

GREATER OMAHA ECONOMIC INDICATORS

01
2026

HIGHLIGHTS

Greater Omaha's economy remained resilient in January 2026. The unemployment rate rose modestly from 3.0% in January 2025 to 3.3% in January 2026, slightly above Nebraska's 3.1% but still well below the national rate of 4.4%. Total employment was unchanged compared to January 2025, though several sectors posted notable gains, including Construction (+5.8%), Education and Health Services (+2.2%), and Financial Activities (+1.1%).

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis released Q4 2025 GDP by state. GDP, the broadest measure of economic activity, captures the total value of goods and services produced. Output increased in most states, with U.S. GDP rising 0.5%. Nebraska's GDP grew 1.0% from the previous quarter, while Iowa's increased 1.8%.

The Brookings Institution released its 2026 Metro Monitor report in March, which evaluates economic performance across growth, prosperity, and multiple dimensions of inclusion. The Omaha metro, categorized among very large metro areas (1 million or more residents), ranked ninth in productivity, its strongest performance, highlighting the region's ability to generate high economic output per worker. More broadly, Omaha reflects continued long-term growth in employment and earnings, alongside gradual improvements in economic inclusion. As a very large metro, the region is increasingly positioned to compete nationally for talent and investment. To view the full report, [click here](#).

UNEMPLOYMENT (OMAHA CSA)



+0.3%

3-MONTH AVERAGE
January 2026: 3.3%
January 2025: 3.0%

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH (OMAHA CSA)



+2.4%

3-MONTH AVERAGE
January 2026: 543,744
January 2025: 531,158

Greater Omaha had a net increase of almost 12,600 employed workers compared to the same time period in 2025.

COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION PERMITS (CSA)



+92.3%

3-MONTH AVERAGE
January 2026: \$118.8 mm
January 2025: \$61.8 mm

January 2026 saw an increase in commercial construction valuation.

*Includes new construction, finishes and remodels.

PRIVATE HOURLY WAGES (OMAHA MSA)



+0.0%

3-MONTH AVERAGE
January 2026: \$34.28
January 2025: \$34.29

Average private hourly wages remained the same since last year.

SINGLE FAMILY CONSTRUCTION PERMITS (CSA)



-15.4%

3-MONTH AVERAGE
January 2026: 201
January 2025: 238

Single family permits decreased in January 2026. These new home permits are valued at \$41.2 million.

AIRLINE PASSENGERS (OMAHA ENPLANEMENTS)



-1.2%

3-MONTH AVERAGE
January 2026: 199,785
January 2025: 202,258

January 2026 had slightly less passenger enplanements compared to the same time period last year.

