**Ames**

Total nonfarm employment in the Ames metropolitan statistical area (MSA) fell by 800 in December, a decrease of 1.5 percent from the previous month. Most of this decline occurred within the government sector, with employment in state government receding by 800 positions. This is a normal occurrence for this time of year, as employment ebbs with the end of the fall semester at the MSA’s state university. Employment among federal and municipal government establishments was unchanged. In the private sector, goods-producing and service-providing employers each trimmed 100 positions, respectively.

Employment in the MSA grew by 2,500 positions in 2021, an increase of 5.0 percent over December 2020. This expansion in employment occurred almost exclusively within the private service-providing sector, which added 2,500 positions over-the-year, an increase of 11.3 percent. Elsewhere in the private sector, there were 100 fewer jobs at goods-producing establishments than 12 months prior. In the public sector, state government employment grew by 100 positions, while local and federal government employment was unchanged.

**Cedar Rapids**

Employment in the Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area was unchanged from November, standing at 139,200 jobs. Trade, transportation and warehousing led all sectors with a gain of 600, boosted by 400 additional jobs in transportation, warehousing and utilities. The gains are slightly below the average November-to-December change for the previous ten years. Information, financial activities, and state government are the only other industries with gains this month, each adding just 100 jobs.

Employment in professional and business services is down 300 jobs from the previous month and leisure and hospitality trimmed 200 jobs. Other industries with job losses include educational and health services (-100), manufacturing (-100), and mining, logging and construction (-100).

Over the year, area businesses have added 1,400 jobs with larger gains in government (+700), leisure and hospitality (+600), and manufacturing (+500). Professional and business services has pared 1,000 jobs from one year ago and information has trimmed 100 jobs.

**Des Moines/West Des Moines**

# The Des Moines Metro area shed 600 jobs in December and now rests at 14,600 jobs. Expected seasonal loss is slightly smaller than historically expected and the result of seasonal industry cutbacks outpacing seasonal gains in retail this month. Private industry was responsible for all the monthly movement since November and evenly split between losses in both goods-producing and private service industries; government is unchanged from November but has gained 1,400 jobs since last year.

# Trade and transportation gained 1,000 jobs to end the year thanks mostly to seasonal hiring in retail and transportation and warehousing. Manufacturing added 800 jobs with most of the gain stemming from striking workers returning to production lines this month. Health care and social assistance was responsible for the only other sector gain, up 200 jobs in December. The gain is small compared to the prior ten years and follows an unexpected loss in November. Job losses this month were highest in mining, logging, and construction (-1,100). Over half of these losses were within specialty trade contracting. Leisure and hospitality also pared jobs this month (-1,000). While this loss is on the large side, it does follow an unusually large gain in November. Smaller losses included financial activities and professional and business services, each shedding 200 jobs.

# Compared to last December, leisure and hospitality has added the most jobs (+9,900). Unlike the rest of the State, the Des Moines MSA is now trending higher than the pre-pandemic level for this industry. Trade and transportation added 2,300 jobs over the past twelve months with retail alone gaining 1,000 jobs. Education and health care has increased by 900 jobs with growth nearly even between education and health care services. Job losses over the past twelve months are light within the Des Moines area and led by finance and insurance (-700). Administrative support and waste management is 500 jobs lower than last year with most of the drop stemming from employment services.

# Dubuque

Businesses in the Dubuque area gained 1,500 jobs compared to November, raising the total to 59,900 jobs. This month’s increase was largely the result of temporary striking employees in durable goods manufacturing returning to assembly lines. A total of 1,300 jobs were gained in goods-producing industries while 200 jobs were added in private services. Government was unchanged versus last month.

Compared to last year, the Dubuque area is up 1,900 jobs. Private services have been responsible for most of the gain (+1,400). Trade, transportation, and utilities have added 1,100 jobs to this total. Goods-producing industries are up 400 jobs and government has gained 100 jobs at the local level.

**Iowa City**

Total nonfarm employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area (MSA) fell by 1,400 in December, a decline of 1.4 percent from the previous month. This decline was primarily due to seasonal job losses in state government, which trimmed 1,300 positions over-the-month. Employment in state government typically ebbs this time of year, as activity slows at the MSA’s state university. Elsewhere in the public sector, local government employment decreased by 300. Employment in the private service-providing sector rose by 300 month-to-month, boosted by an increase of 400 jobs in trade, transportation, and utilities. Goods-producing employment fell by 100 positions.

Employment in the MSA grew by 1,100 positions in 2021, an increase of 1.2 percent over December 2020. This increase occurred throughout the MSA’s economy. Employment in goods-producing establishments expanded by 300 annually, while private service-providing establishments added 400 jobs to payrolls. Many of these service-providing jobs were in accommodation and food services, which grew by 800 positions, or 11.3 percent, year-over-year. In the public sector, local and state government employers brought on 300 and 100 additional positions, respectively.

**Sioux City**

Employment in the Sioux City MSA gained 200 jobs from November and is currently 85,700. The gain is not large but is significant when considering the average November-to-December change over the past 10 years is -170.

Goods-producing sectors shed 400 jobs, although manufacturing added 100 jobs, all in non-durable goods manufacturing. Service-providing industries added 600 jobs, boosted by a gain of 200 jobs in trade, transportation and warehousing as well as an additional 100 jobs in professional and business services.

Overall, area employment is up 500 jobs (-0.59%) from one year ago. Goods-producing industries are down 400 jobs in spite of manufacturing gains totaling 300 jobs from one year ago. Professional and business services added 800 jobs and leisure and hospitality is up 700 jobs. Trade, transportation and warehousing pared 500 jobs, although retail trade added 200 jobs over the year.

# Waterloo/Cedar Falls

The Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area total nonfarm employment added 2,100 jobs from November, largely due to the resolution of a labor strike that affected the manufacturing industry’s November employment level. Durable goods manufacturing added a total of 2,900 jobs, while non-durable goods manufacturing employment was unchanged. Movement in other industries was minimal and included a gain of 100 in trade, transportation and warehousing, 100 fewer jobs in leisure and hospitality and a loss of 400 jobs in government (-300 in local government and -100 in state government).

Over the year, the area added 1,600 jobs, boosted by a gain of 2,000 in trade, transportation and warehousing. Retail trade is responsible for 800 of those jobs. Leisure and hospitality added 500 jobs and manufacturing added 100 jobs. Goods-producing industries trimmed 200 jobs.