Executive Summary

In 2014, the professional, scientific and technical services sector comprised 3.2 percent of all employment (both public and private sector) in Iowa. Employment in this sector had an average annual wage of $60,549 for 2014, which was 42.3 percent higher than the statewide average of $42,536 for all employment. However, when compared to other states in this region, only South Dakota has a lower average annual wage of $52,747.

Employment in the professional, scientific and technical services sector contracted a bit in 2009 and 2010 due to the recession but has expanded rapidly since then, bounding past its 2008 pre-recession high as early as 2011. Since 2008, the sector added 5,685 jobs, growing by 13.2 percent.

The sector is pretty balanced between the genders, but women hold a small majority of the jobs, accounting for 51.7 percent of employment in the sector.
What is Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services?

This sector comprises firms that specialize in performing professional, scientific and technical activities for others. These activities require a high degree of expertise and training. The firms in this sector specialize according to expertise and provide services to clients in a variety of industries and, in some cases, to households.

Activities performed include: legal advice, accounting, bookkeeping & payroll services, architectural, engineering & specialized services, computer, consulting, research, advertising, photographic, translation, veterinary and other professional, scientific and technical services.

Source: www.census.gov/naics

2014 Industry Breakout by Employment in Iowa
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services NAICS Industry Coding
Top 5 Sub-Sectors by Employment

2006-2014 Employment in Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services in Iowa

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), Bureau of Labor Statistics

https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/labor-market-information-division
In 2014, the professional, scientific and technical services sector had 8,834 locations in Iowa, employing 48,593 people. This sector is dominated by small establishments, averaging just 5.5 employees per location.

The largest single sub-sector, computer design services, accounted for 21.0 percent of total employment and architectural & engineering is the second largest subsector, with 15.5 percent of sector employment.

This industry tends to be well paid, but wages vary significantly by the type of professional service.

2014 Covered Employment in Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services by County

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), Bureau of Labor Statistics

https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/labor-market-information-division
2014 Average Annual Wage for Covered Employment in Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services

State Comparisons by Private Ownership

North Dakota $71,742
South Dakota $52,747
Nebraska $60,665
Kansas $64,416
Minnesota $83,916
Wisconsin $66,029
Iowa $60,470
Missouri $71,203
Illinois $90,336
Indiana $61,174
Michigan $76,540
Ohio $69,051

United States Average: $86,391

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Industry Distribution by Age and Gender

2013 Average Annual

Source: Local Employment Dynamics, Iowa Workforce Development and U.S. Census Bureau
http://lehd.did.census.gov

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