
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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Issue Review. The Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency (LSA) recently released an [Issue Review](#) that analyzes Iowa's labor force data.

Background. A number of economic and labor indicators are available to examine the labor force: [labor force data](#), such as the unemployment rate, from the [Iowa Department of Workforce Development](#); the [Iowa Leading Indicators Index](#) produced by the Iowa Department of Revenue; a state's [Gross Domestic Product](#) from the [U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis](#); and data from the [Current Population Survey](#) produced by the U.S. Census Bureau. The labor force participation rate is another tool used to analyze the labor force. Nationally, the labor force participation rate fell from 66.0% in CY 2008, the start of the most recent recession, to 62.9% in CY 2017. The Iowa labor force participation rate also fell from 72.4% in CY 2008 to 68.4% in CY 2017.

Summary. Labor force participation in Iowa has not kept pace with Iowa's growing population, leading to a decrease in the labor force participation rate. With employment increasing and labor force participation decreasing, Iowa has also seen a decline in the unemployment rate.

More Information. Additional information is available from the LSA upon request. All **Issue Reviews** published by the LSA since 1992 can be accessed here: www.legis.iowa.gov/publications/fiscal/issueReviews.

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