

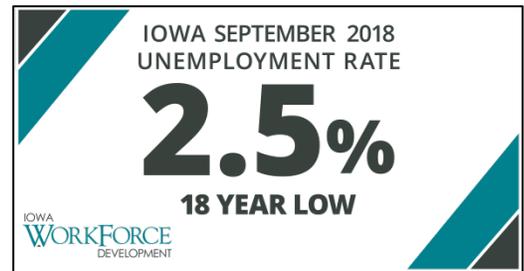


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## Iowa's Unemployment Rate Remains at 2.5 Percent

DES MOINES, IOWA – Iowa's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at 2.5 percent in September. The state's jobless rate was 3.0 percent one year ago. The U.S. unemployment rate declined to 3.7 percent in September.



"The number of working Iowans is increasing, the number of unemployed Iowans is decreasing, and our great state continues to have one of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation," said Beth Townsend, director of Iowa Workforce Development. "To keep this momentum going, we need to focus on the future to ensure we are building a skilled workforce to meet the needs of Iowa's employers. That's why Future Ready Iowa is so critical to our state's long term success. With the thirteenth [Future Ready Iowa summit](#) taking place today in Des Moines and five more summits taking place in the weeks ahead in [Creston](#), [Elkader](#), [Ottumwa](#), [Cedar Valley](#) and [Iowa City](#), over 2,500 education, community and business leaders will have come together to ignite local and regional planning efforts."



The number of unemployed Iowans decreased to 41,800 in September from 42,700 in August. The current estimate is 8,200 lower than the year ago level of 50,000.

The total number of working Iowans increased to 1,644,400 in September. This figure was 1,900 higher than August and 18,200 higher than one year ago.

## Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment

In September, Iowa establishments shed 3,400 jobs. This month's drop marks the second loss in the last three months for the state. Both goods-producing and service industries took a step back this month. Private industry showed little overall movement this month whereas government pared 3,500 jobs and is now down 1,200 jobs annually. Of the ten private sectors: four super sectors lost jobs, four were unchanged, and two added jobs in September.

Leisure and hospitality posted the largest drop in September (-1,100). This month's loss is the second-consecutive drop for this super sector which has seen only three monthly increases in 2018. All of the loss this month was due to reductions in accommodations and food services which generally drives the monthly movements. Manufacturing posted a decrease this month (-600) following no gain in August. All other losses were small and included information services and financial activities, both of which shed jobs in August also. Alternatively, gains this month were highest in other services (+1,500). This sector has not shown any strong hiring trend this year. The only other sector to add jobs this month was professional and business services, gaining 500 jobs this month at the administrative support and waste management sector.

Annually, total nonfarm employment remains up 17,600 jobs versus last September. Goods-producing industries continue to fuel annual growth and have contributed 14,300 jobs over the past twelve months. Durable goods factories are up 6,100 jobs despite little movement this month. Professional and business services also continues to expand and is now up 2,900 jobs since last September. Private sector losses have been limited to just three sectors: other services, leisure and hospitality, and information.

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

	September 2018	August 2018	September 2017	Change from	
				August 2018	September 2017
Civilian labor force	1,686,200	1,685,200	1,676,300	1,000	9,900
Unemployment	41,800	42,700	50,000	-900	-8,200
Unemployment rate	2.5%	2.5%	3.0%	0.0	-0.5
Employment	1,644,400	1,642,500	1,626,200	1,900	18,200
U.S. unemployment rate	3.7%	3.9%	4.2%	-0.2	-0.5

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

Total Nonfarm Employment	1,590,100	1,593,500	1,572,500	-3,400	17,600
Mining	2,400	2,400	2,300	0	100
Construction	79,800	79,800	74,500	0	5,300
Manufacturing	225,900	226,500	217,000	-600	8,900
Trade, transportation and utilities	314,900	314,900	314,600	0	300
Information	21,700	21,800	21,900	-100	-200
Financial activities	111,500	111,600	109,300	-100	2,200
Professional and business services	142,400	141,900	139,500	500	2,900
Education and health services	233,100	233,100	231,600	0	1,500
Leisure and hospitality	141,900	143,000	143,000	-1,100	-1,100
Other services	56,400	54,900	57,500	1,500	-1,100
Government	260,100	263,600	261,300	-3,500	-1,200

**Unemployment Insurance Claims for Iowa**

	September 2018	August 2018	September 2017	% Change from	
				August 2018	September 2017
<b>Initial claims</b>	7,145	8,096	7,654	-11.7%	-6.7%
<b>Continued claims</b>					
Number of claimants	15,023	18,706	17,499	-19.7%	-14.1%
Weeks paid	45,580	65,493	54,536	-30.4%	-16.4%
Amount paid	\$17,253,286	\$23,898,854	\$20,442,432	-27.8%	-15.6%

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: [Click here](#) to access an audio cut of comments about Iowa's labor market situation. Local data for September will be posted to the IWD website on Tuesday, October 23, 2018. Statewide data for October 2018 will be released on Friday, November 16, 2018.