

# NEWS RELEASE

# For Statewide Distribution



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## Iowa Workforce Development

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### Iowa's Unemployment Rate Decreases to 3.5 Percent in November

Labor Force Participation Rate Holds Steady at 67.5 Percent

DES MOINES, IOWA – Iowa's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.5 percent in November – up from 3.3 percent one year ago but down from 3.7 percent in September. There is no October rate due to the government shutdown. The labor force participation rate was 67.5 percent in November, equaling the September rate and 0.6 percentage points higher than the November 2024 rate of 66.9 percent. The U.S. unemployment rate rose to 4.6 percent in November.

The total number of unemployed Iowans increased by 5,100 compared to November 2024.

The total number of working Iowans was 1,683,000 in November. This figure is 22,400 higher than one year ago. Iowa's labor force saw an increase of 27,500 individuals compared to November 2024.

"November's report is an indication that the increase we've seen over the last few months in labor force participation is translating to more people working," said Beth Townsend, Executive Director of Iowa Workforce Development. "Led by gains in health services, wholesale trade, and construction, Iowa saw strong hiring nearly across the board in November and ended with 9,000 more jobs than the year before – a trend we hope continues in future reports."

### Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment

Iowa establishments added 4,600 jobs in November, raising total nonfarm employment to 1,599,800. This increase is significant, particularly when compared to the previous 10-year average October-to-November change of -130 jobs. Gains this month were fueled by multiple industries with educational and health services and trade, transportation and warehousing gaining a slight edge, adding 1,100 and 1,000 jobs, respectively. Additionally, construction fared well in November, gaining 900 jobs, partially attributable to the milder late fall weather.

Within private industries, employment gains in health services (+900), wholesale trade (+800) and the previously mentioned gains in construction represented the bulk of the statewide increase. Professional and business services added jobs as a result of gains in administrative and support services (+1,000) partially offset by a small loss in professional, scientific and technical services (-200). Government pared 200 jobs.

Over the past 12 months, total nonfarm employment is up 9,000 jobs. Private industry overall is up 7,400 jobs since last November. Construction (+8,100) and private education and health services (+5,800) experienced the greatest gains. The bulk of the change in private education and health services was attributable to increased employment in health care and social assistance (+4,300). Retail trade contributed to the gains with an additional 3,400 jobs. Professional and business services has trimmed jobs from one year ago (-3,400). Other industries paring jobs include: leisure and hospitality (-3,200), financial activities (-1,600) and manufacturing (-1,000). This loss is due to cutbacks at durable goods factories (-2,300).

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

	November 2025	October* 2025	November 2024	Change from	
				October 2025	November 2024
Civilian labor force	1,744,700	-	1,717,200	-	27,500
Unemployment	61,700	-	56,600	-	5,100
Unemployment rate	3.5%	-	3.3%	-	0.2
Employment	1,683,000	-	1,660,600	-	22,400
Labor Force Participation Rate	67.5%	-	66.9%	-	0.6
U.S. unemployment rate	4.6%	-	4.2%	-	0.4

  

Nonfarm Employment in Iowa, Seasonally Adjusted Data					
	November 2025	October 2025	November 2024	October 2025	November 2024
Total Nonfarm Employment	1,599,800	1,595,200	1,590,800	4,600	9,000
Mining	2,100	2,100	2,200	0	-100
Construction	90,200	89,300	82,100	900	8,100
Manufacturing	217,600	217,200	218,600	400	-1,000
Trade, transportation and utilities	312,000	311,000	310,600	1,000	1,400
Information	18,100	17,900	17,800	200	300
Financial activities	104,000	103,900	105,600	100	-1,600
Professional and business services	141,600	140,800	145,000	800	-3,400
Education and health services (private)	247,500	246,400	241,700	1,100	5,800
Leisure and hospitality	140,000	139,600	143,200	400	-3,200
Other services	57,000	57,100	55,900	-100	1,100
Government*	269,700	269,900	268,100	-200	1,600

\* includes publicly owned education and health services

### Unemployment Insurance Claims for Iowa

	November 2025	October 2025	November 2024	% Change from	
				October 2025	November 2024
<b>Initial claims</b>	9,148	7,435	11,841	23.0%	-22.7%
<b>Continued claims</b>					
Benefit recipients	9,669	9,527	14,109	1.5%	-31.5%
Weeks paid	26,002	27,593	35,763	-5.8%	-27.3%
Amount paid	\$13,804,346	\$14,800,212	\$19,211,660	-6.7%	-28.1%

MEDIA ALERT: Local data for November 2025 will be posted to the IWD website on Thursday, January 15, 2026.

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.

\*October 2025 labor force data is not available due to the absence of data collection due to the federal government shutdown.

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