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Research & Statistics Division



## Iowa Unemployment Remains High

**Iowa Workforce and Unemployment:** The Iowa unemployment rate remained 3.4 percent of the workforce for the third month in a row. Normally, March shows a decrease in unemployment due to the seasonal increase in outdoor jobs. The March, 1969 rate was 2.6 percent.

The total number of unemployed in mid-March was 40,500 or 100 more than mid-February of this year. This total was 9,500 greater than the number of unemployed during mid-March, 1969.

On the brighter side, an increase in agricultural employment was mainly responsible for a 19,300 person gain in the Iowa civilian workforce in mid-March over mid-February. The mid-March Iowa workforce totaled 1,201,500.

**Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment:** The number of employees in this category increased 3,500 from mid-February to mid-March. The mid-March total was 875,500 or 11,800 above the March, 1969 total.

In mid-March, 217,100 persons were employed in manufacturing jobs, 2,100 fewer than mid-February and 7,700 fewer than mid-March, 1969. Durable goods industries reported a loss of 1,600 workers. Layoffs in electrical equipment and supplies, transporta-

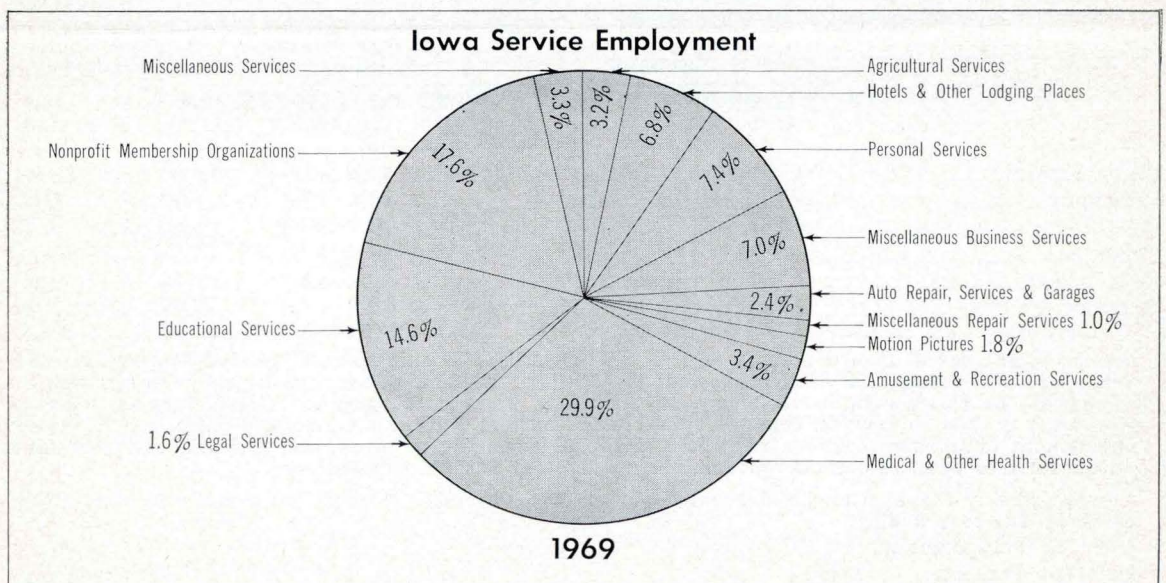
tion equipment and other durable goods were responsible for 1,100 of the employment loss in the durable goods category. Nondurable goods industries showed a loss of 500 workers between mid-February and mid-March.

Nonmanufacturing employment in March rose 5,600 from February to a March level of 658,400. Contract construction had a seasonal increase of 1,400 workers. Retail trade also reported a seasonal rise of 3,500 workers. General merchandise stores hired 600 additional workers while eating and drinking firms had a gain of 1,500.

**Service Employment in Iowa:** An average of 141,700 persons were employed by Iowa's service industries in 1969. The largest number, 42,400 or 29.9 percent of the total, were employed in medical and other health services.

Nonprofit membership organizations had the second largest number of service personnel in Iowa with an average of 24,900 people or 17.6 percent of the total. Nearly half of these workers were employed by religious organizations.

