**Ames**

Employment in the Ames metropolitan statistical area (MSA) rose by 500 positions between March and April, an increase of 0.8 percent month-over-month. The increase in employment largely occurred within the private sector, with employment increasing at service-providing and goods-producing establishments by 400 and 100 positions, respectively. Construction had a strong month, with warmer weather allowing firms to add 200 positions. Likewise, employment in leisure and hospitality increased by 100 positions over-the-month. In the public sector, federal government employment grew by 100 positions (mainly due to rounding), while state government employment fell by 100 positions.

Employment in the MSA declined by 600 positions annually, a decrease of 0.9 percent. Private service-providing establishments pared 400 positions year-over-year, with much of the decline occurring in leisure and hospitality (-300 positions). Goods-producing employment fell by 300 positions, with the bulk of those losses occurring in manufacturing (-200 positions). Job growth was mixed in the public sector; over-the-year, federal and local employers each added 100 positions, while state government employers trimmed 100 positions.

**Cedar Rapids**

The Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area added 1,700 jobs from last month. The increase is slightly larger than the month-to-month change one year ago but matched the average month-to-month change over the past ten years when discounting the 2020 change (Covid-related).

Private service-providing sectors fared best this month, adding a total of 1,200 jobs. Substantial gains were seen in professional and business services (+500), largely as a result of an additional 300 jobs in administrative, support and waste management. Leisure and hospitality also added 500 jobs this month, with the bulk of the added jobs in accommodation and food services. Trade, transportation and warehousing and financial activities each added 100 jobs.

Gains in goods-producing industries were limited to construction, logging and mining which added 500 jobs. The change is less than the typical March-to-April gain in the sector which averages just below 700 jobs.

Over the year, metro area employment has decreased by 1,100 jobs with service-providing sectors (-1,100) responsible for all over-the-year job losses. Educational and health services shed 400 jobs, leading all sectors in the jobs loss category. Trade, transportation and warehousing and leisure and hospitality each pared 300 jobs. The only sector with an over-the-year gain is other services which added 100 jobs.

**Davenport MSA**

Employment in the Davenport–Moline–Rock Island metropolitan statistical area (MSA) grew by 1,200 positions between March and April, an increase of 0.7 percent over-the-month. Job growth occurred primarily within the private sector, with service-providing and goods-producing establishments adding 800 and 300 positions, respectively. Employers in the leisure and hospitality sector took advantage of the warmer weather, bringing on an additional 500 positions to their payrolls. Likewise, employment in mining, logging, and construction rose by 300 positions month-over-month. In the public sector, local government employment increased by 100 positions.

Employment in the MSA declined by 1,700 positions annually, a decrease of 0.9 percent. Private service-providing employment fell by 1,200 positions over-the-year, with some of the strongest losses occurring in trade, transportation, and utilities (-700 positions) and leisure and hospitality (-500 positions). Goods-producing employment shrank by 1,000 positions, primarily due to a loss of 800 positions in durable goods manufacturing. Government employment rose by 500 positions year-over-year, with job gains primarily residing in local government (+400 positions). Federal government employment grew modestly (+100 positions).

**Des Moines/West Des Moines MSA**

The Des Moines Metro added 5,100 jobs in April, raising total nonfarm employment to 410,900 jobs. This gain was average for this time of year relative to the prior ten-year history. Private industry was responsible for most of the jobs added (+4,800). This increase was evenly split between both service and goods-producing industries. Seasonal gains were evident in construction, education, and leisure and hospitality. Government gained 300 jobs, mostly at the local level, and now stands 2,000 jobs above last year due mostly to hiring within local governments.

Mining, logging, and construction industries seasonally added 2,600 jobs in April. This gain is large compared to recent history and follows another sizable gain in March. Specialty trade contractors alone added 1,100 jobs. Professional and business services advanced by 1,200 jobs. Most of those jobs added were related to professional, scientific, and technical services, although administrative support and waste management added 300 jobs, a majority being within employment services. Those sectors shedding employment were limited to just wholesale trade (-300) and manufacturing (-200).

Annually, the Des Moines Metro trails last April’s mark by 4,700 jobs. Manufacturing has shed the most jobs (-2,700). This sector has been hampered by layoffs related to animal carcass processing along with food manufacturing. Leisure and hospitality is also down over the past twelve months (-2,300). Within those losses are full-service restaurants which trails last April by 700 jobs. Professional and business services has pared 1,600 jobs. Administrative support and waste management was responsible for half those jobs pared with a majority of those losses being related to employment service industries. Annual job gains were led by health care and social assistance (+1,600). This sector has steadily increased since hitting a relative low related to COVID-19 social distancing measures. Other services has gained 400 jobs following a small gain this month.

**Dubuque MSA**

Employers in the Dubuque Metro gained 400 jobs in April, lifting total nonfarm employment to 60,200. This month’s gain is seasonal, but still on the smaller side relative to the prior ten years. Private service industries gained 400 jobs despite small drops within trade, transportation, and warehousing industries. Goods-producing industries gained a slight 100 jobs, and government shed 100 jobs at the local level.

Since last April, businesses in the Dubuque Metro have shed 600 jobs. Private industries are down 700 jobs, 300 being related to goods-producing industries coupled with 400 jobs shed in private service industries. Government remains up a slight 100 jobs thanks to local government administration hiring.

**Iowa City**

Employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area (MSA) grew by 700 positions between March and April, an increase of 0.7 percent month-over-month. Employment among private service-providing establishments rose by 600 positions, with a notable gain of 300 positions in accommodation and food services. Goods-producing employment increased by 200 positions over-the-month, largely due to an increase of 200 positions in mining, logging, and construction.

Among public sector employers, the only notable change occurred in local government, which saw its employment shrink by 100 positions.

Employment in the MSA rose by 1,200 positions annually, an increase of 1.2 percent. Growth primarily occurred within the government sector, which added 1,100 positions year-over-year. State government employment expanded by 900 positions, while local government employment grew by 200 positions. In the private sector, goods-producing employers added 100 positions over-the-year, while service-providing employment was unchanged. Notably, private education and health services employment increased by 300 positions, whereas employment in professional and business services decreased by 300 positions.

**Sioux City**

# The Sioux City MSA’s employment increased by 1,000 jobs from March and stands at 74,700.

# Service-providing sectors added the most jobs (+800) with additional jobs in leisure and hospitality (+200), and trade, transportation and warehousing and government each adding 100 jobs. There were no sectors with over-the-month employment losses.

# Area employment is down 1,500 jobs from one year ago with losses split among goods-producing (-900) and service-providing (-600) industries. Professional and business services pared 400 jobs, manufacturing trimmed 200 jobs in spite of a gain of 200 jobs in non-durable goods manufacturing, and leisure and hospitality trimmed 100 jobs. Government added 200 jobs, all in local government.

# **Waterloo/Cedar Falls**

Employment in the Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area increased by 1,300 jobs this month with service-providing sectors adding the bulk of the additional jobs (+900). Leisure and hospitality (+300), trade, transportation and warehousing (+100), professional and business services (+100), educational and health services (+100), and government (+100) each contributed to the gains. Goods-producing sectors added 400 jobs, although none of the added jobs were in manufacturing.

Over the year, the area has shed 800 jobs from its rolls. The manufacturing sector lays claim to the majority of the job losses, shedding 600 jobs from last year, all in durable goods manufacturing. Leisure and hospitality and professional and business services each pared 300 jobs. Financial activities trimmed 100 jobs. Educational and health services and government were the only sectors with employment gains, each adding 200 jobs.