In 2019, the Accommodation and Food Services sector comprised 8.0 percent of all public and private sector employment in Iowa with 123,745 jobs and an annual average wage of $17,178. Wages in this sector are 64.7 percent lower than the statewide average of $48,672 for all industries; however, there is a greater ratio of part-time employment in addition to lower hourly rates than in other industries. Further, it should be kept in mind that the average wage does not include tips or gratuities earned by wait staff, bell hops, and bartenders, when not reported to their employers.

Employment in this sector has grown by 11.3 percent since reaching its recession-low in 2010 of 111,206. Wages have also increased in recent years, rising 26.3 percent from $12,668 in 2010 to $17,718 in 2019. The rise in both employment and wages can be attributed to a comfortable consumer with more disposable money for luxuries.

While younger workers comprise much of the employment in this industry, older workers do make up a sizeable portion of the workforce. Also, women accounted for 56.6 percent of all workers in this industry.
What is Accommodation and Food Services?

The Accommodation and Food Services sector comprises firms that provide customers with lodging and/or prepare meals, snacks and beverages for immediate consumption. The sector includes both accommodation and food services because the two activities are often combined at the same establishment.

Excluded from this sector are civic and social organizations; amusement and recreation parks; theaters; and other recreation or entertainment facilities providing food and beverage services.

Source: www.bls.gov/cew/bls_naics/bls_naics_app.htm

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), Iowa Workforce Development

https://www.iowalmi.gov/qcew
In 2019, employers in the Accommodation and Food Services sector averaged 7,272 locations across Iowa. The sector’s employment is distributed between two major categories. The larger of the two, Food service and drinking places, employed 102,376 workers, or 82.7 percent.

Wages in Food services and drinking places averaged $15,533 in 2019; however, this wage includes part-time and seasonal help. The average wage for the 21,371 Accommodation employees was much higher, averaging $25,056 per year over the same period.
2019 Average Annual Wage for Covered Employment in Accommodation & Food Services

State Comparisons by Private Ownership

United States Average: $22,491

North Dakota $18,712
South Dakota $17,326
Nebraska $16,911
Kansas $16,882
Iowa $17,031
Missouri $18,981
Minnesota $20,398
Wisconsin $16,493
Michigan $19,275
Ohio $17,588
Missouri $18,981
Illinois $22,447
Indiana $17,175

Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), Bureau of Labor Statistics

Industry Distribution by Age and Gender, 2nd Quarter 2019

Source: Local Employment Dynamics, Iowa Workforce Development and U.S. Census Bureau
https://lehd.ces.census.gov/

https://www.iowalmi.gov/qcew