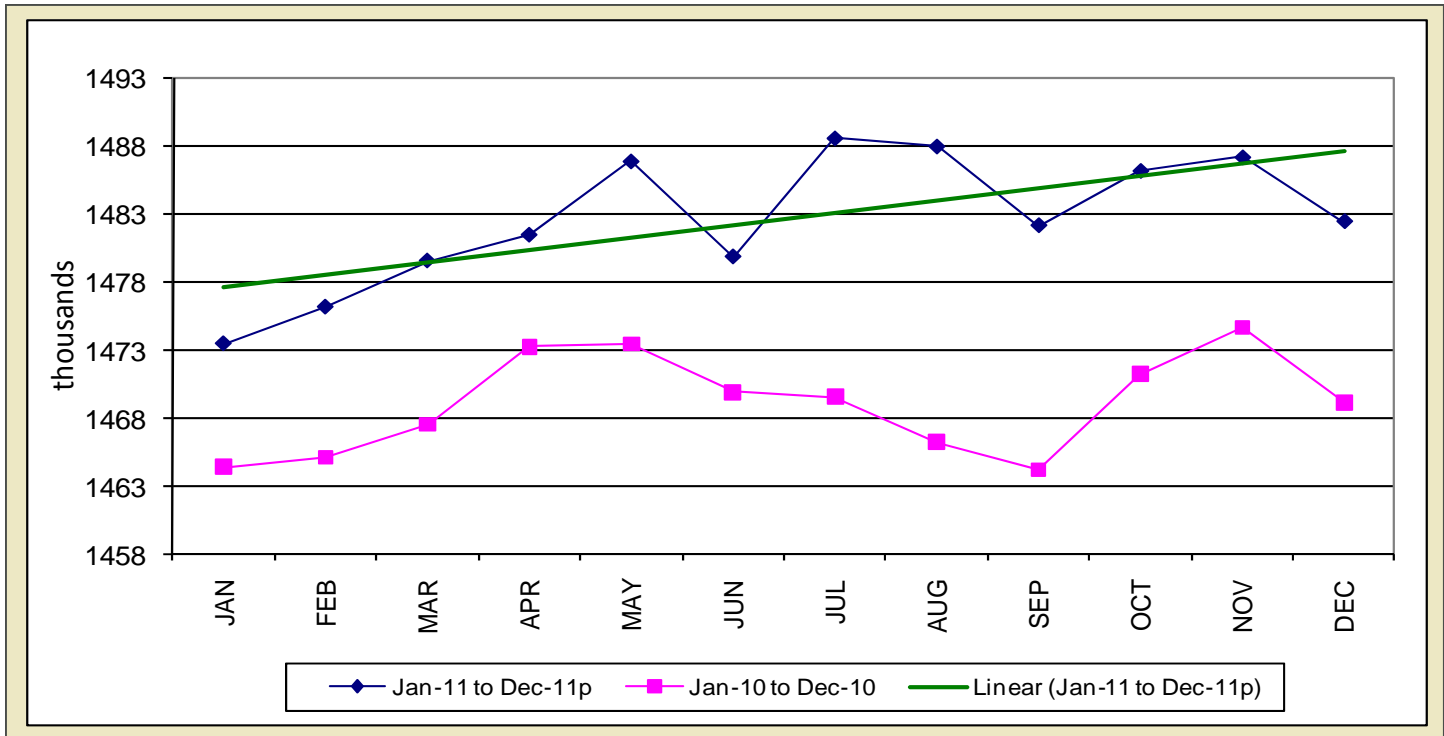


STATE OF IOWA NONFARM EMPLOYMENT WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

DECEMBER 2011
LMR MONTHLY

EXPECTED SEASONAL DECLINE BRINGS SLIGHT JOB LOSS FOR DECEMBER



Total nonfarm employment declined 4,700 jobs in December, lowering the total down to 1,482,400. December in Iowa has meant seasonal job losses each of the last three years, so this month's decline is not unexpected. The drop also means that there were five months with decreases vs. seven with increases. Still, the magnitude of the gains more than offset the negative months and the annual trend has remained positive. Additionally, the last two January movements were increases in 2009 and 2010, which is further evidence that the drops this month are seasonal. Government pared 1,100 jobs—900 at the local government level. Despite the drop, nonfarm employment remains up 13,300 jobs, or 0.9 percent.

