IOWA
LABOR
MARKET

June 1978
loyment and unemployment
hours and earnings
labor turnover
job insurance
job placement

IOWA
DEPARTMENT
OF
JOB SERVICE

Research &
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The Importance of the CPI

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) has evolved into the most commonly used and best monthly information available on the trend of price inflation. Since most Americans view inflation as the nation's No. 1 problem, changes in the CPI are followed closely by government officials, businesses, labor unions and the general public.

The significance of changes in the CPI, however, isn't confined to the *measurement* of inflation—indeed, it's become part of the inflationary process itself. Increases in the CPI, for example, trigger proportional boosts in wages and other payments to large segments of the American public—automatically for millions, indirectly for millions more.

Inflation hikes of the past become tied to future wage boosts which in turn are tied to future price increases. . .to become a wage-price spiral.

In 1948, a labor contract negotiated between General Motors and the United Automobile Workers called for automatic wage increases related to CPI fluctuations, the first major wage settlement to include such a clause. The practice has since become more and more common, with Bureau of Labor Statistics figures showing 8.5 million union workers covered by some sort of cost-of-living adjustments (COLA).

Beginning in the 1960s, Congress has applied COLA to social security and other benefit payments. Just recently, payments to over 30 million social security recipients, 2.5 million federal, civilian and military retirees and their survivors and 20 million food stamp recipients were escalated. And these don't include programs providing breakfast and lunch for 25 million children. For all practical purposes, federal salaries are also tied to the CPI.

In addition, a growing number of rental, royalty and child support contracts are automatically increased by the CPI. Federal health, welfare and job training programs are affected by the CPI. The "poverty threshold" and "low income" levels are calculated by using CPI data. And finally, in the interest of fairness or simply to keep in line with the market, many employers—even those unconcerned with unions—use the CPI in setting wage and salary scales.

Escalation of incomes on the basis of increases in the CPI tends to perpetuate inflation by expanding purchasing power without necessarily increasing production of goods and services. Income growth in this manner, moreover, comes after price hikes stemming from previous increases in wage levels.

The potentially negative aspect of COLA clauses arises from the CPI having fixed weights. If a worker is protected by a COLA clause, there's no need to curb purchases of any item in the market basket, no matter how rapidly the price of that item rises. Theoretically, a worker protected by a limitless COLA (receiving automatic cost-of-living wage boosts) wouldn't need to conserve on gasoline, home heating fuel, coffee or any item that's had a price jump.

In February of this year, the Bureau of Labor Statistics published the latest revision of the CPI. Two new indexes were launched while simultaneously continuing the old index—the unrevised *CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers*—on a temporary basis.

Issued for the first time was a revised index, like the old one, covering Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers—but with a different selection of items and new weights. Revision of the index had been long overdue, and upon publication some labor contracts had provided for an automatic switchover to the revised version. The new index, like its unrevised counterpart, reflected the spending patterns of about 40% of all consumers.

The second new *CPI index for All Urban Consumers*, in addition to wage earners, covers the self-employed, the professionals, the retired, the unemployed and the "poor" and reflects the spending patterns of approximately 80% of all consumers. Not included are rural workers, members of the armed forces and people in institutions. Coverage in-

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LABOR MARKET BRIEFS

The National Scene

Business activity during the second quarter of 1978 took on the glamour of a genuine boom. . .the growth rate for the quarter estimated by some to be between 8% and 9%. However, this rate of growth is expected to decline sharply. . . governed by the movement toward the limits of potential growth and the increasing rate of inflation. . .both will take their toll.

Consumer spending has been one of the mainstays of the current economic expansion. . .and retail sales continue to look strong. Major chain stores enjoyed brisk trade in May. . .gains of between 10% to 13% reported. . .with one chain announcing a 26% upswing. Sales of U.S.-made autos were at an annual rate of 9.8 million units. . .slightly off the April near-record rate of 10.3 million. The industry is now awaiting the effects that recent price increases will have on sales.

The future for home building—another major force in the present business expansion—isn't as bright as projected earlier in the year. . .a prevailing strong demand for housing stymied by high interest rates and shortages of key building materials. . .gypsum board, insulation materials and cement. . . .adding pressure to raise prices people will have to pay for housing.

Increases in May wholesale prices of farm products indicated more bad news in the offing for consumers. The Producers Price Index—the price of consumer-ready products—rose to 193.0 in May. . .up from 191.4 in April. Major increases were in farm products. The U.S. Department of Agriculture now predicts that retail food prices will average 8% to 10% higher in 1978 than in 1977.

Theprices consumers pay for goods and services as measured by the Consumer Price Index rose 0.9% in May to 193.3. . .compared to 191.5 in April. What all this means is that the cost of consumption both at the wholesale and retail levels continues to spiral. . .to increase the pressure of inflation. . .the 1978 projected rate now hovering near 10%.

Improvement on the employment front. . .the number of working people continued to rise in May. . .total employment reaching 9.1 million. . .310,000 more than in April. Nonfarm payroll employment was 85.3 million. . .175,000 more than in the month before. The employment/population ratio—the proportion of total noninstitutional population 16 years and over employed—sustained its recent steady climb. . .to reach an all-time high of 58.6% in May.

The nation's unemployment rate was 6.1% during May . . .the jobless count growing to 6.1 million. . .compared to 6.0 million in April. . .and 6.9 million in May of last year. The jobless rates for all adult males and for both black and white workers were unchanged from April. . .while the rate for adult women was 6.3%. . .up from 5.8% in April.

The outlook for the coming months continues overcast by the threat of inflation. Nationally, unemployment should remain near the 6.0% mark. . .but look for a slowing trend in the rate of economic growth.

