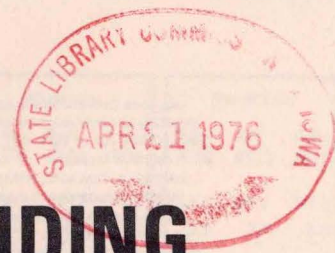


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	IOWA		LABOR MARKET			

employment and unemployment
hours and earnings
labor turnover
unemployment insurance
employment security activities

March 1976

**IOWA
EMPLOYMENT
SECURITY
COMMISSION**

Research & Statistics Department

**1000 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50319**

Commissioners
Abe D. Clayman
Colleen P. Shearer
George A. Lundberg

Iowa employment data in this issue has been adjusted to March 1975 benchmark levels. As a result, current statistics are not always comparable with data published earlier. Revised historical data will be available.

METHODOLOGY FOR FINDING IOWA'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE CHANGED BY FEDERAL MANDATE

A recent directive from the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor has mandated that Iowa and 22 other states must adjust their unemployment rates to conform with the national rate.

The national rate is estimated each month through a survey method in which a sampling of households is used to gather employment and unemployment data. This methodology is also used by 27 states in arriving at their monthly jobless rates. The 23 remaining states—including Iowa—use a different methodology in determining their unemployment rates. Essentially, the Iowa method involves utilizing sample reporting firms' employment data and unemployment estimates based on job insurance claims.

In making the adjustments required by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the estimates for the nation and 27 states using the household survey were assumed to be correct. Employment and unemployment for these states were subtracted from the national figures. The balance that was left was compared to the sum of the remaining 23 states and a downward adjustment was mandated. The Bureau of Labor Statistics decided to treat the 23 states equally and apply the same adjustment to each state.

This revision will result in estimates of the Iowa unemployment rate in recent months to be approximately one half of one percentage point lower than before the change.

Labor Areas

In addition to requiring that employment and unemployment estimates for the states add to the national total, the

Bureau of Labor Statistics directed that the estimates for labor areas and counties in Iowa also be revised similar to the state and add to the state total. Estimates for the state are computed separately from the counties rather than by adding county estimates together. Unemployment rates will be available for every labor area and county in Iowa on a current basis and will be included in this publication in the future.

Other Adjustments

Among other adjustments bringing changes to the labor force estimates were revisions in the number of new entrants—those coming into the labor market for the first time—and reentrants—those returning to the labor market after having left it.

Updated and more complete information on agricultural and nonagricultural wage and salary workers also brought changes in the labor force estimates.

The accumulation of these revisions is expected to change the unemployment rates in Iowa and its areas.

Anyone wanting additional information on these changes or on the overall method of figuring the unemployment rate should contact John Niemeyer (515) 281-5197 or Clay Seaton (515) 281-3020, Research & Statistics Department, Iowa Employment Security Commission, 1000 East Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

