# FAIRFIELD, IOWA LABORSHED AREA

## A study in labor availability and workforce characteristics.

## Survey data collected within the documented commuting area of Fairfield

Data compiled and analyzed by:

IOWA
Iowa Workforce Development

In partnership with:

IOWA
Economic Development

**RELEASED 2026**

workforce.iowa.gov/laborshed



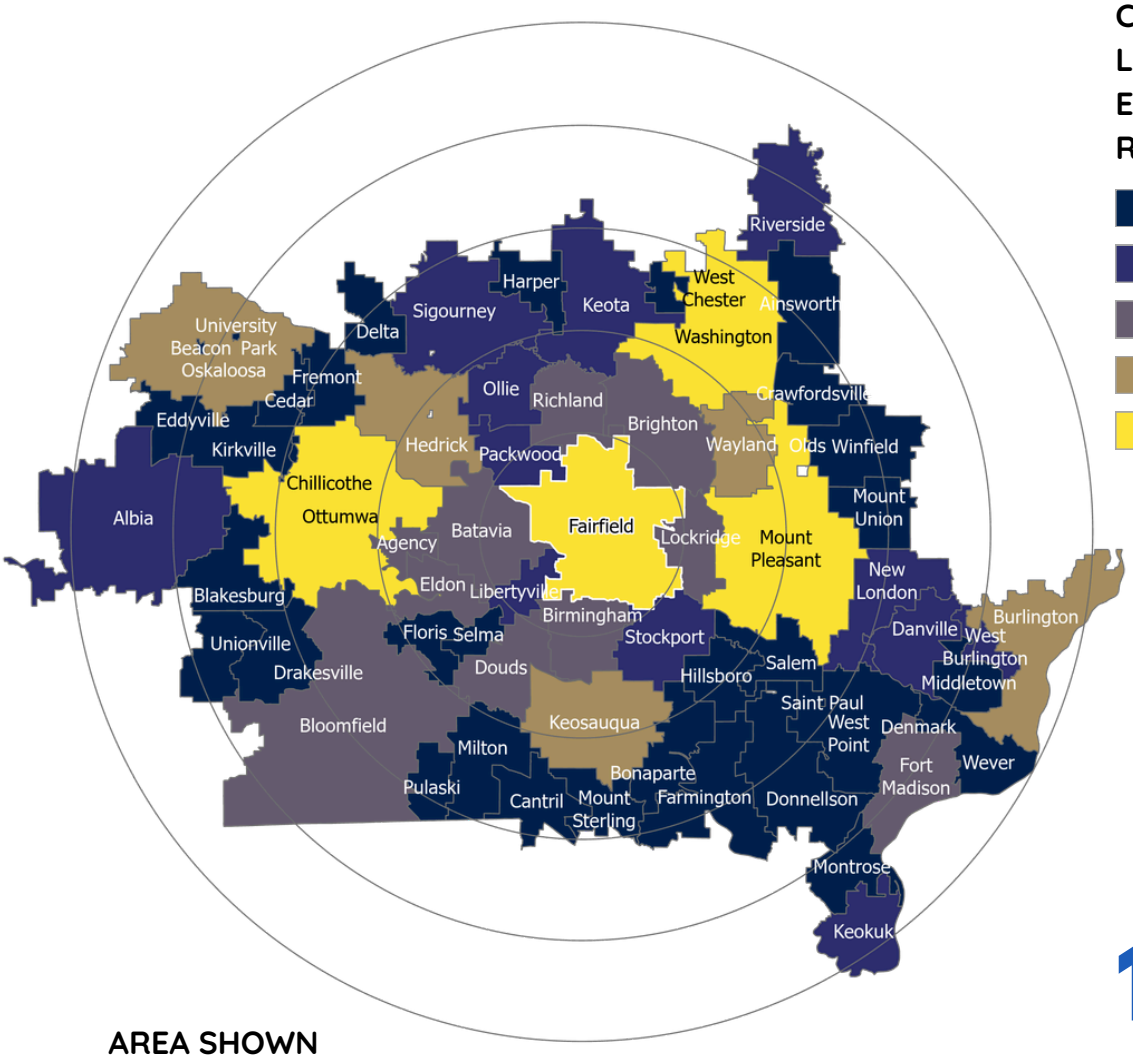
# FAIRFIELD , IOWA
# LABORSHED ANALYSIS

A Laborshed area is based on its commuting pattern, which defines the communities that contribute to an employment center's workforce. To determine the boundaries of a Laborshed area, local employers supplied the residential ZIP codes of their employees.

