



Economic Overview

Greater Des Moines (DSM)

The logo for DSM USA, with "DSM" in red and "USA" in grey, is centered within a light blue rectangular box.

DSM USA

Prepared by the Greater Des Moines Partnership

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Demographic Profile

The population in the Greater Des Moines (DSM) was 811,372 per American Community Survey data for 2016-2020.

The region has a civilian labor force of 444,029 with a participation rate of 70.3%. Of individuals 25 to 64 in the Greater Des Moines (DSM), 37.6% have a bachelor's degree or higher which compares with 34.3% in the nation.

The median household income in the Greater Des Moines (DSM) is \$70,249 and the median house value is \$185,376.

Summary¹

	Percent			Value		
	Greater Des Moines (DSM)	Des Moines-West Des Moines, IA MSA	USA	Greater Des Moines (DSM)	Des Moines-West Des Moines, IA MSA	USA
Demographics						
Population (ACS)	—	—	—	811,372	690,585	326,569,308
Male	49.5%	49.4%	49.2%	401,447	341,251	160,818,530
Female	50.5%	50.6%	50.8%	409,925	349,334	165,750,778
Median Age ²	—	—	—	36.9	36.5	38.2
Under 18 Years	24.8%	25.0%	22.4%	201,022	172,861	73,296,738
18 to 24 Years	8.6%	8.3%	9.3%	69,829	57,542	30,435,736
25 to 34 Years	14.1%	14.7%	13.9%	114,709	101,256	45,485,165
35 to 44 Years	13.5%	13.9%	12.7%	109,561	95,999	41,346,677
45 to 54 Years	12.4%	12.5%	12.7%	100,870	86,522	41,540,736
55 to 64 Years	12.1%	11.9%	12.9%	98,429	81,899	42,101,439
65 to 74 Years	8.4%	8.1%	9.4%	67,911	55,762	30,547,950
75 Years and Over	6.0%	5.6%	6.7%	49,041	38,744	21,814,867
Race: White	86.4%	85.6%	70.4%	701,362	590,973	229,960,813
Race: Black or African American	4.7%	5.3%	12.6%	37,967	36,500	41,227,384
Race: American Indian and Alaska Native	0.2%	0.2%	0.8%	1,610	1,434	2,688,614
Race: Asian	3.8%	4.1%	5.6%	30,764	28,181	18,421,637
Race: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	738	662	611,404
Race: Some Other Race	1.6%	1.4%	5.1%	12,660	9,848	16,783,914
Race: Two or More Races	3.2%	3.3%	5.2%	26,271	22,987	16,875,542
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	7.5%	7.2%	18.2%	60,857	49,860	59,361,020
Population Growth						
Population (Pop Estimates) ⁴	—	—	—	828,388	707,915	329,484,123
Population Annual Average Growth ⁴	1.2%	1.5%	0.6%	9,649	9,897	2,015,698
People per Square Mile	—	—	—	126.8	193.5	92.9
Economic						
Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 16 years and over)	70.3%	71.3%	63.2%	444,029	382,046	164,759,496
Prime-Age Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 25-54)	87.9%	88.0%	82.4%	284,994	249,016	105,137,520
Armed Forces Labor Force	0.1%	0.2%	0.4%	898	898	1,143,342
Veterans, Age 18-64	4.2%	4.2%	4.5%	20,691	17,632	8,920,267
Veterans Labor Force Participation Rate and Size, Age 18-64	81.3%	83.1%	76.8%	16,828	14,661	6,853,673
Median Household Income ²	—	—	—	\$70,249	\$72,304	\$64,994
Per Capita Income	—	—	—	\$36,157	\$37,089	\$35,384
Mean Commute Time (minutes)	—	—	—	20.4	20.7	26.9
Commute via Public Transportation	0.8%	0.9%	4.6%	3,358	3,250	7,044,886
Educational Attainment, Age 25-64						
No High School Diploma	7.1%	6.8%	10.5%	29,933	24,694	17,929,220
High School Graduate	24.3%	22.9%	25.4%	102,885	83,866	43,289,555
Some College, No Degree	19.3%	19.2%	20.5%	81,651	70,231	34,959,338

