**Ames**

The Ames Metropolitan area decreased by 1,100 jobs to end the year. The monthly loss was large compared to the prior ten years, and partially due to an early paring of public education staff. Added up, government shed 700 jobs at the state level, although this sector remains up 100 jobs versus last year.

Within private sectors, service industries shed 300 jobs in December; however, these industries remain up 500 jobs annually. Goods-producing industries seasonally shed 100 jobs this month due to seasonal construction losses. This sector remains up 300 jobs versus last year.

**Cedar Rapids**

The Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area added 100 jobs, continuing expansion for the fifth consecutive month by a slim margin. Total nonfarm now stands at 147,000 jobs.

Employment has remained unchanged for three consecutive months in both manufacturing and information. Financial activities added 100 jobs following five months unchanged. Professional and business services is unchanged for the second month. Educational and health services has added 900 jobs over the past four months with an increase of 100 in December. Goods producing is down 400 jobs overall.

Over the year the area added 2,200 jobs with the largest gains in professional and business services (+600) and trade, transportation and warehousing (+600). Government added 300 jobs. Manufacturing added 100 jobs, financial activities increased by 200 jobs, and educational and health services gained 300 jobs from one year ago. The information sector has trimmed 100 jobs from one year ago.

**Des Moines/West Des Moines**

Total nonfarm employment in the Des Moines Metropolitan area decreased by 1,800 jobs in December. The monthly drop leaves the metro area up 10,000 jobs versus last year. This month’s loss is somewhat high compared to the prior ten years, although it does follow usually high gains in October and November.

The largest monthly losses stemmed from professional and business services (-1,800) and were concentrated in administrative and support services. Despite this monthly decline, the professional and business services sector has fared well throughout the year and is up 2,800 jobs annually. Construction seasonally pared jobs in December (-1,300) and now trails last year’s mark by 600 jobs. Losses over the past two months were larger than anticipated. Smaller losses this month occurred in leisure and hospitality (-100) and other services (-100). Alternatively, transportation and warehousing fueled a gain of 700 in the trade and transportation super sector. The financial sector added 600 jobs and has gained jobs for three consecutive months.

Annually, no sector has added more jobs than professional and business services (+2,800). Administrative support and waste management industries have been especially prosperous during that span (+1,900). Trade, transportation, and utilities has also advanced steadily (+2,100) and been fueled by recent gains in retail trade and transportation. Both education and healthcare and leisure and hospitality have advanced by 1,900 jobs over the past twelve months. Sector losses have been limited to just construction (-600) and information (-300).

# Dubuque

Dubuque establishments shed a slight 100 jobs in December, lowering total nonfarm employment to 60,500 jobs. Goods-producing industries pared 200 jobs due to seasonal decreases in construction industries. This was partially offset by a gain of 100 jobs in private services. Government was unchanged since November.

Annually, 200 jobs have been lost since last December. Private services have shed 500 jobs during that span. Much of the losses can be attributed to a lagging retail sector, although trade, transportation, and utilities combined have been down. Alternatively, goods-producing industries have advanced slightly (+200) as did government (+100).

**Iowa City**

Nonfarm employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area shed 1,400 jobs from last month, half of which is attributable to the government sector. State government pared 400 jobs and local government trimmed 300 jobs. Trade, transportation and warehousing shed 300 jobs. Leisure and hospitality pared 100 jobs.

The metro area has added 2,900 jobs from one year ago, boosted by gains of 1,200 in government and 1,400 in private service-providing sectors. Professional and business services added 100 jobs and leisure and hospitality added 200 jobs. Trade, transportation and warehousing shed 600 jobs.

**Sioux City**

Employment in the Sioux City MSA is down 200 jobs from November. The one bright spot this month is manufacturing which gained 200 jobs, the largest single month gain in the sector since May 2017. Other sectors did not fare as well with trade, transportation and warehousing and professional and business services trimming 200 jobs each. Leisure and hospitality and government were unchanged.

Overall, area employment is just 100 above one year ago. Goods producing industries have added 500 jobs, all in manufacturing. Trade, transportation and warehousing pared 500 jobs. Professional and business services shed 200 jobs and government employment is 100 below one year ago.

# Waterloo/Cedar Falls

The Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area’s total nonfarm employment decreased 700 jobs from the previous month and stands at 91,600. Small gains (+100) in manufacturing, financial activities and educational and health services helped offset the losses in government (-300), trade, transportation and warehousing (-200) and professional and business services (-100).

Over the year, employment is down 400 jobs due to a mix of gains and losses, most notably a loss of 700 jobs in trade, transportation and warehousing. Retail trade alone has pared 1,000 jobs from one year ago. Manufacturing added 200 jobs. Educational and health services added 300 jobs and professional and business services gained 100 jobs.