The miscellaneous services group includes engineering and architectural services; nonprofit educational and scientific research agencies; accounting, auditing and bookkeep-



# Hours and Earnings of Production Workers By Industry In Iowa, March, 1970<sup>1</sup>

(Prepared in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Labor)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings <sup>2</sup>			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Mar. 1970	Feb. 1970	Mar. 1969	Mar. 1970	Feb. 1970	Mar. 1969	Mar. 1970	Feb. 1970	Mar. 1969
MANUFACTURING .....	\$143.35	\$142.60	\$136.55	39.6	39.5	40.4	\$3.62	\$3.61	\$3.38
<b>Durable Goods</b> .....	143.11	140.89	136.12	40.2	39.8	41.0	3.56	3.54	3.32
Lumber & furniture.....	114.85	112.81	99.97	38.8	38.5	38.6	2.96	2.93	2.59
Stone, clay & glass products.....	149.02	144.91	138.74	43.7	43.0	44.9	3.41	3.37	3.09
Primary metal industries.....	156.29	155.54	162.80	41.9	41.7	44.0	3.73	3.73	3.70
Fabricated metal products.....	131.78	132.33	123.93	40.3	40.1	40.9	3.27	3.30	3.03
Machinery except electrical.....	164.83	161.60	155.42	40.8	40.3	40.9	4.04	4.01	3.80
Farm machinery.....	174.10	172.80	162.77	40.3	40.0	39.7	4.32	4.32	4.10
Const. & related machinery.....	164.25	156.21	159.40	41.9	41.0	44.4	3.92	3.81	3.59
Electrical equip. & supplies.....	124.73	123.91	123.71	39.1	38.6	41.1	3.19	3.21	3.01
Transportation equipment.....	121.39	117.34	121.18	39.8	38.6	40.8	3.05	3.04	2.97
Other durable goods.....	120.05	120.40	116.22	37.4	38.1	39.0	3.21	3.16	2.98
<b>Nondurable Goods</b> .....	144.32	144.69	136.67	38.9	39.0	39.5	3.71	3.71	3.46
Food & kindred products.....	152.49	150.16	145.24	39.2	38.8	39.9	3.89	3.87	3.64
Meat products.....	167.77	163.02	159.06	37.7	36.8	38.7	4.45	4.43	4.11
Grain-mill products.....	155.79	155.73	144.90	42.8	42.9	42.0	3.64	3.63	3.45
Apparel & other textile prod.....	80.55	82.49	78.34	35.8	36.5	36.1	2.25	2.26	2.17
Paper & allied products.....	123.11	123.23	114.58	43.5	43.7	43.9	2.83	2.82	2.61
Printing & publishing.....	144.02	142.13	133.41	38.1	37.6	37.9	3.78	3.78	3.52
Newspapers.....	140.63	137.23	131.17	34.3	33.8	34.7	4.10	4.06	3.78
Chemicals & allied products.....	149.04	148.99	140.35	41.4	41.5	41.4	3.60	3.59	3.39
Rubber & plastics products, nec.....	148.99	170.25	147.78	35.9	39.5	37.7	4.15	4.31	3.92
Other nondurable goods.....	82.26	78.04	76.20	38.8	37.7	38.1	2.12	2.07	2.00
SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING									
Nonmetallic mining.....	155.31	143.69	144.50	50.1	46.5	50.0	3.10	3.09	2.89
Comm., elec., gas & sanitary svcs... <sup>3</sup>	131.71	131.37	124.41	38.4	38.3	39.0	3.43	3.43	3.19
Department stores.....	59.31	59.06	56.41	*	*	*	*	*	*
Banking.....	87.93	87.16	82.06	*	*	*	*	*	*
Insurance carriers & agents.....	104.77	106.92	102.40	*	*	*	*	*	*
Laundries & dry clean. plants.....	63.32	64.77	59.57	*	*	*	*	*	*

## Hours and Earnings For Total Manufacturing in Selected Iowa Areas, March, 1970<sup>1</sup>

(Prepared in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Labor)

