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Iowa's Unemployment Rate Remains at 2.4 Percent

DES MOINES, IOWA – Iowa's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at 2.4 percent in November. The state's jobless rate was 2.9 percent one year ago. The U.S. unemployment rate remained at 3.7 percent in November.

"Iowa's November jobs report continues to reflect the powerful opportunities that exist in our state," said Beth Townsend, director of Iowa Workforce Development. "More Iowans are working today than at any other time in history and that presents both opportunities and challenges for our citizens. The opportunity for meaningful employment exists now more than ever for all Iowans. The challenge is building our skilled workforce at a rate that matches our growth. [IowaWORKS Centers](#) around the state can help meet both, and we do so every day. Whether you are a job seeker looking for a new career or upskilling opportunity or you are an employer needing workforce solutions, we can help. The IowaWORKS team is dedicated to helping power all possibilities."

The number of unemployed Iowans decreased to 40,600 in November from 41,200 in October. The current estimate is 8,600 lower than the year ago level of 49,200.

The total number of working Iowans increased to 1,648,900 in November. This figure was 1,900 higher than October and 23,300 higher than one year ago.



Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment



Iowa establishments reduced payrolls slightly (-800) in November, leaving total nonfarm employment essentially unchanged versus October. Since June, Iowa establishments have alternated between gains and losses with service sectors generally trending down over the past several months. Alternatively, goods-producing sectors (manufacturing, construction, and natural resources and mining) have added jobs in every month since January. Government has been essentially unchanged compared to October and versus November of last year.

Leisure and hospitality pared the most jobs this month (-1,400) with losses being heaviest in food services and drinking places. Recently, this sector has shown signs of reduced demand for services. Accommodations and food services shed jobs in six of the last seven

months in Iowa. All other sector losses were small in nature and included construction, which lost jobs for the first time since January (-600). Also declining this month were education and health care (-600) and information services (-500). Alternatively, no sector added more jobs this month than manufacturing (+1,100). Gains were strongest in durable goods factories, specifically agriculture, construction, and mining machinery manufacturing shops. Through 2018, manufacturing has overwhelmingly trended up; losses occurred in only two months of the year and accounted

for just 200 jobs lost. Despite continued weakness in retail, trade, transportation, and utilities gained 500 jobs in November. The advancement was mostly due to stronger than expected hiring in transportation industries. Smaller gains this month included professional and business services (+300) and financial activities (+200).

Annually, total nonfarm remains 15,900 jobs beyond last November's mark. At this point, most all of the annual increase stems from goods-producing sectors. Manufacturing is now 8,600 jobs higher than last November. Construction remains up 6,000 jobs. The professional and business services sector has added 2,100 jobs to lead all service sectors. Annual losses are heaviest in leisure and hospitality (-2,700) following this month's large drop in accommodations and food services.

Employment and Unemployment in Iowa, Seasonally Adjusted Data					
	November 2018	October 2018	November 2017	Change from	
				October 2018	November 2017
Civilian labor force	1,689,500	1,688,200	1,674,800	1,300	14,700
Unemployment	40,600	41,200	49,200	-600	-8,600
Unemployment rate	2.4%	2.4%	2.9%	0.0	-0.5
Employment	1,648,900	1,647,000	1,625,600	1,900	23,300
U.S. unemployment rate	3.7%	3.7%	4.1%	0.0	-0.4
Nonfarm Employment in Iowa, Seasonally Adjusted Data					
Total Nonfarm Employment	1,593,000	1,593,800	1,577,100	-800	15,900
Mining	2,400	2,500	2,400	-100	0
Construction	80,800	81,400	74,800	-600	6,000
Manufacturing	229,000	227,900	220,400	1,100	8,600
Trade, transportation and utilities	314,300	313,800	313,800	500	500
Information	21,300	21,800	21,900	-500	-600
Financial activities	112,000	111,800	110,100	200	1,900
Professional and business services	142,700	142,400	140,600	300	2,100
Education and health services	232,500	233,100	231,300	-600	1,200
Leisure and hospitality	142,200	143,600	144,900	-1,400	-2,700
Other services	55,900	55,900	57,300	0	-1,400
Government	259,900	259,600	259,600	300	300

Unemployment Insurance Claims for Iowa					
	November 2018	October 2018	November 2017	% Change from	
				October 2018	November 2017
Initial claims	16,746	9,475	14,395	76.7%	16.3%
Continued claims					
Number of claimants	16,466	15,735	19,625	4.6%	-16.1%
Weeks paid	49,692	53,152	66,245	-6.5%	-25.0%
Amount paid	\$18,626,684	\$20,100,113	\$24,462,032	-7.3%	-23.9%

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: [Click here](#) to access an audio cut of comments about Iowa's labor market situation. Local data for November will be posted to the IWD website on Thursday, December 27, 2018. Statewide data for December 2018 will be released on Friday, January 18, 2019.