

Western Iowa Advantage is a collaborative group of economic development officials in Audubon, Calhoun, Carroll, Crawford, Greene, Ida, and Sac Counties.

WIAD Partners Tour Dobson Pipe Organ Builders

Dobson Pipe Organ Builders was founded in 1974 in Lake City. Dobson's hand crafted and finely tuned pipe organs have been custom built, delivered, and installed in colleges, universities, and churches in over 28 states, Australia, and England.

Learn more about Dobson Pipe Organ Builders at their website by clicking [HERE](#).



Above: Dobson Shop Foreman, Donny Hobbs guides WIAD partners on a tour of their facility.



Each organ is uniquely designed and hand-crafted for the end user, making each organ a true work of art.

Carroll County Growth Partnership and Carroll Chamber of Commerce See Changes in Leadership

The Carroll County Growth Partnership and the Carroll Chamber of Commerce navigated changes as Kimberly Tiefenthaler retired on March 31st as Executive Director and Adam Schweers succeeded her. Adam was able to work with Kimberly for 5 weeks prior to her retirement to prepare for a smooth transition.

Ashley Schable was promoted to Carroll Chamber Director after 7 years as part of the Chamber Staff. This will allow Adam to be able to focus most of his time on economic development, HUB 712, and overseeing the financials for both entities.

A retirement party was held for Kimberly to thank her for her years of service and dedication on March 27th. Thank you to all our regional partners for their attendance, well wishes, and support.

Adam brings 27 years of experience in owning, growing, and selling small businesses. He has written grants to assist in real estate redevelopment for housing. He has also served on the CCGP Board for 15 years, HUB 712 Board since its founding and was the former Mayor of Carroll which will provide strong continuity for economic development in the region into the future.

USDA Investments Assist Iowa Corn Processors

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative and Corn Belt Power Cooperative each received a \$1,000,000 USDA Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant program loan to fund a pass-through loan to Iowa Corn Processors L.C. This project will replace outdated equipment and upgrade the company's packaging line at its milling services facility in Glidden. This project is expected to create five new jobs.



She Grows Here: A Night That Proved What's Possible in Calhoun County

On March 25, more than 100 women from across Calhoun County gathered in Lake City for the first Calhoun County Women's Summit. This event was designed to create space for women to step away from their daily responsibilities, to listen, to share, to connect, and to reflect.

This summit was made possible through a partnership between Calhoun County Economic Development, Mid Iowa Insurance, and Stewart Memorial Hospital and Clinics.

Keynote speaker, Stacy Besch, spoke to attendees about how to "bloom where you are planted." Besch spoke about her journey in business, entrepreneurship, and advocacy. Lt. Governor Chris Cournoyer joined the evening as a panelist and praised and recognized the work happening in Calhoun County. Calhoun County women from all backgrounds also shared their experiences to round out the evening.

This event came together through the dedication and collaboration of an incredible planning team. Calhoun County Economic Development, alongside the talented women of Mid Iowa Insurance, worked tirelessly to help ensure every detail reflected the purpose and spirit of the evening.



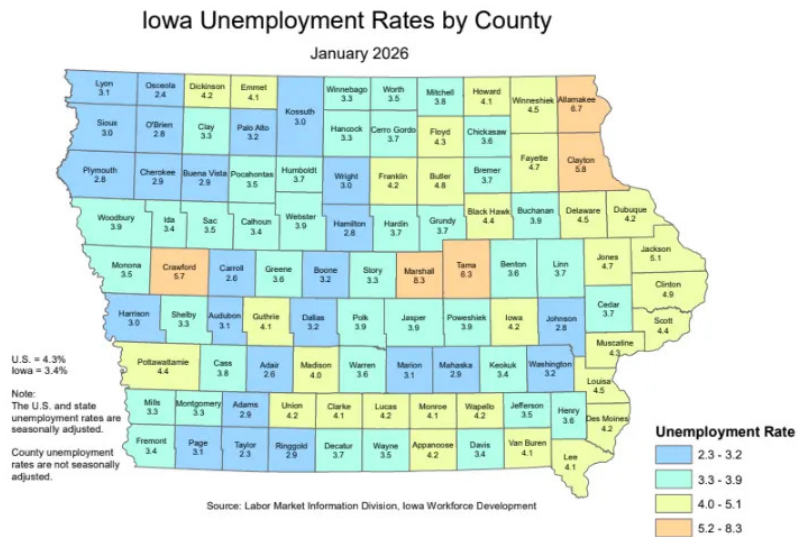
Western Iowa Advantage Region and State of Iowa See Small Changes in Unemployment Rate in January 2026

The Western Iowa Advantage Region's monthly unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) was 3.6 percent in January 2026 down from 4.2 percent in January 2025, according to figures released from Iowa Workforce Development. Iowa's unemployment rate was 3.8 percent in January 2026 down from 4.2 percent in January 2025. The U.S. unemployment rate was 4.3 percent in January 2026. Total employment in the region decreased to 39,790 in January 2026 from 40,310 in January 2025.

Western Iowa Advantage tracks various economic indicators in Audubon, Calhoun, Carroll, Crawford, Greene, Ida, and Sac Counties in Iowa, including employment trends.

County unemployment rates in the region for January 2026:

- Audubon 3.4%
- Calhoun 3.7%
- Carroll 2.7%
- Crawford 6.2%
- Greene 3.5%
- Ida 3.7%
- Sac 4.0%



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