AREA	Average Weekly Earnings <sup>2</sup>			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Mar. 1970	Feb. 1970	Mar. 1969	Mar. 1970	Feb. 1970	Mar. 1969	Mar. 1970	Feb. 1970	Mar. 1969
Cedar Rapids.....	\$149.45	\$139.79	\$137.32	41.4	39.6	41.5	\$3.61	\$3.53	\$3.31
Davenport.....	\$162.39	160.39	160.82	40.7	40.4	42.1	3.99	3.97	3.82
Des Moines.....	148.96	152.05	140.48	39.2	39.7	39.3	3.80	3.83	3.57
Dubuque.....	155.66	154.46	143.03	37.6	37.4	37.6	4.14	4.13	3.80
Sioux City.....	126.23	128.11	127.98	40.2	40.8	42.1	3.14	3.14	3.04
Waterloo.....	158.80	160.00	155.13	39.8	39.8	40.8	3.99	4.02	3.81

<sup>1</sup> Estimates are based upon a sample of full and part-time production and related employees, who were employed during the week containing the 12th of the month. Average hourly earnings reflect, in addition to changes in basic hourly and incentive wage rates, such variable factors as overtime premium pay, late shift work, changes in output of workers paid on an incentive basis, and changing employment of workers between relatively high-paid and low-paid work, and full-time and part-time status. Revised to most current information available at date of publication.

<sup>2</sup> Average weekly earnings may not equal the product of average weekly hours and average hourly earnings due to rounding.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes transportation.

\* Data not available.

## Labor Turnover Rates For Selected Iowa Manufacturing Industries, March, 1970<sup>1</sup>

(Prepared in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Labor)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATES				SEPARATION RATES					
	Total		New Hires		Total		Quits		Layoffs	
	Mar. 1970 <sup>2</sup>	Feb. 1970	Mar. 1970 <sup>2</sup>	Feb. 1970	Mar. 1970 <sup>2</sup>	Feb. 1970	Mar. 1970 <sup>2</sup>	Feb. 1970	Mar. 1970 <sup>2</sup>	Feb. 1970
MANUFACTURING.....	2.8	3.2	1.8	2.1	4.3	3.8	1.6	1.6	2.1	1.6
<b>Durable Goods</b> .....	2.7	2.9	1.7	1.7	4.4	3.2	1.4	1.3	2.4	1.3
Stone, Clay & Glass Products.....	5.1	3.5	1.1	1.9	2.2	3.6	1.0	1.6	.7	1.4
Primary Metal Industries.....	3.6	3.1	2.6	2.3	2.5	2.8	1.6	2.0	.1	.1
Fabricated Metal Products.....	4.6	4.6	4.4	4.4	4.2	3.6	2.8	2.5	.5	.2
Machinery Except Electrical.....	2.3	3.1	1.2	1.2	2.6	2.7	.8	.7	1.3	1.5
Electrical Equipment & Supplies.....	1.5	2.7	.6	1.4	6.1	3.7	1.3	1.3	4.1	1.9
Other Durable Goods.....	2.7	1.5	2.1	1.0	7.3	3.4	1.8	1.5	4.6	1.4
<b>Nondurable Goods</b> .....	2.9	3.8	1.9	2.7	4.1	4.7	1.9	2.1	1.7	2.1
Food & Kindred Products.....	2.7	4.2	1.4	2.7	3.9	5.3	1.4	1.9	2.1	3.0
Meat Products.....	2.8	5.5	1.0	3.1	3.7	7.4	1.0	1.7	2.6	5.3
Printing & Publishing.....	1.4	2.7	1.0	2.1	1.9	3.4	1.2	2.2	.4	.5
Rubber, Plastics & Leather Prod.....	3.3	2.2	1.5	1.4	2.6	4.5	1.5	1.0	.1	2.4
Other Nondurable Goods.....	4.9	4.2	4.4	4.0	7.1	4.0	3.9	3.0	2.6	.5

<sup>1</sup> Figures presented are expressed as a rate per 100 employees.

