# FORT MADISON, IOWA LABORSHED AREA

## A study in labor availability and workforce characteristics.

## Survey data collected within the documented commuting area of

## Fort Madison


**Data compiled and analyzed by:**

IOWA
Iowa Workforce Development

**In partnership with:**

IOWA
Economic Development



**RELEASED 2026**

workforce.iowa.gov/laborshed



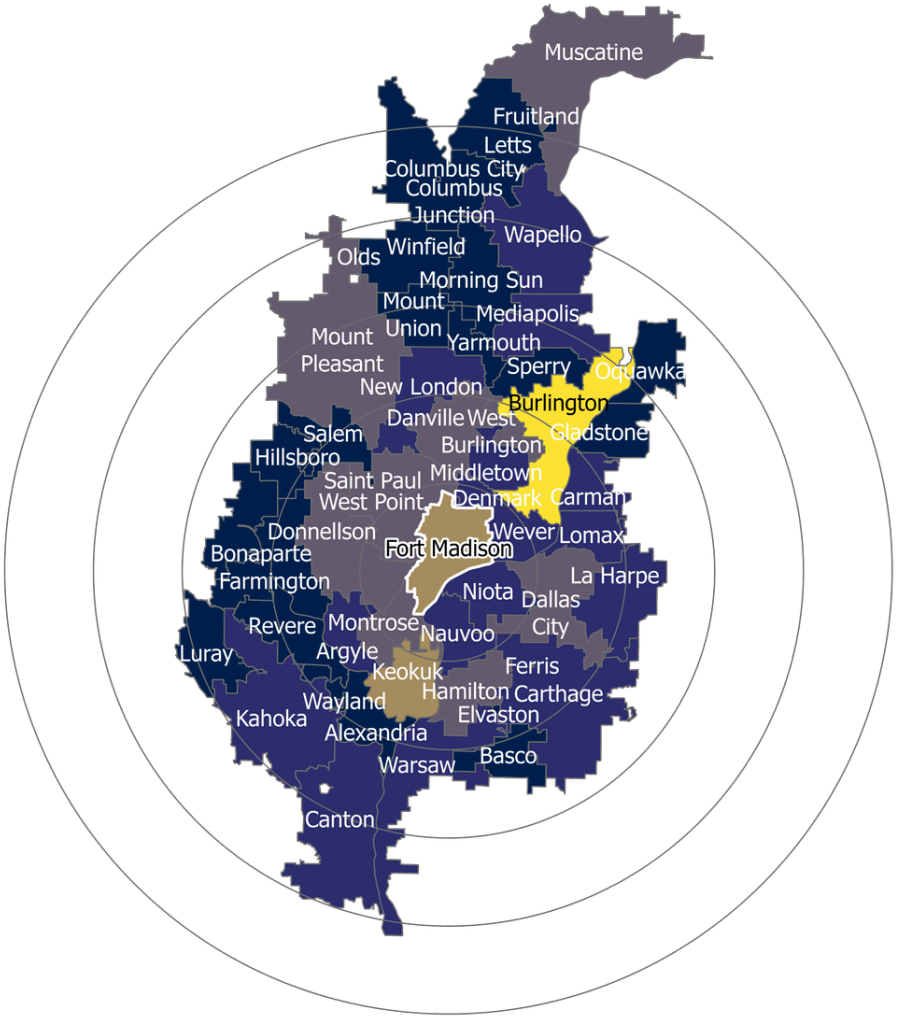

# FORT MADISON, IOWA LABORSHED ANALYSIS

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 Fort Madison , 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 Fort Madison , Iowa.

