

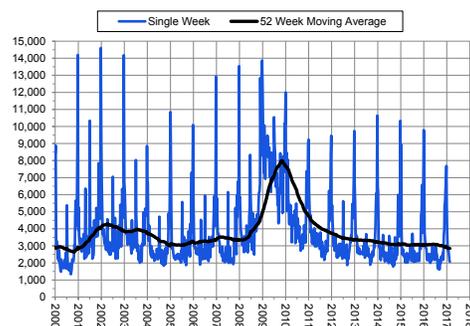
# Status of the Iowa Workforce and Economy

## Upcoming 2017 News Release Schedule

Reference Month	Statewide News Release	Local Area News Release
Jan	Mar 13	Mar 13
<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar 24</b>	<b>Mar 28</b>
Mar	Apr 21	Apr 25
Apr	May 19	May 23
May	June 16	June 20
June	July 21	July 25
July	Aug 18	Aug 22
Aug	Sep 15	Sep 19
Sept	Oct 20	Oct 24
Oct	Nov 17	Nov 21
Nov	Dec 22	Dec 27
Dec	Jan 23	Jan 23

- Iowa's unemployment rate dropped to 3.2 percent in February from 3.4 percent in January. The state's jobless rate was 3.8 percent one year ago. The last time the rate was this low was June 2001.
- The state's total employment level continued to trend upward in February, reaching 1,639,700.
- The U.S. unemployment rate dropped slightly to 4.7 percent in February from 4.8 percent in January.

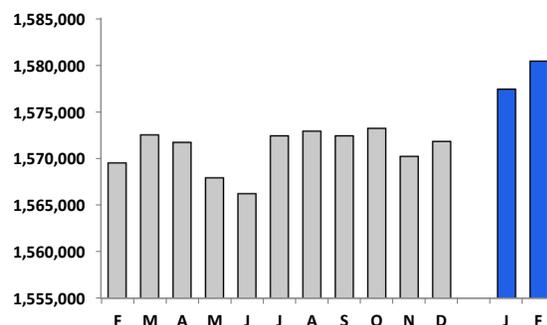
## Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance



Source: Iowa Workforce Development

- Weekly UI initial claims averaged 2,853 for the 52 weeks ending 2/25/2017. This represents the lowest 52-week average since January 2001.
- Employees in Iowa's private sectors averaged \$791.86 in February, up \$21.56 versus last year. Workers in Iowa's finance had the highest weekly wage in February (\$1,123.48).
- U.S. nonfarm employment added 235,000 jobs in February and was fueled by hiring in construction, private educational services, and manufacturing. Since last February, 2.4 million jobs have been added.

## Total Nonfarm Employment - Iowa February 2016 - February 2017



- Total nonfarm employment expanded for the third-consecutive month in February by adding 3,000 jobs.
- Education and health services added the most jobs of any sector this month (+1,800) and was fueled by hiring in private education.
- Construction added 1,600 jobs following a large seasonal decrease last month.
- Finance and insurance added jobs for the sixth-consecutive month and is up 3,000 jobs over last February.
- Total nonfarm employment remains up 10,900 jobs versus last year. The only losses annually are manufacturing (-4,000) and information services (-1,400).

## Iowa Nonfarm Employment by Quarter

		Average Employment	Percent Change from Prior Qtr
2015	Qtr 1	1,559,000	0.4%
	Qtr 2	1,559,700	0.0%
	Qtr 3	1,561,400	0.1%
	Qtr 4	1,564,200	0.2%
2016	Qtr 1	1,570,100	0.4%
	Qtr 2	1,568,600	-0.1%
	Qtr 3	1,572,600	0.3%
	Qtr 4	1,571,700	-0.1%

## Iowa Workforce Development

Information Prepared by the Labor Market Information Division

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## Iowa and U.S. Unemployment Rates—2017

