**Ames**

The Ames metro area seasonally increased by 2,000 jobs in February and now rest at 54,600 jobs. This month’s gain is average for the metro area and leaves Ames up 800 jobs annually.

Government added 1,600 jobs primarily at the state government education level. This month’s gain equates to 500 jobs added annually. Private services added 400 jobs this month and are now up 100 jobs for the year. Goods producing industries are unchanged this month and 200 jobs higher than last February.

**Cedar Rapids**

The Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area added 200 nonfarm jobs from January, and now stands at 142,000. Government and educational and health services each added 300 jobs. Professional and business services contributed an additional 200 jobs.

On the other hand, trade, transportation and warehousing experienced the greatest loss, shedding 300 jobs, all in retail trade. Smaller losses were experienced in manufacturing (-200) and natural resources and construction (-100).

Over the year the area added 300 jobs with professional and business services adding 800 jobs, natural resources and mining gaining 600 jobs, and government adding 200 employees. The gains were offset by losses in various sectors, however educational and health services pared the greatest number of jobs (-600).

**Des Moines MSA**

# The Des Moines Metropolitan Statistical Area saw little growth in February and left total nonfarm slightly higher than January. The new total of 355,500 jobs is 300 higher than last year and 6,000 more than last February. Private sectors shed 300 jobs this month while government added 600 jobs. Government is up 300 jobs annually at the local level.

# Within private sectors, leisure and hospitality tied with financial activities for the most jobs added this month (+400). Both sectors have fared well annually and have combined for almost half of all jobs gained in the metro area. The only other sector to gain jobs since January was professional and business services (+100). Losses this month were led by trade and transportation (-800) and were partially fueled by a seasonal paring of holiday retail staff. Construction shed jobs unexpectedly (-400), but has otherwise fared well over the past several months.

# Since last year, construction has added the most jobs (+2,500) with large gains being isolated with specialty trade contractors (+1,900). Leisure and hospitality remains markedly up (+1,700), as does financial services (+1,300). The only sectors to trail last year’s mark are trade and transportation (-600), information (-400), and education and health services (-100).

# Dubuque

The Dubuque metro total nonfarm employment was little changed in February. This month is not seasonal, so little to no movement at the total level for this month is not uncommon. Small seasonal gains within goods producing industries (+100) were exactly offset at the private service level (-100). Part of this service decline was due to the seasonal shedding of temporary retail staff. Government was unchanged since January.

Annually, the Dubuque area remains up 100 jobs. Goods producing industries have been responsible for the yearly increase as private services are down slightly.

**Iowa City**

Nonfarm employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area added 1,200 jobs from last month, with gains in both private services (+600) and government (+500). Leisure and hospitality added 200 jobs, professional and business services was unchanged, and trade, transportation and warehousing shed 100 jobs.

The metro area has added 2,800 jobs from one year ago, boosted by a seasonal gain of 1,700 in government, and smaller gain in professional and business services (+300). Leisure and hospitality pared 100 jobs and trade, transportation and warehousing was unchanged. Goods producing has also added 200 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 up 700 jobs from January. Goods producing added 400 jobs although manufacturing employment did not change. Trade, transportation and warehousing added 200 jobs, professional and business services gained 100, and government added 100. Leisure and hospitality was unchanged and there were no sectors with employment losses.

Overall, the area has 600 fewer jobs from one year ago. Goods producing has pared 1,000 jobs, none of which were in manufacturing. Trade, transportation and warehousing added 1,000 jobs and professional and business services added 600 jobs from one year ago. Government has pared 100 jobs.

# Waterloo/Cedar Falls

The Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area’s total nonfarm employment gained 1,600 jobs from the previous month and stands at 90,400. The change is nearly equal to the five-year average January to February change and largely seasonal in nature.

The largest increase occurred in government (+1,300) with a seasonal boost of 1,100 in state government. Trade, transportation and warehousing added 200 jobs, and professional and business services, educational and health services and leisure and hospitality each added 100 jobs. Manufacturing pared 200 jobs, all in durable goods manufacturers.

Over the year, employment is down 100 jobs. Government and trade, transportation and warehousing were the only sectors with job gains, adding 500 and 200, respectively. Manufacturing and leisure and hospitality have each pared 300 jobs from one year ago and financial activities has shed 200 jobs. Financial activities has pared 11.5% (600 jobs) of its employment over the last five years.