. . .and in Iowa

Compared to the nation as a whole, Iowa's economic picture is rather bright. . .unemployment relatively low, registering at 3 5% of the labor force in May. . .employment on the upswing. Total employment for Iowa registerd 1,404,000 . . .up 38,500 above year ago levels. . .nonfarm employment 30,000 more than in May 1977. Problem areas seem to stem from weather conditions, the tightening of money available for home construction and the slack demand for farm machinery. These factors have already significantly affected employment in the contract construction and farm machinery industries. . .with a slower increase in construction employment for this time of year than in past years. . .and reported layoffs by manufacturers of farm equipment due to large inventories.

The state's resident civilian labor force grew in May to 1,455,300 workers. . .26,700 more than in April. . .38,500 above the year ago count. Unemployment declined to 51,200 from the April figure of 54,200. . .while on the employment front an over the month gain of 29,700 was experienced. . .evidence that Iowans are finding jobs despite problems in some sectors of the economy.

Nonfarm employment increased from April. . .primarily due to seasonal upswings in contract construction, retail sales and recreational services. A 400-employee gain by real estate firms boosted the finance, insurance and real estate employment level. Farm machinery employment continued its decline. . .reflecting a drop in consumer demand.

The significant growth in nonfarm employment from a year ago came as a result of boosts in retail sales, medical services and local schools. . .plus the fact that 5,400 contract construction workers were on strike last May. . .compared to 110 this May.

Lower hourly earnings for insurance and real estate employees were instrumental in lowering average weekly earnings in finance, insurance and real estate. The average production and nonsupervisory worker in Iowa spent less than a 40-hour week on the job in May. . .but mining workers were averaging 48 hours, 48 minutes—the highest. . .while newspaper employees averaged the least. . .32 hours.

For the average married worker with three dependents, take home pay was up 9% over the year. Employees in contract construction gained the most ($22.20). . .wholesale and retail trade employees the least ($7.60).

The old cliche, "the grass is always greener. . ." is helping keep separations and accessions up in other durable goods.

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EMPLOYERS' PAGE

Valuable Employer Aid: WAGE SURVEYS

Of the statistical publications issued periodically by Job Service of Iowa, among the most used and most requested are the *Area Wage Surveys.*

Iowa employers find these annual publications to be a valuable tool in setting wage scales that are competitive and will attract qualified employees. The information is particularly helpful to employers wanting to locate new businesses in the state because it permits the early determination of the wage levels necessary for drawing and keeping skilled workers.

Wage information has become increasingly important over the past few years, precipitated by employers' mounting costs for securing and training qualified workers, the growing number of varied occupations people enter and an accelerating inflation. To better cover all state geographic areas, Job Service has expanded the wage surveys to locales formerly not covered.

Wage surveys now cover 25 Iowa areas:

COMMUNITY	AREA COVERED (COUNTY)
Burlington	Des Moines
Cedar Rapids	Linn
Clinton	Clinton
Council Bluffs	Pottawattamie
Davenport	Scott
Des Moines	Polk
Dubuque	Dubuque
Fairfield	Jefferson
Fort Dodge	Webster
Fort Madison	North Lee
Iowa City	Johnson
Keokuk	South Lee
Marshalltown	Marshall
Mason City	Cerro Gordo
Mount Pleasant	Henry
Muscatine	Muscatine
Oskaloosa	Mahaska
Ottumwa	Wapello
Sioux City	Woodbury
Waterloo	Black Hawk
Iowa	Statewide

MULTI-COUNTY AREAS

Lucas-Monroe-Appanoose-Wayne
Crawford-Carroll-Greene
Allamakee-Clayton-Winneshiek-Fayette

MULTI-CITY AREA

Keokuk-Fort Madison

The areas surveyed were selected because of their geographic locations, reaching into all parts of the state. As a result, most employers find wage information available for their areas or for areas close-by that fill their needs.

Six major job categories are covered by Iowa wage surveys—professional, technical and managerial, medical, clerical and sales, services, structural, production and related occupations. A breakdown of the categories will include many of the jobs found in the state.

In each survey area, the focus is on occupations in local industries. Before beginning a wage survey, researchers must determine the jobs to be surveyed and include them in a questionnaire designed for employers of the area.

The questionnaire completed, an employer sample is selected. The sample should include the major firms and representatives of other businesses in the area. . .at least representing 80% of the area's employers.

Copies of the questionnaire are then submitted to the employer sample, inquiring about the wage rates paid to employees and the number of employees paid the wage rates. Entry level information is also requested.

The return rate for the questionnaires is approximately 55%.

The data provided by the employer sample is analyzed. For each occupation, hourly wage rates, wage range, entry level average wage and entry wage range are obtained.

This information is compiled and published regularly for each of the 25 survey areas. Copies of the latest wage surveys are available without charge. Contact the Job Service office in your area or send your request to Research & Statistics, Job Service of Iowa, 1000 East Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50319. Please specify the area(s) wanted.

