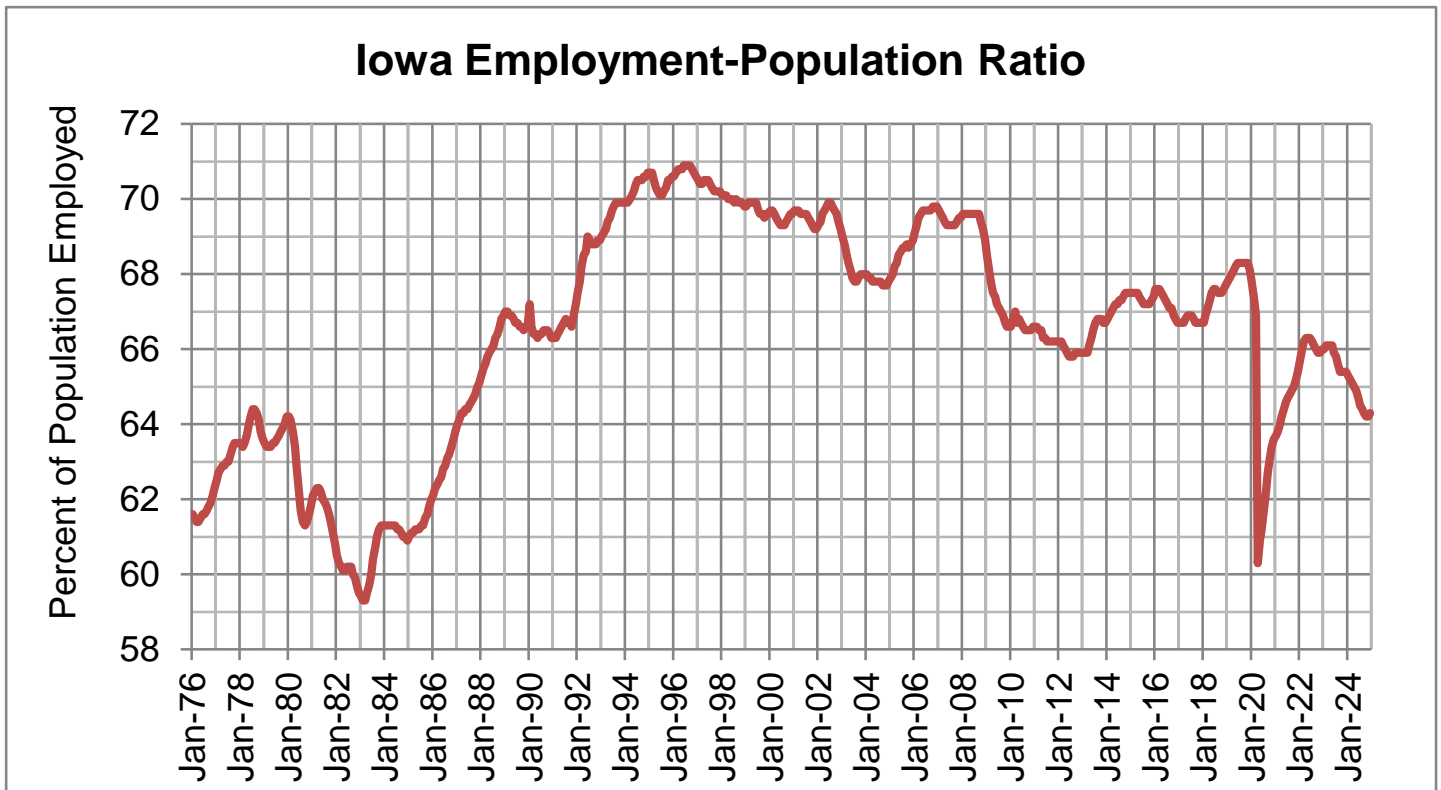


EMPLOYMENT-POPULATION RATIO (SEASONALLY-ADJUSTED)

Overview. The Employment-Population Ratio for a state is equal to the number of people reporting that they are employed divided by the state's estimated noninstitutionalized civilian population age 16 years and older. A high Employment-Population Ratio is generally a good thing, as it means a larger portion of a state's population is currently working.



Historical Trend. At the start of the U.S. recession that began in December 2007, Iowa's Employment-Population Ratio was at 69.5%, meaning that 69.5% of Iowa's civilian, noninstitutionalized population age 16 years and older reported having a job. That ranked Iowa seventh highest in the country, with a rate 6.6 percentage points higher than the national average of 62.9%. Employment-Population Ratios declined during and after the December 2007 recession, both in Iowa and nationally. More recently, Iowa's Employment-Population Ratio had rebounded, reaching 68.3% in the summer of 2019, before being impacted by COVID-19 and the brief recession that began in February 2020. After the end of the recession in April 2020, the ratio steadily increased from a low of 60.3% in April 2020 to 66.3% in April 2022. Since then, the ratio has decreased to the current rate of 64.3%.

Meaningful increases in employment are more difficult to achieve in high-ratio states within the constraints of the existing population. Over the history of the statistic, no state has recorded an employed population rate higher than 73.1% (Minnesota in 2000), and the highest rate achieved in Iowa was 70.9% (1996).

Current Status. The current 64.3% Iowa ratio is the ninth highest in the nation and is 4.4 percentage points above the current national average (59.9%). The District of Columbia (68.0%), North Dakota (67.3%), and Nebraska (66.6%) currently have the highest ratios. The states with the lowest ratios are West Virginia (52.5%), Mississippi (53.4%), and South Carolina (54.8%).

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.