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




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

- 2 - 60
- 61 - 283
- 284 - 980
- 981 - 2,717
- 2,718 - 6,139

**AREA SHOWN**



10-Mile Interval Between Rings

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

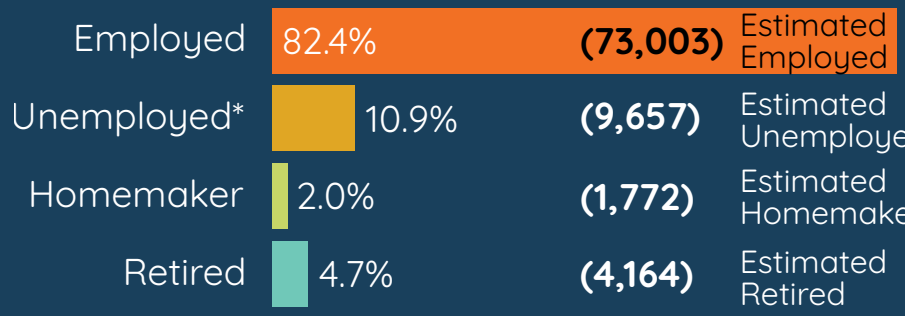
**88,596**

**Estimated Total Likely to Accept Employment in Fort Madison**

**18,352**

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)

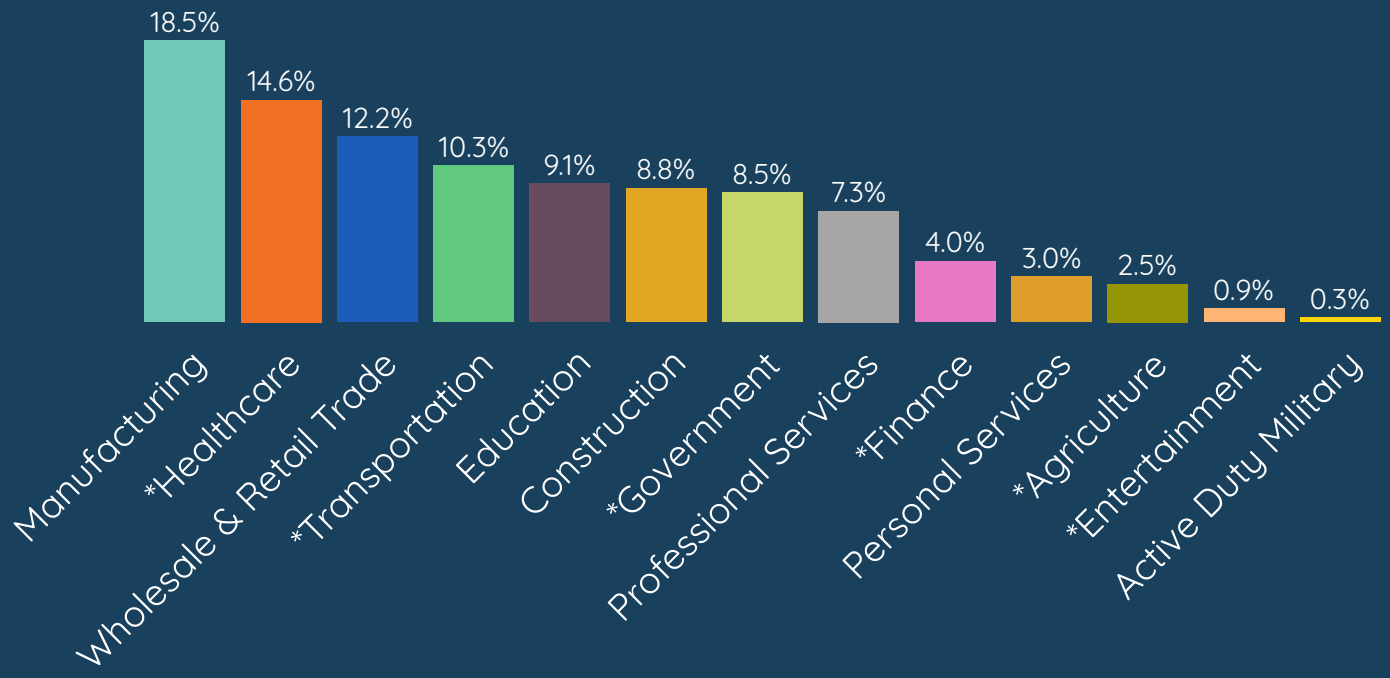



*Employment status is self-identified by the survey respondent. The unemployment percentage above does not reflect the unemployment rate published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, which applies a stricter definition.