Table I - Civilian Labor Force by Place of Residence

	Resident Civilian Labor Force 1/	Resident Unemployed	Percent Unemployed	Resident Total Employment 2/	Nonagricultural Wage and Salary 3/	Self-employed, Unpaid Family & Domestic Workers 4/	Agricultu
May 1978							
Iowa	1,455,300	51,200	3.5	1,404,100	1,072,800	154,800	176,500
Cedar Rapids	86,300	2,700	3.1	83,600	74,600	6,200	2,800
Council Bluffs 5/ *							
Davenport 5/ *							
Des Moines	179,500	6,400	3.6	173,100	155,400	14,300	3,400
Dubuque	46,000	2,300	4.9	43,700	37,700	3,300	2,700
Sioux City	58,800	2,700	4.6	56,100	47,300	6,000	2,800
Waterloo	67,300	2,900	4.3	64,400	57,000	5,400	2,000
April 1978							
Iowa	1,428,600	54,200	3.8	1,374,400	1,066,700	151,500	156,200
Cedar Rapids	85,500	2,700	3.2	82,800	74,200	6,100	2,500
Council Bluffs 5/ *							
Davenport 5/ *							
Des Moines	178,000	6,900	3.9	171,100	154,100	14,000	3,000
Dubuque	45,300	2,300	5.2	43,000	37,400	3,300	2,400
Sioux City	58,900	2,900	4.9	56,000	47,600	5,900	2,500
Waterloo	67,100	3,100	4.6	64,000	57,000	5,300	1,700
May 1977							
Iowa	1,416,800	52,700	3.7	1,346,100	1,033,100	150,700	180,300
Cedar Rapids	83,700	3,500	4.1	80,300	71,400	6,000	2,800
Council Bluffs 5/ *							
Davenport 5/ *							
Des Moines	172,900	7,300	4.2	165,600	148,300	13,800	3,500
Dubuque	44,500	2,300	5.1	42,200	36,200	3,200	2,700
Sioux City	58,400	2,500	4.3	55,900	47,100	6,000	2,800
Waterloo	65,800	2,900	4.4	62,900	55,600	5,300	2,000

Latest month's data is preliminary. Detail may not add up to total due to rounding. Council Bluffs and Davenport areas include Iowa portions only.
*Data not available at time of publication. (March, 1975 benchmark levels)

1/ Includes unemployed and employed individuals. Establishment employment data is adjusted to commuting, multiple job holding, and unpaid absence patterns.
2/ Includes nonagricultural wage and salary, self-employed, unpaid family, domestic and agriculture workers.
3/ Includes all full and part-time wage and salary workers, excluding domestics, who were employed or involved in a labor-management dispute during the week including the 12th of the month.
4/ Includes nonagricultural self-employed persons, unpaid family workers and domestic workers in private households.
5/ Data for CETA programs in these areas based on a "BLS census share" method and not technically comparable to figures published here.

Table II - Hours and Earnings for Manufacturing Production Workers in Selected Iowa Areas 1/

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	May 1978	Apr. 1978	May 1977	May 1978	Apr. 1978	May 1977	May 1978	Apr. 1978	May 1977
Cedar Rapids	$295.91	$292.50	$248.03	42.7	42.7	40.2	$6.93	$6.85	$6.17
Council Bluffs*									
Davenport	350.28	345.70	311.95	41.8	41.6	40.2	8.38	8.31	7.76
Des Moines	266.40	271.93	259.68	37.0	38.3	38.7	7.20	7.10	6.71
Dubuque	332.80	331.29	311.98	40.0	40.5	40.1	8.32	8.18	7.78
Sioux City	242.31	240.47	208.19	39.4	39.1	38.2	6.15	6.15	5.45
Waterloo	343.07	343.13	316.61	40.6	40.8	40.8	8.45	8.41	7.76

1/ See footnote - Table III *Data not available.

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

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings			Average Weekly Overtime Hours 1/		
	May 1978	Apr. 1978	May 1977	May 1978	Apr. 1978	May 1977	May 1978	Apr. 1978	May 1977	May 1978	Apr. 1978	May 1977
TOTAL PRIVATE	$200.84	$200.12	$185.76	35.8	35.8	36.0	$5.61	$5.59	$5.16	*	*	*
MANUFACTURING	274.40	272.28	253.66	40.0	40.1	40.2	6.86	6.79	6.31	2.8	2.9	*
Durable Goods	280.57	277.03	260.25	40.9	40.8	40.6	6.86	6.79	6.41	2.6	2.8	*
Lumber & furniture	234.77	228.57	206.51	40.9	40.1	38.6	5.74	5.70	5.35	2.4	2.5	*
Stone, clay & glass products	288.20	278.42	260.34	43.8	43.3	42.4	6.58	6.43	6.14	6.8	6.4	*
Primary metal industries	339.82	343.98	309.74	43.4	44.1	42.9	7.83	7.80	7.22	5.6	6.0	*
Fabricated metal products	238.98	241.79	219.89	39.5	40.5	40.2	6.05	5.97	5.47	1.5	2.3	*
Machinery except electrical	344.40	334.94	321.44	42.0	41.3	41.8	8.20	8.11	7.69	2.7	2.8	*
Farm machinery	353.38	353.17	333.52	40.9	41.5	41.9	8.64	8.51	7.96	3.1	3.7	*
Construction & related machinery	371.06	348.12	338.21	43.5	41.1	41.6	8.53	8.47	8.13	2.4	2.1	*
Electrical equipment & supplies	220.03	221.94	203.52	38.2	38.8	38.4	5.76	5.72	5.30	1.4	1.7	*
Transportation equipment	199.02	203.94	191.00	39.1	39.6	38.9	5.09	5.15	4.91	1.0	1.8	*
Other durable goods	200.49	194.04	181.82	39.7	39.6	39.1	5.05	4.90	4.65	2.0	1.8	*
Nondurable Goods	266.17	264.42	243.97	38.8	39.0	39.8	6.86	6.78	6.13	3.2	3.1	*
Food & kindred products	302.84	299.30	271.35	39.9	39.8	40.2	7.59	7.52	6.75	4.0	3.7	*
Meat products	328.72	325.70	296.25	39.7	39.1	39.5	8.28	8.33	7.50	3.7	3.5	*
Grain mill products	308.15	298.29	277.03	40.6	41.2	40.8	7.59	7.24	6.79	4.5	3.8	*
Apparel & other textile products	133.96	135.40	120.82	36.6	37.3	36.5	3.66	3.63	3.31	0.7	0.7	*
Paper & allied products	229.55	226.59	215.13	40.7	40.9	40.9	5.64	5.54	5.26	3.1	3.4	*
Printing & publishing	227.25	240.38	192.54	35.9	38.4	35.2	6.33	6.26	5.47	2.3	3.1	*
Newspapers	186.24	190.38	174.52	32.0	32.6	32.2	5.82	5.84	5.42	2.2	2.8	*
Chemicals & allied products	285.77	284.38	303.93	41.0	40.8	49.1	6.97	6.97	6.19	2.2	2.1	*
Rubber & plastics products, nec	245.46	239.76	235.30	36.8	36.0	38.7	6.67	6.66	6.08	2.8	2.5	*
Other nondurable goods	156.91	155.12	144.40	37.9	38.3	38.2	4.14	4.05	3.78	2.2	2.2	*
NONMANUFACTURING	176.47	176.13	162.62	34.4	34.4	34.6	5.13	5.12	4.70	*	*	*
Mining	287.92	278.01	269.24	48.8	47.2	48.6	5.90	5.89	5.54	*	*	*
Contract construction	342.58	343.28	307.75	37.4	38.1	37.9	9.16	9.01	8.12	*	*	*
Transportation & public utilities	299.80	299.39	269.18	40.9	40.9	40.6	7.33	7.32	6.63	*	*	*
Wholesale & retail trade	151.47	153.38	144.08	33.0	33.2	33.9	4.59	4.62	4.25	*	*	*
Finance, insurance & real estate	154.82	157.98	144.40	36.6	36.4	36.1	4.23	4.34	4.00	*	*	*
Services	136.70	134.23	124.03	33.1	32.5	32.3	4.13	4.13	3.84	*	*	*

