

GREATER OMAHA ECONOMIC INDICATORS



JULY 2026

HIGHLIGHTS

In July 2026, Greater Omaha's economy remained resilient. The unemployment rate declined from 3.2% in July 2025 to 2.9%, slightly below Nebraska's rate of 3.0% and well below the national rate of 4.3%. Total employment held relatively steady compared to July 2025, even as several industries recorded notable job growth, including Construction (+6.8%), Leisure and Hospitality (+5.3%), Education and Health Services (+2.3%), and Financial Activities (+0.4%). Eppley Airfield also reported a modest increase in passenger enplanements, suggesting continued momentum in regional air travel.

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

The Nebraska Department of Labor released its 2026 Labor Availability Study for the Omaha metro last month. The goal of the report is to help workers and businesses make informed decisions about the workforce and job market in Omaha. One of the main findings is widespread hiring difficulty among employers, with 70.8% struggling to fill at least one recent opening — driven mainly by too few applicants, lack of experience, and poor work history, with legal and healthcare occupations hardest hit. When looking at potential job seekers, their top priorities for a new job were salary, stability, and benefits such as paid vacation and retirement.

To learn more, [click here](#).

UNEMPLOYMENT (OMAHA CSA)

-0.3%

3-MONTH AVERAGE

July 2026: 2.9%
July 2025: 3.2%



EMPLOYMENT GROWTH (OMAHA CSA)

+0.9%

3-MONTH AVERAGE

July 2026: 554,706
July 2025: 549,892

Greater Omaha had a net increase of over 4,800 employed workers compared to the same time period in 2025.



PRIVATE HOURLY WAGES

(OMAHA MSA)

-2.8%

3-MONTH AVERAGE

July 2026: \$33.33
July 2025: \$34.30

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



COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION PERMITS (CSA)

+255.9%

3-MONTH AVERAGE

July 2026: \$199.5 mm
July 2025: \$56.1 mm

July 2026 saw an increase in commercial construction valuation.



SINGLE FAMILY CONSTRUCTION PERMITS (CSA)

+8.6%

3-MONTH AVERAGE

July 2026: 331
July 2025: 305

Single family permits increased in July 2026. These new home permits are valued at \$70.9 million.



AIRLINE PASSENGERS

(OMAHA ENPLANEMENTS)

