**Ames**

The Ames metro area gained 800 jobs in April, boosting nonfarm employment to 55,100 jobs. This month’s increase is on par with the prior ten year average and was due to seasonal hiring in private services (+400), government (+300), and good producing sectors (+100).

Since last year, the Ames area is up 800 jobs. Government has increased the most (+500) due mostly to hiring in state government education. Private services have also fared well versus last year, adding 400 jobs. Goods producing sectors are up just 100 jobs since last April.

**Cedar Rapids**

The Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area added jobs for the third consecutive month, bringing total nonfarm employment to 144,600 jobs. Seasonal changed lent a boost to the area with natural resources and construction and leisure and hospitality each adding 500 jobs. Gains also occurred in manufacturing, trade, transportation and warehousing, professional and business services and government (100 each).

Information is the only sector with a loss in jobs, paring 100 jobs and breaking a three month streak of no change in employment. Financial activities employment is unchanged from March. Professional and business services is the only sector with more than 2 consecutive months of gains. The sector has actually added jobs each month of 2017 (four months), and is 700 jobs (4.9%) above the January level.

Over the year the area added 700 jobs, led by professional and business services. Other notable changes include a gain of 500 in natural resources and construction and a loss of 400 jobs in educational and health services.

**Des Moines MSA**

# Total nonfarm employment in the Des Moines Metropolitan Statistical Area experienced a larger than expected seasonal increase in April, gaining 9,800 jobs. Although this month’s surge was historically large, at least some of this increase was due to part of the seasonal gains expected last month being shifted to this month. The April increase also helped the Des Moines area increase the annual gain to 10,400 jobs, the highest level since September.

# Mining, logging, and construction tied with professional and business services for the most jobs added in April (+2,400). Both sectors are prone to seasonal gains this month, and both sectors exceeded these historical averages by about a thousand jobs. Construction was partially fueled by hiring in specialty trade contractors (+900). Professional and business services were fueled by administrative and support and waste management services (+1,300). Much of these gains were the result of hiring in janitorial services and landscaping. Leisure and hospitality had a more average seasonal gain (+2,000) partially due to recreational industry hiring, as did trade and transportation (+1,300). Finance experienced an unexpected increase of 900 jobs this month and has been steadily trending up over the past several months. No sectors pared jobs this month, although information was unchanged compared to March.

# Annually, the Des Moines area continues to grow employment and professional and business services has added the most jobs during the past twelve months (+3,000). Job gains have been strong in both administrative and support and waste management (+1,600) and professional, scientific, and technical services (+1,300). Construction has also fared well compared to last year and is up 2,500 jobs. Small gains versus last April include financial activities (+1,900) and leisure and hospitality (+1,600). The only sector to lose jobs annually is information services, down 400 jobs.

# Dubuque

The Dubuque metro total nonfarm employment added 500 jobs in April, lifting nonfarm employment up to 60,000 jobs. This month’s gain is average for this time of year for the Dubuque area, but nonetheless leaves the MSA down 100 jobs versus last year.

In April, the goods producing sector gained 400 jobs due primarily to seasonal hiring in construction. Despite the monthly gain, this super sector is unchanged versus last year. Private services typically add jobs this month but were unchanged since March, leaving private services down 200 jobs annually. Government has added 100 jobs both monthly and annually due to hiring in local government.

**Iowa City**

Nonfarm employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area added 1,000 jobs from last month, with gains in both private services (+500) and government (+100). Leisure and hospitality added 200 jobs, professional and business services gained 300 jobs after three consecutive months with no change. Trade, transportation and warehousing also added 300 jobs following a slight dip in employment in March.

The metro area has added 2,800 jobs from one year ago, boosted by gains of 2,100 in government and 700 in private service-providing sectors. Professional and business services added 300 jobs. Trade, transportation and warehousing and goods producing were unchanged.

**Sioux City**

# Employment in the Sioux City MSA is up 1,000 jobs from March. Leisure and hospitality and professional and business services each added 300 jobs. Government, manufacturing and trade, transportation and warehousing were unchanged.

# Overall, the area has 2,600 fewer jobs from one year ago. Goods producing sectors have pared 1,700 jobs, none of which were in manufacturing. Trade, transportation and warehousing and professional and business services each added 400 jobs. Leisure and hospitality shed 400 jobs and government has pared 200 jobs.

# Waterloo/Cedar Falls

The Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area’s total nonfarm employment gained 1,100 jobs from the previous month and stands at 91,600. The over-the-month change is slightly above the five-year average March to April change (+1,000).

Employment gains this month were spread across multiple sectors with trade, transportation and warehousing adding 500 jobs to lead all sectors. Professional and business services, leisure and hospitality and government each added 200 jobs. All other sectors added 100 jobs each. There were no sectors with an employment loss.

Over the year, employment is down 500 jobs. Government added 500 jobs and trade, transportation and warehousing added 600, but those gains were offset by losses in other private service providing and goods producing industries.