

WESTERN IOWA ADVANTAGE REGIONAL LABORSHED AREA

A STUDY IN LABOR AVAILABILITY AND WORKFORCE CHARACTERISTICS
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
WORKFORCE.IOWA.GOV/LABORSHED

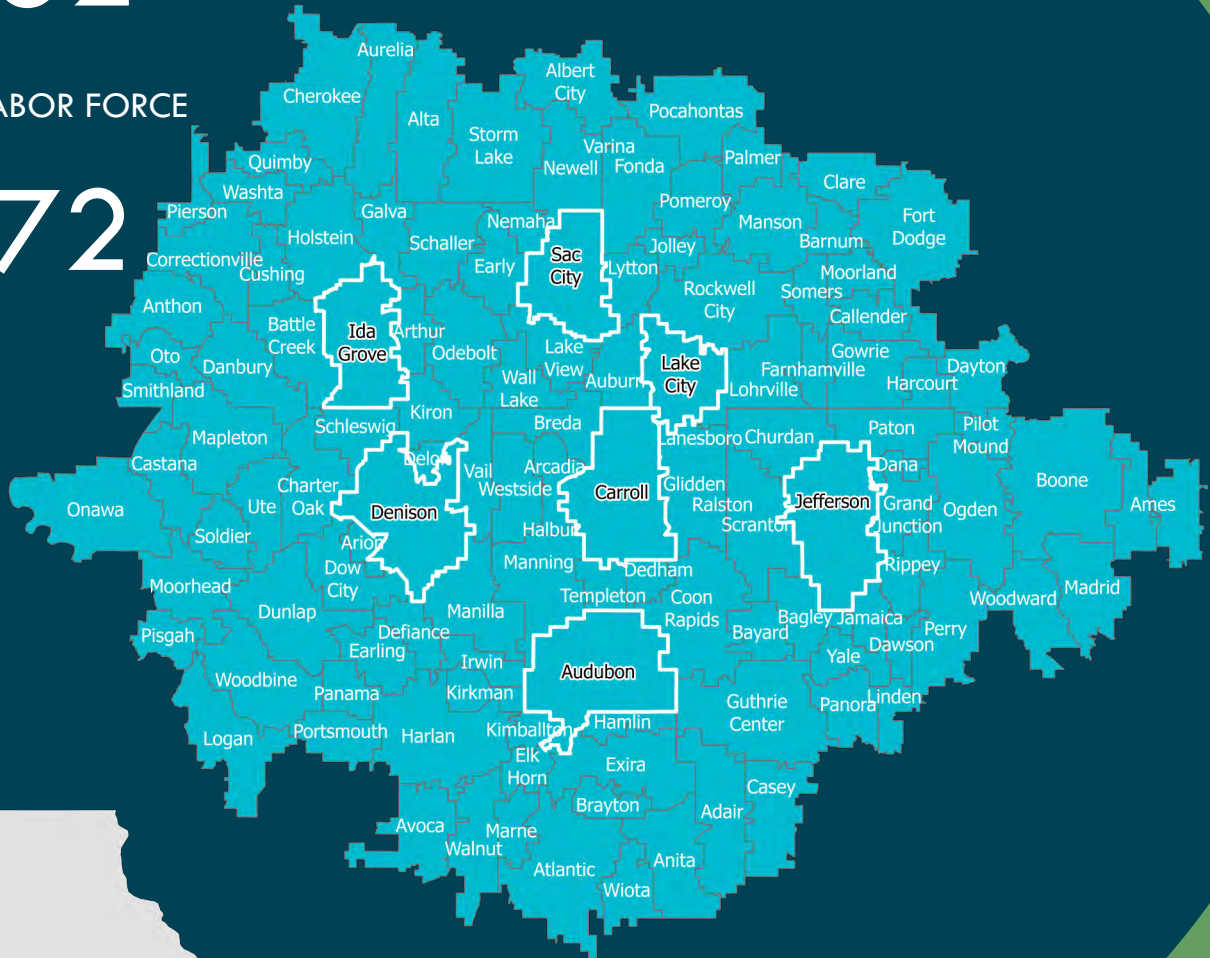
RELEASED
2026

ESTIMATED POPULATION
AGES 18-64

337,252

TOTAL ESTIMATED LABOR FORCE
AGES 18-64

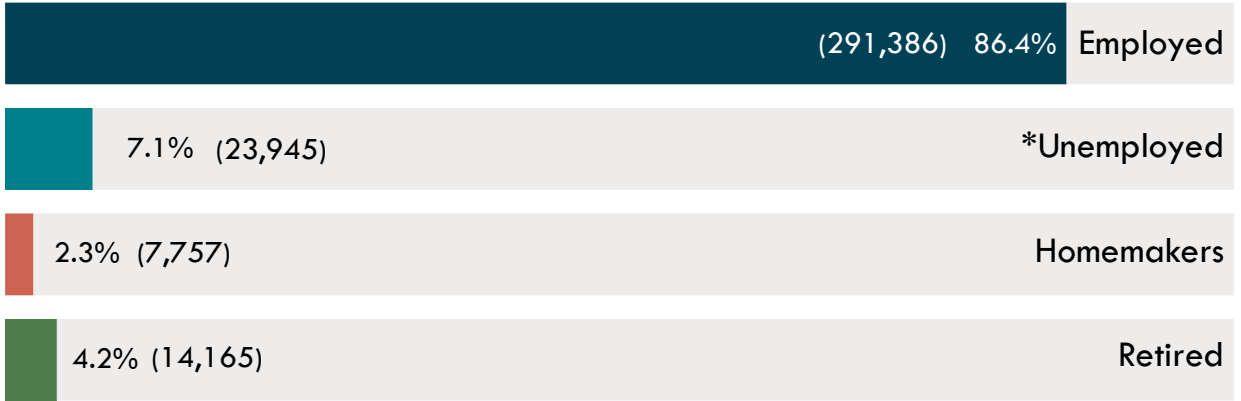
292,972



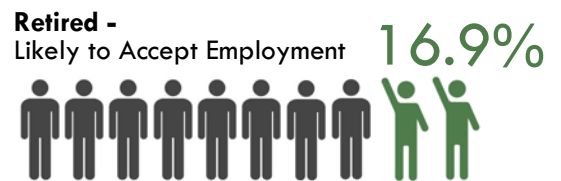
AREA SHOWN

WESTERN IOWA ADVANTAGE LABORSHED ANALYSIS

EMPLOYMENT STATUS (ESTIMATED TOTAL)*

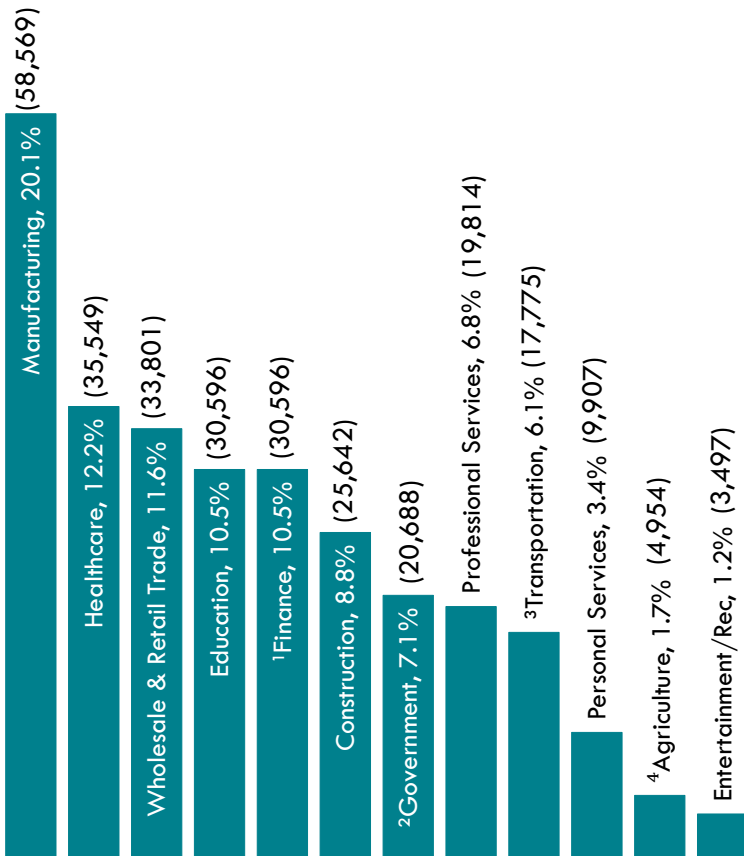


*Employment status is self-identified by the survey respondent. The unemployment percentage above does not reflect the unemployment rate published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, which applies a stricter definition.



BREAKOUT OF THE EMPLOYED BY INDUSTRY (ESTIMATED TOTAL*)

*Totals may vary due to rounding.



¹Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate

³Transportation, Communications, & Utilities

²Public Administration, Government

⁴Agriculture, Forestry, & Mining

TOP CURRENT BENEFITS OF THE FULL-TIME EMPLOYED

	Paid Sick Leave/ PTO/Vacation	95.6%
	Health/Medical Insurance	91.9%
	Pension/ Retirement/401k	90.0%
	Paid Holiday	86.6%
	Dental Coverage	85.3%
	Vision Coverage	82.3%
	Life Insurance	80.6%
	Disability Insurance	77.8%
	Prescription Drug Coverage	61.6%
	Flex Spending Account	59.4%

A Laborshed area is defined by its commuting pattern and illustrates which communities contribute to an employment center's workforce and at what level. To determine the boundaries of a Laborshed area, local employers supply the residential ZIP codes of each of their employees. The data in this publication reflects characteristics specific to the workforce in the Western Iowa Advantage Laborshed area.

The employed are currently commuting an average of—

15

miles one-way for an employment opportunity

&

19
minutes

EMPLOYED: LIKELY TO CHANGE

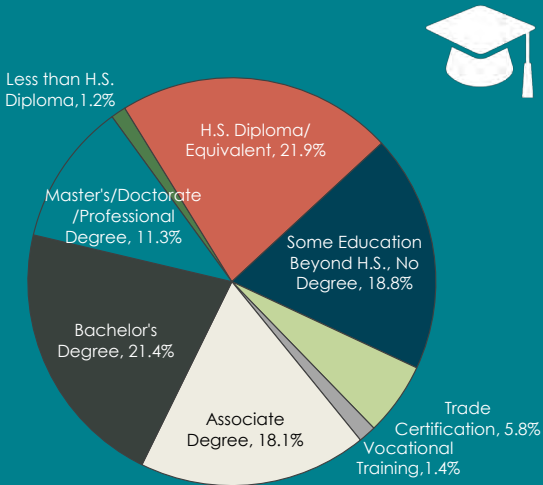
26.4% of employed individuals are likely to change their current employment situation for a new opportunity.

- Current occupational categories:

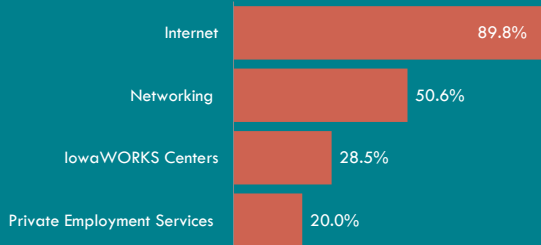
Professional, Paraprofessional, Technical	29.7%
Production, Construction, Material Moving	27.8%
Services	12.3%
Clerical	10.8%
Managerial	9.3%
Sales	8.8%
Agricultural	1.3%

- Current median wages: \$
 - \$22.00/hour and \$68,000/year
 - \$25.00/hour - attracts 66%
 - \$28.00/hour - attracts 75%

- 76.9% have an education beyond HS



- **32.0%** are actively seeking employment
- Most frequently identified job search resources:



- Top sites:



- Top newspapers:



- Commute:

- Currently commuting an average of **14 miles/19 minutes** (one-way) to work
- Willing to commute an average of **28 miles/35 minutes** (one-way) to work

