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## **Iowa's Unemployment Rate Drops to 2.5 Percent in July**

July's Rate Lowest Since May 2019

DES MOINES, IOWA – Iowa's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped to 2.5 percent in July, down from 2.6 percent in June and 4.4 percent one year ago. The U.S. unemployment rate decreased to 3.5 percent in July.

The number of unemployed Iowans decreased to 43,300 in July from 43,900 in June. The total number of working Iowans increased to 1,667,200 in July. This figure is 1,800 higher than June and 58,600 higher than one year ago.

Overall, the state's labor force participation rate remained at 67.8 percent in July, despite 1,400 Iowans rejoining the labor force. Iowa added a total of 3,800 jobs.

"July's good news shows that, despite current national economic challenges, Iowa's economy continues its positive direction," said Beth Townsend, Director of Iowa Workforce Development. "We are helping workers find new career pathways, and we remain laser focused on reemployment so we can help every Iowan find the right job and every employer find a qualified workforce."

### **Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment**

Iowa total nonfarm payroll employment advanced by 3,800 jobs in July. This monthly gain was the fourth consecutive increase and was largely due to service industries bolstering payrolls, particularly within professional and business services and health care. While private services again took a step forward this month (+3,100), government also added jobs primarily at the local level and related to temporary summer programs (+700). Following the gain, government now stands 6,100 above last year's mark while the state is up 33,900 jobs.

Health care and social assistance added the most jobs of any sector in July, gaining 1,300 jobs from June. This sector has been slow to recover since the pandemic began, but growth has been evident in 2022 with 2,300 jobs gained this year. Administrative support, waste management, and remediation industries added 1,000 jobs in July. Much of this increase was fueled by hiring of seasonal staff to help with services to buildings and dwellings, specifically landscaping. Manufacturing added jobs this month (+800) with gains in both durable and nondurable goods factories. This sector continues to trend upward and has added 6,700 jobs in 2022 thus far. Conversely, job losses were most evident in retail trade in July (-800), particularly for miscellaneous store retailers. This decline now marks the fifth straight loss with 3,900 jobs pared during that span. All other losses were sparse in July with small drops in construction (-300), financial activities (-200), and leisure and hospitality (-200).

Over the past 12 months, Iowa firms have added 33,900 jobs. Despite little movement this month, leisure and hospitality has gained the most jobs (+10,100). Accommodations and food services alone are up 8,800 jobs. Manufacturing is now up 7,700 with hiring being slightly greater in nondurable goods factories (+4,600). Food manufacturing, particularly slaughtering and meat packing, has been especially robust. Trade, transportation, and utilities are up 5,000 with hiring being particularly strong in transportation and warehousing.

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

	July 2022	June 2022	July 2021	Change from	
				June 2022	July 2021
Civilian labor force	1,710,600	1,709,200	1,682,700	1,400	27,900
Unemployment	43,300	43,900	74,100	-600	-30,800
Unemployment rate	2.5%	2.6%	4.4%	-0.1	-1.9
Employment	1,667,200	1,665,400	1,608,600	1,800	58,600
Labor Force Participation Rate	67.8%	67.8%	67.1%	0.0	0.7
U.S. unemployment rate	3.5%	3.6%	5.4%	-0.1	-1.9

### Nonfarm Employment in Iowa, Seasonally Adjusted Data

Total Nonfarm Employment	1,575,200	1,571,400	1,541,300	3,800	33,900
Mining	2,300	2,300	2,300	0	0
Construction	79,300	79,600	78,200	-300	1,100
Manufacturing	226,500	226,000	218,800	500	7,700
Trade, transportation and utilities	312,900	312,800	307,900	100	5,000
Information	18,700	18,900	19,100	-200	-400
Financial activities	109,600	109,300	109,300	300	300
Professional and business services	141,300	139,800	139,900	1,500	1,400
Education and health services	226,800	225,300	225,900	1,500	900
Leisure and hospitality	141,200	141,400	131,100	-200	10,100
Other services	56,300	56,400	54,600	-100	1,700
Government	260,300	259,600	254,200	700	6,100

### Unemployment Insurance Claims for Iowa

	July 2022	June 2022	July 2021	% Change from	
				June 2022	July 2021
<b>Initial claims</b>	6,589	6,420	8,362	2.6%	-21.2%
<b>Continued claims</b>					
Benefit recipients	9,035	8,889	16,661	1.6%	-45.8%
Weeks paid	27,641	29,043	61,116	-4.8%	-54.8%
Amount paid	\$11,713,985	\$12,478,779	\$22,806,572	-6.1%	-48.6%

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: Local data for July 2022 will be posted to the IWD website on Tuesday, August 23, 2022. Statewide data for August 2022 will be released on Thursday, September 15, 2022 at 9 a.m.