



Nebraska

Economic Insight and Outlook

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Connections.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Economic Insight and Outlook

The Nebraska Economic Insight and Outlook report presents data on the demographics, educational characteristics, labor market conditions, wages, industries, occupations, and businesses in the state. Businesses and economic stakeholders can use this information to better understand the state's labor market, including worker characteristics and wages, as well as industry, employment, and business trends. Job seekers, students, and career counselors can also use this information to identify educational and career paths with high wages and growing employment opportunities in the state of Nebraska. The report addresses trends and challenges at both state and sub-state levels in employment, unemployment, as well as growing and in-demand occupations and industries. It also assists in the development of the state plan for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

Published: September 2021



Table of Contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Overview | 3 |
| Demographics | 4 |
| Education | 16 |
| Labor Supply | 24 |
| Wages and Compensation | 34 |
| Occupation, Industry, and Business Review | 45 |
| Projections | 55 |
| Area Definitions | 62 |

Nebraska Economic Insight and Outlook is a publication of:

Nebraska Department of Labor

Labor Market Information

Phone: 800.876.1377

Email: lmi_ne@nebraska.gov

This report is available online and can be accessed at networks.nebraska.gov under Labor Market Information Publications.

The Department of Labor accepts no liability for any actions taken or not taken as a result of information contained in this report.

Any information in this report may be quoted or reproduced, provided an accurate citation is made.

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

TDD: 800.833.7352

Overview

Nebraska is comprised of 93 counties, with a statewide population of 1,934,408 as of 2019. Since 2010, Nebraska's total population has increased by 5.9%, slightly slower than the 6.3% population growth rate of the United States as a whole. Nebraska is also becoming increasingly diverse, with 24.1% of the 2018 state population identifying as a racial or ethnic minority, a 19% increase since 2013.

Nebraska continues to enjoy a strong economy. Like other states, Nebraska's unemployment rate was elevated during the pandemic in 2020. However, at 4.2% (not seasonally adjusted), the rate was significantly lower than the national unemployment rate of 8.1%. Nebraska's median household income for 2019 was \$61,439, slightly below the national median household income of \$62,843. However, the cost of living in Nebraska was also substantially lower than in many other areas of the country.

Nebraska had one of the nation's lowest rates of homelessness in 2019, and the state's 2019 poverty rate was 9.9%, below the nationwide estimate of poverty (12.3%).

The largest private industry sector in Nebraska was healthcare and social assistance, which made up 14.7% of total 2020 employment statewide.

Quick Facts, Nebraska and United States

| | Nebraska | United States |
|--|---|--|
| 2019 Population | 1,934,408 | 328,239,523 |
| 2010-2019 Population Growth | 5.9% | 6.3% |
| 2019 Percent Minority Population | 24.1% | 43.3% |
| % of Population 25 & Over with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher | 32.1% | 31.9% |
| 2020 Labor Force | 1,035,175 | 160,742,000 |
| 2020 Unemployment Rate | 4.2% | 8.1% |
| 2019 Median Household Income | \$61,439 | \$62,843 |
| 2019 Poverty Rate | 9.9% | 12.3% |
| 2020 Largest Private Industry | Healthcare and Social Assistance (14.7%) | Healthcare and Social Assistance (15.0%) |
| 2020 Most Common Occupation | Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers (10.1%) | Retail salespersons (2.6%) |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau: Population Estimates, 2017 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates.

The Nebraska industry sector projected to experience the highest growth rate from 2018-2028 is arts, entertainment, and recreation, where a 12.2% increase in employment is expected, creating nearly 2,000 new jobs. The healthcare and social assistance industry is projected to see Nebraska's largest numeric employment gains through 2028: approximately 16,700 jobs, or an 11.5% increase.

The occupational group with the highest projected growth rate is healthcare support occupations, where a 12.7% increase in employment is expected by 2028.

Demographics

Population

Overview..... page 5

Change by County, 2010-2019..... page 6

Age..... page 7

Diversity

Race/Ethnicity.....page 8

Change in Race/
Ethnicity Over Time..... page 9

Projections by Race/Ethnicity..... page 10

Language and the
Ability to Speak English..... page 11

Migration

Components of Change page 12

Domestic and International page 13

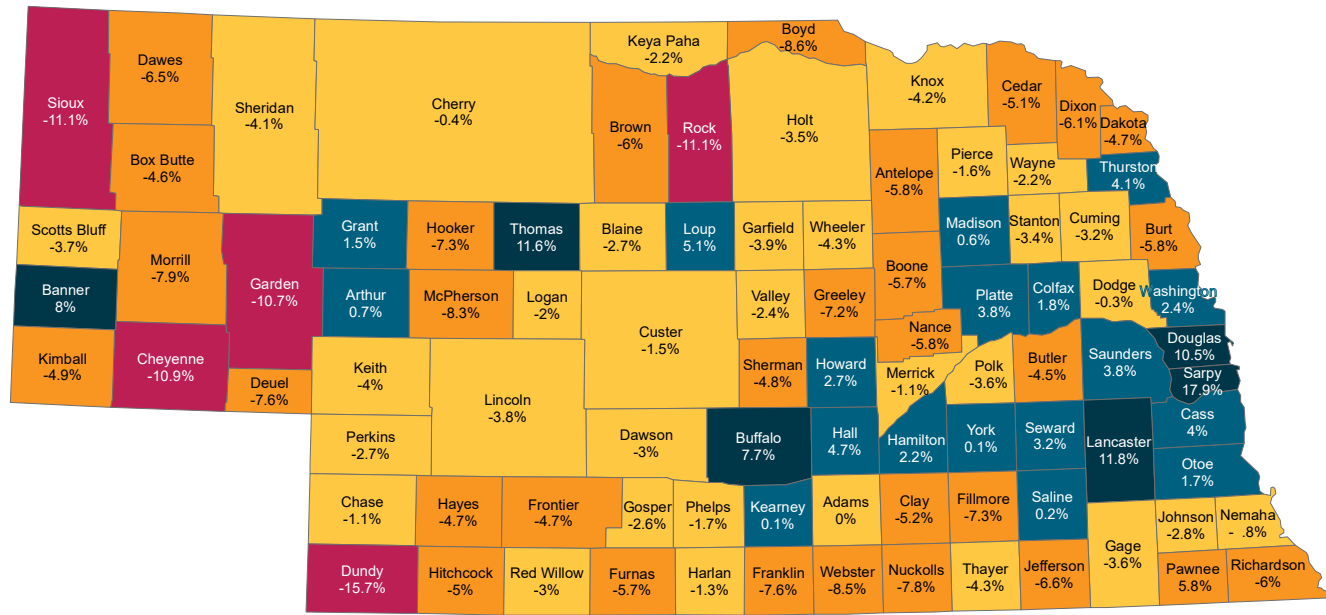
International by County
2015 - 2019.....page 14

Estimate of Homelessness page 15

Unless otherwise noted, data from this section can be found at **census.gov**. Under Topics, choose Population. Then choose Population Estimates.



NE Population Change by County 2010 – 2019



% Change



Source: US Census Bureau, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin for the United States, States, and Counties: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2019, released March, 2020

What is it?

The distribution of population change by county looks very similar to the map of total population distribution. Typically, counties with the highest populations also had the greatest population increases during the last 19 years, while counties with the lowest populations had the greatest population decreases. This suggests that Nebraska has become more urbanized, and over time many Nebraskans from rural areas may have migrated to or near the state's metropolitan areas.

Since 2010, the state's population increased by 5.9%, a little less than the 6.3% national population growth rate during the same time period.

Sarpy County had Nebraska's largest population increase of 17.9% since 2010, followed by Lancaster County at 11.8%. Dundy County had the state's largest population decrease at -15.7%, followed by Rock County at -11.1%.

How to use it

Historical population trends can be a strong predictor of future population trends. Therefore, counties with a declining population could expect their population to continue to decline, while growing counties in or near the state's metropolitan areas could expect continued population growth. Data can be used to develop recruitment strategies.

What is it?

In 2019, the largest age group in Nebraska was 20- 44, which accounted for roughly one-third of the state population. Next was the under-20 age group, which made up 27.5% of the population, followed by 45-64, with 24.3% of the total. The remaining 15.4% of the population was 65 and older. By 2030, the under-20 and 20-44 age groups are expected to see mild population increases of 3.0% and 2.4% respectively, while the total statewide population is projected to increase by 7.3%. The 65 and older demographic is expected to increase by a massive 42.4% as the baby boomer generation continues to age. Nebraska's 65+ population is projected to increase from 15.4% of the state's total in 2019, to 20.4% in 2030.

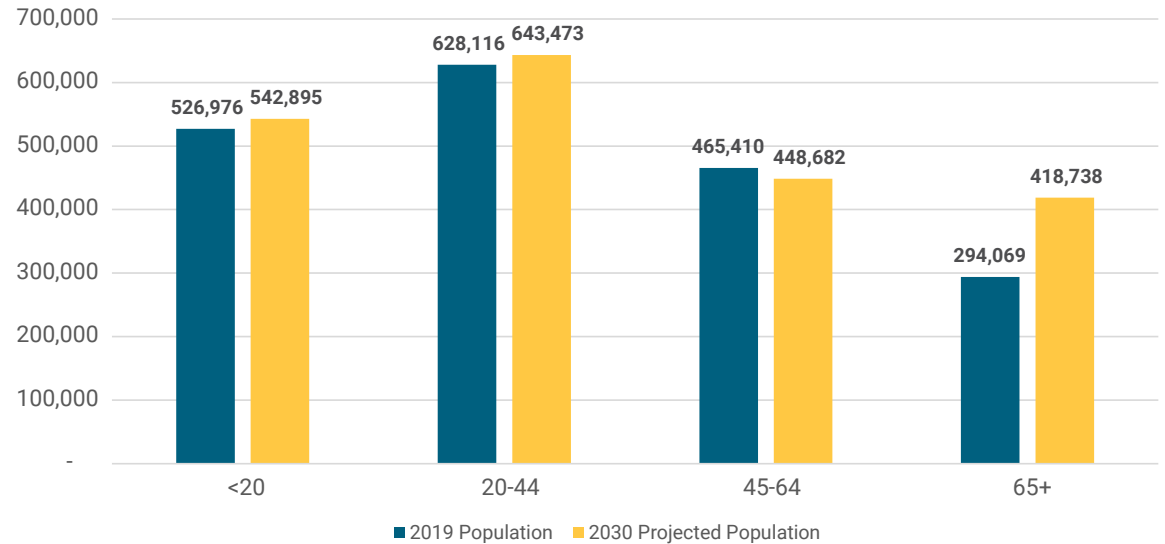
How to use it

Historical demographic shifts can foreshadow future demographic shifts and changes to the state's labor force. In areas with a declining labor force, it may prove difficult for businesses to quickly replace retiring workers, especially in occupations requiring specialized skills or experience. The aging baby boomer population may also spur growth in the health care sector and increase demand for healthcare workers statewide.

Where to find it

Data are available from the American Community Survey, at data.census.gov. Search for Table DP05.

NE Population by Age Group 2019-2030



| Age Group | 2019 Population | 2030 Projected Population | % Change |
|--------------|------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| <20 | 526,976 | 542,895 | 3.0% |
| 20-44 | 628,116 | 643,473 | 2.4% |
| 45-64 | 465,410 | 448,682 | -3.6% |
| 65+ | 294,069 | 418,738 | 42.4% |
| Total | 1,914,571 | 2,053,788 | 7.3% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table DP05

What is it?

In 2019, non-Hispanic whites alone comprised 89.4% of the state population. African Americans alone (not Hispanic or Latino) accounted for 6.0% of the state population, the largest racial minority group, followed by Asians alone (not Hispanic or Latino) at 3.1%. Another 2.2% of the population reported two or more races.

Across all racial groups, 10.9% of Nebraskans identified their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino. Nebraska is considerably less diverse than the United States overall. Nationally, the total minority population (the sum of all groups excluding non-Hispanic whites) made up 43.3% of the United States in 2019, a percentage almost twice as large as Nebraska's 24.1% minority population.

Hispanics and Latinos (all races) made up 18.0% of the U.S. population and 10.9% of the Nebraska population. African Americans comprised 14.0% of the U.S. population and 6.0% of the Nebraska population, while all other races combined accounted for 11.2% of the U.S. population and 7.1% of the Nebraska population.

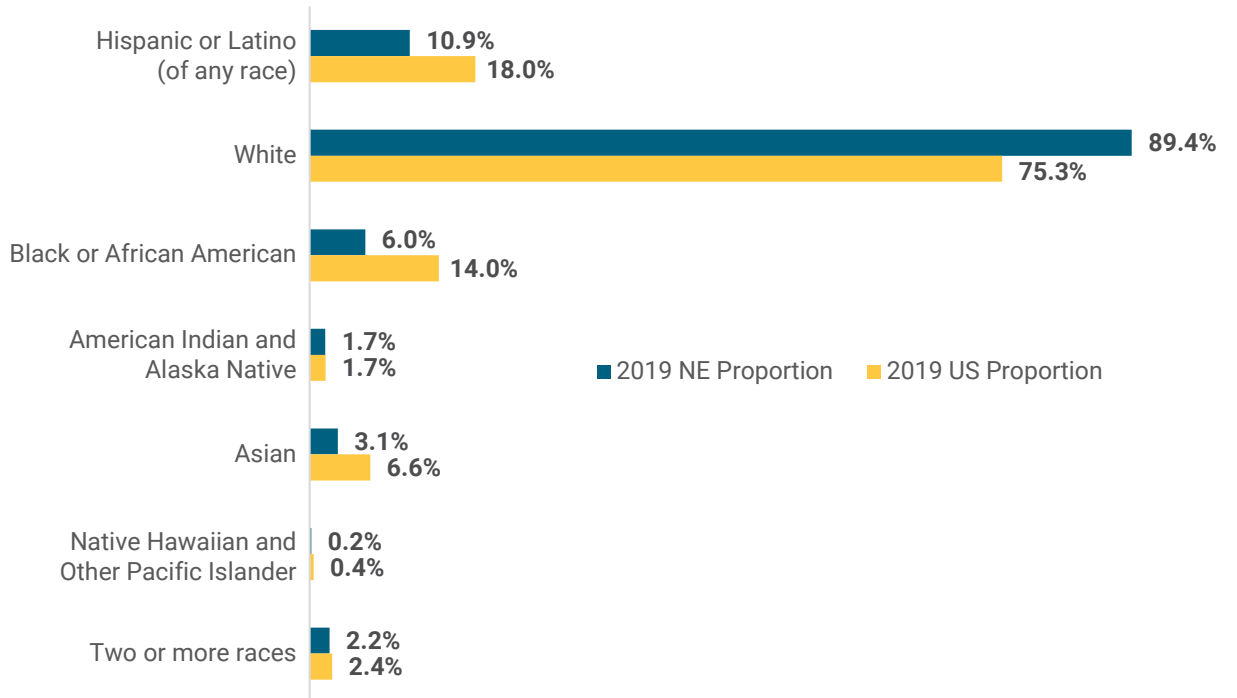
How to use it

Data on racial/ethnic diversity are useful to estimate diversity within the labor force and in the population more broadly. Businesses, schools, healthcare institutions, and other service providers can use the data to help identify and meet the needs of the populations they serve.

Where to find it

Data are available from the American Community Survey, at data.census.gov. Search for Table DP05.

NE & US Population by Race/Ethnicity 2018



| | Nebraska 2019 | | United States 2019 | |
|--|---------------|--------|--------------------|--------|
| | Population | % | Population | % |
| Total population | 1,914,571 | 100.0% | 324,697,795 | 100.0% |
| Hispanic or Latino (of any race) | 208,271 | 10.9% | 58,479,370 | 18.0% |
| Not Hispanic or Latino | 1,706,300 | 89.1% | 266,218,425 | 82.0% |
| White | 1,712,059 | 89.4% | 244,597,669 | 75.3% |
| Black or African American | 115,778 | 6.0% | 45,612,523 | 14.0% |
| American Indian and Alaska Native | 32,827 | 1.7% | 5,643,919 | 1.7% |
| Asian | 58,983 | 3.1% | 21,408,058 | 6.6% |
| Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander | 3,365 | 0.2% | 1,399,393 | 0.4% |
| Two or more races | 41,475 | 2.2% | 7,941,608 | 2.4% |
| Total Minority | 460,699 | 24.1% | 140,484,871 | 43.3% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin for the United States, States, and Counties: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018, released June 2019

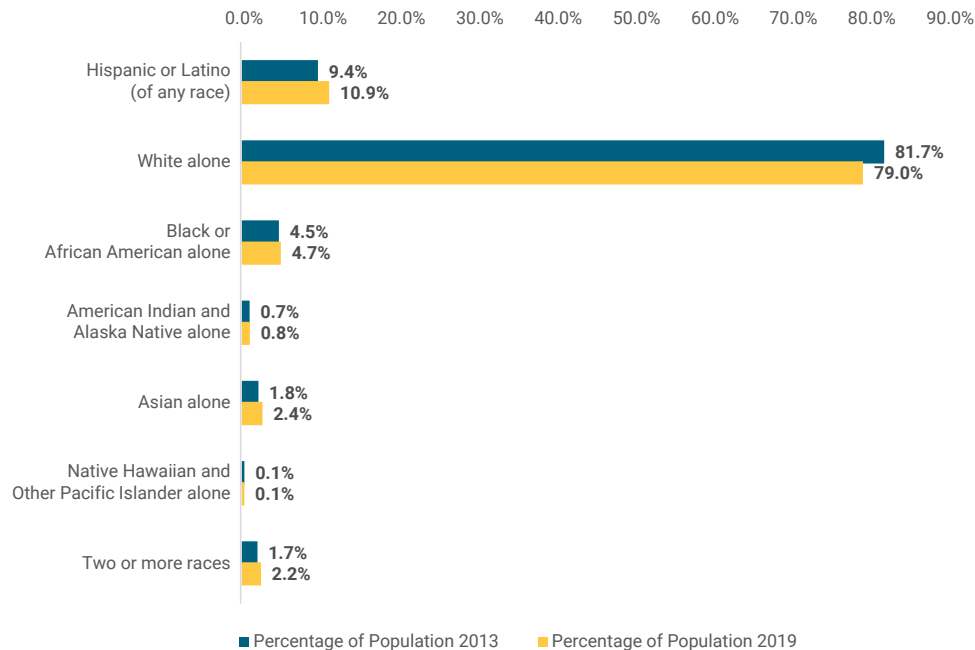
What is it?

Although Nebraska remains less diverse than the nation as a whole, the state saw significant growth in its minority populations from 2013-2019. The overall minority population in Nebraska (the sum of all individuals except non-Hispanic whites) increased by 19.2% from 2013-2019, more than four times as fast as the total statewide population growth rate of 4.0%.

NE Demographic Change Over Time by Race/Ethnicity 2013 – 2019

| | 2013 | 2019 | Total Change | % Change |
|---|-----------|-----------|--------------|----------|
| Total Population | 1,841,625 | 1,914,571 | 72,946 | 4.0% |
| Hispanic or Latino (of any race) | 173,903 | 208,271 | 34,368 | 19.8% |
| White alone | 1,503,898 | 1,512,111 | 8,213 | 0.5% |
| Black or African American alone | 82,208 | 89,872 | 7,664 | 9.3% |
| American Indian and Alaska Native alone | 13,232 | 14,417 | 1,185 | 9.0% |
| Asian alone | 33,769 | 45,303 | 11,534 | 34.2% |
| Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone | 1,219 | 1,107 | -112 | -9.2% |
| Two or more races | 31,719 | 41,475 | 9,756 | 30.8% |
| Total Minority (population excluding White non-Hispanics) | 336,050 | 400,445 | 64,395 | 19.2% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 and 2019 American Community Surveys, 5-Year Estimates, Table DP05



Nebraska's Hispanic and Latino population had the state's largest numeric population increase from 2013-2019, growing by nearly 35,000 individuals, a 19.8% rise. The Asian population saw the state's second-largest numeric increase, adding more than 11,500 individuals for 34.2% population growth, which was the largest percentage change among any racial or ethnic group during this time period. The Black or African American population increased by about 7,600 individuals, accounting for the fourth largest numeric increase.

Due to rapid minority population growth, the proportion of racial/ethnic minorities in Nebraska increased by 2.7 percentage points from 2013-2019. During this time period, the population of individuals identifying as Hispanic or Latino increased from 9.4% to 10.9% of the state's total population, and the African American population rose from 4.5% to 4.7%. The Asian population in Nebraska grew from 1.8% to 2.4% of the state's total, while the non-Hispanic white population fell from 81.7% to 79.0%.

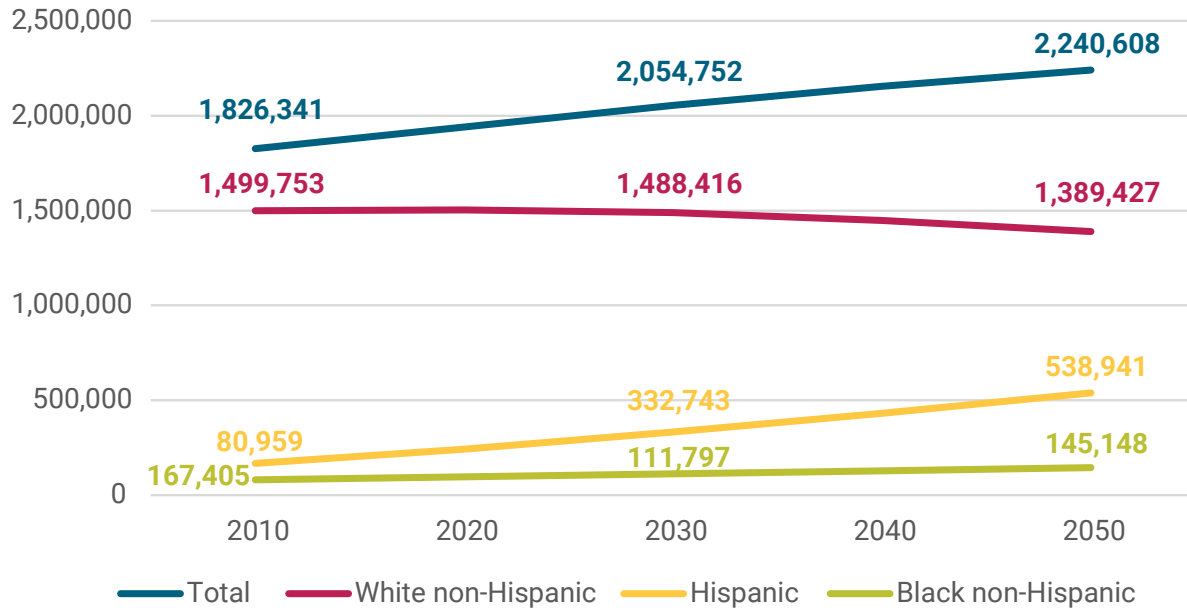
How to use it

Demographic data on changes in race and ethnicity over time can be a valuable tool for establishing the need for economic and social adaptation. A growing minority population could increase demand for certain goods and services. Employers may see greater diversity in both their workforce and customer populations.

Where to find it

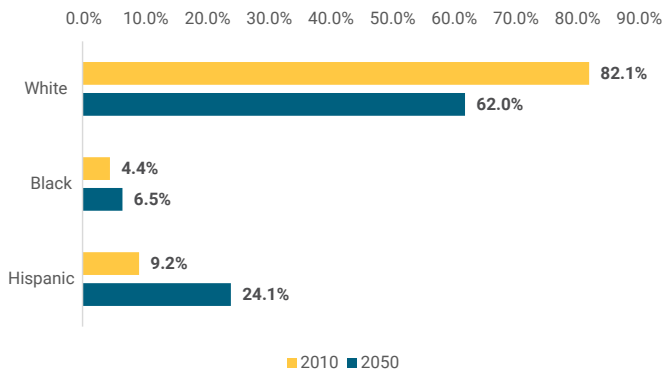
Data are available from the American Community Survey, at data.census.gov. Search for Table DP05.

Projections by Race/Ethnicity 2010 – 2050



Source: Center for Public Affairs Research-University of Nebraska Omaha, data dated 2013

Projected Population Distribution



Where to find it

The Center for Public Affairs Research at the University of Nebraska Omaha produces population projections by race/ethnicity. NDOL's Labor Market Information division may also be contacted for additional information.

From 2010 to 2050, Nebraska's population is expected to increase by 22.7%, to around 2,240,000 individuals. Minority population growth, particularly Hispanic and Latino population growth, is expected to account for much of this increase.

From 2010 to 2050, the Hispanic population is expected to increase by 221.9%. In 2010, Nebraska's Hispanic and Latino population was approximately 167,000 individuals, accounting for less than 10% of the state's total population. In 2050, Nebraska's Hispanic and Latino population is expected to grow to over half a million individuals, making up almost a quarter of the total population. Additionally, the state's African American/Black population is expected to increase by 79.3%, from approximately 81,000 individuals in 2010 to approximately 145,000 individuals in 2050.

In contrast, the white population is expected to decrease by 7.4% from 2010 to 2050. In 2010, the white population was approximately 1,500,000 individuals and 82.1% of the total population. In 2050, the white population is expected to decrease to 1,390,000 individuals and 62% of the total population.

How to use it

Population projections provide a glimpse into what Nebraska's population may look like in the near future. Schools, healthcare providers, and businesses can expect to expand and adjust in order to effectively absorb the growing population. Businesses and community service providers should ensure that they are effectively recruiting and serving the state's increasingly diverse populations today, as racial and ethnic diversity is expected to continue to increase throughout future decades.

Language Spoken at Home & Ability to Speak English

Language Skills of the NE & US Population

What is it?

