

IOWA UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS

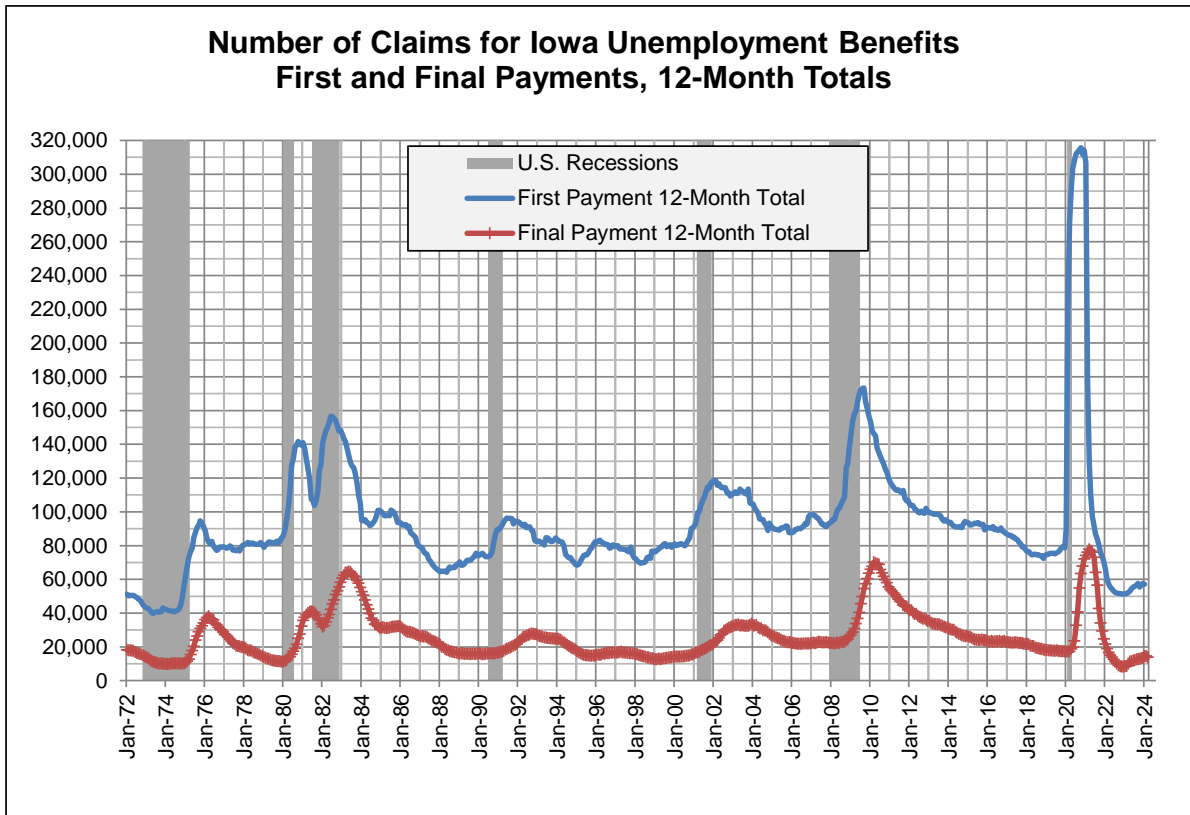
Overview. Information covering the number of Iowans receiving unemployment benefits is provided by the U.S. Department of Labor. The data represents claims filed by employees who have entered a period of unemployment after being employed in a job that was covered by the federal Unemployment Insurance System. There are two components that help describe the immediacy and length of a critical situation for the employment market:

- “First payments” are the first payments made in a benefit year for a week of unemployment claimed under the Unemployment Insurance System.
- “Final payments” represent the number of claimants drawing the final payment of their original entitlement for a given program.

Current Status. For March 2024, the number of Iowans receiving their first unemployment payment for the benefit year totaled 8,726, which was 778 above the previous month. Over the last 12 months, the number of Iowans receiving their first unemployment payment for the benefit year totaled 57,096 (blue line), a decrease of 555 compared to the February 2024 12-month total. The 12-month total in March 2024 was 5,637 higher than one year ago.

Over the past 12 months, the number of Iowans receiving their final unemployment payment (exhaustion of benefit eligibility) totaled 13,949 (red line). This was 618 lower than the February 2024 12-month total. At 2,052, the March 2024 reading was 928 above the final payment number from the previous month.

The National Bureau of Economic Research declared that the U.S. entered a three-month recession in February 2020, which resulted in a large increase in the number of first and final unemployment payments. Since the 2020 recession, unemployment payments have decreased and are now below prepandemic levels. The high number of current available job openings and strong consumer demand have positively impacted unemployment statistics throughout 2022, 2023, and 2024.



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.