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In The News

Enhancements made to local job board WorkInAmes.com



The Ames Economic Development Commission (AEDC) has redesigned and updated www.workinames.com, a local job board for the Ames/Story County area.

The site was launched in 2013 to showcase the wide range of career opportunities the Ames and Story County area has to offer and allows all local employers to post jobs at no cost. Those looking for a job in Ames are able to search a list of openings for full time, part time and internship positions.

Users of the site will notice the redesign has simplified the posting/searching process and overall the site is brighter and more visual. Specific enhancements to the site include: Enhanced search capabilities, Opportunities for job seekers to post their resume and create a profile. The system will notify them as jobs are posted that match their search criteria, Employers can create a profile that allows them to edit/save/remove their job posts and also search the database for qualified candidates, The site features videos that help tell the Ames Story

“The enhancements have really taken our local job board to the next level,” says Brenda Dryer, Director of Workforce Solutions. “We’ve designed the site to be useful to both larger and smaller employers in the area and to show off our vibrant community.”

Dryer says that while Ames has a relatively low unemployment rate, this site will help fill those job openings by connecting people that are looking for jobs with those that are hiring.

“We wanted our job site to reflect our community and attract people from out of state to work at our world-class companies, join our vibrant workforce and become part of our thriving Ames/Story County community,” says Dryer.

The website is one part of the AEDC’s ongoing Workforce Development Initiative. The initiative focuses on projects that will promote the Ames/Story County community by attracting and retaining an array of qualified workers for the area. Along with the local job site, the AEDC runs a summer internship program and a talent recruitment effort.

Local Workforce

LOCAL WORKFORCE SUMMARY APRIL 2017 (not seasonally adjusted)

	Total Workforce	Total Employed	Total Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Ames, April 2017	40,200	39,600	600	1.4%
Ames, April 2016	40,000	39,300	700	1.7%
Ames, April 2012	36,400	35,300	1,100	3.0%
Story County, April 2017				
	58,600	57,700	1,000	1.6%
Story County, April 2016	58,300	57,200	1,200	2.0%
Story County, April 2012	54,000	52,000	1,800	3.4%

Source: Iowa Workforce Development, Retrieved June 2017

Retail Sales

KEY RETAIL INDICATORS FOR AMES

Ames	FY2015	FY2016	% Change
Real total taxable sales (\$)	890,026,692	903,590,960	1.5% ▲
Number of reporting firms (annualized)	1,180	1,204	2.0% ▲
Population	64,787	66,061	2.0% ▲
Average sales per capita (\$)	13,738	13,678	-0.4% ▼
Average sales per firm (\$)	754,580	750,647	-0.5% ▼

No distinctions are made among student households, non-student households, or group quarters in the calculation of per capita sales and related indicators.

Source: Retail Trade Analysis Report Fiscal Year 2016, Issued April 2017, Iowa State University Department of Economics, Retrieved June 2017

Housing

RESIDENTIAL HOUSING SALES - QUARTER 4 2015 vs. QUARTER 4 2016

Q1 2016 vs. Q1 2017 Comparison	Q1 2016 Average Price	Q1 2017 Average Price	% Change	# of Sales Transactions Q1 2016	# of Sales Transactions Q1 2017	% Change	2016 Median Price	2017 Median Price	% Change
Ames & Rural Ames subdivisions	\$212,212	\$242,918	+14.5%	116	100	-13.8%	\$188,725	\$225,500	+19.5%
Story County excluding Ames & rural Ames subdivisions	\$158,108	\$158,575	+0.3%	48	51	+6.3%	\$145,000	\$164,000	+13.2%

Sales as reported to the Central Iowa Board of Realtors, 1/1/2016—3/31/2016 and 1/1/2017—3/31/2017
Source: Hunziker & Associates, July 2017



HOUSING UNITS BUILDING PERMITS (YTD)

	Q1 2017	Q1 2016	Q1 2012
Total	297	40	16
Single-Family	56	31	16
Multi-Family	241	9	0
2-Unit	0	0	0
3- and 4- Unit	0	0	0
5+ Unit	241	0	0

Source: State of Cities Data Systems, June 2017
Preliminary Data for 2017 is subject to subsequent revision throughout the year.

