

# Iowa Workforce Monthly

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## Iowa Unemployment Services

Iowa Workforce Development offers assistance for workers who have been laid-off. From unemployment benefits to job search workshops, Iowa Workforce offices are here to help during this time of uncertainty.

Employees who are laid-off should be entitled to unemployment benefits after any severance package runs out. However, any employees who chose a buyout or early retirement would not be eligible for unemployment.

In addition to unemployment, regional workforce offices offer a wide-range of workshops on a rotating basis. These workshops help to meet the immediate needs of Iowans in transition. The topics

include dealing with job loss, financial management, applying for financial aid, resume development, job search methods and tips on keeping a job in today's environment.

Many IWD offices have resource centers that provide information on how to create different types of resumes and cover letters. Word processing software and IWD staff are also available to assist you with the preparation of a resume or cover letter. Services are designated for the novice and for the more advanced user. Job seeking and skill videos and career information are available to help prepare the job seeker for the process of finding and landing that new job.

## Statewide Unemployment Data

Iowa's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged down to 4.3 percent in November from 4.4 percent in October, but was substantially higher than the year ago rate of 3.8 percent.

In sharp contrast, the U.S. jobless rate rose to 6.7 percent in November from an October rate of 6.5 percent, widening the gap between the state and national unemployment rates.

The state's labor force receded slightly to 1,679,000 in November in response to a slowing job market. This figure

had peaked at 1,685,000 in September.

Meanwhile, total employment, which makes up the largest component of the labor force, dropped to 1,606,700 in November from the prior month's 1,608,700. The total number of working Iowans was reported at 1,601,300 one year ago. The statewide estimate of unemployed dropped to 72,300 in November from 73,900 in October. One year ago, unemployment stood at 63,700.

# One On One



with Elisabeth Buck, IWD Director

As the Director of Iowa Workforce Development, I'd like to welcome you to this first edition of Iowa Workforce Monthly. This is a new monthly e-news publication that will keep you up-to-date with the important workforce issues facing our state.

In this issue, we are focusing on unemployment. As the rate continues to jump, more and more

Iowans are finding they are in need of unemployment insurance. The articles feature everything from ways the division is fighting unemployment fraud to workshops available to ease the stress for Iowans in transition.

Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) or Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance (ATAA) is a benefit that many people do not know about. It offers assistance to those workers

whose jobs were moved overseas. You can read more about TAA on page 3. Below we offer information regarding a new service we are offering at IWD. Iowa Career Access Points (ICAP) are an innovative way for you to get assistance after hours. Read on below to find out more information.

## Visit your Iowa Career Access Point for after hours help

If you are unemployed or underemployed and don't have access to the local Iowa Workforce Development office during office hours, visit an Iowa Career Access Point (ICAP). ICAP is a partnership between Iowa Workforce Development and a local faith-or community-based organization to help people search for jobs, create a résumé and cover letter, or provide referrals to community agencies and resources. All are welcome!

With seven current locations, Iowa Workforce Development is interested in creating access to job services throughout

Iowa. Working with your local IWD office, we will help determine your ability to become an ICAP. As an ICAP, you will provide a volunteer who can assist the public a minimum of eight hours weekly, internet access and promote your site as well as Iowa Workforce Development's One-Stop and partners services.

Iowa Workforce Development will provide the following as deemed necessary: an internet ready computer and printer, training of the volunteer who will establish a relationship with your local One-Stop staff and partners and ongoing

communication and support. Targeted services to your community are provided on-site by your trained volunteer with promotion of your organization and services to the public. If your Faith Based or Community Organization is interested in becoming an Iowa Career Access Point, contact:

**Venus Vendoures Walsh**  
150 Des Moines Street  
Des Moines, IA 50309  
Phone: (515) 281-9332

## Unemployment Fraud

Iowa Workforce Development investigates allegations of unemployment fraud aggressively. Individuals who commit fraud are subject to fines, penalties, and/or criminal prosecution.

Unemployment Fraud for claimants could include:

- Failure to report hours and earning accurately
- Failure to be available and able for work
- Failure to actively seek work
- Identity Theft

Unemployment Fraud for employers could include:

- Misclassification of workers
- Incorrectly reporting wages
- Providing false information to prevent an otherwise eligible claimant from obtaining benefits
- Failure to pay

Unemployment Insurance taxes, report necessary information, or prohibit inspection from the Department.

If you or someone you know is committing unemployment fraud, report it to IWD immediately. Requests for anonymity will be honored. Visit [www.iowaworkforce.org](http://www.iowaworkforce.org) or call (800) 562-4692.



# Trade Adjustment Assistance Services and Benefits

The goal of Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) and Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance (ATAA) is to help workers who have lost their jobs because the company has moved their position overseas. This assistance will allow the affected workers to additional benefits and services depending on what is needed to return them to employment.

TAA provides eligible workers:

- **Rapid Response:** this will make employees aware of the different services available to workers after a layoff is announced.

- **Reemployment Services:** offers workers assistance in finding a new job. Many TAA-

eligible workers will be able to return to employment through a combination of these services.

- **Job Search Allowances:** may be payable to cover expenses incurred in seeking employment outside a certified worker's normal commuting area, if a suitable job is not available in the area.

