**Ames**

Employment within the Ames metropolitan statistical area (MSA) increased from 47,000 in July to 50,400 in August (7.2 percent). This sort of expansion is typical for this time of year, as activity at the MSA’s state university resumes. Accordingly, much of the increase in employment occurred in state government, which added 2,800 positions month-to-month (25.9 percent). The private service-providing sector, which caters to the incoming students, also experienced strong job growth, adding 700 positions (3.0 percent). The goods-producing sector trimmed 100 positions over-the-month (-1.4 percent).

Employment within the MSA rose by 1,300 jobs in the past year (2.7 percent), primarily due to an increase of 1,000 positions in the private service-providing sector (4.3 percent). The goods-producing sector added a modest 100 individuals to payrolls over-the-year (1.4 percent). Government establishments added 200 positions, with the largest gains occurring in state government (+200 positions; 1.5 percent). Meanwhile, employment growth in local governments was offset by losses in federal government.

**Cedar Rapids**

Employment in the Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area experienced its second month of decline, trimming 1,200 jobs from July. Nearly every sector shed jobs, with exception of government, which added 200 jobs, and trade, transportation and warehousing and information which were both unchanged.

Professional and business services absorbed the majority of the job losses, paring 700 jobs from July. Leisure and hospitality trimmed 200 jobs, as did manufacturing, with all of the industry’s job losses in durable goods manufacturing. Retail trade, financial activities, educational and health services, and other services each shed 100 jobs. Government was the only sector with an increase in jobs, adding 200 jobs, all in local government.

Over the year, area businesses have added 2,700 jobs with larger gains in leisure and hospitality (+900), trade, transportation and warehousing (+800), manufacturing (+600), and government (+500). The current employment level remains slightly more than 5.8% (8,400 jobs) below the March 2020 (pre Covid-19) level.

**Des Moines/West Des Moines**

# The Des Moines Metropolitan area shed 1,600 jobs in August, lowering total nonfarm employment to 370,900 jobs. Typically, jobs are added in August, so this month’s decline is unusual, but may be a due to unexpected surge in seasonal hiring last month and their release this month. Private industries combined lost 2,500 jobs, but was partially offset by a seasonal increase in government which increased by 900 jobs. Government is now up 1,300 jobs annually and private industry is up 15,800 jobs.

# Fueled by losses in retail trade, the trade, transportation, and warehousing super sector lost 1,400 jobs. Some of this retail loss can be attributed to layoffs in motor vehicle parts dealerships. Wholesale trade contributed to this loss with 200 jobs shed. Leisure and hospitality lost 800 jobs following a sizable gain in July. Much of this loss could be attributed to accommodations and food services expecting reduced business this fall. Other sectors losing employment this month included financial activities (-300), mining, logging, and construction (-300), and manufacturing (-100). Job gains were light this month and were led by health care and social assistance (+400) and employment services (+300).

# Annually, total nonfarm employment has increased by 17,100 jobs. By a very wide margin, leisure and hospitality has added the most jobs (+9,400). Professional and business services is up 1,700 jobs due mostly to gains in administrative support and waste management services. Both education and health care and social assistance along with trade, transportation, and utilities have gained 1,400 jobs. All sectors have added employment with the lone exception of information services which is unchanged versus last year.

# Dubuque

The Dubuque Metro area shed 500 jobs in August, lowering total nonfarm employment to 58,400 jobs. Private service industries lost 500 jobs. Some of this loss could be attributable to retail trade layoffs (-100). Goods-producing industries pared 200 jobs, slightly more than expected for August. Much of this loss was due to layoffs in manufacturing. Government gained 200 jobs at the local level.

Over the past twelve months, total nonfarm employment has added 1,600 jobs. Trade and transportation hiring has fueled a gain of 1,200 jobs in private services. Goods-producing industries are up 700 jobs, and government is down 300 due to reductions at the local level.

**Iowa City**

Employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area (MSA) contracted from 94,000 in July to 93,500 in August (-0.5 percent). Job losses in the private service-providing sector were the primary impetus behind the reduction in employment. The sector trimmed 700 positions from payrolls over-the-month (-1.5 percent), offsetting a gain of 600 jobs in state government (2.1 percent). Elsewhere in the public sector, local and federal government establishments pared 200 and 100 positions, respectively. The goods-producing sector underwent a modest contraction of 100 jobs month-to-month (-1.1 percent).

Employment in the MSA declined by 1,000 positions in the past year (-1.1 percent). Staff reductions in state government played a large role in this reduction. The sector employed 900 fewer individuals in August than it did a year prior (-2.9 percent). The private service-providing sector somewhat surprisingly shrank by 300 positions year-over-year (-0.7 percent), despite large increases in employment in trade, transportation, and utilities; leisure and hospitality; and accommodation and food services. Hiring in goods-producing establishments grew the sector by 100 jobs annually (1.1 percent). In the public sector, municipal employers added 200 positions (3.5 percent), whereas federal government pared 100 positions (-4.6 percent).

**Sioux City**

# Employment in the Sioux City MSA is down 1,200 jobs from July, bringing total nonfarm employment to 84,200. The jobs loss for the month is significantly above the average July-to-August change for the area (ten-year average = -130) and the second consecutive over-the-month decline.

# The month’s losses were all in service-providing industries. Private service industries shed 1,100 jobs in total with 600 of those jobs in trade, transportation and warehousing. Leisure and hospitality and manufacturing each trimmed 200. Non-durable goods manufacturing was responsible for half of the pared manufacturing jobs. Government shed 100 jobs.

# Overall, area employment is up 700 jobs (0.84%) from one year ago. Trade, transportation and warehousing is down 500 jobs, with just 100 of those jobs in retail trade. Goods-producing is down 200 jobs in spite of a gain of 500 jobs in manufacturing. Leisure and hospitality has added 600 jobs and, after having regained all of the jobs lost as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, did not enjoy the usual level of seasonal gains through the summer.

# Waterloo/Cedar Falls

The Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area total nonfarm employment pared 800 jobs from July and stands at 84,400. The value remains 5,300 jobs short of the March 2020, pre-Covid-19 curtailment effort level, and 100 jobs below one year ago.

Trade, transportation and warehousing (+400) is the only super-sector with a jobs gain this month, although retail trade pared jobs (-200). Financial activities, professional and business services, and educational and health services were all unchanged from last month. Goods-producing industries pared 500 jobs in August, with manufacturing responsible for 300 of those jobs, 200 of which were in durable goods manufacturing. Leisure and hospitality trimmed 200 jobs and 100 jobs were shed in government.

Over the year, trade, transportation and warehousing added 600 jobs to lead all sectors. Leisure and hospitality and manufacturing each reclaimed 400 jobs. Government has pared 400 jobs, split among federal government (-100), state government (-100), and local government (-200).