

Status of the

Iowa Workforce and Economy

Upcoming 2025 News Release Schedule

Reference Month	Statewide News Release	Local Area News Release
Dec	Jan 24	Jan 28
Jan	Mar 17	Mar 17
Feb	Mar 27	Apr 1
Mar	Apr 17	Apr 22
Apr	May 15	May 20
May	Jun 19	Jun 24
Jun	Jul 17	Jul 22
Jul	Aug 14	Aug 19
Aug	Sep 18	Sep 23
Sep	Oct 16	Oct 21
Oct	Nov 20	Nov 25
Nov	Dec 18	Dec 23

Iowa Nonfarm Employment Seasonally Adjusted

Year	Month	Iowa Statewide Employment	Manufacturing Employment
2024	May	1,609,700	227,200
	Jun	1,610,200	225,600
	Jul	1,610,000	224,700
	Aug	1,608,400	224,500
	Sep	1,603,900	223,800
	Oct	1,598,900	221,700
	Nov	1,602,200	221,300
	Dec	1,606,200	220,500

Iowa Workforce Development

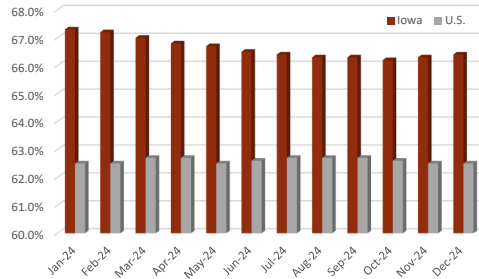
Information Prepared by the Labor Market Information Division

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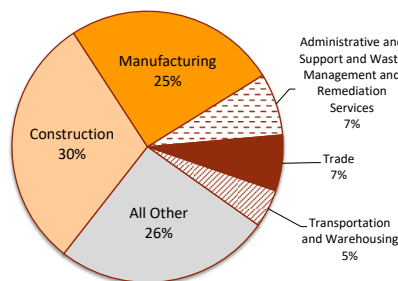
Donna Burkett, Bureau Chief
Iowa Workforce Development

Iowa and U.S. Labor Force Participation Rates - 2024



- Iowa's labor force participation rate increased to 66.4 percent in December.
- The state's total employment level grew to 1,635,500 in December from 1,632,800 in November.
- The Iowa unemployment rate increased to 3.2 percent in December up from 3.1 in November.

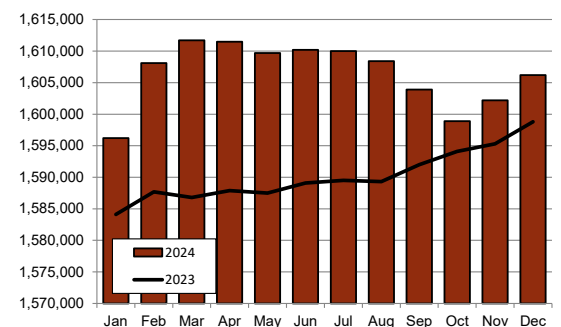
Regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) Benefits by Industry January 2024 Through December 2024



- Construction accounted for 30 percent of UI benefits paid during 2024. Most construction benefits are the result of seasonal layoffs due to inclement weather. Manufacturing followed accounting for 25 percent of all benefits paid.
- The average duration of UI benefits declined from 9.7 weeks in 2023 to 9.0 weeks in 2024. This was the lowest year on record. The highest year was 2009 at 15.6 weeks.

- Total nonfarm employment increased by 4,000 jobs in December. Private industries added 2,300 jobs.
- Construction gained 800 jobs in December to lead all private sectors. This is the second consecutive increase following an gain of 600 jobs in November.
- Health care and social assistance rose by 500 jobs. This sector has added the most jobs annually (+4,400 jobs).
- Wholesale and retail trade combined to add 500 jobs to end the year. These two industries are up just 300 jobs annually.
- Accommodations and food service industries gained 600 jobs in December.
- Professional and business services increased by 400 jobs in December, yet remain down 3,700 jobs over the last twelve months. Administrative support and waste management industries fueled a majority of this loss.
- Manufacturing shed 800 jobs since November. Losses were greatest in durable goods production.
- On the national level, 256,000 jobs were gained in December. The largest increases were in health care (+46,000 jobs) and retail trade (+4,300 jobs).

Total Nonfarm Employment January 2023—December 2024



Source: Labor Market Information (LMI) Division, Iowa Workforce Development and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) unless otherwise noted. (Reference: December 2024)