UNEMPLOYED: LIKELY TO ACCEPT

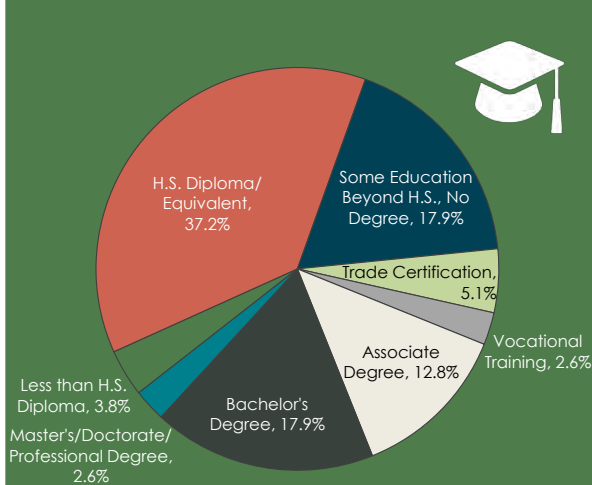
60.0% of unemployed individuals are likely to accept an employment opportunity.

- Former occupational categories:

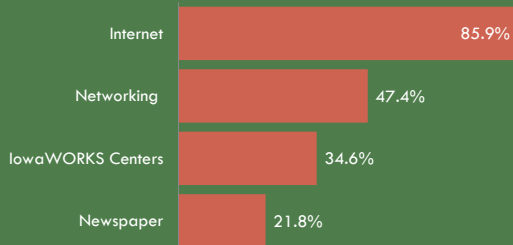
Production, Construction, Material Moving	25.0%
Services	25.0%
Professional, Paraprofessional, Technical	22.2%
Clerical	9.7%
Managerial	8.3%
Agricultural	5.6%
Sales	4.2%

- Median wages: \$
 - \$18.00/hour - lowest willing to accept
 - \$19.00/hour - attracts 66%
 - \$28.00/hour - attracts 75%

- 59.0% have an education beyond HS



- **73.1%** are actively seeking employment
- Most frequently identified job search resources:



- Top sites:



- Top newspapers:



- Commute:

- Willing to commute an average of **26 miles/33 minutes** (one-way) to work



This regional analysis is based on aggregated data from the Audubon, Carroll, Denison, Ida Grove, Jefferson, Lake City, and Sac City Laborshed studies.

These results are based upon a total of **10,387** completed surveys.

For more data visit:
workforce.iowa.gov/laborshed



EDUCATION OF AVAILABLE LABOR BY INDUSTRY OF CURRENT OR FORMER EMPLOYMENT

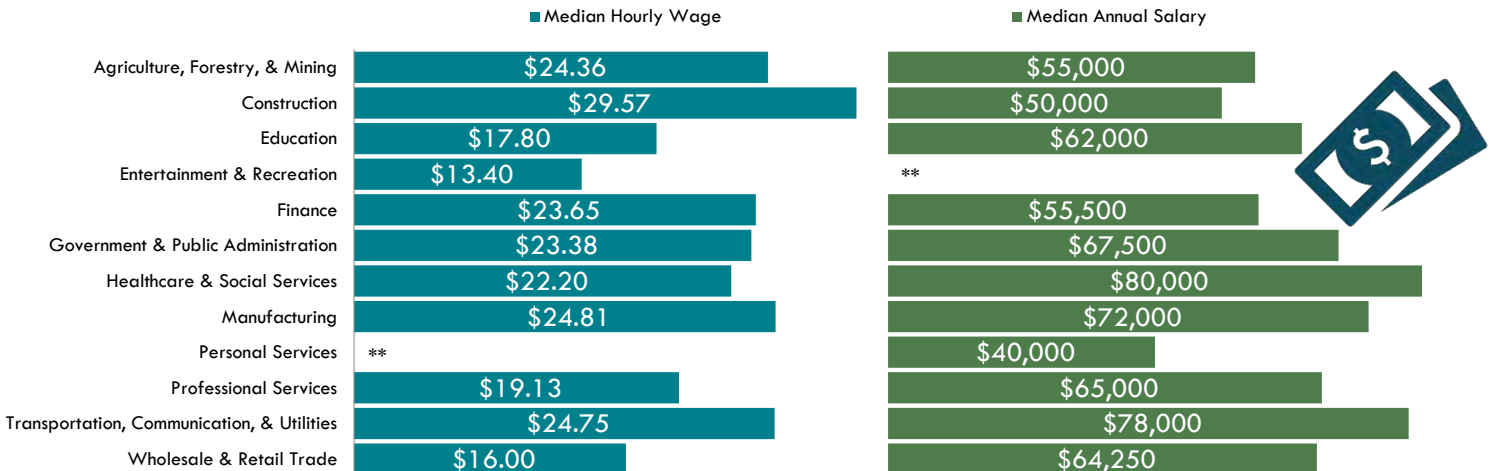
Data on this page is specific to only those survey respondents that reported they are likely to change or accept employment.



