GREATER DES MOINES REGIONAL LABORSHED AREA

A STUDY IN LABOR AVAILABILITY AND WORKFORCE CHARACTERISTICS
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
WORKFORCE.IOWA.GOV/LABORSHED

RELEASED
2026

ESTIMATED POPULATION
AGES 18-64
967,759

TOTAL ESTIMATED LABOR FORCE
AGES 18-64
825,903

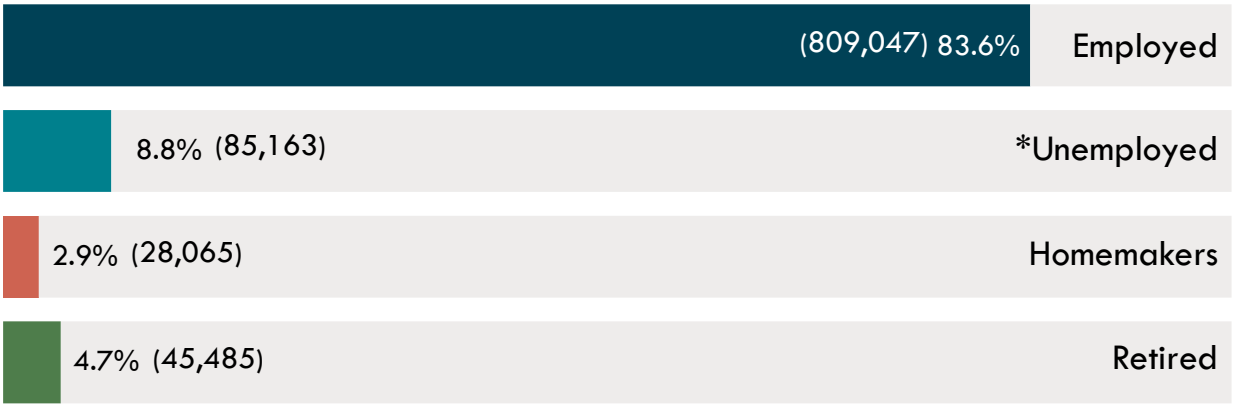


AREA SHOWN

Greater Des Moines Regional Laborshed Area

A Laborshed area is defined by its commuting pattern and illustrates which communities contribute to an employment center's workforce and at what level. To determine the boundaries of a Laborshed area, local employers supply the residential ZIP codes of each of their employees. The data in this publication reflects characteristics specific to the workforce in the Greater Des Moines Regional Laborshed Area.

