

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 2010  
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EDITORS: *Christine Ralston is available for interviews today.*

## Iowa JobWatch

### Iowa Nonfarm Jobs Show Stability; Jobless Rate at 23-Year High

IOWA CITY, Iowa (March 26, 2010) — The Iowa Policy Project (IPP) today released the following statement from IPP research associate Christine Ralston regarding the latest Iowa job numbers and unemployment figures provided by Iowa Workforce Development:

“The effects of the recent recession continue to take their toll on working Iowans. Iowa’s job picture changed little in February.

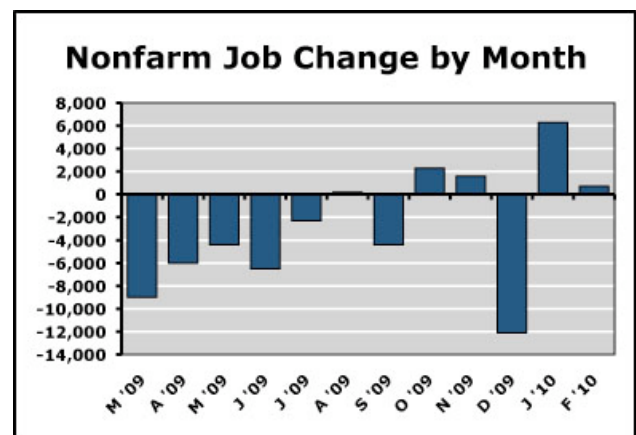
“While nonfarm, or payroll, jobs grew by 700 to 1,465,800, we are still down 33,600 jobs from a year ago and 61,600 jobs from February 2008.

“The unemployment rate increased slightly last month, to 6.7 percent from 6.6 percent in January. Though Iowa’s unemployment rate is far better than the national average of 9.7 percent, it is still well above the 5.3 percent in Iowa last February, and the February 2008 rate of 3.9 percent.

“It is important not to get too caught up in one-month job changes. The longer-term trends are more significant, and these numbers illustrate that Iowa jobs continue to fall short of the demand for work. One good sign is that the demand is up — more people were in the job market in February than were there a year earlier. Plus, this is the second consecutive one-month improvement in nonfarm jobs and fifth in the last seven months, so the state is slowly making headway on the 12,100 jobs lost in December 2009.”

*The Iowa Policy Project is a nonpartisan, nonprofit research and policy analysis organization in Iowa City. IPP reports on job trends and other public policy issues at <http://www.iowapolicyproject.org>.*

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#### Key Numbers for Iowa Jobs:

- Payroll jobs in February stood at 1,465,800 — a 700 increase over a favorably revised estimate for January.
- Iowa’s unemployment rate rose in February to 6.7 percent, from 6.6 percent in January. It compares to a 5.3 percent rate in February 2009.

#### Key Trends for Iowa Jobs:

- Payroll jobs showed an increase for the fifth time in seven months, but were well below their February 2009 level.
- Iowa’s unemployment rate showed only a slight increase, but stood at a 23-year high and has been over 6 percent for nine months. The rate had not reached 6.7 percent since August 1986.