**Ames**

The Ames Metro area gained 2,300 jobs in February and now rests at 54,000 jobs. The monthly increase is both seasonal and average compared to the prior three years. It was also expectedly fueled by state government education (+1,700), although private services also gained 500 jobs this month. Goods producing industries were unchanged.

Annually, Ames is up 600 jobs with private services leading the way (+800). Government is up 300 jobs due to expansion in state government education. Goods producing sectors lag behind last year’s level by 500 jobs.

**Cedar Rapids**

The Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area added 200 nonfarm jobs from January, bringing employment to 141,900. Total nonfarm employment in the metro area is 600 above one year ago.

Educational and health services experienced a seasonal gain of 400, signaling the end of the holiday break. Smaller gains (100 each) were seen in government, leisure and hospitality, professional and business services and manufacturing, which saw an increase in non-durable goods and a small decline in durable goods manufacturing. Trade, transportation and warehousing shed 400 jobs, all in retail trade. Information pared 100 jobs

Over the year, government and professional and business services are each down 100 jobs and information has shed 400 jobs. Educational and health services, trade, transportation and warehousing and manufacturing have each added 300 jobs from one year ago.

**Des Moines MSA**

# In February, total nonfarm employment decreased by 1,900 jobs (-0.7 percent). This month’s gain is atypical for this time of year and possibly due to some shifting of seasonality. Jobs have been lost in three consecutive months in the Des Moines area, although the metro maintains an increase of 3,100 jobs versus last February.

# The largest declines this month were in trade and transportation (-900), with seasonal losses in retail (-600). Some of this month’s decline was due to seasonal, holiday staff being employed longer this year. Trade and transportation has fared well of late, adding 1,000 jobs over the past twelve months. Professional and business services pared jobs (-600) due to losses in both administrative support and waste management (-400) and professional, scientific, and technical services (-200). This month’s decline could signal that businesses are being more judicious in their staffing lately. Annually, professional and business services remain up 800 jobs. While financial activities decreased slightly in February (-200), the sector has added the most jobs in the Des Moines area annually (+2,500). Other movements this month included seasonal increases in both education and health services (+700) and government (+400). Both sector gains were the result of seasonal education increases.

# Dubuque

The Dubuque Metro remained at 59,600 jobs in February. Slight gains of 100 in private services exactly offset seasonal losses in goods producing sectors. February has been prone to shifting seasonal patterns, with both two losses and two gains in each of the past four years, so this month’s report isn’t too surprising.

Annually, private services alone were responsible for metro area’s gain of 1,400 jobs (+2.4 percent). Trade and transportation added 300 jobs and was partially fueled by expansion in retail trade.

**Iowa City**

Nonfarm employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area is up 1,200 jobs from last month largely due to seasonal gains following the holiday break, with government adding 600 jobs. Trade, transportation and warehousing and leisure and hospitality each added 100 jobs. Professional and business services was unchanged.

Fueled by both government (+800) and private service-providing industries (+600), total nonfarm employment has gained 1,600 jobs from one year ago. Professional and business services has pared 200 jobs and leisure and hospitality and goods-producing industries have shed 100 jobs each.

**Sioux City**

*The Sioux City MSA has been redefined. It now includes: Dixon and Dakota Counties in Nebraska, Union County in South Dakota, and Woodbury and Plymouth Counties in Iowa.*

# Employment in the Sioux City MSA shed 200 jobs from January. A loss of 500 jobs in trade, transportation and warehousing was largely offset by small gains in government and other service-providing sectors. Goods-producing industries have pared 200 jobs.

# Overall, the area has added 800 jobs from one year ago. Trade, transportation and warehousing added 500 jobs, 400 of which were in retail trade. Goods producing sectors have added 600 jobs, although manufacturing remains 300 below the February 2015 level. Government employment is 100 below one year ago.

# Waterloo/Cedar Falls

The Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area’s total nonfarm employment added 1,100 jobs from the previous month and stands at 89,900. Job gains were seasonal in nature and almost entirely in government, with the only exceptions being gains of 100 in educational and health services and leisure and hospitality. Trade, transportation and warehousing shed 400 jobs and goods-producing, financial activities and professional and business services each pared 100 jobs.

Over the year, employment is down 1,200 jobs, with manufacturing experiencing the greatest loss, shedding 600 jobs. The only industry with a gain in employment from one year ago is trade, transportation and warehousing which added 100 jobs.