Greater Omaha Indicators	Nov 24	Dec 24	Jan 25	Feb 25	Mar 25	Apr 25	May 25	Jun 25	Jul 25	Aug 25	Sep 25	Oct 25	Nov 25	Dec 25	Jan 26 ^a
Labor Market: Household Survey¹ (Omaha-Council Bluffs-Fremont Combined Statistical Area)															
Labor Force (#, nsa)	549,209	545,867	548,136	552,633	553,712	557,190	561,694	562,823	563,536	562,686	561,363	563,765	566,167	559,427	560,301
Civilian Employment (#, nsa)	533,736	530,813	528,925	532,804	536,548	539,935	544,160	543,526	544,302	544,865	544,278	546,530	548,781	541,719	540,731
Unemployment (#, nsa)	15,473	15,054	19,211	19,829	17,164	17,255	17,534	19,297	19,234	17,821	17,085	17,236	17,386	17,708	19,570
Unemployment Rate - Omaha (% nsa)	2.8	2.8	3.5	3.6	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.5
Unemployment Rate - Nebraska (% nsa)	2.6	2.6	3.2	3.3	2.9	2.8	2.8	3.1	3.1	2.8	2.8	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.3
Unemployment Rate - U.S. (% nsa) ²	4.0	3.8	4.4	4.5	4.2	3.9	4.0	4.4	4.6	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.1	4.7
Labor Market: Establishment Survey³ (Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Statistical Area)															
Total Non-Farm Employment (000s, nsa)	522.7	519.5	511.8	510.7	512.7	518.6	523.3	524.1	518.7	520.2	519.8	522.1	523.0	519.9	511.7
Construction/Mining (000s, nsa)	33.7	32.8	31.4	31.4	32.4	34.3	35.1	35.8	35.9	35.9	35.4	36.3	35.7	34.4	33.5
Manufacturing (000s, nsa)	36.1	36.0	35.6	35.6	35.8	35.6	35.5	35.5	35.3	35.2	35.2	35.6	35.5	35.6	35.5
Trade, Trans. and Utilities (000s, nsa)	97.0	97.3	94.7	94.7	93.0	93.3	93.6	93.3	93.1	93.2	92.8	93.6	95.8	96.3	93.5
Information (000s, nsa)	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.2	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.4	9.4	9.3	9.2	9.2	9.3	9.3
Financial Activities (000s, nsa)	39.8	39.8	39.3	39.3	39.3	39.4	39.5	39.7	39.9	39.8	40.1	40.0	40.1	40.2	39.9
Prof. and Business Services (000s, nsa)	70.7	70.3	68.8	68.8	68.8	69.4	69.6	69.9	69.9	68.8	68.3	69.0	68.9	68.4	66.6
Educ. and Health Services (000s, nsa)	55.3	55.0	54.9	54.9	54.9	55.0	55.0	55.0	55.0	55.0	55.0	55.0	55.0	55.0	55.0
Leisure and Hospitality (000s, nsa)	56.3	56.3	53.6	53.2	54.3	56.6	59.0	60.4	59.5	60.3	58.1	57.3	56.5	55.1	53.3
Other Services (000s, nsa)	17.8	17.7	17.8	17.8	17.9	18.0	18.1	18.3	18.3	18.1	17.9	17.9	17.8	18.0	17.9
Government (000s, nsa)	71.1	70.4	70.3	70.5	70.5	70.8	71.6	70.4	66.2	67.0	70.5	70.4	70.5	70.1	69.5
Avg. Hourly Earnings of Private Workers (\$, nsa)	\$33.89	\$34.45	\$34.52	\$35.15	\$34.53	\$34.31	\$34.13	\$34.49	\$34.28	\$34.48	\$34.77	\$34.57	\$35.02	\$34.80	\$33.01
Construction Permits⁴ (Omaha-Council Bluffs-Fremont Combined Statistical Area)															
Total Permits (#, nsa, not including commercial remodels)	230	197	370	252	327	303	321	281	495	300	410	423	190	242	306
Valuation (\$mm, nsa, not including commercial remodels)	\$116.5	\$89.4	\$105.5	\$118.0	\$103.7	\$100.8	\$88.6	\$119.9	\$119.1	\$142.4	\$123.2	\$123.2	\$92.1	\$207.0	\$231.6
Single-Family Residential Permits (#, nsa)	197	180	337	208	286	277	275	217	423	264	373	378	159	173	272
Valuation (\$mm, nsa)	\$43.1	\$40.7	\$50.2	\$47.1	\$62.0	\$56.7	\$57.4	\$50.4	\$53.7	\$62.5	\$74.1	\$64.5	\$35.4	\$42.5	\$45.7
Multi-Family Residential Units (#, nsa)	400	195	519	304	83	45	139	203	286	484	92	213	126	637	560
