

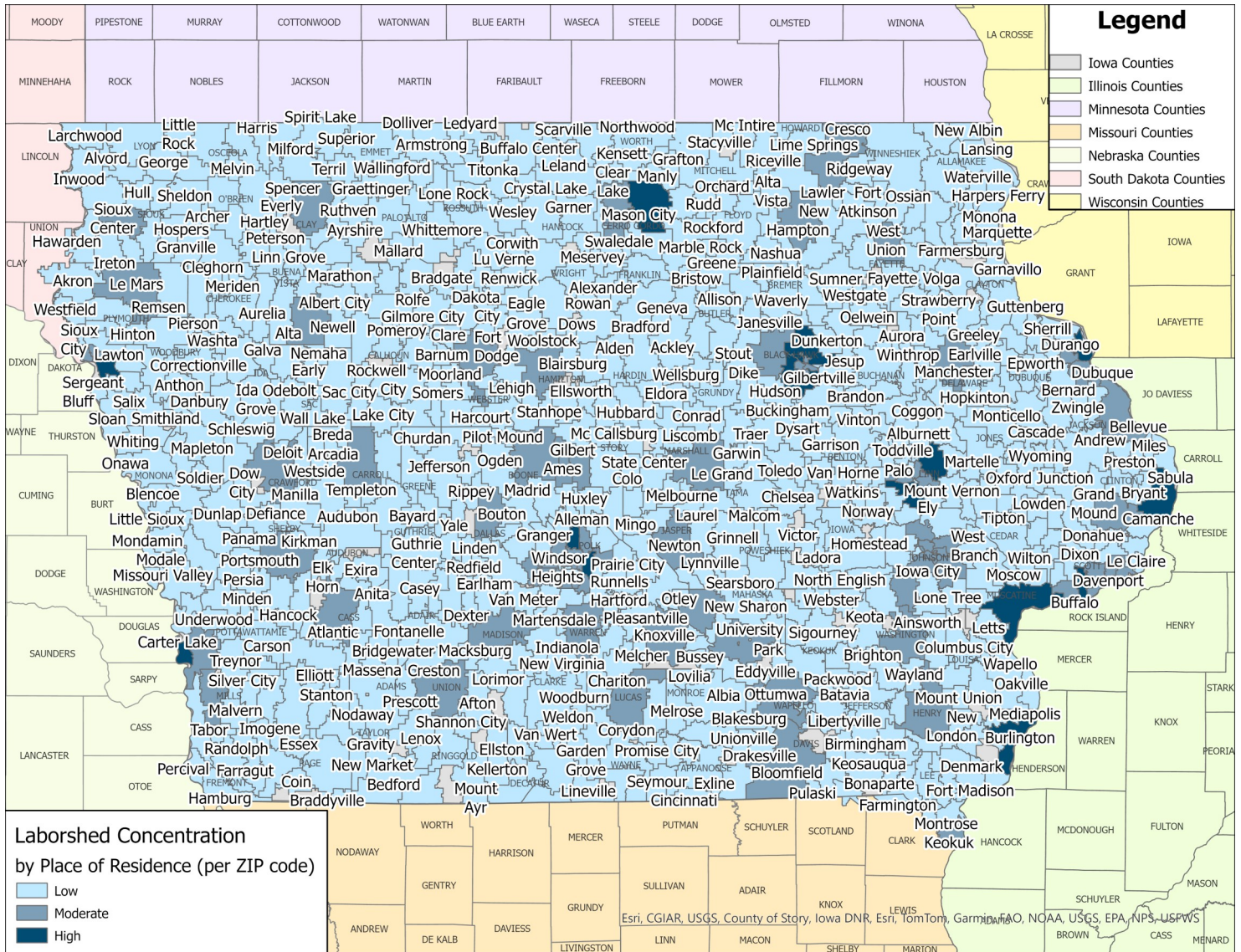
# LABOR CHARACTERISTICS

## FOOD PROCESSING



## STATE OF IOWA LABORSHED AREA

**CONCENTRATION OF RESPONDENTS WITHIN THE LABORSHED AREA  
WITH TRANSFERABLE EXPERIENCE/SKILLS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE**