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

| | |
|---|---|
| Employed | 31.7% |
| Unemployed | 63.6% |
| Homemakers | 12.5% |
| Retired | 0.0% |

## 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.

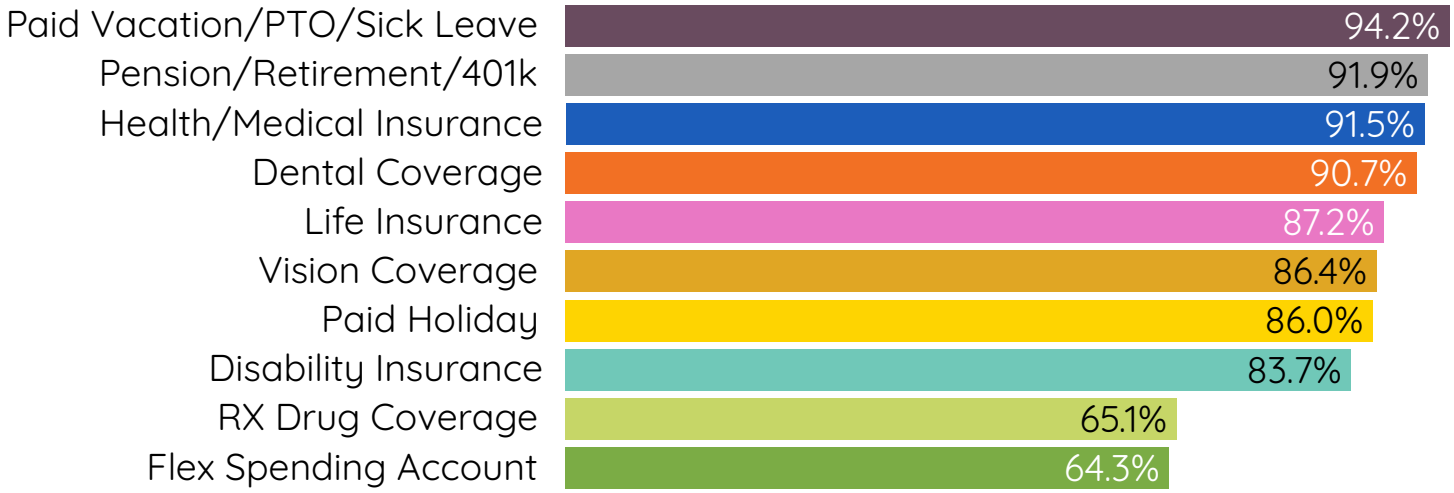


**The employed are currently commuting an average:**

**14** miles one-way for work

**18** minutes one-way for work

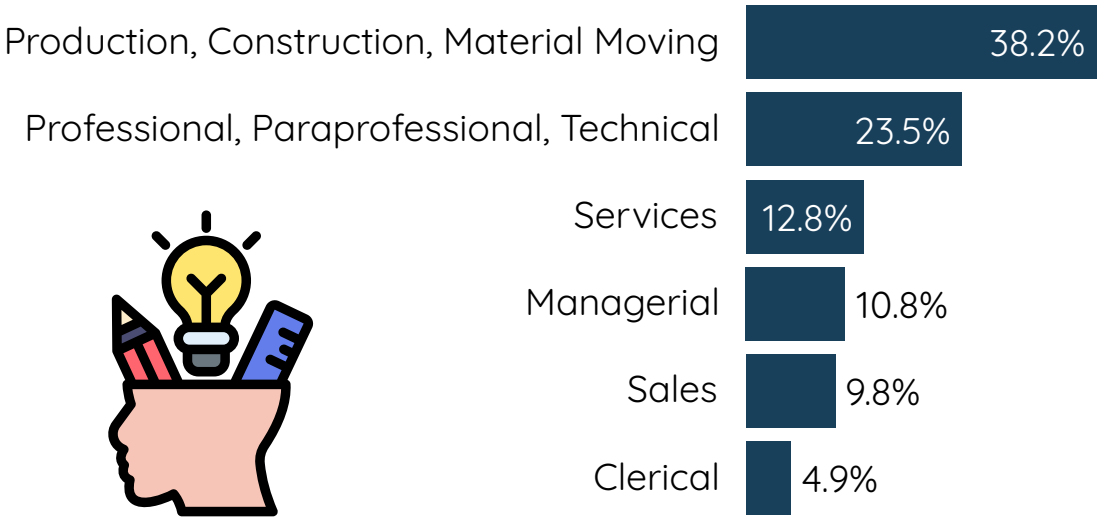
## Top Benefits of the Full-Time Employed




