



**For Release:** 9:00 a.m.  
**Date:** November 18, 2016

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## Iowa's Unemployment Rate Decreases to 4.1 Percent in October

DES MOINES, IOWA – Iowa's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased slightly to 4.1 percent in October. The state's jobless rate was 3.5 percent one year ago. The U.S. unemployment rate was little changed at 4.9 percent in October.

"Iowa experienced a slight drop in the unemployment rate in October, despite some layoffs within construction and manufacturing establishments that could indicate this is only a temporary reprieve. Fortunately, Iowa continues to have jobs available and those affected by layoffs appear to be able to find jobs elsewhere," said Beth Townsend, Director of Iowa Workforce Development. "Iowa remains well below the national average of 4.9% which indicates our economy remains stronger than much of the rest of the country."

The number of unemployed Iowans decreased to 70,300 in October from 72,600 in September. The current estimate is 10,100 higher than the year ago level of 60,200.

The total number of working Iowans increased to 1,655,200 in October. This figure was 5,000 higher than September and 12,700 higher than one year ago.

## Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment

Iowa businesses shed 4,500 jobs in October and total employment now rests at 1,583,900 jobs. This is the second loss in the last two months and largely due to declines in manufacturing and construction. Service sectors were down 700 jobs due to sluggish seasonal hiring in local government education. Government combined is down just 500 jobs versus last year's level. Despite the monthly drop, over half of the state's sectors added jobs this month.

Employment in education services had the largest drop this month (-2,400). The low showing in education is partially due to the shift in seasonal hiring and may level off as the school year progresses. The education sector remains up 900 jobs annually. The construction sector pared jobs again this month (-2,200) as the summer project season begins to wind down. This past year was nonetheless rewarding for construction workers evidenced by the annual job growth versus last year (+13.2 percent). Manufacturing lost jobs at the nondurable goods level (-1,300) and shed a combined 1,700 jobs this month. While durable goods has been showing recent signs of recovery, nondurable goods factories have shown some signs of weakness lately with jobs being shed in four of the last five months. The last monthly increase for nondurable goods was in May. Job gains this month were led by other services (+2,200). This month's gain snaps a two month losing streak for this sector. Other advances in October occurred in leisure and hospitality (+1,200) and trade and transportation (+1,100).

The annual growth rate trended down this month with the state now up just 1.1 percent of last year's mark (+18,000 jobs). The construction sector has retained the employment built up over the past year and thus leads all sectors in job growth (+10,400). Despite the monthly drop, the education and health services sector is up 4,900 jobs annually, followed by leisure and hospitality (+4,000) and financial activities (+3,500). Job losses continue to be led by manufacturing (-5,200) with both durable and nondurable goods factories paring employment now. Professional and business services also lags annually (-3,600) due mostly to cutbacks within administration, support, and waste management services (-3,200). The only other sector posting annual losses was information services (-1,200) which has steadily trended down over the last several years due to changes in consumer and business print and media preferences.

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

	October 2016	September 2016	October 2015	Change from September 2016	October 2015
Civilian labor force	1,725,500	1,722,700	1,702,700	2,800	22,800
Unemployment	70,300	72,600	60,200	-2,300	10,100
Unemployment rate	4.1%	4.2%	3.5%	-0.1	0.6
Employment	1,655,200	1,650,200	1,642,500	5,000	12,700
U.S. unemployment rate	4.9%	5.0%	5.1%	-0.1	-0.2

### Nonfarm Employment in Iowa, Seasonally Adjusted Data

Total Nonfarm Employment	1,583,900	1,588,400	1,565,900	-4,500	18,000
Mining	2,200	2,100	2,200	100	0
Construction	89,000	91,200	78,600	-2,200	10,400
Manufacturing	209,700	211,400	214,900	-1,700	-5,200
Trade, transportation and utilities	319,200	318,100	316,900	1,100	2,300
Information	22,800	23,300	24,000	-500	-1,200
Financial activities	110,000	109,600	106,500	400	3,500
Professional and business services	136,300	136,200	139,900	100	-3,600
Education and health services	230,500	232,900	225,600	-2,400	4,900
Leisure and hospitality	144,100	142,900	140,100	1,200	4,000
Other services	64,900	62,700	61,500	2,200	3,400
Government	255,200	258,000	255,700	-2,800	-500

### Unemployment Insurance Claims for Iowa

	October 2016	September 2016	October 2015	% Change from September 2016	October 2015
<b>Initial claims</b>	9,560	8,875	10,687	7.7%	-10.5%
<b>Continued claims</b>					
Number of claimants	19,580	20,000	20,236	-2.1%	-3.2%
Weeks paid	60,374	63,766	64,324	-5.3%	-6.1%
Amount paid	\$22,414,603	\$23,256,966	\$22,867,451	-3.6%	-2.0%

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.

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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 November will be released on Friday, December 16, 2016. Local data for November will be posted to the IWD website on Tuesday, December 20, 2016.