

NEWS RELEASE

For Statewide Distribution



Iowa Workforce Development

For Release: 9:00 a.m.

Date: July 16, 2026

Contact: Jesse Dougherty (515) 725-5487
communications@iwd.iowa.gov

Iowa's Unemployment Rate Remains at 3.2 Percent In June

DES MOINES, IOWA – Iowa's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at 3.2 percent in June, down from a jobless rate of 3.5 percent one year ago. The U.S. unemployment rate fell to 4.2 percent in June.

The total number of unemployed Iowans decreased to 55,200 in June from 56,100 in May.

The total number of working Iowans decreased to 1,674,300 in June. This figure is 1,700 lower than May and equal to the year-ago number. The labor force participation rate fell slightly to 67.3 percent in June from 67.4 percent in May.

"June's report shows a continuation of slow-but-stable growth across Iowa's economy," said Beth Townsend, Executive Director of Iowa Workforce Development. "Significant new job gains last month in trade and financial industries were partially offset by pullbacks in manufacturing and professional and businesses services. But the state added 600 jobs overall thanks to small increases across a wide variety of industries. Meanwhile, Iowans searching for work continue to find new careers among the more than 58,000 open positions that are now posted on iowaWORKS.gov."

Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment

Total nonfarm employment in Iowa rose slightly in June, gaining 600 jobs. This small increase means jobs have been added in four consecutive months, equating to 7,800 more jobs since a recent low in February. Trade industries and financial firms fueled this gain, while manufacturing and professional and business service sectors pared the most jobs. Private industry added 1,100 jobs and was responsible for the June increase. Government lost jobs (-500) and is now down 2,400 jobs annually, while total nonfarm employment trails last year's mark by 9,500 jobs.

Trade industries added 1,500 jobs since May. Retail added the most jobs (+1,000), but wholesale trade also showed signs of hiring (+500). Wholesale trade has added jobs in three consecutive months, gaining 1,000 jobs since March. Retail trade has increased over the last two months, translating to a 3,100-job increase. Wholesale was bolstered by hiring in durable goods sales; retail trade was fueled by hiring in food and beverage stores. Finance and insurance gained 600 jobs in June. These hires were related to credit intermediation and related activities. On the other hand, manufacturing shed 1,000 jobs in June to lead all sectors. Durable goods factories were responsible for 700 of these jobs lost. Nondurable goods producers lost 300 jobs and have been trending down since January, losing 1,900 jobs. Professional and business services shed a combined 700 jobs. Losses were evident in all sectors but were highest in administrative support and waste management industries (-400).

Over the past 12 months, manufacturing has lost the most jobs (-4,300). Nondurable goods factories are responsible for most of those jobs shed (-2,500). Transportation, warehousing, and utilities have pared 3,500 jobs over the past 12 months. Transportation and warehousing industries were responsible for 2,100 jobs shed. Professional and business services are down by 3,000 jobs since last June. Most of those losses were from firms involved in professional, scientific, and technical services (-2,200). On the positive side, education and health care industries gained 4,500 jobs annually. Most of the hiring was within health care and social assistance (+3,700). Construction has advanced by 1,700 jobs, and finance and insurance has gained 900 jobs following three consecutive months of increases.

Employment and Unemployment in Iowa, Seasonally Adjusted Data

	June 2026	May 2026	June 2025	Change from May 2026 June 2025	
Civilian labor force	1,729,500	1,732,100	1,735,600	-2,600	-6,100
Unemployment	55,200	56,100	61,300	-900	-6,100
Unemployment rate	3.2%	3.2%	3.5%	-0.1	-0.4
Employment	1,674,300	1,676,000	1,674,300	-1,700	0
Labor Force Participation Rate	67.3%	67.4%	67.7%	-0.1	-0.4
U.S. unemployment rate	4.2%	4.3%	4.1%	-0.1	0.1

Nonfarm Employment in Iowa, Seasonally Adjusted Data

Total Nonfarm Employment	1,584,100	1,583,500	1,593,600	600	-9,500
Mining	2,200	2,300	2,300	-100	-100
Construction	85,800	85,600	84,100	200	1,700
Manufacturing	212,800	213,800	217,100	-1,000	-4,300
Trade, transportation and utilities	306,600	305,100	310,100	1,500	-3,500
Information	17,700	17,700	17,700	0	0
Financial activities	105,800	105,100	105,100	700	700
Professional and business services	140,600	141,300	143,600	-700	-3,000
Education (private)	43,500	43,300	42,700	200	800
Health care and social assistance	204,400	204,200	200,700	200	3,700
Leisure and hospitality	142,200	142,000	144,900	200	-2,700
Other services	54,700	54,800	55,100	-100	-400
Government*	267,800	268,300	270,200	-500	-2,400

* includes publicly owned education and health services

Data Above Subject to Change

Unemployment Insurance Claims for Iowa

	June 2026	May 2026	June 2025	% Change from May 2026 June 2025	
Initial claims	7,918	7,232	10,350	9.5%	-23.5%
Continued claims					
Benefit recipients	11,566	10,132	11,328	14.2%	2.1%
Weeks paid	36,277	27,590	34,115	31.5%	6.3%
Amount paid	\$18,756,273	\$14,911,211	\$17,333,493	25.8%	8.2%

Media Alert: Local data for June 2026 will be posted to the website on Tuesday, July 21, 2026. Statewide data for July 2026 will be released on August 20, 2026.

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

###

An Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

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

workforce.iowa.gov • iowaworks.gov