**Ames**

The Ames Metropolitan shed 1,000 jobs in December, lowering total nonfarm employment down to 56,100 jobs. This month’s loss is larger than expected based on recent history and based on state government education beginning the winter break early this year. Combined, government shed 600 jobs, mostly at the state level. Both private services and goods-producing sectors pared 200 jobs.

Over the past twelve months, the Ames area remains up 600 jobs. Most of the annual gain stems from growth in private services (+400), although both government and goods-producing sectors are up 100 jobs.

**Cedar Rapids**

The Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area pared 600 jobs in December. Mining and construction shed 500 jobs with an expected seasonal change. Several other industries pared jobs this month, including; professional and business services, educational and health services, and leisure and hospitality, each trimming 200 jobs.

Food manufacturing pared 100 jobs, however durable goods manufacturing and the overall manufacturing sector were unchanged. Trade, transportation and warehousing had a similar experience with 200 fewer jobs in retail trade and 200 more jobs in transportation, warehousing and utilities, resulting in a net change of zero at the sector level. Government added 100 jobs, all at the local government level.

Over the year the area added 1,100 jobs with the largest gains in local government (+700), educational and health services (+700), and manufacturing (+300 jobs). Professional and business services pared 400 jobs and information trimmed 100 jobs. Employment in retail trade is down 700 jobs from one year ago.

**Des Moines/West Des Moines**

# Establishments in the Des Moines Metropolitan area shed 900 jobs in December, leaving the total number of nonfarm jobs at 380,000. Seasonal declines are not uncommon for this time of year, and this month’s drop is moderate. To this point, construction pared 1,900 jobs to end the year. This sector unexpectedly added jobs in October and November, so a large paring of jobs is understandable. A majority of those jobs shed were in specialty trade contractors (-1,100). The finance sector lost 300 jobs in December. Typically, some jobs are added in December, so this month’s loss is surprising. All other losses were small and included other services and government. Gains this month were concentrated in trade, transportation, and utilities (+500) and education and health services (+500). Retail posted a small gain of 100 jobs and has shrunk slightly versus last year (-100). Leisure and hospitality added staff (+200) thanks mostly to hiring in full-service restaurants.

# Annually, the metro has added 12,100 jobs. The Des Moines area has expanded annually at more than triple the pace of all other MSAs. Construction has been the most prosperous of all industries in 2018, gaining 3,500 jobs (+18.5 percent). Professional and business services are up 2,500 jobs thanks to a surge in staffing within administrative support and waste management industries. Trade, transportation, and utilities are up 1,800 even with a stagnant retail sector which is down slightly versus last year (-100). The only super sectors trailing last December are financial activities (-200) and information (-100).

# Dubuque

The Dubuque Metro area shed 300 jobs in December, lowering total nonfarm employment down to 60,500 jobs. Jobs are typically shed this time of year in the MSA, although this month’s decline is slightly more than average. Goods-producing industries were down 400 jobs due to drops in construction. This loss was expected. Private services added 100 jobs due to hiring in trade, transportation, and utilities. Government was unchanged.

Annually, total nonfarm employment is down 100 jobs due primarily to losses in private services (-300). Retail trade has been especially sluggish (-200). Both goods-producing industries and government have advanced slightly (+100).

**Iowa City**

Employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area trimmed 1,200 jobs from last month. Government shed 700 jobs, split between state government (-300) and local government (-400). Retail trade pared 100 jobs, and the trade, transportation and warehousing sector was unchanged. Goods producing industries pared 200 jobs as did leisure and hospitality.

The metro area has added 900 jobs from one year ago, with gains of 400 jobs in private service-providing industries including professional and business services (+200) and leisure and hospitality (+200). Goods-producing industries added 300 jobs. Government added 200 jobs. Trade, transportation and warehousing pared 300 jobs with the entire loss in retail trade.

**Sioux City**

Employment in the Sioux City MSA is down 600 jobs from November, split evenly between goods producing and private service providing industries. Employment in trade, transportation and warehousing was unchanged as was employment in leisure and hospitality and government. Manufacturing gained 100 jobs in non-durable goods manufacturing, which was offset by a loss of 100 in professional and business services.

Overall, area employment is 1,100 above one year ago. Manufacturing added 600 jobs, 500 of those jobs are in non-durable goods manufacturing. Trade, transportation and warehousing gained 600 jobs with a gain of just 200 in retail trade. Professional and business services also added 100 jobs and employment in leisure and hospitality was unchanged.

# Waterloo/Cedar Falls

The Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area’s total nonfarm trimmed 500 jobs from the previous month and stands at 91,300. The jobs decline this month was due to multiple industries with small employment decreases. Trade, transportation and warehousing shed 200 jobs and professional and business services, educational and health services, and government each pared 100 jobs. Manufacturing is the only industry with an employment increase in December, gaining 100 jobs.

Over the year, the area has added 300 jobs. Durable goods manufacturing added 500 jobs, combined with 200 additional jobs in non-durable goods manufacturing. These gains were solely responsible for a total gain of 700 jobs in goods producing industries. Trade, transportation and warehousing and professional and business services each added 100 jobs. Leisure and hospitality and government each trimmed 100 jobs.