From the 2014-2018 ACS to the 2015-2019 American Community Survey (ACS), the number of Nebraskans who spoke a language other than English rose by 2.8%, and the number of these Nebraskans who spoke English less than “very well” rose by 2.1%. Change in the number of “Other language” speakers helped drive this trend. From the 2014-2018 ACS to the 2015-2019 ACS, this group increased by 13.1%, and the number of “other language”-speakers who speak English less than “very well” increased by 16.4%. The number of speakers of Asian and Pacific Islander languages rose by 2.2%, with a 0.1% increase in those who spoke English less than “very well.” Speakers of Spanish increased by 1.8%.

Overall, Nebraska has a smaller share of residents who speak languages other than English than the U.S. as a whole, as well as a lower rate of other language speakers who speak English less than “very well.” About 11.5% of the state population speaks a language other than English, which is close to half of the national percentage of 21.6%. About 44.5% Nebraska’s speakers of languages other than English speak English less than “very well,” compared to 38.8% nationally.

Where to find it

Data are available from the American Community Survey, at data.census.gov. Search for Table B16001.

| | Nebraska | | | United States | |
|--|-----------|-----------|--------------|----------------------|-------------|
| | 2014-2018 | 2015-2019 | % Change | 2014-2018 Proportion | 2015-2019 |
| Population 5 years and over | 1,772,948 | 1,783,098 | 0.6% | 100% | 304,930,125 |
| English Only | 1,574,067 | 1,578,669 | 0.3% | 88.5% | 238,982,352 |
| Language other than English | 198,881 | 204,429 | 2.8% | 11.5% | 65,947,773 |
| Speak English less than "very well" | 89,129 | 91,000 | 2.1% | 5.1% | 25,615,365 |
| Spanish | 131,151 | 133,473 | 1.8% | 7.5% | 40,709,597 |
| Speak English less than "very well" | 59,587 | 60,470 | 1.5% | 3.4% | 16,258,571 |
| "Other Indo-European languages " | 25,110 | 25,864 | 3.0% | 1.5% | 11,136,849 |
| Speak English less than "very well" | 7,016 | 6,997 | -0.3% | 0.4% | 3,418,899 |
| "Asian and Pacific Islander languages " | 28,634 | 29,276 | 2.2% | 1.6% | 10,727,303 |
| Speak English less than "very well" | 16,433 | 16,442 | 0.1% | 0.9% | 4,910,799 |
| Other languages | 13,986 | 15,816 | 13.1% | 0.9% | 3,374,024 |
| Speak English less than "very well" | 6,093 | 7,091 | 16.4% | 0.4% | 1,027,096 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 - 2019 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, released 2020

How to use it

Growth in the number of non-English speakers signals the need for community and business adaption. English deficiency can make it difficult for workers to learn new skills and transfer their skills and knowledge across occupations. Businesses and community institution might therefore choose to expand their investments in outreach efforts, training programs, or other strategies for communicating with and serving non-English-speaking populations.

Components of Population Change

Components of Population Change 2010 – 2019

| 2010-2019 | Total Population Change* | Natural Change | | | Net Migration | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|------------|------------|---------------|---------------|----------|
| | | Total | Births | Deaths | Total | International | Domestic |
| United States | 19,481,418 | 11,621,558 | 36,275,313 | 24,653,755 | 7,859,860 | 7,859,860 | (X) |
| Nebraska | 108,103 | 93,770 | 241,007 | 147,237 | 14,903 | 35,100 | -20,197 |
| Grand Island, NE | 2,809 | 4,006 | 10,352 | 6,346 | -1,166 | 2,408 | -3,574 |
| Lincoln, NE | 34,217 | 18,243 | 38,980 | 20,737 | 16,106 | 8,917 | 7,189 |
| Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA | 84,095 | 60,276 | 122,306 | 62,030 | 24,322 | 16,785 | 7,537 |
| Beatrice, NE | -798 | -335 | 2,204 | 2,539 | -459 | -1 | -458 |
| Columbus, NE | 1,233 | 1,870 | 4,436 | 2,566 | -635 | 597 | -1,232 |
| Fremont, NE | -120 | 413 | 4,442 | 4,029 | -520 | 468 | -988 |
| Hastings, NE | -4 | 871 | 3,745 | 2,874 | -863 | 366 | -1,229 |
| Kearney, NE | 3,566 | 3,205 | 7,095 | 3,890 | 380 | 728 | -348 |
| Lexington, NE | -785 | 1,721 | 3,849 | 2,128 | -2,537 | 938 | -3,475 |
| Norfolk, NE | -103 | 1,875 | 6,242 | 4,367 | -1,980 | 741 | -2,721 |
| North Platte, NE | -1,434 | 640 | 4,058 | 3,418 | -2,082 | 180 | -2,262 |
| Scottsbluff, NE | -1,442 | 754 | 4,666 | 3,912 | -2,201 | 200 | -2,401 |

*Total population change includes a residual. This residual represents the change in population that cannot be attributed to any specific demographic component.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Estimates of the Components of Resident Population Change: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2019, released March 2020.

How to use it

The components of population change highlight the dynamics underlying population growth and decline. The data shows that births account for a majority of population growth in Nebraska. Statewide migration trends also show that Nebraska's large metropolitan areas are gaining residents from domestic migration, while most of its small micropolitan areas and the state overall are losing residents from domestic out-migration. The negative domestic migration in the state and many of its regions indicates a continuing emphasis on retaining the state's workforce and attracting new workers.

What is it?

There are two components of population change: natural change, consisting of births and deaths, and migration, which can be international (migration to and from other countries) or domestic (migration to and from other counties or states).

From 2010 to 2019, Nebraska had a net population increase of over 108,000 individuals. Natural change from births accounted for the majority: 93,770 individuals. Nebraska also gained over 35,000 international migrants, while losing about 20,000 residents to domestic migration to other states, for a net migration gain of almost 15,000 individuals. Net migration accounted for a lower percentage of population growth in Nebraska (13.8%) than throughout the United States as a whole (40.3%).

Except for the Beatrice MC, the birth rate outpaced the death rate in all Nebraska Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas. The Omaha and Lincoln MSAs and the Kearney MC saw positive net migration, as did the state as a whole. All other Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas in Nebraska experienced net migration decreases.

Migration

What is it?

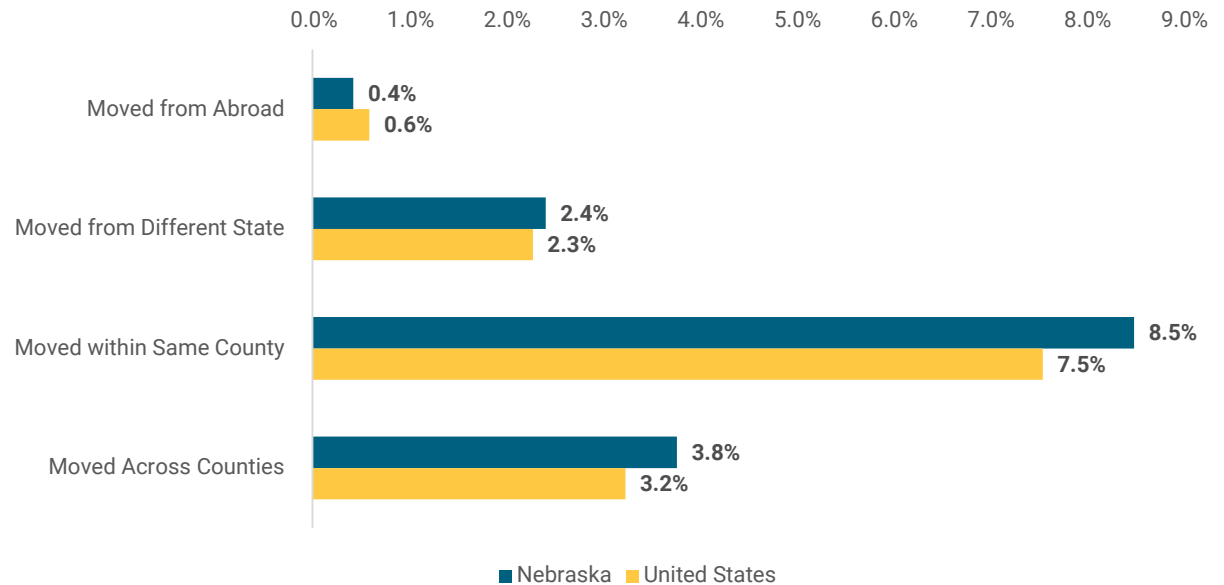
In 2019, approximately 522,000 individuals, or 27.4% of the state population, moved to or within Nebraska. Almost half—44.8%— of Nebraskans who migrated during 2019 moved within the state. About 8.5% of the state’s total population relocated within the same county, while 3.8% moved between counties in Nebraska. About 2.4% of Nebraska residents migrated to Nebraska from another state in 2019, and 0.4% moved from abroad.

Nebraska had a slightly lower rate of international migration than the U.S. as a whole (0.4% versus 0.6%). However, Nebraska had a higher percentage of migration from other states than the national rate (2.4% versus 2.3%). Nebraska also had a higher rate of within-state migration: about 12% of Nebraskans moved within the state in 2019, compared to an 10.8% rate of relocating to a new address within the same state for U.S. residents overall.

How to use it

Rates of migration can indicate how attractive the state is to domestic and international migrants. Nebraska’s relatively high rate of domestic and within-state migration could indicate that Nebraska is attractive to local workers and workers nationwide. The state’s distance from national borders may account for the comparatively lower rate of international migration to Nebraska. In some cases, international migrants may choose to move to Nebraska after first living in a different state.

Domestic & International Migration 2018



| | Nebraska | | United States | |
|---|-----------|-------|---------------|-------|
| | Total | % | Total | % |
| Total Population 1 year and over | 1,910,711 | 100% | 324,665,523 | 100% |
| Population that moved | 522,796 | 27.4% | 79,336,225 | 24.4% |
| Population that moved from abroad | 8,088 | 0.4% | 1,910,192 | 0.6% |
| Population that moved from a different state | 46,064 | 2.4% | 7,398,337 | 2.3% |
| Population that moved within the state | 234,322 | 12.3% | 35,013,848 | 10.8% |
| Population that moved from different county | 72,019 | 3.8% | 10,501,717 | 3.2% |
| Population that moved within same county | 162,303 | 8.5% | 24,512,131 | 7.5% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 – 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, released 2020

Where to find it

Data on domestic and international migration comes from the American Community Survey, available at data.census.gov. Search for Table B07001.

International Migration

What is it?

International immigrants moved to Nebraska at an average rate of approximately 4,926 immigrants per year from 2015 to 2019. The number of international immigrants varied greatly across the state, with more populous counties having the highest number of international immigrants. The vast majority of international immigrants moved to the Lincoln and Omaha areas. In 2019, Douglas and Lancaster Counties gained approximately 1,753 and 1,248 international immigrants respectively, and Sarpy County received an additional 584 international immigrants.

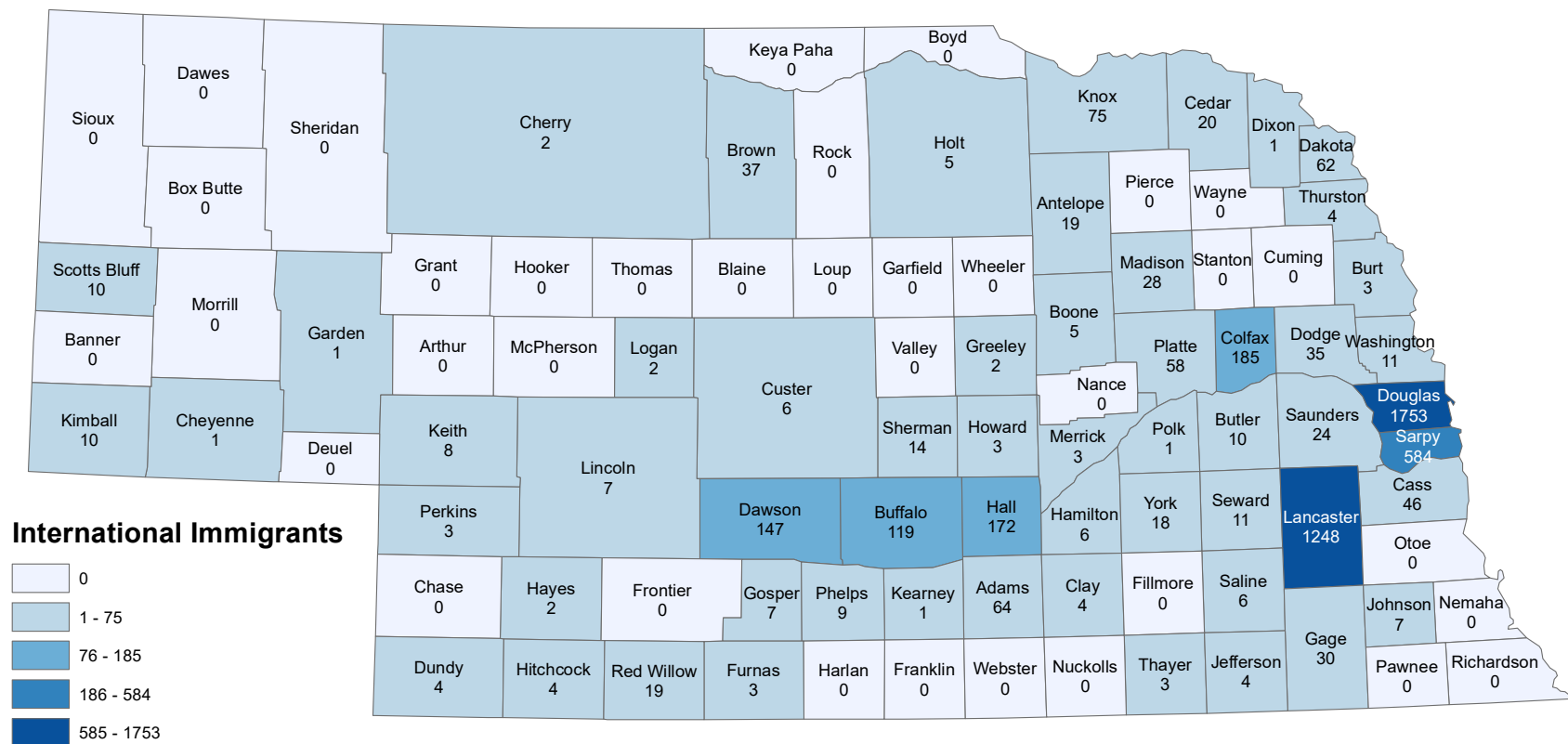
How to use it

It is important to identify regions with a high volume of international immigrants so that these areas can adjust to meet the needs of immigrant populations. In order to effectively provide education, healthcare, and other services to growing immigrant populations, community businesses and service institutions can benefit from being aware of migration patterns.

Where to find it

Data on international migration comes from the American Community Survey, available at data.census.gov. Search for Table B07001.

International Migration to NE by County 2019



Estimate of Homelessness

Each year, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development releases national and state-level information regarding homelessness. Nebraska had one of the lowest homelessness rates in the nation in 2019, at about 0.1% of the total population statewide. On a single night in January 2019, there were an estimated 2,365 people experiencing homelessness in Nebraska, including both as individuals and in families with children. This total represents a decrease of 39.0% since 2010. The state's homeless population is largely concentrated in the Omaha MSA, where an estimated 1,410 people experienced homelessness in 2019.

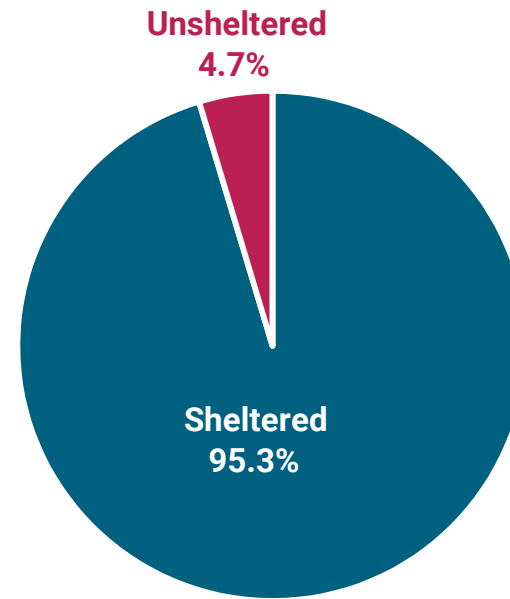
In 2019, Nebraska was one of only five states with more than 95% of all homeless people reported as sheltered (defined as staying in emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, or safe havens). Additionally, statewide, 99.5% of Nebraska's homeless families with children were sheltered in 2019.

How to use it

Homelessness estimates are used by local and state agencies to help estimate the need for shelters and services to assist homeless individuals and families with children.

Homelessness rates are also an indicator of the economic health of a region. Nebraska's low homelessness rate signals a strong, healthy economy.

Status of NE Homeless Population 2019



| 2019 Estimates of Homelessness | |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| Total Homeless Population | 2,365 |
| People in Families with Children | 650 |
| Individuals | 1,715 |
| Unaccompanied Youth | 151 |
| Veterans | 175 |
| Chronically Homeless Individuals | 454 |

Where to find it

Annual data on homelessness is available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Community Planning and Development in the Annual Homeless Assessment Report, which can be found at www.hudexchange.info under Resources.

Education

Educational Attainment page 17

Change in Educational Attainment page 18

Public High School Graduation Rates, 4-Year Cohorts page 19

Nebraska Graduate Outcomes

Postsecondary Fall Enrollment page 20

Graduate by Degree Level page 21

Graduate Demographics page 22

Graduates by Field of Study page 23



Educational Attainment

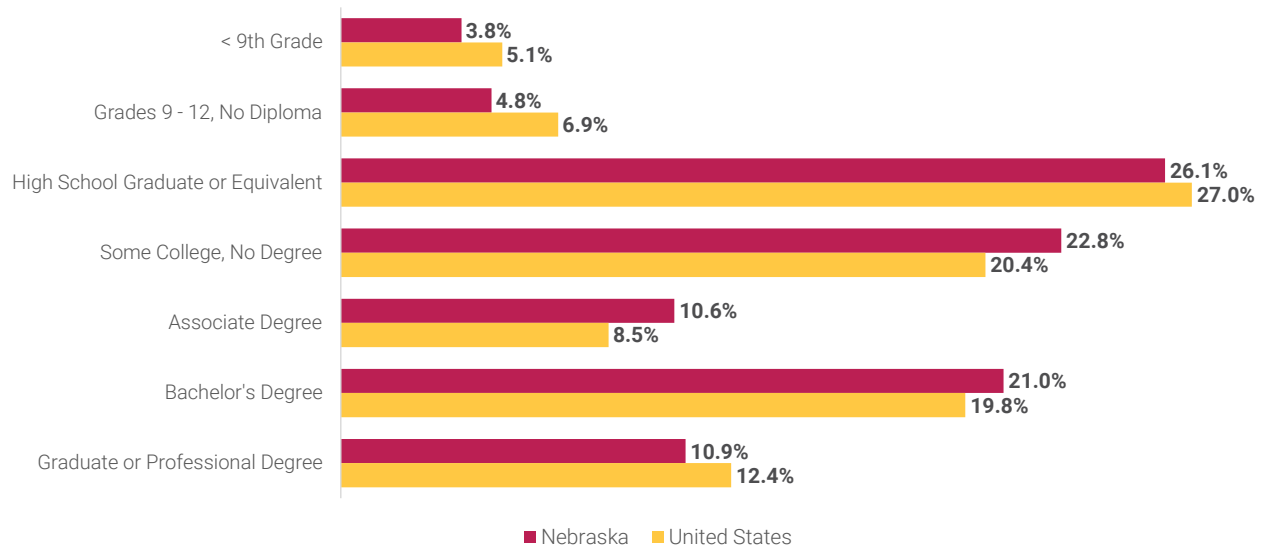
Nebraskans are generally well educated. Over 90% of Nebraskans age 25 and older possessed at least a high school diploma or GED in 2019, and 65.3% possessed at least some postsecondary education. The most commonly reported highest level of educational attainment was a high school diploma or GED at 26.1%; followed by some college, no degree at 22.8%; and bachelor's degree at 21.0%. Just over 10% of Nebraskans age 25 and up reported having an associate degree, and 10.9% reported having a graduate or professional degree.

Nebraskans are better educated than U.S. residents as whole. U.S. residents are 1.5 percentage points more likely than Nebraskans to report having a graduate or professional degree, but Nebraskans were more likely to report having all other forms of postsecondary education.

How to use it

Information on the educational attainment of Nebraska's workforce may be useful to businesses that are considering expanding into Nebraska. High levels of educational attainment in the population can signal that there is a well-educated labor force, which may be desirable for businesses. Government officials and other stakeholders may also be interested in the population's educational attainment as a measure of a region's social development.

Educational Attainment of the NE & US Population, ages 25 and older



Note: Population age 25 and older.

Source: US Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, released 2020

Where to find it

Data on educational attainment from the American Community Survey is available at data.census.gov. Search for Table S1501.

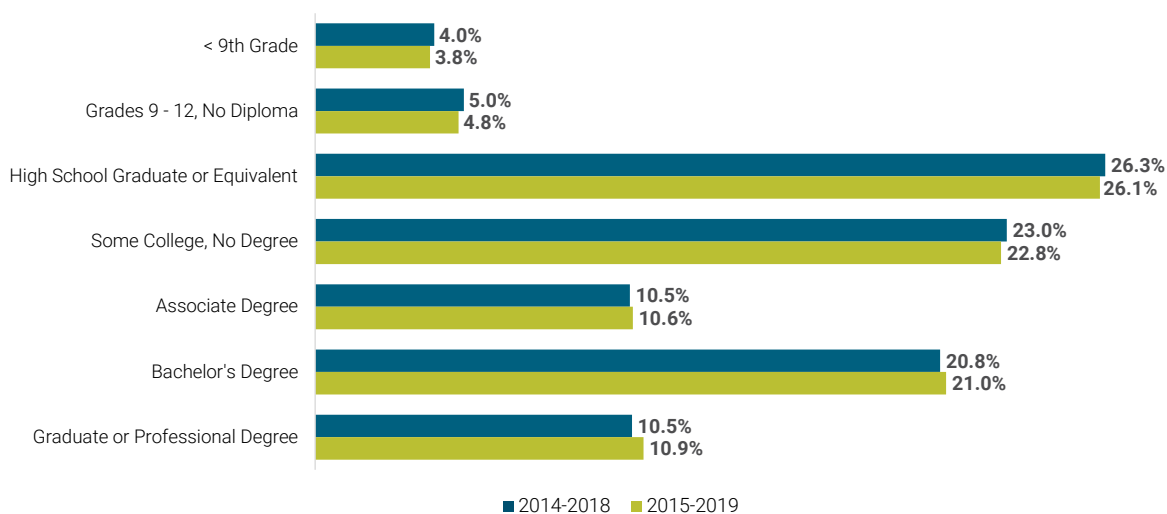
Educational Attainment Change

Change in NE Educational Attainment 2014-2019

| | 2014-2018 | 2015-2019 | Difference | % Change |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|
| Population 25 years and over | 1,242,463 | 1,251,026 | 8,563 | 0.7% |
| Less than 9th grade | 49,228 | 47,833 | -1,395 | -2.8% |
| 9th to 12th grade, no diploma | 61,511 | 59,702 | -1,809 | -2.9% |
| High school graduate/equivalency | 326,549 | 326,594 | 45 | 0.0% |
| Some college or higher | 805,175 | 816,897 | 11,722 | 1.5% |
| Some college, no degree | 285,916 | 285,487 | -429 | -0.2% |
| Associate degree | 130,043 | 132,185 | 2,142 | 1.6% |
| Bachelor's degree | 258,291 | 262,614 | 4,323 | 1.7% |
| Graduate or professional degree | 130,925 | 136,611 | 5,686 | 4.3% |

Source: US Census Bureau, 2014-2018 & 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, released 2019 & 2020

NE Population by Educational Attainment



Note: Population age 25 and older.

Source: US Census Bureau, 2014-2018 & 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, released 2019 & 2020

Where to find it

Data on educational attainment from the American Community Survey is available at data.census.gov. Search for Table S1501.

The table displays the percentage change of educational attainment within the population age 25 and older between the two 5-year periods of 2014-2018 and 2015-2019.

Between these time periods, the number of Nebraskans who reported having some college education or higher increased by 1.5%. The educational attainment level with the largest increase was graduate or professional degrees, at 0.4%. There was also a 0.2% increase in the number of Nebraskans with bachelor's degrees and a 0.1% increase in associate degrees between 2014-2018 and 2015-2019.

The bar chart shows the distribution of educational attainment in Nebraska's population 25 years old and above, using 5-year American Community Survey estimates for the years 2014-2018 and 2015-2019. In 2014-2018, 41.8% of the population age 25 and over had some sort of postsecondary degree; this number increased to 42.5% in 2015-2019. The percentage of Nebraskans in this age range with a graduate or professional degree also increased from 10.5% in 2014-2018 to 10.9% in 2015-2019..

How to use it

The increase observed in the number of Nebraskans with associate and graduate degrees, in particular, could suggest that there is strong demand for technical and trade skills and certifications, as well as advanced educational qualifications, in Nebraska's labor force. With an increasingly educated workforce, possessing a postsecondary degree can be an important asset for job applicants in many occupations and industries.

Graduation Rates

Nebraska has one of the highest high school graduation rates in the nation. In 2020, Nebraska’s four-year public-school graduation rate for all students was 87.5%.

