**Ames**

Employment in the Ames metropolitan statistical area fell by 8,000 jobs between March and April, or 15.0 percent. By percentage, this was the largest drop in employment owing to the COVID-19 pandemic among Iowa’s metropolitan areas, a fact likely attributable to the area’s economic reliance on its state university.

The decrease in employment was confined to the service-providing industry, as employment in the goods-producing industry remained steady. Private service-providing employers trimmed payrolls by 2,800 over-the-month. Meanwhile, government positions decreased by 5,200. State government was responsible for the bulk of this decline, posting a month-to-month drop of 4,900 jobs. Local government fell by 300 positions.

The metropolitan area pared 9,700 positions in the past year, a decline of 17.6 percent. As with above, this was the largest percentage decrease in year-over-year employment among Iowa’s metropolitan areas. State government and the private service-providing industry shouldered much of the loss, trimming 5,500 and 3,600 positions, respectively.

**Cedar Rapids**

The Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area dropped an unprecedented 12,500 jobs from March as the nation struggled with the effects of COVID-19. Only information and federal government managed to elude the negative effects of the virus as they maintained the same level of jobs through the month.

As is the case with statewide employment, accommodation and food services suffered the greatest blow as social distancing rules were implemented, hampering normal operations. The industry is down 57 percent  
(-5,700 jobs) from the previous month. Goods-producing industries pared 800 jobs (-2.9 percent) although manufacturing represented a fairly small portion of that loss (-200 jobs).

Over the year, area employment has decreased by 15,800 and stands at 130,800 jobs. Leisure and hospitality cut 7,000 jobs (-56.9 percent) with more than 84 percent of those jobs in accommodation and food services. Professional and business services is down 2,800 jobs (-18.4 percent).

**Des Moines/West Des Moines**

# Firms in the Des Moines area trimmed payrolls by 30,200 in April (-8.2 percent). By percentage, this loss was less than other metro areas around the state. Normally in April, virtually all sectors add employment to deal with increased business, but social distancing efforts affected virtually all industries.

# Almost half the loss stemmed from leisure and hospitality which pared 14,900 jobs—7,300 were in full-service restaurants. This industry may start to trend up some when restrictions end and patrons return. Early seasonal closings for schools affected both the education and health services (-3,500) and government (-3,400). Professional and business services fell due to layoffs in temporary help services and shed 2,400 jobs. Small losses this month included other services (-2,000) and manufacturing (-1,400). The lone super sector to add jobs this month was mining, logging, and construction which seasonally added 2,200 jobs following an early payroll decline last month. Even with the monthly increase, this sector trails last year’s mark by 800 jobs.

# The Des Moines area is down 35,500 jobs versus last April (-9.5 percent). This over-the-year loss is slightly lower than the statewide decline of 12.2 percent. Both numerically and by percentage, leisure and hospitality has experienced the largest drop (16,400 or 44.7 percent). Restaurants have begun to reopen in mid-May, so this should start to climb as the summer months arrive. This is also the case with retail trade. This sector is down 4,700 jobs annually and fueling a loss of 5,100 in trade, transportation, and utilities. The only sector to remain positive versus last year’s mark is financial activities, up 1,100 jobs over the last twelve months.

# Dubuque

The Dubuque Metropolitan Statistical Area lost 7,800 jobs in April as statewide coronavirus restrictions took effect. Virtually all of the loss stemmed from private services (-7,700). Retail trade shed 1,000 jobs and trade, transportation, and utilities combined pared 1,600. Government shed 300 jobs at the local level as schools lowered payrolls closer to summer break levels. Goods-producing industries actually did experience some seasonal hiring (+200), although this level was less than half of what would be seasonally expected for April.

The Dubuque area is now down 9,400 jobs since last April. Private services have understandably pared the most jobs (-8,900) with retail trade shedding 1,200 jobs. Government is down 300 jobs at the local level and goods-producing industries are down a slight 200 jobs.

**Iowa City**

Employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area fell by 9,000 positions between March and April (-9.1 percent) as the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic took hold. Nearly all of the decline in employment occurred in the private service-providing industry and government, which trimmed payrolls by 6,600 and 1,900 jobs over-the-month, respectively. Among sectors in the private service-providing industry, the largest declines in employment were seen within accommodation and food services (-4,000) and retail trade (-900). State government (-1,400), local government (-500), and the goods-producing industry (-500) also shouldered losses.

The metropolitan area shed 12,200 jobs in the past year, or 12.0 percent. Most of this decrease is attributable to the service-providing industry, which cut 11,100 positions. Virtually every sector or industry experienced some level of year-over-year job loss, with the largest declines seen in accommodation and food services (-4,300); state government (-2,100); retail trade (-1,200); trade, transportation, and utilities  
(-1,100); and the goods-producing industry (-1,100).

**Sioux City**

Employment in the Sioux City MSA is down 7,700 jobs from March, with leisure and hospitality (-3,500) absorbing the majority of the area’s job losses triggered by the COVID-19 virus. The jobs cut represent 44.9 percent of total employment in the leisure and hospitality sector. Local government was also affected in a large way with 2,200 fewer jobs, likely the result of shutting down schools in the early stages of the COVID-19 event. Retail trade cut 1,500 jobs and manufacturing pared 700 jobs, although goods-producing as a whole was unchanged. The downturn is the result of the COVID-19 virus.

Overall, area employment is down 8,800 jobs from one year ago with leisure and hospitality (-3,900) representing 44.3 percent of all area job losses. Local government cut 2,200 jobs for a 25 percent share of total job losses in the area. Retail trade jobs were also greatly affected by the pandemic with 1,400 fewer jobs than one year ago. Manufacturing trimmed 700 jobs.

# Waterloo/Cedar Falls

The Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area’s total nonfarm employment is down 6,400 jobs from last month and stands at 82,200. As is the case in nearly every metropolitan area, leisure and hospitality represents the majority of the lost jobs with 3,300 fewer jobs, a 44.6 percent reduction from the previous month. State government dropped 1,500 jobs as universities closed to aid in the prevention of virus spread. Durable goods manufacturing cut 200 jobs and retail trade cut 800 jobs. The only industry in the area that was not affected by COVID-19 job losses is federal government which is unchanged from both last month and one year ago.

Over the year, the area pared 9,300 jobs. 3,700 jobs, or 39.8 percent of the area’s total losses were attributable to the leisure and hospitality industry. Durable goods manufacturing has shed 1,000 jobs with just 100 of those jobs in non-durable goods manufacturing. State government pared 1,700 jobs.