**Ames**

Employment in the Ames metropolitan statistical area increased by 1,000 jobs between April and May, a 2.2 percent increase. This gain was a welcome surprise, but it made up for only a small portion of the jobs lost in the previous month due to the Covid-19 pandemic; employment lagged that of the previous May by 8,600 positions, or 15.7 percent.

The increase in employment between April and May was almost entirely attributable to the private service-producing industry, which added 1,700 positions. The goods-producing industry posted a modest gain of 100 jobs over-the-month. Government positions continued to slide, with losses in state government (-700) and local government (-100). Employment in federal government, however, was steady.

Despite the monthly gains in employment, nearly all sectors remained in the red annually. Much of the decline has been shouldered by state government (-5,500 jobs) and the private service-providing industry (-1,900). The goods-producing industry and local government have also shouldered significant losses, with each trimming 600 positions over-the-year. Federal government was unchanged.

**Cedar Rapids**

The Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area began to rebound in May from the previous month’s Covid-19 related employment reductions. However, fewer than 1/3 of the jobs lost in April were recovered in May, bringing total nonfarm employment to 132,400 which lags the March employment value by 10,900.

Trade, transportation and warehousing and government are the only sectors that did not gain jobs this month. Within the trade, transportation and warehousing sector retail trade shed another 1,000 jobs and transportation, warehousing and utilities pared 500 jobs. Local government is responsible for all 400 of the jobs lost in the government sector.

Manufacturing in the area appears to have fully recovered as the employment total of 20,300 jobs equals that of February. Durable goods manufacturing remains slightly below (-100) the March value. Leisure and hospitality added 2,200 jobs but remains well below (-4,400) the March employment level as accommodations and food services were hit particularly hard by the virus shutdowns and customers may initially be reluctant to support those businesses as they re-open.

Over the year, area employment is down by 14,900. Leisure and hospitality still lags the previous year by 5,200 jobs with more than 82% of those jobs in accommodation and food services. Retail trade is down 2,400 jobs from one year ago and professional and business services is down 1,500 jobs (-9.93%).

**Des Moines/West Des Moines**

# The Des Moines metropolitan area added 2,500 jobs in May. Although positive, this increase was still low compared to what has been historically expected and evidence that social distancing efforts did not completely relent in May. Goods-producing industries added just 500 jobs this month and private services gained 4,100 jobs. Government shed jobs again in May (-2,100) following a large, expected quarantine loss in April (-3,300), and is down 4,800 jobs versus last year (-10.4 percent).

# Leisure and hospitality showed some signs of recovery in May (+3,400). Full service restaurants alone added 2,200 jobs. Larger gains are expected in the later summer months since most efforts to reopen started in the later part of May. Additionally, many firms and individuals are still adapting to new safety guidelines, so pre-quarantine demand for services and labor may not be seen for several months. Retail trade also picked up this month leading to a gain of 400 jobs in trade, transportation, and utilities. Professional and business services added back some of the jobs lost in April (+600). Much of these gains were attributable to administrative support and waste management. Manufacturing added 400 jobs in nondurable goods factories following a loss of 1,300 jobs last month. The only losses this month were education and health care (-700) and other services (-300).

# Compared to last May, the Des Moines metro is down 39,700 jobs. Even with large gains this month, leisure and hospitality still remains at about half the level it was last year (-44.2 percent). Education and health services is down 4,900 jobs annually. Health care and social assistance alone is down 3,200 jobs as non-emergency services were temporarily halted. These services should resume over the summer. Retail was struggling even before the quarantine and has fueled a loss of 4,400 jobs in trade, transportation, and utilities. On the other hand, financial activities have been a bright spot thus far with 800 jobs added versus last May. Insurance carriers and related activities have been responsible for much of this growth.

# Dubuque

Business establishments in the Dubuque area added 3,000 jobs in May and lifted the total nonfarm employment to 53,700 jobs. As is the case with other parts of the state and nation, efforts to reopen businesses will likely take months. Still, this month’s gain is a step in the right direction. Private services added 3,100 jobs in May. Goods-producing industries were flat versus April and government shed a slight 100 jobs at the local level.

Annually, Dubuque trails last May by 8,100 jobs. Private services have been responsible for most of the jobs lost (-7,000), but goods-producing industries and government are also down by 600 and 500 jobs, respectively.

**Iowa City**

Employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area increased by 1,100 positions between April and May, a welcome 1.2 percent increase after a precipitous decline in the previous month. The goods-producing industry posted the largest increase, bolstering payrolls by 1,500 jobs. The private service-providing industry added 1,300 positions, primarily on the back of the leisure and hospitality and accommodation and food services sectors, which added 1,000 and 900 positions, respectively. State government (-1,300 jobs) and trade, transportation, and utilities (-800) continued to feel the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The metropolitan area shed 10,400 positions in the past year, primarily due to the declines in the private service-providing industry (-7,700 jobs) and government (-2,900). Despite monthly gains, leisure and hospitality (-3,900 positions) and accommodation and food services (-3,600) posted significant year-over-year job losses. Trade, transportation, and utilities pared 2,000 positions over-the-year, while state government trimmed 1,900 jobs. Likewise, local government cut 900 positions. The goods-producing industry was the only segment of the Iowa City economy in the black annually, with employers adding 200 jobs since last May.

**Sioux City**

# Employment in the Sioux City MSA is up 2,600 jobs from April, with leisure and hospitality (+1,000) adding the majority of the area’s jobs as a result of the loosening of quarantine guidelines triggered by the Covid-19 virus. Employment in the area remains 3,500 jobs below the March level. Every sector except government added jobs over the month with goods-producing industries outperforming other industries, adding 1,200 jobs. Government employment is unchanged.

# Overall, area employment is down 5,000 jobs from one year ago with jobs in leisure and hospitality (-3,300) representing 66% of that total. Local government remains down 1,300 jobs from one year ago and will likely see little gain until the new school year begins given many municipalities have opted, through an abundance of caution, to avoid large gatherings by cancelling many organized activities and not opening popular summer venues such as swimming pools that would normally require additional employees.

# Waterloo/Cedar Falls

The Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area’s total nonfarm employment regained nearly 35% of the jobs lost in April, adding 2,400 jobs this month. Leisure and hospitality added the greatest number of jobs (+1,700) in May, after suffering the greatest loss in April when the industry dropped more than 48% of its total employment due to quarantine efforts implemented as a result of Covid-19. Manufacturing added 300 jobs and currently stands at 15,800, just 100 jobs below the March level. Both educational and health services and state government continued to shed jobs. The jobs lost in educational and health services (-400) were all in health care and social assistance.

Over the year, the area pared 7,800 jobs. Government, particularly state government, is responsible for 33.3% (2,600) of the lost jobs. Leisure and hospitality represents another 28.2% (2,200 jobs). Manufacturing employment remains 800 jobs below one year ago with all of the 800 jobs being trimmed from durable goods manufacturing.