



For Release: 9:00 a.m.
Date: August 20, 2021

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Iowa's Unemployment Rate Increases to 4.1 Percent in July, Labor Participation Continues to Rise

DES MOINES, IOWA – Iowa's unemployment rate rose slightly to 4.1 percent in July 2021 from 4.0 percent in June 2021. The state's jobless rate was 6.1 percent one year ago. The total number of working Iowans increased to 1,593,600 in July of 2021, which is 55,400 higher than July 2020 and 5,700 more than June of 2021. In addition to 5,700 newly employed Iowans, the number of unemployed Iowans looking for work rose by 800, resulting in Iowa's labor force participation rate increasing from 66.6 percent in June to 66.9 percent.

"From May to July we saw an increase of 175 percent in the number of people visiting our IowaWORKS job centers to take active steps towards finding work, and that trend has continued in August," said **Beth Townsend, Director of Iowa Workforce Development**. "As we've seen over the past few months, Iowans are re-entering the labor force in increasing numbers, and this shows that we continue to move in the right direction."

Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment

Total nonfarm employment in Iowa gained 7,400 jobs in July, increasing employment to 1,532,800. This was the third consecutive gain. Service industries fueled much of the growth, with gains particularly strong in leisure and hospitality. Additionally, goods-producing industries gained 2,400 workers through robust hiring in manufacturing. Private sectors have added 37,400 jobs annually.

Accommodations and food services added the most jobs in July (+4,400). This was the sector's seventh consecutive increase for a total of 13,400 jobs added in 2021. Led by durable goods factories, manufacturing added 2,100 jobs in July and has now added jobs in the last three months. Health care and social assistance increased by 1,200 – the first gain since December 2020. Job losses were largest in professional and business services (-800) and fueled primarily by losses in temporary help services along with services to buildings and dwellings.

Annually, Iowa establishments have added 46,100 jobs to their payrolls. Leisure and hospitality has added the most (+16,300) followed by manufacturing (+10,000). Retail trade is up 4,500 compared to last July, although hiring has been tepid to begin the year. Sectors seeing little growth over the past 12 months include transportation and warehousing (-800), health care and social assistance (-800), and information (-300).

Employment and Unemployment in Iowa, Seasonally Adjusted Data

	July 2021	June 2021	July 2020	Change from June 2021	July 2020
Civilian labor force	1,661,000	1,654,600	1,637,800	6,400	23,200
Unemployment	67,400	66,600	99,600	800	-32,200
Unemployment rate	4.1%	4.0%	6.1%	0.1	-2.0
Employment	1,593,600	1,587,900	1,538,200	5,700	55,400
U.S. unemployment rate	5.4%	5.9%	10.2%	-0.5	-4.8

Nonfarm Employment in Iowa, Seasonally Adjusted Data

Total Nonfarm Employment	1,532,800	1,525,400	1,486,700	7,400	46,100
Mining	2,200	2,200	2,300	0	-100
Construction	75,500	75,200	75,200	300	300
Manufacturing	222,900	220,800	212,900	2,100	10,000
Trade, transportation and utilities	303,100	302,500	298,400	600	4,700
Information	18,400	18,100	18,700	300	-300
Financial activities	109,700	109,700	108,800	0	900
Professional and business services	135,100	135,900	132,300	-800	2,800
Education and health services	221,400	219,700	220,800	1,700	600
Leisure and hospitality	132,800	129,100	116,500	3,700	16,300
Other services	56,300	56,600	54,100	-300	2,200
Government	255,400	255,600	246,700	-200	8,700

Unemployment Insurance Claims for Iowa

	July 2021	June 2021	July 2020	% Change from June 2021	July 2020
Initial claims	8,362	9,595	36,935	-12.9%	-77.4%
Continued claims					
Benefit recipients	16,661	22,066	148,469	-24.5%	-88.8%
Weeks paid	61,116	82,559	533,773	-26.0%	-88.6%
Amount paid	\$22,806,572	\$30,673,186	\$159,874,931	-25.6%	-85.7%

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: Local data for July 2021 will be posted to the IWD website on Tuesday, August 24, 2021. Statewide data for August 2021 will be released on Friday, September 17, 2021.