

Incomes up in Iowa metros

Personal income grew faster than the U.S. average of six of Iowa's metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) during 2007, according to estimates released by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

	Personal income	Per Capita income
Ames	6.0%	4.8%
Cedar Rapids	7.7%	6.3%
Council Bluffs	5.8%	4.7%
Des Moines	6.3%	4.2%
Dubuque	5.2%	4.2%
Iowa City	7.0%	5.2%
Quad Cities	6.2%	5.7%
Sioux City	7.4%	6.9%
Waterloo-Cedar Falls	6.0%	5.9%
U.S. Average	6.2%	5.1%

BOLD: Larger increase than U.S. Average

ART'S-WAY AMONG FASTEST-GROWING

Art's-Way Manufacturing, Inc. has been named to the Fortune Small Business 100, a ranking of America's fastest-growing small public companies. The Company was ranked number 57 in 2008 with an EPS growth of 12 percent, a Revenue growth of 26.7 percent and Total Return to Investors of 53.1 percent. The ranking appears in the July/August issue of Fortune Small Business magazine. A leading manufacturer and distributor of agricultural machinery, equipment and services, Art's Way is headquartered in Armstrong, Iowa.

Data center coming to Waukee

Iowa Health System and TEAM Technologies are forming TEAM Des Moines Partners LLC to jointly develop and own a new world-class data center in Waukee. The new data center will store the patient and employee records for all of Iowa Health System's clinics and hospitals throughout the state.

"TEAM is extraordinarily happy to work with Iowa's largest healthcare provider to enhance the safety and security of the system's healthcare information," said Mark Kittrell, vice president of business development for TEAM Technologies.

The critical information will be stored in both the new center in the Des Moines metro area and one of TEAM's other data centers located in Cedar Falls. "Between the two, we will provide secure, redundant systems for Iowa Health so all of their records are safe. Iowa Health System will have two copies of everything, 100 miles apart."

The Waukee data center will be built in three phases and total 46,000 sq. ft. when completed. The first phase will total 16,000 sq. ft. with a capital investment of \$14 million. Iowa Health System will use half of the data center space developed in the first phase. The other half will be used by TEAM's other customers. The center would employ 11 people earning salaries

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Mark Kittrell
TEAM Technologies



TEAM Des Moines Partners data center in Waukee will be built in three phases and total 46,000 sq. ft. when completed.



HIGH SCORING IOWA STUDENTS

Iowa students earned the second highest composite score in the nation on this year's ACT college entrance examination, according to results from states where a majority of high school students took the ACT test.

Iowa's average composite score rose by 0.1 percentage point to 22.4. The national average score is 21.1 out of a possible 36. Minnesota was first with 22.6.

"These results clearly show one thing: Iowa students are among the best in the nation. Iowa graduates are even more ready and well-prepared for higher education," Governor Chet Culver said. "There is no better time than now for students and graduates to take advantage of all the opportunities for students related to higher education. From universal preschool through Senior Year Plus — and beyond — I am committed to the success of our students."

This year 60 percent of Iowa's graduating class took the ACT test, slightly fewer than last year.

Impressive courtyard for Wellmark



Architect's sketch of the Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa headquarters building, which is being built on 6.6 acres in the "Western Gateway Park" area of downtown Des Moines. When the 550,000 sq. ft. building is completed in 2010, the \$194 million structure will house 1,700 employees. The health insurer's expansion is assisted by \$1 million for infrastructure development and Enterprise Zone tax benefits approved by the Iowa Department of Economic Development.

IOWA PAVILION AT MAJOR FOOD SHOW

Representatives of Sue Bee Honey were among 11 Iowa companies participating in the Iowa Pavilion at the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) Annual Meeting & Food Expo, the largest annual food science exposition in the world. Other companies marketing with the Iowa Department of Economic Development were: Asoyia, Allied Blending and Ingredients, Cresco Food Technologies, Embria, Eurofins, Frontier, Islamic Services of America, Proliant, Natural Products, and Rembrandt Enterprises. Forty-seven other companies with facilities in Iowa were also IFT exhibitors. The companies have over 10,000 Iowa employees. The event was held in New Orleans, June 29th-July 1st.



Five Star success in Knoxville

Contract manufacturer Five Star Industries, Inc. plans to construct an 18,000 sq. ft. addition to the Knoxville plant during the coming year. The Iowa Department of Economic Development has awarded financial and tax incentives to the expansion, which will create 30 jobs.

Five Star is a whole product manufacturer and prototype development center, which has been in operation in Knoxville since 2000. Facilities in the current 58,000 sq. ft.

plant include a customized Mazak® large-bed laser plate cutter, powder and wet finish paint booths, extensive tooling shops, fully equipped welding areas and cutting edge fabrication centers.

