**Ames**

Employment in the Ames metropolitan statistical area (MSA) increased by 4,400 jobs (or 8.6 percent) between August and September. This increase is primarily attributable to a rise in seasonal activity related to the local university, as state government added 3,900 positions to payrolls over-the-month. The private service-providing sector seasonally expanded its books by 300 employees to accommodate the additional students and university employees living in the area. Local government also posted a monthly gain in employment, adding 400 jobs since August. The goods-producing sector shed 100 positions and federal government was unchanged.

The MSA added 400 jobs (or 0.7 percent) annually, which marks the first time since May and June of 2019 that it had consecutive months with yearly gains in employment. However, the increase in employment was not seen broadly around the MSA. State government added 1,200 positions year-over-year, while federal government added 100 positions annually. Every other segment of the local economy was in the red: local government trimmed 400 jobs, while the goods-producing and private service-providing sectors reduced payrolls by 300 and 200 employees, respectively.

**Cedar Rapids**

Employment in the Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area experienced added 800 jobs in September after a small decline in August. Employment losses related to Covid-19 have been slow to return, with employment remaining slightly more than 5% (7,200 jobs) below the March value. Total nonfarm employment stands at 136,100.

Government provided the greatest boost to employment in September, adding 2,400 jobs in local government. Educational and health services added 200 jobs. The majority of the gain in these industries was offset by losses in professional and business services, which pared jobs for the first time since April, trimming 800 jobs and manufacturing which shed 500 jobs, although only 100 of those jobs were in durable goods manufacturing. Leisure and hospitality and trade, transportation and warehousing each trimmed 200 jobs. Financial activities shed 100 jobs.

Over the year, area employment is down by 9,900. Leisure and hospitality still lags the previous year by 4,300 jobs (-34.68%) with nearly 77% of those jobs in accommodation and food services. Government remains 4.71% below one year ago, due entirely to employment losses in local government. Employment in mining, logging and construction is 12.94% below one year ago.

**Des Moines/West Des Moines**

# Total nonfarm employment in Des Moines gained 1,200 jobs in September and now rests at 350,900 jobs. Typically, jobs are seasonally shed this month, so a slight increase is welcomed news. Government added 2,200 with much of that coming from local government education as schools prepare for in-person classes. This was also true for private education and health services (+1,000). Losses were heaviest in mining, logging, and construction (-1,100). This sector typically experiences a small loss this month as projects start to wind down, but this month’s loss is greater than seasonally expected. Specialty trade contractors alone shed 400 jobs. Administrative support and waste management pared 300 jobs with 100 being in employment services. Retail trade experienced a small seasonal decline and led to a drop of 300 in trade, transportation, and utilities.

# Annually, the Des Moines metro trails last year’s level by 22,800 jobs (-6.1 percent). While all sectors have trended down some, leisure and hospitality understandably has the most ground to recover (-5,500). Full service restaurants remain down 2,100 jobs. Trade, transportation, and utilities are down 3,800 due partially to a struggling retail sector (-2,900). Construction trails by 3,700 jobs, which is the most of any sector by percentage (-17.0 percent). Most of these losses are within specialty trade contractors. Those sectors faring better are information and financial activities, which are down just 200 and 300 jobs respectively versus one year ago.

# Dubuque

Businesses in the Dubuque metro area added 1,000 jobs in September. This increase was large given the prior few years and welcomed news. Most of the increase was within private service industries (+700), although government added 400 jobs with local government. Goods producing industries seasonally shed 100 jobs.

Since last September, total nonfarm employment in the Dubuque area is down 3,700 jobs. The largest decline has occurred in private services (-2,900), although goods producing industries trail by 600 jobs. Government is down 200 jobs at the local level.

**Iowa City**

Employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area (MSA) decreased by 500 positions (or 0.5 percent) between August and September. The loss in jobs was attributable to declines in the goods-producing and private service-providing sectors, which each trimmed payrolls by 400 employees. Trade, transportation, and utilities sustained the largest loss in the private service-providing sector, shedding 400 positions, while professional and business services cut 200 jobs. Most other industries were unchanged or had modest gains/losses. In government, local government added 700 positions, while state government pared 400 positions.

The MSA shed 4,300 positions (or -4.2 percent) in the past year. Virtually every sector of the economy pared jobs, with the exception of federal government, which was unchanged. State government (-1,200 jobs) and local government (-500 jobs) experienced significant reductions. The goods-producing and the private service-providing sectors trimmed payrolls by 900 and 1,700 employees, respectively. Every industry within the private service-providing sector sustained losses, with the largest declines in trade, transportation, and utilities (-800 jobs), retail trade (-700 jobs), and accommodation and food services (-700 jobs).

**Sioux City**

# Employment in the Sioux City MSA is up 1,700 jobs from August, bringing total nonfarm employment to 87,100. The month’s gain is the most significant August-to-September gain since 2011, however the Covid-19-inspired employment drop left April employment level at its lowest in recent history (10 years). As a result, the September gain leaves the area 100 jobs short of the March 2020 value.

# Local government is responsible for the lion’s share of the September gain, adding 1,100 jobs, which is 24.5% more than the August-to-September average gain over the last ten years. Trade, transportation and warehousing typically trims jobs in September. However, the industry trimmed 300 jobs this month which is more than double the average September change. Professional and business services pared 200 jobs.

# Overall, area employment is down 1,600 jobs from one year ago with job losses in leisure and hospitality

# (-2,900), government (-500), professional and business services (-400), and manufacturing (-300) being partially offset by gains in goods-producing industries (+1,200).

# Waterloo/Cedar Falls

The Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area total nonfarm employment added 1,300 jobs from August and stands at 86,900. The value falls 1,700 jobs short of the 88,600 realized in March, prior to the Covid-19 curtailment efforts and 1,800 below the September 2019 level.

Government added 1,500 jobs with the majority of the additional jobs in state government (+1,000), although local government also added 500 jobs. Educational and health services added 300 jobs, and manufacturing, trade, transportation and warehousing and health care and social assistance each added 100 jobs. Goods-producing industries dropped 300 jobs and professional and business services and leisure and hospitality each pared 100 jobs.

Over the year, the area remains 4,100 jobs short of the September 2019 mark. Leisure and hospitality represents 36.6% of that total (-1,500 jobs). Government is down 700 jobs (-4.96%) from one year ago. Professional and business services is responsible for 12.2% (-500) of the lost jobs. There are also 400 fewer jobs in educational and health services, and 300 fewer in both manufacturing and trade, transportation and warehousing.