**Ames**

Employment in the Ames metropolitan statistical area (MSA) fell from 48,000 in June to 47,100 in July (-1.9 percent). This decrease in employment is due to reductions in staffing in state and municipal governments, which each shed 600 positions over-the-month. The declines were expected, as employment in state government typically ebbs in July due to reduced activity at the area’s university. Likewise, local governments often pare back their employment with the beginning of a new fiscal year. These losses in public sector jobs were offset slightly by monthly gains in the private service-providing (+200 positions) and goods-producing (+100 positions) sectors.

Employment in the MSA rose by 1,400 positions annually (3.1 percent). However, due to the persistent effects of the pandemic, employment in the area for July is 1,800 positions fewer than in the same month two years ago (-3.7 percent). In the past year, the most significant gains in employment occurred in the private service-providing (+700 positions) and goods-producing (+300 positions) sectors. Additionally, state and local governments each added 200 positions to payrolls annually. Federal government was unmoved.

**Cedar Rapids**

Employment in the Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area receded slightly from June (-1,300). It is not uncommon to see a seasonal employment loss from June to July. Employment now stands at 137,100. The job losses occurred entirely in service-providing industries as goods-producing industries added 800 jobs.

Among the service-providing industries, losses in government (local government, -2,300), trade, transportation and warehousing (-300), and educational and health services (-100) were partially offset by gains in professional and business services (+400) and leisure and hospitality (+200).

Manufacturing added 400 jobs, assisted by 100 additional jobs in durable goods manufacturing and mining, logging and construction added 400 jobs to sum up the gains in goods-producing industries.

Over the year, area businesses have added 2,900 jobs with larger gains in government (+700), trade, transportation and warehousing, and leisure and hospitality, each adding 600 jobs. However, the current employment value remains nearly 4.9% (7,000 jobs) below the March 2020 (pre Covid-19) level.

**Des Moines/West Des Moines**

# Establishments in the Des Moines Metropolitan area shed 2,900 jobs in July. Seasonally losses are expected this month, but this loss is somewhat small compared to the prior ten-year history. Local government shed 3,000 jobs to lead all sectors. This loss was largely seasonal and related to schools furloughing staff for the summer. Administrative support and waste management services shed 1,200 jobs following a recent high of 21,700 jobs reached in June. This loss could be evidence that firms are hiring full time staff and forgoing temporary help and contract services. All other losses were small in nature and included retail, transportation and warehousing, other services, and insurance and related activities. Each of these sectors shed 100 jobs.

# On the other hand, leisure and hospitality added 500 jobs following large gains in each of the last two months. This is reassuring evidence that firms are optimistic about increased foot traffic and reduced pandemic restrictions. Health care and social assistance also gained 500 jobs in July. This sector unexpectedly reduced staff in each of the last few months. Finance and insurance gained 400 jobs, as did professional, scientific, and technical services.

# Annually, the Des Moines Metro has now added 18,500 jobs versus last July. Leisure and hospitality was most affected by social-distancing measures, but has now gained 8,100 jobs over the past twelve months. This value should continue to improve so long as the COVID virus remains reasonably controlled. The education industry has been largely responsible for an annual increase of 2,600 in government and 1,600 in education and health care as in-person classes have resumed and students are physically returning to their schools. Retail fared well during 2020 and adapted well to social-distancing measures; however, recent estimates suggest this industry may start scaling back on hiring. For now, this industry is up 1,300 jobs annually.

# Dubuque

Total nonfarm employment in the Dubuque area decreased by 400 jobs in July, lowering the total number of jobs to 58,900. Seasonal declines are expected this time of year due to education temporarily laying off staff for the summer, but this drop is still small by comparison. Government shed 900 jobs with most of the decline in local government education. Private services added 400 jobs and were fueled by hiring in trade, transportation, and utilities. Goods-producing industries advanced by 100 jobs.

Over the past twelve months, establishments have added 2,600 jobs in Dubuque. Private service industries have been responsible for most of the growth with 1,700 jobs gained. Good-producing industries have contributed 900 jobs. Government is unchanged compared to one year ago.

**Iowa City**

Employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area (MSA) decreased from 95,000 in June to 93,700 in July (-1.4 percent). Employment in the area usually retreats in July, as activity at the area’s university and the accompanying private service-providing sector slows. Establishments in the private service-providing sector trimmed 600 jobs over-the-month, while municipal governments cut 1,300 positions with the beginning of a new fiscal year. Modest gains in state government (+500 positions) and the goods-producing sector (+100 positions) were not enough to offset these losses.

Employment in the MSA decreased by 300 jobs annually (-0.3 percent). Much of this loss is due to a decline of 900 positions in state government. Employment in the private service-providing sector was unchanged over-the-year, despite strong gains in leisure and hospitality (+600 positions) and accommodation and food services (+500 positions). Trade, transportation, and utilities added 1,000 positions annually, but much of this increase occurred during the latter half of 2020. In the public sector, employment increases in local (+400 positions) and federal (+100 positions) government tempered the large loss in employment in state government.

**Sioux City**

# Employment in the Sioux City MSA is down 500 jobs from June, bringing total nonfarm employment to 85,400. The jobs loss for the month is well below the average June-to-July change for the area (ten-year average = -930) and the first over-the-month decline since January. Government, more specifically local government, is responsible for the loss, paring 1,000 jobs.

# Private service industries shed 600 jobs in total, including the previously mentioned loss in local government. Manufacturing added 200 jobs, all in non-durable goods manufacturing, but goods-producing industries overall added only 100 jobs.

# Overall, area employment is up 2,200 jobs (2.64%) from one year ago. All sectors except retail trade (-300) and federal government (-100) were either unchanged or added jobs. Leisure and hospitality gained the most jobs (+1,000) and now claims 100 more jobs than the pre-pandemic level. Manufacturing also fared well with an additional 700 jobs, 500 of which are in non-durable goods manufacturing. Sector employment is now equal to the March 2020 level.

# Waterloo/Cedar Falls

The Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area total nonfarm employment pared 600 jobs from June and stands at 85,200. The value remains 4,500 jobs short of the March 2020, pre-Covid-19 curtailment effort level, but is 1,400 above one year ago.

Goods-producing industries added 400 jobs in June, boosted by a gain of 200 in manufacturing. Trade, transportation and warehousing (+200) and leisure and hospitality (+100) are the only other industries adding jobs this month. This is the second month leisure and hospitality has had more jobs than the March 2020 level, but, for comparison to the typical seasonal fluctuations, the industry remains 400 jobs short of the July 2019 value. On the other hand, government trimmed 1, 000 jobs, which is significantly more than the typical June-to July change of just over 600.

Over the year, leisure and hospitality reclaimed 800 jobs. Manufacturing split a gain of 700 jobs between durable goods (+400) and non-durable goods (+300). Trade, transportation and warehousing added 500 jobs. Government added 100 jobs, all in local government, and educational and health services added 100.