**Ames**

Employment in the Ames metropolitan statistical area (MSA) grew by 2,200 between January and February, an increase of 4.2 percent over-the-month. This seasonal increase in employment is a result of a resumption in activity at the MSA’s state university. Employment in the state government sector grew by 1,800 positions month-to-month. Correspondingly, employers in the private service-providing sector added 400 positions to their timesheets. Elsewhere in the MSA’s economy, a modest increase of 100 positions in local government was offset by a reduction of 100 positions in the goods-producing sector. Federal government employment was unchanged.

Employment in the MSA expanded by 1,600 over-the-year, an increase of 3.0 percent. This annual increase in employment occurred primarily within the MSA’s private sector. Employment in the private service-providing and goods-producing sectors grew by 1,000 and 400 positions, respectively. Employment rose slightly in state government and local government, growing by 100 positions in each sector. Federal government employment did not change year-over-year.

**Cedar Rapids**

The Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area added 1,000 jobs from January as a result of employment gains in professional and business services (+800) and government (+500). This is the largest over-the-month gain in professional and business services in recent history and significantly above the ten-year average January-to-February gain. The gain in government is totally due to local government in a mostly seasonally-inspired change.

Employment gains in other sectors were limited to educational and health services and leisure and hospitality, each adding 100 jobs. Durable goods manufacturing also added 100 jobs, but those jobs were offset by losses in other areas of manufacturing, resulting in a loss of 200 jobs in the sector. Trade, transportation and warehousing pared 300 jobs due to losses in transportation, warehousing and utilities.

Over the year, area businesses have added 2,700 jobs, led by a gain of 1,000 in professional and business services. Leisure and hospitality (+600), government (+500), manufacturing (+400) and educational and health services (+400) also gained employment over the past year. Conversely, financial activities shed 300 jobs and trade, transportation and warehousing trimmed 100 jobs.

**Des Moines/West Des Moines**

# Total nonfarm employment in the Des Moines Metro lost 1,100 jobs in February, lowering total nonfarm employment to 385,200 jobs. Private industry was responsible for the decrease with 1,500 jobs shed. This loss was offset partially by a gain of 400 jobs in government which hired at the local level this month. Government has now advanced by 2,300 jobs with hiring being strong at the local entities, while total nonfarm employment is up 8,400.

# Construction shed 800 jobs in February to lead all sectors. This month’s loss may have partially been the result of freezing weather forbidding work. Half of this loss stemmed from specialty trade contractors. Even considering the loss, construction is up 300 jobs compared to one year ago. Trade, transportation, and warehousing lost 700 jobs with over half being within retail trade, although wholesale trade and transportation and warehousing also decreased slightly compared to last month. Lastly, leisure and hospitality shed 600 jobs as firms don’t typically start hiring until March for increased foot traffic.

# Professional and business services added 700 jobs in February to lead all sectors. Administrative support and waste management was responsible for most of the increase (+500), although professional, scientific, and technical services contributed 200 jobs. The only other gains were small in magnitude and included other services and education and health services, each increasing by 100 jobs.

# Annually, the Des Moines Metro is up 8,400 jobs. The largest increases have been in trade, transportation, and utilities (+2,400) which has benefited from a sizable gain in wholesale trade (+1,200). Government has advanced by 2,300 jobs thanks mostly to hiring in local government. Education and health services is up 2,300 jobs and was fueled by a 1,700 gain in health care and social assistance. The only sector losses over the last twelve months have occurred in financial activities (-800) and professional and business services (-400).

# Dubuque

Firms in the Dubuque Metro shed 300 jobs in February, lowering total nonfarm employment to 60,000 jobs. Typically, hiring is rare this month as firms are still laying off the rest of the temporary seasonal help, so this month’s loss isn’t too surprising. Goods-producing industries lost 200 jobs and private service industries shed 100 jobs. Government showed little change since January.

Annually, firms have added 300 jobs compared to last year. Large job gains in goods producing industries (+700) have been partially offset by losses in private services (-500). Government is up a slight 100 jobs at the local level.

**Iowa City**

Employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area (MSA) rose by 900 between January and February, an increase of 0.9 percent over-the-month. Establishments in the private service-providing sector added 600 positions to their payrolls. Notable monthly increases in employment within the sector occurred in accommodations and food services (+300 positions) and retail trade (+100 positions). Employment in the goods-producing sector grew by 100 positions. In the public sector, state and municipal employment both increased by 100 positions. Federal government employment was unchanged month-to-month.

Employment in the MSA expanded by 2,300 over-the-year, an increase of 2.3 percent. This annual increase in employment occurred in various sectors of the MSA’s economy. Employers in the goods-producing sector experienced a large increase in employment, growing their payrolls by 700 positions. Employment in the private service-providing sector rose by 400 positions, with significant changes in accommodation and food services (+400 positions) and trade, transportation, and utilities (-500 positions). In the public sector, state government employment increased by 1,100 positions. Local government employment rose by 100 positions year-over-year, whereas federal government employment was unchanged.

**Sioux City**

# The Sioux City MSA added 200 jobs from January, buoyed by gains in government (+400), professional and business services (+100) and leisure and hospitality (+100). The gains were partially offset by employment losses in private service-providing sectors including: manufacturing (-100) and trade, transportation and warehousing (-100). Goods-producing sectors, overall, were unchanged.

# Overall, area employment is up 1,500 jobs (+1.72%) from one year ago, led by a gain of 1,100 in non-durable goods manufacturing which resulted in a gain of 800 jobs in the manufacturing sector. Government added 600 jobs, all in local government. Trade, transportation and warehousing added 100 jobs, professional and business services employment increased by 200 jobs, and leisure and hospitality was unchanged. No sectors experienced a decline in employment.

# Waterloo/Cedar Falls

Total nonfarm employment in the Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area added 1,400 jobs (1.60%) from January as a result of an expected seasonal gain in state government (+1,000). Local government contributed an additional 200 jobs. Trade, transportation and warehousing added 600 jobs, 200 of those jobs are in retail trade.

Goods-producing sectors pared 200 jobs in spite of a gain of 100 jobs in manufacturing. All other sectors were unchanged.

Over the year the area added 1,600 jobs (+1.83%), aided by increases in nearly every sector. The only exception is professional and business services which trimmed 200 jobs. Sectors adding jobs include: government (+400), manufacturing (+400), leisure and hospitality (+300), financial activities (+100), and educational and health services (+100).