- **Relocation Allowances:** may reimburse approved expenses when certified workers must move to a new area of employment outside their normal commuting area.

- **Training:** is provided to certified workers who do not have the skills to secure suitable employment in the existing labor market.

- **Income Support:** is available to provide income support to individuals while they are participating in full time training.

- **Training Waivers Under TAA:** Under certain circumstances, eligible workers may be waived from participating in training and still receive Basic TRA.

- **Health Coverage Tax Credit:** Workers who are eligible to receive income support under the TAA program may be eligible to receive tax credits for 65% of the monthly health insurance premium they pay.

ATAA is offered as an alternative to the benefits offered under the regular TAA

program. Participation in this program allows older workers, who are close to retirement, accept reemployment at a lower wage and receive a wage subsidy. ATAA workers may also be eligible for:

- **Health Coverage Tax Credit**
- **Rapid Assistance**
- **Reemployment Services**
- **Wage Subsidy:** offers workers age 50 and over who obtain new, full-time employment at wages of less than \$50,000 within 26 weeks of their separation may receive a wage subsidy of 50% of the difference between old and new wages.

## Trade Adjustment Success Stories

Trade Adjustment Assistance has helped many people whose jobs have moved overseas. Below are a few examples of how TAA has helped them.

**Jennifer Nason - Maytag**  
Jennifer Nason always wanted to work in the dental field. So when she worked her last day at Maytag in February of 2003 was relieved to learn about the TAA program. Jennifer had previously used financial aid to get the pre-requisite classes completed, so she knew exactly what she wanted to study. Nason entered the dental assistant program at

Marshalltown Community College in June of 2003 and graduated in June of 2005. She reports she is "100% satisfied with the dental field" and actually has a desire to further her education in dental work. Jennifer states "I am thankful for the opportunity to receive this education. I felt like I had a second chance for a career that better suited my family demands."

**Terry Pickett - Maytag**  
When Terry was laid-off from Maytag after 17 1/2 years of work, he saw the TAA program as an opportunity to change. Terry attended DMACC in

Boone, Iowa and graduated with an Associate of Applied Science in land surveying on May 5, 2006. June 1, 2006 he started a job in Newton with Johnstone and Associates, a land surveying firm.

"It is a good fit for me as my time is split 50/50 in the office and in the field surveying. It is complex and challenging work that presents new problems daily and provides me with self satisfaction."





# Noteworthy Employee Acknowledgements

We appreciate the feedback we get from our customers.

Here are a few noteworthy comments we've received:

— Bette Guzman sent in a thank you letter to **Jill Borgeson** and **Rita Stevens**. She complemented both

employees on being extremely professional and polite.

“They both displayed a confidence of knowing their job assignments.” Thank you Jill and Rita for your excellent customer service.

— Janet Shoeman sent a note to compliment **DeAnn Barnhill**. She said even though there was a massive amount of difficult

training that was not real exciting, DeAnn showed great respect for those

attending and shared her knowledge clearly without making anyone feel dumb.

— Ernie Schrage an operations supervisor, sent this note regarding our **IowaJobs.org**, “I would like to thank you for the job which your site has done for us. We have had more interest from your site than from other internet sites we have used.

— Jack Schreurs sent an e-mail to compliment **Linda Gray, Lurene Swalve** and **Ann Conners**. He said while things aren't very pretty in the hydraulic cylinder

manufacturing business he could always count on the Linda, Lurene and Ann to make the day better. “I know that your team member have been extremely busy. But they have been fantastic, very competent and provide outstanding customer service. Hats off to them and all of the IWD team!”

If you would like to send us your noteworthy comment, send it to: [kathryn.hommer@iwd.iowa.gov](mailto:kathryn.hommer@iwd.iowa.gov) or 515-281-5407.

## Iowa Workforce Monthly

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Des Moines, IA 50319  
(800) 562-4692

For Deaf or Hard of Hearing, call Relay 711

Iowa Workforce Monthly is intended to help keep Iowa employers, job seekers and IWD employees informed about critical employment issues affecting Iowa. For more information, contact Kathryn Hommer via e-mail at [kathryn.hommer@iwd.iowa.gov](mailto:kathryn.hommer@iwd.iowa.gov) or 515-281-5407.

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

## Employee Anniversaries

### 5 Years

Lisa Castillo  
Melisa Castillo  
Kristina Hughes

### 10 Years

Andrew Coxe  
15 Years  
Philip Dirksen  
John Hessa  
Steven Larkin

Larry Rincon

### 20 Years

Lori Adams  
Alan Muntz  
25 Years  
Rose Hadley-Kell

### 30-35 Years

Quentin Kooiker  
Marvin Martens  
Arlene Franks  
Thomas Carnahan  
Tana Sabourin  
Diane Oak Goode  
Gloria Cano

### 35+ Years

Karen Johns  
Lee Goers  
Ann Wagner  
Ronald Kutchen



## Retirements

Congratulations to all the IWD Employees who have decided to retire after many years of dedicated service. We wish all of you the best of luck in the future.

### 40 Years

Mary Lea Bryant

### 30+ Years

Gary Haster  
Lynn Paustian