Summary¹

	Percent			Value		
	Greater Des Moines (DSM)	Des Moines-West Des Moines, IA MSA	USA	Greater Des Moines (DSM)	Des Moines-West Des Moines, IA MSA	USA
Associate's Degree	11.7%	11.5%	9.3%	49,667	42,199	15,776,790
Bachelor's Degree	26.3%	27.8%	21.6%	111,592	101,542	36,888,244
Postgraduate Degree	11.3%	11.8%	12.7%	47,841	43,144	21,630,870
Housing						
Total Housing Units	—	—	—	345,360	291,476	138,432,751
Median House Value (of owner-occupied units) ²	—	—	—	\$185,376	\$195,678	\$229,800
Homeowner Vacancy	1.1%	1.0%	1.4%	2,556	1,985	1,129,755
Rental Vacancy	5.7%	5.9%	5.8%	5,905	5,268	2,704,553
Renter-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	30.2%	30.4%	35.6%	96,844	82,498	43,552,843
Occupied Housing Units with No Vehicle Available (% of Occupied Units)	5.4%	5.4%	8.5%	17,412	14,601	10,344,521
Social						
Poverty Level (of all people)	9.4%	9.2%	12.8%	74,524	62,411	40,910,326
Households Receiving Food Stamps/SNAP	10.3%	10.1%	11.4%	33,070	27,367	13,892,407
Enrolled in Grade 12 (% of total population)	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%	10,361	8,792	4,358,865
Disconnected Youth ³	2.8%	3.1%	2.5%	1,172	1,071	433,164
Children in Single Parent Families (% of all children)	28.8%	29.2%	34.0%	55,484	48,565	23,628,508
Uninsured	4.3%	4.2%	8.7%	34,311	28,548	28,058,903
With a Disability, Age 18-64	9.3%	9.1%	10.3%	45,388	38,024	20,231,217
With a Disability, Age 18-64, Labor Force Participation Rate and Size	52.3%	53.3%	43.2%	23,752	20,284	8,740,236
Foreign Born	7.5%	7.8%	13.5%	60,574	53,845	44,125,628
Speak English Less Than Very Well (population 5 yrs and over)	4.6%	4.6%	8.2%	34,810	29,564	25,312,024

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

1. American Community Survey 2016-2020, unless noted otherwise

2. Median values for certain aggregate regions (such as MSAs) may be estimated as the weighted averages of the median values from the composing counties.

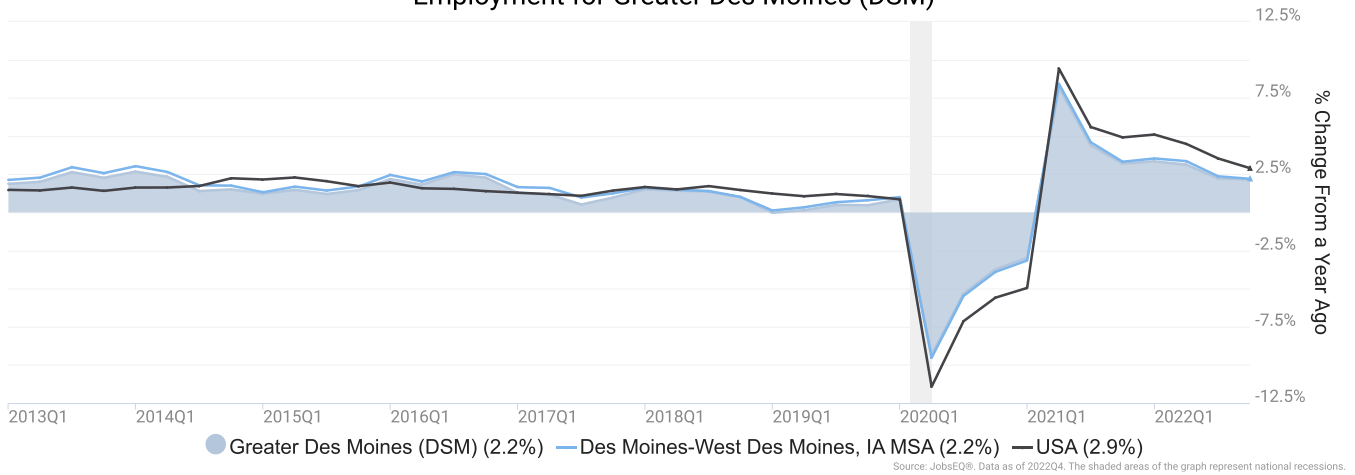
3. Disconnected Youth are 16-19 year olds who are (1) not in school, (2) not high school graduates, and (3) either unemployed or not in the labor force.

4. Census Population Estimate for 2020, annual average growth rate since 2010.

Employment Trends

As of 2022Q4, total employment for the Greater Des Moines (DSM) was 468,409 (based on a four-quarter moving average). Over the year ending 2022Q4, employment increased 2.2% in the region.

Employment for Greater Des Moines (DSM)

