**Ames**

Employment in the Ames metropolitan statistical area (MSA) declined by 1,800 positions between December 2024 and January 2025, a decrease of 2.8 percent over-the-month. The decline was represented broadly across the MSA’s economy: private service-providing establishments cut 700 positions, goods-producing employment fell by 400 positions, and government employers trimmed 700 positions. In the private sector, employment in the trade, transportation, and utilities super-sector was reduced by 400 positions. In the public sector, employment contraction was steepest in the state government sector, which seasonally lost 700 positions.

Employment in the MSA rose by 3,000 positions annually, an increase of 5.0 percent. Employment gains occurred primarily in the public sector, with state government employment growing by 2,300 positions over-the-year. This figure is somewhat misleading, as the monthly decrease in state government employment is typically much greater than what was seen in January 2025. In the private sector, service-providing employment rose by 500 positions annually, whereas goods-producing employment fell by 100 positions.

**Cedar Rapids**

The Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area’s employment decreased by 2,800 jobs from December, bringing total nonfarm employment to 137,200. Educational and health services is the only sector with an employment gain in January.

Trade, transportation and warehousing pared 800 jobs, with the majority of those jobs in retail trade (-400). The decrease is slightly below the ten-year December-to-January average change. Mining, logging and construction employment is down 700 jobs from last month in an expected seasonal change. Professional and business services shed 500 jobs, mostly in administrative, support and waste management. Government is down 300 jobs, all in local government.

Over the year, metro area employment has decreased by 800 jobs, equally split among service-providing and goods-producing sectors. Job gains were sparse but did help to quell the overall losses. Educational and health services and leisure and hospitality each added 300 jobs. Other services and government each gained 100 jobs.

Conversely, trade, transportation and warehousing shed the most jobs (-400) in spite of a gain of 300 jobs in retail trade. Financial activities and professional and business services each pared 300 jobs. Information, manufacturing, and mining. Logging and construction each trimmed 200 jobs.

**Des Moines/West Des Moines MSA**

The Des Moines Metropolitan Area shed 8,100 jobs in January, lowering total nonfarm employment down to 404,500 jobs. This drop is slightly more than average compared to the prior ten years and mostly the result of both construction and education having seasonal layoffs. Mining, logging, and construction sector firms combined lost 2,400 jobs; half of these losses were in specialty trade construction. Professional and business services pared 1,400 jobs. Most of this loss stemmed from administrative support and waste management firms. This gain also follows an unusually strong showing in December. Other sectors shedding employment in January included retail trade (-1,200) and transportation and warehousing (-800). Job gains were smaller in magnitude and include government (+200) and other services (+100).

Over the past twelve months, total nonfarm employment in the Des Moines area is up 700 jobs. Private education and health care combined are up 3,100 jobs. Health care and social assistance has fueled a majority of this increase. Government has added 1,700 jobs at the local level and gained 2,000 jobs overall. Transportation, warehousing, and utilities are up 1,200 jobs despite a drop this month. Annual job losses are highest in manufacturing (-2,500). This sector has been hampered by layoffs primarily within nondurable goods factories. Professional and business services are also down annually (-1,600). Administrative support and waste management businesses fueled this loss.

**Davenport MSA**

Employment in the Davenport–Moline–Rock Island metropolitan statistical area (MSA) declined by 3,700 positions between December 2024 and January 2025, a decrease of 2.0 percent month-over-month. Private service-providing employment fell by 1,900 positions; many of those positions were in trade, transportation, and utilities, which suffered a loss of 1,000 positions over-the-month. Goods-producing employment declined by 1,100 positions. In the public sector, local and municipal establishments cut 700 positions from their payrolls, slightly higher than in previous years but not out of line with historical norms.

Employment in the MSA fell by 700 positions year-over-year, a decrease of 0.4 percent. Job losses were mostly constrained within the goods-producing sector, with employers trimming pay sheets by 1,100 positions annually. Notably, the manufacturing sector was responsible for all the employment decline, losing 1,100 positions over-the-year. In the public sector, local and federal government employment rose by 400 and 100 positions, respectively.

**Dubuque MSA**

Firms in the Dubuque Metropolitan area shed 1,000 jobs in January, lowering total nonfarm employment to 59,500. This monthly drop is seasonal and light when compared to prior years. Private services shed 500 jobs; this included a seasonal paring of 200 jobs in retail trade. Goods-producing firms decreased by 400 jobs and government decreased by 100 jobs.

Compared to last year, Dubuque has gained 600 jobs. Government has gained 200 jobs at the local level. Within the private sector, 400 jobs were added with gains evenly split between private service industries and goods-producing firms.

**Iowa City**

Employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area (MSA) fell by 1,100 positions between December 2024 and January 2025, a decrease of 1.1 percent over-the-month. The decline in employment occurred almost entirely within the private sector, with job losses of 700 and 500 positions among private service-providing and goods-producing employers, respectively. Mining, logging, and construction employment shrank by 400 positions month-over-month, likely due to a seasonal decline in construction activity. In the public sector, state government employment rose by 200 employees monthly.

Employment in the MSA rose by 2,200 positions year-over-year, an increase of 2.2 percent. This expansion occurred across the spectrum of the MSA’s economy, with private service-providing employment rising by 1,400 positions, goods-producing employers adding 200 positions, and government employment increasing by 600 positions. The leisure and hospitality subsector enjoyed an employment increase of 700 positions annually. Likewise, private education and health services employment rose by 400 positions.

**Sioux City**

The Sioux City MSA trimmed 1,500 jobs from last month, leaving total nonfarm employment at 74,000 jobs.

Trade, transportation and warehousing pared 500 jobs, 200 of which were in retail trade. Manufacturing and professional and business services each trimmed 200 jobs. Leisure and hospitality and government each shed 100 jobs.

Area employment is down 200 jobs from one year ago. Losses in goods-producing sectors (-600) outweighed the gains in service-providing sectors (+400). Professional and business services dropped 400 jobs and manufacturing employment is down 100 jobs.

Non-durable goods manufacturing added 200 jobs, however it was not enough to push manufacturing sector employment (-100) into the positive for the month. Employment in trade, transportation and warehousing is up 600 jobs over the year, aided by a small boost (+200) in retail trade. Government has added 400 jobs with the majority in local government (+300).

# **Waterloo/Cedar Falls**

Employment in the Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area declined by 2,000 jobs this month, well below the ten-year average December-to-January change (-2,500). The jobs loss was largely fueled by employment decreases in trade, transportation and warehousing (-800), half of which occurred in retail trade (-400).

Other sectors, including; government (-300), leisure and hospitality (-200), and others with smaller losses, combined to result in the month’s total employment change.

Educational and health services is the only sector with an over-the-month employment gain, adding 100 jobs from December. This sector has trended upward since January 2022.

Over the year, the area has shed 100 jobs from its rolls. Nearly all of the losses seen in manufacturing (-1,400), professional and business services (-300), and financial activities (-100), were offset by gains in government (+900), educational and health services (+300), and leisure and hospitality (+100).