Table I - Iowa Nonagricultural Employment 1/

	Feb. 1976	Jan. 1976	Feb. 1975	Change From:	
				Jan. 1976 to Feb. 1976	Feb. 1975 to Feb. 1976
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL	990.2	989.3	973.6	900	16,600
MANUFACTURING	228.9	228.6	235.0	300	-6,100
Durable Goods.....	139.7	139.6	146.3	100	-6,600
Lumber & furniture.....	8.3	8.3	8.1	0	200
Stone, clay & glass products.....	5.4	5.5	5.6	100	-200
Primary metal industries.....	7.2	7.1*	8.3	100	-1,100
Fabricated metal products.....	15.8*	15.7	17.5	100	-1,700
Machinery except electrical.....	59.3	59.1	63.2	200	-3,900
Farm machinery.....	28.2	28.1	30.4*	100	-2,200
Construction & related machinery	18.2	18.2	19.4	0	-1,200
Electrical equipment & supplies.....	24.6	24.8	24.9	-200	-300
Transportation equipment.....	8.2*	8.2*	8.3	0	-100
Other durable goods 2/.....	10.9	10.9	10.3*	0	600
Nondurable Goods.....	89.3	89.0	88.7	300	600
Food & kindred products.....	47.3*	47.1	48.5	200	-1,200
Meat products.....	23.6*	23.3*	24.7	300	-1,100
Grain mill products.....	11.0	11.0	10.9	0	100
Bakery products.....	2.9	2.9	2.9	0	0
Apparel & other textile products....	4.2	4.3	3.7	-100	500
Paper & allied products.....	3.9	3.8	3.5	100	400
Printing & publishing.....	14.8	14.7	14.6	100	200
Newspapers.....	6.5	6.4	6.4	100	0
Chemicals & allied products.....	7.1*	7.1*	7.3	0	-200
Rubber & plastics products, nec.....	10.2	10.1*	9.3	100	900
Other nondurable goods 3/.....	1.9	1.9	1.9	0	0
NONMANUFACTURING	761.3	760.7	738.6	600	22,700
Nonmetallic mining.....	2.4	2.3	2.4	100	0
Contract construction.....	38.1	38.9	37.5	-800	600
Transportation & public utilities.....	53.6	53.9	54.3	-300	-700
Railroad transportation.....	8.4	8.5	9.2	-100	-800
Communication.....	13.2	13.2	13.4	0	-200
Electric, gas & sanitary services....	10.8	10.8	10.7	0	100
Wholesale & retail trade.....	242.8	244.3	235.5	-1,500	7,300
Wholesale trade.....	51.0*	51.2	49.3	-200	1,700
Retail trade.....	191.8	193.1	186.3	-1,300	5,600
Retail general merchandise.....	27.8	29.0	27.9	-1,200	-100
Finance, insurance & real estate....	46.6	46.8	46.4	-200	200
Banking.....	15.8	15.9	15.5	-100	300
Insurance carriers & agents.....	18.4	18.6	18.7	-200	-300
Services.....	177.9	177.2	170.9	700	7,000
Medical & other health services....	58.5	58.5	55.6	0	2,900
Government.....	199.9	197.4	191.4	2,500	8,500
Federal government.....	19.2	19.4	19.5	-200	-300
State government.....	49.4	49.3	47.0	100	2,400
Local government.....	131.3	128.7	124.9	2,600	6,400
Persons Involved in Labor- Management Disputes.....	.8	.6	1.3	200	-500

1/ Revised to most current information available at 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. (March, 1975 benchmark levels)

2/ Includes ordnance & accessories, instruments & related products and miscellaneous manufacturing.

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

* Strike

Tables prepared in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Labor.

EMPLOYMENT in nonagricultural sectors was relatively stable over the month . . . experiencing a total change of less than 0.1%. On a major industry level in manufacturing, the largest changes from January were the addition of 200 workers in food products and machinery industries. Of the remaining manufacturing industries, no fluctuation was greater than 100. Nonmanufacturing was influenced by seasonal forces . . . construction employment down due to winter conditions and almost exactly at the point it was a year . . . trade declining after the holiday buildup but still significantly ahead of last year . . . and public school employment up. Labor-management disputes were up slightly over the month . . . but sharply under the February 1975 count. Total employment for the month numbered 1,183,300 . . . compared to 1,177,600 for January . . . and 1,185,600 in February of last year.

Iowa's **UNEMPLOYMENT** tally for February showed a 600 decrease from January . . . 83,200 unemployed in the current count compared to 83,800 during the preceding month. In contrast to last February's jobless level of 74,100, the present figure shows an upsurge of 9,100 unemployed workers over the year. Due to a Department of Labor directive, new methodology was introduced into the process of estimating the state's **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE** (see front page article). As a result, the estimates of Iowa's unemployment rates—actual and seasonally adjusted—will be approximately one half of a percentage point lower than previously estimated. For example, January's seasonally adjusted rate changed from 5.3% to 4.9% through the use of the new methodology . . . and the state's unadjusted moved downward from 7.1% to 6.6%. The February seasonally adjusted rate was estimated by the new method to be 4.9% . . . and the unadjusted rate 6.6% . . . both rates the same as January's estimates. Over the year rates remained unchanged . . . the February 1975 seasonally adjusted staying at 4.4% . . . and the unadjusted rate holding at 5.9%.

The civilian **LABOR FORCE** in Iowa numbering 1,266,500 showed growth in February . . . rising 5,100 above January's 1,261,400 . . . and exceeding the February 1975 count by 6,700.

February's **JOB INSURANCE** payments through the state's regular program set an all-time record . . . issuing warrants totaling \$11,891,358 . . . and topping the previous high of \$11,621,222 set in January by \$270,136. The average weekly payment for February was \$85.46 . . . compared to \$84.21 in the preceding month. A year ago, payments for February amounted to \$8,666,770 . . . with an average weekly payment of \$69.17. In the February survey week (February 15-21), a count of 37,532 workers filed job insurance claims . . . an increase of only 57 over the January figure of 37,475. In February 1975, job insurance claims in the state program were filed by 35,903 workers.

