**Ames**

Employment in the Ames metropolitan statistical area (MSA) shrank by 800 between November and December, a decrease of 1.4 percent over-the-month. This decline in employment is typical for this time of year, as activity decreases at the MSA’s state university. Employment in the state government sector contracted by 700 positions month-to-month. Federal and local government employment was unchanged. In the private sector, service-providing establishments pared 100 positions from their time sheets, while goods-producing payrolls were static.

Employment within the MSA increased by 500 over-the-year, an increase of 0.9 percent. This annual increase in employment occurred entirely within the private sector, with service-providing establishments adding 400 positions to their payrolls and goods-producing businesses adding 100. In the public sector, an increase of 200 positions within local and municipal government establishments was offset by a decline of 200 positions in state government. Federal government employment was unchanged year-over-year.

**Cedar Rapids**

Several industries contributed to a small net gain in the Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area which added 100 jobs from November. Trade, transportation and warehousing was the greatest contributor, adding 300 jobs, split between retail trade (+100) and transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+200). Other industries with jobs increases included manufacturing, financial activities, and professional and business services, each adding 100 jobs.

The additional jobs in manufacturing were the result of a gain of 200 jobs in durable goods manufacturing which were partially offset by losses in other areas of the sector. Manufacturing has yet to fully return to employment levels seen prior to the Covid-19-related adjustments.

Mining, logging and construction experienced its’ third consecutive decline (-300) as expected seasonal changes occurred. Leisure and hospitality also shed 100 jobs, slightly below the November-to-December average change. Government trimmed 100 jobs, all in local government.

Over the year, area businesses have added 1,300 jobs, led by a 3.43% gain (+700) in educational and health services. Government and leisure and hospitality each added 500 jobs. The bulk of the jobs added in leisure and hospitality were in accommodation and food services (+300). Trade, transportation and warehousing shed 300 jobs.

**Des Moines/West Des Moines**

# Total nonfarm employment in the Des Moines Metro area shrank by 1,100 jobs in December, lowering the total number of jobs to 380,100. This month’s loss is typical for the metro area as jobs are typically seasonally shed for several industries, particularly construction, which shed 1,500 jobs in December. Specialty trade contractors alone shed 1,000 jobs. This drop is slightly more than expected given the prior ten-year history. Smaller losses occurred in professional and business services (-400), leisure and hospitality (-200), and financial activities (-200). Conversely, health care and social assistance added 800 jobs to lead all sectors. This gain offsets an unexpected drop in November. Retail gained 400 jobs as firms prepared for the increase in holiday shopping. Smaller increases included wholesale trade (+300) and transportation and warehousing (+300).

# Annually, total nonfarm employment rests up 3,700 jobs. The largest gains have been in leisure and hospitality (+1,800) and health care and social assistance (+1,600). Retail trade is up 600 jobs following the gain this month. Manufacturing has been bolstered by hiring in the non-durable goods segment and is now up 600 jobs. Sectors paring jobs annually are led by financial activities (-800) and mining, logging, and construction (-700).

# Dubuque

Firms in the Dubuque Metro area added a slight 100 jobs in December, raising total nonfarm employment to 60,000 jobs. This month’s increase is average compared to the prior ten-year history for the metro. Private service industries added 400 jobs with retail contributing approximately half of the jobs gained. Government was unchanged compared to November.

Compared to last December, total nonfarm employment has increased by 200 jobs. Goods producing industries have advanced by 300 jobs and private services have gained 100 jobs. Government has shed 200 jobs at the local level.

**Iowa City**

Employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area (MSA) declined by 500 between November and December, a decrease of 0.5 percent over-the-month. State government employment shrank by 500 positions, an expected decrease as activity begins to slow at the MSA’s state university. Federal and local government employment was unchanged. In the private sector, employment was constant from month-to-month among both goods-producing and service-providing establishments. Digging deeper into the private service-providing sector, employment increased by 200 in trade, transportation, and utilities; the number of positions decreased by 100 in both professional and business services and leisure and hospitality.

Employment in the MSA increased by 3,100 over-the-year, an increase of 3.1 percent. This increase was represented broadly across the MSA’s economy. Government employment increased by 1,800 year-over-year, with the largest gain occurring in state government (+1,600 positions). Municipal government employment grew by 300, whereas federal government employment shrank by 100. Among private establishments, service-providing employers added 900 positions to their time sheets. A notable change in the private service-providing sector occurred in trade, transportation, and utilities (+500 positions); within this super-sector, however, retail trade lost 1,000 positions in 2022. Goods-producing establishments added 400 positions to payrolls annually.

**Sioux City**

# Employment in the Sioux City MSA gained just 100 jobs (0.11%) for the second consecutive month in December and is currently 88,500. Trade, transportation and warehousing added 500 jobs in the largest single-month gain since June 2020 when 600 jobs were added. Government added 400 jobs, all in local government. Despite a gain of 300 jobs in manufacturing, goods-producing shed 300 jobs overall. Professional and business services and leisure and hospitality each pared 100 jobs.

# Overall, area employment is up 1,200 jobs (+1.37%) from one year ago, led by gains of 900 jobs in government and 600 in manufacturing. The gain in manufacturing is attributable to 1,000 additional jobs in non-durable goods manufacturing. Professional and business services added 200 jobs. Conversely, trade, transportation and warehousing pared 300 jobs from one year ago and leisure and hospitality trimmed 100 jobs.

# Waterloo/Cedar Falls

The Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area total nonfarm employment was unchanged from November with minimal change in those sectors demonstrating any movement. Manufacturing, professional and business services and educational and health services each added 100 jobs. Trade, transportation and warehousing shed 200 jobs, and leisure and hospitality trimmed 100 jobs. Government and financial activities were each unchanged.

Over the year, the area added 1,600 jobs aided by a boost of 600 additional jobs in manufacturing. Durable goods manufacturing was responsible for 400 of those jobs. Educational and health services gained 300 jobs and government contributed an additional 200 jobs. Trade, transportation and warehousing pare 400 jobs, half from retail trade.