**Ames**

Employment in the Ames metropolitan statistical area (MSA) declined by 1,000 in July, a decrease of 2.0 percent from the previous month. Employment in the MSA typically ebbs in June and July before recovering in August and September, largely due to activity at the local university. The decline in July occurred entirely within the state government and local government sectors; each trimmed 500 positions over-the-month. The month of July typically sees the largest reduction in local government employment, as municipal bodies temporarily lay off their nine- or 10-month staff. Employment in the goods-producing, private service-providing, and federal government sectors was unchanged.

Employment in the MSA grew by 700 annually, an increase of 1.4 percent. The expansion in employment was nearly entirely attributable to increased hiring in the private service-providing sector, which grew by 700 positions. Employment among goods-producing employers shrank by 100 positions over-the-year. In the public sector, employment within state government establishments declined by 100 positions, while local and municipal employers added 200 positions. Federal government employment was unchanged.

**Cedar Rapids**

The Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area trimmed 700 jobs from June, bringing total nonfarm employment to 140,100 jobs. Local government was responsible for nearly the entire drop in employment with an expected seasonal change.

Several industries added jobs this month with educational and health services leading the way, adding 300 jobs. Leisure and hospitality followed closely behind with 200 additional jobs. Durable goods manufacturing also added 200 jobs, but manufacturing as a whole was limited to a gain of 100 jobs. Mining, logging and construction and financial activities each added 100 jobs. Retail trade trimmed 100 jobs.

Over the year, area businesses have added 900 jobs. Government added the bulk of the jobs with a gain of 700. An increase of 900 in local government was partially offset by small losses (-100 each) in both federal and state government. Goods-producing industries added 700 jobs with a gain of 500 in mining, logging and construction. Manufacturing experienced a net gain of 200 jobs, although durable goods manufacturing added 300 jobs. Educational and health services gained 400 jobs, leisure and hospitality added 200 jobs and other services added 100 jobs. A handful of sectors pared jobs from one year ago, including: professional and business services (-600), trade, transportation and warehousing (-400), and financial activities (-200).

**Des Moines/West Des Moines**

# Total nonfarm employment in the Des Moines Metro shed 3,600 jobs in July, lowering the job total to 379,600. This loss was expected and related to a seasonal loss in local government education. Trade, transportation, and utilities pared 600 jobs with retail fueling most of the loss. This drop was not seasonal and may be evidence of retailers once again transitioning to more online sales which require less manpower. Specialty trade contractors declined in July (-600) and fueled a small loss in construction (-200). Other losses this month included private education (-300) and leisure and hospitality (-300). Conversely, job gains were led by professional and business services (+900). Growth in this sector was propelled by hiring in administrative support and waste management firms.

# Annually, the metro area has added 7,600 jobs (+2.0 percent). Government has added 2,300 jobs due mostly to increased staffing at the local level (+2,000). Private education has fueled most of the gain in the education and health services super sector which is also up 2,300 jobs. Leisure and hospitality is up 2,000 jobs and trade, transportation, and utilities has added 1,200 jobs due primarily to job gains in transportation and warehousing. Financial activities posted the only major sector loss and trails last year’s mark by 1,500 jobs.

# Dubuque

Establishments in Dubuque shed 500 jobs in July, lowering total nonfarm employment down to 59,000 jobs. The month’s loss is small compared to the prior ten years and was fueled by a seasonal loss in local government education. Government shed 900 jobs and goods producing industries and private services both added 200 jobs.

Annually, Dubuque has added 600 jobs. The largest increase has been in private service industries (+400), although goods producing firms have added 300 jobs. Government lags last year’s mark by a slight 100 jobs.

**Iowa City**

Employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area (MSA) contracted by 600 in July, a decrease of 0.6 percent over-the-month. Employment in the MSA typically declines in July, due to a lack of activity compared to other times of the year. Much of the monthly decrease in employment occurred in the public sector, which shrank by 700 positions. Employment within the local government sector ebbed by 1,400 positions, primarily due to temporary layoffs of nine- and 10-month staff. Meanwhile, state government employment grew by 700 over-the-month. Employment in the private sector was relatively stagnant, with goods-producing establishments adding 100 positions.

Employment in the MSA expanded by 3,200 annually, an increase of 3.3 percent. This year-over-year increase in employment occurred broadly across the local economy. Goods-producing employers expanded payrolls by 400 positions. Private service-providing establishments grew by 2,400 positions, with many of those positions belonging to trade, transportation, and utilities (+900), accommodation and food services (+500) and professional and business services (+300). Within the public sector, local and state government employers added 300 and 200 positions, respectively. Federal government employers pared 100 positions over-the-year.

**Sioux City**

# Employment in the Sioux City MSA decreased 600 (-0.68%) jobs from June and is currently 87,300. Manufacturing is the only sector with an employment gain this month, adding 100 jobs, all in non-durable goods manufacturing.

# The majority of this month’s change in employment occurred in local government with an expected seasonal drop (-600). Trade, transportation and warehousing trimmed 100 jobs with no change to employment in retail trade.

# Overall, area employment is up 1,200 jobs (+1.39%) from one year ago, boosted by gains in manufacturing (+500) which was fueled by a gain of 900 in non-durable goods manufacturing, leisure and hospitality (+300), and professional and business services (+200). Trade, transportation and warehousing pared 400 jobs and government trimmed 100 jobs, all in local government.

# Waterloo/Cedar Falls

The Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area total nonfarm employment trimmed 1,000 jobs from June, largely due to seasonal drops in state and local government. Retail trade trimmed 100 jobs, but trade, transportation and warehousing was unchanged overall. Educational and health services added 100 jobs. All other sectors were unchanged

Over the year, the area added 1,400 jobs, boosted by a gain of 1,100 in trade, transportation and warehousing. Manufacturing contributed 600 additional jobs with 400 of those jobs in durable goods manufacturing, and educational and health services added 200 jobs. Government pared 300 jobs and financial activities trimmed 100 jobs.