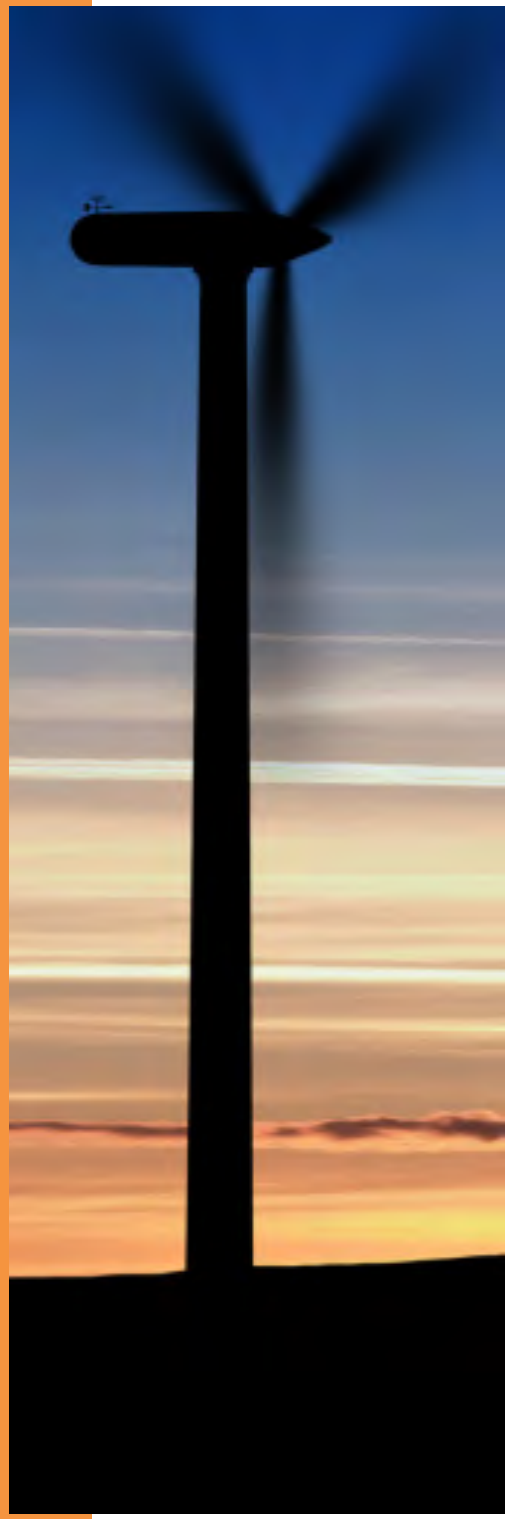
Labor Market Regional Review

Omaha Consortium
Released 2011

NEBRASKA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR



Labor Market Regional Review

Omaha Consortium

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Getting the Most From the New NEworks Site

NEworks

for Data Users
The Source for Nebraska Labor Market Information Online at
neworks.nebraska.gov/analyzer

The Nebraska Department of Labor has a new website. The new site allows for fast data access in a simple and understandable format, as well as the integration of Real Time Labor Market Information. This spread is designed to help people get accostumed to the new site as well as show some of the sites new features.

Integrated Help:

Need assistance understanding a data set? NEworks has help options incorporated within the site. Look for the small circular question mark to get help.

Sort Data:

Set your preferences in the display options by selecting both the number of records you would like to view and the sort order. To resort data easily, click on the column header for the variable you wish to sort by.

To sort on any column, click a column title.

Rank	Area Name	Average Weekly Wage
2	Adams County	$877
7	Buffalo County	$734
3	Dakota County	$876
8	Dodge County	$701
1	Douglas County	$992
4	Lancaster County	$798
6	Platte County	$763
9	Sarpy County	$701
10	Thurston County	$664
5	Washington County	$789

Export Data:

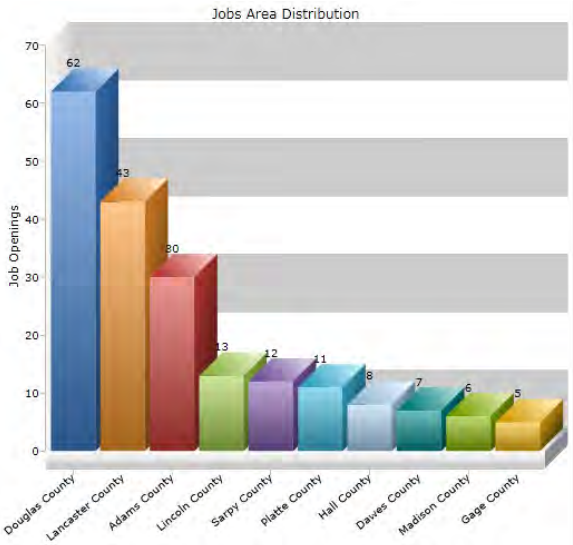
Generate your own data set and export it for further usage. Data that can be exported from NEWorks will have an option at the bottom of the section and can be exported in either Excel or text format.

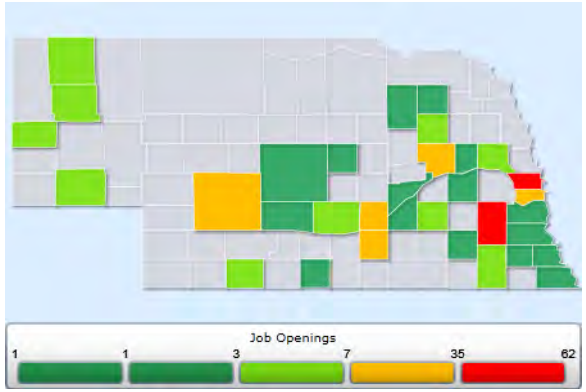
Choose the Right Mode:

- **Summary mode** displays all available information for that area, industry, or occupation.
- **Narrative mode** provides an easy-to-read text summary of the data.
- **Detail mode** focuses on one specific attribute (wages, projected employment, etc.).
- **Comparison mode** allows you to choose two areas, industries, or occupations to study the different characteristics of each.

Create Maps and Graphs:

In the display options, check the boxes for Graphs or Maps. To zoom in on maps, draw a box on it while holding down the shift key. Microsoft Silverlight must be installed in order to view these elements.





Data Sources:

Data on the NEworks site comes from a variety of sources, including BLS programs, the US Census, and online job postings. Be aware that data from online job postings is not gathered by the Dept. of Labor and is for informational use only. Such data should not be used for analysis or reporting.

New LMI Home Navigation Help

A Labor Market Facts

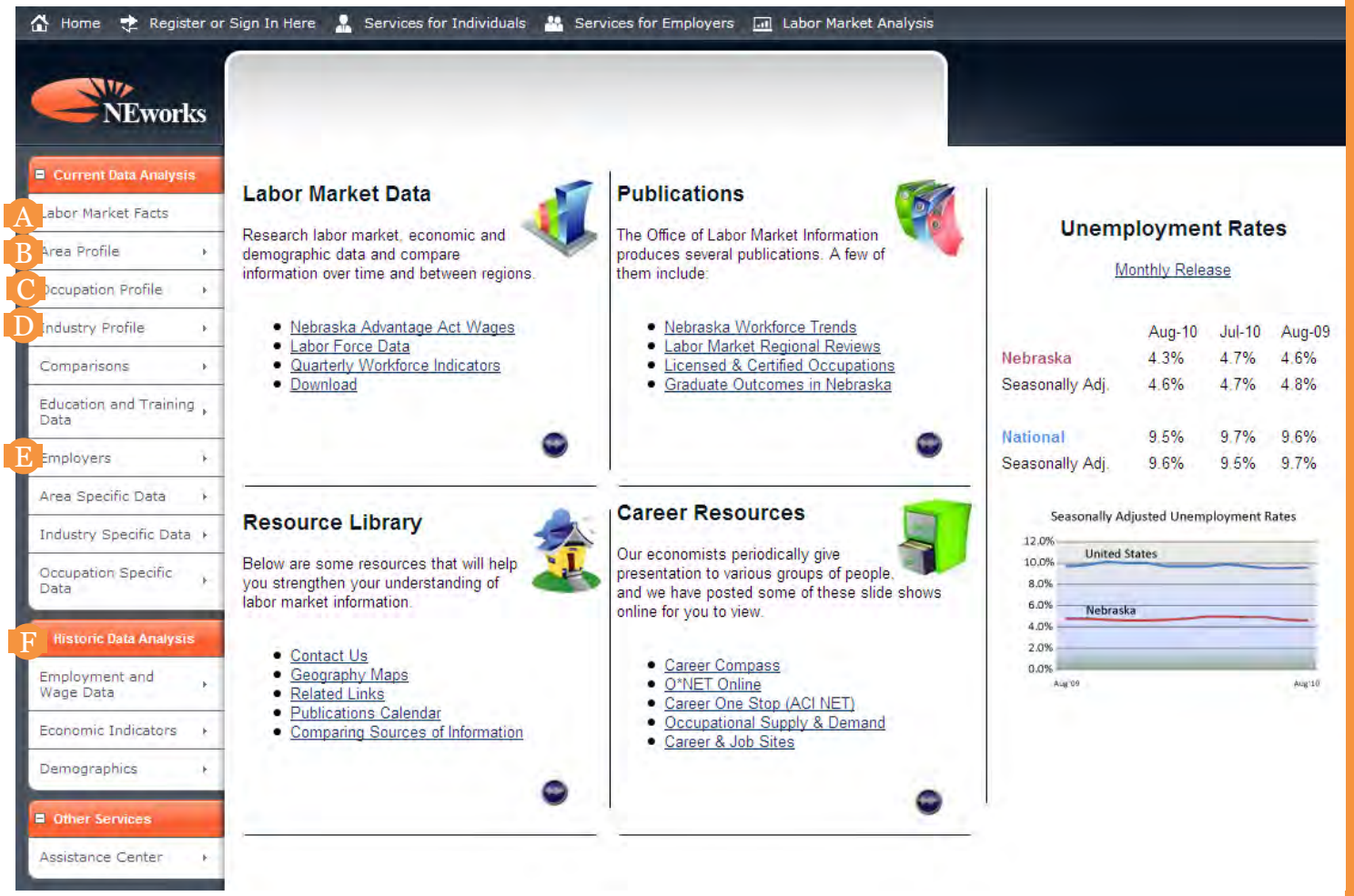
Access the most commonly asked labor market information questions. If you have a specific question and are unsure where to start, the answer may be here. Each question has a direct link to the data that will provide you with the correct answers.

B Area Profile

View information for the entire state of Nebraska or a specific region, county, or metropolitan area. View demographic make-up, occupation and wage information, unemployment rates, businesses, and more.

C Occupation Profile

View data on candidates looking for a job in a specific occupation and related occupations. View the labor supply and market demand for an occupation. Find education, training and work experience, information, a summary of the typical job duties of an occupation, view employment and wage data, employment forecasts, and more.



D Industry Profile

Search or browse for different industries. View employment data, industry and occupational projections, staffing patterns, and numbers and regions for employers in the area.

E Employers

View site-specific information about employers in a selected area. Find specific local employer sites and their corporate headquarters, and view lists of employers based on the number of jobs they are posting.

F Historic Data Analysis

View trends in Industry, Occupation, and Labor Force over time. Access Commuting Patterns, Population, Income, and Economic Indicators.

NEBRASKA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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The Educational Dynamics section includes information on the educational background, educational migration and relative earnings for the state population.

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The Labor Supply section provides insight on current, historical and future trends of the labor force in the state. This includes employment, unemployment and commuting statistics.

Compensation — Page 30
The Compensation section focuses on what workers receive in exchange for their labor. This includes wage data, income data, benefits information, as well as inflation data.

Employment Trends — Page 38
The Employment Trends section incorporates historical information on employment by industry and occupation, location quotient analysis of the area, average annual wages by industry, and local employment dynamics.

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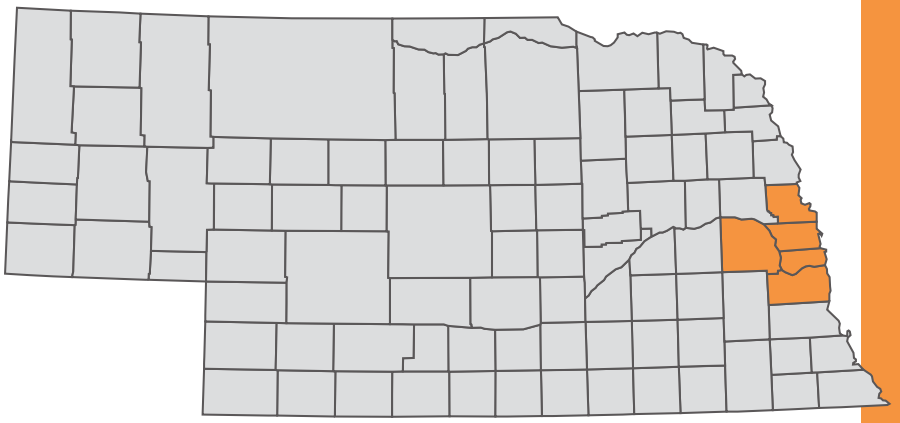
Overview

Omaha Consortium



The Omaha Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is located in eastern Nebraska. The MSA consists of Douglas, Sarpy, Saunders, Cass and Washington Counties in Nebraska; and Pottawattamie, Harrison and Mills Counties in Iowa. The Omaha Consortium consists of only the Nebraska counties in the Omaha MSA; Iowa is not included. Interstate 80, U.S. Highways 275, 30, 6, and 34, as well as State Highway 92 are the main roads running east and west, while U.S. Highway 75 is the main road running north and south in the Consortium. Interstate 680 is the main highway around the city of Omaha.

As the nation faces one of the worst economic recessions since The Great Depression, the workforce in Nebraska will need to adapt with the new economic climate. The labor market will never look the same as it did prior to the downturn, as new products and markets are likely to emerge out of the recovery. Demographically, the downturn coincided with a large shift in the makeup of the state's working population, which will likely change the landscape of Nebraska's professional world. Moving forward, technology will play a pivotal role in ensuring economic stability and growth. Increased interdependence among all industries, home and abroad, will force innovation on those who wish to stay competitive.

The Omaha Consortium's top industry is Education & Health Services, with Trade, Transportation & Utilities in second. Together these industries constitute more than 40 percent of the area's employment. Education & Health Services grew by 24.0% from 2001 to 2009. Total employment increased by 2.1% in that time. Several industries have location quotients significantly above 1.0, meaning the Consortium has a larger proportion of skilled workers for these industries when compared to the state. Information had the largest location quotient in the area at 1.38.

The labor force continues to grow in the Omaha Consortium, increasing by 4.8% between 2000 and 2010, compared to state growth of 2.9%. Contributing to the labor force is a large number of in-migrants and commuters. The Consortium population increased by 17,845 individuals due to international and internal in-migration between 2000 and 2008. Eighteen percent of the Omaha Consortium's workers commuted into the area from outside the Consortium in 2008, providing the area with a net gain of 29,743 workers from commuting. The area's 2010 unemployment rate was 5.2% compared to 4.7% statewide and 9.6% nationally.

Data to support these patterns in the Omaha Consortium can be found on the following pages.

Quick Facts about the Omaha Labor Market

	Omaha Consortium	Nebraska
2010 Population	738,316	1,811,072
2009 Population	727,772	1,794,852
Land Area (Square Miles)	2,275.1	76,872.4
2010 Persons Per Sqare Mile	324.5	23.6
2009 Median Age	33.4	35.9
2009 Median Household Income	$47,184	$47,995
2010 Labor Force	383,018	976,859
2009 Industry Employment	389,781	766,555
2009 Largest Industry	Education & Health Services	Education & Health Services
2009 Largest Industry Empl.	87,441	210,063

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor: Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Released 2011; Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, Released 2010.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau: Population Estimates, Released 2011; Decennial Census, Released 2000; Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, Released 2010

Population Growth

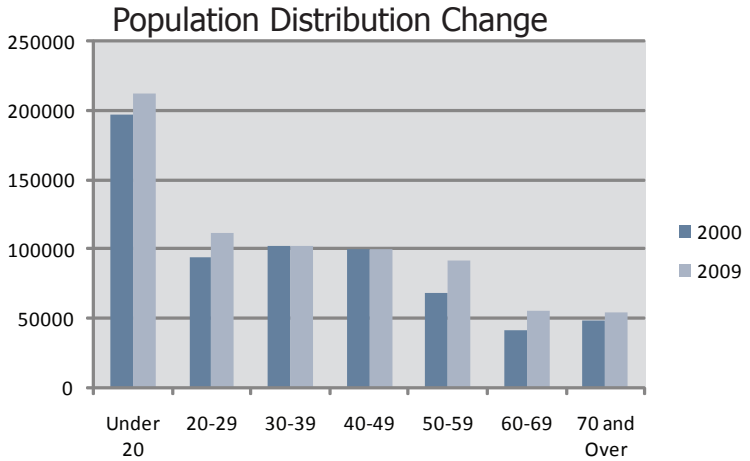
What is it?

Population growth and decline are influenced by natural growth and migration. Overall, the Omaha Consortium experienced 7.8% growth between 2000 and 2009 as compared to a statewide growth of 4.9%.

While most age groups increased in population in the Omaha Consortium, much larger increases occurred in the population aged between 50 and 59, with a 34.0% growth, and between aged 60 and 69, with a 35.2% growth. Growth in the population aged 20 to 29 (18.6%) may be attributed to children of Baby Boomers reaching that age group as well as the attraction of young workers to jobs only found in urban centers.

Historical population trends are used to predict changes in the labor force. While the labor force is expected to increase, it will constitute a lower percentage of the population as Baby Boomers age and 20 to 59 year olds shrink proportionately.

Population Growth by Age Group
Omaha Consortium, 2000 and 2009



Age	2000 Population	2009 Population	Change	Percent Change
Under 20	196,807	212,159	15,352	7.8%
20-29	94,362	111,870	17,508	18.6%
30-39	102,311	102,876	565	0.6%
40-49	99,418	100,550	1,132	1.1%
50-59	68,200	91,404	23,204	34.0%
60-69	41,343	55,880	14,537	35.2%
70 and Over	48,458	54,224	5,766	11.9%
Total	**650,899**	**728,963**	**78,064**	**12.0%**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates, Released 2010

How to use it

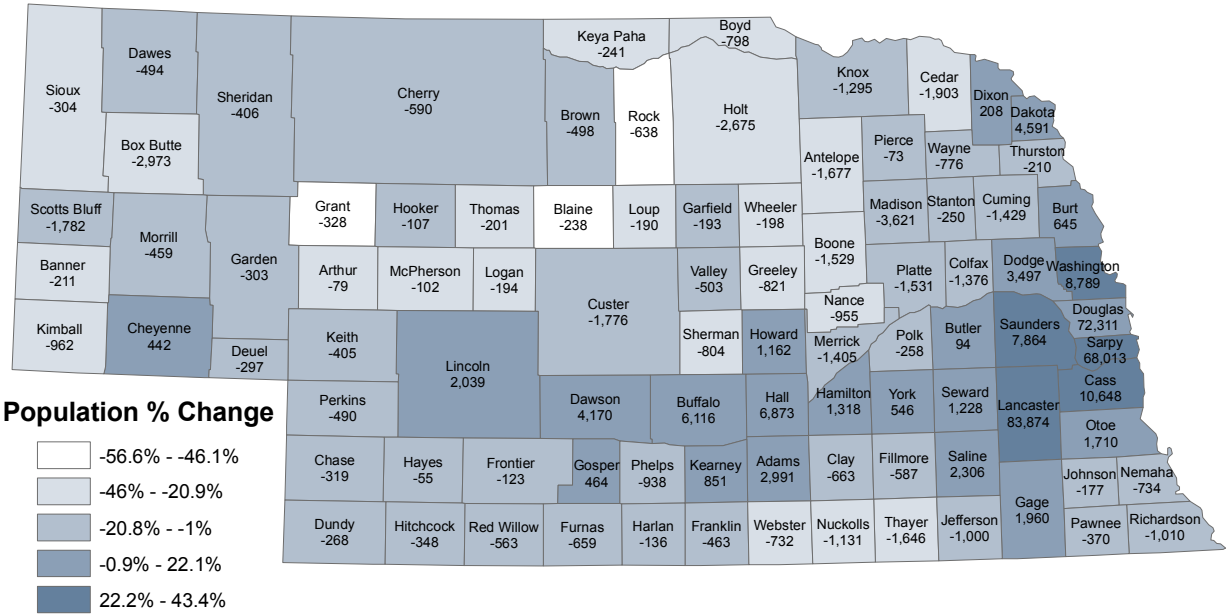
According to the U.S. Census Bureau, a Baby Boomer turns 60 every seven seconds. As Nebraska's population ages, businesses will begin replacing retiring Baby Boomers. The chart above shows there are drops in the population following the Baby Boomers. This may make it challenging for businesses to replace their retiring workers, and even harder to find the replacements with the skills and experience needed.

Where to find it

Population estimates by age, race and sex can be found at census.gov. Choose Estimates under People & Households.

Population Projections

Projected Change in Population by County 2010 to 2030



Source: University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Bureau of Business Research Population Projections, Released 2008

What is it?

Nebraska's population is projected to increase by 13.4% between 2010 and 2030. Total population is expected to be 2,065,798 in 2030. The Omaha Consortium is projected to increase by 167,625 individuals, or 22.7%. All five counties constituting the Omaha Consortium rank in the top 10 of Nebraska's 93 counties for largest percent increase.

