**Ames**

The Ames Metro area decreased by 600 jobs and now rest at 55,300 in December. Despite the decline, the Ames area remains up 1,000 versus one year ago. This month’s decline is fairly average for December and was fueled by a drop of 300 in government. Private services pared 200 jobs, and goods producing industries shed 100 jobs.

Annually, private services have been responsible for much of the growth versus last December. A total of 700 jobs have been gained over the last twelve months. Goods producing industries have increased by 300 jobs. Government is unchanged versus one year ago.

**Cedar Rapids**

The Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area shed 500 nonfarm jobs from November, and now stands at 145,700. Total nonfarm employment in the metro area is 1,900 above one year ago.

Government is the only sector with a jobs gain from last month, adding just 100 jobs. Natural resources and construction experienced the greatest loss, shedding 300 jobs in an expected seasonal decline. Leisure and hospitality was close behind with a decline of 200 jobs, also seasonal in nature. Professional and business services also pared 100 jobs. Trade, transportation and warehousing was unchanged due to a loss of 200 in retail trade being offset by an equal gain in transportation, warehousing and utilities.

Professional and business services added 1,100 jobs from one year ago to lead all sectors. The next largest increase pales in comparison, with educational and health services adding 300 jobs. Manufacturing employment is 100 below one year ago.

**Des Moines MSA**

# The Des Moines metro total nonfarm employment experienced a seasonal decrease in December and dropped to 354,700 jobs. December typically sees some seasonal paring of jobs, but this year’s drop is historically large. Much of the decline was due to job declines in professional and business services (-1,400), particularly administrative support and waste management services (-1,000). Leisure and hospitality also experienced a seasonal decline this month, although the December drop of 1,100 jobs was higher than the prior ten-year average. Construction pared 1,000 jobs and was expected following a prosperous year for the industry. Those industries adding jobs in December included trade, transportation and utilities (+400) which added jobs despite a weak holiday retail season. All other gains were small and included financial activities, education and health care services, and government.

# Since last January, the Des Moines metro has added 4,100 jobs. Job growth has been spurred by financial activities (+1,400) more than all other sectors. Leisure and hospitality and construction tied for the second-most jobs added (+1,300), followed by education and health care services (+1,200). The only private sector losses were in manufacturing (-200) and information services (-200). Government trails last year’s level due in part to a shift in seasonality; however, it is expected to recover much of the loss in January.

# Dubuque

The Dubuque Metro total nonfarm employment experienced little movement in December and remained at 62,000 jobs. This month typically does not experience any seasonality in the area, so for employment to remain unchanged is not unexpected. Jobs were added in private service (+200) but were offset by losses in goods-producing industries (-200). Government was unchanged.

Compared to last year, the Dubuque area is up 800 jobs. The majority of the gain has come from private services (+700), although government is up 100 jobs as well.

**Iowa City**

Nonfarm employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area pared 1,900 jobs from last month. Government represented the bulk of that loss with 800 fewer jobs as is usually expected in the holiday season. Leisure and hospitality shed 300 jobs and professional and business services is down 100 jobs.

The metro area has added 1,200 jobs from one year ago, boosted by a gain of 700 in government and smaller gains in leisure and hospitality and trade, transportation and warehousing. Professional and business services is unchanged and goods producing industries have pared 300 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 is down 600 jobs from November. Goods producing shed 400, although manufacturing has added 100 jobs. Leisure and hospitality contributed to the loss, shedding 200 jobs. Manufacturing is the only sector with a gain with 100 additional jobs in non-durable goods.

Overall, the area has 700 fewer jobs from one year ago. Goods producing has pared 500 jobs, including 500 from manufacturing. Leisure and hospitality is the only sector to add jobs from one year ago with an increase of 200 jobs.

# Waterloo/Cedar Falls

The Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area’s total nonfarm employment is down 100 jobs from the previous month and stands at 91,200. Trade, transportation and warehousing led all sectors with a gain of 400 jobs due to adding 300 jobs in retail trade. This is the highest gain in retail trade recorded for November to December in the area. Manufacturing added 200 jobs, all in durable goods manufacturing. On the other hand, leisure and hospitality pared 200 jobs and professional and business services is down 100 jobs.

Over the year, employment is down 500 jobs. Manufacturing, financial activities and trade, transportation and warehousing each added 100 jobs. The additional manufacturing jobs are all in durable goods manufacturing (+300), however much of the gain was offset by losses in non-durable goods jobs. Government shed 300 jobs, all in state government. The remainder of the losses were in various service providing industries.