Iowa’s unemployment rate fell to 2.7 percent in May. The state’s jobless rate was 3.2 percent one year ago.

The number of employed Iowans increased to 1,630,100 in May from 1,627,200 in April.

The U.S. unemployment rate dropped to 3.8 percent in May.

Regular UI Exhaustion Rate
For the Twelve Months Ending

About 25 percent of UI recipients drew the maximum number of weeks of benefits available to them. This exhaustion rate exceeded 40 percent during the recession in 2010, but has been around 25 percent for the last two years.

The maximum number of weeks of regular UI benefits available ranges from 8 to 26 per benefit year depending on an individual’s earnings.

Average weekly earnings for private sector employees increased to $822.16 in May, up $31.80 since last year.

U.S. total nonfarm payroll gained 223,000 jobs in May.

Total nonfarm employment rebounded from a loss last month and added 3,300 jobs. This is the third gain of 2018.

Wholesale trade and administration and support services tied for the most jobs added this month (+1,100).

Retail trade added 900 jobs following a slight gain of 100 jobs last month. Despite the increase, retail trails last year’s mark by 2,800 jobs.

Construction added 1,000 jobs in May and has now gained jobs in four consecutive months.

Iowa has added 17,100 jobs versus last May. Manufacturing has added the most jobs (+7,400). Transportation and warehousing and healthcare and social assistance each added 2,500 jobs.

Iowa and U.S. Unemployment Rates for 2018

Source: Labor Market Information (LMI) Division, Iowa Workforce Development and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) unless otherwise noted. (Reference: May 2018)