**Ames**

Firms in the Ames Metro area shed 2,500 jobs in January, leaving total nonfarm employment at 52,600 jobs. This decline was seasonal and below the ten-year average. Private industries shed a combined 400 jobs, with losses of 200 each being in goods-producing and private service industries. Government shed 2,100 jobs due to seasonal declines in state government education.

Annually, total nonfarm is down a slight 200 jobs. Government trails last year’s mark by 800 jobs due to losses in state government (-700). Both goods-producing and private service industries have advanced by 300 jobs.

**Cedar Rapids**

The Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area pared 2,600 jobs in January. Mining and construction shed 800 jobs as winter weather settled in. Several other industries pared jobs this month, including; trade and transportation (-900), leisure and hospitality and government (-300 each), and educational and health services and manufacturing (-200 each).

Manufacturing employment held steady through 2017 and the first half of 2018, but has trended downward since June 2018, however durable goods manufacturing has seen minimal change since mid-2018. Professional and business services is the only industry experiencing a gain this month, adding 200 jobs.

Over the year, area employment is unchanged with 142,600 jobs. Professional and business services added 400 jobs, manufacturing added 300 jobs courtesy of a 500-jobs boost in durable goods manufacturing. Trade, transportation and warehousing also gained 300 jobs, with wholesale trade and transportation, warehousing and utilities negating a drop of 300 jobs in retail trade.

**Des Moines/West Des Moines**

# Total nonfarm employment in the Des Moines Metropolitan area shed 6,300 jobs in January and now rests at 369,100 jobs. This month’s drop is smaller than seasonally expected and follows another small seasonal drop in December. Private services were responsible for most of the movement (-4,700), although goods-producing industries shed 1,300 jobs. Government shed 300 jobs, but remains up 500 jobs annually.

# Predictably, virtually all sectors pared jobs in January. The largest decline occurred within professional and business services (-2,000). Both professional, scientific, and technical services and administrative support and waste management pared 1,000 jobs. These monthly losses were larger than average for this time of year. Trade and transportation shed 1,400 jobs due in part to reductions in seasonal staff in retail (-800) and transportation and warehousing (-600). Although retail is struggling statewide, this sector is up 500 jobs in the metro area. Mining, logging, and construction shed 1,100 jobs. This loss follows a larger-than-expected seasonal decrease in December. Much of these losses were related to declines in specialty trade contractors (-1,300).

# Annually, the Des Moines area has added 7,300 jobs. The education and health care super sector has added the most jobs (+2,000), followed by construction (+1,700), and trade, transportation, and utilities (+1,500). The only sector losing jobs annually is financial activities (-500), which has been particularly weak within the insurance carriers and related activities industry (-900).

# Dubuque

The Dubuque Metro area seasonally lost 1,200 jobs in January, dropping total nonfarm employment down to 60,200 jobs. This monthly loss is lower than what would be historically expected for January given the prior ten years. Goods-producing industries shed 600 jobs, slightly more than usual. Private services also pared 600 jobs, matching the seasonal drop last year, which was lower than average. Government was unchanged.

Annually, total nonfarm employment has expanded by 1,000 jobs. Private services have advanced by 500 jobs despite a sluggish retail sector that has pared 300 jobs annually. Goods-producing industries are up 400 jobs and government is up 100.

**Iowa City**

Employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area trimmed 1,500 jobs from last month with the bulk of those jobs in trade, transportation and warehousing (-600). Leisure and hospitality pared 400 jobs, all in accommodation and food services. Goods producing industries shed 300 jobs. Local government is the only industry with a jobs gain, adding 100 jobs.

The metro area has pared 900 jobs from one year ago, with losses in every industry except government which added 200 jobs with a gain of 500 in local government offsetting a loss of 300 in state government.

**Sioux City**

Employment in the Sioux City MSA is down 1,700 jobs from December, largely due to fewer jobs in private service providing industries (-1,200), although goods-producing sectors have also pared 500 jobs. Professional and business services and leisure and hospitality each trimmed 200 jobs. Government, trades, transportation and warehousing, and manufacturing each pared 100 jobs. Manufacturing employment in the area has steadily increased over the past year, shedding jobs only two times in 12 months. All gains have been in non-durable goods manufacturing.

Overall, area employment is 2,400 above one year ago. Manufacturing employment continues to climb with a gain of 1,600 jobs in non-durable goods manufacturing contributing to an overall gain of 1,700 from one year ago. Trade, transportation and warehousing gained 1,200 jobs with a gain of just 200 in retail trade. Leisure and hospitality, the only industry paring jobs from one year ago, trimmed 100 jobs.

# Waterloo/Cedar Falls

The Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area’s total nonfarm trimmed 2,600 jobs from the previous month and stands at 90,100. The jobs decline this month was due to 1,100 fewer jobs in government, a drop of 800 jobs in trade, transportation and warehousing, as well as several industries with smaller jobs losses. Manufacturing is the only bright spot this month with a gain of 400 jobs, however durable goods manufacturing added 500 jobs.

Over the year, the area has added 100 jobs. Manufacturing added 1,000 jobs from one year ago and is at 17,400, its highest level since September 2014. The annual gain was entirely in the durable goods sector. Government on the other hand pared 400 jobs, split between state government (-300) and local government (-100). Trade, transportation and warehousing pared 300 jobs.