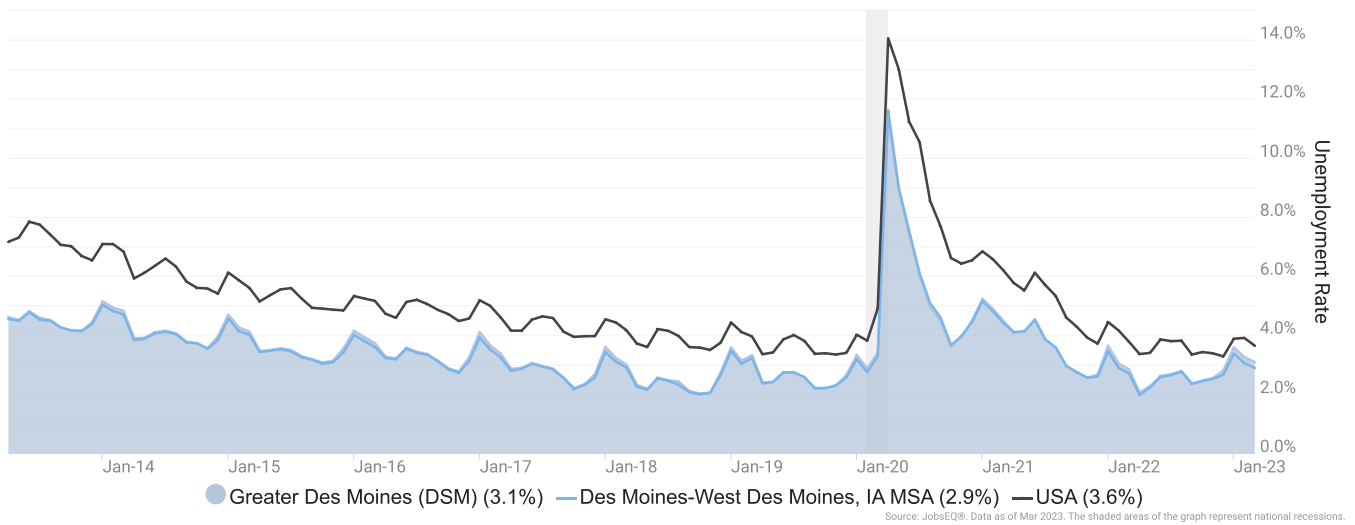


Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2022Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2022Q4.

Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate for the Greater Des Moines (DSM) was 3.1% as of March 2023. The regional unemployment rate was lower than the national rate of 3.6%. One year earlier, in March 2022, the unemployment rate in the Greater Des Moines (DSM) was 2.8%.

Unemployment Rate for Greater Des Moines (DSM)

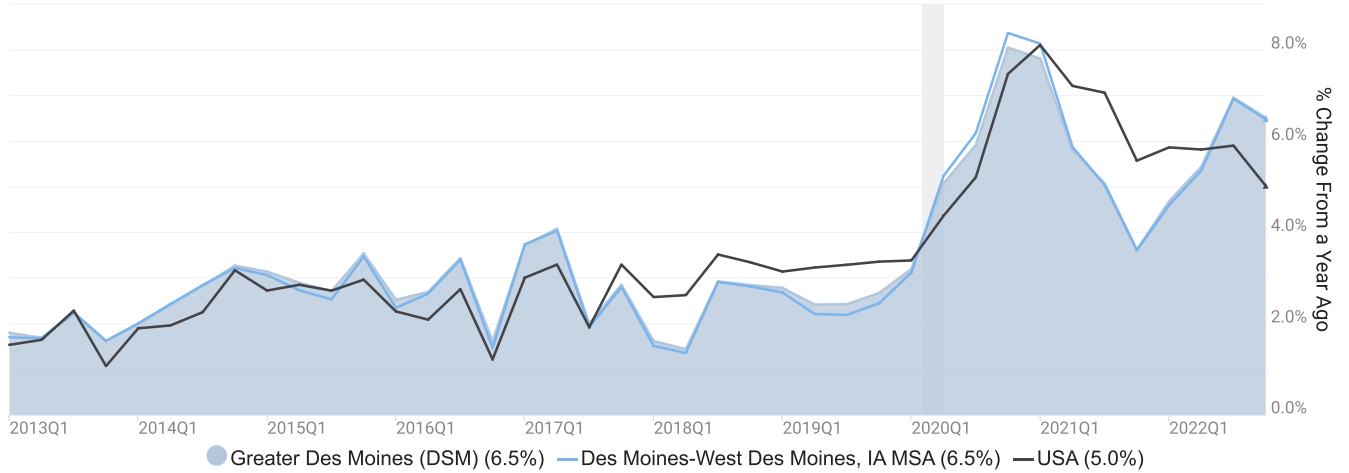


Unemployment rate data are from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and updated through March 2023.

Wage Trends

The average worker in the Greater Des Moines (DSM) earned annual wages of \$64,922 as of 2022Q4. Average annual wages per worker increased 6.5% in the region over the preceding four quarters. For comparison purposes, annual average wages were \$68,838 in the nation as of 2022Q4.

Average Annual Wages for Greater Des Moines (DSM)



Annual average wages per worker data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2022Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2022Q4.

Cost of Living Index

The Cost of Living Index estimates the relative price levels for consumer goods and services. When applied to wages and salaries, the result is a measure of relative purchasing power. The cost of living is 14.3% lower in Greater Des Moines (DSM) than the U.S. average.

Cost of Living Information

	Annual Average Salary	Cost of Living Index (Base US)	US Purchasing Power
Greater Des Moines (DSM)	\$64,922	85.7	\$75,757
Des Moines-West Des Moines, IA MSA	\$66,545	86.0	\$77,378
USA	\$68,838	100.0	\$68,838

