



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact - communications@iwd.iowa.gov

December 18, 2020

Unemployment Insurance Customer Service

www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov

1-866-239-0843 - uicclaimshelp@iwd.iowa.gov

Iowa's Unemployment Rate Drops Slightly to 3.6 Percent in November

Iowa's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.6 percent in November, a slight drop from the October revised rate of 3.7 percent. The state's jobless rate was 2.8 percent one year ago. The U.S. unemployment rate fell to 6.7 percent in November.

"November's rate remained steady as Iowa's workforce adjusts to the seasonal shifts we typically see this time of year," said Director Beth Townsend, Iowa Workforce Development. "While the state's workforce continues its recovery to pre-pandemic levels, we know there are many Iowans still looking for new employment opportunities. I strongly encourage these job seekers to search over 68,000 job postings on IowaWORKS.gov and the IowaWORKS mobile application."

The number of unemployed Iowans declined to 57,900 in November – down from 59,900 in October. The current estimate is 130,100 lower than the Covid-19 peak in April of 188,000 and only 8,500 higher than the year ago level of 49,400. The total number of working Iowans decreased to 1,561,600 in November. This figure is 14,100 lower than October's number of 1,575,700 and 37,000 higher than April 2020.

Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment

Iowa total nonfarm employment decreased in November for the first time since April. The drop of 10,100 jobs leaves total nonfarm employment at 1,503,600 jobs. This loss follows an increase of 11,500 jobs in October and 10,000 in September. Virtually all sectors pared jobs this month, opposite of what employers did last month. Private service industries were responsible for most of the loss (-7,000) and were hampered by declines in trade and recreational industries. Government also shed jobs this month (-1,000) with some of this decrease being the reduction of temporary census workers at the federal level (-500).

Trade, transportation, and utilities shed 2,100 jobs in November to lead all super sectors. Wholesale and retail combined for most of the loss this month (-1,800). Even with the drop, retail remains a bright spot in the economy as firms have adapted to changes in consumer spending and is one of the few sectors nearly even with pre-pandemic levels. The financial services sector shed 1,600 jobs with finance and insurance showing the most losses (-1,300). Like retail, this sector has otherwise been resilient during the pandemic. Arts, entertainment, and recreation lost 1,300 jobs in November. This sector had shown some recovery over the prior months and this month's decline is the first since April when quarantine efforts began. Nondurable goods manufacturing decreased by 1,200 jobs. Some of

these losses stemmed from food and beverage manufacturing. This was also the first decline since April for the sector.

Since April, 108,100 jobs have been added back to Iowa's payrolls. Leisure and hospitality has added the most jobs due mostly to accommodations and food services reopening (+46,500). Retail trade has recovered 17,500 jobs and manufacturing has added 9,000 mostly within nondurable goods factories. Government has gained 13,100 jobs over the past seven months mostly within education.

Unemployment Insurance Claims

The total number of initial claims increased in November by 6,013 (30.6 percent) versus October and have now fallen 131,675 (-83.7 percent) versus the peak of 157,324 seven months ago. For continued claims, most statistics have been reduced to approximately 82 percent of the April levels. The number of claimants dropped by 21.4 percent from last month and are down 146,782 over the prior seven months. The weeks paid dropped to 111,741 in November, less than 20 percent of the 652,623 paid in April, while the total amount paid to claimants fell to \$38.7 million, less than 20 percent of the \$213.5 million paid seven months ago.

MEDIA ALERT: Local data for November will be posted to the IWD website on Tuesday, December 22, 2020. Statewide data for December 2020 will be released on Tuesday, January 26, 2021.

Employment and Unemployment in Iowa, Seasonally Adjusted Data					
				Change from	
	November	April	November	April	November
	2020	2020	2019	2020	2019
Civilian labor force	1,619,500	1,712,600	1,754,300	-93,100	-134,800
Unemployment	57,900	188,000	49,400	-130,100	8,500
Unemployment rate	3.6%	11.0%	2.8%	-7.4	0.8
Employment	1,561,600	1,524,600	1,704,900	37,000	-143,300
U.S. unemployment rate	6.7%	14.7%	3.5%	-8.0	3.2
Nonfarm Employment in Iowa, Seasonally Adjusted Data					
Total Nonfarm Employment	1,503,600	1,395,500	1,586,000	108,100	-82,400
Mining	2,100	2,200	2,300	-100	-200
Construction	70,400	70,100	77,400	300	-7,000
Manufacturing	221,300	212,300	226,500	9,000	-5,200
Trade, transportation and utilities	302,900	287,900	309,500	15,000	-6,600
Information	19,200	19,600	21,000	-400	-1,800
Financial activities	107,700	107,800	108,800	-100	-1,100
Professional and business services	131,100	123,800	138,900	7,300	-7,800
Education and health services	225,100	212,500	235,200	12,600	-10,100
Leisure and hospitality	117,900	71,400	145,500	46,500	-27,600
Other services	53,800	48,900	59,700	4,900	-5,900
Government	252,100	239,000	261,200	13,100	-9,100

(above data subject to revision)

Unemployment Insurance Claims for Iowa					
				% Change from	
	November	April	November	April	November
	2020	2020	2019	2020	2019
Initial claims	25,649	157,324	17,463	-83.7%	46.9%
Continued claims					
Number of claimants	35,877	182,659	19,433	-80.4%	84.6%
Weeks paid	111,741	652,623	53,681	-82.9%	108.2%
Amount paid	\$38,714,617	\$213,451,863	\$21,599,834	-81.9%	79.2%

###

An Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

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

www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov

A proud partner of the  American Job Center network