Twenty-six of Nebraska's 93 counties show a positive projected growth. Lancaster County is projected to have the largest increase with a change of 83,874 people (29.4%), while Madison County is projected to have the largest loss of 3,621 people (-10.4%). The largest positive percent change is projected in Sarpy County (43.4%), with Washington, Cass and Saunders filling the top four. Douglas County is projected to have the second highest overall growth.

Metropolitan areas and the Interstate 80 corridor are projected to see the largest growth. Metropolitan areas are expected to see an increase of 24.3% while non-metropolitan areas may see a change of -1.1% between 2010 and 2030.

How to use it

Projecting to 2030 gives a glimpse of what Nebraska may look like in the near future. Studies have shown that Nebraskans are migrating from non-metropolitan areas to metropolitan areas. This is reflected by the large difference in the projected percent change in population between 2010 and 2030 in the metro- and non-metropolitan areas. Rural communities may benefit from recruiting new businesses to their community to effectively attract or maintain workers and families in the community.

Where to find it

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bureau of Business Research's Population Projections can be found at bbr.unl.edu.

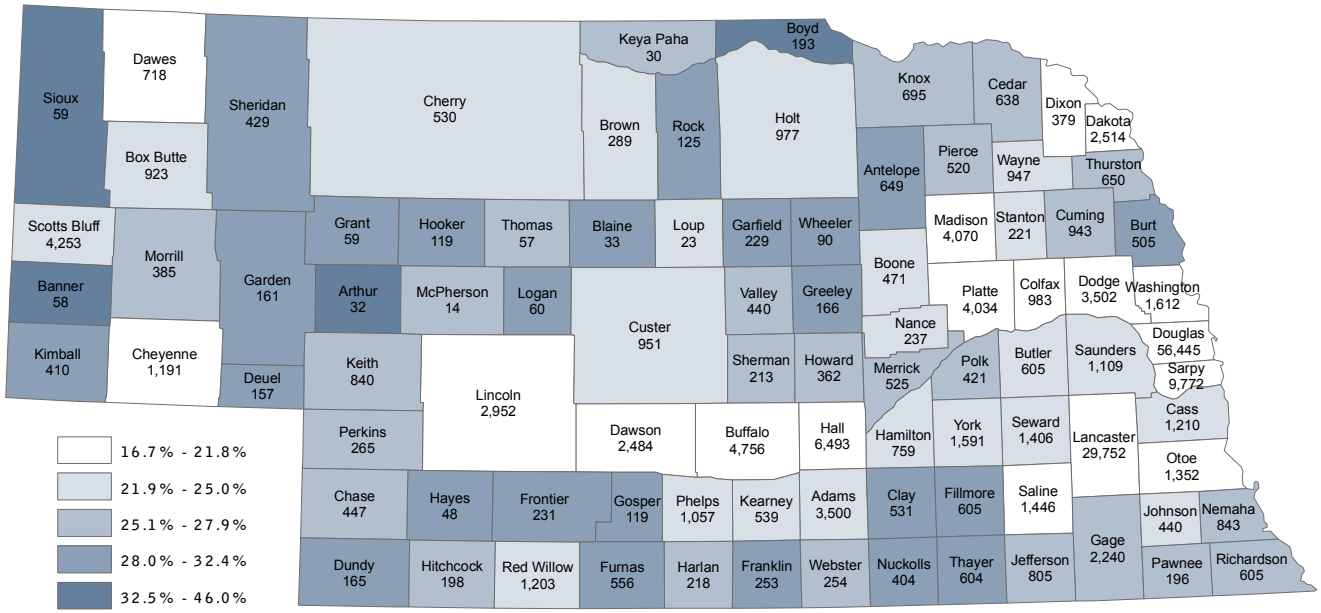
Older Workers

What is it?

More than 175,000 workers (20.0%) are age 55 or older in Nebraska. Older workers claim a larger share of the non-metropolitan area workforce, representing 24.7%, compared to those in metropolitan areas that comprise 19.2% of the workforce. Workers age 55 or older constitute 18.0% of the Omaha Consortium's workforce.

According to the Urban Institute, employers may need to rethink traditional workplace practices to attract older workers. The Current Strategies to Employ and Retain Older Workers report states, "The key issue for future employment prospects is how the business community will respond to the increased availability of older workers. Relatively few employers have actively begun to recruit older workers, primarily because they do not yet foresee worker shortages."

Workers Age 55 and Older by County 2009



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Local Employment Dynamics, Released 2009

How to use it

The magic '65th' birthday is no longer looked at as the end of a career. More and more frequently, new jobs and part-time or flexible opportunities are making it possible, and even desirable, to continue working into the retirement years. According to a recent AARP survey, 68 percent of older workers said they intend to work in retirement. Although fewer retirements will increase the supply of experienced workers available, Nebraska businesses will also be challenged to adapt to an older labor force.

Where to find it

Older worker by county and additional data from Local Employment Dynamics can be found at lehd.did.census.gov/led/. Choose QWI Online under Tools.

Older Workers by Industry

Omaha Consortium, Fourth Quarter 2009

Industry	Employment		% 55+
	55+	Total	
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	197	765	25.8%
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	70	257	27.2%
Utilities	875	4,122	21.2%
Construction	3,062	22,443	13.6%
Manufacturing	5,160	26,910	19.2%
Wholesale Trade	3,513	16,738	21.0%
Retail Trade	7,755	45,177	17.2%
Trasportation and Warehousing	4,123	20,197	20.4%
Information	1,608	10,883	14.8%
Finance and Insurance	5,137	30,648	16.8%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	1,240	5,376	23.1%
Professional and Technical Services	4,515	26,598	17.0%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	1,780	10,584	16.8%
Administrative and Waste Services	3,947	24,580	16.1%
Educational Services	9,715	34,975	27.8%
Health care and Social Assistance	9,908	53,194	18.6%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	1,069	6,637	16.1%
Accommodation and Food Services	2,440	30,132	8.1%
Other Services	1,819	9,943	18.3%
Public Administration	2,215	9,522	23.3%
Total	**70,147**	**389,682**	**18.0%**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Local Employment Dynamics, Released 2009

Where to find it

Older worker by industry and additional data from Local Employment Dynamics can be found at lehd.did.census.gov/led/. Choose QWI Online under Tools.

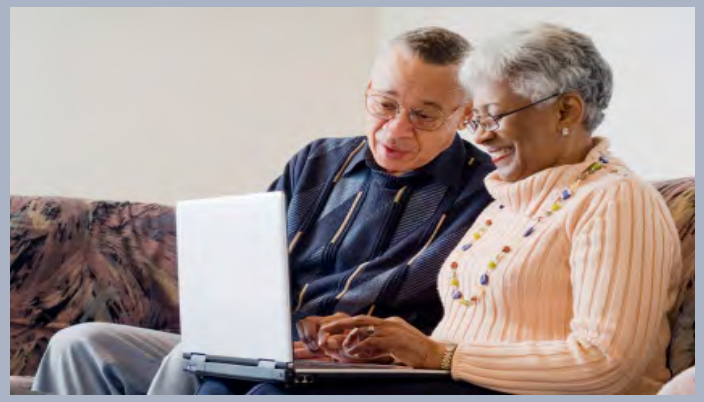
How to use it

The February 2008 Report of the Taskforce on the Aging of the American Workforce states that, "Despite the advantages older workers offer and the labor and skill shortages caused by demographic changes, older workers continue to face challenges to full participation in the labor market." These barriers include difficulty keeping pace with changing skill requirements and technology, lack of flexible work schedules offered, insufficient training opportunities and actual or perceived age discrimination by employers and coworkers.

Aging Workforce

What is it?

The 70,147 older workers within the Omaha Consortium are distributed somewhat disproportionately through the industries. Healthcare and Social Services had the most older workers of any industry (9,908). The largest percentage of an industry that was 55 or over was in Educational Services with 27.8%. Due to its relatively small employment, Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction had the fewest older workers despite having the second highest percentage of workers 55 or over. The industry that is composed of the fewest older workers was Accommodation and Food Services at only 8.1%.



Population Demographics

What is it?

Minorities represented 23.4% of the Omaha Consortium population in 2010, while they represented 17.9% of the total state population. Black or African American Alone is the largest minority group in the Omaha Consortium, at nearly double the proportion as the state, with 8.8%. They constitute 80.9% of the entire state's population of Black or African American Alone individuals.

Hispanics are the second largest minority group in the Omaha Consortium and the largest statewide (9.5% and 9.2% respectively). Nebraska has a much less diverse population than the United States as a whole. In Nebraska, 82.1% of the population reported that they were white non-Hispanic, while the Omaha Consortium reported 76.6%. Nationally, white non-Hispanics constituted only 63.7% of the population in 2010.

Population by Race and Ethnicity
Omaha Consortium, 2010

	Omaha Consortium		Nebraska	
	Total	%	Total	%
Total:	742,205	100.0%	1,826,341	100.0%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	70,815	9.5%	167,405	9.2%
Total Not Hispanic or Latino	671,390	90.5%	1,658,936	90.8%
White Alone	568,641	76.6%	1,499,753	82.1%
Black or African American Alone	65,566	8.8%	80,959	4.4%
American Indian and Alaska Native Alone	3,239	0.4%	14,797	0.8%
Asian Alone	17,147	2.3%	31,919	1.7%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone	491	0.1%	966	0.1%
Two or more Races	15,108	2.0%	28,426	1.6%
Total Minority (Population excluding non-Hispanic Whites)	173,564	23.4%	326,588	17.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010

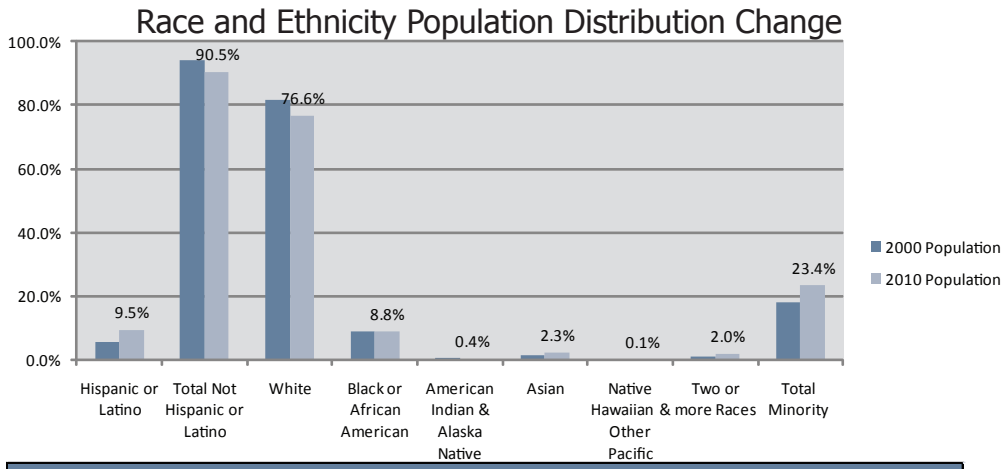
How to use it

Demographic comparisons on race and ethnicity are a valuable tool for establishing the need for economic adaptation. A growing Hispanic population means that Nebraska will need to adapt to accommodate foreign-language speakers in many different areas. This could mean a growing demand for certified interpreters and translators in healthcare and school systems, as well as within businesses to accommodate a changing labor force.

Where to find it

Population estimates by age, race and sex can be found at census.gov. Choose Estimates under People & Households.

Population by Race and Ethnicity
Omaha Consortium, 2010



	2000 Population	2010 Population	Change	Percent Change
Total:	650,899	742,205	91,306	14.0%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	37,650	70,815	33,165	88.1%
Total Not Hispanic or Latino	613,249	671,390	58,141	9.5%
White Alone	532,135	568,641	36,506	6.9%
Black or African American Alone	58,771	65,566	6,795	11.6%
American Indian and Alaska Native Alone	3,055	3,239	184	6.0%
Asian Alone	10,585	17,147	6,562	62.0%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone	356	491	135	37.9%
Two or more Races	8,347	15,108	6,761	81.0%
Total Minority (Population excluding non-Hispanic Whites)	118,764	173,564	54,800	46.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010

Where to find it
Population estimates by age, race and sex can be found at census.gov. Choose Estimates under People & Households.

How to use it
The labor force is changing dramatically with the increase in the total minority population. The population over age 5 who spoke English less than "very well" increased by 22.1% between 2000 and 2009. A jump in the number of non-English speaking residents and workers means employers may need to spend a greater effort on recruiting and training workers. English deficiency may make it more difficult for workers to transfer knowledge and skills to a new occupation with job- or industry-specific terminology.

Population Demographics

What is it?
The Omaha Consortium minority populations experienced population increases between 2000 and 2010. The total minority population increased by 46.1% overall during that time period. The Hispanic or Latino population increased by the largest number and percentage, with a growth of 33,165 individuals, or 88.1%. The Asian alone population also showed a remarkable increase of 10,585 people (62.0%). The Black or African Alone population had a large numerical increase, of 6,795 people an increase of 11.6% between 2000 and 2010.

The Omaha Consortium experienced an overall population growth of 14.0% between 2000 and 2010.

Population Change

What is it?

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

The Omaha Consortium showed both positive natural increase and migration, with a total population change of 79,839 people, although most of this change is attributable to Douglas and Sarpy Counties.

For Nebraska, a large number of those coming into the state between 2000 and 2009 were from another country (positive international migration) while those leaving were mostly migrating to other states outside of Nebraska (negative domestic migration).

Population Change: Natural Increase and Migration 2000 to 2009

Area	Population Change	Changes Due to Natural			Net Migration		
		Total	Births	Deaths	Total	International	Domestic
Cass County	1,151	995	2,944	1,949	306	43	263
Douglas County	46,614	42,784	76,137	33,353	6,992	13,259	-6,267
Sarpy County	30,909	16,513	22,402	5,889	15,076	378	14,698
Saunders County	227	606	2,306	1,700	-256	102	-358
Washington County	938	574	2,070	1,496	474	94	380
Omaha MSA	79,839	61,472	105,859	44,387	22,592	13,876	8,716
Nebraska	85,354	102,206	241,832	139,626	-9,156	31,988	-41,144

Note: 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, Population Estimates, Released 2010

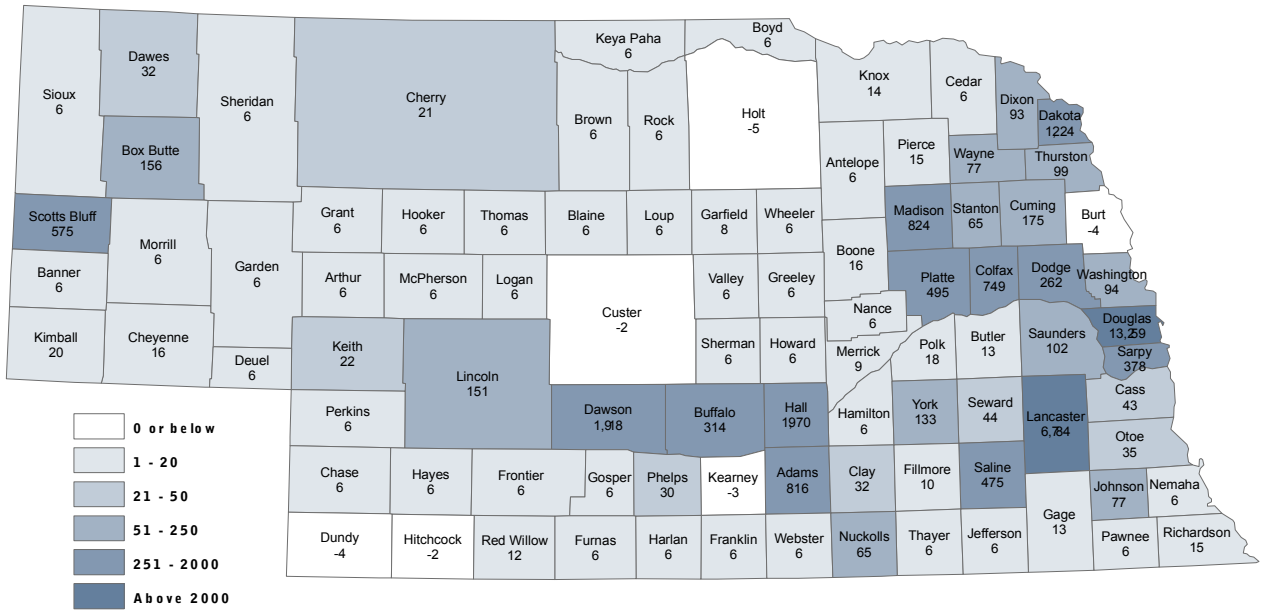
How to use it

State patterns show that although there was a positive increase in Nebraska's population, most of the increase can be attributed to a high birth rate. Nebraska's trends indicate population migration from rural areas to more urban areas is occurring. Following these trends, the Omaha Consortium showed a positive change in population due to migration. A contributing factor is likely the fact that the Omaha Consortium is the state's largest Metropolitan Statistical Area, potentially attracting workers to jobs only found in metropolitan areas.

Where to find it

Population estimates by age, race and sex can be found at census.gov. Choose Estimates under People & Households.

Change in International Migrants by County 2000 to 2009



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates, Released 2010

International Migrants

What is it?

A map of Nebraska's change in international migrants is shown to the left. The Omaha Consortium increased by 13,876 international migrants. Statewide, five Nebraska counties (Douglas, Lancaster, Hall, Dawson and Dakota) have seen an increase of more than 1,000 international in-migrants since the year 2000. Only six of Nebraska's 93 counties did not have a net increase of international in-migrants.

Overall, the state had a loss of 9,156 people from migration, with more people moving out than moving in. The Omaha Consortium increased by 22,592 individuals overall, due to migration.

Trends show that in-migrants, including international in-migrants, are choosing to locate in either the eastern one-third of the state or near Interstate 80.

How to use it

It is important to study the state's population change over time; as the population continues to diversify and change, communities will have to address many issues that accompany change. Language and cultural barriers will need to be addressed in order for communities to continue to effectively provide education, healthcare and other services to fit the needs of the local population.

Where to find it

Population estimates by age, race and sex can be found at census.gov. Choose Estimates under People & Households.

Gender Distribution

What is it?

Males and females tend to gravitate towards certain industries. Many industries show a wide gender distribution gap in the Omaha Consortium. Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction is the industry with the highest difference, where males constitute 93.0% of employment in 2009, which is also the smallest of any of the industries. Other industries with higher concentrations of males include Construction (83.0% are males), and Transportation and Warehousing (83.3%).

Health care and Social Assistance also has a large gender distribution gap, although women constitute the largest percentage, at 79.9% of the employment. Financial and Insurance also has higher concentrations of females, where they constitute 61.5% of the industry's employment.

Gender Distribution by Industry
Omaha Consortium, Fourth Quarter 2009

Industry	Female		Male	
	Employees	% of Industry	Employees	% of Industry
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	242	31.6%	523	68.4%
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	18	7.0%	239	93.0%
Utilities	1126	27.3%	2996	72.7%
Construction	2595	11.6%	19848	88.4%
Manufacturing	7404	27.5%	19506	72.5%
Wholesale Trade	4634	27.7%	12104	72.3%
Retail Trade	22795	50.5%	22382	49.5%
Transportation and Warehousing	3370	16.7%	16827	83.3%
Information	4897	45.0%	5986	55.0%
Finance and Insurance	18854	61.5%	11794	38.5%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	2500	46.5%	2876	53.5%
Professional and Technical Services	12296	46.2%	14302	53.8%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	5294	50.0%	5290	50.0%
Administrative and Waste Services	11192	45.5%	13388	54.5%
Educational Services	24040	68.7%	10934	31.3%
Health care and Social Assistance	42477	79.9%	10717	20.1%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	3400	51.2%	3237	48.8%
Accommodation and Food Services	16145	53.6%	13988	46.4%
Other Services	5178	52.1%	4765	47.9%
Public Administration	4060	42.6%	5462	57.4%
Total	**192517**	**49.4%**	**197165**	**50.6%**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Local Employment Dynamics, Released 2009

How to use it

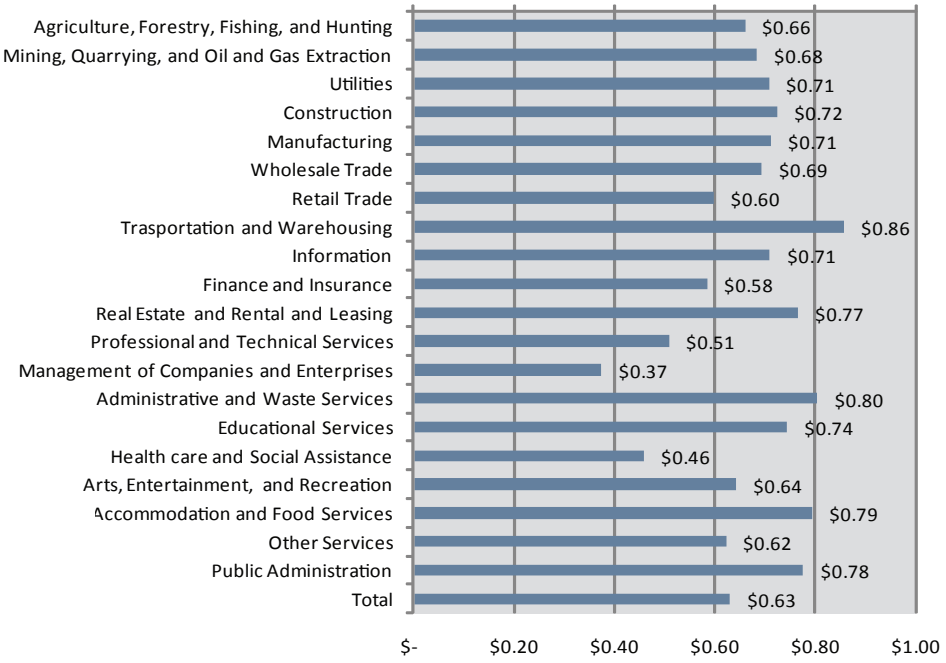
The industry gender distribution data can be used by schools and training programs to encourage students to go into non-traditional industries and occupations. A labor force that is more evenly skilled by gender may be advantageous for businesses to overcome a potential labor shortage crisis. However, it is important to keep in mind the earnings gap between males and females in traditional male industries and occupations. Encouraging women to fill traditional male positions may also contribute to reducing the wage gap.