**The map below illustrates the documented Laborshed area for Fairfield , Iowa**

The contributing communities, along with the distance of each from the employment center, were entered into a statistical model which estimated the number of individuals, per community, who would consider an employment opportunity in Fairfield, Iowa.

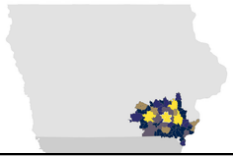
**The map shows the estimated concentration levels, per community, of individuals who would accept employment in Fairfield , Iowa.**




**Concentration of Those Likely to Accept Employment by Place of Residence (per ZIP Code)**

- 2 - 48
- 49 - 151
- 152 - 269
- 270 - 524
- 525 - 6,698

**AREA SHOWN**



10-Mile Interval Between Rings

**Estimated Total Population (18-64)**

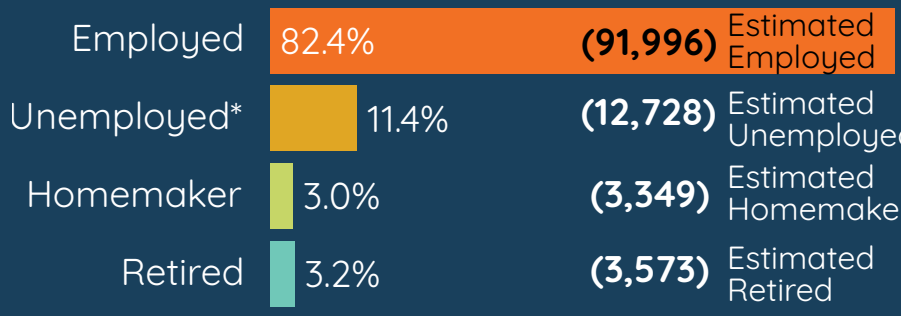
**111,646**

**Estimated Total Likely to Accept Employment in Fairfield**

**19,851**

The data in the following pages is based on residential surveying that was conducted in the Laborshed area, as defined on the previous page. The Laborshed Survey is a random household survey of residents ages 18 to 64.

