**Ames**

Total nonfarm employment in the Ames Metropolitan grew to 55,200 jobs this month following a seasonal gain of 1,800 jobs. The monthly gain is on-par with the ten-year history and mostly due to the seasonal gain in state government education (+1,500). Private services increased slightly (+200) and goods producing industries changed little since January.

Over the past twelve months, 1,000 jobs have been added in the Ames area. Both goods-producing industries and private services are up 400 jobs. Government is up 200 jobs.

**Cedar Rapids**

The Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area added 900 jobs in February as a result of gains in service-providing industries. Total nonfarm now stands at 143,100 jobs.

Educational and health services added 500 jobs to lead all sectors. Professional and business services rebounded from an employment dip in January, adding 400 jobs this month. Government added 200 jobs, all in local government and leisure and hospitality gained 100 jobs. Deducting from the month’s gains were a loss of 200 in trade, transportation and warehousing and 100 in financial activities, which hasn’t fluctuated more than 100 jobs over the month since May 2016.

Over the year the area added 1,500 jobs with the largest gains in professional and business services (+1,000), trade, transportation and warehousing (+500) and manufacturing (+400). The gain in manufacturing employment is entirely in the durable goods industries. The only sectors with over-the-year losses were natural resources and construction (-300), information (-200), and educational and health services and other services, each trimming 100 jobs.

**Des Moines/West Des Moines**

The Des Moines Metropolitan area added 100 jobs in February, leaving the metro area at 360,100 jobs. This month’s gain is anemic versus the prior few years. Private service industries showed smaller-than-expected gains this month. Government shed 100 jobs in the local level and displayed little movement over the past twelve months. Compared to last year, the Des Moines area is up 2,200 jobs (+0.6 percent).

In February, the largest monthly gain occurred in leisure and hospitality (+900). This month’s gain is large compared to the prior ten years and follows an unusually large seasonal paring in January. Education and healthcare services gained 500 due to seasonal gains in private education services. This month’s gain is average given the prior ten years. Losses were evident in several sectors including retail trade (-800) due to a final seasonal paring of boosted holiday staff. Financial activities shed 400 jobs and construction lost 200 jobs. Other services, professional and business services, and information changed little compared to January.

Annually, no super sector has added more jobs than trade, transportation, and utilities (+1,100). Gains in this super sector have been fueled by expansion within retail trade (+800) and transportation industries (+400). Manufacturing is up 600 jobs with hiring being equal within both durable and nondurable goods shops. Professional and business services is up (+600), as is leisure and hospitality (+400). The only sectors down versus one year ago are financial services (-200) and education and health services (-100).

# Dubuque

Businesses in the Dubuque Metro area added 300 jobs in February, raising the total number of nonfarm jobs to 59,100 jobs. This month’s increase is larger than the ten-year average and was fueled by modest gains in both goods producing industries and private services. Government added 100 jobs and is also up 100 jobs compared to last February.

Since last February, 200 jobs have been added in the Dubuque area. Goods producing industries have added 600 jobs to outpace losses of 500 in private services. Retail trade has been struggling throughout the country and is also down in Dubuque (-300). Government is up 100 jobs due to hiring in local government.

**Iowa City**

Nonfarm employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area added 1,900 jobs from last month, all of which is attributable to the service providing sectors. Government added 700 jobs, likely due to the return of students following winter break. Leisure and hospitality rebounded with a gain of 300 jobs, reclaiming nearly all of the 400 jobs trimmed the previous month. Professional and business services which has seen minimal movement over the past several months, added 100 jobs.

The metro area has added 1,500 jobs from one year ago, boosted by gains of 600 in government and 700 in private service-providing sectors. Leisure and hospitality added 400 jobs. Goods-producing sectors added 200 jobs and trade, transportation and warehousing shed 700 jobs.

**Sioux City**

# Employment in the Sioux City MSA is up 200 jobs from January. Trade, transportation and warehousing and government each added 100 jobs. Manufacturing, leisure and hospitality and professional and business services were all unchanged.

# Overall, area employment is 500 above one year ago. Goods producing industries have added 1,300 jobs, with all but 100 of those jobs in manufacturing. Professional and business services gained 200 jobs. Trade, transportation and warehousing and leisure and hospitality each pared 200 jobs. Government shed 100 jobs.

# Waterloo/Cedar Falls

The Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area’s total nonfarm employment increased 1,600 jobs from the previous month and stands at 90,100. Trade, transportation and warehousing is the only sector with an employment loss this month, shedding 100 jobs. Government added 900 jobs as a result of the educational winter break coming to an end. Educational and health services gained 200 jobs while manufacturing and professional and business services each added 100 jobs. Leisure and hospitality and financial activities employment levels were unchanged.

Over the year, employment is unchanged with only two industries adding jobs, manufacturing (+500) and financial activities (+100). Retail trade was responsible for 600 of the 800 jobs pared from trade, transportation and warehousing. Educational and health services trimmed 200 jobs.