**Ames**

Employment in the Ames metropolitan statistical area (MSA) fell by 600 positions between November and December 2023, a decrease of 1.1 percent over-the-month. The reduction in employment was driven largely by a seasonal loss of 700 positions in the state government sector. Elsewhere in the government sector, municipal and federal employment were unchanged. In the private sector, service-providing establishments increased payrolls by 100 positions, whereas employment at goods-producing businesses held steady.

Employment in the MSA shrank by 1,500 positions over-the-year, a reduction of 2.7 percent. As with the month-over-month decline, this year-over-year ebb in employment was fueled by job losses in the state government sector, which pared 1,200 positions. Employment at local and federal government establishments did not change annually. In the private sector, service-providing employment sunk by 300 positions, while goods-producing employment was level with one year ago.

**Cedar Rapids**

The Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area trimmed 800 jobs from November, bringing total nonfarm employment to 145,200. The jobs losses were shared by goods-producing and service-providing industries, although service-providing industries absorbed the brunt of the loss.

Educational and health services pared 300 jobs and local government shed 200 jobs, both likely due to the then upcoming holiday break. Mining, logging and construction also pared 300 jobs, which is slightly more than the ten-year average November-to-December change for the industry. Professional and business services shed 200 jobs and leisure and hospitality dropped 100 jobs.

There were a couple of positive changes that partially offset the losses, a gain of 200 jobs in trade, transportation and warehousing and a gain of 100 jobs in manufacturing.

Over the year the metro area has gained 1,200 jobs, led by gains of 1,100 jobs in professional and business services and 700 jobs in manufacturing, mostly in durable goods manufacturing (+600). Educational and health services contributed an additional 400 jobs to the gains.

Conversely, employment in trade, transportation and warehousing decreased by 800 jobs. Other industries shedding jobs were financial activities (-200) and government (-100).

**Des Moines/West Des Moines**

# The Des Moines Metro gained 1,600 jobs in December, raising nonfarm employment to 394,500 jobs. This month’s increase was the second consecutive larger-than-expected gain relative to the prior ten-year history. Finance and insurance added 1,100 jobs to lead all sectors. Jobs were gained in both credit intermediation along with insurance services and related activities. Trade, transportation, and utilities added 1,000 jobs thanks primarily to gains in both wholesale and retail trade. Health care and social assistance gained 400 with hiring being led by nursing and residential care facilities. On the other hand, job losses were highest in mining, logging, and construction in December (-900). Most of this loss was the result of seasonal drops in construction. Other declines this month were within professional, scientific, and technical services (-400) and other services (-100).

# Annually, total nonfarm employment has advanced by 3,100 jobs since last December. Health care and social assistance has added the most jobs of any super sector over the past twelve months (+3,100). Government has advanced by 1,800 jobs thanks mostly to hiring at the local level (+1,200). Alternatively, professional and business services are down a combined 2,500 jobs as cutbacks have been evident in both administrative support and waste management (-1,000) along with professional, scientific, and technical services (-900). Financial activities is down 1,300 versus last December. Credit intermediation and related activities has been responsible for virtually all the loss.

# Dubuque

In December, establishments in the Dubuque area gained 300 jobs, raising total nonfarm employment to 61,100 jobs. This month’s gain is larger than expected relative to the prior ten-year history. Small increases of 100 jobs were seen in goods-producing industries, private services, and construction this month.

Annually, total nonfarm employment has shown little movement versus last December. Private service industries have trended down during this span (-600) but have been matched by the combined hiring in goods-producing industries (+500) and government (+100).

**Iowa City**

Employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area (MSA) fell by 600 positions between November and December 2023, a decrease of 0.6 percent over-the-month. This decline occurred entirely within the service-providing sectors, with state government and private service-providing employment falling by 500 and 100 positions, respectively. Within the private service-providing sector, leisure and hospitality decreased by 200 positions month-to-month, while employment in trade, transportation, and utilities rose by 200 positions. Goods-producing employment was unchanged, as was employment in the federal and local government sectors.

Employment in the MSA rose by 1,200 positions year-over-year, an increase of 1.2 percent. This expansion was driven by growth in the government sector, with all three levels of government seeing an increase in employment. State government employment rose by 1,500 positions annually, while local and federal government employment grew by 200 and 100 positions, respectively. Private employers pared 600 positions year-to-year; many of those were in service-providing establishments, which trimmed 500 positions. Of note, the trade, transportation, and utilities supersector lost 400 positions. Goods-producing employment sunk by 100 positions compared to one year ago.

**Sioux City**

# Employment in the Sioux City MSA shed 200 jobs from November, bringing total nonfarm employment to 90,200 jobs. Goods-producing and service-providing industries contributed to the jobs loss equally.

# One industry stands out with a loss of 200 jobs, leisure and hospitality. The change for the industry is more than double the ten-year average November-to-December change, but well in line with the month-to-month (December) changes over the past three years.

# Overall, area employment is up just 300 jobs (+0.33%) from one year ago. Gains were led by manufacturing which added 700 jobs, largely due to an additional 500 jobs in non-durable goods manufacturing. Government added 200 jobs, all in local government. Trade, transportation and warehousing dropped 800 jobs, with 100 of those jobs in retail trade. Leisure and hospitality pared 200 jobs.

# Waterloo/Cedar Falls

Total nonfarm employment in the Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area decreased by 300 jobs from November as a result of small losses in multiple industries, including: professional and business services, leisure and hospitality, and government, each shedding 100 jobs. Trade, transportation and warehousing and manufacturing each added 100 jobs.

Over the year the area added 700 jobs (+0.78%), aided by job increases in several sectors. The employment increase was led by a gain of 600 in educational and health services. Educational and health services employment is up 600 jobs, manufacturing has added 500 jobs, with all those jobs in durable goods manufacturing. Professional and business services added 100 jobs.