Leisure and hospitality shed the most jobs this month (-2,500) due to the cold weather reducing demand for services.

Within this sector, accommodations and food services shed 1,300 jobs. Construction was down 900 jobs as this sector nears its seasonal low. Other services dropped 600. Retail and wholesale trade were down a combined 1,000, but this drop was nearly matched by a gain in trade and transportation (+800). On a positive note, manufacturing added 800 jobs this month to lead all sectors. The gains were entirely in nondurable goods factories as durable goods actually pared 200 jobs.

Compared to last year, total nonfarm employment remains markedly positive. Manufacturing continues to lead all sectors with an increase of 8,600 jobs (+4.3 percent). Both durable and nondurable goods factories have expanded during this time, by 5,000 and 3,600, respectively. Education and

health care is up 5,200 jobs due to unwavering demand for health care services. Finally, trade and transportation is up 4,700 jobs due to mostly to an improving retail trade sector (+2,600 jobs), although transportation has also advanced (+1,600 jobs). Conversely, the financial sector continues to trend downward and has pared 2,300 jobs since last December. Other services is second in terms of loss and is down 1,500 jobs.

Nationally, total nonfarm employment gained 200,000 jobs. The private sector added 212,000 jobs while the government sector shed 12,000. The largest gains this month were in transportation (+50,200), health care services (+28,700), and retail trade (+27,900). Since last year, 1.6 million jobs have been added (+1.3 percent).

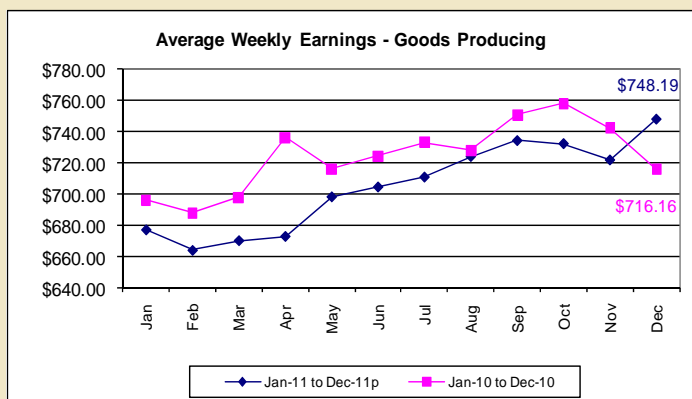
For additional information, contact James Morris (515-281-8515)

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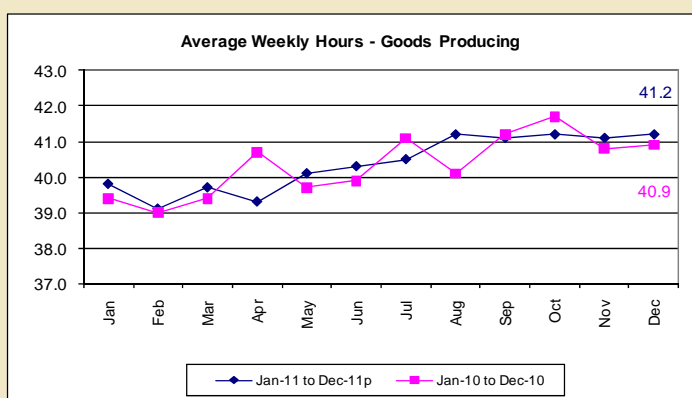
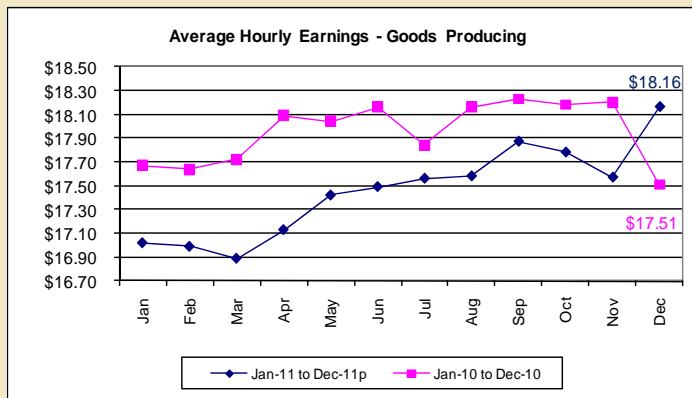
**METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NONFARM EMPLOYMENT (TOTAL NONFARM)**

