

TABLE 7: SNAPSHOT OF EDUCATIONAL DEMAND FOR TOTAL JOBS IN ILLINOIS (2008 AND 2018)

	2008	2018	% change
High school dropouts	661,000	699,000	6%
High school graduates	1,711,000	1,820,000	6%
Some college	1,393,000	1,510,000	8%
Associate's	563,000	621,000	10%
Bachelor's	1,318,000	1,468,000	11%
Graduate	689,000	783,000	14%

Although the recession devastated the job picture in certain industries, we do project growth between now and 2018—and jobs will grow fastest for those with postsecondary credentials. Like its Midwestern neighbors, Illinois is expected to witness a significant increase in the proportion of STEM occupations through 2018. Healthcare support; computer and mathematical science occupations; and healthcare professional and technical occupations will grow fastest. We project growth of 29 percent, 28 percent, and 24 percent, respectively.

By 2018, Illinois will have 4.4 million jobs (64 percent of the total) that require some training beyond high school. Between 2008 and 2018, the state is expected to create 2 million openings, both from newly created jobs and retirement from existing positions. Of these vacancies, 1.3 million will be for those with postsecondary credentials, 530,000 for high school graduates, and 203,000 for high school dropouts. New jobs in the state that require postsecondary education and training will grow by 418,000 between 2008 and 2018, while jobs targeting high school graduates and dropouts will grow by only 148,000.

Illinois ranks 13th in the share of its jobs that will require a Bachelor's degree by 2018, and 24th in jobs for high school dropouts.

Iowa

Despite some signs of recovery, Iowa is still fighting to regain its pre-December 2007 levels of economic performance. From December 2007 to September 2010, the state's unemployment rate has increased steadily, creeping upward from 3.9 percent to 6.8 percent, with private sector job losses totaling 40,000 in 2009. Although that was considerably lower than the national average, it is high for Iowa. In 2009, the number of jobless Iowans was 35,000 higher than during the previous downturn in 2004. By March 2011, however, the state saw promising signs of recovery; the unemployment rate had dipped slightly to 6.1 percent, more than 2 points below the national average of 8.8 percent.

Iowa's economic output was \$136 billion in 2008, with a \$28.2 billion contribution from manufacturing. That was the largest share of any industry.

During the recession, four of the state’s major industries—retail trade; leisure and hospitality; information services; and manufacturing—all lost significant numbers of jobs. These industries account for nearly half of all jobs in Iowa. Manufacturing and construction suffered the sharpest declines when, between 2008 and 2009, both suffered job losses of more than 10 percent. Even during the recession, though, some industries showed slight signs of growth. The education and health services industries held their own, even posting minor gains. The natural resources and mining industry also scraped by with no change in employment.

As of 2010, according to a report by the Iowa Workforce Development Employment Statistics Bureau (2010), Iowa’s largest private employers still included manufacturers such as Deere & Co. and Tyson Fresh Meats. But major insurance companies Allied/Nationwide and Principal Financial, and hospitals and health corporations such as Iowa Health System and Mercy Medical Center also employed large numbers. Although the most Iowans work in these traditional industries, Iowa is also home to Inc.com’s 40th fastest growing company, Involta. This information services company provides data storage and is part of an industry that will require 91 percent of its workers to have postsecondary education by 2018.

Projections into 2018 reveal that computer and mathematical science occupations should post strong job growth, estimated at 22 percent. Healthcare support occupations will also see growth of 22 percent, followed by personal services occupations at 20 percent.

TABLE 8: SNAPSHOT OF EDUCATIONAL DEMAND FOR TOTAL JOBS IN IOWA (2008 AND 2018)

	2008	2018	% change
High school dropouts	124,000	135,000	9%
High school graduates	537,000	583,000	9%
Some college	378,000	414,000	10%
Associate's	196,000	216,000	10%
Bachelor's	316,000	349,000	10%
Graduate	109,000	122,000	12%

By 2018, 1.1 million jobs in Iowa, or 62 percent of the total, will require some education or training beyond high school.

Iowa is expected to create 527,000 job vacancies between 2008 and 2018, both from newly created jobs and retirements from existing positions. Of these openings, 319,000 will be for individuals holding postsecondary degrees, 169,000 for high school graduates, and 39,000 for high school dropouts. Between 2008 and 2018, new jobs in Iowa requiring postsecondary credentials will grow by 101,000, while jobs for high school graduates and dropouts will increase by 57,000.

Iowa ranks 22nd in the share of its jobs that will require a Bachelor’s degree by 2018, and 43rd in jobs for high school dropouts.