Total nonfarm employment advanced by 7,300 jobs in September, lifting the total number of jobs to 1,499,500. The gain this month is the fifth-consecutive since April and more than expected following a much smaller increase of 4,500 in August. Service industries took another step towards recovery this month with gains in leisure and hospitality along with retail. Goods producing industries showed little overall movement with sluggishness in construction offsetting hiring in manufacturing industries. Government added 2,400 jobs due to local government education ramping up as students return to in-person classes. This monthly increase leaves government down just 2.3 percent versus last year. Total nonfarm employment overall is down 5.4 percent compared to one year ago.

Leisure and hospitality gained the most jobs in September (+4,100) and was predominantly filled by eating and drinking establishments. The gain was an improvement over the much smaller increase of 1,400 in August. Manufacturing added jobs for the fifth-consecutive month (+2,100) with hiring nearly even between durable and non-durable goods factories. Trade and transportation advanced by 1,600 due mostly to hiring in retail trade (+1,000). The increase was a nice recovery following a loss of 1,100 in August. Job losses in September were led by construction which shed 2,500 jobs and has only increased once in the last eight months. The only other significant loss was within professional and business services (-500). The loss this month was fueled by layoffs in administrative support and waste management services.

Compared to last September, leisure and hospitality has shed the most jobs (-25,700); however, this sector has been leading the recovery with job gains since April. This recovery should continue over the next several months. Construction trails last year’s mark by 11,600 jobs and continues to trend down as businesses are apprehensive to begin new projects during the pandemic. Education and health services trails last year’s mark (-10,500) with healthcare and social assistance being responsible for much of the loss.

Nationally, total nonfarm employment gained 661,000 jobs in September. This increase was significantly smaller than gains over the last few months since the social distancing efforts started to ease. The largest increases this month were in leisure and hospitality (+318,000) and retail trade (+142,000).

http://www.iowalmi.gov/
Production workers in Iowa’s goods producing sectors earned $873.82 per week in September, down $86.72 as the average weekly workweek continues to shrink. This is most evident in the construction sector which saw a steep decline in hours worked in September. This decrease in the workweek led to a decrease of $133.65 versus last year’s weekly earnings. Manufacturing worker’s weekly earnings were $839.78 in September, down $26.28 versus one year ago.

Within service sectors, retail trade production workers earned $469.83 in September, up $46.80 versus last year due mostly to average hourly earnings increasing by $1.11. Finance workers have seen less gains over the past twelve months (+$14.71) as weekly schedules have shrunk versus last year. Finance workers earned $1,044.90 in September.

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

METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NONFARM EMPLOYMENT (TOTAL NONFARM)

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Employment in the Ames metropolitan statistical area (MSA) increased by 1,900 jobs (or 4.0 percent) between July and August. This increase is almost entirely attributable to seasonal gains in positions related to the local university, as state government added 1,900 employees to payrolls over-the-month. Federal government added 100 jobs, while local government seasonally trimmed 200 positions. The gain in federal government employment is temporary. Elsewhere, the private service-providing sector and the goods-producing sector added 200 and shed 100 jobs, respectively.

The MSA added 1,200 positions (or 2.4 percent) annually, which marks the first month since January 2020 that it had a year-over-year gain in employment. Much of this increase occurred in state government, which added 1,600 jobs annually. However, the gain is exaggerated due to the fact that employment in state government did not seasonally increase in 2019 until September, whereas in 2020 it occurred in August. Other yearly gains took place in the private service-providing sector (+300 jobs) and federal government (+100 jobs); losses materialized in local government (-600 jobs) and the goods-producing sector (-300 jobs).

For additional information, contact Daniel Edwards (515-281-7547) http://www.iowalmi.gov/
Employment in the Cedar Rapids metropolitan statistical area experienced a slight decline (-400) in August after three consecutive months of gain. Employment losses related to Covid-19 have been slow to return, regaining only 49% of the lost jobs through August. Total nonfarm employment stands at 135,400 which still lags the March employment value by 7,900 jobs.

Leisure and hospitality pared 800 jobs as additional restrictions were implemented in the metro area to help curb the effects of the virus. The industry temporarily lost 55.5% of all jobs in April but now sits at just 31.1% below the March value. Employment in trade, transportation and warehousing decreased by 100 jobs with retail trade partially offsetting a loss of 200 in transportation, warehousing and utilities, and a loss of 100 jobs in wholesale trade. Mining, logging and construction also trimmed 200 jobs. Manufacturing employment was unchanged.

Over the year, area employment is down by 10,200. Leisure and hospitality still lags the previous year by 4,600 jobs (-35.94%) with nearly 74% of those jobs in accommodation and food services. Government remains 7.33% below one year ago, due entirely to employment losses in local government. Employment in mining, logging and construction is 13.79% below on year ago.