MSA	Dec-10	Jan-11	Feb-11	Mar-11	Apr-11	May-11	Jun-11	Jul-11	Aug-11	Sep-11	Oct-11	Nov-12	Dec-11p
AMES	47.4	46.4	46.1	46.3	46.2	45.7	46.1	46.0	46.0	46.3	46.7	46.4	46.8
CEDAR RAPIDS	137.6	136.5	137.7	137.4	138.2	139.9	140.0	139.5	139.2	138.8	137.6	137.9	135.8
DES MOINES/W. DES MOINES	315.0	315.6	316.2	314.5	314.7	313.2	314.3	315.9	317.2	316.1	318.9	318.9	317.8
DUBUQUE	56.5	56.5	56.5	56.1	56.4	57.0	56.2	57.4	57.4	57.1	56.4	57.0	57.0
IOWA CITY	90.6	90.2	89.5	90.0	89.5	89.9	90.1	89.5	90.1	88.3	89.3	90.5	90.1
SIOUX CITY	73.5	72.8	73.4	73.3	73.4	74.0	73.3	74.6	74.6	74.4	74.5	74.5	74.8
WATERLOO/CEDAR FALLS	88.4	87.2	88.4	88.1	88.5	88.7	88.8	89.6	89.9	89.8	90.3	89.8	89.9

IOWA'S HOURS & EARNINGS



Goods-producing Hours & Earnings	
Average Weekly Earnings	\$748.19
Average Hourly Earnings	\$18.16
Average Weekly Hours	41.2



Production workers in Iowa's goods-producing sectors earned \$748.19 a week in December—up \$26.06 compared to last month. The increase in wages stem primarily from an increase of 59 cents for production workers, although there was a slight increase in the average work week as well. This month's increase also means that production workers are averaging \$32.03 more compared to one year ago.

Construction workers shed 24 minutes from their average work week this month. This was expected and related to this industry entering into their seasonal low. Workers are still averaging almost an hour more than one year ago. Manufacturing workers averaged \$33.56 more this month than last month due to moderate increases in both hourly earnings and weekly hours. Compared to last year, however, nondurable goods production workers have fared better, averaging almost three hours more than one year ago. This increase in the work week equates to a gain of \$59.23 per week. Durable goods factory workers have averaged a drop of 42 minutes from their work week leading to a modest annual gain of \$7.65 per week. This drop, however, can partially be attributed to the increase in lower wage employees as durable goods producing factories resume full production and is not necessarily a negative sign.

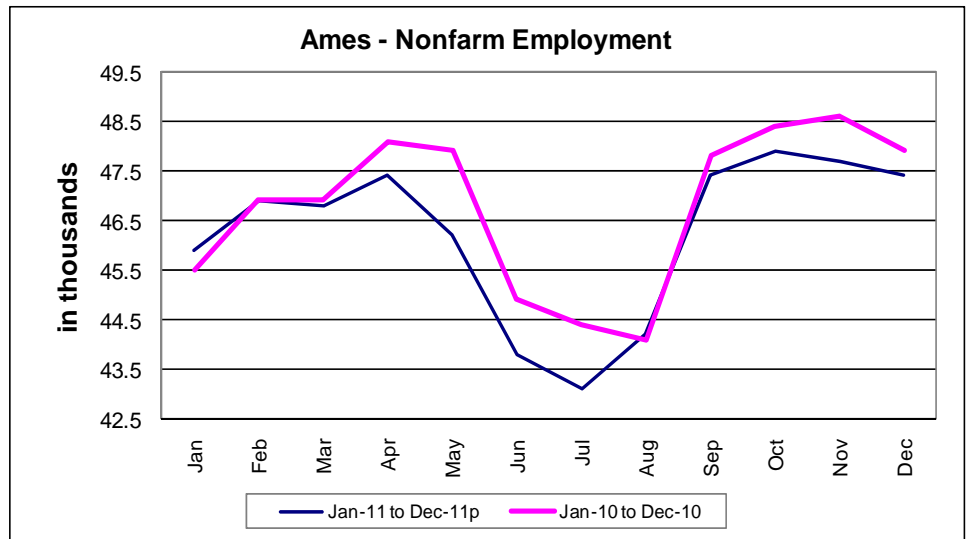
Among service sectors, workers in Iowa's retail sector averaged \$367.20 a week in December, up 43 cents compared to November. Compared to one year ago the average weekly earnings have dipped slightly. Production workers in Iowa's financial sectors averaged \$13.58 this month, up \$13.58 due to a slight increase in average hourly earnings. Compared to one year ago, wages are down 47 cents.

METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS

[CLICK TABLE FOR DATA](#)

Ames MSA December Employment	
Total Nonfarm 11p	47,400
Total Nonfarm 10	47,900
% Change 1 Yr	-1.04%
Noteworthy Expanding and Contracting Industries (1 yr)	
Goods Producing	3.64%
Pvt Srvc Providing	-4.11%

p - preliminary data



Ames employment declined by 300 (-0.6%) in December and now rests at 47,400. Private business employment was nearly unchanged over-the-month. The goods-producing sector held steady at 5,700 jobs, while the service-providing industry inched up 100 jobs (+0.5%) to 21,000. Government experienced seasonal losses. State government shed 300 jobs (-2.0%), while local government declined by 100 (-2.0%).

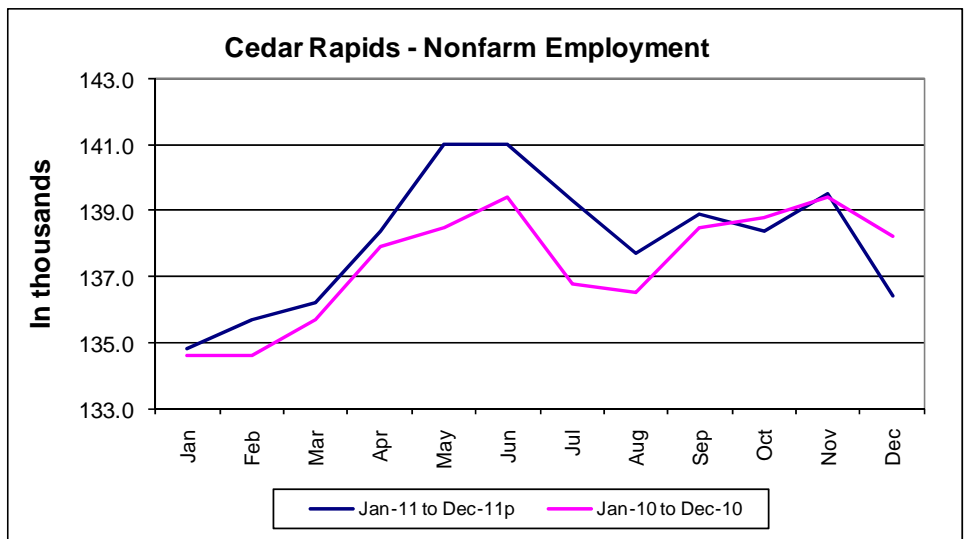
Ames lags 500 jobs (-1.0%) behind its December 2010 employment. The private service-providing sector was unable to recover after losing jobs in the fall. It now trails over-the-year employment by 900 (-4.1%). The losses were partially offset by gains in goods-producing and government, each adding 200 jobs.

For additional information, contact Jeff Curran (515-281-8201)

[CLICK TABLE FOR DATA](#)

Cedar Rapids MSA December Employment	
Total Nonfarm 11p	136,400
Total Nonfarm 10	138,200
% Change 1 Yr	-1.30%
Noteworthy Expanding and Contracting Industries (1 yr)	
Nat Res & Const	1.47%
Information	-6.25%

p - preliminary data



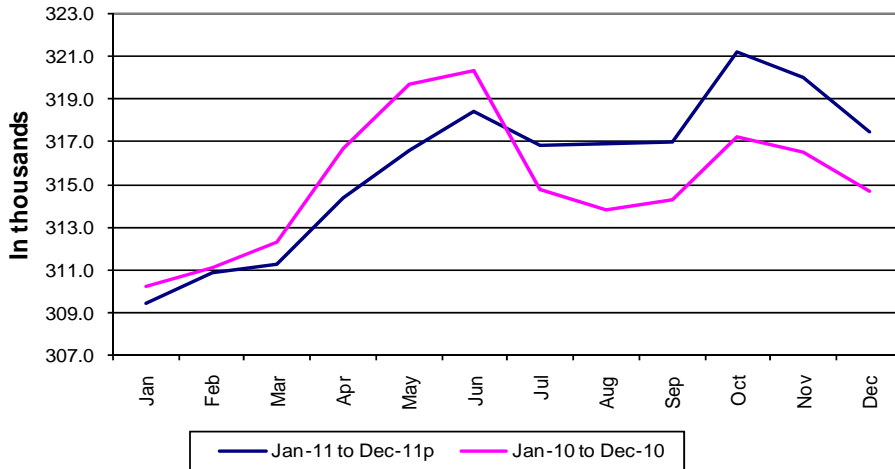
Total nonfarm employment in the Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area shed 3,100 jobs from November, and stands at 136,400 jobs.

