

Iowa Third Best in Employment Outlook in the U.S.

According to a Manpower survey, Iowa has the third best employment outlook in the country. The ranking came from a nationwide survey of employers for the upcoming third quarter, July through September. Alaska was first followed by North Dakota in the rankings.

Based on the survey, 25% of Iowa companies interviewed plan to hire more employees, and only 6% claimed they would reduce their workforce. There were 66% of the employers that said they would maintain their current workforce numbers.

Job prospects in Iowa appeared to be best in durable and nondurable goods manufacturing, transportation and utilities, information, financial activities, professional and business services, leisure, and hospitality. Employers in education, health services, and government plan to reduce staffing levels.

Des Moines #1 Place to Raise a Family

According to a Forbes study, Des Moines ranked number one in the country in places to raise a family. The study looked at cost of living, prevalence of home ownership, median household income, housing costs, commute time, crime, and the percentage of young adults that graduate high school. It then came up with the top 10 cities in the country.

Forbes said of Des Moines, "Its young population is more likely to graduate high school than in other cities, and life for most families is safe and affordable. Short average commute times save working parents' precious minutes to spend with their families."

According to the study, Des Moines ranked high in commute time (third), education (fourth), and home ownership (eighth). Iowa was the only state to have at least three categories in the top 10. The lowest ranking it had in the categories was household income (32nd).