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

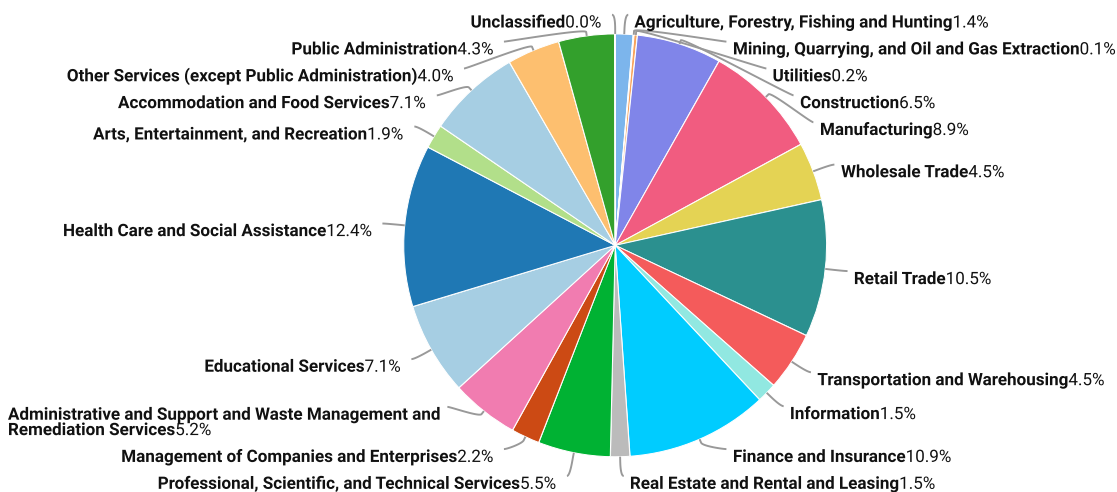
Data as of 2022Q4

Cost of Living per [COLI](#), data as of 2022Q4, imputed by Chmura where necessary.

Industry Snapshot

The largest sector in the Greater Des Moines (DSM) is Health Care and Social Assistance, employing 57,894 workers. The next-largest sectors in the region are Finance and Insurance (50,824 workers) and Retail Trade (49,095). High location quotients (LQs) indicate sectors in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The sectors with the largest LQs in the region are Finance and Insurance (LQ = 2.69), Management of Companies and Enterprises (1.42), and Wholesale Trade (1.19).

Total Workers for Greater Des Moines (DSM) by Industry



Source: JobsEQ® Data as of 2022Q4

Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2022Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2022Q4.

Sectors in the Greater Des Moines (DSM) with the highest average wages per worker are Management of Companies and Enterprises (\$116,895), Finance and Insurance (\$112,188), and Utilities (\$101,836). Regional sectors with the best job growth (or most moderate job losses) over the last 5 years are Transportation and Warehousing (+4,567 jobs), Manufacturing (+3,678), and Construction (+3,349).

Over the next 5 years, employment in the Greater Des Moines (DSM) is projected to expand by 17,232 jobs. The fastest growing sector in the region is expected to be Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation with a +2.0% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Health Care and Social Assistance (+3,737 jobs), Accommodation and Food Services (+3,050), and Finance and Insurance (+2,501).

Greater Des Moines (DSM), 2022Q4¹

NAICS	Industry	Current			5-Year History		5-Year Forecast				
		Empl	Avg Ann Wages	LQ	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	57,894	\$60,018	0.86	105	0.0%	34,380	14,108	16,535	3,737	1.3%
52	Finance and Insurance	50,824	\$112,188	2.69	-3,931	-1.5%	26,878	9,227	15,150	2,501	1.0%
44	Retail Trade	49,095	\$36,159	1.04	-603	-0.2%	34,783	14,954	19,770	59	0.0%
31	Manufacturing	41,704	\$68,298	1.10	3,678	1.9%	21,971	8,341	14,188	-558	-0.3%
72	Accommodation and Food Services	33,379	\$24,054	0.84	-398	-0.2%	33,379	13,719	16,611	3,050	1.8%
61	Educational Services	33,169	\$48,558	0.89	203	0.1%	17,864	7,893	8,725	1,247	0.7%
23	Construction	30,393	\$67,650	1.09	3,349	2.4%	15,802	5,391	9,636	774	0.5%
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	25,867	\$90,047	0.75	2,384	2.0%	13,500	4,387	7,536	1,577	1.2%
56	Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	24,247	\$53,831	0.80	698	0.6%	15,752	6,055	8,861	836	0.7%
48	Transportation and Warehousing	21,123	\$59,835	0.91	4,567	5.0%	13,639	5,228	7,646	765	0.7%
42	Wholesale Trade	20,903	\$93,937	1.19	758	0.7%	12,180	4,328	7,392	461	0.4%
92	Public Administration	20,121	\$68,703	0.94	1,422	1.5%	9,983	4,126	5,868	-11	0.0%
81	Other Services (except Public Administration)	18,893	\$42,852	0.94	-647	-0.7%	12,593	4,902	6,766	925	1.0%
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	10,216	\$116,895	1.42	1,520	3.3%	5,129	1,802	3,068	260	0.5%
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	8,692	\$25,650	0.96	-247	-0.6%	7,658	2,838	3,923	897	2.0%
51	Information	7,068	\$91,190	0.74	-432	-1.2%	3,882	1,251	2,274	357	1.0%
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	6,937	\$66,325	0.84	638	1.9%	3,811	1,629	2,006	176	0.5%
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	6,395	\$57,511	1.04	-128	-0.4%	4,064	1,790	2,280	-6	0.0%
22	Utilities	1,169	\$101,836	0.50	52	0.9%	535	203	355	-23	-0.4%
21	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	319	\$69,247	0.19	-73	-4.1%	169	54	112	2	0.1%
99	Unclassified	1	\$44,897	0.00	1	n/a	0	0	0	0	0.2%
Total - All Industries		468,409	\$64,922	1.00	12,914	0.6%	291,691	114,665	159,794	17,232	0.7%

Source: [JobsEQ®](https://www.chmuraecon.com/jobseq)

Data as of 2022Q4

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

1. All data based upon a four-quarter moving average

Exits and transfers are approximate estimates based upon occupation separation rates.

Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2022Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2022Q4. Forecast employment growth uses national projections adapted for regional growth patterns.

Occupation Snapshot

The largest major occupation group in the Greater Des Moines (DSM) is Office and Administrative Support Occupations, employing 62,932 workers. The next-largest occupation groups in the region are Sales and Related Occupations (46,038 workers) and Transportation and Material Moving Occupations (39,701). High location quotients (LQs) indicate occupation groups in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The major groups with the largest LQs in the region are Business and Financial Operations Occupations (LQ = 1.13), Construction and Extraction Occupations (1.12), and Management Occupations (1.11).

Occupation groups in the Greater Des Moines (DSM) with the highest average wages per worker are Management Occupations (\$112,800), Legal Occupations (\$99,100), and Computer and Mathematical Occupations (\$97,500). The unemployment rate in the region varied among the major groups from 1.0% among Legal Occupations to 6.1% among Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations.

Over the next 5 years, the fastest growing occupation group in the Greater Des Moines (DSM) is expected to be Personal Care and Service Occupations with a +1.7% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (+2,593 jobs) and Management Occupations (+1,792). Over the same period, the highest separation demand (occupation demand due to retirements and workers moving from one occupation to another) is expected in Office and Administrative Support Occupations (37,830 jobs) and Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (33,602).

Greater Des Moines (DSM), 2022Q4¹

SOC	Occupation	Current					5-Year History			5-Year Forecast				
		Empl	Mean Ann Wages ²	LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads ³	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
43-0000	Office and Administrative Support	62,932	\$47,900	1.09	1,482	2.5%	2,566	-6,415	-1.9%	37,347	16,848	20,982	-483	-0.2%
41-0000	Sales and Related	46,038	\$48,700	1.05	1,599	3.5%	4,155	-1,470	-0.6%	31,787	13,787	17,552	447	0.2%
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving	39,701	\$45,900	0.97	1,740	4.4%	3,333	4,945	2.7%	29,250	10,628	17,055	1,567	0.8%
11-0000	Management	35,438	\$112,800	1.11	397	1.1%	4,575	2,946	1.8%	17,323	5,479	10,052	1,792	1.0%
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related	34,208	\$30,600	0.92	1,644	4.8%	2,277	-423	-0.2%	36,196	15,270	18,332	2,593	1.5%
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations	34,134	\$80,900	1.13	536	1.6%	3,069	4,692	3.0%	17,202	5,276	10,222	1,704	1.0%
51-0000	Production	29,073	\$45,200	1.10	1,125	3.9%	963	1,021	0.7%	16,054	6,163	10,372	-480	-0.3%
25-0000	Educational Instruction and Library	24,927	\$54,700	1.00	494	2.0%	1,206	81	0.1%	13,219	6,002	6,085	1,132	0.9%
47-0000	Construction and Extraction	23,649	\$57,100	1.12	1,020	4.3%	636	1,678	1.5%	12,530	4,191	7,653	685	0.6%
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	22,552	\$89,300	0.84	261	1.2%	4,250	1,297	1.2%	8,118	3,568	3,356	1,194	1.0%
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	18,111	\$55,500	1.00	323	1.9%	1,520	1,031	1.2%	9,692	3,407	5,630	654	0.7%
31-0000	Healthcare Support	17,492	\$36,400	0.85	512	3.0%	1,294	634	0.7%	14,596	5,943	7,216	1,437	1.6%
15-0000	Computer and Mathematical	15,997	\$97,500	0.99	209	1.3%	3,640	3,262	4.7%	7,244	1,864	4,092	1,289	1.6%
37-0000	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	14,437	\$36,400	0.93	674	4.7%	878	-581	-0.8%	10,626	4,685	5,391	549	0.7%
39-0000	Personal Care and Service	11,922	\$32,900	1.05	406	3.5%	481	-128	-0.2%	12,396	4,660	6,704	1,032	1.7%
27-0000	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	7,427	\$57,100	0.90	222	2.9%	758	-220	-0.6%	4,556	1,682	2,449	426	1.1%

