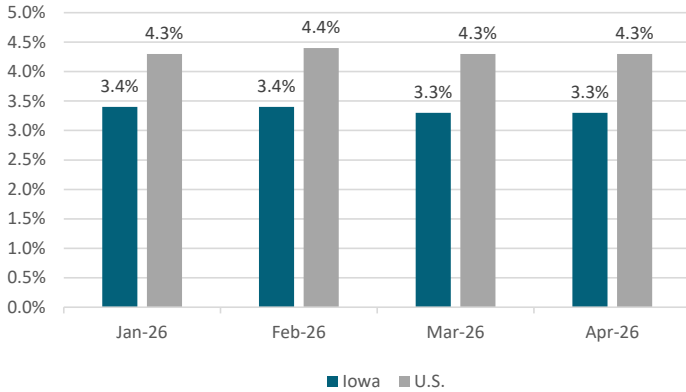
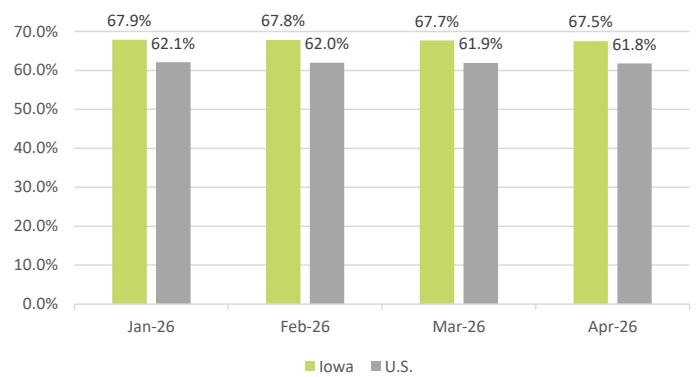


## Labor Force & Unemployment

Iowa and U.S. Unemployment Rates (2026)



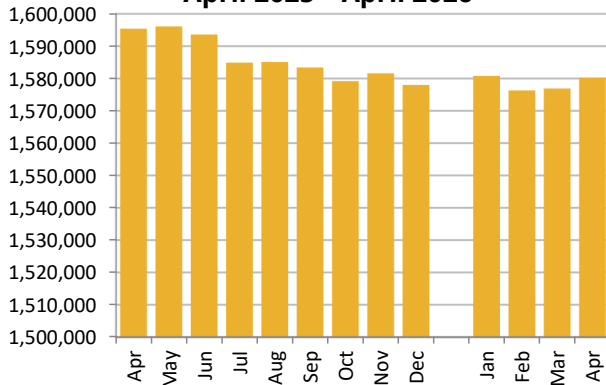
Iowa and U.S. Labor Force Participation Rates



- Iowa's unemployment rate was stable at 3.3 percent in April. The state's jobless rate was 3.6 percent one year ago.
- The U.S. unemployment rate remained at 4.3 percent in April.
- The state's total employment level decreased to 1,677,900 in April from 1,680,700 in March.
- Iowa's labor force participation rate decreased to 67.5 percent in April.
- 35 to 44 year olds saw the largest drop in labor force numbers.

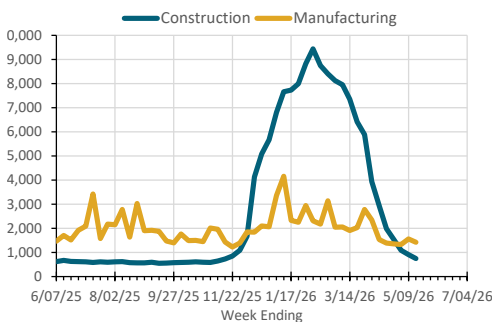
## Nonfarm Employment

Total Nonfarm Employment  
April 2025—April 2026



- Iowa establishments added 3,400 jobs in April, lifting total nonfarm employment to 1,580,300 jobs.
- Accommodations and food services added the most jobs since March (+1,600). Gains were highest in food service contractors and limited service restaurants.
- Private education services gained 600 jobs. This sector also gained 600 jobs last month.
- Retail trade shed 1,400 jobs to lead all sectors in April. This sector has also pared the most jobs annually (-4,000).
- Manufacturing added 400 jobs since March. This sector has shown little change since September.
- Over the past twelve months, Iowa establishments have lost 15,100 jobs. Retail trade has shed the most jobs (-4,000), while health care and social assistance has added the most (+4,300).
- The U.S. added 115,000 jobs in April. Health care gained 37,000 jobs to lead all sectors.

## Unemployment Insurance (UI) Continued Weeks Claimed\*



\*A continued week claim represents a request single week of unemployment benefits.

- Construction and manufacturing usually account for the greatest number of continued weeks claimed.
- The construction weeks claimed pattern is seasonal. It reached its peak in February when weather forces the curtailment of outdoor construction activity.
- Manufacturing has experienced a combination of long-term layoffs and a series of short-term layoffs often lasting a week or two. This causes the saw tooth pattern in the chart.

Upcoming Monthly News Release Schedule

Reference Month	Statewide News Release	Local Area News Release
April	May 21, 2026	May 27, 2026
May	June 18, 2026	June 23, 2026
June	July 16, 2026	July 21, 2026

## Labor Market Information Division

IowaLMI.gov

Phone: 515-249-4765

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