

# FOREST CITY, IOWA LABORSHED AREA

A STUDY IN LABOR AVAILABILITY AND WORKFORCE CHARACTERISTICS  
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

[WWW.IOWALMI.GOV/LABORSHED](http://WWW.IOWALMI.GOV/LABORSHED)

RELEASED  
2019

ESTIMATED POPULATION  
AGES 18-64

156,020

ESTIMATED TOTAL LIKELY TO  
ACCEPT EMPLOYMENT  
IN FOREST CITY, IA

20,629

LIKELY TO  
CHANGE/ACCEPT EMPLOYMENT  
IN FOREST CITY, IA  
BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE  
(PER ZIP CODE)



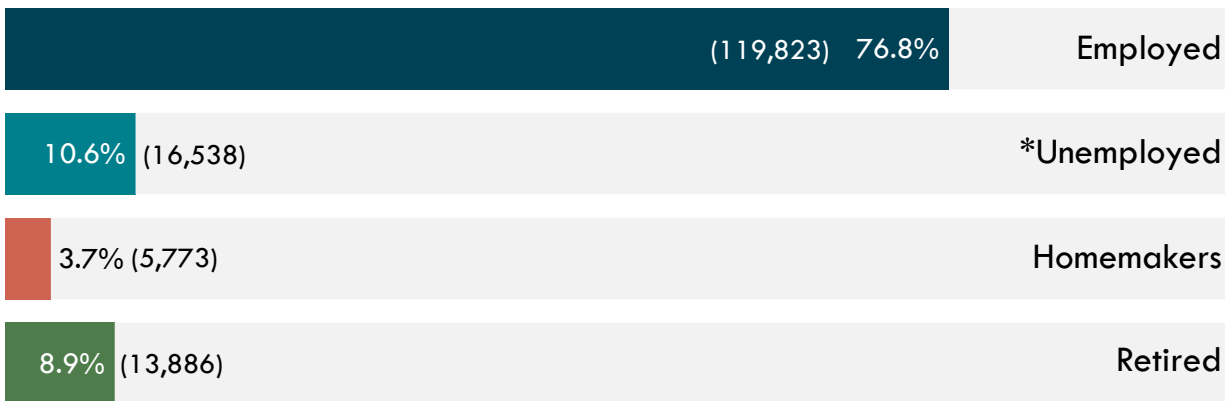
AREA SHOWN



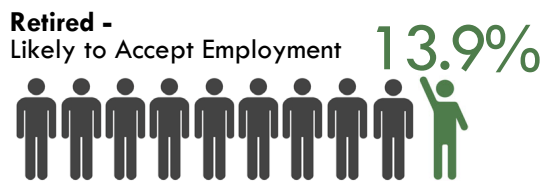
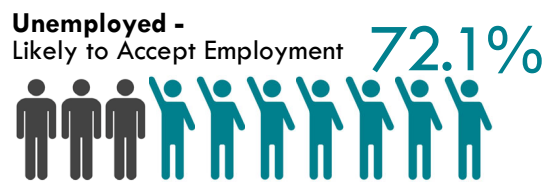
10-Mile Interval Between Rings