+1.5%

3-MONTH AVERAGE

July 2026: 256,180
July 2025: 252,359

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



Greater Omaha Indicators	May 25	Jun 25	Jul 25	Aug 25	Sep 25	Oct 25	Nov 25	Dec 25	Jan 26	Feb 26	Mar 26	Apr 26	May 26	Jun 26	Jul 26*
LABOR MARKET: HOUSEHOLD SURVEY ¹ (Omaha-Council Bluffs-Fremont Combined Statistical Area)															
Labor Force (#, nsa)	567,071	567,215	569,855	567,062	566,918	na	572,526	566,008	560,402	563,852	565,435	568,344	571,160	571,178	572,602
Civilian Employment (#, nsa)	549,956	548,602	551,117	549,528	550,016	na	554,572	548,166	540,835	544,153	548,438	553,256	555,488	553,410	555,221
Unemployment (#, nsa)	17,115	18,613	18,738	17,534	16,902	na	17,954	17,842	19,567	19,699	16,997	15,088	15,672	17,768	17,381
Unemployment Rate - Omaha (% , nsa)	3.0	3.3	3.3	3.1	3.0	na	3.1	3.2	3.5	3.5	3.0	2.7	2.7	3.1	3.0
Unemployment Rate - Nebraska (% , nsa)	2.8	3.1	3.1	2.8	2.8	na	3.0	3.0	3.3	3.5	3.0	2.7	2.8	3.1	3.0
Unemployment Rate - U.S. (% , nsa) ²	4.0	4.4	4.6	4.5	4.3	na	4.3	4.1	4.7	4.7	4.3	4.0	4.1	4.4	4.4
LABOR MARKET: ESTABLISHMENT SURVEY ³ (Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Statistical Area)															
Total Non-Farm Employment (000s, nsa)	523.3	524.1	518.7	520.2	519.8	522.1	523.0	519.9	511.4	511.0	515.2	520.9	526.1	530.7	526.4
Construction/Mining (000s, nsa)	35.1	35.8	35.9	35.9	35.4	36.3	35.7	34.4	33.5	34.0	35.4	36.7	37.3	38.3	38.5
Manufacturing (000s, nsa)	35.5	35.5	35.3	35.2	35.2	35.1	35.5	35.6	35.4	35.2	35.1	35.1	35.1	35.0	34.8
Trade, Trans. and Utilities (000s, nsa)	93.6	93.3	93.1	93.2	92.8	93.6	95.8	96.3	93.6	92.2	92.0	92.7	93.0	93.9	93.3
Information (000s, nsa)	9.3	9.3	9.4	9.4	9.3	9.2	9.2	9.3	9.3	9.1	9.2	9.2	9.1	9.1	9.2
Financial Activities (000s, nsa)	39.5	39.7	39.9	39.8	40.1	40.0	40.1	40.2	39.9	40.0	39.8	39.7	39.7	40.2	39.7
Prof. and Business Services (000s, nsa)	69.6	69.9	69.2	68.8	68.3	69.0	68.9	68.4	66.6	66.1	67.3	68.3	68.5	69.0	69.6
Educ. and Health Services (000s, nsa)	92.0	91.5	91.9	92.5	92.2	93.3	93.0	92.5	92.7	93.2	93.9	93.6	93.8	93.8	94.1
Leisure and Hospitality (000s, nsa)	59.0	60.4	59.5	60.3	58.1	57.3	56.5	55.1	53.1	53.2	54.4	57.3	60.8	63.6	64.0
Other Services (000s, nsa)	18.1	18.3	18.3	18.1	17.9	17.9	17.8	18.0	17.8	17.9	17.9	17.8	17.8	17.9	17.8
Government (000s, nsa)	71.6	70.4	66.2	67.0	70.5	70.4	70.5	70.1	69.5	70.1	70.2	70.5	71.0	69.9	65.4
Avg. Hourly Earnings of Private Workers (\$, nsa)	\$34.13	\$34.49	\$34.28	\$34.48	\$34.77	\$34.57	\$35.02	\$34.80	\$33.01	\$33.48	\$33.69	\$33.58	\$33.43	\$33.27	\$33.30
CONSTRUCTION PERMITS ⁴ (Omaha-Council Bluffs-Fremont Combined Statistical Area)															
Total Permits (#, nsa, not including commercial remodels)	321	281	495	300	410	423	190	242	306	248	388	294	376	406	361
Valuation (\$mm, nsa, not including commercial remodels) ^{4a}	\$88.6	\$119.9	\$119.1	\$142.4	\$123.2	\$123.2	\$92.1	\$207.0	\$231.6	\$83.1	\$449.2	\$179.6	\$216.2	\$431.1	\$148.8
Single-Family Residential Permits (#, nsa)	275	217	423	264	373	378	159	173	272	216	351	255	340	338	316
Valuation (\$mm, nsa)	\$57.4	\$50.4	\$53.7	\$62.5	\$74.1	\$64.5	\$35.4	\$42.5	\$45.7	\$48.0	\$67.8	\$58.5	\$71.6	\$78.7	\$62.5