## Employment Status* by Percent (Estimated Total Living in Laborshed Area)

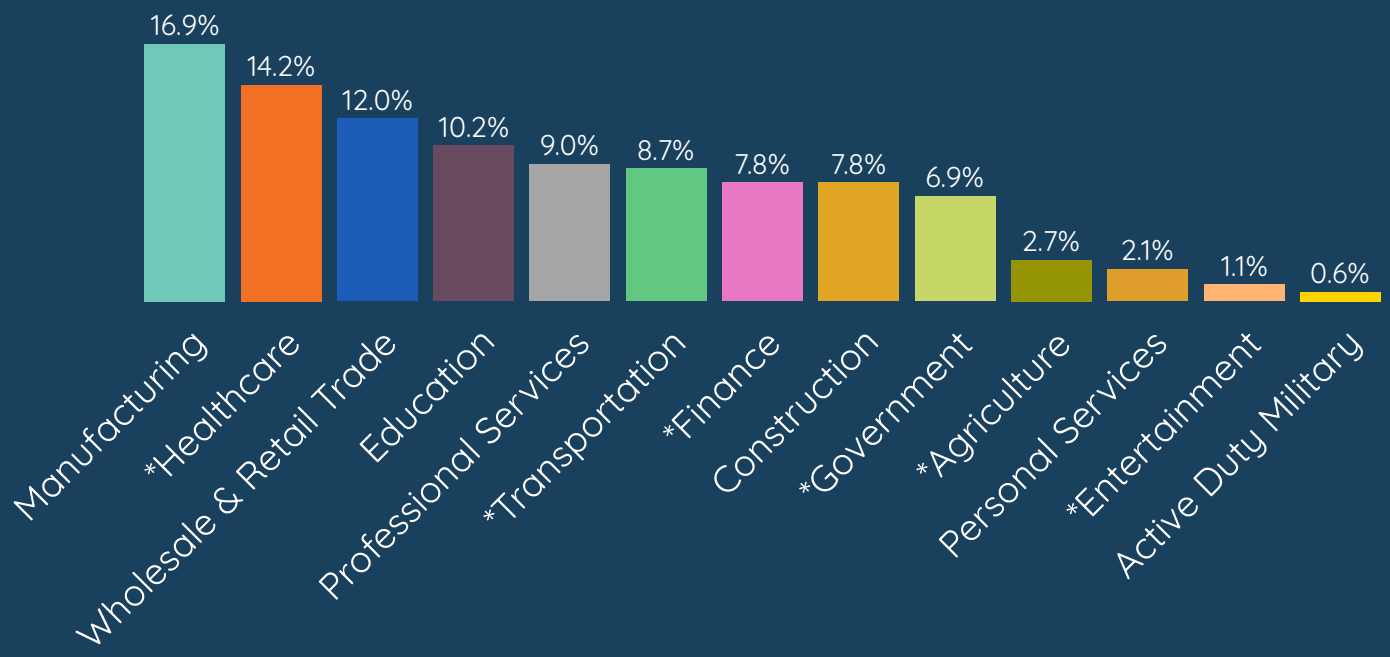



*Employment status is self-identified by the survey respondent. The unemployment percentage above does not reflect the unemployment rate published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, which applies a stricter definition.

## Percent Likely to Change or Accept Employment by Employment Status

| | |
|---|---|
| **Employed** | 26.9% |
| **Unemployed** | 69.6% |
| **Homemakers** | 16.7% |
| **Retired** | 15.4% |

## Employed by Industry of Employment (%)




*Complete industry names: Agriculture, Forestry, & Mining; Entertainment & Recreation; Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate; Government & Public Administration; Healthcare & Social Services; and Transportation, Communications, & Utilities.

