

**Legislature's Planning Committee
2010 Report
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The Legislature's Planning Committee would like to extend a special thank you to the College of Public Affairs at the University of Nebraska – Omaha, specifically Dean B.J. Reed, Jerry Deichert, John Bartle; and Skiarn Issarachaiyos. Their hard work in collecting and analyzing data for our Committee is much appreciated.

Legislature's Planning Committee
2010 Report

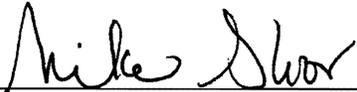
Approved by:

Date



Senator John N. Harms, Chair

11/12/10



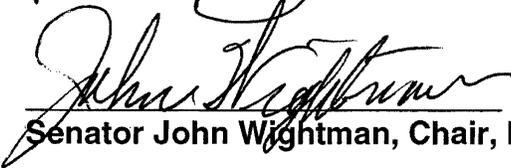
Senator Mike Gloor, Vice-Chair

11-12-10



Senator Mike Flood, Speaker of the Legislature

12/2/10



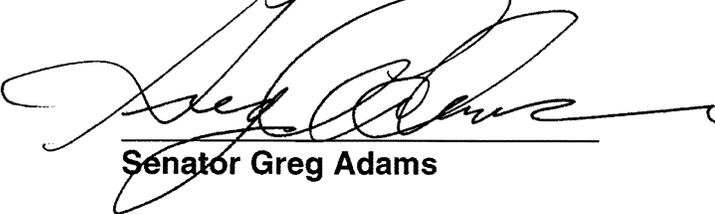
Senator John Wightman, Chair, Executive Board

11/12/10



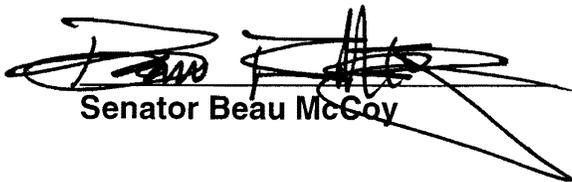
Senator Laron Heidemann, Chair, Appropriations Committee

11-12-10



Senator Greg Adams

11/12/10



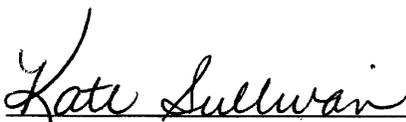
Senator Beau McCoy

11/12/2010



Senator Heath Mello

11-12-2010



Senator Kate Sullivan

11-12-2010

Legislature's Planning Committee 2010 Report Introduction

The Legislature's Planning Committee was created in 2009, pursuant to LB 653, introduced by Senator John Harms, of Scottsbluff. The committee was formed in June 2009, consisting of:

Senator John Harms, Chair
Senator Mike Gloor, Vice-Chair
Senator Mike Flood, Speaker of the Legislature
Senator John Wightman, Chair, Executive Board
Senator Lavon Heidemann, Chair, Appropriations Committee
Senator Greg Adams
Senator Beau McCoy
Senator Heath Mello
Senator Kate Sullivan

It was decided that the committee, in order to achieve their goals, would be assisted by the Legislative Research Office and the College of Public Affairs at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. The Committee also formed three sub-committees: 1) Mission Statement and Goals; 2) Research Data Base; and 3) Special Funding. The Mission Statement was adopted and it was decided that there would be nine categories for data collection: Agriculture, Economy, Education, Health & Human Services, Natural Resources, Public Safety, State & Local Government, Telecommunications, and Transportation. The Goals for each category were adopted and it was decided that the Economy section would be completed first. The Research Data Base sub-committee chose benchmarks for the Economy category and Jerry Deichert and John Bartle, with the assistance of grad student Skiarn Issarachaiyos, began collecting data for each benchmark.

The Mission Statement and Goals committee, having completed their task, then became a second research benchmarking committee. The remaining eight categories were divided up between the two sub-committees and benchmarks were picked for each category. Jerry, John, and Skairn then collected data for each category. They also prepared summaries of data and made note of policy considerations for each category. This report consists of the data, summaries, and policy considerations for each of the nine categories.

During this time, the Legislative Research Office prepared for the committee binders, for each of the nine categories, which contain a history of legislation passed in Nebraska for each category during the last thirty years, as well as what is currently being done in other states – compiled from organizations such as the National

Conference of State Legislatures. These binders are available to be checked out in the Legislative Research Office and will be updated each year.

The Planning Committee will also be in charge of updating the data and policy considerations each year for all benchmarks in each category. We are hopeful that this will be of great assistance to Legislators and staff as they craft and debate legislation each Session.

This Report and the Executive Summary are available on the Legislature's Website at <http://news.legislature.ne.gov/lpc/>

State Planning Committee Mission Statement

The planning committee of the Legislature is charged with establishing and maintaining a future focus on the priorities of the State. Its responsibility is to assure continuity of policy to achieve long term goals. The committee will do so by collecting and analyzing data, identifying priorities, setting long term goals and establishing benchmarks.

State Planning Committee

Goals

Economy

Goal: Lead the nation in the preservation and enhancement of our economy.

Agriculture

Goal: Insure the growth and long-term vitality of agriculture in Nebraska.

Education

Goal: To ensure a well-educated citizenry qualified for successful employment, lifelong learning and effective participation in a democratic society.

Health and Human Services

Goal: Design individual health and human service programs that allow Nebraskans to thrive.

Natural Resources

Goal: Preserve and manage the natural resources in our state for future generations.

Public Safety

Goal: Foster an environment of safety and security throughout Nebraska.

State and local Government

Goal: Promote efficient and effective governmental operations, develop shared priorities and focus on the future of Nebraskans through a disciplined planning process.

Transportation and Telecommunications

Goal: Ensure Nebraska's effective connectivity via transportation and telecommunications locally, statewide, nationally and internationally.

Nebraska's Economy

Jerry Deichert
Center for Public Affairs Research, UNO
July 23, 2010

This benchmark examines Nebraska's economy by reviewing four broad areas: Income, poverty, and comparative costs; Employment; Business climate and business start-ups; and Workforce quality, technology, and innovation. When available, data are presented for the period 1980 to 2008. At other times, the period is 2000 to 2008. The most currently available data at the time the data files were put together are used. For most indicators this is 2008.

Income, Poverty and Comparative Costs

Generally, measures of Nebraska's income are slightly below the national average. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that Nebraska's per capita personal income for 2008 was \$39,150, which was 97 percent of the national average. Although there have been year-to-year fluctuations, since 1989, Nebraska's per capita income has been growing faster than the nation's. Between 2007 and 2008, Nebraska's growth was 4.1 percent compared to 2.9 percent for the U.S. Regionally, Nebraska's rural counties recorded lower incomes but higher growth between 2006 and 2007 than the metropolitan counties. Rural counties received a higher portion of their income from farming and transfer receipts (such as Social Security).

As measured by the U.S. Census Bureau, median household income in 2008 also fell below the national figure, \$49,693 compared to \$52,029, and this gap has remained relatively stable since 2000. Within the state, Nebraska's rural counties again reported median household incomes below those in the metropolitan counties.

The U.S. Census Bureau also measured the poverty rate for persons in 2008. Using this measure, Nebraska fared better than the nation with a poverty rate of 10.6 percent compared to 13.2 percent for the nation. With the exception of eastern Douglas County, Nebraska's urban areas experienced much lower poverty rates than the rural areas.

Comparative costs were lower for Nebraska. In 2008, the average wage and salary disbursements per job were \$37,696 in Nebraska and \$45,716 for the U.S. Lower wages and salaries may mean lower costs of business, but they also may explain relatively lower incomes for Nebraskans.

The relative cost of housing is another indicator in this section. In 2008, the median housing value was 2.55 times the value of the median household income for Nebraska compared to a ratio of 3.80 for the nation. Similar to other indicators, rural counties in Nebraska have lower costs than its urban counties.

Employment

With the exception of four years, employment in Nebraska has increased every year since 1980. Between 2007 and 2008 employment in Nebraska grew 1.6 percent compared to 1.0 percent nationally. The 2007-08 period marked the first time since 1996 that Nebraska's employment growth was larger than the nation's.

Historically, Nebraska has had one of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation. It was less than half the national rate in 2009—4.6 percent compared to 9.3 percent. Even accounting for underemployment

and workers who left the labor force, Nebraska's adjusted unemployment rate rose to 9.0 percent. The comparable national rate was 16.2 percent.

Business Climate and Business Start-ups

The term business climate means different things to different people, and the results of business climate studies may vary widely. It is important to remember measures of business climate are subjective and reflect the bias of the organization preparing the measure. The two indicators used in this analysis suggest that Nebraska's business climate is good. "Forbes Magazine Best States for Business: 2009" ranked Nebraska 9th nationally, and "CNBC's America's Top States for Business: 2009 Overall Rankings" ranked Nebraska 11th overall.

On the other hand, Nebraska ranked relatively low in business start-ups. The percentage change in new establishments between 2005 and 2006 was 10.4 percent for Nebraska and 12.4 percent for the U.S. Although this difference may appear small, the 10.4 percent growth in new establishments for Nebraska ranked 43th in the nation. Since Nebraska ranked relatively high for business climate, is there some other explanation for the lack of entrepreneurship? A question that can be raised is, "Are Nebraskans unwilling to assume risk, or do they lack ideas?"

Workforce Quality, Technology, and Innovation

One answer to the above question may be found by looking at Nebraska's workforce quality and technology and innovation. One measure of workforce quality is the percentage of the workforce in science and engineering occupations. In 2006, 3.44 percent of the state's workforce was in these occupations, which was slightly below the national rate of 3.72 percent.

Another aspect of workforce quality is the amount of education for Nebraskans 25 years or over. Compared to the nation, in 2008, Nebraskans reported a higher level of high school completion (NE—90.1 percent, US—85.0 percent); about the same percentage of bachelor's degrees (NE—27.1 percent, US—27.7 percent); and a lower level of advanced degrees (NE—8.6 percent, US—10.2 percent).

A final measure of workforce quality is worker productivity as measured by gross state product per worker in 2008. Nebraska's productivity averaged \$72,135 per worker and ranked 35th nationally. The national average was considerably higher at \$85,306 per worker.

Succeeding in the new economy, or any economy, takes innovation. The top states for business prize innovation, nurture new ideas, and have the infrastructure to support them. Two indicators of innovation show that Nebraska falls near the middle of the pack nationally. CNBC's America's Top States for Business: 2009 Technology and Innovation ranks Nebraska 32nd. The 2007 State New Economy Index prepared by the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation ranks Nebraska 28th.

Observations

The above analysis has shown that Nebraska lags the nation in per capita and average income, average wages and salaries, and in employment growth. Although the business climate is good, entrepreneurship and technology and innovation rank below most states. In their report, the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation said "States that focus their policy efforts in these areas (innovation and technology) will be well positioned to experience strong growth, particularly in per capita incomes. And that is the true objective. Developing a vibrant New Economy is not an end in itself; it is the means to advance larger, progressive goals: higher incomes, new economic opportunities,

more individual choice and freedom, greater dignity and autonomy for working Americans, and stronger communities.”

Policy Considerations

Although economic and community development is a long-term and incremental process, state government actions can have considerable impact on its size and direction. Some of these impacts may be direct results of state policies while others may be indirect. State community and economic development strategies can be categorized in a number of ways. Following is a list “Specific Economic Development Strategies” developed by the University of Kentucky:

- Entrepreneurship, Business Start-Ups, Microenterprise
- Business Retention and Expansion
- Business Recruitment
- Financial Assistance to Businesses
- Workforce Development
- Telecommunications and E-commerce
- Conservation-Based and Sustainable Development
- Value-Added Processing and Marketing
- Tourism and Main Street Programs

There are many actions that can address these strategies. Some of these are programs or incentives that directly address a strategy, but there are other policy tools available to the state. The state also can impact economic development through its regulatory policies, fiscal and other assistance to local governments, and general tax policies.

The state of Nebraska has numerous current programs and services that address the economic development strategies. Many of them are administered by the Department of Economic Development, along with other agencies. Below are some of these programs and services. For more information on these and other programs, check the DED’s web site.

- Targeted Industries
- The Nebraska Advantage package of incentives
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program
- The Customized Job Training Program
- Nebraska Microenterprise Partnership Fund
- Local Option Municipal Economic Development Act
- Rural Enterprise Assistance Project
- Nebraska Enterprise Opportunity Network
- Invest Nebraska Corporation
- Tax increment financing
- Nebraska Investment Finance Authority
- Nebraska Economic Development Corporation

In deciding what strategies or policies that should be developed, policy makers face a number of issues that involve the location of economic development activity. Among the major questions are the following:

- Should development policy focus on people or places?
- Should policies focus on areas most in need or on areas with the greatest chance of success?
- Should state development efforts that emphasize equity or economic efficiency?

People or Places? Advocates of people oriented policies suggest that policies should focus on people rather than the place in which they live. This may result in people moving from some areas of the state and may have negative impacts on rural areas. Advocates of place oriented strategies argue that it is more effective to use existing infrastructure investments, and policies should help people stay where they currently live.

Areas of Need or Growth Areas? Supporters of assisting areas in need suggest that it only makes sense to help those places most in need because economic development programs are designed to improve a local economy. On the other hand, supporters of a growth center strategy argue that it is better to focus efforts on those areas that have been growing. This would help the most people, and those persons living outside the growth center could commute or move to the growing community.

Equity or Economic Efficiency? Arguments for equity center on the idea that differences in incomes and employment opportunities among areas of the state are unacceptable. Policies should be directed to raise incomes of depressed areas and preserve small towns. Arguments for efficiency are based on the fact that the market has failed, and as result some areas of the state have underperformed economically. To improve conditions, the state needs to correct the market imperfections by doing such things as providing technical assistance, leadership training, and improved communication.

Nebraska Legislative Planning Database – Economy

Workforce Quality

A quality workforce is one that can adapt and thrive in a rapidly changing economy. Nebraska needs skilled workers to enhance its economic vitality and to compete in the global marketplace. Using the workforce quality measures in this section Nebraska generally ranks in the middle third of the states.

How is Nebraska Doing?

Individuals in Science and Engineering Occupations as Share of Workforce: 2006

Source: Science and Engineering Indicators, published by the National Science Board

State	Percent	Rank
United States	3.72	--
Colorado	5.27	6
Minnesota	4.46	9
Kansas	3.47	20
Nebraska	3.44	21
Missouri	3.34	25
Wyoming	2.77	36
Iowa	2.72	37
North Dakota	2.70	39
South Dakota	2.43	42

In 2006, Nebraska's share of the workforce in science and engineering occupations was 3.44 percent. This was slightly below the national average of 3.72 percent. Colorado lead the region with a percentage of 5.27 and ranked 6th nationally. Minnesota and Kansas also ranked higher than Nebraska, while Missouri, Wyoming, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota ranked below Nebraska. Washington, DC had the largest share of its workforce in science and engineering occupations (21.59 percent), and Arkansas had the smallest (1.92 percent).

Worker Productivity (Gross State Product per Worker): 2008

Source: The Center for the Study of Innovation and Productivity (CSIP), Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco

State	Output per Worker	Rank
United States	\$85,306	--
Colorado	\$87,852	13
Minnesota	\$81,011	21
South Dakota	\$76,328	29
Iowa	\$74,089	32
Nebraska	\$72,135	35
Kansas	\$71,770	37
Missouri	\$71,363	40
North Dakota	\$69,253	44

Most of Nebraska’s peer states had productivity levels below the nation’s output per worker of \$85,306. Nebraska ranked 35th nationally, with an output per worker of \$72,135. Colorado was the highest state in the area with output per worker of \$87,852 and a ranking of 13th. Other neighboring states ranking ahead of Nebraska were Minnesota, South Dakota, and Iowa. Kansas, Missouri, and North Dakota had lower output per worker than Nebraska. With an output per worker of \$116,999, Delaware ranked 1st nationally, while Montana ranked last with an output per worker of \$62,275.

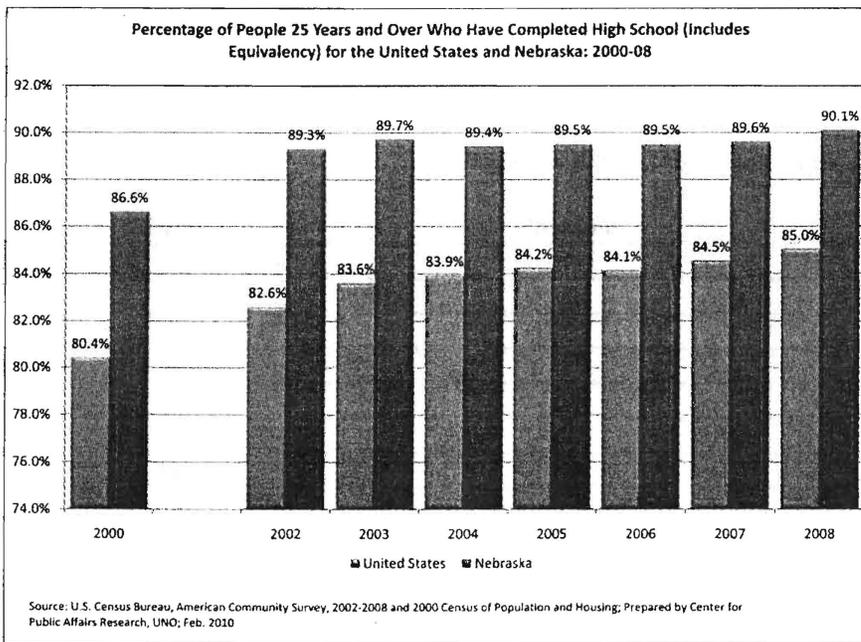
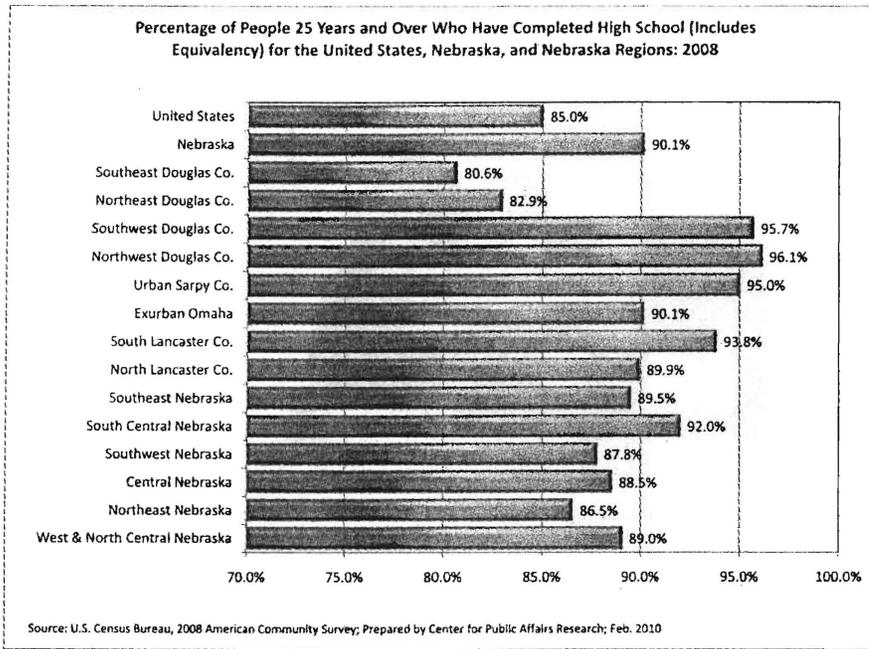
Percent of People 25 Years and Over Who Have Completed High School (Includes Equivalency): 2008

Source: US Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey

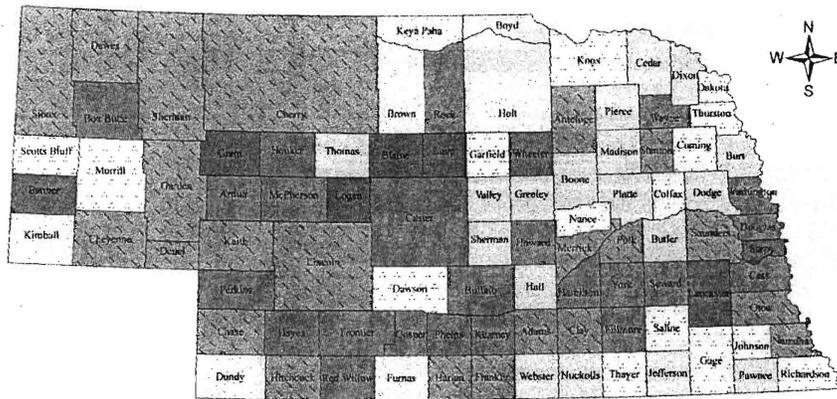
State	Percent	Rank
United States	85.0	--
Wyoming	91.7	1
Minnesota	91.6	2
Iowa	90.3	8
South Dakota	90.3	8
Nebraska	90.1	11
North Dakota	89.6	13
Kansas	89.5	16
Colorado	88.9	17
Missouri	86.5	18

Nebraska and all of its peers exceeded the national high school graduation rate of 85.0 percent. Wyoming was 1st in the nation with a rate of 91.7 percent. It was followed by Minnesota (91.6 percent) and Iowa and South Dakota (tied at 90.3 percent). Nebraska ranked 11th nationally, as 90.1 percent of its population 25 years or over completed high school. The lowest high school graduation rate nationally was in Texas (79.6 percent).

For 2008, regionally the lowest percentages of people 25 years or over who completed high school were in Southeast and Northeast Douglas County (see map). In contrast, the highest percentages were in Southwest and Northwest Douglas County. Generally, regions in rural Nebraska recorded high school graduation rates that were higher than the nation but lower than the state average.



**Percent of People 25 Years and Over Who Have Completed High School
(Includes Equivalency), 2000**



**2000 Percent Completed High School
Nebraska = 86.6%**

Less than 82.0% (15)
 82.0 - 84.9% (25)
 85.0 - 86.9% (22)
 87.0 - 89.9% (23)
 90.0% or higher (8)

Source: Census 2000, Summary File 3 Data, U.S. Census Bureau
Prepared by: Center for Public Affairs Research, University of Nebraska Omaha, April 2010

**Percentage of People 25 Years and Over Whose Highest Level of Education is an Associate Degree:
2008**

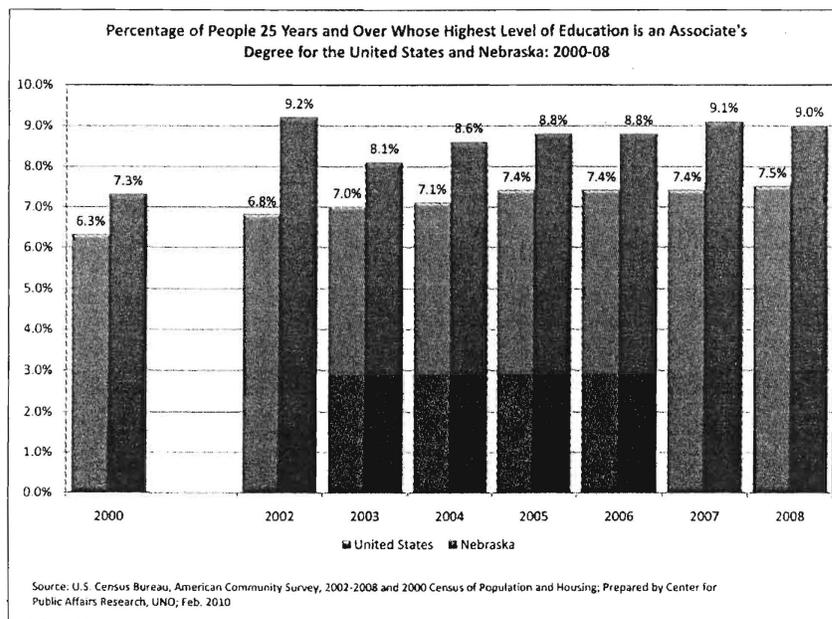
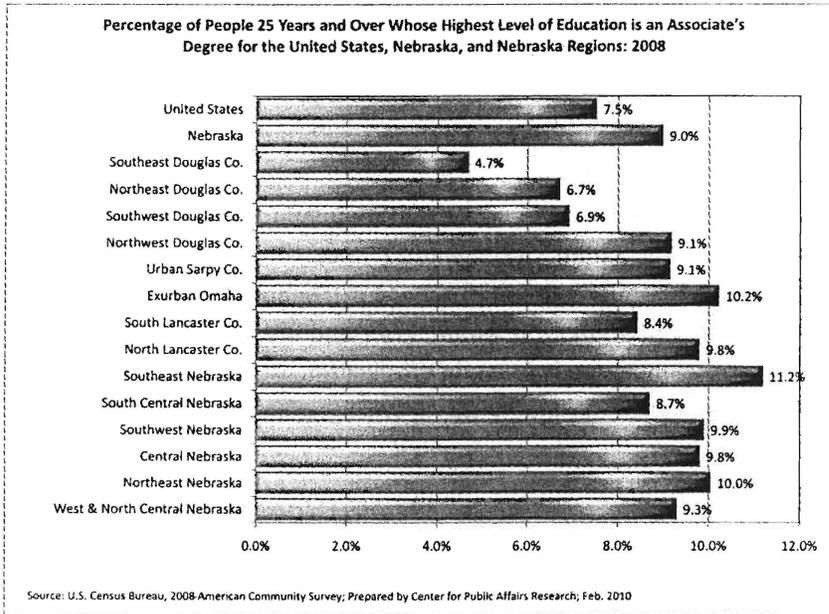
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey

State	Percent	Rank
United States	7.5	--
North Dakota	12.2	1
Wyoming	10.1	2
Iowa	9.7	4
Minnesota	9.7	4
South Dakota	9.7	4
Nebraska	9.0	11
Colorado	7.6	25
Kansas	7.4	31
Missouri	6.7	41

With the exception of Kansas and Missouri, Nebraska and its peers exceeded the national percentage of persons whose highest level of education was an Associate’s Degree. Some of the people with Bachelor’s or advanced degrees also may have had an Associate’s Degree, but they are not included in this table. Nationally, 7.5 percent of the population 25 or over reported having an Associate’s Degree as their highest level of education. North Dakota lead the nation with a rate of 12.2 percent and was followed by Wyoming with a rate of 10.1 percent. Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota tied for 4th with a rate of 9.7 percent. Nebraska’s rate of 9.0 percent ranked 11th in 2008.

Since 2000, Nebraska’s rate of persons with Associate’s Degrees has been consistently larger than the national rate. With the exception of 2002, the rates for both Nebraska and the United States have shown steady growth since 2000.

For 2008, regionally (see map) the highest percentage of people 25 years or over whose highest education level was an Associate’s Degree was in Southeast Nebraska (11.2 percent). The counties around Omaha and Northeast Nebraska had rates of 10.2 percent and 10.0 percent respectively. The lowest percentages were in Northeast and Southeast Douglas County. Generally, regions in rural Nebraska recorded rates for Associate’s Degrees that were slightly higher than the state average.



Percent of People 25 Years and Over Who Have Completed a Bachelor's Degree: 2008

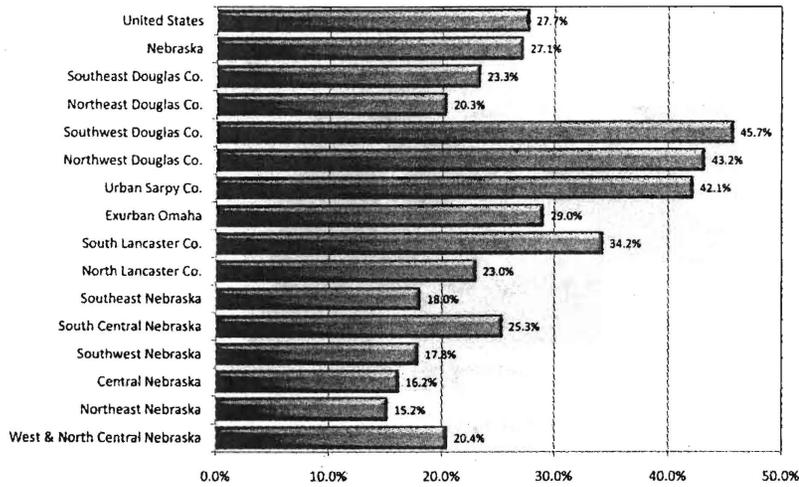
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey

State	Percent	Rank
United States	27.7	--
Colorado	35.6	3
Minnesota	31.5	11
Kansas	29.6	15
Nebraska	27.1	23
North Dakota	26.9	25
South Dakota	25.1	32
Missouri	25.0	34
Iowa	24.3	37
Wyoming	23.6	41

In 2008, 27.1 percent of the people 25 years or over in Nebraska had completed a bachelor's degree. This ranked 23rd nationally and was below the national average of 27.7 percent. Of Nebraska's peer states, Colorado had the highest rate of bachelor's degrees (35.6 percent). Minnesota and Kansas also exceeded Nebraska's rate. North Dakota, South Dakota, Missouri, Iowa, and Wyoming ranked below Nebraska. The highest bachelor's degree completion rate was in Washington, DC, as 48.2 percent of its population 25 and over had a bachelor's degree. The lowest was in West Virginia, with a rate of only 17.1 percent.

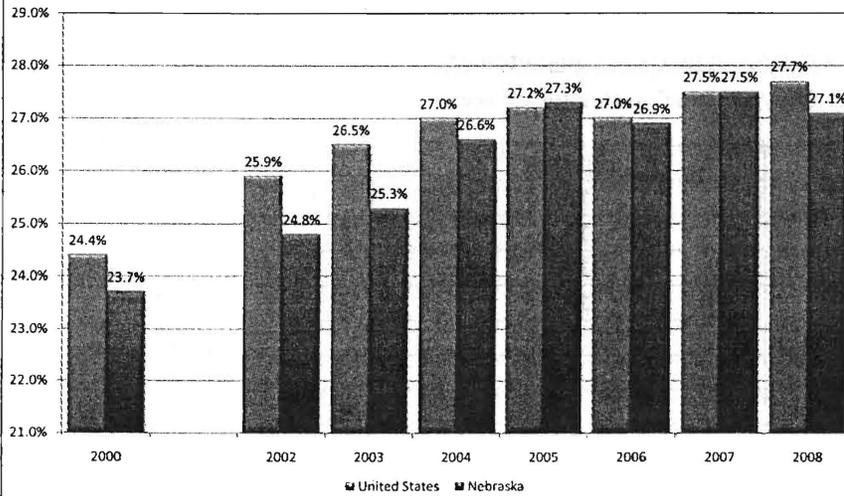
Regions in rural Nebraska experienced very low rates of people with a bachelor's degree (see map). They were all below the state and national average. Northeast Nebraska had the lowest rate at 15.2 percent. The highest rates in 2008 were found in the Omaha area, as Southwest Douglas County, Northwest Douglas County, and urban Sarpy County all recorded more than 40 percent of the people 25 years and over with bachelor's degrees.

Percentage of People 25 Years and Over Who Have Completed a Bachelor's Degree for the United States, Nebraska, and Nebraska Regions: 2008



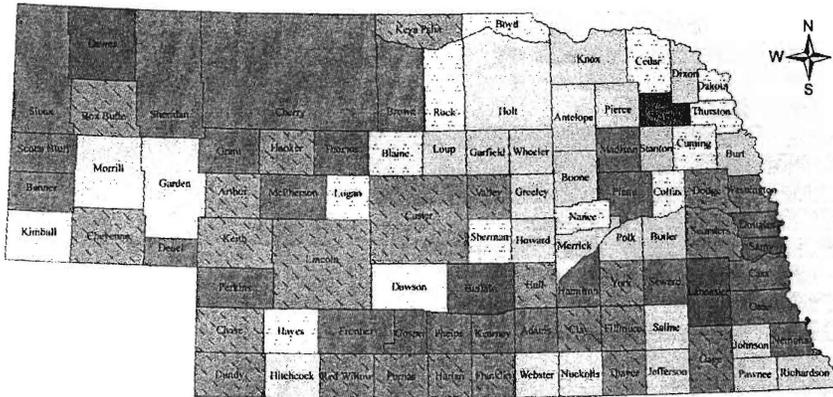
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey; Prepared by Center for Public Affairs Research; Feb. 2010

Percentage of People 25 Years and Over Who Have Completed a Bachelor's Degree for the United States and Nebraska: 2000-08

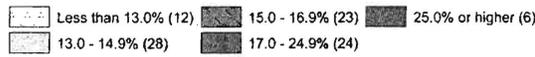


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2002-2008 and 2000 Census of Population and Housing; Prepared by Center for Public Affairs Research, UNO; Feb. 2010

Percent of People 25 Years and Over Who Have Completed a Bachelor's Degree, 2000



**2000 Percent with a Bachelor's Degree
Nebraska = 23.7%**



Source: Census 2000, Summary File 3 Data, U.S. Census Bureau
Prepared by: Center for Public Affairs Research, University of Nebraska Omaha, April 2010

Percent of People 25 Years and Over Who Have Completed an Advanced Degree: 2008

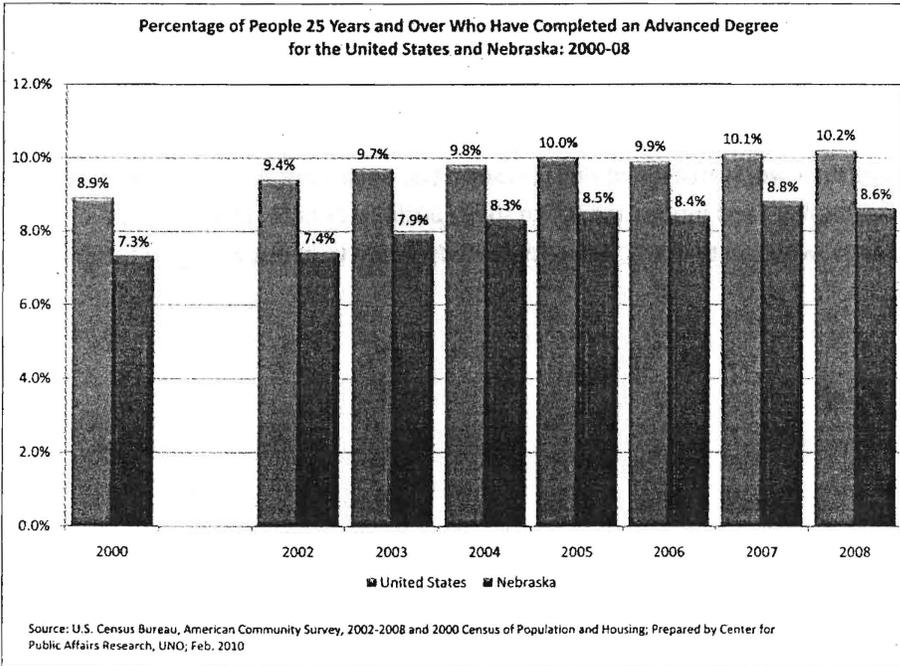
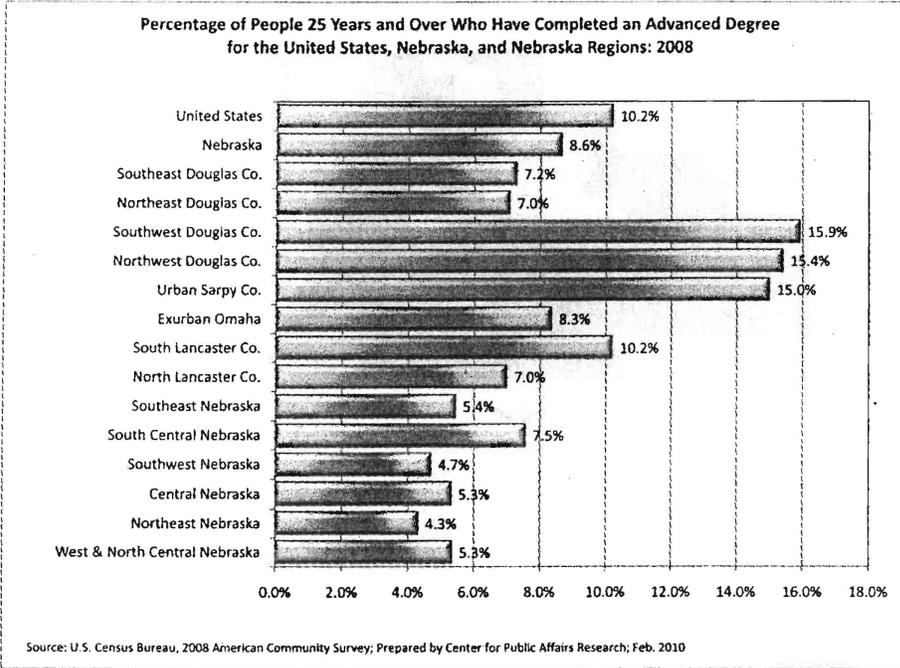
Source: US Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey

State	Percent	Rank
United States	10.2	--
Colorado	12.7	8
Kansas	10.1	17
Minnesota	10.0	19
Missouri	9.1	27
Nebraska	8.6	31
Wyoming	7.9	39
Iowa	7.3	43
South Dakota	7.3	43
North Dakota	6.6	49

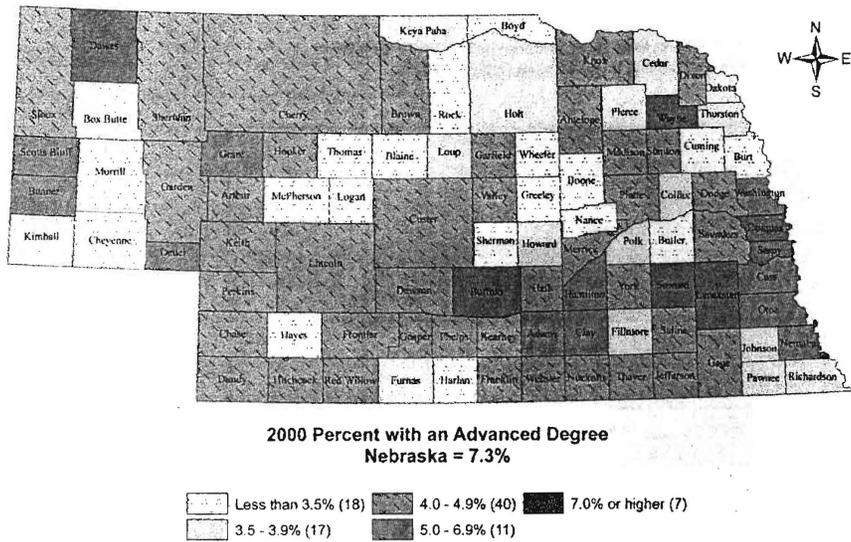
Nebraska's ranking slipped even further when looking at advanced degrees. In 2008, 8.6 percent of Nebraskans 25 years and over had an advanced degree. This compares to 10.2 percent for the nation and ranks 31st. Missouri moved ahead of Nebraska in rankings, but Nebraska was still ahead of Wyoming, Iowa, South Dakota, and North Dakota. Washington, DC recorded the highest rate (26.7 percent). The lowest percentage was in Arkansas (6.3 percent).

Regions in rural Nebraska also recorded low rates of people 25 years or older with advanced degrees in 2008 (see map). All of these regions were below the national and state averages. Northeast Nebraska

had the lowest rate, while the regions around Omaha again had the highest rates. Southwest Douglas County, Northwest Douglas County, and urban Sarpy County all had rates of 15.0 percent or higher.



Percent of People 25 Years and Over Who Have Completed an Advanced Degree, 2000



Source: Census 2000, Summary File 3 Data, U.S. Census Bureau
 Prepared by: Center for Public Affairs Research, University of Nebraska Omaha, April 2010

Meeting Needs

A quality workforce is one that can adapt and thrive in a rapidly changing economy. Nebraska needs skilled workers to enhance its economic vitality and to compete in the global marketplace. States can create a high quality workforce by investing in education and skill training and creating educational and workforce systems that can adapt quickly to new skill requirements demanded by the market. States also can indirectly improve their workforce quality by promoting an environment that attracts businesses that require technology and innovation. Once these businesses enter the market, they will then demand skilled workers, which in turn will induce more individuals to invest in their education.

Nebraska Legislative Planning Database – Economy

Business Climate

The term business climate means different things to different people, and the results of business climate studies may vary widely. It is important to remember measures of business climate are subjective and reflect the bias of the organization preparing the measure.

How is Nebraska Doing?

Forbes Magazine Best States for Business: 2009

Source: Forbes.com

State	2009 Rank	2006 Rank
Colorado	4	6
North Dakota	7	13
Nebraska	9	10
Iowa	14	22
Kansas	15	21
South Dakota	16	23
Minnesota	17	11
Wyoming	22	31
Missouri	29	30

In 2009, Nebraska ranked 10th in overall business climate as measured by Forbes. This is up from 2006 when Nebraska ranked 10th. Two of Nebraska's peer states ranked higher: Colorado (4th) and North Dakota (7th). Nebraska ranked above North Dakota in 2006. Generally, the business climate (as measured by Forbes) of Nebraska's peer states ranks in the upper half of all states. Virginia had the best business climate, and Rhode Island had the worst according to Forbes.

America's Top States for Business: 2009 Overall Rankings

Source: CNBC.com

State	2009 Rank
Colorado	3
Iowa	4
Minnesota	6
Kansas	7
Nebraska	11
South Dakota	12
Wyoming	13
Missouri	14
North Dakota	16 (tie)

According to CNBC's rankings, Nebraska ranked as the 11th top state for business in 2009. Nebraska ranked in the middle of its peer states. Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, and Kansas ranked higher, while South Dakota, Wyoming, Missouri, and North Dakota ranked lower. According to CNBC, Nebraska and its peer states comprise half of the top 16 states for business climate. Virginia had the highest ranking, and Alaska had the lowest ranking.

Nebraska Legislative Planning Database – Economy

Business Startups

New businesses are one indicator of economic growth and reflect the overall strength of an area's economy. Between 2005 and 2006, Nebraska ranked 43rd in business startups.

How is Nebraska Doing?

Business Startups: 2005-06

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Statistics of U.S. Businesses

State	Percent Change in New Establishments 2005-06	Rank
United States	12.4	--
Colorado	14.7	6
Wyoming	13.2	11
Minnesota	11.6	26
Missouri	11.6	26
South Dakota	11.1	36
Kansas	10.5	40
Nebraska	10.4	43
Iowa	10.3	45
North Dakota	10.2	46

Between 2005 and 2006, Nebraska ranked 43rd in the percent change in new establishments (business startups) as 10.4 percent of the change in Nebraska establishments was due to business births. For the most part, Nebraska and its peers ranked in the bottom half of the states regarding business startups. Four of the bottom ten states (Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, and North Dakota) were in the peer group. The strongest states were Colorado and Wyoming with respective rankings of 6th and 11th. For the US, 12.4 percent of the change in establishments was due to business births. Nevada had the highest growth (18.3 percent), and Ohio had the lowest growth (9.7 percent).

Nebraska Legislative Planning Database – Economy

Comparative Costs

Comparative costs generally are lower in Nebraska than the nation. Following are two measures of costs: annual wage and salary disbursements per job and ratio of median housing value to median household income.

How is Nebraska Doing?