1/ Estimates 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

Table IV - Iowans Receiving Job Insurance 1/

	Total			Women			Unemployed 5 Weeks or Longer		
	May 1978	Apr. 1978	May 1977	May 1978	Apr. 1978	May 1977	May 1978	Apr. 1978	May 1977
Total	20,306	25,845	18,376	8,125	8,609	7,098	14,071	18,705	11,992
Contract Construction	3,160	5,747	3,271	123	150*	134*	2,180	4,447	2,129
Manufacturing	7,746	9,124	6,339	3,437	3,640	2,627	5,360	6,319	4,259
Durable Goods	4,963	5,621	3,294	2,117	2,144	1,269	3,386	3,922	2,280
Nondurable Goods	2,783	3,503	3,045	1,320	1,496	1,358	1,974	2,397	1,980
Trade	4,663	5,468	4,494	2,177	2,327	2,044	3,207	4,101	2,908
Services	2,527	2,752	2,718	1,497	1,519	1,701	1,750	1,882	1,760
All Other Industries	2,210	2,755	1,553	887	975*	592*	1,574	1,956	936

1/ Insured unemployed counted during the week including the 12th and based on a survey of claims filed during the week including the 19th.
*Less than 5 per cent of total insured unemployed.

Table V - Iowa Labor Force Summary

May 1978

Data based on place of residence

County - Labor Area	1/Labor Force	Unemployed	Unadjusted Rate	2/Employment	3/Nonag Wage and Salary	4/Self-Employed, Unpaid Family, Domestics	Agriculture
Iowa - Statewide	1,455,300	51,200	3.5	1,404,100	1,072,800	154,800	176,500
Cedar Rapids SMSA	86,300	2,700	3.1	83,600	74,600	6,200	2,800
Des Moines SMSA	179,500	6,400	3.6	173,100	155,400	14,300	3,400
Dubuque SMSA	46,000	2,300	4.9	43,700	37,700	3,300	2,700
Sioux City SMSA	58,800	2,700	4.6	56,100	47,300	6,000	2,800
Waterloo - Cedar Falls SMSA	67,300	2,900	4.3	64,400	57,000	5,400	2,000
Adair - Greenfield	4,950	120	2.4	4,830	2,310	560	1,960
Adams - Corning	2,780	80	2.8	2,700	1,320	410	970
Allamakee - Waukon	7,790	340	4.4	7,450	4,260	1,220	1,970
Appanoose - Centerville	6,120	520	8.4	5,600	3,690	940	980
Audubon - Audubon	4,400	80	1.8	4,320	2,170	660	1,500
Benton - Vinton	11,190	260	2.3	10,930	7,180	1,350	2,400
Black Hawk (Waterloo - Cedar Falls SMSA)	67,300	2,900	4.3	64,400	57,000	5,400	2,000
Boone - Boone	12,680	350	2.8	12,330	9,390	1,340	1,590
Bremer - Waverly	10,850	330	3.0	10,520	7,640	1,090	1,790
Buchanan - Independence	10,960	340	3.1	10,620	7,310	1,170	2,140
Buena Vista - Storm Lake	10,890	250	2.3	10,630	7,490	1,260	1,890
Butler - Allison	8,830	200	2.2	8,640	5,440	1,230	1,960
Calhoun - Rockwell City	6,420	120	1.8	6,310	3,860	890	1,560
Carroll - Carroll	11,640	270	2.3	11,370	6,950	2,120	2,310
Cass - Atlantic	9,500	240	2.5	9,260	5,710	1,490	2,070
Cedar - Tipton	8,600	180	2.1	8,420	5,160	1,180	2,080
Cerro Gordo - Mason City	24,570	1,060	4.3	23,520	19,890	2,210	1,420
Cherokee - Cherokee	8,290	200	2.4	8,090	5,240	1,050	1,800
Chickasaw - New Hampton	7,840	290	3.8	7,550	4,580	1,170	1,800
Clarke - Osceola	4,610	190	4.1	4,420	2,580	570	1,270
Clay - Spencer	10,600	500	4.8	10,100	7,220	1,270	1,610
Clayton - Guttenberg	10,610	350	3.3	10,260	5,490	1,790	2,990
Clinton - Clinton	28,040	970	3.5	27,070	21,870	2,630	2,580
Crawford - Denison	9,780	280	2.9	9,500	5,840	1,210	2,450
Dallas - Perry	14,830	480	3.2	14,360	11,000	1,570	1,790
Davis - Bloomfield	3,790	200	5.2	3,590	2,040	640	910
Decatur - Leon	4,410	140	3.1	4,270	2,700	550	1,020
Delaware - Manchester	8,830	270	3.0	8,560	4,770	1,380	2,420
Des Moines - Burlington	20,510	1,080	5.3	19,420	16,770	1,590	1,060
Dickinson - Spirit Lake	7,850	230	2.9	7,620	5,100	1,280	1,240
Dubuque - Dubuque SMSA	46,000	2,300	4.9	43,700	37,700	3,300	2,700
Emmet - Estherville	6,480	190	2.9	6,290	4,560	770	970
Fayette - Oelwein	12,140	550	4.5	11,590	7,530	1,510	2,560
Floyd - Charles City	8,400	380	4.5	8,030	5,670	1,000	1,360
Franklin - Hampton	6,590	110	1.7	6,480	3,390	930	2,160
Fremont - Sidney	4,520	90	2.1	4,420	2,350	560	1,520