According to the 2021 Nebraska Higher Education Progress Report from the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, Nebraska had the nation’s twelfth highest public-school four-year graduation rate in 2017-2018, at 88.7%. Iowa had the highest graduation rate, at 91.4%. Nebraska’s four-year public high school graduation rate has decreased by 0.6 percentage points since 2015-2016.

Female students in Nebraska graduate from high school at higher rates than their male peers. In 2020, the public-school four-year graduation rate for female students was 90.3%, compared to 84.3% for males.

Graduation rates also vary by race and ethnicity. White non-Hispanic students had Nebraska’s highest four-year public high school graduation rate in 2020, at 92.2%. Graduation rates were more than 5 percentage points lower among Nebraska students who reported their race or ethnicity as Asian (86.8%), and more than 10 percentage points lower among those who reported their race or ethnicity as Hispanic/Latino (77.7%), or Black/African American (74.9%). Compared to 2016, Nebraska has seen declines in graduation rates for students in every racial/ethnic demographic except Asian.

Where to find it

Data on high school graduation rates is available at nep.education.ne.gov. From there, click on State Data, then View Data under Graduation Rate.

NE Public High School Graduation Rates, 4-Year Cohorts, 2016 – 2020

| | 2016 Cohort | 2020 Cohort | 2020 Graduates | % Change |
|---|--------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Total | 89.3% | 87.5% | 20690 | -1.8% |
| Gender | | | | |
| Male | 86.6% | 84.3% | 10229 | -2.3% |
| Female | 92.1% | 90.9% | 10461 | -1.2% |
| Race/Ethnicity | | | | |
| White | 92.6% | 92.2% | 14518 | -0.5% |
| Hispanic/Latino | 81.8% | 77.7% | 3639 | -4.1% |
| Black or African American | 78.7% | 74.9% | 1118 | -3.8% |
| Asian | 81.2% | 86.8% | 567 | 5.6% |
| American Indian/Alaska Native | 74.3% | 71.5% | 186 | -2.8% |
| Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | 77.1% | 72.7% | 24 | -4.4% |
| Two or More Races | 83.6% | 82.8% | 638 | -0.9% |

Source: Nebraska Department of Education, Nebraska Public Schools State Snapshot, 2016-2020

How to use it

High school graduation rates provide one measure of the health of Nebraska’s educational system. Improving graduation rates among minority students continues to be a focus of education groups, particularly with Nebraska’s rapidly growing minority population.

Postsecondary Fall Enrollment 2018-2019

Number of Graduates by Degree Level

| | All Graduates | Associate Degree | Bachelor's Degree | Master's Degree | Doctorate - Research/Scholarship | Doctorate - Professional Practice |
|---|---------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| White | 36,712 | 6,725 | 26,758 | 22,889 | 545 | 93,628 |
| Black or African American | 1,878 | 315 | 2,123 | 2,308 | 45 | 6,669 |
| American Indian or Alaska Native | 0 | 63 | 502 | 134 | 7 | 706 |
| Asian | 1,633 | 84 | 1,135 | 1,415 | 7 | 4,274 |
| Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | 0 | 0 | 0 | 42 | 0 | 42 |
| Hispanic/Latino | 4,551 | 714 | 5,664 | 3,387 | 135 | 14,451 |
| Two or more races | 1,581 | 252 | 1,064 | 1,093 | 34 | 4,024 |
| Nonresident Alien | 4,149 | 147 | 360 | 529 | 1 | 5,185 |
| Total enrollment | 51,208 | 8,406 | 39,888 | 35,924 | 781 | 136,207 |

Source: National Center for Educational Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System.

Where to find it

The Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System can be found at the National Center for Education Statistics website, nces.ed.gov/ipeds/use-the-data.

During the 2018-2019 academic year, over 136,000 students were enrolled in the 47 postsecondary educational institutions across Nebraska. The largest sector of institutions was the University of Nebraska System, with over 51,000 students. The Nebraska Community College system enrolled almost 40,000 students and private not-for-profit institutions enrolled over 35,000 students. The Nebraska State College system enrolled just over 8,000 students, and private for-profit institutions less than 1,000

The largest percentage of minority students were enrolled in the Community College system. Almost one quarter of students enrolled at community colleges in Nebraska was a racial or ethnic minority. The lowest percentage of minority students (91.40%) were enrolled at one of the three state colleges, while 15.7% were enrolled in the University of Nebraska system.

How to use it

Postsecondary Institution enrollments provide one more measure of the health of Nebraska's educational system. Improving attendance rates among minority students continues to be a focus of education groups, particularly with Nebraska's rapidly growing minority population.

Graduates by Degree Level

2018-2019 Graduates by Award Level

There were approximately 31,000 postsecondary graduates from Nebraska’s postsecondary educational institutions in the class of 2018-2019. Approximately 46.5% of these graduates received a bachelor’s degree. Out of all the bachelor’s degrees awarded, 50% were from the University of Nebraska system. The Nebraska State College System awarded the highest proportion of bachelor’s degrees, with 72.6% of State College graduates earning that level of award. The bachelor’s degree was also the most often awarded degree level at the University of Nebraska System and private not-for-profit institutions.

Where to find it

The Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System can be found at the National Center for Education Statistics website, nces.ed.gov/ipeds/use-the-data.

How to use it

Postsecondary awards are the next logical step in the education system pipeline into the workforce, and another measure of the overall health of the education system. Improving graduate outcomes when graduates enter the workforce continues to be a priority for the Department of Labor and economic developers across the state.

Number of Graduates by Degree Level

| Degree Level | Grand Total | University of Nebraska | Nebraska State College System | Community Colleges | Private not-for-profit | Private for-profit |
|---|---------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Certificates of less than 1-year | 2,197 | 0 | 0 | 2,011 | 22 | 164 |
| Certificates of 1 but less than 2-years | 1,322 | 17 | 0 | 1,235 | 33 | 37 |
| Associate degree | 5,007 | 91 | 0 | 4,716 | 164 | 36 |
| Certificates of 2 but less than 4-years | 349 | 48 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 288 |
| Bachelor’s degree | 14,445 | 7,934 | 1,200 | N/A | 5,290 | 21 |
| Postbaccalaureate certificates | 438 | 208 | 0 | N/A | 230 | 0 |
| Master’s degree | 5,390 | 2,524 | 446 | N/A | 2,420 | 0 |
| Post-master’s certificates | 136 | 61 | 6 | N/A | 69 | 0 |
| Doctor’s degree - research/scholarship | 479 | 425 | 0 | N/A | 54 | 0 |
| Doctor’s degree - professional practice | 1,255 | 429 | 0 | N/A | 826 | 0 |
| Doctor’s degree - other | 45 | 36 | 0 | N/A | 9 | 0 |
| Degree Level Total | 31,063 | 11,773 | 1,652 | 7,975 | 9,117 | 546 |

Note: A table entry of zero means the degree level is offered, but no students graduate in that category. A table entry of N/A means that degree level is not offered at that institution level. Source: National Center for Educational Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System.

Graduate Demographics

2018-2019 Graduates by Race, Ethnicity and Gender

| | Grand Total | University of Nebraska System | Nebraska State Colleges | Community College | Private not-for-profit | Private for-profit |
|---|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| American Indian or Alaska Native | 0.5% | 0.2% | 0.9% | 1.0% | 0.5% | 0.7% |
| Asian | 3.1% | 2.7% | 1.2% | 2.3% | 4.7% | 1.3% |
| Black or African American | 4.2% | 2.7% | 3.3% | 4.7% | 5.8% | 5.0% |
| Hispanic or Latino | 7.9% | 4.6% | 7.3% | 11.8% | 9.1% | 11.1% |
| Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | 0.2% | 0.1% | 0.1% | 0.2% | 0.3% | 0.6% |
| White | 73.1% | 75.2% | 82.1% | 74.9% | 67.4% | 75.6% |
| Two or more races | 3.0% | 3.8% | 2.8% | 1.5% | 2.8% | 5.2% |
| Race/ethnicity unknown | 3.5% | 1.5% | 1.6% | 2.4% | 7.4% | 0.4% |
| Nonresident alien | 4.5% | 9.2% | 0.8% | 1.3% | 1.9% | 0.2% |

Source: National Center for Educational Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System.

| | Grand Total | University of Nebraska System | Nebraska State Colleges | Community College | Private not-for-profit | Private for-profit |
|---------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Male | 42.9% | 44.2% | 39.1% | 49.9% | 38.7% | 11.8% |
| Female | 57.1% | 55.8% | 60.9% | 50.1% | 61.3% | 88.2% |

Source: National Center for Educational Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System.

Most of Nebraska's postsecondary education graduates in the 2018-2019 academic year were white. White graduates made up over 70% of graduates across all educational sectors with the exception of private not-for-profit institutions. The Nebraska State College system had the highest percentage of white graduates (82.1%). It also had the lowest percentage of Hispanic or Latino graduates (4.6%). Nebraska's Community College system had the highest percentage of Hispanic or Latino graduates (11.8%). The University of Nebraska System had the highest percentage of nonresident alien students (9.2%).

Overall, there were more women graduates than men in the 2018-2019 academic year. The largest split was at private for-profit institutions, at which 88.2% of graduates were women. The most even split was at Nebraska Community Colleges, where women made up 50.1% of all graduates.

How to use it

Comparing the racial, ethnic and gender proportions of recent college graduates to the proportions among the general population can provide insights into how well our educational institutions are serving various populations. These data are important to educators and policy makers who wish to ensure all prospective students are able to achieve their educational goals.

Where to find it

The Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System can be found at the National Center for Education Statistics website, nces.ed.gov/ipeds/use-the-data.

Graduates by Field of Study

2018-2019 Graduates by Field of Study

Among postsecondary graduates, the three most popular fields of study were Business, Management, Marketing; Health Professions; and Education degree programs. These three fields of study made up almost half (47%) of all graduates. Business, Management, and Marketing fields of study were the most popular degree programs in the University of Nebraska System. Education degree programs were most popular at the Nebraska State Colleges. Health Profession degree programs were most popular at Community Colleges, private not-for-profit, and private for-profit institutions.

How to use it

Prospective students planning their education can use these data to help select a school and field of study. Colleges and regulatory commissions likewise can use these data to evaluate the success of their academic programs, and improve educational services throughout the state. Workforce Investment Boards, economic developers, and policymakers may also use graduate data to track labor market conditions and determine whether the state's workforce is prepared to meet the demands of area employers.

Where to find it

The Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System can be found at the National Center for Education Statistics website, nces.ed.gov/ipeds/use-the-data.

| Field of Study | University of Nebraska System | Nebraska State Colleges | Community College | Private not-for-profit | Private for-profit | Grand Total |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support Services | 17.0% | 24.3% | 14.4% | 26.2% | 1.5% | 19.1% |
| Health Professions and Related Programs | 11.4% | 0.1% | 18.6% | 28.2% | 10.3% | 17.6% |
| Education | 11.6% | 34.4% | 1.1% | 12.9% | 0.9% | 10.3% |
| Liberal Arts and Sciences, General Studies and Humanities | 2.8% | 0.6% | 15.8% | 0.4% | 0.0% | 5.3% |
| Computer and Information Sciences and Support Services | 4.8% | 2.0% | 4.8% | 5.1% | 0.4% | 4.7% |
| Biological and Biomedical Sciences | 5.2% | 3.3% | 0.2% | 4.9% | 0.0% | 3.6% |
| Agriculture, Agriculture Operations and Related Sciences | 5.5% | 1.3% | 4.8% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 3.4% |
| Mechanic and Repair Technologies/Technicians | 0.0% | 0.0% | 13.1% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 3.4% |
| Psychology | 3.9% | 7.0% | 0.3% | 2.7% | 0.0% | 2.7% |
| Social Sciences | 3.4% | 0.8% | 0.1% | 4.2% | 0.0% | 2.6% |

Source: National Center for Educational Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System.

Labor Supply

Labor Force

Estimates page 25

Seasonal Fluctuations page 26

U6 Rates page 27

Older Workers by County page 28

Labor Availability Study

Important Factors page 29

Obstacles to Employment page 30

Commuting

In-Commuting Patterns, 2017 page 31

Out-Commuting
Patterns, 2017 page 32

Commute Time page 33



Labor Force

The labor force is the total civilian, non-institutional population, age 16 years old or older, who are either employed or unemployed but actively seeking employment. Labor force estimates exclude military personnel and all persons confined to institutions including nursing homes, mental institutions, and prisons. The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed persons divided by the size of the labor force.

In 2020, Nebraska's labor force was comprised of approximately 1,035,175 individuals. Nebraska's unemployment rate for 2020 was 4.2% (not seasonally adjusted), well below than the national unemployment rate of 8.1%.

The Lexington MC had the lowest unemployment rate of all Nebraska MCs and MSAs, at 3.4%. The Grand Island MSA had the state's highest unemployment rate at 5.3%.

How to use it

The unemployment rate is one way to measure the health of an economy. A low unemployment rate can signal a stable, thriving economy, in which most workers are able to find suitable employment. While a low unemployment rate can reflect economic health, a very low unemployment rate can also make it more difficult for businesses to find employees, as the labor pool of unemployed workers is relatively small. Nebraska's low unemployment rate, coupled with its high labor force participation rate, point to a strong, stable economy, which is critical to attracting both employers and employees to the region.

Labor Force Estimates 2020 *

| | Labor Force | Employed | Unemployed | Unemployment Rate |
|---|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------------|
| United States | 160,742,000 | 147,795,000 | 12,947,000 | 8.1% |
| Nebraska | 1,035,175 | 991,388 | 43,787 | 4.2% |
| Beatrice MC | 10,872 | 10,438 | 434 | 4.0% |
| Columbus MC | 17,741 | 17,090 | 651 | 3.7% |
| Fremont MC | 20,100 | 19,391 | 709 | 3.5% |
| Grand Island MSA | 44,133 | 41,802 | 2,331 | 5.3% |
| Hastings MC | 16,839 | 16,169 | 670 | 4.0% |
| Kearney MC | 31,296 | 30,085 | 1211 | 3.9% |
| Lexington MC | 14,396 | 13,912 | 484 | 3.4% |
| Lincoln MSA | 185,858 | 177,996 | 7,862 | 4.2% |
| Norfolk MC | 27,323 | 26,300 | 1023 | 3.7% |
| North Platte MC | 19,281 | 18,536 | 745 | 3.9% |
| Omaha MSA (Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA MSA) | 494,097 | 470,421 | 23,676 | 4.8% |
| Scottsbluff MC | 19,287 | 18,502 | 785 | 4.1% |

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, released 2021

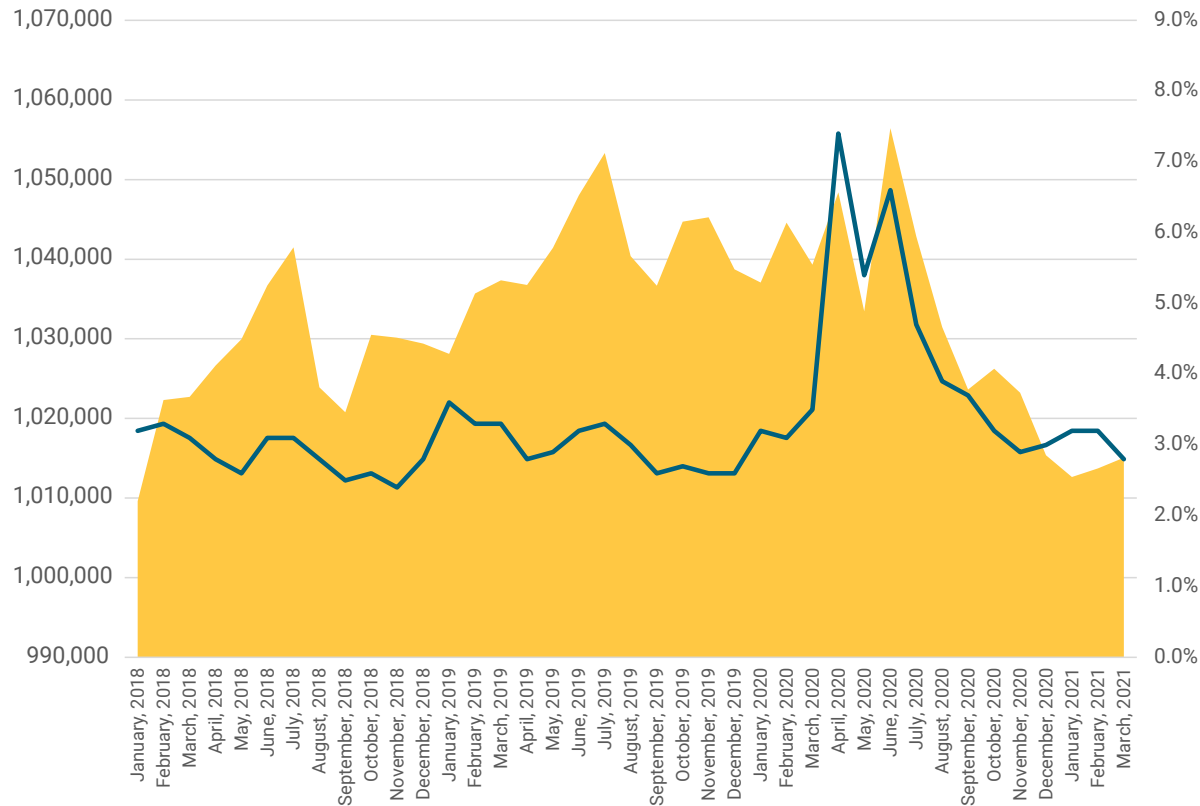
* Not seasonally adjusted

Where to find it

State and local data on labor force estimates are available neworks.nebraska.gov. Under Labor Market Information, select Labor Market Analysis to view the data, or download data by going to the Data Download Center, located under Labor Market Data. The national unemployment rate is available at www.bls.gov/cps.

Seasonal Labor Force Fluctuations

Nebraska Unemployment Rate & Seasonal Fluctuations in Labor Force 2018 – 2021



Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, released 2021

Where to find it

State and local data on labor force estimates are available at neworks.nebraska.gov. Under Labor Market Information, select Labor Market Analysis. Then, under Labor Market Data, select Labor Force Data, or download data by going to the Data Download Center, located under Labor Market Data.

The labor force and unemployment rate can vary by season. Over the previous three years, from 2018 to 2021, the size of Nebraska’s labor force peaked in June 2020. The state’s annual labor force average was approximately 1,017,729 in 2018 and 1,035,175 in 2020.

Nebraska’s not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate experienced some major fluctuations in 2020, with a record high of 7.4% in April 2020, and a low of 2.4% in Nov 2018. Each year, the unemployment rate typically rises in the summer, as the size of the labor force expands, then drops in the fall, as the labor force shrinks. In 2020, there was a sharp increase in the unemployment rate due to the Covid-19 pandemic. When compared to March 2020, the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, the labor force in March 2021 was only 2.3% lower and the unemployment rate has dropped to pre-pandemic levels.

How to use it

Knowledge of seasonal labor force and unemployment patterns can help predict future labor force and unemployment fluctuations. Employers can use this information to plan business processes such as recruitment and possibly anticipate changes related to seasonal economic fluctuations. Harvests, weather changes, holidays, and school openings and closings are a few examples of seasonal events that can lead to significant fluctuations in the state’s labor force and unemployment rates.

U6 Rates

The U6 rate is an alternative measure of labor underutilization compared to the traditional unemployment rate. The U6 rate measures all unemployed workers, marginally attached workers (discouraged workers who are not employed and have sought work in the past 12 months, but not in the last 4 weeks), and workers who are employed part-time, but who desire to and are available to work full-time.

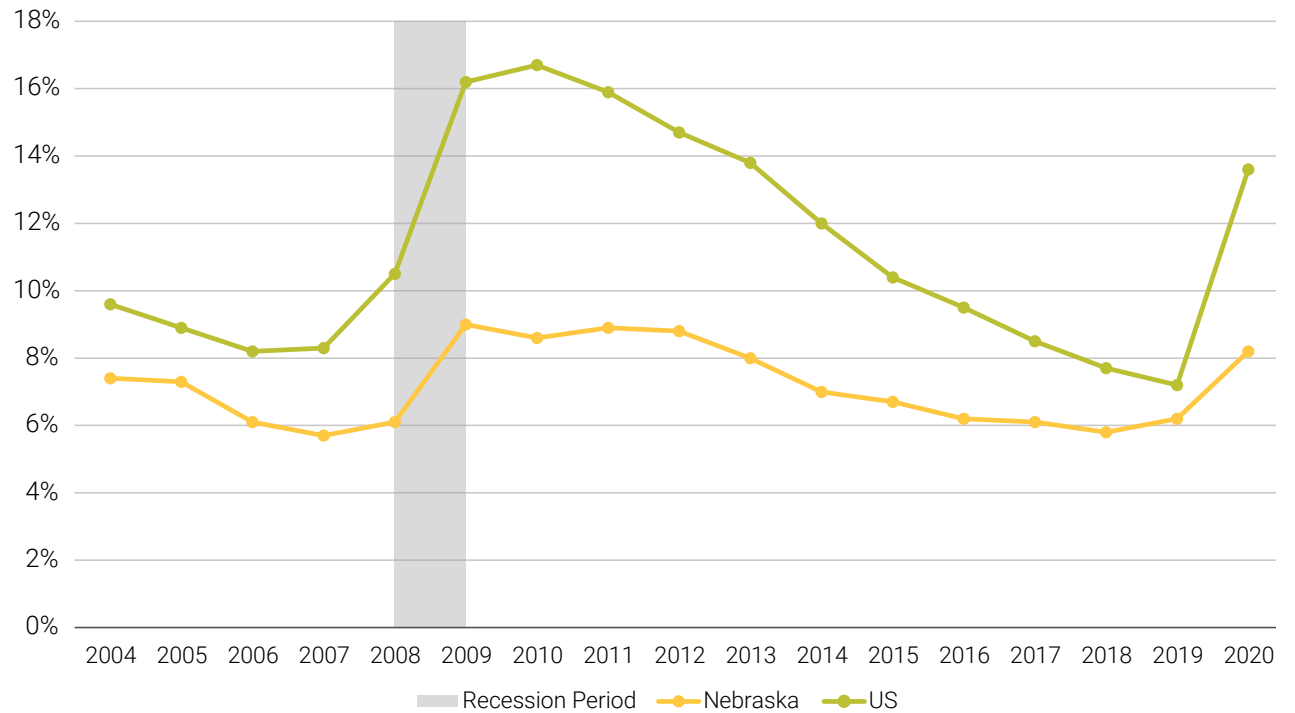
In 2008, Nebraska's U6 rate was around 6.1%. The U6 rate jumped to 9.0% in 2009, after the onset of the economic recession, and stayed close to 9.0% until 2012. In 2018, Nebraska's U6 rate was 5.8%, its lowest since 2007. In 2020 Nebraska's U6 rate increased to 8.2% due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Nebraska's U6 rate has consistently been lower than the rate for the U.S. as a whole. The difference between Nebraska versus the national U6 rate was greatest during the recession period in 2009 and 2010. The difference has shrunk gradually since then, and began to diverge again in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

How to use it

Because the U6 rate includes marginally attached and some part-time workers, it can provide a more expansive measure of workers who are underutilized or left out of the labor force than the traditional unemployment rate. Additionally, trends in the U6 rate over time can help predict unemployment and labor underutilization in the next several years.

NE & US U6 Rates 2004 – 2019



| | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| NE | 9.0% | 8.6% | 8.9% | 8.8% | 8.0% | 7.0% | 6.7% | 6.2% | 6.1% | 5.8% | 6.2% | 8.2% |
| US | 16.2% | 16.7% | 15.9% | 14.7% | 13.8% | 12.0% | 10.4% | 9.5% | 8.5% | 7.7% | 7.2% | 13.6% |

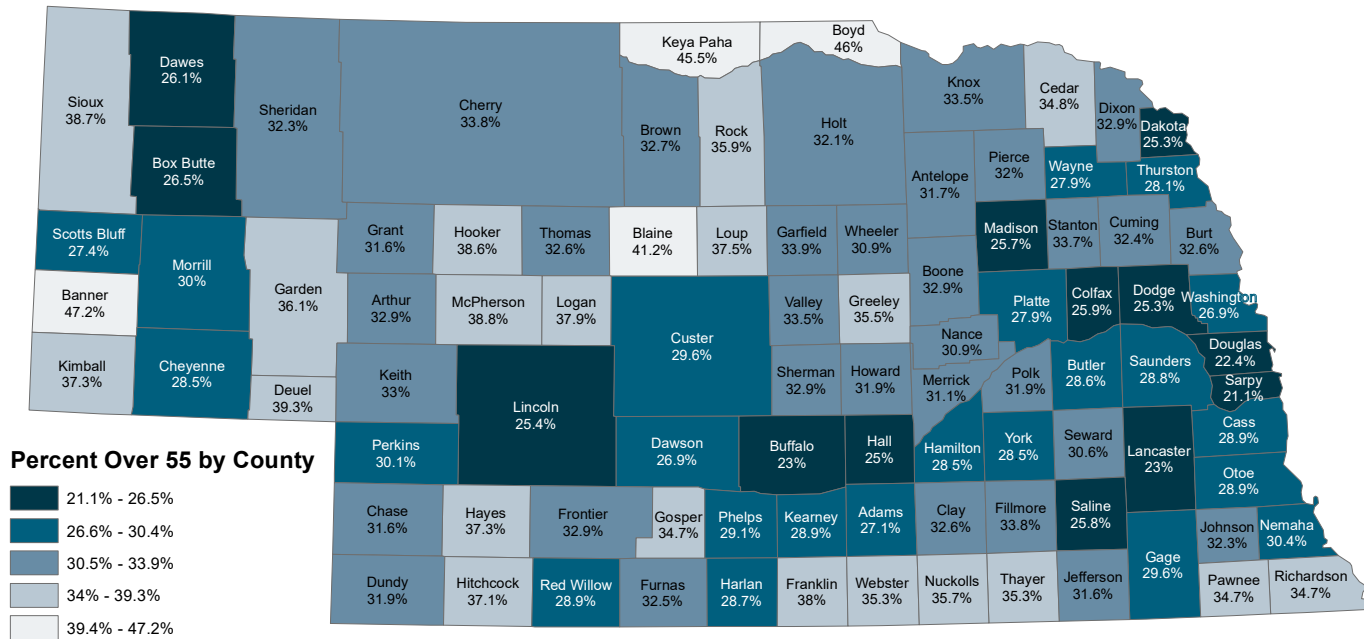
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, released January 2021

Where to find it

Information on the U6 rate is available at [bls.gov](https://www.bls.gov). Under Subjects, select State and Local Unemployment Rates, then select Alternative Measure of Labor Underutilization for States.