Average Annual Wage and Salary Disbursements Per Job: 2008

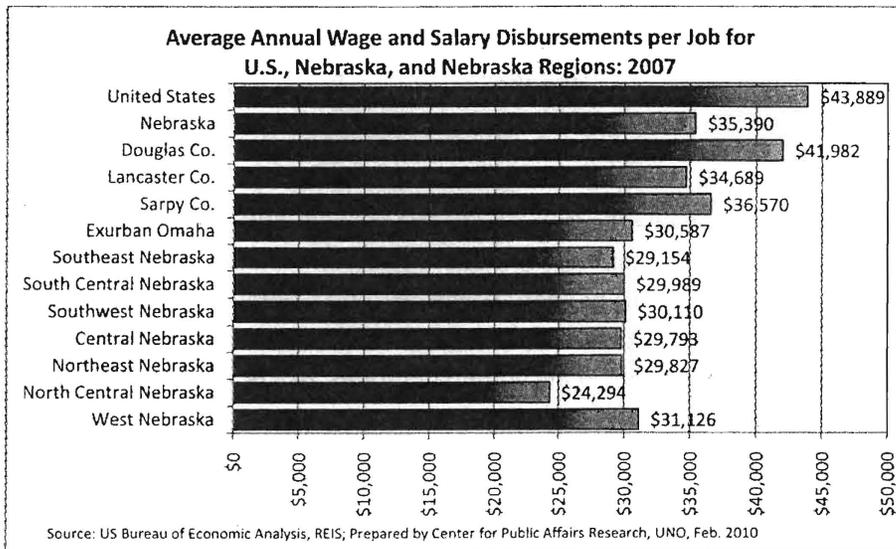
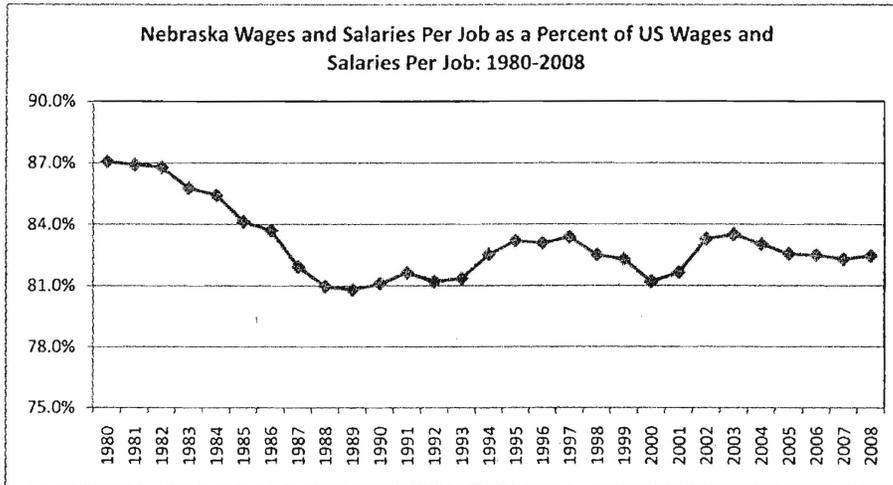
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Income Division, State Personal Income: 1969-2008

State	Amount	Rank
United States	\$45,716	--
Colorado	\$47,086	11
Minnesota	\$45,054	15
Wyoming	\$41,906	24
Missouri	\$41,050	27
Kansas	\$38,941	33
Nebraska	\$37,696	39
Iowa	\$36,202	44
North Dakota	\$34,846	47
South Dakota	\$32,685	51

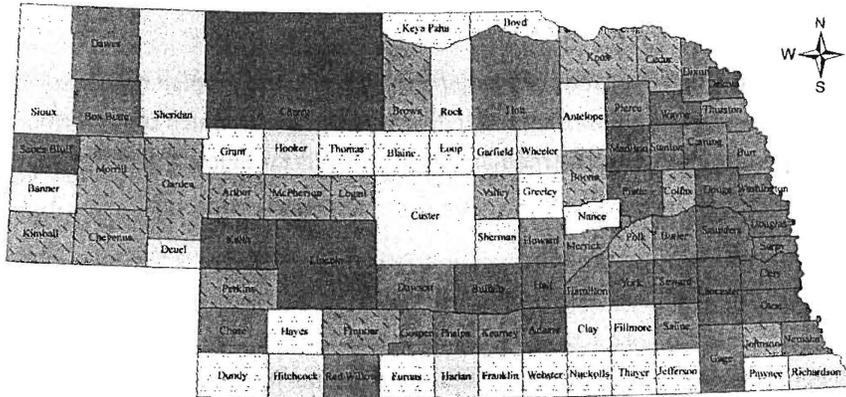
The states in Nebraska's region have among the lowest wage and salary disbursements per job nationally. In 2008, Nebraska's average annual wage and salary disbursements per job of \$37,696 ranked 39th nationally and ranked 6th among its peers. Regionally, only Colorado (\$47,086) exceeded the national average. With wage and salary disbursements per job of \$32,846, South Dakota ranked last nationally. Iowa and North Dakota also ranked in the bottom ten states. At \$74,771, the District of Columbia recorded the highest wage and salary disbursements per job.

As a percentage of United States values, recent wage and salary disbursements per job have been below levels experienced in the early 1980s. Since 1984, Nebraska wages and salaries per job have fluctuated between 84 and 81 percent of the national value.

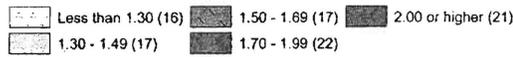
Regionally, only Douglas County (\$41,982) and Sarpy County (\$36,570) recorded wage and salary disbursements per job in 2007 that exceeded the state average. Both areas, however, were below the national value. Outside the state's three most populous counties, wages and salaries per job were 70 percent or more below the national average. The lowest values were in North Central Nebraska (\$24,294).



Ratio of Median Housing Value to Median Household Income, 2000



**2000 Ratio of Median Housing Value to Median Household Income
Nebraska = 2.24**



Source: Census 2000, Summary File 3 Data, U.S. Census Bureau
Prepared by: Center for Public Affairs Research, University of Nebraska Omaha, April 2010

Ratio of Median Housing Value to Median Household Income: 2008

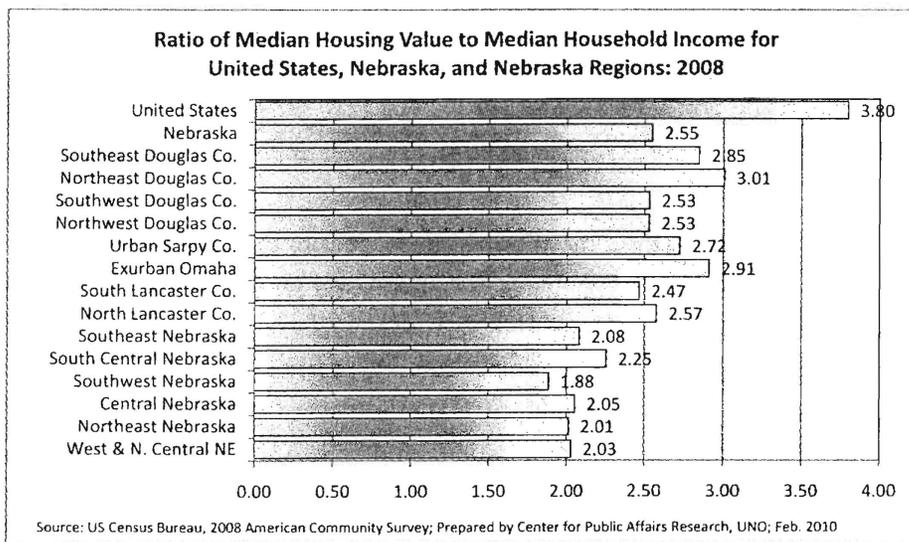
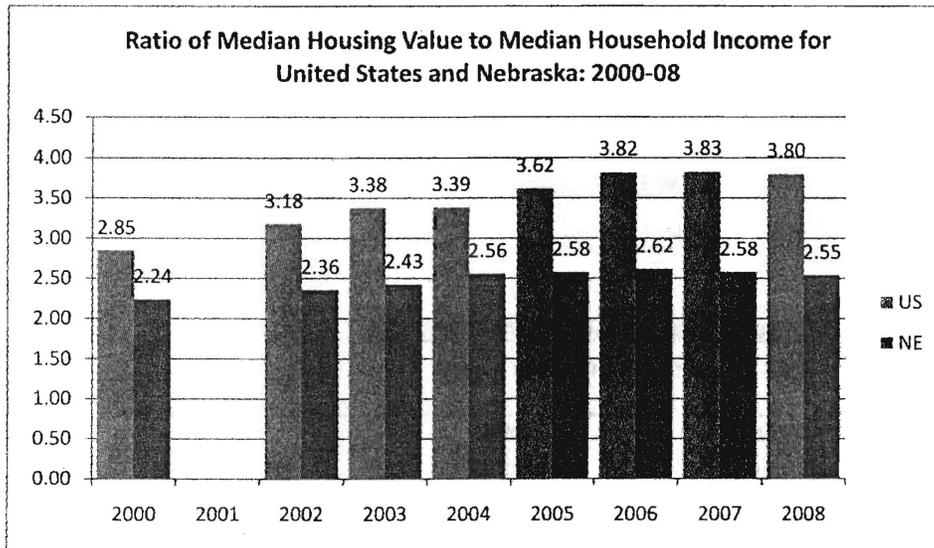
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey

State	Median Housing Value	Median Household Income	Ratio	Rank
United States	\$197,600	\$52,029	3.80	--
North Dakota	\$112,500	\$45,685	2.46	1
Iowa	\$120,700	\$48,980	2.46	1
Kansas	\$125,700	\$50,177	2.51	4
Nebraska	\$126,500	\$49,693	2.55	7
South Dakota	\$126,200	\$46,032	2.74	11
Missouri	\$141,500	\$46,867	3.02	15
Wyoming	\$188,200	\$53,207	3.54	25
Minnesota	\$213,800	\$57,288	3.73	26

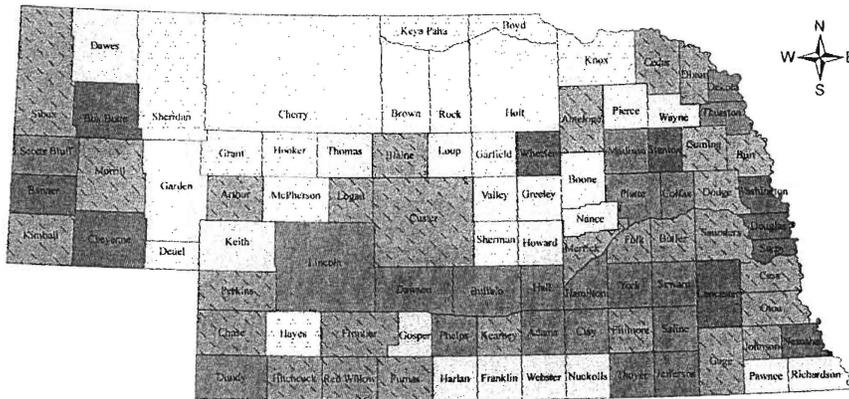
The states in Nebraska’s region are among the most affordable when looking at the value of housing compared to income. In 2008, Iowa and North Dakota had the lowest ratio of median housing value to median income at 2.46. Kansas ranked 4th (2.51), and Nebraska ranked 7th (2.55). All of Nebraska’s peers had a ratio below the national average of 3.80. The highest ratio of housing value to income was in Hawaii with a ratio of 8.33.

Since 2000, Nebraska’s ratio of median housing value to median household income has increased slightly, but has remained relatively stable since 2004. The gap between the national ratio has widened over this period.

Looking at Nebraska’s regions, the highest ratios of median housing value to median household income were in Northeast and Southeast Douglas Counties and in Exurban Omaha. In much of rural Nebraska, the median value of housing is around twice the median income. This is far below the national average of 3.80 (see map).



Average Annual Wage and Salary Disbursements per Job, 2007



2007 Average Wage per Job
Nebraska = \$35,390

Less than \$23,000 (10)	\$26,000 - \$28,999 (29)	\$34,000 or more (10)
\$23,000 - \$25,999 (24)	\$29,000 - \$33,999 (20)	

Source: Regional Economic Information System, Bureau of Economic Analysis
Prepared by: Center for Public Affairs Research, University of Nebraska Omaha, April 2010

Nebraska Legislative Planning Database – Economy

Employment

Employment is used to measure and track economic well-being over time and to make comparisons across states. In 2008, Nebraska's employment growth ranked 15th nationally.

Employment in this section is prepared by the US Bureau of Economic Analysis and measures the number of jobs, both full and part-time, in an area.

How is Nebraska Doing?

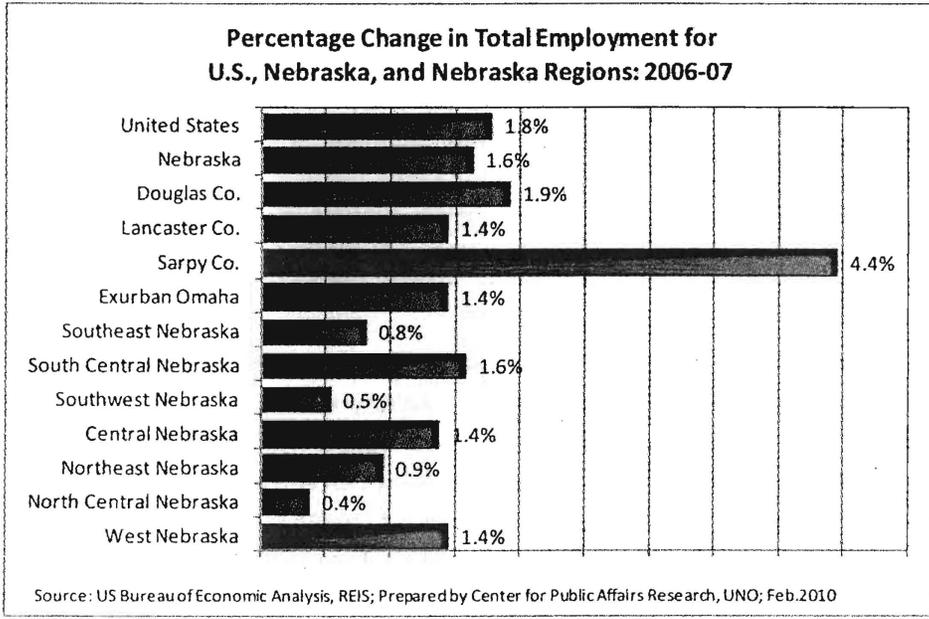
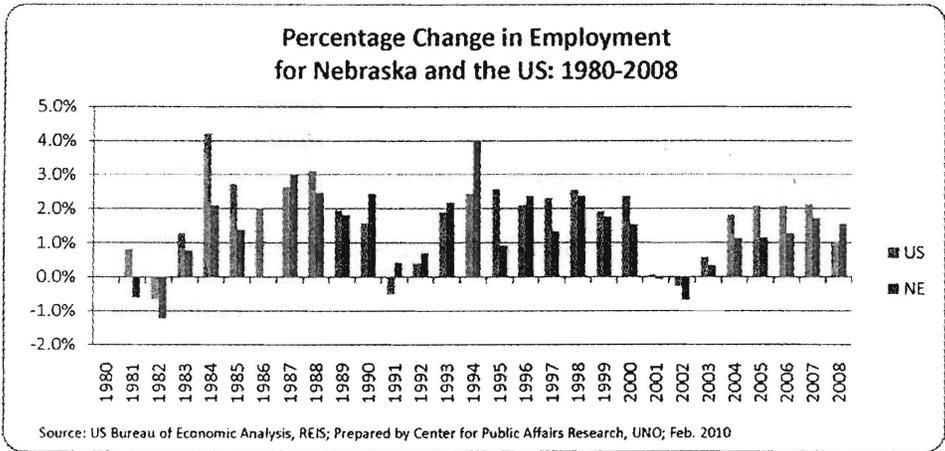
Change in Employment: 2007-08

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Income Division, State Personal Income: 1969-2008

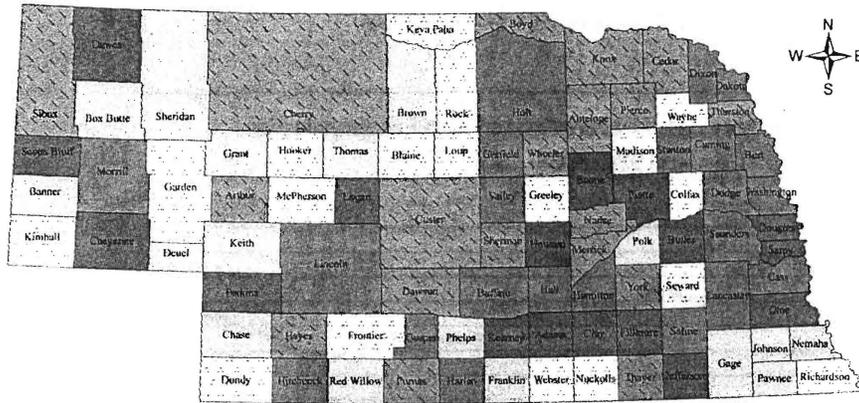
State	Percent Change	Rank
United States	1.0	--
Wyoming	3.9	1
North Dakota	3.1	3
Colorado	2.4	5
South Dakota	2.3	7
Kansas	1.7	11
Nebraska	1.6	15
Iowa	1.5	18
Missouri	1.1	26
Minnesota	0.9	33

In 2008, there were 1,253,549 jobs in Nebraska. The percentage change in Nebraska's employment (1.6 percent) between 2007 and 2008 ranked 15th nationally. Among Nebraska's peers during this period, Wyoming led the nation with a growth rate of 3.9 percent. North Dakota ranked third, with a growth rate of 3.1 percent. Among Nebraska's peers only Minnesota did not exceed the national average growth rate. Colorado, South Dakota, and Kansas had employment growth rates faster than Nebraska; and Iowa, Missouri, and Minnesota all had rates below Nebraska's. The national growth rate in employment was 1.0 percent in 2008.

The state as a whole and most of its regions (see map) recorded employment growth below the national average during the 2006-07 period. Sarpy County was the fastest growing with a rate of 4.4 percent. Douglas County was the only other region exceeding the national average with a growth rate of 1.9 percent. North Central Nebraska (0.4 percent), Southwest Nebraska (0.5 percent), Southeast Nebraska (0.8 percent), and Northeast Nebraska (0.9 percent) all had increases in employment below 1 percent.



Percent Change in Total Employment for Nebraska Counties, 2006-2007



**2006-2007 Percent Change in Total Employment
Nebraska = 1.61 percent**

- Loss of 1.0 percent or more (18)
- Loss of less than 1.0 percent (17)
- Zero to 0.99% Growth (19)
- 1.0 to 1.69% Growth (22)
- Growth of 1.70% or more (17)

Source: Regional Economic Information System (REIS), U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), May 2009
Prepared by: Center for Public Affairs Research, University of Nebraska Omaha, February 2010

Proprietors as a Percentage of Total Employment: 2008

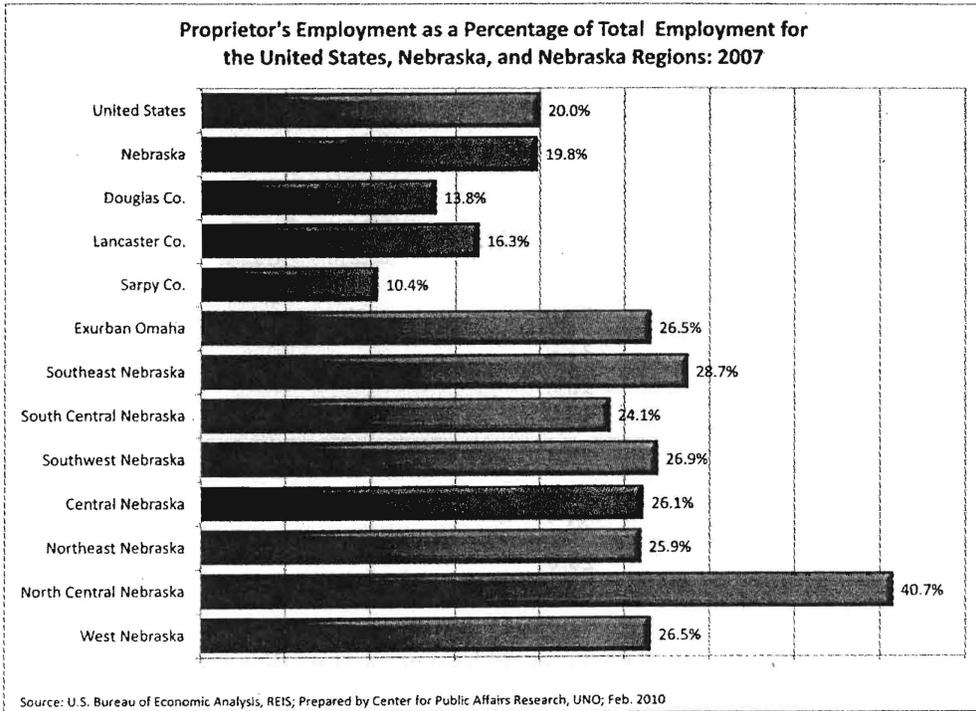
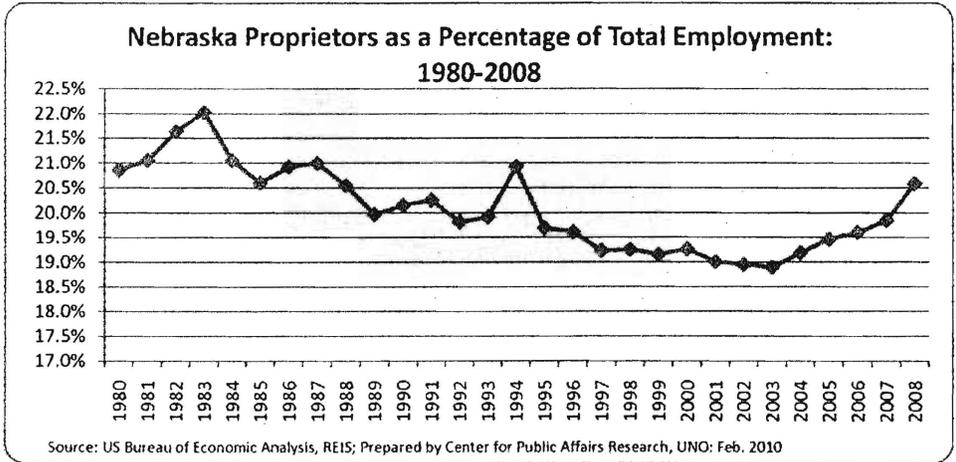
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Income Division, State Personal Income: 1969-2008

State	Percent	Rank
United States	21.3	--
Colorado	24.6	4
South Dakota	23.9	6
Wyoming	23.9	8
North Dakota	22.8	14
Iowa	21.4	22
Kansas	21.3	23
Missouri	21.1	26
Minnesota	20.7	32
Nebraska	20.6	33

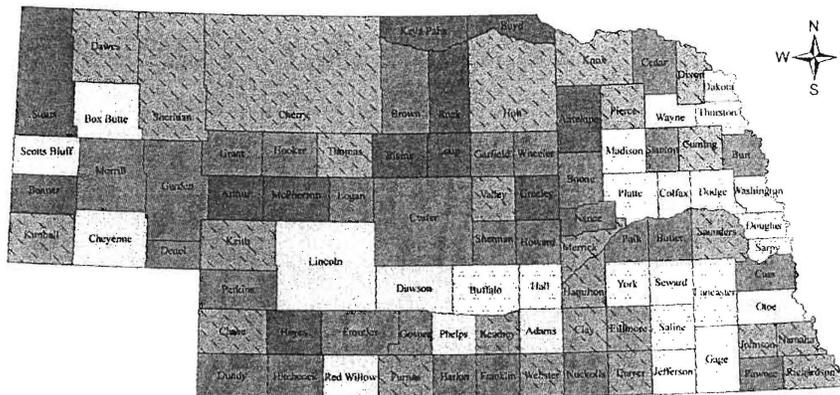
In 2008, Nebraska had a total of 258 thousand nonfarm and farm proprietors. This amounted to 20.6 percent of the state’s employment which ranked 33rd nationally and last among the peer states. Colorado (24.6 percent), South Dakota (23.9 percent), and Wyoming (23.9 percent) were among the top ten states in the US. The highest percentage of proprietors was in Montana, as 28.1 percent of the employment was proprietors. Nationally, proprietors accounted for 21.3 percent of all jobs.

Proprietors are a major source of employment in most of Nebraska’s regions (see map). Since proprietorships include both small businesses and family farmers, they are important to the more rural

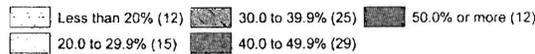
regions in Nebraska. Outside the state’s three most populous counties, around one-fourth of the employment in 2007 was proprietor’s employment. The sparsely populated North Central region of Nebraska had the highest percentage of proprietors (40.7 percent).



Proprietor's Employment as a Percent of Total Employment, 2007



2007 Percent Proprietor's Employment
Nebraska = 19.81 percent



Source: Regional Economic Information System (REIS), U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), May 2009
Prepared by: Center for Public Affairs Research, University of Nebraska Omaha, February 2010

Meeting Needs

The state estimates employment by state are widely used by Federal agencies, state governments, and the private sectors to measure and track economic well-being over time and to make comparisons across states in the level and composition of economic activity and the value added by a state's industries. These estimates provide a framework for the analysis of state economies, and they serve as a basis for decision making.

Community Benefits

State governments use the state estimates of employment to measure the economic base of planning areas. They also use the estimates in econometric models for various planning purposes and to project tax revenue and the need for public utilities and services.

Federal agencies use these estimates in econometric models, such as those used to project energy and water use.

University schools of business and economics use the estimates for theoretical and applied economic research. Some of these schools distribute the estimates in abstracts or similar reports to various state and local government agencies, regional councils of governments, private research groups, businesses, and libraries.

Businesses use the estimates for planning activities, such as evaluating markets for new or established products and determining areas for the location, expansion, and contraction of their activities.

Nebraska Legislative Planning Database – Economy

Median Household Income

Median household income is an important measure of economic well being and general economic circumstances. In 2008, Nebraska's median household income of \$49,693 ranked 29th nationally.

How is Nebraska Doing?

Median Household Income: 2008

Source: U.S. Census Bureau: 2008; American Community Survey: 2008

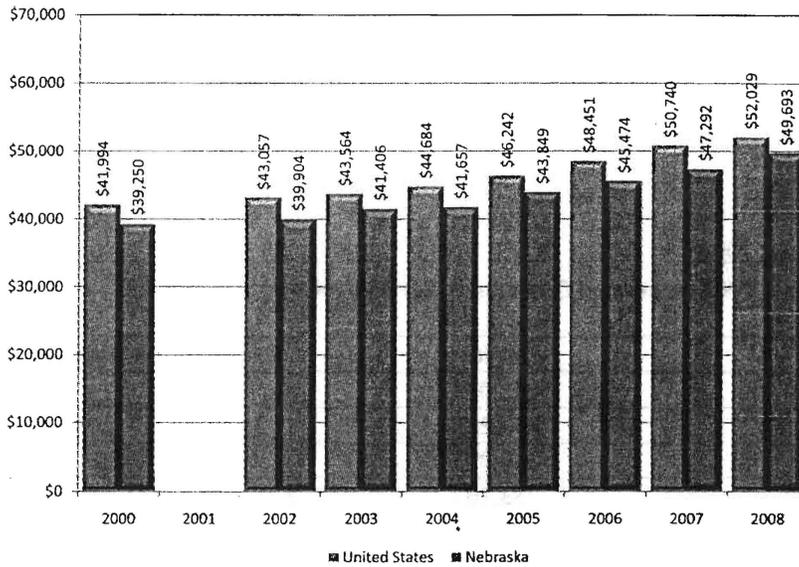
State	Dollars	Rank
United States	52,029	--
Minnesota	57,288	13
Colorado	56,993	14
Wyoming	53,207	20
Kansas	50,177	26
Nebraska	49,693	29
Iowa	48,980	30
Missouri	46,867	36
South Dakota	46,032	39
North Dakota	45,685	40

In 2008, the median household income was \$49,693 in Nebraska. This value ranked 29th nationally. Among Nebraska's peers, Minnesota (\$57,288), Colorado (\$56,993), and Wyoming (\$53,207) exceeded the national average. Kansas also reported household income greater than Nebraska's, while Iowa, Missouri, South Dakota, and North Dakota were below the value for Nebraska. Nationally, the median household income was \$52,029. The state with the highest median household income in 2008 was Maryland with a value of \$70,545. The lowest was Mississippi with a value of \$37,790.

Since 2000, Nebraska's median household income has been growing at about the same rate as the national value, although there have been year-to-year fluctuations. In 2000, Nebraska's median household income of \$39,250 was 93.5 percent of the national value of \$41,994. By 2008, the comparable percentage rose slightly to 95.5 percent.

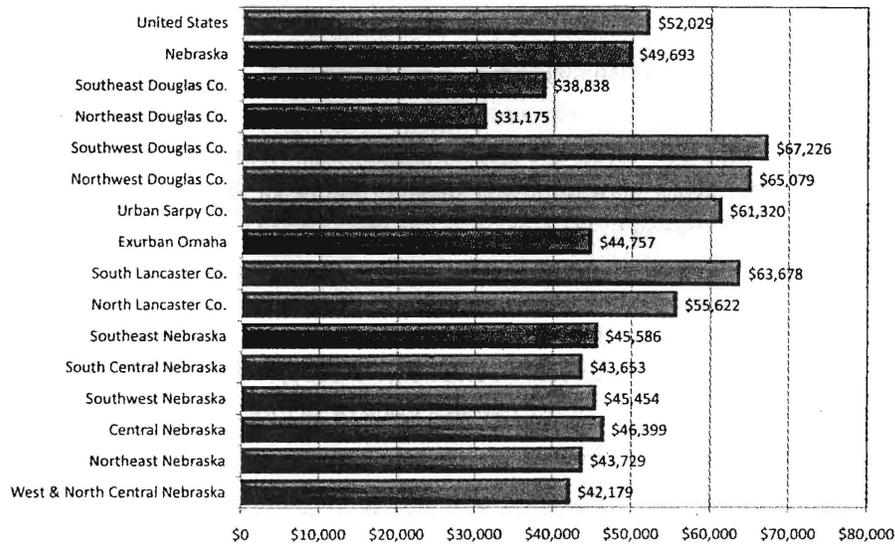
The highest median household incomes were in Nebraska's most urban counties Douglas, Lancaster and Sarpy. The highest values were: Southwest Douglas County (\$67,226), Northwest Douglas County (\$65,079), and South Lancaster County (\$63,678). Outside of the urban counties, all regions recorded median household income below the state value. The lowest incomes were in Southeast Douglas County (\$38,838) and Northeast Douglas County (\$31,175; see map).

**Median Household Incomes for
the United States and Nebraska: 2000-08**



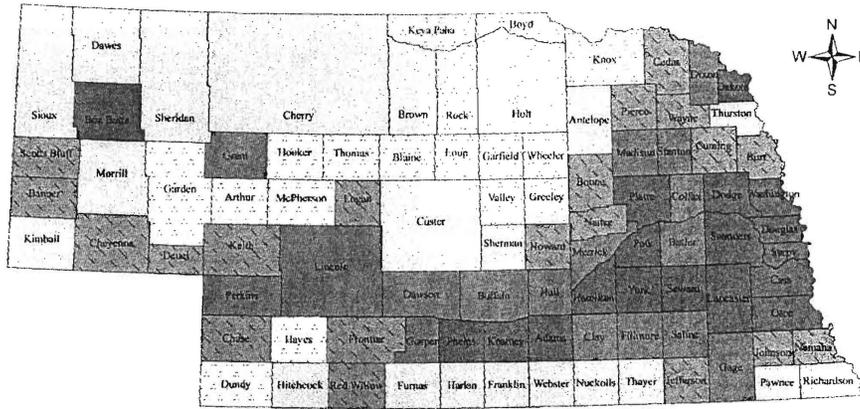
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2002 to 2008 American Community Survey; Prepared by Center for Public Affairs Research, UNO; Feb. 2010

**Median Household Incomes for
the United States, Nebraska, and Nebraska Regions: 2008**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey; Prepared by Center for Public Affairs Research, UNO; Feb. 2010

Median Household Income, 1999



**1999 Median Household Income
Nebraska = \$39,250**

Less than \$28,000 (16)	\$28,000 - \$30,999 (22)	\$31,000 - \$33,999 (20)	\$34,000 - \$36,999 (17)	\$37,000 or more (18)
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Source: Census 2000, U.S. Census Bureau (Summary File 3, Table P53)
Prepared by: Center for Public Affairs Research, University of Nebraska Omaha, February 2010

Meeting Needs

Income is a vital measure of general economic circumstances. Income data are used to determine poverty status, to measure economic well-being, and to assess the need for assistance. These data are included in federal allocation formulas for many government programs.

Community Benefits

Social Services—Under the Older Americans Act, funds for food, health care, and legal services are distributed to local agencies based on data about elderly people with low incomes. Data about income at the state and county levels are used to allocate funds for food, health care, and classes in meal planning to low-income women with children.

Employment—Income data are used to identify local areas eligible for grants to stimulate economic recovery, run job-training programs, and define areas such as empowerment or enterprise zones.

Housing—Under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, income data are used to allocate funds to areas for home energy aid. Under the Community Development Block Grant Program, funding for housing assistance and other community development is based on income and other census data.

Education—Data about poor children are used to allocate funds to counties and school districts. These funds provide resources and services to improve the education of economically disadvantaged children.

Nebraska Legislative Planning Database – Economy

Median Housing Value

The value of home and property is an important measure of neighborhood quality, housing affordability, and wealth. In 2008, Nebraska's median housing value of \$126,500 ranked 40th nationally.

How is Nebraska Doing?

Median Housing Value: 2008

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey

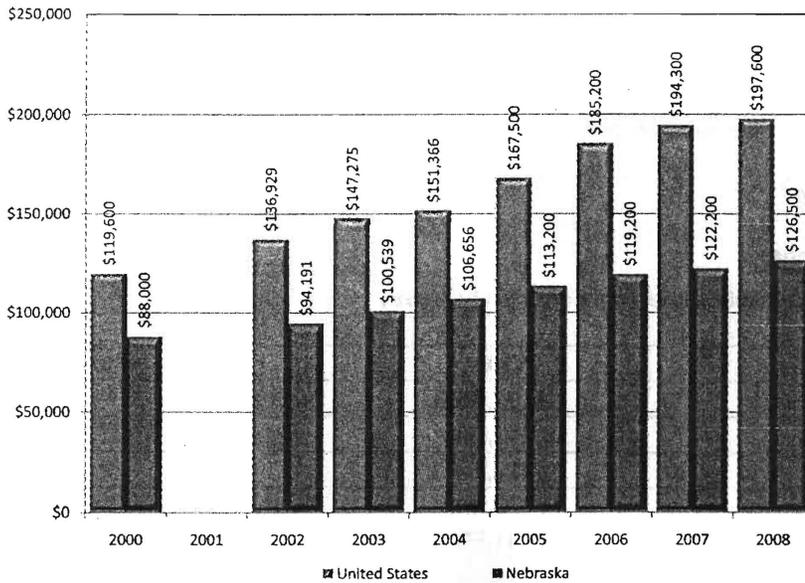
State	Value	Rank
Unites States	\$197,600	--
Colorado	\$242,200	16
Minnesota	\$213,800	23
Wyoming	\$188,200	24
Missouri	\$141,500	34
Nebraska	\$126,500	40
South Dakota	\$126,200	41
Kansas	\$125,700	42
Iowa	\$120,700	45
North Dakota	\$112,500	47

In 2008, the median housing value was \$126,500 in Nebraska. This value ranked 40th nationally. Among Nebraska's peers, only Colorado (\$242,200) and Minnesota (\$213,800) exceeded the national average. Wyoming and Missouri reported housing values greater than Nebraska's, while South Dakota, Kansas, Iowa, and North Dakota were below the value for Nebraska. Nationally, the median housing value was \$197,600. The state with the highest median housing value in 2008 was Hawaii with a value of \$560,200.

Since 2000, Nebraska's median housing value has been growing at a slower rate than the national value, although there have been year-to-year fluctuations. In 2000, Nebraska's median housing value of \$88,000 was 73.6 percent of the national value of \$119,600. By 2008, the comparable percentage dropped to 64.0 percent.

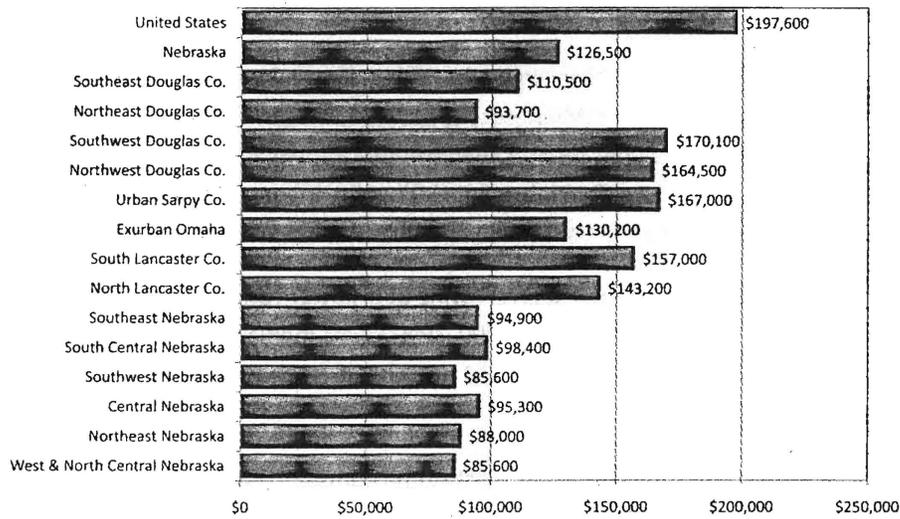
The highest median housing values were in Nebraska's most urban counties Douglas, Lancaster and Sarpy. The highest values were: Northwest Douglas County (\$170,100), Southwest Douglas County (\$164,500), and Urban Sarpy County. Outside of the urban counties, all regions recorded median housing values below \$100,000 (see map).

Median Housing Values for the United States and Nebraska: 2000-08



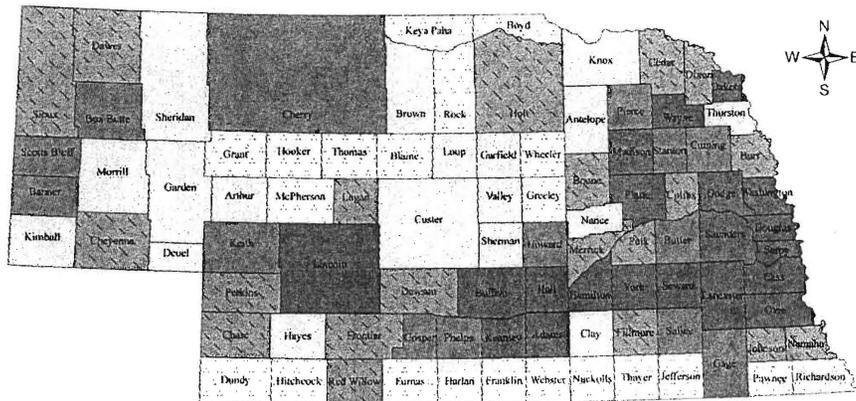
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2002 to 2008 American Community Survey, 2000 Census; Prepared by Center for Public Affairs Research, UNO; Feb. 2010

Median Housing Values for the United States, Nebraska, and Nebraska Regions: 2008



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey; Prepared by Center for Public Affairs Research, UNO, Feb. 2010

Median Housing Value, 2000



2000 Median Housing Value
Nebraska = \$86,900

Less than \$45,000 (20)	\$55,000 - \$64,999 (20)	\$75,000 or more (20)
\$45,000 - \$54,999 (19)	\$65,000 - \$74,999 (14)	

Source: Census 2000, U.S. Census Bureau (Summary File 3, Table H85)
Prepared by: Center for Public Affairs Research, University of Nebraska Omaha, February 2010

Meeting Needs

The value of home and property is an important measure of neighborhood quality, housing affordability, and wealth. These data provide socioeconomic information not captured by household income and comparative information on the state of local housing markets. These data also can be an indicator the relative cost of living of an area.

Community Benefits

Housing - Statistics about housing value are used by local agencies in determining the adequacy of housing units for older people, the cost of maintaining owned units, and the potential usefulness of home equity conversion programs.

Banking - Data about home values are used by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as an independent check of appraised values for determining the amount of mortgage to be financed.

Social Services - These data are used to allocate funds for home mortgage insurance for the elderly, and lower- and moderate-income and displaced families in programs under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Local social service organizations use these data for locating service areas and identifying clients wanting specific services, such as thrift and discount stores, to be located nearby.

Transportation - These data are used in developing transportation plans for local areas by assessing the impact on the value of homes affected by road, bridge, and subway construction, and related problems such as noise and pollution.

Nebraska Legislative Planning Database – Economy

Personal Income

Personal income and its components are used to measure and track economic well-being over time and to make comparisons across states. In 2008, Nebraska's per capita personal income ranked 23rd, and its growth in total personal income ranked 13th nationally.

Personal income is prepared by the US Bureau of Economic Analysis and is defined as the income received by, or on behalf of, all the residents of an area (nation, state, or county) from all sources.

How is Nebraska Doing?

