

# GREATER OMAHA ECONOMIC INDICATORS

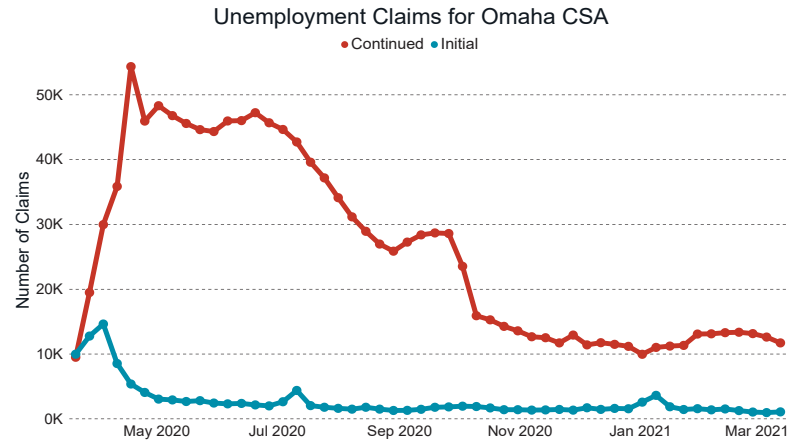
# 02 2021

## HIGHLIGHTS

Greater Omaha is continuing to see the effects of the coronavirus on the economy, but we are beginning to see some improvements compared to April. April has been our reference point for economic recovery since it was the first full month of restrictions and temporary business closings. The unemployment rate fell from 9.9% in April 2020 to 3.9% in February 2021, which is above Nebraska's (3.5%) but below the U.S. (6.6%). Greater Omaha has seen an increase of approximately 24,100 net jobs compared to April. The industries that have seen the largest increase are Leisure and Hospitality (42.7%), Education and Health Services (7.6%) and Trade, Transportation and Utilities (6.8%).

Nationally, the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis released GDP by state for 2020. GDP measures the goods and services produced in a state and is the most comprehensive measure of economic activity. GDP decreased in every state, with the U.S. growth rate at -3.5%. Nebraska's decrease was slightly better than the U.S., at -2.1% over their 2019 GDP. Iowa experienced a similar decrease of -2.3%.

## COVID-19



As we continue to monitor the effects of the coronavirus on the Omaha metro, we are tracking the initial and continued unemployment insurance claims as a leading indicator. The most recent week, ending on March 13, saw over 1,000 initial claims and 11,600 continued claims.

Sources: Nebraska Department of Labor, UI Reports Program; Iowa Workforce Development, LMI Division, UI Stats Program

### UNEMPLOYMENT (OMAHA CSA)

  
**+0.5%**

**3-MONTH AVERAGE**  
February 2021: 3.5%  
February 2020: 3.0%

Although the unemployment rate remains low, there has also been a slight decrease in the number participating in the labor force compared to 2020.

### EMPLOYMENT GROWTH (OMAHA CSA)

  
**-2.5%**

**3-MONTH AVERAGE**  
February 2021: 489,408  
February 2020: 502,078

Greater Omaha had a net decrease of over 12,700 employed workers compared to the same time period in 2020.

### COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION PERMITS (CSA)

  
**+79.4%**

**3-MONTH AVERAGE**  
February 2021: \$231.3 mm  
February 2020: \$128.9 mm

Commercial construction spiked in February, almost 2 times more construction than last year.

\*Includes new construction, finishes and remodels.

### PRIVATE HOURLY WAGES (OMAHA MSA)

  
**+2.9%**

**3-MONTH AVERAGE**  
February 2021: \$29.55  
February 2020: \$29.07

Average private hourly wages rose almost \$0.48 since last year.

### SINGLE FAMILY CONSTRUCTION PERMITS (CSA)

  
**+28.4%**

**3-MONTH AVERAGE**  
February 2021: 233  
February 2020: 182

More families built new homes in January, compared to last year. These new home permits are valued at \$46.6 million.

### AIRLINE PASSENGERS (OMAHA ENPLANEMENTS)

  
**-57.9%**

**3-MONTH AVERAGE**  
February 2021: 82,640  
February 2020: 196,352

Airline passenger enplanements were lower than in February 2020.