Older Workers

Percentage of County Workforce, ages 55 and older, 2020



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics, QWI Explorer, released 2021

How to use it

The growing proportion of older workers in the labor force signals the need for business adaptation. Older workers can contribute valuable skills and experience to businesses. As older workers reach retirement, businesses will need to adjust and refill their positions, possibly with a younger, less experienced workforce.

Where to find it

The Longitudinal Employment-Household Dynamics program from the U.S. Census provides data on worker age at lehd.ces.census.gov. Under Applications, select QWI Explorer.

Older workers comprise a much larger proportion of Nebraska's workforce than in the recent past, perhaps because of the aging baby boomer population. In 2020 there were more than 233,000 workers ages 55 and older in Nebraska, comprising 24.5% of the state's total workforce. In comparison, approximately 113,000 workers, or 13.1% of the workforce, were 55 or older in 2000, and about 161,400 workers, or 18.0% of the workforce, were 55 or older in 2007.

Older workers tended to comprise a larger share of the non-MC/MSA workforce than the MC/MSA workforce. More than 30% of Nebraska's non-MC/MSA workforce was 55 or older in 2020, compared to 23.5% of the MC/MSA workforce.

Sarpy County had the state's smallest percentage of older workers, at 21.1%. The county where older workers made up the largest share of the labor market was Banner, where 47.2% of the workforce was 55 or over in 2020.

Labor Availability Study - Important Factors

The Labor Availability Study (LAS) is an ongoing research project which typically produces data for each surveyed region of Nebraska: labor availability, which uses data obtained through surveys of local individuals; hiring and training needs report, consisting of data received from area employers; and the Skills Gap Report, which utilizes the data from LAS surveys as well as additional secondary sources to provide recommendations for the local labor market, produced by the Bureau of Business Research at the University of Nebraska- Lincoln. The Nebraska Department of Labor partners with the Nebraska Department of Economic Development to distribute the Labor Availability Report and the Hiring and Training Needs Report.

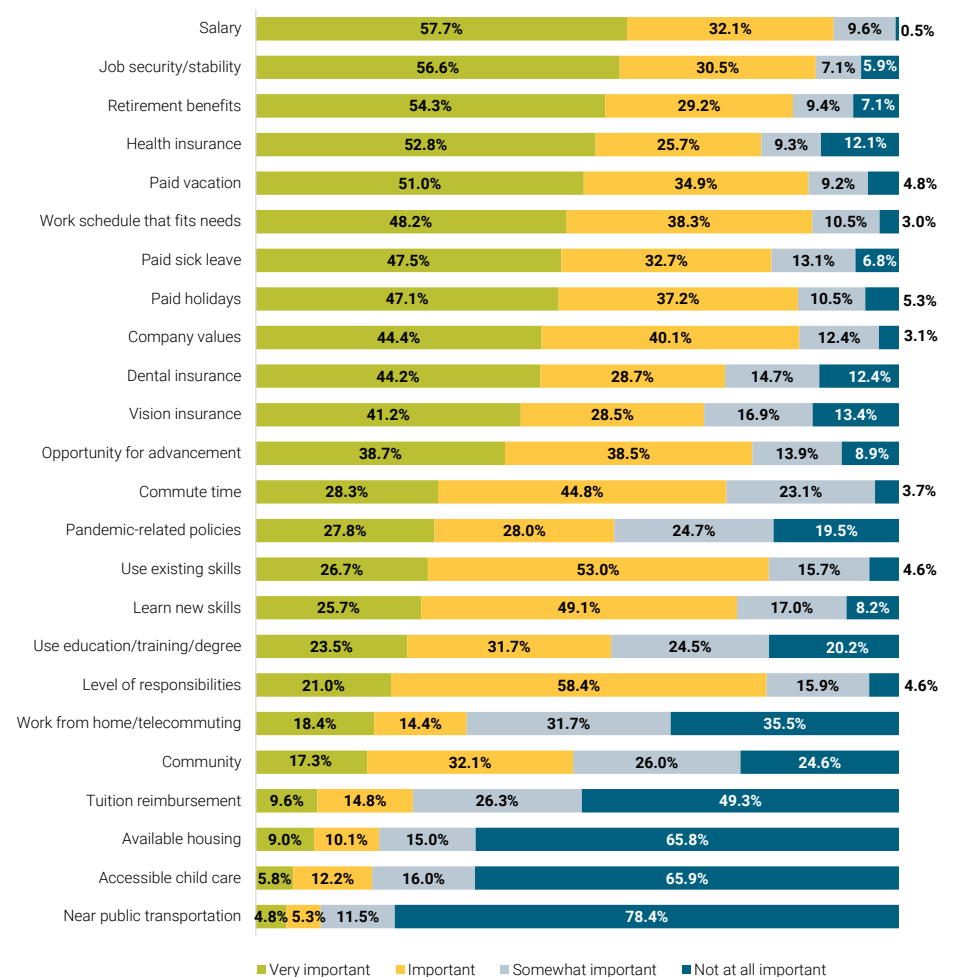
In the fall of 2020, two statewide surveys were conducted to assess the impacts the COVID-19 pandemic was having on the labor market and business operations in Nebraska. One category of respondents that was analyzed included potential job seekers— those who were likely to change jobs or re-enter the workforce in the next year if a suitable job is available. Potential job seekers who responded to the LAS survey rated the importance of various factors when considering a new job opportunity.

To the right is a sample of results from the Nebraska Statewide Pandemic Impacts report that was published in the summer of 2021. The top three considerations that respondents rated important or very important were salary (89.8%), job security/stability (87.1%), and a work schedule that fit their needs (86.5%). More than half of potential job seekers (55.7%) indicated that a business having pandemic-related policies was important or very important, while only 32.8% said working from home/telecommuting was an important or very important consideration. This percentage was significantly higher in 2020 than the 22.8% previously reported in the Nebraska Statewide Labor Availability Report published in 2019.

How to use it

The Labor Availability Study was designed to measure labor availability and to help determine the hiring and training needs of employers in Nebraska. Data on the important factors workers consider when evaluating new job opportunities can help employers and other stakeholders understand what potential job seekers are looking for in local labor markets.

Reported Important Factors for Potential Job Seekers, Statewide Labor Availability Report



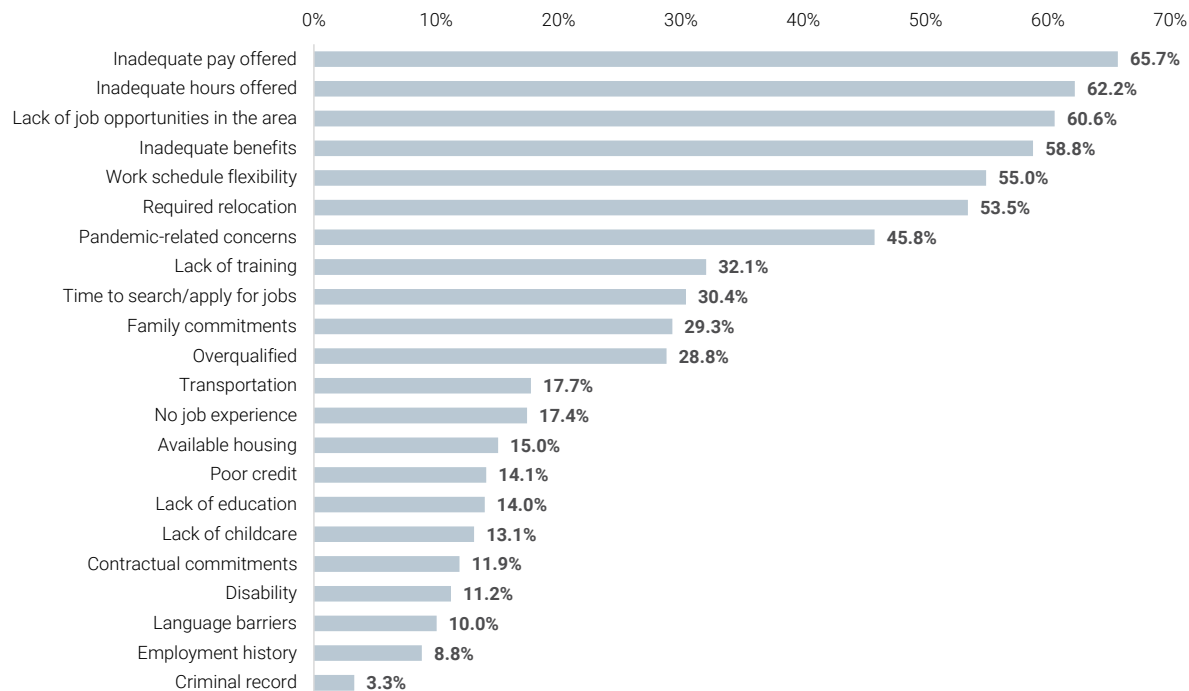
Where to find it

In addition to the Nebraska Statewide Pandemic Impacts report, Labor Availability Study reports (conducted prior to the COVID-19 pandemic) have been published most recently for the Panhandle area (including Scottsbluff, Alliance, and Chadron), Central Nebraska (Grand Island, Hastings, Kearney, and Lexington), and Southwest Nebraska (North Platte, McCook, and Ogallala). All LAS reports can be found at dol.nebraska.gov/las.

Labor Availability Study

Obstacles to Employment

Obstacles to Employment Reported by Potential Job Seekers, Statewide Labor Availability Report



Where to find it

In addition to the Nebraska Statewide Pandemic Impacts report, Labor Availability Study reports (conducted prior to the coronavirus pandemic) have been published most recently for the Panhandle area (including Scottsbluff, Alliance, and Chadron), Central Nebraska (Grand Island, Hastings, Kearney, and Lexington), and Southwest Nebraska (North Platte, McCook, and Ogallala). All LAS reports can be found at dol.nebraska.gov/las.

LAS survey respondents reported any obstacles that may prevent them from changing jobs or reentering the workforce within the next year. As seen in the chart, taken from the Nebraska Statewide Pandemic Impacts report published in the summer of 2021, potential job seekers were asked to identify any obstacles that applied to their individual employment situations.

The top obstacles to employment, as expressed by potential job seekers, were inadequate pay, inadequate hours, lack of job opportunities, and inadequate benefits. Nearly 46% of potential job seekers said pandemic-related concerns may be an obstacle to changing jobs or reentering the workforce within the next year.

How to use it

Information about the reasons why individuals don't change jobs or re-enter the workforce is not regularly collected through the Bureau of Labor Statistics or the Census Bureau. The Labor Availability Study fills this gap by producing reports for local areas, detailing the types of obstacles respondents say may prevent them from changing jobs or reentering the workforce within the next year. This information can be used to determine the unique challenges a local labor market might face (e.g., lack of training or language barriers).

Commuting

'In-commuters' refers to workers who commute into the state for work. The map shows the number of workers from surrounding states who commuted into Nebraska for their primary jobs in 2018.

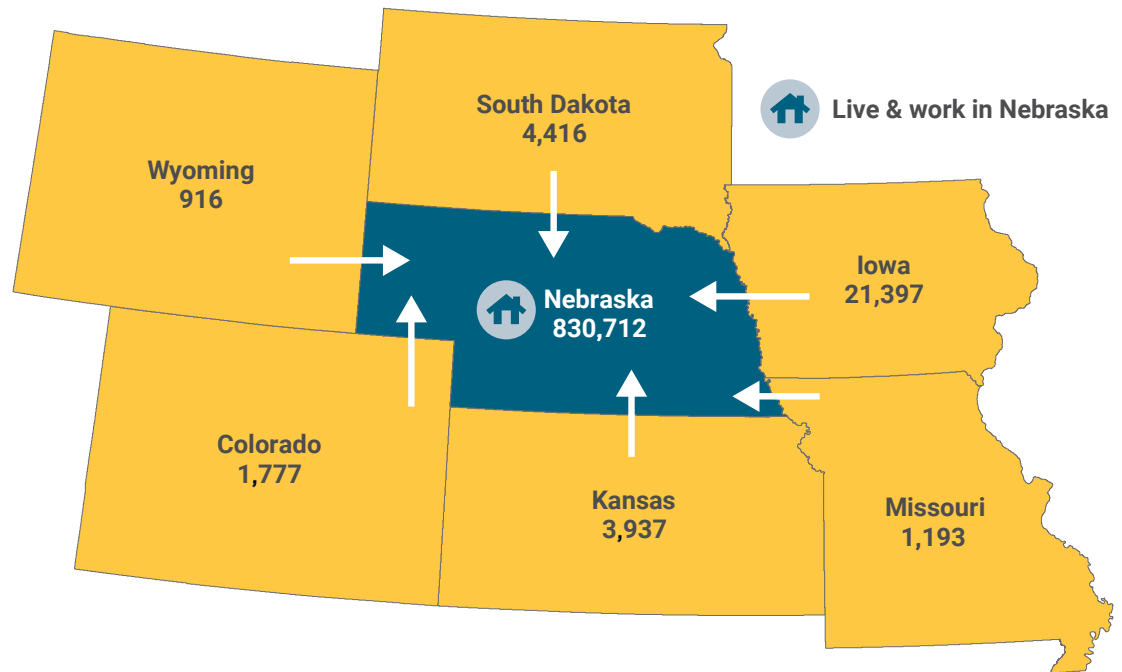
There were 869,207 primary jobs in Nebraska in 2018. Nebraska residents filled approximately 830,712, or 95.6%, of those jobs. Iowa residents comprised the next-largest portion of Nebraska's workforce. Approximately 21,397, or 2.5%, of workers in Nebraska commuted from Iowa. More than half of all Iowa commuters traveled from Council Bluffs or Sioux City, Iowa, and most Iowa in-commuters worked in the Omaha area.

Nebraska had a net loss of workers from cross-state commuting. Approximately 25,942 more workers commuted out of Nebraska for work than commuted into Nebraska for work in 2018.

How to use it

Commuting data that compares net in-commuting and out-commuting can indicate whether or not a state has attractive work opportunities. States that have more in-commuters than out-commuters may have more work opportunities and higher wages than surrounding areas. In contrast, states that have a higher number of workers leaving for work than coming into that state for work may have fewer employment opportunities and/or less appealing wages than surrounding areas.

Nebraska In-Commuters 2018



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics, OnTheMap, released 2020

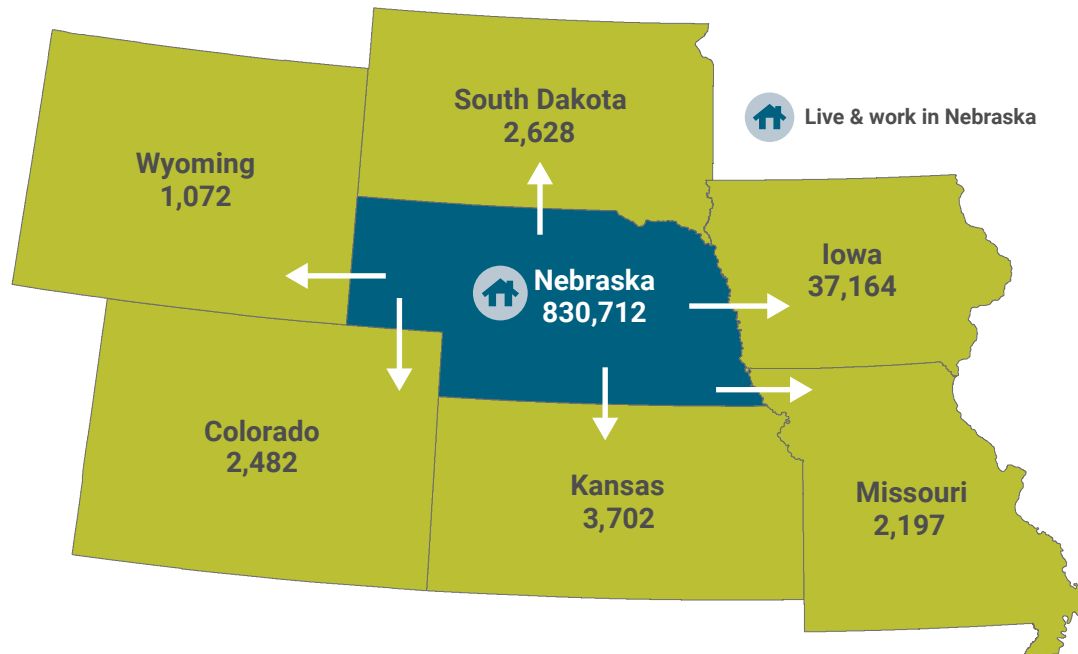
A **primary job** is the highest paying job for an individual worker for the year. The count of primary jobs is the same as the count of workers.

Where to find it

The Longitudinal Employment-Household Dynamics program from the U.S. Census provides commuting data at lehd.ces.census.gov. Under Applications, select OnTheMap.

Commuting

Nebraska Out-Commuters 2018



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics, OnTheMap, released 2020

Where to find it

The Longitudinal Employment-Household Dynamics program from the U.S. Census provides commuting data at lehd.ces.census.gov. Under Applications, select OnTheMap.

'Out-commuters' refers to Nebraska residents who commute out of the state for work. The map shows states where Nebraskans commuted for their primary jobs in 2018.

There were 895,154 Nebraskans with primary jobs in 2018. Approximately 830,712, or 92.8%, of these Nebraskans were employed within the state. The majority of Nebraskans who commuted out-of-state went to Iowa. About 37,164 Nebraskans, or 4.2% of those with primary jobs, commuted to Iowa for work. More than 69.3% of Nebraskans who commuted to Iowa worked in Council Bluffs or Sioux City, IA.

Nebraska had fewer out-commuters than in-commuters in 2018. Approximately 25,000 more workers commuted out-of-state than commuted into the state for work.

How to use it

Commuting data that compares net in-commuting and out-commuting can indicate whether or not a state has attractive work opportunities. States that have more in-commuters than out-commuters may have more work opportunities and higher wages than surrounding areas. In contrast, states that have a higher number of workers leaving for work than coming into that state for work may have fewer employment opportunities and/or less appealing wages than surrounding areas.

2017 Commute Times

In 2019, the average commute time for Nebraska workers was 18.8 minutes— significantly shorter than the U.S. average of 26.9 minutes. Almost a quarter of Nebraskans traveled less than 10 minutes to work, compared to only 11.4% of workers nationwide. About 35.9% of employed Nebraskans commuted 10 to 19 minutes, while 40.5% reported traveling 20 minutes or more to work.

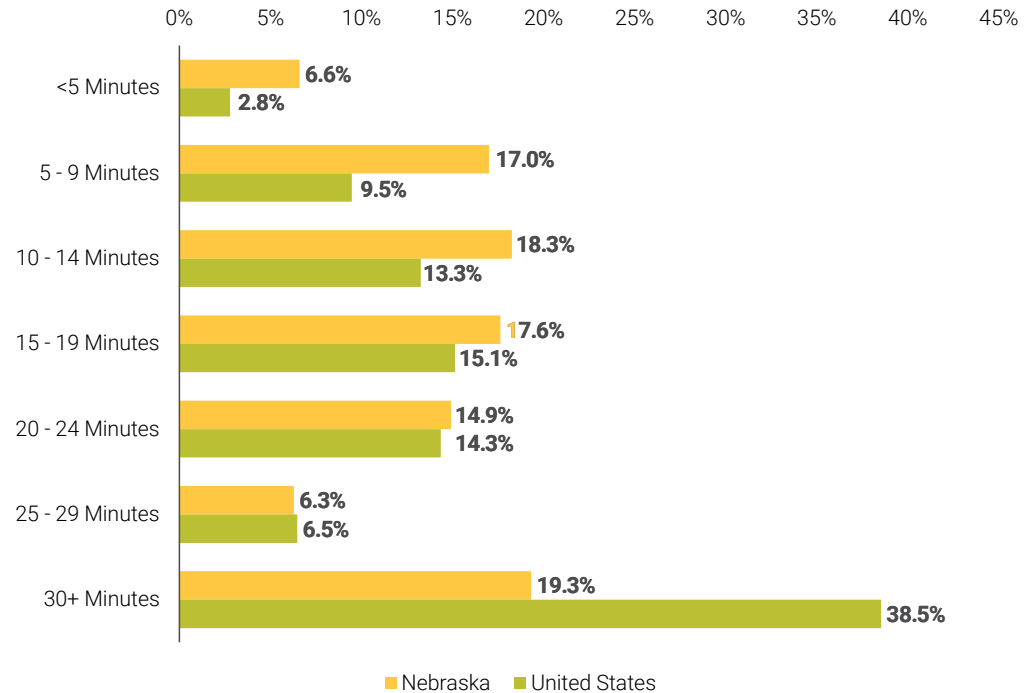
How to use it

Commuting statistics are one way to estimate how long workers may be willing to travel for work, as well as which geographic regions businesses might look to for employee recruitment. Businesses in regions where a high proportion of workers have longer commutes may be more likely to draw workers from a broader geographic area than businesses in regions where workers tend to have shorter commutes.

Where to find it

Data on commuting comes from the American Community Survey, available at data.census.gov. Search for Tables S0801 and B08303.

Avg. Commute Time for NE & US Workers 2017



| Commute Time | Nebraska | | United States | |
|------------------|------------|--------|---------------|--------|
| | Population | % | Population | % |
| <5 minutes | 62,207 | 6.6% | 4,020,208 | 2.8% |
| 5 to 9 minutes | 160,228 | 17.0% | 13,715,788 | 9.5% |
| 10 to 14 minutes | 172,180 | 18.3% | 19,200,268 | 13.3% |
| 15 to 19 minutes | 166,219 | 17.6% | 21,935,522 | 15.1% |
| 20 to 24 minutes | 140,644 | 14.9% | 20,782,841 | 14.3% |
| 25 to 29 minutes | 59,227 | 6.3% | 9,375,527 | 6.5% |
| 30+ minutes | 182,111 | 19.3% | 55,807,051 | 38.5% |
| Total: | 942,816 | 100.0% | 144,837,205 | 100.0% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 - 2019 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, released 2020

Wages & Compensation

Earnings..... page 35

Median Earnings by Educational Attainment..... page 36

Industry Earnings by Gender..... page 37

Required Pay page 38

Wages by Occupational Groups... page 39

Total Compensation..... page 40

Household Median Income by County page 41

Benefits..... page 42

Poverty Rate by County page 43

Inflation page 44



Earnings

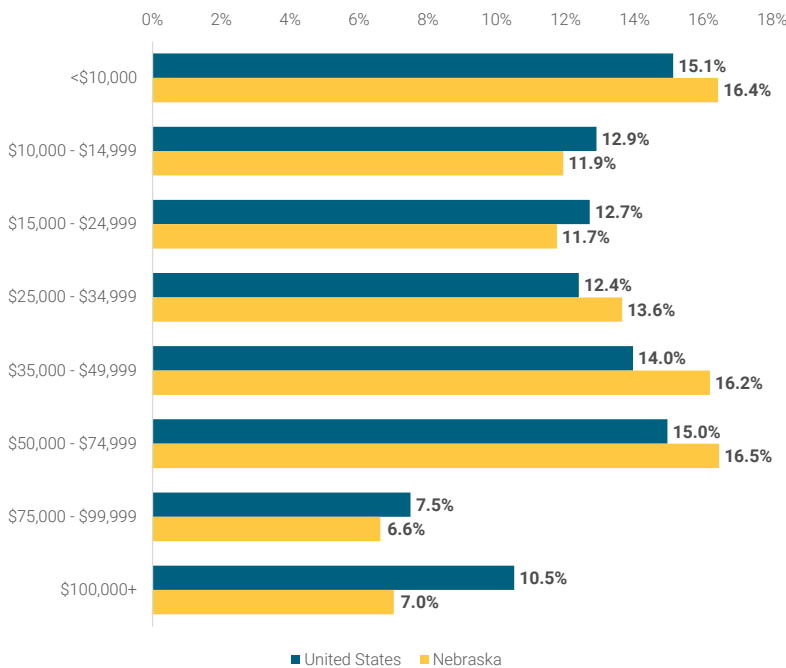
According to the American Community Survey, 28.4% of working Nebraskans ages 16 and over earned less than \$15,000 per year in 2019, and another 25.4% earned \$15,000-\$34,999. More than a quarter of the state's 16+ population earned \$50,000 or more. About 16.5% of Nebraskans earned \$50,000-\$74,999, while 13.6% earned \$75,000 or more annually.

Nebraska has a lower proportion of high earners (workers who earned \$50,000 or more per year) than the nation as a whole, and a slightly higher proportion of very low earners (workers who earned less than \$10,000 annually). About 30.1% of Nebraskans earned \$50,000 or more annually, compared to 32.9% of workers nationwide. Additionally, only 7.0% of Nebraskans earned more than \$100,000 per year, versus a national percentage of 10.5%. Approximately 16.4% of Nebraskans earned less than \$10,000 annually, compared to 15.1% nationwide.