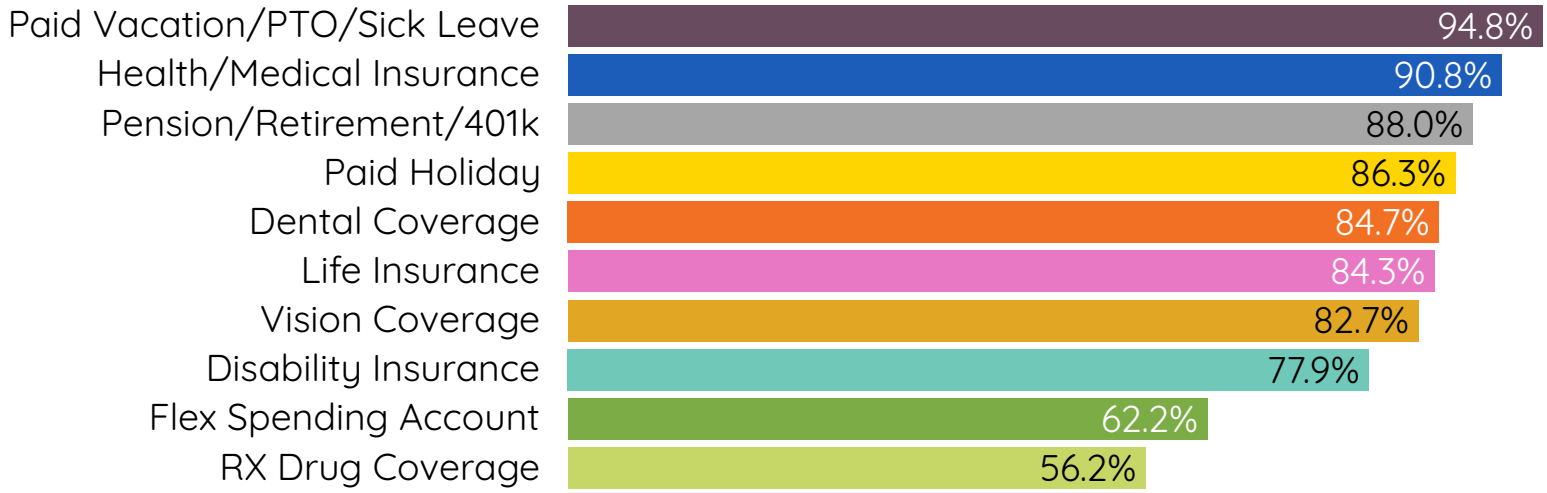


**The employed are currently commuting an average:**

**12** miles one-way for work

**16** minutes one-way for work

## Top Benefits of the Full-Time Employed




# EMPLOYED LIKELY TO CHANGE EMPLOYMENT

**16,533** **employed individuals are estimated to live in the Laborshed area who are likely to change their current employment situation for an opportunity in Fairfield**

## Occupational Categories of Employment



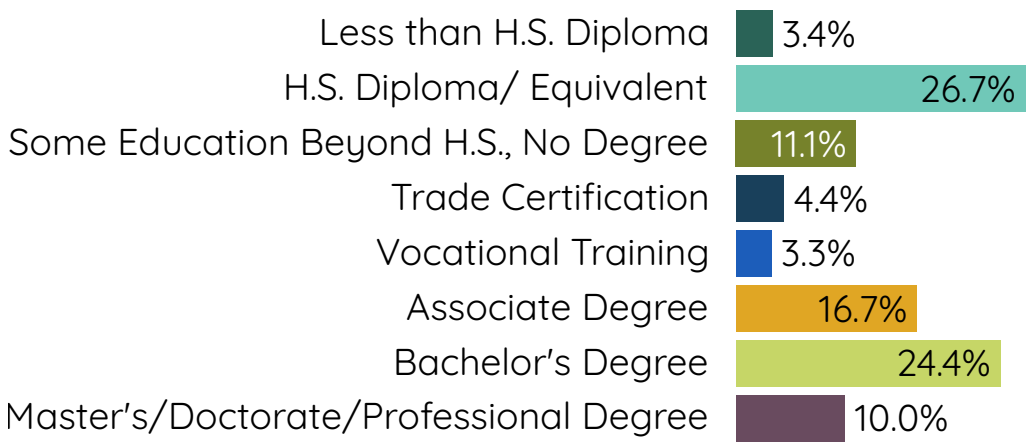

## Median Hourly Wages

| | |
|---|---|
| **$20.00** | Current |
| **$25.94** | Attracts 66% of workers |
| **$30.00** | Attracts 75% of workers |



**70.0%**

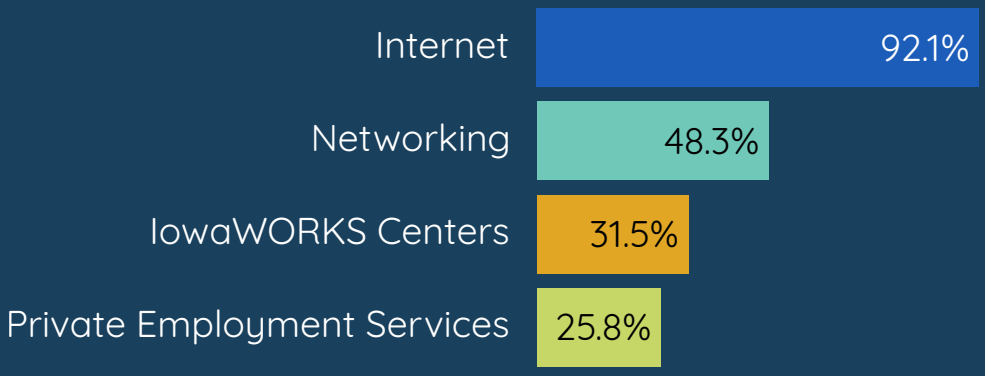
**of those currently 'employed and likely to change their employment situation' have an education beyond high school**