**Greater Omaha Indicators**

	Dec 19	Jan 20	Feb 20	Mar 20	Apr 20	May 20	Jun 20	July 20	Aug 20	Sep 20	Oct 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21*
<b>Labor Market: Household Survey<sup>1</sup> (Omaha-Council Bluffs-Fremont Combined Statistical Area)</b>															
Labor Force (#, nsa)	516,054	517,444	519,627	526,005	521,529	509,985	525,039	533,002	522,568	514,761	513,618	512,460	515,311	501,714	504,502
Civilian Employment (#, nsa)	501,982	500,653	503,599	503,321	470,106	477,849	489,416	501,471	498,644	494,972	498,350	497,705	499,847	483,588	484,790
Unemployment (#, nsa)	14,072	16,791	16,028	22,684	51,423	32,136	35,623	31,531	23,924	19,789	15,268	14,755	15,464	18,126	19,712
Unemployment Rate - Omaha (% nsa)	2.7	3.2	3.1	4.3	9.9	6.3	6.8	5.9	4.6	3.8	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.6	3.9
Unemployment Rate - Nebraska (% nsa)	2.6	3.2	3.1	3.5	7.4	5.4	6.6	4.7	3.9	3.7	3.2	2.9	3.0	3.2	3.5
Unemployment Rate - U.S. (% nsa) <sup>2</sup>	3.4	4.0	3.8	4.5	14.4	13.0	11.2	10.5	8.5	7.7	6.6	6.4	6.5	6.8	6.6
<b>Labor Market: Establishment Survey<sup>3</sup> (Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Statistical Area)</b>															
Total Non-Farm Employment (000s, nsa)	519.0	502.2	502.8	501.5	457.5	467.0	475.9	479.0	483.2	483.8	488.7	491.3	495.1	483.7	481.6
Construction/Mining (000s, nsa)	29.4	29.3	29.3	30.1	29.7	30.6	31.1	31.1	30.8	30.4	31.0	30.5	31.0	29.7	28.1
Manufacturing (000s, nsa)	33.7	33.3	33.4	33.5	32.4	32.4	32.6	32.7	32.8	33.0	33.0	33.0	33.9	33.7	33.5
Trade, Trans. and Utilities (000s, nsa)	99.2	94.4	93.7	92.9	85.5	87.3	89.2	90.3	90.8	90.8	92.2	95.7	98.5	93.1	91.3
Information (000s, nsa)	10.4	10.5	10.4	10.4	9.9	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.5	9.6	9.6
Financial Activities (000s, nsa)	46.4	45.9	46.0	45.8	45.1	45.1	45.2	45.3	45.3	45.1	45.5	45.4	45.8	44.8	44.0
Prof. and Business Services (000s, nsa)	75.1	72.6	72.5	73.0	70.2	70.1	70.7	70.0	70.4	69.5	70.5	70.5	71.1	70.3	70.3
Educ. and Health Services (000s, nsa)	80.1	79.7	80.3	80.0	74.1	75.6	76.0	76.8	77.3	77.4	79.3	79.5	79.5	77.8	79.7
Leisure and Hospitality (000s, nsa)	50.8	50.3	50.5	49.5	29.5	35.5	40.9	44.0	44.3	44.3	44.6	43.3	42.5	42.5	42.1
Other Services (000s, nsa)	18.7	18.7	18.7	18.7	15.5	16.6	17.5	17.9	18.0	18.0	17.7	17.6	17.6	17.6	17.7
Government (000s, nsa)	67.6	67.4	68.0	67.6	65.6	64.0	62.9	61.2	62.9	65.6	65.5	65.9	65.7	64.6	65.3
Avg. Hourly Earnings of Private Workers (\$, nsa)	\$28.91	\$28.77	\$29.54	\$29.27	\$29.40	\$29.05	\$29.36	\$29.40	\$29.39	\$29.28	\$28.94	\$29.72	\$29.49	\$29.39	\$29.76
<b>Construction Permits<sup>4</sup> (Omaha-Council Bluffs-Fremont Combined Statistical Area)</b>															
Total Permits (#, nsa, not including commercial remodels)	200	181	230	323	210	266	341	337	374	299	344	316	283	212	266
Valuation (\$mm, nsa, not including commercial remodels)	\$62.6	\$101.4	\$79.9	\$110.5	\$74.7	\$69.8	\$100.3	\$81.9	\$114.7	\$106.7	\$123.0	\$178.5	\$188.9	\$336.0	\$257.4
Single-Family Residential Permits (#, nsa)	182	165	198	292	179	244	305	316	343	269	276	247	265	190	245
Valuation (\$mm, nsa)	\$38.6	\$34.3	\$38.5	\$59.5	\$39.7	\$47.5	\$60.3	\$63.4	\$67.2	\$53.2	\$60.2	\$43.8	\$55.4	\$37.9	\$46.3
