



City of Madison COVID Recovery Dashboard

September 2020 Digest

Welcome to our first monthly digest, where we'll share selected trends from the Data Team's COVID Recovery Dashboard.

For more details, including source information, please visit the dashboard at <https://www.cityofmadison.com/health-safety/coronavirus/recovery-dashboard>.

Arts & Culture

Madison-area cultural events of all types were sharply down from 2019, except for online events. However, there continues to be optimism about the future, with interest in booking future Monona Terrace events almost on par with 2019 levels.

Economy

Sales tax collections in Dane County, an indicator of economic activity, were down 1.73% vs. last year's average – but up 34% since the April low. On the consumer behavior front, there were fewer outstanding Water Utility bills in August 2020 than in August 2019, despite a suspension of penalties and late fees.

Health & Safety

Madison Police Department calls for service were 70% of 2019's volume for the month. Madison Fire Department EMS patient runs, which dipped sharply at the pandemic's onset, are at about 12% of 2019 levels in the most recent week of data. Madison Police and Fire Department members attribute this to fewer people being out.

The Police Department also attributes this to operational decisions, which began in March, to limit response to minor calls of several types to reduce chances for officers to be exposed to COVID. Additionally, daily protest activity has resulted in extended periods where MPD patrol response is limited to emergency/priority incidents.

Homeownership

Dane County median home prices have continued to rise through the pandemic, now sitting at 8.3% higher than in August 2019. August's Dane County mortgage foreclosures were just one-sixth of August 2019's level, but may yet rise as the effects on the pandemic wear on.

Labor Market

Dane County weekly unemployment insurance claims remain higher than in 2019, but have fallen by almost 9,000 since their April peak. The number of job openings, as measured by the Wisconsin Job Center's Madison listings, have fallen to almost 40% of August 2019's.

Out & About

Madison major artery traffic counts, pedestrian counts, and airport arrivals remain below 2019 levels. Bike trail usage remains on par with 2019 levels, as it has throughout the pandemic.

Rentership

A July peak brought Dane County eviction filings almost to 2019 levels, following the eviction moratorium. However, in August, only 84 were filed, just 40% of August 2019's level.

Questions? Comments? Contact datateam@cityofmadison.com.