Multi-Family Residential Units (#, nsa)	139	203	286	484	92	213	126	637	560	315	127	226	256	291	685
Valuation (\$mm, nsa)	\$12.7	\$17.4	\$34.5	\$54.8	\$6.7	\$16.6	\$9.7	\$56.9	\$86.2	\$28.4	\$9.0	\$29.1	\$49.7	\$32.1	\$54.0
Non-Residential Permits- New Constr. (#, nsa) ^{4b}	33	42	46	20	28	33	28	18	23	28	32	26	22	43	27
Valuation (\$mm, nsa) ^{4b}	\$18.5	\$52.0	\$31.0	\$25.1	\$42.4	\$42.2	\$47.1	\$107.6	\$99.6	\$24.0	\$372.4	\$92.0	\$95.0	\$320.4	\$32.3
Non-Residential Permits- Finish & Remodel (#, nsa) ^{4c}	61	58	48	58	70	60	59	57	65	38	70	56	75	54	58
Valuation (\$mm, nsa) ^{4c}	\$23.7	\$19.4	\$23.6	\$26.4	\$41.1	\$66.0	\$37.1	\$42.0	\$22.9	\$19.5	\$68.8	\$107.7	\$49.2	\$50.7	\$51.0
Total Non-Residential Permits (#, nsa)	94	100	94	78	98	93	87	75	88	66	102	82	97	97	85
Total Non-Residential Valuation (\$mm, nsa)	\$42.2	\$71.4	\$54.6	\$51.5	\$83.5	\$108.1	\$84.2	\$149.6	\$122.5	\$43.5	\$441.2	\$199.7	\$144.1	\$371.1	\$83.3
NEW AND EXISTING HOME SALES ⁵ (Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Statistical Area)															
Total Sales (#, nsa)	1,166	1,280	1,177	1,085	1,073	1,138	842	917	672	725	995	1,071	1,271	1,347	1,145
Total Value (\$mm, nsa)	\$443.0	\$494.3	\$459.1	\$414.8	\$404.8	\$435.3	\$327.0	\$332.5	\$251.6	\$267.9	\$363.3	\$394.8	\$496.7	\$547.2	\$464.3
TRANSPORTATION ⁶															
Airline Passengers Enplaned (000s, nsa)	242.9	258.1	256.1	218.9	211.4	237.7	200.5	221.1	177.8	181.1	222.3	203.7	249.8	260.8	257.9
Airline Cargo Enplaned (mm lbs., nsa)	5.7	5.2	5.5	5.6	5.4	5.8	4.5	5.5	4.8	4.8	5.2	5.2	4.8	4.7	4.9
PRICES ⁷															
Consumer Price Index - U.S. (nsa, 1982-84 = 100)	321.5	322.6	323.0	324.0	324.8	na	324.1	324.1	325.3	326.8	330.2	333.0	335.1	334.0	333.9
CPI - Midwest (nsa, pop. 50,000-1.5 million, 1996 = 100)	190.3	191.9	192.2	192.7	193.2	na	193.1	193.2	194.0	195.2	197.1	198.6	200.8	199.9	199.5
Personal Consumption Expenditure Index (U.S., chained, 2017=100, sa) ⁸	123.6	123.9	124.5	124.9	125.0	125.3	125.4	125.5	125.5	125.8	126.2	125.9	126.2	127.0	127.2

SOURCES

1 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) (unless otherwise marked)
2 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey (CPS)
3 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics (CES), State & Metro Area
4 Collected from municipalities in 9-county area. See notes & Greater Omaha Permit Data for details.

5 Omaha Area Board of Realtors, MLS Statistics
6 Omaha Airport Authority, Monthly Traffic Statistics
7 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) (unless otherwise marked)
8 U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Table 2.8.3: Real Personal Consumptions Expenditures by Major Type of Product, Monthly, Quantity Indexes.

NOTES

sa = seasonally adjusted; nsa = not seasonally adjusted.
*Preliminary data, previous month revised to actual data
1a Official federal data was unavailable for October 2025.
4a Excludes any permits that do not have a valuation listed

4b Excludes construction of non-residential structures less than \$10,000
4c Excludes alterations less than \$10,000, repairs, and maintenance
7a Official federal data was unavailable for October 2025.

