**Ames**

Employment in the Ames metropolitan statistical area (MSA) shrank by 300 in May, a decrease of 0.5 percent from the previous month. Employment in the area typically ebbs in May, as activity at the local university and the surrounding business district begins to slow for the summer. In the private sector, service-providing businesses trimmed payrolls by 200 positions over the month, while employment within goods-producing establishments was unchanged. In the public sector, state government entities pared 100 positions month-to-month. Federal and municipal government employment was unchanged.

Employment within the MSA grew by 1,100 positions over the year, an increase of 2.1 percent. Much of this expansion in employment occurred within the private service-providing sector, which added 1,000 positions annually. Employment within goods-producing businesses, meanwhile, shrank by 100 positions. Despite the monthly job losses, employment in the private service-providing sector has nearly returned to its highest level in the months leading up to the pandemic. Employment in the public sector changed modestly year to year, with state and local government entities adding 100 positions, respectively. Federal government employment was flat.

**Cedar Rapids**

The Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area gained 400 jobs from April, bringing total nonfarm employment to 139,300 jobs. Employment gains were entirely the result of additional jobs in service-providing sectors as goods-producing industries trimmed 100 jobs.

Leisure and hospitality added 300 jobs to lead all sectors in jobs gains. Employment in professional and business services increased 200 jobs. Financial activities and other services each gained 100 jobs.

Manufacturing trimmed 100 jobs, all in durable goods manufacturing. Mining, logging and construction employment was unchanged from April to May for the first time in recent history. The industry typically sees an April-to-May gain averaging just under 300 jobs (based on the previous 10 years).

Over the year, area businesses have pared 800 jobs. Goods-producing industries added 300 jobs with a gain of 200 in mining, logging and construction and 100 jobs in manufacturing, all of which are in the durable goods sub-sector. Leisure and hospitality (+500) and other services (+100) are the only sectors with over-the-year employment gains. However, several service-providing industries have reduced employment from one year ago, including: professional and business services (-900), trade, transportation and warehousing (-300), educational and health services and financial activities (-200 each). Government was unchanged.

**Des Moines/West Des Moines**

# Businesses in the Des Moines area showed little movement compared to April with seasonal increases being less than expected versus previous years. Private industry losses were exactly matched by government hirings which saw 600 jobs added in local governments related to summer projects. Small increases were seen in other services (+300) related to maintenance and repair. Insurance carriers and related activities continued to hire this month (+300). This was welcomed news as credit intermediation and related activities has been sluggish recently as rising interest rates might be to blame. Construction showed only a slight increase this month (+100) possibly due to rising input costs, increasing interest rates, and early hiring to begin the year. Leisure and hospitality, another highly seasonal industry, showed little interest in bolstering staffing levels in May and shed 200 jobs. Larger losses included administrative support and waste management (-500), retail trade (-200), and wholesale trade (-200).

# Annually, The Des Moines Metro has added 7,700 jobs over last May’s level. Government has gained the most jobs during that span with 2,300. Most of these increases have been at the local level. Despite a weak month in May, leisure and hospitality continues to lead all private sectors with 1,700 jobs gained over the past twelve months. A total of 700 have been in full-service restaurants alone. Private education has added 1,000 jobs since last year, and several sectors have shown recent growth including construction, manufacturing, and transportation, warehousing, and utilities, all of which have added 900 jobs. Annual job losses are sparse and limited to administrative support and waste management (-1,000) and financial activities (-900).

# Dubuque

The Dubuque Metro added 200 jobs in May. This seasonal gain is small versus the past 10 years and leaves total nonfarm employment at 59,200 jobs. Just as with the rest of the state, expected seasonal job gains in construction and leisure and hospitality were light this month. Private sectors added 100 service jobs despite a small loss in retail in May. Government added 100 jobs at the local level related to summer projects.

Annually, the Dubuque MSA is unchanged versus this time one year ago. Private services have pared 200 jobs and have matched a gain of 200 jobs in goods-producing sectors. Government is unchanged versus last May.

**Iowa City**

Employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area (MSA) contracted by 800 positions in May, a decrease of 0.8 percent over the month. This is the first time since 2019 that the MSA’s employment shrank during the month of May. Historically, employment in the area retreats in May, as activity at the local university and the surrounding business district wanes for the summer. Much of the decline in employment occurred in state government, which pared 700 positions from the previous month. Within the private sector, goods-producing establishments added 100 positions. Employment in the private service-providing sector trimmed 300 positions, primarily in trade, transportation, and utilities (-200 jobs).

Employment in the MSA grew by 2,900 positions year-over-year, an increase of 3.0 percent. While this is a strong annual increase, employment remains well below its level in the months leading up to the pandemic. The yearly increase in employment was strongest in the private service-providing sector, which expanded by 2,000 positions. Leisure and hospitality businesses added 600 jobs to payrolls over-the-year, as did establishments in the trade, transportation, and utilities sector. However, employment in retail trade continued to lag, ebbing by 600 positions annually. This is perhaps indicative of tight labor supply. Local and state government employers each added 400 positions.

**Sioux City**

# Employment in the Sioux City MSA increased 700 (+0.80%) jobs from April and is currently 87,700. Leisure and hospitality gained 300 jobs to lead all sectors. Government added 200 jobs, all in local government. Trade, transportation and warehousing gained 100 additional jobs.

# Manufacturing is the only sector with an employment loss, trimming 100 jobs, despite a gain in non-durable goods manufacturing which added 100 jobs.

# Overall, area employment is up 2,000 jobs (+2.33%) from one year ago, boosted by gains in leisure and hospitality (+300), professional and business services (+300) manufacturing (+400), and government (+400). There were no sectors with employment losses from one year ago.

# Waterloo/Cedar Falls

The Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area total nonfarm employment trimmed 200 jobs from April largely due to a 400-job decrease in trade, transportation and warehousing and 100 fewer jobs in government. Those losses were partially offset by small gains in leisure and hospitality (+200), financial activities (+100) and manufacturing (+100).

Over the year, the area added 1,500 jobs, boosted by a gain of 1,400 in trade, transportation and warehousing. Manufacturing contributed 500 additional jobs with 300 of those jobs in durable goods manufacturing, and leisure and hospitality added 300 jobs. Government pared 300 jobs and professional and business services trimmed 100 jobs.