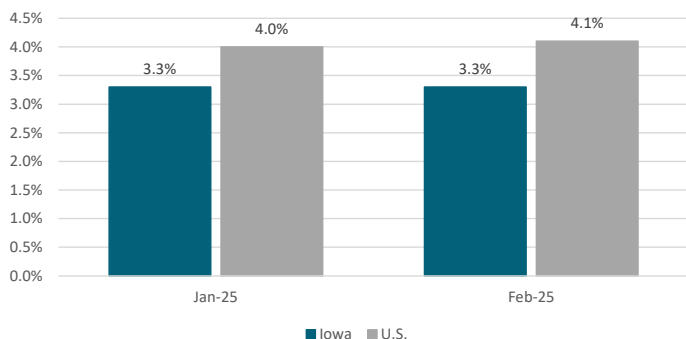


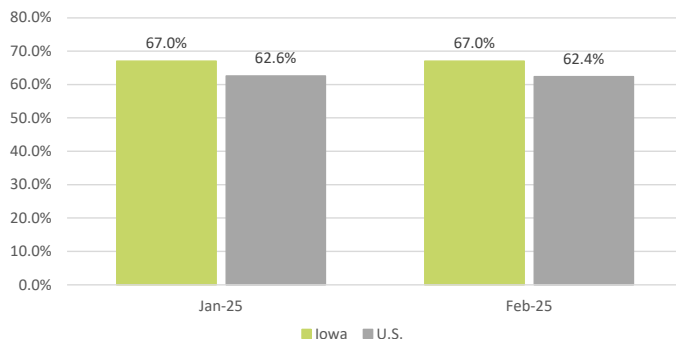
## Labor Force & Unemployment

Iowa and U.S. Unemployment Rates 2025



- Iowa's unemployment rate remained at 3.3 percent in February. The state's jobless rate was 2.7 percent one year ago.
- The state's total employment level decreased to 1,663,600 in February from 1,664,200 in January.

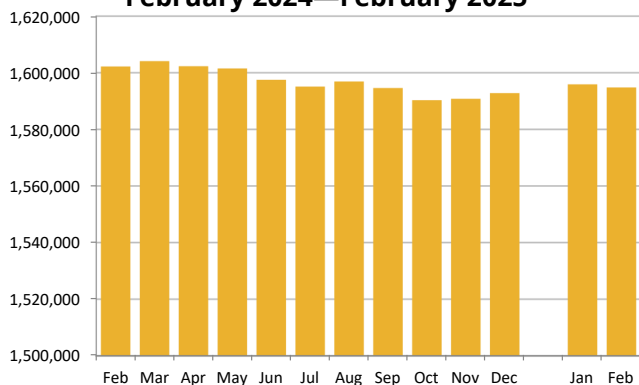
Iowa and U.S. Labor Force Participation Rates



- Iowa's labor force participation rate remained at 67.0 percent in February.
- 74 percent of the unemployed have been unemployed for 14 weeks or less.
- The U.S. unemployment increased to 4.1 percent in February.

## Nonfarm Employment

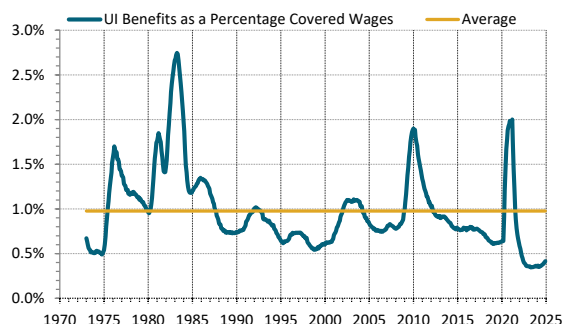
Total Nonfarm Employment  
February 2024—February 2025



- Firms in Iowa shed 1,100 jobs in February. Private industry gained 2,300 jobs versus government which decreased 3,400 jobs.
- State universities experienced a sluggish hiring compared to prior years leading to a drop in February of 3,700 jobs.
- Health care and social assistance increased by 800 jobs in February. This sector has gained jobs in five consecutive months adding 3,700 jobs since September.
- Private education gained 700 jobs in February. This sector added 400 jobs in January.
- Manufacturing gained 500 jobs in February. The gains were primarily in nondurable goods factories.
- Total nonfarm employment is down 7,400 jobs compared to last February. Manufacturing has shed the most jobs (-7,600) while health care and social assistance has gained the most jobs (+5,800).
- U.S. total nonfarm employment gained 151,000 jobs in February. Health care added the most jobs (+52,000).

## Unemployment Insurance (UI) Benefits

Historic UI Benefit Cost Rate



UI benefits as a percentage of covered wages can be used to compare historic benefits paid. A strong labor market has pushed this measure to record lows over the past three years.

The highest benefit cost rates occurred during:

- 1983: Farm Crises / Energy Crises Recession
- 2009: The Great Recession
- 2020: The COVID-19 Pandemic Recession

Upcoming Monthly News Release Schedule

Reference Month	Statewide News Release	Local Area News Release
February	March 27, 2025	April 1, 2025
March	April 17, 2025	April 22, 2025
April	May 15, 2025	May 20, 2025

## Labor Market Information Division

[iowaLMI.gov](http://iowaLMI.gov)

Phone: 515-242-5862

Donna Burkett, Bureau Chief

Source: Labor Market Information (LMI) Division, Iowa Workforce Development—Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) unless noted. (Reference: February 2025)