

Employment, finance remain strong in Ames and Story County

Published: Wednesday, July 8, 2009 11:50 AM CDT

http://www.amestrib.com/articles/2009/07/24/ames_tribune/business/business_quarterly/doc4a4a40fe9cd4a262690266.txt

Although jolted by recent layoffs, Ames and Story County are weathering the economic downturn in stronger fashion than other parts of Iowa, according to statistics gathered for The Tribune's summer 2009 Business Quarterly.

Unemployment figures current to the end of April placed the jobless rate at 3.6 percent in Story County, according to Iowa Workforce Development.

A total of 530 initial claims for unemployment compensation were submitted to Workforce Development in the county during May 2009.

Seasonal adjustments in both Ames and Story County populations began to show up with the end of the term at Iowa State University, but the ratio of employed residents to the overall population remained strong.

There was a pick-up in both the average price and median price of a home sold in Ames or adjacent rural subdivisions in a comparison of statistics from the end of May 2009 and the same date last year.

Warmer weather and available credit sparked a jump in projected home sales for the month of June, as well, but the overall number of listings was off.

The Ames financial market strengthened as well, as a survey of lending institutions showed an increase in both overall deposits and loan activity between Dec. 31, 2008 and the end of May.