Natural resources and construction dropped 600 jobs, as the seasonal decline continues due to colder weather. Professional and business services pared 500 jobs. Manufacturing and trade and transportation each declined 400. No sectors gained jobs over the month.

Area employment is down 1,800 jobs from one year ago. All over-the-year job losses were in the service-providing industries as goods producing held steady.

For additional information, contact Dennis Schwartz (515-281-5754)

Des Moines/W. Des Moines - Nonfarm Employment



[CLICK TABLE FOR DATA](#)

**Des Moines MSA
December Employment**

Total Nonfarm 11 ^p	317,500
Total Nonfarm 10	314,700
% Change 1 Yr	0.89%
Noteworthy Expanding and Contracting Industries (1 yr)	
Nat Res & Construct	13.68%
Wholesale Trade	-2.33%

p - preliminary data

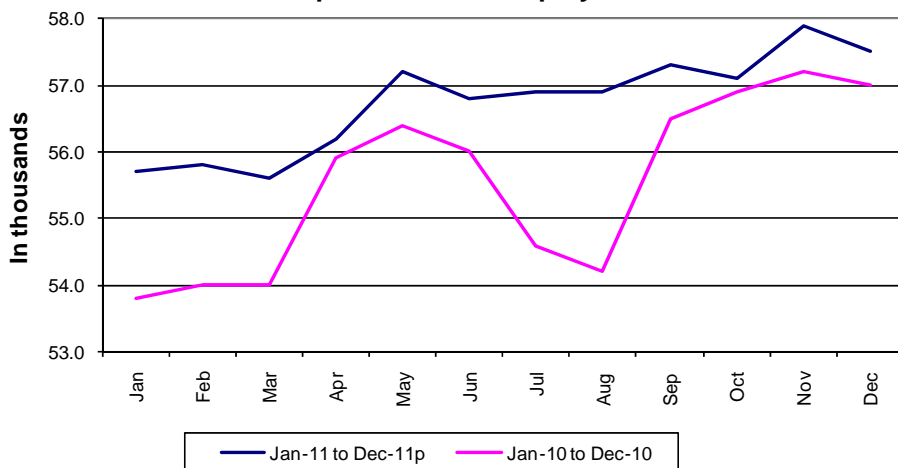
Nonfarm employment in the Des Moines metro area dropped 2,500 jobs in December. The monthly decrease was seasonal and expected as the metro area enters into the seasonal low. Compared to last year, the Des Moines MSA has remained positive, up 2,800 jobs, or 0.89 percent with the biggest gains being in education and health care and construction.

Construction industries shed the most jobs this month (-1,000) due to forbidding weather. This loss was typical for this time of year, while specialty trade contractors shed an additional 600 jobs. Leisure and hospitality also experienced seasonal declines this month (-900), yet remains up slightly compared to last year (+100). Losses were also seen in professional and business services (-700), with the majority being in administrative and support services (-600).

Jobs aren't typically added at the end of the year, but this month there were a few exceptions. Financial activities added jobs this month (+300) with the majority being in insurance and related activities (+200). Smaller increases this month were in transportation and warehousing (+200), which fueled a slight gain in trade and transportation. Since last year, trade and transportation has pared the most jobs (-800) due to losses of 400 in wholesale and retail trade.

For additional information, contact James Morris (515-281-8515)

Dubuque - Nonfarm Employment



[CLICK TABLE FOR DATA](#)

**Dubuque MSA
December Employment**

Total Nonfarm 11 ^p	57,500
Total Nonfarm 10	57,000
% Change 1 Yr	-0.69%
Noteworthy Expanding and Contracting Industries (1 yr)	
Goods Producing	3.88%
Government	0.00%

p - preliminary data

Total nonfarm employment in Dubuque decreased by 400 jobs, lowering the total down to 57,500 jobs. Goods-producing sectors pared 300 jobs, many being related to construction industries. Private service shed an additional 100 jobs. Government was unchanged as slight gains in federal government were offset by seasonal declines in local government.

