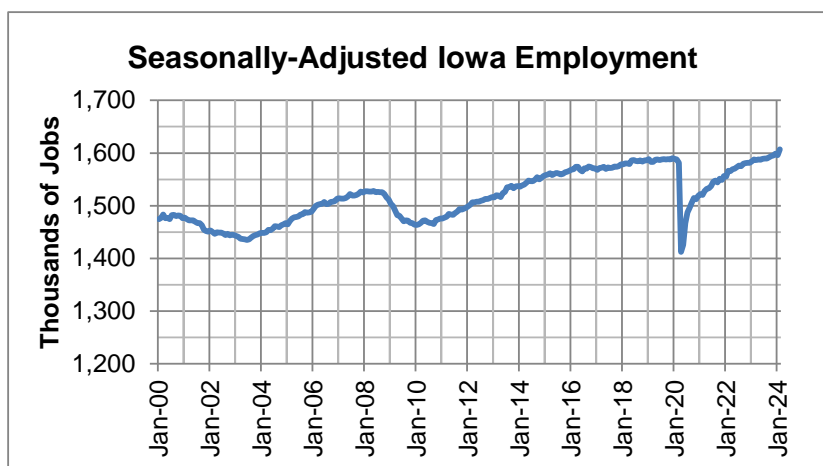
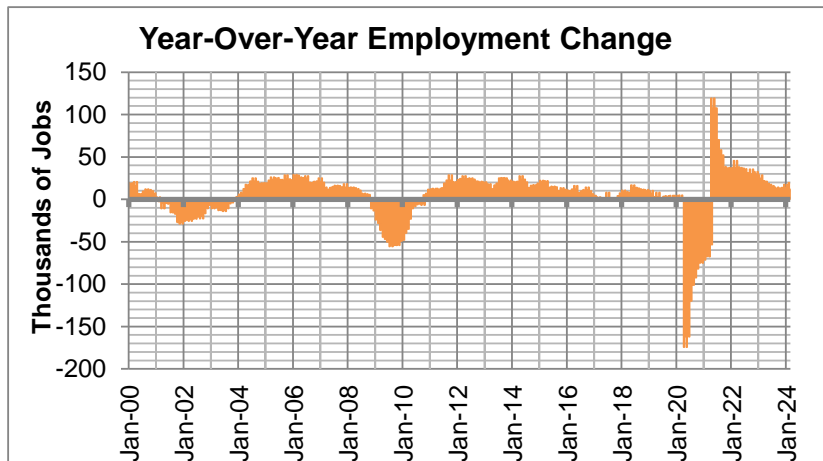


## NONFARM EMPLOYMENT (SEASONALLY-ADJUSTED)

**Overview.** The establishment survey, also referred to as the nonfarm employment 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 National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) announced on July 19, 2021, that the U.S. officially entered a recession in February 2020 that ended in April 2020. The prior U.S. recession began in December 2007; however, Iowa nonfarm employment growth did not turn negative until mid-2008. Year-over-year job growth remained negative until late 2010. From October 2010 through 2015, nonfarm payrolls increased at an annual pace of 19,300 jobs. From December 2015 through December 2019, annual job growth averaged 5,900. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, job growth was negative 71,300 in calendar year (CY) 2020 before rebounding to positive 37,400 in CY 2021 and dropping to 24,900 in CY 2022 and 17,500 in CY 2023.

**Current Status.** According to the seasonally-adjusted nonfarm employment series, Iowa employment first exceeded the 2020 prerecession peak (December 2019 = 1,590,300) in September 2023. With the February 2024 reading, employment is at 1,607,200, which is 16,900 jobs above the 2020 prerecession peak. The February 2024 employment estimate is an increase of 11,000 jobs compared to the previous month and an increase of 19,500 jobs (1.2%) from one year ago.



Compared to one year ago, nonfarm employment changes by selected major industry category include:

Major Industry Category	Jobs	Change
Construction	3,800	4.6%
Manufacturing	2,600	1.1%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	-6,400	-2.0%
Financial Activities	600	0.6%
Professional and Business Services	2,200	1.5%
Education and Health Services	7,700	3.3%
Leisure and Hospitality	5,500	3.9%

**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.