



## WE'VE GOT LOW UNEMPLOYMENT, RIGHT?

**SORT OF:** The traditional unemployment rate (or U-3 rate) doesn't provide a full picture of the state of employment in the labor market. The U-6 rate, also reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, measures the unemployed, the marginally employed and discouraged workers.

Iowa's Current U-3 Rate = **3.3 %**    Iowa's Current U-6 Rate = **6.5 %**

\* Accessible via the Bureau of Labor Statistics here:

<https://www.bls.gov/lau/stalt.htm>

## THE RATE'S STILL LOW, SO WE DON'T NEED TO INVEST AS MUCH IN EMPLOYMENT SERVICES, RIGHT?

**WRONG:** Ironically, when unemployment is so low, higher demand for workforce services still exists. This is because employers are requiring more of employment offices to fill vacancies with fewer skilled applicants. Additionally, employment offices are trying to fill job vacancies with individuals that are hardest to employ, such as those with disabilities, felony convictions, lack of transportation, and those in rural Iowa.

# This is still a time to invest in workforce services statewide

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