# EMPLOYED LIKELY TO CHANGE EMPLOYMENT

**15,553** **employed individuals are estimated to live in the Laborshed area who are likely to change their current employment situation for an opportunity in Fort Madison**

## Occupational Categories of Employment



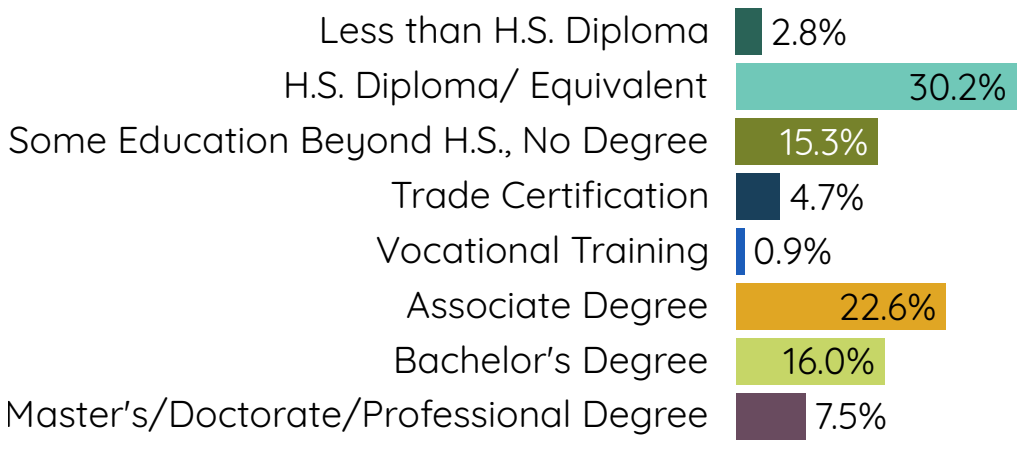

## Median Hourly Wages

| | |
|---|---|
| **$25.00** | Current |
| **$30.00** | Attracts 66% of workers |
| **$32.00** | Attracts 75% of workers |



**67.0%**

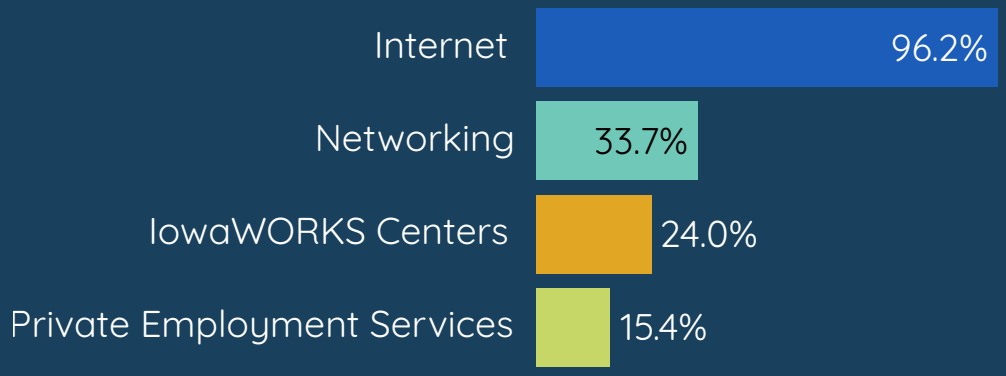
**of those currently 'employed and likely to change their employment situation' have an education beyond high school**



