**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 2,300 nonfarm jobs from December, bringing employment to 141,500. Total nonfarm employment in the metro area is unchanged from one year ago.

Professional and business services is the only sector with an employment gain over the month, adding 300 jobs. Natural resources and construction experienced a seasonal decline of 800 jobs and was followed closely by trade, transportation and warehousing which shed 700 jobs. Manufacturing, information and other services employment levels were unchanged.

Over the year, government is down 300 jobs and information has pared 200 jobs. On the positive side, manufacturing has added 100 jobs, boosted by non-durable goods manufacturing and educational and health services and other services have each added 200 jobs.

**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 2,000 jobs from last month as a result of declines in private service-providing sector employment. Leisure and hospitality contributed 400 to the jobs decline. Trade, transportation and warehousing pared 200 jobs, nearly all of which were in retail trade.

In spite of the over-the-month decline, the area remains 1,400 jobs above one year ago. Professional and business services and leisure and hospitality each pared jobs (400 and 100, respectively). Government added 500 jobs and trade, transportation and warehousing is up 5.7% (900 jobs).

**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 1,900 jobs from December. Private service-providing sectors were responsible for the bulk of the job losses with 600 fewer jobs in trade, transportation and warehousing, and 200 less in professional and business services. Manufacturing offered the only employment gain this month, adding 100 jobs.

# Overall, the area has added 1,400 jobs from one year ago. Trade, transportation and warehousing added 800 jobs, only 200 of which were in retail trade. Goods producing sectors have added 900 jobs, although manufacturing remains 100 below the January 2015 level.

# Waterloo/Cedar Falls

The Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area’s total nonfarm employment pared 3,000 jobs from the previous month and stands at 88,700. Job losses were distributed among nearly all sectors and included seasonal drops in government (-1,400), goods producing (-500) and leisure and hospitality (-200). Trade, transportation and warehousing also shed 400 jobs.

Over the year, employment is down 1,300 jobs, with manufacturing experiencing the greatest loss, shedding 700 jobs, all in durable goods manufacturing. Trade, transportation and warehousing and professional and business services were the only sectors with employment gains, adding 200 and 100 jobs, respectively.