Executive Summary

In 2019, the Public Administration sector comprised 4.3 percent of all employment in Iowa with 66,686 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.

2019 is only the second year since 2010 that employment in the sector has increased from the previous year. Employment is 4.5% below the 2010 level. However, wages in the sector have risen steadily over the same time period, rising 22.1 percent from $42,492 to $51,863.

The largest subsector in this industry is Executive, legislative, and general government support, with 67.8 percent of sector employment in the state.

Men make up a majority of the employment in this sector, holding 56.7 percent of positions.
What is Public Administration?

This sector comprises establishments engaged in the oversight, management, and administration of public programs and have executive, legislative, or judicial authority over the public institutions within 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

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

2019 Industry Breakout by Employment in Iowa

Public Administration NAICS Industry Coding

2010-2019 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 2019, there were 3,043 Public Administration locations across Iowa. Executive, legislative, and general government represented a plurality of establishments with 1,131 locations, or 37.2 percent. However, this subsector also had the lowest average annual wage at $45,907. The Justice, public order, and safety subsector had the highest average annual wage at $65,756.

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.
2019 Average Annual Wage for Covered Employment in Public Administration

United States Average: $67,239

North Dakota $55,395
South Dakota $44,730
Nebraska $50,1494
Kansas $46,848
Iowa $51,863
Missouri $50,650
Minnesota $59,749
Wisconsin $49,864
Illinois $67,778
Indiana $50,399
Michigan $58,232
Ohio $63,829

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

Industry Distribution by Age and Gender 2nd Qtr. 2019

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