**Ames**

Employment in the Ames metropolitan statistical area (MSA) decreased from 51,100 in April to 50,200 in May (-1.8 percent). A decline in employment is typical for this time of year, as many jobs in the area are connected to the local university. With the end of the university’s spring session, employment in state government fell by 1,900 over-the-month (-12.3 percent). Local and municipal governments added 200 positions (4.0 percent), while federal government employment was unchanged. Hiring in the private service-providing sector continued unabated, with 700 jobs added month-to-month (3.1 percent). Employment in the goods-producing sector increased by 100, or 1.4 percent.

Employment in the MSA increased significantly in the past year, growing from 47,400 positions in May 2020 (5.9 percent). A year-over-year rise in employment of 2,800 jobs is a welcome sight, but it is important to remember that the increase is primarily due to employment in 2020 being depressed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Much of the expansion in employment occurred in the private service-providing sector, which added 2,200 jobs annually (10.4 percent). Employers in the goods-producing sector added 100 positions (1.4 percent). Growth in government sectors was contained primarily to local government, which added 400 jobs (8.3 percent) over-the-year. Employment increased by 100 jobs (0.7 percent) in state government, while federal government was unchanged.

**Cedar Rapids**

Employment in the Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area increased for the third consecutive month, adding 900 jobs in May. Employment now stands at 137,200. Gains were nearly evenly split between service-providing and goods-producing with goods-producing adding just 100 more jobs than service-providing industries.

Manufacturing added 400 jobs with only 100 additional jobs in durable goods manufacturing. Leisure & hospitality also gained 400 jobs but remains well short of the pre-Covid-19 employment level. Professional and business services gained an above average 300 jobs (based on a ten-year average April-to-May change). Educational and health services pared 300 jobs, likely due largely to the beginning of the summer break.

Over the year, area employment has gained 6,200 jobs. However, the current employment value remains nearly 4.8% below the March 2020 (pre Covid-19) level. The area has reclaimed 56.3% of the jobs lost in April 2020, due to the pandemic. Leisure and hospitality has added 4,000 jobs from April 2020, yet industry employment remains 11.0% below the pre-pandemic level. Natural resources and construction was perhaps the industry least affected by the pandemic with seasonal gains through 2020 mimicking those of previous years. Industry employment is 100 below the May 2020 level.

**Des Moines/West Des Moines**

# Businesses in the Des Moines Area added 3,400 jobs to their payrolls in May, raising total nonfarm employment to 367,900 jobs. This month’s gain is modest given the prior ten years and follows another average gain in April. Leisure and hospitality added the most jobs this month (+1,800). This gain is average for May and partially driven by hiring in full-service restaurants. Mining, logging, and construction gained 1,100 jobs this month. This increase is higher than expected for May and follows strong gains in March and April. Although construction has been sluggish lately throughout the state, Des Moines has been an exception. Specialty trade contractors alone gained 800 jobs this month. Smaller increases included 800 jobs in professional and business services and 500 in government. On the other hand, job losses were seen in education and health services (-700), retail trade (-300), and finance and insurance (-200).

# Annually, total nonfarm employment has gained 30,700 jobs. The largest gains were in leisure and hospitality (+11,100), government (+4,400), education and health services (+4,300), and professional and business services (+2,100). While most sectors have added jobs compared to last year, information services are unchanged compared to last May and professional, scientific, and technical services is down 400 jobs.

# Dubuque

In May, Dubuque businesses added 1,100 jobs, raising total nonfarm employment to 59,800. This increase is slightly larger than historically expected. Private services gained 500 jobs and were partially fueled by hiring in trade, transportation, and utilities. Goods producing industries added 400 jobs, mostly due to seasonal construction hiring. Government gained 200 jobs at the local level.

Since last May, total nonfarm employment has increased by 5,000 jobs. Most of the increase has been in private service industries (+4,000). Retail trade alone has added 600 jobs over the last twelve months. Goods producing industries have gained 600 jobs and government increased by 400 jobs.

**Iowa City**

Employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area (MSA) decreased from 94,900 in April to 94,100 in May (-0.8 percent). The area is heavily reliant on the local university, so it is not unusual for employment to decline as the university’s spring semester ends. State government employment, which includes the university, declined by 800 over-the-month (-2.7 percent). Municipal governments added 200 positions (2.9 percent), while federal government employment was steady. The situation was likewise mixed in the private sector. Employment in goods-producing employers increased by 200 (2.2 percent), whereas private service-providing employers trimmed 400 jobs from month-to-month (-0.9 percent). Within the private service-providing sector, leisure establishments added 200 positions (2.5 percent), corresponding with a national surge in hiring in that industry. Meanwhile, retail businesses shed 200 jobs from payrolls, or -2.0 percent.

Employment in the MSA expanded by 3.9 percent in the last year, growing from 90,600 in May 2020. Much of this expansion occurred in private service-providing establishments, which added 4,100 positions year-over-year (9.6 percent). Employment in the leisure and hospitality super-sector grew by 2,700, or 49.1 percent. Meanwhile, retail employers added 800 jobs to payrolls (8.8 percent). Hiring in the goods-producing sector was slower, with 200 positions added over-the-year (2.2 percent). Employment in the government sector declined by 800 in the last year (-2.1 percent). State employers trimmed 1,300 positions (-4.4 percent). These losses were offset marginally by gains of 400 employees in local government (6.0 percent) and 100 employees in federal government (4.8 percent).

**Sioux City**

Employment in the Sioux City MSA is up 700 jobs from April, bringing total nonfarm employment to 84,900. The change for the month is slightly above the average April-to-May change for the area (ten-year average). The month’s gains were driven primarily by goods-producing industries (+600), with private service-providing industries experiencing a net gain of just 100 jobs.

Manufacturing represents only 100 of the additional goods-producing jobs, with no change in non-durable goods manufacturing. Leisure and hospitality added 300 jobs and is now only 300 jobs below the pre-pandemic employment level. Trade, transportation and warehousing, professional and business services, and government were all unchanged.

Overall, area employment is up 5,400 jobs (6.79%) from one year ago. All sectors except federal government (-100) were either unchanged or added jobs. Leisure and hospitality gained the most jobs (+2,200), although the sector was hit hardest by the effects of the Covid-19 social distancing recommendations and requirements and, as previously stated, remains 300 jobs below the pre-Covid-19 level. The industry has reclaimed nearly 89.66% of the jobs lost due to the pandemic.

# Waterloo/Cedar Falls

The Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area total nonfarm employment added 100 jobs from April and stands at 86,200. The value remains 3,500 jobs short of the March, pre-Covid-19 curtailment effort level, but is 5,000 above one year ago.

Goods-producing industries added 400 jobs in May. Manufacturing is responsible for 200 of the additional jobs with an even split of 100 jobs in each, durable and non-durable goods. Private service-providing industries pared 300 jobs in spite of a gain of 200 in leisure and hospitality as well as a smaller gain (+100) in trade, transportation and warehousing. Financial activities, professional and business services and government were all unchanged from April. Educational and health services trimmed 200 jobs in a seasonal change.

Over the year, leisure and hospitality reclaimed 1,900 jobs. Government added 1,600 jobs, evenly split among state and local government. Trade, transportation and warehousing added 900 jobs, educational and health services added 600 jobs and manufacturing has 400 more jobs than one year ago. Goods-producing industries, overall, shed 200 jobs, representing the only jobs loss in the metro area.