2017 RESIDENTIAL SALES DETAIL - EXISTING & NEW PROCESSED TO DATE

	Number Sold	Average Price	Average House Size	Price per Sq. Ft.	Average Year Built	Median Price	Annual % Change per Sq. Ft.	Cumulative % Change in \$ / SF (1995 base)
Existing	61	\$226,350	1,473	\$153.67	1975	\$194,000	3.0%	95.8%
Single-Family Detached	48	\$233,559	1,526	\$153.05	1970	\$197,750	-	-
Townhouses/ Condos	13	\$199,731	1,277	\$156.41	1991	\$175,000	-	-
New Construction Sales	2	\$362,864	1,934	\$187.62	2016	\$362,864	-15.1%	96.6%
Single-Family Detached	2	\$362,864	1,934	\$187.62	2016	\$362,864	-	-
Townhouses/ Condos	0						-	-

Source: Ames City Assessor, July 2017

Cost of Living

The Cost of Living Index measures relative price levels for consumer goods and services in participating areas. The average for all participating places, both metropolitan and nonmetropolitan, equals 100, and each participant's index is read as a percentage of the average for all places.

Iowa Cities	Ames	Burlington	Cedar Rapids	Davenport/ Moline/ Rock Island	Des Moines	Dubuque	Mason City	Waterloo / Cedar Falls
Composite Index (U.S. = 100.00)	94.3	83.4	97.6	97.7	90.0	88.9	no data	94.4
Grocery Items	91.9	87.0	97.9	100.9	90.5	94.2	no data	91.3
Housing	98.7	67.9	88.0	84.7	83.7	68.7	no data	92.5
Utilities	79.7	99.4	102.6	107.1	98.4	89.8	no data	86.1
Transportation	109.0	92.6	117.2	96.2	99.4	92.1	no data	95.7
Health Care	97.5	96.1	106.1	99.9	99.1	91.0	no data	93.9
Miscellaneous Goods & Services	91.7	85.5	97.4	104.0	88.7	101.3	no data	99.3

Source: The Council for Community and Economic Research, ACCRA Cost of Living Index 2017 First Quarter Data, Published May 2017
*Does not include Story County health care costs as a whole, this is the total fee for procedure, not just co-payment or amount billed to insurer.

Big XII Cities	Ames	Manhattan, Kansas	Austin, Texas	Lawrence, Kansas	Norman, Oklahoma	Stillwater, Oklahoma	Lubbock, Texas	Fort Worth, Texas	Waco, Texas	Morgantown, West Virginia
Composite Index (U.S. = 100.00)	94.3	90.5	97.7	no data	90.4	91.9	91.9	88.0	89.4	95.3
Grocery Items	91.9	92.6	86.8	no data	96.6	93.3	94.7	98.5	82.5	106.1
Housing	98.7	84.9	99.8	no data	71.5	78.2	81.7	71.4	80.3	85.8
Utilities	79.7	90.6	99.9	no data	99.6	93.7	99.6	98.7	107.3	87.7
Transportation	109.0	88.8	96.6	no data	83.6	93.9	95.4	96.8	95.1	101.3
Health Care	97.5	94.8	99.2	no data	88.5	93.4	99.6	96.3	92.9	92.0
Miscellaneous Goods & Services	91.7	94.0	99.8	no data	102.3	100.9	94.8	90.6	92.2	99.6

Source: The Council for Community and Economic Research, ACCRA Cost of Living Index 2017 First Quarter Data, Published May 2017
*Does not include Story County health care costs as a whole, this is the total fee for procedure, not just co-payment or amount billed to insurer.

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

Online Resources

- > Ames Chamber of Commerce
- > Ames Convention & Visitors Bureau
- > Ames Economic Development Commission
- > Work In Ames - Local Job Board
- > The City of Ames
- > Regional Research, Stats & Data Hub
- > Iowa Economic Development Authority
- > Iowa State University
- > Iowa Workforce Development
- > ISU Research Park
- > Main Street Cultural District
- > Campustown Action Association
- > Story County, Iowa
- > Regional Capacity Analysis Program
- > U.S. Census Bureau
- > Cultivation Corridor