**35.8%**

**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

Ziprecruiter.com

## Top Newspapers Used




Daily Gate City - Keokuk

The Hawk Eye - Burlington



**Currently commuting an average:**

**15** miles one-way for work

**19** minutes one-way for work

**Willing to commute an average:**

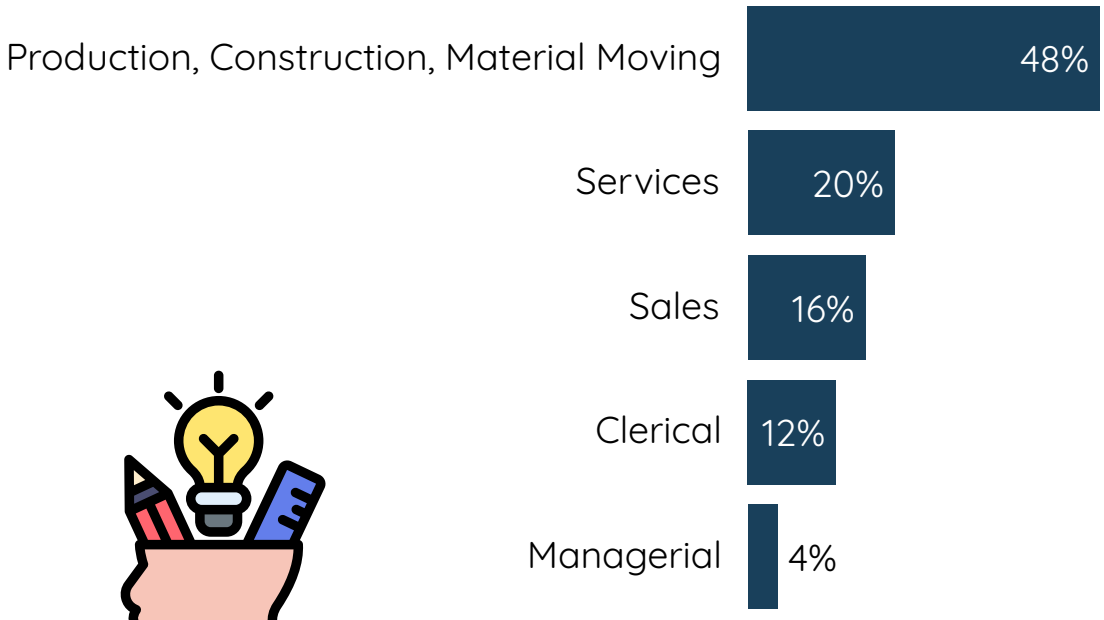
**29** miles one-way for work

**35** minutes one-way for work

## UNEMPLOYED LIKELY TO ACCEPT EMPLOYMENT

**867** **unemployed individuals are estimated to live in the Laborshed area who are likely to accept employment in Fort Madison**

## Occupational Categories of Most Recent Employment



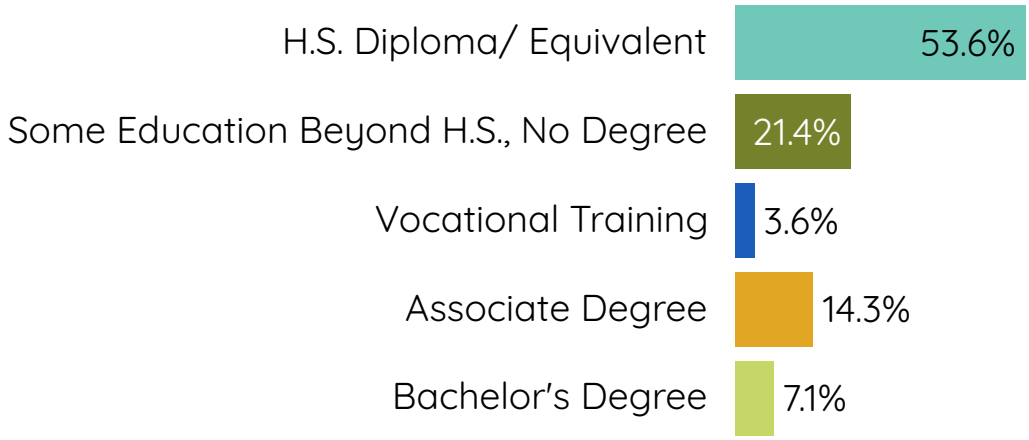

## Median Hourly Wages

| | |
|---|---|
| **$17.17** | Lowest willing to accept |
| **$19.00** | Attracts 66% of workers |
| **$20.00** | Attracts 75% of workers |