Per Capita Personal Income: 2008

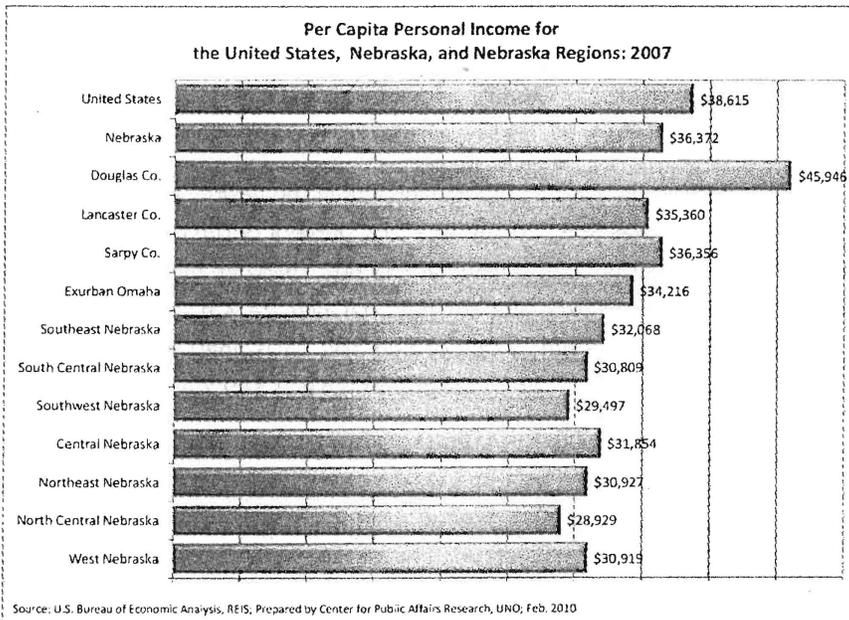
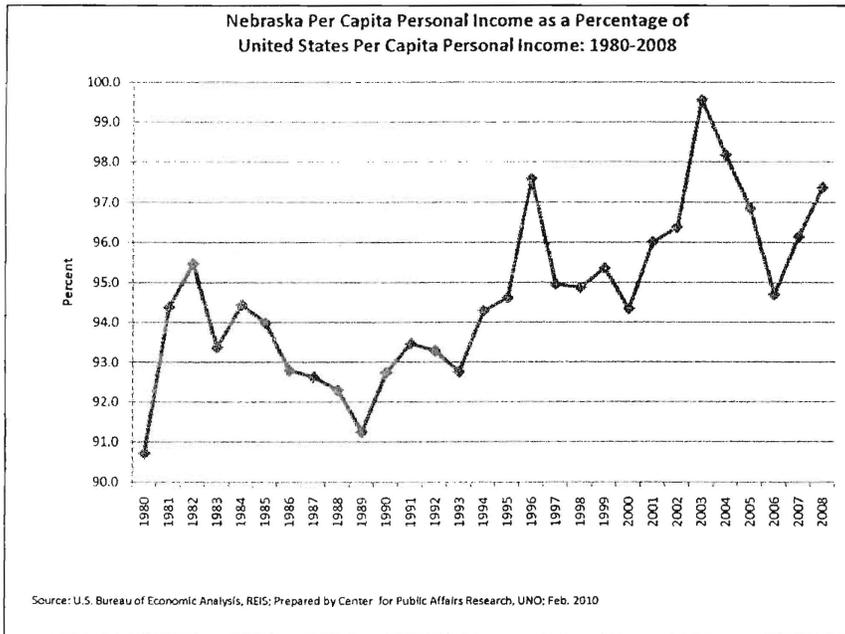
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Income Division, State Personal Income: 1969-2008

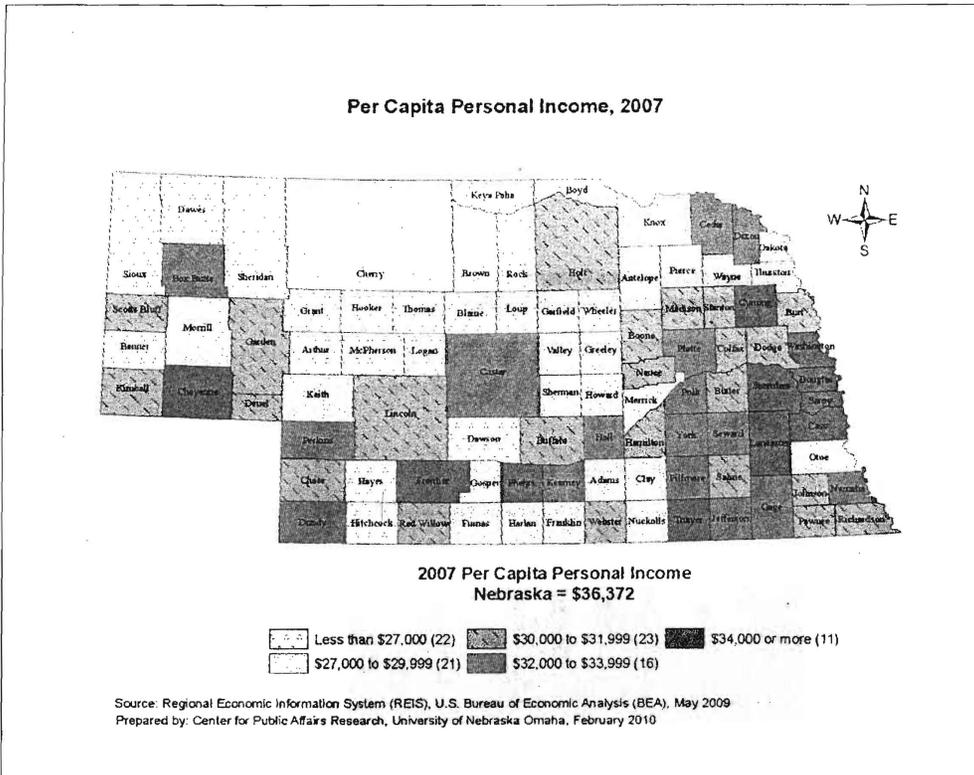
State	Dollars	Rank
United States	40,208	--
Wyoming	48,608	6
Minnesota	43,037	12
Colorado	42,985	13
North Dakota	39,870	21
Nebraska	39,150	23
Kansas	38,820	24
South Dakota	38,661	26
Iowa	37,402	29
Missouri	36,631	30

In 2008, Nebraska had the 23th highest per capita personal income in the nation. During 2008, Nebraska's per capita personal income was \$39,150 and was 97.4 percent of the national value. Among Nebraska's peers in 2008, Wyoming had the highest value at \$48,608, followed by Minnesota at \$43,037 and Colorado at \$42,985. These three states exceeded the national average. Kansas, South Dakota, Iowa, and Missouri all had per capita incomes below that of Nebraska. Washington, DC, ranked top in the nation with a per capita income of \$66,119. The national average was \$40,208 in 2008.

Nebraska's per capita income of \$39,150 in 2008 was a little over 97 percent of the national average. Beginning in 1989, Nebraska's per capita personal income began to increase in relation to the national value. Despite this growth, since 1980, Nebraska's per capita income has been below that of the US, only approaching the US value in 2003.

With the exception of Douglas County, all of Nebraska's regions (see map) recorded per capita incomes in 2007 below the national average. Outside the state's three most populous counties, the region surrounding Omaha had the highest per capita income. The lowest per capita incomes were in North Central Nebraska and Southwest Nebraska.





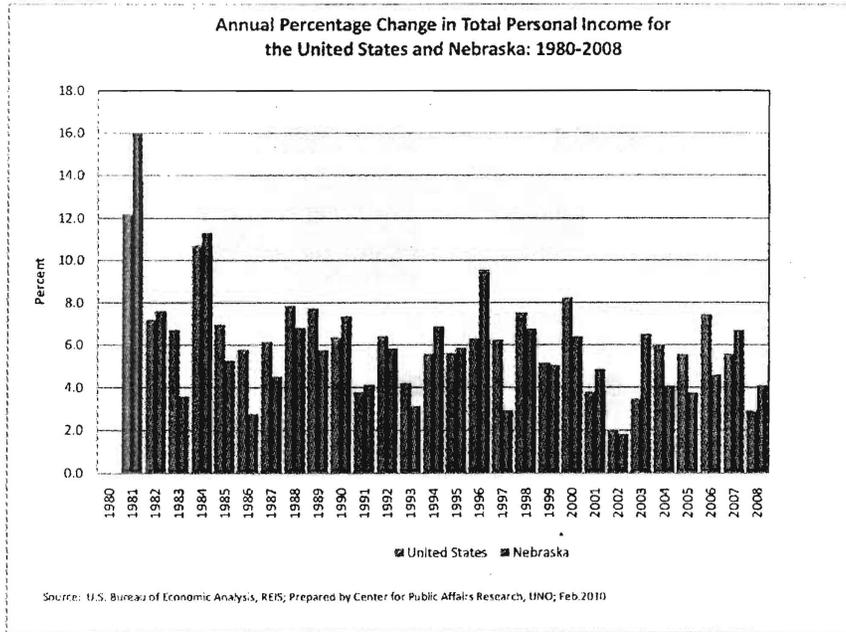
Percentage Change in Total Personal Income: 2007-08

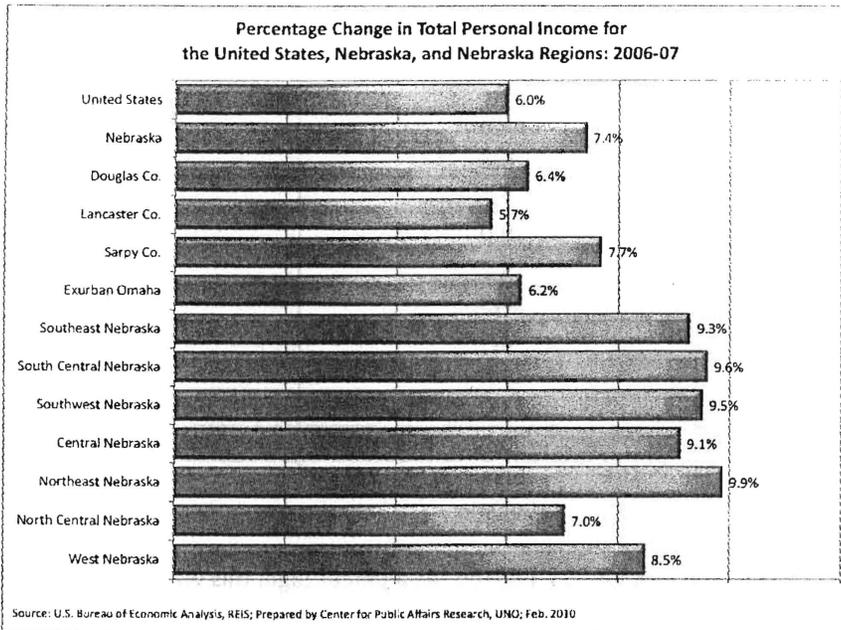
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Income Division, State Personal Income: 1969-2008

State	Percent Change	Rank
United States	2.9	--
North Dakota	9.3	1
South Dakota	7.1	3
Wyoming	5.9	4
Iowa	5.4	6
Kansas	4.8	9
Missouri	4.3	11
Nebraska	4.1	13
Minnesota	3.8	16
Colorado	3.3	23

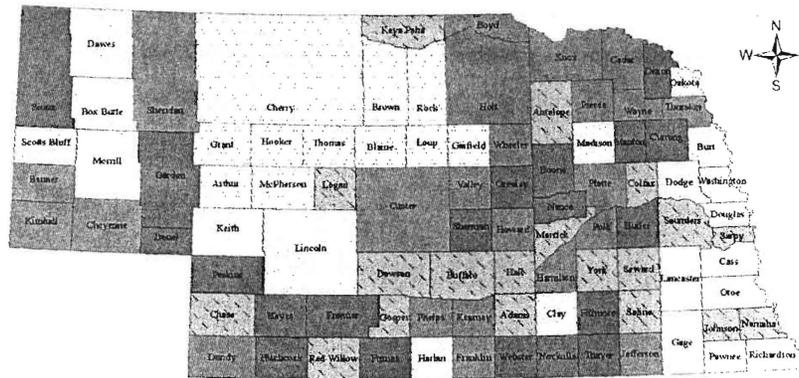
In 2008, Nebraska’s personal income totaled \$69.8 billion. The change in Nebraska’s total personal income (4.1 percent) between 2007 and 2008 ranked 13th nationally. Among Nebraska's peers during this period, North Dakota led the nation with a growth rate of 9.3 percent. South Dakota ranked third, and Wyoming ranked fourth nationally, with growth rates of 7.1 percent and 5.9 percent respectively. Nebraska and all of its peers exceeded the national average growth rate. Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri had personal income growth rates faster than Nebraska. Minnesota and Colorado all had rates below Nebraska’s. The national growth rate in personal income was 2.9 percent in 2008.

Except for Lancaster County, personal income in all regions (see map) of Nebraska grew faster than the US average. The fastest growing regions were led by Northeast Nebraska (9.9 percent) and followed by the South Central (9.6 percent), Southwest (9.5 percent), Southeast (9.3 percent), and Central (9.1 percent) Regions.





Percent Change in Total Personal Income for Nebraska Counties, 2006-2007



2006-2007 Percent Change in Total Personal Income
Nebraska = 7.40 percent

- Less than 5% Growth (12)
- 5.0 to 7.49% (19)
- 7.5 to 9.99% (19)
- 10.0 to 12.49% (23)
- 12.5% Growth or more (20)

Source: Regional Economic Information System (REIS), U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), May 2009
Prepared by: Center for Public Affairs Research, University of Nebraska Omaha, February 2010

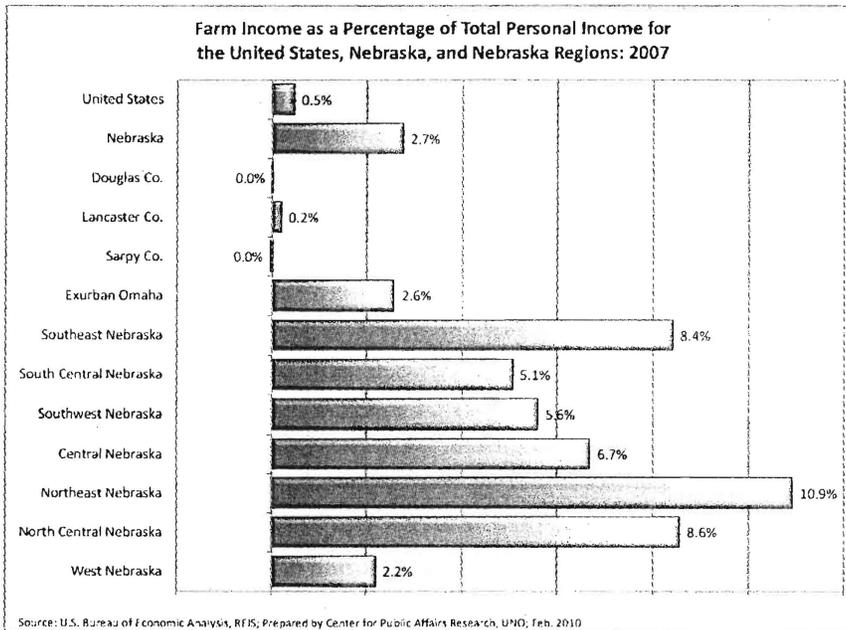
Net Farm Income as a Percentage of Total Personal Income: 2008

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Income Division, State Personal Income: 1969-2008

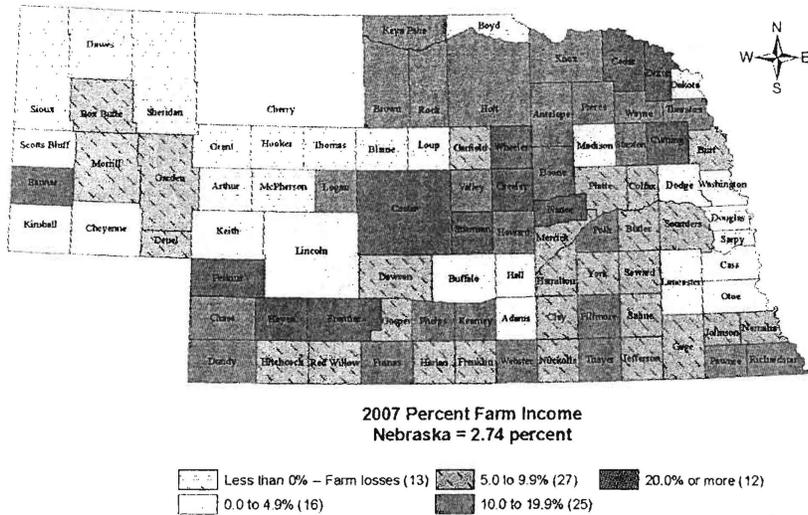
State	Percent	Rank
United States	0.6	--
North Dakota	9.1	1
South Dakota	9.0	2
Iowa	5.3	3
Nebraska	4.9	4
Kansas	2.4	7
Minnesota	1.9	8
Missouri	1.0	13
Colorado	0.5	27
Wyoming	0.3	33

In 2008, Nebraska’s net farm income totaled \$3.4 billion. As a percentage, this was 4.9 percent of Nebraska’s total personal income and ranked as the fourth highest percentage nationally. North Dakota (9.1 percent) and South Dakota (9.0 percent) recorded the highest percentages of farm income, followed by Iowa at 5.3 percent. Kansas, Minnesota, and Missouri recorded percentages higher than the national average, while Colorado and Wyoming were below the national average. Nationally, 0.6 percent of total personal income came from net farm income.

Net farm income is an important source of income for many of Nebraska’s rural regions (see map). In 2007, 10.9 percent of Northeast Nebraska’s income came from net farm income. This was followed by North Central Nebraska (8.6 percent) and Southeast Nebraska (8.4 percent). Of the predominantly rural counties, west Nebraska registered the lowest percent of net farm income (2.2 percent).



Farm Income as a Percent of Total Personal Income, 2007



Source: Regional Economic Information System (REIS), U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), May 2009
Prepared by: Center for Public Affairs Research, University of Nebraska Omaha, February 2010

Transfer Receipts as a Percentage of Total Personal Income: 2008

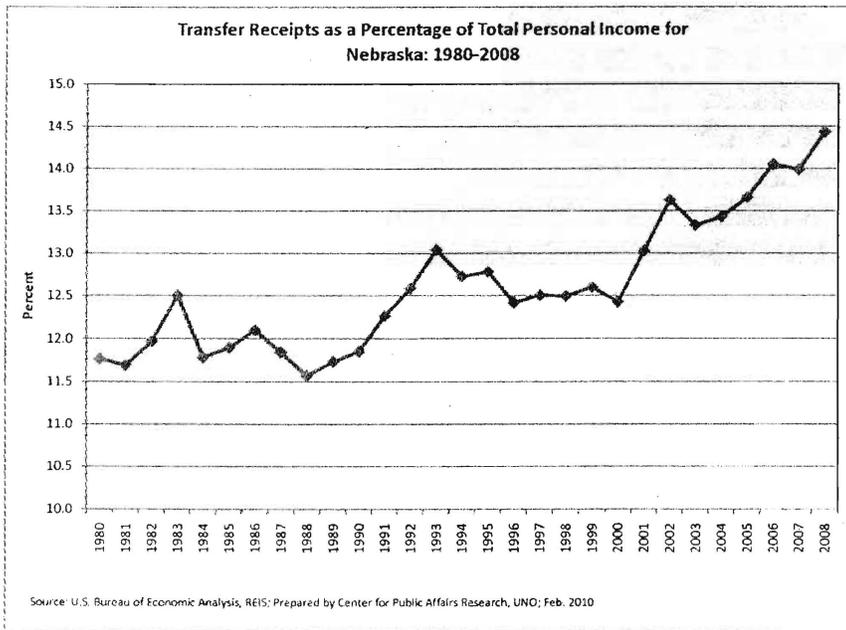
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Income Division, State Personal Income: 1969-2008

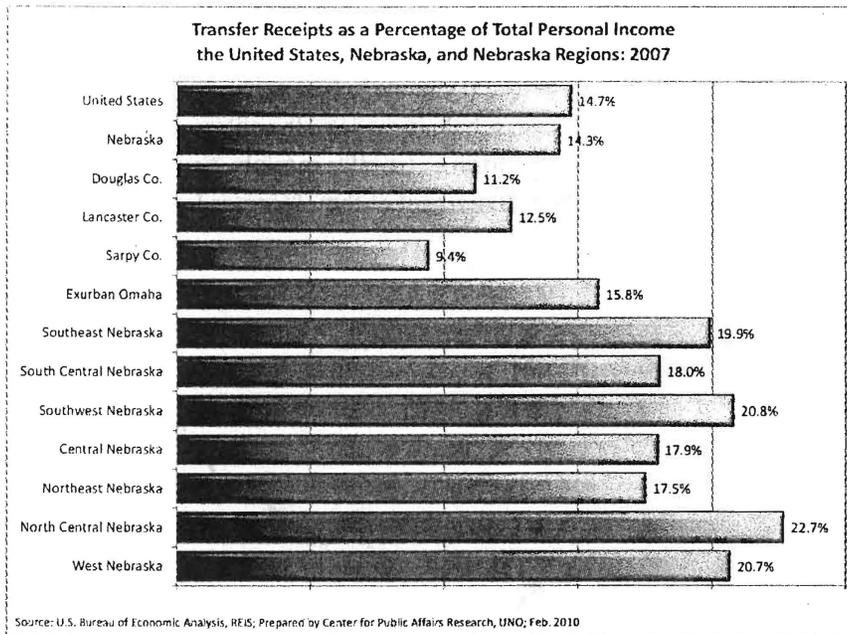
State	Percent	Rank
United States	15.3	--
Missouri	17.6	18
Iowa	15.8	28
North Dakota	14.7	30
Nebraska	14.4	32
Kansas	14.3	34
South Dakota	14.3	35
Minnesota	13.6	36
Wyoming	11.3	49
Colorado	10.4	51

Generally, states in the region are among the lowest in the proportion of personal income received from transfer payments. Only Missouri (17.6 percent) and Iowa (15.8 percent) exceeded the national value of 15.3 percent of personal income received from transfers. In 2008, Nebraska received \$10.1 billion from transfers or 14.4 percent of its personal income. This ranked 32nd among the 50 states and District of Columbia. Kansas, South Dakota, and Minnesota ranked 34th through 36th respectively. Colorado

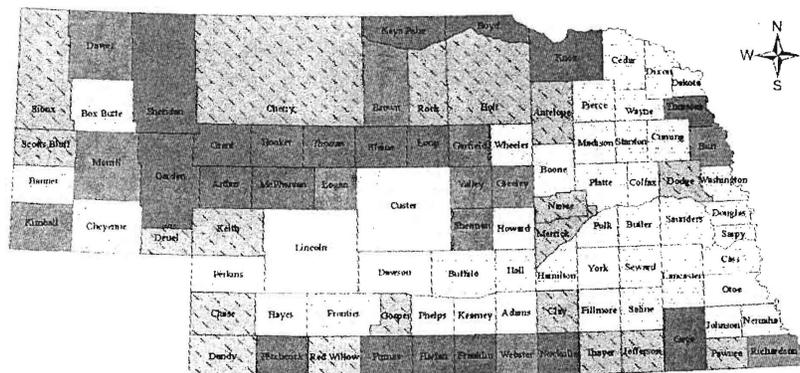
recorded the smallest percentage (10.4 percent) of income from transfer receipts. West Virginia ranked top in the nation, with 25.1 percent of its personal income in the form of transfer. Nationally, the percentage was 15.3 percent.

Transfer receipts were a smaller percentage of personal income in Nebraska’s three most populous counties than they were for the US and Nebraska as whole (see map). In contrast, the more rural regions of the state received higher shares of income in the form of transfer receipts. North Central, Southwest, and Northwest Nebraska each received more than 20 percent of their incomes from transfer receipts.





Transfer Receipts as a Percent of Total Personal Income, 2007



Source: Regional Economic Information System (REIS), U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), May 2009
Prepared by: Center for Public Affairs Research, University of Nebraska Omaha, February 2010

Meeting Needs

The state estimates of personal income and its components, per capita personal income, disposable personal income, employment, and GDP by state are widely used by Federal agencies, state governments, and the private sectors to measure and track economic well-being over time and to make comparisons across states in the level and composition of economic activity and the value added by a state's industries. These estimates provide a framework for the analysis of state economies, and they serve as a basis for decision making.

Community Benefits

State governments use the state estimates of personal income and GDP to measure the economic base of planning areas. They also use the estimates in econometric models for various planning purposes and to project tax revenue and the need for public utilities and services.

Currently, 20 states have set constitutional or statutory limits on state government revenue and spending that are tied to state personal income or to one of its components (National Conference of State Legislatures, State Tax and Expenditure Limits 2008). A majority of the states (including Nebraska) use the quarterly estimates of state personal income to project tax collections

Federal agencies use these estimates in econometric models, such as those used to project energy and water use; they also use the estimates as a basis for allocating funds and for determining matching grants. For example, the distribution of \$230 billion in federal funds is affected by the estimates of state per capita personal income. The estimates of GDP by state are also used to allocate federal funds.

University schools of business and economics use the estimates for theoretical and applied economic research. Some of these schools distribute the estimates in abstracts or similar reports to various state and local government agencies, regional councils of governments, private research groups, businesses, and libraries.

Businesses use the estimates for planning activities, such as evaluating markets for new or established products and determining areas for the location, expansion, and contraction of their activities.

Nebraska Legislative Planning Database – Economy

Poverty

Poverty imposes far-reaching hardships, not only on the poor but also on all who share their communities. Nebraska has one of the lowest poverty rates in the nation -- it was ranked 16th in the nation in 2008.

How is Nebraska Doing?

Poverty Rate for Persons: 2008

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements

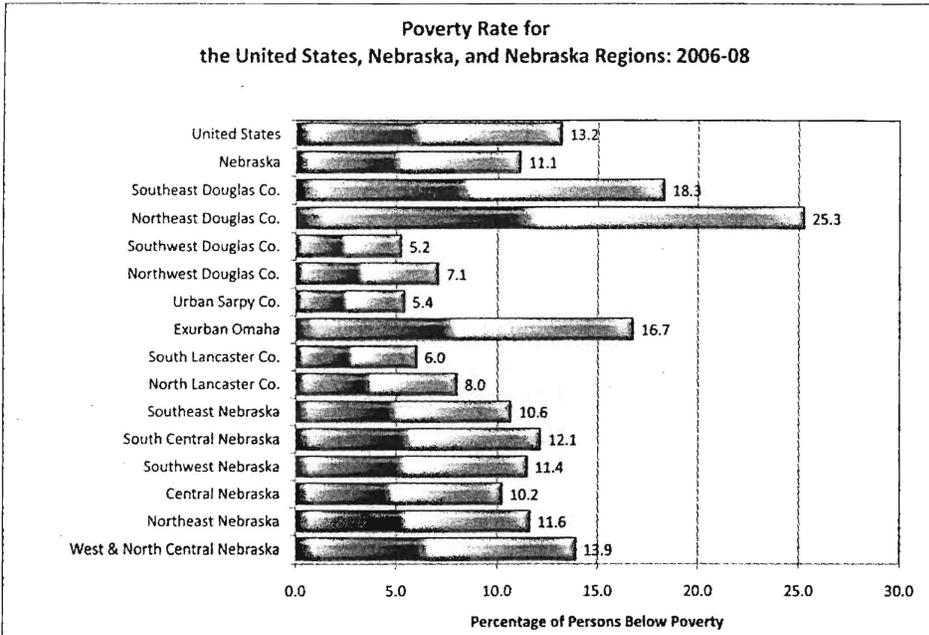
State	Percent	Rank
United States	13.2	--
Iowa	9.5	8
Minnesota	9.9	12
Wyoming	10.1	13
Nebraska	10.6	16
Colorado	11.0	19
North Dakota	11.8	22
Kansas	12.7	26
South Dakota	13.1	31
Missouri	13.3	32

In 2008, Nebraska had the 16th lowest poverty rate in the nation. During 2008, 10.6 percent of Nebraskans fell below the federal poverty level. Among Nebraska's peers in 2008, Iowa had the lowest rate of 9.5 percent, followed by Minnesota at 9.9 percent and Wyoming at 10.1 percent. Colorado, North Dakota, Kansas, South Dakota, and Missouri all had poverty rates exceeding those of Nebraska. New Hampshire ranked top in the nation with a poverty rate at 7.0 percent. The national average was 13.2 percent in 2008.

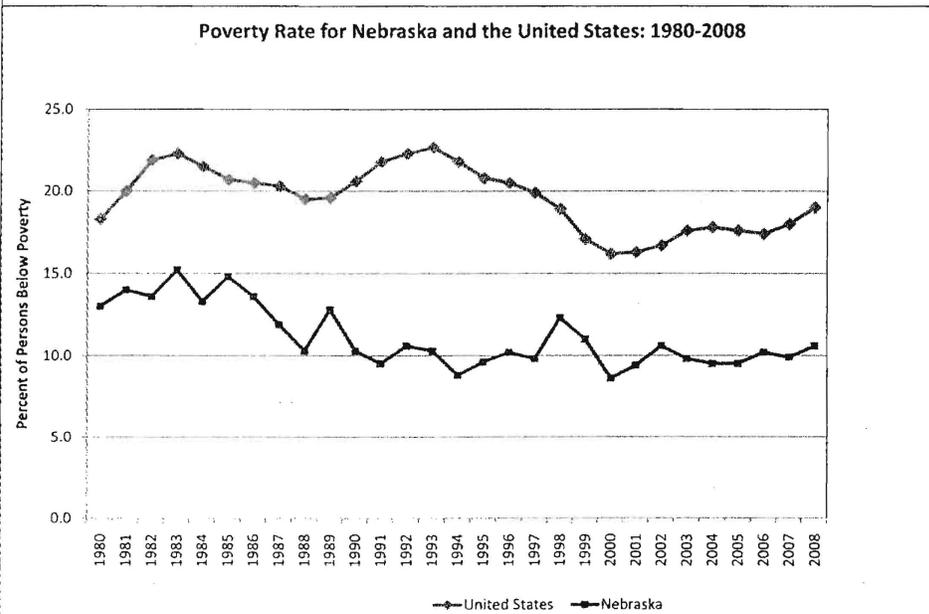
Since 1980, Nebraska consistently has had a poverty rate significantly below the national rate. During the 1990s the US rate increased, while Nebraska's rate declined. Since 2000 Nebraska has experienced a slight increase in the poverty rate compared to a much larger increase nationally (see map).

Looking at Nebraska regions during the 2006-08 period Northeast Douglas County had the highest percentage of individuals living below the poverty level (25.3 percent) of any region in the state, followed by Southeast Douglas County (18.3 percent) and the exurban Omaha area (16.7 percent). At the other end of the scale, the Southwest Douglas County (5.2 percent) and urban Sarpy County (5.4 percent) had the lowest percentage of individuals living below the poverty level. Most of the rural regions of the state had poverty rates close to the state average, with the West and North Central regions reporting the highest rate (13.9 percent).

Counties with the highest poverty rates generally lie in the Western and North Central part of Nebraska. The lowest rates can be found in South Central and Southeastern Counties.

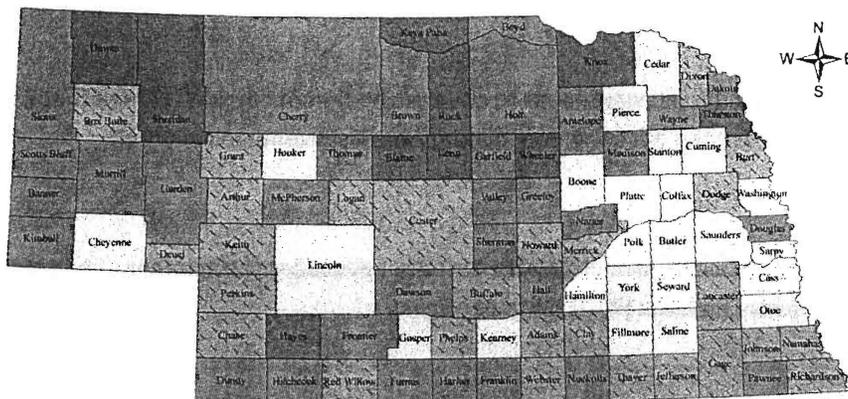


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-08 American Community Survey; Prepared by Center for Public Affairs Research, UNO; Feb. 2010

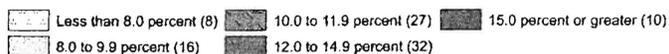


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements; Prepared by Center for Public Affairs Research, UNO; Feb. 2010

Poverty Rate for Individuals in Nebraska Counties, 2008



**2008 Poverty Rate for Individuals
Nebraska = 10.8 percent**



Source: 2008 Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE), U.S. Census Bureau, released November 2009

Meeting Needs

Poverty status is a vital measure of general economic circumstances. Poverty data are used to measure economic well-being and to assess the need for assistance. These data are included in federal allocation formulas for many government programs.

Community Benefits

Social Services

Under the Older Americans Act, funds for food, health care, and legal services are distributed to local agencies based on data about elderly people with low incomes. Data about income at the state and county levels are used to allocate funds for food, health care, and classes in meal planning to low-income women with children.

Employment

Income data are used to identify local areas eligible for grants to stimulate economic recovery, run job-training programs, and define areas such as empowerment or enterprise zones.

Housing

Under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, income data are used to allocate funds to areas for home energy aid. Under the Community Development Block Grant Program, funding for

housing assistance and other community development is based on income and other decennial census data.

Education

Data about poor children are used to allocate funds to counties and school districts. These funds provide resources and services to improve the education of economically disadvantaged children.

What Influences Poverty?

Programs and factors related to poverty are employment status, educational attainment, food stamps, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and Medicaid.

Nebraska Legislative Planning Database – Economy

Technology and Innovation

Succeeding in the new economy—or any economy—takes innovation. The top states for business prize innovation, nurture new ideas, and have the infrastructure to support them. It is important to remember measures of innovation are subjective and reflect the bias of the organization preparing the measure.

How is Nebraska Doing?

America's Top States for Business 2009, Technology and Innovation

Source: CNBC.com

State	2009 Rank
Minnesota	9
Colorado	11
Missouri	21
Iowa	24
Kansas	27
Nebraska	32
North Dakota	47
South Dakota	48
Wyoming	50

According to CNBC's rankings, Nebraska ranked as the 32nd state for technology and innovation in 2009. Nebraska ranked below most of its peer states. Minnesota, Colorado, Missouri, Iowa, and Kansas ranked higher, while North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming ranked lower. Nebraska and its peer states generally fall in the bottom portion of the states for technology and innovation. California had the highest ranking, and Wyoming had the lowest ranking.

The 2007 State New Economy Index

Source: The Information Technology and Innovation Foundation

State	2007 Rank
Colorado	9
Nebraska	28
Kansas	34
Missouri	35
North Dakota	37
Iowa	38
Wyoming	43
South Dakota	48

In 2007, Nebraska ranked 28th on the State New Economy Index. Even with its relatively low ranking, Nebraska still ranked higher than all but one of its peer states (Colorado). Most of Nebraska's peer states ranked in the bottom third of all states. Massachusetts recorded the highest ranking, and West Virginia recorded the lowest ranking.

Meeting Needs

In their report, the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation says "States that focus their policy efforts in these areas will be well positioned to experience strong growth, particularly in per capita incomes. And that is the true objective. Developing a vibrant New Economy is not an end in itself; it is the means to advance larger, progressive goals: higher incomes, new economic opportunities, more individual choice and freedom, greater dignity and autonomy for working Americans, and stronger communities."

Nebraska Legislative Planning Database – Economy

Unemployment

Unemployment is an important indicator of an area's economic well being. In 2009, Nebraska's unemployment rate was 4.6 percent and ranked as the second lowest nationally.

How is Nebraska Doing?

Annual Unemployment Rates: 2009

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

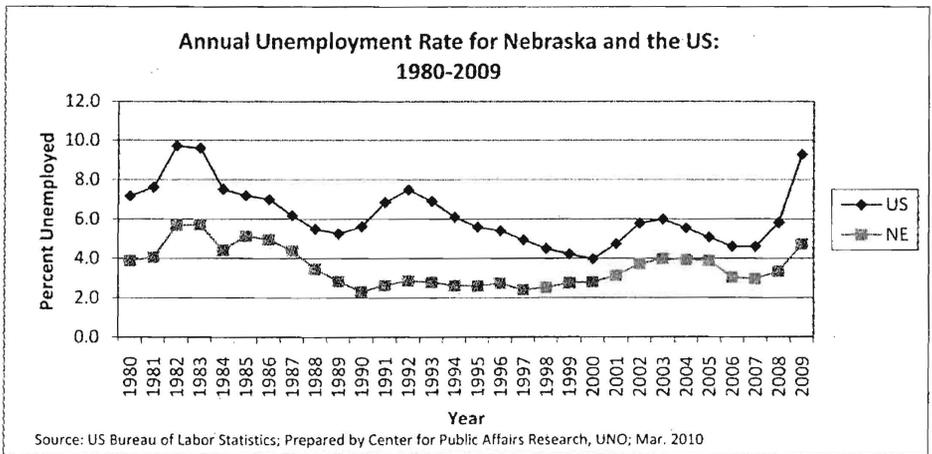
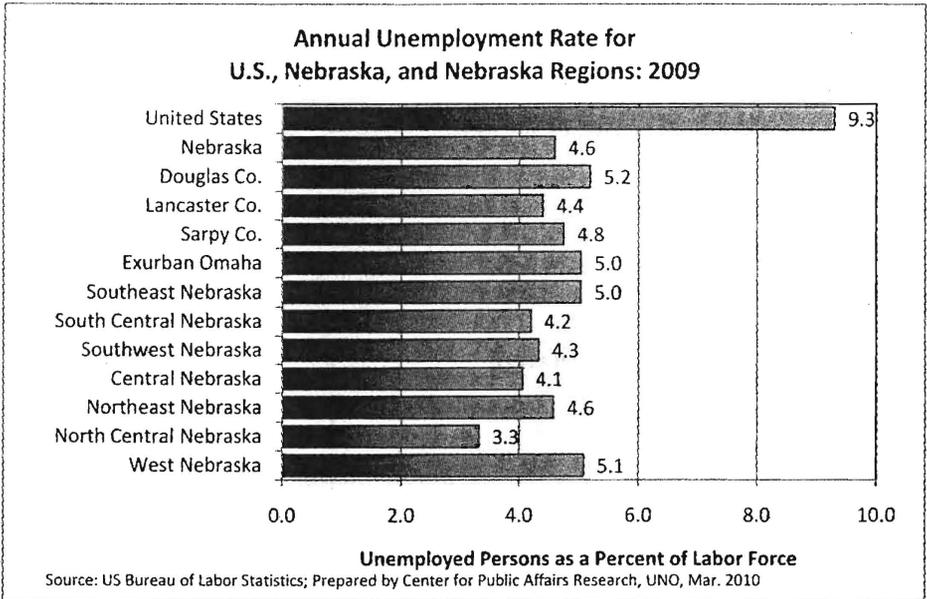
State	Percent	Rank
United States	9.3	--
North Dakota	4.2	1
Nebraska	4.6	2
South Dakota	5.0	3
Iowa	6.3	5
Wyoming	6.5	7
Kansas	6.8	10
Colorado	7.4	15
Minnesota	7.8	19
Missouri	9.4	34

Nebraska and its peer states recorded the lowest unemployment rates in the nation. North Dakota, Nebraska, and South Dakota had the three lowest unemployment rates, with rates of 4.2 percent, 4.6 percent, and 5.0 percent respectively. Only Missouri, at 9.4 percent, exceeded the national value of 9.3 percent. The highest unemployment rate occurred in Michigan with a rate of 13.3 percent.

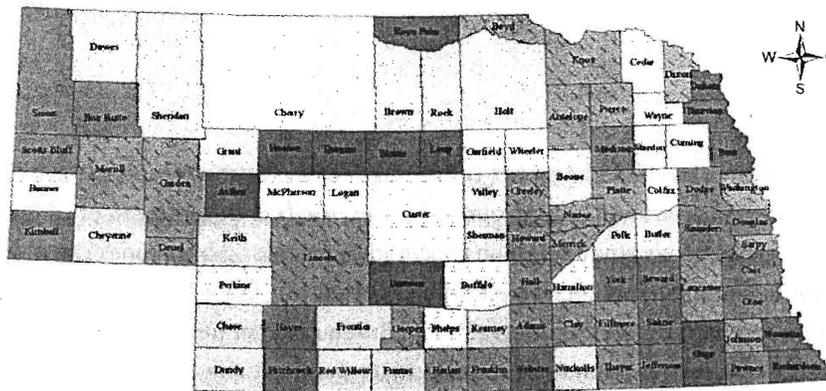
Since 1980, Nebraska's unemployment rate has shown a pattern similar to the national rate, but consistently has fallen below it. The exception to this trend occurred in the 1990s when the national rate rose between 1989 and 1992 and then fell steadily until 2000. In contrast, Nebraska's rate was relatively steady until 2000 and then began to increase.

In 2009, the highest regional unemployment rate in Nebraska was for Douglas County (5.2 percent), followed by West Nebraska, Exurban Omaha, and Southeast Nebraska, all with rates 5.0 percent or higher. The lowest unemployment rate was in North Central Nebraska, with a rate of 3.3 percent (see map).

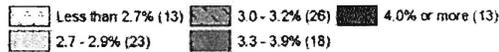
County unemployment rates in 2008 reflected the regional unemployment rates, with some individual exceptions. County unemployment rates ranged from a high in Thurston County (11.5 percent) to a low of 2.8 percent in Cherry County. Overall, 61 of the state's 93 counties had an unemployment rate below the state's average of 4.6 percent.



Civilian Unemployment Rate, 2008



**2008 Annual Unemployment Rate
Nebraska = 3.3%**



Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)
Prepared by: Center for Public Affairs Research, University of Nebraska Omaha, February 2010

Annual Alternative Unemployment Rate: 2009

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

State	Percent	Rank
United States	16.2	--
North Dakota	8.0	1
Nebraska	9.0	2
South Dakota	9.9	3
Iowa	11.3	6
Wyoming	11.5	7
Kansas	11.7	8
Colorado	13.7	15
Minnesota	14.2	20
Missouri	15.6	32

Note: The alternative unemployment rate is a more comprehensive measure developed by BLS that includes total unemployed, plus all marginally attached workers, plus total employed part time for economic reasons, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus all marginally attached workers.

The unemployment rate is a rather narrow definition of unemployment. The above table is the broadest of several alternative measures developed by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics. This measure includes the usual definition of unemployment plus discouraged workers and other marginally attached workers and persons employed part time for economic reasons. Using this measure, Nebraska again ranks

second out of the 50 states and District of Columbia. However, the unemployment rate of 9.0 percent is nearly double the size of the official unemployment rate. North Dakota, Nebraska, and South Dakota were the only states with the alternative unemployment rate below 10 percent. Nationally, using this alternative measure, the unemployment rate was 16.2 percent, and Michigan's rate of 21.5 percent was the nation's highest.

Meeting Needs

Unemployment status is key to understanding work the strength of the economy and the availability of workers. Based on labor market areas and unemployment levels, the U.S. Department of Labor identifies service delivery areas and determines amounts to be allocated to each for job training. The impact of immigration on the economy and job markets is determined partially by labor force data, and this information is included in required reports to Congress. The Bureau of Economic Analysis uses this information, in conjunction with other data, to develop its state per capita income estimates used in the allocation formulas and eligibility criteria of many federal programs such as Medicaid.

Community Benefits

For local areas with substantial unemployment, labor force data are used to allocate funds and identify programs that create new jobs. Data are used to target state and local areas with a labor force surplus for programs that promote business opportunities. Within the U.S. Department of Labor, data about the labor force are needed to evaluate job complaints reported on the basis of disability.

Nebraska's Legislative Planning Database

Agriculture

Jerry Deichert

Center for Public Affairs Research, UNO

September 10, 2010

This benchmark examines Nebraska's agriculture by reviewing four broad areas: Farm income; Farm receipts; Agricultural diversity; and Farm operations. When available, data are presented for the period 1980 to 2008. At other times, the period is 2002 to 2007. The most currently available data at the time the data files were put together are used. Additional information can be found from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture's website. Two areas of interest on the website are: Laws and Regulations and Nebraska Agricultural Facts.

<http://www.agr.state.ne.us/regulate/regulate.htm>

<http://www.agr.state.ne.us/facts.pdf>

Farm Income

Generally, measures of Nebraska's rural income are slightly below the national average. The U.S. Census Bureau reports that Nebraska's rural per capita income for 2008 was \$25,702, which was 99 percent of the national average of \$25,973. Rural Nebraska's income ranked 28th nationally and was in the bottom half of the region. Although there have been year-to-year fluctuations, since 2005, Nebraska's per capita income has been growing faster than the nation's. Between 2005 and 2008, Nebraska's growth was 15.4 percent compared to 11.0 percent for the U.S.

The U.S. Census Bureau also measured the poverty rate for persons living in rural Nebraska in 2008. Using this measure, rural Nebraskans fared better than the nation with a poverty rate of 8.0 percent compared to 13.2 percent for the nation. Regionally, Nebraska had the fifth lowest rural poverty rate. Since 2005, rural Nebraska's poverty rate has fluctuated from year-to-year but is nearly unchanged.

Nebraska ranked 25th nationally and fifth regionally in the number of persons working on farms (this includes farm proprietors). Since 1990, the number of people working on farms fell 32.1 percent. Nationally, the decline was about half, at 16.2 percent. Even though rural employment has been declining, Nebraska's rural unemployment rate was 4.4 percent in 2009 and was the lowest in the region.

Farm Receipts

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reported cash receipts from livestock and products in 2008 at 9.9 billion dollars in 2008. This ranked fifth nationally and only behind Iowa in the region. Cash receipts from crops totaled 9.0 billion dollars in 2008. Again Nebraska ranked fifth nationally but was lower than Iowa and Minnesota in the region. Historically, cash receipts from livestock and products have consistently exceed those from crops.

Net farm income for Nebraska reached 4.2 billion dollars in 2008. This was fifth nationally and was less than Iowa and Minnesota in the region. 2008 was an excellent year for Nebraska net farm income.

Looking at data since 1980, the 2008 figure was by far the largest. The next highest was for 2007 at 2.9 billion dollars.

Government farm payments historically have been an important source of income for Nebraska farmers. In 2008, the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis estimated farm payments to Nebraska farmers were 519 million dollars, representing about one-eighth of the total net farm income. This was the eighth highest nationally and fifth in the region.

