

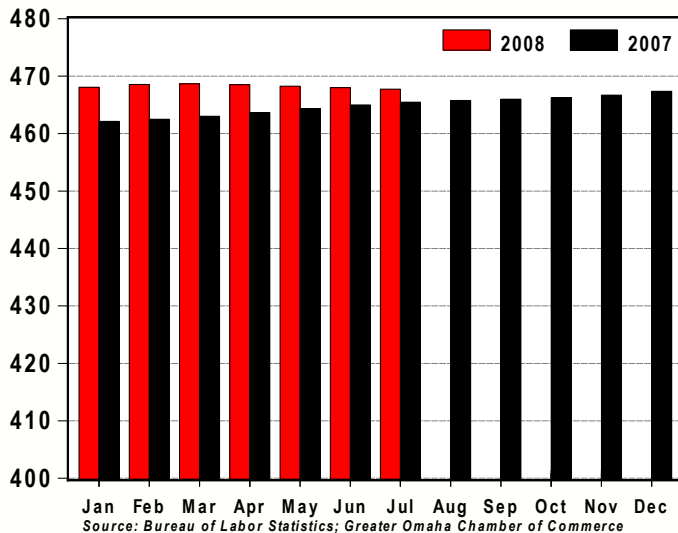
GREATER OMAHA INDICATORS

Published August 2008

LOCAL ECONOMY

GREATER OMAHA
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

Total Non-Farm Employment,
Omaha MSA: 2008 v 2007
(thousands, seasonally adjusted)



- Omaha's private employers added approximately 3,000 net new jobs for the twelve months ending in July.
- The Education & Healthcare (1,200+), Professional & Business Services (800+) and Financial Activities (600+) led job growth over the last twelve months.
- Omaha's unemployment rate for June edged upwards to 3.6 percent.
- Single-family permits increased in July (seasonally-adjusted basis), continuing the recent upward trend.
- Non-residential permits edged downwards in July compared to the previous month.
- Finally, net taxable sales increased for the fifth consecutive month in May.

NATIONAL ECONOMY

- This morning's GDP (+3.3 percent) release points out that outside of the housing sector the economy continues to perform better than is widely acknowledged.
- Excluding housing, GDP grew at a 4.0 percent in the second quarter – and is up 3.2 percent since last year.
- As expected the trade sector provided a significant lift to the revised 2Q GDP print – with net exports contributing 3.1 percent to headline growth.
- Going forward, we look for 3Q'08 growth at or above a 2.5 percent pace, with both consumer and business spending contributing to growth.
- Minutes from the recent FOMC meeting reinforce the view that the Fed will likely remain on hold for the balance of 2008 and into 2009.

AREA HIGHLIGHTS

Longtime North Omaha Business Re-invests \$3 Million, Creates New Jobs:

A fixture in the North Omaha business community since 1956, Interstate Printing is expanding its operation with the addition of a state-of-the-art \$3 million printing press. The speed at which the press operates will trigger the need for at least 10 additional employees. Over the next year or two, Interstate Printing anticipates hiring individuals from the North Omaha community. Founded in 1917, Interstate Printing continues to be a family-owned business with a current staff of 65 employees.

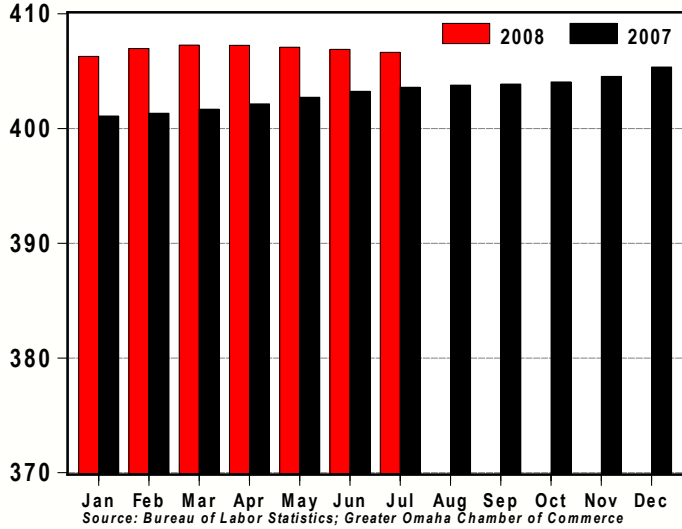
Source: Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce

Mascot makers eye North Omaha:

