreased to 1,655,000 in November. This figure was 200 lower than October and 10,600 higher than one year ago.

Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment

Iowa establishments shed 4,700 jobs in November and lowered employment down to 1,580,100 jobs. This drop marked the third straight month for job losses for the state. Private sector losses totaled 3,900 jobs and government pared 800 jobs. Public sector drops were primarily within local government (-600), although the federal sector shed jobs also (-200). Government trails last year's level by 1,300 jobs. Private sectors remain up (+11,300), but the magnitude of the annual increase has been waning as the year comes to an end.

In November, the largest movement occurred in trade, transportation, and utilities which experienced a decline of 2,300 jobs. The majority of the loss was incurred in retail (-1,400), although transportation, utilities, and wholesale shed jobs this month as well. Iowa's retail sector has not fared well through 2016 and is down compared to last November (-1,400). Iowa's manufacturers lost 1,400 jobs with losses distributed evenly between durable and nondurable goods factories. This marks the second straight decline following a brief upsurge in the summer. Other notable losses included other services (-1,200), leisure and hospitality (-500), and information (-200). On the other hand, job gains were realized in three private industries and led by professional and business services (+1,400) and heavily fueled by hiring in administrative support and waste management services. All other gains this month were small and included education and health care (+300) and financial activities (+100).

Annually, total nonfarm employment is up just 10,000 jobs. Monthly declines over the past few months have reduced the annual growth rate considerably. Construction continues to sustain employment and leads all sectors with 8,300 jobs added. Education and health care is second in terms of growth (+4,200) followed by financial activities (+3,900). Manufacturing continues to trend down and lags behind last year's mark by 7,300 jobs. The only other sectors down annually are professional and business services (-2,200) and information (-1,300).

Employment and Unemployment in Iowa, Seasonally Adjusted Data

	November 2016	October 2016	November 2015	Change from	
				October 2016	November 2015
Civilian labor force	1,720,000	1,725,600	1,704,100	-5,600	15,900
Unemployment	65,000	70,400	59,700	-5,400	5,300
Unemployment rate	3.8%	4.1%	3.5%	-0.3	0.3
Employment	1,655,000	1,655,200	1,644,400	-200	10,600
U.S. unemployment rate	4.6%	4.9%	5.0%	-0.3	-0.4

Nonfarm Employment in Iowa, Seasonally Adjusted Data

Total Nonfarm Employment	1,580,100	1,584,800	1,570,100	-4,700	10,000
Mining	2,200	2,200	2,200	0	0
Construction	89,600	89,700	81,300	-100	8,300
Manufacturing	207,800	209,200	215,100	-1,400	-7,300
Trade, transportation and utilities	318,000	320,300	316,700	-2,300	1,300
Information	22,700	22,900	24,000	-200	-1,300
Financial activities	110,500	110,400	106,600	100	3,900
Professional and business services	137,600	136,200	139,800	1,400	-2,200
Education and health services	230,200	229,900	226,000	300	4,200
Leisure and hospitality	143,900	144,400	141,300	-500	2,600
Other services	63,200	64,400	61,400	-1,200	1,800
Government	254,400	255,200	255,700	-800	-1,300

Unemployment Insurance Claims for Iowa

	November 2016	October 2016	November 2015	% Change from	
				October 2016	November 2015
Initial claims	15,247	9,560	15,891	59.5%	-4.1%
Continued claims					
Number of claimants	23,064	19,580	21,858	17.8%	5.5%
Weeks paid	80,337	60,374	67,398	33.1%	19.2%
Amount paid	\$29,486,592	\$22,414,603	\$23,716,577	31.6%	24.3%

Visit 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 and local data for December 2016 will be released on Tuesday, January 24, 2017.