

# Ames June unemployment increases to 4.5 percent

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Unemployment rose in Ames and Story County in June, but area workers fared better than in Iowa as a whole and much better than workers nationwide.

In the city of Ames, unemployment reached 4.5 percent in June, up from 3.3 percent in May, according to figures released today by Iowa Workforce Development. Story County saw joblessness jump to 4.9 percent in June, up from 3.7 percent in May.

In Iowa, the number of unemployed workers reached its highest total in 23 years in June as the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate jumped to 6.2 percent, up from May's revised rate of 5.7 percent. Nationally, the figure was 9.5 percent in June.

Boone County's June unemployment reached 6 percent, up from 5 percent in May. Hamilton County's June figure was 7 percent, up from 6.4 percent, and Hardin County reached 6.2 percent, up from 5 percent in May.

In all, more than 104,000 Iowans were jobless last month. That's the largest total since February 1986 and an increase of more than 8,000 from May's numbers.

Iowa Workforce Development said June's numbers reflect continued layoffs and recent college graduates entering the job market.

Officials said the steepest job cuts last month came in construction, manufacturing and professional and business services.