**Ames**

Employment in the Ames metropolitan statistical area (MSA) increased by 1,900 jobs (or 4.0 percent) between July and August. This increase is almost entirely attributable to seasonal gains in positions related to the local university, as state government added 1,900 employees to payrolls over-the-month. Federal government added 100 jobs, while local government seasonally trimmed 200 positions. The gain in federal government employment is temporary. Elsewhere, the private service-providing sector and the goods-producing sector added 200 and shed 100 jobs, respectively.

The MSA added 1,200 positions (or 2.4 percent) annually, which marks the first month since January 2020 that it had a year-over-year gain in employment. Much of this increase occurred in state government, which added 1,600 jobs annually. However, the gain is exaggerated due to the fact that employment in state government did not seasonally increase in 2019 until September, whereas in 2020 it occurred in August. Other yearly gains took place in the private service-providing sector (+300 jobs) and federal government (+100 jobs); losses materialized in local government (-600 jobs) and the goods-producing sector (-300 jobs).

**Cedar Rapids**

Employment in the Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area experienced a slight decline (-400) in August after three consecutive months of gain. Employment losses related to Covid-19 have been slow to return, regaining only 49% of the lost jobs through August. Total nonfarm employment stands at 135,400 which still lags the March employment value by 7,900 jobs.

Leisure and hospitality pared 800 jobs as additional restrictions were implemented in the metro area to help curb the effects of the virus. The industry temporarily lost 55.5% of all jobs in April but now sits at just 31.1% below the March value. Employment in trade, transportation and warehousing decreased by 100 jobs with retail trade partially offsetting a loss of 200 in transportation, warehousing and utilities, and a loss of 100 jobs in wholesale trade. Mining, logging and construction also trimmed 200 jobs. Manufacturing employment was unchanged.

Over the year, area employment is down by 10,200. Leisure and hospitality still lags the previous year by 4,600 jobs (-35.94%) with nearly 74% of those jobs in accommodation and food services. Government remains 7.33% below one year ago, due entirely to employment losses in local government. Employment in mining, logging and construction is 13.79% below one year ago.

**Des Moines/West Des Moines**

# The Des Moines Metro advanced by 800 jobs in August. This month’s increase is modest, with seasonal gains in education fueling much of the advancement. Overall, private industries decreased (-800), although this decrease was smaller than seasonally expected. Government rose by 1,400 jobs with hiring at all levels including federal government, which experienced temporary hiring due to the census collection. Despite the increase, government trails last year’s mark by 2,700 jobs with local government alone down 3,300 jobs. Total nonfarm employment combined lags 2019 by 25,700 jobs.

# Within private sectors, education and health services added the most jobs in August (+1,400). This increase is more than expected and heavily fueled by hiring in private education. The only other gain this month was in mining, logging, and construction (+100). Alternatively, leisure and hospitality shed 700 jobs this month. This seasonal drop is extremely light compared to the prior ten years due to hiring within full-service restaurants (+500). Financial activities shed 700 jobs with losses of 300 jobs occurring within insurance and related activities. Retail trade trended down this month leading to a drop of 600 in trade, transportation, and utilities.

# Annually, leisure and hospitality still trails by 8,500 jobs (-21.4 percent). Despite this month’s recovery, full-service restaurants remain 2,100 jobs behind 2019’s level (-18.1 percent). Trade, transportation, and utilities are down 4,100 due to retail operating at reduced levels and demand for delivered goods increasing. Professional and business services have been hindered by a sluggish administrative support and waste management sector and is down 3,700 jobs.

# Dubuque

Total nonfarm employment in the Dubuque area showed little movement since July (-100 jobs). August isn’t generally a seasonal month, so this small payroll movement is not unexpected. This slight monthly drop leaves total nonfarm employment at 55,800 jobs—4,400 jobs less than last year (-7.3 percent). Goods-producing industries shed 200 and government added 100 jobs. Private service industries were little changed compared to July.

Compared to last year, private services have shed the most jobs (-3,200). Retail trade alone is down 300 jobs. Both goods-producing industries and government are down 600 jobs.

**Iowa City**

Employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area (MSA) increased by 1,200 positions (or 1.3 percent) between July and August. Much of this gain is owed to seasonal increases in positions related to the local university, as state government added 1,200 jobs over-the-month. Federal government added 100 mostly temporary positions, whereas local government was unchanged. Trade, transportation, and utilities (+500 jobs) saw the largest monthly employment gain among private sector industries, followed by retail trade (+100 jobs).

The MSA shed 3,300 positions in the past year (-3.2 percent). Nearly every sector of the economy pared jobs, with the exception of leisure and hospitality, which added 300 positions. Local government experienced the largest annual decline in employment, shedding 1,200 employees. State government was also in the red, paring 600 positions. Federal government was unchanged. Within the private sector, the goods-producing sector (-600 jobs), retail trade (-600 jobs), and accommodation and food services (-400 jobs) sustained the largest year-over-year losses.

**Sioux City**

# Employment in the Sioux City MSA is up 100 jobs from July, bringing total nonfarm employment to 85,600. While the August gain is fairly typical when compared to previous years, it still leaves the area 1,600 jobs short of its’ March employment level. Trade, transportation and warehousing added 500 jobs, buoyed by a gain of 200 in retail trade. Federal government added 100 jobs related to the ongoing census survey. Non-durable goods manufacturing added 100 jobs although manufacturing employment as a whole was unchanged. Local government is the only industry with a jobs reduction in August. Leisure and hospitality was unchanged for the month and remains 2,900 (-34.52%) jobs below one year ago.

# Overall, area employment is down 2,400 jobs from one year ago with job losses in leisure and hospitality

# (-2,900), government (-1,000), and manufacturing (-200) being partially offset by gains in goods-producing industries (+1,200) and trade, transportation and warehousing (+300).

# Waterloo/Cedar Falls

The Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area total nonfarm employment added 800 jobs from July and stands at 85,700. The value falls 2,900 jobs short of the 88,600 realized in March, prior to the Covid-19 curtailment efforts and 3,000 below the August 2019 level.

Government added 500 jobs with nearly all of the additional jobs in state government (+600), although federal government also added 100 jobs. Those gains were partially offset by a loss of 200 in local government. Trade, transportation and warehousing an educational and health services each added 200 jobs. Manufacturing and professional and business services each trimmed 100 jobs. Leisure and hospitality, the industry most affected by Covid-19 restrictions, remains 1,700 jobs below one year ago and 1,000 below the March (pre-Covid-19) level.

Over the year, the area remains 3,000 jobs short of the August 2019 mark. Leisure and hospitality represents 56.7% of that total (-1,700 jobs). Professional and business services is responsible for another 13.3% (-400) of the lost jobs. There are 300 fewer jobs in educational and health services, and 200 fewer in both manufacturing and government.