

Ames, Iowa

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The Ames Economic Development Commission organizes and promotes sound economic growth in Ames and central Iowa by stimulating the expansion of existing industry, attracting new enterprises, and assuring a favorable community climate for new ideas and economic growth.

This report has been compiled with the most current, accurate information available in an attempt to keep you informed on key aspects of the Ames/Story County economy. If you find there is information not included in this publication that you would like to see, please contact us at 515-232-2310 or tritland@ameschamber.com.

Quarterly Economic Report
Second Quarter 2008

Volume 2, Issue 2

June 2008

Published July 2008

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June 25, 2008

Fareway Finally Gets Green Light

It went quietly at the end.

After months of wrangling over land use policy and zoning, the Ames City Council passed the adoption of a zoning ordinance that would allow the construction of a Fareway grocery store at Bloomington and Stange roads.



Developer Chuck Winkleblack said after the meeting he expected to transfer the deed for the property to Fareway Stores by mid-July.

Fareway Stores CEO Rick Beckwith said in a phone interview this morning the company was "excited" by the news of the council's approval and had plans to move quickly.

"We want to be in the ground as soon as we possibly can," Beckwith said, adding Fareway did not have a completion date at this time.

The development proposal pushed the council into a months-long debate concerning the proximity of commercial development next to the village concept of the Somerset area and the desire to provide north Ames residents the possibility of more business services.

In order to achieve the zoning for the development to proceed, a land use policy amendment and map amendment was necessary. A first version of a land use amendment that would have allowed the zoning change was defeated 3-3 on Sept 11, 2007...

Read more of *The Tribune's* article on the AEDC's website at www.amesedc.com.



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Housing

Housing Units Building Permits Annual Totals				
	Apr 2008	2008 Total Jan-Apr	Apr 2007	2007 Total Jan-Apr
Total	17	32	21	57
Single-Family	9	24	21	40
Multi-Family	8	8	0	17
2-Unit	0	0	0	0
3- and 4-Unit	0	0	0	0
5+ Unit	8	8	0	17

Source: State of Cities Data Systems, June 2008

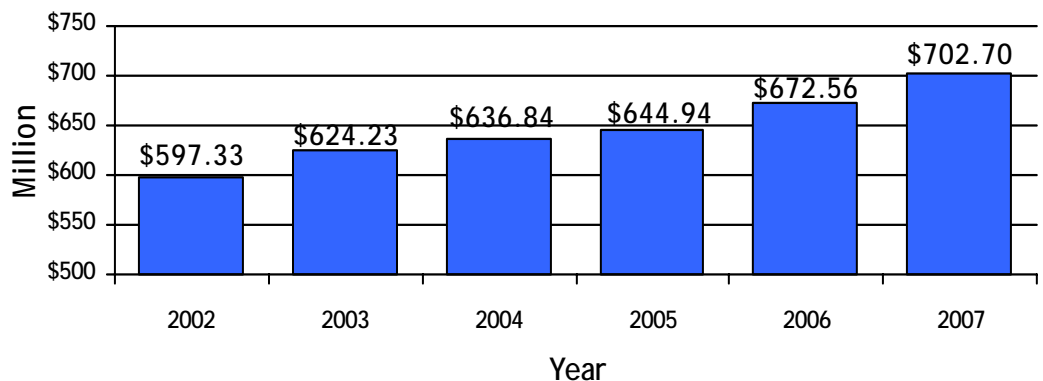


Retail Sales



Ames Retail Sales By Category		
Category	Total Sales (millions) 2007	Total Sales (millions) 2006
Apparel Stores	\$18.38	\$19.94
Building Materials	\$60.67	\$68.02
Eating & Drinking	\$95.75	\$86.31
Food Stores	\$130.50	\$122.41
General Merchandise	\$139.83	\$130.55
Home Furnishings	\$43.04	\$39.54
Specialty Stores	\$55.32	\$52.02
Services	\$109.54	\$101.11
Wholesale	\$19.10	\$20.49

Ames Total Retail Sales

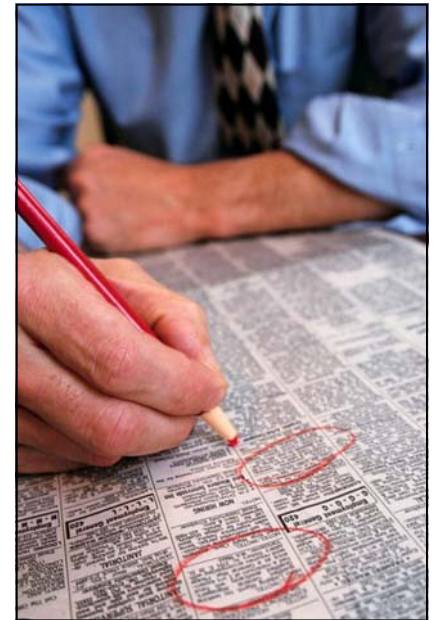


Source: 2007 Retail Sales Analysis & Report
Regional Analysis Capacity Program
Iowa State University

Local Workforce

Local Workforce Summary				
	Total Workforce	Total Employed	Total Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Ames, Apr 2008	32,100	31,400	700	2.2%
Ames, Apr 2007	31,800	31,000	700	2.3%
Ames, Apr 2003	29,500	28,700	800	2.9%
Story County, Apr 2008	49,000	47,800	1,200	2.5%
Story County, Apr 2007	48,500	47,300	1,200	2.5%
Story County, Apr 2003	47,700	46,500	1,200	2.5%

Source: Iowa Workforce Development, June 2008



Disaster Unemployment Insurance Benefits

Iowa Workforce Development: June 24, 2008



42 Iowa counties are eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) announced Iowa Workforce Development. The federal government has declared the counties as weather related disaster areas.

