**Ames**

Employment in the Ames metropolitan statistical area (MSA) rose by 300 positions between January and February, an increase of 0.5 percent over-the-month. This increase in employment was much smaller than usual for the month of February, likely due to a smaller-than-normal decrease in employment in January. In the private sector, service-providing and

goods-producing employment increased by 200 and 100 positions, respectively. In the public sector, an increase of 100 positions among local government employers offset a loss of 100 positions within federal government establishments.

Employment in the MSA declined by 500 positions annually, a decrease of 0.8 percent. Job losses occurred primarily in the public sector, with employment at state government establishments falling by 600 positions over-the-year. Local government employers added 200 positions to their payrolls. Among private sector employers, service-providing establishments trimmed 100 positions year-over-year. Notably, employment in the financial activities super-sector rose by 200 positions, an increase of 10.5 percent year-over-year.

**Cedar Rapids**

The Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area added 1,000 jobs from last month. The increase was largely driven by gains in manufacturing and local government, each with 400 additional jobs. The gain in local government is attributable to schools returning to normal operations following the winter break.

Other industries enjoying employment gains this month include professional and business services (+200), mining, logging and construction, leisure and hospitality, and educational and health services (+100 each).

Trade, transportation and warehousing pared 200 jobs, split between retail trade and transportation, warehousing and utilities. Federal government is the only other industry with an employment loss, trimming 100 jobs from their rolls. Employment levels in information, financial activities and other services were unchanged.

Over the year, metro area employment has decreased by 1,400 jobs with service-providing sectors (-1,500) responsible for all over-the-year job losses. Goods-producing sectors combined for a total gain of 100 jobs. Gains in manufacturing (+200) were partially offset by a loss of 100 jobs in mining, logging and construction. Job losses were prevalent in educational and health services (-800), trade, transportation and warehousing (-500), and financial activities (-300). Information trimmed 200 jobs.

**Davenport MSA**

Employment in the Davenport–Moline–Rock Island metropolitan statistical area (MSA) expanded by 1,500 positions between January and February, an increase of 0.8 percent

over-the-month. Job growth occurred broadly across the MSA’s economy, with losses largely constrained within the trade, transportation, and utilities supersector (-400 positions). In the public sector, local government employment grew by 800 positions month-over-month. In the private sector, service-providing and goods-producing employment rose by 400 and 300 positions, respectively.

Employment in the MSA declined by 900 positions over-the-year, a decrease of 0.5 percent. Goods-producing employment fell by 1,000 positions, primarily due to a loss of 900 positions in durable goods manufacturing. Private service-providing employment contracted by 700 positions; notably, employment in leisure and hospitality and trade, transportation, and utilities ebbed by 500 and 400 positions, respectively. Government employment rose by 800 positions year-over-year. Hiring was strongest amongst local government employers, which added 700 positions, a gain of 3.8 percent.

**Des Moines/West Des Moines MSA**

Firms in the Des Moines Metro had a small increase in February (+500), lifting total nonfarm employment to 405,200. Most of the gain was within private industry (+300), although government shed 200 jobs, mostly at the local level. Private education fueled a gain in the education and health care sector of 800 jobs. Professional and business services gained 500 jobs compared to January. This gain was largely the result of hiring at corporate offices. Nondurable goods factories advanced by 200 jobs. Many of these jobs gained were related to food production. Alternatively, mining, logging, and construction shed 500 jobs. Almost half of this loss was related to specialty trade construction. Wholesale and retail trade pared a combined 500 jobs and financial activities shed 200 jobs.

Over the past twelve months, the Des Moines Metro has shed 3,000 jobs. The largest declines stem from construction and manufacturing, both down 2,400 jobs annually. For construction, 1,400 jobs shed were specialty trade contractors, for manufacturing, nondurable goods shops have fueled most of the drop annually. On the other hand, job gains were led by government (+2,200 jobs). Local governments were responsible for most of the hiring. Health care and social assistance added 2,100 jobs to lead all private sectors.

**Dubuque MSA**

In February, firms in the Dubuque Metro added 400 jobs, lifting total nonfarm employment to 60,000 jobs. This monthly gain is slightly more than expected given this time of year and follows a relatively small increase to begin the year. Private services expanded by 200 jobs. Most of these gains were within trade, transportation, and utilities. Both goods producing sectors and government gained 100 jobs.

Over the past year, Dubuque is down 200 jobs. Private services industries have shed 700 jobs despite gains within trade and transportation. These losses have been countered by hiring in government (+300 jobs) and goods-producing firms (+200 jobs).

**Iowa City**

Employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area (MSA) rose by 900 positions between January and February, an increase of 0.9 percent over-the-month. Employment in the private service-providing sector grew by 300 positions, largely due to growth in leisure and hospitality (+300 positions). Goods-producing employment increased by 200 positions as construction and manufacturing activity increased. In the public sector, state and local government employers each added 200 positions month-over-month.

Employment in the MSA expanded by 1,400 positions over-the-year, an increase of 1.4 percent. Private sector employment edged up by 600 positions, with the gain divided equally amongst goods-producing and service-providing employers. Of note, private education and health services employment grew by 300 positions annually, whereas professional and business services employment fell by 200 positions. Public sector employment rose by 800 positions; job growth was strongest in state government, which added 600 positions year-over-year. Local government employment increased by 200 positions.

**Sioux City**

# The Sioux City MSA’s employment level is unchanged from January, holding at 74,000 jobs, with very little change among the industries.

# Manufacturing added 100 jobs, boosted by a gain of 200 jobs in non-durable goods manufacturing. Trade, transportation and warehousing pared 100 jobs, all in retail trade. State government shed 100 jobs but those losses were offset by a gain of 100 jobs in local government, resulting in no change for the government overall.

# Area employment is down 1,300 jobs from one year ago. Losses were split among goods-producing sectors (-800) and service-providing sectors (-500). Professional and business services (-500) pared more jobs than any other sector. Manufacturing trimmed 200 jobs, in spite of a 300-job gain in non-durable goods manufacturing.

# Trade, transportation and warehousing added 300 jobs. Government employment increased by 200 jobs, all in local government, and leisure and hospitality gained 100 jobs.

# **Waterloo/Cedar Falls**

Employment in the Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area experienced minimal movement with an increase of 200 jobs this month. There were few contributing industries as only three added jobs; state government, with an increase of 300 jobs, educational and health services with 100 additional jobs, and leisure and hospitality, also adding just 100 jobs. Conversely, only one industry trimmed jobs, trade, transportation and warehousing, which shed 100 jobs.

Over the year, the area has shed 2,000 jobs from its rolls. A large portion of the losses occurred in manufacturing (-1,300), with the bulk of those job losses in durable goods manufacturing (-900). Professional and business services pared 300 jobs. Financial activities and leisure and hospitality each trimmed 100 jobs.