Agricultural Diversity

Agricultural diversity looks at the commodities produced in Nebraska and exported from Nebraska. In 2008, the top five agricultural commodities produced in Nebraska were: Cattle and calves, corn, soybeans, hogs, and wheat. The five most important agricultural exports were: Feed grains and products, soybeans and products, live animals and meat, wheat and products, and hides and skins.

Farm Operations

Every five years, in years ending in 2 and 7, the U.S. Department of Agriculture conducts a Census of Agriculture. According to the 2007 Census, Nebraska had 45.5 million acres in farmland (including ranches). This was a decrease of 0.9 percent since 2002. Also in 2007, Nebraska had 47,712 farms and ranches. This number ranked 20th nationally and in the middle of the region. Since 2002, however, the number of Nebraska farms fell 3.3 percent. This was the largest decline in the region, and only two states nationally had a larger decline in the number of farms.

Between 2002 and 2007, the average Nebraska farm size increased from 930 acres to 953 acres (2.5 percent). Regionally, Nebraska and South Dakota were the only states experiencing an increase in the average farm size. Nationally, the average farm size dropped 5.2 percent from 441 acres to 418 acres. Approximately 41 percent of Nebraska farms and ranches had sales of 100 thousand dollars or more, and only 5 percent had sales of a million dollars or more.

Nebraska farm operators were less likely to be full owners than farm operators nationally and in the region. Overall, 50.3 percent of Nebraska farm operators were full owners (compared to part owners and renters). For the nation the comparable figure was 69.0 percent.

Observations

The above analysis has shown that production agriculture is a major component of the state's economy. In 2008, farm marketings brought nearly 19 billion dollars into the state and provided nearly 50 thousand jobs. Depending upon the measure, rural Nebraskans generally fare better economically than the typical rural resident nationally. Per capita incomes are comparable, but poverty and employment rates are considerably lower. Similar to the nation as a whole but in contrast to most of the region, Nebraska farms are getting larger and fewer in numbers.

Policy Considerations

Looking at the Nebraska Department of Agriculture's website, it can be seen that the state of Nebraska has a considerable number of laws and regulations that impact agriculture. These laws and regulations will have an impact on the profitability and structure of Nebraska's farms. Additionally, the above analysis shows that Federal government farm payments have a sizable and variable impact on net farm income. In twelve of the years since 1980, government payments accounted for more than half of Nebraska's net farm income.

Nebraska Legislative Planning Database - Agriculture

Farm Income

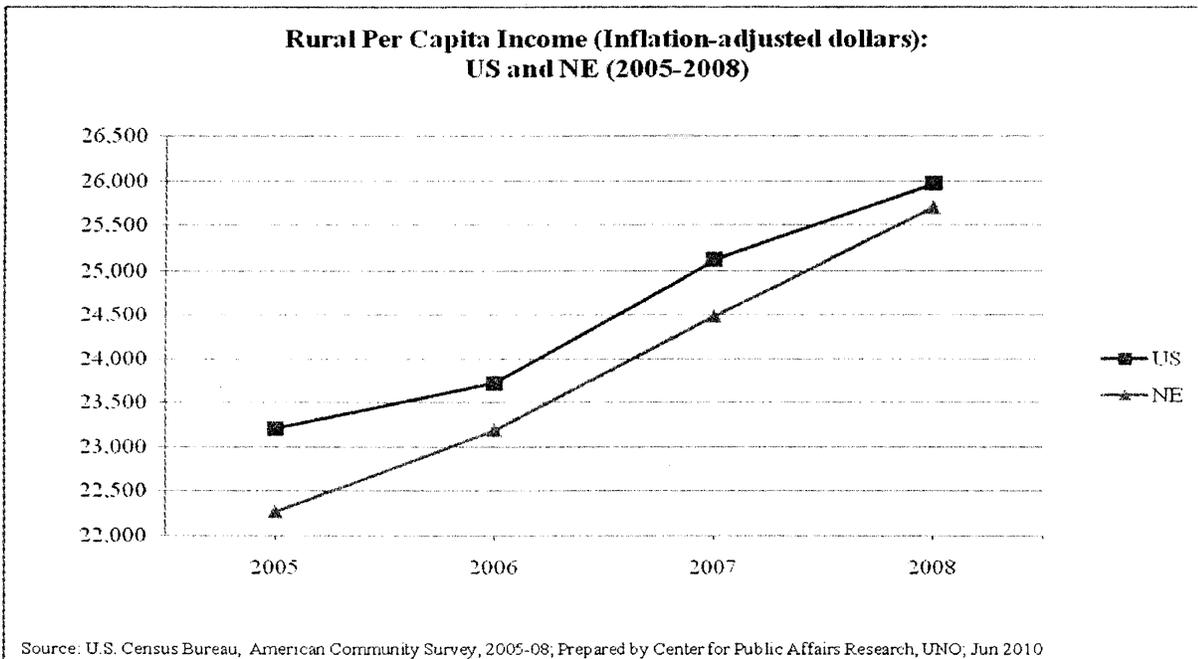
Rural Per Capita Income: 2008

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey

State	Dollars	Rank
Colorado	33,589	6
Wyoming	29,309	10
Minnesota	27,857	17
Kansas	27,295	21
Iowa	26,860	22
North Dakota	26,794	24
Nebraska	25,702	28
South Dakota	24,058	35
Missouri	22,572	42

Rural Per Capita Income: United States and Nebraska: 2005-2008

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-08 American Community Survey



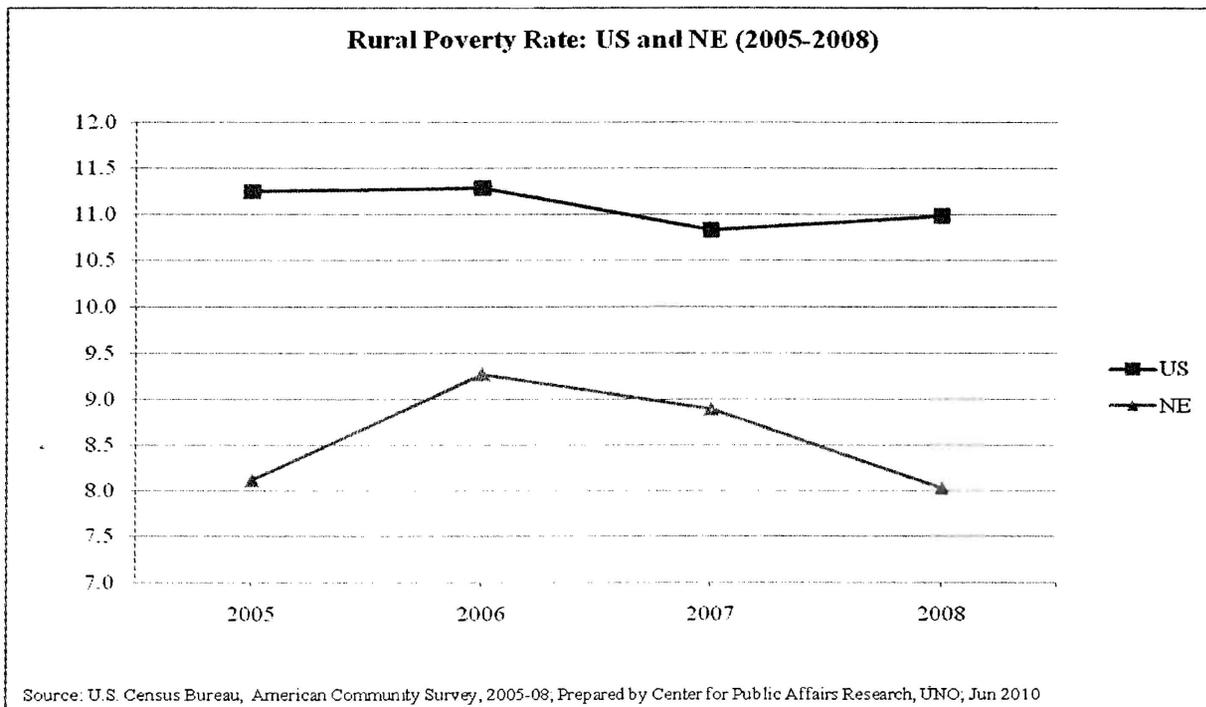
Rural Poverty Rate: 2008

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey

State	Percent	Rank
South Dakota	12.9	13
Missouri	12.3	15
North Dakota	11.2	20
Iowa	8.6	32
Nebraska	8.0	34
Kansas	7.6	40
Minnesota	7.5	41
Wyoming	7.2	42
Colorado	6.7	44

Rural Poverty Rate: United States and Nebraska: 2005-2008

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-08 American Community Survey



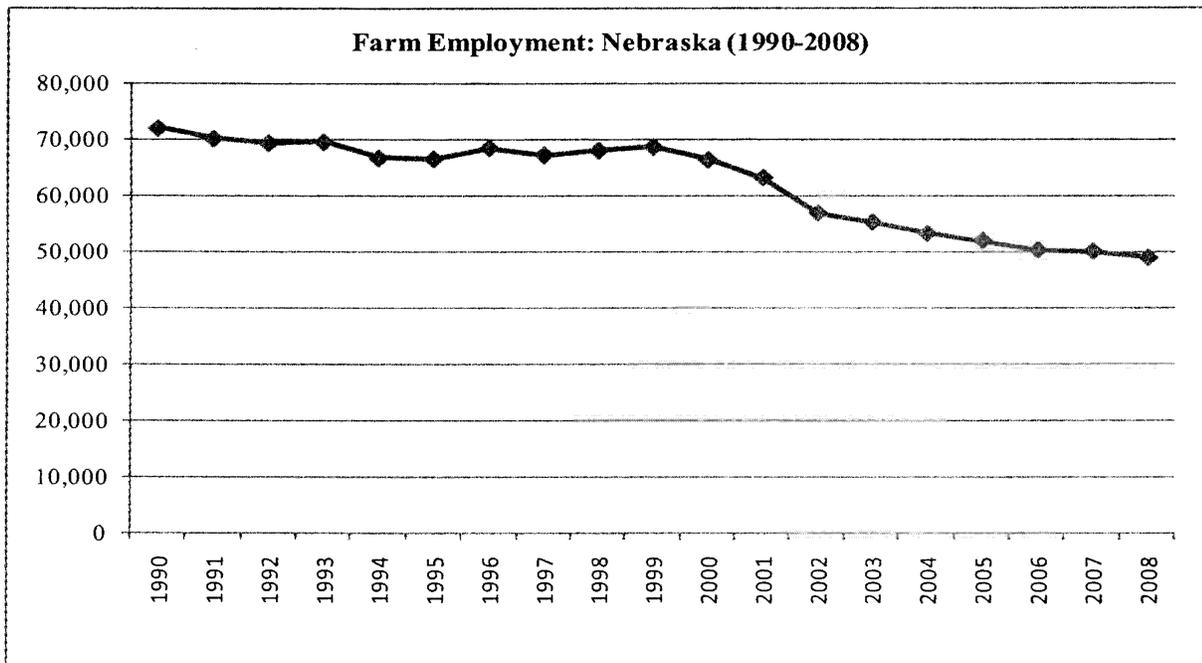
Farm Employment: 2008

Source: Regional Economic Information System, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce

State	Persons	Rank
Missouri	105,190	3
Iowa	92,596	5
Minnesota	82,540	9
Kansas	64,259	18
Nebraska	48,932	25
Colorado	45,201	26
North Dakota	32,225	30
South Dakota	32,063	31
Wyoming	12,699	40

Farm Employment: Nebraska (1990-2008)

Source: Regional Economic Information System, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce



Rural Unemployment Rate: 2009

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture

State	Percent Unemployed	Rank*
Missouri	9.4	1
Minnesota	8.5	2
Colorado	6.9	3
Iowa	6.7	4
Wyoming	6.3	5
Kansas	5.7	6
South Dakota	4.8	7
North Dakota	4.6	8
Nebraska	4.4	9

* Ranking is within region only.

Farm Receipts

Cash Receipts from Livestock and Products: 2008

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System: 1969-2008

	(thousand \$)	Rank
United States	179,858,239	
Iowa	12,973,060	3
Nebraska	9,937,348	5
Kansas	9,874,409	6
Minnesota	7,193,899	7
Colorado	4,732,505	11
Missouri	4,059,200	15
South Dakota	3,218,364	19
North Dakota	1,111,824	36
Wyoming	763,205	39

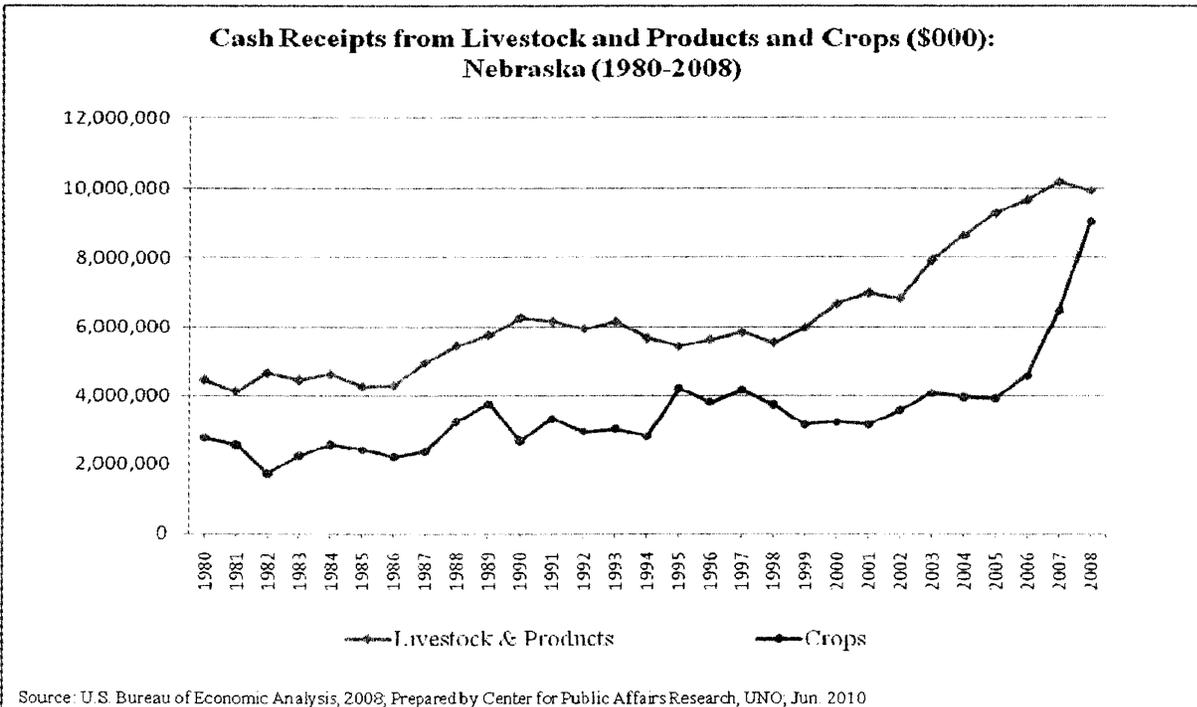
Cash Receipts from Crops: 2008

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System: 1969-2008

	(thousand \$)	Rank
United States	184,786,323	
Iowa	15,112,365	2
Minnesota	10,154,310	4
Nebraska	9,047,811	5
Kansas	6,776,507	8
North Dakota	6,735,956	9
South Dakota	5,404,896	12
Missouri	4,868,208	14
Colorado	2,381,453	22
Wyoming	225,618	45

Cash Receipts from Livestock and Products and Crops: Nebraska (1980-2008)

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System: 1969-2008



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2008; Prepared by Center for Public Affairs Research, UNO, Jun. 2010

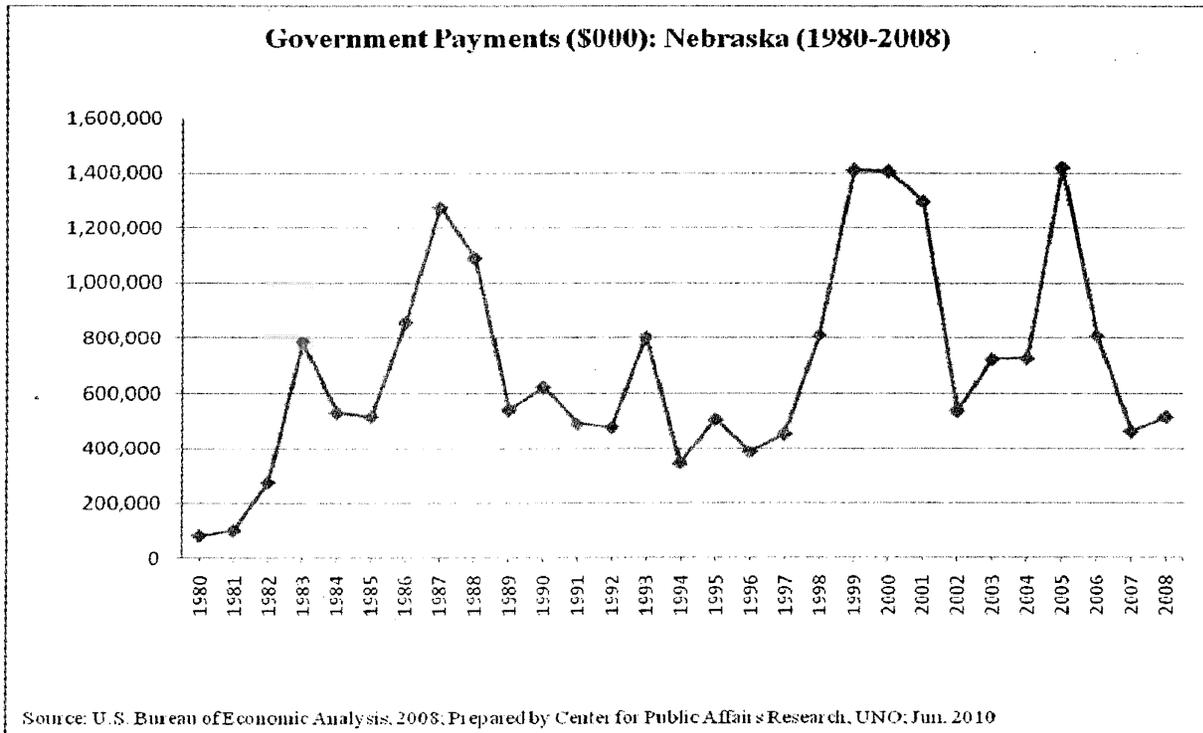
Government Farm Payments: 2008

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System: 1969-2008

	(thousand \$)	Rank
United States	12,237,569	
Iowa	803,532	2
Kansas	647,705	3
Minnesota	544,269	5
Missouri	538,475	6
Nebraska	518,502	8
North Dakota	510,590	9
South Dakota	400,726	11
Colorado	261,070	20
Wyoming	45,684	38

Government Farm Payments: Nebraska (1980-2008)

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System: 1969-2008



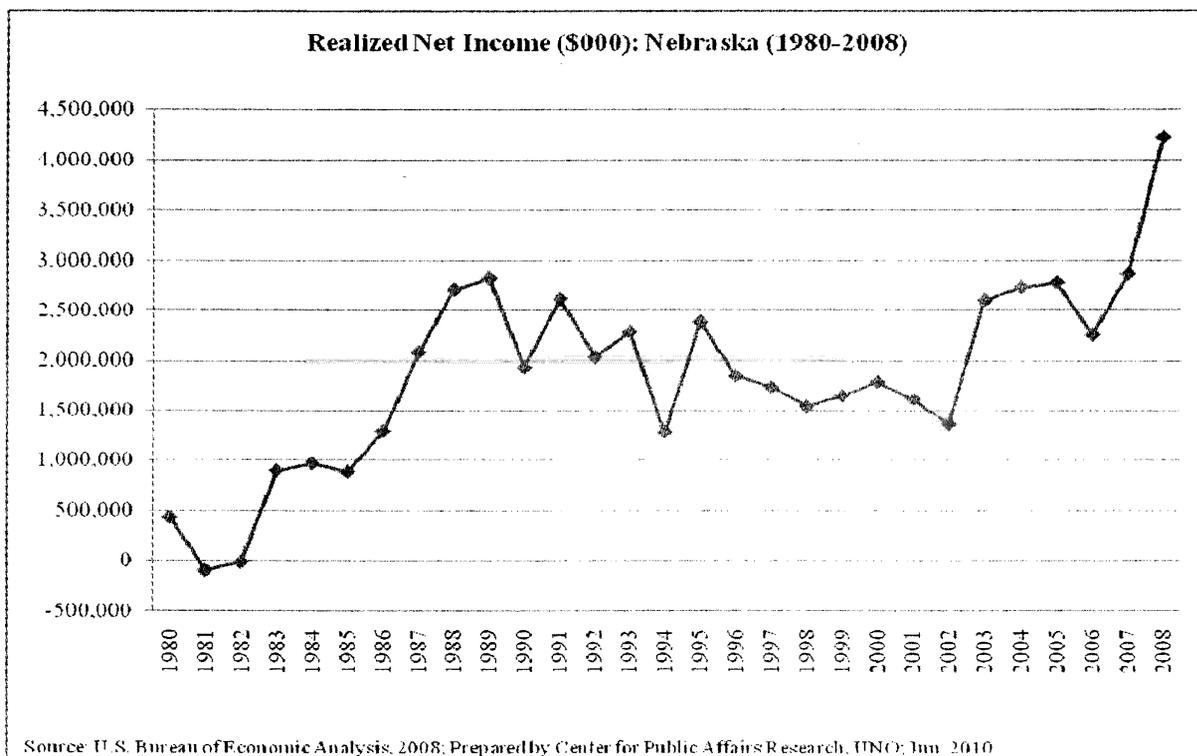
Realized Net Farm Income: 2008

Source: Regional Economic Information System, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce

State	(thousand \$)	Rank
Iowa	7,875,055	1
Minnesota	5,351,566	4
Nebraska	4,226,152	5
Kansas	3,578,677	6
South Dakota	2,812,675	8
Missouri	2,534,826	10
North Dakota	2,333,339	11
Colorado	1,161,020	21
Wyoming	-72,635	49

Realized Net Farm Income (\$000): Nebraska (1980-2008)

Source: Regional Economic Information System, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce



Agricultural Diversity

Nebraska's Top 5 Agriculture Commodities: 2008

Source: Economic Research Service, USDA, Washington, DC

Commodities	Value of receipts (thousand \$)	Percent of state total farm receipts	Percent of United States value	Regional Rank*
1. Cattle and calves	7,068,679	40.8	14.7	1
2. Corn	5,712,110	33.0	11.1	2
3. Soybeans	2,209,240	12.8	7.6	3
4. Hogs	728,702	4.2	4.5	4
5. Wheat	514,655	3.0	3.0	4
All commodities	17,315,688		5.3	

Nebraska's Top 5 Agriculture Exports, Estimates: FY 2008

Source: Economic Research Service, USDA, Washington, DC

	Rank among states	Value (million \$)	Regional Rank*
1. Feed grains and products	3	1939.8	2
2. Soybeans and products	5	1476.4	3
3. Live animals and meat	2	1134.8	2
4. Wheat and products	12	426.1	4
5. Hides and skins	1	391.5	1
Overall rank	5	5944.6	

* Ranking is within region only.

Farm Operations

Total Farmland and Percentage Change in Total Farmland: 2002-2007

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, United States Department of Agriculture

State	Millions of Acres		2007 Rank*	Percentage Change
	2002	2007		2002 - 2007
United States	938.3	922.1	--	-1.7
Colorado	31.1	31.6	5	1.6
Iowa	31.7	30.7	6	-3.1
Kansas	47.2	46.3	1	-1.9
Minnesota	27.5	26.9	9	-2.2
Missouri	29.9	29	8	-3.1
Nebraska	45.9	45.5	2	-0.9
North Dakota	39.3	39.7	4	1.0
South Dakota	43.8	43.7	3	-0.3
Wyoming	34.4	30.2	7	-12.3

* Ranking is within region only.

Number of Farms: 2007

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, United States Department of Agriculture

State	Number	Rank
Missouri	107,825	2
Iowa	92,856	3
Minnesota	80,992	7
Kansas	65,531	12
Nebraska	47,712	20
Colorado	37,054	26
North Dakota	31,970	28
South Dakota	31,169	29
Wyoming	11,069	39

Percentage Change in Number of Farms: 2002-2007

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, United States Department of Agriculture

State	Percentage Change	Rank
Colorado	18.1	7
Wyoming	17.5	8
North Dakota	4.4	28
Iowa	2.4	32
Kansas	1.7	34
Missouri	1.0	38
Minnesota	0.2	39
South Dakota	-1.8	43
Nebraska	-3.3	48

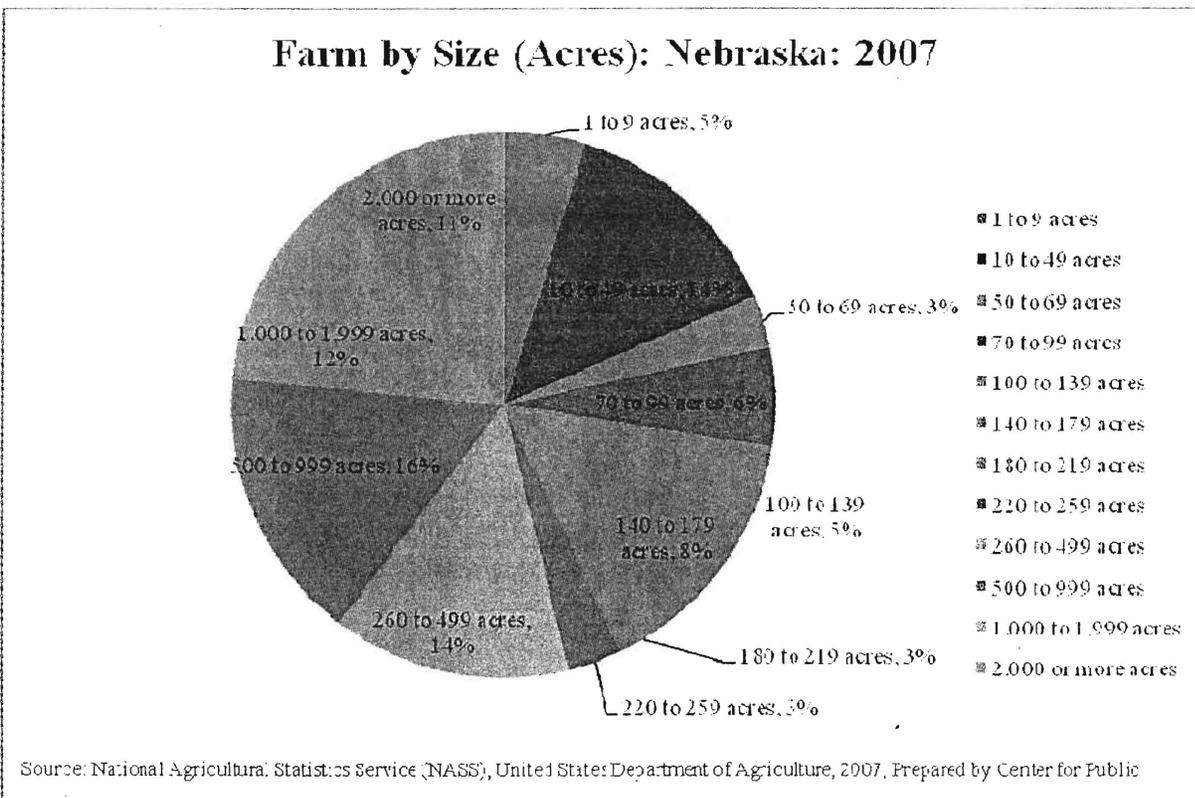
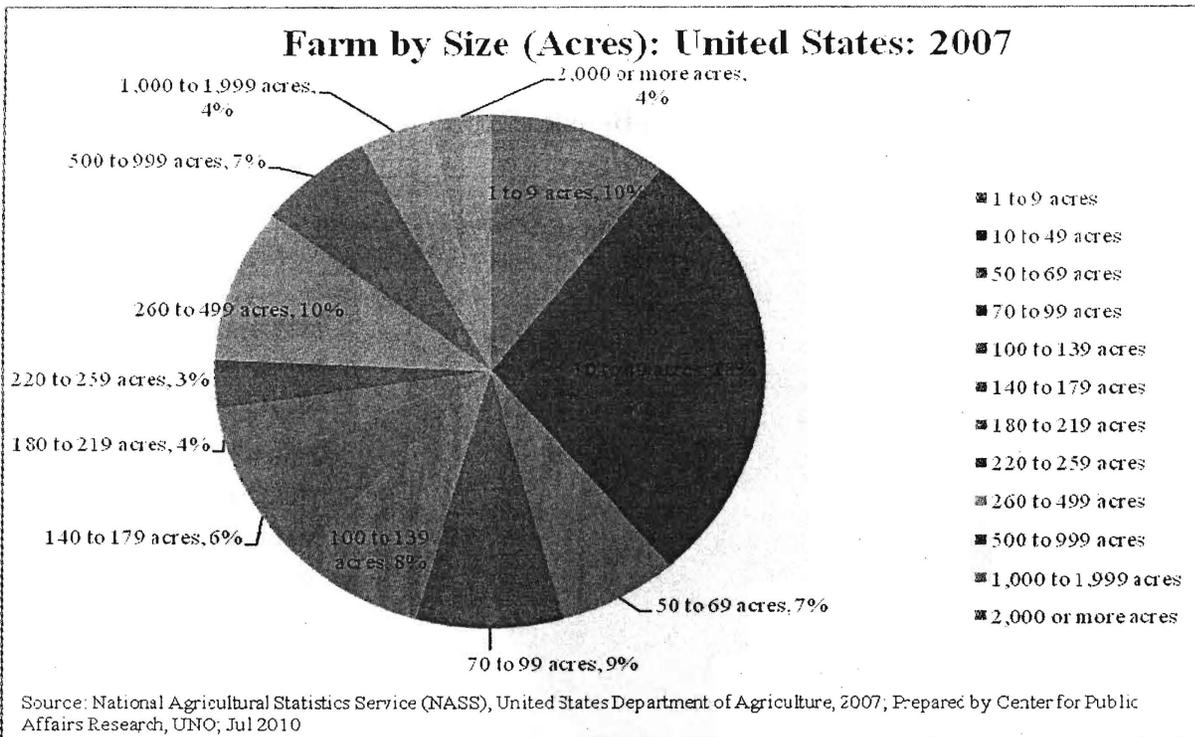
Average Farm Size and Percentage Change in Average Farm Size: 2002-2007

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, United States Department of Agriculture

State	Average Size of Farm (Acres)			Percent Change from 2002 -
	2002	2007	2007 Rank*	2007
United States	441	418	--	-5.2
Wyoming	3,651	2,726	1	-25.3
South Dakota	1,380	1,401	2	1.5
North Dakota	1,283	1,241	3	-3.3
Nebraska	930	953	4	2.5
Colorado	991	853	5	-13.9
Kansas	733	707	6	-3.5
Minnesota	340	332	7	-2.4
Iowa	350	331	8	-5.4
Missouri	280	269	9	-3.9

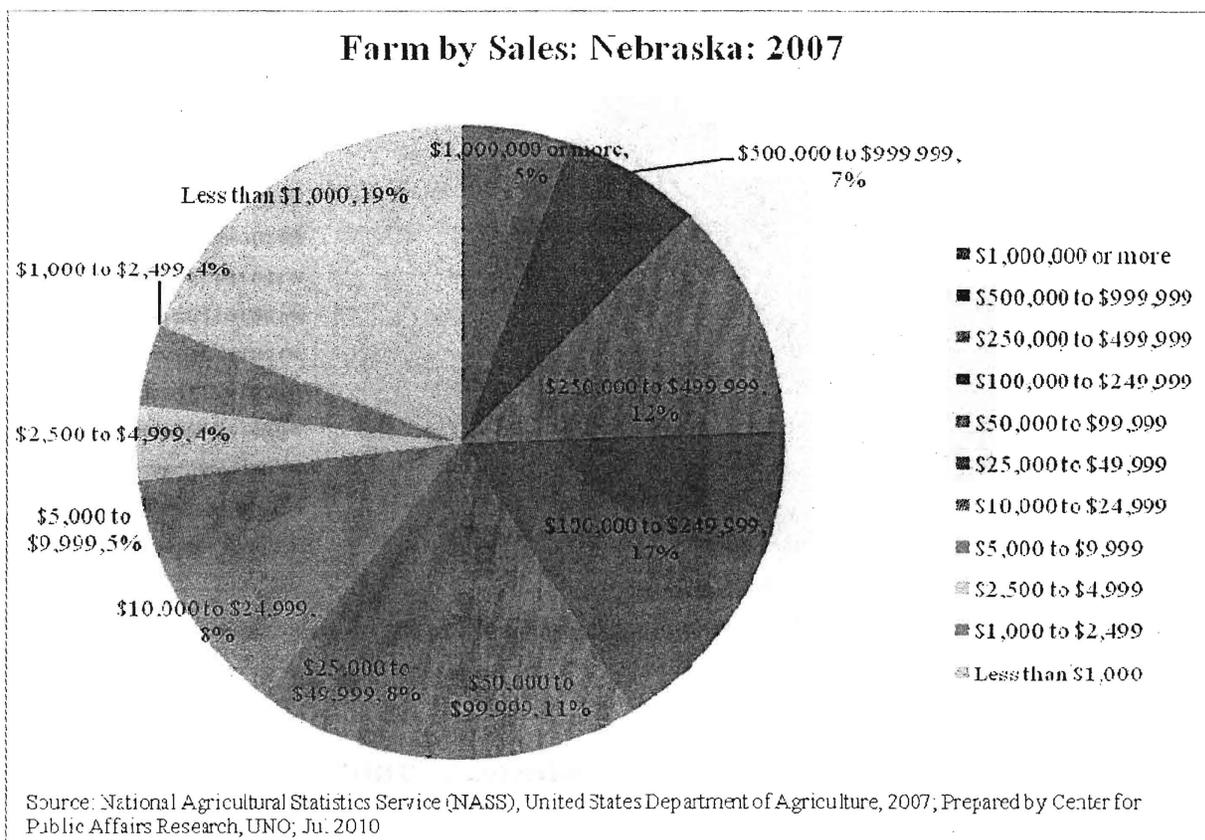
Farms by Size: United States and Nebraska (2002-2007)

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, United States Department of Agriculture



Farms by Value of Sales: Nebraska (2002-2007)

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, United States Department of Agriculture



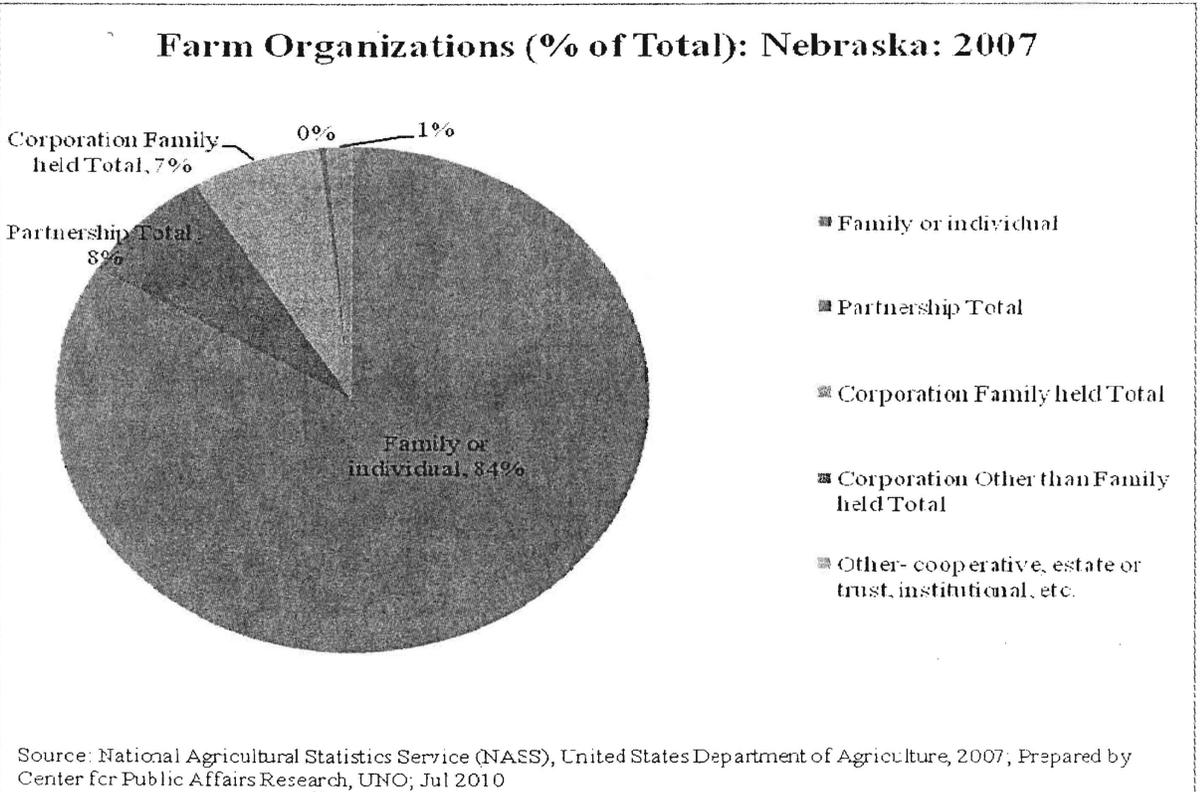
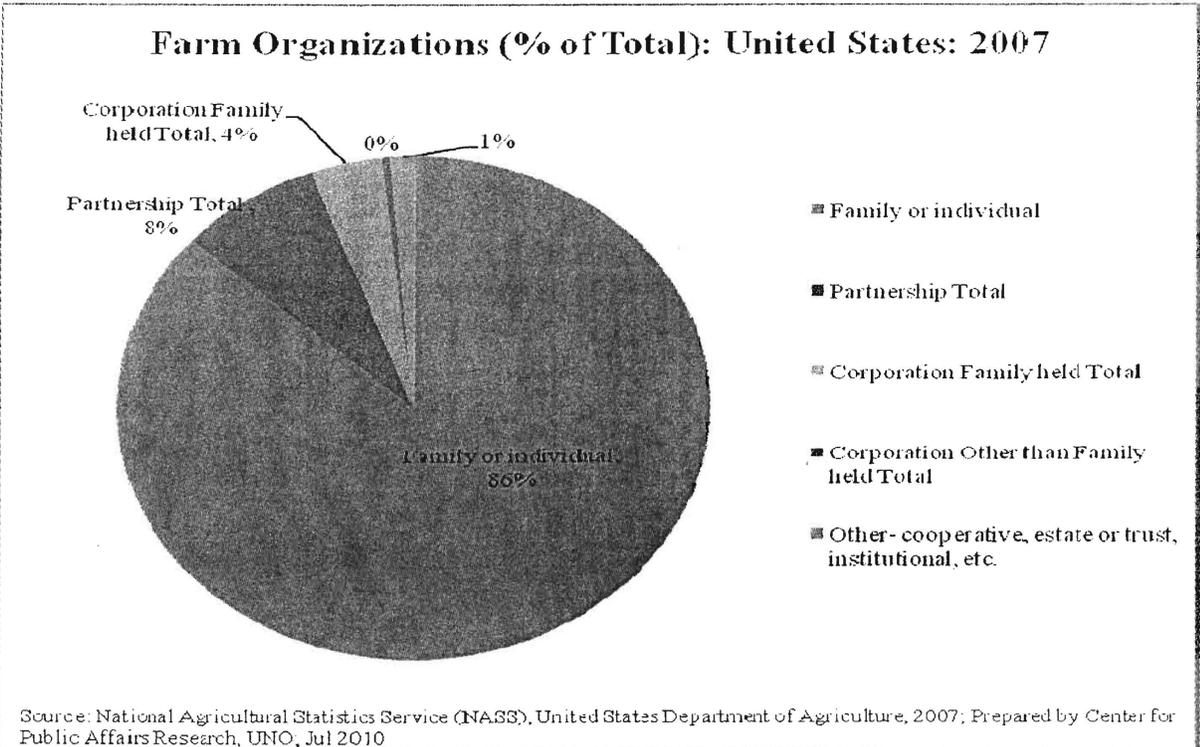
Tenure of Farmers and Number of Farm Operators: 2007

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, United States Department of Agriculture

	Percentage of Farms with Full Owners	Percentage of Farms with One Operator
United States	69.0	57.7
Colorado	71.5	47.1
Iowa	57.6	62.0
Kansas	58.7	59.9
Minnesota	63.5	61.0
Missouri	71.8	56.6
Nebraska	50.3	58.7
North Dakota	51.0	65.9
South Dakota	50.1	60.1
Wyoming	64.4	46.1

Farm Organization: United States and Nebraska (2007)

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, United States Department of Agriculture



Nebraska's Legislative Planning Database

Education

This benchmark examines Nebraska's education by reviewing four broad areas: P-16 Initiative Goals; Access; Assessment; and Funding stability. The most currently available data at the time the data files were put together are used. Additional information can be found from the Nebraska Department of Education's website <http://www.education.ne.gov/>.

P-16 Initiative Goals

Nebraska has a comparatively large percentage of its high school graduates attending a degree granting institution and most of them attend a college in Nebraska. In the 2006-07 school year, 64.3 percent of Nebraska's high school graduates attended college, and 52.4 percent attended a college in Nebraska. The comparable numbers for the nation were below Nebraska's at 62.0 percent and 50.1 percent. Regionally, Nebraska ranked toward the middle in both categories but was 18th nationally in the percentage of college attendees and 19th nationally in the percentage attending college in their home state. For a list of the P-16 Initiative goals go to <https://p16.nebraska.edu/strategic-plan.html>.

Access

In 2009-10, 10,259 children attended an early childhood education program conducted by a school district or ESU. This is an increase from 2008-09 (9,641) and 2007-08 (8,692). In addition, approximately 2,000 children were served by non-school district Head Start programs.

Compared to the nation and region, Nebraska lags in the percentage of children aged 3 and 4 who are enrolled in a program. According to the 2005-07 American Community Survey, 42.0 percent of Nebraska's children aged 3 and 4 were enrolled. This is below the national level of 46.1 percent and ranks 32nd. Regionally, only Wyoming, South Dakota, and North Dakota have a lower percentage of children enrolled. Of those children enrolled, 51.0 percent were enrolled in public school. This ranks 31st nationally.

Even though the majority of the Nebraska's children aged 5 to 17 attended public schools (82.0 percent), this is a smaller percentage than what occurred in the United States (85.2 percent). Nebraska ranked 40th in the percentage of children aged 5 to 17 attending public school, and only Missouri in the region had a lower percentage.

Nebraska compares favorably in the cost of higher education. In 2007-08 the average cost for a full-time equivalent student in a public 4-year institution in Nebraska was \$11,852. This compares with an average of \$13,424 for the U.S. and ranked 30th. There were four states in the region with higher costs and four with lower costs. The highest cost state in the region was Minnesota and the lowest was Wyoming. For 2-year public institutions Nebraska's costs of \$2,128 were slightly higher than the nation's of \$2,063 but still ranked 34th in the nation and 6th regionally.

More than 3/4 (75.9 percent) of Nebraska's students in higher education attended public institution. This was slightly higher than the national percentage of 74.2. Nebraska ranked 30th. Interestingly the highest percentage was in Wyoming where 94.7 percent of the students attend a public institution; Minnesota, Iowa, and Missouri have lower percentages than Nebraska.

In 2006, state and local appropriations for higher education in Nebraska totaled \$575 million or \$7,622 per FTE student. Nationally, Nebraska ranked 16th and was above the national average of \$7,052. Nebraska ranked 2nd highest in the region, behind Wyoming which ranked 1st nationally. In 2006-07, there were 22,121 degrees granted in Nebraska, 12,332 of which were bachelor's degrees.