Greater Des Moines (DSM), 2022Q4¹

SOC	Occupation	Current						5-Year History		5-Year Forecast				
		Empl	Mean Ann Wages ²	LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads ³	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
21-0000	Community and Social Service	7,168	\$57,300	0.87	103	1.4%	893	-451	-1.2%	4,131	1,516	2,182	433	1.2%
17-0000	Architecture and Engineering	6,912	\$86,100	0.90	84	1.2%	799	496	1.5%	2,796	996	1,649	152	0.4%
33-0000	Protective Service	6,828	\$55,900	0.68	203	3.0%	429	-130	-0.4%	4,426	1,964	2,276	186	0.5%
23-0000	Legal	3,687	\$99,100	0.93	36	1.0%	167	64	0.3%	1,653	632	770	251	1.3%
19-0000	Life, Physical, and Social Science	3,364	\$80,700	0.82	66	1.8%	646	425	2.7%	1,796	392	1,274	129	0.8%
45-0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	2,413	\$38,100	0.81	163	6.1%	48	162	1.4%	1,973	626	1,318	28	0.2%
Total - All Occupations		468,409	\$58,900	1.00	13,298	2.9%	38,584	12,914	0.6%	295,116	115,579	162,612	16,925	0.7%

Source: [JobsEQ®](https://www.chmuraecon.com/jobseq)

Data as of 2022Q4 unless noted otherwise

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

1. Data based on a four-quarter moving average unless noted otherwise.

2. Wage data represent the average for all Covered Employment

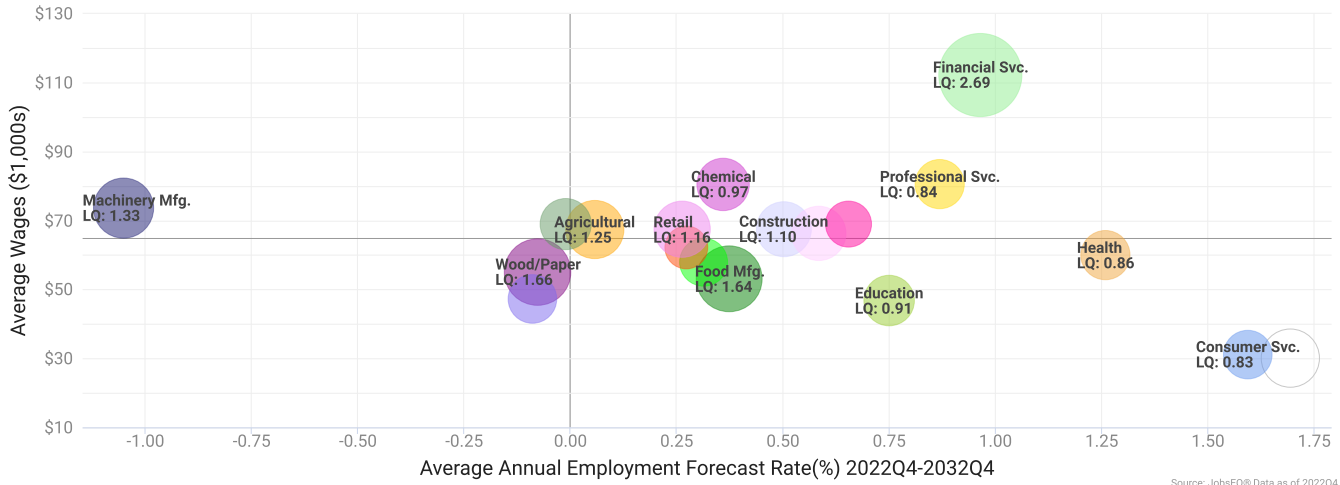
3. Data represent found online ads active within the last thirty days in the selected region. Due to alternative county-assignment algorithms, ad counts in this analytic may not match that shown in RTI (nor in the popup window ad list). Ad counts for ZCTA-based regions are estimates.

Occupation employment data are estimated via industry employment data and the estimated industry/occupation mix. Industry employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and currently updated through 2022Q3, imputed where necessary with preliminary estimates updated to 2022Q4. Wages by occupation are as of 2022 provided by the BLS and imputed where necessary. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

Industry Clusters

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. The industry cluster in the Greater Des Moines (DSM) with the highest relative concentration is Financial Svc. with a location quotient of 2.69. This cluster employs 50,840 workers in the region with an average wage of \$112,261. Employment in the Financial Svc. cluster is projected to expand in the region about 1.0% per year over the next ten years.

Industry Clusters for Greater Des Moines (DSM) as of 2022Q4



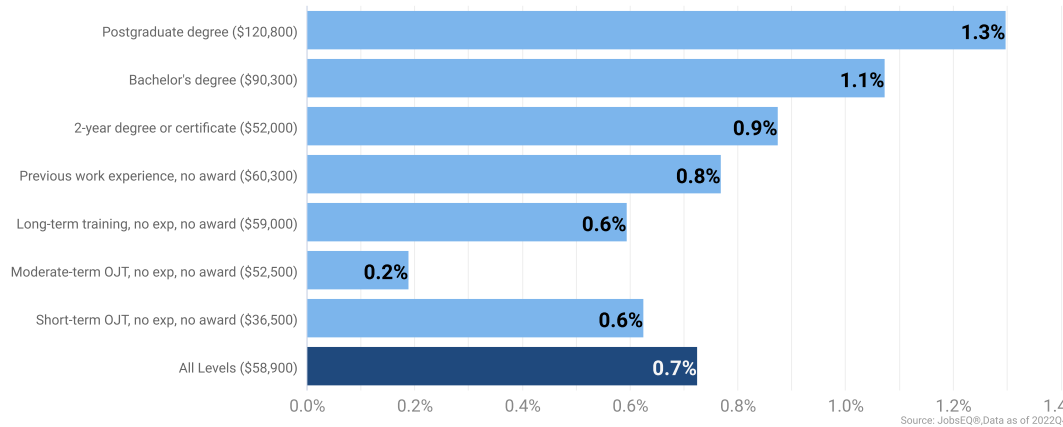
Source: JobsEQ® Data as of 2022Q4

Location quotient and average wage data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, imputed where necessary, and updated through 2022Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2022Q4. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

