

Statistic: Establishment (nonfarm) and Household Series Employment Statistics

Frequency: Monthly

History: Nonfarm = 1939 (not seasonally adjusted), Employment/Unemployment/Participation = 1976

Definition: (Adapted from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics)

The establishment survey, also referred to as the nonfarm survey, provides information on employment, hours, and earnings of employees on nonfarm payrolls. Each month the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) nationally surveys about 144,000 businesses and government agencies, representing approximately 554,000 individual worksites to provide detailed industry data on employment, hours, and earnings of workers on nonfarm payrolls. The active sample includes approximately one-third of all nonfarm payroll employees.

The household survey provides information on the labor force, employment, and unemployment. It is a sample survey of about 60,000 eligible households conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the BLS. The sample is selected to reflect the entire civilian noninstitutional population. Based on responses to a series of questions on work and job search activities, each person 16 years and older in a sample household is classified as employed, unemployed, or not in the labor force.

People are classified as employed if they did any work at all as paid employees during the reference week; worked in their own business, profession, or on their own farm; or worked without pay at least 15 hours in a family business or farm. People are also counted as employed if they were temporarily absent from their jobs because of illness, bad weather, vacation, labor-management disputes, or personal reasons.

People are classified as unemployed if they meet all of the following criteria: they had no employment during the reference week; they were available for work at that time; and they made specific efforts to find employment sometime during the four-week period ending with the reference week. Persons laid off from a job and expecting recall need not be looking for work to be counted as unemployed. The unemployment data derived from the household survey is not dependent on the eligibility for or receipt of unemployment insurance benefits.

The civilian labor force is the sum of employed and unemployed persons. Those persons not classified as employed or unemployed are not in the labor force. The unemployment rate is the number unemployed as a percent of the labor force. The labor force participation rate is the labor force as a percent of the population, and the employment-population ratio is the number of employed persons as a percent of the population.

Statistic: Iowa Unemployment Claims

Frequency: Monthly

History: Available starting January 1971

Definition: (Adapted from the U.S. Department of Labor)

Information covering the number of Iowans receiving unemployment benefits is provided by the U.S. Department of Labor. The data are from claims filed by employees that have entered a period of unemployment after being employed in a job that was covered by the federal Unemployment Insurance System. The Unemployment Insurance System is financed through taxes paid by employers and the System is maintained and administered jointly by the U.S. Department of Labor and the states (Iowa Department of Workforce Development).

“First payments” are the first payment in a benefit year for a week of unemployment claimed under the Unemployment Insurance System.

“Final Payments” represent the number of claimants drawing the final payment of their original entitlement for a given program.

Statistic: Philadelphia Federal Reserve State Coincident Index

Frequency: Monthly

History: Available starting January 1979

Background: A **coincident index** is a single summary statistic that tracks the current state of the economy.

Definition: (Adapted from the Philadelphia Federal Reserve)

The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia produces a monthly coincident index for each of the 50 states. The state indexes are released a few days after the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) releases the monthly employment data for the states. The Bank issues a release each month describing recent trends in the state indexes, with special coverage of the three states in the Philadelphia District: Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware.

The coincident indexes combine four state-level indicators to summarize current economic conditions in a single statistic. The four state-level variables in each coincident index are nonfarm payroll employment, average hours worked in manufacturing, the unemployment rate, and wage and salary disbursements deflated by the consumer price index (U.S. city average). The trend for each state's index is set to the trend of its gross domestic product (GDP), so long-term growth in the state's index matches long-term growth in its GDP.

The model and the input variables are consistent across the 50 states, so the state indexes are comparable to one another.

Statistic: Iowa Department of Revenue Iowa Leading Indicators Index

Frequency: Monthly

History: Begins January 1999

Background: The Iowa Leading Indicators Index (ILII) is based on eight economic indicators determined by the Iowa Department of Revenue to be significantly correlated to the immediate future direction of the Iowa economy.

Definition: (Adapted from the Iowa Department of Revenue)

The Iowa Leading Indicators Index (ILII) is designed to forecast the future direction of economic activity in the state of Iowa. The techniques used to build the ILII follow those used by the Conference Board to construct the national Leading Economics Index (LEI) prior to the 2001 revisions. A one-month movement in such an index does not produce a clear signal; rather, it is necessary to consider the direction of the index over several consecutive months. A contraction signal in the ILII is considered reliable when two conditions are met:

1. The index declines by at least 2.0 percent over a six-month period (using an annualized rate); and,
2. A majority of the individual components decline over those six months.

Statistic: Federal Housing Finance Authority Housing Price Index

Frequency: Quarterly

History: Begins first quarter of calendar year 1975, index 1980 = 100

Background: The Housing Price Index (HPI) uses a "repeat sales" methodology, which measures price changes of the same house between a previous and current sale. The "Purchase-only" component of the HPI excludes home refinancing.

