Executive Summary

In 2018, the Public Administration sector comprised 4.3 percent of all employment in Iowa with 66,246 employees in the state. There are also government workers throughout other industries—such as healthcare, education, transportation, and utilities—that are not included in this sector. This sector can include federal, state, or local government, but does not include any employees in the private sector, i.e., contractors performing public government work are classified by the type of work they are doing for the government.

Employment in this sector has declined in all but one year since 2009. Since reaching 70,419 employees in that year, employment has fallen 5.9 percent to its current level. However, wages in the sector have risen steadily over the past eight years, rising 19.8 percent from $42,481 to $50,862.

The largest subsector in this industry is Executive, legislative, and general government support, with 68.0 percent of sector employment in the state.

Men make up a majority of the employment in this sector, holding 56.6 percent of positions.
What is Public Administration?

This sector comprises firms engaged in the oversight, management, and administration of public programs and have executive, legislative, or judicial authority over the public institutions in a given area at the state, local, or federal level. Usually the services financed and organized by this sector are provided to the public for free or at very low cost.

Some government establishments engage in productive activities similar to private sector activities, and are thus not included in this subsector.

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

2018 Industry Breakout by Employment in Iowa

Public Administration NAICS Industry Coding

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

2008-2017 Employment in Public Administration in Iowa

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

https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/labor-market-information-division
In 2018, there were 2,984 Public Administration locations across Iowa. Executive, legislative, and general government represented a plurality of establishments with 1,131 locations, or 37.9 percent. However, this subsector also had the lowest average annual wage at $44,559. The Justice, public order, and safety subsector had the highest average annual wage at $65,722.

As demonstrated in the table to the left, police and sheriff patrol officers is the most common occupation in the industry as these positions exist in nearly every municipality.


https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/labor-market-information-division
2017 Average Annual Wage for Covered Employment in Public Administration

United States Average: $65,653

North Dakota $53,943
South Dakota $44,021
Nebraska $48,714
Kansas $45,621
Iowa $50,862
Missouri $49,711
Minnesota $58,134
Wisconsin $47,850
Michigan $57,221
Ohio $61,894

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

Industry Distribution by Age and Gender 2nd Qtr. 2018

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