Education Levels

Expected growth rates for occupations vary by the education and training required. While all employment in the Greater Des Moines (DSM) is projected to grow 0.7% over the next ten years, occupations typically requiring a postgraduate degree are expected to grow 1.3% per year, those requiring a bachelor's degree are forecast to grow 1.1% per year, and occupations typically needing a 2-year degree or certificate are expected to grow 0.9% per year.

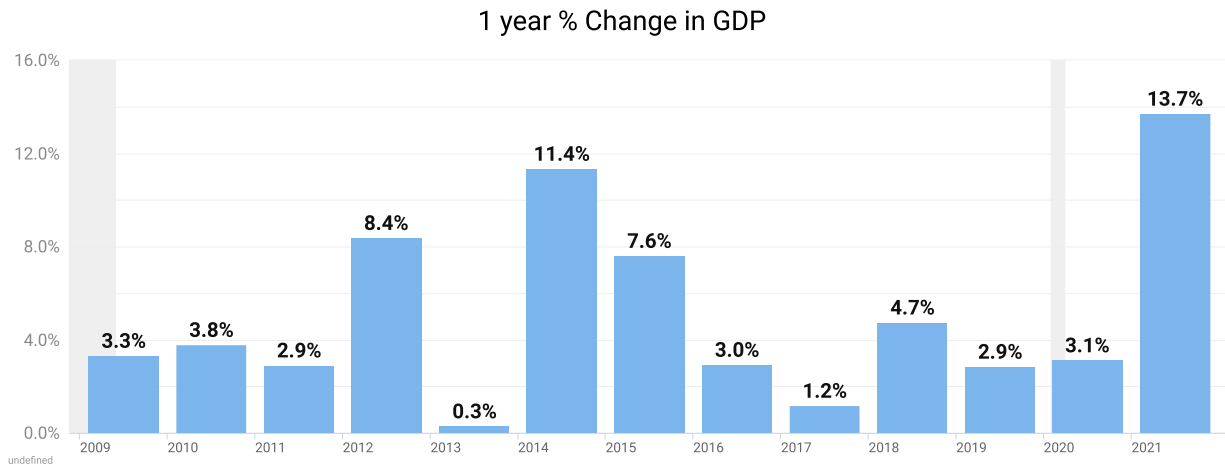
Annual Average Projected Job Growth by Training Required



Employment by occupation data are estimates as of 2022Q4. Education levels of occupations are based on BLS assignments. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

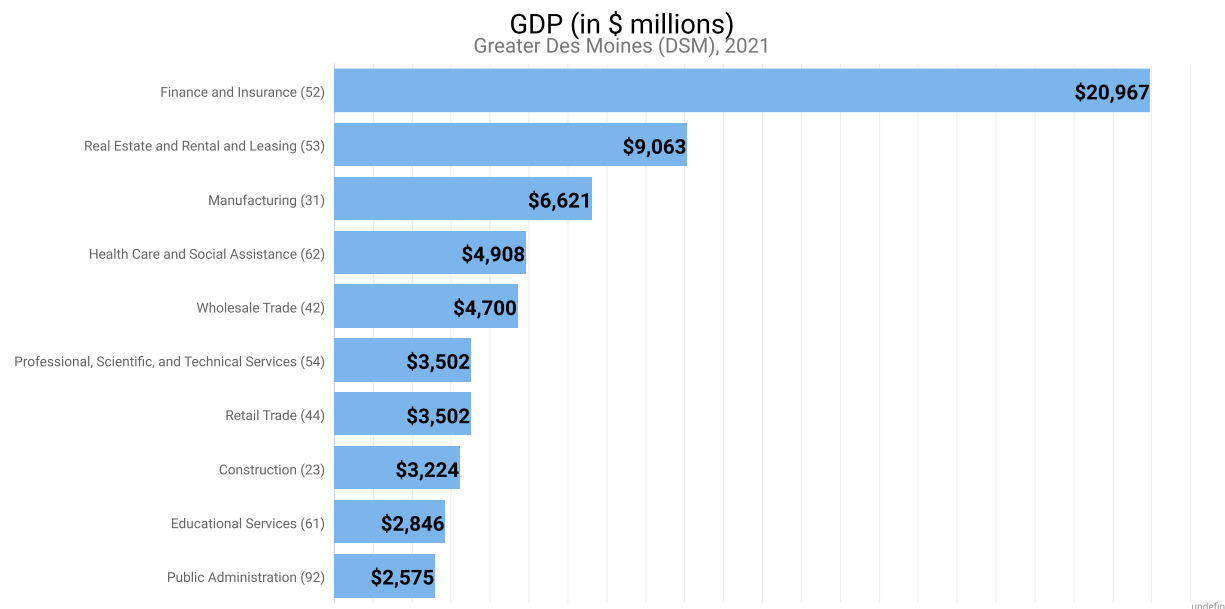
Gross Domestic Product

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total value of goods and services produced by a region. In 2021, nominal GDP in the Greater Des Moines (DSM) expanded 13.7%. This follows growth of 3.1% in 2020. As of 2021, total GDP in the Greater Des Moines (DSM) was \$74,649,117,000.