# FOREST CITY LABORSHED ANALYSIS

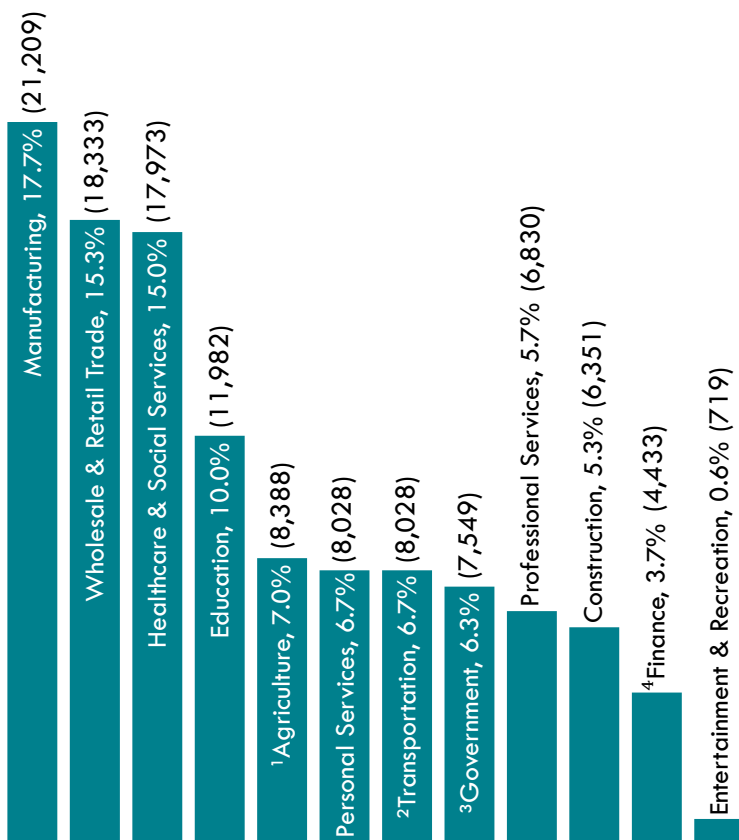
## EMPLOYMENT STATUS (ESTIMATED TOTAL)\*



\*Employment status is self-identified by the survey respondent. The unemployment percentage above does not reflect the unemployment rate published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, which applies a stricter definition.



## BREAKOUT OF THE EMPLOYED BY INDUSTRY (ESTIMATED TOTAL)



Totals may vary due to rounding.

<sup>1</sup>Agriculture, Forestry, & Mining  
<sup>3</sup>Public Administration, Government

<sup>2</sup>Transportation, Communications, & Utilities  
<sup>4</sup>Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate

## TOP CURRENT BENEFITS OF THE FULL-TIME EMPLOYED

	Health/Medical Insurance	<b>88.8%</b>
	Pension/Retirement/401K	<b>84.6%</b>
	Dental Coverage	<b>75.4%</b>
	Paid Holidays	<b>75.4%</b>
	Paid Vacation	<b>71.3%</b>
	Life Insurance	<b>69.6%</b>
	Disability Insurance	<b>67.1%</b>
	Vision Coverage	<b>64.6%</b>
	Paid Sick Leave	<b>58.8%</b>
	Prescription Drug Coverage	<b>46.7%</b>

A Laborshed area is defined by its commuting pattern and illustrates which communities contribute to an employment center's workforce and at what level. To determine the boundaries of a Laborshed area, local employers supply the residential ZIP codes of each of their employees. The data in this publication reflects characteristics specific to the workforce in the Forest City Laborshed area.

The employed are willing to commute an average of—

**13**

miles one-way for an employment opportunity

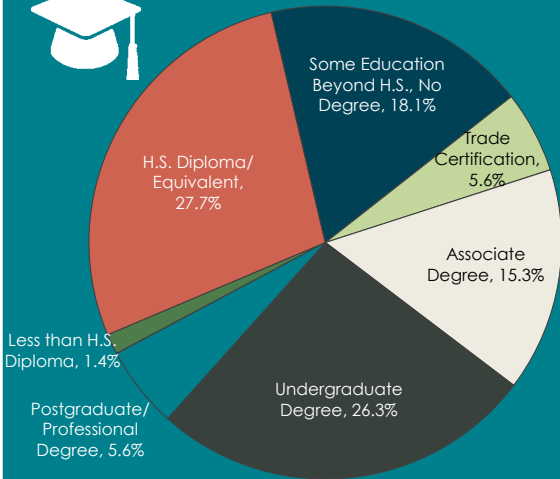
&

**32**  
minutes

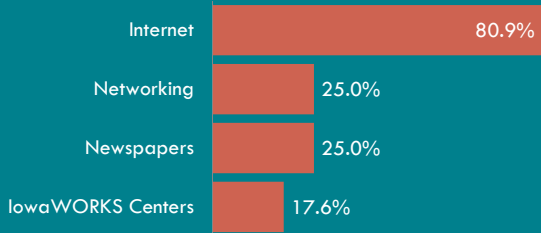
## EMPLOYED: LIKELY TO CHANGE

- An estimated **16,983** employed individuals are likely to change their current employment situation for an opportunity in Forest City
- Current occupational categories:
 

