

# NEWS RELEASE

# For Statewide Distribution



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**Contact:** Kerry Koonce  
**Telephone:** (515) 281-9646

## Iowa Unemployment Rate at 6.7 Percent; Most Industry Sectors Add Jobs

DES MOINES, IOWA – Iowa’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose slightly to 6.7 percent in October from a revised September rate of 6.6 percent. The statewide jobless rate was reported at 4.3 percent in October 2008. Iowa’s unemployment rate continues to compare favorably with the U.S. rate, which climbed to 10.2 percent in October, surpassing 10.0 percent for the first time in 26 years.

“Significant economic obstacles lie ahead for the state, and the October jobs report offered further evidence the Iowa economy continues to be challenged,” said Elisabeth Buck, director of Iowa Workforce Development.

The statewide estimate of unemployed workers increased to 112,700 in October from 112,300 in September. One year ago, the state’s pool of unemployed workers was reported at 71,900.

The total number of working Iowans decreased to 1,573,400 in October; 6,200 less than the prior month’s level of 1,579,600. One year ago, total employment stood at 1,604,900, which was 31,500 higher than the current figure.

## Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment

Total nonfarm employment in Iowa increased by 2,300 in October, bringing the total to 1,479,200. Several of the super sectors showed signs of improvement this month. The service sectors in particular increased more than expected, adding 2,300. The good-producing sectors were unchanged, as losses in construction exactly offset the gains in durable goods manufacturing.

Education and health care added the most jobs in October, increasing by 2,000. Health care accounted for the majority of the gain, up 1,300 versus 700 for education. Professional and business services advanced by 900 this month with the temporary, blue-collar fields representing the major share of the gains. Other gains in October occurred in finance, up 700; government, up 700; leisure and hospitality, up 500; and manufacturing, up 500. On the other hand, trade and transportation dropped by 3,000, primarily due to heavy losses in retail trade.

Compared to October 2008, Iowa has lost 43,200 jobs, or 2.8 percent. In recent months, total nonfarm employment has shown some preliminary signs of recovery. Education and health continues to lead the over-the-year gains at 4,300. Manufacturing has shed more jobs than any other sector since last October, down 22,800, but has shown some signs of recovery since the July low of 196,000. Construction has shed 9,700 jobs, or 13.0 percent—the highest percentage of any sector. Other losses are reflected in professional and business services, down 7,900; and trade and transportation, down 4,900 since October 2008.

**MEDIA ALERT:** An audio cut of comments about Iowa’s labor market situation is available by calling (515) 281-6057. Local data for October can be accessed from the Web on Tuesday, November 24, 2009. Statewide labor force data for November will be released on December 18, 2009, followed by local labor force data on December 22, 2009.

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### Employment and Unemployment in Iowa, Seasonally Adjusted Data

	Oct. 2009	Sept. 2009	Oct. 2008	Change from	
				Sept. 2009	Oct. 2008
Civilian labor force	1,686,200	1,691,800	1,676,800	-5,600	9,400
Unemployment	112,700	112,300	71,900	400	40,800
Unemployment rate	6.7%	6.6%	4.3%	0.1	2.4
Employment	1,573,400	1,579,600	1,604,900	-6,200	-31,500
U.S. unemployment rate	10.2%	9.8%	6.6%	0.4	3.6

### Nonfarm Employment in Iowa, Seasonally Adjusted Data

Total Nonfarm Employment	1,479,200	1,476,900	1,522,400	2,300	-43,200
Mining	2,100	2,100	2,100	0	0
Construction	64,700	65,200	74,400	-500	-9,700
Manufacturing	203,400	202,900	226,200	500	-22,800
Trade, transportation and utilities	303,500	306,500	308,400	-3,000	-4,900
Information	32,500	32,600	33,100	-100	-600
Financial activities	103,300	102,600	102,700	700	600
Professional and business services	113,100	112,200	121,000	900	-7,900
Education and health services	212,300	210,300	208,000	2,000	4,300
Leisure and hospitality	134,900	134,400	134,800	500	100
Other services	55,800	55,200	57,700	600	-1,900
Government	253,600	252,900	254,000	700	-400

### Unemployment Insurance Claims for Iowa

	Oct. 2009	Sept. 2009	Oct. 2008	% Change from	
				Sept. 2009	Oct. 2008
<b>Initial claims</b>	32,613	25,752	22,957	26.6%	42.1%
<b>Continued claims</b>					
Number of claimants	54,744	56,778	30,445	-3.6%	79.8%
Weeks paid	169,767	202,921	104,826	-16.3%	62.0%
Amount paid	\$48,618,267	\$59,087,105	\$30,008,611	-17.7%	62.0%

Visit [www.iowaworkforce.org/lmi/laborforce/locallaborforce.html](http://www.iowaworkforce.org/lmi/laborforce/locallaborforce.html) for county unemployment rates, [www.iowaworkforce.org/lmi/laborforce/index.html](http://www.iowaworkforce.org/lmi/laborforce/index.html) for current and historical labor force data and [www.iowawokforce.org/lmi/empstat/msanonag.htm](http://www.iowawokforce.org/lmi/empstat/msanonag.htm) for detailed information on nonfarm employment.

Visit [www.iowaworkforce.org/trends/wages.html](http://www.iowaworkforce.org/trends/wages.html) for information on hours and earnings and [www.iowaworkforce.org/trends/uiclaimscomo.html](http://www.iowaworkforce.org/trends/uiclaimscomo.html) to obtain a breakout of jobless benefits by county.

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