



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact

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Iowa's Unemployment Rate Increases to 2.5 Percent

DES MOINES, IOWA – Iowa's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased slightly to 2.5 percent in July. The state's jobless rate was 2.4 percent one year ago. The U.S. unemployment rate remained at 3.7 percent in July.

"After a solid year of 2.4 percent unemployment, unemployment ticked up slightly to 2.5 percent. However, the number of working Iowans increased to 1,680,500 in July, which is 4,000 higher than June and 35,500 higher than one year ago," said Beth Townsend, Director, Iowa Workforce Development. "We continue to have more job openings than we have Iowans to fill them. We have recently seen hundreds of Future Ready Iowa Last-Dollar Scholarships awarded by our community colleges which is a good indication that there are many Iowans who want to get upskilled to take advantage of all of the good jobs available in Iowa."

The number of unemployed Iowans increased to 42,800 in July from 41,400 in June. The current estimate is 1,800 higher than the year ago level of 41,000.

The total number of working lowans increased to 1,680,500 in July. This figure was 4,000 higher than June and 35,500 higher than one year ago.

Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment

Business establishments in Iowa gained 1,800 jobs in July and have now expanded payrolls in each of the last four months. Private service industries were responsible for all of the growth this month. Goods-producing industries contracted by 200 jobs. Government displayed little movement compared to June and has increased only slightly versus last year. Private industry has advanced by 9,900 jobs over the past twelve months.

Professional and business services gained the most jobs in July (+1,400) and were fueled by hiring in administrative and support services (+700). This sector has been disappointing thus far this year, adding jobs in just two months. Professional, scientific, and technical services fared well this month (+600) and is up 1,200 jobs over last year. Leisure and hospitality advanced by 1,100 and has been propelled by hiring in accommodations and food services (+900). The hiring has been especially strong in the Des Moines area. Other gains this month included 500 jobs in construction. This was the fourth consecutive gain for this sector. Job losses were limited to just three sectors, but concentrated within the financial services sector (-1,000). Finance and insurance has been particularly weak recently, shedding 900 jobs in July and generally trending down over the past twelve months. Manufacturing also took a step back this month (-700) following a moderate gain in June. This month's paring was mostly the result of declines in durable goods factories (-900).

Over the past twelve months, total nonfarm employment has advanced by 10,200 with manufacturing adding the most jobs (+6,100). Non-durable goods factories have now outpaced the job growth in durable goods shops following its reduction this month. Education and health services are up 2,500 jobs due to strong gains in health care and social assistance (+3,400).

Super sector losses are now led by financial activities (-1,800). This sector has shown been trimming payrolls at an increasing rate throughout this year. Information continues to adjust to changing technologies and is down 1,400 jobs. Retail trade continues to adjust to shifting consumer preferences and has been a strain to trade, transportation, and utilities which is otherwise adding jobs. Overall, this super sector is down 1,000 jobs annually.

Employment and Unemployment in Iowa, Seasonally Adjusted Data					
	July 2019	June 2019	July 2018	Change from	
				June 2019	July 2018
Civilian labor force	1,723,300	1,717,900	1,686,100	5,400	37,200
Unemployment	42,800	41,400	41,000	1,400	1,800
Unemployment rate	2.5%	2.4%	2.4%	0.1	0.1
Employment	1,680,500	1,676,500	1,645,000	4,000	35,500
U.S. unemployment rate	3.7%	3.7%	3.9%	0.0	-0.2
Nonfarm Employment in Iowa, Seasonally Adjusted Data					
Total Nonfarm Employment	1,594,900	1,593,100	1,584,700	1,800	10,200
Mining	2,500	2,500	2,500	0	0
Construction	79,000	78,500	78,000	500	1,000
Manufacturing	229,200	229,900	223,100	-700	6,100
Trade, transportation and utilities	311,700	311,600	312,700	100	-1,000
Information	20,700	20,800	22,100	-100	-1,400
Financial activities	107,400	108,400	109,200	-1,000	-1,800
Professional and business services	141,900	140,500	141,000	1,400	900
Education and health services	236,600	236,300	234,100	300	2,500
Leisure and hospitality	144,800	143,700	143,600	1,100	1,200
Other services	59,800	59,500	57,400	300	2,400
Government	261,300	261,400	261,000	-100	300

Unemployment Insurance Claims for Iowa					
	July 2019	June 2019	July 2018	% Change from	
				June 2019	July 2018
Initial claims	11,687	8,759	11,583	33.4%	0.9%
Continued claims					
Number of claimants	20,070	17,647	20,025	13.7%	0.2%
Weeks paid	69,778	54,285	58,680	28.5%	18.9%
Amount paid	\$25,851,912	\$20,421,079	\$21,092,634	26.6%	22.6%

Visit www.iowalmi.gov for more information about current and historical data, labor force data, nonfarm employment, hours and earnings, and jobless benefits by county.

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

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MEDIA ALERT: Local data for July will be posted to the IWD website on Tuesday, August 20, 2019. Statewide data for August 2019 will be released on Friday, September 20, 2019.