<b>Production, Construction, Material Moving</b>	27.1%
<b>Service</b>	22.9%
<b>Professional, Paraprofessional, Technical</b>	18.6%
<b>Clerical</b>	11.4%
<b>Managerial</b>	11.4%
<b>Sales</b>	7.1%
<b>Agricultural</b>	1.5%
- Current median wages: \$
  - \$14.25/hour and \$50,000/year
  - \$18.00/hour - attracts 66%
  - \$20.00/hour - attracts 75%
- 70.8% have an education beyond HS



- 31.0% are actively seeking employment**
- Most frequently identified job search resources:



- Top sites:
- Top newspapers:

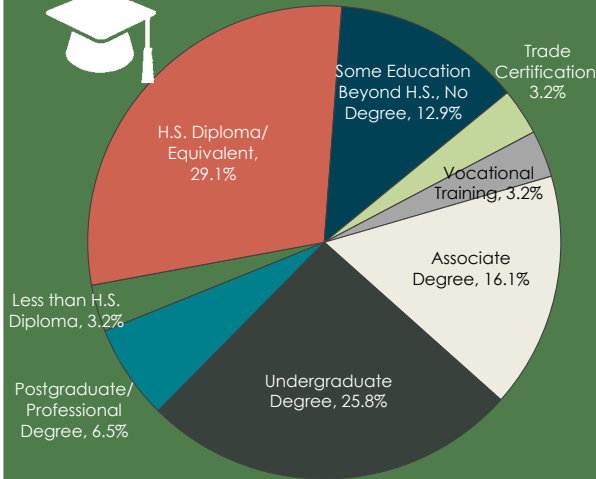


- Commute:
  - Currently commuting an average of **9 miles/14 minutes** (one-way) to work
  - Willing to commute an average of **23 miles/32 minutes** (one-way) to work

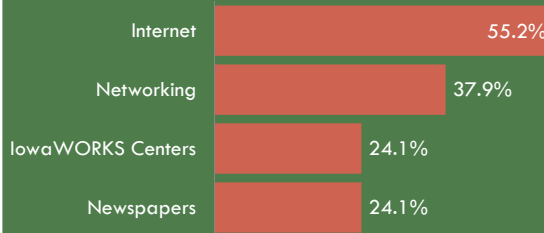
## UNEMPLOYED: LIKELY TO ACCEPT

- An estimated **799** unemployed individuals are likely to accept employment in Forest City
- Former occupational categories:
 

<b>Production, Construction, Material Moving</b>	35.7%
<b>Service</b>	25.0%
<b>Clerical</b>	10.7%
<b>Managerial</b>	10.7%
<b>Professional, Paraprofessional, Technical</b>	7.1%
<b>Sales</b>	7.1%
<b>Agricultural</b>	3.7%
- Median wages: \$
  - \$13.50/hour - lowest willing to accept
  - \$17.60/hour - attracts 66%
  - \$19.38/hour - attracts 75%
- 67.7% have an education beyond HS



- 61.3% are actively seeking employment**
- Most frequently identified job search resources:



- Top sites:
- Top newspapers:



- Commute:
  - Willing to commute an average of **20 miles/27 minutes** (one-way) to work



The Laborshed survey collects information regarding the **out commute** for an employment center.

The **out commute** for Forest City is estimated at **30.8 percent**—approximately **1,417** people living in Forest City work in other communities.

Most of those who are out commuting are working in Mason City, Britt, Clear Lake, Garner, or Lake Mills.

Over one-fourth (27.3%) of out commuters are likely to change employment (approximately 387 people).

66.7% earn an hourly wage—median wage is **\$19.00/hour**  
27.3% earn an annual salary—median salary is **\$80,000/year**