Industry	Education Beyond HS	Some Education Beyond HS, No Degree Obtained	Trade Certification/ Vocational Training	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree or Above
Agriculture, Forestry, & Mining	55.0%	15.0%	20.0%	5.0%	15.0%
Construction	72.4%	20.7%	20.7%	13.8%	17.2%
Education	95.1%	11.5%	3.3%	3.3%	77.0%
Entertainment & Recreation	57.2%	14.3%	0.0%	0.0%	42.9%
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	85.0%	20.0%	10.0%	10.0%	45.0%
Government & Public Administration	82.4%	8.8%	5.9%	35.3%	32.4%
Healthcare & Social Services	76.1%	13.1%	7.1%	21.4%	34.5%
Manufacturing	78.1%	20.3%	7.8%	21.9%	28.1%
Personal Services	63.7%	9.1%	9.1%	45.5%	0.0%
Professional Services	71.9%	9.4%	9.4%	28.1%	25.0%
Transportation, Communication, & Utilities	59.5%	23.8%	9.5%	16.7%	9.5%
Wholesale & Retail Trade	65.7%	28.9%	4.4%	14.0%	18.4%

Top percentages among industries per education level are highlighted in the table. ****Insufficient survey data/refused**

WAGES OF AVAILABLE LABOR BY INDUSTRY OF CURRENT OR FORMER EMPLOYMENT

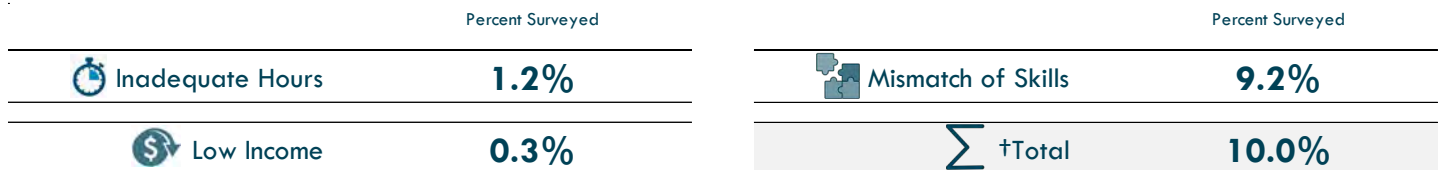


****Insufficient survey data/refused.** A lack of data for a particular industry is not necessarily indicative that there were no (or few) individuals surveyed within that industry. Rather, it may be that there simply were no respondents within that industry that also reported that they are likely to change or accept employment.

Note: A wide variety of occupations are included within these industry categories. Industry classification is based upon the respondent's reported current or former employer. Two respondents that work for a manufacturer will be classified within the manufacturing industry even if, for example, one respondent is a custodian and the other is an accountant.

UNDEREMPLOYMENT

The underemployed are working fewer than 35 hours per week but desire more hours (**inadequate hours**); in positions that do not meet their skill or education level, or have worked for higher wages at previous employment (**mismatch of skills**); or are earning wages equal to or less than the national poverty level and work 35 or more hours per week (**low income**).



†Individuals may be underemployed for more than one reason but are counted only once for total estimated underemployment.

Note: To be counted as underemployed in any category an individual must be currently employed and likely to change their current employment situation.



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