**Ames**

Employment in the Ames metropolitan statistical area (MSA) shrank by 2,900 between December 2022 and January 2023, a decrease of 5.2 percent over-the-month. This seasonal decline in employment is a result of reduced activity at the MSA’s state university. Employment in the state government sector fell by 2,300 positions month-to-month. Likewise, establishments in the private service-providing sector pared 500 positions. Local government employers trimmed payrolls by 100 positions, whereas employment in the goods-producing and federal government sectors was unchanged.

Employment within the MSA rose by 3,000 over-the-year, an increase of 6.0 percent. This increase in employment represented itself broadly across the MSA’s economy. Private service-providing employment experienced the largest increase, growing by 1,600 positions annually. Establishments in the goods-producing sector added 500 positions to their payrolls. In the public sector, state and municipal employment grew by 700 and 200 positions, respectively. Federal government employment was unchanged.

**Cedar Rapids**

The Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area trimmed 2,500 jobs from December in a mostly seasonally-inspired change with natural resources and construction and local government education shedding a combined 1,100 jobs. Education and health services pared an additional 200 jobs.

Other industries experiencing employment reductions include trade, transportation and warehousing (-600), professional and business services (-500), and financial activities (-100). Professional and business services achieved its’ historical peak employment level in June 2022 (16,100) but has since trimmed 1,000 jobs. Financial activities employment has held steady at 10,500 in four of the past five months, the only exception being December 2022 when an additional 100 jobs were added during the month

Mining, logging and construction experienced its’ third consecutive decline (-500) as expected seasonal changes occurred. Industry employment remains 200 above one year ago. Manufacturing added 100 jobs, although employment in durable goods manufacturing slipped slightly (-100).

Over the year, area businesses have added 2,100 jobs, led by equal gains in two industries, educational and health services, and leisure and hospitality, each adding 1,000 jobs. Manufacturing added 500 jobs with durable goods manufacturing contributing only 100 jobs to that total. Conversely, financial activities pared 400 jobs, professional and business services is down 300 jobs, and information has trimmed 100 jobs.

**Des Moines/West Des Moines**

# Total nonfarm employment in the Des Moines Metro decreased by 3,600 jobs in January, raising the total number of jobs to 387,800. The largest movements were seasonal drops in several industries including that are influenced by the weather and calendar, particularly construction and trade industries. This month’s drop is also relatively small given this time of year and could be the result of both agreeable weather in January and a willingness to work into the winter for those industries that typically take a break this time of year.

# Construction shed 1,800 jobs in January. The loss was expected, and average given the prior ten-year history for the area. Part of this loss stemmed from specialty trade contractors (-700). Trade, transportation, and utilities shed 1,300 jobs with losses being heaviest in transportation and warehousing (-900). Most of these losses were the final paring of temporary holiday help which is become more substantial as consumers increasingly shop online. Administrative support and waste management fueled a loss of 700 within professional and business services. Alternatively, job gains were smaller in magnitude and leisure and hospitality (+400) and education and health services (+200).

# Since last January, Des Moines establishments have added 16,200 jobs. Education and health services added the most jobs (5,000). This sector has been sluggish to recover statewide so recent hiring is welcomed news. Trade and transportation has advanced by 3,400 due to gains in both wholesale and transportation industries. Leisure and hospitality is up 3,300 jobs and have shown consistent gains over the past several months.

# Dubuque

The Dubuque Metropolitan Area shed 300 jobs in January, lowering total nonfarm to 60,800 jobs. Seasonal declines in construction and private service industries were extremely small this year and may be evidence of firms becoming less seasonal and firms working or retaining positions through the holidays. Private services shed 200 jobs and government declined by 100 compared to December. Goods-production showed little movement since last month.

Annually, the Dubuque Metro has gained 2,000 jobs with hiring being nearly even between goods-producers and private service industries. Government is up a slight 100 jobs at the local level.

**Iowa City**

Employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area (MSA) declined by 1,200 between December 2022 and January 2023, a decrease of 1.2 percent over-the-month. Losses in private service-providing employment made up the bulk of this decline, with establishments trimming 1,200 positions from payrolls. In particular, trade, transportation, and utilities saw heavy losses, shrinking by 1,000 positions month-to-month. State government employment grew by 300 positions monthly, whereas goods-producing employment contracted by 200 positions. Local and municipal employers experienced a modest decline of 100 positions.

Employment within the MSA increased by 2,700 over-the-year, an increase of 2.8 percent. This increase in employment demonstrated itself in multiple sectors of the MSA’s economy. Employment in the state government sector grew by 1,100 positions year-over-year, while municipal employers added 100 positions. In the private sector, service-providing and goods-producing establishments added 1,000 and 500 positions to their timesheets, respectively. Within the private service-providing sector, leisure and hospitality experienced a marked increase in employment, growing by 700 positions annually.

**Sioux City**

# The Sioux City MSA shed 1,100 jobs (-1.22%) from December, almost entirely in service-providing industries. Trade, transportation and warehousing experienced the greatest decline, trimming 700 jobs (-3.48%) with 300 of those jobs in retail trade. While the over-the-month change in retail trade was slightly below the ten-year average, the decline in the trade, transportation and warehousing sector was somewhat above average for the same period. Other over-the-month changes were minimal and included professional and business services (-200), manufacturing (-100), and government (-100). There were no sectors with employment gains from December.

# Overall, area employment is up 2,900 jobs (+3.38%) from one year ago, led by a gain of 1,500 in non-durable goods manufacturing which resulted in a gain of 1,300 jobs in the manufacturing sector. Government added 500 jobs, all in local government. Trade, transportation and warehousing added 400 jobs, professional and business services employment increased by 200 jobs, and leisure and hospitality added 100 jobs. No sectors experienced a decline in employment.

# Waterloo/Cedar Falls

Total nonfarm employment in the Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area declined 1,900 (-2.11%) from December with a majority of the change occurring in service-providing sectors (-1,500). The over-the-month change is significantly lower than the ten-year average December-to-January change of -2,700.

Government represented a significant portion of the job reduction, shedding 900 jobs, although this is an expected seasonal change. Trade, transportation and warehousing pared 500 jobs in its’ second consecutive month of decline, although the loss is well below the average over-the-month loss of -700 for January. Educational and health services is the only sector with an employment gain, adding 100 jobs.

Over the year the area added 2,400 jobs (+2.80%), aided by a boost of 600 additional jobs in leisure and hospitality. Educational and health services contributed an additional 400 jobs, and manufacturing and government each added 300 jobs.