FOREST CITY, IOWA
LABORSHED AREA

A STUDY IN LABOR AVAILABILITY AND WORKFORCE CHARACTERISTICS
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
WORKFORCE.IOWA.GOV/LABORSHED

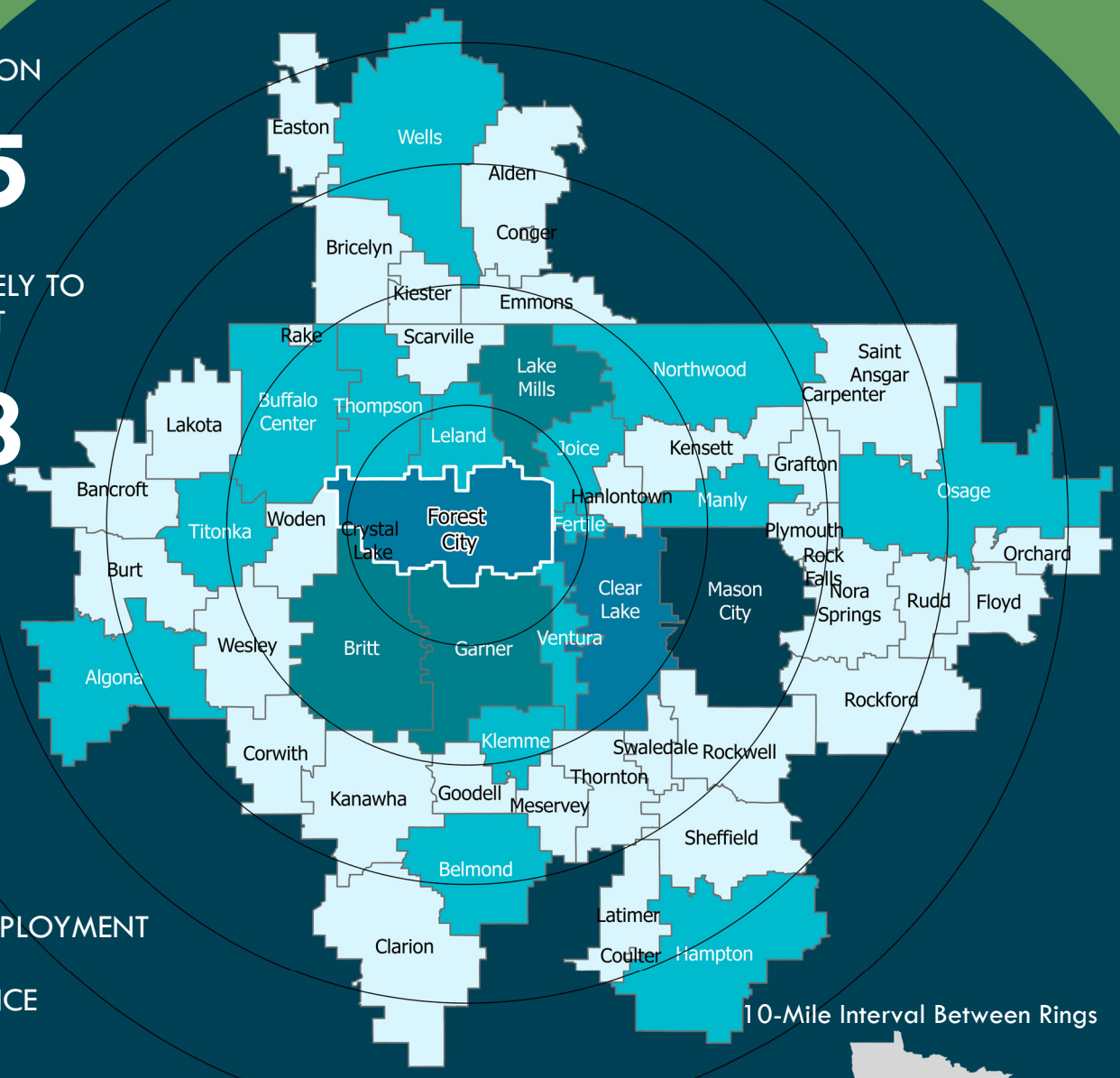
RELEASED
2025

ESTIMATED POPULATION
AGES 18-64
65,365

ESTIMATED TOTAL LIKELY TO
ACCEPT EMPLOYMENT
IN **FOREST CITY, IA**
15,363

LIKELY TO
CHANGE/ACCEPT EMPLOYMENT
IN **FOREST CITY, IA**
BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE
(PER ZIP CODE)