**46.4%**

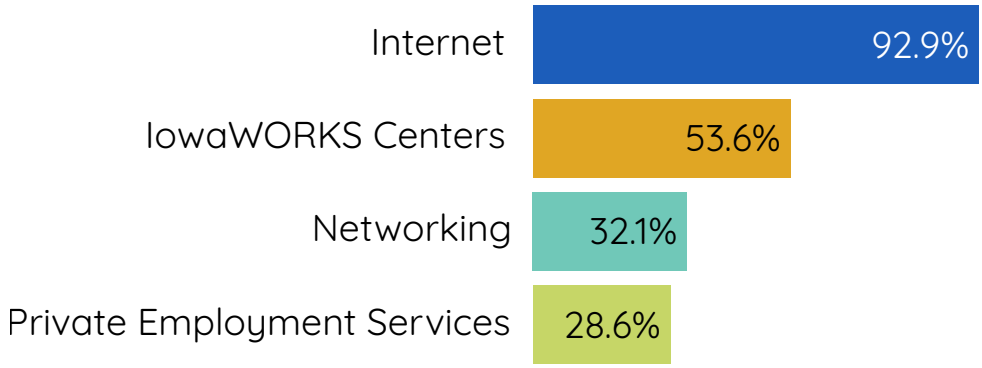
**of those currently 'unemployed and likely to accept employment' have an education beyond high school**