Where to find it

Gender by industry and additional data from Local Employment Dynamics can be found at lehd.did.census.gov/led/. Choose QWI Online under Tools.

Earnings By Gender

Average Earnings by Industry, Female Wage Cents on the Dollar to Male Wage
Omaha Consortium, Fourth Quarter 2009



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Local Employment Dynamics, Released 2009

What is it?
Female earnings per worker as a percentage of male earnings per worker for the fourth quarter of 2009 by industry is shown in the graph on the left, presented as cents on the dollar. Males earned a higher wage than females in every industry.

The smallest differences between average wage for males and females was in Transportation and Warehousing ($0.86); and Administrative and Waste Services ($0.80). The largest difference between male and female earnings was in Management of Companies and Enterprises; where the average woman earned 37% of what males earned on average.

These wage gaps could be the result of differences in work hours, occupations, or uninterrupted years of experience with the different industries. It may also be a result of men not serving in entry wage jobs to the same degree as women in female dominated industries.

How to use it
Statewide two out of the three industries with the smallest average wage gap between males and females, Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction; Transportation and Warehousing; are also the two industries that employ the very small percentage of females (from page 16). The industry that had the largest gap between the average wage also had the highest concentration of women.

Where to find it
Gender by industry and additional data from Local Employment Dynamics can be found at lehd.did.census.gov/led/. Choose QWI Online under Tools.

High School Graduates

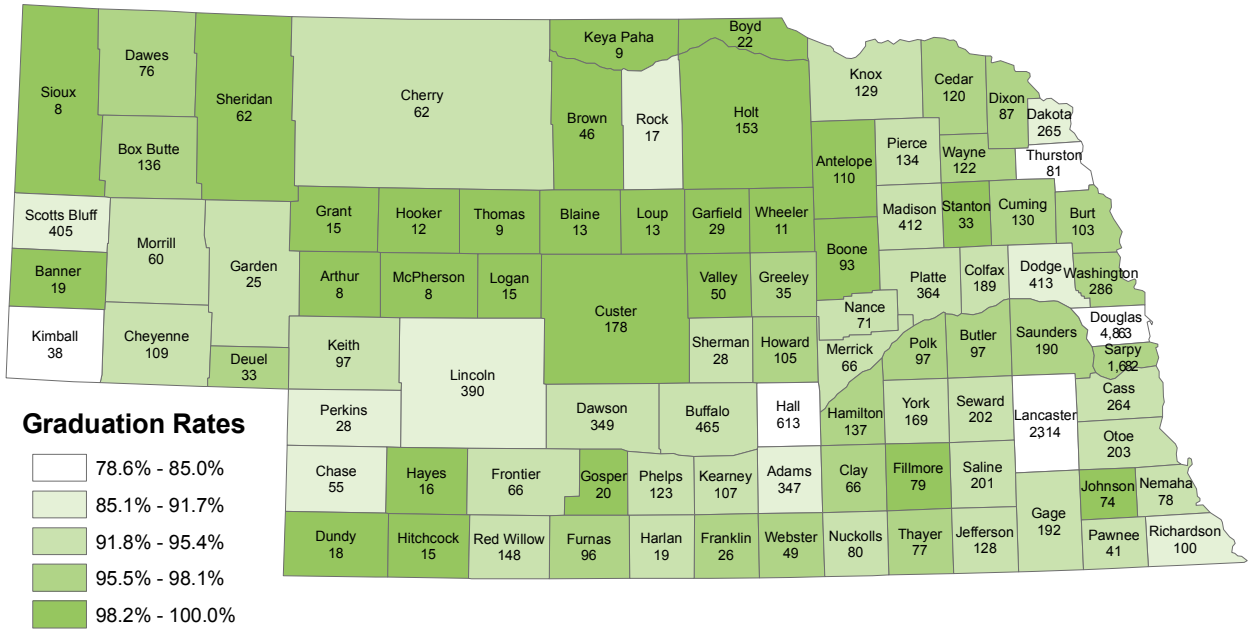
What is it?

The total number of high school graduates in Nebraska for the school year 2008-2009 was 19,398 for a statewide graduation rate of 89.1%. The total number of high school graduates in the Omaha Consortium between this same period was 7,285.

The Omaha Consortium reported a lower graduation rate of 85.7% when compared to the state. The Columbus Micropolitan Statistical Area had the highest graduation rate at 94.5% of the 12 micropolitan and metropolitan statistical areas, while the Lincoln Metropolitan Statistical Area had the lowest (84.9%). For 2008-2009, males had a graduation rate at 3.4 percentage points lower than females.

If these graduates are consistent with the fall 2008 college continuation data, 65.5% are likely to attend a college within 12 months.

Nebraska Public High School Graduates by County 2008-2009



Source: Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, Released 2010

Omaha High School Graduation Rate 2008-2009

Area	Total Graduates	Graduation Rate
Omaha Consortium	7,285	85.7%
Nebraska Statewide	19,398	89.1%

Source: Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, Released 2010

How to use it

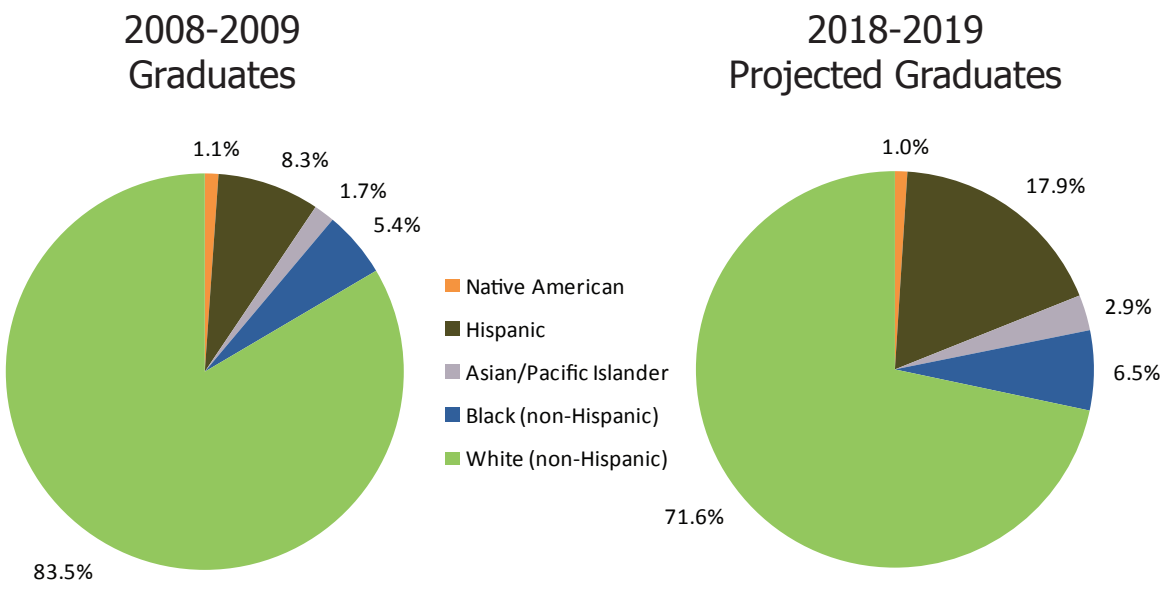
In order for high school students to be included in the labor force count they need to be 16 years old and employed or actively seeking employment. Knowing the number of high school graduates, along with the percentage of those that will continue on to college or look for employment, can be beneficial in adjusting recruiting techniques and labor force estimates. Nebraska's non-metropolitan and non-micropolitan public graduation rate was high, at 93.1%.

Where to find it

Graduate information from Nebraska's Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education can be found at ccpe.state.ne.us.

Public High School Graduates by Race and Ethnicity

Nebraska Statewide, 2008-2009 and 2018-2019



Source: Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, Progress Report, Released 2010

Graduate Projections

What is it?

According to Nebraska's Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, small annual changes are projected to occur in the demographics of Nebraska's high school students. Minority students, especially Hispanics, are projected to account for a higher percentage of the graduates from the state's public schools in the 2018 to 2019 school year than they did in 2008 to 2009. Specifically, minorities are expected to make up 11.9% percent more of the total public graduates in 2018 to 2019 than in 2008 to 2009, increasing from about 3,200 students to roughly 5,900 students.

The number of Nebraska public school graduates is projected to change by 6.4% from the 2008-2009 school year to the 2018-2019, increasing from 19,398 to 20,649.

How to use it

Nebraska's demographics are steadily changing, and this is reflected in the projected race and ethnicity breakdown of high school graduates. These forecasts give us a glimpse at what employers can expect their future workforce to look like. The education system is already seeing a rapid increase of Hispanic graduates; they have nearly doubled in the past five years. As they and their families join the labor force, businesses and agencies may need to accommodate a changing workforce.

Where to find it

Graduate information from Nebraska's Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education can be found at ccpe.state.ne.us.

Educational Attainment

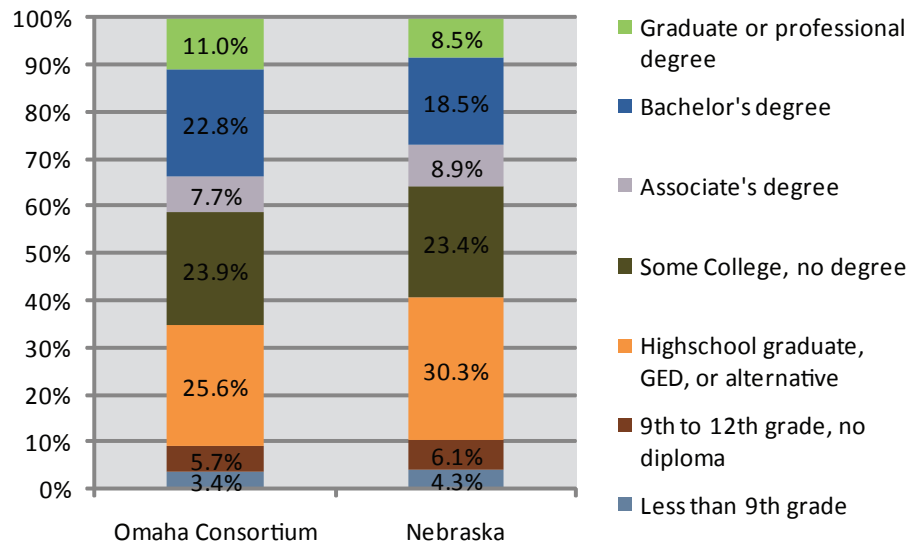
What is it?

Nebraska's residents are well-educated, a characteristic valued by businesses seeking to locate within the state. In the Omaha Consortium, 90.9% of persons age 25 or older have a high school diploma, GED or higher level of education. Nearly all Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas within the state have 80% to 90% of persons age 25 and older with a high school diploma, GED or higher level of education.

In the Omaha Consortium, 65.3% of the residents have post high school education, and more than one-third of the Consortium's residents have a Bachelor's degree or higher.

The Omaha Consortium's education levels have improved since 2000, with the population holding a high school diploma, GED or higher increasing by 2.4% and those with a post-secondary educational degrees by 5.4%.

Educational Attainment: Population Age 25 and Older
2005 to 2009 Aggregate



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Released 2010

How to use it

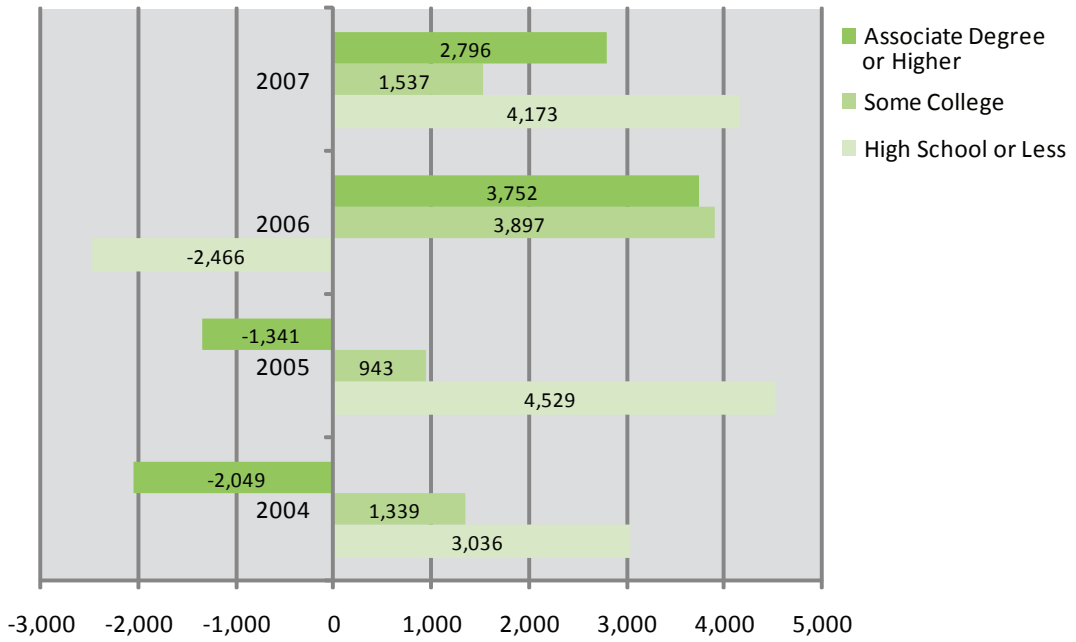
When companies search for a place to establish a business, many factors come into play; a labor force with a potential for high educational attainment rates may be a determining factor. Nebraska, which has a higher-than-average rate of individuals age 25 and over with some education past a high school diploma compared to the United States, will impress potential site locators. Companies which require a large proportion of skilled employees will likely find the high rates of educational attainment appealing compared to other areas.

Where to find it

Educational attainment data from the 2005-2009 American Community Survey can be found at census.gov. Choose American Fact Finder.

Net Educational Migration: Population Age 22 to 64

Nebraska Statewide, 2004 to 2007



Source: Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, Progress Report, Released 2010

How to use it

The availability of an educated labor force can be something of interest when a business is looking to select a location and this is highly affected by the net migration of workers. If a business has to exhaust too many resources to recruit candidates to fill its technical positions, this can drive the costs of locating in an area too high to be a viable option.

Where to find it

Educational Migration trends from Nebraska's Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education can be found at ccpe.state.ne.us.

Educational Migration

What is it?

Estimated net migration of 22- to 64-year-olds reveals that there is a historical trend of net out-migration of Nebraska's educated population and an in-migration of adults with a high school diploma or less.

A reversal of the previous trend, starting in 2007, shows a change in the previous out-migration of Nebraska's educated population. However, Nebraska's Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education states that this data is based on a small sample size and could vary dramatically year to year. All American Community Survey data is based on a sample of the population and can be expected to fluctuate when describing very specific demographics. ACS data is used to compile this data.

In 2007, there was an in-migration of people with a Graduate or Professional Degree, as well as people with a Bachelor's Degree. However, there was a slight net migration out of the state by people with Associates Degrees.

Postsecondary Graduates

What is it?

There were a total of 8,167 graduates from the Community Colleges, State Colleges and the University of Nebraska – Kearney between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008. About five out of seven (71.1%) graduates, 5,804 in total, were working in Nebraska in the first quarter of 2009. This is nearly the same percentage as in the previous year. Community Colleges had the highest percentage of graduates working in the state as well as the highest range of counties with at least one graduate employed in the county.

Over a quarter (25.7%) of Community College graduates working in Nebraska were in the Health Care industry. The highest number of Bachelors Degree State College graduates was in the Business Administration and Management. Of those graduates, 68% of the 362 were working in the state with estimated average annual earnings of $27,477.

Postsecondary 2007 to 2008 Graduates
Working in Nebraska, First Quarter 2009

	Associates Degrees-Community Colleges	Bachelors Degrees-State Colleges	Bachelors Degrees-University of Nebraska-Kearney
Number of Graduates	3,868	1,100	913
Number of Graduates Working in Nebraska	2,885	645	578
Percent of Graduates Working in Nebraska	75%	59%	63%
Estimated Average Annual Earnings	$25,806	$26,615	$25,752
Estimated Median Annual Earnings	$24,605	$27,208	$26,950

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Graduate Outcomes in Nebraska, Released 2010

How to use it

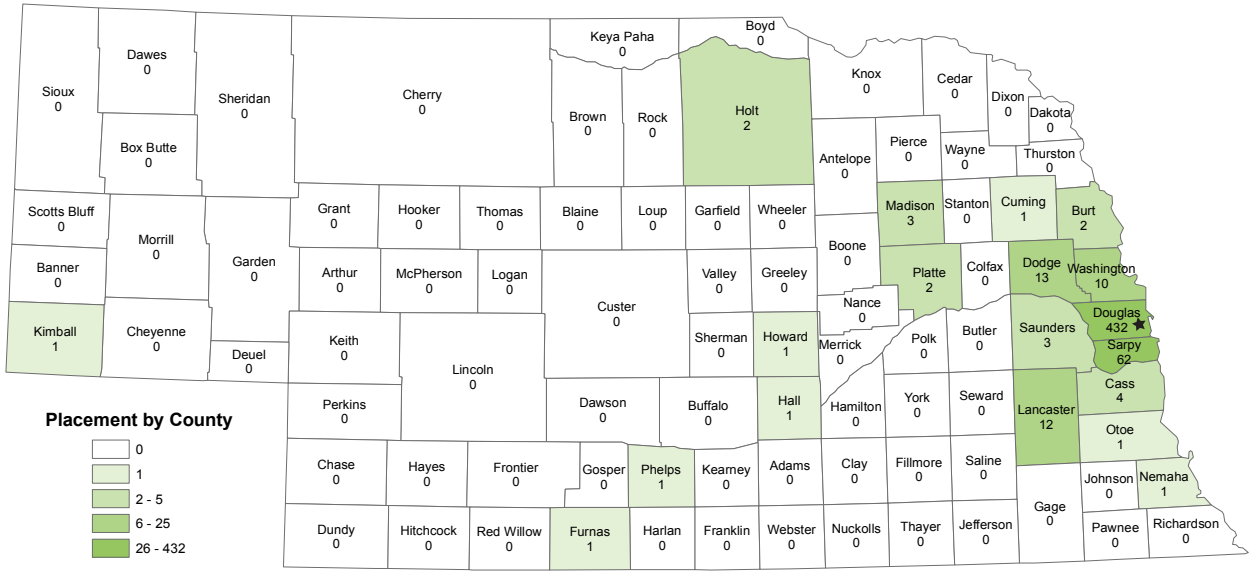
The numbers suggest that those who attend community college in Nebraska are more likely to seek employment in Nebraska than they are to seek employment outside of the state. This may also mean that Nebraska Community Colleges are providing training more directly related to Nebraska jobs. The labor market for people with Bachelor's Degrees and higher tends to be a national market. For some occupations, employment opportunities in other states may also provide higher pay.

Where to find it

Online the Graduate Outcomes in Nebraska publication can be found at LMI Home. Under Publications > Get More. The Graduate Outcomes section contains a drop-down box with publications for each school.

Metropolitan Community College 2007 to 2008 Graduates

Working in Nebraska, First Quarter 2009



Institution	Number of Graduates	Number of Graduates Working in Nebraska	Percent of Graduates Working in Nebraska	Estimated Average Annual Earnings for Associates Degree Graduates	Estimated Median Annual Earnings for Associates Degree Graduates
Metropolitan Community College	1,185	906	76%	$27,850	$26,535

Stars indicate primary campus locations.
Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Graduate Outcomes in Nebraska, Released 2010

Where to find it

Online the Graduate Outcomes in Nebraska publication can be found at LMI Home. Under Publications > Get More. The Graduate Outcomes section contains a drop-down box with publications for each school.

How to use it

Community College graduates supply local businesses with skilled workers. Most graduates work in counties near the college from which they graduated. This information may help existing and potential businesses determine where to place recruitment efforts. Graduates are likely to work in Nebraska when there are employment opportunities with competitive wages. For example, 76% of Metropolitan Community College graduates were working in the state, compared to 79% of their Health Care graduates and 84% of their Registered Nursing graduates.

Graduate Employment

What is it?

Metropolitan College graduates provide a skilled labor supply to Nebraska's employers. Seventy-six percent of 2007-2008 Metropolitan Community College graduates were employed in the state in first quarter 2009. This is the one percent higher than the previous year. Overall, 75% of all Community College graduates were working in Nebraska in first quarter 2009.

