



**For Release:** 9:00 a.m.  
**Date:** December 17, 2021

**Contact:** Jesse Dougherty (515) 725-5487  
communications@iwd.iowa.gov

## Iowa's Unemployment Rate Falls to 3.7 percent in November

DES MOINES, IOWA – Iowa's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 3.7 percent in November, down from 3.9 percent in October and 3.9 percent one year ago. The U.S. unemployment rate dropped to 4.2 percent.

The number of unemployed Iowans decreased to 61,600 in November from 64,800 in October.

The total number of working Iowans increased to 1,599,300 in November. This figure is 3,100 higher than October and 38,400 higher than one year ago.

The labor force participation rate remained steady at 66.8 percent.

"Iowa's economy continued to improve in November, with gains in employment nearly across the board," said Beth Townsend, Director of Iowa Workforce Development. "Iowa companies showed more comfort with increasing their staffing levels, and they found plenty of Iowans ready to launch new careers. We hope to build on this growth in 2022, when our Reemployment Case Management program will add new urgency to the process of helping Iowans find employment."

## Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment

Despite improvement in the unemployment rate, total nonfarm employment in November decreased by 1,000 jobs, primarily due to data impacts from a temporary labor dispute. (Differences in methodology meant workers involved in the labor dispute were still counted as employed workers in the unemployment rate survey; however, the survey used to determine nonfarm employment counted those same jobs as lost.) Due to the temporary nature of the losses, it is expected that December's release will show a substantial rebound from factory workers returning to their jobsites. November's loss nevertheless leaves Iowa's total nonfarm employment at 1,539,900 jobs, up 30,900 versus this time last year.

Manufacturing shed 5,500 jobs in November during the disruptions described above. This temporary reduction affected durable goods factories (-6,200) and overwhelmed job growth elsewhere. (Manufacturing job totals are expected to return to normal next month, when workers will be counted as rejoining the assembly lines.) Nondurable goods factories increased slightly (+600) in November. The only other sector to post a loss in November was information services (-400). Otherwise, job gains were seen in most other industries in November, with the largest coming in leisure and hospitality (+2,000). A majority of this increase stemmed from hiring within accommodations and food services. Professional and business services advanced by 1,100 jobs. The bulk of the hiring was within administration support and waste management. Smaller increases included health care and social assistance (+700) and construction (+600).

Annually, leisure and hospitality has added the most jobs of any super sector (+16,100). The majority of these job gains have been in accommodations and food services (+12,900). Retail trade has advanced by 4,100 jobs leading to a gain of 4,500 total in trade, transportation, and utilities. Education and health care services is up 3,500 jobs annually due to increased staffing in private education. Alternatively, construction has shed 1,600 jobs over the past 12 months. This could be a symptom of high input costs, material shortages, and/or just apprehension about investing in business upgrades or new projects at this time.

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

	<b>November 2021</b>	<b>October 2021</b>	<b>November 2020</b>	<b>Change from October 2021</b>	<b>November 2020</b>
Civilian labor force	1,660,900	1,661,000	1,625,000	-100	35,900
Unemployment	61,600	64,800	64,200	-3,200	-2,600
Unemployment rate	3.7%	3.9%	3.9%	-0.2	-0.2
Employment	1,599,300	1,596,200	1,560,900	3,100	38,400
Labor Force Participation Rate	66.8%	66.8%	65.5%	0.0	1.3
U.S. unemployment rate	4.2%	4.6%	6.7%	-0.4	-2.5

**Nonfarm Employment in Iowa, Seasonally Adjusted Data**

Total Nonfarm Employment	1,539,900	1,540,900	1,509,000	-1,000	30,900
Mining	2,300	2,300	2,400	0	-100
Construction	74,900	74,300	76,500	600	-1,600
Manufacturing	218,700	224,200	216,000	-5,500	2,700
Trade, transportation and utilities	309,200	308,900	304,700	300	4,500
Information	18,000	18,400	18,400	-400	-400
Financial activities	110,500	110,300	109,800	200	700
Professional and business services	134,600	133,500	134,700	1,100	-100
Education and health services	224,100	223,500	220,600	600	3,500
Leisure and hospitality	135,700	133,700	119,600	2,000	16,100
Other services	56,800	56,700	55,000	100	1,800
Government	255,100	255,100	251,300	0	3,800

**Unemployment Insurance Claims for Iowa**

	<b>November 2021</b>	<b>October 2021</b>	<b>November 2020</b>	<b>% Change from October 2021</b>	<b>November 2020</b>
<b>Initial claims</b>	9,982	8,304	25,649	20.2%	-61.1%
<b>Continued claims</b>					
Benefit recipients	9,665	9,435	35,877	2.4%	-73.1%
Weeks paid	29,593	30,443	111,741	-2.8%	-73.5%
Amount paid	\$12,513,463	\$12,766,521	\$38,714,617	-2.0%	-67.7%

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.

###

An Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request for individuals with disabilities.

[www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov](http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov) • [www.iowajobs.org](http://www.iowajobs.org)

MEDIA ALERT: Local data for November 2021 will be posted to the IWD website on Tuesday, December 21, 2021. Statewide and local data for December 2021 will be released on Tuesday, January 25, 2022.