**Ames**

Employment in the Ames metropolitan statistical area (MSA) grew by 500 in April, an increase of 0.9 percent from the previous month. April is typically a month of modest-to-strong job gains for the area, having seen only one monthly decline in employment in the last decade (2020). The month-to-month expansion in employment occurred across the local economy. Goods-producing and private service-providing establishments added 100 and 200 positions to payrolls, respectively. In the public sector, state and municipal establishments each brought on an additional 100 positions.

Employment within the MSA grew by 1,400 positions over-the-year, an increase of 2.6 percent. The annual gain in employment occurred within the private service-providing sector, which added 900 positions, and the government sector, which added 500. Employment at goods-producing businesses was flat. The increase in private service-providing employment represents a near-total recovery from the labor supply shock that has prevailed since the beginning of the pandemic. Within the government sector, state and local government employment grew by 300 and 200, respectively.

**Cedar Rapids**

The Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area gained 1,000 jobs from March, bringing total nonfarm employment to 138,800 jobs. Employment gains were split between goods-producing (+400) and service-providing (+600) industries.

Nearly all employment gains in goods-producing sectors occurred in mining, logging, and construction (+500). The only exception to that is a gain of 100 in durable goods manufacturing, although manufacturing, overall, pared 100 jobs.

Gains in service-providing industries included: professional and business services (+400), leisure & hospitality (+200), and information (+100). Financial activities, the only service-providing sector with a negative result this month, trimmed 100 jobs.

Over the year, area businesses have added just 100 jobs. Goods-producing industries added 800 jobs with a gain of 500 in mining, logging and construction and 300 manufacturing jobs, all of which are in the durable goods sub-sector. However, several service-providing industries have reduced employment from one year ago, including: professional and business services (-1,000), educational and health services (-800) and financial activities (-200). Leisure and hospitality helped cover some of those losses with a gain of 800 jobs. Trade, transportation and warehousing added 300 jobs and government added 200 jobs.

**Des Moines/West Des Moines**

# The Des Moines Metropolitan area increased by 5,100 jobs in April and now stands at 377,500 jobs. Several sectors typically add jobs when the summer months approach and this year was no exception.

# Construction fueled most of the gain in mining, logging, and construction (+2,400). Most of the jobs added in this super sector were within specialty trade contractors which is typical for this month. Professional and business services were fueled by hiring in administrative support, waste management, and remediation and grew by 1,200 jobs. Leisure and hospitality increased by 500 jobs. This gain is smaller than usual for the Des Moines Area and may reveal some lingering apprehension for firms to reopen to pre-pandemic levels. Smaller increases this month included trade (both wholesale and retail) adding 400 jobs and private education gaining 300 jobs. Job losses are unusual for April and were limited to just financial activities, down a slight 100 jobs from March.

# Annually, the Des Moines Metro has advanced by 11,000 jobs compared to one year ago. Although gains were slight this month, leisure and hospitality continues to rebuild and has added the most jobs over the past twelve months (+3,600). Full-service restaurants alone have contributed 1,100 jobs. Trade, transportation, and utilities have advanced by 2,600 jobs with over half being within retail. Government has expanded faster than private sectors over the last twelve months and is up 2,500 jobs (+5.5 percent). Most of these jobs gained were at the local level. Annual job losses have been sparse and limited to financial activities (-800).

# Dubuque

Businesses in the Dubuque area added 700 jobs in April, lifting total nonfarm employment to 59,000 jobs. This month’s gain is in line with the previous years as the weather improves and construction, retail, and recreational activities increase. Goods producing industries added the most jobs this month (+600) and were fueled primarily by construction. Local governments added 100 jobs and private service industries were unchanged since March.

Annually, Dubuque has gained 200 jobs. Goods producing industries have grown substantially during that span (+500). Government is up slightly at the local level (+100) and private service industries have shrunk since last April (-400).

**Iowa City**

Employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area (MSA) grew by 500 in April, an increase of 0.5 percent from the previous month. Historically, April is a period of steady growth before hiring slows or reverses during the summer months. The over-the-month increase occurred exclusively within the private sector, with goods-producing businesses adding 300 positions and service-providing establishments adding 400. Businesses in the leisure and hospitality sector added 200 positions month-to-month. In the public sector, employment retreated by 300 among state government entities. Municipal government establishments offset this loss slightly by adding 100 positions.

Employment within the MSA expanded by 3,500 positions year-over-year, an increase of 3.6 percent. While this is a strong annual increase, employment remains well below pre-pandemic levels. The yearly increase in employment was strongest in the private service-providing sector, which added 2,400 positions. Leisure and hospitality and trade, transportation, and utilities were benefactors of this employment growth, adding 900 and 800 positions, respectively. However, retail trade lost 500 positions annually, perhaps an indicator of a tight labor supply or flagging retail demand. Employment at goods-producing businesses grew by 300 positions. Government entities added 800 positions, primarily among local (+500) and state (+400) establishments.

**Sioux City**

Employment in the Sioux City MSA increased 300 (+0.35%) jobs from March and is currently 86,900. There were no significant changes in any particular industry.

Manufacturing, professional and business services and government each added 100 jobs. The additional government jobs were all in local government. Conversely, trade, transportation and warehousing pared 200 jobs.

Overall, area employment is up 1,400 jobs (+1.64%) from one year ago, boosted by gains in leisure and hospitality, professional and business services and manufacturing, with gains of 400 jobs in each. Government trimmed 100 jobs and trade, transportation and warehousing was unchanged from April 2021.

# Waterloo/Cedar Falls

The Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area total nonfarm employment gained 1,500 jobs from March and is currently 90,000. The March-to-April gains in 2021 and 2022 are significantly greater than the pre-Covid 19 10-year average gain of 1,070. While gains of the last two years have been noteworthy, the area’s employment still falls short of the 91,700 from April 2019.

This month’s increase is largely driven by gains in goods-producing industries (+1,100) although service-providing industries also added 400 jobs. Manufacturing added 200 jobs with an even split between durable goods and non-durable goods manufacturing. Financial activities, professional and business services and leisure and hospitality each added 100 jobs.

Over the year, the area added 2,000 jobs, boosted by a gain of 1,900 in trade, transportation and warehousing. Manufacturing contributed 700 additional jobs with the bulk of those jobs (+500) in durable goods manufacturing, and leisure and hospitality added 200 jobs. Educational and health services pared 400 jobs, financial activities shed 300 jobs and professional and business services and government each trimmed 100 jobs.