In total private **HOURS and EARNINGS**, a shorter workweek dropped average weekly earnings very slightly over the month . . . with durable goods industries experiencing a shorter workweek in all but three areas . . . and the nondurables producing a similar pattern. In nonmanufacturing, mining was the lone industry to record an increase in hours . . . while several industries reported wage hikes.

LABOR TURNOVER: With the slackening of recalls over the month, labor demands in the manufacturing sector decreased . . . and new hires slowed also. **Please note the new recalls addition to Table V—the first time recalls have been listed separately. By definition, recalls are permanent or temporary additions to the employment roll of workers specifically recalled to jobs previously held following layoffs lasting more than seven consecutive calendar days. The over the month separations dip resulted from fewer layoffs. Quits were also lower.**

WHAT'S UP AHEAD? . . . The economic picture altered little from January . . . no startling improvements . . . no notable setbacks. Stability in business activity was evident . . . seasonal in nature . . . hiring patterns level . . . fewer layoffs . . . continued recalls of idled workers. This picture signals an end to the decline in manufacturing employment . . . a more robust turnover of goods. The way ahead for agricultural and construction hiring shows increases with the advance into spring. As hiring keeps pace with expected needs ahead, the labor supply for most job openings is adequate . . . with the possible exceptions of some clerical, service and professional openings. The light at the end of the tunnel of recession glows faintly . . . even distantly . . . but promises increased brightness. Suggest anticipation of a brighter economy . . . slow in developing but moving ever forward, inching ahead.

Table VII - Gross and Spendable Average Weekly Earnings of Production or Nonsupervisory Workers in Iowa

	Gross Average Weekly Earnings			Spendable Average Weekly Earnings					
				Worker With No Dependents			Married Worker With Three Dependents		
	Feb. 1976	Jan. 1976	Feb. 1975	Feb. 1976	Jan. 1976	Feb. 1975	Feb. 1976	Jan. 1976	Feb. 1975
TOTAL PRIVATE	\$163.61	\$164.52	\$153.15	\$129.28	\$129.88	\$121.55	\$142.92	\$143.58	\$134.38
MANUFACTURING	226.00	226.33	212.26	171.13	171.36	161.57	187.05	187.28	176.47
Durable Goods	228.74	228.50	217.59	173.00	172.84	165.24	188.96	188.79	180.17
Nondurable Goods	221.92	222.96	204.23	168.32	169.03	156.04	184.22	184.94	170.83
NONMANUFACTURING	144.21	145.74	134.11	115.80	116.87	108.30	129.55	130.54	122.04
Mining	217.86	222.16	204.18	165.52	168.48	156.01	181.40	184.39	170.79
Contract Construction	288.97	296.16	271.47	213.05	217.52	201.43	230.97	236.11	218.39
Transportation & Public Utilities	243.17	242.35	216.24	182.76	182.21	164.31	198.98	198.41	179.23
Wholesale & Retail Trade	127.72	128.44	113.49	104.33	104.83	93.78	118.78	119.25	108.50
Finance & Real Estate	127.77	125.71	123.31	104.36	102.93	100.79	118.81	117.46	114.96
Services	112.40	113.80	107.55	93.44	94.44	89.53	107.99	109.11	104.11

