

NEWS RELEASE

For Statewide Distribution



For Release: 9:00 a.m.
Date: July 21, 2015

Contact: Courtney Maxwell Greene (515) 281-9646

Iowa's Unemployment Rate Drops to 3.7 Percent

DES MOINES, IOWA – Iowa's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped to 3.7 percent in June from 3.8 percent in May. The state's jobless rate was 4.4 percent one year ago. The U.S. unemployment rate dropped to 5.3 percent in June.

"For the fourth time this year, the unemployment rate is down," said Iowa Workforce Development Director Beth Townsend. "As the low unemployment trend continues, encouraging gains are being seen in the retail sector; the business establishment survey added 3,000 retail jobs this month."

The number of unemployed Iowans decreased to 63,700 in June from 64,800 in May. The current estimate is 10,500 lower than the year ago level of 74,200.

The total number of working Iowans decreased to 1,640,800 in June. This figure was 4,900 lower than May, and 11,300 higher than one year ago.

Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment

Iowa's nonfarm employment added 3,000 jobs in June, raising the total to 1,570,600 jobs. This month's increase is the second-straight gain and heavily influenced by hiring in private services. Goods-producing industries added a slight 200 jobs, and government gained 700 after paring workers over the last few months. Despite recent weakness, government remains up 5,000 jobs versus last June due to hiring at the state and local levels. Total nonfarm employment for the state added 23,400 jobs annually.

In June, the largest monthly movement occurred in trade and transportation (+4,300). This month's increase was heavily influenced by strong hiring in retail trade following disappointing returns in April and May. Retail trade has steadily advanced over last year's level since September and is now 4,000 higher than last June. Other monthly gains included professional and business services (+900), financial activities (+900) and other services (+400). Unexpected losses this month occurred in education and health services (-2,200) and leisure and hospitality (-2,100). Both of the sectors have had strong hiring through the first part of the year. Minor losses also occurred in information and mining.

Since last year, trade and transportation has added the most private sector jobs (+7,600) and has been responsible for almost a third of all the new jobs in Iowa. Construction added a slight 200 jobs this month yet remains second in overall jobs added (+3,800) followed by professional and business services (+3,400). On the other hand, manufacturing was little changed since May and remains down 1,200 versus last year's level. Losses have been due to cutbacks within Iowa's durable goods factories (-3,300). The information sector continues to pare employment and is down 1,200 annually.

MEDIA ALERT: An audio cut of comments about Iowa's labor market situation is available by calling (515) 281-6057. Statewide data for July will be released on Friday, August 21, 2015. Local data for July will be posted to the IWD website on Tuesday, August 25, 2015.

Employment and Unemployment in Iowa, Seasonally Adjusted Data

	June 2015	May 2015	June 2014	Change from	
				May 2015	June 2014
Civilian labor force	1,704,500	1,710,500	1,703,700	-6,000	800
Unemployment	63,700	64,800	74,200	-1,100	-10,500
Unemployment rate	3.7%	3.8%	4.4%	-0.1	-0.7
Employment	1,640,800	1,645,700	1,629,500	-4,900	11,300
U.S. unemployment rate	5.3%	5.5%	6.1%	-0.2	-0.8

Nonfarm Employment in Iowa, Seasonally Adjusted Data

Total Nonfarm Employment	1,570,600	1,567,600	1,547,200	3,000	23,400
Mining	2,100	2,200	2,300	-100	-200
Construction	78,800	78,600	75,000	200	3,800
Manufacturing	216,300	216,200	217,500	100	-1,200
Trade, transportation and utilities	320,000	315,700	312,400	4,300	7,600
Information	24,500	24,600	25,700	-100	-1,200
Financial activities	105,500	104,600	104,200	900	1,300
Professional and business services	140,200	139,300	136,800	900	3,400
Education and health services	225,200	227,400	223,600	-2,200	1,600
Leisure and hospitality	138,800	140,900	137,500	-2,100	1,300
Other services	61,500	61,100	59,500	400	2,000
Government	257,700	257,000	252,700	700	5,000

Unemployment Insurance Claims for Iowa

	June 2015	May 2015	June 2014	% Change from	
				May 2015	June 2014
Initial claims	11,283	10,748	9,148	5.0%	23.3%
Continued claims					
Number of claimants	22,957	22,214	21,117	3.3%	8.7%
Weeks paid	71,808	68,430	69,167	4.9%	3.8%
Amount paid	\$24,263,018	\$23,605,753	\$21,993,489	2.8%	10.3%

Visit www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/labor-market-information-division for more information about current and historical data, labor force data, nonfarm employment, hours and earnings, and jobless benefits by county.

An Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request for individuals with disabilities.
www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov • www.iowaworks.org/ • www.iowajobs.org