**Ames**

Employment in the Ames metropolitan statistical area (MSA) fell by 600 between June and July, a decrease of 1.2 percent over-the-month. Employment in the MSA historically ebbs during the summer months, as activity slows at the area’s primary and secondary schools, as well as its state university. Local government was responsible for most of the decline in employment, with payrolls shrinking by 400 positions month-to-month. State government pared 100 positions. In the private sector, goods-producing establishments trimmed 100 positions monthly.

Employment in the MSA contracted by 100 over-the-year, a decrease of 0.2 percent. The largest shift in employment occurred in state government, which reduced employment by 200 positions year-over-year. Private service-providing establishments added 100 positions annually. Employment in all other sectors was unchanged annually.

**Cedar Rapids**

The Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area pared 1,300 jobs from June, bringing total nonfarm employment to 143,000.

The majority of the employment decrease was seasonal in nature and centered in the government sector. More specifically, local government, which shed 1,500 jobs as a result of the summer break. Trade, transportation and warehousing also contributed to the employment loss, although at a much smaller scale, trimming 300 jobs.

A handful of sectors added jobs, providing a partial offset to the jobs losses in government and trade, transportation and warehousing. Most notably, manufacturing added 300 jobs with a gain of 100 in durable goods manufacturing. The manufacturing sector has added 800 jobs since February. Mining, logging and construction added another 100 jobs.

Over the year the metro area has gained 700 jobs, led by a gain of 1,200 in educational and health services. Professional and business services gained 600 jobs, as did manufacturing. Durable goods manufacturing is responsible for 400 of the additional jobs. Multiple sectors experienced jobs losses which partially offset the annual gains. Those sectors include: trade, transportation and warehousing (-900), financial activities (-300), leisure and hospitality (-300), and government (-200).

**Des Moines/West Des Moines**

Businesses in the Des Moines Metro lost 3,800 jobs in July, lowering total nonfarm employment to 391,300 jobs. This month’s loss is not unexpected for this time of year and was largely the result of seasonal jobs shed in public education. Overall government lost 3,200 jobs due to local schools breaking for the summer. Despite the monthly decline, government remains up 2,000 jobs annually and total nonfarm employment has added 6,300 jobs.

Leisure and hospitality pared 800 jobs following a relatively prosperous June. This sector is now up just 300 jobs versus last year. Trade, transportation, and utilities shed 700 jobs with much of the decline stemming from retail trade. Professional and business services posted the only other major sector loss in July (-500). This sector was primarily hindered by layoffs in administrative support and waste management. Conversely, job gains were fueled by health care and social assistance (+1,200). Both health care and education services have been trending up over the past twelve months although education was little changed in July. Mining, logging, and construction gained 400 jobs. Most of the jobs gained were in specialty trade contractors (+300).

Annually, education and health care have added the most jobs (+5,200). Education services has fueled most of the increase (+2,900) despite being flat this month. Trade, transportation, and warehousing has added 1,800 with most of the increase stemming from wholesale trade hiring. On the other hand, annual job losses were heaviest in professional and business services (-1,600), specifically white collar professional, scientific, and technical services. Finance and insurance has also trended down over the past twelve months (-1,300). Most of the downward movement stemmed from credit intermediation and related activities; insurance carriers and related activities saw little change versus last year.

# Dubuque

The Dubuque Metro area shed a slight 300 jobs in June, lowering total nonfarm employment to 61,000 jobs. This month’s loss is not unexpected for this time of year and follows a larger-than-expected gain in May. Local government was responsible for most of the drop due to education firms breaking for the summer (-400). Private services also decreased slightly (-100) but was partially offset gain hiring within goods producing sectors (+200).

Over the past twelve months, establishments have added 300 jobs. Goods producing sectors gained 300 jobs and private service industries have added 100. Government is down slightly compared to last year (-100).

**Iowa City**

Employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area (MSA) contracted by 1,500 between June and July, a decrease of 1.5 percent month-to-month. Nearly all this decline occurred in local government, with establishments in the sector paring 1,400 positions. Elsewhere in the public sector, state government establishments added 200 positions. In the private sector, service-providing businesses lost 400 positions over-the-month. Meanwhile, goods-producing establishments added 100 positions.

Employment in the MSA rose by 300 over-the-year, an increase of 0.3 percent. Employment in the private service-providing sector grew by 400 positions, with notable increases in trade, transportation, and utilities (+200 positions) and leisure and hospitality (+200 positions). Goods-producing employment was unchanged. In the public sector, local government employment decreased by 200 positions monthly, while state government employment grew by 100 positions. Federal government employment was steady.

**Sioux City**

# The Sioux City MSA pared 1,200 jobs from June, with losses in service-providing sectors (-900) partially offset by small gains in a manufacturing (+300) and professional and business services (+100). Government shed 600 jobs, all in local government. Trade, transportation and warehousing and leisure and hospitality each trimmed 100 jobs.

# Overall, area employment is up 800 jobs (+0.91%) from one year ago. Gains were led by non-durable goods manufacturing which added 1,200 jobs, resulting in a gain of 1,400 jobs in the manufacturing sector. Government netted an additional 600 jobs after an offset of -100 to the 700 jobs gained in local government. Leisure and hospitality employment is down 400 jobs from one year ago.

# Waterloo/Cedar Falls

Total nonfarm employment in the Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area decreased by 600 jobs from June in an expected seasonal change. This brings nonfarm employment down to 88,700. Three sectors enjoyed employment gains that served as a partial offset to the seasonal losses seen in government. Sectors with gains include manufacturing (+100), professional and business services (+100) and educational and health services (+100). The reduction of jobs in government (-700) was shared by a combination of state government (-200) and local government education (-500). Both were likely the result of seasonal cut-backs for the summer break.

Over the year the area added 1,400 jobs (+1.60%), aided by jobs increases in several sectors. The employment increase was led by a gain of 800 in educational and health services. Manufacturing contributed 300 jobs to an overall gain of 700 jobs in goods-producing industries.