Table VIII - Hours and Earnings of Iowa Production or Nonsupervisory Workers 1/

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings			Average Weekly Overtime Hours 1/		
	Feb. 1976	Jan. 1976	Feb. 1975	Feb. 1976	Jan. 1976	Feb. 1975	Feb. 1976	Jan. 1976	Feb. 1975	Feb. 1976	Jan. 1976	Feb. 1975
TOTAL PRIVATE.....	\$163.61	\$164.52	\$153.15	35.8	36.0	35.7	\$4.57	\$4.57	\$4.29	*	*	*
MANUFACTURING.....	226.00	226.33	212.26	40.0	40.2	40.2	5.65	5.63	5.28	2.6	2.7	2.7
Durable Goods.....	228.74	228.50	217.59	40.2	40.3	40.9	5.69	5.67	5.32	2.0	2.0	2.4
Lumber & furniture.....	177.37	179.41	158.67	37.9	38.5	36.9	4.68	4.66	4.30	1.2	1.3	0.9
Stone, clay & glass products.....	231.32	223.34	195.35	43.4	42.3	41.3	5.33	5.28	4.73	5.9	5.1	4.5
Primary metal industries.....	252.74	254.79	218.15	41.5	41.7	40.7	6.09	6.11	5.36	3.2	3.4	3.2
Fabricated metal products.....	202.51	203.00	190.88	40.1	40.6	40.7	5.05	5.00	4.69	1.4	1.8	1.5
Machinery except electrical.....	270.35	269.12	259.11	40.9	40.9	42.2	6.61	6.58	6.14	2.2	2.2	3.1
Farm machinery.....	282.20	280.50	281.20	40.2	39.9	42.8	7.02	7.03	6.57	2.5	2.4	2.5
Construction & related machinery.....	287.04	285.79	258.34	41.3	41.6	41.6	6.95	6.87	6.21	1.5	1.6	5.0
Electrical equipment & supplies.....	187.50	190.90	177.06	38.9	39.2	39.7	4.82	4.87	4.46	0.9	1.2	1.3
Transportation equipment.....	174.29	171.37	166.46	41.3	40.9	40.9	4.22	4.19	4.07	2.5	2.0	1.5
Other durable goods.....	164.87	163.11	160.74	37.9	38.2	38.0	4.35	4.27	4.23	0.8	1.0	1.2
Nondurable goods.....	221.92	222.96	204.23	39.7	40.1	39.2	5.59	5.56	5.21	3.6	3.7	3.3
Food & kindred products.....	244.61	247.46	229.70	40.1	40.7	40.8	6.10	6.08	5.63	4.4	4.5	4.2
Meat products.....	271.76	277.67	249.01	39.5	40.3	39.4	6.88	6.89	6.32	4.3	4.8	3.7
Grain mill products.....	244.02	240.51	245.59	41.5	41.9	43.7	5.88	5.74	5.62	4.6	4.0	5.2
Apparel & other textile products.....	105.73	104.30	95.16	35.6	35.0	32.7	2.97	2.98	2.91	0.4	0.5	0.5
Paper & allied products.....	192.23	196.82	172.89	40.9	41.7	40.3	4.70	4.72	4.29	3.9	3.8	3.1
Printing & publishing.....	214.67	211.45	188.38	40.2	40.2	37.6	5.34	5.26	5.01	3.3	3.1	2.3
Newspapers.....	178.68	170.35	158.72	34.1	33.6	32.0	5.24	5.07	4.96	2.6	1.7	1.6
Chemicals & allied products.....	224.32	225.89	206.92	40.2	40.7	40.1	5.58	5.55	5.16	2.0	2.4	1.9
Rubber & plastics products, nec.....	215.65	216.96	185.04	38.1	38.4	36.0	5.66	5.65	5.14	3.2	3.2	2.6
Other nondurable goods.....	107.33	107.87	92.36	39.9	40.1	35.8	2.69	2.69	2.58	1.4	1.4	1.0
NONMANUFACTURING.....	144.21	145.74	134.11	34.5	34.7	34.3	4.18	4.20	3.91	*	*	*
Mining.....	217.86	222.16	204.18	45.2	44.7	44.1	4.82	4.97	4.63	*	*	*
Contract construction.....	288.97	296.16	271.47	37.0	37.3	37.6	7.81	7.94	7.22	*	*	*
Transportation & public utilities.....	243.17	242.35	216.24	40.8	40.8	40.8	5.96	5.94	5.30	*	*	*
Wholesale and retail trade.....	127.72	128.44	113.49	37.7	33.8	32.8	3.79	3.80	3.46	*	*	*
Finance, insurance & real estate.....	127.77	125.71	123.31	38.6	38.8	38.9	3.31	3.24	3.17	*	*	*
Services.....	112.40	113.80	107.55	32.3	32.7	32.2	3.48	3.48	3.34	*	*	*

1/ Estimates are based upon a sample of full and part-time production and related employees, who worked during or received pay for the payroll period which includes the 12th of the month. Besides changes in basic hourly and incentive wage rates, average hourly earnings reflect such variable factors as overtime premium pay, late shift work, and changes in output of workers paid on an incentive basis. They also reflect 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 publication.
 (March, 1975 benchmark levels) * Data not available ** Not Comparable

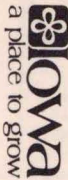
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