EMPLOYMENT STATUS (ESTIMATED TOTAL)*



**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.*

Employed -
Likely to Change Employment **26.9%**



Unemployed -
Likely to Accept Employment **68.9%**



Homemakers -
Likely to Accept Employment **43.0%**

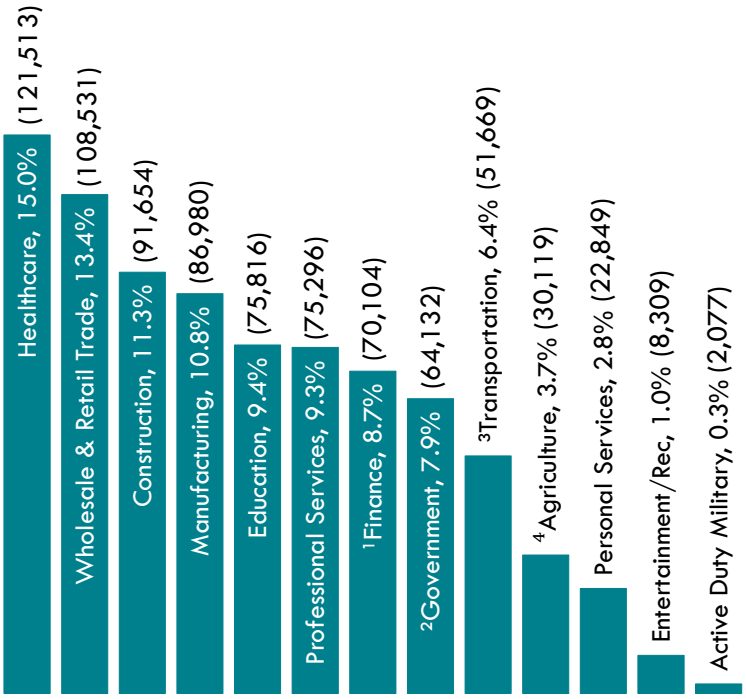


Retired -
Likely to Accept Employment **20.3%**



BREAKOUT OF THE EMPLOYED BY INDUSTRY (ESTIMATED TOTAL*)

**Totals may vary due to rounding.*



[1]Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate [2]Public Administration, Government
[3]Transportation, Communications, & Utilities [4]Agriculture, Forestry, & Mining

TOP CURRENT BENEFITS OF THE FULL-TIME EMPLOYED

Paid Vacation/ PTO/Sick Leave	94.6%
Health/Medical Insurance	94.5%
Dental Coverage	92.0%
Pension/Retirement /401k	92.0%
Vision Coverage	89.0%
Paid Holiday	87.6%
Life Insurance	87.2%
Disability Insurance	84.9%
Flex Spending Account	70.3%
Prescription Drug Coverage	65.1%

The employed are currently commuting an average of—

16 miles one-way for an employment opportunity

&

21 minutes

EMPLOYED: LIKELY TO CHANGE

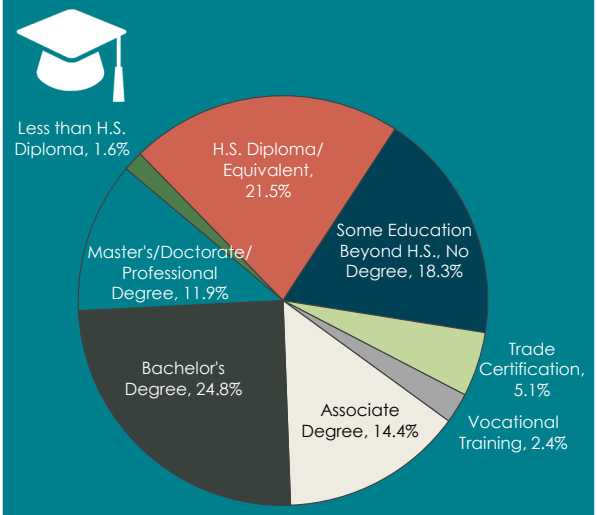
26.9% of employed individuals are likely to change their current employment situation for a new opportunity.

- Current occupational categories:

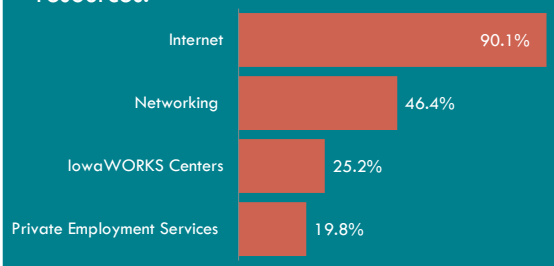
Professional, Paraprofessional, Technical	**28.8%**
Production, Construction, Material Moving	**25.4%**
Managerial	**16.0%**
Services	**11.9%**
Clerical	**11.1%**
Sales	**6.1%**
Agricultural	**0.7%**

- Current median wages: $
  - $22.00/hour and $72,000/year
  - $27.00/hour - attracts 66%
  - $30.00/hour - attracts 75%

- 76.9% have an education beyond HS



- **35.2% are actively seeking employment**
- Most frequently identified job search resources:



- Top sites:



- Top newspapers:



- Commute:
  - Currently commuting an average of **17** miles/**23** minutes (one-way) to work
  - Willing to commute an average of **29** miles/**37** minutes (one-way) to work