There were 432 students from the 2007-2008 Metropolitan Community College graduating class employed in Douglas County in first quarter 2009. This figure is two students lower than the 2006-2007 class.

There were 32 degrees/fields of study that had 80% or more of the graduates working in the state. These fields of study employed 452 of Metropolitan Community College's 1,185 graduates working in Nebraska. Within this group, Registered Nursing graduates had the highest discloseable estimated average annual earnings of $42,310.

Graduate Employment

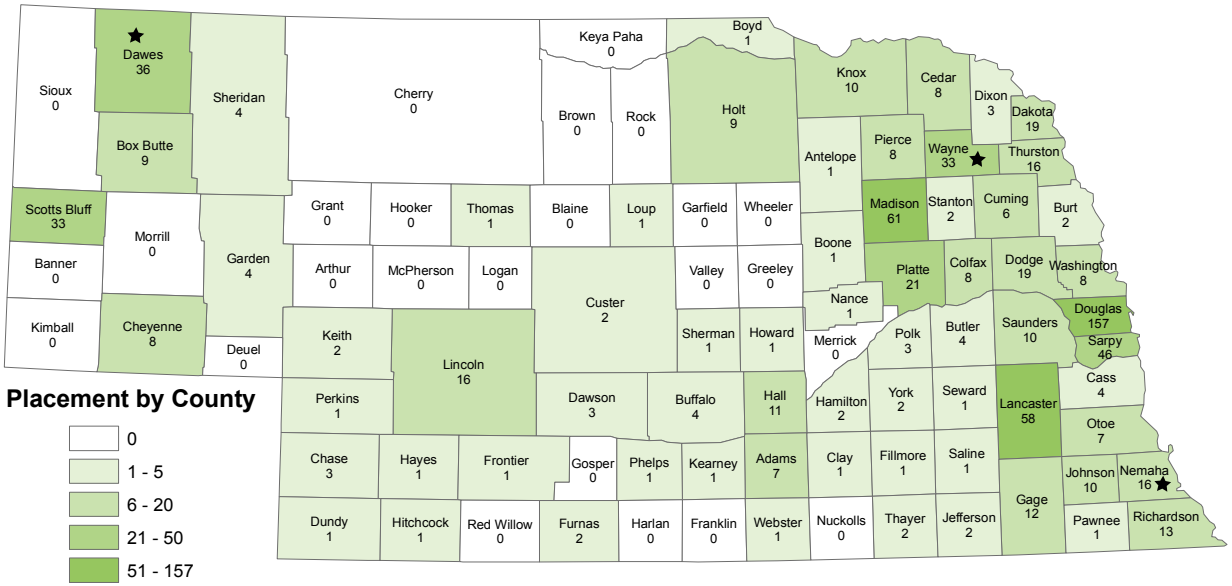
What is it?

Peru State College had a total of 446 graduates from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. In the first quarter of 2009 there were 306 (69%) graduates who were working in the state, an increase from 65% in the previous year. Masters Degree graduates (79%) were more likely than Bachelors Degree graduates (62%) to be working in Nebraska.

There were 33 Peru State College graduates employed in the Lincoln MSA in the first quarter of 2009. This was an increase of three graduates over the previous year.

Education fields of study accounted for almost two-thirds (66%) of Bachelors Degree graduates with 74% working in Nebraska. Of the Bachelors Degree graduates in Education fields of study working in Nebraska, 87% were employed in the Education Services industry.

All State College 2007 to 2008 Graduates
Working in Nebraska, First Quarter 2009



Institution	Number of Graduates	Number of Graduates Working in Nebraska	Percent of Graduates Working in Nebraska	Estimated Average Annual Earnings for Associates Degree Graduates	Estimated Median Annual Earnings for Associates Degree Graduates
All State Colleges	1,578	984	62%	$26,615	$27,208

Stars indicate campus locations.
Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Graduate Outcomes in Nebraska, Released 2010

How to use it

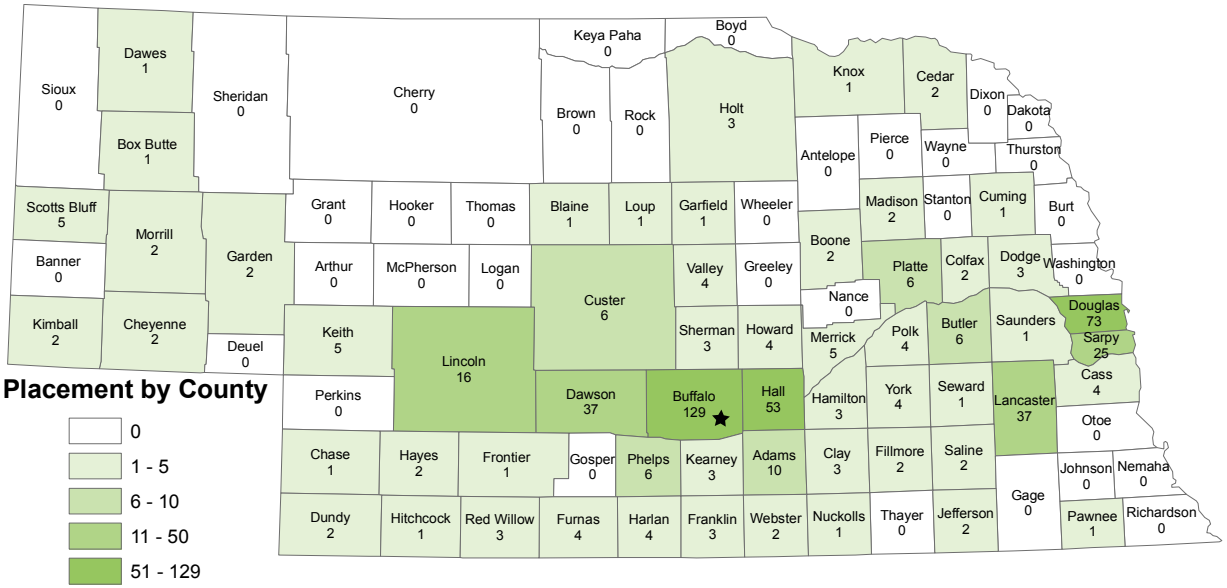
State College graduates are less likely than Community College graduates to be employed in Nebraska, most likely because graduates with Bachelor's Degrees or higher tend to have a wider employment range than Community College graduates. Nebraska businesses need to remain regionally and nationally competitive to keep talented graduates in the state. All three State Colleges are located relatively near the border with other states. Graduates may be working near the college from which they graduated, but in another state. Information is not available for graduates working outside Nebraska.

Where to find it

Online the Graduate Outcomes in Nebraska publication can be found at LMI Home. Under Publications > Get More. The Graduate Outcomes section contains a drop-down box with publications for each school.

Graduate Employment

University of Nebraska - Kearney 2007 to 2008 Graduates Working in Nebraska, First Quarter 2009



Institution	Number of Graduates	Number of Graduates Working in Nebraska	Percent of Graduates Working in Nebraska	Estimated Average Annual Earnings for Associates Degree Graduates	Estimated Median Annual Earnings for Associates Degree Graduates
University of Nebraska - Kearney	1,204	779	65%	$25,752	$26,950

Stars indicate UNK location.
Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Graduate Outcomes in Nebraska, Released 2010

What is it?

The University of Nebraska – Kearney (UNK) had a total of 1,204 graduates from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. Of those graduates, 779 (65%) were working in Nebraska in first quarter 2009. There were 72 more total graduates from the University of Nebraska-Kearney and 52 more graduates working in the state than the previous year.

Fifty-eight counties had at least one UNK graduate employed in the county in the first quarter of 2009, and six counties had 25 or more graduates. Six UNK graduates were employed in Platte County from this class.

The Bachelors Degree program in Business Administration and Management had the highest number of graduates with 160 graduates. Seventy-two percent of those graduates were employed in the state in the first quarter of 2009. Master's Degree graduates (68%) were more likely than Bachelors Degree graduates (63%) to be working in the state.

How to use it

University of Nebraska - Kearney graduates are less likely than Community College graduates to be employed near the college from which they graduated. Graduates with Bachelor's Degrees or higher tend to have a wider employment range than Community College graduates except for graduates with advanced degrees in education. Those individuals are very likely to be employed in the state. Nebraska businesses need to remain regionally and nationally competitive to keep talented graduates in the state.

Where to find it

Online the Graduate Outcomes in Nebraska publication can be found at LMI Home. Under Publications > Get More. The Graduate Outcomes section contains a drop-down box with publications for each school.

Labor Force

What is it?

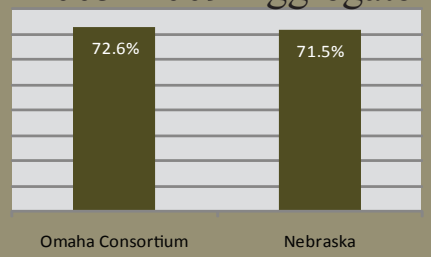
For the Labor Force Estimates and Labor Force and Unemployment Rate Monthly Trends, the graphs and tables are formatted as they would appear if pulled directly from the NEWorks page.

The labor force is the total of all civilians, employed or unemployed, excluding those who are under 16 years of age, people who are institutionalized, or members of the Armed Forces. The unemployment rate is calculated by taking the number of unemployed individuals divided by the total labor force.

Between 2000 and 2010, the Omaha MSA labor force increased by 20,469 individuals. Since 2000, employment has increased by 2.2% while unemployment rose by 94.7%.

Omaha MSA's 2010 unemployment rate of 5.2% was higher than the statewide rate of 4.7% but lower than the national level of 9.3%. Nebraska also has a higher participation rate than the national average.

Labor Force Participation Rate 2005- 2009 Aggregate



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Released 2009

Labor Force Estimates
Nebraska Statewide, 2010

Civilian Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate (%)
976,859	931,414	45,444	4.7

Labor Force Estimates
Omaha MSA, 2010

Civilian Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate (%)
446,670	423,607	23,063	5.2

Note: Data is not seasonally adjusted
Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Released 2010

How to use it

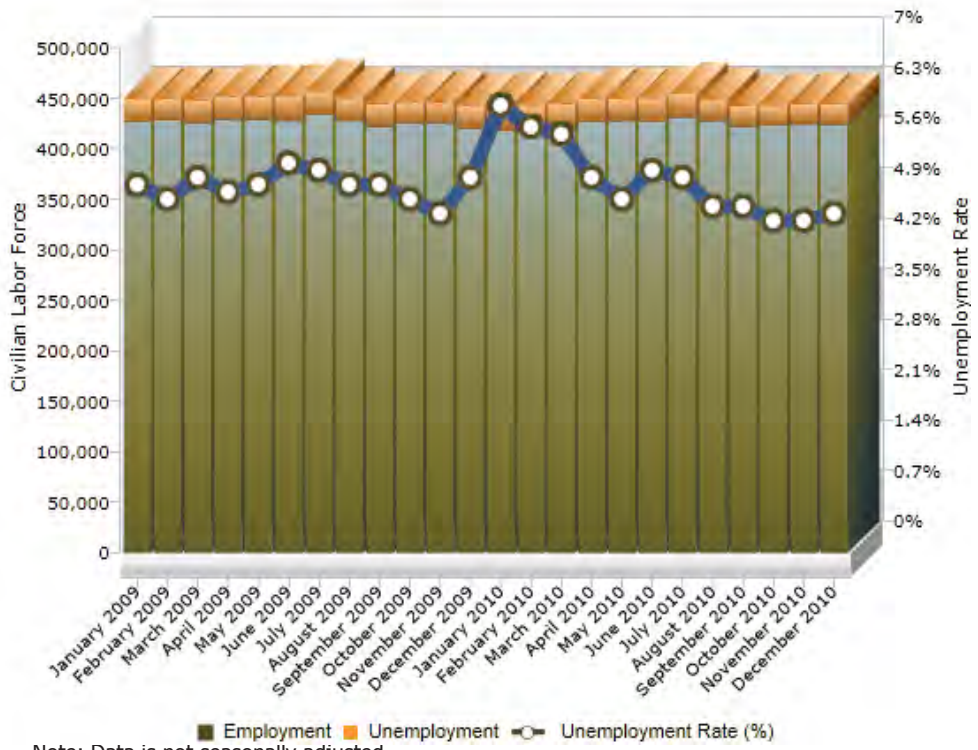
There are many different factors that can be used to determine the stability of the economy, including the unemployment rate. However, caution should be used when looking at month to month changes in the unemployment rate, and other labor force data. The sample size used in estimating data at this level is rather small and a small sample size can introduce higher sampling errors. A better way to look at these estimates is to examine longer-term trends for patterns and changes.

Where to find it

Additional labor force data can be found at LMI Home. Under Historic Data Analysis > Employment and Wage Data > Labor Force Data > Labor Force Employment and Unemployment (LAUS). Preliminary LAUS data is released and the previous month's data is revised each month

Labor Force and Unemployment Rate Monthly Trends

Omaha Consortium, 2009 to 2010



Note: Data is not seasonally adjusted
Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Released 2010

Labor Trends

What is it?

Labor force trends show that the number of people in the labor force has decreased 1.1% from 449,292 individuals in January of 2009 to 444,254 individuals in December of 2010.

Seasonal fluctuations are visible in the labor force and unemployment rate monthly trends. The data presented is not seasonally adjusted, so some of the trends are the result of natural employment changes throughout the year. In both 2009 and 2010, the labor force was largest during the month of July, this is expected with the growth of construction jobs and other industries which expand over the summer months.

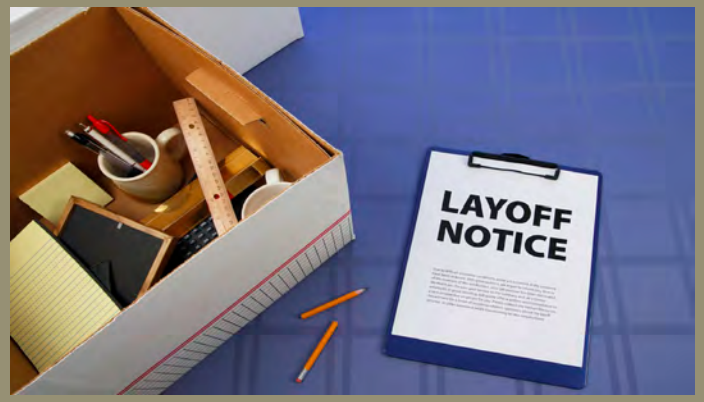
Nebraska's highest unemployment rate occurred in November of 1982, with a rate of 10.8%. In recent history, the highest unemployment rate was 5.6%, during January of 2010.

How to use it

Trends show that the labor force is growing, as is expected with the overall population growth. It is important to remember that this data is not seasonally adjusted. Seasonal events, such as weather changes, harvests, holidays and school openings and closings can cause the estimates to go through major fluctuations. By studying historical seasonal patterns users can estimate current levels and upcoming changes, helping to plan business processes, such as recruitment.

Where to find it

Additional labor force data can be found at LMI Home. Under Historic Data Analysis > Employment and Wage Data > Labor Force Data > Labor Force Employment and Unemployment (LAUS). Preliminary LAUS data is released and the previous month's data is revised each month



Nebraska Workers

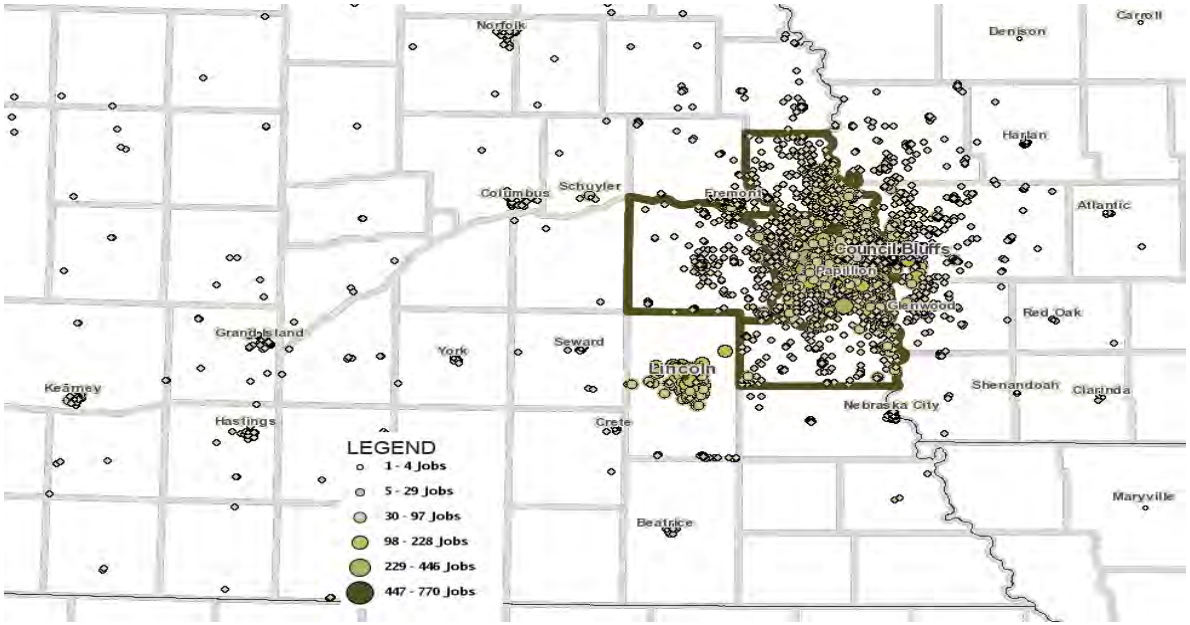
What is it?

The map to the right shows where Omaha Consortium's workers live. There were 366,400 employees working primary jobs within the Consortium in 2008, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Of those workers, 299,071 (81.6%) lived within the Omaha Consortium boundaries.

Nearly one-fifth (18.4%) of the Omaha Consortium's workers were in-commuters in 2008; 67,329 individuals from other counties commuted into the Omaha Consortium in order to work. Almost two-thirds (63.9%) of commuters commuted into the Consortium from contiguous counties to the Consortium. Commuters from the Lincoln MSA constituted 17.4% of in-commuters; 8.1% traveled from the Fremont MC.

There were 36,457 in-commuters from other states working in the Omaha Consortium, constituting 9.9% of the area workers. Most of the out-of-state commuters (27,148) were from Iowa.

Where Omaha Consortium's Workers Live 2008



Note: Locations of less than 29 jobs are not shown.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Local Employment Dynamics, Released 2009

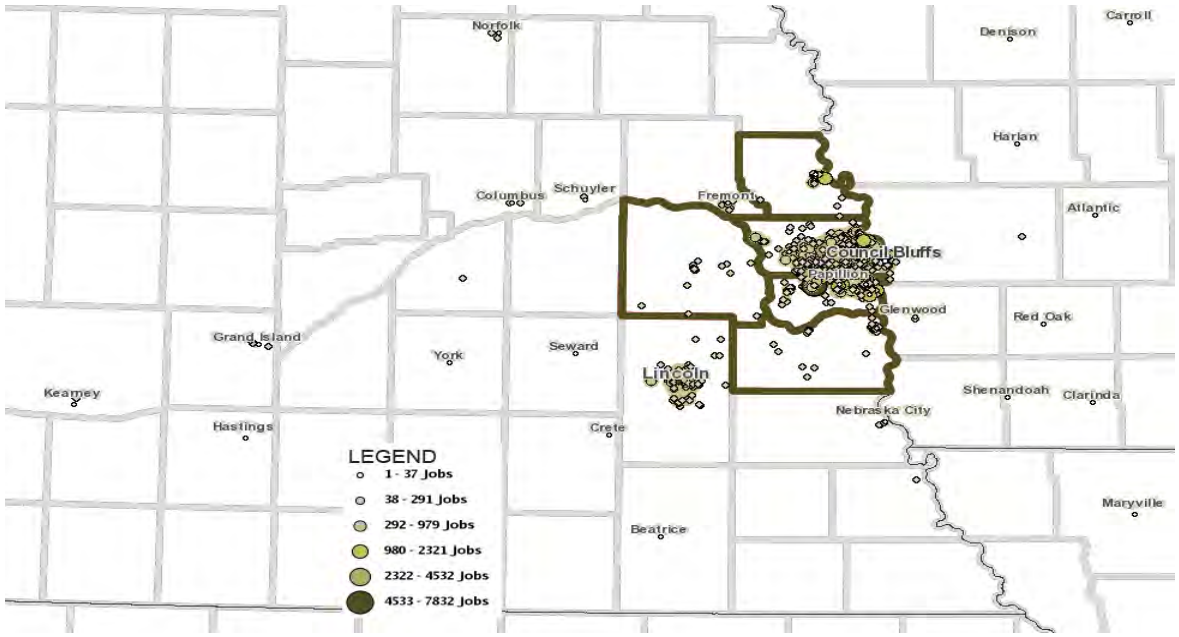
How to use it

Commuting Patterns are used by the U.S. Census Bureau to identify the boundaries of regional labor pools and to determine Labor Market Areas. Businesses depend on labor force information available by Labor Market Area to evaluate recruiting methods and identify the potential customer base. Economic Development boards can also benefit from knowing commuting patterns by estimating the number of workers who may choose to work within a region if suitable jobs were available.

Where to find it

Commuting statistics from Local Employment Dynamics can be found at lehd.did.census.gov/led/. Choose OnTheMap under Tools. New data is available in a different format.