Workers who have transferable experience/skills in the industry are currently commuting an average of 15 miles one way for work. Those who are likely to change/accept employment are willing to commute an average of 27 miles one way for the right employment opportunity.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THE STATEWIDE REGIONAL LABORSHED, CONTACT:**



Iowa Workforce Development  
Labor Market Information Division  
1000 E. Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50319  
Phone: (515) 281-3035 | Email: [laborshed.studies@iwd.iowa.gov](mailto:laborshed.studies@iwd.iowa.gov)  
<https://workforce.iowa.gov/laborshed>

# LABOR CHARACTERISTICS

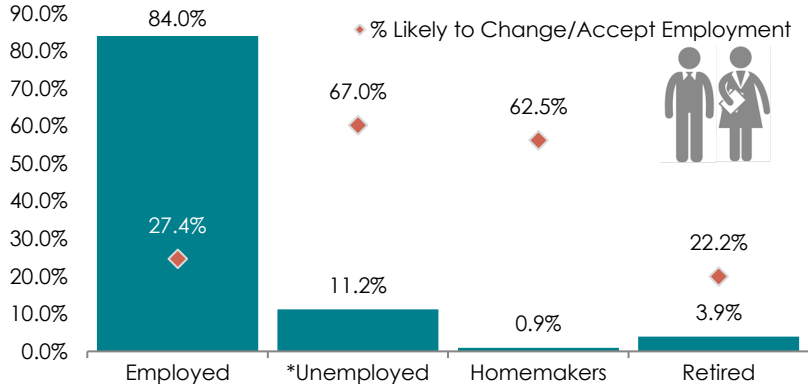


## FOOD PROCESSING

### ESTIMATED AVAILABLE LABOR PER OCCUPATIONAL CATEGORY:

- Agricultural Inspectors - 0.2%
- Bakers - 0.2%
- Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists - 1.2%
- Butchers and Meat Cutters - 0.3%
- Buyers and Purchasing Agents, Farm Products - 0.2%
- Cleaning, Washing, and Metal Pickling Equipment Operators and Tenders - 0.1%
- Conveyor Operators and Tenders - 0.1%
- Cooling and Freezing Equipment Operators and Tenders - 0.1%
- Crushing/Grinding/Polishing Machine Operators & Tenders - 0.1%
- Electricians - 4.6%
- Engineering Technicians, Except Drafters, All Other - 0.5%
- Engineers, All Other - 4.7%
- Extruding, Forming, Pressing, and Compacting Machine Operators, and Tenders - 0.1%
- First-Line Supervisors of Production & Operating Workers - 5.8%
- Food and Tobacco Roasting, Baking, and Drying Machine Operators and Tenders - 0.1%
- Food Batchmakers - 0.3%
- Food Cooking Machine Operators and Tenders - 0.1%
- Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers - 19.2%
- Industrial Engineering Technicians - 1.3%
- Industrial Engineers - 1.4%
- Industrial Machinery Mechanics - 1%
- Industrial Production Managers - 5.3%
- Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators - 2.5%
- Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers - 1.3%
- Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Workers, All Other - 10.6%
- Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand - 6.8%
- Light Truck or Delivery Services Drivers - 2.9%
- Maintenance Workers, Machinery - 0.1%
- Material Moving Workers, All Other - 0.1%
- Meat, Poultry, and Fish Cutters and Trimmers - 0.2%
- Mixing and Blending Machine Operators, and Tenders - 0.3%
- Packaging and Filling Machine Operators and Tenders - 0.1%
- Packers and Packagers, Hand - 1.5%
- Plant and System Operators, All Other - 0.1%
- Production Workers, All Other - 6.9%
- Slaughterers and Meat Packers - 0.1%
- Supervisors of Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers - 9.1%
- Tank Car, Truck, and Ship Loaders - 0.9%
- Team Assemblers - 3.9%
- Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers - 4.6%
- Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant and System Operators - 0.9%

### ESTIMATED TOTAL BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS (PERCENTAGE):



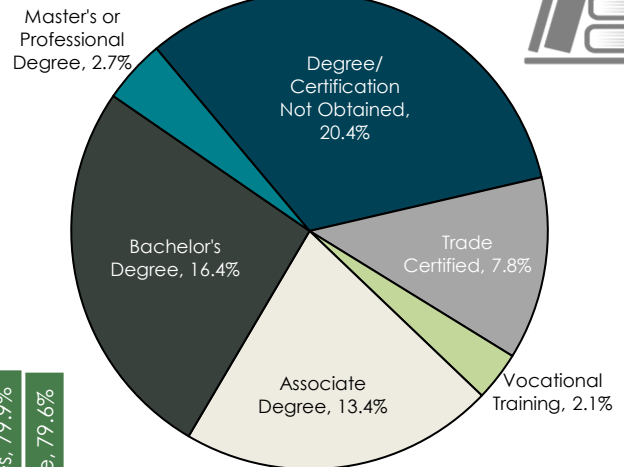
\*Employment status is self-identified by the survey respondent. The unemployment percentage does not reflect the unemployment rate published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, which applies a stricter definition.

### EMPLOYMENT STATS:

- 63.1% paid an hourly wage
- 94.9% are/were employed full-time
- 5.1% are/were employed part-time
- 12.7% are/were self-employed
- 9.6% hold two or more jobs
- Currently working an average of 46 hours/week

### EDUCATIONAL LEVEL:

(62.8% HAVE AN EDUCATION BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL)



### UNDEREMPLOYMENT (ESTIMATED):

- Low hours - 0.8%
- Low income - 0.4%
- Mismatch of skills - 8.0%
- Total - 8.4%

(Individuals counted only once when estimating Total Underemployment.)

### CURRENT BENEFITS:



### DESIRED BENEFITS:



### TOP JOB SEARCH RESOURCES:

(For those seeking employment opportunities, by use.)

- Internet - 75.4%
  - [www.indeed.com](http://www.indeed.com)
  - [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)
  - [www.ziprecruiter.com](http://www.ziprecruiter.com)
- Networking through friends, family or acquaintances - 44.5%
- IowaWORKS Centers - 23.8%
- Private Employment Services - 14.4%





