**Ames**

The Ames metropolitan statistical area shed 500 jobs in July and now rests at 49,500 jobs. This total is 1,200 jobs higher than last year. State government seasonally shed 500 jobs and local government pared 200 jobs. Combined, government decreased by 600 jobs and was partially offset by a gain of 100 jobs in private services.

Compared to last year, total nonfarm employment has added 1,200 jobs due primarily to growth in private service sectors (+900). Smaller annual gains were evident in government (+200) and goods producing sectors (+100).

**Cedar Rapids**

The Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area pared jobs this month after five consecutive months of gain, bringing total nonfarm employment to 143,200 jobs. The jobs loss (-2,900) was largely seasonal in nature as local government shed 2,400 jobs. Professional and business services and educational and health services each trimmed 300 jobs. Manufacturing, the only sector with an increase this month, added 300 jobs, building on three previous months of gains. Only a third of the jobs added this month were in durable goods manufacturing.

Over the year the area shed 200 jobs with the largest loss in local government (-1,500). Information contributed to the loss, trimming 300 jobs from one year ago. In contrast, professional and business services has added 700 jobs, natural resources and construction added 400 jobs, and manufacturing added 200 jobs.

**Des Moines/West Des Moines**

# The Des Moines Metro area lost 3,000 jobs in July, lowering total nonfarm employment down to 372,500 jobs. Jobs are typically shed in this month due to a seasonal decrease in local government education; however, this month’s decrease was smaller than prior years due to a shift and subsequent early loss in June. Combined, government pared 2,800 jobs in July, but remains 200 jobs higher than last year. Total nonfarm employment is 11,900 jobs higher than last year’s mark (+3.3 percent).

# Leisure and hospitality added the most jobs in July (+400) as firms boosted staff at recreational activities. This super sector has gained the most jobs annually in the metropolitan area. Other gains this month were small and included trade and transportation (+200), manufacturing (+100), and professional and business services (+100). Private sector losses this month were led by education and health services (-600) and were heavily influenced by a seasonal drop in private education (-400). Construction pared jobs early this month (-300) as projects started to complete early. This sector had seen larger than expected gains over the past three months. The only other drop this month was a small drop in financial activities (-100).

# Annually, leisure and hospitality has led all sectors with 4,800 jobs added since last year. This super sector has had usually high gains throughout 2017. Professional and business services has also grown substantially since last July (+2,700) with large growth in administrative and support and waste management services (+1,800). Construction remains markedly up annually (+2,300) even with the unexpected loss this month. The only sectors paring jobs versus last year are trade and transportation (-500) and information services (-300).

# Dubuque

The Dubuque metro total nonfarm employment decreased by 1,200 jobs in July, lowering total nonfarm employment down to 58,900 jobs. This month’s drop was average when compared to prior ten year average due primarily to a seasonal education decrease in local governments. Government combined was down 1,200 jobs. Goods producing and service industries offset each other this month for no change.

Annually, Dubuque has added 300 jobs. All of the gain is due to expansion in the private sector. Goods producing industries are up 400 jobs and private services are up 200 jobs annually.

**Iowa City**

Nonfarm employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area dropped 500 jobs from last month mostly due to a seasonal decline in local government employment (-900). Trade, transportation and warehousing and leisure and hospitality each shed 100 jobs. State government is the only sector with an increase, adding 700 jobs.

The metro area has added 2,100 jobs from one year ago, boosted by gains of 1,500 in government and 800 in private service-providing sectors. Professional and business services added 500 jobs and leisure and hospitality gained 200 jobs. Trade, transportation and warehousing pared 700 jobs and goods producing industries trimmed 200 jobs.

**Sioux City**

Employment in the Sioux City MSA is down 1,600 jobs from June. Losses consisted of 1,200 fewer jobs in government and a reduction of 400 jobs in goods producing industries, although manufacturing was unchanged. Leisure and hospitality also pared 100 jobs. The only sector with a jobs gain was trade, transportation and warehousing which added 200 jobs.

Overall, area employment is 800 below one year ago. Goods producing industries are responsible for the bulk of the loss, shedding 800 jobs. Professional and business services and government each pared 100 jobs. Manufacturing has added 400 jobs.

# Waterloo/Cedar Falls

The Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area’s total nonfarm employment dropped 800 jobs from the previous month and stands at 88,900. The over-the-month change is seasonal in nature and significantly below the 10-year average June-to-July change.

Local government shed the greatest number of jobs (-500), followed by educational and health services (-300). Trade, transportation and warehousing and goods producing sectors each added 100 jobs.

Over the year, employment is up 100 jobs. Professional and business services has added 500 jobs. Leisure and hospitality gained 200 jobs. Manufacturing has pared 200 jobs and government has shed 100 jobs.