<sup>2</sup> Preliminary figures.

\* Less than .05

## Average Weekly Overtime Hours of Production Workers In Iowa Manufacturing, March, 1970<sup>1</sup>

(Prepared in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Labor)

INDUSTRY	1970	1970	1970	1969	1969	1969
	Mar.	Feb.	Jan.	Mar.	Feb.	Jan.
MANUFACTURING .....	2.6	2.7	3.3	3.1	3.0	3.4
<b>Durable Goods</b> .....	2.1	2.0	2.3	2.8	2.5	2.7
Lbr., Wood Prod., Furn. & Fixtures...	1.8	1.9	1.7	2.0	1.8	2.2
Stone, Clay & Glass Products.....	5.7	4.9	6.5	6.6	4.8	5.9
Primary Metal Industries.....	4.5	4.4	4.1	6.3	6.1	4.7
Fabricated Metal Products.....	1.6	1.5	2.4	2.1	2.2	2.9
Machinery Except Electrical.....	2.2	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.4
Electrical Equip. & Supplies.....	1.1	1.2	2.6	2.9	2.5	2.8
Other Durable Goods.....	.7	.9	.7	1.6	1.6	1.6
<b>Nondurable Goods</b> .....	3.3	3.8	4.6	3.7	3.8	4.3
Food & Kindred Products.....	3.7	4.0	5.5	4.2	4.3	4.8
Meat Products.....	3.5	3.7	6.3	4.0	3.8	4.2
Apparel & Other Textile Prod.....	.6	.7	1.4	1.2	1.2	.5
Printing & Publishing.....	2.6	2.4	3.5	2.5	2.7	3.6
Chemicals & Allied Products.....	3.6	3.8	3.6	3.4	2.6	2.7
Other Nondurable Goods.....	3.3	5.4	3.9	3.4	4.3	4.8

<sup>1</sup> Estimates are based upon a sample of full and part-time production and related employees, who worked in the above industry groups during the week containing the 12th of the month. Revised to most current information available at the date of publication.

ing services; and firms offering services not classified elsewhere such as artists, writers, lecturers and weather forecasters.

**Iowa Manufacturing Hours and Earnings:** The February average of \$142.60 paid to Iowa's manufacturing production workers increased to \$143.35 a week in March. A six minute increase in the workweek resulted in a one cent rise in hourly wages.

Construction and related machinery recorded the largest weekly salary advance where overtime pushed weekly earnings up \$8.04. The largest decrease occurred in rubber and plastics products where workers earned \$21.26 per week less than they did in February.

Layoffs in electrical equipment and supplies continued to decrease the number of production workers resulting in a two cent per hour

# Nonagricultural Employment By Industry In Iowa March, 1970<sup>1</sup>

(Prepared in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Labor)

