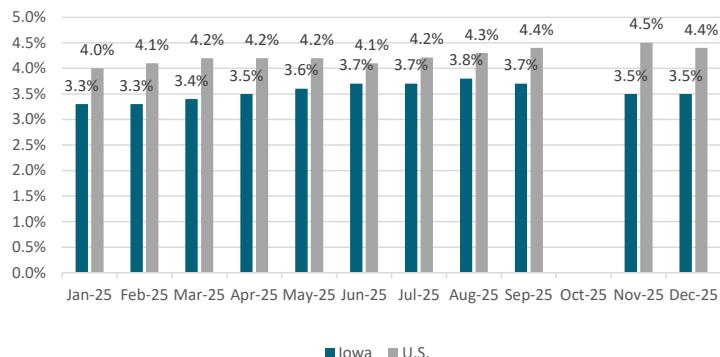


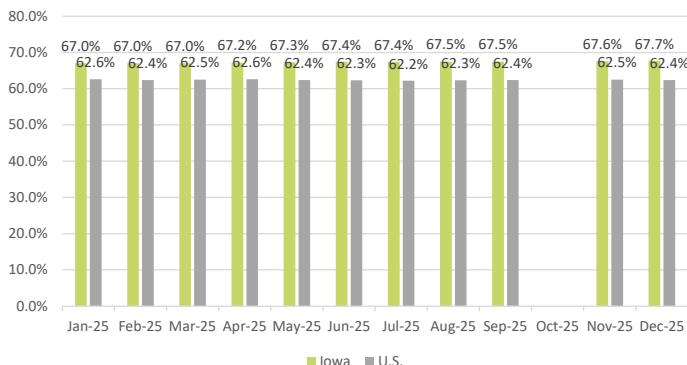
Status of Iowa's Workforce & Economy December 2025

Labor Force & Unemployment

Iowa and U.S. Unemployment Rates 2025



Iowa and U.S. Labor Force Participation Rates

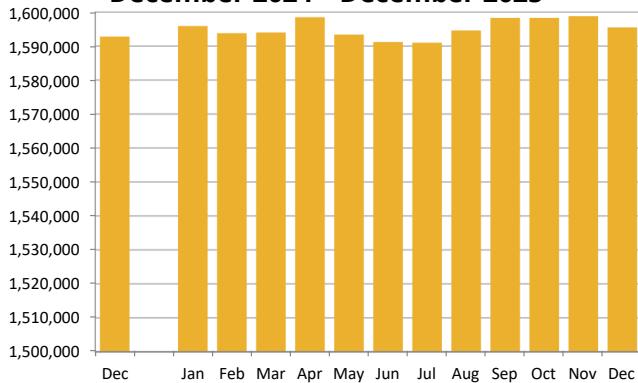


- Iowa's unemployment rate held steady at 3.5 percent to finish the year. The state's jobless rate was 3.3 percent one year ago.
- The U.S. unemployment rate decreased to 4.4 percent in December.

- The state's total employment level increased to 1,688,700 in December. This figure is 5,000 higher than November and 27,300 higher than one year ago.
- Iowa's labor force participation rate increased to 67.7 percent in December.
- Iowa added almost 30,000 to its civilian labor force in 2025, increasing the labor force participation rate by 0.8 percent.

Nonfarm Employment

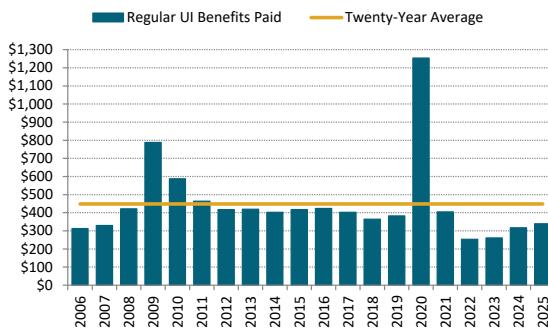
Total Nonfarm Employment December 2024—December 2025



- Iowa establishments shed 3,300 jobs in December. Private service industries were responsible for most of the jobs shed. Despite the drop, total nonfarm employment is up annually (+2,700).

- Trade industries lost a combined 2,500 jobs. Retail trade shed the majority of the jobs lost (-1,500). Wholesale trade pared 1,000 jobs and is down 2,900 jobs annually.
- Accommodations and food services shed 1,800 jobs since November. Food services and drinking establishments declined the most.
- Manufacturing decreased by 1,300. Non-durable goods shops shed 800 jobs and durable goods factories lost 500 jobs.
- Construction leads all sectors in job growth over-the-year with 7,100. Health care and social assistance is second with 3,900 jobs gained. Alternatively, accommodations and food services leads all industries in jobs shed with 3,800.
- Nationally, the U.S. gained 50,000 jobs in December following a similar gain of 56,000 jobs in November. Bars and restaurants added the most jobs (+27,000).

Iowa Unemployment Insurance Benefits Paid (millions)



- Unemployment Insurance benefits increased by 7.3 percent from \$316 million in 2024 to \$340 million in 2025. The 2025 benefit payout was 24 percent lower than the twenty-year average payout of \$448 million..
- Historically, UI benefits paid fell from a record high of \$1.25 billion in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic to the twenty-year low of \$254 million in 2022.
- Monthly UI benefits paid rose from \$13.8 million in November 2025 to \$33.7 million in December 2025 due to seasonal layoffs in construction and other outdoor activities. December 2024 benefits totaled \$30.8 million.

Upcoming Monthly News Release Schedule

| Reference Month | Statewide News Release | Local Area News Release |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| November | January 7, 2026 | January 15, 2026 |
| December | January 23, 2026 | January 27, 2026 |
| January | TBD | TBD |

Source: Labor Market Information (LMI) Division, Iowa Workforce Development—Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) unless noted. (Reference: December 2025) *updated due to shutdown

Labor Market Information Division

IowaLMI.gov

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