**Ames**

Employment in the Ames metropolitan statistical area (MSA) was relatively unchanged between June and July, declining by 200 jobs (or 0.3 percent). There is typically a more significant decline in employment in the Ames MSA during this time of year. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, some of the jobs that are typically lost between June and July were likely already lost in the preceding several months. This year’s decline is almost entirely attributable to local government, which trimmed payrolls by 500 jobs over-the-month. State government cut 100 positions and federal government was unchanged. Meanwhile, the private service-providing and goods-producing sectors added 300 and 100 positions, respectively.

The MSA shed 900 jobs in the past year (-1.8 percent). Much of this decline was shouldered by local government, which endured a loss of 500 positions over-the-year. Employment figures in federal government and state government were unchanged. The goods-producing and private   
service-providing sectors were also in the red annually, with corresponding job losses of 300 and 200 since last July.

**Cedar Rapids**

Employment in the Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area increased for the third consecutive month following April’s Covid-19 related employment reductions. However, the rate of expansion has decreased in each of the past two months with a gain of just 0.44% in July. Slightly more than half (52.67%) of the jobs lost from March to April have been recovered. Total nonfarm employment stands at 136,200 which still lags the March employment value by 7,100 jobs.

Leisure and hospitality added 1,400 jobs to lead all sectors. The industry temporarily lost 55.5% of all jobs in April but now sits at just 22.7% below the March value. Professional and business services and educational and health services each trimmed 200 jobs. Employment in trade, transportation and warehousing, information, and financial activities were all unchanged from last month. Government pared 1,500 jobs, all the result of cuts in local government. Manufacturing also trimmed 100 jobs.

Over the year, area employment is down by 8,800. Leisure and hospitality still lags the previous year by 3,700 jobs with more than 67% of those jobs in accommodation and food services. Government remains 6.94% below one year ago, due entirely to employment losses in local government. Employment in professional and business services remains 6.00% (900 jobs) below one year ago although employment exceeds the March value but still lags the February level.

**Des Moines/West Des Moines**

The Des Moines Metro gained 2,900 jobs in July. The monthly increase lifts total nonfarm employment up to 348,700 jobs and helps the recover some of the job loss due to social distancing that began in March. Typically, jobs are seasonally shed in July; however, this month firms began bringing workers back who were laid off or furloughed. The biggest gain was in leisure and hospitality (+2,600) and eating and drinking establishments were responsible for a majority of hiring. Health care and social assistance rose markedly in July (+1,100) as non-critical health services resumed. Professional and business services added jobs (+400) due entirely to hiring in white collar scientific and technical fields. Financial activities advanced by 300 jobs mostly within insurance and related activities. This sector has fared well and even expanded through the pandemic. Retail trade expanded payrolls (+300) and has shown optimistic signs of adjusting to at-home shopping around the country. These measures may help stem structural losses as consumers decrease demand for brick-and-mortar retailers. Gains of 300 jobs were in mining, logging, and construction and other services. The only loss this month was a seasonal decrease in government (-2,000) and related to education.

# Annually, total nonfarm employment remains down 24,900 (-6.7 percent). Despite a large monthly gain, leisure and hospitality trails last July by 8,400 jobs as bars and restaurants have been understandably slow to reopen during the coronavirus pandemic. Trade, transportation, and utilities trail by 3,600 jobs due mostly to retail layoffs (-2,400). Professional and business services remain down 3,500 jobs with administrative and support services fueling the loss. Construction has been sluggish around Iowa, and the Des Moines MSA is no exception with 2,800 jobs less than this time one year ago (-12.8 percent). Almost all of the losses are within specialty trade construction. The lone bright spot for the metro area is the financial activities sector which has added 500 jobs over the last twelve months.

# Dubuque

Firms in the Dubuque Metro area added 400 jobs in July and raised total nonfarm employment to 55,800. Generally, seasonal declines are expected in June and July, so these monthly increases are evidence of establishments reopening following social distancing measures. Private services added all of the jobs in July (+1,100) while goods-producing industries were unchanged versus June. Government seasonally shed 700 jobs at the local level.

Annually, Dubuque is now down 4,300 jobs. Private services have been responsible for most of the loss (-3,400). Goods-producing industries trail last July by 600 jobs and government by 300 jobs.

**Iowa City**

Employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area (MSA) increased modestly between June and July, as employers added 800 positions to payrolls (or 0.9 percent). This increase in employment bucks the trend, as employment in the Iowa City MSA typically declines during this time of year. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the number of employees returning to their jobs exceeded the number of seasonal losses. This year’s increase is primarily attributable to gains in the private service-providing sector, which cumulatively added 500 positions. Within this sector, leisure and hospitality (+700 jobs) and professional and business services (+200 jobs) had the largest increases in employment.

Government positions rose by 300 over-the-month, largely fueled by seasonal gains in state government (+1,100 jobs) outweighing seasonal losses in local government (-900 jobs).

The MSA shed 2,300 positions in the past year (-2.3 percent). Local government trimmed 1,100 jobs, whereas federal and state government were virtually unchanged. The goods-producing sector shouldered a modest loss of 500 positions. The private service-providing sector cut 700 jobs, with losses in trade, transportation and utilities (-700 jobs); retail trade (-600 jobs); professional and business services (-300 jobs); and accommodation and food services (-300 jobs). Leisure and hospitality, meanwhile, added 400 positions over-the-year.

**Sioux City**

Employment in the Sioux City MSA is up 700 jobs from June, bringing total nonfarm employment to 85,300. The gain is less than half the number of jobs added the previous month and leaves the area 1,900 jobs short of its’ March employment level. Professional and business services added 300 jobs, as did non-durable goods manufacturing, however manufacturing as a whole gained only 100 jobs. Leisure and hospitality added 200 jobs, regaining another small fraction of the 3,600 jobs dropped from March to April. The industry has been slow in its’ quest to return to March employment levels, as it remains 29.5% short of that mark. Trade, transportation and warehousing is down 200 jobs following two months of gain. Government pared 800 jobs, all in local government.

# Overall, area employment is down 2,700 jobs from one year ago with job losses in leisure and hospitality (-2,800), government (-1,100), trade, transportation and warehousing (-500) and professional and business services (-500) being partially offset by gains in goods-producing industries (+1,200).

# Waterloo/Cedar Falls

The Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area total nonfarm employment is unchanged from July and stands at 85,000. The MSA is one of only two in the state that did not see an employment increase in July (the Ames MSA is -100 jobs). The value falls 3,600 jobs short of the 88,600 realized in March, prior to the Covid-19 curtailment efforts and 3,700 below the July 2019 level.

Manufacturing and professional and business services each added 200 jobs. The additional manufacturing jobs are evenly split between durable goods and non-durable goods manufacturing. Trade, transportation and warehousing, financial activities, and leisure and hospitality each added 100 jobs. Despite gaining 2,400 jobs since April, leisure and hospitality remains 13.5% below the March employment level.

Over the year, the area remains 3,700 jobs short of the July 2019 mark. Leisure and hospitality represents 45.9% of that total (-1,700 jobs). Government is responsible for another 24.3% (-900) of the lost jobs. There are 400 fewer jobs in both trade, transportation and warehousing and professional and business services. The manufacturing sector employment remains 200 jobs below one year ago with 300 jobs being trimmed from durable goods manufacturing and a gain of 100 jobs in non-durable goods manufacturing.