**Ames**

Employment in the Ames metropolitan statistical area (MSA) was unchanged at 55,200 between February and March. This is typical, as the average change in employment between February and March is the smallest between any two months for the area. Modest gains of 100 positions in both the goods-producing and state government sectors were offset by a loss of 200 positions in the private service-providing sector. Employment in the local and federal government sectors was unchanged.

Employment in the MSA grew by 1,500 over-the-year, an increase of 2.8 percent. Much of the yearly gains in employment occurred in the area’s private sector. Private service-providing establishments expanded their timesheets by 1,000 positions, while goods-producing organizations added 400 positions. Within the government sector, employment at local and municipal establishments grew by 200 positions year-over-year, whereas state government employment shrank by 100 positions. Federal government employment was static.

**Cedar Rapids**

The Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area added 500 jobs from February boosted by employment gains in professional and business services (+700). This is the second consecutive month of significant gains in the sector which, in total, has gained 1,500 jobs over the two-month period. Employment gains in other sectors were limited to manufacturing and leisure and hospitality, each adding 100 jobs.

Several sectors trimmed jobs this month, including; Trade, transportation and warehousing (-200), mining, logging and construction (-100), information (-100), and government (-100). Local government was responsible for the entire employment change in the government sector.

Over the year, area businesses have added 2,400 jobs, led by a gain of 1,300 in professional and business services. Educational and health services (+800) Leisure and hospitality (+400), government (+400), and manufacturing (+400) also gained employment over the past year. Conversely, trade, transportation and warehousing pared 400 jobs, financial activities shed 300 jobs and information trimmed 200 jobs.

**Des Moines/West Des Moines**

# Total nonfarm employment in Des Moines gained 900 jobs in March and now rests at 386,200 jobs. This month’s gain was average for March given the prior ten years and follows a loss of 1,000 jobs in February. Private industries were responsible for almost all the gains although government added 100 jobs and is now 2,200 jobs annually while total nonfarm employment has increased by 7,800 jobs.

# Health care and social assistance increased by 900 jobs. This gain is sizable for March and more than offsets a loss of 300 in February. This sector has recovered substantially from COVID restrictions following a slow start. Leisure and hospitality gained 500 jobs with 100 being in full-service restaurants. Mining, logging, and construction also advanced in March (+400). Specialty trade contractors were responsible for almost half of the jobs added. Smaller gains included manufacturing (+200) and other services (+200). Losses this month were highest in trade, transportation, and utilities which shed 700 jobs. Retail shed 400 and transportation and warehousing pared 300 jobs. Professional and business services lost 500 jobs. Administrative support, waste management, and remediation was responsible for 400 jobs lost alone. Financial activities shed 400 jobs and has trended down over the past several months.

# Over the past twelve months, health care and social assistance has added the most private sector jobs (+2,200). Hiring in the sector has accelerated over the last four months following the lifting of Coronavirus quarantine measures. Trade, transportation, and utilities has been fueled by hiring in trade and is now up 2,000. On the flip side, finance and insurance is down 1,000 jobs despite some hiring within insurance and related activities. Professional and business services have pared 700 with most of the drop being in professional, scientific, and technical services.

# Dubuque

Total nonfarm employment decreased slightly in March (-100), lowering the total number of jobs to 59,900. Private services were responsible for the loss. Retail trade shed 100 jobs within the trade and transportation super-sector. Firms involved in goods production and government showed little change compared to February.

Annually, the Dubuque Metro is up 100 jobs. Goods producing industries have added 500 jobs but have been matched by losses of 500 in private service industries. Government is up 100 jobs thanks to hiring at the local government level.

**Iowa City**

Employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area (MSA) expanded by 200 between February and March, an increase of 0.2 percent over-the-month. Among private organizations, establishments in the service-providing sector grew their payrolls by 200 positions, whereas employment at goods-producing establishments was unchanged. Within the private service-providing sector, retail trade employment notably declined by 300 positions. Employment was unchanged month-to-month in all three government sectors.

Employment in the MSA rose by 2,300 over-the-year, an increase of 2.3 percent. This expansion in employment occurred broadly across the MSA’s economy. Goods-producing employment grew by 500 positions, while employment at private service-providing establishments increased by 700 positions. Some of the more notable annual changes within the private service-providing sector occurred in accommodation and food services (+400 positions) and trade, transportation, and utilities (-500 positions). In the public sector, state government employers added 1,000 positions, while local government establishments added 100. Federal government employment did not change year-over-year.

**Sioux City**

# The Sioux City MSA added 400 jobs from February, with gains evenly split between service-providing and goods-producing sectors. Leisure and hospitality added 200 jobs and manufacturing added 100 jobs. Trade, transportation and warehousing shed 300 jobs, all in retail trade. Government trimmed 100 jobs.

# Overall, area employment is up 1,400 jobs (+1.60%) from one year ago, led by a gain of 1,000 in non-durable goods manufacturing which resulted in a gain of 800 jobs in the manufacturing sector. Government added 400 jobs, all in local government, and professional and business services added 100 jobs. Trade, transportation and warehousing pared 300 jobs, and leisure and hospitality trimmed 100 jobs.

# Waterloo/Cedar Falls

Total nonfarm employment in the Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area was unchanged from February. Employment gains in goods-producing sectors were offset by employment declines in service-providing sectors. Trade, transportation and warehousing pared 300 jobs, and financial activities and government each trimmed 100 jobs.

Over the year the area added 1,500 jobs (+1.7%), aided by jobs increases in several sectors. The employment increase was led by a gain of 400 in manufacturing, with educational and health services (+200), leisure and hospitality (+300) and government (+100) contributing to the increase. The exceptions were professional and business services, financial activities and trade, transportation and warehousing which trimmed 100 jobs each.