Multi-Family Residential Units (#, nsa)	6	74	102	40	309	2	172	2	44	299	249	701	194	2	8
Valuation (\$mm, nsa)	\$0.5	\$6.1	\$7.0	\$6.3	\$25.6	\$0.3	\$12.2	\$0.2	\$3.4	\$25.1	\$27.9	\$58.1	\$15.7	\$0.2	\$1.2
Non-Residential Permits- New Constr. (#, nsa) <sup>4b</sup>	15	13	19	20	12	20	18	20	26	23	21	29	13	21	14
Valuation (\$mm, nsa) <sup>4b</sup>	\$23.5	\$61.0	\$34.4	\$44.7	\$9.4	\$22.0	\$27.8	\$18.3	\$44.0	\$28.4	\$35.0	\$76.7	\$117.8	\$297.9	\$209.7
Non-Residential Permits- Finish & Remodel (#, nsa) <sup>4c</sup>	67	67	62	91	57	56	59	60	66	54	58	58	38	51	55
Valuation (\$mm, nsa) <sup>4c</sup>	\$54.9	\$130.4	\$82.5	\$84.8	\$34.6	\$34.2	\$28.2	\$27.2	\$21.4	\$59.9	\$30.9	\$82.0	\$31.9	\$15.7	\$20.9
Total Non-Residential Permits (#, nsa)	82	80	81	111	69	76	77	80	92	77	79	87	87	72	69
Total Non-Residential Valuation (\$mm, nsa)	\$78.4	\$191.4	\$116.9	\$129.5	\$44.0	\$56.2	\$55.9	\$45.5	\$65.5	\$88.2	\$65.9	\$158.7	\$149.7	\$313.6	\$230.6
<b>New and Existing Home Sales<sup>5</sup> (Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Statistical Area)</b>															
Total Sales (#, nsa)	1,002	670	811	986	1,003	1,211	1,476	1,628	1,346	1,342	1,437	1,207	1,191	775	731
Total Value (\$mm, nsa)	\$237.2	\$154.7	\$188.5	\$240.2	\$250.0	\$312.6	\$385.6	\$450.2	\$368.7	\$363.8	\$396.2	\$334.6	\$318.3	\$206.4	\$201.6
<b>Transportation<sup>6</sup></b>															
Airline Passengers Enplaned (000s, nsa)	215.1	188.4	185.6	104.4	8.7	26.5	53.5	79.8	78.2	79.9	90.8	80.4	91.2	74.5	82.2
Airline Cargo Enplaned (mm lbs., nsa)	5.7	6.1	5.6	6.2	5.8	5.4	5.2	5.6	5.7	6.1	6.3	5.4	6.6	5.7	4.4
<b>Prices<sup>7</sup></b>															
Consumer Price Index - U.S. (nsa, 1982-84 = 100)	257.0	258.0	258.7	258.1	256.4	256.4	257.8	259.1	259.9	260.3	260.4	260.2	260.5	261.6	263.0
CPI - Midwest (nsa, pop. 50,000-1.5 million, 1996 = 100)	152.4	152.9	153.5	152.7	151.1	151.4	152.7	153.8	154.4	154.4	154.2	154.1	154.3	155.2	156.4
Personal Consumption Expenditure Index (U.S., chained, 2009=100, sa) <sup>8</sup>	121.4	121.9	121.8	113.9	99.9	108.4	114.9	116.3	117.3	118.7	119.0	118.2	117.1	120.7	119.2

Sources:  
<sup>1</sup>U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) (unless otherwise marked)  
<sup>2</sup>U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey (CPS)  
<sup>3</sup>U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics (CES), State & Metro Area  
<sup>4</sup>Collected from municipalities in 9-county area. See notes & Greater Omaha Permit Data for details.  
<sup>5</sup>Omaha Area Board of Realtors, MLS Statistics  
<sup>6</sup>Omaha Airport Authority, Monthly Traffic Statistics  
<sup>7</sup>U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) (unless otherwise marked)  
<sup>8</sup>U.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.  
 \*Preliminary data, previous month revised to actual data  
<sup>4b</sup>Excludes any permits that do not have a valuation listed  
<sup>4c</sup>Excludes construction of non-residential structures less than \$10,000  
<sup>4d</sup>Excludes alterations less than \$10,000, repairs, and maintenance