

September 2007

## THE STATE OF WORKING IOWA

### A Look at Growing and Declining Job Sectors

Our economic recovery in Iowa has been slow to create jobs and most of the jobs it has created are not very good ones. We can see this clearly in each wage cohort: Iowa's low-wage workers are struggling to keep their heads above the surface. Iowa's median-wage workers are, at best, treading water. Iowa's high-wage workers are being left behind by their regional and national peers.

Looking to the last six years (table below), the sectors of the Iowa economy adding jobs pay a median annual wage of about \$32,500 and offered health coverage to barely half (52 percent) of their workers. The sectors losing ground, by contrast, pay a median annual wage of over \$35,000 and offer health coverage to fully two-thirds (66 percent) of their workers. This decline in job quality is dominated by sharp numerical losses in high-wage, high-benefit (and historically unionized) manufacturing – although it is important to note that the steepest percentage decline is in the much-trumpeted “information” sector.

#### Wages and Benefits in Growing and Declining Iowa Industries, 2000-2006

	Job Change 2000-06		Median annual wage 2005	Health coverage 2005	
	Thousands of workers	Pct. change			
<b>Total Private Employment</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>1.68%</b>			
<b>Growing Sectors</b> Avg annual earnings \$32,537 Jobs with health coverage 52.0%	Construction	10.8	16.90%	\$ 36,750	44.0%
	Financial Activities	11.0	12.28%	\$ 45,550	62.1%
	Educ. & Health Services	17.3	9.52%	\$ 30,350	56.0%
	Prof. & Business Services	9.3	8.64%	\$ 32,100	52.9%
	Leisure and Hospitality	7.6	6.06%	\$ 11,100	28.3%
	Transportation and Utilities	3.3	5.71%	\$ 37,600	64.6%
	Natural Resources & Mining	0.1	4.76%	\$ 27,350	74.5%
<b>Declining Sectors</b> Avg annual earnings \$35,178 Jobs with health coverage 66.0%	Other Services	-0.1	-0.2%	\$ 21,350	37.9%
	Wholesale Trade	-0.5	-0.7%	\$ 41,750	50.5%
	Retail Trade	-9.7	-5.1%	\$ 19,700	50.5%
	Manufacturing	-20.3	-8.1%	\$ 41,400	71.6%
	Information	-7.5	-18.6%	\$ 38,100	72.5%

Source: Economic Policy Institute/Iowa Policy Project analysis of Current Employment Statistics survey data and Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages; Employment Benefits Research Institute

Note: The above information is excerpted from  
**The State of Working Iowa 2007**,  
 available on the web at <<http://www.iowapolicyproject.org>>.

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