Where Workers are Employed who Live in Omaha Consortium 2008



Locations of less than 127 jobs are not shown.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Local Employment Dynamics, Released 2009

Where to find it

Commuting statistics from Local Employment Dynamics can be found at lehd.did.census.gov/led/. Choose OnTheMap under Tools. New data is available in a different format.

How to use it

Many of the workers commuting to and from bordering states are likely commuting across state lines for work. It is possible that many of the workers commuting to and from other states not bordering Nebraska are either (1) actually living in another state while keeping a permanent residence in Nebraska, (2) are working at an alternative work site for a company based in Nebraska, or (3) are telecommuting or only commuting occasionally.

Nebraska Resident Workers

What is it?

The map to the left shows where workers live who are employed in the Omaha Consortium. There were 336,657 people who work living in the Omaha Consortium in 2008, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Of those resident workers, 299,071 (88.8%) remained in the Consortium area to work.

There were 37,586 (11.2%) resident workers who commuted out of the Consortium, resulting in a net gain of 29,743 workers from commuting.

More than two-thirds (70.5%) of out-commuters are traveling to contiguous counties to the Omaha Consortium. Almost two-fifths (37.8%) of commuters are traveling to the Lincoln MSA for work, while 7.8% of commuters are traveling to the Fremont MC for work. There were 13,428 Omaha Consortium out-commuters traveling to out-of-state work, constituting 4.0% of the Consortium resident workers; 11,066 workers commuted into Kansas for work.

Nebraska Compensation

What is it?

Of the 23 major occupational groups, Management provides the highest hourly average wage at $47.98 per hour according to Occupational Employment Statistics. This occupational group also has a $35.12 per hour difference between entry and experienced average wages, which is the largest disparity for all occupations. Food Preparation and Serving-Related Occupations pay the lowest average hourly wage at $9.63 per hour.

The Omaha Consortium's average annual wage for all occupations in 2010 is $41,682 which is $3,939 above the Nebraska average annual wage. All of the major occupational groups have higher average wages in the Omaha Consortium than they do statewide.

Wages by Occupation
Omaha Consortium, 3rd Quarter 2010

SOC Code	Standard Occupational Code Title	Hourly Average	Hourly Entry	Hourly Experienced	Annual Average Omaha	Annual Average Nebraska
11-0000	Management Occupations	$47.98	$24.56	$59.68	$99,795.00	$88,591
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations Occupations	$29.04	$17.89	$34.62	$60,404.00	$58,192
15-0000	Computer and Mathematical Occupations	$34.14	$21.28	$40.57	$71,011.00	$66,599
17-0000	Architecture and Engineering Occupations	$31.40	$17.51	$38.34	$65,304.00	$62,249
19-0000	Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	$29.32	$17.72	$35.13	$60,996.00	$55,993
21-0000	Community and Social Services Occupations	$17.59	$11.46	$20.65	$36,587.00	$35,191
23-0000	Legal Occupations	$37.27	$15.55	$48.13	$77,519.00	$75,171
25-0000	Education, Training, and Library Occupations	$20.38	$10.59	$25.27	$42,379.00	$42,185
27-0000	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations	$20.21	$10.73	$24.96	$42,052.00	$38,901
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	$31.11	$17.09	$38.13	$64,726.00	$61,445
31-0000	Healthcare Support Occupations	$13.29	$10.53	$14.67	$27,636.00	$25,809
33-0000	Protective Service Occupations	$18.71	$9.54	$23.29	$38,916.00	$37,411
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving-Related Occupations	$9.63	$7.48	$10.71	$20,037.00	$19,229
37-0000	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	$11.25	$8.19	$12.78	$23,396.00	$22,721
39-0000	Personal Care and Service Occupations	$11.37	$7.94	$13.08	$23,643.00	$21,884
41-0000	Sales and Related Occupations	$18.00	$8.00	$23.00	$37,442.00	$32,275
43-0000	Office and Administrative Support Occupations	$15.26	$10.02	$17.87	$31,728.00	$29,656
45-0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	$13.99	$7.73	$17.11	$29,089.00	$27,112
47-0000	Construction and Extraction Occupations	$20.59	$12.72	$24.52	$42,813.00	$38,342
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	$19.69	$12.23	$23.42	$40,954.00	$38,650
51-0000	Production Occupations	$15.47	$9.94	$18.23	$32,173.00	$31,485
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	$17.23	$9.78	$20.95	$35,833.00	$33,603
00-0000	**Total all occupations**	**$20.04**	**$9.47**	**$25.33**	**$41,682.00**	**$37,743**

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Occupational Employment Statistics, Released 2010

How to use it

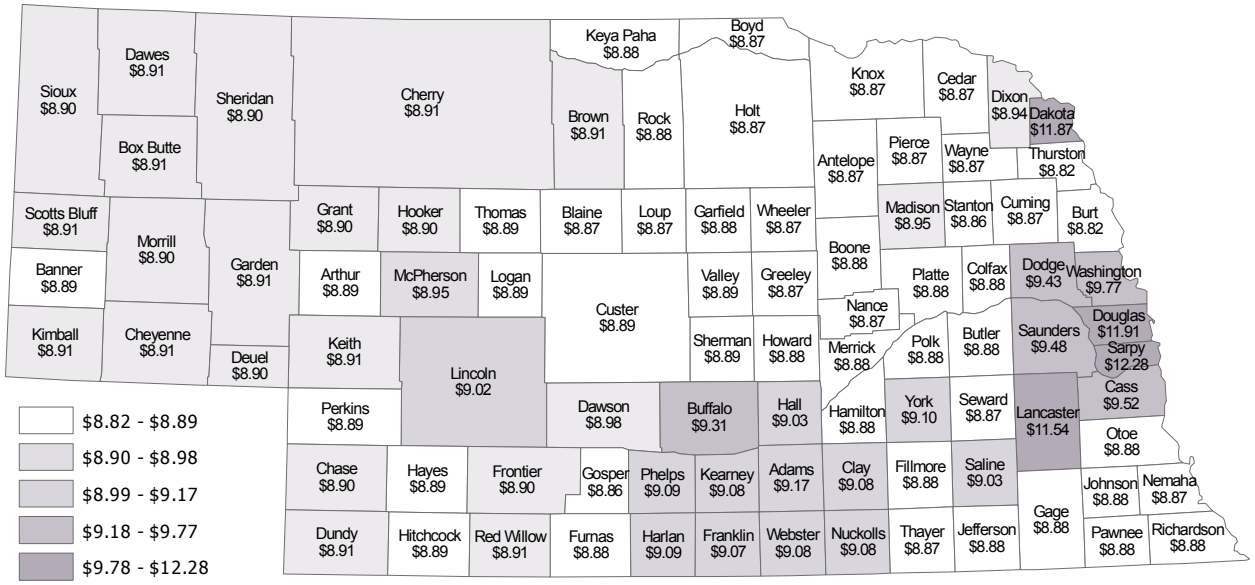
Sometimes determining wages and wage adjustments for employees can be complicated for employers. However, using the Occupational Employment Statistics to see wage trends by area and industry will simplify the process. Many employers reevaluate salaries after minimum wage changes. Nebraska's minimum wage changed to $6.55 in 2008 and was increased to $7.25 per hour in 2009.

Where to find it

Occupational employment and wages can be found at LMI Home. Under Employment and Wage Data > Occupation Specific Data > Wages. Occupational Employment Statistics are updated quarterly.

Self-Sufficiency Standard by County

Family of Two Working Adults, Infant and Preschooler, 2010



Source: Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest and Wider Opportunities for Women, Self-Sufficiency Standard for Nebraska, Originally Released 2002, Updated 2010 (Prepared by Diana Pearce, Ph.D. with Jennifer Brooks)

Self-Sufficiency Standard

What is it?

The Self-Sufficiency Standard is the amount of income, shown here in hourly wage, a family would need to live, work and adequately meet its basic needs without public or private assistance. The Standard, which varies by family type and location, is the wage needed to be earned by each adult.

The map to the left shows the 2010 Self-Sufficiency Standard for a family of four including two working adults, an infant and a preschooler. Nearly 75% of Nebraska's counties (67 of 93 counties) have a Self-Sufficiency Standard for that family type of between $8.86 and $8.91 per hour for each adult. Sarpy County has the highest standard at $12.28, while Thurston and Burt County had the lowest at $8.82 per hour for each adult.

How to use it

The Standard was intended initially as a performance measure for the goal of "self-sufficiency" in federal job training programs (now known as WIA, the Workforce Investment Act program). It is a measure that provides realistic and detailed data on what clients individually need to be self-sufficient.

Where to find it

The Nebraska Self-Sufficiency Standard as well as additional information can be found online at neappleseed.org/lowincome.

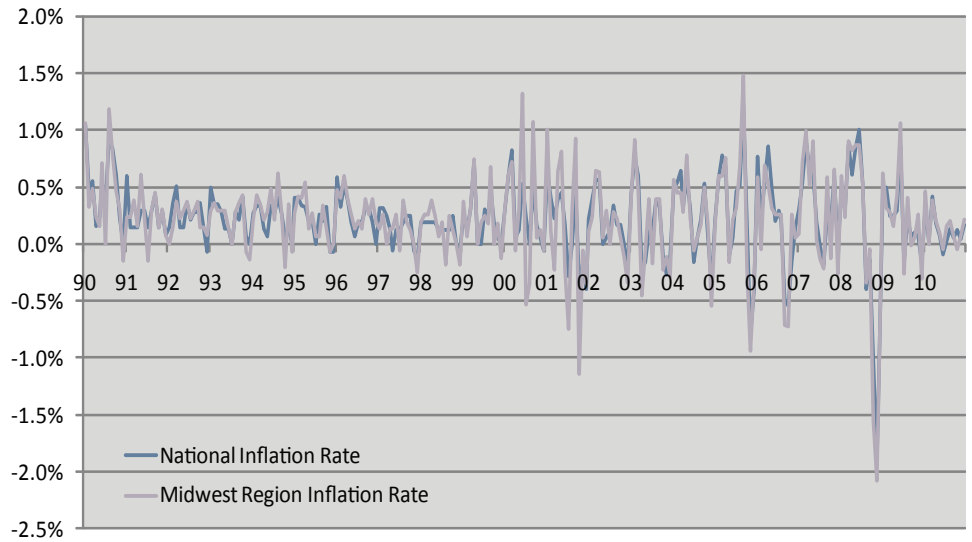
Consumer Price Index

What is it?

The Consumer Price Index, or CPI, is a measure of price levels for everyday goods purchased by consumers. Products are priced in all metropolitan areas around the country on a daily basis and compared to previous prices. These prices are then scaled to a base of 100 and released monthly.

If prices rise, the CPI will increase; if prices decrease, the CPI drops. The percent changes in the CPI should be directly related to the price changes consumers face over the time period for everything they buy. The CPI monthly release can be taken as a percentage to measure the inflation rate, in which any given data point is measured against the data of the previous month.

Monthly Inflation Rate
Midwest Region and United States, 1990 to 2010



Source: CPI Data Used From Bureau of Labor Statistics, Released 2010

How to use it

The inflation rate gives insight into how much prices change in a given period. The rate can be used to identify trends in price changes, such as the lull in price changes during the mid-1990's. The inflation rate can also help identify specific time periods when changes in the economic cycle occurred. In general, recessions decrease price changes, causing inflation to decrease or even become negative.

Where to find it

On the BLS.gov website, go to the tab which reads "Subject Areas". This will yield a drop down menu, on which the first option is Consumer Price Index. CPI data is updated monthly.

Consumer Price Index

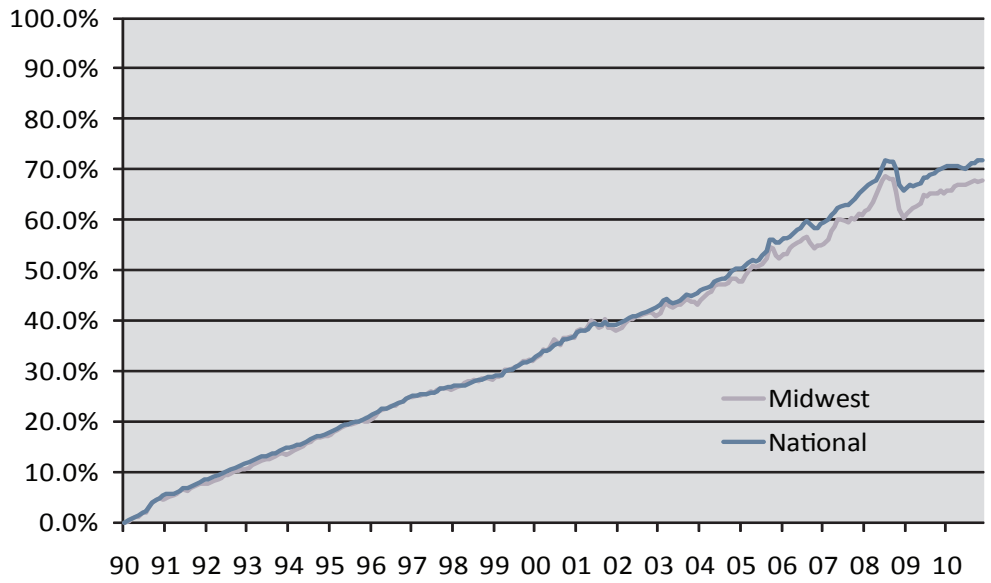
What is it?

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a representation of the goods and services purchased by consumers. These consumption items are grouped into one of 200 categories, which are then further categorized into eight major groups: food and beverages, housing, apparel, transportation, medical care, recreation, education and communication, and other goods and services.

The CPI also includes various government-charged user fees and taxes. Any tax that is associated with specific goods' and services' prices, such as sales tax, water and sewerage charges, and vehicle tolls, will be included in the CPI. However, any tax not directly related to a consumption purchase, such as an income or Social Security tax, will not be included in the CPI. Over the past two decades, the Midwest Region's CPI experienced a 68% inflation rate, while the National CPI experienced a 72% inflation rate based on 1990 rates.

Inflation Rate, Base Year 1990 Calculated Monthly

Midwest Region and United States, 1990 to 2010



Source: CPI Data Used From Bureau of Labor Statistics, Released 2010

How to use it

The inflation rate, when adjusted with a base year of 1990, gives insight into how prices have changed since 1990. This allows for a comparison of any specific item between the base year and current time. If a wage does not increase at the rate of inflation, the wage has effectively decreased in real value. To adjust a wage for inflation, multiply the wage from the original time period by 1 plus the percent of inflation (1+(%)). For example, a wage of $5.00 in 1990 adjusted for national inflation to 2010 should be multiplied by 1 plus the percentage of inflation in numeric form (1.72). This would give a current wage of $8.60.

Where to find it

On the BLS.gov website, go to the tab which reads "Subject Areas". This will yield a drop down menu, on which the first option is Consumer Price Index. CPI data is updated monthly.

Employee Benefits

What is it?

There are two factors that best predict whether or not an employer will offer benefits: type of employment (full- or part-time) and size of business. The results of the 2006 Benefits Survey show that larger businesses consistently offered more benefits than smaller ones, although the relationship was different by the type of benefit. The percentage of companies offering all types of insurance, retirement plans and educational assistance increased as the size of the business increased; this did not necessarily apply to paid leave.

Rate of Benefits Offered by Employment Size

Full-time Employees, Nebraska Statewide, 2006

	1-4 Employees	5-9 Employees	10-19 Employees	20-49 Employees	50-99 Employees	100-249 Employees	250+ Employees	All Sizes
Medical Insurance	30.3%	52.6%	67.3%	79.7%	92.6%	97.4%	98.6%	63.8%
Dental Insurance	13.0%	24.1%	36.9%	53.5%	72.6%	90.0%	94.4%	39.0%
Vision Insurance	6.0%	13.1%	19.0%	26.1%	39.2%	48.1%	64.1%	20.2%
Life Insurance	15.9%	33.5%	49.4%	64.4%	81.7%	93.8%	97.2%	48.1%
Paid Time Off	7.0%	10.7%	14.0%	18.4%	21.6%	36.0%	38.5%	14.8%
Paid Vacation	59.7%	79.5%	80.6%	82.7%	85.4%	77.6%	81.9%	77.7%
Paid Sick Leave	30.9%	41.7%	42.3%	42.8%	48.1%	39.7%	50.7%	40.8%
Paid Holidays	57.0%	74.6%	76.0%	76.5%	83.1%	80.3%	92.3%	73.6%
Retirement Plan	27.3%	46.5%	55.6%	62.5%	77.0%	85.1%	83.2%	53.3%
Educational Assistance	11.0%	20.2%	22.9%	28.8%	43.8%	61.1%	84.0%	25.6%

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Benefits Survey, Released 2007

How to use it

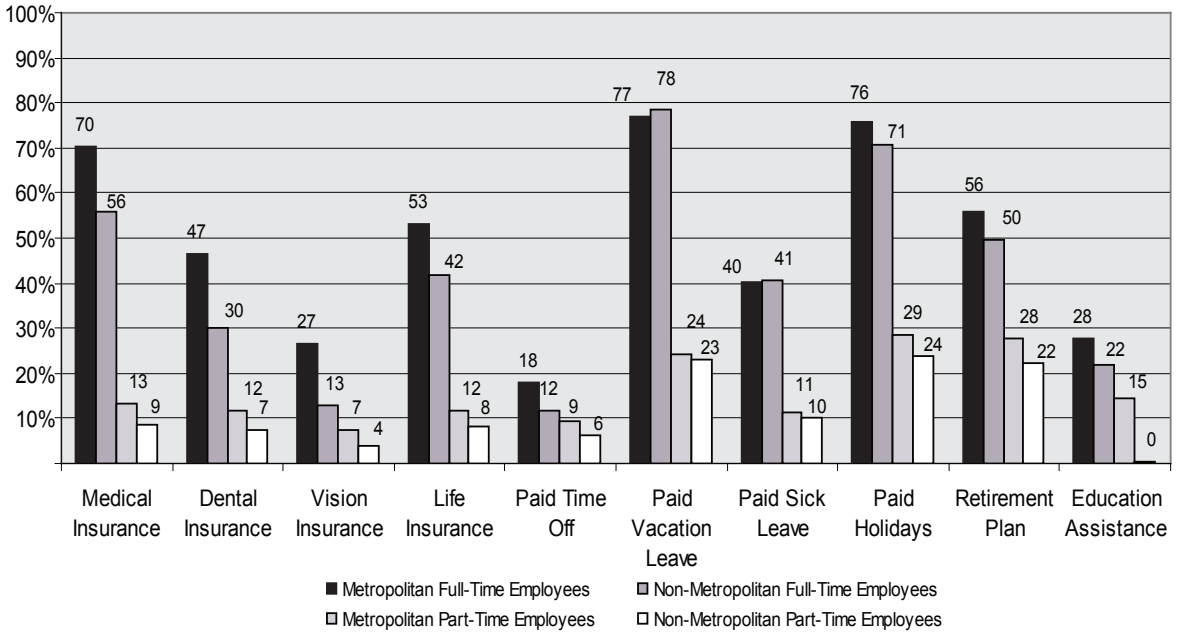
Benefit information is important to both employers and employees, since benefits can account for a significant portion (about one-third) of an employee's total compensation package. Employers often use this information to gauge how well they might compete for workers with other businesses in the area.

Where to find it

To view this survey, go to LMI Home, select the Publications section. For updated Employee Benefits information visit the BLS website at bls.gov; under the Subject Areas tab select Benefits under Pay and Benefits.

Employee Benefits

Rate of Benefits Offered
Nebraska Statewide, 2006



Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Benefits Survey, Released 2007

What is it?

Type of employment is one of the factors that can predict whether or not an employer will offer benefits. This survey shows that, on average, full-time employees were more likely to be offered benefits than part-time employees in 2006. Also, on average, businesses within a metropolitan area offered more benefits than businesses in a non-metropolitan area. The only exceptions were the percentage of businesses offering paid vacation leave, and paid sick leave. The benefits with the largest gap between the percentage offered to full-time and part-time employees are medical insurance and paid vacation leave.

How to use it

Many factors go into choosing where to locate a new business; one of those factors may be choosing whether to locate in a metropolitan area versus a non-metropolitan area. Benefit trends showing what it would take to stay regionally competitive may influence that decision. Although most businesses do not offer as many benefits to their part-time employees, more than one-quarter of them offer some type of retirement plan. This may show how important it is to employees, even those working only part-time, to plan for retirement.

Where to find it

To view this survey, go to LMI Home, select the Publications section. For updated Employee Benefits information visit the BLS website at bls.gov; under the Subject Areas tab select Benefits under Pay and Benefits.

Employee Benefits

What is it?

Medical insurance is commonly offered to full-time employees as a benefit. The percentage of businesses that offered medical insurance to employees in 2006 is shown in the table to the right. In all but a few cases, the percent of businesses offering medical insurance increases as the employment size increases. All businesses who responded to the 2006 Benefits Survey with more than 250 employees offered medical insurance except in Professional & Business Services.

The percent of businesses that offer medical insurance in the Information and Manufacturing industries are the largest among all industries. Leisure & Hospitality offered the lowest percentage of medical insurance to full-time workers in 2006.