**35.6%**

**of those currently 'employed and likely to change their employment situation' are ACTIVELY seeking new employment**

## Most Frequently Identified Job Search Resources




## Top Sites Used



Indeed.com

Linkedin.com

Company/Organization Websites

## Top Newspapers Used




Ottumwa Courier



**Currently commuting an average:**

**12** miles one-way for work

**16** minutes one-way for work

**Willing to commute an average:**

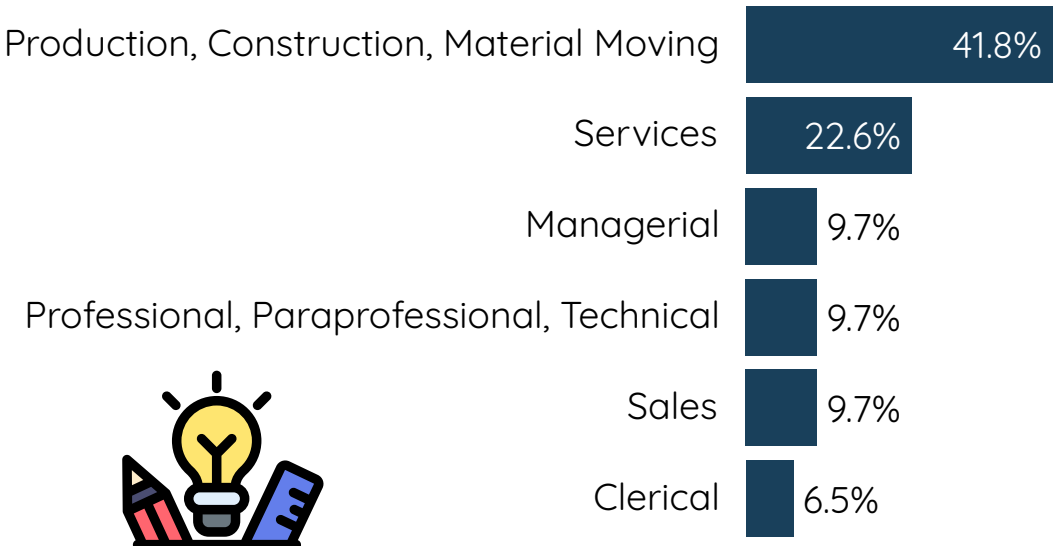
**27** miles one-way for work

**33** minutes one-way for work

## UNEMPLOYED LIKELY TO ACCEPT EMPLOYMENT

**1,096** **unemployed individuals are estimated to live in the Labor shed area who are likely to accept employment in Fairfield**

## Occupational Categories of Most Recent Employment




## Median Hourly Wages

| | |
|---|---|
| **$17.00** | Lowest willing to accept |
| **$19.82** | Attracts 66% of workers |
| **$20.00** | Attracts 75% of workers |



**59.4%**

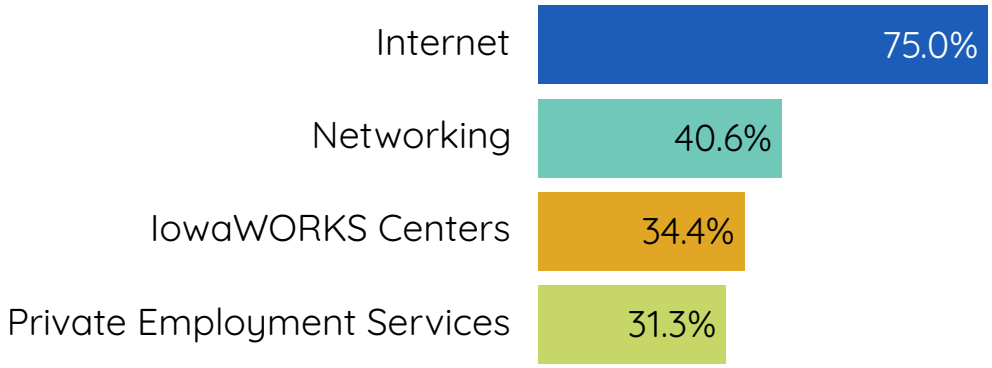
**of those currently 'unemployed and likely to accept employment' have an education beyond high school**




