**Ames**

Employment in the Ames metropolitan statistical area (MSA) declined by 200 positions between November and December 2024, a decrease of 0.4 percent month-to-month. Employment growth of 100 positions in the private service-providing sectors offset a loss of 100 positions in the goods-producing sectors. In the public sector, establishments in state government pared 200 positions from their payrolls, whereas employment in the local and federal government sectors was unchanged over-the-month.

Employment in the MSA grew by 500 positions year-over-year, an increase of 0.9 percent. Private service-providing employment rose by 300 positions, whereas goods-producing employment was unchanged. Among government employers, local and municipal authorities added 200 positions to their payrolls over-the-year. State and federal government employment was unchanged.

**Cedar Rapids**

The Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area’s employment decreased by 600 jobs from November, bringing total nonfarm employment to 143,400. Trade, transportation and warehousing exceeded the gains in all other sectors, although gains in the sector were lackluster (+200). There were additional sectors with smaller job gains (not sufficient to overcome the sum of losses seen in some sectors) resulting in an employment decline for the area.

Mining, logging and construction employment is down 400 jobs from last month in an expected December seasonal change, although it is 25% more than the 10-year average annual change of -300. Professional and business services and leisure and hospitality each trimmed 200 jobs. Leisure and hospitality has shed jobs every month since July with a total loss of 1,300 jobs. Manufacturing and government each pared 100 jobs.

Financial activities and educational and health services each added 100 jobs.

Over the year, metro area employment has increased by 100 jobs courtesy of service-providing industries which added a total of 400 jobs. The majority of the job gains were offset by losses in goods-producing industries.

Educational and health services added 500 jobs from one year ago, slightly above the ten-year average over-the-year change when discounting 2020, which was negatively affected by covid-related measures. Professional and business services and government each added 200 jobs and leisure and hospitality gained 100 jobs.

Conversely, manufacturing has pared 300 jobs from its’ roles. Other sectors with reduced employment include: financial activities (-200), trade, transportation and warehousing (-200), information (-100), and other services (-100).

**Des Moines/West Des Moines**

# Firms in the Des Moines Metro shed 1,600 jobs in December, lowering total nonfarm employment to 394,000 jobs. Seasonal losses are common as the year ends and this loss is typical. Mining, logging, and construction shed the most jobs seasonally in December (-1,500 jobs). This loss was primarily construction-related and typical as the year ends. Specialty trade contractors provided over half of the jobs lost. Leisure and hospitality pared 800 jobs. This loss is more than usual for the MSA and leaves this sector down 1,200 jobs annually. Professional and business services shed 600 jobs. Half of this drop occurred in administrative support and waste management industries. Conversely, job gains were light to end the year, but highest in retail trade (+600 jobs) as firms account for increased holiday business. Health care and social assistance gained 400 jobs. This industry has experienced strong gains in each of the last three months.

# Annually, the Des Moines Metro is down 4,300 jobs. Financial activities shed 2,700 jobs to lead all sectors. Losses within this sector generally have stemmed from credit intermediation and related activities. Professional and business services pared 2,500 jobs. Administrative support and waste management alone is down 1,500 jobs. Manufacturing has also trended down over the last twelve months (-2,200 jobs). Much of this decline is within non-durable goods factories and related to food production. Alternatively, education and health care services gained 2,900 jobs to lead all industries. Virtually all the job gains were within health care and social assistance. Government has advanced by 1,500 jobs. Most of these gains were at the local level.

# Dubuque

Firms in the Dubuque Metropolitan area shed 200 jobs in December, lowering total nonfarm employment to 61,500 jobs. Colder weather reduced construction activity within construction sectors fueling a loss of 200 jobs in goods-producing industries. This loss is slightly more than expected for this time of year. Both service industries and government felt little change in employment levels.

Annually, 200 jobs have been shed within the MSA. Goods-producing industries have fueled this decline with 400 jobs pared. Private service industries gained 200 jobs thanks to hiring in trade and transportation industries. Government has seen little change in staffing levels compared to one year ago.

**Iowa City**

Employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area (MSA) fell by 900 positions between November and December 2024, a decrease of 0.9 percent over-the-month. The decline in employment occurred primarily within the public sector, with job losses of 500 and 400 positions among state and local government employers, respectively. Federal government employment did not change. In the private sector, a gain of 100 positions in service-providing businesses offset a loss of 100 positions in goods-producing employers. Notably, leisure and hospitality employment dropped by 200 positions month-over-month.

Employment in the MSA expanded by 2,100 positions year-over-year, an increase of 2.0 percent. Private service-providing employment grew by 1,000 positions, with a notable increase of 400 positions occurring in retail trade. Goods-producing employment was unchanged over-the-year. In the public sector, state government employment rose by 1,200 positions; meanwhile, local government employers trimmed 100 positions from their payrolls annually.

**Sioux City**

# The Sioux City MSA trimmed 100 jobs from last month, leaving total nonfarm employment at 90,000 jobs.

# Trade, transportation and warehousing added 400 jobs. Manufacturing added 100 jobs, all in non-durable goods manufacturing. Government also added 100 jobs with all additional jobs in the local government sub-sector. Professional and business services and leisure and hospitality each pared 100 jobs.

# Area employment is down 100 jobs from one year ago. Trade, transportation and warehousing and government were the only sectors with over-the-year employment gains (+500 and +200, respectively). Manufacturing shed 400 jobs, although non-durable goods manufacturing employment was unchanged. Professional and business services trimmed 100 jobs.

# Waterloo/Cedar Falls

Employment in the Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area declined by 500 jobs this month, ending a four-month stretch of employment gains. This month’s loss is larger than the ten-year average November-to-December change of -300.

Employment gains this month were limited to trade, transportation and warehousing (+400) and financial activities (+100). Offsetting those gains were losses in government (-200), manufacturing (-100), professional and business services (-100), and leisure and hospitality (-100). The employment reduction was all in durable goods manufacturing. Government employment losses were split between state and local government.

Over the year, the area has added 1,100 jobs to its rolls. Government experienced the greatest gain with 800 additional jobs. State (+300) and local (+500) governments contributed to the overall gain in government employment. Trade, transportation and warehousing added 500 jobs with the bulk of those jobs in retail trade. Educational and health services enjoyed a gain of 300 jobs, all in health care and social assistance and leisure and hospitality added 100 jobs. Only three sectors shed jobs this month, led by manufacturing with 500 fewer jobs, all in durable goods manufacturing. Professional and business services shed 200 jobs and financial activities trimmed 100 jobs.