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 made 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. For March 2020, the number of Iowans receiving their first unemployment payment for the benefit year totaled 15,846, which was 7,911 above the previous month. Over the last 12 months, the number of Iowans receiving their first unemployment payment for the benefit year totaled 89,739 (blue line), an increase of 11,052 compared to last month’s annual total.

Over the past 12 months, the number of Iowans receiving their final unemployment payment (exhaustion of benefit eligibility) totaled 17,315 (red line). This is one of the lowest levels of final payments since 2001. At 1,896, the March 2020 reading was 419 above the final payment number from the previous month.

The impact of COVID-19 on unemployment statistics will continue to mount as weekly claims are reflected in the monthly and yearly statistics.

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.