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Omaha Evades Big Unemployment Grip

OMAHA, Neb. -- Amid nationwide job cutting and a high unemployment rate -- 6.1 percent, according to the latest U.S. Labor Department statistics -- Nebraska seems to be bucking the trend.

The state has always fared well compared to national unemployment numbers.

The July unemployment rate in Omaha is at 3.6 percent, significantly lower than the national average.

Activity around the metro drives home the point.

Anna Adams is one of about 100 workers in the city hired by Alpine Access, a company that hires workers to take calls out of their homes from major companies.

"I'll just be handling general maintenance and account inquiries and things along those lines," Adams said.

Mutual of Omaha and Blue Cross Blue Shield recently announced 50 new jobs and a new training program.

Also, according to the chamber of commerce, First National Bank, Gallup and ACI are hiring. And a company called Novozymes just came to Blair and Google is setting up shop across the river in Council Bluffs.

Adams said she thinks she found the right job.

"When I was job hunting, I was not excited about forking over an arm and a leg for gas and I couldn't get motivated to commute an hour a day round trip."