**71.9%**

**of those currently 'unemployed and likely to accept employment' are ACTIVELY seeking employment**

## Most Frequently Identified Job Search Resources




## Top Sites Used



Indeed.com

Linkedin.com

Ziprecruiter.com

## Top Newspapers Used




Fairfield Daily Ledger



**Willing to commute an average:**

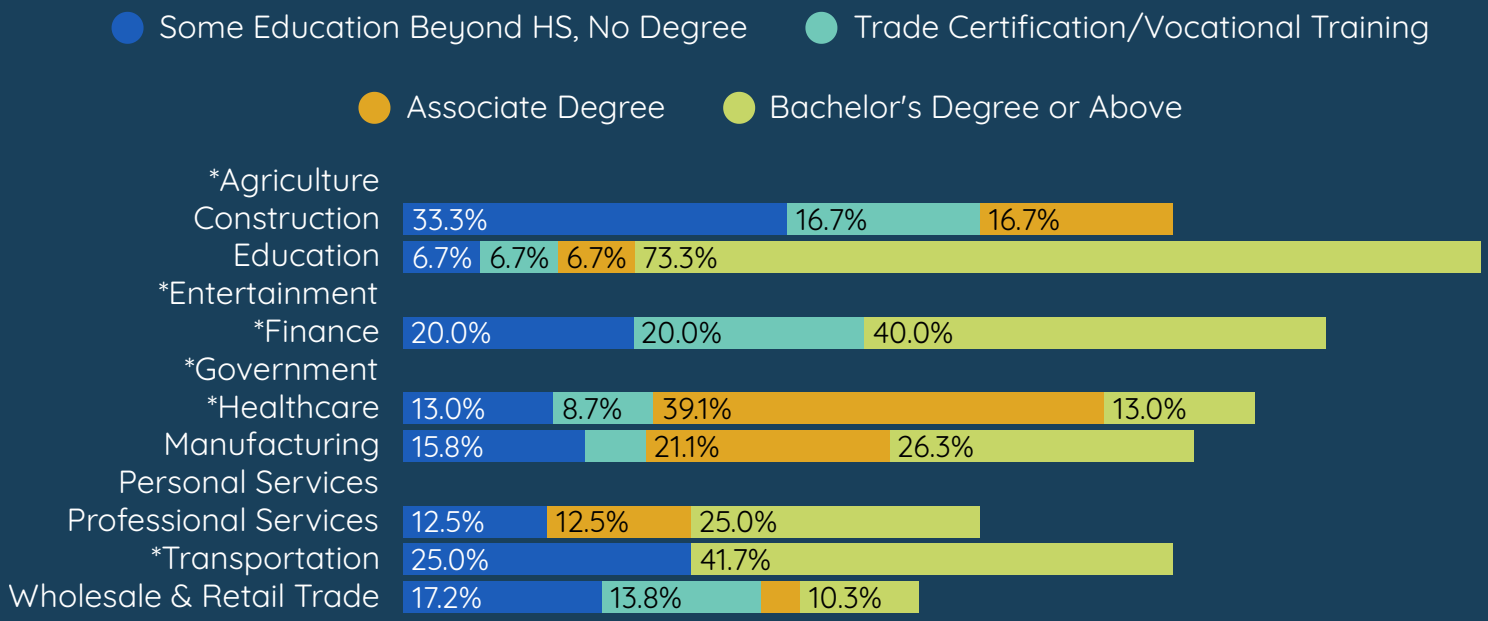
**24** miles one-way for work

**29** minutes one-way for work

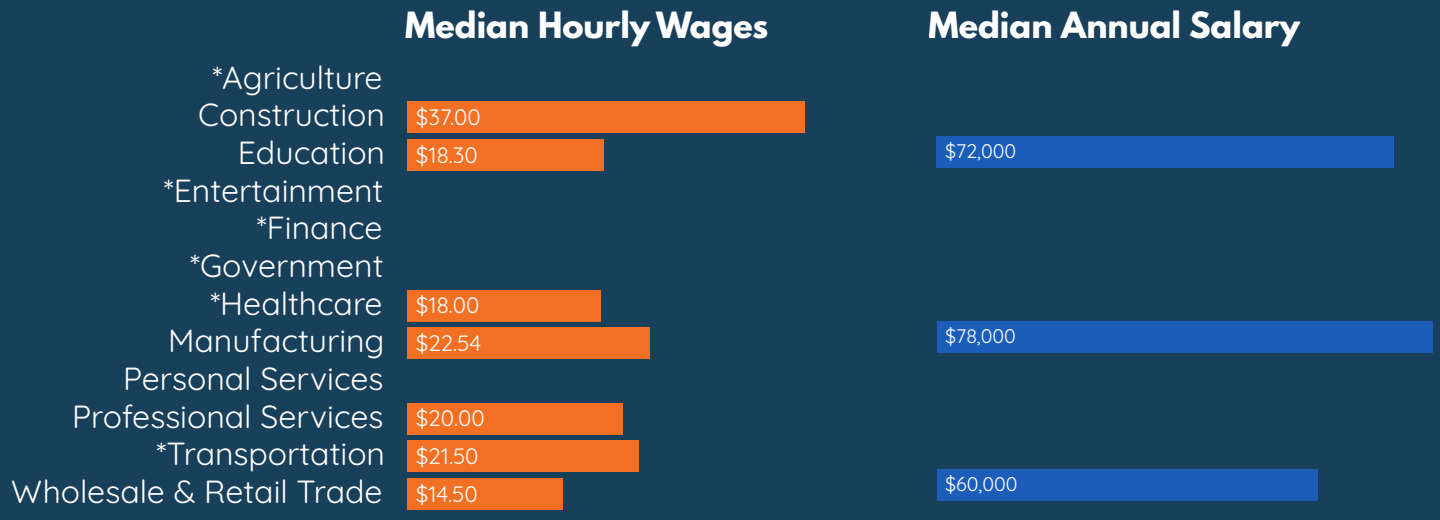
## LIKELY TO CHANGE OR ACCEPT EMPLOYMENT

This section is specific to survey respondents who indicated that they were **likely to change or accept employment**; all current employment statuses combined (employed, unemployed, homemaker, and retired)

### Educational Attainment Beyond High School of Available Labor by Industry of Current or Former Employment




### Wages of Available Labor by Industry of Current or Former Employment




**Industries with no data in the charts above indicates insufficient survey data to report.**

*Complete industry names: Agriculture, Forestry, & Mining; Entertainment & Recreation; Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate; Government & Public Administration; Healthcare & Social Services; and Transportation, Communications, & Utilities. **Note:** Survey respondents are classified within an industry based on the activities of their employer. A variety of occupations are included within each industry.

# OUT COMMUTE

**The out commute for Fairfield is estimated at** **9.9%**

**Approximately** **558** **people living in Fairfield work in other communities**

**Top communities individuals are commuting to for work:**

- Ottumwa, IA
- Keosauqua, IA



**27.3%** **of out commuters are likely to change their current employment situation**

**Approximately** **152** **people**



**Salary earners, median annual salary:**

**Insufficient survey data to report**

**Hourly wage earners, median hourly wage:**

**$22.25**

# 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 wages equal to or less than the national poverty level and work 35 or more hours per week (**low income**).

| LOW HOURS | MISMATCH | LOW INCOME | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2.0% | 8.1% | 0.5% | 9.4% |
| 331 | 1,339 | 83 | 1,554 |
| Estimated in Laborshed Area | Estimated in Laborshed Area | Estimated in Laborshed Area | Estimated in Laborshed Area |

Individuals may be underemployed for more than one reason but are counted only once in the Total estimated underemployment. **Note:** To be counted as underemployed in any category the respondent mus be currently employed AND likely to change their current employment situation.


**Data compiled and analyzed by:**
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