**Ames**

The Ames metro area shed 600 jobs in March and rests at 54,200 jobs. Historically, the Ames area can expect some seasonal drop during March, although this month’s loss is slightly more than expected. Government shed 500 jobs, and goods producing industries lost 100 jobs. Private services were unchanged this month.

Over the past twelve months, the Ames metro is up 1,000 jobs. Private services have added 600 jobs to lead all sectors. Government follows closely behind with 500 jobs gained. Goods producing industries are down a slight 100 jobs.

**Cedar Rapids**

The Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area’s nonfarm employment is 143,600 after adding 1,500 jobs from February. Natural resources and construction provided a boost with its first increase of the year, an additional 400 jobs. The industry is 500 above one year ago.

Professional and business services added 300 jobs over the month, the third consecutive month of gains for the industry. With 1,200 more jobs than one year ago, the industry leads all sectors in over-the-year gains. Several industries had smaller gains this month. Financial activities has maintained its employment level within ±100 jobs for the past 15 months. There are no sectors with over-the-month jobs losses.

Over the year the area added 600 jobs, led by professional and business services. Other notable changes include a gain of 500 in natural resources and construction and a loss of 500 jobs in educational and health services.

**Des Moines MSA**

# Total nonfarm employment in the Des Moines Metropolitan Statistical Area increased slightly in March (+400) and lifted the total number of jobs to 356,700. This new total is 5,100 jobs higher than last March and due entirely to expansion in the private sector. Government pared 300 jobs this month, but remains unchanged versus one year ago.

# The largest gain this month was a seasonal increase in mining, logging, and construction (+400). Specialty trade contractors have been responsible for the majority of the movement this month (+300). Leisure and hospitality also experienced some seasonal gains this month (+300), although full-service restaurants gained jobs as well. Other sectors bolstering employment this month included trade, transportation, and utilities (+200) and professional and business services (+200). Excluding government, losses were generally slight and led by financial activities (-200). Minor declines of 100 were also evident in information services and education and health services.

# Annually, most sectors have added jobs. No sector has added more employment than professional and business services since last March (+1,700). Gains have been evenly split between professional, scientific, and technical services and administrative support and waste management services. Construction remains markedly up (+1,600) due strong hiring within specialty trade contractors (+1,300). Leisure and hospitality also posted a sharp increase over the past twelve months (+1,300). Annual losses have been spared and limited to just two sectors: information (-500) and trade, transportation, and utilities (-300).

# Dubuque

The Dubuque metro total nonfarm employment gained 400 jobs in March and now rests at 59,600 jobs. This month’s increase is average with the prior ten years and was primarily fueled by hiring in private services (+300). Good producing industries also increased slightly due to seasonal hiring in construction (+100). Government was unchanged since February.

Annually, the Dubuque metro area trails last year’s level by 100 jobs. Private services are cumulatively down 300 jobs, although both government and goods producing industries have added 100 jobs to help offset the loss.

**Iowa City**

Nonfarm employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area added 300 jobs from last month, with gains in both private services (+300) and government (+100). Leisure and hospitality added 100 jobs, professional and business services was unchanged for the third consecutive month, and trade, transportation and warehousing shed 200 jobs.

The metro area has added 3,100 jobs from one year ago, boosted by gains of 2,100 in government and 1,200 in private service-providing sectors. Professional and business services added 300 jobs while trade, transportation and warehousing and goods producing each shed 200 jobs.

**Sioux City**

# Employment in the Sioux City MSA is up just 200 jobs from February. Leisure and hospitality added 200 jobs to lead all sectors. Government and manufacturing each added 100 jobs and trade, transportation and warehousing pared 200 jobs.

# Overall, the area has 1,500 fewer jobs from one year ago. Goods producing sectors have pared 1,700 jobs, none of which were in manufacturing. Trade, transportation and warehousing added 700 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 200 jobs from the previous month and stands at 90,600. The over-the-month change is significantly lower than the five-year average February to March change (+760).

Employment gains this month were spread across multiple sectors but none exceeded a gain of 100 jobs. Those with gains include trade, transportation and warehousing, financial activities, and leisure and hospitality. There were no sectors with jobs losses.

Over the year, employment is down 100 jobs. Government and trade, transportation and warehousing were the only sectors with job gains, each adding 400 jobs. Leisure and hospitality has pared 300 jobs from one year ago. Financial activities and professional and business services are unchanged.