How to use it

The earnings in a region should be viewed along with the area's relative cost of living. Although a population may have a higher percentage of lower-income earners, their earnings in that region may be able to buy a better quality of life than they would in other regions, due to a lower cost of living. For instance, according to the CNN Money Cost of Living Calculator, a salary of \$25,000 in Omaha, Neb. would be equivalent to a higher salary of \$30,279 in Denver, Colo.; \$33,092 in Chicago, Ill.; \$42,872 in Washington, D.C.; or \$65,836 in Manhattan, N.Y.

Share of NE & US Population, ages 16 and over, by Annual Earnings 2019



| Earnings | United States | | Nebraska | |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| | Population* | % | Population* | % |
| <\$10,000 | 27,648,471 | 15.1% | 191,786 | 16.4% |
| \$10,000-\$14,999 | 23,580,395 | 12.9% | 139,244 | 11.9% |
| \$15,000-\$24,999 | 23,220,311 | 12.7% | 137,123 | 11.7% |
| \$25,000-\$34,999 | 22,640,648 | 12.4% | 159,187 | 13.6% |
| \$35,000-\$49,999 | 25,514,403 | 14.0% | 188,995 | 16.2% |
| \$50,000-\$74,999 | 27,346,695 | 15.0% | 192,082 | 16.5% |
| \$75,000-\$99,999 | 13,695,966 | 7.5% | 77,236 | 6.6% |
| \$100,000+ | 19,202,807 | 10.5% | 81,795 | 7.0% |
| Total: | 182,849,696 | 100.0% | 1,167,448 | 100.0% |

*Population age 16 and older.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 - 2019 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, released 2020

Where to find it

Earnings data from the American Community Survey are available at data.census.gov.

Search for Table B20001.

CNN money's Cost of Living Calculator is available at money.cnn.com/calculator/pf/cost-of-living/index.html.

Median Earnings

Median Annual Earnings by Educational Attainment 2019

| | United States | Nebraska | % Difference |
|---|---------------|----------|--------------|
| Population 25 years and over with earnings | \$41,081 | \$40,341 | 1.8% |
| Less than high school graduate | \$24,071 | \$26,610 | -9.5% |
| High school graduate (includes equivalency) | \$31,264 | \$31,488 | -0.7% |
| Some college or associate degree | \$37,471 | \$37,348 | 0.3% |
| Bachelor's degree | \$54,925 | \$50,424 | 8.9% |
| Graduate or professional degree | \$74,253 | \$63,653 | 16.7% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 - 2019 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, released 2019

Where to find it

Data on earnings by educational attainment are from the American Community Survey, available at data.census.gov. Search for Table S1501.

According to the American Community Survey, median annual earnings tend to increase dramatically with higher levels of educational attainment. In 2019, median earnings for Nebraskans with a high school diploma were approximately \$31,488 per year. Median earnings increased to over \$50,424 for Nebraskans with a bachelor's degree, and over \$63,000 for those with a graduate or professional degree.

Workers with bachelor's and graduate degrees earned significantly higher median wages nationally than in Nebraska. The national median for bachelor's degree earners was 8.9% higher than in Nebraska, and 16.7% higher for graduate/professional degree earners.

The national median for workers overall, regardless of educational attainment, was only 1.8% higher than the median in Nebraska.

For workers with less than a high school diploma and those with a high school diploma or equivalent, the Nebraska median wage was higher than for the nation as a whole (9.5% and 0.7% higher respectively).

How to use it

Data on median wages by educational attainment can be used to show the income benefits of postsecondary education. Educators and students can use median wage information to make decisions that will help put students on track to earn their desired wages. Educational earnings data, along with occupational and industry wage data, can also help workers gauge how their current wages compare to workers with similar characteristics.

Industry Earnings

The industry sector that paid the state's highest average annual wage for men during the first quarter of 2020 was finance and insurance, where the average annual wage was \$125,484. Utilities was the industry sector that paid the state's highest average annual wage for women, at \$79,860 per year.

The accommodation and food services industry had Nebraska's lowest average annual wage for men (\$21,432), and women (\$17,556).

How to use it

Data on industry earnings by gender provide can provide insights into how typical rates of compensation in various industries may differ by gender. Prospective job-seekers and students may be interested in industry earnings by gender, as this information can provide a more-precise estimate of an industry's typical wages. However, this data does not include specific details that can impact average pay, such as occupations held or hours worked.

Where to find it

The Longitudinal Employment-Household Dynamics program from the U.S. Census provides data on earnings by industry and gender at lehd.ces.census.gov. Under Applications, select QWI Explorer.

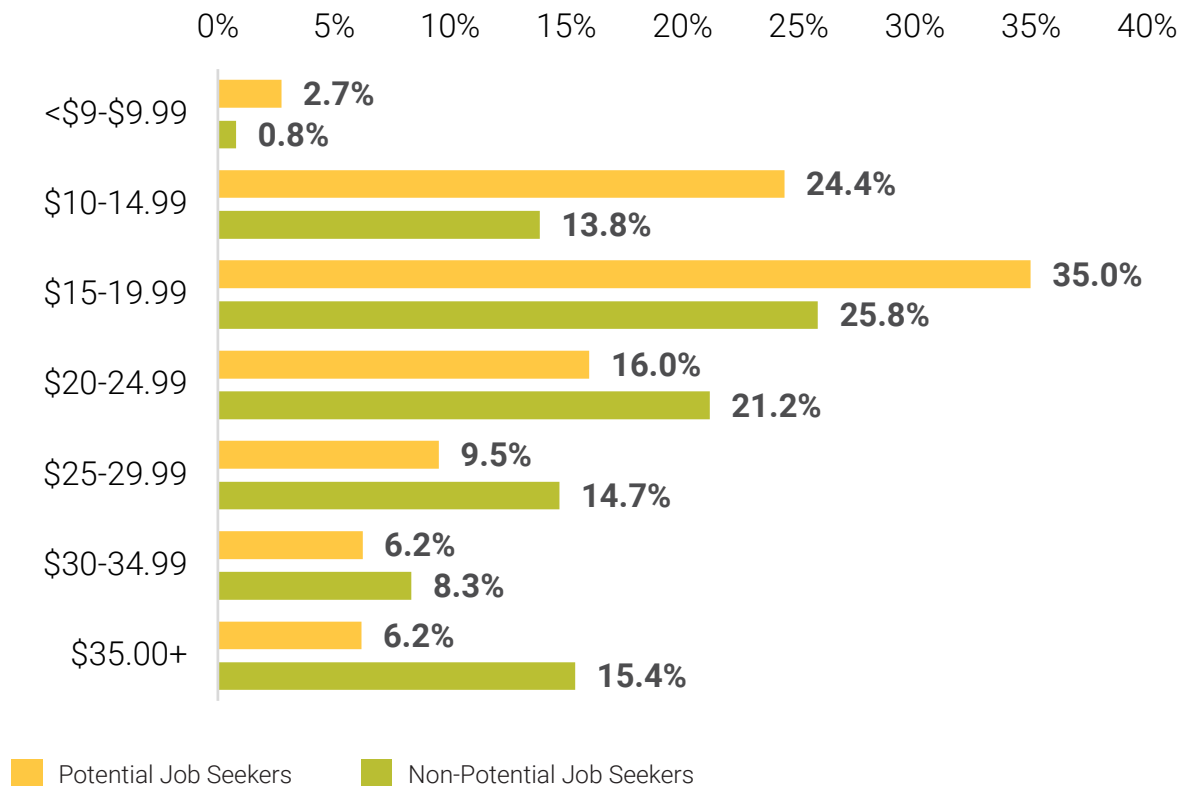
Annual Earnings by Industry for Men & Women 2020

| Industry | Average Annual Wage Male | Average Annual Wage Female |
|--|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Accommodation and Food Services | \$21,432 | \$17,556 |
| Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services | \$48,360 | \$42,852 |
| Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting | \$45,816 | \$33,540 |
| All NAICS Sectors | \$61,332 | \$42,336 |
| Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation | \$27,960 | \$19,440 |
| Construction | \$55,416 | \$39,696 |
| Educational Services | \$53,748 | \$41,292 |
| Finance and Insurance | \$125,484 | \$69,360 |
| Health Care and Social Assistance | \$83,028 | \$43,248 |
| Information | \$88,200 | \$63,624 |
| Management of Companies and Enterprises | \$103,656 | \$62,748 |
| Manufacturing | \$60,816 | \$46,656 |
| Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction | \$63,588 | \$42,024 |
| Other Services (except Public Administration) | \$42,972 | \$29,976 |
| Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | \$91,092 | \$55,200 |
| Public Administration | \$50,964 | \$41,400 |
| Real Estate and Rental and Leasing | \$50,484 | \$40,536 |
| Retail Trade | \$37,812 | \$24,756 |
| Transportation and Warehousing | \$51,360 | \$38,184 |
| Utilities | \$95,256 | \$79,860 |
| Wholesale Trade | \$74,100 | \$55,716 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics, QWI Explorer, accessed April 2021

Required Pay

Required Hourly Wages to Improve Current Employment Situation Statewide Labor Availability Report



Where to find it

In addition to the Nebraska Statewide Report, Labor Availability Study reports have been published most recently for the Southwest (North Platte, McCook, and Ogallala), Central (Grand Island, Hastings, Kearney, and Lexington), and Panhandle (Scottsbluff, Alliance, and Chadron) areas of the state. The O'Neill and Valentine areas were covered in 2019, Northeast Nebraska (Columbus, Norfolk, and Fremont); Lincoln; and the Omaha Metro were covered in the 2017-2018 Labor Availability Study. All LAS reports can be found at dol.nebraska.gov/las.

As seen in this sample of the Nebraska Statewide Labor Availability Report, published in 2019, survey respondents answered the question, "If a job were available that met your most important criteria, what is the minimum pay you would require to improve your employment situation?" Respondents provided either a minimum annual salary or a minimum hourly wage. This analysis includes all respondents who provided data regarding their desired wage, regardless of their current employment situation.

Potential job seekers generally required less pay to improve their employment situation than those who responded that they were not currently interested in seeking out new job opportunities. In the Statewide Labor Availability Report, the median required minimum hourly wage for potential job seekers to improve their employment situation was \$16 per hour, compared to \$20 per hour for non-seekers. More than 62% of potential job seekers and 40% of non-seekers said they would accept a job paying less than \$20 per hour. Annual wage data and more details can be found in the full report.

How to use it

Required pay data can be used to determine the level of compensation that groups like potential job seekers would require in order to change jobs or reenter the workforce. This data can be used by employers and potential employers to make data-driven decisions on the wage or salary rates they set for their firms.

1st Quarter Wages, 2021

The table gives the entry, median, and experienced annual wages for all major occupational groups in Nebraska during the first quarter of 2020. Nebraska's wages tended to be lower than the national median for most occupational groups, but were significantly higher for a few. The greatest differences between state and national earnings were in Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, & Media occupations, where national median wages were 25.4% higher than in Nebraska, and in farming, fishing, and forestry occupations, where the national median was 15.7% lower than the median for Nebraska.

How to use it

Occupational wage data provides a convenient means to identify typical wages for different occupational groups. Employers can use occupational wage data to offer their employees wages that are competitive within their region. Workers can also use occupational wage data to gauge how their compensation compares to other workers in similar occupations and with similar levels of experience. Additionally, students can use wage data to pick occupational paths that are most likely to meet their earnings requirements.

Annual Earnings by Occupational Group Q1 2020

| Occupational Group | Nebraska Hourly Wages | | | US Wages* | |
|--|-----------------------|----------|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| | Entry | Median | Experienced | Median | % Difference |
| Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations | \$25,431 | \$42,392 | \$61,371 | \$53,150 | 25.4% |
| Legal Occupations | \$43,278 | \$68,404 | \$107,942 | \$84,910 | 24.1% |
| Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations | \$38,326 | \$58,740 | \$78,799 | \$69,760 | 18.8% |
| Management Occupations | \$52,895 | \$92,955 | \$129,906 | \$109,760 | 18.1% |
| Computer and Mathematical Occupations | \$49,182 | \$78,272 | \$96,570 | \$91,350 | 16.7% |
| Business and Financial Operations Occupations | \$42,103 | \$62,771 | \$83,927 | \$72,250 | 15.1% |
| Community and Social Service Occupations | \$30,750 | \$41,663 | \$53,327 | \$47,520 | 14.1% |
| Architecture and Engineering Occupations | \$46,347 | \$72,919 | \$93,815 | \$83,160 | 14.0% |
| Personal Care and Service Occupations | \$21,330 | \$24,843 | \$33,670 | \$28,120 | 13.2% |
| Construction and Extraction Occupations | \$31,442 | \$43,141 | \$55,636 | \$48,610 | 12.7% |
| Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations | \$42,527 | \$64,908 | \$97,786 | \$69,870 | 7.6% |
| Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations | \$20,717 | \$23,698 | \$27,875 | \$25,500 | 7.6% |
| Total all occupations | \$25,192 | \$39,846 | \$62,795 | \$41,950 | 5.3% |
| Office and Administrative Support Occupations | \$26,466 | \$36,833 | \$45,148 | \$38,720 | 5.1% |
| Sales and Related Occupations | \$22,603 | \$30,344 | \$51,743 | \$31,500 | 3.8% |
| Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations | \$31,732 | \$47,057 | \$58,554 | \$48,750 | 3.6% |
| Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations | \$22,786 | \$29,416 | \$35,470 | \$29,940 | 1.8% |
| Production Occupations | \$27,264 | \$37,354 | \$47,219 | \$37,440 | 0.2% |
| Educational Instruction and Library Occupations | \$29,185 | \$52,286 | \$69,395 | \$52,380 | 0.2% |
| Healthcare Support Occupations | \$24,457 | \$30,037 | \$35,111 | \$29,960 | -0.3% |
| Protective Service Occupations | \$28,538 | \$45,055 | \$59,299 | \$43,710 | -3.0% |
| Transportation and Material Moving Occupations | \$25,831 | \$36,713 | \$48,076 | \$34,080 | -7.2% |
| Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations | \$27,292 | \$35,193 | \$42,597 | \$29,670 | -15.7% |

Sources: Nebraska Department of Labor, Occupational Employment Statistics, released 2021
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics, released 2021

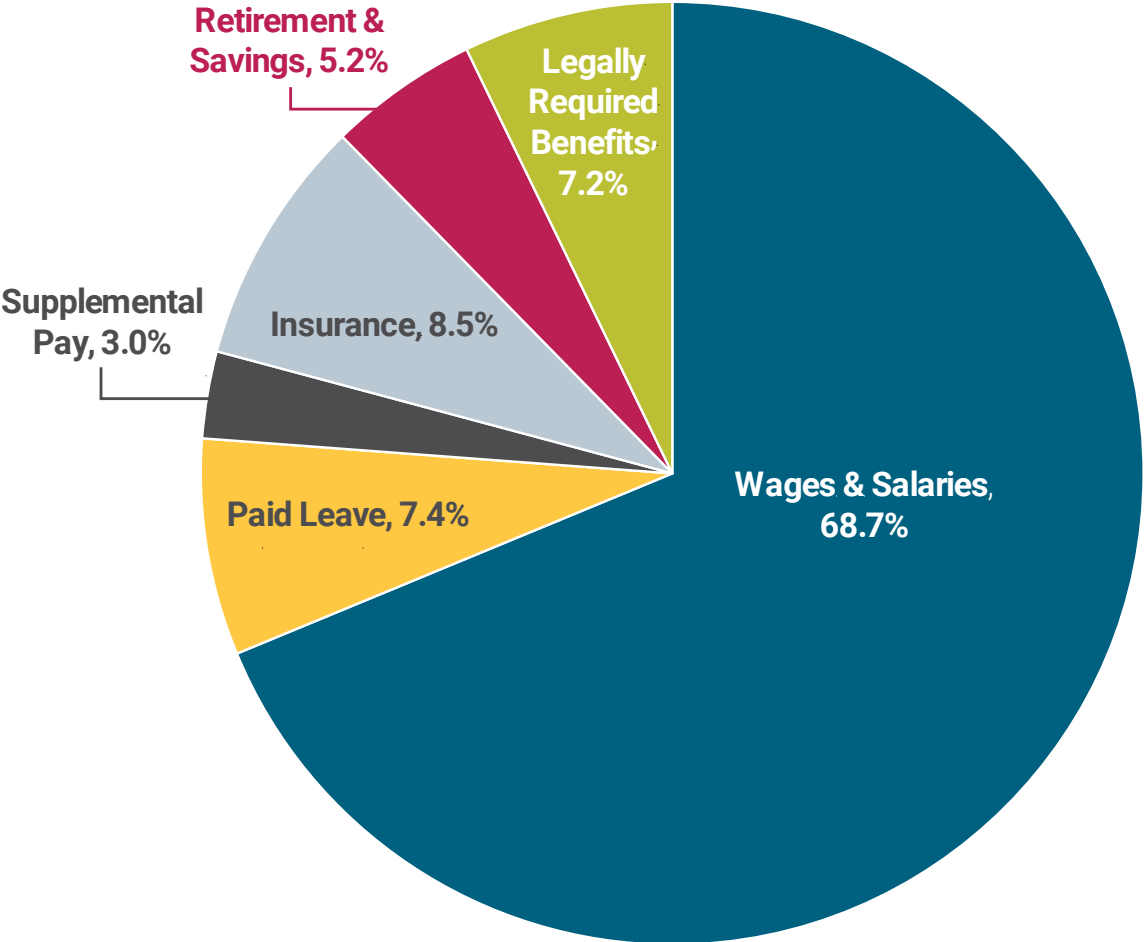
*National Wages are May 2020 OES estimates.
Occupations ordered alphabetically.

Where to find it

Occupational Employment data for Nebraska is available at neworks.nebraska.gov. Under Labor Market Information, select Employment and Wage Data.

Total Compensation

4th Quarter 2020 Total Compensation



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Compensation Survey, released 2021

Employee compensation cost is greater than the sum of employee wages alone. Non-wage/salary employee compensation costs include paid leave, insurance, retirement, Social Security and Medicaid, and more. The chart breaks down total employee compensation costs for private industry workers.

In the 4th quarter of 2020, wages and salaries accounted for about 68.7% of the total cost of employee compensation. Insurance was the second-largest compensation cost, at 8.5%, followed by paid leave at 7.4% and legally required benefits (e.g., Social Security, Medicare, worker’s compensation, etc.) at 7.2%. Retirement and savings made up 5.2% of employee compensation costs, and supplemental pay (e.g., overtime, bonuses, etc.) accounted for 3.0%.

How to use it

Total compensation data provides employers with a more complete and accurate estimate of the total cost of employee compensation versus considering wage/salary costs alone. Businesses can use total compensation data to estimate employment costs and compare their employee compensation costs with the regional average.

Where to find it

Compensation data from the National Compensation Survey is available at bls.gov/ncs.

Benefits

The chart on the right shows the rates at which private employers and state and local governments offered employee benefits in the Census West North Central geographic region (North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Iowa, and Missouri) in March 2020.

With the exception of paid vacation and holidays, state and local governments tended to offer employee benefits at a higher rate than private industry employers. Retirement was the most commonly offered benefit in the government sector, at 92%. Approximately 88% of state and local government employers offered healthcare benefits, and 56% offered life insurance benefits. Paid vacation and wellness programs were the benefits government employers offered the least, at 57% and 60% respectively.

The benefits most commonly offered by private industry employers were paid vacation (80%) and paid holidays (79%). An estimated 72% of private employers offered paid sick leave, and 71% offered healthcare. Life Insurance and wellness programs were the least commonly offered, at 56% and 43% respectively.

How to use it

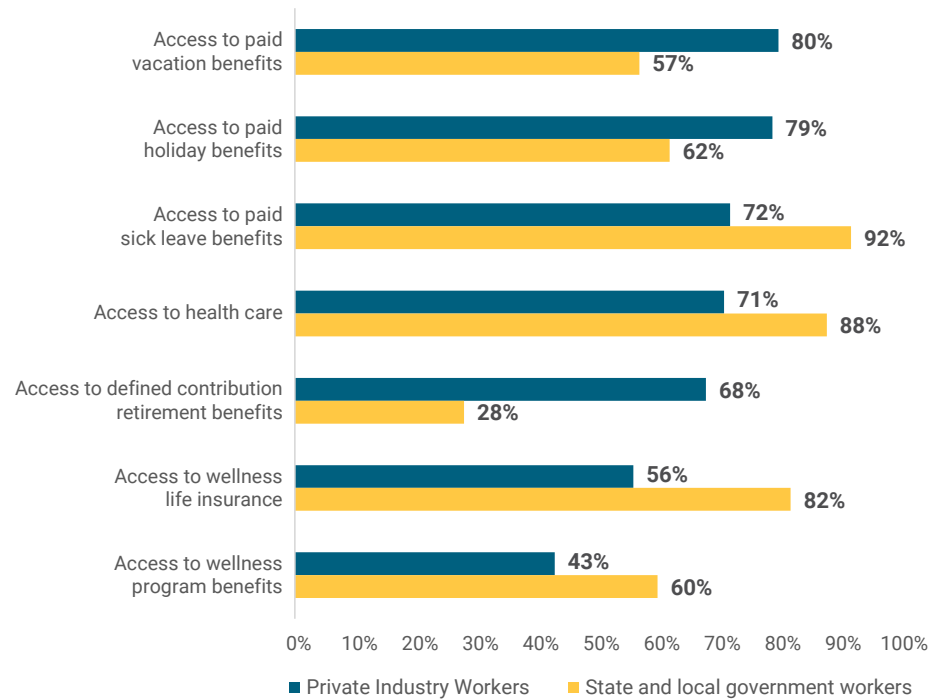
Employers can use benefits data to gauge the rate at which competitors offer various types of benefits to their employees. Businesses that are interested in attracting and retaining workers may want to consider offering more benefits to their employees in order to better compete with other area employers. For workers interested in retirement, medical, sick leave, or other benefits, benefits data can highlight where each benefit is most likely to be offered. Jobs in state and local government agencies may be more likely to provide certain kinds of benefits than jobs in the private sector.

Where to find it

Benefits data are available at [bls.gov](https://www.bls.gov). Under subjects, select Benefits.

The Labor Availability Study also includes information on benefits offered by employers in various communities throughout Nebraska, as reported by employers in the Hiring and Training Needs Report, or by employees in the Labor Availability Report. To access these reports, visit neworks.nebraska.gov. [Click Labor Market Analysis, Publications, Nebraska Labor Availability Studies.](#)

Employers Offering Benefits, West North Central Division March 2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Compensation Survey: Employee Benefits in the United States, released September 2020.

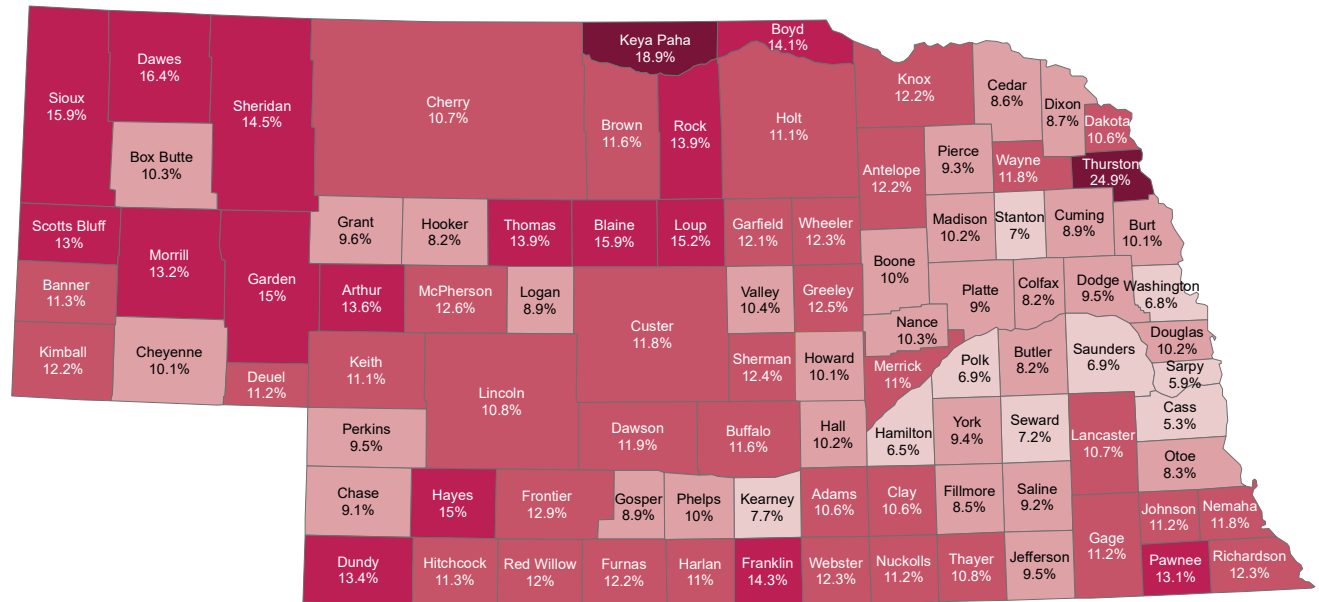
| | Full-Time | | | Part-Time | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|
| | All | Some | None | All | Some | None |
| Paid Vacation Leave | 78.8% | 9.3% | 11.9% | 16.6% | 13.3% | 70.1% |
| Health Insurance | 67.5% | 4.1% | 28.4% | 6.5% | 10.7% | 82.8% |
| Retirement Plans | 64.4% | 4.8% | 30.8% | 22.5% | 11.6% | 65.9% |
| Dental Insurance | 59.5% | 2.7% | 37.8% | 8.2% | 9.3% | 82.5% |
| Life Insurance | 57.0% | 3.9% | 39.1% | 9.7% | 8.1% | 82.2% |
| Paid Sick Leave | 56.6% | 7.9% | 35.5% | 11.6% | 10.4% | 78.0% |
| Vision Insurance | 55.1% | 2.5% | 42.3% | 7.7% | 9.0% | 83.3% |
| Disability Insurance | 54.5% | 3.9% | 41.7% | 9.1% | 8.0% | 82.9% |
| Tuition Reimbursement | 23.1% | 8.4% | 68.5% | 6.9% | 9.1% | 84.0% |
| Profit-Sharing | 17.8% | 6.0% | 76.2% | 6.2% | 3.2% | 90.6% |
| Pension Plans | 9.9% | 3.2% | 86.9% | 2.3% | 2.0% | 95.7% |
| Child Care | 3.1% | 1.2% | 95.7% | 1.8% | 0.8% | 97.4% |

Poverty Rate

The U.S. Census classifies individuals as under the poverty line if they fall below income thresholds that vary by family size and composition. Statewide, 9.9% of Nebraskans fell below the poverty line in 2019. Nebraska's poverty rate was significantly lower than the national rate of 12.3%.

