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Iowa's Unemployment Rate Drops to Pre-Pandemic Rate of 2.6 Percent in June

DES MOINES, IOWA – Iowa's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped to 2.6 percent in June – down from 2.7 percent in May and back to its pre-pandemic level. Iowa establishments added 5,100 jobs in June as the Labor Force Participation Rate also increased to 67.8 percent, up from 67.6 percent last month. The U.S. unemployment rate remained at 3.6 percent in June.

The total number of working Iowans increased to 1,665,500 in June – a figure 8,200 higher than May and 57,900 higher than one year ago. The number of unemployed Iowans decreased to 43,900 in June from 46,800 in May.

"Iowa's continued unemployment rate decline is proof yet again that our state's efforts to focus on reemployment are successful and that our state is resilient and strong," said Gov. Reynolds. "We've created an environment where employers want to hire and move past the challenges of the past two years, and where more employable Iowans are eagerly joining the workforce. I'm proud of how far we've come and I'm optimistic about the future of Iowa's workforce."

"The progress in June speaks for itself. Iowa has reached an important milestone by returning to an unemployment level not seen since before the pandemic," said Beth Townsend, Director of Iowa Workforce Development. "The efforts to bring Iowans back into the workforce with promising new careers is paying off, but we're not done yet. We remain focused on removing barriers and helping to fill the 89,000 open jobs across the state."

Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment

June's gain of 5,100 jobs lifted total nonfarm employment to 1,572,800, and was the third consecutive increase with 10,400 jobs added since March. Total nonfarm is now up 42,100 jobs over the past year. Services (both government and private industries) were responsible for most of the movement. Growth in private industries were primarily within accommodations and food services and related to increased summer foot traffic; government gained 2,700 jobs due mostly to local administrations adding jobs to handle seasonal summer jobs. Overall, government rests up 7,200 jobs versus last June.

Leisure and hospitality added the most private sector jobs in June (+2,000), resulting from accommodations and food service industry hires heavily influenced by seasonal gains in recreational camps. Arts, entertainment, and recreational industries scaled back in June following gains in each of the prior two months. Manufacturing added 700 jobs with hiring being nearly split between durable and nondurable goods factories. Manufacturing has now added jobs in seven consecutive months with 11,700 jobs gained during that span. All other jobs gains were relatively small and included other services (+300) and construction (+200). Sector losses were highest in information services (-400) followed by professional and business services (-200), financial activities (-100) and natural resources and mining (-100).

Over the past twelve months, leisure and hospitality added the most jobs (+15,100), mostly from within accommodations and food services (+14,000). Manufacturing continues to bolster payrolls and now rests 8,300 jobs higher than June 2021. Hiring within non-durable goods plants has outpaced durable goods slightly. Annual job losses are light and limited to just health care and social assistance (-700), administrative help and support services (-500), and finance and insurance (-300).

Employment and Unemployment in Iowa, Seasonally Adjusted Data

	June 2022	May 2022	June 2021	Change from	
				May 2022	June 2021
Civilian labor force	1,709,400	1,704,100	1,682,800	5,300	26,600
Unemployment	43,900	46,800	75,300	-2,900	-31,400
Unemployment rate	2.6%	2.7%	4.5%	-0.1	-1.9
Employment	1,665,500	1,657,300	1,607,600	8,200	57,900
Labor Force Participation Rate	67.8%	67.6%	67.2%	0.2	0.6
U.S. unemployment rate	3.6%	3.6%	5.9%	0.0	-2.3

Nonfarm Employment in Iowa, Seasonally Adjusted Data

Total Nonfarm Employment	1,572,800	1,567,700	1,530,700	5,100	42,100
Mining	2,200	2,300	2,300	-100	-100
Construction	79,600	79,400	77,400	200	2,200
Manufacturing	225,500	224,800	217,200	700	8,300
Trade, transportation and utilities	312,900	312,900	307,000	0	5,900
Information	18,900	19,300	18,700	-400	200
Financial activities	109,200	109,300	108,900	-100	300
Professional and business services	140,500	140,700	139,500	-200	1,000
Education and health services	225,000	225,000	225,100	0	-100
Leisure and hospitality	142,100	140,100	127,000	2,000	15,100
Other services	56,300	56,000	54,200	300	2,100
Government	260,600	257,900	253,400	2,700	7,200

Unemployment Insurance Claims for Iowa

	June 2022	May 2022	June 2021	% Change from	
				May 2022	June 2021
Initial claims	6,420	5,566	9,595	15.3%	-33.1%
Continued claims					
Benefit recipients	8,889	9,398	22,066	-5.4%	-59.7%
Weeks paid	29,043	24,244	82,559	19.8%	-64.8%
Amount paid	\$12,478,779	\$11,155,734	\$30,673,186	11.9%	-59.3%

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MEDIA ALERT: Local data for June 2022 will be posted to the IWD website on Tuesday, July 26, 2022. Statewide data for July 2022 will be released on Thursday, August 18, 2022 at 9 a.m.