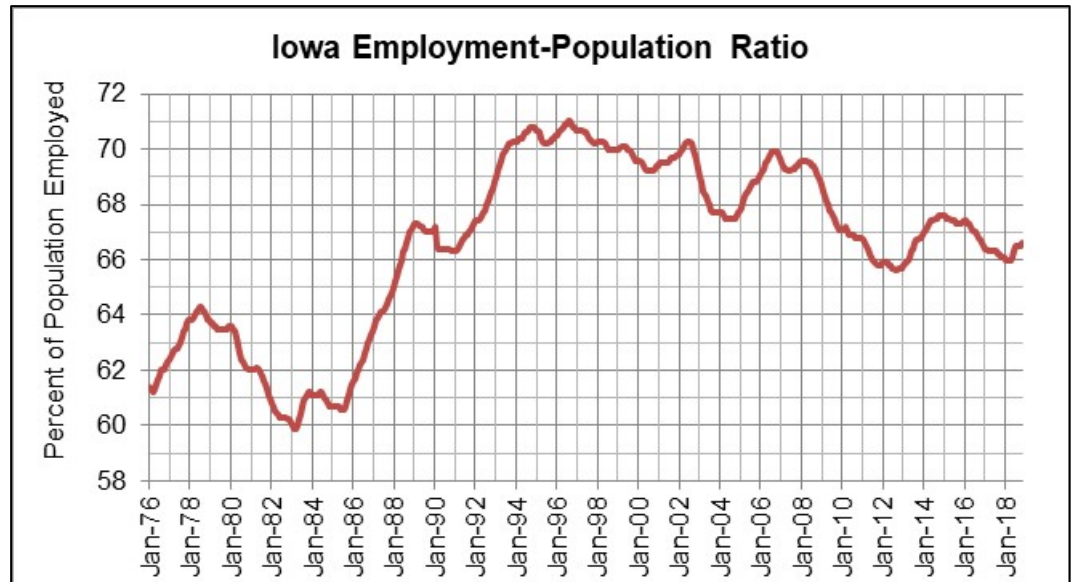


EMPLOYMENT-POPULATION RATIO (SEASONALLY-ADJUSTED DATA)

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 and older. A high Employment-Population Ratio is a good thing, as it means a larger portion of a state's population is currently working.

Historical Trend. With continued aging of the Iowa population, increasing the Employment-Population Ratio could prove difficult for a number of years. At the start of the last U.S. recession (December 2007), Iowa's Employment-Population Ratio was at 69.6%, meaning that 69.6% of Iowa's civilian, noninstitutionalized population age 16 and over reported having a job. That ranked Iowa seventh



highest in the country, with a rate 6.7 percentage points higher than the national average of 62.9%.

Employment-Population Ratios declined during and after the recession, both in Iowa and nationally, and have since rebounded somewhat.

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 71.0% (1996).

Current Status. The current 66.6% Iowa ratio is the sixth highest in the nation and is 6.2 percentage points above the current national average (60.4%). Minnesota (68.0%), North Dakota (67.7%), and Colorado (66.9%) currently have the highest ratios. The state with the lowest ratio is West Virginia (51.0%).

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.