**Ames**

Employment in the Ames metropolitan statistical area (MSA) rose by 2,900 positions between January and February, an increase of 5.6 percent over-the-month. The change in employment was largely seasonal in nature: activity in the MSA historically rebounds in February as the area’s state university resumes classes. Correspondingly, state government employment jumped by 2,300 month-to-month. Elsewhere in the public sector, municipal government employment grew by 100 positions. In the private sector, service-providing establishments added 500 positions to their payrolls month-over-month, while employment at goods-producing businesses was unchanged.

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 goods-producing sector, with 400 positions added over-the-year. Meanwhile, private service-providing employers expanded payrolls by 200 positions. In the public sector, state and local government employers pared back employment by 300 and 100 positions, respectively, while federal government employment was unchanged.

**Cedar Rapids**

The Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area added 1,100 jobs from January, bringing total nonfarm employment to 141,200. Service-providing industries were responsible for more than 90% of this month’s gain.

Government added 500 jobs as schools returned to full staffing levels following brief cut-backs in January due to the holiday break. Leisure and hospitality gained 300 jobs, reclaiming more than the 200 jobs shed the previous month and educational and health services added 200 jobs. Manufacturing contributed 100 jobs, none of which were in durable goods manufacturing.

Conversely, trade, transportation and warehousing trimmed 200 jobs, split between retail trade and transportation, warehousing and utilities.

Over the year, metro area employment has increased by 300 jobs. Professional and business services experienced the greatest gain (+500), followed closely by manufacturing and leisure and hospitality (+400 each). Educational and health services and natural resources, construction and mining each added 300 jobs.

Trade, transportation and warehousing shed 1,400 jobs, mostly in trade, transportation and utilities. Information, which has not seen an employment gain since December 2022, trimmed 200 jobs as a result of a slow downward trend through the year.

**Des Moines/West Des Moines**

# Establishments in the Des Moines area seasonally gained 2,300 jobs in February. The monthly increase is average given the prior ten-year history and the result of seasonal hiring related to education being coupled with unexpected gains in leisure and hospitality and professional and business services. Private industry was responsible for all of this movement as government saw little change versus January yet remains up 2,500 jobs compared to last year while the Des Moines area as a whole has gained 3,000 jobs.

# Leisure and hospitality added the most jobs in February (+1,200). Much of the hiring was within eating and drinking establishments, especially full-service restaurants, which gained 300 jobs. The monthly increase is large and may be due to a relatively weak showing in January for this industry. Education and health care also experienced a seasonal increase (+700). Most of this increase was within health care and social assistance (+500). Administrative support and waste management added 300 jobs and fueled an increase or 600 in professional and business services. Despite this month’s increase, this super sector has shown little movement versus last year’s level. Job losses were light in comparison and led by trade, transportation, and warehousing (-400). Retail trade losses were responsible for most of this decline (-300). Smaller declines were evident within financial activities (-200) and information (-100).

# Since last February, a total of 3,000 jobs have been gained in the Des Moines Metro. Government has been responsible for most of the increase (+2,500). Virtually all the hiring has been within local municipalities. Within private industries, health care and social assistance propelled the education and health care super sector to gains of 1,600 jobs. This sector has been showing signs of trending up both statewide and nationally over the past few years following some layoffs during the COVID pandemic. Leisure and hospitality gained 700 jobs despite full-service restaurants trending down slightly (-100). Annual job losses were led by trade, transportation, and warehousing (-1,100). Retail has shed the most jobs within this super sector (-800), although transportation and warehousing has also shown signs of attrition as well (-400). Construction has shed 700 jobs over the past twelve months. Specialty trade contractors have been responsible for some of these jobs shed (-200).

# Dubuque

In February, establishments in the Dubuque Metro added 300 jobs. This month’s increase is average relative to the prior ten-year history and largely the result of private services gaining 300 jobs. Government added 100 while goods-producing industries decreased slightly (-100).

Compared to last year, the Dubuque Metro is up 200 jobs. Government is up 200 jobs in the wake of this month’s increase and private services have seen little movement over the past twelve months as private service increases have been matched by goods-producing industry losses.

**Iowa City**

Employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area (MSA) expanded by 1,100 positions between January and February, an increase of 1.1 percent over-the-month Much of the monthly gain occurred in the private sector, with service-providing and goods-producing businesses raising payrolls by 700 and 100 positions, respectively. In particular, businesses in accommodation and food services added 400 positions month-to-month. Payrolls grew by 300 positions in the public sector, with municipal and state employers separately adding 200 and 100 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 1,800, 300, and 100 positions annually. Private service-providing employment rose by 200 positions over-the-year. Notable changes in employment within the sector occurred in retail trade (-200 positions) and leisure and hospitality (-100 positions). Employment at goods-producing businesses jumped by 400 positions annually.

**Sioux City**

Employment in the Sioux City MSA is up 600 jobs from January, bringing total nonfarm employment to 88,100 jobs. The gains were split equally between goods-producing and service-providing industries, each adding 300 jobs.

Leisure and hospitality and non-durable goods manufacturing each added 200 jobs. The gain in non-durable goods manufacturing employment was partially offset by losses in other areas, resulting in a gain of just 100 for manufacturing as a whole.

Overall, area employment is down 400 jobs (-0.45%) from one year ago. Businesses in trade, transportation and warehousing pruned 500 jobs and government snipped 100 jobs. Small gains were seen in leisure and hospitality (+200) and goods-producing industries (+200), although manufacturing was unchanged.

# Waterloo/Cedar Falls

Total nonfarm employment in the Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area increased by 1,600 jobs from January as a result of gains in multiple industries, most significantly government (+1,100), which reclaimed the 900 jobs pared last month when area educational institutions trimmed employment during winter break. Multiple industries enjoyed smaller gains, including; leisure and hospitality (+200), and manufacturing and professional and business services, each with 100 additional jobs. Trade, transportation and warehousing is the only industry with fewer jobs from last month, having trimmed 100 jobs.

Over the year the area shaved 100 jobs from area businesses. Losses in trade, transportation and warehousing (-700), and government (-500) were almost entirely offset by gains in manufacturing (+500), educational and health services (+300), leisure and hospitality (+100), and other service-providing industries.