**Ames**

Employment in the Ames metropolitan statistical area (MSA) increased by 200 in November, a gain of roughly 0.4 percent over the previous month. Employment within many sectors was unchanged month-to-month. In the private sector, service-providing establishments added 200 positions. This accounted for the entirety of the area’s monthly employment increase. Employment at goods-producing establishments was unchanged, as was employment in all levels of government.

Employment in the MSA rose by 1,700 over-the-year, a gain of 3.3 percent. Much of the increase was attributable to gains in the private sector, particularly in service-providing industries. All told, the private service-providing sector added 1,900 positions annually. Meanwhile, establishments within the goods-producing sector pared 100 jobs from their payrolls. Among government sectors, employment among state government establishments shrank by 100 positions, whereas local and federal government employment was unchanged.

**Cedar Rapids**

The Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area added 1,100 jobs in November, with the majority of the employment gains in trade, transportation and warehousing (+800), boosted by 600 additional (seasonal) jobs in retail trade. This is the strongest October-to-November gain in retail trade since 2012, when the same number of jobs were added.

Other industries contributing to the increased employment level include manufacturing (+300), and government, information, and educational and health services, each adding 100 jobs.

Job losses this month were seasonal and due to impending colder weather. Those losses include a drop of 200 jobs in mining, logging and construction and 100 fewer jobs in leisure and hospitality.

Over the year, area businesses have added 1,600 jobs with larger gains in manufacturing (+900), leisure and hospitality (+700), and government (+500). Professional and business services is down 800 jobs from one year ago and information has trimmed 200 jobs.

**Des Moines/West Des Moines**

# Total nonfarm employment added 2,100 jobs in November and now rests at 377,500 jobs. This month’s gain is modest compared to the prior ten years and entirely the result of service sector hiring. Government added 500 jobs and is now up 900 jobs versus last November, while total nonfarm employment combined is up 14,100 jobs.

# Trade, transportation, and utilities was fueled by seasonal hiring in retail trade and advanced by 1,400 jobs. This month’s increase in retail trade is the second consecutive large gain for this sector. Leisure and hospitality gained 1,100 jobs with hiring being unusually strong in accommodations and food services. Smaller increases this month included education and health services (+600) and financial activities (+200). Monthly losses were led by administrative support and waste management (-1,000). Many of these cuts occurred in services to buildings and dwellings and employment services. Manufacturing shed 700 jobs in durable goods production as workers were on strike. This value should recover next month.

# Leisure and hospitality has added the most jobs since last November (+9,700) and has now exceeded their pre-COVID November level in 2019 following this month’s unexpected gain. Trade, transportation, and utilities is up 3,100 jobs over the past twelve months with over half the increase stemming from retail trade (+1,800). Job losses were led by administrative support and waste management (-900) with half the parings occurring in employment services.

# Dubuque

Total nonfarm employment in Dubuque decreased by 1,000 jobs in November as goods-producing industries felt the effects of a labor dispute in durable goods manufacturing. A total of 1,400 jobs were shed in total from goods-producing industries this month, although these jobs should largely return in December as the dispute has been settled. This loss was partially offset by a gain of 400 in private services and 200 in retail trade.

Annually, the monthly loss puts the Dubuque area little changed versus the job level established one year ago (+100). Goods-producing industries for the moment are trailing last year’s level by 800 jobs. Private service industries have conversely added 800 jobs while government is up slightly at the local level (+100).

**Iowa City**

Employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area (MSA) rose by 900 in November, an increase of about 0.9 percent over-the-month. Employment within private service-providing establishments expanded by 400 jobs, somewhat due to strengthening in the retail trade sector (+200 positions). Goods-producing employment was unchanged. Among government sectors, hiring in the local government sector was healthy, with employment increasing by 300 positions. State government employers added an additional 100 jobs to their payrolls, while federal government employment held steady.

Employment in the MSA increased by 900 over-the-year, a gain of 0.9 percent. Employment in the private sector was steady, with an increase of 200 positions in goods-producing establishments and no change in service-providing organizations. Despite annual no change in top-line private-service providing employment, there were wild swings in employment within individual industries within the sector. Leisure and hospitality expanded by 700 positions, whereas retail trade trimmed 400 positions. Much of the MSA’s annual increase in employment occupied the government sector, with local and municipal establishments adding 500 jobs to payrolls. Federal and state government establishments each added 100 positions year-over-year.

**Sioux City**

Employment in the Sioux City MSA is unchanged from October, holding steady at 85,500 jobs. The average October-to-November change over the past 10 years is +200.

Service-providing industries and goods-producing industries offset each other with a gain of 100 jobs in goods-producing and a loss of 100 in service-providing. There were some fluctuations within each area, with manufacturing, trade, transportation and warehousing and professional and business services each adding 200 jobs. Government and leisure and hospitality each trimmed 100 jobs.

Overall, area employment is up 500 jobs (-0.59%) from one year ago. Goods-producing industries are down 100 jobs although manufacturing has added 500 jobs from one year ago. Professional and business services and leisure and hospitality each gained 500 jobs as well. Trade, transportation and warehousing pared 600 jobs, with 100 of those jobs in retail trade.

# Waterloo/Cedar Falls

The Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area total nonfarm employment pared 2,400 jobs from October, largely the result of a labor strike that affected the manufacturing industry. The strike has since ended and employment should return to near previous levels next month. Movement in other industries was minimal and included gains of 200 in trade, transportation and warehousing as well as government, and an additional 100 jobs in professional and business services.

Aside from the previously mentioned change in manufacturing, the only other industry to trim jobs was leisure and hospitality, which experienced a small seasonal adjustment of -100.

Over the year, employment in durable goods manufacturing nearly mirrored that of the over-the-month change with a drop of 2,600 jobs due to the labor strike. On the more positive side, trade, transportation and warehousing added 1,600 jobs, with half of those jobs in retail trade. Leisure and hospitality, still struggling to return to pre-Covid-19 levels, added 400 jobs.