

Status of the Iowa Workforce and Economy

2015 Statewide News Release Schedule

Reference Month	Statewide News Release	Local Area News Release
Dec	Jan 27	Jan 27
Jan	Mar 17	Mar 17
Feb	Mar 27	Mar 27
Mar	Apr 21	Apr 21
Apr	May 27	May 27
May	June 19	June 23
June	July 21	July 21
July	Aug 21	Aug 25
Aug	Sept 18	Sept 22
Sept	Oct 20	Oct 20
Oct	Nov 20	Nov 24
Nov	Dec 18	Dec 22
Dec	Jan 26	Jan 26

Iowa Nonfarm Employment by Quarter

	Average Employment	Percent Change from Prior Qtr
2013 - Qtr 1	1,519,900	0.4%
Qtr 2	1,523,800	0.3%
Qtr 3	1,534,400	0.7%
Qtr 4	1,542,900	0.6%
2014 - Qtr 1	1,538,700	-0.3%
Qtr 2	1,546,400	0.5%
Qtr 3	1,555,100	0.6%
Qtr 4	1,558,700	0.2%

IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Information Prepared by
Labor Force and Occupational
Analysis Bureau

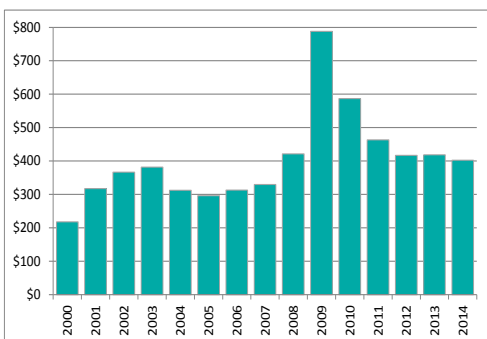
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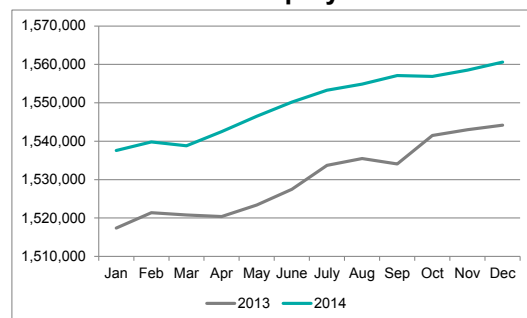
- Iowa's seasonally adjusted jobless rate fell to a post-recession low of 4.1 percent in December from a November rate of 4.3 percent. The current rate is down from the year ago figure of 4.2 percent.
- The U.S. unemployment rate for December fell to 5.6 percent from 5.8 percent in November. While employment increased slightly, a large number of job seekers left the labor force this month.

Iowa Unemployment Insurance Benefits Paid (in millions)



- Regular unemployment benefits paid declined by four percent from \$419 million in 2013 to \$403 million in 2014. This represents the lowest benefit payout since 2007.
- National job growth for the Nation is accelerating. Gains in 2014 averaged 246,000 jobs—52,000 more than the average in 2013.
- The National GDP and nonfarm employment are expected to increase throughout 2015 with full employment projected in 2016.

Total Nonfarm Employment - Iowa



- The state's total nonfarm employment increased by 2,100 jobs in December, raising to a level of 1,560,000. The gain was heavily fueled by goods producing industries along with professional and business services.
- Nonfarm jobs were up 16,400 from last December. Education and health services added 5,600 jobs to lead all sectors. Construction also fared well, gaining 4,700 jobs.
- Iowa's retail sector was sluggish to end the year, as was National data. Early evidence suggests that December may be an outlier for Iowa and the nation, as decreasing energy prices should be a boon to consumers' discretionary income in 2015.

Iowa and U.S. Unemployment Rates - 2014