Rate of Medical Insurance Offered by Employment Size

Full-time Employees, Nebraska Statewide, 2006

	1-4 Employees	5-9 Employees	10-19 Employees	20-49 Employees	50-99 Employees	100-249 Employees	250+ Employees	All Sizes
Natual Resources and Mining	16.7%	63.6%	58.3%	66.7%	N/A	N/A	N/A	41.8%
Construction	20.3%	47.7%	71.6%	86.3%	95.8%	100.0%	100.0%	59.9%
Manufacturing	40.8%	59.8%	85.7%	91.2%	98.8%	98.5%	100.0%	81.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	31.3%	57.9%	70.4%	86.2%	93.2%	100.0%	100.0%	67.2%
Information	56.5%	78.8%	86.0%	89.3%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	83.1%
Financial Activities	39.3%	75.3%	92.5%	98.5%	96.0%	100.0%	100.0%	76.8%
Professional Business Services	32.5%	47.9%	73.6%	84.0%	94.1%	96.9%	92.3%	63.1%
Education and Health Services	32.4%	44.2%	58.9%	77.3%	91.7%	97.4%	100.0%	63.6%
Leisure & Hospiality	11.7%	16.0%	27.7%	48.9%	80.3%	87.5%	100.0%	38.5%
Other Services	24.8%	48.0%	70.2%	72.4%	81.3%	100.0%	100.0%	52.6%

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Benefits Survey, Released 2007

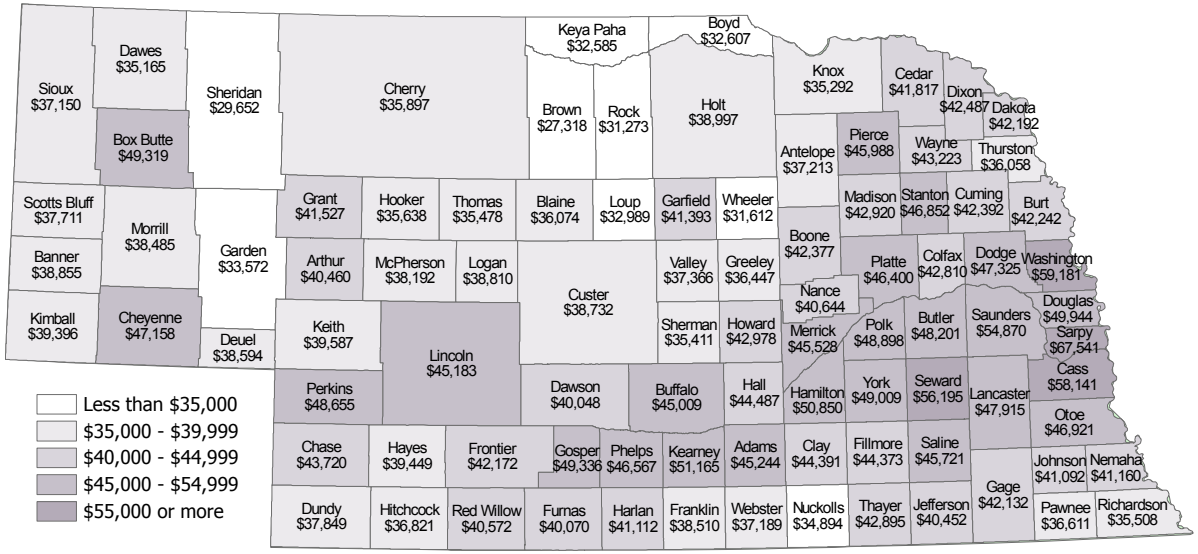
How to use it

It is important to remember that while the last few tables have shown benefit availability differences between industries, regions and employment size, these factors are all interrelated. Before conclusions can be made about the influence of an employer's size or location in offering benefits, the employer's industry and proportion of full- and part-time employees must also be considered.

Where to find it

To view this survey, go to LMI Home, select the Publications section. For updated Employee Benefits information visit the BLS website at bls.gov; under the Subject Areas tab select Benefits under Pay and Benefits.

Median Household Income by County 2009



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, County Level Median Household Income, Released 2010

Household Income

What is it?

Nebraska's median household income in 2009 was $47,470; Nebraska ranked 29th nationally. Fifteen counties had a higher median household income than the state: Sarpy, Washington, Cass, Seward, Saunders, Kearney, Hamilton, Douglas, Gosper, Box Butte, York, Polk, Perkins, Butler, and Lancaster. Sarpy County had the highest median household income with $67,541. Brown County had the lowest with $27,318.

All five counties within the Omaha Consortium had a higher median household income than the state average.

Nebraska showed a 4.5% decrease in median household income from 2008 to 2009, and an increase of 17.4% between 2000 and 2009. Garfield County had the greatest 2008 to 2009 increase (26.3%), while Brown County showed the largest decrease in median household income down 20.2%.

How to use it

Household income is the annual earnings of all household members. A household can be different than a family, which is a group of two or more people living together who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption. A household is more general, and includes all people who occupy a housing unit as their usual place of residence. Local area income estimates are widely used by both public and private sectors to measure and track the levels and types of incomes received by the area population.

Where to find it

Median Household Income data can be found at census.gov. Choose Income under People & Households.

Industry Employment

What is it?

Average employment in the table to the right represents the number of filled positions covered by unemployment insurance who worked during, or received pay for, the pay period including the 12th of the month. This also allows for a person who holds multiple positions to be double or triple counted, once for each position they hold. Wages represent total compensation paid regardless of when services were performed. This data is a quarterly updated data set.

Some of the notable exceptions to these counts would include most self employed workers, many agriculture employees, railroad employees, as well as a number of non-profit and religious organizations.

In 2009, there were 20,444 total establishments in the Omaha Consortium, which employed 388,781 individuals. Of the releasable data, the Health Care and Social Assistance industry employed the largest percentage of the Omaha Consortium workers in 2009. Utilities employees were paid the highest average annual wage.

Employment and Wages by Industry
Omaha Consortium, 2009

Industry	Establishments	Avg Employment	Avg Weekly Wage	Total Wages
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	80	683	$672	$23,872,238
Mining	17	259	$982	$13,230,781
Utilities	42	4,197	$1,693	$369,411,561
Construction	2,400	21,651	$847	$954,121,065
Manufacturing	669	26,227	$854	$1,165,108,337
Wholesale Trade	1,541	15,509	$1,070	$863,275,019
Retail Trade	2,277	43,643	$475	$1,078,955,717
Transportation and Warehousing	687	21,588	$669	$750,481,912
Information	323	10,975	$1,095	$625,097,023
Finance and Insurance	1,584	30,398	$1,097	$1,733,428,186
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	852	5,113	$665	$176,835,061
Professional and Technical Services	2,410	26,152	$1,233	$1,676,407,978
Management of Companies and Enterprises	257	11,032	$1,676	$961,465,454
Administrative and Waste Services	1,403	23,790	$580	$716,953,629
Educational Services	272	34,829	$756	$1,368,514,474
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,938	52,612	$819	$2,241,442,341
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	306	7,103	$348	$128,464,143
Accommodation and Food Services	1,571	30,777	$259	$413,785,153
Other Services, Ex. Public Admin	1,605	9,877	$538	$276,313,410
Public Administration	210	13,366	$917	$637,459,004
Total All Industries	**20,444**	**389,781**	**$798**	**$16,174,622,486**

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, Released 2010

How to use it

The area's largest industries are easy to deduce from the employment and wages table above. Although Health Care and Social Assistance employed the largest percentage of Omaha Consortium workers, more than 10% of the area's wages were paid to Finance and Insurance employees in 2009, suggesting how important the industry is for the consortium. Management of Companies and Enterprises employees earn the second highest average weekly wage of workers in the consortium by a slim margin.

Where to find it

Industry data can be found at LMI Home. Under Employment and Wage Data > Industry Data > Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages(QCEW). QCEW data is updated quarterly.

Industry Employment Change
Omaha Consortium, 2001 to 2009

Industry	2001 Employment	2009 Employment	Employment Change	Percent Change
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	473	683	210	44.4%
Mining	591	259	-332	-56.2%
Utilities	3,824	4,197	373	9.8%
Construction	20,991	21,651	660	3.1%
Manufacturing	30,715	26,227	-4,488	-14.6%
Wholesale Trade	18,097	15,509	-2,588	-14.3%
Retail Trade	48,910	43,643	-5,267	-10.8%
Transportation and Warehousing	19,892	21,588	1,696	8.5%
Information	17,408	10,975	-6,433	-37.0%
Finance and Insurance	28,575	30,398	1,823	6.4%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	5,485	5,113	-372	-6.8%
Professional and Technical Services	19,074	26,152	7,078	37.1%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	8,148	11,032	2,884	35.4%
Administrative and Waste Services	32,837	23,790	-9,047	-27.6%
Educational Services	29,605	34,829	5,224	17.6%
Health Care and Social Assistance	40,903	52,612	11,709	28.6%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	5,456	7,103	1,647	30.2%
Accommodation and Food Services	27,344	30,777	3,433	12.6%
Other Services, Ex. Public Admin	10,624	9,877	-747	-7.0%
Public Administration	12,684	13,366	682	5.4%
Total All Industries	**381,636**	**389,781**	**8,145**	**2.1%**

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, Released 2010

Where to find it
Industry data can be found at LMI Home. Under Employment and Wage Data > Industry Data > Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages(QCEW). QCEW data is updated quarterly.

How to use it
Historical trends in industry employment are crucial in developing industry and occupational projections. Studying Omaha Consortium's industry employment history can also help to determine the critical industries in the state. A potential employer would benefit from determining whether a possible location already has a strong, growing employment base in that industry or whether employment in that area has recently declined.

Industry Employment

What is it?
The total employment for those covered by unemployment insurance in the Omaha Consortium for 2009 was 389,781. All employment increased by 2.1% between 2001 and 2009.

Health Care and Social Assistance had the highest employment with 52,612 people, or 13.5%, of total employment. This had the largest numeric change of the industries, between 2001 and 2009, with an employment increase of 11,709, or 28.6%.

The Omaha Consortium had notable employment gains in Professional and Technical Services gaining 7,078 jobs for an increase of 37.1% and in Educational Services adding 5,224 employment, or 17.6%. The largest numeric decline happened in Administrative and Waste Services, down 9,047 for the time, or 27.6%

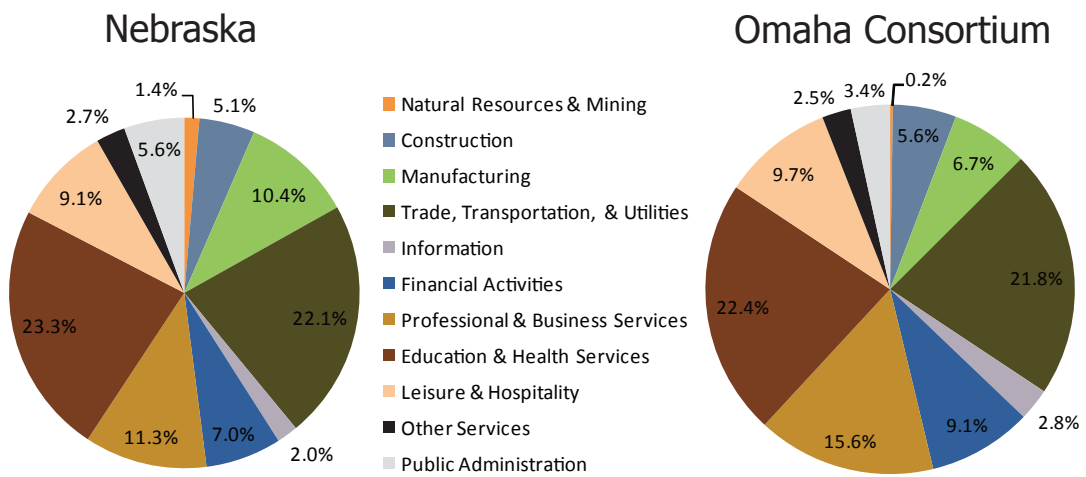
Industry Distribution

What is it?

These graphs represent the breakdown of the Omaha Consortium's industry employment compared to Nebraska's. The Omaha Consortium had a higher percent of employment than the state in Construction, Information, Financial Activities, Professional and Business Services, and Leisure and Hospitality. The higher employment figures could be due to a number of factors, such as large employers locating in the area that they deem hospitable to their industry or perhaps a trained workforce that are capable of filling demand for the industries' production or services. With industry employment figures alone, it is difficult to pinpoint the exact reason one industry may be larger than another, which is why a person must consider more than one data source.

Overall, Education and Health Services had the highest percentage of employment for the area in 2009, followed by Trade, Transportation, and Utilities. Natural Resources and Mining had the lowest percent of employment in the consortium.

Percent of Employment by Industry
Omaha Consortium and Nebraska Statewide, 2009



Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, Released 2010
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, Released 2010

How to use it

The proportion of industry employment can be used to study what industries are significant employers in the area. This can be of interest when planning for regional developers and expectations for incoming populations of laborers. This can also be of interest to businesses when surveying potential areas to either relocate or expand. This is a small piece of information that can be used to decide whether the area they are previewing may have the proper infrastructure to support their expanding business.

Where to find it

Industry data can be found at LMI Home. Under Employment and Wage Data > Industry Data > Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages(QCEW). QCEW data is updated quarterly.

Industry Location Quotient

Omaha Consortium, 2001 to 2009

Industry	2001	2009	Change
Natural Resources and Mining	0.21	0.17	-0.04
Construction	1.05	1.03	-0.02
Manufacturing	0.61	0.62	0.01
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	0.99	0.94	-0.06
Information	1.48	1.38	-0.10
Financial Activities	1.26	1.24	-0.02
Professional and Business Services	1.33	1.32	-0.02
Education and Health Services	0.98	1.03	0.05
Leisure and Hospitality	0.93	1.02	0.08
Other Services	0.91	0.89	-0.02

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, Released 2010
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, Released 2010

Location Quotient

What is it?

The location quotient indicates the concentration of employment in an industry at an area's level relative to its concentration at the state's level. The area's location quotient is calculated by dividing each industry's employment by total employment and then by the state's corresponding employment ratio.

In 2009, Information had the highest location quotient at 1.38, with Professional and Business Services having the second highest at 1.32. This means that the Omaha Consortium has a proportionally higher saturation of the workforce for these types of employees. Natural Resources and Mining has the lowest location quotient at 0.17.

How to use it

Location quotients provide information on how many people the industry employs in relation to another area. Industries with location quotients over 1.0 show a proportional rate of saturation of the labor market for that particular industry; this could be due to a number of reasons. A higher location quotient could indicate the industry receives a higher than average revenue when compared to costs within the area. When a location quotient is less than 1.0, this shows a lower level of saturation for the labor market. Location quotients are only calculated for non-agricultural industries.

Where to find it

Industry data can be found at LMI Home. Under Employment and Wage Data > Industry Data > Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages(QCEW). QCEW data is updated quarterly.

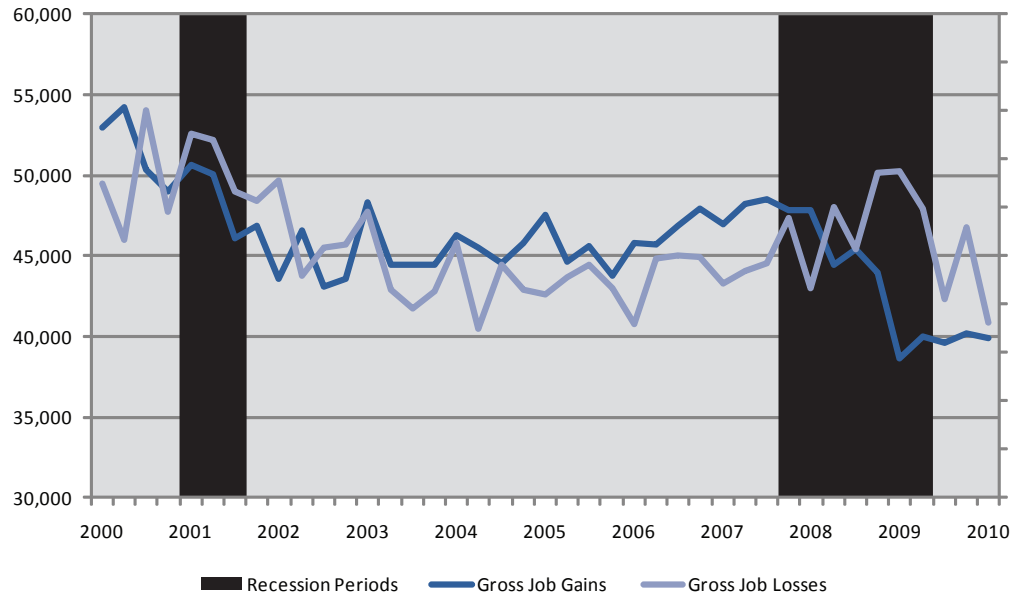
Employment Dynamics

What is it?

Business Employment Dynamics tracks gross job gains and losses at the establishment level. Government employees, private households and establishments with zero employment are not included in this information.

During the first quarter of 2010, there were 39,893 job gains from openings and expansions, and 40,899 job losses from closings and contractions. The net change was a 1,006 job loss for that quarter. First quarter of 2009 had similar but larger scale results, with many more losses and a net change of -11,590. The rates of gross job gains and losses provide a picture of the amount of "job churning" that occurs in the labor market.

Business Employment Dynamics: Job Gains & Losses
Nebraska Statewide, 2000 to 2010



Note: Seasonally Adjusted Data
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Business Employment Dynamics, Released 2010

How to use it

Business Employment Dynamics show the movements of aggregate employment numbers and can be used to analyze over-the-quarter employment change in a way that tells the story of how the employment numbers change. This data is used to analyze the underlying reasons for shifts in the demand-side of the labor market. Business cycle analysis for industries, areas and the economy as a whole can also be done using Business Employment Dynamics.

Where to find it

Business Employment Dynamics can be found at bls.gov. Choose Business Employment Dynamics from the Employment Subject Area.

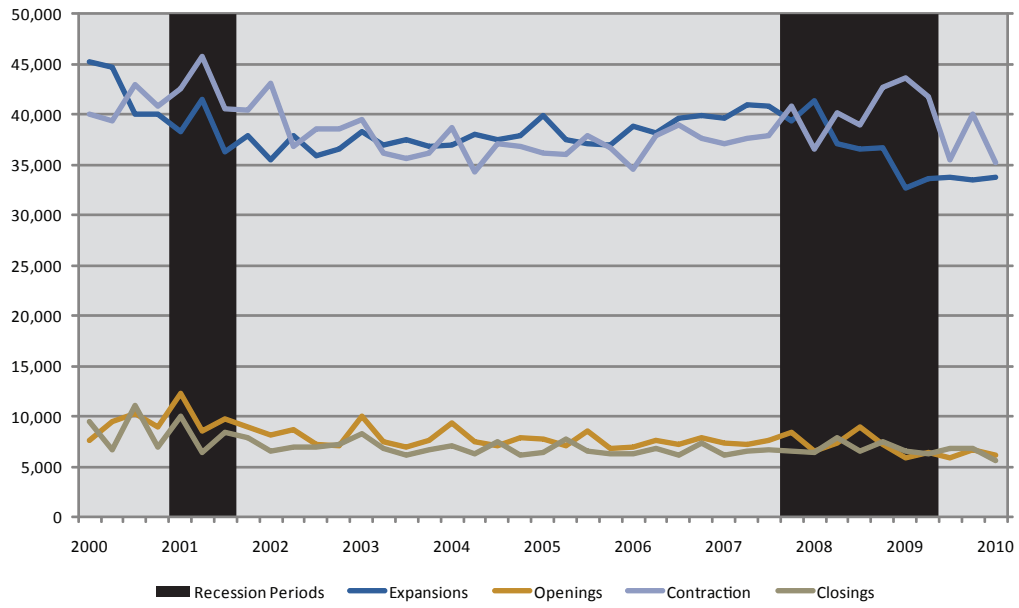
Employment Dynamics

What is it?

Nebraska experienced 39,893 job gains and 40,899 job losses during the first quarter of 2010. Gross job gains include both openings and expansions; gross job losses include closings and contractions. A majority of the gross job gains and losses can be attributed to expansions and contractions.

Expansions constituted 85 percent of gross job gains, while contractions were 87 percent of gross job losses. There were 33,698 establishments that expanded during the first quarter of 2010, and 6,195 establishment openings. The state also experienced 35,221 establishment contractions and 5,678 closings during that quarter. Establishment closures and contractions were significantly lower than were reported the corresponding quarter, last year.

Business Employment Dynamics, Expansions & Contractions
Nebraska Statewide, 2000 to 2010



Note: Seasonally Adjusted Data
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Business Employment Dynamics, Released 2010

How to use it

It is important to understand that openings are not necessarily new businesses that have opened, and that closings are not always establishments that have gone out of businesses. For example, businesses that are seasonal and close down for either the summer or the winter will be treated as closings at the end of the season or as openings at the beginning.

Where to find it

Business Employment Dynamics can be found at bls.gov. Choose Business Employment Dynamics from the Employment Subject Area.

