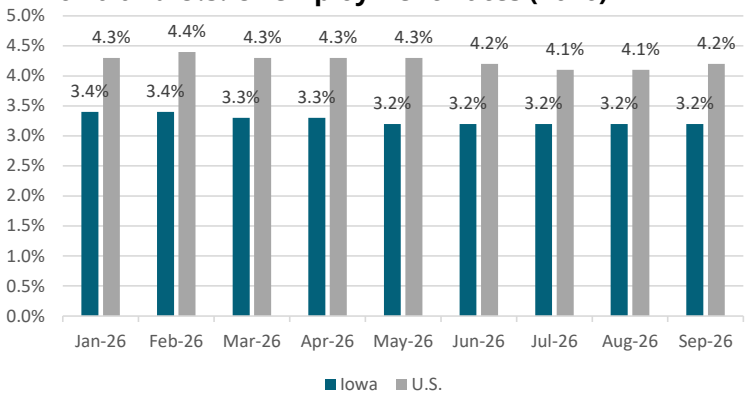
Status of Iowa's Workforce & Economy September 2026

Iowa Workforce Development

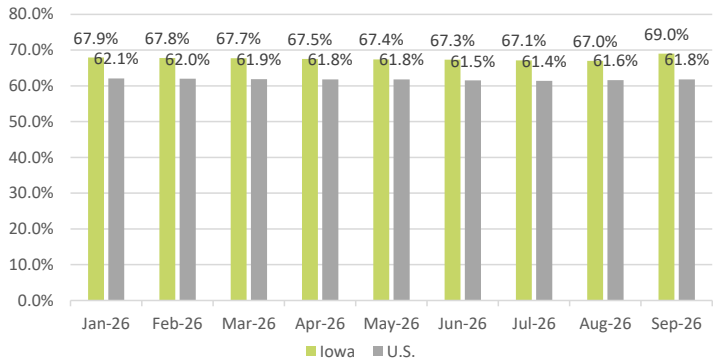
Published in October 2026

Labor Force & Unemployment

Iowa and U.S. Unemployment Rates (2026)



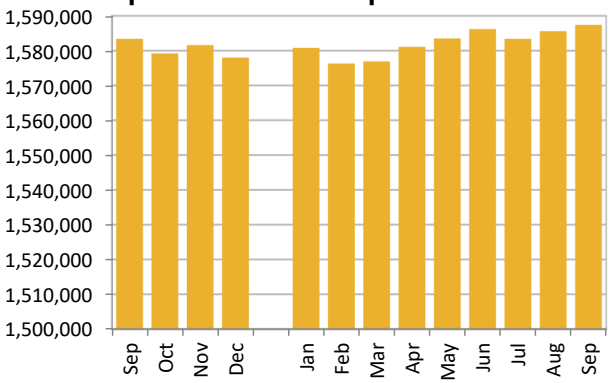
Iowa and U.S. Labor Force Participation Rates



- Iowa's unemployment rate remained at 3.2 percent in September. The state's jobless rate was 3.1 percent one year ago.
- The U.S. unemployment rate increased to 4.2 percent in September.
- The state's total employment level decreased to 1,665,500 in September from 1,669,600 in August.
- Iowa's labor force participation rate decreased to 66.9 percent in September.
- 45 to 54 year olds saw the largest drop in employment numbers.

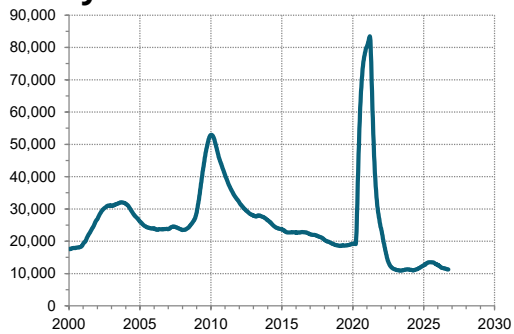
Nonfarm Employment

Total Nonfarm Employment
September 2025—September 2026



- Iowa businesses gained 1,800 jobs in September and have now increased in six of the last seven months, equating to an increase of 11,100 jobs.
- Accommodation and food service industries added the most jobs in September (+1,400). This follows a similar gain in August (+1,300).
- Administrative support, waste management, and remediation firms added 600 jobs. This marks the first increase since January for this sector.
- Retail trade lost 600 jobs to lead all sectors. Arts, entertainment and recreation industries followed with 500 jobs shed.
- Annually, the state has added 4,000 jobs. Job gains have been highest for health care and social assistance (+5,500). Job losses are highest in transportation, warehousing, and utilities (-3,600).
- Nationally, the U.S. added 29,000 jobs in September and is up 496,000 jobs versus one year ago.

Unemployment Insurance
Weekly Continued Claims*



52-Week Moving Average

- Continued claims represent the number of people who have experienced a week of unemployment and filed a continued claim to request benefits for that week of unemployment.
- The past four years have had the lowest number of continued claims since before 2000. The figure for the 52-weeks ending 9/26/2026 was 11,250, compared to 13,330 for the year ending 9/27/2025.
- The highest peaks were 83,460 during the 2020 pandemic and 52,963 during the 2009 Great Recession. The lowest 52-week average was 10,893 for the period ending 5/13/2023.

Upcoming Monthly News Release Schedule

Reference Month	Statewide News Release	Local Area News Release
September	October 15, 2026	October 20, 2026
October	November 19, 2026	November 24, 2026
November	December 17, 2026	December 22, 2026

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

Labor Market Information Division

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