

NEWS RELEASE

For Statewide Distribution



Iowa Workforce
Development

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Iowa's Unemployment Rate Decreases to 2.8 Percent in April

DES MOINES, IOWA – Iowa's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 2.8 percent in April, down from last month's rate of 2.9 percent and tying the rate from a year ago. The state's labor force participation rate fell to 66.8 percent, down from 67 percent last month. Meanwhile, the U.S. unemployment rate rose to 3.9 percent in April.

"April's report shows signs of easing across the Iowa economy, with several industries inching back from huge hiring sprees earlier in the year," said Beth Townsend, Executive Director of Iowa Workforce Development. "Many industries remain at or near historic highs for employment despite Iowa's aging workforce. Last month was the tenth month during the past year where Iowans voluntarily left the workforce, possibly to retire or go back to school. With IowaWORKS continuing to list more than 56,000 open jobs, we see plenty of opportunities available for those Iowans who want to work."

The number of unemployed Iowans decreased to 47,200 in April from 48,700 in March.

The total number of working Iowans fell to 1,646,900 in April. This figure is 1,300 lower than March and 19,300 lower than one year ago.

Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment

In April, Iowa's business establishments trimmed payrolls slightly relative to March (-900), lowering total nonfarm employment to 1,610,800. Hiring in private service and government was eclipsed by layoffs in goods-producing industries, particularly within construction, which eased down in April following a sizable gain in March. Private services received a boost from leisure and hospitality and other services, which advanced by a combined 2,000 jobs.

Construction shed the most jobs (-3,100) after establishing an all-time high in March. Even when factoring in the April loss, this sector continues to generally trend up and has gained 1,500 jobs compared to last year. Professional and business services lost 600 in administrative support and waste management services. This sector fared well last month, gaining 2,400 jobs since February. Heavy and civil engineering construction was responsible for much of the movement. Finance posted the only other loss in April, paring 300 jobs with losses in both credit intermediation and insurance. Alternatively, leisure and hospitality expanded their payrolls in April (+1,000). Most of those hires were within eating and drinking establishments, although arts, entertainment, and recreation gained 200 jobs. Other services also gained 1,000 and has advanced by 2,500 jobs over the past three months. Trade and transportation advanced by 600 since March with half of all jobs added being in transportation and warehousing.

Over the past 12 months, total nonfarm employment has increased by 22,900 jobs. The largest gain has been in leisure and hospitality (+5,900). Accommodations and food services fueled all the hiring in this sector; arts, entertainment, and recreation has decreased slightly since last year. Education and health care have added 5,300 over the past 12 months. Most of the jobs gained originated from health care and social assistance (+4,500). On the flip side, trade, transportation, and utilities has lost the most jobs (-3,000). Retail trade along with transportation and warehousing have been responsible for the jobs shed over the past 12 months.

Employment and Unemployment in Iowa, Seasonally Adjusted Data

	April 2024	March 2024	April 2023	Change from March 2024	April 2023
Civilian labor force	1,694,100	1,696,900	1,713,900	-2,800	-19,800
Unemployment	47,200	48,700	47,700	-1,500	-500
Unemployment rate	2.8%	2.9%	2.8%	-0.1	0.0
Employment	1,646,900	1,648,200	1,666,200	-1,300	-19,300
Labor Force Participation Rate	66.8%	67.0%	68.0%	-0.2	-1.2
U.S. unemployment rate	3.9%	3.8%	3.4%	0.1	0.5

Nonfarm Employment in Iowa, Seasonally Adjusted Data

Total Nonfarm Employment	1,610,800	1,611,700	1,587,900	-900	22,900
Mining	2,200	2,200	2,300	0	-100
Construction	85,200	88,300	83,700	-3,100	1,500
Manufacturing	228,700	228,800	225,800	-100	2,900
Trade, transportation and utilities	309,100	308,500	312,100	600	-3,000
Information	18,200	18,200	18,800	0	-600
Financial activities	108,000	108,300	108,100	-300	-100
Professional and business services	149,900	150,500	146,100	-600	3,800
Education and health services	238,500	238,200	233,200	300	5,300
Leisure and hospitality	146,200	145,200	140,300	1,000	5,900
Other services	57,400	56,400	55,900	1,000	1,500
Government	267,400	267,100	261,600	300	5,800

Unemployment Insurance Claims for Iowa

	April 2024	March 2024	April 2023	% Change from March 2024	April 2023
Initial claims	8,189	8,726	5839	-6.2%	40.2%
Continued claims					
Benefit recipients	16,133	21,295	14,090	-24.2%	14.5%
Weeks paid	38,933	62,946	34,839	-38.1%	11.8%
Amount paid	\$20,042,169	\$32,901,693	\$16,667,625	-39.1%	20.2%

Visit www.iowalmi.gov for more information about current and historical data, labor force data, nonfarm employment, hours and earnings, and jobless benefits by county.

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Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request for individuals with disabilities.

www.workforce.iowa.gov • www.iowaworks.gov

MEDIA ALERT: Local data for April 2024 will be posted to the IWD website on Tuesday, May 21, 2024. Statewide data for May 2024 will be released on Thursday, June 20, 2024.