Assessment

Looking at reading and mathematics scores for Nebraska's fourth and eighth graders, it appears that Nebraska generally ranks in the middle third of the states but ranks toward the bottom of its peer states. Following is a summary of the national rankings for the various measures.

Fourth grade reading	Rank	Eighth grade reading	Rank
• Average score	25	Average score	15
• At or above basic	18	At or above basic	14
• At or above proficient	22	At or above proficient	14
• At advanced	20	At advanced	15
Fourth grade mathematics	Rank	Eighth grade mathematics	Rank
• Average score	32	Average score	26
• At or above basic	29	At or above basic	27
• At or above proficient	30	At or above proficient	27
• At advanced	40	At advanced	22

Funding Stability

Nebraska's per pupil spending for public elementary and secondary education, in 2006-07, totaled \$11,544 and ranked 19th nationally. This was the second highest in the region, below Wyoming.

Based on information from the 2005-07 American Community Survey, it appears that Nebraska has been attracting 22 to 64 year olds. In 2004 and 2005, Nebraska gained high school graduates but lost people with some college or a degree. In 2006 this reversed, as Nebraska gained people with some college or a degree and lost high school graduates.

Nebraska Legislative Planning Committee

Discussion of Education Policy

Jerome Deichert, Center for Public Affairs Research, University of Nebraska at Omaha

P-16 Initiative Goals

Higher education is important to be successful in today's economy not only for the individual but also for the state. Nebraska has a comparatively large percentage of its high school graduates attending a degree granting institution and most of them attend a college in Nebraska. In the 2006-07 school year, 64.3 percent of Nebraska's high school graduates attended college, and 52.4 percent attended a college in Nebraska. These numbers were above the nation and ranked in the middle of the region. However, Nebraska ranked below the nation on the percentage of college graduates and well below the nation for advanced degrees.

State legislatures can have a significant impact on the levels of higher education. On their web site, the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) describes strategies that states are focusing on including: "performance-based funding; transfer and articulation policies; time to degree; innovative delivery methods; and productivity." They caution that "not all of these strategies will be a fit for every state, institution or student, but they are some of the options states are experimenting with to reform higher education."

Access

States recognize that early childhood education can have an important role in the long-term development of a child. The Pew Center on the States says that "children who complete quality pre-k programs are more academically and socially prepared when they enter school and more likely to complete high school and contribute to their community as adults." However, compared to the nation and region, Nebraska lags in the percentage of children aged 3 and 4 who are enrolled in an early childhood education program. The Pew Center provides information on pre-k efforts throughout the nation.

Nebraska compares favorably in the cost of higher education. In 2007-08 the average cost for a full-time equivalent student in a public 4-year institution in Nebraska was \$11,852. This is below the national average of \$13,424 and ranked in the middle of the regional states. For 2-year public institutions Nebraska's costs of \$2,128 were slightly higher than the nation's of \$2,063 but still ranked relatively low nationally and regionally. More than 3/4 (75.9 percent) of Nebraska's students in higher education attended public institution.

One of the reasons that tuition is relatively low in Nebraska is that state and local appropriations for higher education per FTE student in Nebraska were above the national average and 2nd in the region. Even though tuition may be relatively low in Nebraska, tuition costs are not the only

indicator of college affordability. Affordability depends on other factors such as living expenses, family income, and the availability of financial aid (Baum, et al.).

Assessment

Looking at reading and mathematics scores for Nebraska's fourth and eighth graders, it appears that Nebraska generally ranks in the middle third of the states but ranks toward the bottom of its peer states. In reading, Nebraska ranked at or above the national median, and the relative rank increased from fourth to eighth grade. For mathematics, Nebraska ranked below the national median in most categories, although the relative ranking increased from fourth to eighth grade.

Funding Stability

Although the federal government has been taking on a larger role, providing educational funding and setting educational policy remains primarily the responsibility of state and local governments. Nebraska's per pupil spending for public elementary and secondary education, in 2006-07, totaled \$11,544 and ranked 19th nationally. This was the second highest in the region.

According to the NCSL, one of the most important roles state legislatures can play in educational funding is in ensuring the statewide education finance system is founded on sound governance principles. The NCSL says that a sound state school finance system:

- *Provides equity for both students and taxpayers.*
- *Is efficient, making the best possible use of resources.*
- *Provides adequate resources to local school districts so that they may achieve state and local educational goals and standards.*
- *Incorporates fiscal accountability through generally accepted budgeting, accounting, and auditing procedures.*
- *Promotes predictability and stability of education revenues and expenditures over time.*

References

Baum, Sandy, Julie Davis Bell, Anne Sturtevant. "College Affordability & Student Financial Aid," in The College Completion Agenda: State Policy Guide. College Board, Advocacy and Policy Center. 2010.

National Conference of State Legislatures, Education,
<http://www.ncsl.org/IssuesResearch/tabid/756/Default.aspx>, Accessed November 4, 2010.

Pew Centers on the States, <http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/>, Accessed November 4, 2010.

Nebraska Legislative Planning Database - Education

P-16 Initiative Goals

Estimated Rate High School Graduates Attending Degree-Granting Institutions: 2005-06

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics; Table

State	Percent of Graduates	Rank
United States	62.0	
South Dakota	72.1	4
North Dakota	71.9	5
Minnesota	67.8	11
Kansas	65.6	15
Nebraska	64.3	18
Colorado	63.6	22
Iowa	60.9	29
Wyoming	58.0	34
Missouri	57.7	36

NOTE: Degree-granting institutions grant associate's or higher degrees and participate in Title IV federal

Estimated Rate High School Graduates Going to College in Home State: 2005-06

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics; Table

State	Percent of Graduates	Rank
United States	50.1	
Kansas	55.8	9
South Dakota	55.4	12
North Dakota	52.5	18
Nebraska	52.4	19
Iowa	52.3	20
Minnesota	50.1	25
Colorado	49.2	28
Missouri	47.9	31
Wyoming	42.5	34

NOTE: Degree-granting institutions grant associate's or higher degrees and participate in Title IV federal

Access

Early Childhood Education Programs: 2007-10

School Year and Age	Children served by school districts/ESUs			Total children served	Total number of "At-Risk" served
	Total Number of Children	Number of Children "At-risk"	Children served by non-school district operated Head Start programs		
2007-2008					
Age 3	2,328	920	1,242	3,570	2,162
Age 4	6,084	3,256	1,735	7,819	4,991
Age 5	280	89	75	355	164
Total	8,692	4,265	3,052	11,744	7,317
2008-2009					
Age 3	2,669	1,283	1,321	3,990	2,604
Age 4	6,670	3,708	1,742	8,412	5,450
Age 5	302	84	84	386	168
Total	9,641	5,075	3,147	12,788	8,222
2009-2010					
Age 3	2,814	1,341			
Age 4	7,147	3,944			
Age 5	298	108			
Total	10,259	5,393			

Data not yet available.

Notes:

Children "At-Risk" and served by schools/ESUs are children whose families are eligible for free or reduced lunch and/or children for whom spoken English is not the primary language spoken in the home. State Statute also includes prematurity/low birth weight, and children of teen parents/parents who have not completed high school as risk factors. Currently, we do not have a way to collect data on those two risk factors.

Children who have disabilities are not included as a special category; however they make up a majority of the 5-year-olds served. Legislation allowed some school districts to serve 5-year-olds during the years of this report. Head Start is a program for children who are "At-risk", therefore all children attending Head Start are considered in that category.

In order to arrive at an unduplicated count of children enrolled in high quality programs we began by obtaining data from the NDE data center regarding the children served in preschool classrooms. We then obtained the Head Start Program Information Report data about statewide actual enrollment by age. To get the final Head Start numbers, we subtracted the number of children served by Head Start grantees or Head Start Delegates that are school districts (those children are already counted in the school data). There are many Head Start programs that partner with individual schools across the state and serve children in blended classrooms. However, we have no reliable way of determining exactly how many children that includes. Therefore, some children in many of the Head Start programs have been counted twice.

Public and Private School Fall Enrollment: 2005-07 Period
 Based on the American Community Survey; The 2005-2007 ACS 3-year estimates
 represent the average characteristics over the 3-year period.

3 to 4 years of age

State	Total Enrollment (000)	Percent Enrolled*	Rank	Percent Enrolled in Public School**	Rank
United States	3837.7	46.1		53.2	
Iowa	36.0	45.5	22	61.8	11
Kansas	34.0	43.9	24	58.8	15
Minnesota	60.6	43.0	26	60.1	13
Missouri	68.3	42.8	28	56.9	19
Colorado	59.5	42.6	29	54.0	25
Nebraska	21.1	42.0	32	51.0	31
Wyoming	5.6	41.4	34	65.6	5
South Dakota	8.5	37.8	44	63.4	8
North Dakota	4.6	31.6	49	65.8	4

5 to 17 years of age

State	Total Enrollment (000)	Percent Enrolled in Public School**	Rank
United States	51207.4	85.2	
Wyoming	86.3	90.9	1
North Dakota	99.8	87.3	10
Iowa	499.6	86.9	14
Colorado	794.1	86.6	19
South Dakota	134.6	86.3	21
Kansas	483.0	85.7	25
Minnesota	880.0	84.8	30
Nebraska	305.3	82.8	40
Missouri	989.2	82.0	44

*As a percentage of all 3 to 4 year olds, Includes those not enrolled

**As a percentage of those enrolled

Average costs per full-time-equivalent student in public colleges and universities (dollars)

Source: U.S. National Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics 2008, and prior years; see Internet site <<http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/>>

Public 4-year institutions*				Rank 2007-08
	2007-2008	2006-2007	2004-2005	
United States	\$13,424	\$12,797	\$11,426	
Minnesota	\$14,188	\$13,780	\$11,971	16
Missouri	\$13,385	\$12,585	\$11,368	22
Colorado	\$13,314	\$12,079	\$10,241	23
Iowa	\$13,191	\$12,583	\$11,539	24
Nebraska	\$11,852	\$11,138	\$10,702	30
Kansas	\$11,338	\$10,686	\$9,392	36
North Dakota	\$11,134	\$10,634	\$9,018	37
South Dakota	\$10,522	\$10,013	\$8,965	46
Wyoming	\$10,068	\$9,627	\$8,514	47

Public 2-year institutions**				Rank 2007-08
	2007-2008	2006-2007	2004-2005	
United States	\$2,063	\$2,018	\$1,849	
Minnesota	\$4,535	\$4,339	\$3,869	2
South Dakota	\$3,730	\$3,542	\$2,826	4
North Dakota	\$3,606	\$3,454	\$2,845	5
Iowa	\$3,264	\$3,137	\$2,880	9
Missouri	\$2,385	\$2,278	\$2,125	30
Nebraska	\$2,128	\$1,993	\$1,772	34
Colorado	\$2,076	\$2,034	\$1,847	36
Kansas	\$2,029	\$1,941	\$1,883	37
Wyoming	\$1,918	\$1,820	\$1,684	39

*Data for 2000-2006 are for 4-year and 2-year degree-granting institutions that participated in Title IV federal financial aid programs. Represents opening fall enrollment of resident and extension students attending full-time or part-time. Excludes students taking courses for credit by mail, radio, or TV, and students in branches of U.S. institutions operated in foreign countries.

**Includes degree enrollment and enrollment in public postsecondary programs resulting in a certificate or other formal recognition. Includes summer sessions. Excludes medical enrollments.

Enrollment in Institutions of Higher Education: 2000, 2005, 2006

Source: Fall enrollment--U.S. National Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics, annual (related Internet site <<http://www.nces.ed.gov/>>)

State	Fall enrollment					
	Total Fall Enrollment (000)			Percent in Public Institutions		
	2006	2005	2000	2006	Rank	2000
United States	17,759	17,487	15,312	74.2		76.8
Wyoming	35	35	30	94.7	1	95.7
North Dakota	50	49	40	86.7	6	89.5
Kansas	193	192	180	88.3	7	88.9
Colorado	308	303	264	75.2	20	82.6
South Dakota	49	49	43	77.7	28	80.6
Nebraska	125	121	112	75.9	30	79.0
Minnesota	376	362	293	64.9	38	74.5
Iowa	239	228	189	63.3	41	71.4
Missouri	377	375	321	57.9	43	62.7

Educational Appropriations* for Institutions of Higher Education: 2006

Source: Fall enrollment--U.S. National Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics, annual (related Internet site <<http://www.nces.ed.gov/>>)

State	Total (\$millions)	Per FTE** (\$)	Rank
United States	73,941	7,059	
Wyoming	349	15,151	1
Nebraska	575	7,622	16
Iowa	733	6,372	33
Minnesota	1,251	6,248	34
Kansas	795	6,125	35
Missouri	1,082	6,032	37
North Dakota	200	5,579	43
South Dakota	149	5,018	45
Colorado	680	4,213	48

*State and local appropriations for public postsecondary education. Includes state-funded financial aid to students attending in-state public institutions. Excludes sums for research, agriculture experiment stations and cooperative extensions, and teaching hospitals and medical schools.

**State and local appropriations for general operating expenses of public postsecondary education. Includes state-funded financial aid to students attending in-state public institutions. Excludes sums for research, agricultural extension, and teaching hospitals and medical schools.

Degrees Conferred from Degree-granting Institutions: 2006-2007*

Source: Fall enrollment--U.S. National Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics, annual (related Internet site <<http://www.nces.ed.gov/>>)

State	Total	Bachelor's
United States	3,007,493	1,524,092
Colorado	51,653	28,865
Iowa	43,958	22,388
Kansas	32,080	17,065
Minnesota	65,709	29,618
Missouri	71,492	35,755
Nebraska	22,121	12,332
North Dakota	9,560	5,543
South Dakota	8,698	4,965
Wyoming	5,098	1,691

*Totals include Associates, Bachelors, Masters, First-professional and Doctor's degrees conferred.

Assessment

Average reading scale score and percentage of 4th- and 8th-graders in public schools attaining reading achievement levels: 2007

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics; Tables 120 and 121 (http://www.nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/2009menu_tables.asp)

4th-Graders

State	Average scale score ^{1\}		Percent attaining reading achievement levels, 2007					
	Score	Rank	At or above Basic ^{2\}		At or above Proficient ^{3\}		At Advanced ^{4\}	
			Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank
United States	220		65.7		31.7		7.4	
Colorado	224	20	70.0	23	36.2	13	9.0	10
Iowa	225	15	73.7	8	36.1	15	7.3	26
Kansas	225	17	71.8	16	36.1	14	7.8	21
Minnesota	225	14	72.8	12	36.9	9	8.5	12
Missouri	221	29	67.1	29	31.8	31	6.6	31
Nebraska	223	25	70.8	18	34.6	22	7.8	20
North Dakota	226	9	75.3	4	35.3	20	6.4	33
South Dakota	223	23	70.9	17	33.7	26	7.0	28
Wyoming	225	12	73.5	9	36.4	10	7.8	19

8th-Graders

State	Average scale score ^{1\}		Percent attaining reading achievement levels, 2007					
	Score	Rank	Below Basic		At or above Basic ^{2\}		At or above Proficient ^{3\}	
			Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank
United States	261		27.5		72.5		29.2	
Colorado	266	17	21.3	36	78.7	16	34.6	15
Iowa	267	12	20.2	41	79.8	11	35.7	12
Kansas	267	13	19.4	43	80.6	9	35.2	13
Minnesota	268	8	19.8	42	80.2	10	36.6	9
Missouri	263	27	25.1	23	74.9	29	31.0	26
Nebraska	267	15	21.2	38	78.8	14	35.0	14
North Dakota	268	9	16.4	48	83.6	4	32.2	23
South Dakota	270	7	16.5	47	83.5	5	36.8	8
Wyoming	266	18	20.3	40	79.7	12	33.2	20

State	At Advanced ^{4\}	Rank
United States	2.3	
Colorado	2.4	21
Iowa	2.5	19
Kansas	1.8	35
Minnesota	3.1	8
Missouri	2.5	18
Nebraska	2.7	15
North Dakota	1.2	45
South Dakota	2.3	23
Wyoming	1.7	38

Note: The reading data include students for whom accommodations were permitted. Standard errors appear in parentheses.

\1\Scale ranges from 0 to 500.

\2\Basic denotes partial mastery of the knowledge and skills that are fundamental for proficient work at the 4th/8th-grade level.

\3\Proficient represents solid academic performance for 4th/8th-graders. Students reaching this level have demonstrated competency over challenging subject matter.

\4\Advanced signifies superior performance.

Average mathematics scale score of 4th- and 8th-grade public school students and percentages attaining mathematics achievement levels: 2009

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics; Tables 135 and 136 (http://www.nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/2009menu_tables.asp)

4th-Graders

State	Average scale score\1\		Percent attaining mathematics achievement levels, 2009					
	Score	Rank	Below Basic	Rank	At or above Basic\2\	Rank	At or above Proficient\3\	Rank
United States	239		18.8		81.2		38.4	
Colorado	243	16	16.2	27	83.8	25	45.2	11
Iowa	243	19	13.1	40	86.9	12	41.4	21
Kansas	245	6	11.1	48	88.9	4	46.3	6
Minnesota	249	3	11.4	46	88.6	6	53.8	3
Missouri	241	25	17.4	24	82.6	28	41.1	23
Nebraska	239	32	17.9	23	82.1	29	37.9	30
North Dakota	245	7	8.8	49	91.2	3	44.5	14
South Dakota	242	21	13.9	37	86.1	15	41.8	1
Wyoming	242	22	12.6	43	87.4	9	40.5	25

State	At Advanced \4\	Rank
United States	5.8	
Colorado	8.1	9
Iowa	5.2	27
Kansas	6.3	17
Minnesota	11.5	2
Missouri	5.9	19
Nebraska	4.1	40
North Dakota	5.0	31
South Dakota	4.8	35
Wyoming	4.1	41

8th-Graders

Average scale score¹⁾

Percent attaining mathematics achievement levels, 2009

State	Score	Rank	Below Basic		At or above Basic ²⁾		At or above Proficient ³⁾	
			Basic	Rank	Basic ²⁾	Rank	Proficient ³⁾	Rank
United States	282		28.6		71.4		32.6	
Colorado	287	15	24.5	29	75.5	23	39.7	12
Iowa	284	27	23.8	31	76.2	21	33.9	28
Kansas	289	11	21.0	42	79.0	10	39.5	13
Minnesota	294	2	17.4	48	82.6	4	46.9	2
Missouri	286	22	23.1	33	76.9	19	35.5	23
Nebraska	284	26	25.1	25	74.9	27	34.6	27
North Dakota	293	4	13.6	51	86.4	1	43.1	7
South Dakota	291	8	17.2	49	82.8	3	41.5	8
Wyoming	286	20	21.9	37	78.1	15	34.7	26

At Advanced

State	% ⁴⁾	Rank
United States	7.5	
Colorado	10.0	10
Iowa	6.5	31
Kansas	8.4	14
Minnesota	13.3	3
Missouri	6.7	28
Nebraska	7.6	22
North Dakota	7.4	23
South Dakota	7.1	26
Wyoming	6.8	27

Funding Sustainability

Total expenditures per pupil in fall enrollment in public elementary and secondary education: All

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics; Tables 183 and

Total Expenditure per Pupil Rank 2006-

State	2005-06	2006-07	07
United States	\$10,603	\$11,257	
Wyoming	\$13,461	\$16,183	4
Nebraska	\$10,358	\$11,544	19
Minnesota	\$10,925	\$11,379	21
Kansas	\$9,629	\$10,358	28
Iowa	\$9,729	\$10,311	30
Missouri	\$9,385	\$10,195	31
Colorado	\$9,896	\$10,092	32
North Dakota	\$9,785	\$9,721	40
South Dakota	\$8,649	\$9,104	44

Note:

- 1) Total expenditures include current expenditures (e.g., instruction, student and food services, and
- 2) Excludes "Other current expenditures," such as community services, private school programs, adult
- 3) Excludes expenditures for state education agencies.

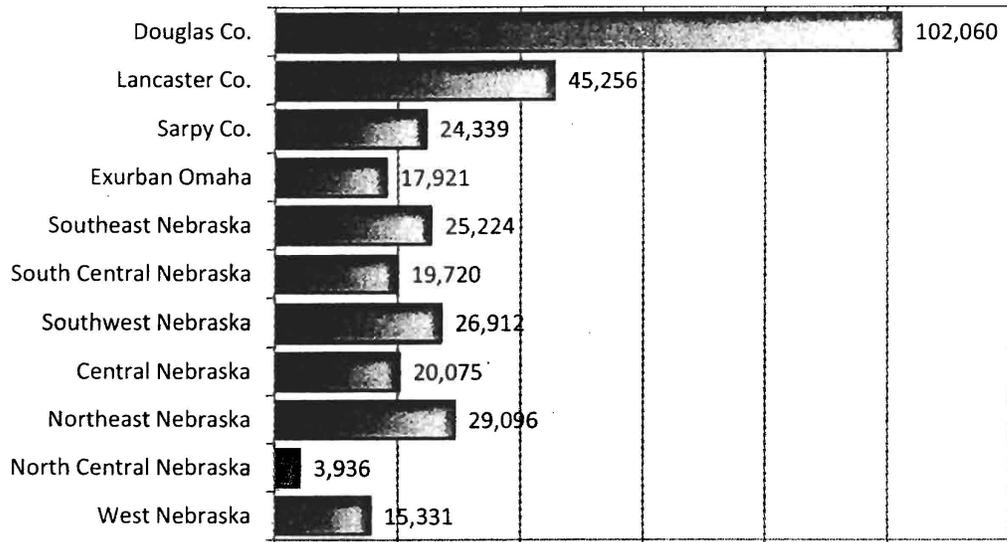
Estimated Nebraska Net Migration of 22- to 64-Year-Olds: 2004-2006

Source: Estimates based on the 2005-07 American Community Survey, conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, obtained from the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS), <http://www.ccpe.state.ne.us/PublicDoc/CCPE/Reports/progressReport/2009.pdf>

Level of Education	Estimated Net-Migration		
	2004	2005	2006
Less than high school diploma	3,191	2,234	1,524
High school graduate	-155	2,295	-3,990
Subtotal	3,036	4,529	-2,466
Some college but no degree	1,339	943	3,897
Associate degree	-923	-1,143	2,417
Bachelor's degree	670	-1,028	2,664
Graduate or Professional Degree	-1,796	830	-1,329
Subtotal	-2,049	-1,341	3,752
Total	2,326	4,131	5,183

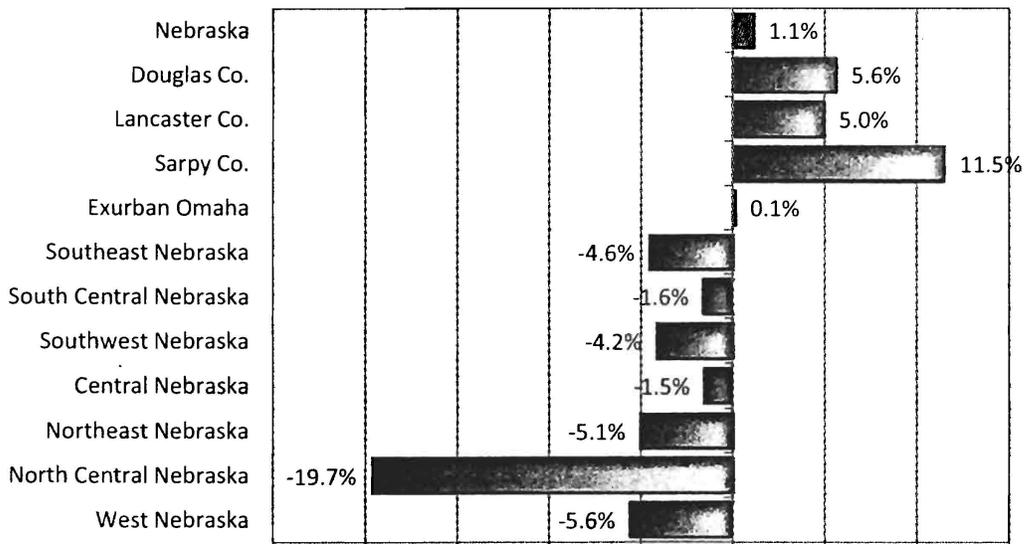
Total Enrollment by Region

Student Enrollment for the Total of Public and Private Schools in Nebraska: 2007-08



Source: Nebraska Department of Economic Development from Nebraska Department of Education; Prepared by Center for Public Affairs Research, UNO; Oct 2010

Percentage Change in Student Enrollment for the Total of Public and Private Schools in Nebraska: 2002-03 to 2007-08



Source: Nebraska Department of Economic Development from Nebraska Department of Education; Prepared by Center for Public Affairs Research, UNO; Oct 2010

Nebraska Births and Potential School Aged Population

The following charts look at births by area of the state. The first chart on the following page compares the number of births during the decade of the 2000s to the number of births during the decade of the 1980s. Statewide there were 2.0 percent more births in the 2000s. However, this varied by area of the state. The state's three most populous counties recorded increases in births, while the other groups of counties all recorded declines, with the largest percentage declines in North Central and West Nebraska. Children who were born during the 1980s would have attended school during the last half of the 1980s through the late 1990s. Children born during the 2000s currently are attending school and will be attending the late 2010s.

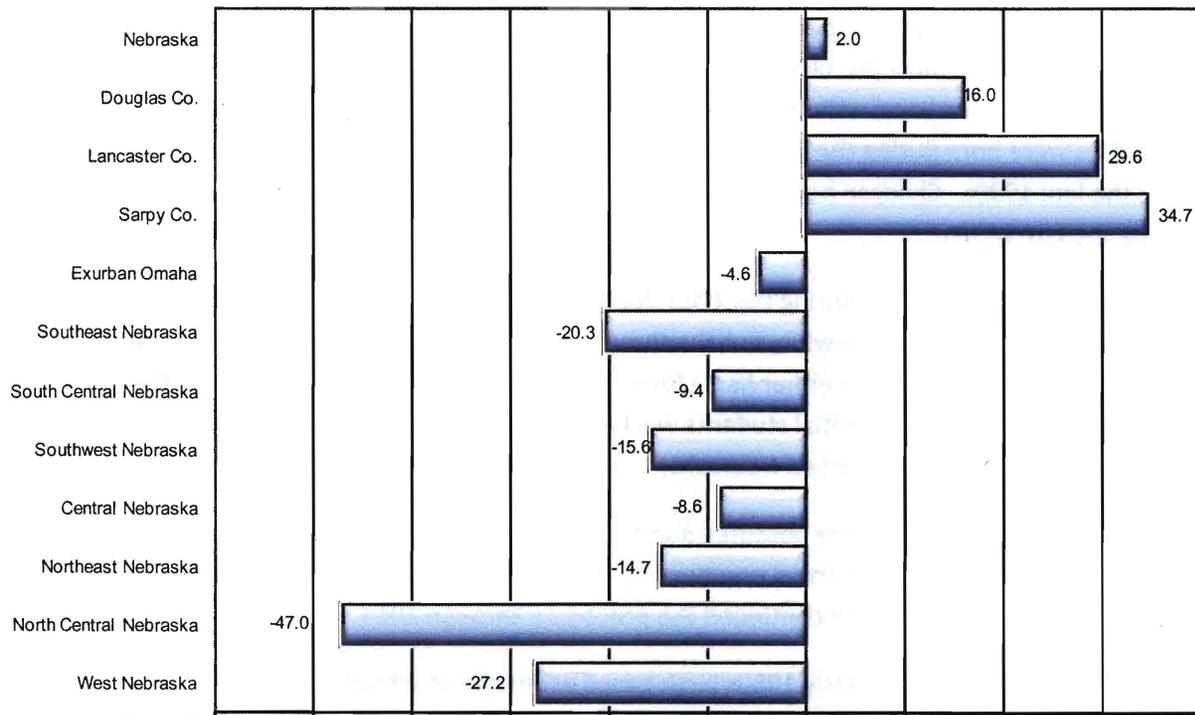
The next chart compares births during the 2005-2009 period to the 2000-2004 period. The number of births increased 5.2 percent statewide, but the three most populous counties had a higher rate, while the remaining groups of counties either had a lower rate or a decline in the number of births. This suggest that the number of potential students will be declining or growing more slowly in the rural parts of the state when compared to urban Nebraska.

The two charts on page 3 show the potential number of students by projecting the births through the school ages. To estimate the potential number of persons aged 5 to 17 in 1980 we totaled the births between 1963 and 1975 and then continued the procedure through 2014.

The charts show that since the early 1980s birth-based estimates of school age population have been increasing in Douglas, Sarpy, and Lancaster Counties. On the other hand, birth-based estimates of the school age population in the nonmetropolitan groups of counties peaked in the early 1990s, then declined until the early 2000s, and have been relatively stable for the rest of the decade.

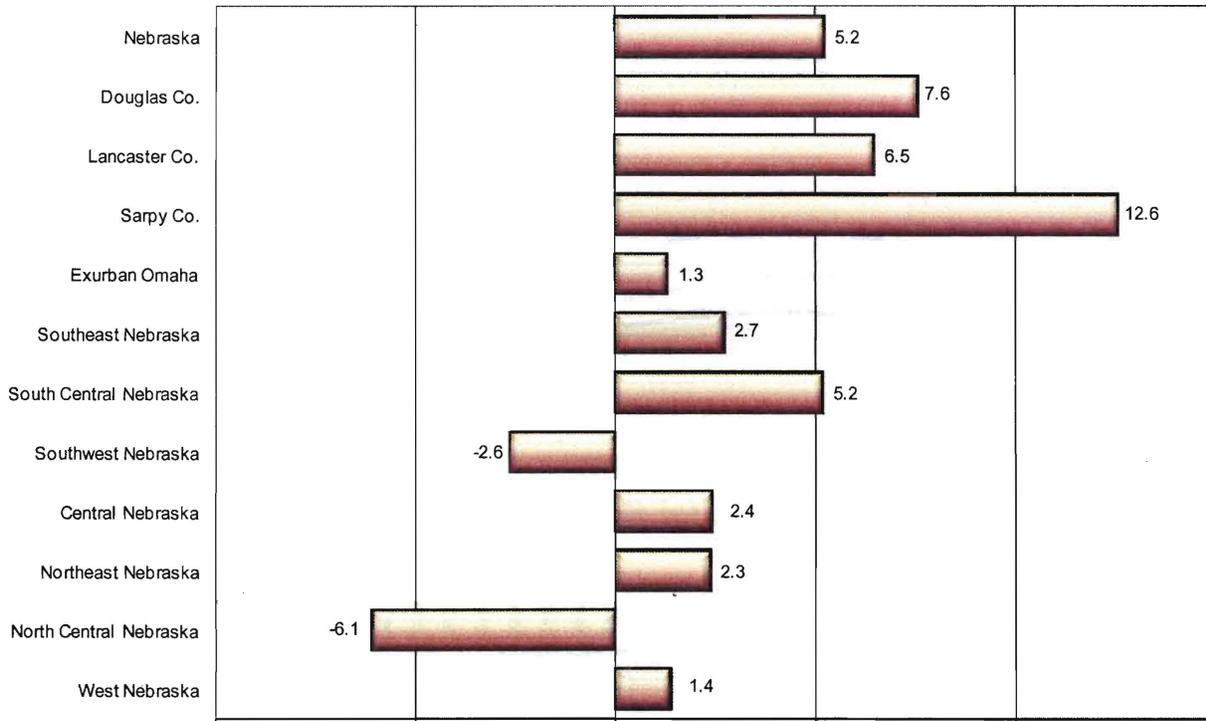
The charts in this section suggest that school enrollments in Nebraska's three most populous county will continue to grow in both absolute number and as a percentage of the state's total enrollment.

Percentage Change in the Number of Births in Nebraska: 1980s decade Versus 2000s decade



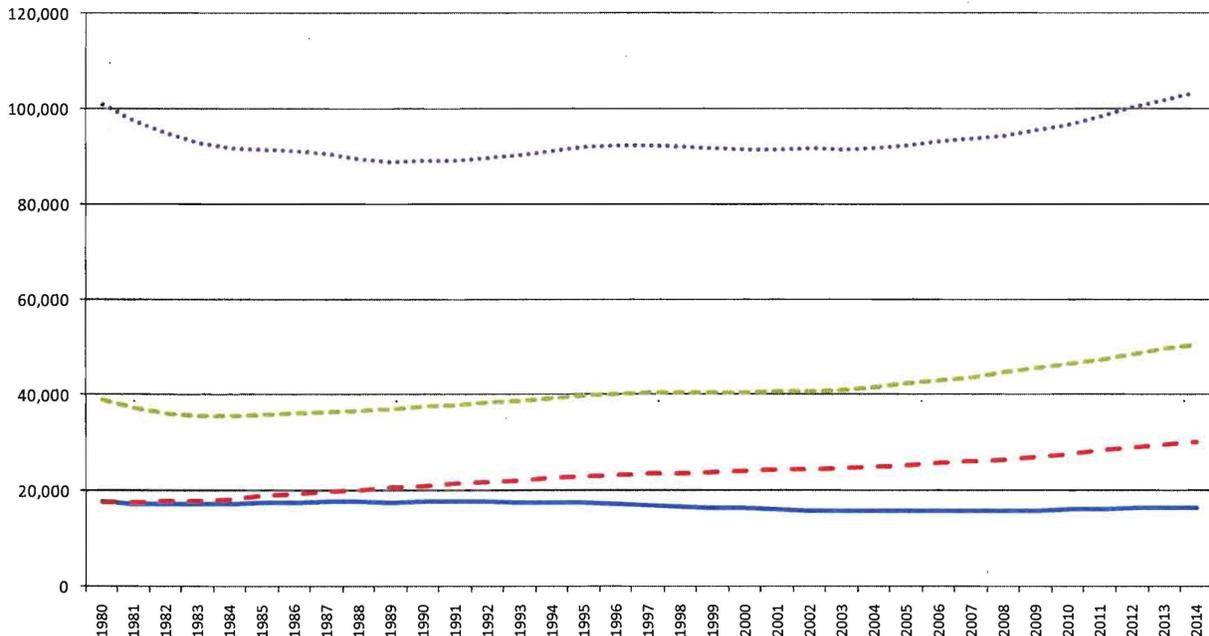
Source: Vital Statistics Reports, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services; Prepared by Center for Public Affairs Research, UNO; Oct 2010

Percentage Change in the Number of Births in Nebraska: 2000-04 Versus 2005-2009



Source: Vital Statistics Reports, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services; Prepared by Center for Public Affairs Research, UNO; Oct 2010

Potential School Age (K-12) Population based on 13-Year Periods of Births to Residents of Nebraska Metropolitan Areas (Based on Births between 1963 and 2009)

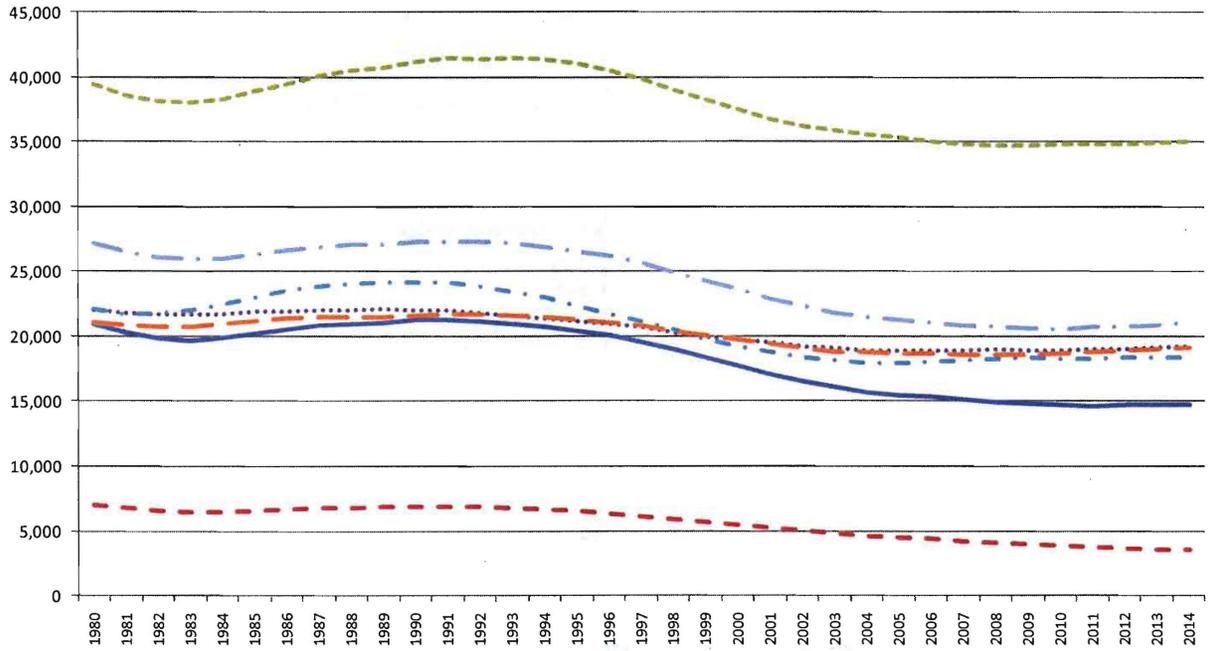


Note: Persons aged 5 to 17 in 1980 were born between 1963 and 1975.

Note: Persons aged 5 to 17 in 1963 were born between 1997 and 2009.

Source: Vital Statistics, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services; Prepared by Center for Public Affairs Research, UNO; Oct. 2010

**Potential School Age (K-12) Population based on 13-Year Periods of Births to Residents of Nebraska
Nonmetropolitan Areas (Based on Births between 1963 and 2009)**



Note: Persons aged 5 to 17 in 1980 were born between 1963 and 1975.

— West Nebraska
- - - Central Nebraska
- - - Southeast Nebraska
- - - North Central Nebraska
- - - Southwest Nebraska
- - - South Central Nebraska
- - - Northeast Nebraska

Note: Persons aged 5 to 17 in 1963 were born between 1997 and 2009.

Source: Vital Statistics, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services; Prepared by Center for Public Affairs Research, UNO; Oct. 2010

Nebraska's Legislative Planning Database

Health and Human Services

This benchmark examines health and human services in Nebraska by reviewing five broad areas: Health access, Health status, Family welfare, Poverty, and Cost. The most currently available data at the time the data files were put together are used. Additional information can be found from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services website <http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/>. A list of rules and regulations relating to Health and Human Services is available at <http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/reg/regs.htm>. Finally, county and other area profiles can be found at <http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/profiles/index.htm>.

Health Status

In 2008 18.4 percent of adult Nebraskans were tobacco users. This compares to 18.3 percent for the United States. Although there have been year-to-year fluctuations, there has been a general decreasing trend in tobacco use since 2000. Heavy drinking (defined as two drinks per day for men and 1 drink per day for women) fluctuated from year-to-year but has remained relatively unchanged since 2001. The value for 2009 was 5.1 percent.

Nebraska's adult obesity rate has been consistently higher than national rate between 2005 and 2009. 2009's value was 28.0 percent compared to the national value of 26.9 percent. Child obesity, on the other hand, has been lower in Nebraska than in the nation (11.6 percent compared to 12.0 percent in 2009).

In 2009, 72.0 percent of Nebraska mothers received prenatal care in the 1st trimester. The infant mortality rate in 2009 was 5.4 per 1000 live births. This was tied for the lowest in the past five years. Also in 2009, there were 2249 teen pregnancies, which was about average for the 2005-2009 period.

Poverty

The poverty rate for Nebraska's children in 2008 was 13.4 percent and was among the lowest in the nation, ranking 39th. In the area, only Wyoming and Minnesota recorded lower child poverty rates. Also in 2008, 38.5 percent of the female headed families with no spouse present were living in poverty. This ranked 30th nationally and was in the middle of the region.

In 2009, the number of TANF enrollees averaged 8,869 monthly, a steady decline from 2004 which had a monthly average of 12,302 enrollees. During 2009, an average of 404 TANF enrollees were sanctioned or dropped. Also in 2009, 63.3 percent of the IV-D Child Support Enforcement cases had a collection in arrears, ranking 9th lowest in the nation.

Cost

In 2006-06, Nebraska spent \$1,134 per capita at the state level and \$46 per capita at the local level on public welfare. Both of these expenditures were toward the middle of the states. Per capita state expenditures ranked 26th, and per capita local expenditures ranked 22nd.

Nebraska recorded \$175.8 million in developmental disability expenditures in FY 2009. This amounted to \$103 in per capita expenditures. Per capita expenditures for developmental disabilities have been increasing steadily over the past five years and are about 30 percent higher than those in FY 2005. Behavioral health expenditures on the other hand, were somewhat lower than they were in FY 2005. In FY 2009, total expenditures were \$189.6 million and amounted to \$111 per capita.

In FY 2009, Medicaid and CHIP expenditures totaled more than \$1.5 billion, the majority of which (42 percent) was for the blind and disabled. The next highest category was for children (29 percent); followed by aged (22 percent) and ADC adult (7 percent). Since FY 2005, the largest increases by category were for the blind and disabled and for children. Expenditures for the aged were down slightly, while they were up slightly for ADC adults. The decline in expenditures for the aged population should be viewed with caution because the impact of the aging baby boom will not be felt for a few more years.

Looking at expenditures per eligible person, a different pattern emerges. The highest expenditures were still for the blind and disabled at \$1,695 per eligible person, but now this was nearly equaled by the expenditures for the aged at \$1,628 per eligible person. Although total expenditures for children were relatively high, they were the lowest on an eligible person basis (\$272).

Nebraska Legislative Planning Committee

Discussion of Health and Human Service Policy

Jerome Deichert, Center for Public Affairs Research, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Health Status

In 2008 18.4 percent of adult Nebraskans were tobacco users. This compares to 18.3 percent for the United States. Although there have been year-to-year fluctuations, there has been a general decreasing trend in tobacco use since 2000, although the US average is decreasing faster than the Nebraska average. Heavy drinking (defined as two drinks per day for men and 1 drink per day for women) fluctuated from year-to-year but has remained relatively unchanged since 2001.

Nebraska's adult obesity rate has been increasing, and is consistently higher than national rate between 2005 and 2009. 2009's value was 28.0 percent compared to the national value of 26.9 percent. Child obesity, on the other hand, has been lower in Nebraska than in the nation (11.6 percent compared to 12.0 percent in 2009), although Nebraska's trend is up while the US average is down.

The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) pointed out that state legislatures have shown an increasing interest in adopting policies designed to promote healthy communities and prevent childhood obesity. Its 2009 publication, *Promoting Healthy Communities and Reducing Childhood Obesity*, summarizes "state legislation enacted in two broad policy categories—healthy eating and physical activity, and healthy community design and access to healthy food."

The health of mothers and children is a key component in an overall healthy population. In 2009, 72.0 percent of Nebraska mothers received prenatal care in the 1st trimester. The infant mortality rate in 2009 was 5.4 per 1000 live births. This was tied for the lowest in the past five years.

Both federal and state governments fund programs that contribute to the health of mothers and children, while the state plays a major role in administering these programs. NCSL lists the following Maternal and Child Health (MCH)-related programs: the Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant; Medicaid; the State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP); the Healthy Start Initiative; the Emergency Medical Services for Children Program; and the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).

Poverty

Poverty imposes far-reaching hardships, not only on the poor but also on all who share their communities. Nebraska has one of the lowest poverty rates in the nation, ranking 16th in the nation in 2008. The poverty rate for Nebraska's children in 2008 was 13.4 percent and was among the lowest in the nation, ranking 11th lowest. Also in 2008, 38.5 percent of the female headed families with no spouse present were living in poverty. This ranked 30th nationally and was in the middle of the region.

One of the ways in which the state assists families in poverty is through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). In 2009, the number of TANF enrollees averaged 8,869 monthly, a steady decline from 2004 which had a monthly average of 12,302 enrollees. During 2009, an average of 404 TANF enrollees were sanctioned or dropped.