Valuation (\$mm, nsa)	\$45.8	\$0.3	\$41.9	\$28.7	\$8.1	\$4.7	\$12.7	\$17.4	\$34.5	\$54.8	\$6.7	\$16.6	\$9.7	\$56.9	\$86.2
Non-Residential Permits- New Constr. (#, nsa) ^{4b}	22	16	17	17	20	24	33	42	46	20	28	33	28	18	23
Valuation (\$mm, nsa) ^{4b}	\$27.6	\$48.3	\$13.4	\$19.1	\$33.6	\$39.5	\$18.5	\$52.0	\$31.0	\$25.1	\$42.4	\$42.2	\$47.1	\$107.6	\$99.6
Non-Residential Permits- Finish & Remodel (#, nsa) ^{4c}	59	73	66	65	91	71	61	58	48	58	70	60	59	57	65
Valuation (\$mm, nsa) ^{4c}	\$23.6	\$42.3	\$30.0	\$59.5	\$35.4	\$69.2	\$23.7	\$19.4	\$23.6	\$26.4	\$41.1	\$66.0	\$37.1	\$42.0	\$22.9
Total Non-Residential Permits (#, nsa)	81	89	83	82	111	95	94	100	94	78	98	93	87	75	88
Total Non-Residential Valuation (\$mm, nsa)	\$51.2	\$90.6	\$43.5	\$78.6	\$69.0	\$108.6	\$42.2	\$71.4	\$54.6	\$51.5	\$83.5	\$108.1	\$84.2	\$149.6	\$122.5
New and Existing Home Sales⁵ (Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Statistical Area)															
Total Sales (#, nsa)	937	800	679	730	833	967	1,166	1,280	1,177	1,085	1,073	1,138	842	917	672
Total Value (\$mm, nsa)	\$345.6	\$294.0	\$238.2	\$246.8	\$288.0	\$362.5	\$443.0	\$494.3	\$459.1	\$414.8	\$404.8	\$435.3	\$327.0	\$332.5	\$251.6
Transportation⁶															
Airline Passengers Enplaned (000s, nsa)	205.7	220.3	180.8	174.2	212.4	195.7	242.9	258.1	256.1	218.9	211.4	237.7	200.5	221.1	177.8
Airline Cargo Enplaned (mm lbs., nsa)	4.9	5.5	4.6	4.5	4.8	5.4	5.7	5.2	5.5	5.6	5.4	5.8	4.5	5.5	4.8
Prices⁷															
Consumer Price Index - U.S. (nsa, 1982-84 = 100)	315.5	315.6	317.7	319.1	319.8	320.8	321.5	322.6	323.0	324.0	324.8	324.5	324.1	324.1	325.3
GPI - Midwest (nsa, pop. 50,000-1.5 million, 1996 = 100)	187.1	187.5	188.5	189.0	189.8	189.9	190.3	191.9	192.2	192.7	193.2	193.1	193.1	193.2	194.0
Personal Consumption Expenditure Index (U.S., chained, 2017=100, sa) ⁸	122.6	123.5	122.8	122.6	123.6	123.7	123.6	123.9	124.5	124.9	125.0	125.3	125.4	125.5	125.5

Sources:
¹U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) (unless otherwise marked)
²U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey (CPS)
³U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics (CES), State & Metro Area
⁴Collected from municipalities in 9-county area. See notes & Greater Omaha Permit Data for details.
⁵Omaha Area Board of Realtors, MLS Statistics
⁶Omaha Airport Authority, Monthly Traffic Statistics
⁷U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) (unless otherwise marked)
⁸U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Table 2.8.3, Real Personal Consumption Expenditures by Major Type of Product, Monthly, Quantity Indexes.

Notes:
 sa = seasonally adjusted; nsa = not seasonally adjusted.
^aPreliminary data, previous month revised to actual data
^bOfficial federal data was unavailable for October 2025. The October 2025 estimated value shown is calculated as the average of September and November 2025.
^cExcludes any permits that do not have a valuation listed
^dExcludes construction of non-residential structures less than \$10,000
^eExcludes alterations less than \$10,000, repairs, and maintenance
^fOfficial federal data was unavailable for October 2025. The October 2025 estimated value shown is calculated as the average of September and November 2025.