- 3 - 94
- 95 - 286
- 287 - 887
- 888 - 2,002
- 2,003 - 6,402



10-Mile Interval Between Rings

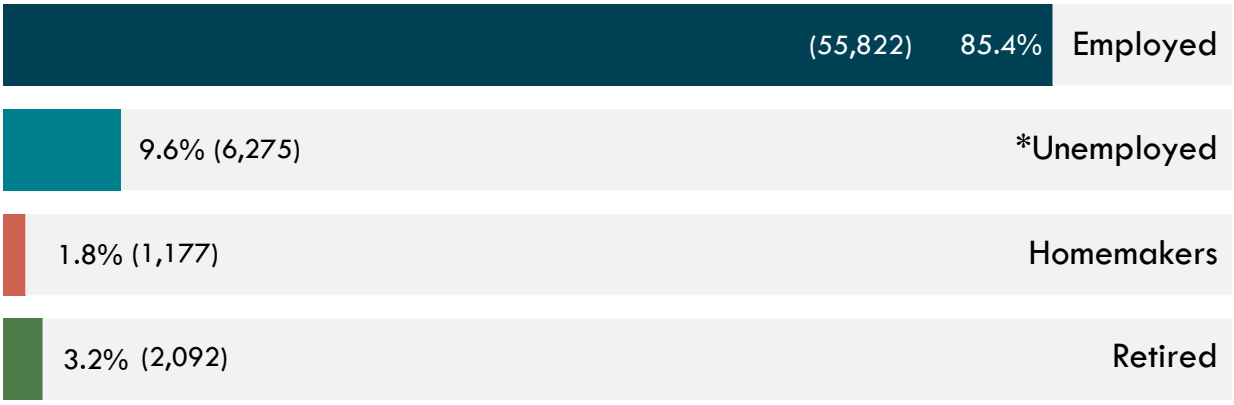


AREA SHOWN

Forest City Laborshed Analysis

A Laborshed area is defined by its commuting pattern and illustrates which communities contribute to an employment center's workforce and at what level. To determine the boundaries of a Laborshed area, local employers supply the residential ZIP codes of each of their employees. The data in this publication reflects characteristics specific to the workforce in the Forest City Laborshed area.

EMPLOYMENT STATUS (ESTIMATED TOTAL)*



**Employment status is self-identified by the survey respondent. The unemployment percentage above does not reflect the unemployment rate published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, which applies a stricter definition.*

Totals may vary due to rounding.