Five Star Industries manufactures road graders, concrete mixers, road construction equipment, pipeline fusion machines, golf course maintenance accessories and street potholing equipment.

ENGINEERING NEW PRODUCTS IN NEWTON

The central Iowa community of Newton continues to reinvent itself following the closing of longtime employer Maytag. The community's rebirth is assisted by former Maytag employees who are tapping into their entrepreneurial side to start new ventures.

Jordan Bruntz, a 20-year Maytag veteran who oversaw Maytag's engineering division, and seven other former Maytag employees own and operate Springboard Engineering. The new engineering services company provides large and small manufacturers with high-volume consumer product development.

Springboard's staff of 50 workers has more than 800 years of combined engineering experience. The company refurbished a 40,000 sq. ft. building that was formerly a retail store for its operations. The project was awarded \$400,000 and tax benefits from the Iowa Department of Economic Development programs. In return, Springboard expects to create 61 jobs.

"Small manufacturers are using our services because they don't have resources available for an engineering staff or the equipment necessary," says Bruntz. "Large companies use us to supplement existing staff."

Springboard can meet all the needs of its clients. "We offer the entire package from product concept to product prototyping," says Bruntz. "We can test component parts and even do limited production runs." By speeding clients' products to market, manufacturers can get a head start on their competition.



DuPont speeds into the future

Longtime employer DuPont continues to invest millions of dollars annually to produce new products at its Fort Madison plant, evolving beyond its origins in paints for automotive, industrial and consumer use.

In addition to pigments that are used in paint, the 150-employee facility manufactures inks for laser printers, Tedlar film for use in solar panels and airplanes, Kevlar body armor, protective gear for firefighters, Nomex military uniforms and other products.

"We sell ink to most of the major printer cartridge producers," says George Wheeler, Dupont global asset manager, adding that the company is the largest manufacturer of digital printing inks in the world. "Enough ink has been produced in Fort Madison to fill more than 3.3 billion desktop printer cartridges."

And as the market for renewable or "green" energy sources grow, the Fort Madison facility should see continued growth of its Tedlar film for use in solar cells. "The solar electric industry is growing by more than 30 percent each year, and Tedlar production should grow similarly," notes Wheeler.

Last year DuPont celebrated its 70th year in Fort Madison, where it established operations by purchasing a closed factory building in 1937.

Sustainable packaging

Naturally Iowa is the only dairy in the world that packages milk in revolutionary plastic bottles made from corn. The Polylactic Acid (PLA) bottles are blow molded in Clarinda using a corn starch resin that makes the containers biodegradable after use. Naturally Iowa produces organic and all-natural dairy products including fluid milk, ice cream and drinkable yogurt for Midwest stores. The Iowa Department of Economic Development provided assistance for Naturally Iowa's startup from the Value-Added Agricultural Products and Processes Financial Assistance Program (VAAPFAP).



CALENDAR

- Sept. 8-13 International Manufacturing Technology Show
Chicago
- Sept. 13-14 Energy & Sustainability Expo
Cedar Falls
- Oct. 6-8 Iowa Recycling & Solid Waste Conference
Ottumwa

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Allans launch start-up company

David and Monte Allan are starting a new powder coating business in Allison to be called Allan Industrial Coatings. The owners expect to make a capital investment of more than \$4 million in the environmentally friendly paint process. The Iowa Department of Economic Development awarded the new business \$256,000 from the Economic Development Set-Aside (EDSA) program to eventually create 81 jobs. Coating services will be offered to manufacturers using the Autophoretic® process for automotive, agricultural, wind energy and marine components.

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between \$40,000 and \$100,000.

The Iowa Department of Economic Development has awarded the project tax benefits from the High Quality Job Creation (HQJC) program.

Waukee Mayor Bill Peard said the city is thrilled to work with a company which has the potential to bring Iowa's tech boom to his community. Google announced last year a huge data center project for Council Bluffs. This month, Microsoft also announced it would locate a data center in the Des Moines area. The TEAM project would be smaller, but technology experts in the state say it points to Iowa's strength in retaining and attracting high-tech companies. TEAM Technologies is headquartered

in Cedar Falls, Iowa, where it operates a 25,000 square foot data center. In addition, TEAM has just completed a data center just outside of Madison, Wisconsin.

"We believe in building our centers in the Upper Midwest," said Kittrell. "We think the region is ideal for data centers because of the low risk of terrorism, earthquakes and other natural disasters. We build our centers to withstand tornados and carefully choose sites outside of flood plains. We call our method security through obscurity," Kittrell explained.

When choosing sites, TEAM also considers power availability, fiber availability and progressive communities with a good understanding of what data centers do.