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# In The News

## Local school districts excel in state rankings



Story By Dan Mika, Ames Tribune Staff Writer

The Ames Community School District has been named the best school district in the state while the Gilbert Community School District remains close by, according to new rankings from data aggregator Niche.com.

The rankings, which are weighted heavily in favor of academic performance on state tests and college admission tests, gave “A+” ratings to Ames High School and Fellows and Edwards Elementary, while giving “A” ratings to Ames Middle School and Sawyer, Meeker and Mitchell Elementary.

Niche previously named the Ames Community School District the best in the state in 2014 and 2015.

Superintendent Tim Taylor said the legwork of maintaining the district’s rankings was done by district staff and students performing well.

“We give a lot of credit to our kids and our staff for their hard work,” he said.

Ames’ district was ranked 181th out of a nationwide analysis, while Gilbert was ranked 314th.

## Dan Culhane named a ‘Top 50 Economic Developer in North America’ by Consultant Connect



*Consultant Connect, a consulting agency designed to bridge the gap between economic developers and site consultants, announces its 2017 list of North America’s Top 50 Economic Developers. The economic development professionals selected for this list were nominated by their colleagues in both the economic development industry and the site consultant community for excellent practices, innovation and success in building the communities they serve.*

# Local Workforce

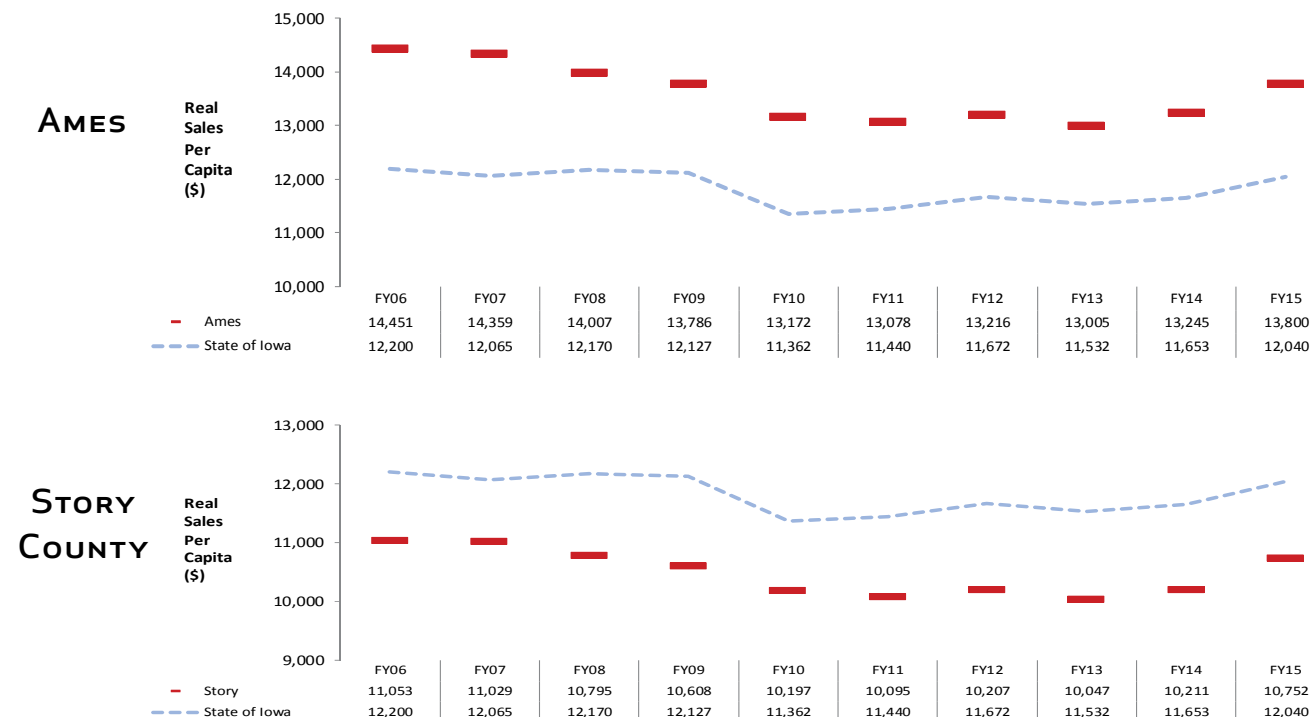
## LOCAL WORKFORCE SUMMARY DECEMBER 2016 (not seasonally adjusted)