Employed - Likely to Change Employment **28.9%**



Unemployed - Likely to Accept Employment **56.4%**



Homemakers - Likely to Accept Employment **42.9%**



Retired - Likely to Accept Employment **23.1%**



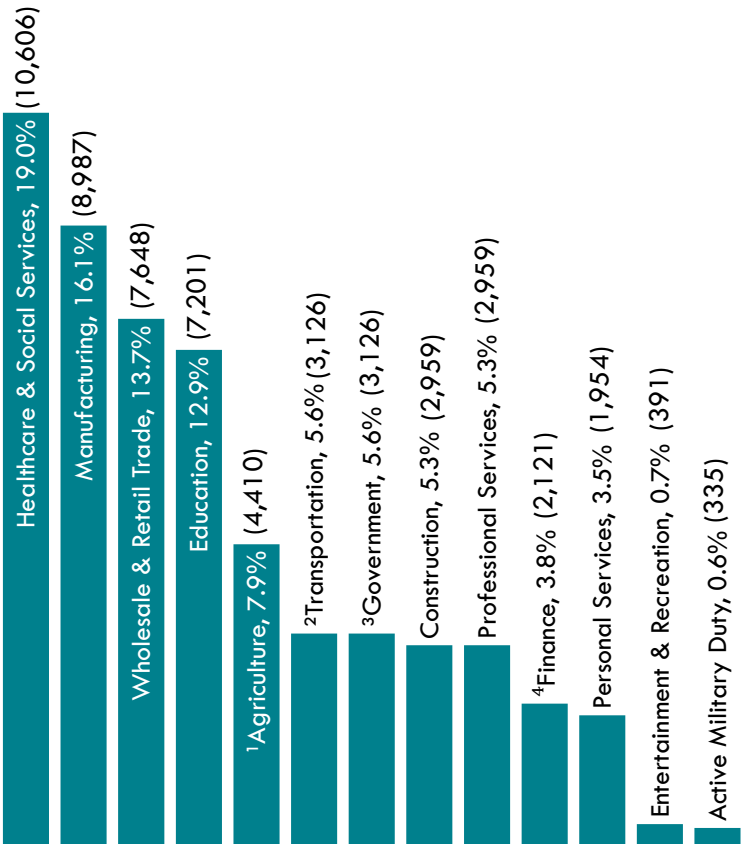
The employed are currently commuting an average of—

13 miles one-way for an employment opportunity

&

17 minutes

BREAKOUT OF THE EMPLOYED BY INDUSTRY (ESTIMATED TOTAL)



[1]Agriculture, Forestry, & Mining
[2]Transportation, Communications, & Utilities
[3]Public Administration, Government
[4]Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate

Totals may vary due to rounding.

TOP CURRENT BENEFITS OF THE FULL-TIME EMPLOYED

Paid Sick Leave/ PTO/ Vacation	95.1%
Health/Medical Insurance	90.6%
Pension/ Retirement/401K	89.8%
Dental Coverage	88.7%
Paid Holiday	85.3%
Vision Coverage	82.6%
Life Insurance	81.1%
Disability Insurance	79.2%
Flex Spending Account	65.7%
Prescription Drug Coverage	56.6%

EMPLOYED: LIKELY TO CHANGE

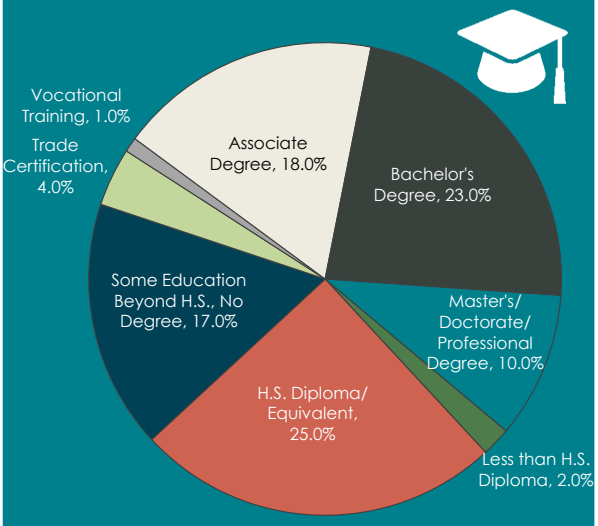
- **An estimated 13,233 employed individuals are likely to change their current employment situation for an opportunity in Forest City**

- Current occupational categories:

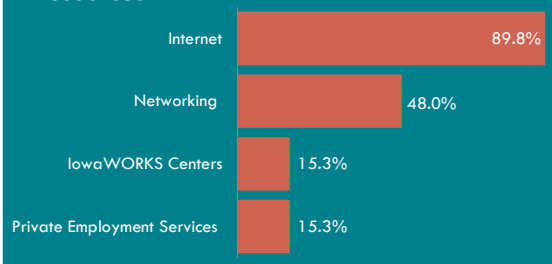
Professional, Paraprofessional, Technical	30.3%
Production, Construction, Material Moving	26.3%
Managerial	13.1%
Service	13.1%
Sales	10.1%
Clerical	6.1%
Agricultural	1.0%