Compared to last year, total nonfarm is up 500 jobs (+0.9 percent). The majority of the jobs have been added in manufacturing and construction (+400 jobs), while private service has advanced by 100 jobs. Government is unchanged for the year.

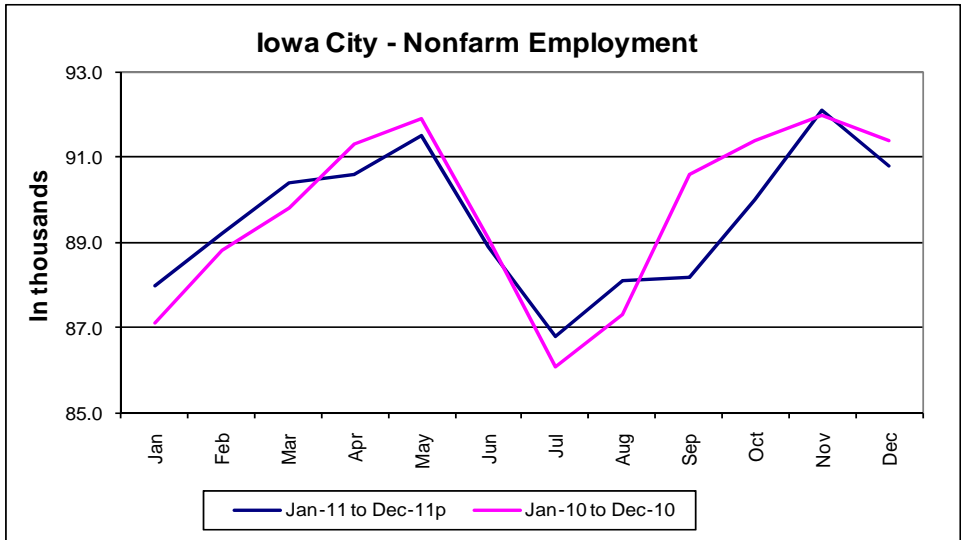
For additional information, contact James Morris (515-281-8515)

METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS

[CLICK TABLE FOR DATA](#)

Iowa City MSA December Employment	
Total Nonfarm 11p	90,800
Total Nonfarm 10	91,400
% Change 1 Yr	-0.66%
Noteworthy Expanding and Contracting Industries	
Goods Producing	1.12%
State Government	-2.26%

p - preliminary data



Nonfarm employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area decreased 1,300 from November, lowering total nonfarm employment to 90,800. The bulk of the decrease (1,100) was in private service-providing industries with exception of a loss of 200 in goods producing and 300 in government.

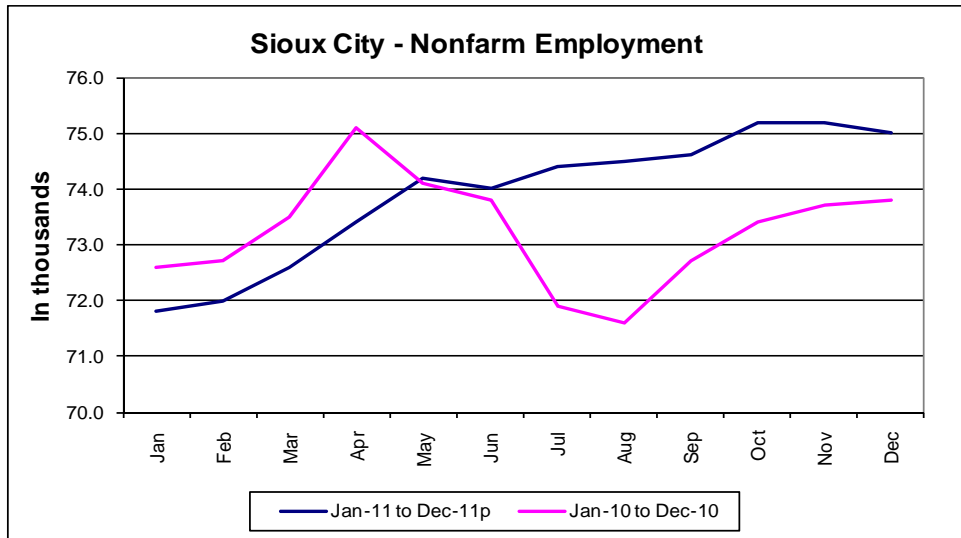
Employment is 600 below the December 2010 level. Nearly all of the over-the-year decline occurred in government as private service-providing industries lost only 100 jobs.

