**Ames**

Employment in the Ames metropolitan statistical was unchanged between February and March, remaining at 53,500 positions. This is not entirely unexpected, as employment was also flat between February and March of 2019. The goods-producing industry added 100 jobs over-the-month, but was offset by the private servicing-producing industry, which shed 100 positions. All three segments of government were unchanged.

The metropolitan area pared 800 jobs in the past year, a decrease which is entirely attributable to the service-providing industry. State government cut 600 positions over-the-year, while federal and local government were flat. The private service-providing industry trimmed payrolls by 200. Finally, owing to its increase in employment between February and March, the goods-producing industry is unmoved from last year.

**Cedar Rapids**

The Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area added 700 jobs from February, driven largely by gains in mining, logging and construction and trade, transportation and warehousing (+700 and +300, respectively). Government added 200 jobs, all in local government. Smaller gains were seen in financial activities and leisure and hospitality.

Professional and business services pared jobs for the second consecutive month (-400) and is down 1,100 jobs since January. Educational services trimmed 200 jobs after having added 400 jobs the previous month. Manufacturing shed 100 jobs, all in durable goods manufacturing.

Over the year, area employment has decreased by 800, and stands at 144,200 jobs. Professional and business services employment suffered the greatest loss, shedding 600 jobs. Educational and health services pared 400 jobs and information cut 300 jobs. Those industries helping to maintain area employment levels include government (+300), mining, logging and construction (+100), financial activities (+100), and leisure and hospitality (+100). The two industries with the greatest employment declines include professional and business services (-600) and educational and health services (-400).

**Des Moines/West Des Moines**

The Des Moines Metro shed 600 jobs in March, lowering total nonfarm employment down to 368,200 jobs. Private industries were especially weak this month, although there were also declines in goods producing industries. Government showed little movement since February, but remains 1,000 jobs higher than last year due to hiring at the local government level. The metro area as a whole has advanced 1,600 jobs over the past twelve months.

Trade, transportation, and utilities shed 600 jobs in March. Losses were heaviest in wholesale trade (-400), although retail edged down also (-300). Financial activities trimmed 600 jobs in March following recent gains over the past three months. Construction got off to a slow start this month by paring 400 jobs. This loss was fueled by weakness within specialty trade contractors. The only major gains this month to speak of took place in leisure and hospitality (+1,000). This sector was fueled by seasonal hiring in recreational industries occurring before the virus containment efforts went into effect.

Annually, the Des Moines metro is still positive regardless of this month’s drop. Part of the reason for this is the recent hiring within finance which has gained 1,300 jobs over the past twelve months. Insurance-related jobs alone have been responsible for 900 of the jobs added. Leisure and hospitality is up 800 jobs, in part due to arts, entertainment, and recreation industries. This number should come down in April until furloughs end and the economy resumes normal business activities. Education and health care leads all sectors in job losses (-1,400), with most of the drop occurring in private education.

# Dubuque

Business establishments in the Dubuque area shed 500 jobs in March. This lowers the total number of jobs in the area to 59,700. The loss this month was more than expected and the result of reduced staffing levels in several industries, although leisure and hospitality was the most affected. Overall, private service industries shed 500 jobs with 300 being pared in trade, transportation, and utilities. Goods producing industries added 100 jobs and government shed 100.

Annually, the Dubuque MSA is now down 200 jobs with all of the losses being in private services (-400). Both government and goods-producing industries are up 100 jobs.

**Iowa City**

Employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area fell by 300 positions to 99,000 between February and March, largely due to decreases in the private servicing-providing industry. Trade, transportation, and utilities accounted for the largest loss, paring 300 jobs over-the-month. In total, the private service-producing industry shed 500 positions. This loss was partially offset by gains in the goods-producing industry and state government—each added 100 jobs.

The metropolitan area pared 1,800 jobs in the past year. Most of this decrease is attributable to the service-producing industry, which cut 1,500 positions. Trade, transportation, and utilities and state government represented the largest declines in year-over-year employment, paring 900 and 500 positions, respectively. Professional and business services trimmed 300 jobs. Federal and local government offset each other, with the former shedding 100 and the latter adding 100 positions.

**Sioux City**

Employment in the Sioux City MSA is down 300 jobs from February, with minimal or no change in the majority of sectors. The only exception at the sector level is leisure and hospitality which added 100 jobs. Retail trade added 100 jobs, but losses in other areas resulted in a net zero change for trade, transportation and warehousing. Non-durable goods manufacturing also added 100 jobs, but manufacturing overall was unchanged.

Overall, area employment is down 400 jobs from one year ago with manufacturing serving as the area’s leader in employment gains, adding 200 jobs overall and 500 jobs in non-durable goods manufacturing. No other sectors gained employment. Trade, transportation and warehousing pared 200 jobs and professional and business services, leisure and hospitality and government each trimmed 100 jobs.

# Waterloo/Cedar Falls

The Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area’s total nonfarm employment is unchanged from the previous month and stands at 89,000. There was minimal movement overall with minor gains (+100) in manufacturing, trade, transportation and warehousing, and leisure and hospitality. The gains in manufacturing all occurred in durable goods manufacturing. Trade, transportation and warehousing added jobs overall, in spite of a loss of 100 jobs in retail trade.

Over the year, the area pared 1,900 jobs. Durable goods manufacturing has shed 600 jobs with no change in non-durable goods manufacturing. Professional and business services, which has held steady for three consecutive months, is down 500 jobs from one year ago. Leisure and hospitality has pared 300 jobs from one year ago.