**Ames**

The Ames Metro area decreased to 53,600 in March, a loss of 300 jobs. The decline this month was due to an unexpected loss in government (-400), or more specifically, state government (-300). Goods-producing industries added 100 jobs this month, while private services were unchanged.

Annually, 400 jobs have been added to the metro area’s total. Private services were responsible for all of the gain (+800). Goods-producing sectors are down 400 jobs and government is unchanged.

**Cedar Rapids**

The Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area added 1,200 nonfarm jobs from February, bringing employment to 142,900. Total nonfarm employment in the metro area is 800 above one year ago.

Retail trade ended three consecutive months of decline, adding 200 jobs this month and contributing to a gain of 400 in trade, transportation and warehousing. Mining and construction realized a gain of 200, matching the February-to-March 2015 movement. Manufacturing added 100 jobs following three months with no change in the employment level. Financial activities also added 100 jobs. Employment in the industry has not fluctuated more than 100 jobs in the past year.

There are only a couple of significant over-the-year changes. Trade, transportation and warehousing has added 500 jobs (1.56%) from one year ago and educational and health services has added 300 jobs (1.50%). Manufacturing has also added 300 jobs (1.49%).

**Des Moines MSA**

# The Des Moines metro area nonfarm employment saw little movement in March and now rests at 344,300 jobs. Minor private sector gains (+500) were nearly matched by public sector drops (-400). March is typically a month when seasonal gains are expected, so this month’s stagnant report is somewhat surprising.

# Education and health care typically adds jobs in March; however, this month saw a paring of 600 jobs. These losses were concentrated in health care services (-500). Despite the loss, this sector is expected to recover as the year progresses. Manufacturing also shed jobs this month (-100), but remains up slightly versus last year (+100). Alternately, those sectors adding jobs in March included construction (+700), professional and business services (+200), leisure and hospitality (+200), and trade and transportation (+100).

# Annually, the Des Moines area is up 1,900 jobs (+0.6 percent). Finance has fueled most of the gain (+2,300), while leisure and hospitality has shouldered much of the drop (-1,100).

# Dubuque

The Dubuque Metro added 600 jobs in March and now stands at 60,100 jobs. This month’s gain is slightly more than expected and puts the metro area up 1,100 jobs compared to one year ago (+1.9 percent).

Goods-producing sectors added 300 jobs, mainly within construction, and are now up 200 jobs annually. Despite a loss in trade and transportation, private services gained 200 jobs in March and are now up 800 jobs compared to last year. Government has added 100 jobs both monthly and annually and now rests at 4,900 jobs.

**Iowa City**

Nonfarm employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area is up 500 jobs from last month, boosted by a gain of 200 jobs in trade, transportation and warehousing, half of which were in retail trade, and an additional 200 jobs in leisure and hospitality.

In spite of goods-producing sectors shedding 300 jobs, professional and business services paring 200 jobs and leisure and hospitality being down 100 jobs, the metro area has added 1,100 jobs from one year ago. Trade, transportation and warehousing is responsible for 900 of the additional jobs and government added to the gains with 300 additional jobs.

**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 gained 500 jobs from February, driven by 200-job additions in both the goods producing and leisure and hospitality sectors. Trade, transportation and warehousing shed jobs for the third consecutive month, however the industry remains 400 jobs above one year ago.

# Overall, the area has added 1,000 jobs from one year ago. Professional and business services and government each shed 100 jobs and manufacturing employment is down 300 jobs from one year ago. Goods-producing industries have added 600 jobs.

# Waterloo/Cedar Falls

The Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area’s total nonfarm employment added 700 jobs from the previous month and stands at 90,600. Job gains were distributed across many sectors with no large gains in any specific sector. Manufacturing, professional and business services, leisure and hospitality and government each added 100 jobs. Goods-producing industries, overall, added 500 jobs.

Over the year, employment is down 900 jobs, with manufacturing experiencing the greatest loss, shedding 600 jobs, all in durable goods manufacturing. There are no sectors with employment gains from one year ago.