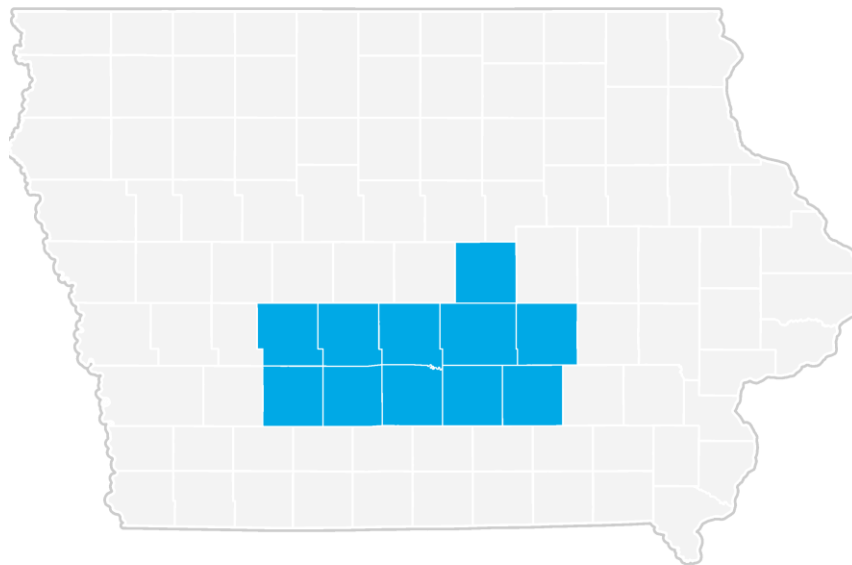
Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2021.

Of the sectors in the Greater Des Moines (DSM), Finance and Insurance contributed the largest portion of GDP in 2021, \$20,966,536,000. The next-largest contributions came from Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (\$9,062,855,000); Manufacturing (\$6,620,583,000); and Health Care and Social Assistance (\$4,908,316,000).



Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2021.

Greater Des Moines (DSM) Regional Map



Region Definition

Greater Des Moines (DSM) is defined as the following counties:

Adair County, Iowa

Dallas County, Iowa

Guthrie County, Iowa

Jasper County, Iowa

Madison County, Iowa

Mahaska County, Iowa

Marion County, Iowa

Marshall County, Iowa

Polk County, Iowa

Poweshiek County, Iowa

Warren County, Iowa

Des Moines-West Des Moines, IA MSA is defined as the following counties:

Dallas County, Iowa

Guthrie County, Iowa

Jasper County, Iowa

Madison County, Iowa

Polk County, Iowa

Warren County, Iowa

FAQ

What is a location quotient?

A location quotient (LQ) is a measurement of concentration in comparison to the nation. An LQ of 1.00 indicates a region has the same concentration of an industry (or occupation) as the nation. An LQ of 2.00 would mean the region has twice the expected employment compared to the nation and an LQ of 0.50 would mean the region has half the expected employment in comparison to the nation.

What is separation demand?

Separation demand is the number of jobs required due to separations—labor force exits (including retirements) and turnover resulting from workers moving from one occupation into another. Note that separation demand does not include all turnover—it does not include when workers stay in the same occupation but switch employers. The total projected demand for an occupation is the sum of the separation demand and the growth demand (which is the increase or decrease of jobs in an occupation expected due to expansion or contraction of the overall number of jobs in that occupation).

What is a cluster?

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. If a regional cluster has a location quotient of 1.25 or greater, the region is considered to possess a competitive advantage in that cluster.

What is the difference between industry wages and occupation wages?

Industry wages and occupation wages are estimated via separate data sets, often the time periods being reported do not align, and wages are defined slightly differently in the two systems (for example, certain bonuses are included in the industry wages but not the occupation wages). It is therefore common that estimates of the average industry wages and average occupation wages in a region do not match exactly.

What is NAICS?

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is used to classify business establishments according to the type of economic activity. The NAICS Code comprises six levels, from the “all industry” level to the 6-digit level. The first two digits define the top level category, known as the “sector,” which is the level examined in this report.

What is SOC?

The Standard Occupational Classification system (SOC) is used to classify workers into occupational categories. All workers are classified into one of over 804 occupations according to their occupational definition. To facilitate classification, occupations are combined to form 22 major groups, 95 minor groups, and 452 occupation groups. Each occupation group includes detailed occupations requiring similar job duties, skills, education, or experience.

About This Report

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