3-1977


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Economic Indicators of the Metropolitan Areas of the Midcontinent Region

Introduction

With the cooperation of the Economic Development Council of the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, the Center for Applied Urban Research in 1973 began to monitor economic and demographic data for six subareas of the greater Omaha area. The economic data collection was expanded to include a total of 25 metropolitan areas located in the eleven-state Midcontinent Region. This report expands and updates data CAUR has published previously.

Economic Indicators of the Metropolitan Areas of the Midcontinent Region is a collection of statistics selected and organized to describe economic conditions and trends in metropolitan areas of the Midcontinental United States. Subarea data currently is presented only for the Omaha area. A total of nine major economic indicators are examined for all 25 metropolitan areas: average weekly earnings of production workers, non-agricultural wage and salary employment, employment in manufacturing, employment in construction, unemployment rate, private housing units authorized by building permits, department store sales, telephone customers and air passengers. A total of twenty-eight indicators are presented for the subareas of Omaha, including: motor vehicle registrations, net natural increase in population, household migration, building permits, mechanics liens, mortgages, bankruptcies, unemployment insurance claimants, Post Office address units and water hookups.

The collection of data in time series permits monitoring of changes in the status of an area over time. An understanding of the changes from quarter to quarter and year to year is essential in planning and making decisions in both the private and public sectors. The longer the series is collected the more valuable it becomes in providing a historical perspective. In subsequent reports other series may be added and some of the present ones may be reorganized or dropped. However, the main requirement for establishing a historical data series is and will be the consistency of such data. Most of the series included have been taken from Federal, state and local agency sources; their quality can be verified by those agencies.

Midcontinent Metropolitan Areas, 1974-1976

Fluctuations in the economic activities of twenty-five metropolitan areas in the Midcontinent Region through 1974, 1975, and 1976 are recorded in the nine indicators presented in Table 1. Although variations occur among the metropolitan areas, the aggregated data for those areas are representative of short term regional patterns of change and allow for comparison of the developments in the Midcontinent metropolitan areas with those of the U.S. as a whole.

The late-1974 decline, the 1975 recession, and the 1976 recovery are evident in the five activities graphed in Figure 1 on page 5. Thus, for example, a major decline and a marked recovery in construction activity are evident in the number of private housing units authorized and in construction employment. Some lack of conformity of the Region's metropolitan areas with the nation, however, has developed during the last two quarters of 1976 in construction activity.

The patterns of change of the aggregate metropolitan area data did not differ markedly from those for the national aggregates except for some variations in timing and small differences in the relative changes. In general construction activity both declined and recovered by a somewhat greater degree in the Region than in the nation. Manufacturing employment in Midcontinent metropolitan areas has paralleled that of the nation, having declined in 1975 and slowly recovered in 1976. Non-agricultural employment patterns have been nearly parallel, although much more variable in the nation than in the Region, and with much lower growth in 1976. The patterns of change in unemployment rates show some divergence in 1975, but have been generally parallel in 1976. The aggregate Midcontinent unemployment rate has been notably below that of the nation.

Omaha and its Subareas, 1973-1976

Omaha experienced a year of recovery in 1976. Economic activities climbed from the low levels of late 1974 and early 1975 to approach or even surpass 1973's pre-recession benchmarks. Construction activity as measured by building permits improved in 1976, particularly in single family housing. 1976 housing sales as indicated by mortgages surpassed the 1973 level.

Other economic indicators demonstrate improvement in 1976. Motor vehicle registrations increased after a 1975 low. Mechanics liens dropped to the lowest level in four years. Bankruptcy cases decreased markedly at the end of the year. Unemployment claims began a slow decline.

Omaha's population has increased in the past year. More families arrived in Omaha than left Omaha and the net number of residences increased. The rate of migration slowed, however, as fewer households moved to and from the city or to different city neighborhoods.

The activity of the six Omaha subareas from 1973 through 1976 is shown in Table 2.
### TABLE 1 - PART A

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**Missouri**

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<td>206.01</td>
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**Seventh District**

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### TABLE 1 - PART B

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**Missouri**

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<td>Transportation</td>
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<td>209.98</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**See text on end of sheet.**
### TABLE 1 - PART C

**SELECTED MIDCONTINENT REGIONAL URBAN INDICATORS**

| Status | Kalm | Kalamazoo | Lansing | Peoria | Quincy | Quad C | Quad C | Springfield | Springfield | St. Joseph | St. Louis | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | Toledo | 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### TABLE 2

**Omaha Intra-Urban Demographic & Economic Indicators**

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<td>329,770</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>South</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
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</table>

**Total**

- 1,020,960
- North
  - 691,190
- Central
  - 329,770
- South
  - 100,000

**1974**

- Total: 1,020,960
- North: 691,190
- Central: 329,770
- South: 100,000

**Total**

- 1,020,960
- North
  - 691,190
- Central
  - 329,770
- South
  - 100,000

**1975**

- Total: 1,020,960
- North: 691,190
- Central: 329,770
- South: 100,000

**Total**

- 1,020,960
- North
  - 691,190
- Central
  - 329,770
- South
  - 100,000

**1976**

- Total: 1,020,960
- North: 691,190
- Central: 329,770
- South: 100,000

**Total**

- 1,020,960
- North
  - 691,190
- Central
  - 329,770
- South
  - 100,000

**Source:** Table 2, Omaha Intra-Urban Demographic & Economic Indicators, 1973-1976.
Lincoln. Dr. Hauswald will serve as the Acting Center for Applied Urban Research and market research, having had administrative responsibility outside Nebraska.

Dr. Hauswald has a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Nebraska in 1975 and has been a part of the Economics Department since then. His specialties are in location analysis and economic development.

### TABLE 2 (continued)

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Building Permits Residential Single Family Units</th>
<th>Building Permits Residential Multi-Family Units</th>
<th>Building Permits Total</th>
<th>Building Permits Non-Residential Single Family Units</th>
<th>Building Permits Non-Residential Multi-Family Units</th>
<th>Building Permits Non-Residential Total</th>
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<td>1,454</td>
<td>807</td>
<td>496</td>
<td>1,071</td>
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<td>1975</td>
<td>2,570</td>
<td>497</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>1,903</td>
<td>892</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>1,004</td>
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<td>752</td>
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<td>3,085</td>
<td>1,756</td>
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### REVIEW OF APPLIED URBAN RESEARCH

Vol. 5 March 1977 No. 3

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**UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA**

Herbert Garfinkel, Interim Chancellor

**COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**

John E. Kerrigan, Dean

**CENTER FOR APPLIED URBAN RESEARCH**

Ralph H. Todd, Director/Editor

The Center for Applied Urban Research announces the addition of Dr. Edward L. Hauswald as Senior Research Fellow. Dr. Hauswald has a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Indiana. His specialties are in location analysis and economic and market research, having had administrative responsibility for major research projects while serving as Associate and Acting Director of the Bureau of Business Research at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. Dr. Hauswald will serve as the Acting Coordinator of the Division of Housing Research and Services of the Center.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

The work in part was financed by a grant from the Economic Development Council of the Omaha Chamber of Commerce. The data were compiled by CAUP (Center for Applied Urban Research) and the Interim Chancellor.

**Center for Applied Urban Research**

University of Nebraska at Omaha

Box 688

Omaha, Nebraska 68101

**NON-PROFIT ORG.**

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

OMAHA, NEBRASKA

Permit No. 301