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

http://www.iowalmi.gov/
Total nonfarm employment in Des Moines gained 1,200 jobs in September and now rests at 350,900 jobs. Typically, jobs are seasonally shed this month, so a slight increase is welcomed news. Government added 2,200 with much of that coming from local government education as schools prepare of in-person classes. This was also true for private education and health services (+1,000). Losses were heaviest in mining, logging, and construction (-1,100). This sector typically experiences a small loss this month as projects start to wind down, but this month’s loss is greater than seasonally expected. Specialty trade contractors alone shed 400 jobs. Administrative support and waste management pared 300 jobs with 100 being in employment services. Retail trade experienced a small seasonal decline and led to a drop of 300 in trade, transportation, and utilities.

Annually, the Des Moines metro trails last year’s level by 22,800 jobs (-6.1 percent). While all sectors have trended down some, leisure and hospitality understandably has the most ground to recover (-5,500). Full service restaurants remain down 2,100 jobs. Trade, transportation, and utilities are down 3,800 due partially to a struggle retail sector (-2,900). Construction trails by 3,700 jobs, which is the most of any sector by percentage (-17.0 percent). Most of these losses are within specialty trade contractors. Those sectors faring better are information and financial activities, which are down just 200 and 300 jobs respectively versus one year ago.
Businesses in the Dubuque metro area added 1,000 jobs in September. This increase was large given the prior few years and welcomed news. Most of the increase was within private service industries (+700), although government added 400 jobs with local government. Goods producing industries seasonally shed 100 jobs.

Since last September, total nonfarm employment in the Dubuque area is down 3,700 jobs. The largest decline has occurred in private services (-2,900), although goods producing industries trail by 600 jobs. Government is down 200 jobs at the local level.

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

http://www.iowalmi.gov/
Employment in the Iowa City metropolitan statistical area (MSA) decreased by 500 positions (or 0.5 percent) between August and September. The loss in jobs was attributable to declines in the goods-producing and private service-providing sectors, which each trimmed payrolls by 400 employees. Trade, transportation, and utilities sustained the largest loss in the private service-providing sector, shedding 400 positions, while professional and business services cut 200 jobs. Most other industries were unchanged or had modest gains/losses. In government, local government added 700 positions, while state government pared 400 positions.

The MSA shed 4,300 positions (or -4.2 percent) in the past year. Virtually every sector of the economy pared jobs, with the exception of federal government, which was unchanged. State government (-1,200 jobs) and local government (-500 jobs) experienced significant reductions. The goods-producing and the private service-providing sectors pared trimmed payrolls by 900 and 1,700 employees, respectively. Every industry within the private service-providing sector sustained losses, with the largest declines in trade, transportation, and utilities (-800 jobs), retail trade (-700 jobs), and accommodation and food services (-700 jobs).
Employment in the Sioux City MSA is up 1,700 jobs from August, bringing total nonfarm employment to 87,100. The month’s gain is the most significant August-to-September gain since 2011, however the Covid-19-inspired employment drop left April employment level at its lowest in recent history (10 years). As a result, the September gain leaves the area 100 jobs short of the March 2020 value.

Local government is responsible for the lion’s share of the September gain, adding 1,100 jobs, which is 24.5% more than the August-to-September average gain over the last ten years. Trade, transportation and warehousing typically trims jobs in September. However, the industry trimmed 300 jobs this month which is more than double the average September change. Professional and business services pared 200 jobs.

Overall, area employment is down 1,600 jobs from one year ago with job losses in leisure and hospitality (-2,900), government (-500), professional and business services (-400), and manufacturing (-300) being partially offset by gains in goods-producing industries (+1,200).
The Waterloo/Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area total nonfarm employment added 1,300 jobs from August and stands at 86,900. The value falls 1,700 jobs short of the 88,600 realized in March, prior to the Covid-19 curtailment efforts and 1,800 below the September 2019 level.

Government added 1,500 jobs with the majority of the additional jobs in state government (+1,000), although local government also added 500 jobs. Educational and health services added 300 jobs, an manufacturing, trade, transportation and warehousing and health care and social assistance each added 100 jobs. Goods-producing industries dropped 300 jobs and professional and business services and leisure and hospitality each pared 100 jobs.

Over the year, the area remains 4,100 jobs short of the September 2019 mark. Leisure and hospitality represents 36.6% of that total (-1,500 jobs). Government is down 700 jobs (-4.96%) from one year ago. Professional and business services is responsible for 12.2% (-500) of the lost jobs. There are also 400 fewer jobs in educational and health services, and 300 fewer in both manufacturing and trade, transportation and warehousing.

http://www.iowalmi.gov/
The Current Employment Statistics (CES) program produces detailed industry estimates of nonfarm employment, hours, and earnings of workers on payrolls. CES National Estimates produces data for the nation, and CES State and Metro Area produces estimates for all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and about 450 metropolitan areas and divisions.

Each month, CES surveys approximately 145,000 businesses and government agencies, representing approximately 697,000 individual worksites.