**Ames**

Employment in the Ames metropolitan statistical area (MSA) expanded by 2,100 positions in September, an increase of 4.3 percent over the previous month. The increase was entirely attributable to seasonal growth in the government sector, which added 2,200 jobs over-the-month. Employment in state government increased by 1,800 positions as classes resumed at the local university. Local and municipal government employers added 400 positions, whereas federal government employment was unchanged. In the private sector, goods-producing establishments pared 200 employees from payrolls, while businesses in the private service-providing sector hired an additional 100 employees to assist with the influx of students.

Employment in the MSA shrank by 600 individuals over-the-year, a decrease of 1.2 percent. Employment in the government sector decreased by 1,300, with most of the decline occurring in state government (-1,300 positions). Additional hiring in local government was offset by losses in federal government. 800 jobs were added to the private service-providing sector annually, somewhat offsetting the job losses in state government. Employment at goods-producing establishments was modestly changed, with employers trimming 100 positions.

**Cedar Rapids**

Employment in the Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area experienced its’ greatest single-month gain since October 2020, adding 1,600 jobs. Nearly all gains were in government establishments as private service-providing industries shed 800 jobs.

The only bright spots in the private service-providing industries were a gain of 300 jobs in educational and health services and 200 additional jobs in mining, logging and construction. Professional and business services pared 600 jobs, marking the second consecutive month of losses for the sector. Leisure and hospitality trimmed 300 jobs which is in line with a typical seasonally-inspired loss. The trade, transportation and warehousing and information sectors each shed 100 jobs.

Over the year, area businesses have added 2,300 jobs with larger gains in manufacturing and leisure and hospitality (+700 each). Trade, transportation and warehousing followed closely with a gain of 600 jobs and government added 500 jobs. Professional and business services is the only sector with fewer jobs from one year ago after trimming 900 jobs.

**Des Moines/West Des Moines**

# Businesses in the Des Moines Metro added 600 jobs versus August and lifted total nonfarm employment to 372,200 jobs. Typically, some small seasonal decline can be expected this time of year, so the modest increase is welcomed news. Most of the hiring stemmed from government education as schools prepared for the fall semester. Private industry pared 1,700 jobs as temporary summer staff were let go from seasonal recreational and entertainment industries.

# Local governments added the most jobs of any sector in September (+2,600) as public schools began the new school year. Although seemingly large, this monthly gain is in-line with the prior two years for the local schools. Trade, transportation, and utilities also added jobs this month (+800). This super sector was fueled by hiring in both retail trade (+400) and wholesale (+300). The only other major gain this month was 300 in education and health care services. Losses this month were heaviest in leisure and hospitality (-1,200). This sector also seasonally pared jobs early last month (-600). Professional and business services shed 900 jobs with slightly over half the jobs lost being in professional, scientific, and technical services. Construction shed 400 jobs. This monthly loss stemmed from specialty trade construction services.

# Over the past twelve months, 15,900 jobs have been added in the Des Moines MSA. The growth rate of 4.5 percent is substantially higher than the 2.5 growth rate of the state. Over half of all the jobs added in the metro have been in leisure and hospitality (+9,200). Construction is a distant second with 1,400 jobs gained, then retail trade (+1,200). Those sectors losing jobs compared to last year were health care and social assistance (-400), employment services (-400), financial activities (-100), and information (-100).

# Dubuque

Total nonfarm employment in the Dubuque MSA increased by 900 jobs in September and now rests at 59,200 jobs. This month’s increase is historically average based on the prior ten years as the local schools prepare for the fall semester. It also occurs in the wake of an unexpectedly large decline last month of 600 jobs. Local government education firms were responsible for almost all of the seasonal gain this month (+800), although private services contributed 100 jobs.

Over the past twelve months, 2,100 jobs have been added in the Dubuque MSA. The annual growth rate of 3.7 percent exceeds all areas in Iowa except the Des Moines MSA’s 4.5 percent. Private service industries have added the most jobs (+1,300) and have been fueled by hiring in trade, transportation, and utility sectors. Goods-producing are up 800 jobs, while government is unchanged compared to last September.

**Iowa City**

Employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area (MSA) grew by 200 positions in September, an increase of 0.2 percent over the month. Local and municipal government establishments posted the strongest month, hiring an additional 800 workers. Among other government entities, gains in federal government were offset by losses in state government. The goods-producing and private service-providing sectors each trimmed 300 positions from payrolls month-to-month. However, leisure and hospitality and accommodation and food services each added 100 employees, despite strong headwinds toward hiring in both sectors.

Employment in the MSA shrank by 400 positions annually, a decline of 0.4 percent. Employment growth in the private service-providing sector was generally poor, with the sector losing 500 jobs over-the-year. However, several industries within the sector fared well, including trade, transportation, and utilities (+700 positions); leisure and hospitality (+700 positions); and accommodation and food services (+600 positions). The goods-producing sector was modestly changed, with 100 additional employees over the previous year. Among government sectors, municipal employers fared the strongest, adding 300 positions to payrolls. State government trimmed 300 positions, while federal government was unchanged.

**Sioux City**

# Employment in the Sioux City MSA is up 600 jobs from August, bringing total nonfarm employment to 84,900. The jobs gain for the month is half of the average August-to-September change for the area (ten-year average = +1,200) but reverses the downturn experienced in the previous two months.

# Government is responsible for nearly the entire gain for September. The only exception is a gain of 100 jobs in professional and business services. Trade, transportation and warehousing and leisure and hospitality each pared 200 jobs. Manufacturing was unchanged.

# Overall, area employment is up just 100 jobs (0.12%) from one year ago. Trade, transportation and warehousing is down 600 jobs, with just 100 of those jobs in retail trade. Goods-producing is down 900 jobs although manufacturing has added 300 jobs from one year ago. Professional and business services gained 500 jobs and leisure and hospitality has added 400 jobs. Government added 200 jobs with a gain of 300 being partially offset by a loss of 100 in federal government.

# Waterloo/Cedar Falls

The Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area total nonfarm employment added 2,200 jobs from August, aided by a boost of 1,700 jobs in government. Employment currently stands at 86,900. The value remains 2,800 jobs short of the March 2020, pre-Covid-19 curtailment effort level, and 600 jobs above one year ago.

In addition to the previously mentioned gain in government, trade, transportation and warehousing added 700 jobs, educational and health services added 400 jobs and manufacturing gained 100 jobs. Leisure and hospitality and professional and business services are the only sectors experiencing employment losses this month, shedding 300 and 100 jobs, respectively.

Over the year, government is the only sector with an employment loss, trimming just 100 jobs. Trade, transportation and warehousing added 900 jobs to lead all sectors. Manufacturing added to the area employment total with an additional 400 jobs, with 300 of those jobs in durable goods manufacturing. Leisure and hospitality added 300 jobs.