**Ames**

Firms in the Ames Metropolitan area showed little movement in March and total nonfarm employment remained at 55,300 jobs. March is not typically when seasonal movements happen in the metro, so this month’s report is not surprising. Goods-producing industries advanced by 100 jobs, but were offset by a loss of 100 jobs in state government.

Compared to last March, the Ames area is up 1,000 jobs. Private services added half of all jobs gained (+500). Goods-producing industries are up 300 jobs and government is up 200.

**Cedar Rapids**

The Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area added 200 jobs in March. Mining, logging and construction gained 500 jobs as winter weather gives way to spring. Leisure and hospitality and government each added 200 jobs, which is near the average February to March change for both industries.

Professional and business services pared 500 jobs, an unusually large drop for this industry. Trade, transportation, warehousing and utilities shed 100 jobs. Manufacturing also trimmed 100 jobs.

Over the year, area employment is down 1,100 jobs, and now sits at 142,500 jobs. Manufacturing fared best with a somewhat lackluster gain of 200 jobs, although 500 jobs were added in durable goods manufacturing. Leisure and hospitality and information each pared 400 jobs. Professional and business services trimmed 300 jobs.

**Des Moines/West Des Moines**

# Firms in the Des Moines Metropolitan area gained 800 jobs in March. Typically jobs are seasonally added, but this month’s gain was small compared to the prior ten years. This light gain also follows an unexpected decrease in February. Part of the reason the seasonal gain was light this month could be due to bad weather affecting the seasonal start of the building season. Construction was weak in March, adding just 100 jobs. This sector typically adds 600 jobs during this month. Trade, transportation, and utilities contracted due mostly to layoffs in wholesale and retail trade. These sectors also posted anemic payroll numbers in February. Positive news this month came from leisure and hospitality (+1,000) and professional and business services (+700). Both of these sectors have fared well over the last year.

# Annually, total nonfarm employment in the Des Moines metro is up 5,600 jobs. Professional and business services advanced the most (+1,800). Much of the hiring stems from increased staffing in administrative support and waste management. Education and health services remain up (+1,100) thanks mostly to expanding health care and social assistance industries. Despite weakness statewide, retail has actually added jobs over the past year in the Des Moines area (+300) and has helped fuel a gain of 900 jobs in the trade, transportation, and utilities super sector. The only sector to trail last year’s mark is financial activities (-400).

# Dubuque

In March, total nonfarm employment increased by 500 jobs and now rests at 60,700. This monthly increase is average given this time of year and due to firms ramping-up for the spring weather and increased business. Private services added 300 jobs. Both government and goods-producing industries increased by 100 jobs.

Annually, Dubuque firms have added 800 jobs. Private services are up 500 jobs even with contractions in retail trade (-200). Goods-producing firms are up 200 jobs and government advanced by 100 jobs.

**Iowa City**

Employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area increased 500 jobs from last month. Service-providing industries added 400 jobs, with 200 of those jobs in government, and the remainder split between leisure and hospitality and trade, transportation, warehousing and utilities. No super-sector lost jobs in March, but retail trade trimmed 100 jobs.

The metro area has pared 1,400 jobs from one year ago, with losses in every industry except leisure and hospitality, which was unchanged. The most notable change from one year ago occurred in trade, transportation, warehousing and utilities which pared 400 jobs.

**Sioux City**

# Employment in the Sioux City MSA is up 300 jobs from February, with no employment loss in any industry. Manufacturing, trade, transportation, warehousing and utilities and professional and business services were all unchanged from last month. Leisure and hospitality added 200 jobs to lead all sectors. Government added 100 jobs.

# Overall, area employment is 1,900 above one year ago. Manufacturing employment continues to climb with a gain of 1,600 jobs in non-durable goods manufacturing, offset slightly by 100 jobs trimmed form durable goods manufacturing. Trade, transportation, warehousing and utilities added 1,000 jobs. Leisure and hospitality (-200) is the only industry that has pared jobs from one year ago.

# Waterloo/Cedar Falls

The Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area’s total nonfarm is unchanged from the previous month and stands at 91,400. As the total nonfarm number suggests, there was minimal movement in all industries this month, the exceptions being a gain of 200 in trade, transportation, warehousing and utilities and 100 additional jobs in each, educational and health services and leisure and hospitality.

Over the year, the area has added 300 jobs. Manufacturing employment is unchanged from one year ago. Leisure and hospitality has pared 200 jobs and educational and health services has added 200 jobs. All other industries have experienced minimal, if any, change in employment levels.