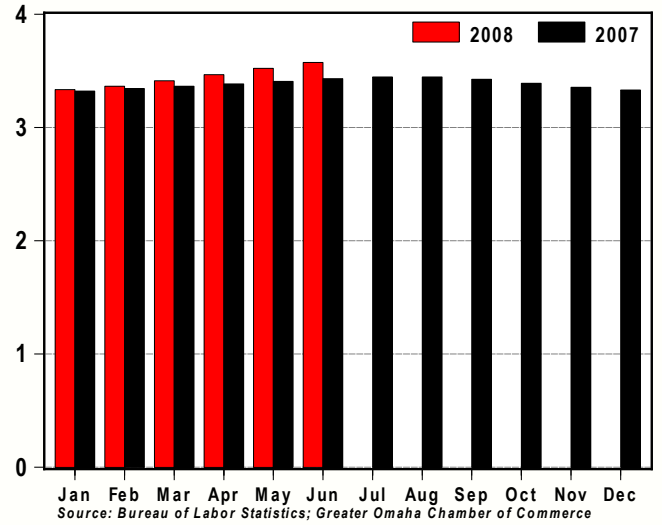
Signs and Shapes International, a family owned business that manufactures the air-filled mascots plans to move to the North Omaha Business Park. Signs and Shapes would bring a \$2.1 million building and 18 jobs plus the prospect of a handful of new jobs. In all, the business park now employs at least 200 people. Among the criteria for getting tax-increment financing are building in a blighted area and adding jobs.

Source: Omaha World-Herald

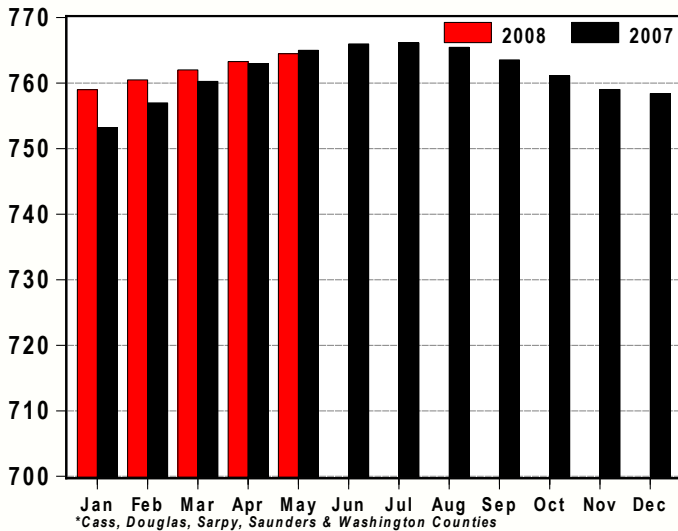
Total Private Employment, Omaha MSA: 2008 v 2007
(thousands, seasonally adjusted)



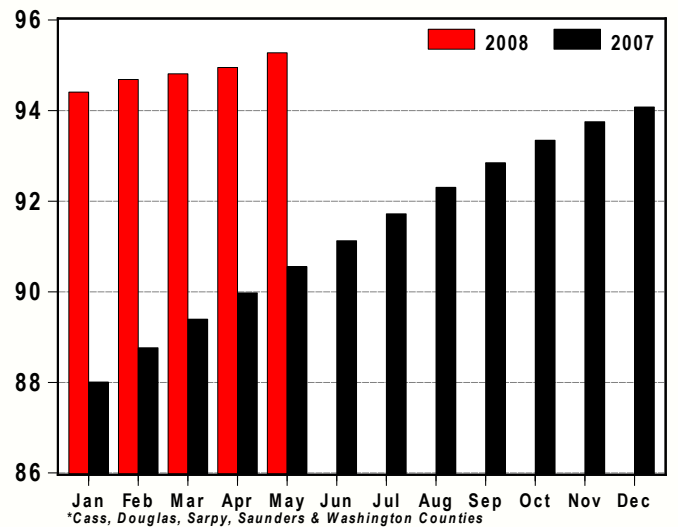
Unemployment Rate, Omaha MSA: 2008 v 2007
(%, seasonally adjusted)



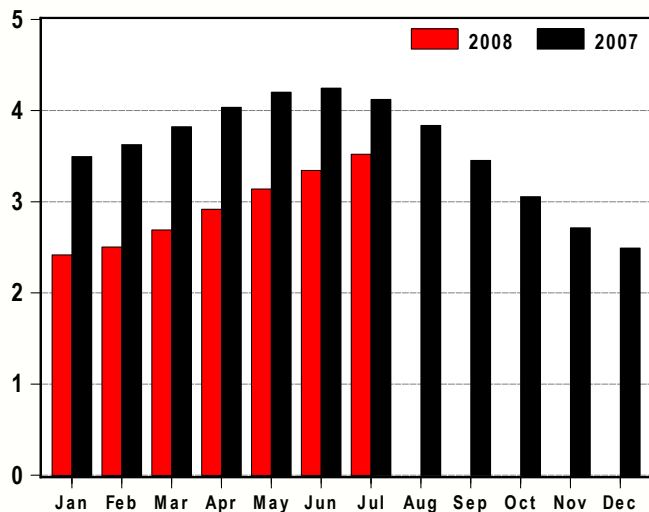
Net Taxable Sales, Nebraska Counties in the Omaha MSA*: 2008 v 2007
(\$ millions, seasonally adjusted)