The NCSL points out that state legislatures have used the flexibility provided by TANF block grants “to create work-focused programs-requiring parents receiving assistance to participate in work or training activities, providing supports such as child care and transportation so that they can work and enacted time limits on how long families could receive assistance.” These funds also were used “to create and expand a wide variety of programs to help low-income working families and children, such as early education and afterschool services, responsible fatherhood programs, teen pregnancy prevention and income supports and training to help working families stay in jobs and increase their earnings.”

Cost

In 2006-07, Nebraska spent \$1,134 per capita at the state level and \$46 per capita at the local level on public welfare. Both of these expenditures were toward the middle of the states. Per capita state expenditures ranked 26th, and per capita local expenditures ranked 22nd. Two of the largest components are the health-related programs, Medicaid and CHIP. In FY 2009, these expenditures totaled more than \$1.5 billion, the majority of which (42 percent) was for the blind and disabled. The next highest category was for children (29 percent); followed by aged (22 percent) and ADC adult (7 percent). One way to reduce the health-related welfare costs is to address Nebraska’s obesity problem. The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey 1999–2000 estimated the annual medical cost due to adult obesity for Nebraska was \$454 million. Some of which would be paid by Medicaid

Other options state legislatures have used to address issues related to managing costs include reorganizing state agencies, using results-focused planning and budgeting, and increasing flexibility and control of resources for local governments and communities (NCSL).

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Health Access

Nebraska Rural Response Hotline Summary: 1999-2009

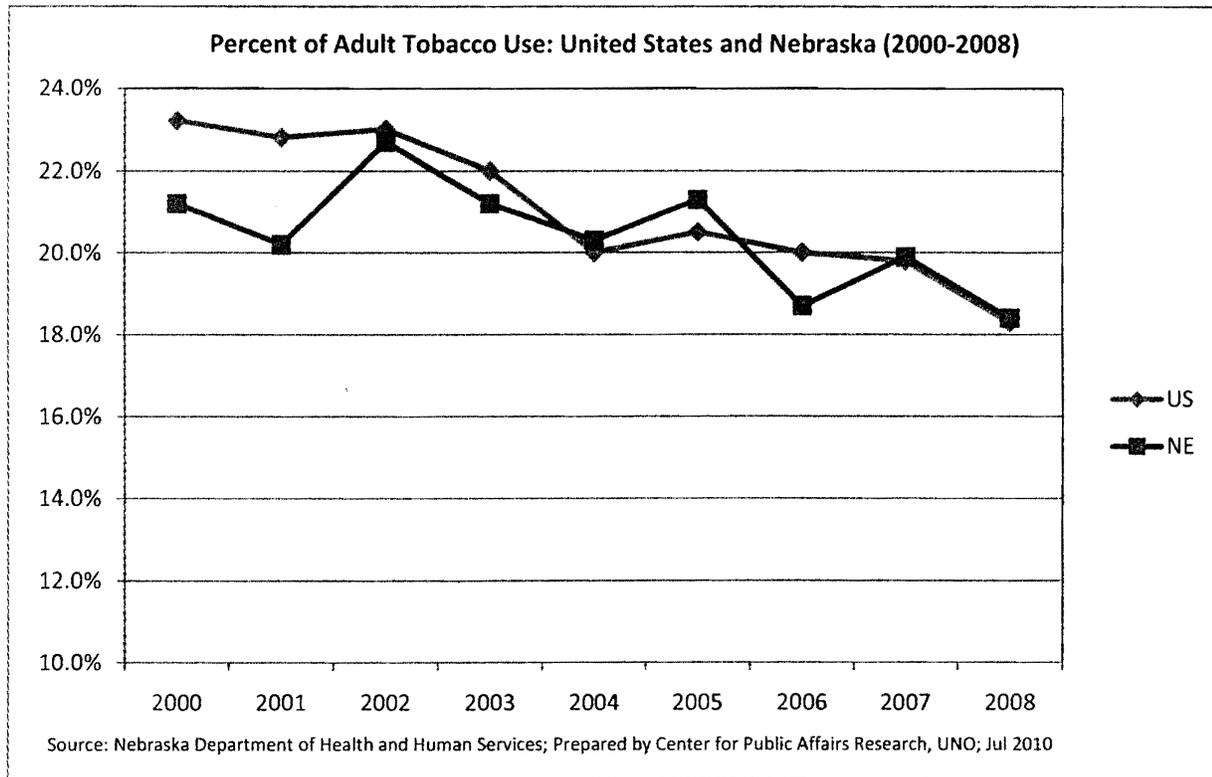
Year	Calls	Vouchers
1999	2,983	737
2000	3,319	1,053
2001	3,567	2,014
2002	4,366	3,878
2003	4,052	1,573
2004	5,522	1,743
2005	4,405	1,542
2006	6,102	3,524
2007	4,943	2,394
2008	4,245	2,719
2009	4,703	3,089

Health Status

Percent of Adult Tobacco Use: United States and Nebraska (2000-2008)

Source: Report of Data and Trends on Tobacco Use in Nebraska, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (<http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/tfn/10TFNData&Trends.pdf>)

Year	United States	Nebraska
2000	23.2%	21.2%
2001	22.8%	20.2%
2002	23.0%	22.7%
2003	22.0%	21.2%
2004	20.0%	20.3%
2005	20.5%	21.3%
2006	20.0%	18.7%
2007	19.8%	19.9%
2008	18.3%	18.4%

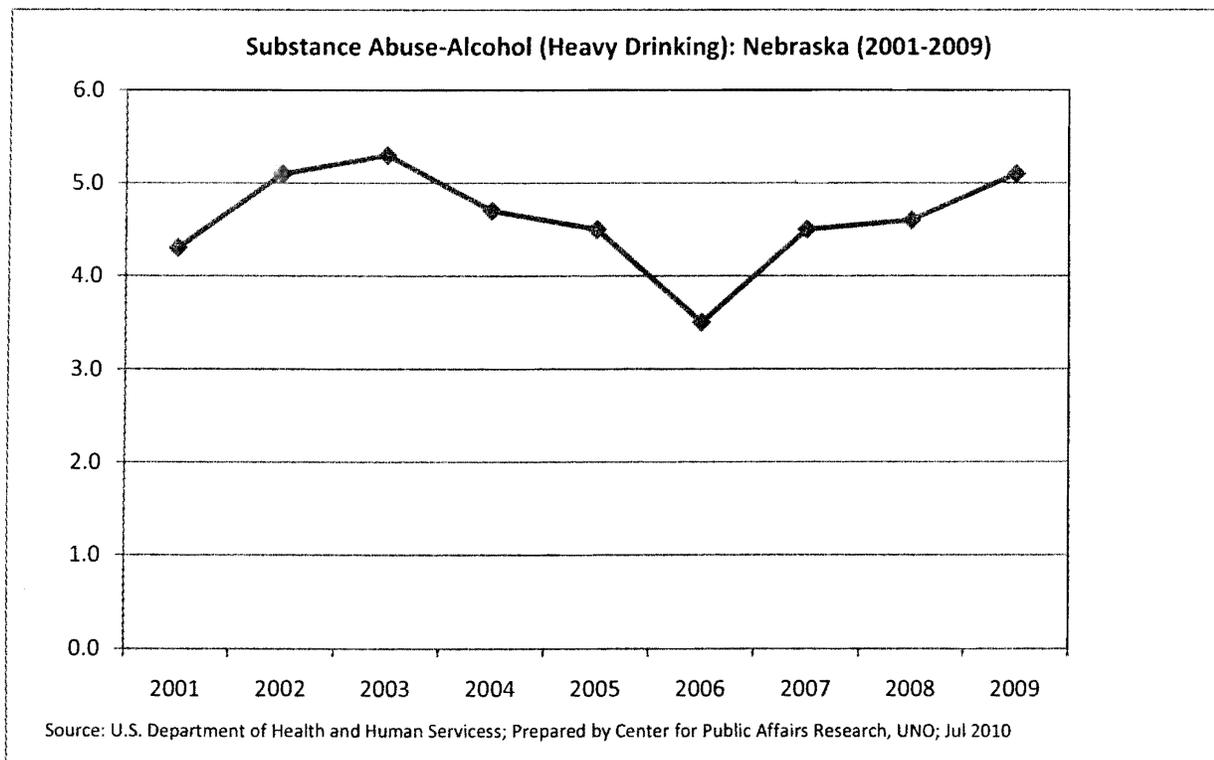


Substance Abuse-Alcohol (Heavy Drinking): Nebraska (2001-2009)

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (<http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/brfss/display.asp>)

Year	Weighted Percentage
2001	4.3
2002	5.1
2003	5.3
2004	4.7
2005	4.5
2006	3.5
2007	4.5
2008	4.6
2009	5.1

Note: Heavy drinking is defined as 2 drinks per day for men and 1 drink per day for women.



Adult obesity

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (<http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/brfss/display.asp>)

Year	Percent of Adults	
	Nebraska	National
2005	26.0%	24.4%
2006	26.9%	25.1%
2007	26.5%	26.3%
2008	27.2%	26.7%
2009	28.0%	26.9%

Child obesity

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (<http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/brfss/display.asp>)

Year	Percent of Children	
	Nebraska	National
2005	11.0%	13.1%
2007	11.8%	13.0%
2009	11.6%	12.0%

Resident Births and Percentage of Women Receiving Prenatal Care in 1st Trimester: Nebraska (2005-2009)

Source: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

Year	Total Births	1st Trimester	Percent
2005	26,142	18,627	71.3
2006	26,723	19,096	71.5
2007	26,935	19,721	73.2
2008	26,992	19,464	72.1
2009	26,931	19,382	72.0

Number of Nebraska Resident Teen Pregnancies* by Race and Hispanic Origin: Nebraska (2005-2009)

Source: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

2005

Race/Ethnicity	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic	Unknown	Total
White	164	1,218	0	1,382
Black	4	284	0	288
Native American	14	76	0	90
Asian/Pacific Islander	7	21	0	28
Other	381	12	0	393
Unknown	4	0	1	5
Total	574	1,611	1	2,186

2006

Race/Ethnicity	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic	Unknown	Total
White	206	1,143	0	1,349
Black	8	316	0	324
Native American	10	87	1	98
Asian/Pacific Islander	8	14	0	22
Other	357	4	0	361
Unknown	7	0	1	8
Total	596	1,564	2	2,162

2007

Race/Ethnicity	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic	Unknown	Total
White	136	1,243	0	1,379
Black	15	353	0	368
Native American	12	106	0	118
Asian/Pacific Islander	7	17	0	24
Other	427	6	1	434
Unknown	1	0	1	2
Total	598	1,725	2	2,325

2008

Race/Ethnicity	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic	Unknown	Total
White	153	1,242	0	1,395
Black	7	292	1	300
Native American	9	84	0	93
Asian/Pacific Islander	5	16	0	21
Other	498	10	0	508
Unknown	4	0	0	4
Total	676	1,644	1	2,321

2009

Race/Ethnicity	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic	Unknown	Total
White	105	1,237	0	1,342
Black	13	289	0	302
Native American	8	73	0	81
Asian/Pacific Islander	5	23	0	28
Other	486	4	0	490
Unknown	5	0	1	6
Total	622	1,626	1	2,249

*Includes Live Births and Fetal Deaths

Infant Mortality Rate (Per 1,000 Live Births): Nebraska (2005-2009)

Source: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

Year	Mortality Rate
2005	5.6
2006	5.5
2007	6.8
2008	5.4
2009	5.4

Family Welfare

Number of State Wards: Nebraska: 2001-2009

Source: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

Year	State Wards
2001	83,946
2002	83,421
2003	79,524
2004	83,291
2005	90,182
2006	90,906
2007	84,912
2008	81,389
2009	76,204

Poverty

Percentage of Children Living in Poverty: 2008

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey

State	Percent Below Poverty Level	Rank
Missouri	18.6%	19
South Dakota	17.6%	25
North Dakota	15.3%	31
Colorado	15.1%	32
Kansas	14.5%	34
Iowa	14.4%	35
Nebraska	13.4%	39
Wyoming	11.6%	45
Minnesota	11.4%	46

Percentage of Female Head of Families Living in Poverty: 2008

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey

State	Percent Below Poverty Level	Rank
North Dakota	0.4	6
South Dakota	0.4	14
Missouri	0.4	17
Iowa	0.4	22
Nebraska	0.3	30
Minnesota	0.3	32
Wyoming	0.3	35
Kansas	0.3	39
Colorado	0.3	43

Number of TANF Enrollees: Nebraska (2004-2009)

Source: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

Year	Total	Monthly Average
2004	147,625	12,302
2005	139,033	11,586
2006	136,072	11,339
2007	111,533	9,294
2008	105,748	8,812
2009	106,422	8,869

Number of TANF Enrollees Sanctioned or Dropped: Nebraska (2008-2009)

Source: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

Year	Total	Monthly Average
Jul-Dec 2008	1,894	315
Jan-Oct 2009	4,048	404

Note: For historical data, the sanction totals are only available for the most recent 15 months because it is a special report that is only ran when requested.

The Percentage of Cases with a Collection in the Arrears: United States and Nebraska (2009)

Source: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

State	% of IV-D Cases	Rank
United States	69.70%	
Nebraska	63.34%	9

Note: IV-D cases refers to cases being work by the Child Support Enforcement Program in a state/territory only, not all the court orders in a state/territory.

Health Cost

Per Capita State Public Welfare Expenditures: 2006-07

Source: The figures are calculated based on the data from 2007 Census of Government Finance and 2000 Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau

State	Per Capita Public Welfare Expenditures	Rank
Minnesota	\$1,521.70	9
Wyoming	\$1,190.40	22
Iowa	\$1,183.30	23
Nebraska	\$1,134.10	26
North Dakota	\$1,084.00	29
Kansas	\$1,073.00	30
Missouri	\$987.30	38
South Dakota	\$958.80	42
Colorado	\$668.30	49

Per Capita Local Public Welfare Expenditures: 2006-07

Source: The figures are calculated based on the data from 2007 Census of Government Finance and 2000 Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau

State	Per Capita Public Welfare Expenditures	Rank
Minnesota	\$307.00	4
Colorado	\$134.20	11
North Dakota	\$73.90	16
Nebraska	\$46.10	22
Iowa	\$33.10	25
Wyoming	\$25.70	29
Missouri	\$22.80	32
South Dakota	\$16.60	36
Kansas	\$15.50	37

Developmental Disabilities Expenditures: Nebraska (2005-09)

Source: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

	DD Waiver - Medicaid	DD Aid (State Only) (Millions)	Total DD- Related	Per Capita Expenditures
FY 2005	\$115.3	\$19.4	\$134.7	\$79
FY 2006	\$126.3	\$18.5	\$144.8	\$85
FY 2007	\$136.2	\$20.9	\$157.1	\$92
FY 2008	\$145.7	\$13.5	\$159.3	\$93
FY 2009	\$163.9	\$11.9	\$175.8	\$103

Behavioral Health Related Expenditures - Medicaid*: Nebraska (2005-09)

Source: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

	Total Expenditures (Millions)	Per Capita Expenditures
FY 2005	\$208.4	\$122
FY 2006	\$204.3	\$119
FY 2007	\$183.5	\$107
FY 2008	\$188.1	\$110
FY 2009	\$189.6	\$111

*Includes prescribed drugs and services such as Inpatient Acute Psych, Adult Substance Abuse, 24 Hour Residential, Medicaid Rehab Option, Injectable Drugs, Outpatient, Wraparound, and Transportation.

Medicaid & CHIP Vendor Expenditures: Nebraska (2005-09)**

Source: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

	Aged	Blind and Disabled	ADC Adult (Millions)	Children (includes CHIP)	Total
FY 2005	\$365.0	\$566.6	\$104.1	\$360.9	\$1,396.6
FY 2006	\$356.2	\$580.6	\$102.0	\$392.1	\$1,430.9
FY 2007	\$333.4	\$586.0	\$105.2	\$414.2	\$1,438.8
FY 2008	\$341.1	\$610.6	\$105.5	\$439.5	\$1,496.8
FY 2009	\$345.6	\$639.8	\$108.7	\$444.4	\$1,538.4

**Medicaid & CHIP expenditures include expenditures for DD waiver services and behavioral health services

Medicaid & CHIP Average Monthly Cost per Eligible: Nebraska (2005-09)**

Source: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

	Aged	Blind and Disabled	ADC Adult	Children (includes CHIP)	Total
FY 2005	\$1,663	\$1,644	\$367	\$235	\$586
FY 2006	\$1,616	\$1,630	\$361	\$253	\$594
FY 2007	\$1,526	\$1,621	\$387	\$265	\$596
FY 2008	\$1,588	\$1,664	\$423	\$276	\$617
FY 2009	\$1,628	\$1,695	\$419	\$272	\$619

**Medicaid & CHIP expenditures include expenditures for DD waiver services and behavioral health services

Nebraska's Legislative Planning Database

Natural Resources

This benchmark examines Nebraska's natural resources by reviewing four broad areas: Air quality, Land quality and waste, Water quality, and Energy. The most currently available data at the time the data files were put together are used. Additional information can be found from the Department of Natural Resources <http://www.dnr.state.ne.us/>, the Department of Environmental Quality <http://www.deq.state.ne.us/>, and the Nebraska Energy Office <http://www.neo.ne.gov/>.

Air Quality

As measured by air pollution emissions, Nebraska's air quality was high. In 2009, Nebraska recorded 8.0 micrograms of fine particles per cubic meter. This was the 42nd lowest in the nation and in the middle of the region. Colorado, South Dakota, North Dakota, and Wyoming had lower levels of emissions.

Land Quality and Waste

Nebraska recorded 13 hazardous waste sites on the national priority list in 2008. This was the 20th largest number of sites in the United States. For toxic chemical releases in 2007, Nebraska was among the highest in the region but ranked 32nd nationally. However, for toxic surface water discharges Nebraska ranked highest regionally and 3rd in the nation.

Nebraska's community water systems were more likely to have reported health-based violations than its neighboring states in 2009. In fact, at 23.0 percent of its community water systems with reported health-based violations, Nebraska was more than 10 percentage points higher than any of its neighboring states. These community water systems were mostly likely to be smaller, as the 23.0 percent of the systems represented 11.1 percent of the population served.

Energy

Electricity in Nebraska costs less than the United State, and the gap is widening. In 2008, the average price per kilowatt hour was 6.58 cents in Nebraska and 9.74 cents nationally. Nebraska's cost was 67.6 percent of the national cost in 2008, a significant drop from 84.8 percent of the national average in 1990. It is interesting to note that Nebraska's 2008 cost of 6.58 cents per KHW was about the same as the national average (6.57 cents per KWH) in 1990. Nebraska's electricity cost ranked 45th nationally. Wyoming was the only state in the region with lower electricity costs.

Nebraska was a relatively high user of energy, but because of lower costs, energy expenditures were not as high. In 2006, Nebraska's energy consumption was 374 million BTUs per person. This ranked 18th when compared to the national average. The coal and oil producing states of Wyoming and North Dakota were by far the largest energy consumers in the region. In 2006, Nebraska spent more than \$7.1 million on energy. This ranked 38th nationally.

The cost of electricity varied widely throughout the state. The cheapest power in the state during 2008 was produced by the Western Area Power Administration (hydro power) at 2.18 cents per KWH. The most expensive was from the Niobrara Electric Association at 12.54 cents per KWH.

Nebraska ranked relatively low in the percentage of electricity generated through renewable resources. Nationally, 8.5 percent of the electricity generated in 2007 came from renewable resources, but only 1.9 percent of Nebraska's electricity was generated from renewable resources. Nebraska ranked 42nd in the generation of electricity using renewable resources. In the region, South Dakota ranked 4th nationally, generating 50 percent of its electricity from renewable sources, most likely hydroelectricity.

Nebraska Legislative Planning Committee

Discussion of Natural Resources Policy

John R. Bartle and Patrick Wheeler, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Air Quality

Fine particle emissions are an important measure of air quality; as indicated in the accompanying table, Nebraska rates well on that indicator. The other criteria that determine air quality are nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, ozone, and lead. Ozone concentrations can affect lung functioning and the respiratory system and is harmful to asthmatics. Although the Omaha metropolitan area currently meets the ozone standard, it is trending toward nonattainment. According to the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, "EPA proposed a new (and lower) ozone standard in the Jan. 19, 2010 *Federal Register*. When the rule is finalized, the Omaha/Council Bluffs area may be significantly impacted if its levels of ozone pollution are above the regulatory limits." Once nonattainment designations are declared, state and local governments have three years to develop implementation plans to address the problem. It is important to avoid this problem, not only for the legal and administrative concerns created by non-compliance, but for health reasons and associated health care costs.

Land Quality and Waste

The EPA's Toxic Chemical Release Inventory shows that in 2009 the largest sources of toxic chemical releases in Nebraska are surface water discharges, landfills and point source air emissions. Surface water discharges in Nebraska are the highest in the region. Point source contaminants have been reduced over time, however non-point source run-off is a larger problem, due in part to nitrate contamination from feedlots and fertilizer facilities. Agrichemical contamination of surface and ground water is also a concern. The other states in the region that have high levels of toxic discharges (Missouri, Iowa and Minnesota) have more discharges from point source air discharges than other sources.

Energy

The price of electricity in Nebraska is lower than the national average. Overall, Nebraska is 67.6 percent of the average, 70 percent for residential consumers, 64 percent for commercial, and 76 percent for industrial consumers. Perhaps as a result of this lower price, consumption is higher. While lower electricity costs have many advantages, it also inhibits conservation and the development of alternative sources of energy. Nationally, 9.3 percent of the electricity generated in 2008 came from renewable resources (3.1 percent non-hydro), but only 1.9 percent of Nebraska's electricity was generated from renewable resources (0.8 percent non-hydro).

Nebraska ranked 45th in the generation of electricity using renewable resources. In the region, South Dakota ranked high in use of hydroelectric power, while Minnesota and Iowa ranked third and fourth nationally in non-hydro renewable energy (10.7 and 8 percent respectively).

Nebraska was last in the region in all renewable power and next to last for non-hydro renewable power (only Missouri had less at 0.3 percent). So while Nebraska is in a good position now, it is vulnerable to long-term changes in the energy market because of its reliance on non-renewable sources of energy.

References

Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, "Ground Level Ozone,"

<http://www.deq.state.ne.us/>

Nebraska Legislative Planning Database - Natural Resources

Air Quality

Air Pollution Emissions, Regional Comparison: 2009

Source: America's Health Rankings (2009), United Health Foundation

State	Micrograms of Fine Particles per Cubic	
	Meter	Rank
Missouri	11.9	18
Iowa	10.5	28
Kansas	9.9	32
Minnesota	8.6	39
Nebraska	8.0	42
Colorado	7.7	43
South Dakota	7.5	46
North Dakota	5.6	49
Wyoming	5.3	50

Note: The average exposure of the general public to particulate matter of 2.5 microns or less in size (PM2.5).

Land Quality and Waste

Hazardous Waste Sites on the National Priority List: 2004 and 2008

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Supplementary Materials (2004 and 2008)

State	Total Sites		2008 Rank
	2004	2008	
United States	1,286	1,301	
North Dakota	0	0	1
South Dakota	2	2	4
Wyoming	2	2	4
Iowa	13	12	15
Kansas	12	12	15
Nebraska	12	13	20
Colorado	18	20	32
Minnesota	24	25	34
Missouri	26	29	36

Toxic Chemical Releases: 2007

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) Program, 2007

State	Total On- and Off-site Releases	Rank
United States	4,080.00	-
Missouri	96.8	16
Iowa	43.4	29
Nebraska	32.9	32
Minnesota	28.1	34
Kansas	26.2	35
Colorado	24.4	36
North Dakota	22.1	38
Wyoming	15.5	42
South Dakota	7.8	44

Toxic Releases: Total Surface Water Discharges: 2007

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) Program, 2007

State	Toxic Releases (Pounds)	Percent of National Total	Rank
United States	231,680,711	-	-
Nebraska	17,409,779	7.5	3
Iowa	3,445,959	1.5	21
Colorado	3,357,389	1.4	23
South Dakota	2,424,482	1.0	29
Minnesota	2,072,875	0.9	30
Missouri	1,690,965	0.7	32
Kansas	586,162	0.3	35
North Dakota	82,123	0.0	42
Wyoming	9,916	0.0	47

Water Quality

Water System Data: 2009

State	CWS	NTNCWS	TNCSW	Total	Ground	Surface	CWSs with Reported Health-Based Violations	
							Number	Percent
<u>Colorado</u>								
Number of Systems	860	169	993	2,022	1,504	518	92	10.7
Population Served	5,264,265	74,354	250,546	5,589,165	716,451	4,872,714	165,381	3.1
<u>Iowa</u>								
Number of Systems	1,134	133	683	1,950	1,799	151	71	6.3
Population Served	2,685,264	47,390	80,908	2,813,562	1,510,584	1,302,978	92,106	3.4
<u>Kansas</u>								
Number of Systems	895	48	90	1,033	654	379	110	12.3
Population Served	2,572,953	20,645	4,195	2,597,793	708,785	1,889,008	170,152	6.6
<u>Minnesota</u>								
Number of Systems	958	523	5,781	7,262	7,149	113	59	6.2
Population Served	4,191,398	78,401	536,240	4,806,039	3,467,539	1,338,500	205,420	4.9
<u>Missouri</u>								
Number of Systems	1,478	250	1,057	2,785	2,538	247	195	13.2
Population Served	5,175,712	76,761	116,403	5,368,876	1,851,384	3,517,492	276,645	5.3
<u>North Dakota</u>								
Number of Systems	332	24	152	508	399	109	19	5.7
Population Served	568,478	3,658	13,893	586,029	265,824	320,205	13,265	2.3
<u>Nebraska</u>								
Number of Systems	596	162	566	1,324	1,264	60	137	23.0
Population Served	1,478,839	52,263	53,618	1,584,720	745,620	839,100	164,688	11.1
<u>South Dakota</u>								
Number of Systems	457	26	173	656	515	141	57	12.5
Population Served	686,897	8,180	22,977	718,054	312,723	405,331	35,296	5.1
<u>Wyoming</u>								
Number of Systems	308	89	378	775	637	138	20	6.5
Population Served	444,979	23,369	74,672	543,020	196,626	346,394	7,576	1.7

Notes:

CWS = Community Water System: A public water system that supplies water to the same population year-round.

NTNCWS = Non-Transient Non-Community Water System: A public water system that regularly supplies water to at least 25 of the same people at least six months per year, but not year-round. Some examples are schools, factories, office buildings, and hospitals which have their own water systems.

TNCWS = Transient Non-Community Water System: A public water system that provides water in a place such as a gas station or campground where people do not remain for long periods of time and is open at least 60 days/year.

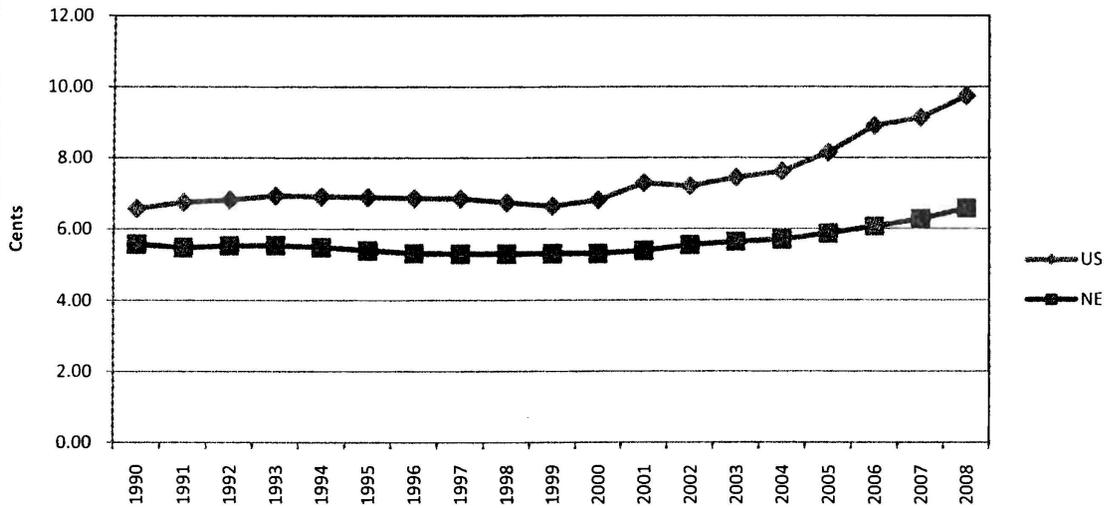
Energy

Average Price per Kilowatt Hour: United States and Nebraska (1990-2008)

Source: Electric Power Annual (2008), Independent Statistics and Analysis, U.S. Energy Information Administration

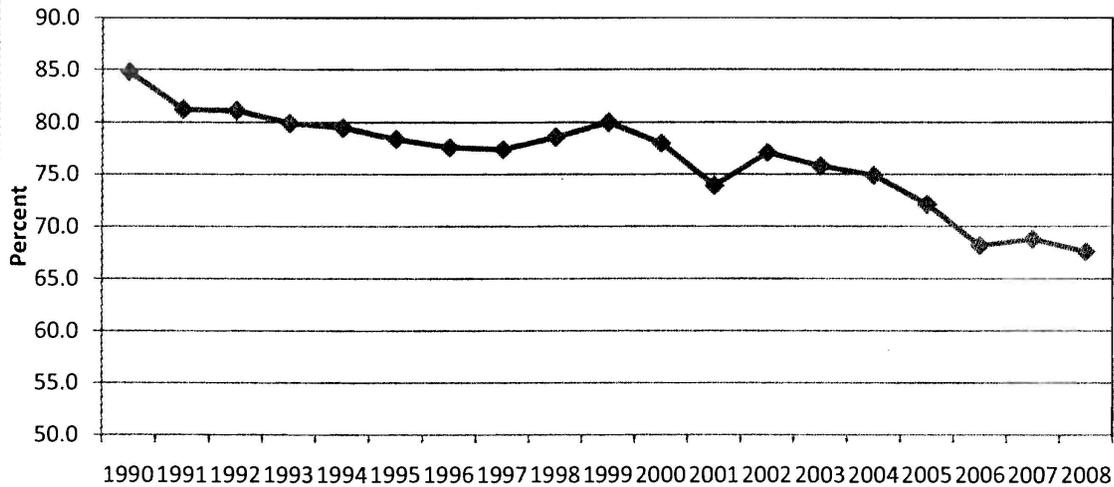
Year	Average Price by Provider (Cents per Kilowatt Hour)		NE as a % of US
	United States	Nebraska	
1990	6.57	5.57	84.8
1991	6.75	5.48	81.2
1992	6.82	5.53	81.1
1993	6.93	5.54	79.9
1994	6.91	5.49	79.5
1995	6.89	5.40	78.4
1996	6.86	5.32	77.6
1997	6.85	5.30	77.4
1998	6.74	5.30	78.6
1999	6.64	5.31	80.0
2000	6.81	5.31	78.0
2001	7.29	5.39	73.9
2002	7.20	5.55	77.1
2003	7.44	5.64	75.8
2004	7.61	5.70	74.9
2005	8.14	5.87	72.1
2006	8.90	6.07	68.2
2007	9.13	6.28	68.8
2008	9.74	6.58	67.6

Average Price per Kilowatt Hour: United States and Nebraska (1990-2008)



Source: Electric Power Annual (2008), Independent Statistics and Analysis, U.S. Energy Information Administration;

Average Price per Kilowatt Hour: Nebraska as a Percentage of the United States (1990-2008)



Source: Electric Power Annual (2008), Independent Statistics and Analysis, U.S. Energy Information Administration;
 Prepared by Center for Public Affairs Research, UNO; Jul 2010

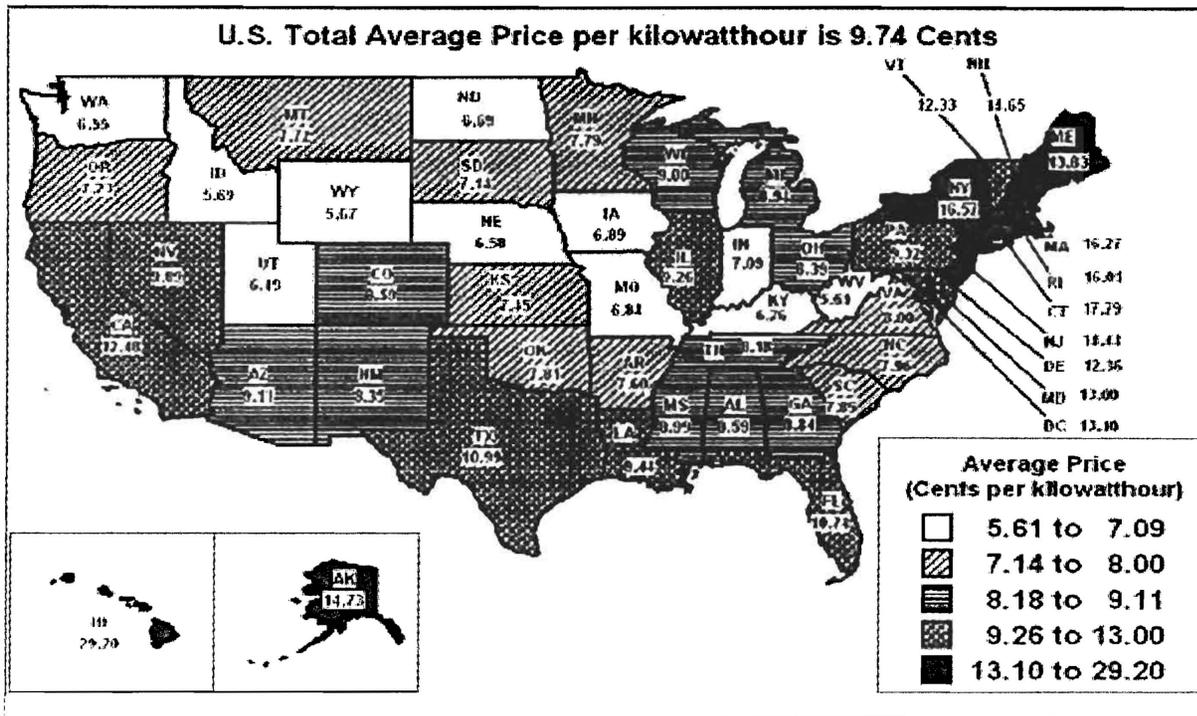
Average Price: 2008

Source: Electric Power Annual (2008), Independent Statistics and Analysis, U.S. Energy Information Administration

State	Cents per Kilowatt Hour	Rank
Colorado	8.59	27
Minnesota	7.79	35
Kansas	7.45	38
South Dakota	7.14	40
Iowa	6.89	42
Missouri	6.84	43
North Dakota	6.69	44
Nebraska	6.58	45
Wyoming	5.67	50

Average Retail Price of Electricity by State: 2008

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, Form EIA-861, "Annual Electric Power Industry Report."



Energy Consumption Per Person: 2006

Source: State Energy Data 2006, Independent Statistics and Analysis, U.S. Energy Information Administration

State	Consumption per Person (Million BTU)	Ranking
Wyoming	937.9	2
North Dakota	644.1	4
Iowa	406.2	14
Kansas	381.3	16
Nebraska	373.8	18
Minnesota	353.5	19
South Dakota	344.9	24
Missouri	327.7	28
Colorado	299.6	39

Energy Expenditures: Regional Comparison: 2006

Source: State Energy Data 2006, Independent Statistics and Analysis, U.S. Energy Information Administration

State	Expenditures (Million Nomin al Dollars)	Ranking
Missouri	21,533	17
Minnesota	19,948	21
Colorado	16,251	26
Iowa	13,368	29
Kansas	10,719	33
Nebraska	7,133	38
Wyoming	4,323	45
North Dakota	3,548	47
South Dakota	3,167	49

Retail Price by Utility for Nebraska Subdivisions: 2008

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Utility Name		Total Revenue (\$000)	Total Sales (MWh)	Total Consumers	Average Price (Cents per kWh)
Auburn Board of Public Works	Municipal	3,898	61,564	2,922	6.33
Beatrice City of	Municipal	12,335	177,843	7,341	6.94
	Political				
Burt County Public Power Dist	Subdivision	8,288	84,447	4,138	9.81
	Political				
Butler County Rural P P D	Subdivision	9,813	104,885	6,403	9.36
	Political				
Cedar-Knox Public Power Dist	Subdivision	11,324	154,059	6,953	7.35
Cherry-Todd Electric Coop, Inc	Cooperative	1,373	21,138	974	6.50
	Political				
Chimney Rock Public Power Dist	Subdivision	5,899	51,574	2,946	11.44
City of Alliance	Municipal	7,650	113,324	5,324	6.75
City of Ansley	Municipal	350	4,203	331	8.33
City of Arapahoe	Municipal	1,032	10,053	685	10.27
City of Battle Creek	Municipal	903	11,282	574	8.00
City of Bayard	Municipal	835	8,367	625	9.98
City of Beaver City	Municipal	448	5,597	385	8.00
City of Benkelman	Municipal	839	10,014	668	8.38
City of Blue Hill	Municipal	509	7,975	450	6.38
City of Bridgeport Utilities	Municipal	1,125	15,644	895	7.19
City of Broken Bow	Municipal	3,949	79,526	2,321	4.97
City of Burwell	Municipal	940	12,920	714	7.28
City of Cambridge	Municipal	2,452	37,456	628	6.55
City of Central City	Municipal	2,495	31,201	1,637	8.00
City of Chappell	Municipal	637	9,408	834	6.77
City of Crete	Municipal	6,091	122,242	3,066	4.98
City of Curtis	Municipal	1,066	13,999	701	7.61
City of David City	Municipal	2,872	38,608	1,419	7.44
City of Deshler	Municipal	714	7,853	460	9.09
City of Edgar	Municipal	441	6,143	337	7.18
City of Emerson	Municipal	532	6,053	408	8.79
City of Fairbury	Municipal	5,742	83,841	3,242	6.85
City of Falls City	Municipal	3,516	50,233	2,718	7.00
City of Franklin	Municipal	951	9,791	696	9.71
City of Friend	Municipal	818	10,419	644	7.85
City of Gering	Municipal	6,134	60,945	3,938	10.06
City of Giltner	Municipal	298	3,333	218	8.94
City of Gothenburg	Municipal	3,586	57,378	1,824	6.25
City of Grant	Municipal	1,198	16,367	794	7.32
City of Hebron	Municipal	1,704	24,177	978	7.05
City of Hickman	Municipal	807	10,000	569	8.07
City of Holdrege	Municipal	6,577	126,311	3,086	5.21
City of Hubbell	Municipal	99	951	55	10.41

City of Imperial	Municipal	2,235	30,254	1,409	7.39
City of Indianola	Municipal	419	4,382	421	9.56
City of Kimball	Municipal	1,656	21,244	1,628	7.80
City of Laurel	Municipal	781	11,313	702	6.90
City of Lodgepole	Municipal	261	2,679	245	9.74
City of Lyons	Municipal	655	7,796	562	8.40
City of Nebraska City	Municipal	11,624	155,715	5,619	7.46
City of Neligh	Municipal	1,486	19,734	1,186	7.53
City of Nelson	Municipal	425	5,373	352	7.91
City of North Platte	Municipal	19,821	296,251	12,529	6.69
City of Ord	Municipal	1,853	30,836	1,434	6.01
City of Pender	Municipal	923	13,000	684	7.10
City of Pierce	Municipal	1,412	20,019	1,197	7.05
City of Plainview	Municipal	1,071	12,384	1,041	8.65
City of Randolph	Municipal	627	8,033	588	7.81
City of Red Cloud	Municipal	744	9,853	820	7.55
City of Schuyler	Municipal	7,780	138,428	2,581	5.62
City of Seward	Municipal	6,832	90,483	3,151	7.55
City of Sidney	Municipal	6,001	72,649	4,665	8.26
City of Snyder	Municipal	521	7,537	203	6.91
City of South Sioux City	Municipal	14,626	203,754	5,401	7.18
City of Spencer	Municipal	425	6,716	328	6.33
City of St Paul	Municipal	1,793	23,160	1,224	7.74
City of Stratton	Municipal	347	4,248	308	8.17
City of Stromsburg	Municipal	873	10,000	669	8.73
City of Stuart	Municipal	593	6,156	416	9.63
City of Superior	Municipal	2,027	21,696	1,344	9.34
City of Sutton	Municipal	1,290	14,853	872	8.69
City of Syracuse	Municipal	1,506	19,590	1,217	7.69
City of Tecumseh	Municipal	1,768	23,108	1,051	7.65
City of Trenton	Municipal	516	6,263	427	8.24
City of Valentine	Municipal	2,986	47,402	1,825	6.30
City of Wakefield	Municipal	2,653	47,359	609	5.60
City of Wayne	Municipal	3,543	59,116	2,395	5.99
City of West Point	Municipal	3,167	54,926	1,860	5.77
City of Wilber	Municipal	1,078	16,423	968	6.56
City of Wisner	Municipal	1,110	14,716	718	7.54
City of Wood River	Municipal	857	11,300	699	7.58
City of Wymore	Municipal	864	12,188	884	7.09
Cornhusker Public Power Dist	Subdivision	23,975	357,471	9,162	6.71
Cozad Board of Public Works	Municipal	4,633	78,893	2,061	5.87
	Political				
Cuming County Public Pwr Dist	Subdivision	7,274	91,931	3,907	7.91
	Political				
Custer Public Power District	Subdivision	16,083	168,218	9,862	9.56
	Political				
Dawson Power District	Subdivision	36,583	483,115	22,228	7.57

	Political				
Elkhorn Rural Public Pwr Dist	Subdivision	16,777	216,626	8,955	7.74
Fairmont Village of	Municipal	406	4,880	364	8.32
Fremont City of	Municipal	21,354	414,475	14,117	5.15
Grand Island City of	Municipal	48,463	688,887	24,172	7.03
Hastings City of	Municipal	30,132	477,656	12,953	6.31
High West Energy, Inc	Cooperative	9,368	99,082	3,037	9.45
Highline Electric Assn	Cooperative	7,842	70,434	1,959	11.13
	Political				
Howard Greeley Rural P P D	Subdivision	7,212	84,913	4,975	8.49
	Political				
KBR Rural Public Power District	Subdivision	7,209	69,821	4,357	10.32
LaCreek Electric Assn, Inc	Cooperative	409	5,809	216	7.04
Lexington City of	Municipal	11,149	198,276	4,096	5.62
Lincoln Electric System	Municipal	209,765	3,236,287	127,621	6.48
	Political				
Loup River Public Power Dist	Subdivision	56,975	1,124,447	18,436	5.07
	Political				
Loup Valleys Rural P P D	Subdivision	7,725	107,565	5,268	7.18
Madison City of	Municipal	2,990	64,286	988	4.65
	Political				
McCook Public Power District	Subdivision	13,035	226,346	4,709	5.76
Midwest Electric Member Corp	Cooperative	21,505	201,477	6,075	10.67
Minden City of	Municipal	2,488	26,826	1,567	9.27
Mitchell City of	Municipal	1,202	14,447	958	8.32
	Political				
Nebraska Public Power District	Subdivision	202,334	3,145,042	87,585	6.43
Niobrara Electric Assn, Inc	Cooperative	1,061	8,459	884	12.54
Niobrara Valley El Member Corp	Cooperative	9,049	108,775	5,732	8.32
	Political				
Norris Public Power District	Subdivision	40,591	636,208	18,417	6.38
	Political				
North Central Public Pwr Dist	Subdivision	8,195	95,582	5,191	8.57
	Political				
Northeast Nebraska P P D	Subdivision	16,553	254,475	8,238	6.50
	Political				
Northwest Rural Pub Pwr Dist	Subdivision	9,247	73,382	3,202	12.60
	Political				
Omaha Public Power District	Subdivision	623,649	10,173,367	339,657	6.13
Panhandle Rural El Member Assn	Cooperative	11,122	93,332	3,720	11.92
	Political				
Perennial Public Power Dist	Subdivision	18,237	273,565	7,312	6.67
	Political				
Polk County Rural Pub Pwr Dist	Subdivision	8,109	86,955	4,506	9.33
Reynolds Village of	Municipal	47	669	62	7.03
	Political				
Roosevelt Public Power Dist	Subdivision	5,581	57,294	3,013	9.74
Sargent City of	Municipal	522	6,197	498	8.42
Scribner City of	Municipal	976	11,883	529	8.22
	Political				
Seward County Rrl Pub Pwr Dist	Subdivision	6,916	82,589	4,691	8.37
	Political				
South Central Public Pwr Dist	Subdivision	12,109	154,246	7,431	7.85
	Political				
Southern Public Power District	Subdivision	60,932	925,497	26,298	6.58

