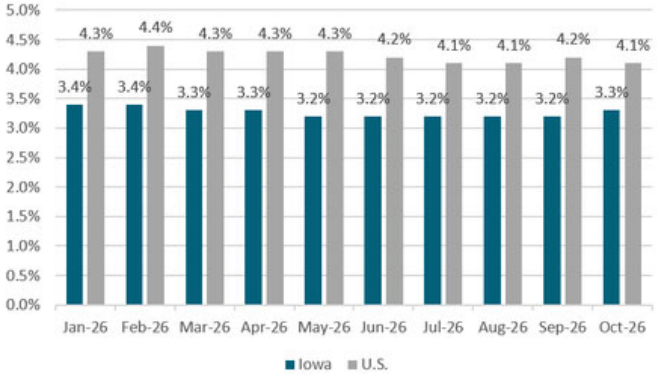
Status of Iowa's Workforce & Economy October 2026

Iowa Workforce Development

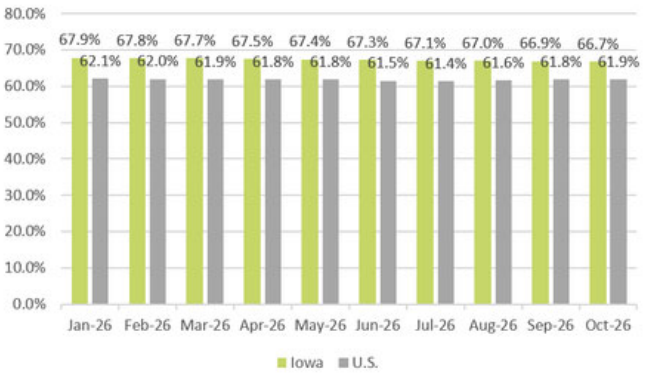
Published in November 2026

Labor Force & Unemployment

Iowa and U.S. Unemployment Rates (2026)



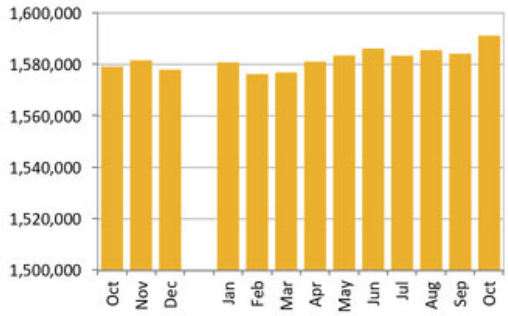
Iowa and U.S. Labor Force Participation Rates (2026)



- Iowa's unemployment rate increased to 3.3 percent in October.
- The U.S. unemployment rate decreased to 4.1 percent in October.
- The state's total employment level decreased to 1,661,200 in October from 1,665,200 in September.
- Iowa's labor force participation rate dropped to 66.7 percent in October.
- 23 to 34 year olds saw the largest increase in labor force numbers.

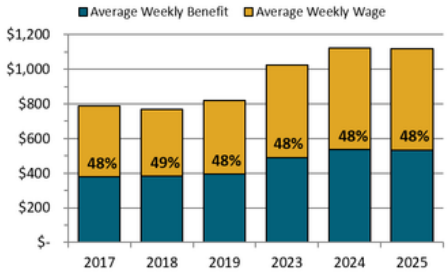
Nonfarm Employment

November 2025—November 2026



- Iowa businesses gained 7,000 jobs in October following a decline of 1,400 in September. Total nonfarm employment is now up 12,000 jobs annually.
- Manufacturing added the most jobs in October (+2,100). Gains were nearly even between durable and nondurable goods factories.
- Construction continues to add employment and increased by 1,800 jobs in October. This is the fifth-consecutive increase for this sector, gaining 4,300 jobs during that span.
- Transportation and warehousing picked up 1,700 jobs since September. This was the first increase for this sector since April.
- Job losses were light in October. The highest drops were in retail trade (-800), local government (-300), and wholesale trade (-200).
- The largest annual job increases are in construction (+7,000) and health care and social assistance (+4,400). Job losses are highest in administrative support and waste management (-1,100) and trade (-1,000).

Iowa Unemployment Insurance Replacement Rate



Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor
UI Benefit Accuracy Measurement (BAM)

- The Replacement Rate is the ratio of the claimant's weekly benefit amount (WBA) to the claimant's average weekly wage. Weekly wage is based on hourly wage of usual job of claimant, normalized to a 40-hour work week.
- In Iowa, the UI weekly benefit amount is usually about half of the claimant's average weekly wage. In 2025, the average wage for claimants in the sample was $1,119.04 and the average benefit was $534.00. The replacement rate was 48%.

Upcoming Monthly News Release Schedule		
Reference Month	**Statewide News Release**	**Local Area News Release**
October	November 19, 2026	November 24, 2026
November	December 17, 2026	December 22, 2026
December	January 22, 2026	January 26, 2026

Source: Labor Market Information (LMI) Division, Iowa Workforce Development--Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) unless noted. (Reference: October 2026)

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