

GREATER OMAHA ECONOMIC INDICATORS

02 2026

HIGHLIGHTS

Greater Omaha's economy remained resilient in January 2026. The unemployment rate increased slightly from 3.3% in January 2025 to 3.4% in January 2026. While this was marginally higher than Nebraska's 3.3% unemployment rate, it remained well below the national rate of 4.5%. Total employment was unchanged compared to February 2025, though several sectors posted notable gains, including Construction (+6.6%), Education and Health Services (+2.1%), and Financial Activities (+1.4%). Eppley Airfield also recorded a modest increase in passenger enplanements compared to February 2025.

Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI) is a U.S. Census Bureau dataset that provides detailed insights into workforce trends, including employee hiring, turnover, job gains, and job losses. It is one of the most comprehensive sources for workforce demographic data, offering information by industry on age, gender, race/ethnicity, and educational attainment. QWI can help answer questions such as: What is the racial and ethnic makeup of workers in my industry? Which industries may be affected by upcoming retirements? And what are the education levels of workers in my county? To learn more or access the tool, [click here](#).

UNEMPLOYMENT (OMAHA CSA)



+0.1%

3-MONTH AVERAGE
February 2026: 3.4%
February 2025: 3.3%

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH (OMAHA CSA)



+2.1%

3-MONTH AVERAGE
February 2026: 542,223
February 2025: 530,847

Greater Omaha had a net increase of over 11,300 employed workers compared to the same time period in 2025.

COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION PERMITS (CSA)



+48.4%

3-MONTH AVERAGE
February 2026: \$105.2 mm
February 2025: \$70.9 mm

February 2026 saw an increase in commercial construction valuation.

*Includes new construction, finishes and remodels.

PRIVATE HOURLY WAGES (OMAHA MSA)



-2.7%

3-MONTH AVERAGE
February 2026: \$33.76
February 2025: \$34.71

Average private hourly wages decreased slightly compared to the same since last year.

SINGLE FAMILY CONSTRUCTION PERMITS (CSA)



-8.8%

3-MONTH AVERAGE
February 2026: 220
February 2025: 242

Single family permits decreased in February 2026. These new home permits are valued at \$45.4 million.

AIRLINE PASSENGERS (OMAHA ENPLANEMENTS)



+0.8%

3-MONTH AVERAGE
February 2026: 193,332
February 2025: 191,764

February 2026 had slightly more passenger enplanements compared to the same time period last year.

Greater Omaha Indicators	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	Feb 26*
Labor Market: Household Survey¹ (Omaha-Council Bluffs-Fremont Combined Statistical Area)															
Labor Force (#, nsa)	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	560,402	563,814
Civilian Employment (#, nsa)	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	540,835	544,115
Unemployment (#, nsa)	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	19,567	19,699
Unemployment Rate - Omaha (% nsa)	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	3.5
Unemployment Rate - Nebraska (% nsa)	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	3.5
Unemployment Rate - U.S. (% nsa) ²	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	4.7
Labor Market: Establishment Survey³ (Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Statistical Area)															
Total Non-Farm Employment (000s, nsa)	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	511.4	511.0
Construction/Mining (000s, nsa)	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	34.0
Manufacturing (000s, nsa)	36.0	35.6	35.6	35.8	35.6	35.5	35.3	35.3	35.2	35.2	35.1	35.5	35.6	35.4	35.2
Trade, Trans. and Utilities (000s, nsa)	97.3	94.7	93.3	93.0	93.3	93.6	93.3	93.1	93.2	92.8	93.6	95.8	96.3	93.6	92.2
Information (000s, nsa)	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.2	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.4	9.4	9.3	9.3	9.2	9.3	9.3	9.1
Financial Activities (000s, nsa)	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	40.0
Prof. and Business Services (000s, nsa)	70.3	68.8	68.9	68.8	69.4	69.6	69.9	69.2	68.8	68.3	69.0	68.9	68.4	66.6	66.1
Educ. and Health Services (000s, nsa)	90.9	90.9	91.0	91.4	91.5	92.0	91.5	91.9	92.5	92.2	93.0	93.0	92.5	92.7	93.2
Leisure and Hospitality (000s, nsa)	55.0	53.6	53.2	54.3	56.6	59.0	60.4	59.5	60.3	58.1	57.3	56.5	55.1	53.1	53.2
Other Services (000s, nsa)	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	17.8	17.9
Government (000s, nsa)	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	70.1
Avg. Hourly Earnings of Private Workers (\$, nsa)	\$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	\$33.48
Construction Permits⁴ (Omaha-Council Bluffs-Fremont Combined Statistical Area)															
Total Permits (#, nsa, not including commercial remodels)	197	370	252	327	303	321	281	495	300	410	423	190	242	306	248
Valuation (\$mm, nsa, not including commercial remodels)	\$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	\$83.1
Single-Family Residential Permits (#, nsa)	180	337	208	286	277	275	217	423	264	373	378	159	173	272	216
Valuation (\$mm, nsa)	\$40.7	\$50.2	\$47.1	\$62.0	\$57.4	\$57.4	\$50.4	\$53.7	\$62.5	\$74.1	\$64.5	\$35.4	\$42.5	\$45.7	\$48.0
Multi-Family Residential Units (#, nsa)	195	199	304	83	45	139	203	286	484	92	213	126	637	560	425
Valuation (\$mm, nsa)	\$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	\$28.4
Non-Residential Permits- New Constr. (#, nsa) ^{4b}	16	17	17	20	24	33	42	46	20	28	33	28	18	23	28
Valuation (\$mm, nsa) ^{4b}	\$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	\$24.0
Non-Residential Permits- Finish & Remodel (#, nsa) ^{4c}	73	66	65	91	71	61	58	48	58	70	60	59	57	65	38
Valuation (\$mm, nsa) ^{4c}	\$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	\$19.5
Total Non-Residential Permits (#, nsa)	89	83	82	111	95	94	100	94	78	98	93	87	75	88	66
Total Non-Residential Valuation (\$mm, nsa)	\$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	\$43.5
New and Existing Home Sales⁵ (Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Statistical Area)															
Total Sales (#, nsa)	800	679	730	833	967	1,166	1,280	1,177	1,085	1,073	1,138	842	917	672	725
Total Value (\$mm, nsa)	\$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	\$267.9
Transportation⁶															
Airline Passengers Enplaned (000s, nsa)	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	181.1
Airline Cargo Enplaned (mm.lbs., nsa)	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	4.8
Prices⁷															
Consumer Price Index - U.S. (nsa, 1982-84 = 100)	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	326.8
GPI - Midwest (nsa, pop. 50,000-1.5 million, 1996 = 100)	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	195.2
Personal Consumption Expenditure Index (U.S., chained, 2017=100, sa) ⁸	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	125.6	125.9

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.