Greene - Jefferson	6,080	140	2.4	5,940	3,450	920	1,570
Grundy - Grundy Center	6,950	220	3.2	6,730	4,190	650	1,900
Guthrie - Guthrie Center	5,800	170	2.9	5,640	3,080	830	1,730
Hamilton - Webster City	8,750	290	3.3	8,470	5,470	1,230	1,770
Hancock - Garner	7,220	200	2.7	7,020	4,380	880	1,760
Hardin - Iowa Falls	11,480	230	2.0	11,250	7,850	1,540	1,860
Harrison - Missouri Valley	7,220	220	3.0	7,010	4,100	1,070	1,840
Henry - Mount Pleasant	10,620	760	7.1	9,860	7,350	1,240	1,270
Howard - Cresco	5,520	180	3.3	5,340	2,810	890	1,640
Humboldt - Humboldt	5,980	140	2.4	5,840	3,660	860	1,320

Note: Footnotes identical to Table I.

Table V Continued

County - Labor Area	1/Labor Force	Unemployed	Unadjusted Rate	2/Employment	3/Nonag Wage and Salary	4/Self-Employed, Unpaid Family, Domestics	Agriculture
Ida - Ida Grove	4,630	90	1.9	4,540	2,250	800	1,500
Iowa - Marengo	9,690	170	1.7	9,530	6,230	1,290	2,010
Jackson - Maquoketa	10,730	600	5.6	10,130	6,460	1,330	2,340
Jasper - Newton	16,900	590	3.5	16,310	12,100	1,920	2,300
Jefferson - Fairfield	7,740	340	4.4	7,400	5,290	1,020	1,090
Johnson - Iowa City	43,470	960	2.2	42,520	36,930	3,340	2,250
Jones - Anamosa	10,070	270	2.7	9,800	6,400	1,280	2,120
Keokuk - Sigourney	5,600	180	3.2	5,420	2,800	720	1,900
Kossuth - Algona	11,820	290	2.5	11,530	6,550	1,890	3,090
Lee - Ft. Madison - Keokuk	21,610	870	4.0	20,740	17,330	2,250	1,160
Linn - Cedar Rapids SMSA	86,300	2,700	3.1	83,600	74,600	6,200	2,800
Louisa - Wapello	4,950	160	3.1	4,800	3,520	470	800
Lucas - Chariton	4,860	240	4.9	4,620	3,130	560	930
Lyon - Rock Rapids	7,040	140	2.0	6,890	3,780	1,080	2,040
Madison - Winterset	5,880	160	2.8	5,720	3,590	680	1,460
Mahaska - Oskaloosa	10,550	290	2.8	10,260	7,110	1,420	1,730
Marion - Knoxville	16,040	330	2.1	15,710	12,480	1,750	1,490
Marshall - Marshalltown	20,750	520	2.5	20,230	15,850	2,320	2,050
Mills - Glenwood	6,500	130	2.0	6,360	4,530	600	1,240
Mitchell - Osage	6,380	240	3.8	6,130	3,400	1,020	1,720
Monona - Onawa	5,400	200	3.7	5,200	2,870	830	1,510
Monroe - Albia	5,120	330	6.4	4,800	3,480	640	670
Montgomery - Red Oak	6,440	140	2.1	6,300	4,120	830	1,360
Muscatine - Muscatine	20,340	900	4.4	19,440	16,110	1,870	1,460
O'Brien - Sheldon	8,340	210	2.5	8,130	4,910	1,400	1,830
Osceola - Sibley	3,630	90	2.5	3,540	1,840	550	1,150
Page - Shenandoah	10,250	290	2.8	9,960	6,660	1,190	2,110
Palo Alto - Emmetsburg	5,600	190	3.3	5,410	3,130	880	1,400
Plymouth - Le Mars	12,320	340	2.8	11,970	7,720	1,270	2,980
Pocahontas - Pocahontas	5,360	110	2.1	5,240	2,850	760	1,630
Polk - (Part of Des Moines SMSA)	162,400	6,000	3.7	156,400			
Poweshiek - Grinnell	10,670	220	2.1	10,450	7,210	1,180	2,050
Ringgold - Mount Ayr	3,390	90	2.6	3,300	1,440	500	1,360
Sac - Sac City	8,090	180	2.3	7,910	4,430	1,230	2,240
Shelby - Harlan	6,690	200	2.9	6,500	3,560	960	1,970
Sioux - Orange City	16,690	400	2.4	16,280	10,330	2,490	3,460
Story - Ames	38,990	670	1.7	38,320	32,010	3,600	2,710
Tama - Tama-Toledo	10,440	240	2.3	10,200	6,280	1,410	2,510
Taylor - Bedford	3,720	110	3.0	3,610	1,500	560	1,540
Union - Creston	7,530	230	3.1	7,300	5,260	1,050	1,000
Van Buren - Keosauqua	3,990	150	3.8	3,840	2,400	560	880
Wapello - Ottumwa	16,330	950	5.8	15,380	12,930	1,560	890
Warren - (Part of Des Moines SMSA)	17,200	500	2.7	16,700			
Washington - Washington	10,270	320	3.1	9,960	6,680	1,520	1,760
Wayne - Corydon	3,960	130	3.2	3,840	2,030	530	1,280
Webster - Fort Dodge	23,210	650	2.8	22,560	18,430	2,290	1,840
Winnebago - Forest City	7,890	220	2.8	7,670	5,400	1,150	1,130
Winneshiek - Decorah	11,640	480	4.1	11,160	6,690	1,480	2,990
Woodbury - (Part of Sioux City SMSA)	52,300	2,600	5.0	49,700			
Worth - Northwood	4,100	160	3.8	3,940	2,360	430	1,160
Wright - Clarion	8,080	160	2.0	7,920	5,070	1,090	1,760

