

IOWA UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS

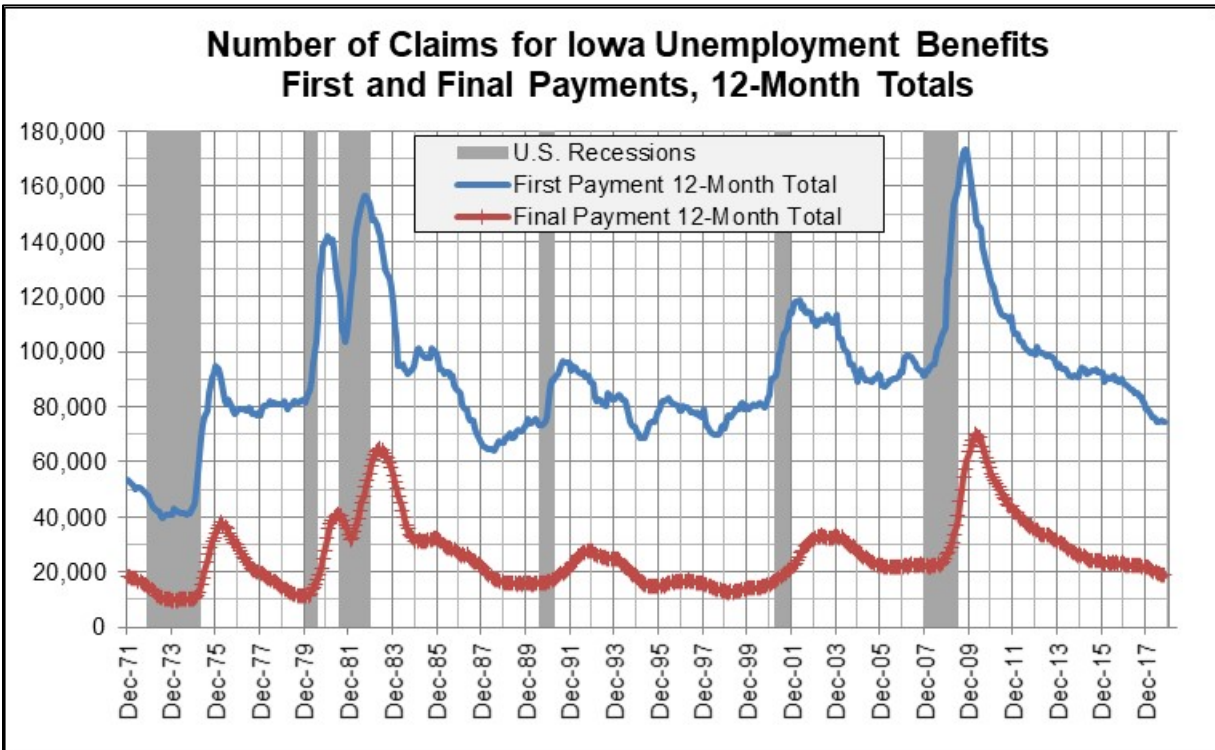
Overview. Information covering the number of Iowans receiving unemployment benefits is provided by the U.S. Department of Labor. The data represents claims filed by employees who have entered a period of unemployment after being employed in a job that was covered by the federal Unemployment Insurance System. There are two components that help describe the immediacy and length of a critical situation for the employment market:

- “First payments” are the first payments 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.

Current Status. Over the last 12 months, the number of Iowans receiving their first unemployment payment for the benefit year totaled 74,629 (blue line), a modest increase compared to last month’s annual total. The 12-month total has been trending lower in recent years, indicating a labor market that continues to tighten. The October 2018 first payment number was 3,775, which was 141 above the reading from the previous month.

Over the past 12 months, the number of Iowans receiving their final unemployment payment (exhaustion of benefit eligibility) totaled 18,779 (red line). This is the lowest level of final payments since 2001. At 1,278, the October 2018 reading was six below the final payment number from the previous month.

For both unemployment claim statistics, levels are low and have been for more than three years. The numbers continue to indicate the Iowa economy remains strong, and in most instances, a lack of qualified employees is likely a bigger issue than a lack of available jobs.



More Data. Additional information can be found on the Legislative Services Agency’s [Economic Trends webpage](#), which includes links to source sites and the underlying data for each Economic Trends indicator.