## EDUCATION OF AVAILABLE LABOR BY INDUSTRY OF CURRENT OR FORMER EMPLOYMENT

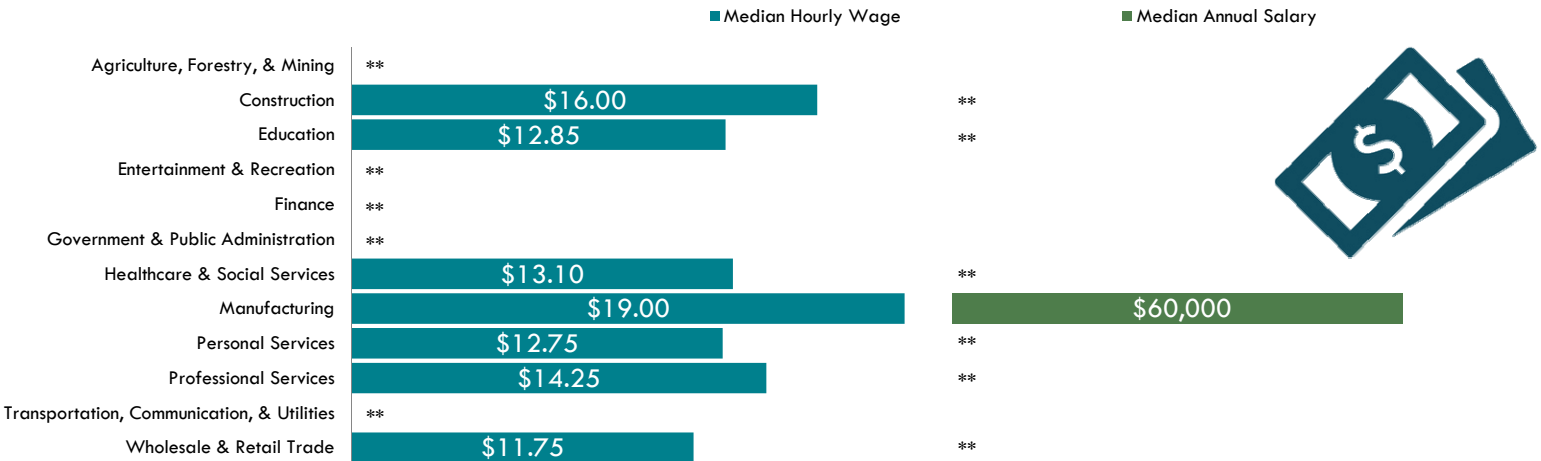
Data on this page is specific to only those survey respondents that reported they are likely to change or accept employment.



Industry	Education Beyond HS	Some Education Beyond HS, No Degree Obtained	Trade Certification/ Vocational Training	Associate Degree	Undergraduate Degree or Above
Agriculture, Forestry, & Mining	**	**	**	**	**
Construction	42.9%	0.0%	14.3%	14.3%	14.3%
Education	87.5%	12.5%	0.0%	0.0%	75.0%
Entertainment & Recreation	**	**	**	**	**
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	**	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%
Government & Public Administration	60.0%	0.0%	0.0%	40.0%	20.0%
Healthcare & Social Services	77.8%	11.1%	16.7%	16.7%	33.3%
Manufacturing	66.7%	16.7%	3.3%	20.0%	26.7%
Personal Services	60.0%	40.0%	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%
Professional Services	77.8%	44.5%	0.0%	22.2%	11.1%
Transportation, Communication, & Utilities	50.0%	25.0%	0.0%	0.0%	25.0%
Wholesale & Retail Trade	63.6%	13.6%	9.1%	4.5%	36.4%

Top percentages among industries per education level are highlighted in the table.

## WAGES OF AVAILABLE LABOR BY INDUSTRY OF CURRENT OR FORMER EMPLOYMENT



\*\*Insufficient survey data/refused. A lack of data for a particular industry is not necessarily indicative that there were no (or few) individuals surveyed within that industry. Rather, it may be that there simply were no respondents within that industry that also reported that they are likely to change or accept employment.

Note: A wide variety of occupations are included within these industry categories. Industry classification is based upon the respondent's reported current or former employer. Two respondents that work for a manufacturer will be classified within the manufacturing industry even if, for example, one respondent is a custodian and the other is an accountant.

## UNDEREMPLOYMENT

The underemployed are working fewer than 35 hours per week but desire more hours (**inadequate hours**); in positions that do not meet their skill or education level, or have worked for higher wages at previous employment (**mismatch of skills**); or are earning wages equal to or less than the national poverty level and work 35 or more hours per week (**low income**).

	Percent Surveyed	Estimated Total	Percent Surveyed	Estimated Total	
Inadequate Hours	1.0%	170	Mismatch of Skills	5.2%	883
Low Income	0.5%	85	$\Sigma$ †Total	6.2%	1,053

†Individuals may be underemployed for more than one reason but are counted only once for total estimated underemployment.

Note: To be counted as underemployed in any category an individual must be currently employed and likely to change their current employment situation.