See footnote No. 5 table I.

Table VI Selected Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed by Industry and Occupation in Iowa 1/

May 1978

Industry and Occupation	Total	Nonwhite	Male	Age Group Under 25	Age Group Over 54	Weeks Claimed Under 5	Weeks Claimed Over 15
Industry							
Total	17,886	259	10,645	5,553	2,253	3,231	7,096
Mining	65	0	57	14	18	5	33
Contract Construction	2,794	20	2,678	729	398	380	1,331
Manufacturing	7,586	116	4,233	2,458	828	1,549	2,900
Durable Goods	4,915	83	2,756	1,586	496	1,044	1,841
Nondurable Goods	2,671	33	1,477	872	332	505	1,059
Public Utilities	583	5	429	129	59	94	280
Wholesale and Retail Trade	3,640	41	1,805	1,266	493	607	1,383
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	305	4	102	98	30	57	129
Services	1,883	37	695	485	340	366	694
State and Local Government	236	10	102	50	35	41	90
Information Not Available	794	26	544	324	52	132	256
Occupation							
Prof./Tech./Managerial	366	5	198	56	49	63	152
Clerical/Sales	713	11	192	224	104	116	290
Service	410	13	137	146	90	72	150
Farming/Fishing/Forestry	48	0	40	25	6	7	22
Industrial Categories:							
By Type of Work							
Processing	292	7	176	79	45	36	140
Machine Trades	264	4	200	82	30	44	107
Bench Work	420	5	135	117	54	44	190
Structural Work	511	7	497	161	60	57	240
Miscellaneous	552	12	448	214	48	76	234
By Complexity							
High	162	3	148	46	19	26	61
Medium	183	4	152	42	27	27	74
Low	1,598	24	1,080	512	185	178	766
Information Not Available	14,310	195	8,622	4,449	1,767	2,716	5,571

1/ Data covers individuals claiming benefits for the week including the 12th of the month. Compiled as part of a cooperative program with the Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor.

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

	Gross Average Weekly Earnings			Spendable Average Weekly Earnings: Worker With No Dependents			Spendable Average Weekly Earnings: Married Worker With Three Dependents		
	May 1978	Apr. 1978	May 1977	May 1978	Apr. 1978	May 1977	May 1978	Apr. 1978	May 1977
TOTAL PRIVATE	$200.84	$200.12	$185.76	$157.79	$157.31	$145.95	$172.88	$172.38	$158.81
MANUFACTURING	274.40	272.28	253.66	205.08	203.77	192.33	224.22	222.75	206.65
Durable Goods	280.57	277.03	260.25	208.89	206.71	196.69	228.44	226.02	211.37
Nonduarble Goods	266.17	264.42	243.97	199.99	198.91	185.89	218.40	217.16	199.75
NONMANUFACTURING	176.47	176.13	162.62	141.29	141.06	130.18	155.30	155.05	142.20
Mining	287.92	278.01	269.24	213.43	207.31	202.62	233.46	226.69	217.80
Contract Construction	342.58	343.28	307.75	246.04	246.49	226.98	270.02	270.53	244.82
Transportation & Public Utilities	299.80	299.39	269.18	220.56	220.31	202.58	241.44	241.16	217.75
Wholesale & Retail Trade	151.47	153.38	144.08	123.65	125.01	116.92	137.13	138.37	129.50
Finance & Real Estate	154.82	157.98	144.40	126.03	128.29	117.15	139.38	141.73	129.71
Services	136.70	134.23	124.03	113.11	111.35	102.59	125.55	123.34	114.51

Table VIII Iowa Nonagricultural Employment 1/

(By Place of Work)

