



**For Release:** 10:00 a.m.  
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## **Iowa Unemployment Rate Drops to 5.7 Percent**

DES MOINES, IOWA – Iowa’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped to 5.7 percent in November, the first time the rate has been lower than 6.0 percent since September 2009. The state’s jobless rate was 6.0 percent in October, and 6.2 percent in November 2010. The U.S. rate for November also reflected a sharp drop, falling to 8.6 percent from 9.0 percent in October.

“The Iowa economy appears to be on firmer ground than it was during third quarter,” said Teresa Wahlert, director of Iowa Workforce Development. “The large drop in the November unemployment rate, along with an increase in total employment and further expansion in manufacturing, seems to confirm that the recovery has stepped up a notch.”

The statewide estimate of unemployed persons fell to 95,000 in November from 98,700 in October, marking the second consecutive month that unemployment has dropped below 100,000. Unemployment was reported at 103,100 one year ago.

The total number of working Iowans reversed course in November, and edged up slightly to 1,562,000 from 1,558,300 in October.

## **Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment**

Total nonfarm employment declined slightly to 1,485,000 in November from the previous month’s 1,486,100, but was 10,400 higher than the November 2010 level. In terms of job growth, 2011 has been overwhelmingly positive. Job gains have been posted for seven of the first eleven months of the year.

Manufacturing continued to be a strong factor in the recovery this month, adding 1,100 jobs. Both durable and nondurable goods factories contributed gains this month, up 700 and 400 respectively. Financial activities was up 600, and trade and transportation also advanced by 600 due to increases in retail trade and transportation. On the other hand, leisure and hospitality shed 1,900 jobs in November with losses heaviest in recreation and leisure activities. Professional and business services was down 1,300 with almost half of the losses concentrated in scientific, technical, and professional services.

Year-over-year increases put manufacturing in the forefront, up 7,900 jobs from last November. Education and health services accounted for the second-largest annual gain of 5,100, which was due almost entirely to hiring in health care and social services. Trade and transportation added 4,500; job growth occurred in retail trade and transportation. Government lost the most jobs of any sector, down 3,700. Budget cuts in state and local government accounted for most of the losses.

**MEDIA ALERT:** An audio cut of comments about Iowa’s labor market situation is available by calling (515) 281-6057. Statewide and local data for December will be released on January 24, 2012.

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### Employment and Unemployment in Iowa, Seasonally Adjusted Data

	Nov 2011	Oct 2011	Nov 2010	Change from	
				Oct 2011	Nov 2010
Civilian labor force	1,657,000	1,657,000	1,674,300	0	-17,300
Unemployment	95,000	98,700	103,100	-3,700	-8,100
Unemployment rate	5.7%	6.0%	6.2%	-0.3	-0.5
Employment	1,562,000	1,558,300	1,571,200	3,700	-9,200
U.S. unemployment rate	8.6%	9.0%	9.8%	-0.4	-1.2

### Nonfarm Employment in Iowa, Seasonally Adjusted Data

Total Nonfarm Employment	1,485,000	1,486,100	1,474,600	-1,100	10,400
Mining	2,100	2,000	2,200	100	-100
Construction	63,700	63,500	62,800	200	900
Manufacturing	208,000	206,900	200,100	1,100	7,900
Trade, transportation and utilities	305,800	305,200	301,300	600	4,500
Information	27,000	27,000	28,000	0	-1,000
Financial activities	98,900	98,300	101,100	600	-2,200
Professional and business services	123,000	124,300	124,500	-1,300	-1,500
Education and health services	218,800	218,800	213,700	0	5,100
Leisure and hospitality	131,700	133,600	130,200	-1,900	1,500
Other services	55,600	55,800	56,600	-200	-1,000
Government	250,400	250,700	254,100	-300	-3,700

### Unemployment Insurance Claims for Iowa

	Nov 2011	Oct 2011	Nov 2010	% Change from	
				Oct 2011	Nov 2010
<b>Initial claims</b>	19,906	12,038	20,965	65.4%	-5.1%
<b>Continued claims</b>					
Number of claimants	32,553	27,253	32,689	19.4%	-0.4%
Weeks paid	114,727	87,151	106,899	31.6%	7.3%
Amount paid	\$33,817,201	\$25,731,506	\$30,927,536	31.4%	9.3%

Visit [www.iowaworkforce.org/lmi/laborforce/locallaborforce.html](http://www.iowaworkforce.org/lmi/laborforce/locallaborforce.html) for county unemployment rates, [www.iowaworkforce.org/lmi/laborforce/index.html](http://www.iowaworkforce.org/lmi/laborforce/index.html) for current and historical labor force data and [www.iowaworkforce.org/lmi/empstat/msanonag.htm](http://www.iowaworkforce.org/lmi/empstat/msanonag.htm) for detailed information on nonfarm employment.

Visit [www.iowaworkforce.org/trends/wages.html](http://www.iowaworkforce.org/trends/wages.html) for information on hours and earnings and [www.iowaworkforce.org/trends/uiclaimscomo.html](http://www.iowaworkforce.org/trends/uiclaimscomo.html) to obtain a breakout of jobless benefits by county.

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