HOUSEHOLD EMPLOYMENT SURVEY (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

Overview. The household employment survey provides information on the labor force, employment, and unemployment. It is a sample survey of about 60,000 eligible households conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The sample is selected to reflect the entire civilian noninstitutionalized population. Based on responses to a series of questions on work and job search activities, each person 16 years and older in a sample household is classified as employed, unemployed, or not in the labor force.

Historical Trend. At the low point of the last U.S. recession, Iowa’s unemployment rate peaked at 6.6% (May through August 2009). The unemployment rate has generally declined since that time, and Iowa’s April 2020 seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 10.2%.

Current Status. Employed Iowans (the number of Iowans reporting that they currently have a job) decreased by 129,208 in April. At 1,536,236, the number of employed Iowans is just above the number for November 2004.

Iowa’s labor force (includes those employed plus those unemployed and looking for work) decreased by 10,476 compared to the previous month. At 1,711,542, the number of Iowans in the labor force is just above the number for November 2018.

The number of unemployed Iowans totaled 175,306 in April, a level that is 128,262 above the level one year ago.

The impact of COVID-19 is showing in Iowa’s labor force and employment numbers.

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.