	May 1978	Apr. 1978	May 1977	Change From: Apr. 1978 to May 1978	May 1977 to May 1978
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL	1,096,900	1,087,500	1,066,900	9,400	30,000
MANUFACTURING	242,700	243,200	241,400	- 500	1,300
DURABLE GOODS	150,600	150,800	150,600	- 200	0
Lumber & furniture	10,200	10,100	9,600	100	600
Stone, clay & glass products	7,300	7,200*	7,600	100	- 300
Primary metal industries	8,500	8,400	7,900	100	600
Fabricated metal products	20,400*	20,500*	19,600*	- 100	800
Machinery except electrical	58,600	59,100	60,700*	- 500	- 2,100
Farm machinery	22,700	22,900	25,800	- 200	- 3,100
Construction & related machinery	21,700	21,700	20,700	0	1,000
Electrical equipment & supplies	25,600	25,500	26,000	100	- 400
Transportaion equipment	10,300*	10,200*	10,000	100	300
Other durable goods 2/	9,600	9,600	9,200	0	400
NONDURABLE GOODS	92,100	92,400	90,800	- 300	1,300
Food & kindred products	48,200	48,000	47,800	200	400
Meat products	25,100	24,700	23,800	400	1,300
Grain mill products	10,300	10,400	10,800	100	- 500
Bakery products	2,600	2,600	2,500	0	100
Apparel & other textile products	4,200	4,200	4,200	0	0
Paper & allied products	3,900	4,000	3,900	- 100	0
Printing & publishing	15,500	15,600	14,300*	- 100	1,200
Newspapers	6,600	6,600	6,400	0	200
Chemicals & allied products	8,000	8,000	7,600	0	400
Rubber & plastics products, nec	10,100*	10,300	10,700	- 200	- 600
Other nondurable goods 3/	2,300	2,300	2,400	0	- 100
NONMANUFACTURING	854,200	844,300	825,500	9,900	28,700
Nonmetallic mining	2,400	2,300*	2,500	100	- 100
Contract construction	55,800*	52,000	49,300*	3,800	6,500
Transportation & public utilities	54,400	54,000	54,900*	400	- 500
Railroad transportation	8,300	8,300	8,600	0	- 300
Communication	13,100	13,000	13,100	100	0
Electric, gas & sanitary services	9,800	9,700	9,700	100	100
Wholesale & retail trade	276,300	274,300	270,100	2,000	6,200
Wholesale trade	72,600	72,300	71,800	300	800
Retail trade	203,800*	202,000*	198,200	1,800	5,600
Retail, general merchandise	30,100	30,000	29,700	100	400
Finance, insurance & real estate	52,400	51,800	51,500	600	900
Banking	16,900	16,800	16,500	100	400
Insurance carriers & agents	20,500	20,500	20,000	0	500
Services	197,200	194,900	189,800	2,300	7,400
Medical & other health services	71,100	70,700	67,000	400	4,100
Government	215,700	215,000	207,500	700	8,200
Federal government	20,900	20,500	19,300	400	1,600
State government	53,300	53,800	50,500	- 500	2,800
Local government	141,500	140,600	137,700	900	3,800
Persons Involved in Labor-Management Disputes	800	400	6,800	400	- 6,000

1/ Revised to most current information available at publication. Data includes 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

Table IX - Job Service of Iowa Activities

	May 1978 Total	May 1978 Women	April 1978 Total	April 1978 Women	May 1977 Total	May 1977 Women
JOB PLACEMENT						
New applicants	18,860	*	13,606	*	16,562	*
Total placements	10,296	3,065	8,347	2,556	9,392	3,049
Nonagricultural	10,017	3,040	8,123	2,525	9,172	3,029
Agricultural	279	25	224	31	220	20
New job openings 1/	14,604	*	12,666	*	14,209	*
Active applicants	63,241	32,344	61,582	30,945	70,323	34,900
JOB INSURANCE						
Initial claims	10,083	4,018	9,673	2,932	9,937	3,753
Continued claims	91,962	36,648	99,865	30,269	72,748	27,475
First payments issued	5,262	2,209	5,110	1,951	4,360	1,630
Total weeks paid	90,375	36,016	100,438	30,443	65,525	24,747
Total payments	$8,825,482	$2,988,500	$10,071,664	$2,521,957	$5,855,639	$1,803,326
Average weekly payment	$97.65	$82.98	$100.28	$82.84	$89.36	$72.87
Average weekly payment - total unemployment	$100.21	$85.54	$103.65	$85.28	$91.52	$74.79

1/ Limited to nonagricultural activities. *Data not available.