UNEMPLOYED: LIKELY TO ACCEPT

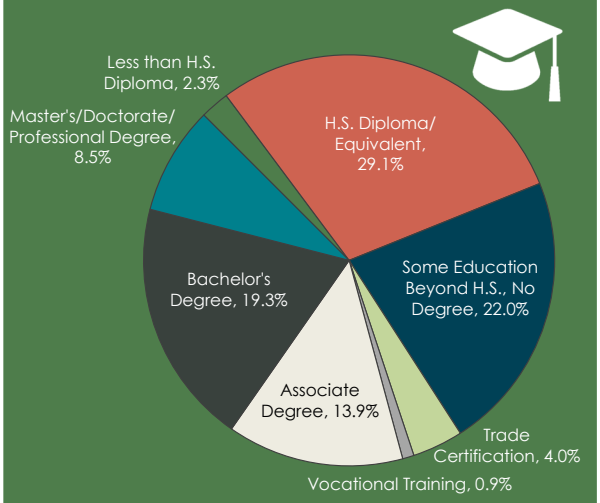
68.9% of unemployed individuals are likely to accept an employment opportunity.

- Former occupational categories:

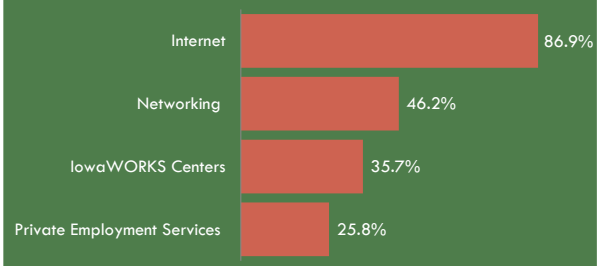
Production, Construction, Material Moving	**36.0%**
Professional, Paraprofessional, Technical	**21.0%**
Sales	**11.7%**
Managerial	**10.7%**
Clerical	**9.8%**
Services	**9.8%**
Agricultural	**1.0%**

- Median wages: $
  - $18.00/hour - lowest willing to accept
  - $20.00/hour - attracts 66%
  - $23.00/hour - attracts 75%

- 68.6% have an education beyond HS



- **77.0% are actively seeking employment**
- Most frequently identified job search resources:



- Top sites:



- Top newspapers:



- Commute:
  - Willing to commute an average of **27** miles/**34** minutes (one-way) to work

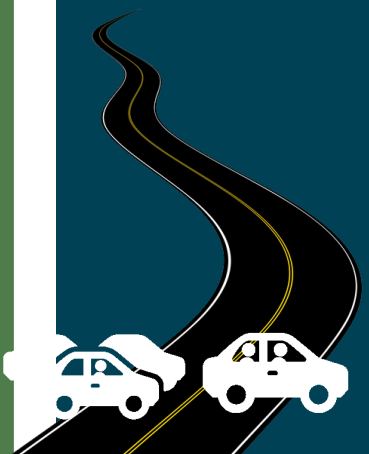


This regional analysis is based on aggregated data from the Greater Des Moines Metro, Greenfield, Grinnell, Guthrie Center, Indianola, Marshalltown, Newton, Osceola, Oskaloosa, Pella, Perry, and Winterset Laborshed studies.

These results are based upon a total of **3,731** completed surveys.

