**Ames**

Employment in the Ames metropolitan statistical area (MSA) decreased by 1,300 positions (or 2.3 percent) between October and November. This decline in employment is mostly attributable to contraction in the private service-providing sector, which experienced a decrease of 1,100 jobs from month-to-month. Employment in the private service-providing sector typically does not decline significantly from October to November, so this may be reflective of the local university ending its semester early. Federal government and state government trimmed payrolls by 100 positions each. Meanwhile, the goods-producing sector and local government both held steady on a monthly basis.

The MSA lost 500 positions (or 0.9 percent) in the last 12 months. This is the first time since July that the MSA has suffered an annual loss in employment. Much of the decline in annual employment is due to the private service-providing sector, which cut 1,000 jobs. The goods-producing sector underwent a more modest decline, paring 200 positions. State government offset the private service-providing sector’s losses by adding 1,000 jobs over-the-year. Local government contracted by 300 positions, whereas federal government was unchanged.

**Cedar Rapids**

Employment in the Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area took a small step backward in November, experiencing a 0.29% loss (-400), and creating a brief pause in the otherwise upward trending return to pre-Covid-19 levels. The area has currently reclaimed nearly 71% of the employment losses experienced in April as a result of the Covid-19 virus. Total nonfarm employment stands at 138,800.

Manufacturing trimmed 400 jobs over the month with 200 of those jobs in durable goods manufacturing facilities. On a positive note, industry employment remains above the March 2020 level. Another 300 jobs were shed in professional and business services following two months of steady (unchanged) employment. Leisure and hospitality trimmed 200 jobs. Retail trade added 500 jobs in a largely seasonal increase in line with previous year’s October-to-November change, although the trade and transportation super-sector was limited to a gain of 300 due to a loss in transportation, warehousing and utilities.

Over the year, area employment is down by 9,100. Leisure and hospitality, the industry most affected by the virus, remains 4,300 jobs below one year ago with nearly 77% of the lost jobs in accommodation and food services. Employment in professional and business services is 2,400 below one year ago. Trade, transportation and warehousing employment is 1,100 below the November 2019 value. Manufacturing and educational and health services are the only industries that have experienced employment gains over the year, adding 400 and 300, respectively.

**Des Moines/West Des Moines**

# The Des Moines metro showed little movement since October and rests at 356,800 jobs. There were some job gains, particularly within education and healthcare (+1,000), but these were cancelled out by seasonal losses in leisure and hospitality (-900). Government advanced by 500 jobs (+400) at the local level. Most of these gains were related to education as schools try to return to full capacity. Professional and business services shed 600 jobs. This loss could be attributable to a large decline in administrative support and waste management services. This decline was seasonally expected and most businesses reduce activities near the holidays. Retail trade experienced a large gain last month of 900 jobs, but was unchanged in November.

# Annually, the Des Moines area remains down 20,500 jobs versus last November (-5.4 percent). Leisure and hospitality has shed the most jobs (-5,100) with much of the decline due to full-service restaurants (-2,100). Trade and transportation is down (-4,700) with the loss being fueled by retail trade (-3,400). Education and health services are down 2,300 jobs—same with government. The only annual increase is a very slight gain of 100 jobs in finance and insurance.

# Dubuque

Firms in the Dubuque area added 300 jobs in November and raised total nonfarm employment to 58,100 jobs. This month’s gain is average for this time of year and thanks mostly to a seasonal gain in private service industries (+300). Goods producing sectors added 100 jobs while government shed 100 jobs. Retail was unchanged this month following small gains in each of the prior two months.

Since last November, the Dubuque area has shed 3,500 jobs. This deficit has steadily trended down since April when the Dubuque MSA trailed by 10,300 jobs. Private service industries are down 2,900 jobs and goods producing industries by 400 jobs. Government trails by 200 jobs at the local government level.

**Iowa City**

Employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area (MSA) declined by 500 positions (or 0.5 percent) between October and November. The decline in employment was broadly represented, with losses in the goods-producing sector (-100 jobs), private service-providing sector (-200 jobs), federal government (-100 jobs), and local government (-100 jobs). State government was unchanged. Within the private service-providing sector, the trade, transportation, and utilities industry added 200 positions to payrolls, as did retail trade. Professional and business services and leisure and hospitality pared 200 jobs each over-the-month.

The MSA lost 4,400 positions (or 4.3 percent) in the last 12 months. Similar to the monthly decline in employment, this decrease was fairly well-represented across a majority of sectors within the local economy. The largest declines in annual employment occurred in state government and the private service-providing sector, which trimmed 1,500 and 1,300 jobs, respectively. The goods-producing sector lost 900 positions, while local government employed 700 fewer individuals than it did one year ago. Federal government was unchanged. Within the private service-providing sector, some of the largest declines in employment were in accommodation and food services (-800 jobs), retail trade (-500 jobs), and professional and business services (-500 jobs).

**Sioux City**

# Employment in the Sioux City MSA is up 1,100 jobs from October, bringing total nonfarm employment to 88,400. The month’s gain brings employment to a level not seen since December 2019, well before the Covid-19-inspired employment drop occurred in April.

# Private service-providing industries enjoyed the bulk of the jobs gain, adding 800 jobs. Goods-producing industries contributed an additional 300 jobs although manufacturing was unchanged overall. Trade, transportation and warehousing added 300 jobs, with 100 of those jobs in retail trade. Leisure and hospitality pared 200 jobs and professional and business services trimmed 100 jobs. Every level of government (local, state and federal) was unchanged from last month.

# Overall, area employment remains down 1,000 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 (+1,500).

# Waterloo/Cedar Falls

The Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area total nonfarm employment was unchanged from October and stands at 88,000. The value falls 600 jobs short of the 88,600 realized in March, prior to the Covid-19 curtailment efforts and 3,200 below the November 2019 level.

Four sectors trimmed jobs this month, including: manufacturing (-200), leisure and hospitality (-200), financial activities (-100) and professional and business services (-100). Trade, transportation and warehousing offset some of those losses by adding 300 jobs and government added 100 jobs.

Over the year, the area remains 3,200 jobs short of the November 2019 mark. Leisure and hospitality represents 46.9% of that total (-1,500 jobs). Government is down 800 jobs (-5.44%) from one year ago. Professional and business services pared 400 jobs from one year ago (a -6.25% change), educational and health services trimmed 300 jobs (-2.05%) and trade, transportation and warehousing has 200 fewer jobs than one year ago (-1.12%).