**Ames**

Employment in the Ames metropolitan statistical area (MSA) declined by 4,200 positions over December 2023 and January 2024, a decrease of 7.4 percent over-the-month. The change in employment was largely seasonal in nature: activity in the MSA historically slows as the area’s state university breaks for winter. Correspondingly, state government led the way in employment losses, with the number of positions falling by 2,900 month-to-month. Elsewhere in the public sector, municipal government employment ebbed by 100 positions. In the private sector, service-providing establishments trimmed 1,000 positions month-over-month, while goods-producing businesses cut 200 positions.

Employment in the MSA grew by 200 positions year-over-year, an increase of 0.4 percent, as job gains in the private sector were offset somewhat by losses in the public sector. Growth was strongest within the private service-providing sector, with 400 positions added over-the-year. Meanwhile, goods-producing employers expanded payrolls by 300 positions. In the public sector, state and local government employers pared back employment by 300 and 200 positions, respectively, while federal government employment was unchanged.

**Cedar Rapids**

The Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area pared 3,200 jobs from December, bringing total nonfarm employment to 140,100. The bulk of the job losses were in service-providing industries, with just 25% (800) of the jobs in goods-producing industries.

Trade, transportation and warehousing experienced the greatest loss, dropping 1,500 jobs. Of those jobs, 900 were in retail trade, 100 in wholesale trade and 500 in transportation, warehousing and utilities. This month’s loss leaves employment in the sector 1,700 jobs below the January 2023 level. Transportation warehousing and utilities shed 1,200 jobs over the year.

Mining, logging and construction trimmed 700 jobs from December, likely the result of seasonal changes and on par with the average December-to-January change.

Over the year, metro area employment is unchanged. Aside from the aforementioned loss in trade, transportation and warehousing, jobs losses were nearly non-existent with only other services trimming jobs (-200).

Conversely, employment gains were enjoyed in several industries, including: educational and health services (+900), professional and business services (+400), and manufacturing and leisure and hospitality (+300 each). Smaller gains were achieved in several industries.

**Des Moines/West Des Moines**

# Firms in the Des Moines Metro seasonally shed jobs in January, paring 7,900 from payrolls to start the new year. This monthly loss is relatively large given the ten years and possibly the result of December’s seasonal declines spilling into January. A combined 2,000 jobs were shed in wholesale and retail trade leading to a combined loss of 3,000 in trade, transportation, and utilities. Mining, logging, and construction also seasonally lost jobs in January (-2,600). This loss was primarily due to seasonal layoffs related to specialty trade contractors and likely due to severe winter weather delaying projects. Professional and business services shed jobs (-700). Much of this decline was fueled by losses in administrative support and waste management services. Other losses included leisure and hospitality (-700) and other services (-300).

# Compared to last year, Des Moines is up 3,800 jobs. Education and health care have combined for the most jobs added (+3,400). Much of the hiring during that span originated from health care (+2,400). Government has also fared well during the last twelve months with 2,600 jobs gained. Local government entities were responsible for most of the growth in payrolls (+2,200). Other annual gains included manufacturing which has added 700 jobs over the past twelve months despite taking a small step backward this month. Conversely, larger than expected seasonal losses in trade contributed to a loss of 1,600 jobs annual in trade, transportation, and utilities. Over half of the decline stems from transportation and warehousing which has shown signs of trending down following rapid growth over the prior few years. Construction has pared 700 jobs annually with 300 being related to specialty trade contractors.

# Dubuque

Firms in the Dubuque Metro seasonally shed 1,400 jobs to begin the year. This monthly loss drops total nonfarm employment to 60,300 jobs and is on par with the prior ten-year history for the Metropolitan Statistical Area. Private service industries were responsible for most of the movement (-900) with much of the decline being seasonally shed in retail. Goods-producing industries also reduced employment to begin the year (-400) while government decreased slightly (-100).

Annually, the Dubuque Metro is up 600 jobs (+1.0 percent). Despite the expected monthly loss private services have gained 300 jobs over the past twelve months. Goods-producing industries have gained 200 jobs while government has advanced by 100 jobs.

**Iowa City**

Employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area (MSA) fell by 1,000 positions between December 2023 and January 2024, a decrease of 1.0 percent over-the-month. Losses were significant in the private sector, with service-providing and goods-producing businesses trimming payrolls by 1,500 and 100 positions, respectively. Much of the contraction among service-providing employers occurred in trade, transportation, and utilities, wherein employment fell by 900 month-to-month. Gains in the public sector somewhat offset the losses in the private sector, with state government employers adding 800 positions. However, employment within local government establishments declined by 200 positions.

Employment in the MSA rose by 2,800 positions year-over-year, an increase of 2.8 percent. Much of this growth occurred in the public sector, with state, local and federal government employers respectively adding 1,900, 200, and 100 positions annually. Private service-providing employment rose by 300 positions over-the-year, with much of that increase occurring in professional and business services (+200 positions). Likewise, employment at goods-producing businesses also grew by 300 positions.

**Sioux City**

# Employment in the Sioux City MSA shed 2,600 jobs from December, bringing total nonfarm employment to 87,500 jobs. Goods-producing and service-providing industries each contributed to the jobs loss with service-providing industries shedding 1,700 jobs and goods-producing industries trimming 900 jobs.

# Retail trade dropped 500 jobs, resulting in a loss of 700 jobs overall in trade, transportation and warehousing. Manufacturing and leisure and hospitality each pared 200 jobs and professional and business services cut 100 jobs. There were no over-the-month gains in any industry.

# Overall, area employment is down 700 jobs (-2.89%) from one year ago. The bulk of the job losses were in service-providing industries including a loss of 200 in trade, transportation and warehousing. Small gains were seen in manufacturing and government, each adding 100 jobs. Non-durable goods manufacturing added 200 jobs but those gains were partially offset by losses in other areas of the industry.

# Waterloo/Cedar Falls

Total nonfarm employment in the Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area decreased by 2,800 jobs from December as a result of losses in multiple industries, most significantly: Trade, transportation and warehousing (-800) and state government (-600). Losses of 100 jobs occurred in manufacturing, professional and business services, and leisure and hospitality

Over the year the area added 200 jobs (+0.23%), aided by increases in several sectors. The employment increase was led by a gain of 600 in educational and health services. Manufacturing has added 300 jobs, with 100 of those jobs in durable goods manufacturing. Financial activities added 100 jobs. Professional and business services employment is unchanged.