

# NEWS RELEASE

# For Statewide Distribution



## Iowa Workforce Development

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**Contact:** Jesse Dougherty (515) 725-5487

communications@iwd.iowa.gov

### **Iowa's Labor Force Participation Rate Increases to 67.2 Percent as Businesses Add 5,000 Jobs**

DES MOINES, IOWA – Iowa's labor force participation rate rose to 67.2 percent in April as 5,000 Iowans joined the workforce. Meanwhile, the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to 3.5 percent in April, up slightly from 3.4 percent in March. Iowa's jobless rate was 2.8 percent one year ago. The U.S. unemployment rate remained at 4.2 percent in April.

The total number of unemployed Iowans increased to 60,600 in April from 58,600 in March.

The total number of working Iowans increased to 1,667,100 in April. This figure is 3,000 higher than in March and 4,500 higher than one year ago. The labor force participation rate increased to 67.2 percent from 67.0 percent in March.

"April's report showed significant job growth, as well as more Iowans returning to the workforce," said Beth Townsend, Executive Director of Iowa Workforce Development. "We saw new workers from all age groups coming back into the workforce to take jobs in construction, health care, leisure and hospitality, as well as accounting and tax services. The good news for Iowans coming back into the workforce is that there are still more than 50,000 jobs available at [iowaWorks.gov](http://iowaWorks.gov)."

### **Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment**

Iowa businesses added 5,200 jobs in April, elevating total nonfarm employment to 1,599,200. Private service industries fueled most of the gains with 4,100 jobs added since March, although goods-producing sectors advanced by 800 jobs. Overall, private industry has reduced staffing levels since last April, shedding 6,100 jobs, while total nonfarm employment is down 3,100 jobs for the year.

Professional and business services have gained the most jobs since March (+1,400). This increase is the first since October and was due mostly to professional, scientific, and technical services hiring (+1,100) although administrative support and waste management services also advanced in April (+500). Construction gained 1,300 jobs. This was the third consecutive increase for the sector equating to 2,800 jobs added since January. Leisure and hospitality gained 900 jobs. This increase was due entirely to hiring within arts, entertainment, and recreational industries. Accommodation and food services establishments continued to reduce staffing levels in April and has not added jobs since October. Job losses by sector were light compared to the gains and were limited to trade, transportation, and utilities (-500) and manufacturing (-500). Durable goods losses were responsible for most of those jobs shed within Iowa's factories.

Annually, job gains have been highest in health care and social assistance (+5,200). Other services are up 2,000 jobs and have steadily trended up over the last 12 months. Government (a sector that includes federal, state, and local political subdivisions, as well as schools, universities, and public hospitals) is up 3,000 jobs annually, with a majority of that increase stemming from hiring within local government entities. Since last April, manufacturing industries have shed the most jobs (-7,400). Durable goods factories have been responsible for most of the jobs shed (-5,400). Professional and business services follows with 3,300 jobs shed annually. These losses are split between both administrative and support services along with professional, scientific, and technical services.

**Employment and Unemployment in Iowa, Seasonally Adjusted Data**

	<b>April 2025</b>	<b>March 2025</b>	<b>April 2024</b>	<b>Change from March 2025</b>	<b>April 2024</b>
Civilian labor force	1,727,700	1,722,700	1,710,800	5,000	16,900
Unemployment	60,600	58,600	48,100	2,000	12,500
Unemployment rate	3.5%	3.4%	2.8%	0.1	0.7
Employment	1,667,100	1,664,100	1,662,600	3,000	4,500
Labor Force Participation Rate	67.2%	67.0%	67.0%	0.2	0.2
U.S. unemployment rate	4.2%	4.2%	3.9%	0.0	0.3

**Nonfarm Employment in Iowa, Seasonally Adjusted Data**

Total Nonfarm Employment	1,599,200	1,594,000	1,602,300	5,200	-3,100
Mining	2,200	2,200	2,300	0	-100
Construction	85,400	84,100	86,300	1,300	-900
Manufacturing	217,300	217,800	224,700	-500	-7,400
Trade, transportation and utilities	312,700	313,200	312,400	-500	300
Information	18,000	17,800	18,200	200	-200
Financial activities	106,000	105,300	106,500	700	-500
Professional and business services	143,200	141,800	146,500	1,400	-3,300
Education and health services	244,900	244,200	239,500	700	5,400
Leisure and hospitality	142,700	141,800	144,100	900	-1,400
Other services	57,500	56,800	55,500	700	2,000
Government	269,300	269,000	266,300	300	3,000

**Unemployment Insurance Claims for Iowa**

	<b>April 2025</b>	<b>March 2025</b>	<b>April 2024</b>	<b>% Change from March 2025</b>	<b>April 2024</b>
<b>Initial claims</b>	7,963	8,502	8,189	-6.3%	-2.8%
<b>Continued claims</b>					
Benefit recipients	20,248	27,209	16,133	-25.6%	25.5%
Weeks paid	52,563	79,773	38,933	-34.1%	35.0%
Amount paid	\$27,862,791	\$43,186,419	\$20,042,169	-35.5%	39.0%

MEDIA ALERT: Local data for April 2025 will be posted to the IWD website on Tuesday, May 20, 2025. Statewide data for May 2025 will be released on Thursday, June 19, 2025.

Visit [iowalmi.gov](http://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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