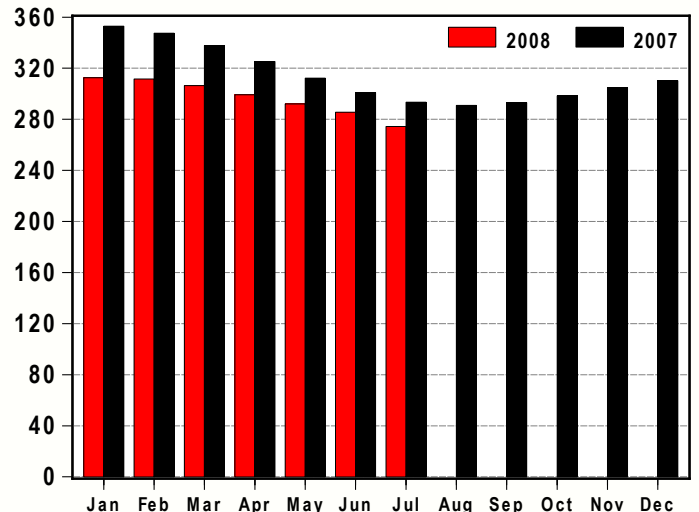
Motor Vehicle Net Taxable Sales, Nebraska Counties in the Omaha MSA*: 2008 v 2007
(\$ millions, seasonally adjusted)



Single-Family Residential Permits, Omaha MSA: 2008 v 2007
(thousands, seasonally adjusted annual rate)



Non-Residential Permits, Omaha MSA: 2008 v 2007
(number of permits, seasonally adjusted annual rate)