INDUSTRY	(Thousands)			Change From:	
	Mar. 1970	Feb. 1970	Mar. 1969	Feb. 1970 to Mar. 1970	Mar. 1969 to Mar. 1970
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL.....	875.5	872.0	863.7	3,500	11,800
MANUFACTURING.....	217.1	219.2	224.8	-2,100	-7,700
<b>Durable Goods</b> .....	125.7	127.3	132.3	-1,600	-6,600
Lumber & furniture.....	8.2	8.2	8.5	0	— 300
Stone, clay & glass products.....	5.9	5.6	5.9	300	0
Primary metal industries.....	8.6	8.6	8.7	0	— 100
Fabricated metal products.....	13.3	13.3	12.3	0	1,000
Machinery (except electrical).....	47.2	47.3	47.7	— 100	— 500
Farm machinery.....	26.3	26.3	27.4	0	-1,100
Const. & related machinery.....	8.8	8.9	8.9	— 100	— 100
Electrical equip. & supplies.....	24.6	25.6	27.8	-1,000	-3,200
Transportation equipment.....	5.2	5.4	5.6	— 200	— 400
Other durable goods <sup>2</sup> .....	12.7	13.2	15.8	— 500	-3,100
<b>Nondurable Goods</b> .....	91.4	91.9	92.6	— 500	-1,200
Food & kindred products.....	51.8	52.4	53.7	— 600	-1,900
Meat products.....	25.5*	26.0*	27.1	— 500	-1,600
Grain-mill products.....	10.7	10.9	10.9	— 200	— 200
Bakery products.....	3.5	3.5	3.5	0	0
Apparel & other textile prod.....	4.3	4.3	4.1	0	200
Paper & allied products.....	3.9	3.9	4.0	0	— 100
Printing & publishing.....	13.9	14.0	13.4	— 100	500
Newspapers.....	6.6	6.7	6.5	— 100	100
Chemicals & allied products.....	8.0	7.9	7.4	100	600
Rubber & plastics products, nec.....	7.6	7.5	7.9	100	— 300
Other nondurable goods <sup>3</sup> .....	2.0	2.0	2.0	0	0
NONMANUFACTURING.....	658.4	652.8	638.8	5,600	19,600
Nonmetallic mining.....	2.9	2.8	2.7	100	200
Contract construction.....	33.7	32.3	34.1	1,400	— 400
Transportation & public utilities.....	50.4	50.4	50.2	0	200
Railroad transportation.....	10.1	10.3	11.0	— 200	— 900
Communication.....	12.5	12.4	11.7	100	500
Elec., gas & sanitary services.....	9.5	9.4	9.2	100	300
Wholesale & retail trade.....	205.3	201.5	200.2	3,800	5,100
Wholesale trade.....	43.5	43.2	43.8	300	— 300
Retail trade.....	161.8	158.3	156.5	3,500	5,300
Retail general merchandise.....	24.5	23.9	24.3	600	200
Finance, insurance & real estate.....	41.7	41.7	39.9	0	1,800
Banking.....	13.1	13.2	12.4	— 100	700
Insurance carriers & agents.....	17.8	17.7	16.7	100	1,100
Services.....	144.4	143.4	140.8	1,000	3,600
Medical & other health services.....	43.8	43.6	41.8	200	2,000
Government.....	179.9	180.8	170.9	— 900	9,000
Federal govt.....	22.8	23.3	21.2	— 500	1,600
State govt.....	41.9	41.7	40.5	200	1,400
Local govt.....	115.1	115.8	109.1	— 700	6,000

<sup>1</sup> Revised to most current information available at date of publication. Data include all full and part-time wage and salary workers employed during the week containing the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employed, domestic workers, and the armed forces are excluded. Detail may not add up to total due to rounding.

<sup>2</sup> Includes ordnance & accessories, instruments, related products & misc. mfg.

<sup>3</sup> Includes textile mill products, petroleum & coal products and leather and leather products.

\* Strike

wage decrease. However, a cutback of lower paid workers in other durable goods production had the opposite effect of raising the hourly wage five cents.

### Labor Turnover in Iowa Manufacturing:

The demand for manufacturing workers con-

tinued to show signs of slackening. Hiring activity decreased and layoffs rose while voluntary quits remained unchanged.

The March layoff rate was the highest recorded since August of 1964. The manufacturing layoff rate rose from 16 per 1,000 workers in February to 21 per 1,000 workers