	Total Workforce	Total Employed	Total Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
<b>Ames, December 2016</b>	39,900	39,200	700	1.8%
<b>Ames, December 2015</b>	39,700	38,900	800	2.0%
<b>Ames, December 2011</b>	35,700	34,600	1,100	3.1%
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<b>Story County, December 2016</b>	58,700	57,500	1,200	2.1%
<b>Story County, December 2015</b>	58,400	57,100	1,300	2.2%
<b>Story County, December 2011</b>	53,400	51,500	2,000	3.7%

Source: Iowa Workforce Development, Retrieved January 2017

# Retail Sales

## TAXABLE RETAIL SALES PER CAPITA



Source: Retail Trade Analysis Report Fiscal Year 2015, Issued March 2016, Iowa State University Department of Economics, Retrieved January 2017

# Housing

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

Q4 2015 vs. Q4 2016 Comparison	Q4 2015 Average Price	Q4 2016 Average Price	% Change	# of Sales Transactions Q4 2015	# of Sales Transactions Q4 2016	% Change	2015 Median Price	2016 Median Price	% Change
Ames & Rural Ames subdivisions	\$218,111	\$232,863	+6.8%	120	136	+13.3%	\$197,250	\$201,950	+2.4%
Story County excluding Ames & rural Ames subdivisions	\$163,844	\$193,906	+18.3%	66	93	+40.9%	\$151,000	\$159,000	+5.3%

Sales as reported to the Central Iowa Board of Realtors, 10/1/2015—12/31/2015 and 10/1/2016—12/31/2016  
Source: Hunziker & Associates, January 2017



## HOUSING UNITS BUILDING PERMITS (YTD)

	Q4 2016	Q4 2015	Q4 2011
<b>Total</b>	492	450	414
<b>Single-Family</b>	93	91	58
<b>Multi-Family</b>	399	359	356
<b>2-Unit</b>	0	2	0
<b>3- and 4- Unit</b>	0	3	0
<b>5+ Unit</b>	399	354	356

Source: State of Cities Data Systems, January 2017  
Preliminary Data for 2016 is subject to subsequent revision throughout the year.

## 2016 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)
<b>Existing</b>	689	\$216,902	1,456	\$148.97	1973	\$194,000	10.5%	89.9%
<b>Single-Family Detached</b>	565	\$223,366	1,513	\$147.63	1969	\$197,500	-	-
<b>Townhouses/ Condos</b>	124	\$187,449	1,197	\$156.60	1990	\$168,625	-	-
<b>New Construction Sales</b>	33	\$381,044	1,724	\$221.02	2015	\$365,500	8.3%	131.6%
<b>Single-Family Detached</b>	26	\$401,525	1,828	\$219.65	2015	\$377,990	-	-
<b>Townhouses/ Condos</b>	7	\$304,972	1,339	\$227.76	2015	\$320,000	-	-

Source: Ames City Assessor, January 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)	94.0	84.5	96.6	95.8	89.9	89.3	88.2	95.2
Grocery Items	93.2	88.5	98.7	106.3	92.2	98.3	98.7	86.5
Housing	97.2	69.9	82.9	91.2	82.3	67.3	72.0	88.5
Utilities	81.0	98.9	110.2	98.0	98.2	91.1	93.6	92.1
Transportation	105.0	88.9	107.6	96.4	98.6	88.9	81.5	106.5
Health Care	97.1	95.1	105.1	97.5	97.5	91.6	100.5	97.7
Miscellaneous Goods & Services	92.1	87.8	98.7	94.3	89.4	102.5	95.6	101.3

Source: The Council for Community and Economic Research, ACCRA Cost of Living Index 2016 Annual Average Data, Published January 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)	94.0	91.3	96.7	no data	83.8	86.3	89.4	102.3	88.3	95.7
Grocery Items	93.2	94.1	86.9	no data	91.9	88.2	93.6	92.6	81.4	101.1
Housing	97.2	85.7	94.8	no data	67.7	80.3	82.6	95.6	74.6	91.0
Utilities	81.0	87.8	102.9	no data	93.2	94.5	83.8	98.1	88.3	87.9
Transportation	105.0	91.7	98.3	no data	81.2	82.8	90.0	103.4	96.7	96.4
Health Care	97.1	94.6	102.7	no data	87.8	93.7	101.1	98.0	94.4	91.7
Miscellaneous Goods & Services	92.1	95.0	99.1	no data	91.0	87.9	93.2	112.6	98.6	99.9

Source: The Council for Community and Economic Research, ACCRA Cost of Living Index 2016 Annual Average Data, Published January 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.

## AMES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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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](mailto: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