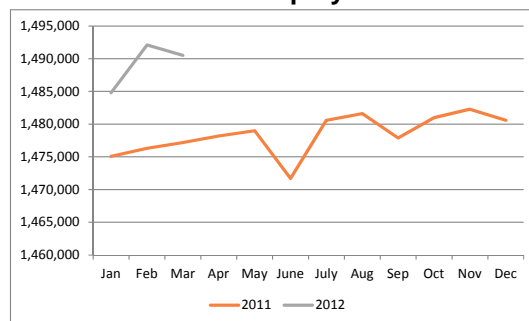


Status of the Iowa Workforce and Economy

2012 Statewide News Release Schedule		
Reference Month	Statewide News Release	Local Area News Release
Dec	Jan 24	Jan 24
Jan	Mar 13	Mar 13
Feb	Mar 30	Mar 30
Mar	Apr 20	Apr 24
Apr	May 18	May 22
May	June 15	June 19
June	July 20	July 24
July	Aug 17	Aug 21
Aug	Sept 21	Sept 25
Sept	Oct 19	Oct 23
Oct	Nov 20	Nov 20
Nov	Dec 21	Dec 28
Dec	Jan 18	Jan 22

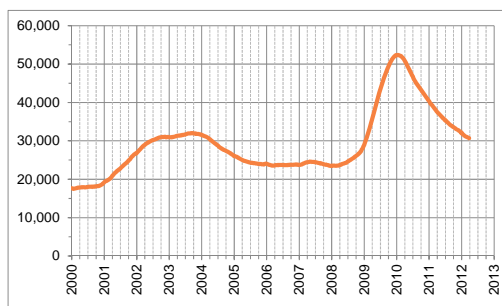
- Iowa's seasonally adjusted jobless rate fell to 5.2 percent in March from 5.3 percent in February. The current rate compares with 5.9 percent for the same month one year ago.
- The U.S. unemployment rate eased down to 8.2 percent in March from 8.3 percent in February, and from 8.9 percent one year ago. The nation's employers added 120,000 jobs in March.

Total Nonfarm Employment - Iowa



- Iowa's nonfarm employment totaled 1,490,500 in March. Compared to March 2011, Iowa has added 13,300 nonfarm jobs.
- The state's construction and manufacturing sectors contributed healthy job gains in March, adding 1,300 and 2,400 jobs respectively.
- Construction activity is rebounding in Iowa. The sector added 5,500 jobs since March 2011, and average weekly hours worked have increased from 37.1 to 39.2 over the year.

Continued Weeks Claimed for Unemployment Insurance - Regular Program (52-Week Moving Average)



- Continued claims under the state regular UI program have declined from 52,390 for the period ending January 16, 2010 to 30,679 for the period ending March 31, 2012. This measure has declined for the ninth straight quarter, and indicates a decline in new layoffs. The moving average is used to reduce the influence of seasonal changes.
- Nationally, the demand for housing is gaining traction. The housing market has improved measurably over the past nine months due to stronger job growth and a pickup in consumer confidence.

Iowa Nonfarm Employment by Quarter

	Average Employment	Percent Change from Prior Qtr
2011 - Qtr 1	1,476,200	0.2%
Qtr 2	1,476,300	0.0%
Qtr 3	1,480,000	0.3%
Qtr 4	1,481,300	0.1%
2012 - Qtr 1	1,489,100	0.5%

IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Information Prepared by Labor Force and Occupational Analysis Bureau

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Iowa and U.S. Unemployment Rates - 2012