Employment Trends

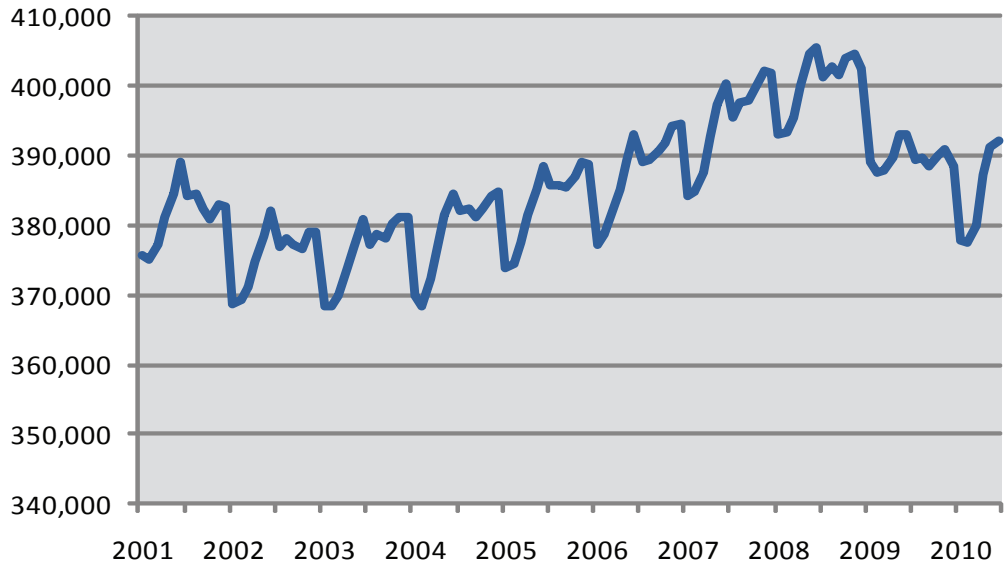
What is it?

Trends show that employment in the Omaha Consortium grew beginning in 2003 until it saw rapid losses in 2008 and 2009. Yearly peaks occur in June and December with sizable drops in January. This trend is also apparent in labor force data.

Within the time period of 2001 to 2010, January to January Omaha Consortium job gains occurred five times while job declines occurred four times. The largest over the year change from January to January was from 2009 to 2010, with a loss of 2.9%, or 11,095 jobs. The largest gain in this time frame was from 2007 to 2008 with a gain of 2.3%, or 8,651 jobs.

Total Employment Trends

Omaha Consortium, 2001 to 2nd Quarter 2010



Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, Released 2010

How to use it

Knowing historical seasonal fluctuation trends can be beneficial for both workers seeking work and businesses recruiting workers. Higher employment is common during the summer and harvesting months (although agricultural employment is not included in this data) as Construction and Retail Trade are at their peaks. A drop in employment is expected during the winter months and after the holidays, as fewer construction and retail workers are needed.

Where to find it

Industry data can be found at LMI Home. Under Employment and Wage Data > Industry Data > Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages(QCEW). QCEW data is updated quarterly.

Local Employment Dynamics: Quarterly Workforce Indicators

Omaha Consortium, 2009 Four Quarter Average

Industry	Employment	Net Job Flows	Job Creation	New Hires	Separations	Turnover	Avg Monthly Earnings	Avg New Hire Earnings
Agriculture, Foresty, Fishing and Hunting	741	6	68	102	139	8.6%	$3,197.75	$1,931.00
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	249	N/A	16	26	27	7.5%	$4,609.50	$3,179.50
Utilities	4,115	12	47	88	94	1.7%	$6,787.75	$4,692.25
Construction	22,391	-523	1,680	3,747	5,131	11.2%	$3,854.75	$3,300.25
Manufacturing	27,273	-358	620	1,671	2,341	4.9%	$3,848.50	$2,468.50
Wholesale Trade	16,891	-203	507	1,001	1,400	5.4%	$4,970.25	$3,398.50
Retail Trade	44,992	-178	1,732	6,657	7,705	9.4%	$2,115.50	$1,266.75
Transportation and Warehousing	20,324	-530	460	4,837	5,696	12.9%	$3,038.75	$1,793.50
Information	11,149	-211	320	755	1,023	6.2%	$4,569.25	$3,114.00
Finance and Insurance	30,946	-140	728	1,671	2,003	4.7%	$4,663.00	$3,345.75
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	5,405	-37	227	539	690	8.3%	$2,966.00	$1,997.50
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	26,992	-156	1,218	2,515	3,143	7.1%	$5,433.00	$3,712.75
Management of Companies and Enterprises	10,692	-170	228	750	1,014	5.7%	$6,929.00	$3,184.00
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	24,744	-272	1,611	6,606	7,785	13.1%	$2,699.75	$1,829.50
Educational Services	33,315	259	806	1,899	2,595	4.6%	$3,108.00	$1,674.00
Health Care and Social Assistance	53,104	133	1,439	5,027	5,547	7.3%	$3,738.75	$2,451.75
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	6,768	N/A	838	1,360	2,073	14.3%	$1,465.25	$833.25
Accommodation and Food Services	30,405	-112	1,694	7,581	8,388	15.3%	$1,227.75	$868.00
Other Services (except Public Administration)	10,003	-36	551	1,328	1,620	9.2%	$2,432.50	$1,522.75
Public Administration	9,685	27	381	488	747	3.8%	$3,305.00	$2,020.50
Omaha Consortium All Industry	390,191	-2,465	15,186	48,655	59,169	8.1%	$3,540.50	$2,073.25

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Local Employment Dynamics, Released 2010

Where to find it

Quarterly Workforce Indicators can be found at lehd.did.census.gov/led/. Choose QWI under the Tools section.

How to use it

With this data, we can measure the number of stable jobs, assess how businesses and workers react to economic conditions, and determine if industries are growing or declining. The turnover rate reflects movement within businesses as well as growth and decline. The turnover rate is used to calculate costs of training and replacing human resources, and can be influential in a prospective business developer's decision of where to locate.

Workforce Indicators

What is it?

Local Employment Dynamics Quarterly Workforce Indicators reveal the movement of workers in and out of the Omaha Consortium businesses. For the 2009 four quarter average, the consortium's overall employment was 390,190.

There were negative job flows for the area, showing that employment contracted between 2008 and 2009 for both the state, and the consortium. Larger numbers of separations contributed to this trend.

The Omaha Consortium had an overall turnover rate of 8.1%. The highest rate was in Accommodation and Food Services at 15.3%. Utilities had the lowest turnover rate, of 1.7%. This rate is derived by taking half of the hires and separations, then dividing by the total employment. This rate reflects movement within the industry, as well as in and out of the industry.

Occupational Employment

What is it?

The Occupational Employment Statistics survey is another method of gathering employment and wage information. Although the employment and wages are estimates, the survey generally has a 90 percent or higher business response rate.

There are 23 major occupation groups, and more than 750 detailed occupations. Occupational employment in the Omaha Consortium decreased between 2008 and 2009 by 6,450. Education, Training, and Library Occupations had the greatest amount of positive growth of the reported groups, with an increase of 1,370 jobs. Office and Administrative Support Occupations decreased in employment the most, over the year, by 2,880 jobs within the area.

Occupational Employment Statistics employment is tabulated once a year. However, the wages for each occupation are updated each quarter to give a more current reflection of wages paid to employees, statewide.

Employment by Occupation
Omaha Consortium, 2008 to 2009

Occ Code	Occupational Title	2008 Employment	2009 Employment	Employment Change
00-0000	Total all occupations	411,420	404,970	-6,450
11-0000	Management Occupations	15,600	15,720	120
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations Occupations	22,580	23,080	500
15-0000	Computer and Mathematical Occupations	14,670	14,080	-590
17-0000	Architecture and Engineering Occupations	5,330	N/A	N/A
19-0000	Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	2,980	3,600	620
21-0000	Community and Social Services Occupations	5,220	5,380	160
23-0000	Legal Occupations	2,660	N/A	N/A
25-0000	Education, Training, and Library Occupations	22,510	23,880	1,370
27-0000	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations	5,010	5,160	150
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	24,180	N/A	N/A
31-0000	Healthcare Support Occupations	9,590	9,760	170
33-0000	Protective Service Occupations	6,690	7,410	720
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving-Related Occupations	N/A	32,180	N/A
37-0000	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	12,240	12,270	30
39-0000	Personal Care and Service Occupations	8,320	8,410	90
41-0000	Sales and Related Occupations	47,110	45,720	-1,390
43-0000	Office and Administrative Support Occupations	80,330	77,450	-2,880
45-0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	400	290	-110
47-0000	Construction and Extraction Occupations	20,860	19,730	-1,130
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	14,020	14,050	30
51-0000	Production Occupations	22,710	20,920	-1,790
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	35,880	N/A	N/A

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Occupational Employment Statistics, Released 2010

How to use it

Employment by occupation provides a different measure of the Omaha Consortium's workforce than employment by industry. The industry is defined by the primary operation of the business or agency. Occupations are defined by the type of work a person does; occupational employment looks at each worker within the business and distinguishes their specific job title (i.e., it classifies a person based on the job description rather than the industry of the employer).

Where to find it

Occupational employment and wages can be found at LMI Home. Under Historic Data Analysis Employment and Wage Data > Occupational Data > and Occupation Wage Rates (OES). Occupational Employment Statistics data is updated quarterly.

Employment by Occupation
Omaha Consortium, Third Quarter 2010

Standard Occupational Code Title	Estimated Employment May 2009	Hourly Median Wages	Annual Median Wages
Retail Salespersons	11,930	$9.84	$20,463
Customer Service Representatives	11,870	$14.25	$29,625
Cashiers	9,320	$8.51	$17,713
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	7,730	$7.96	$16,544
Waiters and Waitresses	7,500	$7.90	$16,431
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	7,050	$12.23	$25,451
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	6,510	$9.88	$20,553
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	6,500	$15.57	$32,389
Sales Reps., Wholesale and Manu., Ex. Tech. and Sci. Products	5,880	$24.59	$51,145
Office Clerks, General	5,180	$12.03	$25,040
Teacher Assistants	4,560	N/A	$20,721
Secretaries, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	4,390	$13.93	$28,977
Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants	4,100	$12.18	$25,336
First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers	4,100	$22.77	$47,357
Accountants and Auditors	3,920	$27.98	$58,189
General and Operations Managers	3,840	$45.50	$94,627
Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	3,720	N/A	$42,788
Executive Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	3,710	$17.72	$36,857
First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Retail Sales Workers	3,290	$18.76	$39,009
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	3,110	$16.65	$34,638

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Occupational Employment Statistics, Released 2010

Where to find it
Occupational employment and wages can be found at LMI Home. Under Historic Data Analysis Employment and Wage Data > Occupational Data > and Occupation Wage Rates (OES). Occupational Employment Statistics data is updated quarterly.

How to use it
Occupational employment wage figures are a resource used to give an estimation of common wages paid for most occupations. This could be useful for employers to check what a competitive wage is for posting a new job. It can also be useful for students planning a career path through their education to gain an idea of what they may expect to make, depending upon their choice.

Occupational Employment

What is it?
Listed on the left are the top twenty specific occupations for the consortium, ranked by estimated employment. Along with that are the corresponding hourly and annual median wages for that occupation.

Of the top twenty occupations listed, Retail Salespersons employ the greatest number of workers in the consortium with 11,930. The second largest occupation by employment was Customer Service Representatives with just slightly fewer employment at 11,870. The sixteenth of the top twenty occupations listed reported the highest median wages for 2009; General and Operations Managers reported $94,627. The top occupation by wages, which did not make the top twenty occupations by employment, was Anesthesiologists making a median annual wage of $153,657.

Retail Salespersons were similarly representative of national patterns by ranking first in the consortium as the highest estimated employment figure for 2009.

Nebraska Initial Claims

What is it?

Initial Claims data tracks individuals who file for Unemployment Insurance benefits. Initial claims are often viewed as a leading indicator for the economy. Rarely are initial claims treated as an accurate data point, singularly, due to high volatility of the data caused by numerous outside variables. Rather, its trend is used to indicate the state of the labor market.

These applications are accepted both electronically and via telephone. Due to the different methods applications are received, demographic information is not always reported during an application for benefits. This is a reason that the figure for Unknown/Not Reported claims in the different demographic categories can vary drastically; specifically, in the table showing claims by race.

Nebraska Initial Claims
Omaha Consortium, 2010

Race	Number of Claims
White	22,655
Black	4,630
Asian	272
American Indian or Alaska Native	294
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	74
Unknown/Not Reported	14,314
Ethnicity	
Not Hispanic or Latino	35,696
Hispanic or Latino	1,811
Unknown/Not Provided	4,732
Sex	
Male	25,757
Female	16,481
Unknown/Not Provided	1

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Unemployment Insurance Program, Released 2011

How to use it

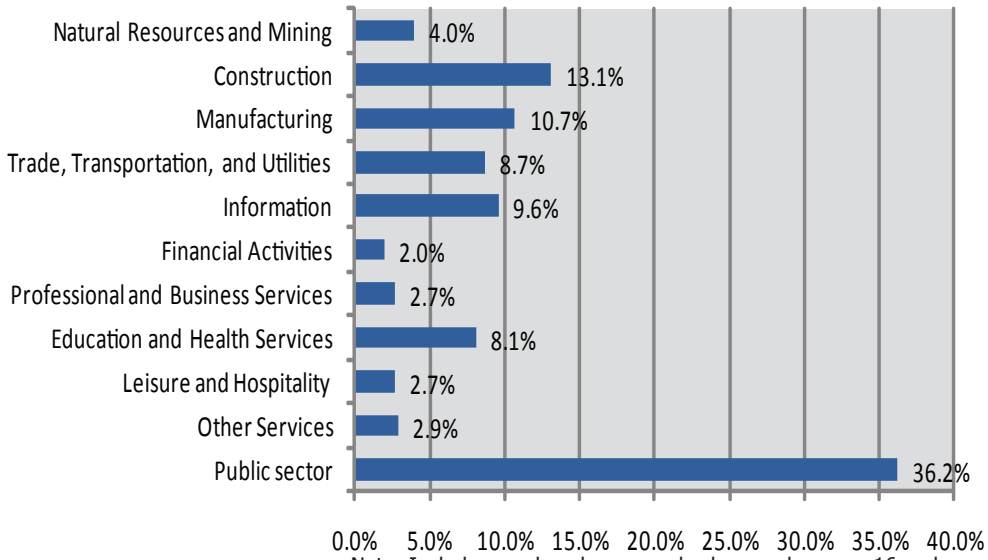
The table above shows annual counts of initial claims by different characteristics. These counts give a picture of the workers affected by decreased demand for labor throughout the state. This could be due to both, seasonality or decreased business for employers. These demographic claims numbers are available through this publication and per request of the Nebraska Department of Labor.

Where to find it

Basic initial claims data can be viewed at the US Department of Labor's website, (http://ows.doleta.gov/unemploy/claims.asp) under the Employment and Training Administration program statistics.

Unionization Rates

National Unionization Rates by Industry 2010



Note: Includes employed wage and salary workers age 16 and over.
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Union Members in 2010, Released 2011

What is it?

Unionization rates measure the level of participation of employees in unions throughout the labor force. National unionization rates differ dramatically between the private and public sector. The public sector, Government, has the highest industry unionization rate, with 36.2% of employees participating in a union. More public sector employees (7.6 million) belonged to a union than did private employees (7.1 million), despite there being almost five times more wage and salary workers in the private sector.

In the private sector, Financial activities has the lowest rate of unionization, with 2.0%, followed by Leisure and Hospitality and Professional and Business Services both having 2.7%.

Private sectors with sizable portions of their workforce participating in unions include: Construction (13.1%), Manufacturing (10.7%), and Information (9.6%). Nebraska's union membership rate rose from 9.2% in 2009 to 9.3% in 2010.

How to use it

Nationally, full-time workers participated in unions at nearly twice the rate of part-time workers. On average, members earned 27.9% more per week than non-members. The number of workers who were union members declined over 2010 by 4%; following a long term, downward trend. In 1983, the first year with comparable union data available, the national union membership rate was 20.1% with 17.7 million union workers. In 2010, union members accounted for 11.9% of employed and salary workers, with 14.7 million union members.

Where to find it

Union Membership data can be found at www.bls.gov, choose the Economic Releases tab and click on Union Members under Employment & Unemployment.

Nebraska Unionization Rates 2010

	2009	2010
Total Employed	823,000	813,000
Total Union Members	76,000	75,000
Percent Union Members	9.2%	9.3%
Total Representation by Unions	94,000	96,000
Percent Represented by Unions	11.4%	11.8%

Note: Includes employed wage and salary workers age 16 and over.
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Union Members in 2010, Released 2011

Industry Projections

What is it?

Industry employment projections are based on historical, statistical and subjective analysis of industry trends. Long-term industry projections are produced every two years and the results are then used as an input into occupational projections.

Several of the Region's industries are projected to experience significant growth by 2018. The industry expected to see the largest growth rate is Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (33.9%). Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing (-13.7%) is likely to decline.

Between 2008 and 2018, the Consortium's industry employment is expected to grow at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 1.38% for a total gain of 14.7%, or 63,900 projected jobs. Nebraska industry growth is projected at a rate of 10.4% with 106,152 total openings.

Long Term Industry Employment Projections

Omaha Consortium, 2008 to 2018

Industry	2008 Annual Employment	2018 Projected Employment	Change in Employment 2008-2018	Percent Change (%)	Compound Annual Growth Rate (%)
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing	3,709	3,202	-507	-13.7	-1.46
Mining	283	374	91	32.2	2.83
Utilities (including private + local)	4,357	4,866	509	11.7	1.11
Construction	24,587	30,691	6,104	24.8	2.24
Manufacturing	28,467	28,886	419	1.5	0.15
Wholesale Trade	17,978	18,590	612	3.4	0.34
Retail Trade	45,616	49,420	3,804	8.3	0.80
Transportation and Warehousing	25,649	30,320	4,671	18.2	1.69
Information	11,842	12,445	603	5.1	0.50
Finance and Insurance	34,649	38,928	4,279	12.3	1.17
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	5,425	5,874	449	8.3	0.80
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	26,670	35,718	9,048	33.9	2.96
Management of Companies and Enterprises	11,183	13,816	2,633	23.5	2.14
Administrative & Waste Management Services	27,338	30,536	3,198	11.7	1.11
Educational Services (including state and local gov)	39,332	43,933	4,601	11.7	1.11
Health Care and Social Assistance	52,124	65,983	13,859	26.6	2.39
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	6,927	7,960	1,033	14.9	1.40
Accommodation and Food Services	31,260	36,098	4,838	15.5	1.45
Other Services (except Government)	14,753	16,222	1,469	10.0	0.95
Government	21,331	23,518	2,187	10.3	0.98
Total Omaha Consortium	**433,480**	**497,380**	**63,900**	**14.7**	**1.38**

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, 2008-2018 Long Term Industry Projections, Released 2010

How to use it

The Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) is the year-over-year rate of growth in a given time period. However, this should only be used to estimate the employment for each given year, as this does not account for fluctuating growth. Nebraska's industry employment CAGR between 2008 and 2018 is 1.0%; using the 2008 total employment of 1,023,593 to estimate the growth after five years would result in an estimated increase of 52,214 and a 2013 employment of 1,075,806.

Where to find it

Long-term industry projections can be found at LMI Home. Under Historic Data Analysis > Employment and Wage Data > Industry Data > Industry Employment and Projections (Long Term).

Long Term Occupational Employment Projections
Omaha Consortium, 2008 to 2018

SOC Title	2008 Est. Employment	2018 Proj. Employment	Growth Openings	Replacement Openings	Total Openings	Numeric Change	Percent Change (%)
Management Occupations	21,754	24,448	2,755	4,791	7,546	2,694	12.4
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	27,468	33,366	5,937	5,697	11,634	5,898	21.5
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	15,950	19,923	4,047	2,786	6,833	3,973	24.9
Architecture and Engineering Occupations	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	16.9
Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	4,037	5,089	1,059	1,182	2,241	1,052	26.1
Community and Social Services Occupations	6,085	7,254	1,169	1,342	2,511	1,169	19.2
Legal Occupations	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	16.0
Education, Training, and Library Occupations	26,642	30,504	3,864	5,769	9,633	3,862	14.5
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations	7,694	8,836	1,169	1,957	3,126	1,142	14.8
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	25.8
Healthcare Support Occupations	11,283	14,492	3,210	1,271	4,481	3,209	28.4
Protective Service Occupations	7,318	8,275	957	2,236	3,193	957	13.1
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	32,943	38,331	5,388	11,943	17,331	5,388	16.4
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	14,915	15,971	1,059	2,462	3,521	1,056	7.1
Personal Care and Service Occupations	12,195	14,248	2,054	3,251	5,305	2,053	16.8
Sales and Related Occupations	51,586	56,018	4,847	14,648	19,495	4,432	8.6
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	84,859	93,976	10,483	18,405	28,888	9,117	10.7
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	2,585	2,248	8	686	694	-337	-13.0
Construction and Extraction Occupations	25,299	30,339	5,043	4,777	9,820	5,040	19.9
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	16,750	18,836	2,101	3,221	5,322	2,086	12.5
Production Occupations	22,608	23,754	1,535	4,766	6,301	1,146	5.1
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	13.2
Total, All Occupations Omaha Consortium	**465,921**	**533,179**	**70,170**	**107,084**	**177,254**	**67,258**	**14.4**

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, 2008-2018 Long Term Occupational Projections, Released 2010

Occupational Projections

What is it?
Applying industry staffing patterns from the most recent Occupational Employment Statistics survey to industry projections provides forecasts for occupational demand by industry for as many as 750 different job titles.