Southwest Public Power Dist	Political Subdivision	13,093	167,387	5,718	7.82
Stanton County Public Pwr Dist	Political Subdivision	5,036	55,861	2,764	9.01
Twin Valleys Public Power Dist	Political Subdivision	7,651	80,468	6,032	9.51
Village of Arnold	Municipal	585	7,873	515	7.43
Village of Bartley	Municipal	309	3,661	186	8.44
Village of Bradshaw	Municipal	258	2,731	182	9.45
Village of Brainard	Municipal	306	4,401	220	6.96
Village of Callaway	Municipal	503	7,335	385	6.86
Village of Campbell	Municipal	262	2,488	243	10.53
Village of Chester	Municipal	203	2,150	207	9.44
Village of Davenport	Municipal	237	2,912	206	8.14
Village of De Witt	Municipal	1,325	18,315	301	7.23
Village of Decatur	Municipal	425	3,831	365	11.09
Village of Dorchester	Municipal	433	6,184	340	7.00
Village of Elk Creek	Municipal	63	941	61	6.70
Village of Endicott	Municipal	72	808	90	8.91
Village of Greenwood	Municipal	379	4,600	290	8.24
Village of Hampton	Municipal	319	4,179	264	7.63
Village of Hemingford	Municipal	812	8,097	570	10.03
Village of Hildreth	Municipal	153	4,150	245	3.69
Village of Holbrook	Municipal	215	1,908	156	11.27
Village of Leigh	Municipal	481	6,598	302	7.29
Village of Lyman	Municipal	607	6,287	281	9.65
Village of Morrill	Municipal	1,226	14,890	1,127	8.23
Village of Mullen	Municipal	442	5,597	387	7.90
Village of Oxford	Municipal	709	8,473	506	8.37
Village of Polk	Municipal	309	3,048	253	10.14
Village of Prague	Municipal	240	3,160	180	7.59
Village of Shickley	Municipal	267	3,244	248	8.23
Village of Spalding	Municipal	556	7,855	371	7.08
Village of Talmage	Municipal	160	2,430	138	6.58
Village of Walthill	Municipal	428	5,152	312	8.31
Village of Wauneta	Municipal	590	7,258	437	8.13
Village of Wilcox	Municipal	203	2,751	219	7.38
Village of Winside	Municipal	250	3,400	270	7.35
Wahoo City of	Municipal	3,219	60,518	2,296	5.32
Western Area Power Administration	Federal Political	3,601	164,827	16	2.18
Wheat Belt Public Power Dist	Political Subdivision	16,257	160,407	4,867	10.13
Wyrulec Company	Cooperative	2,398	27,081	468	8.85
Y-W Electric Assn Inc	Cooperative	692	5,987	72	11.56
TOTAL		1,894,447	28,210,989	988,232	6.58

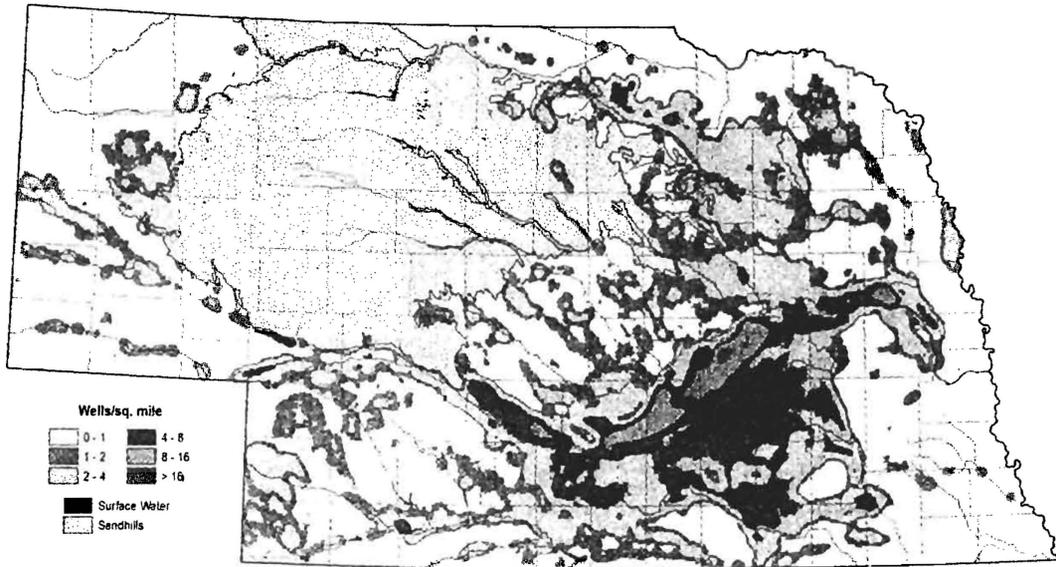
Percent of Electricity Generated Through Renewable Sources: 2007

Source: Renewable Energy Trends, 2007, Independent Statistics and Analysis, U.S. Department of Energy Information Administration

State	Percent of Electricity Generated	Rank
United States	8.5	-
South Dakota	50	4
Minnesota	8.4	14
Iowa	7.8	15
North Dakota	6.2	18
Colorado	5.7	21
Wyoming	3.3	32
Kansas	2.3	37
Nebraska	1.9	42
Missouri	1.4	45

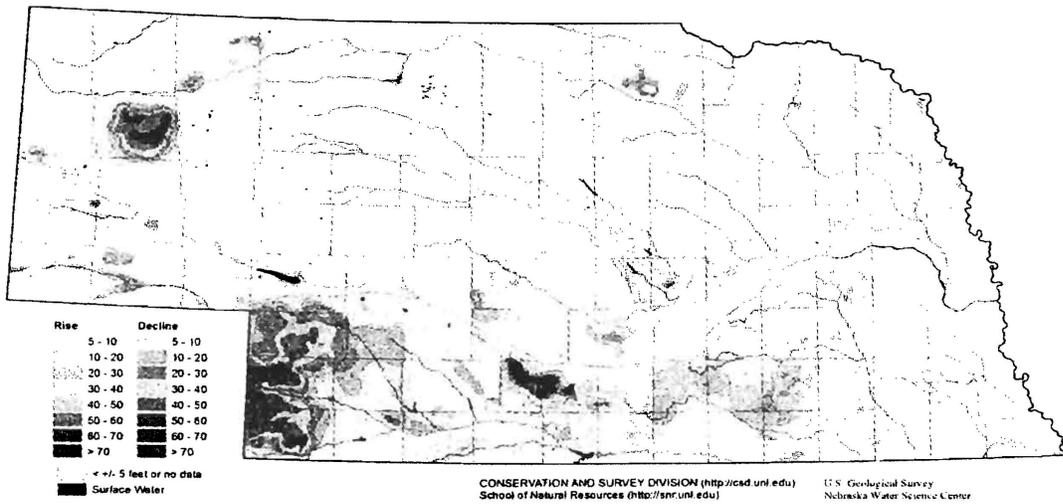
Note: Renewable sources include hydroelectric, geothermal, solar, wind, MSW/ landfill gas, wood/ wood waste and other biomass.

Density of Irrigation Wells: January 2009.



Density of Irrigation Wells. Map showing the density of active registered irrigation wells in Nebraska in wells per square mile as of January, 2009. Sources: Nebraska Department of Natural Resources; J.T. Korus and M.E. Burbach, 2009, Nebraska statewide groundwater-level monitoring report: Nebraska Water Survey Paper Number 76, Conservation and Survey Division, School of Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 38 p.

Ground Water Level Changes: 2009



Groundwater-Level Changes: Map showing groundwater level changes in Nebraska from predevelopment to spring 2009. Predevelopment levels represent the approximate average water levels prior to irrigation development. This date varies from the early 1940's to early 1950's depending on location. Sources: U.S. Geological Survey Nebraska Water Science Center; U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Kansas-Nebraska Area Office; Nebraska Natural Resources Districts; Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District; J.T. Korus and M.E. Burbach, 2009, Nebraska statewide groundwater-level monitoring report: Nebraska Water Survey Paper Number 76, Conservation and Survey Division, School of Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 38 p.

Nebraska's Legislative Planning Database

Public Safety

This benchmark examines Nebraska's public safety by reviewing five broad areas: Crime, Recidivism, Juvenile intakes, Fiscal sustainability, and emergency preparedness. The most currently available data at the time the data files were put together are used. Additional information can be found from the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services' website <http://www.corrections.nebraska.gov/>.

Crime

Nebraska reported 10,432 arrests for drug abuse violations in 2008. This was considerably higher than Iowa and Kansas, even though these states have larger populations.

Most of the states in the region reported relatively low violent crime rates in 2008. The violent crime rate in Nebraska of 303.7 crimes per 100,000 persons ranked 31st in the nation and compared to the national rate of 454.5 crimes per 100,000. Missouri, Kansas, and Colorado recorded higher violent crime rates than Nebraska. The murder rate for Nebraska also ranked 31st, with 3.8 murders per 100,000 compared to 5.4 for the United States. Missouri and Kansas had higher murder rates, as Missouri ranked 5th. Looking at property crimes, Nebraska ranked 30th, with 2,878 property crimes per 100,000 persons. This is compared to the nation's rate of 3,212 property crimes per 100,000. Again Missouri and Kansas ranked higher than Nebraska.

Recidivism

Between July 2006 and June 2010, it appears that the recidivism rate has increased at the youth rehabilitation and treatment center in Kearney. In 2006-07, the recidivism rate was 18.8 percent, but it increased to 29.3 percent in 2009-10. Even though the recidivism rate in the youth rehabilitation and treatment center in Geneva fluctuated from year-to-year, 2009-10's rate of 18.7 percent was the second highest of the four years.

Juvenile Intakes

In 2008, Nebraska ranked relatively high for juvenile arrests for property crime (7th) and drug abuse (10th) and low for violent crime (39th) and weapons (21st). Between 2000 and 2008, the juvenile arrest rate for violent crimes increased, decreased for property crimes and drug abuse, and increased slightly for weapons.

Fiscal Sustainability

Nebraska's expenditures for public safety were below the national numbers at both the state and local level. In 2006-07, Nebraska spent \$191 per capita on public safety at the state level and \$341 at the local level. This compares with national figures of \$215 and \$466 respectively. Nebraska's per capita expenditures ranked 28th for state spending and 34th for local spending. Regionally, Nebraska was in the top half for state spending and in the bottom half for local spending.

In FY2009, Nebraska Department of Correctional Services spent \$171 million providing services. The most expensive facility was the Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility at \$160.07 per day or \$58,424 per year. Total programs without parole cost an average of \$90.31 per day or \$32,965 per year.

Emergency Preparedness

In the past 5 years Nebraska has experienced 19 federally declared disasters and emergencies. Through June, there were 3 declared disasters totaling more than \$33 million. The largest storm in recent years was in January 2007, affecting 69 counties with damages exceeding \$160 million.

Nebraska Legislative Planning Committee

Discussion of Public Safety Policy

John R. Bartle, School of Public Administration, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Crime

National crime rates reported by the Federal Bureau of Investigation have decreased since 1990. Nebraska total crime rate reached a historic high in 1995, fluctuated in the late 1990's, and then decreased by 30% since 2001. Similarly, violent crime in Nebraska decreased by 37% from 1998 to 2009 (FBI, 2010).

Crime trends are difficult to explain, however some generalizations are possible. A recent study by the National Research Council identified these patterns:

- Changes in incarceration tend to reduce crime the following year, whereas increases in the number of persons released from state prisons tend to increase crime the next year.
- Increases in police force size and the certainty of arrest tend to reduce crime.
- Alcohol consumption does not influence crime trends. Firearm prevalence is significantly associated with homicide but not other crimes. Crack cocaine use and market activity has a positive effect, although the influence is inconsistent among crime types.
- Some demographic variables such as age, cohabitation rates, and percentage of the youth born to teenage mothers have significant effects on crime trends (Baumer, 2008)

These broad trends likely explain some of the patterns in Nebraska's crime rate.

Juvenile arrests in Nebraska are 44% higher than the national average for property crime, and 17% higher for drug abuse, but less than half the national rate for violent crime. Property crime and drug abuse arrests among juveniles is decreasing, however violent crime is over 30% higher since 2005.

Recidivism

Due to the increase in crime rates in Nebraska in the late 1990's and prison crowding, in 2003 the Legislature created the Community Corrections Council which created various approaches to community-based corrections for non-violent offenders such as drug treatment, behavior modification, and other efforts to facilitate successful reentry into the community. If successful, these efforts hold promise to reduce prison overcrowding as well as costs per inmate, as community corrections costs are significantly lower than those for the Nebraska State Penitentiary or the corrections centers. Parole or reporting centers are even less expensive. Of course the threat is that released inmates may reoffend which has both social costs and financial costs to the criminal system and social welfare programs.

Spending

Nebraska's per capita state and local spending on public safety is lower than the national average. The largest portion of public safety spending in Nebraska is on police (48%), followed by corrections (29%), fire protection (16%) and protective inspection and regulation (6.7%). Compared to national totals, Nebraska spends a larger portion of public safety spending on police and fire protection, less on corrections, and the same portion on inspection and regulation.

References

Baumer, Eric P. (2008) "An Empirical Assessment of the Contemporary Crime Trends Puzzle: A Modest Step Toward a More Comprehensive Research Agenda," in Richard Rosenfeld and Arthur S. Goldberger, *Understanding Crime Trends: Workshop Report* (National Academies Press).

US Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2009* (September 2010)

Nebraska Legislative Planning Database - Public Safety

Crime

Arrests for Drug Abuse Violation: 2008

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice
(http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2008/data/table_69.html)

State	Number of Arrests
United States	1,702,537
Colorado	17,851
Iowa	8,497
Kansas	6,854
Minnesota	18,196
Missouri	35,990
Nebraska	10,432
North Dakota	1,769
South Dakota	2,395
Wyoming	2,969

Violent Crime Rate Per 100,000 Population: 2008

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice
(http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2008/data/table_69.html)

State	Violent Crime Rate (Per 100,000 Persons)	Rank
United States	454.5	
Missouri	504.4	14
Kansas	410.6	23
Colorado	343.1	27
Nebraska	303.7	31
Iowa	283.8	35
Minnesota	262.8	39
Wyoming	232.0	44
South Dakota	201.4	47
North Dakota	166.5	48

Murder Rate Per 100,000 Population: 2008

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice
(http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2008/data/table_69.html)

State	Murder & Nonnegligent Manslaughter (Per 100,000 Persons)	Rank
United States	5.4	
Missouri	7.7	5
Kansas	4.0	30
Nebraska	3.8	31
Colorado	3.2	34
South Dakota	3.2	35
Iowa	2.5	41
Minnesota	2.1	45
Wyoming	1.9	47
North Dakota	0.5	51

Property Crime Rate Per 100,000 Population: 2008

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice
(http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2008/data/table_69.html)

State	Crime (Per 100,000 Persons)	Rank
United States	3,212.50	
Missouri	3,663.70	14
Kansas	3,377.20	21
Nebraska	2,878.60	30
Minnesota	2,850.60	31
Colorado	2,849.00	32
Wyoming	2,717.30	35
Iowa	2,420.90	43
North Dakota	1,894.40	50
South Dakota	1,645.60	51

Recidivism

Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment Center - Kearney 4 Year Recidivism Rates (July 2006 - June 2010)

Fiscal Year	Parole Revocations	Recommitmen ts	Releases	Recidivism
06/07	29	45	393	18.8%
07/08	57	47	528	19.7%
08/09	76	48	493	25.2%
09/10	65	62	434	29.3%
TOTALS	227	202	1848	23.2%

**Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment Center - Geneva 4 Year Recidivism Rates
(July 2006 - June 2010)**

Fiscal Year	Parole Revocations	Recommitments	Releases	Recidivism
06/07	8	5	130	10.0%
07/08	20	10	121	24.8%
08/09	5	6	104	10.6%
09/10	9	16	134	18.7%
TOTALS	42	37	489	16.2%

Note: Recidivism = Parole Violations + Reccommitments

Juvenile Intakes

Juvenile Arrests: 2008

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Juvenile Arrests 2008, released April 2010. (related Internet site <<http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/225344.pdf>>)

Juvenile arrest rate \1 2008

State	Reporting Coverage (percent)	Violent crime index \2	Rank	Property crime index \3	Rank
United States	82	306		1,398	
Colorado	88	199	28	1,853	12
Iowa	92	252	22	1,792	15
Kansas	68	163	35	1,109	38
Minnesota	97	208	26	1,884	11
Missouri	94	274	18	1,928	9
Nebraska	92	139	39	2,013	7
North Dakota	91	117	43	2,107	4
South Dakota	78	79	47	1,640	22
Wyoming	99	132	41	1,977	8

Juvenile arrest rate \1 2008

State	Drug abuse	Rank	Weapons	Rank
United States	560		121	
Colorado	763	7	123	15
Iowa	396	38	52	41
Kansas	472	29	59	39
Minnesota	511	24	145	10
Missouri	566	19	121	16
Nebraska	657	10	112	21
North Dakota	477	28	70	35
South Dakota	590	14	83	29
Wyoming	910	4	83	29

Juvenile Arrests: United States and Nebraska (2000-08)

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Juvenile Arrests 2008, released April 2010. (related Internet site <<http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/225344.pdf>>)

Juvenile arrest rate \1

United States	Reporting Coverage (percentage)	Violent crime index \2	Property crime index \3	Drug abuse	Weapons
2008	82	306	1,398	560	121
2007	81	301	1,293	590	128
2006	78	315	1,256	600	141
2005	79	296	1,289	581	134
2000	72	330	1,686	649	116

Juvenile arrest rate \1

Nebraska	Reporting Coverage (percentage)	Violent crime index \2	Property crime index \3	Drug abuse	Weapons
2008	92	139	2,013	657	112
2007	85	138	1,823	644	109
2006	87	106	1,892	638	91
2005	90	105	1,935	656	95
2000	91	118	2,483	719	106

\1 Arrest rate is defined as the number of arrests of persons under age 18 for every 100,000 persons ages 10-17.

\2 Violent crime includes murder or nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

\3 Property crimes include burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

Fiscal Sustainability

Per Capita State Public Safety Expenditures: 2006-07

Source: The figures are calculated based on the data from 2007 Census of Government Finance and 2000 Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau

State	Per Capita Public Safety Expenditures	Rank
United States	\$214.79	
Wyoming	\$334.35	3
Colorado	\$203.51	22
Nebraska	\$191.02	28
South Dakota	\$186.09	33
Minnesota	\$163.52	39
Missouri	\$149.66	43
Kansas	\$147.52	44
North Dakota	\$144.25	46
Iowa	\$133.92	50

Per Capita Local Public Safety Expenditures: 2006-07

Source: The figures are calculated based on the data from 2007 Census of Government Finance and 2000 Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau

State	Per Capita Public Safety Expenditures	Rank
United States	\$466.33	
Wyoming	\$540.37	7
Colorado	\$497.24	10
Minnesota	\$381.11	23
Missouri	\$350.22	29
Kansas	\$347.32	30
Nebraska	\$340.60	34
Iowa	\$302.34	42
South Dakota	\$258.01	47
North Dakota	\$251.90	49

Nebraska Department of Correctional Services Annual Cost Report Fiscal Year 2009

Facility/Category	Total	Cost/day per inmate	Cost/yr per inmate	Daily avg. inmate pop.	Cost/day without medical
Neb Corr Youth Facility	\$5,711,543	\$160.07	\$58,424	98	\$146.94
Tecumseh Corr Center	\$33,184,329	\$95.92	\$35,012	948	\$82.80
Community Corr Ctr LNK	\$6,259,545	\$45.95	\$16,773	373	\$32.83
Community Corr Ctr OMA	\$3,246,096	\$54.23	\$19,794	164	\$41.11
Neb State Penitentiary	\$36,867,703	\$94.74	\$34,582	1066	\$81.62
Neb Corr Ctr for Women	\$10,286,852	\$103.36	\$37,726	273	\$90.24
Diagnosis & Eval Ctr	\$11,171,197	\$101.27	\$36,965	302	\$88.15
Lincoln Correctional Ctr	\$18,460,391	\$106.54	\$38,889	475	\$93.42
Omaha Correctional Ctr	\$17,245,194	\$69.51	\$25,370	680	\$56.38
Work Ethic Camp*	\$5,287,796	\$58.60	\$21,391	103*	\$48.65
Adult Parole**	\$2,815,218	\$8.04	\$2,936	959**	n/a
Total Programs	\$150,535,864	\$75.81	\$27,671	5441	
Total w/o parole	\$147,720,646	\$90.31	\$32,965	4482	
Federal Surplus Property	\$744,720				
Central Warehouse	\$2,892,478				
Correctional Industries	\$11,400,073				
Subtotal	\$15,037,271				
Community Based Services	\$72,500				
Building Depreciation	\$1,036,260				
County Jail Reimbursement	\$3,910,000				
Construction Programs	\$470,100				
Other Subtotal	\$5,488,860				
Total	\$171,061,995				

Notes:

The data represent an allocation of all expenditures for all budgeted fund types for the Department of Correctional Services for the fiscal year.

All direct and indirect expenses are allocated proportionately to the facilities indicated below, except that Education expenses are direct costs at NCYF & NCCW.

The cost per inmate represents an average cost per inmate of all general, cash and federal expenditures excluding General Fund Aid & Depreciation & Capital Construction expenditures.

**Includes cost per day/year calculated using number of FY 2009 admissions of 270; other programs calculated using average daily inmate population*

**Cost per inmate at WEC calculated based on average number of probationers and inmates times the average length of program, which is five months. Previous year counts were based only on admissions, due to the varied lengths of stay.*

***The average number of Lifetime Sex Offenders supervised during FY08-09 (46) is included this year in the Parole numbers and calculation of costs. Number of parolees totaled 913.*

Emergency Preparedness

Disasters Declared by the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)

Date Declared	Type of Disaster	Number of Counties Declared	Est. Public Damages
6/1/2010	Flooding	53	\$16,366,211
4/21/2010	Flooding	35	\$10,785,830
2/25/2010	Winter Storm	48	\$6,010,888
12/16/2009	Winter Storm	7	\$3,638,100
7/31/2009	Tornado/flood	13	\$4,388,370
7/18/2008	Spring Storms	4	\$12,746,400
6/20/2008	Storm/tornado	61	\$35,559,665
5/30/2008	Storm/tornado	5	\$2,296,100
1/11/2008	Winter Storm	8	\$8,040,984
8/29/2007	Storm/flood	6	\$1,297,060
7/24/2007	Storms/flood	15	\$2,937,801
6/6/2007	Storms/flood	19	\$7,303,416
1/7/2007	Winter Storm	69	\$160,749,169
7/29/2006	Sioux Co. Fire	1	\$2,385,620
7/28/2006	Dawes Co. Fire	3	\$1,964,127
7/17/2006	Valentine Fire	1	\$464,323
1/26/2006	Winter Storm	29	\$7,131,762
6/13/2005	Katrina Assist	Statewide	\$485,249
6/23/2005	Storm/flood	11	\$3,195,092

Notes:

The Federal Government has been keeping disaster records since 1960. Between 1960 to today the state has experienced 49 federally declared disasters-emergencies/all of which would have been a local and state declared disaster prior to seeking assistance at the Federal level.

In the past 5 years Nebraska has experienced 19 federally declared disasters and emergencies.

Planning Committee

Discussion of State and Local Government Policy

John R. Bartle, School of Public Administration, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Units of Government

Nebraska is high in the number of local governments in the state, particularly special districts and counties. Some have argued that this leads to duplication and diseconomies of scale. There do appear to be economies of scale in the provision of some government services. A study of South Dakota counties found that per capita total county costs decreased by 63% as the county population increased from below 2,500 to the 15,000-20,000 population range. They decreased further by 20% as population increased to size of the largest county (Minnehaha County, 134,000). Similarly, administration costs (auditor, county commissioners, register of deeds, treasurer, state's attorney, and equalization) decreased further by 73% as county population increased to the 15,000-20,000 range, and then decreased by 43% for Minnehaha County (University of South Dakota, 1997). A study of North Dakota found that consolidation of North Dakota's counties would reduce average costs for roads, health and welfare, and general government, but increase costs for public safety (Krause, 1996).

Notwithstanding this evidence, consolidation of governments has its own expenses, and in some cases there is a tendency to increase employee pay levels to that of the highest paying government involved in the merger, losing some or all of the savings achieved by increased economies of scale. Also, cost savings can be realized by other means, such as functional consolidation, inter-local agreements, and creation of regional special districts (such as Natural Resource Districts) to assume the powers of smaller governments. Finally, some have argued that smaller governments enhance local control, leading to a more responsive, democratic system of government.

Employment and Payroll

Both state and local government employment in Nebraska is above the average, but average pay for both state and local employees is below the national average. There are some important exceptions to these general patterns, such as electric power utilities for which both employment and pay is higher than the national average. Nebraska is below the average in local government employment and payroll for public safety (including police officers and firefighters), public welfare and health, and public works. Overall, the wage bill for Nebraska governments is below average.

There is no evidence that this pattern is a general strategy, nor that it is a necessary result of the demographics of the state. The lower level of employment for local public safety workers may be due to the presence of volunteer fire departments and local agreements with counties and the

State for law enforcement services. The lower pay may be due in part to the lower cost of living in Nebraska, and the relatively low presence of public labor unions. The level of pay may be an issue for consideration. As long as governments are able to hire the workers they need at lower salaries, this represents a savings to taxpayers. If not, then there might be upward pressure on public sector wages in the future.

Federal Government Expenditures

Nebraska receives slightly less than average from federal expenditures. Nebraska is high in “other direct payments” which includes federal programs such as Medicare, the earned income tax credit, unemployment compensation, Food Stamps, agricultural assistance and federal employee life and health insurance. The state is low in federal procurement spending. In other categories, Nebraska is relatively close to the average. One strategy might be to attempt to increase federal spending in the state, although that can create a dependence on federal appropriations.

Expenditures, Revenue and Debt

Very generally speaking, Nebraska is in the middle for most of these categories. The presence of public power is one feature that runs against these trends. Public spending is driven by need and preferences. The need for spending may be due to features that are difficult to control, such as the number of school-aged children, population density, and the presence or absence of crime. Some public spending has investment characteristics (e.g., infrastructure and education) which may justify spending as an economic development strategy. However preferences for public service levels differ. Citizens may quite legitimately choose to have service levels and therefore spending be more or less than other states. Therefore, spending levels vary from one state to another because of both needs and preferences.

Tax levels are always an issue of concern. It is important that a state heed competitive pressures, as higher taxes can put the state at a competitive disadvantage. But far more important is what the government does with the money it raises. High taxes that support productive spending may well be a better economic development strategy than low taxes that are not invested well. The tax comparisons presented here compare revenue collections by governments. Among these categories, Nebraska again is near the average in most categories. Another study done for this Committee showed that Nebraska’s total personal tax burden was fifth among seven states in the West North Central Census region for lower income residents, and second behind Des Moines at the highest income level, although the differences were small (Bartle, 2009).

One tax that presents some concerns is the local property tax, which is 9% above the national average and also above the regional average. In part, this reflects Nebraska’s preference for more local control of schools, which in turn calls for local revenue. Also, Nebraska’s state aid to cities is less than the national average, leading cities to use the property tax more heavily than they

would otherwise. The burden of the property tax can be onerous on low income and the elderly which presents equity concerns. Some other states use a classified property tax to shift the burden of the property tax to commercial and industrial property. Nebraska does not do so, which moderates the impact of this tax on business.

State and local selective sales taxes are substantially below the US average. Local general sales taxes are also comparatively low, though state revenues from this source are slightly above average. This continues a trend that began in 2006, when Nebraska's sales and excise tax collections went from above the national average to below. The state personal income tax is slightly above average, but the absence of the local personal income tax causes the combined personal income tax to be below the national average, consistent with recent trends.

Non-tax sources of revenue include charges, miscellaneous revenue (interest, fines, and forfeits), and debt. Charges are above average, while state debt outstanding is the lowest in the region. Local debt outstanding is relatively high. There is evidence that moderate levels of public debt contribute to economic growth better than particularly high or low levels (Wang, 2009). But again, the more critical issue is whether the funds are used for productive spending. If so, then appropriate fiscal policy can support long-term growth.

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Nebraska Legislative Planning Database – State and Local Government

Expenditures, Revenue and Debt

State government direct general spending per capita in Nebraska in 2006-07 was slightly below the U.S. average. Nebraska ranked 29th in the nation, and sixth out of the nine states in the region. For the functions of education, social services and income maintenance, and transportation, state spending was higher than the national average. Nebraska spending was lower than the average for public safety, environment and housing, and government administration.

Local government general spending per capita in Nebraska is above the median, but below the national average. Nebraska ranks fifth out of the nine states in the region. Nebraska was lower than the national average for all functions with the exception of transportation and utilities.

State general revenue per capita is below the national average and ranks 28th in the nation and fourth out of nine in the region. Local general revenue ranks 11th, however is only 2.4% above the national average. Total state tax revenue is below the national average, as are state taxes on corporate income and selective sales. State individual income and general sales tax revenues are about 5% above the national average. The local property tax is 9% above average, and local motor vehicle license taxes are more than four times the national average. Local tax collections are low for general and selective sales taxes, and zero for local income taxes. Charges are higher than average. Local utility revenues are more than four times the national average.

Nebraska is particularly low in state debt outstanding per capita (47th in the nation and the lowest in the region), and high in local debt (12th in the nation and third in the region).

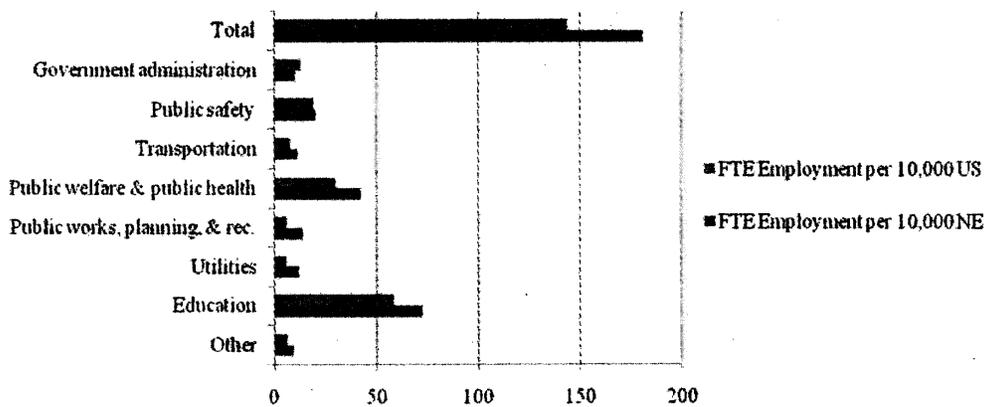
State Government Expenditures Per Capita by Function: United States and Nebraska: 2006-07

Description	United States	Nebraska	Nebraska as a Percent of United States
Education services	\$725.55	\$805.28	111
Social services & income mtnce.	1,428.98	1,489.56	104.2
Transportation	306.48	319.29	104.2
Public safety	214.79	191.02	88.9
Environment and housing	125.28	119.68	95.5
Governmental administration	165.21	106.42	64.4
Other general expenditure	135.12	122.76	90.9
Direct general expenditure	3,238.19	3,205.95	99
Utility expenditure	81.67	0	0

State Direct General Expenditures Per Capita: Regional Comparisons: 2006-07

State	Direct General Expenditures Per Capita (\$)	Ranking
Wyoming	4,861	6
North Dakota	4,242	12
Minnesota	3,398	24
Iowa	3,353	26
South Dakota	3,316	27
Nebraska	3,206	29
Kansas	2,943	37
Missouri	2,883	42
Colorado	2,521	48

**State Government Employment per 10,000 Population by Function:
the United States vs. Nebraska: 2008**

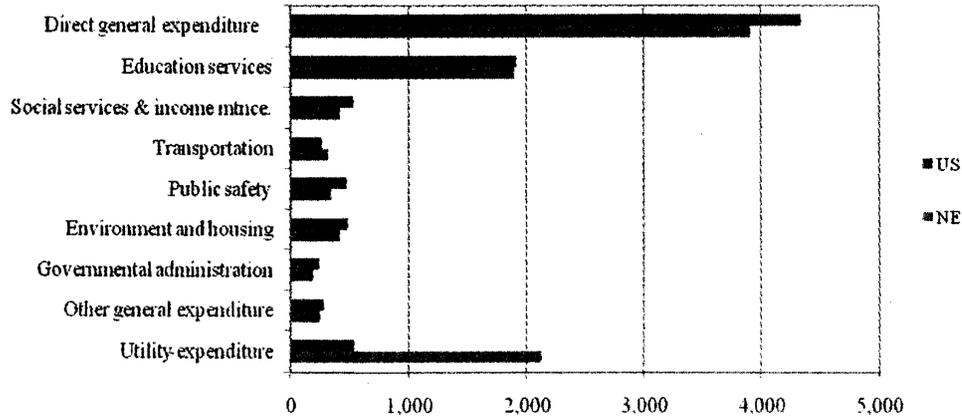


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008; Prepared by Center for Public Affairs Research, UNO; Jan. 2010

Local Government Expenditures Per Capita By Function: United States vs. Nebraska: 2006-07

Description	United States	Nebraska	Nebraska as a Percent of United States
Direct general expenditure	4,338.53	3,909.66	90.1
Education services	1,913.50	1,898.26	99.2
Social services & income mtnce.	523.46	411	78.5
Transportation	266.93	312.3	117
Public safety	466.33	340.6	73
Environment and housing	475.69	407.02	85.6
Governmental administration	236.05	190.2	80.6
Other general expenditure	281.73	245.38	87.1
Utility expenditure	532.62	2,123.43	398.7

**Local Government Expenditures Per Capita by Function:
the United States and Nebraska: 2006-07**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007; Prepared by Center for Public Affairs Research, UNO; Jun. 2010

Local Direct General Expenditures Per Capita: Regional Comparisons: 2006-07

State	Direct General Expenditures Per Capita (\$)	Ranking
Wyoming	6,926	2
Minnesota	4,562	9
Colorado	4,550	10
Iowa	3,938	19
Nebraska	3,910	22
Kansas	3,855	24
Missouri	3,400	37
North Dakota	3,204	40
South Dakota	3,023	46

State and Local Revenues Per Capita by Function: United States and Nebraska: 2006-07

Description	United States	Nebraska	Nebraska as a Percent of United States	United States	Nebraska	Nebraska as a Percent of United States
	State Government Amount (\$)			Local Government Amount (\$)		
General revenue from own sources	3,443.90	3,325.74	96.6	2,794.92	2,860.93	102.4
Taxes	2,536.77	2,313.38	91.2	1,738.23	1,745.00	100.4
Property	42.41	1.36	3.2	1,241.60	1,355.91	109.2
Sales and gross receipts	1,179.91	1,109.38	94	290.05	204.87	70.6
General sales	798.7	843.38	105.6	204.21	142.96	70
Selective sales	381.21	265.99	69.8	85.83	61.9	72.1
Individual income	890.7	938.13	105.3	78.95	0	0
Corporate income	177.12	121.05	68.3	25.73	0	0
Motor vehicle license	64.6	51.8	80.2	5.27	22.25	422.1
Other taxes	182.03	91.66	50.4	96.63	161.97	167.6
Current charges	471.81	473.34	100.3	705.44	803.06	113.8
Miscellaneous general revenue	435.31	539.02	123.8	351.25	312.86	89.1
Utility revenue	56.08	0	0	394.69	1,672.60	423.8

State General Revenue Per Capita: Regional Comparisons: 2006-07

State	General Revenue Per Capita (\$)	Ranking
Wyoming	5,605	3
North Dakota	4,265	11
Minnesota	4,235	12
Nebraska	3,326	28
Iowa	3,283	31
Kansas	3,210	33
Colorado	2,896	42
Missouri	2,588	48
South Dakota	2,573	49

Local General Revenue Per Capita: Regional Comparisons: 2006-07

State	General Revenue Per Capita (\$)	Ranking
Wyoming	4,620	3
Colorado	3,352	5
Nebraska	2,861	11
Kansas	2,599	18
Iowa	2,550	20
Minnesota	2,399	26
Missouri	2,368	27
South Dakota	2,149	36
North Dakota	2,079	38

State Debt Outstanding Per Capita: Regional Comparisons: 2006-07

State	Debt Outstanding Per Capita (\$)	Ranking
South Dakota	4,105	13
Missouri	3,209	21
Colorado	3,137	23
North Dakota	2,816	29
Wyoming	2,351	33
Iowa	2,267	36
Kansas	2,046	38
Minnesota	1,724	42
Nebraska	1,325	47

Local Debt Outstanding Per Capita: Regional Comparisons: 2006-07

State	Debt Outstanding Per Capita (\$)	Ranking
Colorado	6,583	5
Minnesota	5,803	10
Nebraska	5,219	12
Kansas	5,103	13
Missouri	3,446	30
North Dakota	2,890	34
Iowa	2,711	37
South Dakota	2,059	43
Wyoming	2,018	45

Nebraska Legislative Planning Database – State and Local Government

Units of Government

Nebraska ranks 14th in the number of local governments. For all types of local governments, Nebraska is above the median. It ranks eighth in the number of special districts, and tenth in the number of counties.

Nebraska is third in the number of governments per 100,000 population, behind North Dakota and South Dakota. All of the states in this region are above the median in this measure, in part due to their low population density. Nebraska is substantially above the U.S. average for all types of local governments. For total local governments per 100,000 population, Nebraska has about five times more governments than the U.S. average (150.27 compared to 29.70). This ratio is lowest for school districts and highest for special districts.

Nebraska Local Governments by Type: 2007

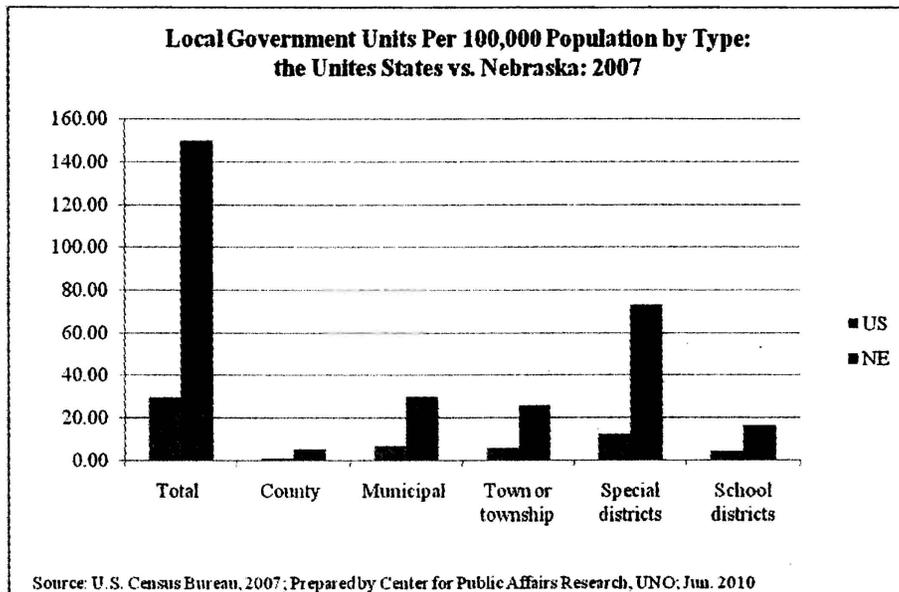
	Nebraska	Ranking
Total	2,659	14
Counties	93	10
Municipal	530	16
Township	454	13
Special districts	1,294	8
School districts	288	19

Local Government Units Per 100,000 Population: Regional Comparison: 2007

State	Per 100,000 Population	Ranking
North Dakota	423.1	1
South Dakota	249.22	2
Nebraska	150.27	3
Kansas	141.54	4
Wyoming	138.75	5
Minnesota	68.04	9
Iowa	65.5	10
Missouri	63.33	12
Colorado	49.89	18

Local Government Units Per 100,000 Population by Type: United States and Nebraska: 2007

Area	United States	Nebraska
Total	29.7	150.27
County	1.01	5.26
Municipal	6.47	29.95
Town or township	5.48	25.66
Special districts	12.41	73.13
School districts	4.33	16.28



Nebraska Legislative Planning Database – State and Local Government

Employment and Payroll

State government employment in Nebraska is above the median and the national average. Nebraska ranks fourth out of nine in the region, and 21st nationally. Nebraska is higher than the U.S. average in all functional categories except government administration, and more than twice the national average in two categories: public works, planning and recreation; and utilities. At the same time, Nebraska pays its state employees substantially less than the average, and less than all states in the region except for Missouri and North Dakota. This difference applies to all functions of state government.

At the local level, government employment in Nebraska is fifth highest in the nation, substantially above the national average and higher than all states in the region with the exception of Kansas and Wyoming. Nebraska local government employment is above the national average in government administration, transportation, planning and recreation, education and utilities. Most of the difference from the U.S. average for education is explained by a higher level of instructional employees. For the utilities category, this is largely due to the presence of public electric power in Nebraska. Nebraska is below the average for public safety (including police officers and firefighters), public welfare and health, and public works. Pay for Nebraska local government employees is less than average, and fourth among the nine states in the region. This pattern holds for all functions of government with the exception of utilities (including electric power).

