

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT (SEASONALLY-ADJUSTED)

Overview. 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.

Historical Trend. The most recent U.S. recession began in December 2007, but Iowa nonfarm employment growth did not turn negative until October 2008. Year-over-year job growth remained negative until late 2010. From October 2010 through December 2015, nonfarm payrolls increased at a 17,900-job annual pace. For the next two years, annual job growth averaged 5,500. Annual job growth in calendar year 2018 is averaging 16,000 year-over-year.

Current Status. According to current numbers and using the seasonally-adjusted nonfarm employment series, Iowa employment first exceeded its prerecession peak (January 2008 = 1,528,000) in July 2013, and with the 1,595,300 October 2018 reading, employment is 67,300 jobs above the January 2008 prerecession peak. The October 2018 employment estimate is an increase of 3,900 jobs compared to the previous month and an increase of 21,800 jobs (1.4%) compared to October 2017.

Compared to the previous October, nonfarm employment changes by selected major industry category include:

- Construction increased 6,300 jobs (8.4%).
- Manufacturing increased 9,000 jobs (4.1%).
- Trade and Transportation showed no change in jobs (0.0%).
- Financial Activities increased 2,800 jobs (2.6%).
- Professional and Business Services increased 2,600 jobs (1.9%).
- Education and Health Services increased 2,900 jobs (1.3%).
- Leisure and Hospitality decreased 800 jobs (0.6%).

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.