Most major group occupations in the Omaha Consortium are projected to see an increase in employment between 2008 and 2018. Healthcare Support Occupations are anticipated to see the largest employment percent change, at 28.4% in the Consortium; Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations are close behind as well with a 25.8% increase. Employment in Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations is expected to decline by 13.0%.

Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer are expected to be the detailed occupation to add the most jobs by 2018 in the Omaha Consortium, with a projected increase of 4,141 jobs.

How to use it
Job growth is a good indicator of the overall performance of the economy in an area. When jobs are being created in a region, it generally means the region is growing and is able to support additional use of resources.

Where to find it
Long-term occupation projections can be found at LMI Home. Under Current Data Analysis > Occupation Specific Data > Employment and Wage Data > Employment and Future Employment Outlook.

Employment Projections

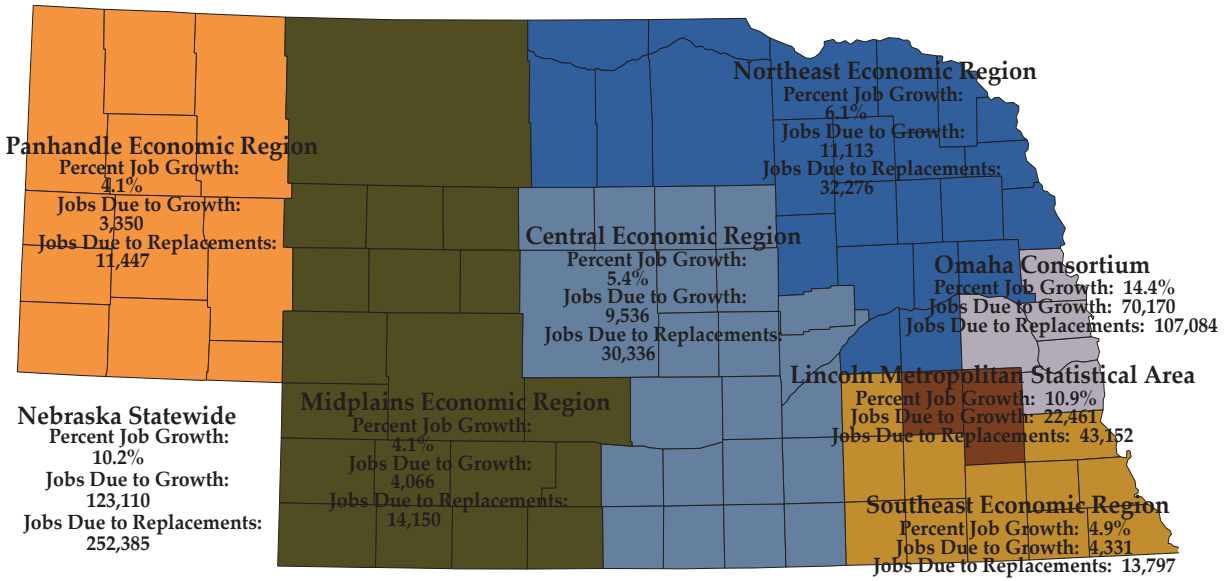
What is it?

Employment projections provide current and forecasted economic trends. According to the current long-term occupational projections each region in Nebraska is expected to see an increase in employment over the next several years.

About 375,000 total openings are expected between 2008 and 2018 across the state, increasing total occupational employment by 123,110 or 10.2%. National growth of 10.1% is also expected between 2008 and 2018.

The Omaha Consortium will see the largest growth (14.4%), with 70,170 projected openings from growth and 107,084 openings from replacements. In 2008, the Omaha Consortium constituted more than 40 percent of statewide employment.

Projected Employment Change by Economic Region 2008 to 2018



Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, 2008-2018 Long Term Occupational Projections, Released 2010

How to use it

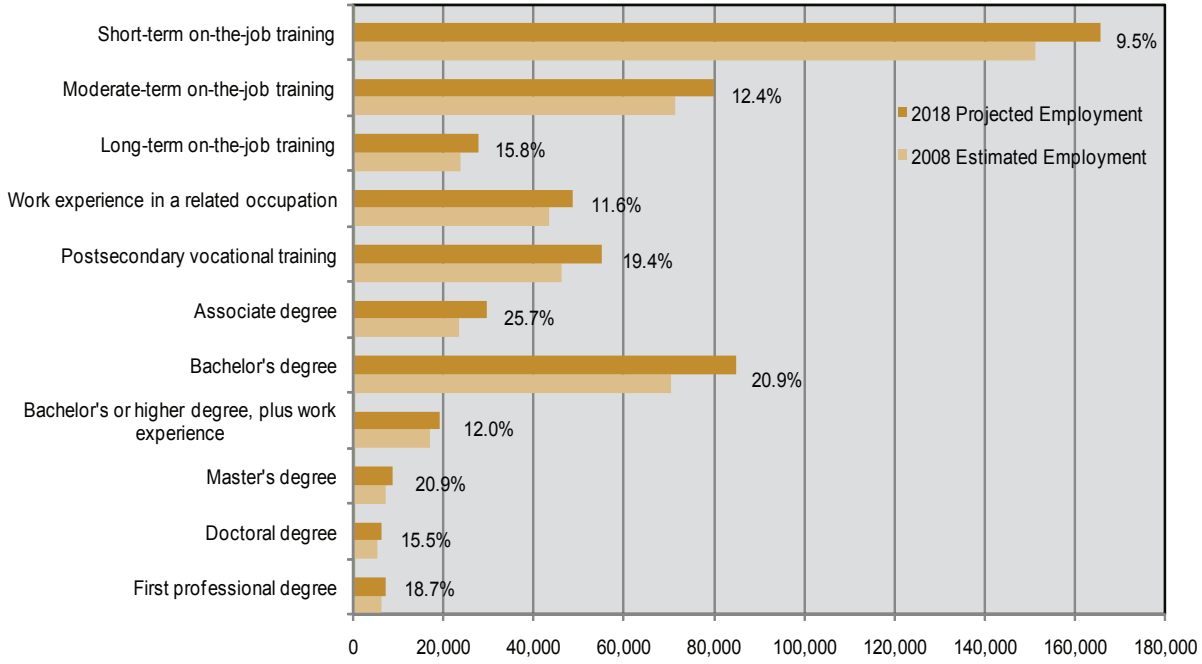
Identifying which regions of the state are expected to have the largest growth is beneficial to educators, businesses and communities. Employment forecasting can be used in strategic planning for the future to better prepare organizations and communities for upcoming changes. By knowing the areas that are expected to experience rapid growth, areas where there will be increasing demand for a talented workforce can be identified. However, regions can only reach the projected growth if the labor force is there to meet employment needs.

Where to find it

Long-term occupation projections can be found at LMI Home. Under Current Data Analysis > Occupation Specific Data > Employment and Wage Data > Employment and Future Employment Outlook.

Projected Employment Change by Educational Level

Omaha Consortium, 2008 to 2018



Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, 2008-2018 Long Term Occupational Projections, Released 2010

Employment Projections

What is it?

Occupational projections data can be examined by education and training. There are eleven educational and training categories that are determined by the level most often required for that occupation, sometimes an employer will require more or less.

The 2008 estimated employment levels show employment concentrations in the two lowest levels of training. The next highest level of employment is in occupations that require a Bachelor's degree.

There are more annual openings for jobs that require lower levels of education and training than for jobs that require higher degrees. However, when the growth rate is considered, jobs requiring higher degrees are expected to grow more rapidly. This shows that employers are expected to require a higher skilled workforce in the future.

How to use it

Information on occupational projections by education is valuable to training officials, education planners, vocational and employment counselors, students and job seekers. This information can be utilized to determine what levels of training will be required in the future and how to plan accordingly to meet these needs. The chart above shows 2008 estimates as well as 2018 projections of jobs per education level. At the end of each set of bars is the estimated percent change over the ten year period.

Where to find it

Projected Employment Change by Education Level can be found at LMI Home. Under Labor Market Data > Data Download Center > Occupational Employment Projections > Long Term files > the tab labeled "Education".

Demand Occupations

What is it?

The occupations listed in the table represent the top 20 high wage, skill and demand occupations. These occupations typically offer above average wages, require a higher than average level of education or skill and have a high level of demand. Demand is determined by the number of annual openings, the net change in employment and the growth rate.

Over half of the occupations on the list require a Bachelor's degree at the region level. Five of the top 20 High Wage, High Skill and High Demand occupations for the Consortium are listed under the Business and Financial major occupational group as well as another four in the Computer and Mathematical occupational group. This shows a need for highly skilled labor in these occupations in the region.

High Wage, High Skill and High Demand Occupations
Omaha Consortium, 2010

Rank	SOC Title	Avg Annual Opening	Avg Hourly Wage	Education & Training
1	Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer	686	$22.88	Postsecondary vocational training
2	Registered Nurses	NA	$28.28	Associate degree
3	Accountants and Auditors	192	$31.00	Bachelor's degree
4	Computer Software Engineers, Applications	NA	$39.36	Bachelor's degree
5	Network Systems and Data Communications Analysts	112	$33.85	Bachelor's degree
6	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	171	NA	Bachelor's degree
7	First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Office and Administrative	170	$24.23	Work experience in a related occupation
8	Computer Software Engineers, Systems Software	98	$38.91	Bachelor's degree
9	Employment, Recruitment, and Placement Specialists	126	$31.51	Bachelor's degree
10	Construction Managers	91	$34.37	Bachelor's degree
11	Electricians	126	$23.29	Postsecondary vocational training
12	Market Research Analysts	NA	$31.49	Bachelor's degree
13	Sales Representatives, Services, All Other	125	$26.50	Work experience in a related occupation
14	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products	185	$29.55	Work experience in a related occupation
15	Computer Systems Analysts	105	$35.16	Bachelor's degree
16	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	NA	$18.87	Postsecondary vocational training
17	First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Retail Sales Workers	146	$21.63	Work experience in a related occupation
18	Business Operations Specialists, All Other	118	$30.61	Bachelor's degree
19	Compliance Officers, Except Agriculture, Construction, Health and Safety, and Transportation	60	$24.85	Bachelor's degree
20	Management Analysts	85	$34.06	Bachelor's or higher degree, plus work experience

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, 2008-2018 Long Term Occupational Projections, Released 2010
Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Occupational Employment Statistics 3rd Quarter 2010, Released 2010

How to use it

Identifying which occupations offer high wages, requires skilled workers and are expected to be in demand is useful for students, counselors and people changing careers. This is especially important for people who have been laid off and are starting over in new careers. Educational institutions may use the information to ensure that they are providing the education people need to supply skilled workers for the state's businesses.

Where to find it

Contact the Office of Labor Market Information for additional information about High Wage, High Skill and High Demand Occupations.

Industries and Occupations

What is it?

The chart shows the occupational projections for the largest occupation within the major industry groups based on 2008 estimated employment. Looking at projections from this perspective helps give more detail to the projections as occupations can vary widely from industry to industry.

Customer Service Representatives are the top occupation for both the Information and Financial Activities industries. Individuals employed in this occupation in either industry would perform the basic job duties of interacting with customers, answering questions about products and services and handling customer complaints. However, someone employed in the Information industry would be dealing with a different type of clientele than someone employed in the Professional and Business Services industry.

Occupations by Industry
Nebraska Statewide, 2010

Industry	Largest Occupation	2008 Estimated Employment	2018 Projected Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change (%)
Natural Resources and Mining	Farmworkers and Laborers, Crop, Nursery, and Greenhouse	60,517	53,390	-7,127	-11.8%
Contruction	Carpenters	49,107	58,968	9,861	20.1%
Manufacturing	Meat, Poultry, and Fish Cutters and Trimmers	101,401	103,745	2,344	2.3%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	Retail Salespersons	212,465	229,570	17,105	8.1%
Information	Customer Service Representatives	18,768	18,896	128	0.7%
Financial Activities	Customer Service Representatives	69,253	77,502	8,249	11.9%
Professional and Business Services	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	105,555	126,121	20,566	19.5%
Education and Health Services	Registered Nurses	217,495	255,212	37,717	17.3%
Leisure and Hospitalitly	Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	82,609	91,603	8,994	10.9%
Other Services	Hairdressers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists	36,064	39,048	2,984	8.3%
Government	Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	70,359	75,690	5,331	8.0%

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, 2008-2018 Long Term Occupational Projections, Released 2010

How to use it

Knowing what occupations emerge across industries is useful for many groups of people. Examining the data in this way gives students more of an idea of what types of industries employ people in their chosen field as well as the occupational outlook for these occupations. It is also useful to people switching careers and for assisting dislocated workers. They can be helpful in identifying where skills could be transferred as well as the employment projection for these occupations within different industries.

Where to find it

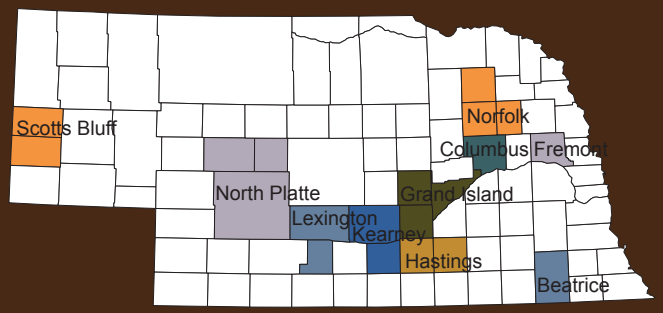
Occupations by Industry can be found at LMI Home. Under Publications > Get More > Nebraska Occupational and Industry Projections Publication.

Area Definitions

Labor Market Regional Reviews are available for ten identified Micropolitan Statistical Areas, the Lincoln Metropolitan Statistical Area, and the Omaha Consortium. The publications are available in PDF format on the Nebraska Department of Labor Website at neworks.nebraska.gov./analyzer Printed copies can be ordered by calling 1-800-876-1377.

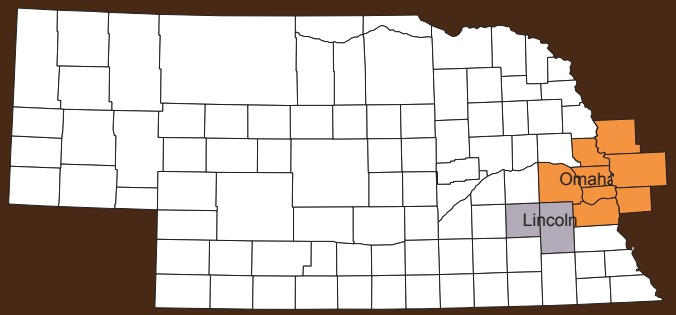
As much as possible, the most local data available is provided for each data element. In some cases data for a larger area must be presented to ensure confidentiality of individuals and businesses. Definitions for geographic areas used in this publication are shown below.

The federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) defines metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas to collect, tabulate, and publish federal data. Metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas are defined by a core area with a specific population, along with adjacent communities with a high level of social or economic integration with the core area. Both metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas may be a single county or may include multiple counties.



Micropolitan Statistical Areas

Micropolitan Statistical Areas are defined as a core population of between 10,000 and 50,000 residents, as well as areas with a high degree of social and economic integration. In Nebraska, there are ten micropolitan statistical areas which can be seen on the map to the left.



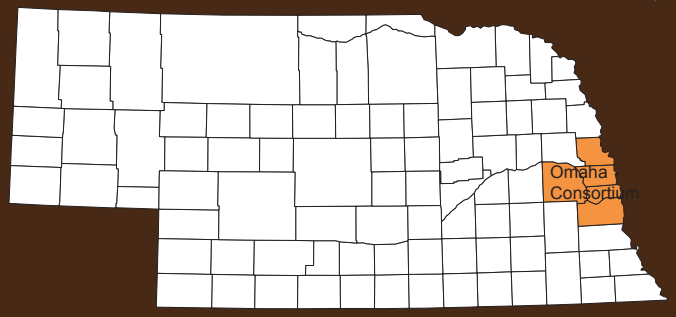
Metropolitan Statistical Areas

A Metropolitan Statistical Area is defined as an urban area with at least 50,000 residents. Adjacent counties with a high degree of social and economic ties to the core area are included in the metropolitan statistical area. Nebraska has two metropolitan statistical areas: Omaha and Lincoln. The Sioux City metropolitan statistical area includes counties in Nebraska; however, because the population core is in Iowa, it is considered an Iowa metropolitan statistical area.

Area Definitions

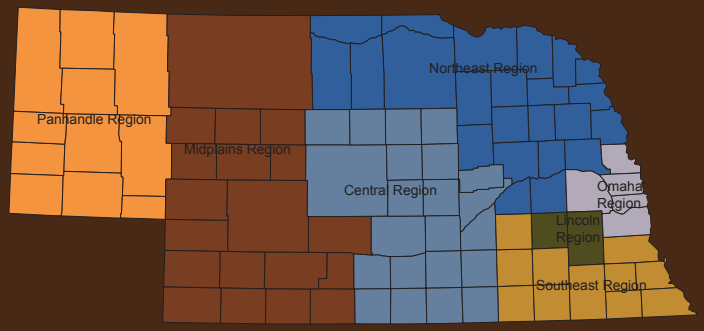
Omaha Consortium

The Omaha Metropolitan Statistical Area includes eight counties: five in Nebraska and three in Iowa. The Omaha Consortium includes only those counties in the Omaha Metropolitan Statistical Area that are located in Nebraska. This need for the Omaha Consortium is due to the inability to compile some data for areas that cross state lines.



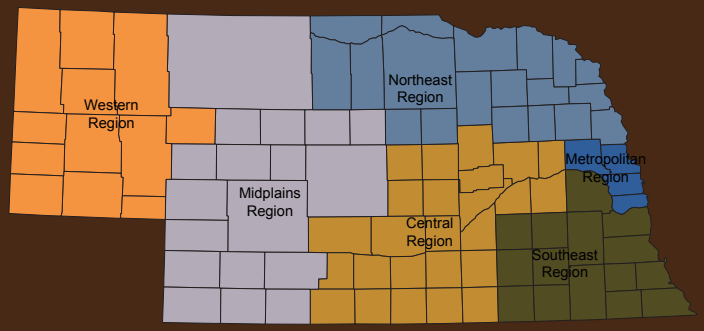
Economic Regions

Nebraska has seven Economic Regions: Panhandle, Midplains, Central, Northeast, Southeast, Lincoln and Omaha. The Lincoln Region is comprised of Lancaster and Seward counties, and the Omaha region is comprised of Cass, Douglas, Sarpy, Saunders and Washington counties. The other five regions are comprised of the remaining 86 counties in the state.



Community College Regions

There are six Community College service regions in Nebraska. Service regions follow county boundaries with two exceptions. Northeast Community College serves the northern edge of Boone County and Western Nebraska Community College serves the western edge of Cherry County.



Contact Information

For questions about any topics related to Nebraska's labor market, or to request a printed copy of a report mentioned in this publication, please contact the Office of Labor Market Information at any of the numbers listed below. You may also contact the Office of Labor Market Information at ndol.lmi_ne@nebraska.gov or visit us on the Web at neworks.nebraska.gov/analyzer.

Office of Labor Market Information: The home page can be found at neworks.nebraska.gov/analyzer, this page is referred to as LMI Home.
(402) 471-2600 or 1-800-876-1377

Affirmative Action Data: Data is available to assist employers in evaluating the percentage of women and minorities in the workforce and in establishing goals in order to improve participation rates among these groups.
(402) 471-2600 or 1-800-876-1377

Census Information: Assistance in obtaining decennial Census, American Community Survey, population estimates, and other U.S. Census Bureau information is available.
(402) 471-2600 or 1-800-876-1377

Cost of Living and Inflation: Consumer Price Indexes (CPI) program produces monthly data on changes in the prices paid by urban consumers for a representative basket of goods and services.
(402) 471-2600 or 1-800-876-1377

Filing for Unemployment: Apply for unemployment insurance benefits at dol.nebraska.gov; under for workers, click on Filing for Unemployment Insurance.
(402) 458-2800

Labor Laws: Minimum wage, employee wage payment & collection, child labor, lunch periods, private employment agencies, contractor registration, non-English speaking employees, medical examinations, wage garnishments and other employment related laws are available at dol.nebraska.gov; click on Safety & Labor Standards.
(402) 471-2239

Licensed and Certified Occupations: Links to information and licensing authorities are available at neworks.nebraska.gov/analyzer; click on Publications.
(402) 471-9629 or 1-800-876-1377

Nebraska Workforce Trends: To view the monthly e-newsletter's current and previous issues visit neworks.nebraska.gov/analyzer and click on Nebraska Workforce Trends.
(402) 471-2600 or 1-800-876-1377

O*NET: Assistance with the national database of occupational information products including O*NET Online, onlineonetcenter.org; O*NET Code Connector, onetcodeconnector.org; and O*NET Resource Center; onetcenter.org, is available.
(402) 471-2600 or 1-800-876-1377

UI Connect: To file and pay unemployment insurance taxes, employers can visit dol.nebraska.gov; under for employers, click on File Unemployment Taxes.
(402) 471-9898

Work Opportunity Tax Credits and Welfare to Work Tax Credits: Information for employers to hire employees from 10 "targeted groups" who have historically had difficulty finding employment can be obtained from dol.nebraska.gov; click on Get Tax Credits under For Employers in the center of the page.
(402) 471-2776 or (402) 471-9734

Worker Training Grants: Information for employers training incumbent workers is available at dol.nebraska.gov; click on For Employers and select Train Your Employees.
(402) 471-9977