- Current median wages: $
  - $20.50/hour and $71,500/year
  - $25.00/hour - attracts 66%
  - $25.00/hour - attracts 75%

- 73.0% have an education beyond HS



- **33.0% are actively seeking employment**
- Most frequently identified job search resources:



- Top sites:



- Top newspapers:



- Commute:
  - Currently commuting an average of **13** miles/**18** minutes (one-way) to work
  - Willing to commute an average of **28** miles/**35** minutes (one-way) to work

UNEMPLOYED: LIKELY TO ACCEPT

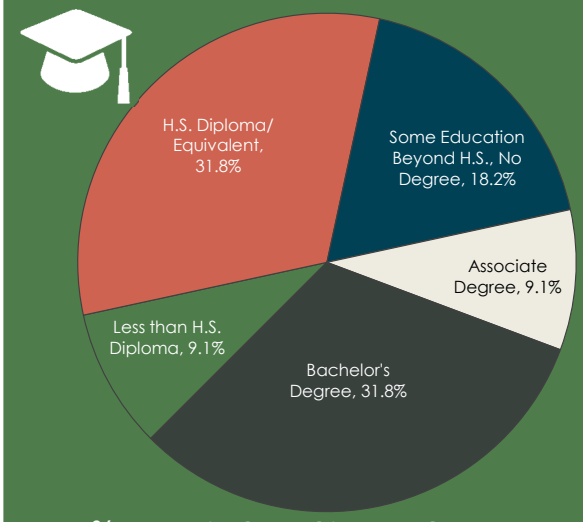
- **An estimated 658 unemployed individuals are likely to accept employment in Forest City**

- Former occupational categories:

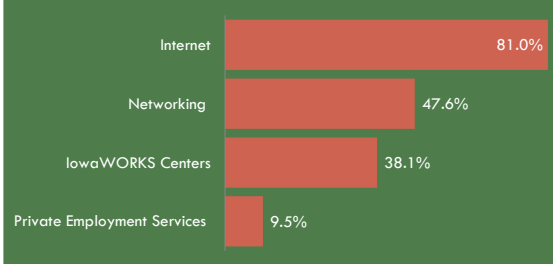
Production, Construction, Material Moving	42.8%
Professional, Paraprofessional, Technical	23.8%
Clerical	9.5%
Sales	9.5%
Agricultural	4.8%
Managerial	4.8%
Service	4.8%

- Median wages: $
  - $16.25/hour - lowest willing to accept
  - $20.00/hour - attracts 66%
  - $20.00/hour - attracts 75%

- 59.1% have an education beyond HS



- **68.2% are actively seeking employment**
- Most frequently identified job search resources:



- Top sites:



- Top newspapers:



- Commute:
  - Willing to commute an average of **23** miles/**30** minutes (one-way) to work

The Laborshed survey collects information regarding the **out commute** for an employment center.

The **out commute** for Forest City is estimated at 23.1 percent—approximately 681 people living in Forest City and work in other communities.

Most of those who are out commuting are working in Mason City, Garner, and Lake Mills.

Over one-fourth (28.0) of out commuters are likely to change employment (approximately 191 people).

48.0% earn an hourly wage—median wage is **$23.25/hour**
44.0% earn an annual salary—median salary is **$72,000/year**





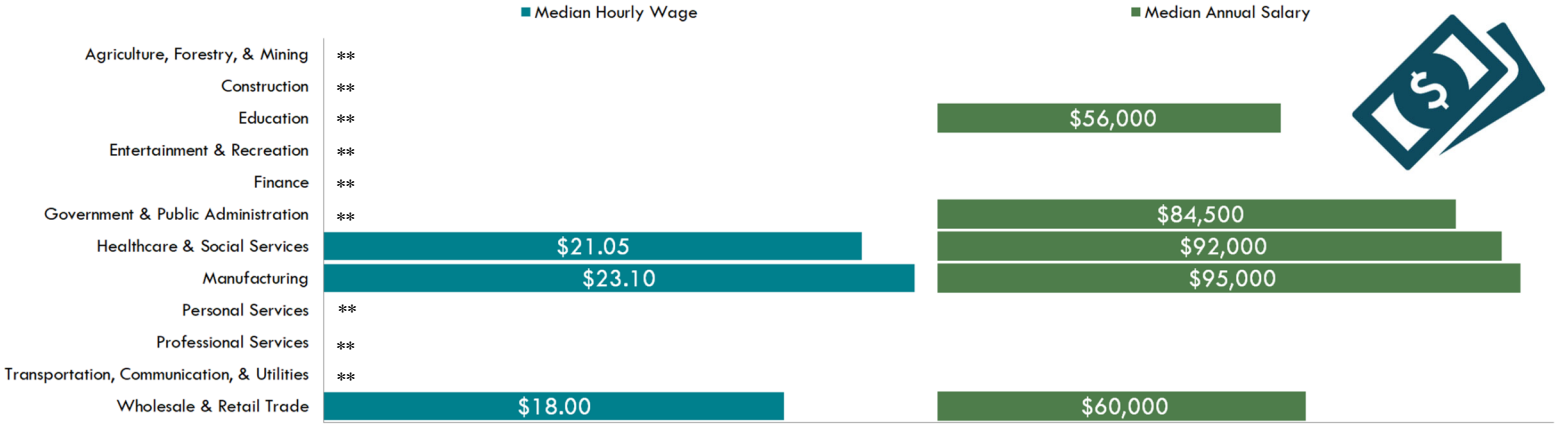
EDUCATION OF AVAILABLE LABOR BY INDUSTRY OF CURRENT OR FORMER EMPLOYMENT

Data on this page is specific to only those survey respondents that reported they are likely to change or accept employment.

Industry	Education Beyond HS	Some Education Beyond HS, No Degree Obtained	Trade Certification/ Vocational Training	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree or Above
Agriculture, Forestry, & Mining	**	**	**	**	**
Construction	**	**	**	**	**
Education	100%	13.3%	6.7%	0.0%	80.0%
Entertainment & Recreation	**	**	**	**	**
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	**	**	**	**	**
Government & Public Administration	100%	0.0%	0.0%	42.9%	57.1%
Healthcare & Social Services	72.4%	6.9%	3.4%	20.7%	41.4%
Manufacturing	60.0%	24.0%	0.0%	28.0%	8.0%
Personal Services	**	**	**	**	**
Professional Services	83.3%	33.3%	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%
Transportation, Communication, & Utilities	100%	0.0%	40.0%	20.0%	40.0%
Wholesale & Retail Trade	48.1%	14.8%	3.7%	14.8%	14.8%

Top percentages among industries per education level are highlighted in the table. ***Insufficient survey data/refused*

WAGES OF AVAILABLE LABOR BY INDUSTRY OF CURRENT OR FORMER EMPLOYMENT



***Insufficient survey data/refused. A lack of data for a particular industry is not necessarily indicative that there were no (or few) individuals surveyed within that industry. Rather, it may be that there simply were no respondents within that industry that also reported that they are likely to change or accept employment.*

Note: A wide variety of occupations are included within these industry categories. Industry classification is based upon the respondent's reported current or former employer. Two respondents that work for a manufacturer will be classified within the manufacturing industry even if, for example, one respondent is a custodian and the other is an accountant.

UNDEREMPLOYMENT

The underemployed are working fewer than 35 hours per week but desire more hours (**inadequate hours**); in positions that do not meet their skill or education level, or have worked for higher wages at previous employment (**mismatch of skills**); or are earning

	Percent Surveyed	Estimated Total
Inadequate Hours	1.2%	159
Low Income	0.7%	93

	Percent Surveyed	Estimated Total
Mismatch of Skills	11.1%	1,469
†Total	12.1%	1,601

†Individuals may be underemployed for more than one reason but are counted only once for total estimated underemployment.
Note: To be counted as underemployed in any category an individual must be currently employed and likely to change their current employment situation.

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