

# LiveWell @work with Iowa Methodist Occupational Medicine

## Labor Day Recap

As I was flipping burgers on my father-in-law’s patio on Monday, I got to thinking, “Why the heck am I not at work?” With 90 degree temperatures, pre-school-aged kids, and the pool at my condo still being open, I had forgotten that the unofficial end of summer holiday was upon us.

Now that I’m back at my desk, it only seems fitting to pay some homage to Labor Day. Thanks to the federal government for encouraging my employer to give me the day off, and thanks to the folks at Chiff.com for putting together the information below. Enjoy!

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### Labor Day Trivia & Fun Facts

The first observance of Labor Day is believed to have been a parade on September 5, 1882, in New York City, probably organized by Peter J. McGuire, a Carpenters and Joiners Union secretary.

By 1893, more than half the states were observing a "Labor Day" on one day or another, and a bill to establish a federal holiday was passed by Congress in 1894. President Grover Cleveland signed the bill soon afterward, designating the first Monday in September as Labor Day.

### Who Are We Celebrating on Labor Day?

**155.2 million:** Number of people age 16 or older in the nation's labor force. As of 2012, 53% were men and 47% were women.

**\$47,715 and \$36,931:** The annual median earnings, respectively, for male and female full-time workers in 2010.



Americans worked in a wide variety of occupations in 2010. Here is only a sampling:

Occupation	Number of employees
Actors	7,835
Computer programmers	389,471
Cooks	1,051,896
Hairdressers, hairstylists and cosmetologists	395,311
Janitors and building cleaners	1,445,991
Teachers (preschool - grade 12)	3,073,673
Telemarketers	48,455
Telephone Operators	33,057
Web developers	115,561

**13.4 million:** The number of Americans who work at home. That's about 4 million more people than in 1999 thanks to Skype and hi-speed Internet connections.

**26.3 million:** Number of female workers 16 and older in management, business, science, and arts occupations in 2010. Among male workers, 16 and older, 23.7 million were employed in management, professional and related occupations.

**14.4 million:** Number of labor union members nationwide. About 11.3 percent of wage and salary workers belong to unions, with New York having among the highest rates of any state - 23.2 percent. North Carolina has one of the lowest rates, 2.9 percent.

### The Long and Winding Road to Work

**25.3 minutes:** The average time it takes to commute to work. Maryland and New York had the most time-consuming commutes, averaging 31.8 and 31.3 minutes.

**76.6%:** Percentage of workers who drove alone to work in 2010. Another 9.7 percent commuted via carpools and 4.9 percent took public transportation (excluding taxis).



**16.3 million:** Number of commuters who left for work between midnight and 5:59 a.m. in 2010. Those who work the night shift account for 12.5 percent of all commuters.

*Article Source:*

<http://www.chiff.com/a/labor-day.htm>