Poverty rates in Nebraska vary widely by county, and poverty is not clearly concentrated in any particular region of the state. Cass County had the lowest 2019 poverty rate in the state, at 5.3%. Sarpy (5.9%), and Hamilton (6.5%) followed, each with poverty rates below 7.0%. Thurston County had Nebraska's highest poverty rate, at 24.9%. Keya Paha County had the state's second-highest poverty rate of 18.9%.

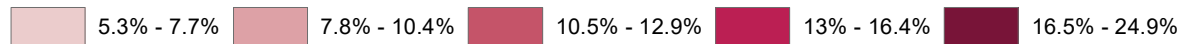
Percentage of Individuals Below the Poverty Line by County 2019



How to use it

Poverty thresholds are commonly used by government agencies to determine eligibility for aid programs. Poverty rates are also an indicator of the economic health of a region. Poor economic development and/or a poor labor market may contribute to high poverty rates in a region. Nebraska's relatively low poverty rate signals that the state has a strong, healthy economy. Areas of the state with higher poverty rates may want to consider developing and strengthening programs that combat poverty in their communities.

% Below Poverty Line



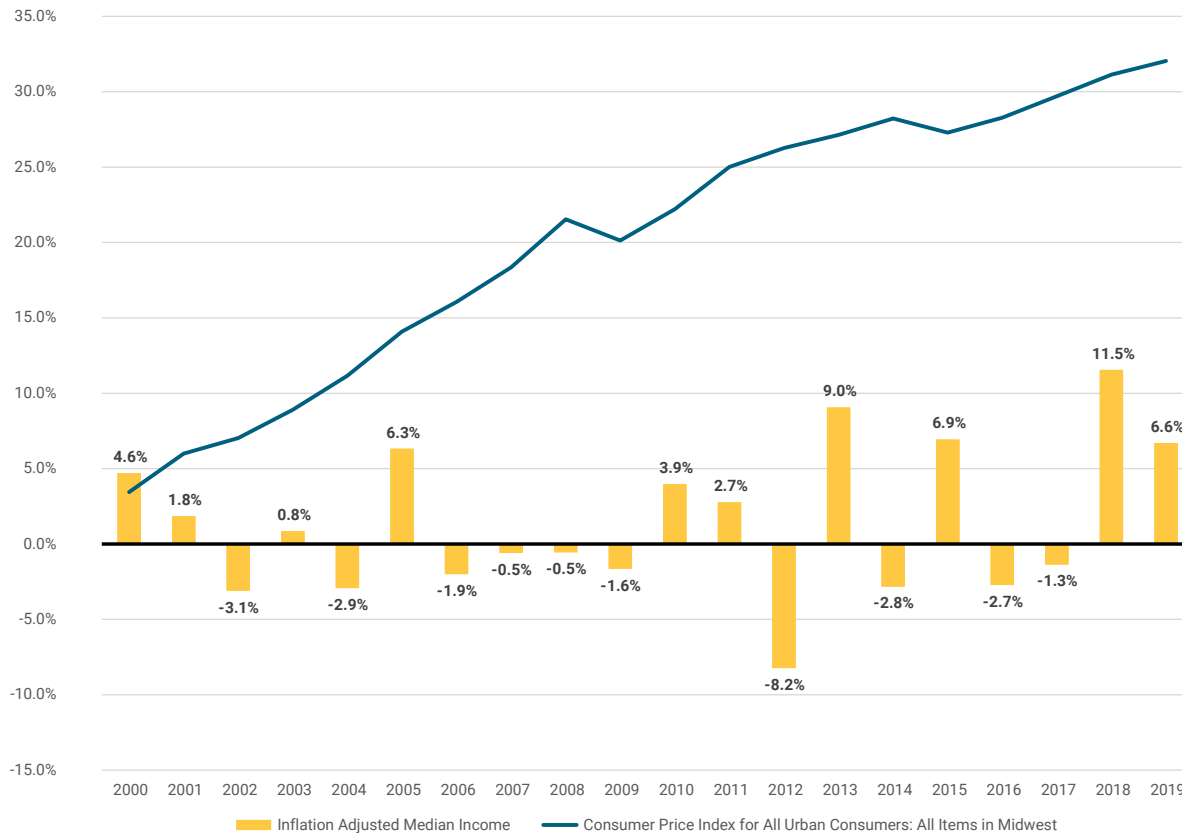
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) Program, released December 2020

Where to find it

Data on poverty rates are available from the U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) Program. Visit census.gov/programs-surveys/saipe.html.

Inflation

Cumulative Inflation & Inflation-Adjusted Median Household Income, 1994 - 2019



The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of inflation that tracks changes in prices for goods and services over time. The Bureau of Labor Statistics calculates CPI based on prices paid by urban consumers.

The blue line of the chart depicts the price inflation of goods and services since 2000 using CPI data. From 2000 to 2019, the price of goods and services increased by 32.0% in the Midwest and 55.4% nationally.

The yellow column of the chart shows the difference between Nebraska’s median household income and the Consumer Price Index by year over the same period. If the green column is positive, then the median income in Nebraska increased more than inflation. If the yellow bars are negative, then Nebraska’s median income increased less than the CPI. Nebraska’s median income did not keep pace with inflation in 2002 coming out of the “.com” recession as well as during the Great Recession of 2008-2009. More recently, Nebraska’s median income has increased more than the rate of inflation in 2018 and 2019

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index, released 2021
U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements, released 2020

How to use it

The inflation rate provides insight into how prices have changed over time. Inflation data is especially useful in conjunction with household income data, as it can show if earnings have more or less buying power than in the past. If income fails to increase at or above the rate of inflation, then fewer goods and services can be purchased for each dollar earned, meaning earnings have decreased in real value. If income rises faster than the rate of inflation, then the real value of earnings has increased.

Where to find it

Information on the Consumer Price Index is available at bls.gov/cpi. State median household income and inflation-adjusted median household income data are available at census.gov. Under Topics, select Income and Poverty, then Income.



Occupation, Industry, & Business Review

Occupation

Employment by Occupationpage 46

Most Common Occupations..... page 47

Industry

Employment by Industry page 48

Location Quotientspage 49

Gender Distribution page 50

Unionization page 51

Business

Local Employment Dynamics,
Quarterly Workforce Indicators..... page 52

Business Employment Dynamics,
Job Gains & Losses page 53

Business Employment Dynamics,
Expansions & Contractions page 54

Employment

Total Employment & OTY Employment Change by Occupational Group

| Occupational Group | 2020 Total | 2019 Total | 2020 Metro | 2020 Non-metro | OTY Change |
|--|------------|------------|------------|----------------|------------|
| Total all occupations | 942,550 | 982,040 | 642,090 | 300,460 | -39,490 |
| Architecture and Engineering Occupations | 11,280 | 11,250 | 8,480 | 2,800 | 30 |
| Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations | 10,170 | 11,050 | 8,060 | 2,110 | -880 |
| Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations | 28,890 | 29,610 | 17,830 | 11,060 | -720 |
| Business and Financial Operations Occupations | 48,770 | 49,230 | 39,520 | 9,250 | -460 |
| Community and Social Services Occupations | 12,910 | 13,360 | 8,390 | 4,510 | -450 |
| Computer and Mathematical Occupations | 30,240 | 30,740 | 26,710 | 3,530 | -500 |
| Construction and Extraction Occupations | 47,000 | 46,420 | 31,850 | 15,150 | 580 |
| Education, Training, and Library Occupations | 58,630 | 61,220 | 39,000 | 19,630 | -2,590 |
| Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations | 3,410 | 3,780 | 840 | 2,570 | -370 |
| Food Preparation and Serving-Related Occupations | 73,560 | 83,160 | 51,080 | 22,480 | -9,600 |
| Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations | 63,090 | 62,390 | 43,900 | 19,190 | 700 |
| Healthcare Support Occupations | 35,430 | 37,600 | 22,740 | 12,680 | -2,170 |
| Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations | 41,850 | 42,090 | 24,540 | 17,310 | -240 |
| Legal Occupations | 5,200 | 5,300 | 4,120 | 1,080 | -100 |
| Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations | 8,760 | 8,550 | 6,130 | 2,630 | 210 |
| Management Occupations | 51,310 | 52,180 | 37,090 | 14,220 | -870 |
| Office and Administrative Support Occupations | 126,110 | 133,340 | 90,300 | 35,800 | -7,230 |
| Personal Care and Service Occupations | 19,620 | 22,880 | 15,040 | 4,580 | -3,260 |
| Production Occupations | 67,880 | 73,080 | 36,880 | 31,010 | -5,200 |
| Protective Service Occupations | 14,960 | 16,580 | 10,360 | 4,600 | -1,620 |
| Sales and Related Occupations | 90,930 | 94,910 | 62,620 | 28,310 | -3,980 |
| Transportation and Material Moving Occupations | 92,560 | 93,340 | 56,600 | 35,960 | -780 |

Occupations ordered alphabetically.

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Occupational Employment Statistics, released 2020

In 2020, office and administrative support occupations was the largest occupational group in Nebraska, with an estimated employment of 126,110. The next-largest occupational group was transportation and material moving occupations, at approximately 92,560.

About 68.1% of occupations in Nebraska were located within a metropolitan area. Computer and mathematical occupations had the highest percentage of metropolitan-area jobs, at 88.3%. Farming, fishing, and forestry was the only occupational group with a higher percentage of non-metro employment, with 75.4% of jobs located outside of metropolitan areas. Production occupations were nearly evenly split between metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas.

Across all occupation groups, Nebraska had a decrease of 39,490 jobs (4.0%) from 2019 to 2020. Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations had the largest proportional increase at 2.5% (210 jobs). Personal Care and Service Occupations had the largest proportional decrease at -14.2% (-19,260 jobs)

How to use it

Occupational employment data help identify common occupations and areas of occupational growth or decline. Workers and students can use this information to pursue occupations with high occupational growth and a large number of employment opportunities.

Where to find it

Occupational Employment data is available at neworks.nebraska.gov. Under Labor Market Information, select Employment and Wage Data.

Most Common Occupations

The table lists the most common occupations in Nebraska in 2020 as well as their median annual salaries and median hourly wages. The most common occupation in the state was heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers, with an estimated employment of 27,160 and a median hourly wage of \$22.09. Next was fast food and counter workers and retail salespersons, with estimated employments of 26,250 and 24,920 respectively. The median hourly wage for fast food and counter workers was \$10.99, and the median for retail salespersons was \$12.51.

The highest-paying common occupation was general and operations managers, who earned a median hourly wage of \$42.69, followed by registered nurses, with a median hourly wage of \$32.70. The lowest-paying common occupation in Nebraska was waiters and waitresses, whose median hourly wage of \$9.82 was just barely surpassed by the \$10.99 median hourly wage for fast food and counter workers, the next lowest-paying common occupation.

How to use it

Occupational employment data provide an easy method of identifying common occupations and the expected wages for those occupations. Employers can use this data to set wages competitively in order to recruit and retain workers. Students who are interested in pursuing common occupations can also use occupational wage data to gauge whether the prevailing wages for those occupations will meet their expectations.

Where to find it

Occupational Employment data is available at neworks.nebraska.gov. Under Labor Market Information, select Employment and Wage Data.

Employment & Wages for Most Common Occupations in NE

| Occupation | May 2020 | 1 st Quarter, 2020 | |
|---|----------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| | Estimated Employment | Hourly Median Wage | Annual Median Wage |
| Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 27,160 | \$22.09 | \$45,954 |
| Fast Food and Counter Workers | 26,250 | \$10.99 | \$22,856 |
| Retail Salespersons | 24,920 | \$12.51 | \$26,030 |
| Registered Nurses | 24,060 | \$32.70 | \$68,015 |
| Cashiers | 22,360 | \$11.44 | \$23,792 |
| Customer Service Representatives | 18,780 | \$16.72 | \$34,768 |
| Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 18,740 | \$16.47 | \$34,254 |
| Office Clerks, General | 15,210 | \$15.52 | \$32,272 |
| Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive | 14,930 | \$17.37 | \$36,119 |
| Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners | 14,920 | \$13.93 | \$28,968 |
| Nursing Assistants | 13,390 | \$14.57 | \$30,296 |
| General and Operations Managers | 13,220 | \$42.69 | \$88,799 |
| Stockers and Order Fillers | 12,260 | \$13.24 | \$27,536 |
| Home Health and Personal Care Aides | 11,890 | \$12.70 | \$26,419 |
| Waiters and Waitresses | 11,640 | \$9.82 | \$20,436 |

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Occupational Employment Statistics, released 2020

Employment

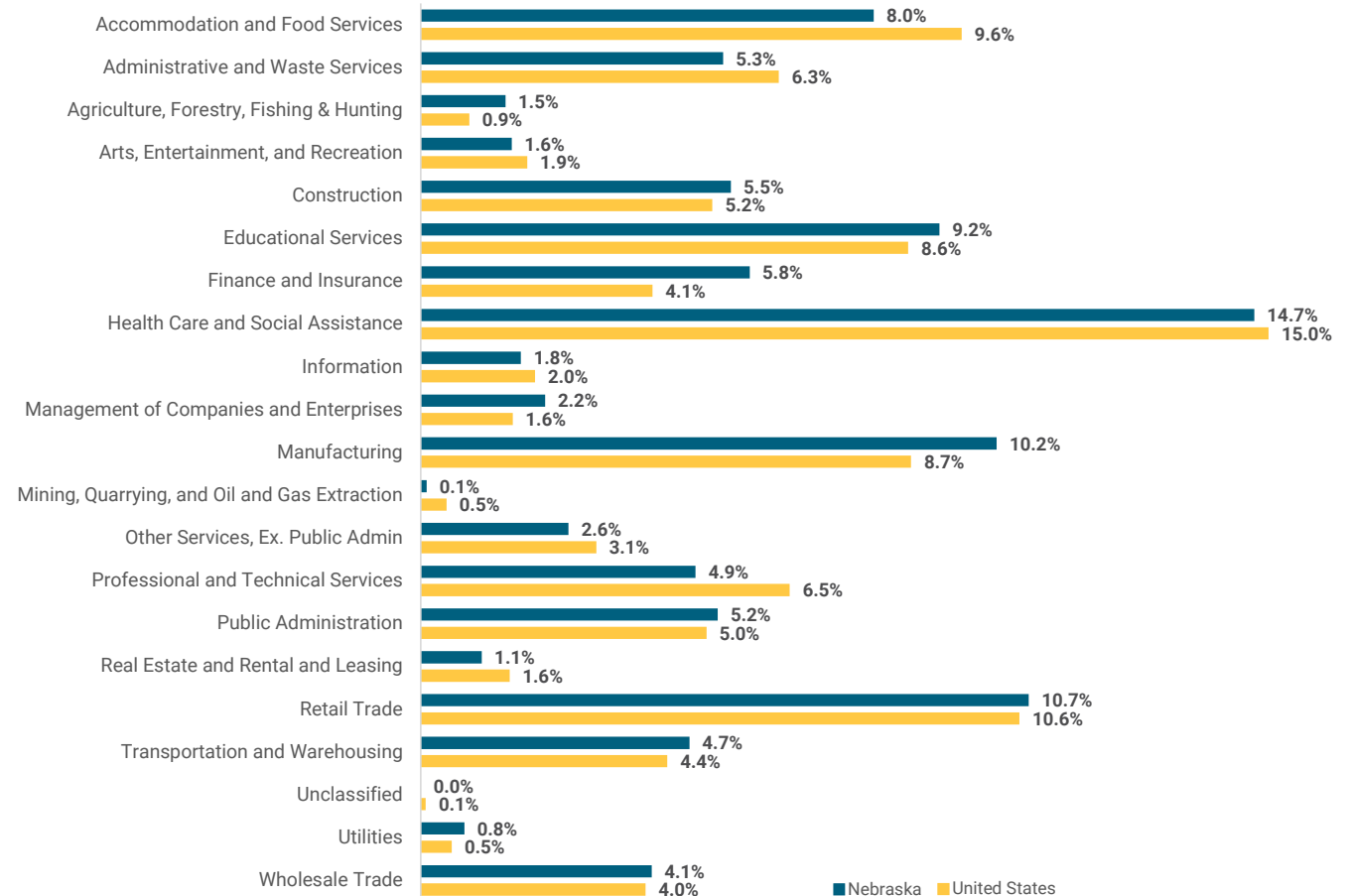
The chart shows employment by industry as a percentage of total employment in Nebraska and the nation. In 2019, the largest industry by employment in Nebraska was Health Care and Social Assistance, accounting for 14.7% of the state's total employment. The second-largest was Retail Trade, at 10.7%.

Nebraska's industry employment figures were largely comparable to those of the nation as a whole. The largest difference between statewide versus national employment was in the Professional and Technical Services industry, where employment in Nebraska was 1.7 percentage points lower than in the U.S. as a whole. In contrast, the U.S. Finance and Insurance industry employment was 1.7 percentage points lower than Nebraska.

How to use it

Data on employment by industry can be used to identify industries that are critical to a region's economy. A region's critical industries may account for a large portion of its economic output as well as its employment. Economic developers may be interested in industry concentration and employment when considering a region's potential for economic expansion. Industry employment can also signal to businesses whether or not a region has the infrastructure necessary to support their expansion.

Industries' Share of Total NE & US Employment 2019



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, released 2019

Where to find it

Data on industry employment is available at bls.gov/cew. Go to Tools and Tutorials on the left navigation pane, then select QCEW Data Viewer.

Location Quotients

Location quotients provide one way of comparing a state's employment by industry with that of the nation as a whole. A location quotient greater than 1 indicates that the state has a higher concentration of employment in that industry than the nation as a whole, while a location quotient of less than 1 indicates that the nation has a higher percentage of employment within that industry than the state.

In 2020, the Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting industry had the highest location quotient in Nebraska, at 1.75. The next highest was the Finance and Insurance industry, at 1.42. The Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction industry (.23), Real Estate and Rental and Leasing industry (.69) and the Professional and Technical Services industry (.74) had the state's lowest location quotients.

The location quotients of Nebraska's Utilities and Educational Services industries saw the greatest positive changes since 2014. Nebraska's location quotients fell the most for the Transportation and Warehousing and Arts, Entertainment and Recreation industries from 2014-2020.

How to use it

Along with data on employment by industry, location quotients can help identify industries that drive a region's economy. Industries with high location quotients and a large proportion of employment are likely to contribute heavily to a region's economic activity. Location quotients can also help identify industries that are likely to export goods and services to other regions. Industries with high location quotients likely export goods and services to other regions and draw in revenue, while industries with low location quotients are more likely to primarily support in-region consumers.

Location Quotients by Industry 2014 – 2020

| Industry | 2014 | 2020 | Change |
|---|------|------|--------|
| Accommodation and Food Services | 0.86 | 0.84 | -0.02 |
| Administrative and Waste Services | 0.81 | 0.84 | 0.03 |
| Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting | 1.65 | 1.75 | 0.1 |
| Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation | 0.94 | 0.85 | -0.09 |
| Construction | 1.11 | 1.06 | -0.05 |
| Educational Services | 0.54 | 1.06 | 0.52 |
| Finance and Insurance | 1.42 | 1.42 | 0 |
| Health Care and Social Assistance | 1 | 0.98 | -0.02 |
| Information | 0.92 | 0.88 | -0.04 |
| Management of Companies and Enterprises | 1.38 | 1.35 | -0.03 |
| Manufacturing | 1.18 | 1.17 | -0.01 |
| Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction | 0.19 | 0.23 | 0.04 |
| Other Services, Ex. Public Admin | 0.87 | 0.84 | -0.03 |
| Professional and Technical Services | 0.77 | 0.74 | -0.03 |
| Real Estate and Rental and Leasing | 0.66 | 0.69 | 0.03 |
| Retail Trade | 1.03 | 1.02 | -0.01 |
| Transportation and Warehousing | 1.33 | 1.09 | -0.24 |
| Utilities | 0.34 | 1.41 | 1.07 |
| Wholesale Trade | 1.08 | 1.03 | -0.05 |

Note: Location Quotients were calculated by dividing the state's industry employment ratio (industry employment as a percent of total employment) by the nation's industry employment ratio. Industries ordered alphabetically.

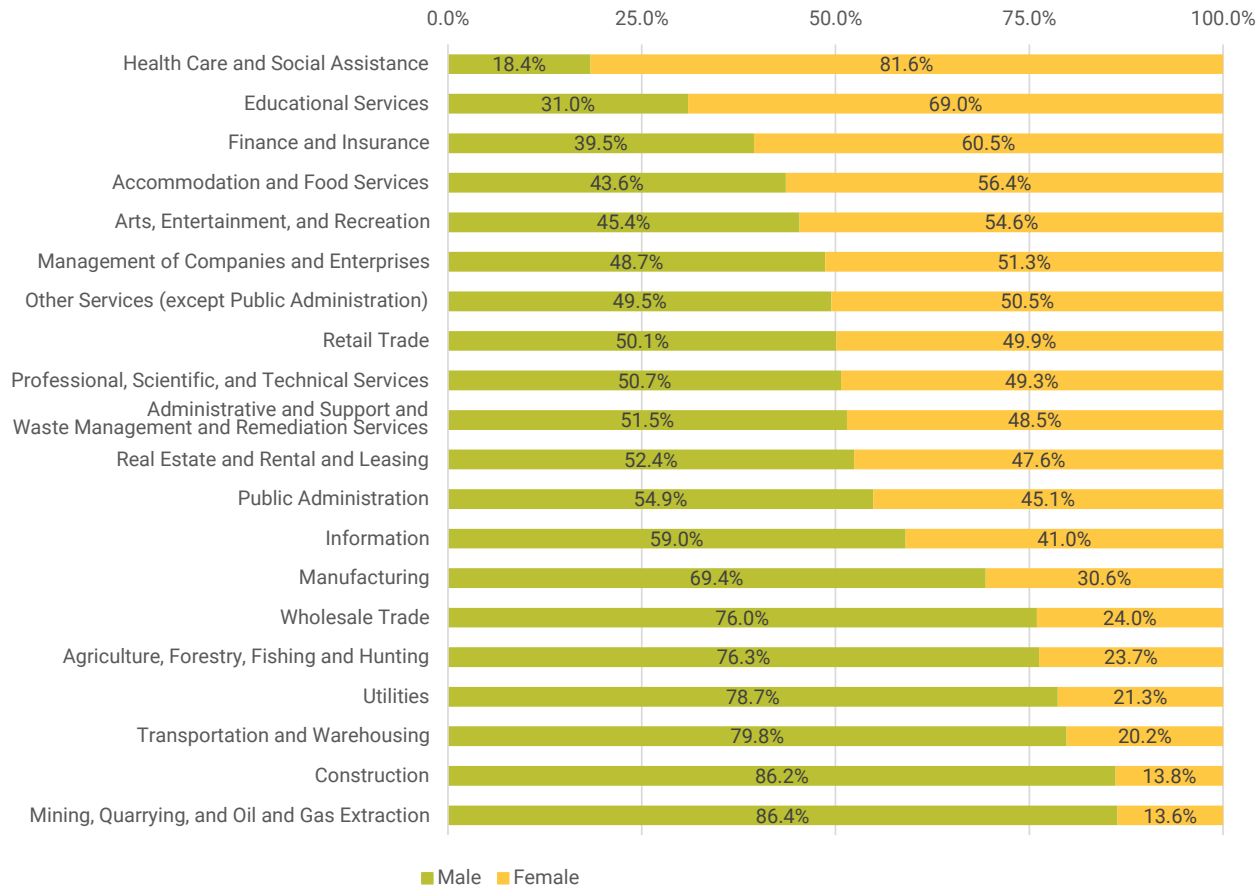
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, released 2021

Where to find it

The Bureau of Labor Statistics provides data location quotients. Go to [bls.gov](https://www.bls.gov). Under Subjects, select State and County Employment, and then use the QCEW Data Viewer.

Gender Distribution

Gender Distribution by Industry Q3 2019



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics, QWI Explorer, released 2021

Where to find it

The Longitudinal Employment-Household Dynamics program from the U.S. Census provides data on employee gender by industry at lehd.ces.census.gov. Under Applications, select QWI Explorer.

In 2020, the Nebraska industries with the highest concentrations of male employees were mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction (86.4%); construction (86.2%); and transportation and warehousing (79.8%).

Health care and social assistance had the highest concentration of female employees (81.6%), followed by the educational services industry (69.0%), and the finance and insurance industry (60.5%).

