

Iowa's Privileged Class II — Government Employees in Iowa Education

Iowa government education employees' wages and salaries are higher than private wages and salaries. One useful method for evaluating the annual wages received by education employees in Iowa is to compare government-sector and private-sector wages, both within the state and on a national basis. This comparison can be made through a two-step process. The first step measures the government-sector and private-sector average annual wage in each state compared with the national average in each sector. The second step compares average annual government-sector wages to average annual private-sector wages. Exhibit 1 provides this information for Iowa and the states with which Iowa most directly competes. Exhibit 2 provides these comparisons for all 50 states and Washington D.C.

Exhibit 1: Average Annual Wages in Government and Private Education

State	Education				Education					
	Government College & University	% of National Average	% of Private Sector	Government Elementary Secondary	% of National Average	% of Private Sector	Private Elementary & Secondary	% of Government Elem./Sec.	Private College	% of Government College
United States	\$28,783	100.00	108.64	\$26,372	100.00	99.54	\$19,268	74.64	\$29,829	103.63
Illinois	\$33,241	115.49	115.11	\$28,892	109.56	100.05	\$17,720	61.36	\$29,710	89.38
Iowa	\$36,544	126.96	168.49	\$22,111	83.84	101.95	N	N	\$23,597	64.57
Minnesota	\$36,577	127.08	140.54	\$27,054	102.59	103.95	\$17,341	66.89	\$27,611	75.49
Missouri	\$29,399	102.14	120.12	\$24,767	93.91	101.20	\$21,116	88.24	\$31,693	107.80
Nebraska	\$29,854	103.72	142.20	\$20,893	79.22	99.52	\$12,444	61.15	N	N
South Dakota	\$26,235	91.15	141.39	\$19,107	72.45	102.97	\$18,810	101.42	\$18,220	69.45
Wisconsin	N	N	N	\$29,160	110.57	122.69	\$17,691	61.56	\$30,437	N

Source: Employment and Wages 1994 (U.S. Department of Labor) N=not available

In 1994, Iowa government elementary and secondary education employees earned an average of \$22,111, compared with \$26,372 nationally. Thus, the average government elementary and secondary education employee in Iowa earned about 16 percent less than did the same worker on a national scale.

The average Iowa government college and university employee earned \$36,544 in 1994, while the average Iowa private college employee earned \$23,597. The average wage for government college and university employees is 68 percent more than was earned by private-sector employees. This 68 percent gap was the largest differential in the nation. *Thus, those who work in government college and university education in Iowa received more, when compared to the private-sector, than government college and university educators did in any other state.*