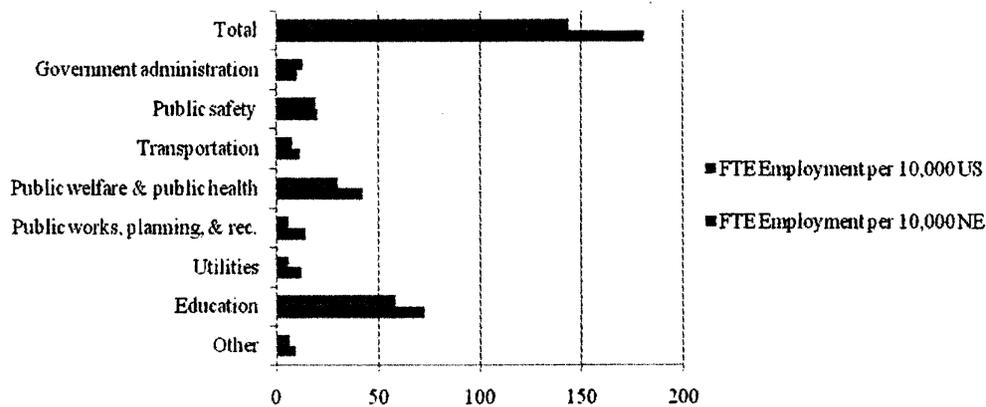
State Government Employment per 10,000 Population: Regional Comparisons: 2008

State	FTE Per 10,000	Ranking
North Dakota	280.3	4
Wyoming	244.4	6
Iowa	181.7	20
Nebraska	180.8	21
South Dakota	166.8	25
Kansas	164.1	27
Minnesota	151.6	31
Missouri	151.1	32
Colorado	140.5	38

State Government Employment per 10,000 Population by Function: United States and Nebraska: 2008

Government Function	FTE Employment per 10,000	
	United States	Nebraska
Government administration	13.3	10.1
Public safety	19.4	20.4
Transportation	8.1	11.9
Public welfare & public health	30.3	42.2
Public works, planning, & recreation	6.1	14.1
Other	6.6	9.4
Utilities	6	12.3
Education	58.6	72.7
Total	143.5	180.8

**State Government Employment per 10,000 Population by Function:
the United States vs. Nebraska: 2008**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008. Prepared by Center for Public Affairs Research, UNO, Jun. 2010

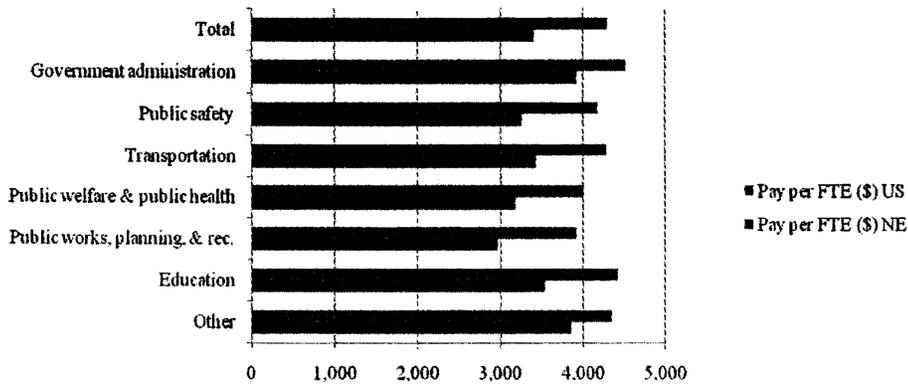
State Government Payroll per FTE: Regional Comparisons: March 2008

State	Monthly Payroll per FTE	Ranking
Minnesota	4,739	5
Iowa	4,677	8
Colorado	4,573	10
Kansas	3,750	35
Wyoming	3,619	40
South Dakota	3,540	43
Nebraska	3,408	45
North Dakota	3,390	46
Missouri	3,182	50

State Government Payroll per FTE by Function: United States and Nebraska: March 2008

Government Function	Monthly Pay Per FTE (\$)	
	United States	Nebraska
Government administration	4,520	3,926
Public safety	4,177	3,254
Transportation	4,288	3,432
Public welfare & public health	4,007	3,184
Public works, planning & recreation	3,922	2,970
Other	4,354	3,855
Education	4,428	3,531
Total	4,292	3,408

**State Government Payroll per FTE by Function:
the United States vs. Nebraska: March 2008**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008; Prepared by Center for Public Affairs Research, UNO; Jun. 2010

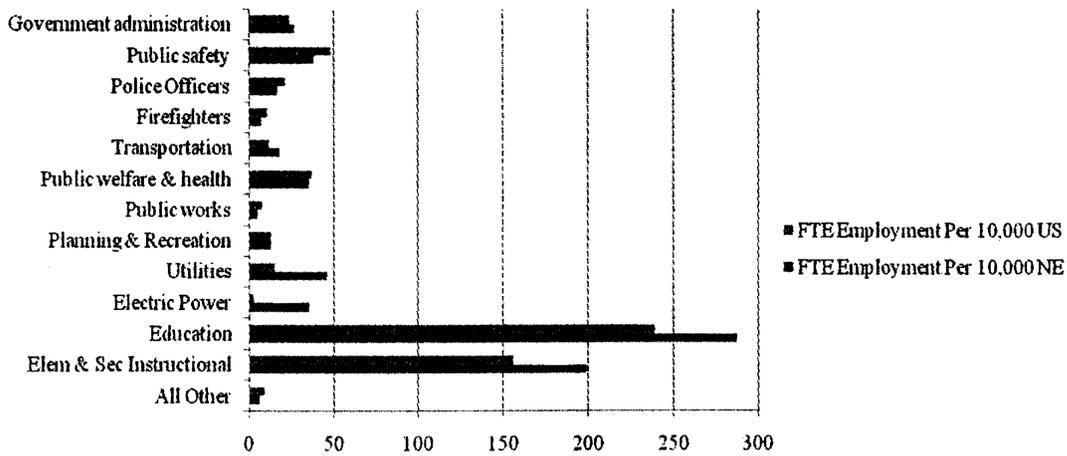
Local Government Employment per 10,000 Population: Regional Comparisons: 2008

State	per 10,000	Ranking
Wyoming	683.1	2
Kansas	532.2	3
Nebraska	475.4	5
Iowa	425.6	11
Missouri	404.2	19
Colorado	395.4	26
Minnesota	385.5	32
South Dakota	373.4	37
North Dakota	362.7	40

Local Government Employment by Function: United States vs. Nebraska: 2008

Government Function	FTE Employment per 10,000	
	United States	Nebraska
Government administration	23.9	26.9
Public safety	48	38.4
Police Officers	21.1	16.9
Firefighters	10.6	7.2
Transportation	11.7	18
Public welfare & health	37	35.2
Public Works	7.8	4.8
Planning & recreation	12.9	13
All Other	9	6
Utilities	15.3	45.8
Electric Power	2.5	35.5
Education	239.1	287.3
Elem & Sec Instructional	155.8	198.9
Total	404.7	475.4

Local Government Employment by Function: the United States vs. Nebraska: 2008



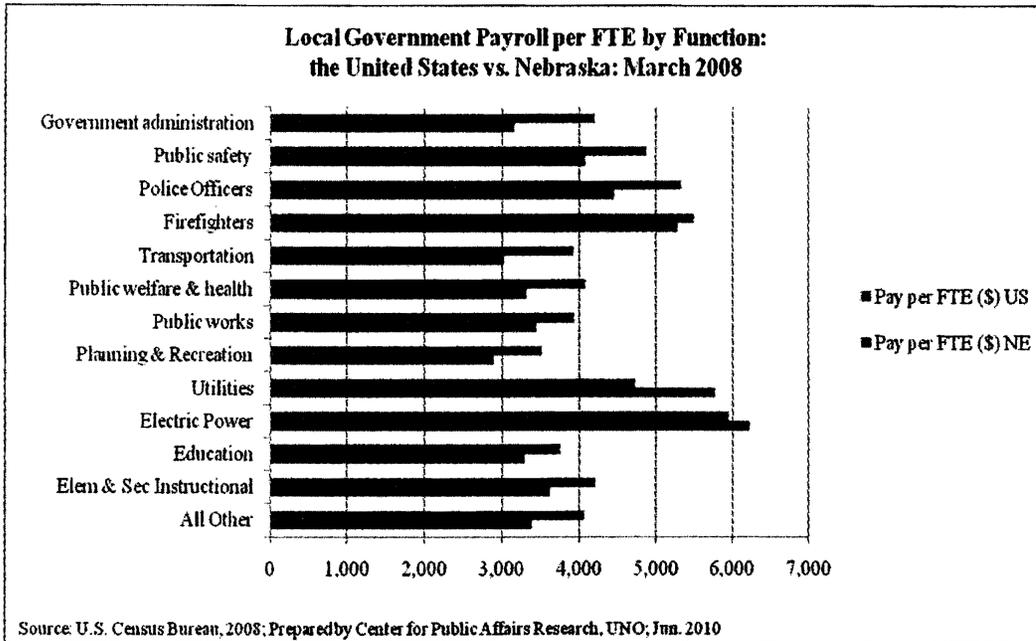
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008; Prepared by Center for Public Affairs Research, UNO; Jun. 2010

Local Government Payroll per FTE: Regional Comparisons: March 2008

State	Monthly Payroll per FTE	Ranking
Minnesota	4,037	16
Colorado	3,928	19
Wyoming	3,604	25
Nebraska	3,564	28
North Dakota	3,456	29
Iowa	3,355	33
Missouri	3,228	37
Kansas	3,134	42
South Dakota	2,982	46

Local Government Payroll per FTE by Function: United States and Nebraska: March 2008

Government Function	Pay Per FTE (\$)	
	United States	Nebraska
Government administration	4,195	3,160
Public safety	4,874	4,083
Police Officers	5,330	4,457
Firefighters	5,496	5,274
Transportation	3,926	3,026
Public welfare & health	4,075	3,307
Public Works	3,940	3,439
Planning and Recreation	3,517	2,892
All Other	4,062	3,383
Utilities	4,733	5,766
Electric Power	5,948	6,225
Education	3,755	3,283
Elem & Sec Instructional	4,216	3,625
Total	3,988	3,564



Nebraska Legislative Planning Database – State and Local Government

Federal Government Expenditures

Per capita total federal government spending in Nebraska ranks 26th in the nation, and sixth out of the nine states in the region. Nebraska is close to the U.S. average in the federal salary and wage bill and retirement and disability payments. Nebraska is higher than the national average in grants received and other direct payments, and low in procurement spending. The Nebraska counties that are particularly high in federal expenditures include Hayes, Garden and Thomas counties. Those that are particularly low include Buffalo, Stanton and Washington counties.

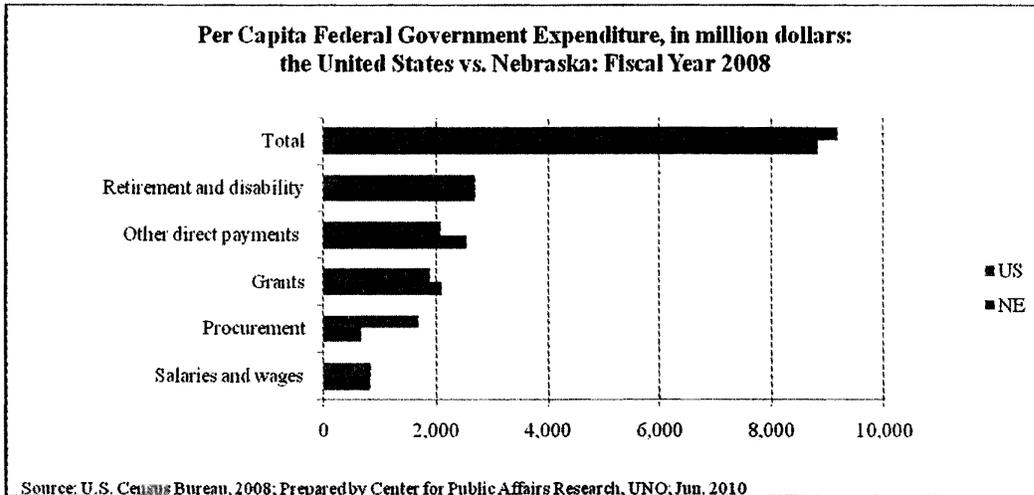
Note: "Other direct payments" include federal programs such as Medicare, the earned income tax credit, unemployment compensation, Food Stamps, agricultural assistance and federal employee life and health insurance.

Federal Government Expenditure, in million dollars: Regional Comparisons: Fiscal Year 2008

State	Per Capita Federal Exp. (\$)	Ranking
North Dakota	11,416	8
Wyoming	11,206	9
South Dakota	10,634	12
Missouri	10,290	13
Kansas	8,968	24
Nebraska	8,825	26
Iowa	7,969	38
Colorado	7,696	42
Minnesota	7,326	47

Per Capita Federal Government Expenditure, in million dollars: United States and Nebraska: Fiscal Year 2008

Expenditure	United States	Nebraska	Nebraska as a Percent Of United States
Total	9,184.42	8,825.12	96.1
Retirement and disability	2,691.99	2,691.44	100
Other direct payments	2,076.40	2,545.09	122.6
Grants	1,889.95	2,093.16	110.8
Procurement	1,690.84	677.35	40.1
Salaries and wages	835.24	818.09	97.9



Per Capita Federal Government Expenditure by State and County Area: Fiscal Year 2008

State and County area	Total Federal Exp. Per Capita (\$)	Per Capita Retirement and disability (\$)	Per Capita Other direct payment (\$)	Per Capita Grants (\$)	Per Capita Procurement (\$)	Per Capita Salaries & Wages (\$)
Nebraska	8,825	2,691	2,545	2,093	677	818
Adams	6,977	2,681	1,667	1,929	478	222
Antelope	12,670	2,916	4,482	4,451	428	394
Arthur	7,621	3,950	2,541	456	124	550
Banner	11,280	1,784	8,328	732	87	351
Blaine	11,381	3,533	3,297	3,514	234	804
Boone	10,102	3,199	4,572	1,834	86	411
Box Butte	7,977	3,320	2,505	1,703	81	367
Boyd	12,187	3,636	5,187	2,605	132	627
Brown	10,251	3,793	3,180	2,754	87	437
Buffalo	4,945	2,183	1,443	966	91	262
Burt	11,631	3,578	4,208	2,253	87	1,504
Butler	8,079	2,961	2,953	1,604	106	455
Cass	6,567	3,129	1,531	1,578	104	224
Cedar	9,247	2,659	3,371	2,418	193	606
Chase	12,355	3,390	6,731	1,687	88	460
Cherry	8,997	2,936	2,113	3,162	238	548
Cheyenne	7,995	2,767	3,000	1,675	263	290
Clay	11,049	3,498	4,258	1,133	205	1,956
Colfax	7,236	2,372	3,013	1,316	59	476

(Continued)

State and County area	Total Federal Exp. Per Capita (\$)	Per Capita Retirement and disability (\$)	Per Capita Other direct payment (\$)	Per Capita Grants (\$)	Per Capita Procurement (\$)	Per Capita Salaries & Wages (\$)
Cuming	7,519	2,770	2,955	1,222	75	497
Custer	10,087	3,266	3,692	2,668	83	378
Dakota	5,525	1,770	1,405	2,022	48	280
Dawes	7,955	3,052	1,992	1,985	89	837
Dawson	6,252	2,127	1,939	1,682	223	280
Deuel	13,102	4,040	5,468	3,253	68	274
Dixon	8,767	3,456	3,183	1,450	304	373
Dodge	6,778	3,135	1,967	1,245	189	241
Douglas	7,976	2,620	1,352	2,273	946	786
Dundy	14,666	3,297	8,289	2,488	116	477
Fillmore	10,196	3,495	4,321	1,770	129	482
Franklin	11,993	3,881	5,539	1,784	145	644
Frontier	12,374	3,006	6,330	2,365	123	551
Furnas	14,217	4,209	5,360	3,880	137	631
Gage	8,191	3,544	2,233	1,922	188	304
Garden	19,531	5,256	5,790	2,714	4,913	858
Gosper	11,401	4,143	6,253	572	79	354
Grant	9,118	4,051	2,498	1,671	187	712
Greeley	11,659	3,649	5,359	1,827	148	675
Hall	7,012	2,733	1,477	1,854	162	787
Hamilton	8,205	2,821	2,864	2,163	67	291
Harlan	13,197	3,779	5,121	3,623	163	512
Hayes	17,464	1,652	13,088	2,354	42	328
Hitchcock	12,521	3,957	4,952	2,625	502	485
Holt	9,993	2,966	4,098	2,516	73	341
Hooker	8,707	4,171	2,480	1,542	57	457
Howard	7,718	3,005	3,039	1,314	64	296
Jefferson	10,417	3,842	3,408	2,710	83	374
Johnson	8,836	2,901	3,713	1,571	96	554
Kearney	8,300	2,665	4,086	970	248	333
Keith	8,140	3,456	2,526	1,339	481	339
Keya Paha	9,252	2,839	3,420	2,739	50	206
Kimball	9,771	3,837	4,162	1,422	60	291
Knox	10,925	3,340	3,819	3,219	96	452
Lancaster	7,540	2,388	957	3,242	300	653

(Continued)

State and County area	Total Federal Exp. Per Capita (\$)	Per Capita Retirement and disability (\$)	Per Capita Other direct payment (\$)	Per Capita Grants (\$)	Per Capita Procurement (\$)	Per Capita Salaries & Wages (\$)
Lincoln	7,728	3,532	1,934	1,708	84	470
Logan	12,107	4,482	4,298	3,037	57	234
Loup	6,477	2,258	3,451	422	68	278
McPherson	10,560	3,031	2,432	4,681	82	335
Madison	7,599	2,853	1,656	2,139	472	479
Merrick	8,706	3,104	3,122	1,464	684	333
Morrill	9,134	3,224	3,176	2,441	55	251
Nance	11,358	3,171	4,522	3,210	60	395
Nemaha	9,120	3,033	3,592	1,895	305	295
Nuckolls	12,173	4,014	4,828	2,729	104	498
Otoe	6,657	2,885	2,164	1,252	112	245
Pawnee	14,192	3,799	6,300	3,322	138	633
Perkins	13,154	3,379	8,209	1,126	81	360
Phelps	8,527	3,121	3,483	1,443	203	276
Pierce	7,267	2,421	3,319	1,165	69	294
Platte	5,127	2,457	1,288	1,081	87	213
Polk	8,303	2,962	3,988	956	74	324
Red Willow	8,442	3,489	2,933	1,505	93	421
Rock	9,375	2,984	4,317	1,761	56	256
Saline	9,715	2,701	2,304	1,376	3,020	313
Sarpy	8,461	1,911	382	458	2,949	2,761
Saunders	5,821	2,568	2,070	669	207	307
Scotts Bluff	8,117	3,257	1,851	2,407	279	323
Seward	5,324	2,523	1,794	622	147	237
Sheridan	9,410	3,472	3,577	2,058	43	260
Sherman	13,423	3,627	4,476	4,797	122	402
Sioux	5,343	1,511	2,512	777	115	429
Stanton	4,610	1,432	2,085	804	40	249
Thayer	11,618	4,148	4,647	2,207	124	491
Thomas	78,528	3,264	3,393	607	1,635	69,630
Thurston	14,125	2,024	3,141	6,349	1,204	1,407
Valley	14,713	3,512	4,126	6,426	108	542
Washington	4,952	2,348	1,389	807	214	194
Wayne	5,696	1,948	2,396	990	64	298
Webster	12,763	4,160	5,406	2,497	183	518
Wheeler	11,317	2,520	7,409	856	105	426
York	6,862	2,948	2,618	940	62	295

Nebraska's Legislative Planning Database

Telecommunications

This benchmark examines Nebraska's telecommunications by reviewing three broad areas: Telephone/Cell phone penetration, Internet access, and Sustainability of statewide services. The most currently available data at the time the data files were put together are used. Additional information can be found from the Public Service Commission's website <http://www.psc.state.ne.us/>.

Telephone/Cell Phone Penetration

Although almost all Nebraska households have telephone service (land line or cell phone), Nebraska still ranks low nationally and last among its neighbors in telephone service. In 2009, 95.3 percent of Nebraska households had telephone service. This was slightly below the national rate of 95.7 percent and ranked 34th.

The majority of Nebraskans have a cell phone. As of June 2008, there were 1.45 million cell phone subscribers in Nebraska. This was a 4.6 percent increase since December of 2007 and the 8th largest increase in the United States.

Internet Access

In 2008, 86.0 percent of Nebraska households had access to high speed internet service. However, the average download speed ranked 38th.

Sustainability of Statewide Services

There was a total of \$47.5 million spent of the Nebraska Universal Service Fund.

Nebraska Legislative Planning Committee

Discussion of Telecommunications Policy

Jerome Deichert, Center for Public Affairs Research, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Telephone/Cell Phone Penetration

Although almost all Nebraska households have telephone service (land line or cell phone), Nebraska still ranks low nationally and last among its neighbors in telephone service. In 2009, 95.3 percent of Nebraska households had telephone service. This was slightly below the national rate of 95.7 percent and ranked 34th, and lowest in the region. The majority of Nebraskans have a cell phone. As of June 2008, there were 1.45 million cell phone subscribers in Nebraska. This was a 4.6 percent increase since December of 2007. If the number of cell phone subscribers keeps increasing, within the next few years the number of households with telephone service should approach 100 percent.

Internet Access

The ability to receive and transmit digital content or services at high speeds is a fundamental component of the telecommunications industry. Broadband is a vital economic engine for the nation, an essential vehicle for enhanced learning and medicine, and a critical element of the 21st century news and entertainment industries (National Conference of State Legislatures). The NCSL indicated that in 2009 Nebraska was one of at least 14 state legislatures that passed a measure related to broadband.

However, the issue in Nebraska is not access to internet service but rather the average download speed. In 2008, 86.0 percent of Nebraska households had access to high speed internet service, third highest in the region. However, the average download speed ranked 38th nationally.

Sustainability of Statewide Services

One way to make sure advanced telecommunication services such as broadband are available to all Nebraskans is through the Universal Service Fund. The (USF) was established in 1983, and the Telecommunications Act of 1996 expanded the definition of universal service. The Nebraska Legislature established the Nebraska Telecommunications Universal Service Fund in 1997 as necessary to augment the federal fund. An interesting discussion of the pros and cons of the Universal Service Fund is available on the Technologies Across Nebraska web site.

Those who support subsidized access to telecommunications believe certain areas of the country and certain populations would be un- or under-served if deployment of services was left to competitive market forces. Providers would enter the markets with the most potential for profit first, and competition would only occur in those markets. Providers would not deploy in

unprofitable markets, leaving those populations without service. Even if competition eventually led to lower prices or to a need to broaden the service base, those populations would suffer the loss of opportunity for that period of time. In the rapidly changing and developing e commerce and information technology fields, delays could result in an insurmountable economic disadvantage. Thus those left behind would likely be unable to recoup from the delay.

Others believe that the subsidies are barriers to the competitive market and may actually slow deployment of new technology. They believe innovation will not occur in a subsidized market because there will be no incentive to defeat the high cost universal service regime and because the incumbent carrier is unfairly advantaged by the subsidy. Unbundling of services is supposed to allow competitors access to the market.

In 2009, the Nebraska Universal Service Fund expenditures totaled \$47.5 million..

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National Conference of State Legislatures, Technology and Information Technology, <http://www.ncsl.org/Default.aspx?TabID=756&tabs=951,71,540#540>, Accessed Nov. 11, 2010.

Technologies Across Nebraska, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, <http://technologiesacrossnebraska.unl.edu/html/universal.html>, Accessed Nov. 11, 2010.

Nebraska Legislative Planning Database - Telecommunications

Telephone/Cell Phone Penetration

Telephone Penetration: 2009 (Percentage of Households with Telephone Service)

Source: Federal Communications Commission, Wireline Competition Bureau
 (<http://www.fcc.gov/wcb/iatd/lec.htm>)

State	Percentage of Households with Telephone Service	Rank
United States	95.7	
Iowa	97.7	10
North Dakota	97.6	11
Wyoming	97.1	15
Minnesota	97.0	19
Kansas	96.9	20
Colorado	96.8	21
South Dakota	96.8	22
Missouri	96.7	24
Nebraska	95.3	34

Cell Phone Penetration: December 2007 - June 2008

Source: Federal Communications Commission, Wireline Competition Bureau
 (<http://www.fcc.gov/wcb/iatd/comp.html>)

State	Subscribers		Percentage Change	Rank
	Dec-07	Jun-08		
United States	249,331,701	255,301,307	2.4%	
North Dakota	513,238	541,042	5.4%	4
Nebraska	1,387,022	1,451,007	4.6%	8
Iowa	2,165,772	2,244,649	3.6%	14
Wyoming	441,161	457,201	3.6%	15
Missouri	4,673,889	4,835,115	3.4%	19
Kansas	2,261,455	2,326,444	2.9%	31
Minnesota	4,048,413	4,164,322	2.9%	32
Colorado	3,967,902	4,065,993	2.5%	40
South Dakota	596,470	610,945	2.4%	41

Internet Access

Percentage of Residential End User Premises with Access to High-Speed Services: 2008

Source: Federal Communications Commission, Wireline Competition Bureau
 (http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2010/db0212/DOC296239A1.pdf)

State	Residential Access (Percent of Households)
Colorado	83.4
Iowa	87.2
Kansas	85.5
Minnesota	84.6
Missouri	84.3
Nebraska	86.0
North Dakota	84.8
South Dakota	87.0
Wyoming	85.7

Note: Connections over 200 kbps in at least one direction

Speed of High-Speed Services for Internet Access: 2009

Source: Speed Matters Survey, Communications Workers of America
 (http://cwafiles.org/speedmatters/state_reports_2009/CWA_Report_on_Internet_Speeds_2009.pdf?nocdn=1)

State	No. of Tests	Average Upload Speed (kbps)	Average Download Speed (kbps)	Download Speed Ranking
United States	413,814	5074	1080	
Colorado	5,543	5301	1307	26
Iowa	3,059	4453	947	35
Kansas	2,722	4912	1228	31
Minnesota	5,510	5436	1486	23
Missouri	6,532	3878	781	39
Nebraska	1,326	4211	963	38
North Dakota	500	4225	750	37
South Dakota	640	4953	950	28
Wyoming				

Sustainability of Statewide Services

Nebraska Universal Service Fund (NUSF) Expenditures

	Total NUSF Support
Arapahoe	\$660,651
Benkelman	\$494,608
Cambridge	\$345,555
CenturyLink	\$301,129
Citizens	\$0
Clarks	\$305,896
Cons Telco	\$0
Cons Tele	\$901,944
Cons Telecom	\$365,277
Cozad	\$220,382
Curtis	\$346,362
Dalton	\$0
Diller	\$376,594
Elsie	\$0
Glenwood	\$778,864
Great Plains	\$12,095,213
Hamilton	\$0
Hartington	\$170,507
Hartman	\$272,149
Hemingford	\$736,384
Hershey	\$62,072
Hooper	\$19,645
Huntel	\$709,460
K&M	\$180,516
Keystone	\$193,428
Mainstay	\$245,603
Neb Central	\$1,918,274
Northeast	\$1,984,418
Pierce	\$218,419
Plainview	\$249,727
Qwest	\$15,790,689
Sodtown	\$0
Southeast	\$483,511
Stanton	\$217,813
Three River	\$560,617
Wauneta	\$293,688
Windstream	\$5,969,815
Total	\$47,469,211

Nebraska's Legislative Planning Database

Transportation

This benchmark examines Nebraska's transportation by reviewing four broad areas: Transportation infrastructure, Accidents, Transportation Access, and Transportation stability. The most currently available data at the time the data files were put together are used. Additional information can be found from the Nebraska Department of Roads' website <http://www.dor.state.ne.us/> and the Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles' web site <http://www.dmv.state.ne.us/>.

Transportation Infrastructure

One aspect of the transportation infrastructure is the smoothness of its highways. Using a national standard, 99 percent of Nebraska's Interstate highways were rated smooth, as were 92 percent of its other principal arterials (rural). The comparable national figures were both 94 percent. Within the region, in terms of smoothness, Nebraska's highways ranked relatively high. The smoothness of Nebraska's highways has been increasing steadily over the years. In 2004, 90 percent of the Interstate highways and 85 percent of other principal arterials (rural) were rated as smooth.

In terms of cost effectiveness, Nebraska's state highway system ranked 7th in the nation in 2007. North Dakota, Kansas, Wyoming, and South Dakota also ranked among the top ten state highway systems. This measure was developed by the Reason Foundation.

The Federal Highway Administration reported that 3,924 bridges in Nebraska were rated as deficient.

Accidents

The number of railroad accidents ranked high in Nebraska. For 2008, Nebraska's 311 railroad accidents ranked 9th nationally. In 2008, Nebraska recorded 1.09 traffic fatalities per 100million vehicle miles traveled. This was below the national average of 1.25 traffic fatalities and was 2nd in the region, behind Minnesota.

Transportation Access

One measure of transportation access is the number and location of rural transit services. In FY 2009, there were about 8.2 million vehicle miles traveled with nearly 6.3 million passenger boardings. The average cost per mile was \$2.86, but the average passenger revenue per mile was 0.28. This resulted in a revenue/cost ratio of 11.1 percent.

Another measure of transportation access is air line passenger boarding. In 2008, there were more than 2.3 million passenger boardings in Nebraska. The majority (90 percent) was from Eppley Airfield, and 7 percent was from Lincoln Airport. Overall passenger boardings were down 1.6 percent between 2007 and 2008.

Almost no residents of Nebraska or its neighboring states took public transportation to work. In 2008, this amounted to 0.7 percent of all commuters and ranked 43rd nationally. North Dakota, South Dakota, and Kansas recorded lower rates than Nebraska.

Transportation Stability

On a per capita basis, Nebraska spent relatively more for highways than the rest of the nation. In 2006-07 local highway spending was \$258.05 per capita and \$316.85 per capita at the state level. The comparable national numbers were \$189.31 and 296.02 respectively. Nebraska's per capita highway spending ranked 12th for local spending and 24th for state spending. Within the region, only two states had lower per capita local spending, and two states had lower per capita state spending.

Nebraska Legislative Planning Committee

Discussion of Transportation Policy

John R. Bartle, School of Public Administration, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Transportation Infrastructure Quality

The pavement quality of Nebraska's interstate highways is high and has been increasing since 2004. Pavement quality for rural arterials have also been increasing, though rank slightly lower than the national average. Several factors affect pavement quality including design, wear, traffic type, and weather. According to the Federal Highway Administration, rough highway pavements "adversely affect driver safety, fuel efficiency, ride quality, and vehicle wear and tear. Rough pavements also negatively impact pavement durability" (US DOT, FHWA). Therefore this indicator is both a measure of service quality and efficiency.

The Reason Foundation measures state highway cost effectiveness, which compares highway system performance to state spending per mile for state-controlled roads. Nebraska ranked fifth nationally because of its high quality of pavement and relatively low spending (Hartgen, et al., 2010).

Nebraska's percentage of deficient bridges is 23.6%, ranking 27th in the nation and sixth of nine in the region. There is substantial variation among the states, from a low of 11% in Nevada to a high of 53% in Rhode Island (Hartgen et al., 2010). This definition includes both bridges that are structurally deficient as well as those that are functionally obsolete. Structurally deficient bridges are not necessarily unsafe, but may require more repair and maintenance expenditures. Functional obsolescence is often due to increases in traffic levels or changes in design standards, more common in urban areas. Nebraska has a higher share of structurally deficient bridges than the nation, which is more common with rural states.

Safety

Nebraska ranks higher than any other state in the region in railroad accidents. Historically, highway-railroad grade crossings were the major source of railroad injuries and fatalities, however this has decreased substantially over time nationally. Now the primary source of injuries and fatalities at the national level are trespassers on railroad rights-of-way. Nebraska ranks fifth among the states in this region in the number of highway-railroad grade crossings, so this does not explain the high accident ranking. Derailments and collisions are also important sources of accidents.

Nebraska's highway traffic fatalities are relatively low. Fatalities involving high blood alcohol levels were lower in Nebraska than the national average. Nebraska safety belt use is at the national average. However Nebraska does have a higher percentage of fatalities involving large trucks: 14.4% compared to 8.1% nationally (US DOT, BTS, 2009).

Access

Omaha and Lincoln are distinctly different than the rest of the state in terms of access to transit. Over half of all transit vehicles in the state are Metro Area Transit (MAT) vehicles (serving the Omaha metropolitan area) or StarTran, serving Lincoln. MAT has 58% of the passenger boardings in the state, and StarTran 29%, for a total of 87%. These two systems have relatively high passenger revenue per mile, and higher average cost per mile. Their revenue/cost ratios of 16.3% were only slightly higher than the state average of 11.1%. Because transit has high fixed costs, it does not operate at a break-even level. Ongoing subsidies are needed to keep these transit systems operating, even in the largest North American cities. These subsidies can be justified by their potential to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution. These concerns are more relevant in larger cities. Subsidies to transit can also be justified as a means to provide access to those without vehicles. Statewide, Nebraska ranks low in the percentage of commuters using public transportation.

Air travel is also heavily concentrated in Omaha, and to a lesser degree in Lincoln. This raises access concerns for those outside of these cities. Seven other airports (Alliance, Chadron, Kearney, Grand Island, McCook, North Platte and Scottsbluff) currently have service through the federal Essential Air Service (EAS) subsidy program.

Spending

Nebraska's per capita state and local spending on highways is higher than the national average; however the state government ranks high in highway cost effectiveness. The high spending is in part explained by diseconomies of scale due to a lower population density. As Nebraskans relies more heavily on the private vehicle for transportation than others, higher spending in this area may be appropriate.

References

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Nebraska Legislative Planning Database - Transportation

Transportation Infrastructure

Highway Smoothness: 2008

(Percent of miles with an IRI of less than or equal to 144 inches per mile)

Interstate (Rural and Urban)

State	Percent of Miles
United States	94%
Kansas	100%
North Dakota	100%
Nebraska	99%
Missouri	99%
Wyoming	99%
South Dakota	98%
Iowa	92%
Colorado	90%
Minnesota	88%

Other Principal Arterials (Rural)

State	Percent of Miles
United States	94%
Kansas	99%
Wyoming	96%
Missouri	94%
Nebraska	92%
Colorado	92%
Minnesota	92%
North Dakota	92%
South Dakota	92%
Iowa	79%

Highway Smoothness: Nebraska (2004-08)

(Percent of miles with an IRI of less than or equal to 144 inches per mile)

Interstate (Rural and Urban)

	Percent of
Year	Miles
2004	90%
2005	91%
2006	96%
2007	96%
2008	99%

Other Principal Arterials (Rural)

	Percent of
Year	Miles
2004	85%
2005	84%
2006	88%
2007	92%
2008	92%

Cost-Effectiveness Ranking of State Highway System: All states: 2007

Source: 18th Annual Report on the Performance of State Highway Systems (1984-2007/8), Reason Foundation (<http://reason.org/news/show/18th-annual-highway-report.html>)

State	Overall Cost- Effectiveness Rank
North Dakota	1
Kansas	3
Wyoming	6
Nebraska	7
South Dakota	8
Minnesota	15
Missouri	23
Iowa	29
Colorado	33

Deficient Bridges: 2009

Source: Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation
(<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bridge/deficient.cfm>)

State	Deficient Bridges	Deficient Bridges (Percent of Total)
United States	29,193	
Wyoming	671	0.5%
North Dakota	933	0.6%
Colorado	1,459	1.0%
South Dakota	1,469	1.0%
Minnesota	1,601	1.1%
Nebraska	3,924	2.6%
Kansas	5,153	3.5%
Iowa	6,678	4.5%
Missouri	7,305	4.9%

Accidents

Railroad Accidents and Incidents: 2008

Source: U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Railroad Administration

State	Accidents	Percent of US	Rank
United States	12,648		
Nebraska	311	2.5%	9
Missouri	286	2.3%	11
Minnesota	270	2.1%	13
Kansas	266	2.1%	14
Iowa	264	2.1%	15
Colorado	198	1.6%	25
Wyoming	132	1.0%	34
North Dakota	107	0.8%	36
South Dakota	49	0.4%	45

Traffic Fatality Rate Per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled: 2008

Source: U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration
(<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/policyinformation/statistics/2008/fi30.cfm>)

State	Fatality Rate Per 100 Million VMT	Rank
United States	1.25	
Minnesota	0.79	2
Nebraska	1.09	20
Colorado	1.15	22
Kansas	1.30	26
South Dakota	1.32	27
North Dakota	1.33	28
Iowa	1.34	29
Missouri	1.41	34
Wyoming	1.68	44

Transportation Access

Number and Location of Subsidized Rural Transit Services: Nebraska: FY-2009

Applicant	Number of Vehicles	Vehicle Miles Traveled	Passenger Boardings	Cost Per Mile (\$)	Passenger Revenue Per Mile (\$)	Revenue Cost Ratio (%)
Adams Co,	5	62,663	41,042	3.33	0.30	8.9%
Neligh	2	8,708	5,036	4.01	1.07	26.6%
Wolf Memorial	2	17,236	2,910	2.25	0.17	7.6%
Box Butte Co.	5	52,962	27,622	2.24	0.20	8.9%
Com Sen Center-Ainsworth	1	1,630	3,074	3.03	0.27	8.8%
Mid-Neb Comm.	11	219,496	93,561	1.71	0.14	8.4%
Oakland	3	8,908	3,031	1.71	0.14	8.4%
Butler Co.	2	17,978	1,664	1.53	0.21	13.8%
Cedar Co.	2	18,849	1,102	1.35	0.09	6.4%
Chase Co.	3	55,332	26,785	2.25	0.18	7.9%
Sidney	2	23,324	11,762	3.12	0.42	13.6%
Midland AAA	5	46,124	11,063	3.02	0.13	4.2%
Schuyler	1	11,681	6,519	2.5	0.22	8.8%
Broken Bow	1	11,977	3,698	5.79	0.09	1.5%
Crawford	1	9,618	2,332	3.6	0.37	10.4%
Chadron	2	12,483	6,581	4.53	0.05	1.0%
Dawson Co.	2	27,270	23,717	2.85	0.20	7.2%
Chappell Senior Center	3	24,115	9,075	2.07	0.21	10.4%
ENOA	6	117,602	5,498	1.45	0.17	11.7%
Fremont	2	29,420	3,058	2.38	0.11	4.4%
Benkelman	1	5,415	6,694	5.35	0.50	9.3%
Fillmore Co.	4	30,706	8,856	2.78	0.33	11.8%
Cambridge Memorial Hosp.	1	29,272	1,620	1.19	0.14	11.6%
AAA	17	161,463	61,780	2.28	0.36	15.9%
Burwell	5	79,477	3,382	0.7	0.13	18.3%
Grant Co.	1	11,797	568	0.79	0.14	17.6%
Hall County	7	162,048	39,385	1.68	0.19	11.5%
Hamilton Co.	3	13,805	5,215	3.67	0.30	8.1%
Harlan Co.	2	3,528	2,199	11.41	0.26	2.3%
Hitchcock Co.	3	58,835	2,468	0.91	0.11	12.0%
Atkinson	1	2,696	163	2.15	0.07	3.1%
St. Anthony's Hospital	3	36,458	10,028	1.85	0.33	18.1%
Hooker Co.	1	28,922	1,692	0.66	0.13	20.3%
Tecumseh	1	16,188	5,768	2.92	0.22	7.6%
Ogallala	3	50,686	29,713	2.82	0.82	29.1%
Kimball Co.	1	10,817	7,634	3.41	0.29	8.4%

Memorial	2	25,667	1,448	1.64	0.09	5.4%
Lancaster Co.	2	26,385	2,072	2.62	0.17	6.6%
North Platte	6	107,285	58,479	3.22	0.47	14.6%
Comm. Concern						
- Norfolk	3	89,636	23,204	2.02	0.60	29.9%
Central City	2	20,330	8,335	2.74	0.19	7.1%
Morrill Co.	1	14,663	1,706	3.15	0.05	1.6%
Fullerton	1	11,921	610	2.27	0.23	10.1%
Pawnee Co.	1	3,709	1,969	4.89	0.38	7.7%
Perkins Co.	2	5,720	2,451	10.39	0.54	5.2%
Phelps Co.	4	38,872	20,059	3	0.45	14.9%
Columbus	3	51,946	17,256	3.12	0.40	12.8%
McCook	1	18,414	7,371	4.76	0.29	6.1%
Richardson Co.	2	14,313	6,020	3.61	0.45	12.4%
Rock Co.	1	15,962	684	0.94	0.07	7.5%
SCAT	7	108,285	7,989	1.52	0.18	11.8%
Saunders Co.	1	18,003	2,233	4.56	0.09	2.0%
Scotts Bluff	9	159,653	40,284	1.61	0.19	11.5%
Seward Co.	1	31,627	3,705	1.72	0.14	8.3%
Sheridan Co.	1	21,026	3,429	1.6	0.02	1.2%
Loup City	1	7,498	1,430	4.05	0.45	11.2%
Valley Co.	4	95,638	7,123	1.34	0.19	14.0%
City of Wayne	2	14,361	7,521	3.99	0.69	17.3%
Webster Co.	5	45,122	13,540	1.33	0.25	18.9%
Village of Guide						
Rock	1	19,516	1,232	0.97	0.24	25.0%
York Co.	3	31,213	8,323	2.83	0.38	13.4%
Wakefield	2	7,728	1,541	2.04	0.46	22.5%
South Sioux City	1	73,683	59,607	0.97	0.03	3.6%
MAT	165	3,629,246	3,649,257	6.51	1.06	16.3%
LaVista	3	31,389	4,131	1.61	0.23	14.3%
Star Tran	69	1,851,135	1,807,311	4.91	0.80	16.3%
Bellevue	5	75,605	13,366	3.3	0.26	7.8%
Papillion	1	28,795	5,728	1.64	0.20	11.9%
Total	427	8,173,835	6,265,709			

Passenger Boarding (Enplanement) for Nebraska: 2008

Source: U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration
(http://www.faa.gov/airports/planning_capacity/passenger_allcargo_stats/passenger/index.cfm?year=2008)

National Rank	City	Airport Name	CY 08	CY 07	Percentage
			Boardings	Boardings	Change
64	Omaha	Eppley Airfield	2,136,880	2,162,954	-1.21%
190	Lincoln	Lincoln	163,177	170,105	-4.07%
383	Kearney	Kearney Regional	11,956	12,707	-5.91%
398	Scottsbluff	B. Heilig Field	10,608	11,973	-11.40%
406	North Platte	Bird Field	10,288	11,173	-7.92%
424	Grand Island	Central Nebraska Regional	7,961	9,159	-13.08%
574	Chadron	Chadron Municipal	2,152	2,457	-12.41%
605	McCook	McCook Ben Nelson Regional	1,848	3,031	-39.03%
614	Alliance	Alliance Municipal	1,786	2,010	-11.14%
653	Omaha	Offutt AFB	1,293	1,189	8.75%
971	Omaha	Millard	118	11	972.73%
1131	Valentine	Miller Field	51	13	292.31%
1222	Holdrege	Brewster Field	36	3	1100.00%
1235	Ogallala	Searle Field	34	4	750.00%
1271	Ord	Evelyn Sharp Field	30	0	0.00%
1326	Ainsworth	Ainsworth Municipal	24	5	380.00%
1345	Blair	Blair Municipal	23	11	109.09%
1354	Norfolk	Karl Stefan Memorial	23	26	-11.54%
1374	Sidney	Field	22	15	46.67%
1453	Columbus	Columbus Municipal	17	15	13.33%
1481	Lexington	Jim Kelly Field	15	0	0.00%
1507	Bassett	Rock County	14	0	0.00%
1544	Burwell	Cram Field	12	0	0.00%
1545	Albion	Albion Municipal	12	30	-60.00%
1569	Superior	Superior Municipal	11	2	450.00%
1696	Hastings	Hastings Municipal	8	0	0.00%
1733	Fremont	Fremont Municipal	7	0	0.00%
1940	O'Neill	Field	4	32	-87.50%
2151	Theedford	Thomas County	2	0	0.00%
	Total		2,348,412	2,386,925	-1.61%

Percent of Commuters Traveled to Work by Public Transportation: 2008

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey

State	Percent of Total Commuters	Rank
Colorado	3.44%	16
Minnesota	3.43%	17
Missouri	1.63%	27
Wyoming	1.25%	30
Iowa	1.21%	31
Nebraska	0.72%	43
North Dakota	0.63%	45
South Dakota	0.54%	46
Kansas	0.51%	48

Transportation Sustainability

Local Highway Spending Per Capita: 2006-07

Source: The Per Capita figures are calculated based on the data from 2007 Census of Government Finance and 2000 Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau

State	Per capita Highway Spending	Rank
United States	\$189.31	
Minnesota	\$400.81	2
Wyoming	\$363.84	3
North Dakota	\$359.16	4
South Dakota	\$318.81	6
Iowa	\$290.20	8
Colorado	\$280.52	9
Nebraska	\$258.05	12
Kansas	\$215.95	17
Missouri	\$188.21	26

State Highway Spending Per Capita: All states: 2006-07

Source: The Per Capita figures are calculated based on the data from 2007 Census of Government Finance and 2000 Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau

State	Per capita Highway Spending	Rank
United States	\$296.02	
Wyoming	\$796.28	2
South Dakota	\$616.33	3
North Dakota	\$581.50	5
Kansas	\$387.98	14
Iowa	\$337.75	20
Missouri	\$320.54	23
Nebraska	\$316.85	24
Minnesota	\$222.41	43
Colorado	\$165.16	49