**Ames**

Employment in the Ames metropolitan statistical area (MSA) declined by 3,500 in January, a decrease of 6.5 percent from the previous month. Much of this contraction occurred within the government sector, with employment in state government receding by 2,700 positions. This is a typical occurrence for the month of January, as employment ebbs during the winter break at the MSA’s state university. Elsewhere in the public sector, local and municipal payrolls declined by 100 positions. Among private establishments, service-providing and goods-producing employers cut 600 and 100 jobs, respectively.

Total nonfarm employment in the MSA grew by 2,000 positions annually, an increase of 4.1 percent. This expansion in employment occurred primarily within the private service-providing sector, which added 1,600 positions over the year, an increase of 6.9 percent. Elsewhere in the private sector, goods-producing establishments added 200 positions to payrolls. In the public sector, state and local government employers each added 100 positions, whereas federal government employment was unchanged.

**Cedar Rapids**

Employment in the Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area pared 2,600 jobs from December and is now at 137,600 jobs. There were no sectors with over-the-month employment gains, however two sectors’ employment levels held steady. Manufacturing was unchanged, despite a loss of 100 jobs in durable goods manufacturing, and educational and health services was unchanged.

Employment in trade, transportation and utilities experienced the greatest loss with retail trade and transportation, warehousing and utilities each shedding 400 jobs while wholesale trade trimmed 100 jobs. Government pared 600 jobs, all in local government. Leisure and hospitality trimmed 200 jobs and remains 2,200 (16.9%) jobs below the pre-pandemic peak of 13,000 jobs.

Over the year, area businesses have added 1,300 jobs with the largest gain in leisure and hospitality (+1,400). Mining. Logging and construction added 900 jobs and manufacturing and government each added 200 jobs. Sectors experiencing jobs losses from one year ago include educational and health services (-600), and several sectors with 200 fewer jobs, including trade, transportation and utilities, information and professional and business services.

**Des Moines/West Des Moines**

# The Des Moines Metro shed 6,800 jobs in January. This loss is average for this time of year as seasonal industries enter their slowest times of the year. Mining, logging, and construction shed 2,500 as colder weather set in and halted many outdoor projects. This drop was moderate given the past ten years. Transportation, warehousing, and utilities pared 1,100 jobs. Much of this loss was due to the shedding of temporary holiday delivery and shipping jobs. Administrative support and waste management shed 700 jobs leading to a combined loss of 900 in professional and business services. Retail also shed temporary jobs in January (-800). This sector showed resilient hiring this holiday season as was the case last year. Leisure and hospitality shed 600 jobs, a smaller than expected loss given this time of year. Education and health care also shed 600 with losses being evenly split between private education and health care and social assistance. Job gains are rare this time of year, but 100 jobs were added in government.

# Compared to last January, the Des Moines Metro has gained 11,600 jobs. The largest increases have been in leisure and hospitality (+4,800). Full-service restaurants alone are up 1,500 jobs. Government has gained 3,100 jobs with most of the growth being related to local government. Health care and social assistance has added 1,200 jobs and mining, logging, and construction 1,000 jobs. The lone sector to shed jobs annually was financial activities, down 600 jobs versus last January.

# Dubuque

Businesses in the Dubuque Metro pared 1,300 jobs in January, leaving the total number of jobs at 58,500 jobs. This loss is moderate given this time of year as several industries see reduced business and demand. Private service industries shed 800 jobs. Some of this loss could be attributed to losses in retail (-100). Goods producing industries shed 500 jobs. Much of this loss was due to construction projects halting during the winter.

Annually, Dubuque has gained 500 jobs since last year. Most of the jobs have been within goods producing industries (+600). Private service industries have taken a step back (-200) partially due to losses in retail trade (-200). Government has added 100 jobs at the local level.

**Iowa City**

Employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area (MSA) declined by 1,900 in January, a decrease of 1.9 percent over-the-month. This contraction was concentrated within the private sector, which saw job losses in both goods-producing and service-providing establishments. Private service-providing employers trimmed 1,500 positions month-to-month, while goods-producing employers cut employment by 400. Among specific industries, retail trade was particularly affected by jobs losses, losing 1,000 positions from the previous month. In the public sector, job gains in local government (+100) were offset by job losses in federal government (-100).

Total nonfarm employment in the MSA grew by 3,600 positions year-over-year, an increase of 3.8 percent. Most of this increase occurred within the private sector, as businesses continued to recover from job losses caused by the pandemic. Private service-providing establishments added 2,500 positions annually. Among specific industries, payrolls in accommodation and food services swelled by 1,500 positions, an increase of 22.1 percent. The goods-producing sector also expanded, growing by 200 jobs over-the-year. Government employers added 900 positions annually, with much of that development occurring in local government (+700 positions, or 10.4 percent).

**Sioux City**

# Employment in the Sioux City MSA decreased 1,800 (-2.06%) jobs from December and is currently 85,500. The change is slightly lower than the 10-year average December-to-January change of 1,930.

# Service-providing industries shed the bulk of the jobs with a loss of 1,000 jobs in trade, transportation and utilities, 300 jobs in government and 200 jobs in leisure and hospitality. Goods-producing sectors shed 500 jobs, with 100 of those jobs in manufacturing. Professional and business services was unchanged.

# Overall, area employment is up 800 jobs (0.94%) from one year ago. Goods-producing industries are down 500 jobs (-2.37%) partially due to a loss of 200 jobs in manufacturing. Leisure and hospitality added 700 jobs and professional and business services added 100 jobs.

# Waterloo/Cedar Falls

The Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area total nonfarm employment dropped 2,800 jobs from December, largely due to a decrease of 1,200 jobs in state government, likely the result of the holiday break for educational institutions. Trade, transportation and utilities pared 400 jobs, with half of those jobs in retail trade. The change in retail trade employment matched the December-to-January change from one year ago but is less than half of the ten-year average change. Several sectors experienced smaller losses, including leisure and hospitality (-200), financial activities (-100) and professional and business services (-100).

Over the year, the area added 1,500 jobs, boosted by a gain of 1,700 in trade, transportation and utilities. Retail trade is responsible for only 400 of those jobs. Leisure and hospitality added 600 jobs and manufacturing added 500 jobs. Goods-producing industries overall trimmed 200 jobs.