**Ames**

Employment in the Ames metropolitan statistical area (MSA) increased by 900 positions (or 1.6 percent) between September and October. This increase is mostly attributable to a rise in seasonal activity related to the area’s state university, as state government added 500 jobs to payrolls. Elsewhere in the public sector, local government increased by 100 positions, while federal government employment was unchanged. The private service-providing sector was responsible for the remainder of the area’s monthly gain in employment, adding 300 jobs over-the-month. The goods-producing sector was unchanged.

The MSA added 1,200 positions (or 2.2 percent) in the last 12 months. The annual increase in employment is entirely due to gains in the public sector; indeed, among private industries, the goods-producing sector trimmed 100 jobs, while the private service-providing sector added 100 jobs. State government bolstered its employment by 1,400 jobs annually, while employment in federal government increased by 100 workers. Local government was the only level of government to suffer losses, cutting 300 positions over-the-year.

**Cedar Rapids**

Employment in the Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area experienced a 1.76% gain (+2,400) in October, the best one month gain since June. The area has now reclaimed nearly 73% of the employment losses experienced in April as a result of the Covid-19 virus. Total nonfarm employment stands at 139,100.

Natural resources and construction added 700 jobs, bringing the sector to a level (8,000 jobs) not seen since November 2019. Trade, transportation and warehousing also added 700 jobs with the bulk of those jobs (400) in retail trade which is now at a level equal to March of this year. Educational and health services added 600 jobs to bring the sector to 21,700 jobs, exceeding the employment levels in the first three months of the year, prior to the outbreak of Covid-19. Leisure and hospitality pared 100 jobs, all in accommodation and food services. The change matches the September-to-October change of the previous two years. Manufacturing employment was unchanged from the previous month.

Over the year, area employment is down by 8,100. Leisure and hospitality, the industry most affected by the virus, remains 4,300 jobs below one year ago. Trade, transportation and warehousing employment is 1,000 below the October 2019 value. Manufacturing is the only industry that has experienced an employment gain over the year, with a net gain of 600 jobs after gains in non-durable goods manufacturing were partially offset by a loss of 200 in durable goods manufacturing.

**Des Moines/West Des Moines**

# Firms in the Des Moines MSA added 4,800 jobs in October. This monthly increase was larger than typically expected and leaves total nonfarm employment at 355,285 jobs.

# Part of this month’s large gain was fueled by a large spike in activity in construction (+2,100) which has been tight since the April lull. Specialty trade contractors contributed 1,500 jobs alone this month. Administrative support and waste management services contributed 1,300 jobs this month to the professional and business services sector. Retail posted the only other major gain this month (+800). This gain was large given the prior ten years and could be an auspicious sign of holiday shopping this year. Job losses were sparse this month and led by federal government (-200) which shed temporary census employees.

# Over the past twelve months, the Des Moines Metro remains down 22,600 jobs. Leisure and hospitality has recovered much ground since April, when firms reduced employment in half, and now trail last year’s mark by 6,000 jobs (-16.2 percent). Full-service restaurants represent much of this deficit (-2,200). Trade, transportation, and utilities remains down 3,500 jobs due partially to retail losses (-2,500). Government has shed 3,300 jobs with losses being fueled by local government.

# Dubuque

Total nonfarm employment in the Dubuque Metro grew by 600 jobs in October and now rests at 57,800 jobs. This month’s gain is average for the Dubuque area, but does follow a fairly large increase last month of 1,000 jobs. Private service industries fueled this month’s gain with 600 jobs added. These gains were within retail and private education. Government added jobs at the local level (+100). Goods producing industries shed 100 jobs due primarily to decreases within manufacturing industries.

Annually, total nonfarm employment remains down 3,500 jobs since last October. This annual loss continues to wane compared to April as firms bring back staff. Private services are down 2,700 jobs and goods producing sectors are down 600. Government has shed 200 jobs at the local level.

**Iowa City**

Employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area (MSA) increased by 1,700 positions (or 1.7 percent) between September and October. This gain is about equally attributable to employment increases in the private service-providing sector, which added 900 jobs, and government, which added 800 jobs. Within the private service-providing sector, significant gains were in trade, transportation, and utilities (+300 positions) and professional and business services (+200 positions). Amongst government sectors, state government and local government both added 400 workers to payrolls over-the-month, while federal government employment was unchanged.

Despite the monthly gain in employment, the MSA trimmed 3,300 jobs (or 3.2 percent) in the last 12 months. Aside from leisure and hospitality, an industry in the private service-providing sector, virtually every segment of the area’s economy suffered some level of job loss. The private sector pared 1,800 positions, split equally between the goods-producing sector and the private service-providing sector. Within the private service-providing sector, the largest losses were in the accommodation and food services (-700 jobs) and retail trade (-500 jobs) industries. Government was not exempt from the annual decline, cutting 1,500 jobs. This loss was split between state government (-1,100 positions) and local government (-400 positions).

**Sioux City**

# Employment in the Sioux City MSA is up 800 jobs from September, bringing total nonfarm employment to 87,300. The month’s gain brings employment to a level comparable to that of March, prior to the Covid-19-inspired employment drop.

# Local government added 200 jobs but federal government shed 100 jobs, leaving government (overall) with a gain of 100. Non-durable goods manufacturing also added 200 jobs which were offset in other areas of the industry, resulting in a net gain of zero. Trade, transportation and warehousing and professional and business services each gained 100 jobs. Employment in leisure and hospitality is currently 5,300, following a loss of 100 in October. The industry remains 2,500 below the March level.

# 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 (-500), and manufacturing (-300) being partially offset by gains in goods-producing industries (+1,300).

# Waterloo/Cedar Falls

The Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area total nonfarm employment added 800 jobs from September and stands at 88,100. The value falls 500 jobs short of the 88,600 realized in March, prior to the Covid-19 curtailment efforts and 3,300 below the October 2019 level.

It is noteworthy that all sectors except leisure and hospitality (-100) added jobs this month, with government leading the charge with an additional 400 jobs, split evenly between state government and local government. Manufacturing and professional and business services each added 200 jobs as well. The additional jobs in manufacturing were split evenly between durable goods manufacturing and non-durable goods manufacturing. Educational and health services and financial activities each added 100 jobs.

Over the year, the area remains 3,300 jobs short of the October 2019 mark. Leisure and hospitality represents 45.5% of that total (-1,500 jobs). Government is down 700 jobs (-4.76%) from one year ago. Professional and business services and trade, transportation and warehousing are each responsible for 12.1% (-400 each) of the lost jobs. There are also 300 fewer jobs in educational and health services.