Greater Omaha Indicators	Jul 08	Jun 08	May 08	Apr 08	Mar 08	Feb 08	Jan 08	Dec 07	Nov 07	Oct 07	Sep 07	Aug 07	Jul 07
Labor Market: Household Survey													
Labor Force (#,sa)		455,382	454,536	453,580	452,538	451,508	450,560	449,774	449,116	448,602	448,315	448,198	448,178
Employment (#,sa)		439,105	438,529	437,856	437,099	436,318	435,536	434,793	434,053	433,394	432,960	432,757	432,733
Unemployment Rate - Omaha (% ,sa)		3.4	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4
Unemployment Rate - Nebraska (% ,sa)		5.7	5.5	5.5	5.0	4.8	4.9	5.0	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.7
Labor Market: Establishment Survey													
Total Employment (000s, sa)	467.7	468.0	468.3	468.5	468.7	468.5	468.1	467.4	466.7	466.2	466.0	465.8	465.5
Private Employment (000s, sa)	406.6	406.9	407.1	407.2	407.3	407.0	406.3	405.4	404.5	404.0	403.9	403.8	403.6
Construction/Mining (000s, sa)	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.6	25.6	25.5	25.4	25.3	25.1	25.0	24.9	24.8
Manufacturing (000s, sa)	33.4	33.4	33.4	33.5	33.5	33.6	33.6	33.6	33.6	33.5	33.5	33.4	33.4
Trade, Trans., & Utilities (000s, sa)	99.3	99.5	99.8	100.0	100.3	100.4	100.4	100.3	100.2	100.1	100.0	100.0	100.1
Information (000s, sa)	12.2	12.2	12.3	12.3	12.4	12.4	12.5	12.5	12.6	12.6	12.7	12.7	12.7
Financial Activities (000s, sa)	40.2	40.1	39.9	39.8	39.6	39.5	39.5	39.5	39.5	39.5	39.5	39.6	39.5
Prof. & Business Services (000s, sa)	65.5	65.5	65.4	65.2	65.1	65.0	64.9	64.7	64.7	64.7	64.7	64.8	64.7
Educ. & Health Services (000s, sa)	68.1	68.1	68.0	67.9	67.7	67.5	67.3	67.1	67.0	66.9	66.9	66.9	66.9
Leisure & Hospitality (000s,sa)	45.5	45.7	45.9	46.2	46.4	46.4	46.1	45.8	45.4	45.3	45.2	45.2	45.2
Other Services (000s, sa)	17.0	16.9	16.9	16.8	16.7	16.6	16.6	16.5	16.4	16.4	16.3	16.4	16.4
Government (000s, sa)	61.1	61.1	61.2	61.3	61.4	61.6	61.8	62.0	62.2	62.2	62.1	62.0	61.9
New Construction													
Total Permits (#, sa)	320	303	288	273	250	237	234	245	260	291	314	346	368
Valuation (\$000, nsa)	85,855	61,589	100,531	78,464	82,480	31,288	73,088	112,592	345,643	184,981	53,738	82,841	71,250
Single-Family Residential Permits (#, sa)	293	279	262	243	224	209	201	208	226	255	288	320	344
Valuation (\$000, nsa)	54,588	48,699	48,162	45,198	31,931	22,031	20,227	14,738	24,184	42,407	39,915	57,090	49,957
Non-Residential Permits (#, sa)	23	24	24	25	26	26	26	26	25	25	24	24	24
Valuation (\$000, nsa)	24,147	7,985	45,602	30,927	50,550	8,762	26,516	21,975	314,609	97,075	12,539	17,883	21,293
Multi-Family Residential Units (#, nsa)	82	100	42	30	0	12	321	164	83	686	4	84	0
Valuation (\$000, nsa)	7,120	4,905	6,767	2,339	0	494	26,345	75,879	6,849	45,499	1,284	7,867	0
New and Existing Home Sales													
Total Sales (#, nsa)	858	848	979	854	767	607	500	673	867	882	871	n.a.	n.a.
Total Value (\$mm, nsa)	146.3	139.7	168.4	138.9	119.5	101.1	81.8	108.2	122.6	136.9	141.2	n.a.	n.a.
Utilities													
Electricity Customers (#, nsa)		339,187	338,995	338,921	339,040	338,950	339,695	338,305	337,836	336,842	336,841	336,459	336,295
Total Electricity Sold (mwh, sa)		813,379	851,364	901,614	960,839	1,029,188	1,096,862	1,143,085	1,150,624	1,118,416	1,054,855	978,736	911,434
Transportation													
Airline Passengers (000s, sa)	371.0	371.1	371.0	370.9	370.8	370.5	370.3	370.5	371.1	372.1	373.1	373.4	372.7
Airline Cargo (mm lbs., sa)	10.1	10.2	10.3	10.5	10.6	10.8	10.9	11.1	11.2	11.3	11.4	11.5	11.6
Commerce													
Net Taxable Sales (\$mm, sa)		764.5	763.3	762.0	762.0	760.5	759.0	758.4	759.0	761.1	763.5	765.4	766.1
Motor Vehicles (\$mm, sa)		95.3	94.9	94.8	94.8	94.7	94.4	94.1	93.8	93.3	92.8	92.3	91.7
Prices													
Consumer Price Index - U.S. (yr/yr %, nsa)	5.6	5.0	4.2	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.3	4.1	4.3	3.5	2.8	2.0	2.4
CPI - Midwest (yr/yr %, nsa)	5.6	4.9	4.0	4.0	3.7	3.8	4.3	3.8	4.1	3.7	3.1	1.8	2.3
Personal Consumption Expenditure Index (yr/yr %, sa)		4.1	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.1	2.6	2.0	2.2
PCE Index, ex Food & Energy (yr/yr %, sa)		2.3	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.0

Note: sa = seasonally adjusted; nsa = not seasonally adjusted; na = not available.

BUSINESS BAROMETER

The following companies are new or have recently expanded operations in the Greater Omaha metro area. Announcements in this list have been gathered from public releases and from the local media. Investment estimates are based on public announcements, while employment is based on public announcements and industry averages.

<u>Company</u>	<u>Location (approximate)</u>	<u>Industry</u>	<u>Investment</u>	<u>Added Employment</u>
<i>June</i>				
Bellwether Boutique	430 S. 12th St.	Trade		3
First Command				
Financial Planning	66th St. & Cornhusker Rd.	Service	\$1,000,000	0
Omaha Pain				
Management Center	10784 V St.	Healthcare		0
Old Market Tea House	517 S. 13th St.	Service		5
LaMar's Donuts/Dunn Bros.	17202 Audrey St.	Service		10
CoSentry	Southroads Technology Center	Service		0
Wal-Mart Supercenter	72nd and Hickory Streets	Trade	\$9,100,000	250
Scooter's Coffeehouse	Highway 30 - Hayden Place	Service		10
Anytime Fitness	Highway 30 - Hayden Place	Healthcare		20
Attic Bar & Grill	3229 Harney St.	Service		10
Alegent Health Clinic	3308 Samson Way	Healthcare		10
The Palisades	9840 S. 168th Ave.	Real Estate		0
First National Bank	84th and Frederick Streets	Finance		0
Scooter's	84th and Frederick Streets	Service		5
Midtown Crossing				
Theater Complex	33rd and Farnam Streets	Service		25
Creighton Fitness and Wellness Center	Creighton Campus	Service	\$18,000,000	0
DirectBuy	108th Street and Giles Road	Trade		10
Blue Planet Natural Grill	63rd and Center Streets	Service		15
		Total YTD 2008	\$576,781,280	2,277