Definition: (Adapted from the Federal Housing Finance Authority)

The Housing Price Index (HPI) is a broad measure of the movement of single-family house prices. It serves as a timely, accurate indicator of house price trends at various geographic levels. The HPI is a measure designed to capture changes in the value of single-family houses in the U.S. as a whole, in various regions and in smaller areas. The HPI is published by the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) using data provided by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. The Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight (OFHEO), one of FHFA's predecessor agencies, began publishing the HPI in the fourth quarter of 1995.

Statistic: U.S. Census Bureau Housing Permits

Frequency: Monthly

History: Monthly state-specific data begin January 1995

Definition: (Adapted from the U.S. Census Bureau)

The purpose of the Building Permits Survey is to provide national, state, and local statistics on new privately-owned residential construction. Survey coverage includes places issuing building permits for privately-owned residential structures. More than 98.0 percent of all privately-owned residential buildings constructed are in permit-issuing places. Data collected include number of buildings, number of housing units, and permit valuation by size of structure. Monthly estimates represent all permit-issuing places nationwide. If a survey report is not received, missing data on permits for new construction are imputed except for places that are also selected for the Survey of Construction (SOC). For these places, SOC permit data are used. The assistance of State Data Centers is sought to encourage jurisdictions to respond. Reported data on permits for new construction are seasonally adjusted by Census Region and type of structure. [The Building Permits Survey Methodology document](#) contains further information.

Statistic: Iowa New Vehicle Registrations

Frequency: Monthly

History: Begins January 2004

Definition:

Information on the number of new vehicle registrations in Iowa is provided by the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) and is derived from tax records collected by the DOT. The DOT collects this information throughout the year and totals it monthly.

Statistic: Iowa Personal Income and Wage/Salary Income

Frequency: Quarterly

History: Begins 1948

Definition: (Adapted from the Bureau of Economic Analysis)

Personal income is the income received by individuals from all income sources. Personal income is the sum of net earnings by place of residence, property income, and personal current transfer receipts. Property income is rental income, dividend income, and interest income. Net earnings is earnings by place of work (the sum of wages and salaries, supplements to wages and salaries, and proprietors' income) less contributions for government social insurance, plus an adjustment to convert earnings by place of work to a place-of-residence basis. Personal income is measured before the deduction of personal income taxes and other personal taxes and is reported in current dollars (no adjustment is made for price changes). Personal income does not include income from the sales of assets (capital gains).

Statistic: Corn and Soybean Prices

Frequency: Monthly

History: Corn = 1908, Soybeans = 1925

Background: Iowa typically produces approximately 16.0% of the nation's corn and 13.0% of the soybeans (crop year 2013). For 2012, the value of Iowa's corn and soybean production was equal to 12.4% of Iowa Gross Domestic Product.

Definition: (Adapted from the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS))

The NASS conducts monthly surveys and collects additional information to estimate the prices producers receive for approximately 100 crop and livestock commodities. Surveys are conducted in every state, although not all states survey all crop and livestock commodities; the specific commodities covered are customized for each state.

For corn, soybeans, and other crops, NASS surveys a select panel of approximately 2,000 mills, elevators, and buyers monthly in the top producing states, asking about total quantity purchased and total dollars received. The NASS publishes the price estimates in the Agricultural Prices Report on or near the last business day of each month.

Statistic: Iowa Gross Domestic Product (GDP) - Current Dollar

Frequency: Annual

History: Current methodology begins 1997

Background: GDP is calculated in both nominal (current dollar) and real (current-dollar with the impact of inflation removed) terms. U.S. GDP is calculated and released quarterly, while state GDP is released annually.

Definition: (Adapted from the Bureau of Economic Analysis)

United States GDP is the value of goods and services produced by the U.S. economy in a given time period. GDP by state is the state counterpart of the nation's gross domestic product. GDP by state is derived as the sum of GDP originating in all the industries in a state.

Statistic: State Population

Frequency: Annual

History: Annual state populations begin 1900

Background: The U.S. Census Bureau conducts the decennial (every 10 years) census and also produces annual estimates of the population change since the last decennial census. The annual population counts are “as of July 1” for each year.

Definition: (Adapted from the U.S. Census Bureau)

Each year, the U.S. Census Bureau produces and publishes estimates of the population for the nation, states, counties, state/county equivalents, and Puerto Rico. The Census Bureau estimates the resident population for each year since the most recent decennial census by using measures of population change. The resident population includes all people currently residing in the United States.

With each annual release of population estimates, the Population Estimates Program revises and updates the entire time series of estimates from April 1, 2010 to July 1 of the current year, referred to as the vintage year. The term “vintage” is used to denote an entire time series created with a consistent population starting point and methodology. The release of a new vintage of estimates supersedes any previous series and incorporates the most up-to-date input data and methodological improvements.

The U.S. Census Bureau population estimates are used for federal funding allocations, as controls for major surveys including the Current Population Survey and the American Community Survey, for community development, to aid business planning, and as denominators for statistical rates.

The population estimate at any given time point starts with a population base (the last decennial census or the previous point in the time series), adds births, subtracts deaths, and adds net migration (both international and domestic). The individual methods used account for additional factors such as input data availability and the requirement that all estimates be consistent by geography, age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin.