



IOWA WorkNet

Putting
Iowa
to Work

A Labor Market Information Publication

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JOB GROWTH SLOWS IN 2001

Iowa incurred few job losses directly related to the September 11 terrorist attack, but increasingly felt the impact of a nationwide recession that began in March 2001. The state reported employment at a record level of 1,554,300 in December even though job growth slowed during the year.

Unemployment gradually increased over the course of the year due to mounting layoffs across the state. The statewide unemployment rate for 2001 increased to 3 percent from 2.6 percent in 2000. However, Iowa's jobless rate compared favorably with the rate of 4.8 percent reported for the U.S.

Most of the layoffs that occurred in the state last year were concentrated in manufacturing, particularly in the durable goods sector. Within the manufacturing industry, substantial losses were reported for construction machinery, transportation equipment, paper products and rubber and plastics products. From a geographic standpoint, the larger layoffs occurred in Dubuque, Marion, Polk and Scott counties.

While Iowans found it more difficult to find jobs last year, several of the service-producing industries posted gains. These industries were transportation, communication and utilities; wholesale and retail trade; finance, insurance and real estate and services. Government employment decreased at all levels—federal, state and local.

The good news is the worst of the recession is already past. Although job growth will be restrained for the first half of 2002, the rest of the year will bring gradually accelerating growth.

WHAT'S NEW

● The U.S. Bureau of the Census recently released a 2001 population estimate for Iowa of 2,923,179. This estimate was down 3,145 from the official 2000 census count of 2,926,324.

● According to the U.S. Department of Labor, 12.8 percent of Iowa's wage and salary workers were union members in 2001 compared with 13.6 percent in 2000. The U.S. figure remained unchanged from 2000 at 13.5 percent.

● Pella ranked 39th on Fortune's annual list of *100 Best Companies to Work For*. What makes it stand out? The company's "no-layoffs" policy remained in effect throughout 2001. This Iowa manufacturer of windows and doors will celebrate 50 years of profit sharing this year. Furthermore, 78 percent of Pella's employees say they are paid fairly.

NEW ON THE WEB

Several new labor market information products have recently become available. Go to the IWD Home Page at www.iowaworkforce.org and select Labor Market Information to access the following:

- *Iowa Licensed Occupations 2001*
- *Iowa Affirmative Action Data for Year 2000*
- *Laborshed Studies for Carroll, Humboldt and Waukon*

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