The most even distribution of male and female employees was found in the retail trade industry, where there was a 49.9% male to 50.1% female split, and other services except public administration (49.5% male, 50.5% female). Other industries with near-even divisions were professional, scientific, and technical services (50.7% male, 49.3% female) and management of companies and enterprises (48.7% male, 51.3% female).

How to use it

Data on gender distribution can help employers identify whether they might want to recruit more women or men in order to take advantage of a labor pool that may remain largely untapped within their industry. Schools and training programs may also use industry gender distribution data to study social dynamics within labor markets and to prepare students to enter industries where they might be underrepresented.

Unionization

Public sector (government) workers were the most likely to be unionized in 2020. Nationally, 38.4% of public sector workers were represented by unions. Public sector workers made up almost half of all union representation nationwide, though they made up just 15.6% of the country's total workforce.

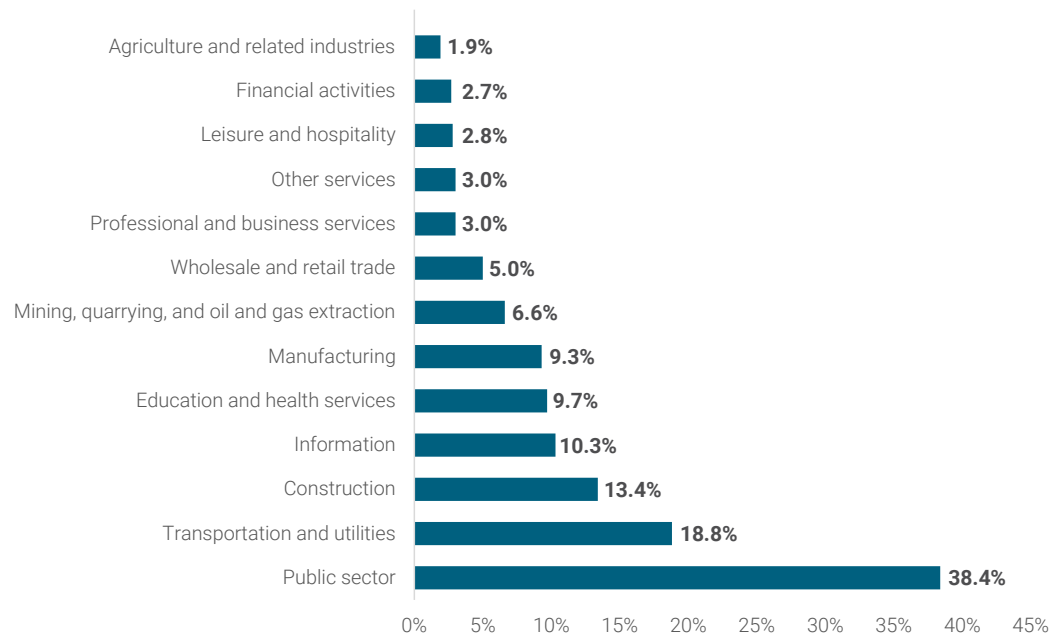
The transportation and utilities industry had the nation's highest private-sector union representation rate at 18.8%, followed by the construction industry at 13.4%. The industries with the lowest rates of union representation were agriculture and related industries (1.9%) and financial activities (2.7%).

In 2020, 9.6% of Nebraska workers were members of unions, and 10.5% were represented by unions. This was lower than the overall national unionization rate. Nationally, 10.8% of workers were union members in 2020, and 12.1% were represented by unions. Since 2008, the number of Nebraska workers who are union members has increased by 1.3 percentage points, while the number who are represented by unions has declined by 0.2 percentage points.

How to use it

For workers who are interested in union membership, unionization data can highlight industries that are the most likely to offer jobs with the option to join a union. Nationally, median weekly earnings for union members were 19.4% higher than for non-union members. Businesses, policymakers, and other stakeholders may also be interested in the state's unionization rate.

US Unionization Rates by Industry 2020*



*Includes employed wage and salary workers age 16 and over. Industries ordered by rank (low to high).

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Union Members Summary, released 2021

NE Union Membership & Representation 2008 – 2020

| Nebraska | 2008 | 2020 |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Total employed | 840,000 | 890,000 |
| Total union members | 70,000 | 85,000 |
| Percent union members | 8.3% | 9.6% |
| Total represented by unions | 90,000 | 94,000 |
| Percent represented by unions | 10.7% | 10.5% |

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Union Members Summary, released 2020

Where to find it

Data on unionization is available at [bls.gov](https://www.bls.gov). Under Economic Releases, select Quarterly, Annual, and Other.

Local Employment Dynamics

Quarterly Workforce Indicators by Industry Sector 2019

| Industry | Employment | New Hires | Separations | Turnover | Jobs Created | Net Job Change | Avg. Monthly Earnings | |
|--|------------|-----------|-------------|----------|--------------|----------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| | | | | | | | All Workers | New Hires |
| All NAICS Sectors | 970,862 | 135,826 | 162,377 | 9.8% | 37,339 | 9,526 | \$4,311 | \$2,699 |
| Accommodation and Food Services | 78,532 | 21,843 | 24,541 | 22.4% | 4,084 | 2,194 | \$1,578 | \$1,123 |
| Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services | 54,996 | 18,384 | 22,716 | 16.6% | 2,640 | 147 | \$3,817 | \$2,856 |
| Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting | 14,785 | 2,218 | 4,604 | 7.7% | 560 | -313 | \$3,974 | \$3,020 |
| Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation | 14,373 | 2,403 | 4,926 | 21.2% | 696 | -1,076 | \$1,672 | \$1,030 |
| Construction | 55,704 | 7,695 | 12,049 | 9.6% | 2,605 | -918 | \$5,142 | \$3,885 |
| Educational Services | 93,644 | 5,613 | 7,628 | 7.8% | 3,685 | 4,995 | \$3,790 | \$2,699 |
| Finance and Insurance | 57,887 | 3,332 | 3,805 | 5.0% | 1,260 | 76 | \$6,283 | \$4,063 |
| Health Care and Social Assistance | 142,502 | 15,902 | 17,214 | 9.1% | 4,323 | 2,112 | \$4,468 | \$2,941 |
| Information | 17,255 | 1,179 | 1,354 | 7.3% | 423 | 45 | \$5,392 | \$3,759 |
| Management of Companies and Enterprises | 22,568 | 2,552 | 2,558 | 6.6% | 931 | 141 | \$6,335 | \$3,775 |
| Manufacturing | 102,967 | 10,245 | 11,121 | 6.0% | 2,560 | 618 | \$4,862 | \$3,536 |
| Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction | 1,062 | 74 | 142 | 8.7% | 42 | -19 | \$5,412 | \$4,964 |
| Other Services (except Public Administration) | 25,288 | 3,414 | 4,237 | 12.1% | 1,200 | 193 | \$3,078 | \$1,889 |
| Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | 45,602 | 4,211 | 5,264 | 7.7% | 2,033 | 299 | \$6,734 | \$4,680 |
| Public Administration | 42,105 | 2,362 | 4,394 | 5.2% | 420 | -992 | \$4,001 | \$2,945 |
| Real Estate and Rental and Leasing | 10,597 | 1,288 | 1,757 | 10.3% | 485 | 79 | \$3,976 | \$2,851 |
| Retail Trade | 102,700 | 21,022 | 20,619 | 11.7% | 5,887 | 1,521 | \$2,685 | \$1,601 |
| Transportation and Warehousing | 41,762 | 8,840 | 9,295 | 12.2% | 2,186 | 383 | \$4,240 | \$3,442 |
| Utilities | 7,333 | 126 | 200 | 2.2% | 37 | 14 | \$7,672 | \$5,676 |
| Wholesale Trade | 39,198 | 3,123 | 3,954 | 6.0% | 1,227 | -28 | \$5,895 | \$4,063 |

Industries ordered alphabetically.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics, QWI Explorer, released 2021

Where to find it

Quarterly Workforce Indicators are available at lehd.ces.census.gov. Under Applications, select LED Extraction Tool, or select QWI Explorer.

Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI) data provide information on employment, job creation, separations, average monthly earnings, and other labor market statistics. The chart shows data by industry, but QWI also provides labor market data by worker demographic (e.g., gender, age, education) and business characteristics (e.g., business size, business age).

Nearly all industries in Nebraska saw a net increase in jobs in the 4th quarter of 2019. The industries experiencing the largest net decreases were Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation; Public Administration; and Construction.

The average turnover rate for all Nebraska industries combined was 9.2%. Turnover is the rate at which stable jobs begin and end. It provides a way to identify industries with the most 'churn' of employees. Accommodation and food services had the highest turnover rate at 22.4%, while utilities had the lowest at 2.2%.

How to use it

QWI data reveal the flow of employment throughout local industries and businesses. This allows economic stakeholders to track changes in stable employment, job creation, and earnings, which can be used to identify growing and declining industries and examine how businesses and workers may be reacting to economic conditions. Businesses can also use turnover data to calculate the cost of training and replacing workers, which may influence a business developer's decisions regarding where to locate or expand.

Business Employment Dynamics

Business Employment Dynamics (BDM) tracks changes in private sector employment at the business level. The chart shows quarterly job gains and losses in Nebraska throughout the past 11 years by quarter.

In 2nd quarter 2020, Nebraska saw approximately 38,885 jobs gained, but was surpassed by the quarterly job losses of 96,697. Job gains represented 4.9% of total employment in 2nd quarter 2019, and job losses represented 12.1%.

Over the last 11 years, Nebraska's number of jobs gained per quarter typically exceeded the number of jobs lost. Most of the exceptions to this trend were in the second and fourth quarters of 2016 and the second and third quarters of 2017, although the losses experienced were usually offset the following quarter. The major exception to this was the first and second quarters of 2020, where job losses far outpaced job gains due to the Covid-19 -pandemic.

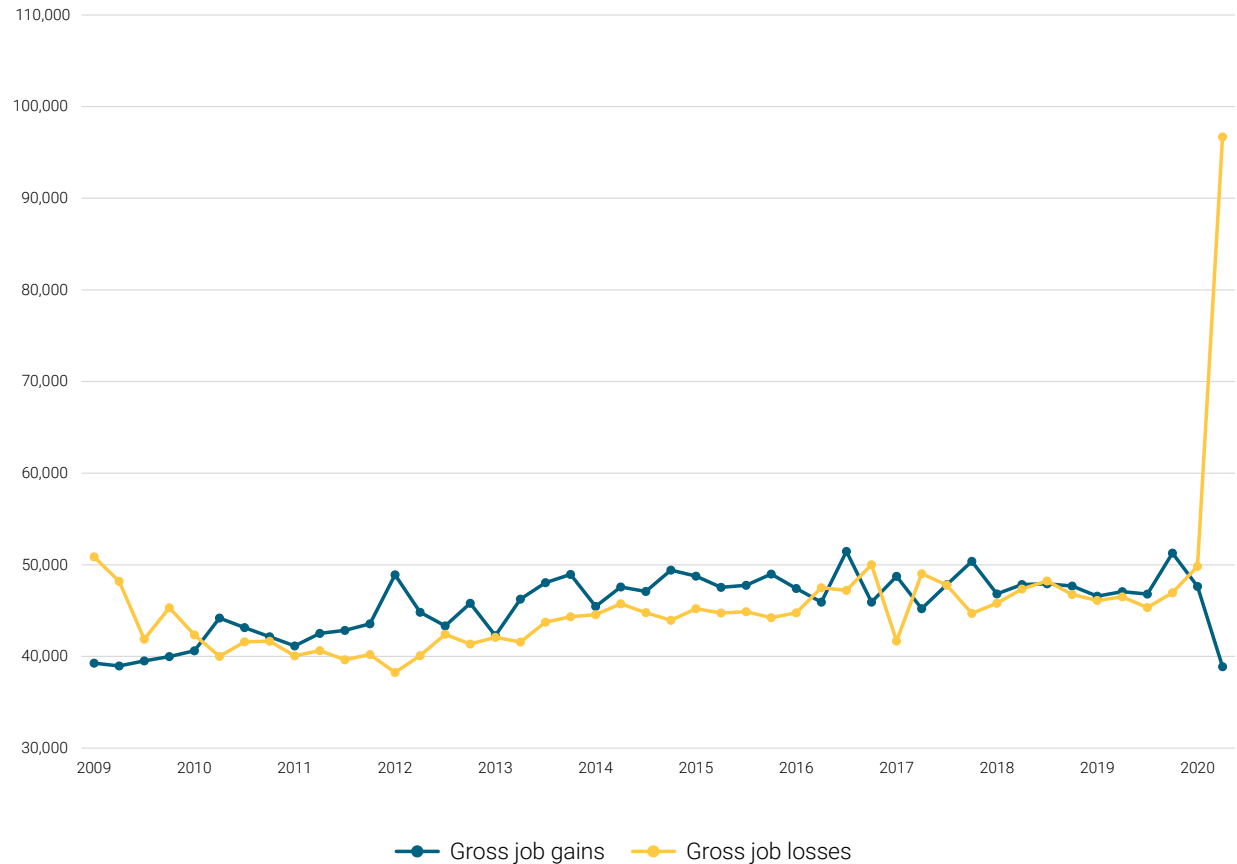
How to use it

Business Employment Dynamics data on job gains and losses allow examination of the components that underlie aggregate employment change. These data can identify shifts in demand for workers and predict future employment trends. Quarterly data on job gains and losses can also be used to track changes and identify trends in employment throughout the business cycle.

Where to find it

Data on job gains and losses are published through the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Business Employment Dynamics program, available at [bls.gov/bdm](https://www.bls.gov/bdm).

Job Gains & Losses by Quarter 2009 – 2020

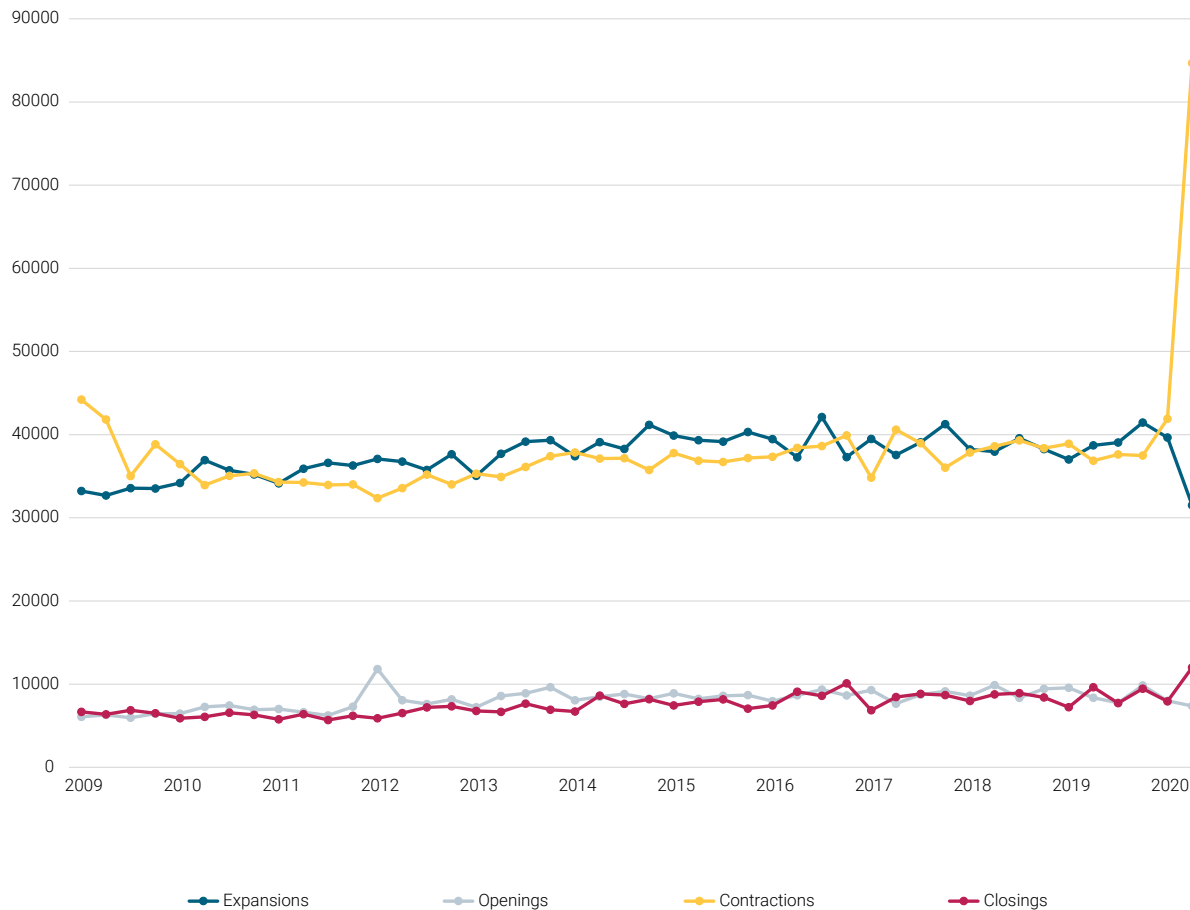


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Business Employment Dynamics, released 2020

Business Employment Dynamics

Expansions & Contractions

Job Gains & Losses by Business Employment Dynamics (BDM) Components 2009 – 2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Business Employment Dynamics, released 2021

Where to find it

Data on job gains and losses are published through the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Business Employment Dynamics program, available at bls.gov/bdm.

The chart breaks down Business Employment Dynamics (BDM) data on total jobs gained and lost in Nebraska by the various BDM components. The components for job gains are business expansions and openings, and the components for job losses are business contractions and closings.

Business expansions and contractions accounted for most of Nebraska's job gains and losses over the past eight years. In 2nd quarter 2020, expansions accounted for 81.0% of jobs gained, while contractions accounted for 87.6% of jobs lost.

In most quarters from 2009-2020, Nebraska saw net job gains, as the number of jobs created through business openings and expansions slightly exceeded jobs lost due to business closings and contractions. The exceptions to this trend were in the second and fourth quarters of 2016, the second and third quarters of 2017, the third quarter of 2018, the first quarter of 2019 and the first and second quarters of 2020. Nebraska experienced overall job losses of almost 58,000 in the second quarter of 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

How to use it

The components of job gains and losses can illustrate the dynamics underlying employment change. The data show that, while business openings and closings can often create thousands of job gains and losses per quarter, most gains and losses result from expansions and contractions. These data track changes in employment at the business establishment level, providing a closer look at the factors driving net employment change.



PROJECTIONS

| | |
|---|---------|
| Long-term Industry | page 56 |
| Long-term Occupational | page 57 |
| Job Growth by Region | page 58 |
| Occupation by Industry | page 59 |
| Employment Change by Education Level | page 60 |
| H3 Occupations | page 61 |

Long-Term

NE Employment Projections by Industry 2018 – 2028

| Industry | 2018 Annual Employment | 2028 Projected Employment | Change in Employment 2018-2028 | Percent Change 2018-2028 | Compound Annual Growth Rate |
|--|------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Total | 1,131,232 | 1,193,633 | 62,401 | 5.52% | 0.54% |
| Health Care and Social Assistance | 144,626 | 161,318 | 16,692 | 11.54% | 1.10% |
| Educational Services (including state and local gov) | 103,115 | 108,863 | 5,748 | 5.57% | 0.54% |
| Retail Trade | 107,790 | 107,272 | -518 | -0.48% | -0.05% |
| Manufacturing | 99,287 | 103,915 | 4,628 | 4.66% | 0.46% |
| Accommodation and Food Services | 77,658 | 81,807 | 4,149 | 5.34% | 0.52% |
| Government | 68,653 | 69,752 | 1,099 | 1.60% | 0.16% |
| Finance and Insurance | 65,625 | 69,203 | 3,578 | 5.45% | 0.53% |
| Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing | 57,451 | 60,274 | 2,823 | 4.91% | 0.48% |
| Construction | 52,153 | 56,350 | 4,197 | 8.05% | 0.78% |
| Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services | 51,810 | 54,639 | 2,829 | 5.46% | 0.53% |
| Transportation and Warehousing | 51,600 | 54,432 | 2,832 | 5.49% | 0.54% |
| Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | 45,364 | 50,534 | 5,170 | 11.40% | 1.09% |
| Wholesale Trade | 40,458 | 41,600 | 1,142 | 2.82% | 0.28% |
| Other Services (except Government) | 37,169 | 38,201 | 1,032 | 2.78% | 0.27% |
| Management of Companies and Enterprises | 21,102 | 21,946 | 844 | 4.00% | 0.39% |
| Information | 17,699 | 18,016 | 317 | 1.79% | 0.18% |
| Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation | 14,894 | 16,707 | 1,813 | 12.17% | 1.16% |
| Real Estate and Rental and Leasing | 10,050 | 10,748 | 698 | 6.95% | 0.67% |
| Utilities (private + state + local) | 7,589 | 7,680 | 91 | 1.20% | 0.12% |
| Mining | 1,081 | 1,142 | 61 | 5.64% | 0.55% |

Industries ordered by 2028 projected employment, from largest to smallest.

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Labor Market Information, Workforce Information Grant Unit, released July 2020

Where to find it

Occupational projections are published by the Nebraska Department of Labor, available at networks.nebraska.gov. Under Labor Market Information, select Labor Market Analysis. Then, under Labor Market Data, select Data Download Center.

The Nebraska Department of Labor calculates long-term occupational projections by combining industry projections with staffing patterns from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Employment Statistics program. This combination reveals the occupational employment ratios within industries and forms the basis for long-term occupational projections.

Nebraska's overall occupational employment is projected to increase by 5.5% from 2018 to 2028. The occupational groups projected to have the largest employment growth by percentage are healthcare support occupations (12.7%), computer and mathematical occupations (12.0%), and healthcare practitioners and technical occupations (11.5%). Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations are also projected to see the largest numeric change, adding 8,209 jobs.

Office and administrative support occupations are projected to decrease in employment -0.3% from 2018-2028.

How to use it

Long-term occupational projections can help predict future areas of occupational growth and decline. Students can use this information to inform their education and career planning choices. Occupational projections may be more useful than projections by industry to students and job seekers who are interested in particular jobs, as industry projections can only provide information on total job growth across an industry as a whole. Educators can also use occupational employment projections to direct students towards fields of study and occupations with promising future work opportunities.

The Nebraska Department of Labor calculates long-term occupational projections by combining industry projections with staffing patterns from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Employment Statistics program. This combination reveals the occupational employment ratios within industries and forms the basis for long-term occupational projections.

Nebraska's overall occupational employment is projected to increase by 5.5% from 2018 to 2028. The occupational groups projected to have the largest employment growth by percentage are healthcare support occupations (12.7%), computer and mathematical occupations (12.0%), and healthcare practitioners and technical occupations (11.5%). Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations are also projected to see the largest numeric change, adding 8,209 jobs.

Office and administrative support occupations are projected to decrease in employment -0.3% from 2018-2028.

How to use it

Long-term occupational projections can help predict future areas of occupational growth and decline. Students can use this information to inform their education and career planning choices. Occupational projections may be more useful than projections by industry to students and job seekers who are interested in particular jobs, as industry projections can only provide information on total job growth across an industry as a whole. Educators can also use occupational employment projections to direct students towards fields of study and occupations with promising future work opportunities.

NE Employment Projections by Occupation 2018 – 2028

| Occupation | 2018 Estimated Employment | 2028 Projected Employment | Numeric Change | Percent Change | Avg Annual Openings |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Total, All Occupations | 1,131,232 | 1,193,633 | 62,401 | 5.52% | 138,727 |
| Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Management | 71,681 | 79,890 | 8,209 | 11.45% | 5,037 |
| Food Preparation and Serving Related | 69,026 | 74,606 | 5,580 | 8.08% | 6,700 |
| Transportation and Material Moving | 84,752 | 90,064 | 5,312 | 6.27% | 15,605 |
| Business and Financial Operations | 85,458 | 90,606 | 5,148 | 6.02% | 11,309 |
| Construction and Extraction | 56,882 | 61,266 | 4,384 | 7.71% | 5,962 |
| Computer and Mathematical | 52,964 | 56,945 | 3,981 | 7.52% | 6,389 |
| Healthcare Support | 33,050 | 37,007 | 3,957 | 11.97% | 2,943 |
| Education, Training, and Library | 30,255 | 34,106 | 3,851 | 12.73% | 4,044 |
| Personal Care and Service | 66,851 | 70,516 | 3,665 | 5.48% | 6,484 |
| Installation, Maintenance, and Repair | 37,131 | 40,468 | 3,337 | 8.99% | 6,084 |
| Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance | 45,314 | 48,380 | 3,066 | 6.77% | 4,861 |
| Production | 35,037 | 37,635 | 2,598 | 7.42% | 4,986 |
| Sales and Related | 80,284 | 82,581 | 2,297 | 2.86% | 9,748 |
| Community and Social Service | 106,042 | 108,013 | 1,971 | 1.86% | 14,993 |
| Farming, Fishing, and Forestry | 16,537 | 17,983 | 1,446 | 8.74% | 1,980 |
| Architecture and Engineering | 36,347 | 37,543 | 1,196 | 3.29% | 6,107 |
| Life, Physical, and Social Science | 13,249 | 14,281 | 1,032 | 7.79% | 1,224 |
| Legal | 8,317 | 9,000 | 683 | 8.21% | 952 |
| Protective Service | 6,187 | 6,741 | 554 | 8.95% | 490 |
| Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media | 15,542 | 15,978 | 436 | 2.81% | 1,826 |
| Office and Administrative Support | 15,847 | 16,104 | 257 | 1.62% | 1,782 |
| | 164,479 | 163,920 | -559 | -0.34% | 19,223 |

Occupations ordered by 2028 projected employment, from largest to smallest.