Table X - Iowa Manufacturing Labor Turnover Rates 1/

	ACCESSION RATES: Total			New Hires			Recalls			SEPARATION RATES: Total			Quits			Layoffs		
	May 1978	Apr. 1978	May 1977	May 1978	Apr. 1978	May 1977	May 1978	Apr. 1978	May 1977	May 1978	Apr. 1978	May 1977	May 1978	Apr. 1978	May 1977	May 1978	Apr. 1978	May 1977
MANUFACTURING	4.2	3.0	4.5	2.7	1.9	3.2	1.1	0.9	0.9	2.9	3.1	3.3	1.6	1.6	1.8	0.7	0.9	0.8
Durable Goods	3.7	3.0	3.9	2.7	2.0	3.2	0.7	0.8	0.4	2.7	2.8	2.8	1.5	1.4	1.6	0.6	0.8	0.4
Stone, clay & glass products	6.9	5.1	7.5	5.6	3.2	6.4	0.8	1.9	0.8	2.7	2.9	4.7	2.3	2.0	2.1	*	*	1.5
Primary metal industries	4.3	3.0	5.0	3.5	2.5	4.0	0.7	0.3	0.9	3.0	2.5	3.0	1.8	1.5	2.0	0.3	0.2	0.2
Fabricated metal products	3.7	3.6	5.7	3.2	2.1	5.0	0.3	1.5	0.4	4.3	4.4	3.3	2.1	1.7	2.5	1.6	2.4	0.2
Machinery except electrical	3.0	2.0	2.8	1.5	1.1	1.9	1.2	0.6	0.3	1.7	2.3	2.0	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.4	0.9	0.3
Electrical equipment & supplies	2.5	2.3	3.0	1.8	1.0	2.0	0.4	1.1	0.6	2.8	1.9	2.5	1.3	0.8	1.2	0.5	0.2	0.7
Other durable goods	6.2	4.7	5.1	5.7	4.3	4.8	0.2	0.3	0.1	4.2	3.6	4.1	3.3	2.8	2.8	0.4	0.2	0.4
Nondurable Goods	4.8	3.1	5.3	2.8	1.7	3.2	1.7	1.0	1.8	3.2	3.5	4.2	1.8	1.8	2.0	0.9	1.1	1.5
Food & kindred products	6.1	3.2	5.3	3.1	1.7	2.8	2.7	1.2	2.2	3.5	3.8	3.9	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.7	1.7
Meat products	7.8	4.5	6.4	3.1	1.9	2.6	4.2	2.0	3.5	4.0	4.3	4.7	1.5	1.5	1.3	2.0	2.4	2.7
Printing & publishing	3.5	2.8	6.4	2.9	1.9	3.2	0.5	0.7	3.0	2.9	2.4	5.8	2.4	2.0	2.1	0.1	0.1	3.2
Rubber, plastics & leather prod	3.4	3.9	5.8	1.4	0.9	4.5	1.1	2.1	0.7	2.8	3.8	4.4	1.5	1.5	2.9	0.2	0.9	0.3
Other nondurable goods	3.2	2.5	4.0	2.8	2.2	3.4	0.2	0.1	0.4	2.9	3.7	3.8	2.0	2.5	2.8	0.3	0.5	0.4

1/ Figures presented are expressed as a rate per 100 employees. *Less than .05.

Average Weekly Wage - Iowa

	All Covered 1/ Employment		Production & Related Employment 2/	
	1976	1977	1976	1977
Agricultural Services	$141.64	$146.42	na	na
Mining	253.74	265.35	na	na
Building Construction	227.21	235.66	na	na
General Construction	269.46	275.72	na	na
Special Trade	239.42	250.86	na	na
Food Production	265.51	277.69	$258.39	$278.70
Apparel	132.81	137.81	114.08	126.00
Lumber	198.20	215.54	na	na
Furniture	228.05	248.82	na	na
Printing	190.05	199.56	215.90	217.78
Rubber	220.56	259.33	208.31	232.01
Concrete Products	241.15	263.21	247.81	264.31
Primary Metal	289.16	322.77	266.68	310.55
Fabricated Metal	224.24	240.03	208.40	221.90
Machinery	292.47	325.03	281.29	328.92
Electrical	223.02	245.86	196.06	208.35
Transportation Equipment	201.86	224.69	175.08	185.89
Measuring Equipment	213.89	231.38	na	na
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	191.38	202.32	na	na

1/ Definition of covered employment: (1) Employing unit must pay $1,500 or more in wages in a calendar quarter during the current or preceding calendar year—excluding wages for domestic services; or (2) must have employed at least one worker for some portion of a day in each of 20 calendar weeks during the current or preceding calendar year, whether consecutive or not.

2/ Determined by a random sample of Iowa employers, the term "production and related workers" includes supervisory and nonsupervisory employees (counting group leaders and trainees) in fabricating, processing, assembling, inspection, receiving, storage, handling, packing, warehousing, shipping, trucking, hauling, maintenance, repair, janitorial, guard services, recordkeeping and other services closely associated with the above production operations.

na Not available.

Would You Like to Receive the ILM Each Month?

A copy of this month's Iowa Labor Market (ILM) is being sent to every employer in Iowa. If you are an Iowa employer who would like to receive it monthly, Job Service of Iowa will be pleased to add your name and address to the mailing list. Just fill in the blank and mail it to: ILM, Job Service of Iowa, 1000 East Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

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City ____________________ State ____________ Zip ______ cludes groups with incomes averaging both higher and lower than those of wage earners and clerical workers.

Some CPI users had proposed dropping the wage earner index in favor of one with a broader coverage that would presumedly be more useful as a measure of general inflation. Labor unions objected, however. They feared that a broader index—less representative of the spending patterns of their members—wouldn't fully reflect price changes of the things they buy.

As a result, not much difference in the three CPIs is expected, at least in the short run.

The broader the coverage of a price index, the less it represents the prices paid by any particular group. None of the three CPIs mentioned above could possibly represent any individual consumer. They include, for instance, data for both rents and home ownership, including prices of new homes and current mortgage rates—data that would reflect only a small fraction of households each month. Also included are prices of new and used cars, children's apparel, liquor and other products many people never buy. On the other hand, all households buy one or more of the items not included.

Although the CPI—no matter which index is used—reflects general price trends, it has significant impact upon the future prices of goods and services. . .through the effects of COLA.

In printing and publishing, separations and accessions were higher in May a year ago due to the secondary effects of a strike that began and ended in the same month. Seasonal hiring in stone, clay and glass—including concrete products—was begun.

The next few months' outlook will reflect seasonal fluctuations in employment and unemployment. Increases in the number of new entrants into the labor force—primarily graduates and vacationing students—will significantly boost the state's jobless rate in June and July. At the same time, contract construction, trade and agriculture are expected to show seasonal employment hikes.

Tables in this publication prepared in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor

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