**Ames**

Employment in the Ames metropolitan statistical area (MSA) fell by 200 positions between February and March, a decrease of 0.3 percent over-the-month. The employment situation was mixed in the private sector: service-providing businesses pared 200 positions while

goods-producing establishments added 100 positions. Notably, construction employment grew by 100 positions as activity began to increase with warmer weather. In the public sector, state government employment declined by 100 positions month-over-month; federal and local government employment were unchanged.

Employment in the MSA rose by 200 positions annually, an increase of 0.3 percent. Private service-providing establishments trimmed 100 positions from payrolls. A gain of 100 positions in retail trade offset a loss of 100 positions in wholesale trade. Additionally, employers in financial activities added 100 positions over-the-year. Goods-producing employment fell by 100 positions. In the public sector, local government employment grew by 200 positions year-over-year, while state and federal government employment were steady.

**Cedar Rapids**

The Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area added 100 jobs from last month. The increase matches the February-to-March change from one year ago but falls well short of the ten-year average February-to-March gain of 700.

Multiple industries experienced small losses with professional and business services trimming the greatest number of jobs (-300). Other industries paring jobs include; manufacturing (-100), educational and health services (-100), and leisure and hospitality (-100).

Conversely, several industries combined to offset the losses. Mining, logging and construction contributed the most jobs, adding 400 over the month. All other gains were limited to just 100 jobs and include; trade, transportation and warehousing, other services, and government.

Over the year, metro area employment has decreased by 1,500 jobs with service-providing sectors (-1,700) responsible for all over-the-year job losses. Trade, transportation and warehousing employment is down 500 jobs over the year following three consecutive months of employment losses. Educational and health services pared 400 jobs. Professional and business services and leisure and hospitality each trimmed 300 jobs. Losses were partially offset by gains in manufacturing and other services which added 200 jobs each.

**Davenport MSA**

Employment in the Davenport–Moline–Rock Island metropolitan statistical area (MSA) was unchanged between February and March, holding steady at 179,200 positions.

Goods-producing employment rose by 300 positions, which included a gain of 400 positions in mining, logging, and construction. Private service-providing employment declined by 300 positions over-the-month. Employment in professional and business services, private education and health services, and leisure and hospitality all decreased by 100 positions, respectively. Government employment was unchanged in total and among its three subsectors.

Employment in the MSA declined by 2,600 positions annually, a decrease of 1.4 percent. Job losses were largely confined to the private sector. Goods-producing establishments cut 1,800 positions from payrolls; of note, manufacturing employment fell by 1,000 positions while mining, logging, and construction employment shrank by 800 positions. Private service-providing employment declined by 1,300 positions year-over-year, with a notable loss of 500 positions in private education and health services. In the public sector, local government employers added 400 positions to payrolls.

**Des Moines/West Des Moines MSA**

In March, the Des Moines Metro added 700 jobs, lifting total nonfarm employment to 405,100. This increase is on the smaller side relative to the prior ten-year history. Service industries lost a combined 1,100 jobs within private sectors; however, this loss was tempered by a large increase in goods-producing industries. Government shed 400 jobs yet is up 1,700 jobs annually while total nonfarm employment trails last year’s mark by 4,800 jobs.

Construction added the most jobs (+2,100). Specialty trade contractors made up over half those jobs gained (+1,200). This increase was seasonal and more than average and helps erase a loss last month. Leisure and hospitality also advanced in March (+200). This gain was moderated by a small loss from full-service restaurants. Other sectors added jobs in March include manufacturing, wholesale trade, and transportation and warehousing all adding 100 jobs. Conversely, job losses were highest in professional and business services (-900). Administrative support and waste management shed 400 jobs to fuel this loss. Private education fueled a loss of 500 jobs within the education and health care sectors. This loss was not seasonal and was more than expected for March.

Since last March, firms involved in health care and social assistance have gained the most jobs (+2,100). This annual gain is despite a small decrease this month. Transportation, warehousing, and utilities are up 900 jobs and other services have gained 300 jobs. Annual losses highest in manufacturing and professional and business services, both shedding 2,500 jobs over the past twelve months. Mining, logging, and construction is down 1,500 jobs. Most of these jobs shed were specialty trade contractors.

**Dubuque MSA**

The Dubuque Metro shed a slight 100 jobs in March, lowering total nonfarm employment to 59,800 jobs. Seasonal gains in construction helped fuel an increase of 100 in goods-producing industries; however, this gain was offset by a slight loss of 100 within private service industries. Government edged down slightly, losing 100 jobs at the local level.

Over the past twelve months, the Dubuque Metro is down 300 jobs. Private service industries are down 600 jobs despite slight gains in trade and transportation industries. Goods-producing industries are up a slight 100 jobs. Government is up 200 jobs since last March with hiring being within local governments.

**Iowa City**

Employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area (MSA) rose by 200 positions between February and March, an increase of 0.2 percent over-the-month. Employment in the private service-providing sector fell by 200 positions, largely due to a loss of 100 positions in both private education and health services and leisure and hospitality. Meanwhile, employment among goods-producing employers grew by 200 positions month-over-month. Federal and local government employers each added 100 positions, while state government employment was unchanged.

Employment in the MSA expanded by 1,600 positions annually, an increase of 1.6 percent. This increase occurred broadly across the MSA’s economy. Government employment rose by 900 positions, with strong growth in state (+600 positions) and local government (+200 positions). Among private sector employers, service-providing establishments added 500 positions year-over-year; much of this increase occurred in private education and health services (+300 positions) and retail trade (+300 positions). Goods-producing employment grew by 200 positions.

**Sioux City**

# The Sioux City MSA’s employment level dropped 400 jobs from February and stands at 73,600.

# Goods-producing industries offered the only bright spot this month with a gain of 200 jobs, consistent with the February-to-March gain seen one year ago and on par with the ten-year average February-to-March change.

# Losses in service-providing sectors (-600), which included 100 fewer jobs in government, more than offset the gains in goods-producing sectors, resulting in the overall loss of 200 jobs.

# Area employment is down 2,100 jobs from one year ago with losses split among goods-producing and service-providing industries. Manufacturing trimmed 200 jobs in spite of a gain of 200 jobs in non-durable goods manufacturing. Government added 100 jobs. Conversely, professional and business services pared 400 jobs over the year with employment levels holding steady since January.

# **Waterloo/Cedar Falls**

Employment in the Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area experienced small increases this month, totaling 300 jobs. Only two industries added jobs; state government, with an increase of 200 jobs, and trade, transportation and warehousing which added 100 jobs. There were also two industries with fewer jobs from last month; leisure and hospitality (-100) and educational and health services (-100

Over the year, the area has shed 1,700 jobs from its rolls. A large portion of the losses occurred in manufacturing (-900), with the bulk of those job losses in durable goods manufacturing (-600). Leisure and hospitality trimmed 300 jobs, professional and business services pared 200 jobs and financial activities cut 100 jobs.