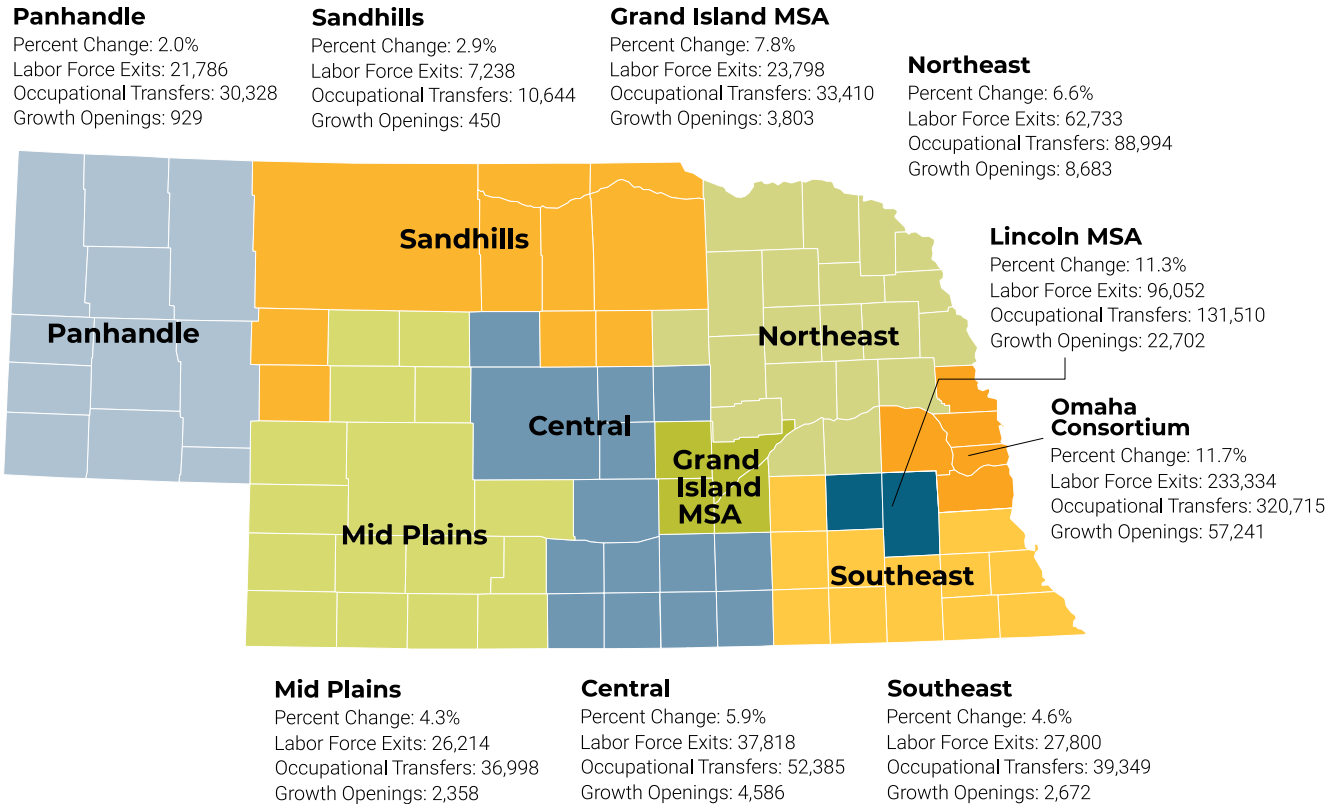
Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Labor Market Information, Workforce Information Grant Unit, released July 2020

Where to find it

Occupational projections are published by the Nebraska Department of Labor, available at neworks.nebraska.gov. Under Labor Market Information, select Labor Market Analysis. Then, under Labor Market Data, select Data Download Center.

Job Growth

NE Employment Projections by Economic Development Region 2018 – 2028



Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Labor Market Information, Workforce Information Grant Unit, released July 2020

Where to find it

Occupational projections are published by the Nebraska Department of Labor, available at networks.nebraska.gov. Under Labor Market Information, select Labor Market Analysis. Then, under Labor Market Data, select Data Download Center. National projections are available at bls.gov/emp.

The map shows Nebraska's 2018-2028 projected employment growth by economic region. These data also provide an estimate of the number of job openings in each region expected due to exits, transfers, and growth. Nebraska's statewide projected employment growth rate of 5.5% is slightly higher than the 5.2% overall employment growth rate projected for the United States as a whole.

The Omaha Consortium and the Lincoln and Grand Island MSAs, the locations of Nebraska's most populous cities, are expected to experience faster job growth than the other regions in the state. Jobs in the Omaha Consortium and the Lincoln and Grand Island MSAs are projected to increase by 6.7%-6.9%, compared to projected employment growth rates between -0.8%-5.6% for Nebraska's other economic regions.

The Omaha Consortium is expected to experience the state's largest employment increase, at 6.9%. Employment in the Panhandle economic region is projected to decrease by -0.8%.

How to use it

Regional job growth data can reveal which regions of the state are expected to undergo the greatest job growth and economic expansion. Economic developers, educational institutions, and businesses can use this information to plan and prepare for the future. Students and job seekers may also use this information to determine which regions might be most suitable to their career and personal goals.

Occupation

The table details which specific occupations employ the most Nebraska workers in each industry, based on 2018 estimates, as well as the outlook projected for that occupation and industry through 2028.

The table also shows the percentage of all jobs in an industry that are composed of its largest occupation, as well as the percentage of all workers in each occupation who work in the listed industry. For example, in the education and health services industry, 11.6% of all workers are registered nurses, and 89.3% of all registered nurses work in the education and health services industry.

The occupation and industry grouping with the highest projected growth rate is food preparation and serving workers in the leisure and hospitality industry, which are expected to increase by 12.9% through 2028. This is more than twice Nebraska's 5.5% overall projected growth rate for all occupations.

Retail Salespersons are projected to see the smallest growth rate through 2028. Their employment in the Trade, Transportation, and Utilities industry is expected to increase by 0.2%.

How to use it

It is not always obvious which industries employ the largest numbers of workers in any given occupation. These data can be useful to better understand what sorts of jobs might be available within different industries. Job seekers, dislocated workers, and students can use this information to identify industries that are likely to have suitable employment opportunities, as well as to determine the occupational outlook of jobs that interest them.

Where to find it

Occupational projections within industries are published by the Nebraska Department of Labor, available at neworks.nebraska.gov. Under Labor Market Information, select Employment and Wage Data, then select Industry Data, followed by Staffing Patterns.

NE Employment Projections by Industry & Occupation 2018 – 2028

| Industry | Largest Occupation | 2018 | 2028 | % Change | 2018 % | 2018 % |
|---|---|-----------------|----------------------|----------|---|---------------------------------------|
| | | Est. Employment | Projected Employment | | % of Industry Workers within Occupation | % of Occupational Workers in Industry |
| Total All Industries | Total, All Occupations | 1,131,232 | 1,193,633 | 5.5% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Education and Health Services | Registered Nurses | 23,589 | 26,317 | 11.6% | 9.5% | 89.3% |
| Trade, Transportation, and Utilities | Retail Salespersons | 25,989 | 26,043 | 0.2% | 12.5% | 91.1% |
| Leisure and Hospitality | Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food | 19,231 | 21,704 | 12.9% | 20.8% | 79.1% |
| Natural Resources and Mining | Farmworkers and Laborers, Crop, Nursery, and Greenhouse | 17,731 | 17,779 | 0.3% | 30.3% | 97.1% |
| Manufacturing | Meat, Poultry, and Fish Cutters and Trimmers | 9,485 | 10,145 | 7.0% | 9.6% | 96.0% |
| Construction | Carpenters | 6,993 | 7,424 | 6.2% | 13.4% | 64.8% |
| Professional and Business Services | Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners | 6,264 | 6,845 | 9.3% | 5.3% | 39.2% |
| Financial Activities | Customer Service Representatives | 6,122 | 6,139 | 0.3% | 8.1% | 29.2% |
| Self Employed and Unpaid Family Workers, All Jobs | Childcare Workers | 3,169 | 3,298 | 4.1% | 5.7% | 25.0% |
| Government | Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers | 2,928 | 3,031 | 3.5% | 4.3% | 96.4% |
| Other Services (except Government) | Hairdressers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists | 2,055 | 2,201 | 7.1% | 5.5% | 53.2% |
| Information | Telecommunications Equipment Installers and Repairers, Except Line Installers | 1,193 | 1,323 | 10.9% | 6.7% | 73.3% |

Occupations ordered by 2028 projected employment, from largest to smallest.

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Labor Market Information, Workforce Information Grant Unit, released July 2020

Projected Employment Change

NE Employment Projections by Education Level 2018 – 2028

| Education | 2018 Est. Employment | 2028 Projected Employment | Numeric Change | % Change | Avg. Annual Openings |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------|----------|----------------------|
| Doctoral or professional degree | 28,876 | 31,220 | 2,344 | 8.1% | 1,911 |
| Master's degree | 16,653 | 18,602 | 1,949 | 11.7% | 1,584 |
| Bachelor's degree | 233,525 | 253,249 | 19,724 | 8.4% | 21,994 |
| Associate degree | 22,879 | 25,090 | 2,211 | 9.7% | 2,338 |
| Postsecondary non-degree award | 82,688 | 89,187 | 6,499 | 7.9% | 9,750 |
| Some college, no degree | 32,420 | 33,233 | 813 | 2.5% | 3,609 |
| High school diploma or equivalent | 441,134 | 457,801 | 16,667 | 3.8% | 53,242 |
| No formal educational credential | 273,057 | 285,251 | 12,194 | 4.5% | 44,299 |

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Labor Market Information, Workforce Information Grant Unit, released July 2020

How to use it

Data on occupational projections by education level show that Nebraska employers are likely to require a more highly-educated workforce in the future. Students and job seekers can use this insight to make informed decisions and choose educational paths that lead to promising employment opportunities. Educators, vocational coaches, and school officials can also use this information to ensure they are providing training that will help students achieve their goals and meet future workforce needs.

The Nebraska Department of Labor's projections program also produces occupational projections by education level. From 2018-2028, occupations requiring a master's degree are expected to see 11.7% growth in Nebraska, the largest of any educational attainment category. Occupations requiring an associate degree are second, with a 9.7% projected growth rate through 2028. All occupations requiring a post-secondary non-degree award or greater are projected to increase by at least 7.9%. Occupations requiring a high school diploma or less are projected to increase at a rate of 2.5%-4.5%. The slowest growth is expected in occupations requiring some college, no degree, at 2.5%.

Although occupations requiring a high school education or less are not projected to increase as rapidly as occupations requiring higher levels of educational attainment, jobs for high school graduates and below are nevertheless expected to have the most total annual openings through 2028. These occupations are projected to have an average of approximately 44,299-53,242 job openings annually, followed by occupations requiring a bachelor's degree, where about 21,994 annual openings are expected in Nebraska.

Where to find it

Information on occupational projections by education is published by the Nebraska Department of Labor, available at neworks.nebraska.gov. Under Labor Market Information, select Labor Market Analysis. Then select Files, Facts and Figures, Data Download Center, and choose Occupational Employment Projections.

H3 Occupations

'H3 occupations' refers to jobs considered excellent career options due to their high scores in three important categories: having high projected demand in the local labor market, requiring a highly skilled workforce, and offering a high typical rate of pay. The table lists H3 occupations in Nebraska and their statewide annual median wages as of the first quarter of 2020.

The Nebraska Department of Labor classifies and ranks occupations as "H3" based on comparisons of level of future labor market demand, skill and training requirements, and typical wages. The number of projected annual openings, net change in employment, and growth rate determine whether an occupation can be considered 'High Demand.' A 'High Skill' rating means that the occupation requires workers to obtain a minimum of a high school diploma and at least some postsecondary education and/or long-term on-the-job training to qualify. 'High Wage' ratings are assigned when an occupation's wage equals or exceeds the region's overall wage for all occupations in at least four out of eight wage categories. An occupation must be High Wage, High Skill and High Demand to be classified as an H3 occupation.

Nebraska's top three H3 occupations in 2020 were heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers (\$45,773 annual median wage), followed by registered nurses (\$65,681 annual median wage), and general and operations managers (\$83,820 annual median wage). Most of the top 20 H3 occupations require some form of postsecondary education, and more than half require a bachelor's degree.

Top 20 H3 Occupations in NE by Avg. Annual Openings

| RANK | Occupation | Median Annual Wage | Avg. Annual Openings | Education, Experience & Training |
|------|--|--------------------|----------------------|--|
| 1 | Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | \$41,275 | 3,438 | Postsecondary Non-Degree Award, Short-Term On-The-Job Training |
| 2 | Registered Nurses | \$60,861 | 1,600 | Bachelor's Degree |
| 3 | General & Operations Managers | \$85,379 | 1,476 | Bachelor's Degree, 5 Years or More |
| 4 | Carpenters | \$37,052 | 1,288 | High School Diploma or Equivalent, Apprenticeship |
| 5 | Accountants & Auditors | \$61,047 | 1,082 | Bachelor's Degree |
| 6 | Software Developers, Applications | \$89,141 | 534 | Bachelor's Degree |
| 7 | Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education | \$55,931 | 865 | Bachelor's Degree |
| 8 | Electricians | \$47,021 | 703 | High School Diploma or Equivalent, Apprenticeship |
| 9 | Plumbers, Pipefitters, & Steamfitters | \$53,015 | 658 | High School Diploma or Equivalent, Apprenticeship |
| 10 | Secondary School Teachers, Except Special & Career/Technical Education | \$55,780 | 629 | Bachelor's Degree |
| 11 | Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses | \$41,366 | 477 | Postsecondary Non-Degree Award |
| 12 | Business Operations Specialists, All Other | \$71,831 | 542 | Bachelor's Degree |
| 13 | Market Research Analysts & Marketing Specialists | \$55,636 | 442 | Bachelor's Degree |
| 14 | Human Resources Specialists | \$56,015 | 488 | Bachelor's Degree |
| 15 | Loan Officers | \$73,839 | 346 | Bachelor's Degree, Moderate-Term On-the-Job Training |
| 16 | Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics | \$38,945 | 521 | Postsecondary Non-Degree Award, Short-Term On-The-Job Training |
| 17 | Machinists | \$41,063 | 458 | High School Diploma or Equivalent, Long-Term On-The-Job Training |
| 18 | Computer User Support Specialists | \$45,158 | 375 | Some College, No Degree |
| 19 | Financial Managers | \$118,336 | 299 | Bachelor's Degree, 5 Years or More |
| 20 | Medical & Health Services Managers | \$94,633 | 326 | Bachelor's Degree, Less Than 5 Years |

Sources: Nebraska Department of Labor, Labor Market Information, Workforce Information Grant Unit, released August 2020
Wage data from Occupational Employment Statistics, 1st Quarter 2020

How to use it

The classification of jobs into H3 occupations provides a way to identify in-demand occupations that offer highly competitive wages. H3 data may be especially useful for job seekers who have been laid off and are embarking on new careers, as well as students and career counselors who want to identify educational programs that may lead to strong job prospects. Educational institutions can also use H3 data to ensure they are providing programs that will produce skilled graduates who can fill openings for in-demand occupations.

Where to find it

Information on Nebraska's H3 occupations is available at networks.nebraska.gov. Under Labor Market Information, select Labor Market Analysis. Then select Files, Facts and Figures, Data Download Center, and choose High Wage, High Skill, High Demand (H3) Occupations.

Area Definitions

The geographic regions used in Nebraska Department of Labor's Economic Insight and Outlook publication are defined below. In 2013, Nebraska added a metropolitan statistical area (MSA) and several of its micropolitan statistical areas (MCs) were revised. The state also revised its economic regions, adding the Grand Island MSA and the Sandhills economic regions.

Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas

The federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) defines metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas for the purpose of compiling and releasing federal data. The OMB defines MSAs as containing an urban core and a population of over 50,000. The OMB defines MCs as containing an urban core and a population of 10,000-50,000. MSAs and MCs include counties containing the urban core as well as contiguous counties that have a high level of social and economic integration with the core (determined by commuting data).

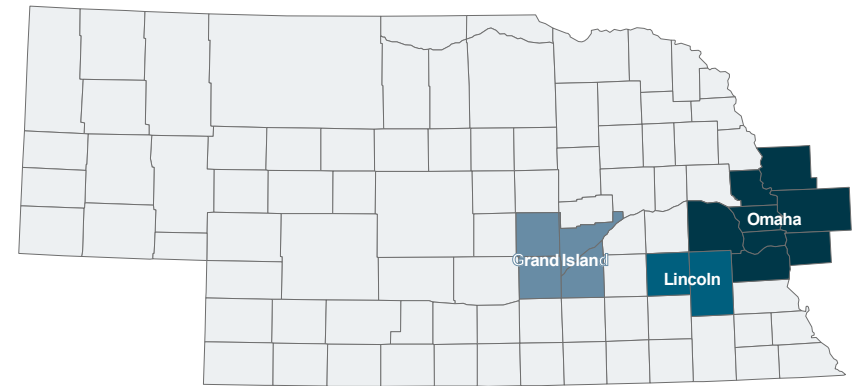
Nebraska has three MSAs, which are shown in the uppermost map. In 2013, the Grand Island MSA of Hall, Hamilton, Howard, and Merrick Counties was created, replacing the Grand Island MC of Hall, Howard, and Merrick Counties. The Sioux City MSA includes Nebraska counties, but it is considered an Iowa MSA because its core population is located in Iowa.

There are 9 MCs in Nebraska. These MCs are shown on the second map on this page. In 2013, three Nebraska MCs were altered. Grand Island MC was eliminated and replaced with Grand Island MSA (see first map), Hastings MC dropped Clay County, and Scottsbluff MC added Sioux County.

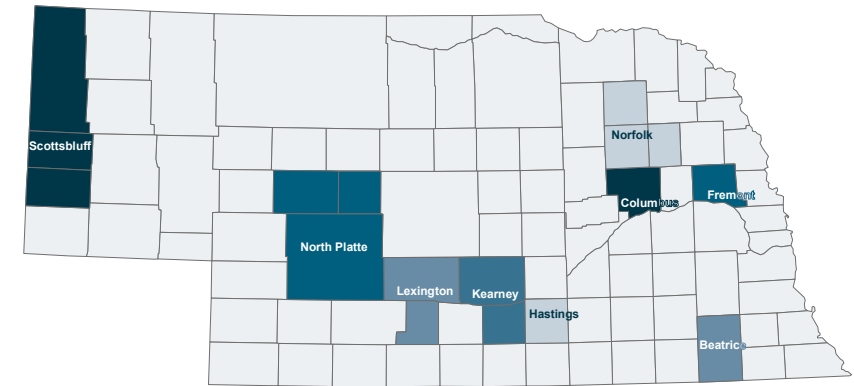
Omaha Consortium

The Omaha MSA includes eight counties: five in Nebraska and three in Iowa. The Omaha Consortium only includes the five counties in the Omaha MSA that are located in Nebraska.

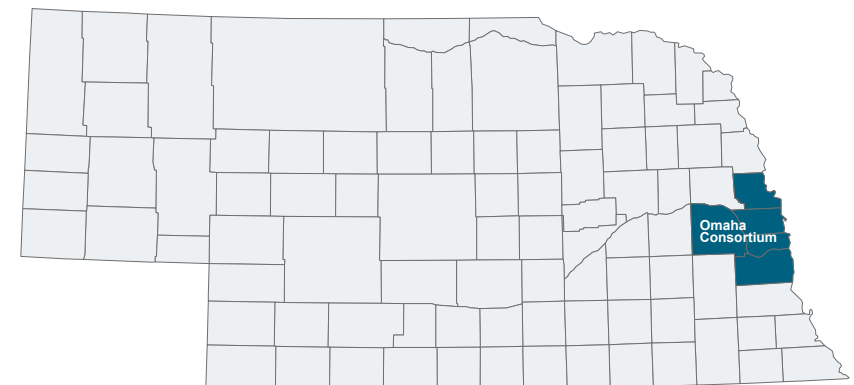
Metropolitan Statistical Areas



Micropolitan Statistical Areas



Omaha Consortium



Area Definitions

Community College Regions

There are six community college service regions in Nebraska, shown on the map to the right. The community college graduate outcomes data presented in this report are based on these community college service regions.

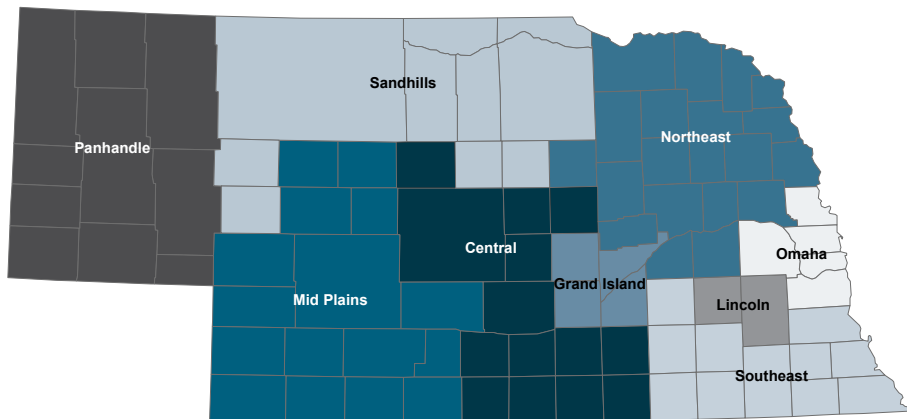
West North Central Division

The West North Central Division is a Census region that includes seven Midwestern states: North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Iowa, and Missouri. Data for the West North Central Division is used when it is the most geographically specific data available.

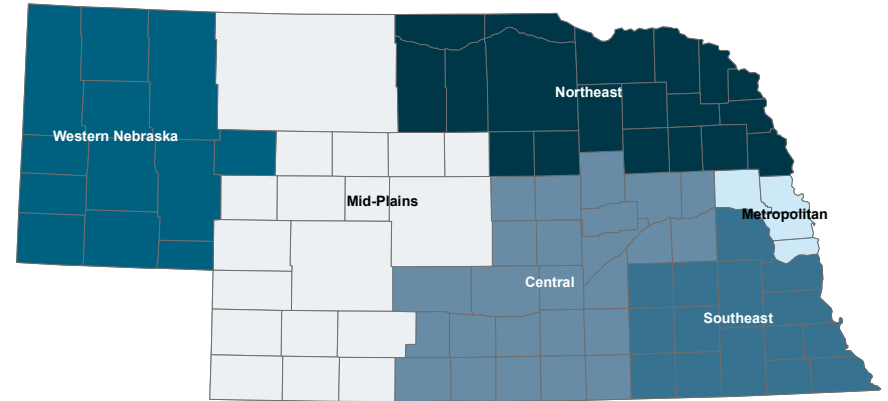
Economic Regions

There are nine economic regions in Nebraska. These regions are depicted on the map below. In 2013, Nebraska's economic regions were redrawn, and two new economic regions were added. The regions were grouped based on their level of social and economic integration, as determined by commuting data. The Grand Island MSA economic region was created out of counties formerly in the Central economic region, and the Sandhills economic region was created from counties formerly in the Mid-Plains, Central, and Northeast economic regions.

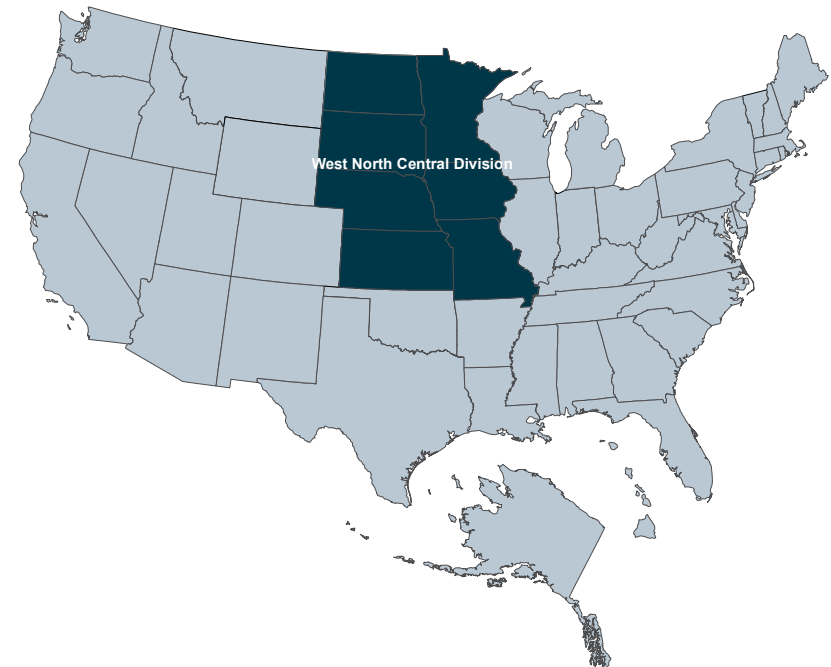
Economic Regions



Community College Regions



West North Central Division



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

John H. Albin
Commissioner of Labor

Scott Hunzeker
Research Administrator

Brandon Jones
Research Supervisor

Scott Ferguson
Research Analyst

Jodie Meyer
Research Analyst

Kermit Spade
Research Analyst

Rachel Stevens
Research Analyst

Grace Johnson
Marketing & Communications
Specialist/Editor

Hillary Lee
Marketing & Communications
Specialist/Graphic Designer

This workforce product was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The product was created by the recipient and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership. This product is copyrighted by the institution that created it. Internal use by an organization and/or personal use by an individual for non-commercial purposes is permissible. All other users require the prior authorization of the copyright owner.