For more data visit: workforce.iowa.gov/laborshed





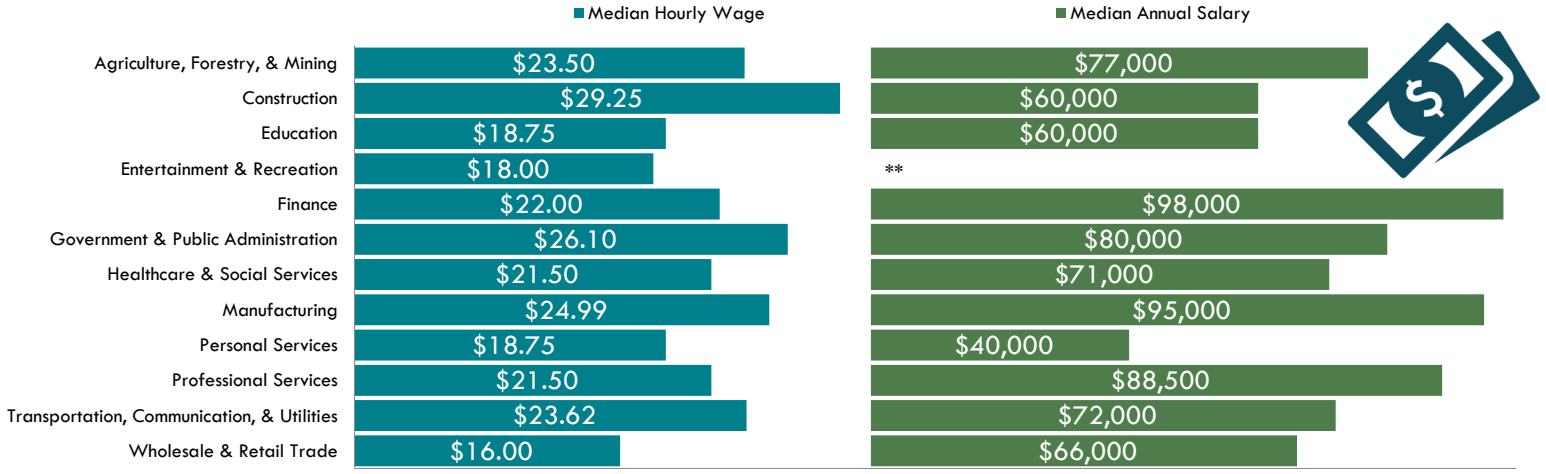
EDUCATION OF AVAILABLE LABOR BY INDUSTRY OF CURRENT OR FORMER EMPLOYMENT

Data on this page is specific to only those survey respondents that reported they are likely to change or accept employment.

Industry	Education Beyond HS	Some Education Beyond HS, No Degree Obtained	Trade Certification/ Vocational Training	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree or Above
Agriculture, Forestry, & Mining	75.1%	31.3%	6.3%	0.0%	37.5%
Construction	60.1%	16.3%	17.5%	12.5%	13.8%
Education	97.3%	12.0%	1.9%	9.3%	74.1%
Entertainment & Recreation	81.8%	9.1%	0.0%	18.2%	54.5%
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	89.2%	15.7%	4.8%	15.7%	53.0%
Government & Public Administration	84.9%	20.5%	4.1%	17.8%	42.5%
Healthcare & Social Services	83.4%	15.4%	9.5%	18.9%	39.6%
Manufacturing	70.9%	17.0%	7.8%	12.8%	33.3%
Personal Services	64.0%	28.0%	20.0%	12.0%	4.0%
Professional Services	77.4%	16.2%	1.8%	16.2%	43.2%
Transportation, Communication, & Utilities	66.0%	20.3%	12.7%	12.7%	20.3%
Wholesale & Retail Trade	63.8%	27.2%	4.7%	12.9%	19.0%

Top percentages among industries per education level are highlighted in the table. ***Insufficient survey data/refused*

WAGES OF AVAILABLE LABOR BY INDUSTRY OF CURRENT OR FORMER EMPLOYMENT



***Insufficient survey data/refused. A lack of data for a particular industry is not necessarily indicative that there were no (or few) individuals surveyed within that industry. Rather, it may be that there simply were no respondents within that industry that also reported that they are likely to change or accept employment.*

Note: A wide variety of occupations are included within these industry categories. Industry classification is based upon the respondent's reported current or former employer. Two respondents that work for a manufacturer will be classified within the manufacturing industry even if, for example, one respondent is a custodian and the other is an accountant.

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**).

	Percent Surveyed
Inadequate Hours	1.5%
Low Income	0.2%

	Percent Surveyed
Mismatch of Skills	8.9%
†Total	9.6%

†Individuals may be underemployed for more than one reason but are counted only once for total estimated underemployment.
Note: To be counted as underemployed in any category an individual must be currently employed and likely to change their current employment situation.

IOWA™

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