## Workforce and Unemployment For State and Selected Areas

AREA	Workforce (000)	Number Unemployed (000)	Percent of Workforce Unemployed	Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Employment <sup>1</sup> (000)	Manu- facturing Employment (000)
<b>March 1970<sup>2</sup></b>					
IOWA .....	1,201.5	40.5	3.4	875.5	217.1
Cedar Rapids.....	75.3	2.3	3.0	65.2	26.3
Council Bluffs .....	*	*	*	*	*
Davenport .....	*	*	*	49.1	16.0
Des Moines.....	146.6	3.7	2.5	130.0	26.9
Dubuque.....	41.2	1.2	2.8	34.1	14.2
Sioux City.....	50.1	1.8	3.6	40.3	8.7
Waterloo.....	59.0	2.9	4.9	49.8	18.9
<b>February 1970</b>					
IOWA .....	1,182.2	40.4	3.4	872.0	219.2
Cedar Rapids.....	75.3	1.9	2.5	65.9	27.0
Council Bluffs .....	*	*	*	*	*
Davenport .....	*	*	*	49.0	16.1
Des Moines.....	145.2	3.6	2.5	129.1	26.9
Dubuque.....	41.0	1.1	2.7	34.3	14.4
Sioux City.....	49.3	1.7	3.4	39.9	8.5
Waterloo.....	58.8	2.4	4.2	50.2	19.3
<b>March 1969</b>					
IOWA .....	1,182.9	31.0	2.6	863.7	224.8
Cedar Rapids.....	75.8	1.5	1.9	66.3	27.7
Council Bluffs .....	*	*	*	*	*
Davenport .....	*	*	*	48.7	16.6
Des Moines.....	142.2	3.0	2.1	126.4	26.5
Dubuque.....	39.7	1.1	2.9	32.7	13.7
Sioux City.....	49.5	1.6	3.2	40.9	9.9
Waterloo.....	58.4	1.8	3.0	50.2	19.9

<sup>1</sup> Excludes self-employed, domestics, unpaid family workers and members of the armed forces.

<sup>2</sup> Preliminary data.

\* Data not available at time of publication.

Council Bluffs and Davenport areas include Iowa portions only.

in March as a result of a large number of durable goods layoffs.

New hires, which reflect manpower adjustments to production changes, decreased over the month. The new hire rate fell from 21 per 1,000 workers in February to 18 per 1,000 workers in March. Total accessions, which include new hires as well as recalls and trans-

fers from other establishments within the same company, fell from 32 to 28 per 1,000 workers during the month.

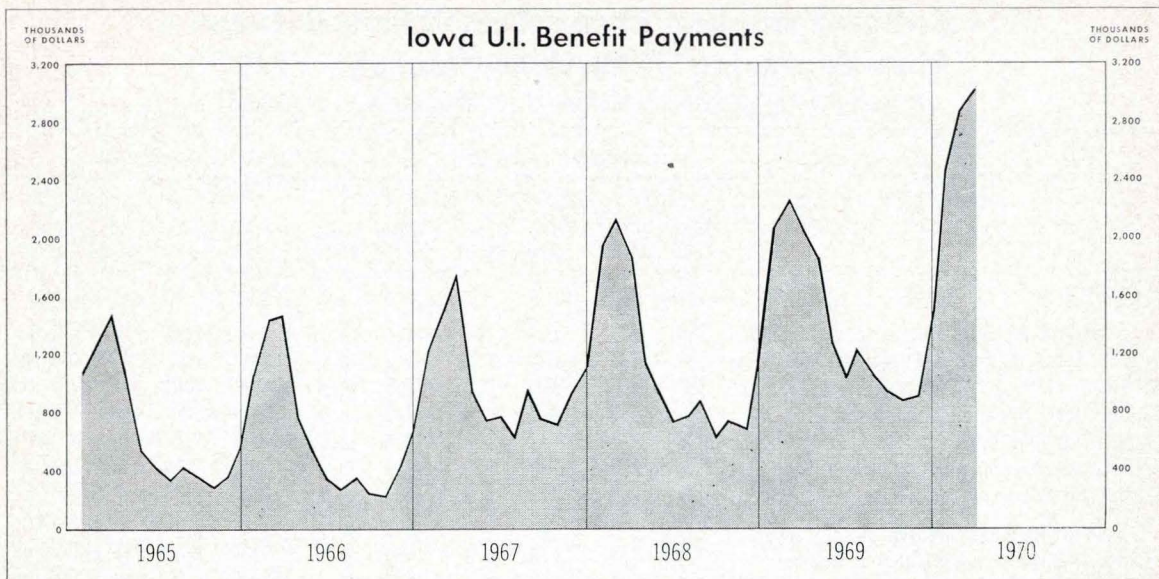
Factory quits, which tend to reflect the availability of job opportunities, remained unchanged from February occurring at a rate of 16 per 1,000 workers.

### Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed<sup>1</sup> in Iowa March, 1970

INDUSTRY	Total Insured Unemployed			Number of Women in Total Insured Unemployed			Number of Insured People Unemployed 5 Weeks or More		
	Mar. 1970	Feb. 1970	Mar. 1969	Mar. 1970	Feb. 1970	Mar. 1969	Mar. 1970	Feb. 1970	Mar. 1969
Total.....	15,868	15,865	11,649	4,804	4,292	2,899	10,357	10,084	8,451
Contract const.....	5,374	6,017	4,863	*	*	*	4,311	4,245	3,955
Manufacturing.....	6,561	6,021	4,043	3,218	2,642	1,712	3,641	3,383	2,590
<b>Durable Goods.....</b>	4,459	4,119	2,610	1,988	1,424	756	2,448	2,287	1,532
<b>Nondurable Goods..</b>	2,102	1,902	1,433	1,230	1,218	956	1,193	1,096	1,058
Trade.....	2,290	2,038	1,327	966	946	647	1,298	1,268	912
All other.....	1,643	1,789	1,416	*	*	*	1,107	1,188	994

<sup>1</sup> The insured unemployed are for the week including the 12th and are based on a survey of claims filed during the week including the 19th.

\* Less than 5 per cent of total insured unemployed.



## Employment Security Activities

**Characteristics of Iowa's Insured Unemployed:** The number of insured unemployed, all categories, showed an increase this March over March 1969. When comparing March 1970 to February 1970, some decreases were found.

During the survey week, nearly the same number of persons filed for unemployment insurance in March as did in February. Of the total of 15,868 registrants, 11,064 were men. This is the third month in a row that the total number of men filing in Iowa for unemployment insurance, during the survey week, totaled more than 10,000. However, it is the first month since September 1969 that the number of men filing is less than the previous month and the 15th consecutive month in which current insured unemployment was higher than the same month a year ago.

The ages of those registering during the month of March are very similar to the age groupings of February with the only decreases noticed in the 45 to 54 and 55 to 64 age

groups. Those registrants under age 25 showed a 105 percent increase over March 1969.

**General Employment Picture Slowly Picking Up:** The general employment picture in Iowa is slowly beginning to pick up, but construction has not yet been a factor in the hiring of available workers. Employment activities were generally greater in March than they were in February of this year. Total placements in March were up 3 percent while new applicants were up 7 percent.

**Iowa U.I. Benefit Payments:** During 1969, unemployed workers protected by the Iowa unemployment insurance program collected \$16,896,200 in benefit payments for 363,400 weeks of unemployment. The greatest amount of benefits was paid in 1961 when payments for 666,200 weeks of unemployment totalled \$19,574,600.

The amount of benefit payments have been steadily increasing since 1966, when benefit payments of \$7,649,200 were the lowest since 1955.

## Summary of Employment Security Activities

ACTIVITY	March 1970		February 1970		March 1969	
	Total	Female	Total	Female	Total	Female
New applicants.....	8,541	3,661	8,003	3,192	6,509	2,787
Total placements.....	3,606	*	3,497	*	4,903	*
Nonagricultural.....	3,460	1,109	3,392	1,168	4,729	1,235
Agricultural.....	146	*	105	*	174	*
Job openings received <sup>1</sup> .....	5,151	*	4,663	*	5,920	*
Active applications.....	32,149	12,353	32,608	12,321	25,035	9,826
Initial claims.....	7,656	2,519	8,660	2,396	4,289	1,262
Continued claims.....	73,127	21,730	63,981	16,585	46,718	12,002
Number of first payments issued.....	4,330	1,514	5,625	1,421	2,427	768
Amount of benefits paid.....	\$3,021,095	\$716,763	\$2,887,306	\$580,554	\$2,024,203	\$360,013
Average weekly benefit payment.....	\$49.72	\$41.49	\$49.58	\$39.58	\$46.48	\$34.40
Average weekly payment for total unemployment.....	\$51.36	\$44.25	\$51.23	\$42.36	\$48.55	\$38.08

<sup>1</sup> Limited to nonagricultural activities.

\* Data not available.