**Ames**

The Ames Metro pared 1,100 jobs in December and now rests at 54,400 jobs. Losses were experienced in both public sectors (-400) and private industries (-700). Goods-producing industries shed 300 jobs due mainly to seasonal drops in construction. Private services were down 400 this month. Losses are expected in December, although this month’s decline is large, historically.

Compared to last year, Ames remains slightly positive (+200). Growth in private services (+600) and government (+300) have helped offset a slumping goods-producing sector (-700).

**Cedar Rapids**

The Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area shed 1,100 nonfarm jobs from November, bringing employment to 143,300. Total nonfarm employment in the metro area has added 2,000 jobs from one year ago.

Financial activities and educational and health services were the only two sectors with employment gains over the month, adding 100 jobs each. Professional and business services shed 400 jobs. Natural resources and construction and government experienced seasonal parings of 300 jobs each and leisure and hospitality dropped 200 jobs, also an expected seasonal decline.

Over the year, manufacturing, information and government are the only industries to pare jobs, shedding 300, 200 and 300, respectively. Professional and business services has added more jobs than any other industry with a gain of 1,100 (8.66%).

**Des Moines MSA**

The Des Moines Metropolitan pared 1,900 jobs in December, lowering employment down to 357,300 jobs. This month’s drop is moderate for the metro area which typically sees reductions in construction, leisure and recreation, and professional and business industries this time of year. Education also pared employment as the winter break ensued. Government pared 100 jobs due to seasonal losses in state and local governments, and a non-seasonal decreased occurred in manufacturing (-100). Finance experienced an unexpected increase this month (+800), while retail trade fueled a gain of 400 jobs in trade and transportation.

Annually, the metro area is up 10,000 jobs, or 1.6 percent. Professional and business services had added the most jobs during that span (+3,600), followed by financial activities (+2,700), and leisure and hospitality (+2,500). Only two sectors are down since last year: information and education and health services, down 300 and 100 jobs, respectively.

# Dubuque

Total nonfarm employment unchanged for the second straight month in December for the Dubuque Metro, which remained at 60,600 jobs. Slight declines in goods-producing industries were matched by small gains in private service industries. Government was unchanged compared to last month. November and December aren’t typically seasonal months, so little movement in nonfarm employment to end the year isn’t too surprising.

Annually, the Dubuque area is down a slight 200 jobs. While 900 jobs have been shed in private services, combined gains of 700 in goods-producing sectors and government have mitigated these losses.

**Iowa City**

Nonfarm employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area is down 800 jobs from last month as a result of seasonal reductions in government (-600) and leisure and hospitality (-200) sector employment Trade, transportation and warehousing is unchanged from one month ago and one year ago.

Gains from one year ago totaled 1,600 jobs and were largely fueled by employment increases in service-providing industries (+1,000). Goods producing industries also enjoyed employment gains, adding 600 jobs from one year ago.

**Sioux City**

*The Sioux City MSA has been redefined. It now includes: Dixon and Dakota Counties in Nebraska, Union County in South Dakota, and Woodbury and Plymouth Counties in Iowa.*

Employment in the Sioux City MSA shed 700 jobs from November. The bulk of the job losses were seasonal in nature and came from goods producing industries (-800), however manufacturing was unchanged. Professional and business services also pared 300 jobs. Gains in trade, transportation and warehousing (+600) partially offset the losses.

Overall, the area has added 500 jobs from one year ago. Trade, transportation and warehousing added 1,300 jobs, only 100 of which were in retail trade. Manufacturing remains 100 below the December 2014 level.

# Waterloo/Cedar Falls

The Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area’s total nonfarm employment pared 1,400 jobs from the previous month and stands at 92,800. Job losses were distributed among nearly all sectors including, trade, transportation and warehousing (-200), and manufacturing, professional and business services, educational and health services, leisure and hospitality and government which each shed 100 jobs.

Over the year, employment is down 500 jobs with 400 fewer jobs in manufacturing, 300 fewer in trade, transportation and warehousing and 100 fewer in government. There were a couple of positives with financial activities and professional and business services each adding 100 jobs.