# LABOR CHARACTERISTICS



## FOOD PROCESSING

OCCUPATION	OCCUPATIONAL CODE	MEAN WAGE	MEDIAN WAGE	MEAN SALARY	MEDIAN SALARY
Agricultural Inspectors	45-2011	\$27.45	\$25.92	\$57,100.00	\$53,910.00
Agricultural Technicians	19-4012	\$20.47	\$18.91	\$42,570.00	\$39,330.00
Bakers	51-3011	\$17.21	\$17.53	\$35,790.00	\$36,460.00
Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists	49-3031	\$28.99	\$28.27	\$60,290.00	\$58,800.00
Butchers and Meat Cutters	51-3021	\$17.59	\$17.60	\$36,580.00	\$36,600.00
Cleaning, Washing, and Metal Pickling Equipment Operators and Tenders	51-9192	\$21.00	\$20.22	\$43,690.00	\$42,060.00
Conveyor Operators and Tenders	53-7011	\$24.62	\$22.94	\$51,210.00	\$47,720.00
Cooling and Freezing Equipment Operators and Tenders	51-9193	\$27.87	\$23.50	\$57,960.00	\$48,880.00
Crushing, Grinding, and Polishing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	51-9021	\$27.06	\$28.95	\$56,280.00	\$60,210.00
Cutting and Slicing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	51-9032	\$25.11	\$25.15	\$52,220.00	\$52,310.00
Electricians	47-2111	\$30.72	\$30.23	\$63,910.00	\$62,880.00
Engineering Technicians, Except Drafters, All Other	17-3029	\$32.23	\$30.75	\$67,030.00	\$63,960.00
Engineers, All Other	17-2199	\$47.86	\$48.17	\$99,560.00	\$100,200.00
Extruding, Forming, Pressing, and Compacting Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	51-9041	\$23.52	\$22.81	\$48,920.00	\$47,440.00
First-Line Supervisors of Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers	49-1011	\$38.52	\$37.49	\$80,110.00	\$77,980.00
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	51-1011	\$34.45	\$34.20	\$71,650.00	\$71,140.00
Food and Tobacco Roasting, Baking, and Drying Machine Operators and Tenders	51-3091	\$21.63	\$21.91	\$44,990.00	\$45,570.00
Food Batchmakers	51-3092	\$23.90	\$23.46	\$49,700.00	\$48,790.00
Food Cooking Machine Operators and Tenders	51-3093	\$22.35	\$22.07	\$46,500.00	\$45,910.00
Food Processing Workers, All Other	51-3099	\$20.29	\$19.51	\$42,200.00	\$40,570.00
Food Science Technicians	19-4013	\$24.04	\$22.89	\$49,990.00	\$47,610.00
Food Scientists and Technologists	19-1012	\$32.93	\$30.51	\$68,480.00	\$63,450.00
Graders and Sorters, Agricultural Products	45-2041	\$20.92	\$19.99	\$43,520.00	\$41,570.00
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	53-3032	\$28.05	\$26.48	\$58,350.00	\$55,080.00
Helpers--Production Workers	51-9198	\$21.53	\$22.12	\$44,780.00	\$46,000.00
Industrial Engineering Technicians	17-3026	\$31.52	\$29.01	\$65,570.00	\$60,330.00
Industrial Engineers	17-2112	\$48.24	\$48.06	\$100,340.00	\$99,960.00
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	49-9041	\$31.85	\$31.30	\$66,250.00	\$65,090.00
Industrial Production Managers	11-3051	\$55.28	\$50.44	\$114,980.00	\$104,920.00
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	53-7051	\$22.85	\$22.57	\$47,530.00	\$46,950.00
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	51-9061	\$24.87	\$23.53	\$51,740.00	\$48,940.00
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Workers, All Other	49-9099	\$23.83	\$22.48	\$49,560.00	\$46,760.00
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	53-7062	\$20.53	\$20.85	\$42,710.00	\$43,370.00
Light Truck or Delivery Services Drivers	53-3033	\$22.54	\$21.11	\$46,890.00	\$43,910.00
Machine Feeders and Offbearers	53-7063	\$21.46	\$20.81	\$44,630.00	\$43,280.00
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	49-9071	\$25.37	\$24.65	\$52,760.00	\$51,270.00
Maintenance Workers, Machinery	49-9043	\$30.80	\$29.80	\$64,070.00	\$61,990.00
Material Moving Workers, All Other	53-7199	\$26.42	\$23.20	\$54,960.00	\$48,250.00
Meat, Poultry, and Fish Cutters and Trimmers	51-3022	\$20.42	\$20.46	\$42,470.00	\$42,550.00
Mixing and Blending Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	51-9023	\$23.95	\$22.34	\$49,810.00	\$46,480.00
Ophthalmic Laboratory Technicians	51-9083	\$17.45	\$16.23	\$36,300.00	\$33,770.00
Packaging and Filling Machine Operators and Tenders	51-9111	\$22.29	\$21.11	\$46,350.00	\$43,900.00
Packers and Packagers, Hand	53-7064	\$17.32	\$17.14	\$36,020.00	\$35,650.00
Plant and System Operators, All Other	51-8099	\$29.80	\$28.05	\$61,990.00	\$58,340.00
Production Workers, All Other	51-9199	\$21.22	\$22.30	\$44,130.00	\$46,380.00
Separating, Filtering, Clarifying, Precipitating, and Still Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	51-9012	\$24.99	\$24.16	\$51,980.00	\$50,260.00
Slaughterers and Meat Packers	51-3023	\$20.98	\$21.35	\$43,640.00	\$44,400.00
Tank Car, Truck, and Ship Loaders	53-7121	\$26.40	\$27.00	\$54,910.00	\$56,160.00
Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers	11-3071	\$49.83	\$45.97	\$103,650.00	\$95,620.00
Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant and System Operators	51-8031	\$28.16	\$28.56	\$58,580.00	\$59,400.00

The 2024 Iowa Wage data for the Statewide Laborshed area was produced by the Labor Force & Occupational Analysis Bureau to provide communities local information on wages by occupation. Additional occupational wage and employment data for the Statewide Laborshed area can be found at [workforce.iowa.gov/laborshed/data](https://workforce.iowa.gov/laborshed/data). For more information regarding the 2024 OEWS estimates visit: [bls.gov/oes/2024/may/oes\\_tec.htm](https://bls.gov/oes/2024/may/oes_tec.htm)

Balance of data compiled by Iowa Workforce Development using Laborshed data released in 2025.