"If you live or work in any of these counties and have lost your job due to the recent bad weather, you should apply for these federal benefits," said Elisabeth Beck, Director, Iowa Workforce Development. The disaster is for the severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding which occurred on May 25, 2008 and continuing.

The benefits cover self-employed workers not usually entitled to unemployment insurance, including Iowa farmers. People applying for DUA need to provide proof of past earnings, such as business records or bank statements and their most recent income tax form, at the time they file their claim. Any Iowa Workforce Development Center can accept DUA claims or individuals can file on the Workforce website at "file an unemployment claim."

Those eligible for benefits in addition to individuals who lost their jobs directly due to severe storms, flooding, and tornadoes may also include: (1) individuals who are unable to reach their job or self-employment location because they must travel through the affected area and are prevented from doing so by the disaster, (2) individuals who were to commence employment or self-employment but were prevented by the disaster, (3) individuals who became the breadwinner or major support of a household because of the death of the head of household due to the disaster, or (4) individuals who cannot work or perform services in self-employment because of an injury caused as a direct result of the disaster. Unemployment is a direct result of the major disaster if the unemployment resulted from: (1) the physical damage or destruction of the place of employment; (2) the physical inaccessibility of the place of employment due to its closure by the federal, state, or local government in immediate response to the disaster; or (3) lack of work, loss of revenues, if, prior to the disaster, the employer or self-employed business received at least a majority of its revenue or income from an entity in the major disaster area that was damaged or destroyed in the disaster or an entity in the major disaster area closed by the federal, state, or local government.

In addition to assistance filing a DUA claim, Iowa Workforce Development Centers offer reemployment services, including testing, counseling and placement. Job search and career information is also available through Iowa Workforce Development's web site at www.iowaworkforce.org.

Cost of Living Comparison

Iowa Cities	Ames Iowa	Cedar Rapids Iowa	Davenport/Rock Island Iowa/Illinois	Des Moines Iowa	Dubuque Iowa	Mason City Iowa	Waterloo/Cedar Falls Iowa
Composite Index (U.S. = 100.0)	93.7	91.1	93.7	91.7	98.3	86.2	88.6
Grocery Items	93.2	87.0	94.1	87.4	101.0	89.8	83.0
Housing	91.5	76.2	87.9	87.2	93.7	69.0	82.7
Utilities	93.7	102.3	97.8	101.4	109.5	102.8	95.2
Transportation	105.7	97.5	101.2	94.4	94.8	102.1	97.9
Health Care	95.8	109.3	93.1	90.3	92.5	92.6	90.0
Miscellaneous Goods & Services	91.9	98.6	95.2	93.9	99.9	89.4	90.9

Big XII Cities	Ames Iowa	Lawrence Kansas	Manhattan Kansas	Columbia Missouri	Norman Oklahoma	Stillwater Oklahoma	Austin Texas	Lubbock Texas	Waco Texas
Composite Index (U.S. = 100.0)	93.7	92.4	95.5	91.8	87.4	90.0	94.7	85.9	88.8
Grocery Items	93.2	87.6	93.2	91.8	94.2	93.7	93.4	90.6	80.4
Housing	91.5	89.8	100.9	84.5	74.3	79.2	83.8	73.1	77.0
Utilities	93.7	87.8	95.0	95.5	85.7	103.5	93.0	77.1	108.0
Transportation	105.7	95.2	95.6	95.3	100.3	90.7	98.7	100.8	96.0
Health Care	95.8	94.9	84.7	93.4	103.3	97.5	96.2	100.6	95.4
Miscellaneous Goods & Services	91.9	96.9	93.0	95.9	91.1	93.3	104.1	91.6	93.7

Source: The Council for Community and Economic Research, ACCRA Cost of Living Index First Quarter 2008

Online Resources

Ames Chamber of Commerce
www.ameschamber.com

Ames Convention & Visitors Bureau
www.visitames.com

Ames Economic Dev Commission
www.amesedc.com

Ames Laboratory
www.ameslab.gov

City of Ames
www.city.ames.ia.us

Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.
www.fdic.gov

Iowa Dept of Economic Dev
www.iowalifechanging.com

Iowa State University
www.iastate.edu

Iowa Workforce Development
www.iowaworkforce.org

ISU Research Park
www.isupark.org

Main Street Cultural District
www.mainstreetculturaldistrict.com

Story County, Iowa
www.storycounty.com

Regional Capacity Analysis Program
www.recap.iastate.edu

U.S. Census Bureau
www.uscensus.gov