For additional information, contact Dennis Schwartz (515-281-5754)

[CLICK TABLE FOR DATA](#)

Sioux City MSA December Employment	
Total Nonfarm 11p	75,000
Total Nonfarm 10	73,800
% Change 1 Yr	1.63%
Noteworthy Expanding and Contracting Industries	
Trade & Transport	5.70%
Government	-2.11%

p - preliminary data

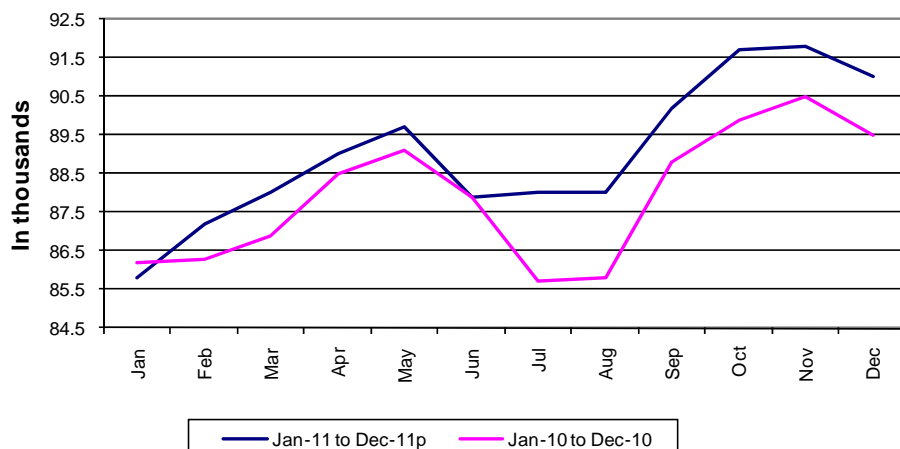


Sioux City lost 200 jobs in December (-0.3%). Employment is now 75,000 in the metropolitan statistical area. Losses seemed to be seasonally driven. Goods-producing businesses shed 300 jobs (-1.9%) due to seasonal reductions in construction. The private service-providing industries bolstered employment by 100 jobs (+0.2%) through gains in retail trade.

Sioux City has added 1,200 jobs (1.6%) since December 2010. Gains were spread throughout private industries. Trade and transportation led the way, adding 900 jobs (5.7%). Professional and business services was the only private industry to lose employment over-the-year, shedding just 100 jobs (1.3%). Government contracted by 200 since December 2010 (2.1%).

For additional information, contact Jeff Curran (515-281-8201)

Waterloo/Cedar Falls - Nonfarm Employment



[CLICK TABLE FOR DATA](#)

**Waterloo/Cedar Falls MSA
December Employment**

Total Nonfarm 11p	91,000
Total Nonfarm 10	89,500
% Change 1 Yr	1.68%
Noteworthy Expanding and Contracting Industries	
Trade & Transport	4.19%
Retail Trade	-0.96%

p - preliminary data

The Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area's total nonfarm employment dropped 800 from the previous month and stands at 91,000. Government shed 300 jobs. Manufacturing and professional and business services each pared 100 jobs. Trade & transportation, financial activities and educational and health services each added 100 jobs. This is the first gain in financial activities since September 2010.

Over the year, employment has increased 1,500, largely fueled by gains in trade and transportation (700), and manufacturing (500) and educational and health services (300).

For additional information, contact Dennis Schwartz (515-281-5754)

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Click on a link below to visit web page

[Worker Adjustment & Retraining Notification Act \(WARN\)](#)

[Mass Layoff Statistics \(MLS\)](#)

[Unemployment Insurance Benefit Payments](#)

[Consumer Price Index \(CPI\)](#)

[Unemployment Insurance Benefit Paid by County](#)

[Employment Statistics for Canada](#)

[U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)

Current Employment Statistics

Each month the **Current Employment Statistics** (CES) program surveys about 150,000 businesses and government agencies, representing approximately 390,000 individual worksites, in order to provide detailed industry data on employment, hours, and earnings of workers on nonfarm payrolls for all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and over 300 metropolitan areas and divisions.

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