**67.9%**

**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




*Insufficient survey data to report

**Willing to commute an average:**

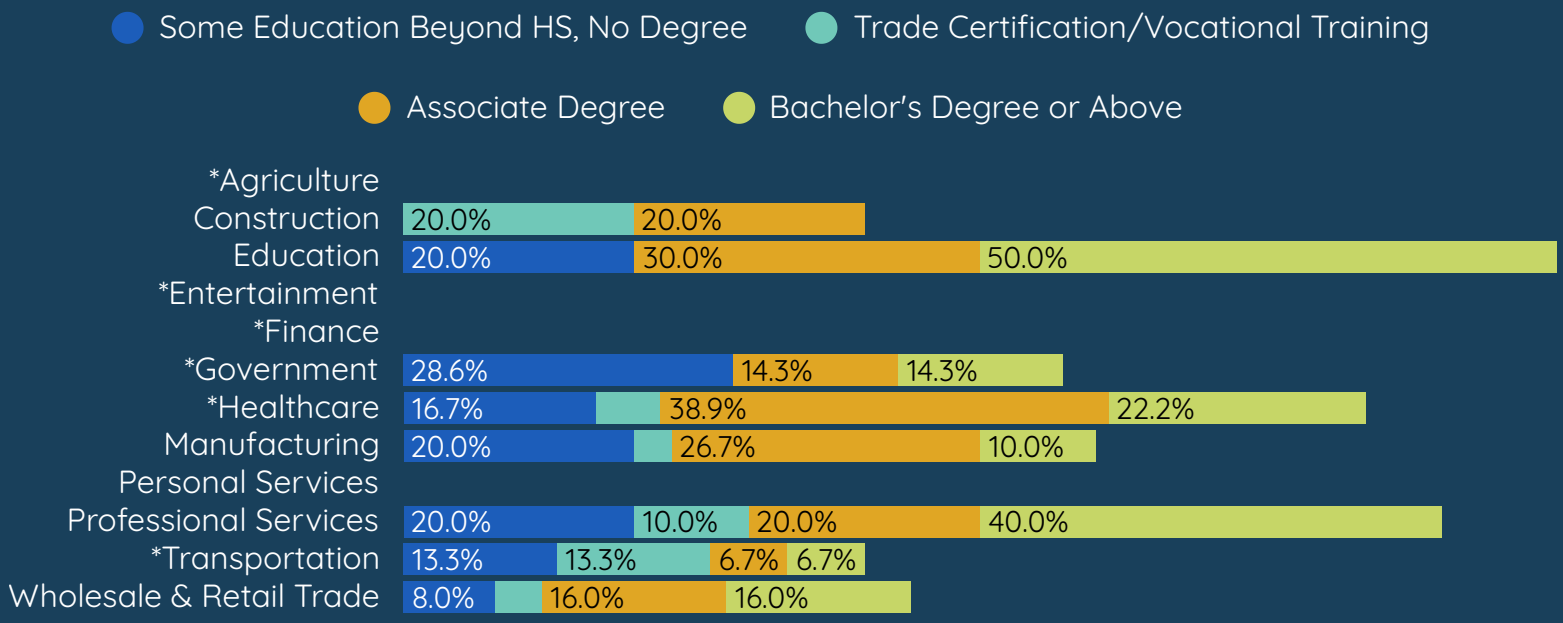
**22** miles one-way for work

**27** minutes one-way for work

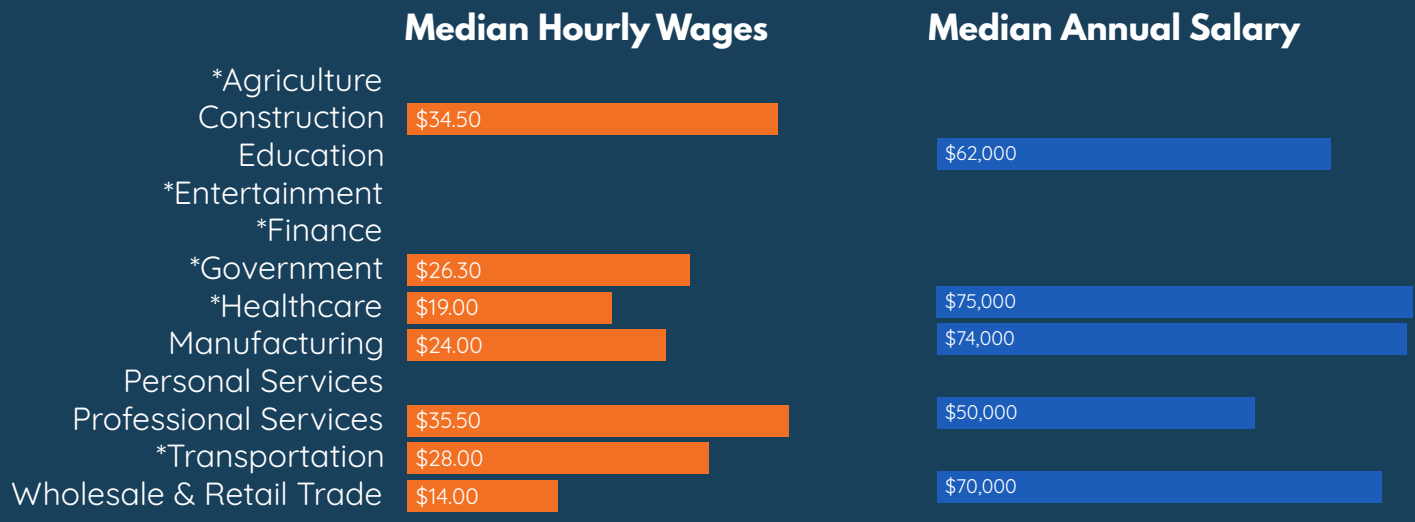
## LIKELY TO CHANGE OR ACCEPT EMPLOYMENT

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 Fort Madison is estimated at** **30.6%**

**Approximately** **1,682**

**people living in Fort Madison work in other communities**

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

- Burlington, IA
- Mount Pleasant, IA
- West Burlington, IA
- Keokuk, IA

**42.4%** **of out commuters are likely to change their current employment situation**

**Approximately** **713** **people**



**Salary earners, median annual salary:**

**$75,500**

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

**$27.62**



# 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% | 11.1% | 0.0% | 12.3% |
| 311 | 1,726 | 0 | 1,913 |
| 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:**
Iowa Workforce Development
Labor Market Information Division
1000 E Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50319
Email: laborshed.studies@iwd.iowa.gov
Website: workforce.iowa.gov/laborshed

**For more information, contact:**
Lee County Economic Development Group
2495 280th St
Montrose, IA 52639
Phone: (319) 463-9030 | Email: info@leecountyedg.com
Website: www.leecountyedg.com